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# THE BEAVER

In this week's edition of The Beaver



The Beaver  
Election  
special

Section 2



A LOOK  
AT THE  
THE  
MODERN  
REVIEW

Tuesday, March 10  
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The Newspaper of the LSESU

## The Boys are Back

### News Team

In an unprecedented result in the history of the LSE's Students' Union all three sabbaticals standing for re-election were returned to sabbatical positions by the LSE electorate last Thursday.

Current General Secretary Narius Aga, who surprised many students with his decision to run for office again, became the first LSESU General Secretary to be elected to the sabbatical position for the second year in a row.

Aga consolidated his hold on the position by hugely increasing his share of the vote, beating his nearest rival Anita Majumdar by over 230 votes.

Aga told *the Beaver* on election night that he was "absolutely elated" at the result, and declared that "as far as I am concerned my responsibilities begin tomorrow." He also stated that the LSE would see "stepped up campaigns" for library opening hours and a new Halls of residence, and a renewed effort against fees.

Yuan Potts, who is this year's Education and Welfare sabbatical, won the election for Treasurer in a similarly unequivocal fashion, defeating second placed Kshitij Jain by well over 300 votes. In his winning speech Potts praised a clean race, and promised that next year would be a great one for the Students' Union. Entertainments Sabbatical Jasper Ward completed the record-breaking hat trick when he was successful in his bid for re-election. Ward had expressed doubts about his chances of victory before the count but in the event won fairly comfortably, although his main rival Ben Goodyear performed impressively.

Closer still was the contest for Education and Welfare sabbatical, the only position not contested by an incumbent sabbatical. The gap between Maria Neophytou and Emma Pinkerton was small enough to warrant a recount, which Neophytou

Three of this year's sabbatical team were re-elected at the SU elections last week, with Maria Neophytou the only new face



Spot the familiar faces in next year's Sabbatical Team

Photo: Ralph Achenbach

won by 9 votes. The narrowness of this result made for a tense conclusion to the sabbatical counting, and left both candidates in an emotional condition. Neophytou described her feelings as "ecstatic."

The turnout at the ballot box showed a slight decrease on last year with around 1380 votes cast for the major positions. Some praised this figure, while others were quick to

point out that it represents less than a quarter of the entire student population, suggesting that a majority of students are still apathetic and disinterested in their Union.

Opinion amongst union watchers had been divided over whether students would view the candidature of the standing sabbaticals as a genuine attempt to provide

continuity in the Students' Union, or a desperate last minute bid to avoid the frightening world of work. The triumph of the sabbaticals seems to be a vindication of their performance this year. The opinions of one observer at the count seems to have been typical. She claimed that she had been "very annoyed" about the election of Aga last year, but that her opinions of the quietly spoken SU

leader had changed during his tenure on the reins of power. She expressed support for Aga's "quiet radicalism" and said that she was happy to see his return as General Secretary.

This view was echoed by Imogen Bathurst, current SU Treasurer and the only sabbatical who opted not to stand again this year. She told *the Beaver* that the team of Aga, Potts and Ward had proved their ability this year, and said that there were many in positions of authority at the LSE who were not relishing the prospect of facing them again. When asked if she regretted her decision not to stand for re-election herself in the light of the triumphs of her colleagues she admitted she had pangs of regret but felt it was time for her to move on. Sam Parham, the maverick LSE student who has himself made a career out of winning sabbatical elections, also put his weighty support behind Aga.

As in the Michaelmas elections the LSE's various political parties were generally outperformed by independent candidates. The Labour Club were magnanimous in defeat, however, congratulating Aga on his "honourable, solid and reliable" style of premiership. The LSE Socialist Worker contingent were satisfied with their performance, remaining a minority interest but improving on last year's showing where their candidate for General Secretary was beaten at the poll by a novelty food item.

LSE students have given an unequivocal vote of confidence in their elected representatives at the ballot box this year. In an acceptance speech with familiar undertones Aga promised "I will not let you down - trust me on this one." Certainly many have high hopes for the re-elected sabbaticals. Those concerned that Aga, Potts and Ward might seek to repeat their act next year need not worry: the Union constitution prohibits anyone from standing for a third term as a sabbatical officer.

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## In Brief

### New Labour vs Old LSE

Tony Blair must have thought his recent welfare roadshow in Reading was going rather well, usual polemic New Britain™ speech, easy fawning questions - but he reckoned without that most dangerous of enemies - the LSE student in the audience.

First year undergraduate Brendan Cox challenged the PM on the vexed question of Labour's policy towards single mothers. "I wanted to see if he would admit that the whole thing had been badly handled," he explained.

The question earned supportive applause from the audience, all selected party members, but Blair's response, described by Cox as "predictable" dismissed any notion that he had mishandled the issue.

Cox soon found himself at the centre of media attention, with BBC Radio broadcasting the exchange and an interview with our man on its main evening news bulletin, *The World Tonight*. The evening's events were also discussed in *The Observer* that Sunday.

Quizzed by the *Daily Telegraph* on the remnants of radicalism at the LSE, Cox did us all proud by maintaining that we are more radical than most. In the week we didn't go on strike, it seems that it is only the odd event like this one that serves to remind us what this School once represented. (TL)

### Response to Asian Crisis

The school responded last week to worries about an alleged veil of silence relating to the effects of the Asian economic crisis on students.

It seems that the school is taking note of the economic problems of Asian students, and any initial anxiety caused has been put down to communication problems. The General Secretary of the LSESU, Narius Aga, has been trying to rectify this by meeting with the Director of Programmes and the Standing Committee as well as organising meetings with all Asian society heads this week.

Aga confirmed that extra funds had been earmarked and that he would be pressing for additional measures to be taken. He emphasised that the priority at the moment is to make sure that students already here can complete their degrees. Clearly the dip in applications from Malaysia in particular is of major concern for the LSE though, and the school is attempting to redress the balance by looking to alternative regions as well as lobbying Malaysian students in order to increase numbers.

Suzanne Brooke at the Accounts Office said that students have been invited to apply for assistance from the student support fund if in difficulty. Where a student is in dire financial difficulty a short-term loan of £250 can be made available. The School has also has a number of more long term financial aid packages. Brooke stated that the school is taking the crisis very seriously. (TB)

# Conmen Target LSE

Matt Brough

Following recent reports in the London Student concerning the increasing occurrences of organised gangs conning students into buying sub-standard hi-fi equipment, a Beaver investigation has revealed that LSE students are also under threat from similar so-called 'speaker scams'.

Although more well known for targeting the halls of larger London campuses' such as UCL and Imperial, it would appear that the gangs have been expanding their operations and are starting to exploit students at intercollegiate residences as well. The Beaver discovered that recently residents of intercollegiate accommodation at International Hall, including a significant number of students from the LSE, had been approached by men fitting the description of those accused of kidnapping and robbing an Imperial student at the end of January.

The men, who are known to operate in teams from white transit vans, approach students and attempt to sell them "high quality professional speakers" which they claim they have been unable to deliver and must "get rid of" somehow. One International Hall resident who was taken in by the scheme stated that when he said he was unsure about the situation the men showed him what looked like an official docket and let him see the PA style speakers. However, on finally deciding not to buy, the con-men became abusive and threatening but fortunately the student was able to get away unscathed. However the persistent manner in which the con-



International Hall: New territory for the speaker scam?

Photo: Ralph Achenbach

men approach their victims has led to more than a few students feeling intimidated and extremely worried about the situation. Another LSE student living at International Hall who was approached found himself forcefully encouraged to go to a cash machine after claiming to be broke whereas fellow resident, Tom, who did purchase a pair of speakers,

found them to be extremely substandard and definitely not worth the amount he was conned out of. Although at the time of going to press no one from halls was available for comment, a number of residents and LSE students said they had also been affected.

The majority of the time a wary student would consider such a scam

as an annoyance at worst, however the persistent, systematic and now apparently brutal methods those involved use has started to cause greater concern. Anyone who can supply useful information about those involved are encouraged to contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Right time to forget debt

### Beaver News Comment

The fight against tuition fees this term has justifiably been a central issue for Union and the student body as a whole. But it could be suggested that if the financial concerns of LSE students are all that we campaign on then we succumb to a narrow minded parochialism ill befitting an institution supposedly concerned about global issues. Consider for a moment another future generation of students with debt problems.

'Education is a right' rolls off the tongue quite nicely but what does that mean for a child in Mozambique who can forget about higher education- she will be lucky if the government is able to afford to give her even the most basic education in a society where adult literacy is still only around 38%. And in a society where two-thirds of the population still do not have access to safe water, she might well die before reaching school age anyhow. The government is keen to invest more in education and health but it has to spend four times the amount it spends on education on debt service (and that was only half of the debt service it was supposed to pay). Even if Mozambique scrapped all spending

on education and health it would still be unable to keep up with debt service payments that amount to 91% of all annual foreign exchange earnings through exports. This is the reality of debt for up to a billion of the world's population: education, health spending and investment to build up their economies slashed because this generation is having to pay today for the debts incurred without their consent by past generations. It doesn't need a Dearing report to conclude that the future of education in Mozambique looks pretty bleak.

The response that 'it's their responsibility' is no longer acceptable. Not only does the singular focus on corruption in such developing societies have racist overtones, but also it just doesn't stand up to examination. We are all quick to condemn the irresponsible lending that has led to the Asian economic crisis but what of the irresponsible lending that has led to the even more profound economic crisis that still persists in much of Africa and other struggling nations?

The World Bank knew about the corruption of the Mobutu regime in Zaire as early as the 1981 and yet continued to ply him with money because the West favoured his regime. But, as 'The Economist' argues in the January 10 leader, "the risk of losing your money is not an avoidable nuisance but a fundamental requirement" Shielding lenders from the costs of their bad decisions just encourages irresponsible lending in the long-term. For the Western creditor governments (who have bought out most of the private debt) to hold crippled economies to debts is not only causing immense suffering but encouraging further irresponsible lending. For as 'The Economist' leader concludes - "government should have found ways to punish rescued lenders more assuredly and more severely. After Asia, to neglect this again will be unforgivable." Neglect of the 'third world' debt crisis is also unforgivable.

Whose responsibility then - the children suffering because of the action" of past regimes not even accountable to their citizens? Or is it

ourselves whose governments elected by us hold that debt and are dragging their feet in facing up to the problem? For those of us privileged to be citizens of rich creditor nations the responsibility must lie with us to call our governments to account.

If LSE seriously reckons itself to be at the forefront of debate on shaping our common future then we should also work together as societies and individuals in raising awareness, debating and campaigning on this issue. As Giddens argues in his Director's Lectures, the new politics should be about a 'radical centre' - building broad coalitions that agree on the need to take radical steps to take on the challenges that confront us. The greatest of these challenges must be doing something about the incredible inequalities which have created the so called 'fourth world'. Jubilee 2000 is a rapidly expanding coalition of development agencies, trade unions, political and religious groups working together in pressing for action to be taken as a fitting way to mark the millennium. It deserves our support.

Daniel Stevens



# Homeless Dilemma

Andrew Yule

LSE authorities have found themselves in a sensitive and difficult situation in relation to London's all too apparent homelessness problem. Security officers at the library informed *the Beaver* of a recent incident in the vicinity of the library when police were called in to move a number of rough sleepers off the LSE campus.

LSE House Manager Bernard Taffs informed *the Beaver* that the incident occurred a few weeks ago when LSE security staff were unable to persuade a group of rough sleepers and their dogs to move from the recessed doorway of the St Clements building as a result of the apparently aggressive nature of their behaviour towards the LSE security guards. While the LSE has no official policy on the issue Taffs was adamant that the school does not wish to interfere with where the homeless sleep, and in no way holds any grudge against them. However, he did state that the responsibility of the security staff is to ensure a student friendly campus. Regrettable as the situation is, this includes ensuring the accessibility of LSE thoroughfares, and preventing incidences of defecating and urinating in LSE doorways.

Unfortunately, there is no easy solution to the situation. None of the LSE security staff hold any grudges against the homeless who frequent the campus. However, this issue does raise questions as to where responsibility does lie. Taffs condemned what seems to be a general trend to pass the buck when dealing with what is undeniably a difficult issue. Despite this, much of the area surrounding the LSE is owned by the school, and the school security guards are obliged to act in whatever way they feel appropriate.

While the school is not hostile towards the homeless, ultimately Taffs feels that, regrettably, it is not in the interest of the students, the LSE's primary responsibility, to encourage large numbers of rough sleepers to frequent the campus.

# SU Deserts Strike



Have strikes come too late?

Photo: Sim Chi Yin

Tom Livingstone

As two million students around the country stayed away from lectures last Wednesday, and NUS President Douglas Trainer declared "the age of student apathy is dead," proceedings at the LSE carried on as normal.

The tale of the LSE's non-involvement is a complex yarn of bureaucratic bungles and errors. Any strike action had to be sanctioned by the UGM, but a motion supporting this in January was withdrawn by its proposer, Stuart Lock. The motion was unconstitutional as there was no

time to organise a student ballot - a decision was needed by February 1st.

General Secretary Narius Aga stressed that the decision to strike was not a unilateral one on his part. It was decided to put the motion to the SU Executive, which voted 9-2 against strike action.

Aga stressed that he didn't feel that he could go against the decision of the Executive, and also added that he did not feel that there was support for industrial action amongst the student body. "There is very little support for a strike on campus," he admitted.

Despite claims that the whole affair was badly managed, and lack of commitment meant that any strike

plans came to nothing, Aga remained determined about the LSESU's continued anti-fees campaign. "Lobbying will continue," he insisted.

The strike was hailed as a great success by NUS leaders, with claims that Bristol and Bath saw total shutdowns, while Liverpool John Moores won the support of their vice Chancellor for their rally. Trainer asserted that this was "the biggest single student protest in history."

However, anyone claiming that student apathy is dead should really have been present through Houghton Street on Wednesday. It would seem as though the LSE has a long way to go if the Union is serious in its anti-fees rhetoric.



## UNION JACK

The LSE UGM, home of tolerance and PC, demonstrated its stunning hypocrisy again this week. Abusing the Right of the House for being stupid and ugly is fair enough, but Jack was forced to wonder why it's acceptable for screaming middle class wets to brand our country brethren with the same iron. Stop your navel-gazing. When men dressed in red let dogs rip a fox apart, you call it barbarism. When Damien Hirst does it, you call it art. Try calling the Greek Cypriots inbred (which they probably are, statistically speaking), or accusing black Zimbabweans of having intercourse with livestock (which they may or may not do). It seems acceptable to mock those with an agricultural bent, however. Perhaps because we know that wearing a Barbour Jacket and a pair of green wellies slows you down so much that you can't catch sloganeering tykes.

Retreating to a position of safety, Jack observed Cow girl marching on stage. UJ Trivia Quiz: How many stomachs does a cow have? Answers on a postcard please. Incidentally, Jack can exclusively reveal that Alex Fartley has the words 'Wide Load' tattooed across her buttocks. Don't question my sources. Lured by the prospect of a good milking, she'd soon cantered off to Houghton St. (leaving all the gates shut behind her, extinguishing any cigarettes, and keeping Richard Wignall on a lead). This left Stretch Armstrong Charwood and Stupot Locke - an incoherent alliance - to put her motion through the shredder. Stupot was in a suitably green outfit - the David Icke of LSE - whilst Charredwood, the Narius Aga of his age, was his usual charismatic self. So many pockets, so little idea.

Andy "Biggy Smalls" Houghton was guesting on Top of the Pops this week, with a starring vocal on "She left me a fried egg". (TotP will be transmitted in a special widescreen version this week).

This meant that Burntdild was left to further his evil bid for world domination. Jack is forced to wonder where Brandogdo buys his clothes. How can one achieve that look - trousers hitched a precise three inches above the ankles, hair greased across the forehead, YSL shirt exactly wrinkled? The world's scruffiest millionaire - sensing that his hopes of world takeover were waning, took to bitching with members of the audience, advising a miscreant to 'shut his arse.' Perhaps Runtlidó knew him better than Jack did.

Talking of arse, the man with his head so far up his that he needs orthopaedic surgery, Little Steve, again tortured us with his vanity. In preparation for what he may have nervously believed was a prospective victory, Steve seems to have adopted Bernardo chic. New Steve, old jacket, shit hair.

Some claimed that Skid Mark had circumvented all the rules of the constitution, not to mention the UN convention on human rights, by placing himself on stage, in everyone's line of vision, for the entire UGM. But seeing troll boy Turner is a sure disincentive to voting for him. Meanwhile, Wignall's hair has made the transition from Kevin Keegan circa 1978 to pure Lord Desai. Unlike Wignall to be in favour of expanding the public sector (*I think that's public. Ed.*) Having a shit hairstyle is, apparently, a prerequisite for standing for Education and Welfare. With Jake Tightsorts MIA on a deniable mission somewhere in Southern Laos, the Tory Party must be praying that Gorgeous George hangs about for another year.

It's all happening in Warwick this week with students trying to assuage their guilt at living such a decadent lifestyle by doing stuff for charity. They are going about this by organizing a fashion show run on sponsorship from both KPMG and their very own ENTS Committee which they claim will feature all of Warwick's most beautiful people (total: 3). Judging by the photographic evidence which your very own NFN correspondent has had the privilege of previewing, I have been forced to conclude that Warwick has the highest concentrated population of pig-ugly people in the whole world. The supposed 'hip-chicks' that are ambling down the catwalk in this Parisian-style show (yeah, right) look like a cross between Miss Piggy and Harry Enfield with a touch of Alan Partridge thrown in for good measure, a combination which I am sure you'll agree will make for a heart rending flood of donations from societies such as the Voluntary Euthanasia Support Group and Plastic Surgery Anonymously.

And as if this isn't bad enough,

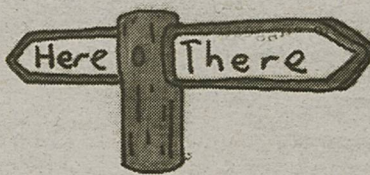
## News From Nowhere

not only are Warwick students somewhat aesthetically challenged, they also seem to have a problem with personal hygiene. This assertion follows reports from their halls of residences stating that large epidemics of scabies have broken out amongst inmates. An expert on the disease (nice career, mate) claimed that "it is highly likely that if one floor member has scabies, then the rest will get it soon after" and it appears that he is far from wrong although the exact figure of sufferers at Warwick is unknown. I suspect that this is largely because the victims are unwilling to admit that they are suffering from a disease that is usually associated with tramps, pigs and sheep. Funny that.

What is not funny however, is the fact that I, in all my trusting innocence, seem to have been led up the garden path by a shitty little upstart of a journalist working for Warwick's paper the Boar(ing). You

may remember a story that I reported some weeks ago about a student who blew all his money on an electric guitar and developed malnutrition as a result. In full and zealous journalistic flow I considered this gem worthy of ridicule in NFN and duly included it in the column. It now seems that the joke is on me. The same writer this week published an article that retracted the whole story calling it "little more than gossip, a bar-room joke between friends". Now I have two things to say about this. Firstly buster, if it's not true, then it's not funny. Secondly it just confirms everything that I have said about Warwick students: they're ugly, dirty and the stories that they recount have about as much reliability as the rhythm method. In short Warwick students, you're all a bunch of c\*nts.

And that's why I'm going to stop writing about you, and for once compliment a fellow institute of learning for displaying what I believe



to be a rare display of good sense and insight. It is Oxford who is this week going to bask in the brightly lit glory of my praise for their decision not to award Tony Blair with an honorary degree. The reasoning behind such a decision is unclear but the university has claimed that the 'timing was not right' largely due, it is thought, to speculation that it did not want to make the award whilst it is in negotiation with the government over the proposed abolition of subsidies for individual tuition at Oxford and Cambridge. I vote that these lauded institutions should hold a fashion show to raise money to pay for their skanky students. They might get a few pounds shelled out in sympathy at least.

Tasha Kosviner



## Maintaining Moralistic Idealism

Dear Editor,

A few weeks ago Toby Whittaker (Letters, Beaver issue 479) suggested that LSE has gone to sleep and concludes that "Maintaining moralistic idealism used to be the pride of students at the LSE and we became famous for it, we can get this back if we all just wake up a bit." I couldn't agree more. The example he cites of previous activism, protesting against LSE investment in apartheid South Africa, inspired students partly due to the fact that it was a "global target and specifically identifiable problem". Maybe there is something we can learn from that.

Rather than just focusing on parochial concerns over fees (important though that is), maybe we ought to again 'go global' and target the kind of problem that LSE is supposed to be at the forefront of addressing. The 1997 UNDP Human

Development report claimed that "debt relief by the Year 2000 could save the lives of 21 million children". And yet it is not going to happen unless we persuade our governments, the creditors, to take action. Of course it is a complex issue, and that is why it needs to be debated and surely LSE should be leading that debate. Jubilee 2000 Week at LSE (9th to 13th March) is a chance for us to find out more, debate and maybe (if convinced) take action over this issue. LSE may have gone to sleep, but if this is not a 'wake up call' I don't know what is.

Yours sincerely,  
Daniel Stevens

## Israeli-Palestinian Article

Dear Editor,

In Avi Weinreb's letter in last week's Beaver he accused Sanaa Ashour of deliberately including 'factual inaccuracies' in the article about the hypocrisy of American foreign policy in the Middle East. However, to anyone who has interest in Israelis-Palestinian struggle it is obvious that he has himself included many so called factual inaccuracies himself. I would like to mention just a few.

Concerning the creation of the state of Israel the Letter states "over two thirds of the World community (i.e. The UN General assembly) voted in favour of partition (of Palestine)". The facts are that the UN in 1947 consisted of only 54 nations of (about 1/3 its current membership.) Most African and Asian colonies were not represented. How can Avi Weinreb call this "the World community." Further more The United States was vital in getting the vital 2/3 majority needed by persuading other countries to change their votes. According to US Under secretary of state Summer Welles US officials used "by direct order of the White House...every form of pressure direct and indirect...to make sure that the necessary Majority (would be gained)." This included threats of ending aid to Third world nations (e.g. Liberia, Philippines, and Haiti, all of which changed their votes. The US had in fact managed to have the vote delayed "to bring certain Latin American republics into line with its own views." If the UN with its current membership was to vote on Resolution 181 it would easily be rejected by the UN. It should also be mentioned that Resolution 181 was only a

Recommendation and that the UN had no right to divide Palestine of which the Jewish population was only 30% (mostly of immigrants from the 1920's and 30's.) In fact in the proposed Jewish State (56% of Palestine) the Jewish population was 499,020 compared to a Palestinian population of 509,780.

The letter states that the Arab armies caused the refugee crisis. This is either a blatant lie or Avi Weinreb knows nothing about the Palestinian problem. The Palestinian refugee crisis was the result of two factors. One was the deliberate expulsion of thousands of Palestinian civilians by the Haganah (the Zionist militia). The Second was that many Palestinians feared for their lives. This was the result of the Deir Yassin massacre. On April 9th 1948 members of the Irgun and Stern Gang (two smaller Zionist militias) attacked the Village of Deir Yassin and massacred 250 civilians mainly women and Children. It was the Massacre at Deir Yassin and a subsequent 'whisper campaign' of other massacres that caused many people to flee their homes. Almost three-quarters of a million Palestinians became refugees as a result. Since then Israel has in Violation of International Law prevented the refugees returning to their home and during the 1950's confiscated so-called 'absentee' property.

There are many other thing I would like to mention however that would take up too much space. So as you can see from just these two points Avi Weinreb was simply being a hypocrite by accusing Sanaa Ashour of lying.

Yours Sincerely,  
Hamed Butt.

Dear Editor,

A Call For Action from the LSE Asian Societies Group

On behalf of the members of the informal LSE Asian Societies Group (ASG), comprising the Japan, Korean, Malaysian, Malaysia-Singapore, Singapore and Thai Societies of the LSESU, we submit this joint Call For Action.

Our Position and Proposals

1. We strongly believe that the School has not taken adequate action to meet student concerns with regard to the ongoing economic crisis in Asia. This is despite the fact that Asian students form a sizeable proportion of the student population (a combined total of 625 students from the countries represented in the ASG, in the Academic Year 1996-97).

2. We strongly urge action by the School on the following:

We seek,

a. A clarification of the School's position and policies with regard to the provision of financial assistance to Asian students in need. In particular, we urge the School to publicise all plans and policies regarding the welfare of Asian students at the LSE.

b. A move by the School to publicise information concerning the amount of money earmarked for student assistance in general, and Asian students in particular.

c. The consolidation of a consultative framework between international students in general and Asian students in particular to determine the School's long-term policies with regard to their welfare.

1. With respect to (2c), the ASG seeks

to work closely with the relevant authorities to contribute to the making of School's policy with relevance to Asian students. We believe that until now, there has been little consultation with the Asian Societies and students, and inadequate mechanisms for the feedback of student views to the policy-making process.

2. We believe that the School shares our concern for the welfare of Asian students at the LSE. As such, we hope that the School will take appropriate action to demonstrate this concern. We hope that with the establishment of the informal Asian Societies Group, the School would be encouraged to work with us to advance the welfare of Asian students at the LSE.

3. At present, the Singapore Society <email: singapore-society@lse.ac.uk> will serve as the principal liaison between the School authorities and the ASG.

We hope to receive a favourable reply from you soon.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,

Eu Jon Heng, President Singapore Society

Jaeho Hwang, President Korean Society

Chiew Wee Lim, President Malaysian-Singapore-Society

Sayuri Okada, President Japan Society

Majmin Ismail, President Malaysia Club

Prinn Panitchpakdi, President Thai Society

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## EDITORIAL

Congratulations to the winners of this year's elections. I look forward to working with the new Sabbatical team.

The role of the Sabbatical is undoubtedly a tough one. To return for a second term is either a most foolhardy decision or the most courageous one to take. I hope for the sake of the Union that this proves to be a wise choice and is not simply an excuse to dodge the real world for another year.

In this year's election, one of the prospective candidates suggested the abolition of Education and Welfare and replace it with a Beaver sabbatical. Although in theory this seems a great idea I believe that any move in this direction would be counter-productive as it would simply act as a way of constraining the editorial integrity of the paper.

I am adamant that this paper's independence remain a priority and not be pushed aside by the more political assertive members of the union using the paper as a mechanism by which to get elected.

The role of the Editor is often under-estimated, it is not simply the construction, but the running of the paper which necessitates an understanding of both the technical and writing side. As other editors will testify, you can not simply come in with just knowledge, you must know exactly the direction that you wish the paper to go in. I fail to see how an elected outsider could ever possibly achieve this.

CRAIG NEWSOME

The LSESU MODERN DANCE SOCIETY  
PRESENTS  
"THE SHOW"  
ON THURSDAY 12  
AND  
FRIDAY 13 AT 7PM IN THE OLD THEATRE

### Central and Eastern European Development Society

H.E. Dr. Jadranko Prlic  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
"Transition to Market Economy in South-Eastern Europe: The Case of Bosnia and Herzegovina"  
Thursday 12 March 1998 at 5pm in the Room A85 (Old Building).

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A JOB AT THE  
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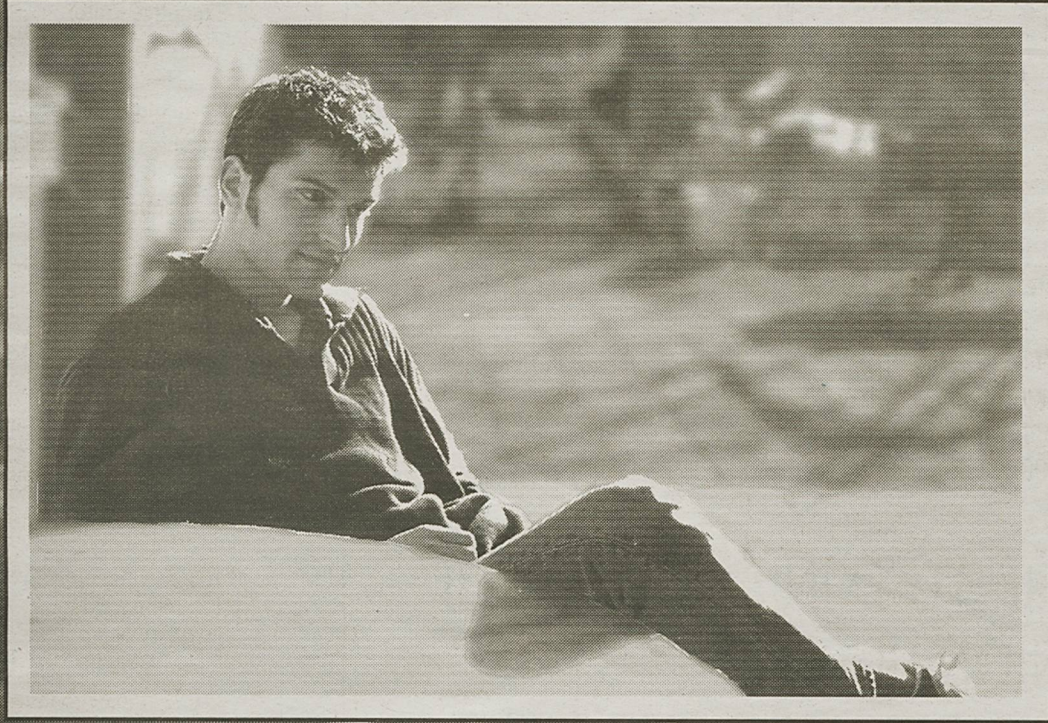
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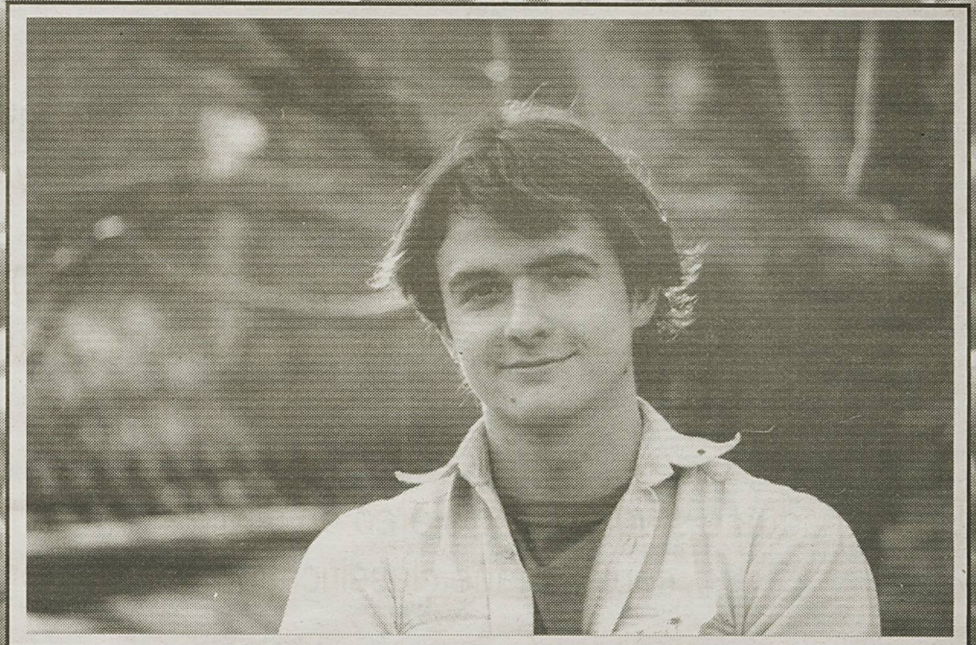
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# SHINING HAPPY PEOPLE

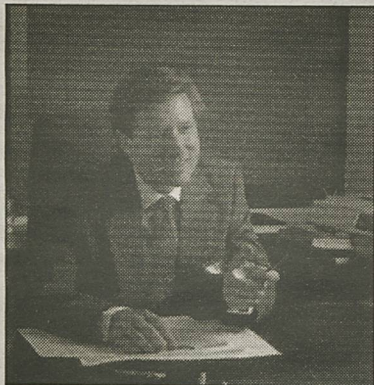
Ralph Achenbach





# 007 Bond (or Trading Notes)

Hector Birchwood goes into the 'Lion's Den' to interview four bond experts at ING-Barings



Gareth Williams

**A**s part of our continuing series to help shed light on career options in finance, this week, 'City Focus' has gathered four members of the fixed income team at ING-Barings to help us demystify some of the aspects about working in the bond market.

Nasir Nathoo  
Structured Assets Group

Nasir is an LSE graduate working in the structured products division. He worked at Price Waterhouse as an accountant before joining ING three years ago. The 'structured products' team works to create and repackage bonds, dividing them up into manageable sizes, or making sub investment grade bonds more attractive by altering their risk profile. The job requires a great deal of innovative thinking to bring out new financial products that will cater to the specific needs of their clients.

**HB Do you make debt easier to sell by changing the terms of repayment, liability and risk?**

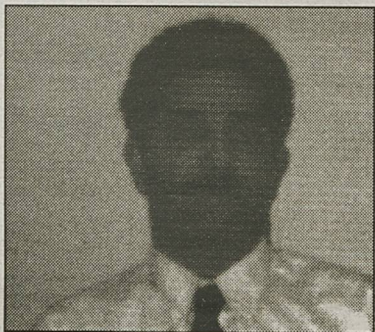
**NN** Yes, clients approach us and ask us to deliver a package that will induce them to invest in either the debt of a company or a state. Let me give you an example: If we take an existing product, like a Moroccan loan denominated in dollars, we buy the loan and then allow it to be sold in a different currency. So, if a client, for tax or exchange rate purposes wants to deal in Deutsch Marks rather than US dollars we can bring him into the market - although it will still bear the high yield of a sub investment grade.

**HB But by buying the bond isn't the bank sitting on the risk?**

**NN** Not really, the client takes most of the risk to take the higher return.

**HB At what basis points spread does a sub market bond become saleable?**

**NN** It doesn't work that way. We are not involved in credit rating, but the job involves many things, including sales, marketing etc.. We have to explain the intricate parts of debt structuring to our sales team, but



Nitesh Sakhrani

sometimes we have to sell the package to clients directly because it is easier that way. You have to be a 'jack-of all-trades' as the job involves so many things-that's what makes it exciting and varied.

**HB How does ING Barings differ from other banks in respect to corporate culture?**

**NN** Unlike other places you are not intimidated by people here. It's a friendly atmosphere. Elsewhere if you ask a question of someone in the office they can get very edgy with their responses... "Why do you want to know that?!" Barings does not make me feel that way. It is more relaxed.

Mark Trevarthen  
Brady Bond Trading

Mark joined ING two years ago as a graduate from Oxford, having studied French and German. He worked originally in sales, but moved to the trading desk. He is primarily a market maker for sovereign debt in emerging markets. 'Brady Bonds' are simply a type of brand name given to the financial instruments used to package government debt in the international markets. Although they were named after the US representative in the '1982 Debt Crisis' negotiations, Brady Bonds are still being issued to help developing nations pay off their bad debts.

**HB So in what regions do you specialise?**

**MT** Emerging government debt in North Africa and South East Asia.

**HB Do you think that Indonesia's bid for a currency board will yield the same positive results it did for Bulgaria?**

**MT** No. Currency boards are not always appropriate solution to an

economic crisis. Suharto's ideas are not necessarily the best.

**HB Is that because they are choosing to peg it to the dollar rather than a basket of currencies, as Bulgaria did?**

**MT** Yes, that's part of the reason. Bulgaria was among the best performing Brady Bonds last year, but that's not just because of the currency board. Privatisations and reforms had a lot to do with their success.

**HB Do you think there will be a lot of expansion in the Brady Bond market?**

**MT** It is going to be replaced by a global sovereign Eurobond market.

**HB Do you see yourself doing this as a career for the next ten years?**

**MT** I don't tend to look that far ahead. But for the moment, there is nothing I would rather be doing.

**HB Do you have any dreams after this?**

**MT** I want to own my own vineyard in the South of France.

Nitesh Sakhrani  
New Issues/Debt Syndication

After earning a BSc Econ from UCL, Nitesh worked in many temporary jobs around the City before joining ING twelve months ago. New Issues and Debt Syndication is the go-between Corporate Finance and Sales. They bid for new offers on government and corporate debt and market it for the sales team. Part of their task is to syndicate bonds (share liability) with other banks to offset the risk of default.

**HB What kind of new issues do you deal with?**

**NS** Here [in the London office] we are primarily concerned with Eastern Europe and Russia. I found that particularly exciting because most people don't know anything about emerging markets. Ask someone about Romanian bonds and they will not be well informed.

**HB Did the Asian crisis have an effect on new issues?**

**NS** Privatisations were held back,



Nasir Nathoo

pulled, or postponed. People were cautious, but the mood will turn around by the summer.

**HB Do you feel you have learned more in the last twelve months than you did in three years at university?**

**NS** It took six months for me to learn about the areas I'm covering. It is not optional, like attending lectures at university. Here you are thrown in the deep end in a very competitive market and you have to do everything for yourself, so [the knowledge] really sinks in.

**HB Are there any downsides to your job?**

**NS** You have to be really committed. If you find any downsides with what you're doing then probably investment banking is not for you. Some people complain about the hours, but everyone gets used to that.

Gareth Williams  
Fixed Income Sales

With a degree in Economics/ Politics and Islamic Studies from Durham and IR degree from Cambridge, Gareth moved to the ING fixed income desk a year and a half ago. The job of the fixed income sales desk is similar to that of any sales job: the needs of each client have to be individually catered for in order to best match their requests with the financial products the company is offering. Thus, they have to work closely with traders and the structured products team to deliver what the market wants to buy. The job is about building business relationships and trust.

**HB Do you often find yourself going back to the structured products team and telling them to fit a package to fit clients x,y,z because otherwise they won't**

buy it?

**GW** There is a lot of communication between all of us [at the fixed income team]. I need to keep structured products updated and informed about my customer's needs. They can always change the way the bond is packaged, I cannot always change what my customers may want- although I can induce them to deals which they may have not considered. You have to test the water sometimes, but in the end we are not here to hand them something 'off the peg'. We prefer to tailor everything to fit.

**HB What sort of requests do you get?**

**GW** Yes, you can get some really weird structures, for example, returns denominated in one currency linked to a basket of other exotic currencies. It can get very complicated.

**HB Do you think the corporate culture is changing the city- becoming more cut-throat and competitive?**

**GW** Yes, it is changing. Although I have not been here long, I hear [my colleagues] saying that it isn't like it used to be. We have to work longer hours usually (7:30- 6:30), but you learn to adapt to it. Besides, I enjoy the stress.

**HB Although many banks demand greater working commitments from their staff, don't you find that a higher amount of working hours sets in diminishing returns quite quickly?**

**GW** We don't work stupid hours here. But yes, you can get worn down pretty quickly if you work excessively. It is not always more productive- especially if you start acting like a zombie.

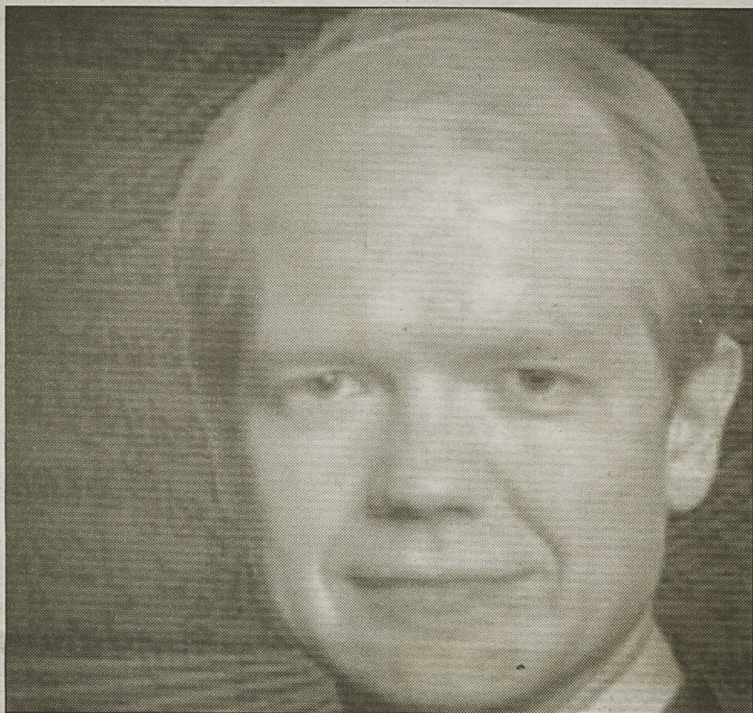
**HB Do feel you have to take your work home with you? Do you ever wake up in your sleep to think about a deal etc.?**

**GW** I'm not a banking junkie! Sometimes in the weekend you think "ahhh I think I could match this client with this issue", but I don't do calculus in my spare time.



# Is Conservatism dead?

Alex King takes a look at the future of the Conservative Party and asks, Willett work?



of triumphant global capital markets, there isn't and can't be a "Conservative project". According to Gray, British Conservatism has succeeded so completely in its two-decade quest to minimise the role of government that it no longer has a platform from which to fight. Since the mid-1970s, Conservatism has adopted a simple neo-liberal view of political economy. Once in power, it surrendered everything to the market, undermined local institutions and ultimately itself. Neo-liberalism has beaten its practitioners: in Gray's words, "Conservatism has been undone".

David Willetts MP begs to differ. He characterises the last two decades of Conservatism as a fight to apply market efficiency and liberty to areas of public life once stultified by central planning. For Willetts, Conservatism does not devour civil society, but celebrates it. He argues that "the real sign of a civilised society is precisely that voluntary, charitable organisations can meet human needs without coercive taxation". Following the 1997 election loss (which Willetts describes as "developments not entirely planned"), the Conservative project is now to re-associate the rules of market liberty with the culture of local diversity.

Neither of these two accounts give the Conservatives much to go on. As with all doomsaying prophecies, John Gray's analysis should be treated with suspicion. In order to swallow Gray's argument, a very selective sense of history would be an asset. So too would a measure of simplicity in thinking about the relationship between politics and ideas.

In the analysis of politics it would be wise not to expect a particularly coherent match of theory and practice. Ideology and public policy surely inform one another, but it would be rash to suggest that they could ever be identical. This is particularly true of democratic politics. Electoral pressures mean that power struggles are always likely to take precedence over idea struggles.

Historically, the Conservative Party has been more concerned with the business of winning elections than with crusading. Contrary to the popular myth which Gray seeks to propagate, this is also true of the Thatcher governments. Thatcherism was based on ideas, through Hayek and Keith Joseph, but these ideas were regularly thrown to the wolves in the name of elections. Most obviously, any presence of monetarist economic policy, which would be consistent with neo-liberal thinking, was ditched by 1981 in the face of record unemployment. Nothing loses elections like lost jobs.

In any case, it is simply not true that Conservative governments spent from 1979 to 1997 in the pursuit of straightforwardly neo-liberal policies. Whilst the scope of state economic activity was reduced, the constitutional arrangements of neo-liberalism were often ignored. Hayek was quite clear that if economic decisions were to be transferred away from central government, then so too must political decisions, to local democratic institutions. But Thatcherism was marked by an erosion of local government power, no more so than in London.

David Willetts' arguments are less

over-arching, and stronger for it. He at least has the perspective to see the Conservatives' difficulties as temporary. After all, the party has been under similar crisis conditions before. Over-eager commentators sounded the death knell both in 1846, over the Corn Laws Reform, and in 1906, over Tariff Reform. Both predictions proved to be a little previous; 1997 will be no different.

But Willetts' thinking is insufficiently distinct from New Labour to offer the Tories much hope of electoral success. To say that the Conservative project is to make markets work for communities is simply to face up to the challenge of low-cost governance in modern capitalist states. New Labour has already grasped this. It thinks of the state as facilitator, not provider, and justifies this through the morality of the work ethic. Malcolm Wicks, Labour MP for Croydon North, argues that "the best social security policy of all is a job...it is also the most substantial means of reducing the overall benefit budget".

Ideas are necessary in politics, but not sufficient. The Conservatives can start winning support without a fully-developed ideological package. It's easy - wait for the economy to go bump in the night, and watch New Labour squeal. Make like the Liberal Democrats and employ whizz-kid economists to give Gordon Brown a migraine. Capitalise on the split between New and Old Labour. Play these power games and build in the ideas whenever possible. But Tory morale seems so low that even this modest ambition looks unlikely to be fulfilled for some time. Gray days indeed.

When is the Conservative Party going to get itself together? These days, even New Labour stooges are getting bored with the hapless Tories. In a jointly written book, John Gray, Professor of European thought at the LSE, argues the party is a spent force, whilst David Willetts, Conservative MP for Havant, says not. Can the Right recover?

In the last month William Hague has shown signs of engaging in actual leadership, rather than damage limitation. His message to the nation is clear: that the Conservatives are the listening party. Where Labour lectures, Conservatives consult. The

party's press office seems to be getting back up to speed. Media coverage has been a little less harsh of late, and stories are being strategically placed. This month's *Arena*, the style magazine for management consultants everywhere, carries an upbeat seven-page feature on Hague, apparently the Bloke's Bloke in politics.

But the only foundation of Conservative recovery can be actual policies. Even Peter Mandelson has found that politics based purely on image is doomed to failure. So what should the Conservative project be?

Professor John Gray is unequivocal in his answer - in the age

## A Budget for the Babies?

Michael Collins

The Government last week took a giant step towards making their plans for welfare reform both clearer and more acceptable. The back bench revolt of over forty Labour MP's last December, regarding the Government's planned cuts to lone parent benefits, reflected widespread disillusionment among many Labour voters who believed they were voting for a more caring society. Both should have reason to cheer when the chancellor delivers his budget on 17 March.

The new measures are set to deal with child care and benefits to low income families, both of which have placed the Government, in particular the Social Security Secretary Harriet Harman, in a considerable degree of hot water. Regarding child care, the government proposes to pay up to 75% of costs to all working families

with an income of less than £20,000 per annum. The pay out will be for amounts of up to £100 per week for one child and up to £130 for two.

The benefit will be paid in the form of a tax allowance for higher earners, whilst those under the tax bracket will receive a supplement to the new Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) which is set to replace Family Credit. At a cost of nearly £1 billion in the first year, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), the scheme has the potential to cost sums approaching £10 billion once the required number of nurseries, day centres and carers have been registered and trained.

The amounts of money under discussion have delighted child care groups and have been heralded as a "massive redistribution of wealth to the poor". The Government however will be keen to stress the nature of their welfare programme, which is primarily designed to place more

emphasis on getting people back to work.

Although much of the financing of the child care scheme will come from the tax revenues of a so far buoyant economy, the basic idea of the programme is to allow mothers to come off benefits and take jobs, therefore having the double effect of redirecting money to the poor and reducing the social security burden on the Treasury.

Harriet Harman has borne the brunt of criticisms regarding what is entirely a Government venture, requiring collective cabinet responsibility. Her respite is further enhanced by the deal that she has won with Gordon Brown and the Treasury over lone parent benefit cuts. Last December the bill planned to remove lone parents special benefits, which constitute higher pay outs for the children of single parents than couples.

The planned cuts were part of

the Government's pledge to maintain Peter Lilley's proposed spending cuts in this area, which were to save over £300 million per year. The cuts seemed to many, like the changes to disability benefit, to be a direct attack on the most vulnerable members of society, in order to consolidate voting gains in the middle classes.

The new plans involve the replacement of Family Credit with the new WFTC, which will be more generous than its predecessor and will be paid by the inland revenue. At the same time, child benefit under the Income Support scheme for those who are unable to work, is also to increase. Those who will lose out overall are the higher paid single parents who earn more than the level required to be eligible for the WFTC.

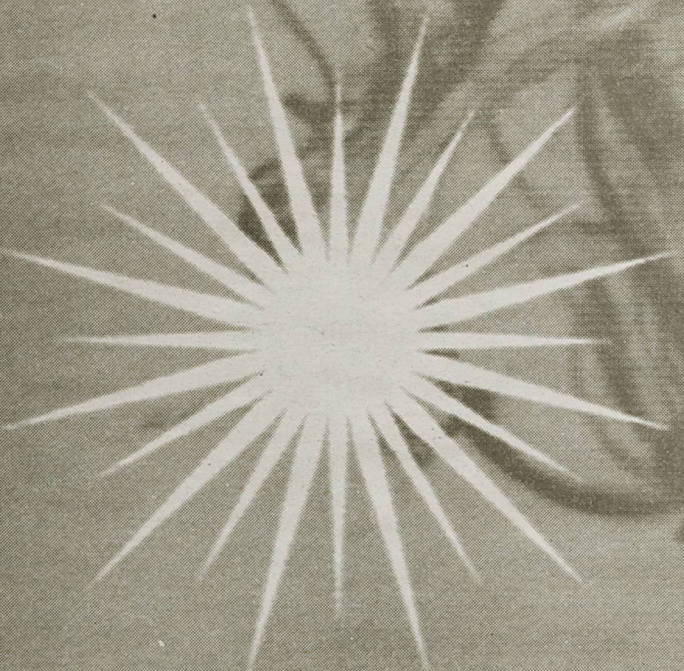
Mr. Blair will see this as an important breakthrough, having argued that his party's welfare reforms were being widely

misunderstood. The broader aim of New Labour's programme is to bring the Welfare State into line with a more Bismarckian model, where there is more emphasis on encouraging people back to work, rather than a system restricted to only handing out benefits.

Labour are keen to show that they will look after the needs of the poor, but at the same time that they are a party of new ideas. The changes to be announced in the budget will fit into the more long term strategy of a minimum wage, a 10p starting rate for tax and a lower starting rate for national insurance contributions, all of which are designed to encourage people to take jobs, even if they are low paid. However this still raises fears that the minimum wage may be set too low, forcing people into low paid jobs and in essence giving more help to the employer than the unemployed.



# Bart



The Maturity of  
Madonna revealed in  
her new album, *MUSIC*

Charlotte Raven talks  
about *The Modern  
Review*,  
**INTERVIEW**



# The Deconstruction Worker

Charlotte Raven, as Editor of *The Modern Review* and former lover of Julie Birchill, chats to Zak Shaikh about what the magazine is trying to achieve ... she also talks about Miss Birchill, Marxism and the reality of a career in journalism.

Loaded, FHM, The Face, Q ... dumbing down, soundbite city, sex is the leader, also patronise the reader, ... Oasis, TFI, Nick Hornby, Diana ... Bridget Jones, sushi, follow *la mode*, it's so middle of the road ... these essentially futile gender catalogues for brands are glorified, yet not top-shelf, pornos. They encourage a kind of voyeurism (a gazed fulfilment through over-sexualised images) with a subjective creation of icons forcing aspirations of either becoming famous, or at least following the fashions and tastes of 'our' celebrities. With a multitude of top tens - chat-up lines, biggest breasts, sexual positions, tips to improve your sex life - is this all a load of mindless crap that attempts to fill your head with insignificant worries, to stop you thinking about what really matters? Do you believe the hype? Or maybe the hype is the height of cultural awareness! Whatever the scenario is, there must be a disaffected minority who clearly require a choice. What is the alternative?

"Helen Fielding may have been joking when she wrote Bridget Jones's Diary as a satire on the self-imposed constraints of femininity. Sadly ... people are starting to believe it."

Since the relaunch of *The Modern Review* last October (after two years in the wilderness), Charlotte Raven and Julie Birchill as editors have attempted to market it as "...the intellectual alternative." As Raven explains, "We're trying to show different



angles on a whole host of things and therefore should be a thorn in people's sides. We're attempting to break down the consensus before it gets a hold on everyone. In effect, the business of *The Modern Review* is to demythologise and demystify." An example of this is in Raven's article (in the February issue) on 'The New Femininity':

"Helen Fielding may have been joking when she wrote Bridget Jones's Diary as a satire on the self-imposed constraints of femininity. Sadly, it has been taken literally by those who wanted proof that we are not be trusted with power. In other words, people are starting to believe it."

As a critique of pop culture, it is definitely in a league of its own, but to criticise *per se* is

not difficult. There does not appear to be an ideology or even consistency in belief. For instance, in the March issue, Decca Aitkenhead argues "What is the point of All Saints? They can't sing and they don't get their tits out." But if they did 'get their tits out', would they not represent much of what *The Modern Review* abhor?

Raven's response to this was to oppose the idea of even having a set political and social agenda, and therefore not to support the old left whole-heartedly, even though her base line is a very radical position: "The job at the moment is to deconstruct what is happening, and then it is possible to start the process of saying 'what can we do instead'. There are also many implicit points - in criticising Blair, you are clearly saying that a redistributive taxation system is better. Nevertheless, there is a danger in being programmatic, and that's not really the job of a magazine."

So, it is not criticising just for the sake of criticising - the old *Modern Review* did that a lot more. Raven believes there is no point in simply being controversial, and Birchill's feature article in this month's issue is in fact a positive assessment of Massive Attack, past and present.

As a result, I asked Raven, "Given that you deconstruct what is so often popular, can *The Modern Review*, by definition, ever be a popular magazine?"

"It's never going to be a mass market publication, as we're always talking about a small niche. However, within that small niche it's actually quite large. A large proportion of people are sceptical about hype and want intelligent analysis."

This aim of providing intelligent analysis comes as no surprise, given Charlotte Raven's background. After a degree in English Literature at Manchester University, she went on to read an MA in Critical Theory at Sussex, hence the outlook of *The Modern Review*. She then attended journalism school briefly: "I left after three weeks cause I hated it - I couldn't see the point in just writing news stories. This is why we are launching a writing competition (in conjunction with The Guardian); we want to show that if you have a good mind and good ideas, you don't need to follow those roots to get into journalism. I think journalism schools can be terrible places for people ... news journalists try to mystify what they do."

"So how well paid are journalists in general?"

"Money in journalism varies, depending on whether you're a contractor or freelancer. Newspapers nowadays are less keen to take on

contractors than before. Obviously there are some people who are very highly paid - from £40,000 (annually) upwards for a column, at the top end. It also depends on who you're working for: *The Guardian* freelance rates are terrible, the Sunday papers slightly better. Not many people are freelance feature writers and live well, as it does take up a lot of time to write a feature."

Having written for *The Guardian* (again briefly - she really does not like compromising her beliefs), Raven decided to relaunch *The Modern Review*, but also give it a complete makeover, in terms of a glossy, stylised magazine, and had Julie Birchill as a big name to attract both the punters and advertisers. Since both are editors in name, what is the difference in their roles? "Julie sits on her arse all day in Brighton, drinking champagne, while I do the day-to-day job of editor."

Charlotte Raven is not impressed by many politicians, and there are only a handful of people in the media world that she admires. She loves Massive Attack, and in general listens to dance music more than any other genre: "I'm one of those typical girls who has tapes recorded by friends with nothing written on the cover, so I never know who the artists are."

In political terms, she is most definitely a radical. "I went through my postmodern phase: it's all very interesting but it doesn't get you anywhere. What postmodern theory should've been is a tool to

use to analyse what's happening. It can become a self-referential discourse." She came out of her postmodern phase as an unreconstructed old Marxist. Raven acknowledges that, "Marx has a kind of clarity that is lacking in modern political discourse."

Many of those in the media are self-

After pre-empting her with allusions to 'Gianluca' and 'Butros Butros', and the fact that she had "... a bad pill the other week," Raven admitted that her favourite drug was the evil Charly.

acclaimed drug abusers. So what were Miss Raven's preferences? After pre-empting her with allusions to 'Gianluca' and 'Butros



Butros', and the fact that she had "... a bad pill the other week," she admitted that her favourite drug was the evil Charly. She is not, and never has been a fan of dope.

Contrary to my initial expectations, Charlotte Raven turned out to be practical in approach, subtle by nature, and not at all aggressive.

A magazine like *The Modern Review* has

"Julie sits on her arse all day in Brighton, drinking champagne, while I do the day-to-day job of editor."

enormous potential, especially since it has no obvious competitor (Vanity Fair would be the nearest publication!) It has high profile writers in Francis Wheen, Jacques Peretti and obviously Birchill, and it has financial backing in terms of big-business advertising (which Raven must feel ambivalent towards). To increase its distribution, it clearly needs to have a different kind of credibility; they need to interview people with a large public image (though they may be ideologically against this?) - it is as important to hear a defence from 'celebrities'. To be a purely conceptual magazine, alternative as it may be, without any real life interviews it cannot have complete credibility. Time will tell whether Raven's vision will come to fruition, but this type of publication should be supported, if only for the idea alone. Whatever the result, she should be commended for undertaking such an enormous project.

Nice one Charlotte.

Research & Contribution: Marc Schaller (Student of Leeds University)

*The Modern Review*, in conjunction with *The Guardian*, are launching a writing competition on 23 March 1998. The aim of the competition is to encourage young, talented writers into the sphere of journalism. The winner will get their article published. The actual details of the competition (which have yet to be finalised) will be in *The Guardian* on 23 March.



# Much Ado About Something

Michael Boyd's brilliant 1996 RSC production of *Much Ado About Nothing* premiered at the Barbican this week. Superlative direction and intelligent re-analysis of the traditional themes of the play, result in a refreshingly novel production combining comedy with the darker elements more commonly associated with Shakespeare's 'problem' plays. Beautiful accompanying music by Stanislas Syrewicz and simple yet effective design by Tom Piper, leave the onus of reinterpretation on the actors, all of whom, judging from recent performances (including a magnificent production of *The Spanish Tragedy* earlier this season) are among the most accomplished at the RSC in recent years.

From the opening scene, the audience is impressed by the crowded, claustrophobic, ambience of Messinā high society. Piper's use of wooden flooring makes each entrance ring out, and the many incidental characters (including a charming 'boy') create a highly charged atmosphere. The constantly crowded stage befits the incestuous nature of the play, and prepares the audience for the double love triangle that springs up between Claudio - Hero, Beatrice - Benedick and the Count, Don Pedro. In contrast to traditional interpretations, Boyd casts Peter Wight as Don Pedro (magnificent) and a very young Emily Bruni as Hero (outstanding), to create a generational gap between the Count and the lovers. As a result, the harmless farce that *Much Ado is* often presented as, becomes a macabre display of sexual desire and the manipulation of power in which the Count

takes the central role of jilted and lascivious loner. The Masqued Ball in which the Count woos Hero in Claudio's place, is used to



reorient the nature of the play: exploiting the youth of Bruni's Hero, both sexually energised and savagely unstudied, Boyd uses her exit with Don Pedro to imply an intended seduction. Similarly, the Count's proposal to Beatrice, usually interpreted as satirical, is delivered with gravity. As a result, the slur against Hero's virginity, the 'much ado about

nothing', rather than a case of misunderstanding, becomes a vicious, misogynistic game of double standards, emphasising the relationship between power and sexuality in a fiercely patriarchal society.

This is not, however, to deny the highly effective comic aspects of this production. As expected, both Siobhan Redmond and Alex Jennings are excellent as Beatrice and Benedick. The chemistry between the two actors is highly engaging as is the superbly executed farce of the deception scenes. Redmond's powerful Beatrice does also go some way towards counteracting the dominant male presence in this play. The watch scenes were also hysterically funny, with Christopher Luscombe's Dogberry a careful combination of camp and irritating officiousness.

In short, *Much Ado is* a great evening's entertainment. It's not expensive to go and watch the RSC, and this production is really worth going to.

Nicola Kohn

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## The Tales of Hoffman

The ENO's version of Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann* is undoubtedly a strange concoction. Portrayed is the storyteller's gothic world of absinthe drinking dandies, languidly seeking *divertissement* through their hero's account of his surreal but otherwise ill-fated love affairs.

Hoffmann's first tale is that of the creation of mechanical human beings and the traffic of human organs. The second is also somewhat macabre, but even more surreal. Hoffmann tells of his love for a woman who, as her mother, cannot sing without escaping death. The latter appears as one of Vishnu's Avatars, after being reincarnated by the gloomy Doctor Miracle, who tries to tempt the former to use her mother's renowned, but ultimately fatal, talents.

The last tale was deliciously "Rocky-Horror-Picture-Show-esque". I will not bother to tell you the story but only confide that it involves a Venetian gondola, transvestites, poison, and a lot of bare bosoms.

Staged like a candy store, then like a bubbly and sybaritic afternoon and lastly like an evening in a Venetian carnival, our adapted libretto from a French play advances like a frantic horse: galloping, trotting and cantering at irrational paces and intervals. The whole production also suggests a shimmering purple sky: romance, melancholy, and for the Freudians: a *je-ne-sais-quo'* of sexual frustration. Add to all that the sound of a dusty-old violin playing a rickety Jewish tune, English slapstick and Offenbach's obscure melodies... Conventionalists and Cartesians beware! Mildmannered Opera consumers, this is not the show for you.

Nick Lambert

ENO BOX OFFICE 0171 836 0111

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# Madonna sends a ray of light

As one of pop's most controversial women, the original incarnation of 'Girl Power' is now a mother. With the release of her new album it appears as though she is finally appreciating the non-material aspects of life.



**Madonna**  
*Ray of Light*

When people rant on and on about 'Girl Power' and attribute the Spice Girls' appeal to the fact that between the five of them they have every base covered (other than Intelligent and Eloquent Spice) in terms of image, they seem to have forgotten the original Power Girl, Madonna. She burst onto the scene in the 80s with an incomparably aggressive stance and assertive sexuality never seen before. Over the following decade she reinvented herself with every new album, her chameleonic image morphing into any of twenty odd Spice Girls to suit her mood and current trends. The Material Girl paved the way for all of those feminine angst-ridden rock-chicks that have flooded the charts since Alanis Morissette.

Madonna has been very busy since 1994's 'Bedtime Stories', what with fulfilling her ambition to star in 'Evita' the movie and having a baby; and now we bear witness to the fruits of her most recent labour - her new album 'Ray Of Light'.

It's official, Madonna is a mother and has grown up. The yearning lyrics of the opening track 'Substitute for love' tell their own tale - "I traded fame for love / Without a second thought / It all became a silly game / Some things cannot be bought..." - somewhat reminiscent of George Michael's 'Listen Without Prejudice' in lyrical style. The whole record sings on a similar theme, looking back on life, meditative and contemplative, the over all style is a kind of pop-ambient with a distinctly eastern flavour pervading

through chanting and sitars. William Orbit continues the Bjork-esque layering of sounds initiated by Nellee Hooper on 'Bedtime Stories', only more smoothly dance orientated, and perhaps therefore less original.

The title track is a happy floaty fun dance tune, contrasting with the moodier 'Skin' harking back to her sauced-up days, and although it is samey in parts, the album is listenable and easy going. 'Shanti/Ashtangi' is a reworking of a Yogi chant with a heavy bass and Bollywood soundtrack-type backing vocals, also present on 'Frozen'. There are only a couple of instantly memorable numbers on 'Ray Of Light', namely the aforementioned 'Substitute for love' and 'Frozen', the first single to be released off the album - not that the rest deserve to be written off exactly, only that the melodies are not very catchy. Instead each grows in character on repeated listening to produce a pleasing, rounded concept, due to the more open form of the songwriting. She has let her thoughts run free, rather than restraining herself to a rigid chorus / verse / chorus rhyming structure, resulting in a less sing-along and more background sound, with more personal and meaningful lyrics, and looser, more playful melodies.

This is a mature and intelligent piece of work, and although the poppy nature of the album means it will lose its contemporary edge and become outdated, it makes me think that perhaps Madonna has faced some of her demons and found a kind of inner peace.

**Yasmine Chinwala**



## Sympathetic Symposium

Newcomers to the big time Symposium have a few words of sympathy for *The Beaver* before kicking it live in the UK.

### Symposium @ The Esplanade

Endless promenades of arcades (all with the same games), closed fish'n'chip shops, huge streets roads twice the size of London ones, and possibly the coldest beach this side of Little Hampton. Welcome to Southend-on-Sea, a place not actually known for its great contributions to rock'n'roll. Or not actually known full stop.

But it is here that Symposium have chosen to reside tonight, continuing their tour of the UK as if they hadn't even tired of touring, having recently come back from the US.

"It was really good", starts Hagop, "we went to San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego; they were all really good places to play, packed out every night. We went out a lot, met people, got drunk."

"The American audiences were different," Hagop continues when asked that very question. "Coz they all kind of stood there, but you could tell they were into it. They didn't move around as much, but they still clapped, and then outside the gigs, you met people with the 'Drink the Sunshine' single photocopied onto their T-shirts. Which is cool." Especially considering they've had no previous releases Stateside.

"The week we went out there," explained Wojtek, "they'd released our first single properly, so that was why we were there; to promote it. It was picked up by a few radio stations, and they were even playing 'Fizzy' off

the mini album too ('One Day At A Time')

"We got single of the week on K-Rock, which is one of the biggest rock stations out there", enthuses Hagop.

Symposium's CV extends further than most bands their age; not only have they played all the important festivals there are (how can anyone forget the full-on mud fight they had with the crowd at Glastonbury), but they've played with some of the most prestigious bands around- including their old chums 3 Colours Red, Red Hot Chilli Peppers and also No Doubt who they seem to like ("she



doesn't act like Minnie Mouse off stage"), although that tour was the one in which over-enthusiastic Ross managed to break a leg whilst impressing the crowd with his unaided high jumps.

"I think No Doubt, or the Foo Fighters are the best support slots we've had," muses Wojtek, "because they're just a bit more special, not that bands like 3 Colours Red aren't. It's just that we've seen them so many times, that after a while it's good to see something which you wouldn't normally see, like the big, glitzy No Doubt show. And the Foo Fighters, just because Dave Grohl was one of our heroes"

Hagop is in the same frame of mind: "When you see someone so many times, you do get bored of getting drunk, you know, it's good to support someone untouchable."

Talking of untouchable bands, who would you most like to support, Wojtek?

"It would be the Rolling Stones, actually,



just for the historical aspect; maybe them or someone really big, like U2. For purely selfish commercial reasons!"

"I'd like to play the Coliseum," Hagop adds from nowhere.

"In Rome? That would never happen!"

"Yeah, but it'd be really good, wouldn't it?"

Well, probably slightly better than The Esplanade in Southend, where this night's gig takes place. As far as crowds go, it's bloody rowdy. Just as Symposium like it.

Kicking off with album opener 'Drink The Sunshine', you realise just what all the fuss is about; whatever you may think of them on record, there's no denying that the stage is where they shine.

Running through a 'best of', including 'Fizzy', 'Puddles', new single 'Average Man' and their best song 'The Answer To Why I Hate You' ("I never listen to what you say/It's not important anyway"- cool!), singer Ross delves head-first into this gig-quite literally, as he stage jumps an endless amount of times giving him the title of the only person who can sing in tune whilst being thrown about over peoples' heads.

If there's one thing you have to do before you die, it's seeing Symposium live. So go do it.

**Shilpa Ganatra**



# The Little and Large of Britpop



**Sleeper**  
@ Brixton Academy

Sleeper are a great case for illustrating the fickleness of the music industry, and in particular the music press. Once everybody's favourite, now they've become the whipping boy for the hacks. Thus it was that the critics (and mere mortals) assembled at The Brixton Academy for their pound of flesh, subsequently going home empty-handed and dumbfounded. Prompted by the theme from The Magnificent Seven, music, Sleeper came out shooting from the hip and never let up.

Opening with 'Fire-Cracker', they set off on a roller coaster ride of material from their three albums, including 'Statuesque', 'What Do I Do Know', 'Romeo Me' and 'She's A Good Girl'.

Accompanied by one of the best light shows I've seen in a long time, this was a performance of true grit by a band with their backs to the wall. In many respects Sleeper's performance was a metaphoric two-fingers to their critics. At the finale there flashed upon the stage curtain 'The End'. Those who appreciate how fine a good song writer Louise Wener is, will hope it's definitely not.

Rob Fleming



**Dawn of the Replicants / Ultrasound**  
@ Conway Hall

To thine own self be true' it is engraved in golden letters above the stage in Conway Hall of The South England Ethical Society. Such location and life philosophy was more than appropriate for the bands that appeared in its light last Monday.

Far from being just a support band, Scottish dark popsters Dawn of the Replicants soon made clear that this would be more of a double



headliner. stormed through their mad showcase of throwing model airplanes and trashing guitars in a thunder of noise and lights of their "last song of the last night of our last tour". Hopefully not. Ultrasound and their front heavyweight 'Tiny' Woods in contrast are the reincarnation of rock'n'roll redemption, an euphoric, melancholic river of emotions. Ignoring their current success 'Best Wishes' (by using it as an intro tape), they nonetheless delivered an unforgettable show dominated by musical depth and heavenly melodies. The world is their oyster.

Malte Gerhold

## Velvet Wonderland

Classic Album VII

**The Velvet Underground and Nico**  
*The Velvet Underground and Nico (1967)*

The Velvet Underground are one of the most influential rock bands ever, and yet despite this, compared to the Stones or Beatles, they remain relatively unknown.

Formed in 1965 after some early exits from the band, the line-up was Lou Reed, John Cale, Maureen Tucker and Sterling Morrison.

In December of that year, Andy Warhol and Nico (who was to go on and sing a number of tracks on the album) saw the Velvets. Warhol was so impressed with the band that, shortly afterwards, they signed a management deal with him; and as part of The Exploding Plastic

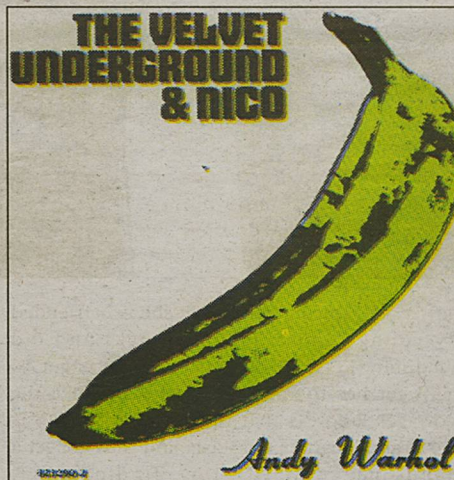
Inevitable (a fusion of music, art and film) toured the States.

After signing to the Verve label (part of MGM), March 1967 saw the release of the group's debut album.

Consisting of eleven tracks, it opens with 'Sunday Morning' reputedly composed by Reed and Cale at 6 a.m., after being out all night. This slow melodic tune contrasts sharply with 'I'm Waiting For The Man', a song about a junkie waiting for his dealer to arrive. The thumping back-beat of this song (achieved by Mo Tucker turning a bass drum on its side and playing it like a snare drum) is found in many of their songs.

'Femme Fatale' was written by Reed especially for Nico, at the request of Warhol. Reed said later that this song, was a case of art imitating life. The jangly guitar and the simple

verse and chorus make the track easy-listening. The antithesis of this is 'Venus In Furs', a song about sado-masochism. Harsh, grating guitars are over laid with staccato style viola playing, culminating in a sound designed to shock.



As is probably already obvious by now, The Velvet Underground were not afraid to address controversial subjects, in particular drugs, and this was reinforced with 'Run Run Run', a tune about a notorious user/dealer park in Manhattan, and the classic 'Heroin'. In many ways, The Velvet Underground saw themselves as social commentators, telling it like it was in Manhattan. For example, 'All Tomorrow's Parties' (sung by Nico), looks at the problem of alienation in a big city, painting a portrait of a "poor girl" who concerns herself with what to wear to a party that will never happen.

There are lighter moments on the album in the form of 'I'll Be Your Mirror', a love song and 'There She Goes Again' which is probably the most traditional track on The Velvet Underground and Nico. However, normal service is resumed again with 'The Black Angel's Death Song' (need I say more); and the weakest tune, called 'European Son' which sounds like a drug fuelled jamming session.

Robert Fleming

## Weekly Round-up

### Singles

**Prince Buster**  
*Whine and Grine*

Put it in your CD player, press play and close your eyes: that's all it takes to go to the Caribbean. This re-release of a Jamaican 60s recording features authentic rock steady grooves, funky keyboards and crunchy horns. Prince Buster, the legend of the sound systems, epitomises the history of Jamaican music: With this, he proves that he knows what it takes to make a summer hit. (9) RA

**Travis**  
*More Than Us Ep*

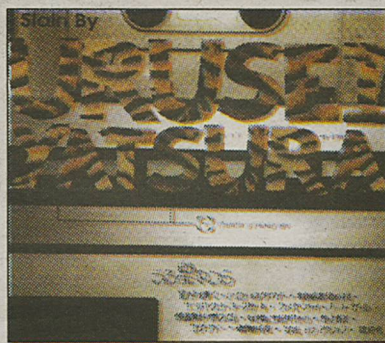
You know one of those really PMT-esque days when life is so shit getting out of bed requires a hefty amount of Red Bull and about 20 cigarettes? Well, this is the most beautiful soundtrack to it. Mellow and melancholy, this has to be one of the best tracks of this year so far. (9) SG

**Third Eye Blind**  
*How's It going To Be*

Bad pseudo-deep poetry and a cheap Counting Crows mimicry. The best thing is that the second track is an unadulterated non-radio edit of their debut single "semi-charmed life", big summer hit over in the states. Never go near this bullshit. (2) DB

### Albums

**Urusei Yatsura**  
*Slain By Urusei Yatsura*



Urusei Yatsura - which I'm told translates as 'noisy bastards' - made regular forays into the Indie charts recently. On first listening to Slain..., it sounds as though all the members of Urusei Yatsura have a speed habit. No sooner are your senses able to register the hyper opening track 'Glo Starz', than they are further grappling with 'Hello Tiger' and 'Strategic Hamlets'. It's perhaps not surprising to learn that Urusei Yatsura are advocates of the three-minute pop song. Their music is lo-fi, creating a crude and raw sound, with the distortion pedal working overtime. 'King of Lazy', a melancholy track, thankfully allows time for a breather, only for them to realise they haven't played

something fast for three minutes six seconds. Thus, after a while, the album does tend to sound the same. (7) RF

**Everclear**  
*So Much for the Afterglow*

They've got passion, they have the whole sob-story about being this close to death but coming back from the brink through the love of music, they've got excellent lyrics, all they need to get the full thumbs up. Except for the question of consistent decent tunes. Some songs are amazing. Like title track 'So Much for the Afterglow'. It impresses you almost to the point of tears. But then it has songs that go straight over your head. 'Normal Like You', as its title implies is mediocre rock with absolutely zero that deviates from the average white rock band with high aspirations and a good-looking singer. On the upside, it's promising to see that though the melodies are virtually non-existent, the lyrics are still up to scratch. It's more than likely that this album is a sign that Everclear desperately need to pull themselves together and start playing the way that they know. Shame, but all I can say for the moment is thank god for the CD Skip button. (5) SG

**Matchbox 20**  
*Yourself or Someone Like You*

Overall, this is a very good album. 'Matchbox 20's style is a little bit like Del Amitri but with more aggression. The scene is set with 'real world' that opens with strong bass and guitar chords, before the vocals start up. The same theme is matched in 'long day', before the more sedate 'push' illustrates a

subtle change in style and an emphasis of readability. Despite a reliance on a pacy drum beat and bullish guitar sequences, it represents some real class. The real reason why the band have some clear potential lies in the quality of the vocals, not just in their delivery but also in their meaning: as if they actually represent something, a real story. Rare for most albums of this genre. (8) ME

**Live**  
**Bedlam Ago Go**  
@ Water Rats

With a wasted nonchalance singer Leigh Kenny hangs on the mic, whispering, singing, rapping, shouting, reminiscent of Shaun Ryder - but definitely his very own. Bedlam Ago Go fit in between trip hop a la Massive Attack and dance a la Apollo 440 and they do it bloody damn well. Backed up by the psychedelics of bluesy guitar solos, crushing punk riffs and flowing dance beats they drive the audience into head-spinning hypnosis, culminating in the marvellous 'Season No. 5'. For an hour Bedlam Ago Go made the grey Kings Cross Water Rats float in space, Leeds style. MG





# Animated Anastasia

Mike Kugler investigates Russian history - cartoon style

Even though they aren't patting themselves on the back for turning beetroot fields in France into the Beacon for Shameless commerce - known as Eurodisney, Disney execs managed to cultivate an enormous following for Disney's staple crop, animated films. Fast on their heels, however, and eager to cash in on the glamour (and merchandising) that such films inevitably produce, 20th Century Fox is busily producing its own collection of animation classic hopefuls. Their latest offering tells the tale of *Anastasia*, daughter to Tsar Nicholas II, and the last of the Romanov dynasty.

First a word of caution for those looking to skip some course reading on Russian history. The movie bears almost no relationship to actual historical events and even Oliver Stone wouldn't play this fast and loose with the facts. But given that the only harm done is the irrevocable damage to our collective cultural heritage by tampering with the youth of tomorrow's grasp on the truth of the past, it's probably just a kid flick, so no big deal.

The plot itself follows the tried and true formula of most animated features of late. Anastasia (Meg Ryan) lives in a fabulous palace with her family and life seems hunky dory. But the evil Rasputin comes calling, curses the Romanov family, and that of course is what started the Russian Revolution (never mind all that silliness about Marxist-Leninism). Anastasia manages to escape the plundering communists, but also loses her memory in the process (plot device #1 for those who are counting).

Ten years and a few ho hum musical numbers later, Anastasia sets out for Paris to discover who she is, using as her first clue a necklace she was given as a young girl (plot



device #2). During her search she is befriended by young Dimitri (John Cusack) and old Vladimir (Kelsey Grammer) who are eager to help get her to Paris if only to convince the Dowager Empress that the girl they've met is her granddaughter Anastasia and thus collect a handsome reward for finding her. Unbeknownst to them of course, she actually is Anastasia. How many plot devices is that?

In the meantime, Rasputin is brought back from the dead, having died in an early attempt to kill the young Anastasia, by virtue of the fact

that Anastasia still lives and hence his curse on the Romanovs is technically unfulfilled. Having now established what are basically the ground rules for most Disney-esque films these days, it seems director Don Bluth (the man who brought you *Space Ace* and the *Secret of Nimh*) felt his work was done. You've got the villain's sidekick, Bartok the albino bat (Hank Azaria), the fat and ebullient friends of the hero and heroine, and even a cute dog name Pooka. But *Anastasia* never seems to get into anything more than its component parts.

While Hank Azaria has already laid claim to legend status doing characters for *The Simpsons*, his talents seem wasted on Bartok, with no great lines or coherent personality. The other supporting roles lack dimension and comedic value as well. You want to laugh, but the writing just isn't there. As a result, the menace of Rasputin and the charm of his sidekick aren't exactly all that. And the inevitable amorous relationship that develops between Anastasia and Dimitri isn't quite the tear jerker it should be. All this only seems to draw attention to a plot which has basically been worn thin by previous films. In the plus column however, Don Bluth

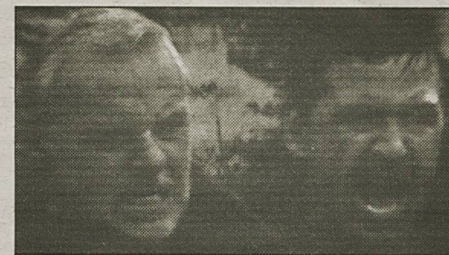
provides spectacular animation with lush color that is somewhat therapeutic after having spent a long monochrome winter in the city of London. Additionally there are several breathtaking action scenes that are quite compelling in a *Dragon's Lair*-esque sort of way. All this makes for at least semi-entertaining cinema, but it may not be enough to overcome your desire to throttle the screaming kid two rows in front of you.

**"Anastasia" opens March 27th**

# The Edge

Anthony Hopkins is without a doubt the most unlikely action hero ever to be Elle Macpherson's screen husband, but sure enough, *The Edge* - the new movie from director Lee Tamahori (*Once Were Warriors*, *Mulholland Falls*) - has the pair united in love.

*The Edge* is basically an action thriller, about two men's war against the elements and nature in the mountain wilderness. Hopkins plays Charles Morse, a quiet, retiring billionaire with vast theoretical knowledge (of absolutely everything apparently) gleaned from books. He joins his model wife (Macpherson) on a fashion shoot in remote mountains somewhere in North America, along with photographer Bob (Alec Baldwin) and a small entourage of fashion type people, to take photos of Macpherson wearing a suede leotard with the backdrop of the mountains and forests.



The sense of forboding is laid on thick, with lots of longshots capturing meaningful glances and the like. The male model gets ill, so Bob decides to track down this random native American guy to take pictures of him instead, but he's gone hunting so they take their dodgy little seaplane and set off in search of him. Soon enough, a flock of birds crash into the cockpit, and the plane dives into an extraordinary crash sequence that made the whole audience gasp. Bob, Charles and another guy are the survivors, left to find their way back towards civilisation, relying solely on Charles' extensive readings of wilderness survival techniques, and trying to fight off the unwanted attentions of a man-eating grizzly.

The battles with the malevolent bear are amazing, and it is these scenes that make the film. The whole male bonding theme has been done before - old enemies abandoning their suspicions to join forces in the face adversity, but there are some very funny lines and beautifully shot scenery. The plot is generally predictable, and David Mamet's script uneven with all to brief flashes of insight and humour, barely stretching a big-name cast, leaving the film lacking in dramatic tension.

YC

**"The Edge" is now showing**

# Kiss the Girls

What, another Morgan Freeman film? Yes indeed the coolest man over 60 is back playing another smooth intelligent cop type in the new action thriller *Kiss The Girls*, adapted from James Patterson's novel and directed by Gary Fieder (*Things To Do in Denver When You're Dead*). Freeman has been mighty busy of late, with blockbusters pouring out of his ears - not bad for a grandfather of ten. Unfortunately, *Kiss The Girls* does not qualify as one of his more worthy efforts.

The basic story is your bog standard catch-a-serial-killer thriller, with Morgan Freeman as Alex Cross, 'Forensic Psychologist' extraordinaire. When his niece Naomi goes missing in Durham, North Carolina, Cross leaves his home in Washington to join forces with the Durham police in the hunt. On arrival, he learns that Naomi is only one of several missing women, all young, attractive, intelligent and talented. Meanwhile, one of the abductees, Dr Kate McTiernan (Ashley Judd) escapes the clutches of the man known only as 'Casanova'

and lives to tell her tale. Together they must battle against time to find the girls, living in fear of the killer's next whim...blah blah blah you've heard it all before.

The plot is such a pile of unoriginal cliché-ridden drivel, it is laughable. The characters are so two dimensional - Dr Kate is a beautiful young woman who works as a surgeon by day and kick-boxes in her spare time. Morgan Freeman is totally wasted, despite his valiant efforts to bring depth and gravity to a transparent role.

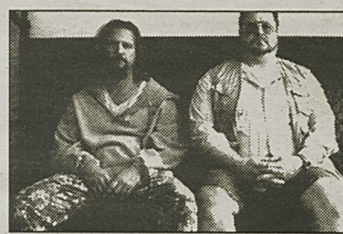
Whatever else you may have heard, this is not *Seven*. *Seven* was an unpredictable, nerve-racking, nail-biting, roller-coaster of twisting tensions and gore - *Kiss The Girls* is just silly. The vain attempt at a climactic twist is more like an inevitable bend. Perhaps if you have never seen a whodunnit before and have no imagination than this film may well be a novel experience for you. Otherwise, spend your money elsewhere.

YC

**"Kiss The Girls" is now showing**

# Preview Ticket Giveaway

THE BIG LEBOWSKI is the great new movie from the Coen brothers (of *Fargo* fame), a twisted story of mistaken identity, extortion, double-cross, deception, embezzlement, sex and dope. It takes guys as simple as the Dude (Jeff Bridges) and Walter (John Goodman) to make a plot this complicated - and they'd rather be



bowling. This is a truly fab b l a c k comedy thriller, and we h a v e loads of F R E E

tickets to give away for a special preview on Thursday 12th March at the ABC Shaftesbury Avenue at 8pm. The tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis - just pop down to the Beaver Office (C023, down the stairs by the Tuns) and leave a message for Yasmine.

**Miss it, miss out!**





# Bathing in Bonnard

Impressionism, like it or not, is one of the big draws in the art world. The beauty and emotion of the style manage to speak to a rather broad spectrum of society. Painters like Monet and Van Gogh have developed an almost cult like following with the posthumous prostitution of their work via poster sales to university students desperate to add a little color and culture to the barren walls of their residence accommodation. Amidst all the hoopla though, the work of French painter Pierre Bonnard has remained relatively unsung.



Born in 1867, Bonnard was heavily influenced by the aforementioned heavyweights of Impressionism, as well as others. But Bonnard wasn't content to simply

imitate them. His self professed goal was to, "outshine them in their naturalistic impressions of color." The result is a spectacular display of some of the most vibrant scenes and colors ever to be put on canvas. With brilliant greens and reds, Bonnard's palette conveys emotion and passion, showing us the world as seen through the heart instead of the eyes.

However, Bonnard didn't limit himself to landscapes and paintings of the view from his kitchen (although there is an abundance of both these subjects). He focused an equal amount of his work on people, mainly women. Thus, what Monet did for water lilies so Bonnard did for women bathing. Like the characters from Close Encounters who couldn't get the image of Devil's Tower out of their heads, Bonnard became obsessed with naked women in water. The image runs throughout

his life's work, culminating in a final and breathtaking painting of his wife Marthe who he had always used as a model and an inspiration. For those uncertain about the prospect of viewing an old woman lying naked in the tub, Bonnard took the liberty of painting her to look as she did when she was twenty something. The exhibition is an excellent overview and collection of Bonnard's work and proof for those in doubt that yes, there is life after water lilies and sunflowers.

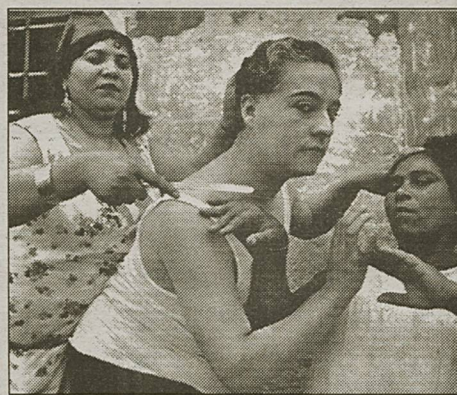
Michael Kugler

**Bonnard**  
Tate Gallery  
12 February-17 May 1998

Some people dismiss photography as an art form and deny the photographer a respected place among the creative geniuses of the visual arts. After all, you don't have to be brimming with talent to push a button on a Nikon. The good name of photography has been hi-jacked, dragged down, and left lying in the mud by those ever-present, snap-happy, lens-pushing, be-anoraked mobsters we know as the 'Paparazzi.' But if anyone's work can rescue photography from the cesspool of its association with gutter journalism and prove that taking photographs is both an art and an enviable profession, it is that of Henri Cartier-Bresson.

When the young Cartier-Bresson took off into the French countryside in 1932, camera in hand, he began a career during which he produced some of the most spell-binding images of the twentieth century. From Moscow's Red Square to Kerry's Dingle Bay the Europeans exhibition is a compelling journey through five decades of European life. 'Photography for me,' explained Cartier-Bresson, 'is a spontaneous impulse coming from an ever attentive eye, which captures the moment and its eternity.'

## Europeans in Black & White



From a face distorted in fury and hatred as a prisoner recognises a Nazi informer during the liberation of a deportation camp, to a portly French farmer working the land, these are only some of the pictures that tell the tale of times past but preserved forever in black

and white.

As a founding member of Magnum, alongside fellow photographers Robert Capa, George Rodger and Chim Seymour, Henri Cartier-Bresson's career took him to the furthest reaches of the globe. He was one of the few who travelled deep into the stony heart of Soviet Russia, bringing back images of the grim life inflicted on millions during the years of Soviet oppression. Cartier-Bresson's work presents the beholder with a reflection of humanity in the flesh. His photographs tell no moral tale nor do they pass judgement. From an English aristocratic garden party to a collapsed vagrant on the streets of Paris, Cartier-Bresson has brought together a collection of images which, whether for their expressions of love or hatred, laughter or despair, are inescapably human.

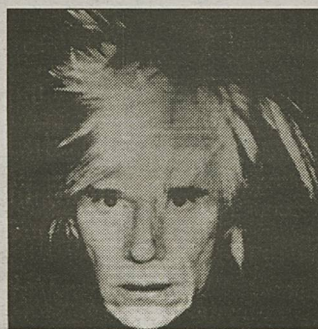
Yvonne Murray

**Europeans**  
Hayward Gallery  
February-April 1998

Imagine, you've got an abundance of cash and an excess of empty walls. What to do? Begin an art collection, of course. But space is finite and there must come a time when there just isn't enough of it. The solution of course is to donate the collection to a museum providing you with free space and immortality.

The Tate Gallery is currently showing off its most recent gift, the Janet Wolfson de Botton collection of contemporary art. In 1996, Mrs. Wolfson de Botton donated sixty works of art to the Tate at an estimated worth of £2.3 million.

Mrs. Wolfson de Botton began collecting art in 1976 when she moved into a new house with a new husband. In those days, there were few other collectors of contemporary art with the notable exception of her close friend Charles Saatchi. To sharpen her taste buds, she studied art history for two years with a private tutor. During the next twenty years she



## Janet's Eclectic Collection

vigorously sought new art of the highest quality. In recent years, she claims to have calmed down slightly. Now she concentrates on adding to her collection rather than discovering new artists. To her, size is truly of no importance. Early in her collecting career Mrs. Wolfson de Botton made the decision, "to try to base my collection on absolutely choice works regardless of

size." Judging from her collection she has succeeded. Bill Woodrow's Elephant, as the name implies, is a good example of her defiance of size. It's a massive life-size sculpture made of car doors, maps, and

vacuum cleaners spread out over an entire wall and half a floor.

Despite neglecting the spatial limitation, Mrs. Wolfson de Botton taste is simple. She likes only the best; "I've never liked the idea of having a second-rate work by a first-rate artist."

Much of the collection indeed contains works from the best and brightest, as Andy Warhol's Self-Portrait and Electric Chair are mixed in with works by Cindy Sherman, Gilbert & George and Julian Schnabel. The exhibition is an eclectic collection of contemporary art. It is a cross-section of some of the greatest post-war artists and worth seeing for that sake alone. However, the fact that it is the gift of Mrs. Janet Wolfson de Botton makes it all the more titillating. How can one not love a woman who proclaimed, "I dream of becoming a public institution."

Fredrik Wesslau

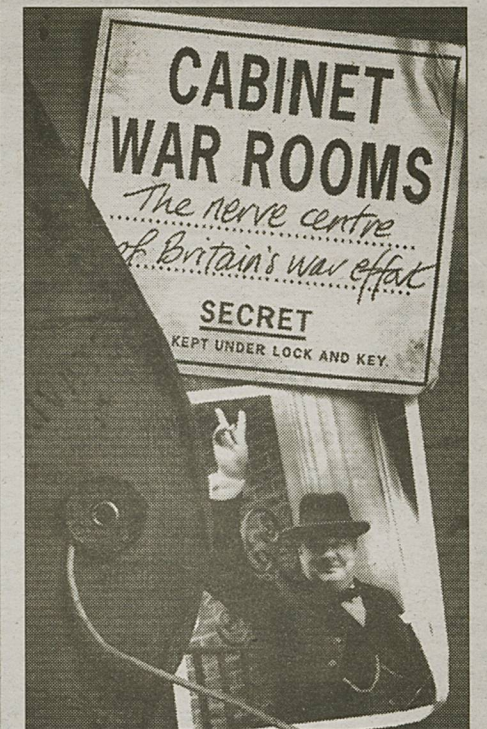
**Janet Wolfson de Botton Gift**  
Tate Gallery  
1998

## Museum Spotlight: Cabinet War Rooms

Don't bother trying this today, but if you had dialled Whitehall 7171 in 1940 you would have been connected to the most secretive place in Europe during the war. The Cabinet War Rooms were prepared for Churchill and his Cabinet in May of that year while France's armies were being swiftly defeated. It was from here that Churchill evangelised over BBC airwaves about 'the spirit of the British nation' and co-ordinated his war strategy with the United States and the Soviet Union.

With the international mosaic that is the LSE, it is doubtless that all of its students are aware of the important role that Churchill played from the Cabinet Rooms in World War Two. For those who don't fit into this category, then it's high time for an outing.

Since 1984 the Imperial War Museum and the Sir Winston Churchill Archive Trust have preserved the Cabinet rooms precisely the way they were left on August 16, 1945. The exhibition's designers have successfully achieved the ultimate objective of any historical exhibit, transferring its patrons back in time.



The exhibit allows us to discover the man behind the cigar with recorded BBC broadcasts, debates from the Cabinet Room, and eyewitness accounts about his daily routines and rituals. By far, the most exciting evidence of his war time character is an authentic phone conversation between Churchill and Truman confirming the unacceptability of a piecemeal surrender with Hitler. Other highlights include the original map used by Churchill at the 1945 Yalta Conference, a collection of the master keys to the Cabinet Rooms, and the Map Room Annex which contains a blackboard that marks the score between the Axis and the Allies as of September 15, 1940.

Our ability to relate to World War diminishes daily. Society is preoccupied with technology and adapting to change. However, as historical figures such as Ernst Junger pass away and we lose touch with history, it is important to step back and evaluate the precious nature of our past. The Cabinet War Rooms enable us to accomplish such a task.

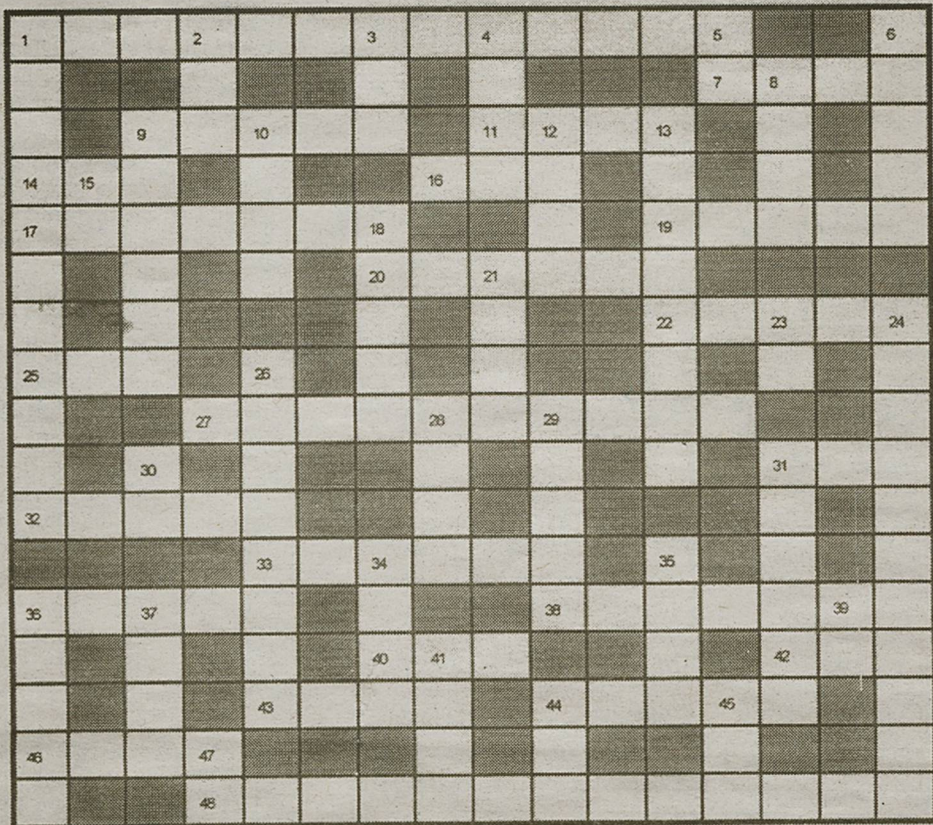
Jillian Bannister

**Cabinet War Rooms**  
Clive Steps, King Charles St.  
London SW1A 2AQ  
Open daily 10 a.m - 6 p.m



# Crossword No 4

*By Plato Phil*

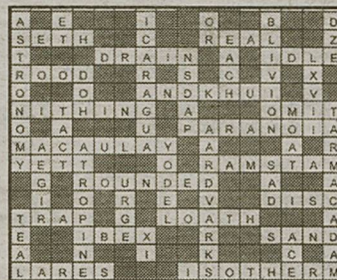


**Across**

- 1: Operating methodically is just criminal. (5,8)
- 7: Visiting travellers receive a French Eye full. (4)
- 9: Doing it by halves. (5)
- 11: Scots Fisherman finds his quay opens it. (4)
- 14: Am I my own square? (3)
- 16: Fly into this network and you'll come to a sticky end. (3)
- 17: No longer jolly - it's now without use. (7)
- 19: Giving birth in South Africa? (5)
- 20: The end of my arm is given to me. (6)
- 22: The place that things come from? (5)
- 25: Unit of Distance. (3)
- 27: Walking with Pooh? (4,4,2)
- 31: Taken out of context this could be messy. (3)
- 32: Bitter orchestra relaxes here before performance of symphony. (5)
- 33: Old plane finds itself bombing the Earth. (6)
- 36: Suck this and see old fruit! (5)
- 38: Buddhist is in ecstasy at dead band's concert. (7)
- 40: Out by his shins. (Abbr) (3)
- 42: A ropey clue would be a bit poor. (3)
- 43: Gated from University in North America. (4)
- 44: Wait, hit me, for all the money I've got. (5)
- 46: If your not frightened of needles or pins you have no feelings at all. (4)
- 48: Flim-Flam man waves rag wildly to share it out! British understatement would say it was a 'slight tiff'. (13)

**Down**

- 1: Badly smelling man has no morality. (11)
- 2: Student organisation within the capital. (abbr.) (3)
- 3: Unusual spelling gets strange looks from Dad. (3)
- 4: Law breakers can't underline. (4)
- 5: Pronoun. (2)
- 6: It's easy to follow public transport when it starts after a junction. (5)
- 8: Hop into this building and hide round here. (4)
- 9: Holding a spot until the man with no ears has finished. (6)
- 10: Touch the telephone to make it noisy. (4)
- 12: Bible man finds hole in the front of the mattress. (4)
- 13: Looks good to me. (8)
- 15: Born with this name. (2)
- 18: It's just not there. (5)
- 21: Party for Germans wasn't very good. (4)
- 23: The golden distance. (Abbr.) (2)
- 24: It's al;l go-ne wron'g? (11)
- 26: Has Gramsci culturally dominated Marxist thought? (8)
- 28: Bruce found that it happens to the moon. (4)
- 29: Completed with birds it made an interesting story - I just wish people would take it from my side. (5)
- 30: Circular received relates to Apple, Custard and Rhubarb. (2)
- 31: London monopolises the best street names. (6)
- 34: I'll get to the point - It's just Swiss William. (4)
- 35: World Language. (4)
- 36: What's today's state of the Union? (5)
- 37: Man finds that's usually how things are. (4)
- 39: Do me backwards to turn me on? (2)
- 41: Campanile is saved by Alexander who phoned for help. (4)
- 44: Pork maker or Copper? (3)
- 45: Fool finds single head louse. (3)
- 47: Before his time. (2)



**First correct entry will get a mystery prize.  
Bring your entry to Beaver Office C023.**

**Last week's correct answers**



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# Are the Winter Olympics Going Downhill?

After the lowest ratings for the winter games in 20 years, James Mythen questions whether the Olympics are still the force they once were.

The Nagano Winter Olympics did not lack heroes of the traditional stock. Hermann Meier proved himself equal in determination to Franz Klammer, Bjorn Daehlie completed a remarkable haul of eight gold medals, unequalled in Winter Olympic history, and of course Britain got their Bobsleigh bronze. The games were not disorganised either, for despite weather problems that restricted some of the alpine events, the efficient re-organisation of the programme was a feat of logistics to be marvelled at. This had added significance following the "nightmare" games in Atlanta. Furthermore, the venues at Nagano for the Skating events and the ice hockey were some of the most imaginative in Olympic history. However, despite all this and the admirable enthusiasm of the Japanese people, the Nagano games have to go down as probably the most disappointing in recent years.

In Britain, viewing figures hit the dismal heights of 1.8 million for the rerun of the opening ceremony - this represented less than half of the people who watch the Wednesday night repeats of "Friends" and one tenth of the 19 million who tuned in to watch Torvill and Dean in 1994. In the USA too, CBS's investment of \$375 million for exclusive rights to the Olympics was rewarded with TV ratings of only 16.4 (just under 16 million viewers). That represented their lowest showing since the 1968 Grenoble Olympics in France and forced CBS to compensate advertisers with large chunks of free airtime. The obvious excuse for viewer inattention has been the nine-hour UK and fourteen-hour US time difference. Japan has always been a source of trouble in this sense; few can forget the transmission problems surrounding the Tokyo World Athletics championships in 1991. With the dominance of sport by Western media barons, Asia is one of the poorer relations in terms of viewer attraction. This concern was widely seen as one of the weaknesses that undermined two previous Summer Olympic bids for Beijing. The other excuse for British antipathy has been the lack of home interest. Another poor Olympic showing by British competitors saw us finish the games with a pitiful haul of one medal. The Bobsleigh bronze went a long way to appeasing die-hard

Brit watchers, however the Curling team's elevation to celebrity status just illustrated our desperation for success. No one remembers a loser and, for this reason, no one remembers Albertville in 1992, a blank British year in terms of

and a city unified in its determination to host the Olympics. Instead, the Oriental equivalent of Manchester, better known for its poor air quality than its alpine beauty, was chosen owing to the power of the Yen. Rather than resident

image and presentation, than organisation and efficiency stained the Olympic name and possibly fuelled the public reaction to the Nagano games. This problem reached ominous proportions earlier in the year when

its scarcity. The split of the Olympics will always act to the detriment of the Winter Games, their lesser position owing to their limited global appeal. The only way they gained the public mood in the past was via the ethos of the Olympic year. The spirit of the two games was combined into one, and hence the music of Bolero could still be heard ringing into Los Angeles in 1984. The enthusiasm of both events became unified in a six-month period, with the winter games providing the taster to the main event. However, the recent extraction undermines this ethos and limits the enthusiasm to both games, but especially the winter version.

Thus the Olympics need to be together to achieve the enthusiasm and spirit they intend the union of sport to achieve. Only then can we respect the shooting when it's shown between the 100 metre heats and in the same sense the winter games as a preview to the summer version. We can only hope that the power of money does not tear the Olympics apart completely, leading to the individual events strung out over four years under the Olympic flag. The sheer concentration of events is what makes it successful, the marginalisation the winter games saw at Nagano may be extended if the biannual games continue.

1992, the last truly Olympic year, was probably the best in living memory. The Albertville Olympics were notable for their organisation and their originality, owing to their inauguration of many new Olympic disciplines. The Barcelona Olympics were a masterpiece of the modern era, and their success acted as the catalyst to the contemporary recognition of the investment potential of Sport. Lillehammer in 1994 was successful in part due to the continuing euphoria that followed 1992.

However, the disaster at Atlanta led many to sit up and face the truth about the damaging effect that money has had on the games. Nagano has been but a continuation of this problem. We can only hope that Sydney in 2000, backed by the elation of the Millennium, rekindles the Olympic ethos and forces a renewal of the "Olympic year". Such recognition is urgent, before the moneymen extend their say.



medals. Though, who can forget Torvill and Dean's Bolero at Sarajevo, their comeback at Lillehammer or Eddy Edwards risking life and limb and Calgary. Parents will not visit a nativity play if their child is not a shepherd, and so with the Olympics, without a serious British competitor, people are not interested. The Nagano bronze was only Britain's tenth medal in fourteen games.

However, given American success, this answer does not offer a solution to their reluctance to follow the games. US viewing figures only briefly perked up for the ice-skating and the early rounds of the ice hockey, despite success in other events. Instead, I think there are financial reasons for the greater devaluation of the Winter Olympics and their popularity.

Nagano's choice as an Olympic venue was not due to glamour, prestige

enthusiasm, it was the location of important Japanese Olympic sponsors swayed the opinion of many IOC members. In fact, many of Nagano's inhabitants campaigned against the games up to the opening ceremony owing to the potential social and environmental damage it would cause. This fear has been fulfilled, as hastily rearranged alpine events have affected the slopes, while the constant competition between Coca-Cola and Pepsi has tickertaped the city. The final insult came with Sony intruding the local monastery to urge Monks to appear in Walkman adverts.

Atlanta, which preceded Nagano, offered an illusion to the negative effect money was bringing to the games. An event bought by Coca-Cola and CNN became the greatest sham in Olympic history. A city more concerned with

Swedish residents threatened terrorist action to prevent the Olympics being given top Stockholm in 2004. Thus, the effect of money has had a sad effect of devaluing the games in the eyes of those who host them, no longer is it a source of prestige, but a millstone to be avoided.

The other effect capital has had on the games has been to generate the biannual split between the winter and summer Olympics. Although this was established with the smokescreen of creating stronger Olympic Union via more frequent assembly, it was actually a ploy to increase revenue by having Olympic events every two years rather than four. It was the same rationale that increased to World Athletics championships to every two years, which further devalued the Olympic spirit, a sensation that is intensified by

## Making your own Heaven

Lachesis January contemplates fanaticism

Although 'Heaven on Earth' could be criticised for portraying Christianity in a bad light, I don't believe this was its purpose. Instead it experimented with the dangers of fanaticism and the fine line between belief and delusion. To comment on the proficiency of the actors is unnecessary because their high calibre goes without saying. The story is what might cause controversy, if anything.

Though the political forum is as ripe for an attack of this kind as religion, it was perhaps incidences such as Waco, however over-commented on, which spurred the writer's choice. I doubt they chose their subject matter to create a reaction from the Christian

community, because I believe they were simply trying to highlight the dangers of any blind belief. They pointed out the impossible task of trying to argue with a person of strong conviction because they have an answer to everything and can always, paranoid, fall back on accusing the antagonist as being from the other side.

In accord with research done into obedience and compliance, one must look closely at one's prospective leaders and choose them with care. The hypnotic quality in many political leaders oratory is merely exaggerated in the hands of the madman and the conviction and support of the masses only lends itself to hatred of the dissenters as an

enemy, not simply a another rational voice. History is littered with examples of such leaders yet are we any the wiser now?

We would think ourselves clever enough to know the difference between somebody who is dangerously insane and a charismatic leader, but I think 'Heaven and Earth' outlines the possibility that we're more inclined to believe what we want to believe than question. To look deep into the eyes of a potentially good leader might be looking a gift horse in the mouth and even nowadays many would rather blind themselves to the pessimistic possibilities.

As stated before, this is not a problem isolated to the religious

alone. Despite endless conspiracy theories and challenging, controversial thoughts, people like to trust their leaders, enjoying the security it brings.

Though we might justly consider ourselves to be far from killing ourselves over our loyalty to our country, for example, there are lesser and more effective games being played with us, perhaps.

When considering people used to beat deformed babies under the delusion that fairies had swapped their own offspring for the human child, we can rest easy in the knowledge that we had improved in our disapproval of superstition and levels of hysteria. Our gullibility as a species, however, might have merely

transferred to something else.

Instead of meekly accepting things as they are and believing what we'd like to believe, we have to question everything to the utmost degree of our intelligence. Though faith is an invaluable thing, and the harm it sometimes causes can be explained away as inevitable, or anything else that fits the bill, it seems unwise to enter into it blindly. Our questioning, of course, is far from exhaustive because obviously there are limits to our intelligence. Perhaps all that is required to safeguard against being taken advantage of by whoever seeks to do so is a more discerning look at our choices and those who make them for us?



# Central Asia: the myth of the last 'Great Game'

Azamat Sarsembeyev uses History to examine today's rivalries for control over the resource-rich Caucasus region of Central Asia

Rudyard Kipling used the term 'Great Game' to describe the 19th century struggle between the British and the Russian Empires for influence in Central Asia, then called Turkestan.

Russia, after losing the Crimean War in the middle of the last century, lost its ambitions for Western

Ultimately, the US Administration has decided that Central Asia is too important to be allowed to be a permanent Russian 'back yard'.

expansion, and instead turned to Turkestan. A series of military expeditions successfully achieved the incorporation of all Central Asian lands into Russia. Britain however, which already owned India, also aspired to expansion in Central Asia. Nonetheless, Britain was ultimately resolved not to confront Russia and concentrated on India and Afghanistan. Although there was a threat of overt conflict with clashes between Russian and British troops on the Russian Empire's border with Afghanistan in March 1885, this rivalry was ended ten years later by a British-Russian agreement on the demarcation of the Afghan border. Central Asia was therefore part of the Russian Empire by the end of the last century.

It is useful to look at some points of this Great Game such as the arguments of N. P. Ignatiev. He headed one of the Russian exploratory missions to Central Asia in the 1850s. They unveil the Russian cards in the game. He argued that Britain only respected countries it feared and recommended that while Russia had no pretence to India, the perception that it might have could prove useful in dealings with London.

On the other hand, Russia's solid advance in the region had led British policy-makers to worry about the impact of Russian expansion in Turkestan. As George Curzon, who travelled to Turkestan, wrote, Russia's reputation in the region had been raised "owing to their unchecked and apparently irresistible advance, by the credit that their troops enjoy of being merely the advanced guard of inexhaustible numbers... It has been noticed... that while the inhabitants of the regions are amazed at the wealth of England, they are impressed by the numerical strength of Russia".

However some Russian policy-makers called for Russia's withdrawal from the region, or at least for a halting of its conquest. For instance, Foreign Minister A. M. Gorchakov delivered a memorandum to Russian diplomats abroad, clearly also intended for Western foreign offices, stressing that while Russia respected the independence of the Central Asian states, it also had a civilising mission in the region comparable to that of other European states in their colonial acquisitions.

Another point which gives an insight into the nature of the Great Game is the economic explanation of Russia's colonialist policy. Economic considerations - from Russian merchant caravans to dependence on imported raw cotton to the provision of new lands for the Russian peasantry - were always driving Russian expansion in the region.

We thus have a rough picture of the Great Game of the nineteenth century which was great in the sense of being relatively successful for and favouring Russian colonialism. And the purpose of the introduction of this 19th-century game between Russia and Britain in this essay is to provide some ideas for the better understanding of a supposed new 'Great Game' in Central Asia after the collapse of the Soviet Empire.

Nowadays, exactly one hundred years after the British-Russian agreement on the demarcation of the Afghan border symbolising the end of the Great Game - it is said that there

pointing to the elements of the emerging 'Great Game' have therefore begun to appear and become recognisable more clearly as the new Central Asian states have discovered that all they have to ensure the involvement of the West in the region is huge reserves of natural resources. It was Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev who met George Bush and signed the first oil deal in the region with Chevron.

Consequently, the USA has been reconsidering its policy towards Central Asia. Vital American interests in this remote and forgotten region have seemed to crystallise as more and more American and Western companies become involved in investment projects. Ultimately, the US Administration has decided that Central Asia is too important to be allowed to be a permanent Russian 'back yard'.

Of course, the ruling elites of Central Asia heaved a deep sigh of relief after this change in Western

region since recently winning the tender for two big oil fields in Kazakhstan and is building a pipeline East. Furthermore, the Chinese Government regularly executes Uygur activists in the Xinjiang region of Eastern Turkestan, the importance of which has increased strategically since the discovery of huge oil reserves in the province. The Kazakh Government however still allows pro-Uygur organisations to work relatively freely in Kazakhstan, and even maintains a state television station broadcasting in the Uygur language and aimed of course at the population of Eastern Turkestan. However, in any case, the Central Asian states will never allow themselves to test the patience of their Eastern neighbour. China is also currently interested in meeting its growing oil and gas demand through deals not only in Central Asia but also in Latin America and other places on the globe. China as an emerging capitalist power does not just want to depend on volatile oil markets but to ensure its own strategic sources of energy supply.

There are other actors in the region from Asian countries to Arab states to India with Pakistan to Israel. Though their roles seem to be relatively marginal, it is necessary not to underestimate their cumulative impact on the region.

In order to complete the general picture of today's 'Great Game', it is necessary to look at Russia, the first imperial ruler of Central Asia. Given its immense political and economic problems, it is natural that it has allowed Central Asia independence since the collapse of the USSR.

Russia's long experience of statehood and of the status of Great Power however means that it could easily manipulate the affairs of the Central Asian states. But this has proven of limited use since Central Asian leaders have benefitted from the weakness of the contemporary Russian state or from the balancing of Russian interests with those of other actors whose diplomatic and economic devices have proved to be much more effective than Russia's. In any case, Russia will remain one of the most important actors in the region.

The Russian Government may however change its current neo-colonialist policy under pressure from new Russian private companies which prefer to work along Western lines of business: Russia can achieve its new hegemonic goals in Central Asia through these companies. Nonetheless, Russia still continues to exploit the region. There is a clear perception of increased rivalry between the energy-rich Central Asian states and Russia for the lucrative World energy markets; policy-makers on both sides are entirely engaged in the intense calculations of this tough competition.

Russia is a major world producer of oil and gas, and this strategic industry depends on its exports to competitive world markets. Therefore, Russia has an interest in blocking off all Central Asian oil and gas from the

world markets where they compete with the Russian energy industry.

Furthermore, on the one hand, the Russian oil companies have obtained shares in major Caspian oil development projects and try to ensure that Russian companies also benefit from these projects' revenues. On the other hand, Russia has refused to carry Kazakh oil and gas to the

Russia has an interest in blocking off all Central Asian oil and gas from the world markets where they compete with the Russian energy industry

world markets through its system of pipelines. Russia does not refuse to pump Turkmen gas through its pipelines but wants to achieve the maximum profit from its sales: now Turkmen gas is effectively blocked off since the Russians and the Turkmen cannot agree on the price.

The example of Turkey - currently a major market for natural gas, importing it from a variety of countries to feed its spiralling energy demand - is instructive here since Gazprom, the biggest energy corporation in the world, aims to monopolise the Turkish markets with recent agreements reached with Ankara; hence Russia is trying to prevent Turkmen gas reach Turkey.

As a consequence of this policy, Russia has also adopted the tactic of presenting itself as the best route for Central Asian energy's access to the world markets in the hope of prolonging time by creating numerous obstacles in the building of pipelines through its territory to the Black Sea. Russia can thus also use better quality Kazakh and Azeri oil domestically and instead sell Russian oil, and to be able to stop the flow of oil from the Caspian if necessary - for whatever reason at any time, at least by starting another domestic war in the Russian Caucasus.

Finally Russian policy-makers, in collaboration with Russian energy companies, support other pipeline routes through Iran, Afghanistan and China since the flow of Caspian oil and gas to the east will eliminate their competition with Russian companies in the European energy markets.

In conclusion, there is no Great Game in Central Asia one century after the first. The supposed 'Great Game' at the end of this century is entirely different. There are many players, essentially driven by the logic of accumulation of capital, not ambitious expansion, often for its own sake, as in the last century.

Only the elites of these new Central Asian states will determine the future of each country and of the region in general. They may still determine the level of development within their countries, and maybe achieve democracy and prosperity, even on the periphery of the capitalist world economy. Though flawed from a theoretical point of view, this may work in practice.



is a last 'Great Game' on the globe to be played in Central Asia whose exceptional natural resources are to be divided in the new competition among the leading capitalist states as well as regional powers. In my judgement, there is fundamental difference. There is no 'Great Game' in contemporary Turkestan, only the myth of the existence of such a game which is exploited, sometimes effectively sometimes not, by major players in the region as well as by all kinds of commentators - often without the basic knowledge and understanding of the underlying dynamics of the newly-emerged states of Turkestan.

The five independent Central Asian states - Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan - are all different. I shall therefore limit my analysis to the broadest general trends in the Central Asian region.

The United States were not interested in the region immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and all new states of Turkestan were left to the sphere of Russian influence. Nonetheless, time has proven these Central Asian states to be assertive in their independence and sovereignty. New dimensions

policy, as in the context of globalisation only foreign investors can ensure that this region is under some kind of protection against the possible neo-colonialisms of Russia or China.

As a result, Western governmental and corporate organisations have established themselves in Central Asia, each assuming a different role in this last 'Great Game' on the globe. Western delegations have become routine visitors.

Other players are also active in the region, but limited by low financial resources. Iran has political ambitions and a geographical advantage for laying the shortest pipelines to carry oil and gas from Turkestan to the Gulf, but is isolated from the world economy due to the dual containment policy of the USA.

Turkey is also a vital country in the region, but due to its internal political and economic crises has lost clout in Central Asia. Nevertheless in the long term, Turkey may revitalise its role, thanks to its cultural and educational activities in Central Asia which may lead to Turkish ties among Central Asian elites.

China on the other hand, which 'occupies' Eastern Turkestan, has assumed an ambitious role in the



# The day Japan trembled

Hiroko Tabuchi relives the chaos and frustrations of the Kobe Earthquake

In 1945 Kobe was flattened by US warplanes, but that is long-gone history for my generation. Surely, the death and destruction of World War II has been eradicated by Japan's sheer economic might. But on January 17, 1995, I found out that I was deeply

It was incredulity, not fear, that dominated my thoughts during the violent twenty seconds of the 1995 Kobe Earthquake after which I saw my hometown reduced to rubble.

mistaken - and it was incredulity, not fear, that dominated my thoughts during the violent twenty seconds of the 1995 Kobe Earthquake after which I saw my hometown reduced to rubble.

Everything began with a tremendous rumble, and then I felt like my whole flat had fallen vertically by ten metres. I sat up with a jolt, but once the shaking started I could not keep my balance. My whole room jolted up and down, left and right, and diagonally while my furniture jumped around like pinballs. I realized what a joke my school's earthquake drills had been - right from elementary school we had been told to turn off any electricity or gas that might be on and then dive under a table. In the real thing itself, I had to struggle to keep myself from being thrown off the bed. One aspect of these drills may have even been fatal. More than 100,000 buildings were completely destroyed in the earthquake, and people who were able to take the time to turn off their gas and



electricity instead of making an escape outside may have been crushed beneath their homes: 6430 lives were lost.

After the shaking ceased I found myself trapped under my wardrobe. I was fifteen then, and I recall thinking that this couldn't be an earthquake, not here in Kobe. The majority of residents in western Japan, including myself, believed we lived in an earthquake-free zone; this was due partly to public ignorance but mostly to the government's failure to address this ignorance. My school's introductory pamphlet claimed that there was no possibility of a major earthquake striking Kobe. People stacked heavy books, stereos, and boxes onto high shelves under which they slept.

Virtually no one was insured against earthquake damages. In retrospect, this was a stupid assumption considering that the Japanese archipelago is criss-crossed with fault lines. Nevertheless, neither the public nor the government were prepared.

The local government must have relied on this assumption in planning the city infrastructure. Narrow roads throughout the city, even in central Kobe, hindered fire engines and the arrival of material aid. Residents of Kobe's two manmade islands were trapped for days without water or gas

because they were connected to the mainland via only one bridge, which also carried water and gas pipes. Both bridges were badly damaged, and this became symbolic of poor government planning.

The central government's handling of the disaster was even more frustrating. The scale of destruction in Kobe allegedly did not reach then Prime Minister Murayama until hours after the quake struck; even worse, offers of humanitarian aid from abroad were not accepted until a week or so later because the central government needed to "confirm" with local authorities on what kind of aid was actually needed.

A Swiss rescue team with search dogs, for example, was not allowed into Kobe until over a week after the quake. Moreover, I did not see any disaster relief squads until more than two weeks after the quake.

In hindsight the violent twenty seconds of the earthquake were the easiest - you either survived or you didn't. Rather it was the aftermath, for those who survived, that was the major challenge. Kobe experienced severe shortages of electricity, water, and gas for over a month. Thousands of people whose homes had collapsed took refuge in local primary schools and gymnasiums. The outside of my flat

appeared very seriously damaged - parts of the corridor had crumbled away - so my family spent a week or so at my father's workplace. These refuge centres, lacking in space, food, and water, were initially not organized or run by the local government.

How could Japan, an economic superpower and first-world country, allow this to continue in one of its major cities?

Consequently it was a situation in which the strong exploited the weak; Vietnamese residents in Nagata Ward, one of the worst-hit areas for example, were at first denied access to these centres.

For a while my family survived on naturally defrosted food that had been thrown out of my freezer by the tremor; we carried water home in buckets from a nearby reservoir; and I did not take a hot bath until more than a week after the quake, when I finally managed to get out of the disaster area.

When my school was finally reopened, meals consisted of cup noodles and toilets didn't flush. I became indifferent to twisted buildings, crushed cars, and huge crevices. And all this while, I remained incredulous. How could Japan, an economic superpower and first-world country, allow this to continue in one of its major cities?

Perhaps this answers the question most clearly - one of the most frightening and disturbing sights in the aftermath was of Hanshin Expressway, a celebrated product of Japan's high-speed growth in the '60s, lying lamely on its side.

## Last Week...

Social Democrats in Germany could hardly repress their celebrations last week, as Gerhard Schröder, premier of Lower-Saxony since 1990, was made the official candidate of the SPD to run against Helmut Kohl in September's national elections. Schröder, at 53 younger and more media-friendly than both Kohl and SPD chairman and rival Oskar Lafontaine, won a landslide re-election to his Lower-Saxony premiership. He is considered by many commentators to be the German Left's most credible candidate to topple Mr Kohl. Kohl is hindered in his own re-election chances by both German popular lassitude at his extended chancellorship and the depressed state of the German economy with unemployment currently at 12.6%. The SPD has not held power at the national level since 1992.

One key question, should Mr Schröder win, is what kind of policies his government might adopt to redress the economic malaise, and how these might impact on Germany's position with regards to European Monetary Union, planned to begin in January 1999, and its adherence to the EMU Stability Pact criteria. What exactly his policy would be still remains largely unclear. Although he has promised to stand for "modernisation with social responsibility", it is unclear as to whether he will successfully be able to counterbalance SPD Chairman Oskar Lafontaine, widely regarded as a more dogmatic, traditional Socialist. He is often Schröder, often referred to as a German Tony Blair, may be able to moderate the SPD's policies and image in order to appeal to and win over the center-ground of the German electorate.

# Is Eastern Europe different?

Yes - especially for historical reasons say Robert Bideleux and Ian Jeffries, in their book reviewed by Jan-Henrik Meyer

Blood red is the cover of this book - depicting the infamous bridge of Mostar, Bosnia, which has not yet been forgotten by most of us as one of the symbols of a fierce and sanguinary conflict of ethnic and religious groups, ignorantly summed up as Yugoslavs by West Europeans until less than ten years ago.

But the cover might be slightly misleading: Tracing back the Balkan conflict to its historical roots is only one aspect of "A History of Eastern Europe - Crisis and Change". This impressive compendium of nearly 700 pages aims at something even more demanding than that: It attempts to describe and analyse the history of this whole region which has recently emerged from behind the Iron Curtain.

Thus the title is provoking in a very different way: The people of the countries which shared the ungrateful fate of being situated between Germany, Austria and Italy on the Western side and Russia to the East, would hardly agree to be called "Eastern Europeans", but prefer "Central Europeans". The authors defend the use of this contentious term "Eastern Europe" for the region West of Russia: It provides the distinction that reflects "Eastern Europe's" different fate which reaches back longer than the post-war years. Thus this term causes one to ponder

on the historical roots of the "deviation" of "Eastern Europe" from the "normal" course of history of "Western Europe". [The authors do not make this explicit but the concept of "Western Europe" fulfils the function of an ideal type in this book.]

Which are the elements of "crisis and change" which Bideleux and Jeffries elicit out of East European history?

The first part deals with the "Balkanization" - the ethnic and religious dispersion of people and economic backwardness - of the formerly highly developed Balkan peninsula as a result of geographical and religious factors and to a lesser extent Ottoman rule.

The second part covers the fate of the medieval "states" in East Central Europe before Austria came to dominate most of this region.

The third part describes the specific Austrian legacies of the peoples of the Habsburg Empire and analyses the structural and political reasons why Austria could govern such an ethnically diverse region from the late Middle Ages until the end of World War I.

The inter-war development of the newly founded "nation" states, specifically the economic problems and interethnic tensions which eventually undermined liberal democracy are the topic of the fourth

part. The fifth and final part provides an analysis of the rise and fall of



communist rule in Eastern Europe and its heritage. The last three chapters provide a very good overview and critique of transition theories, the economic challenges of newly established capitalist societies and the possibly cumbersome integration into and relationship with the EU.

This book fills a gap of knowledge about the long neglected history of "Eastern Europe" in the West. Moreover concerning the history of "Eastern Europe" new questions have arisen during the last ten years: e.g.

the question of democratic traditions or of the traditions of an emerging civil society.

Another reason which makes a critical and unbiased revision of East European history valuable is the vibrant revival of nationalism. Nationalism tends to make use of historical figures and events in national myths by recalling them into popular memory in a re-interpreted way to generate a feeling of national identity and solidarity.

Thus, besides the hazards of nationalism in a widely multiethnic environment, national myths tend to blur and blend with historical facts moulding new "truths". Therefore reassessments of national myths are indispensable and invaluable to prevent a student of Eastern Europe from being trapped by nationalist mythology. The authors reveal these traps by critically quoting and evaluating nationalist historiography.

But sometimes the authors seem to get caught by their own goals of asking today's questions to trace back the structural reasons for contemporary problems: Accounts on the late Byzantine era remind me of Thatcherite criticisms of post-war economic policies: The authors claim that "excessive taxation", "regulated prices, wages, interest rates, and the activities of industrial and commercial guilds", plus the "periodically debased" coinage,

reducing confidence in the currency and in financial rewards" had ruined the Byzantine medieval economy and thus the basis of the state. This criticism appears to be highly anachronistic, given the fact that the medieval economy was neither a capitalist one nor were markets free anywhere, but based on privileges and restrictions. Contending that the medieval crusaders "were in a sense forerunners of the rowdy north-west European 'Lager Louts' who descend on the Balkans each summer!" is a good joke - admittedly - but has nothing to do with serious historiography.

What is the specific value of this book, which we get for the approximately 20 quid it costs?

It is a comprehensive reference book and a general introduction to help us understand the historical background of the transition in Eastern Europe. It also creates awareness for different traditions which might help us to prevent the building the common European home from becoming as futile an attempt as the erection of the tower of Babel.

Robert Bideleux, Ian Jeffries (1998): **A History of Eastern Europe: Crisis and Change**, London: Routledge, ISBN: 0-415-16112-6, £19.99.



# Election 98 : "A typical LSE Campaign"



When nominations closed almost a fortnight ago it was evident that this year's Sabbatical elections would be particularly interesting: with three Sabbatical officers standing for re-election, a split in the LSE Labour Club and the non participation of two Union hacks (Baljit Mahal and Dan Lam) widely speculated to stand for the position of General Secretary,

this election looked certain to run a different course to the past two years. As winning candidate for the position of Education and Welfare Sabbatical, Maria Neophtou pointed out, last year two of the Sab posts contested were forgone conclusions. This is in contrast to the present campaign where the result of all four posts remained uncertain.

One issue which has risen during

the past week has been the degree of "bitterness", "back-biting" or to use that other piece of political jargon, "negative campaigning." The start of the campaign saw certain posters concerning General Secretary, Narius Aga withdrawn. Allegations regarding poster allocation and distribution were targeted between candidates for the post of Education and Welfare Sab. There was further controversy surrounding the posters of the LSE Conservative Club's candidate, Georgina Reason. Reason confirmed that she had "no regrets" over the posters and raised the point that one of the campaign was to raise attention. Many would agree that she succeeded in doing this. The view that the contest had become acrimonious was reiterated by co-candidates for the position of Gen Sec, Georgina Reason and Anita Majumdar who concurred that the campaign had been "bitter." Certainly, in student politics, it seems that those involved sometimes need reminding that they are not participating in a national general election campaign. What ever happened to good old fashioned student politics?

However, compared to the Sab elections two years ago, this

campaign is far milder to the levels of "bitterness" reached then. Those who remember "election 96" will recall the level of animosity reached between the candidates, the fierce and rupturous meetings of the Constitutional and Steering Committee and the near dissension into violence. Indeed, this was one campaign nobody would wish to see repeated. There were suggestions from some quarters (fortunately minor) raising the possibility of a reoccurrence this year and it is defiantly something that should be heavily condoned by all candidates.

The *Beaver* discussed this issue with some of the candidates during the week. Narius Aga agreed that the campaign just "doesn't compare" to the elections two years ago, a sentiment echoed by another Gen Sec Candidate, Stuart Locke, who said there was "no comparison" between the two elections. Another union hack commented somewhat reduntly, that this year had been "a typical LSE campaign."

This leads to a second issue of the degree of wider student awareness and participation. Attending the election hustings at High Holborn Hall two years ago, memories of a packed and lively hustings during

which candidates were "grilled" resurface. Two years on at the same venue, the Sab candidates spoke to a rather sparse crowd of their own supporters. The hustings certainly appeared to be an extension of Thursday's UGM. As James Crabtree, Campaign Manager (and chief Spin Doctor) to Steven Little, the LSE Labour Club Gen Sec candidate reflected this was a "self serving zoo for animals only," which in essence involved "hacks talking to hacks."

The hustings nevertheless, did reflect the need to increase awareness and participation in the LSESU. Perhaps a return to the 1960s is asking too much but this campaign has demonstrated that the level of student apathy is an issue which needs to be addressed by the new Sab team.

On the whole, this year's elections have been a relatively low key affair. Apart from a few complaints concerning posters, no serious grievances have been submitted to the C&S. So, it seems that the SU has had enough of political drama, or at least for the time being!

Dhara Ranasinghe

## Reindeer bid for World domination thwarted by Beef Baron

Tom Livingstone

The world of second-rate practical jokes was rocked last week as news emerged that Morris the Reindeer, one of the most charismatic Gen Sec candidates, had been barred from taking part in the Union elections.

The man behind the purge, Bernado Duggan, explained that the Christmas-themed toy had not been ejected in an arbitrary and unfair way. "He is not a registered student, and therefore cannot stand," explained Duggan, blithely flying in the face of precedent - as many of us recall, previous elections saw not only a tin of spam, but also a plum pudding on the ballot papers.

More obliquely, Duggan reasoned that the antlered one was not taking

any part in the campaign

It seems one consideration was the possibility that a joke candidate might actually win - last year saw Hector Birchwood enter an apple crumble, that entered LSE legend by coming second in the race for Treasurer.

Denying suggestions that he was making the election more boring, Duggan maintained that there were plenty of comedy candidates standing. It is thought that this was a reference to the Squid against Dictators candidate, and not an attempt at satire.

Morris, who was unavailable for comment last week, is believed to be in hiding, plotting not only bloody revenge against Duggan, but also a bid for the forthcoming local government elections.

## Hustings prove ideal cure for insomnia

Tom Livingstone

Hustings II - this time its personal. Only it wasn't. Not even mildly bitchy. The election roadshow creaked its way up to High Holborn last Monday, and gave the candidates the chance to show us all how many new policies they'd thought up since the UGM.

In fact many seemed not have done much thinking at all, and this hack experienced a strong sense of *deja vu* as the umpteenth candidate declared their commitment to longer library opening hours. Only shouts of "self-serving tossers" from a member of the audience kept me awake during the speeches from our potential Gen Secs.

Things livened somewhat when Steven Little and Matt Burchill engaged in an all too brief shouting match, but the LSE Labour pro/anti/who's a hypocrite and who isn't debate failed to get off the ground.

Not a very good night either for the Tories - the guaranteed entertainment of seeing Mark Turner and Richard Wignall bawl their policies at us was denied, with both declining to turn up. Things went from bad to worse as Alex Hartley suggested using Rag Week profits to augment the Ents Budget. Quite right, much better than giving it to Charities. Georgina was also asked to 'explain' that poster and its, ahem, relevance. We



Hustings II : This time it's personal

Photo:Ralph Achenbach

remain none the wiser.

Our current Sabs gave a good account of themselves, especially Jasper, who seems to have done a deal with Yuan to double next year's Ents Budget should Potts be elected. Ward's plans for more sponsorship of events was pitted against singing star Goodyear (same song again, sadly) and his plan for different entry prices for the Tuns (cheaper before 10). Oh, and against Hartley's plan to take money from charities.

As for the fight for control of the Piggy Bank, it took a planted question about South East Asia to bring about a semblance of interest from Potts' only serious challenger, Mattias Menel. Menel actually did produce a new idea to recoup unused

money from the societies, with Potts, echoing Narius Aga, speaking of the need for continuity. A close fight, this one.

Education and Welfare. Hmm. The best speech bizarrely actually came from Joe Roberts, the only Labour candidate to declare himself completely anti-fees.

However, most of the applause was reserved for local heroine Maria, the radio star, also, not surprisingly, anti-fees. The noshow of Wignall and SWSS' Sarah Bryson made this one a pretty middle of the road affair.

And that was that. Little passion, little debate, and only selective and ineffective heckling. Same time next year...?

## Quotes from the Hacks

"I've had two and a half bottles of wine but I'm not going to puke..."  
Anita Majumdar, Independent

(Conservative)? I suppose that says something..."  
Steve Little, LSE Labour Club

"It's one and a half and yes she is..."  
Anon

"I will not let you down... Trust me on this one."  
Narius Aga, Independent

"I am a misogynist, yes."  
Steve Little, LSE Labour Club

"Free cigarettes...Yes!!"  
Yuan Potts, Independent

"How do you spell misogynist?"  
Beaver Hack

"It's the best result for SWSS for nine years, I went and checked..."  
Stuart Lock, SWSS

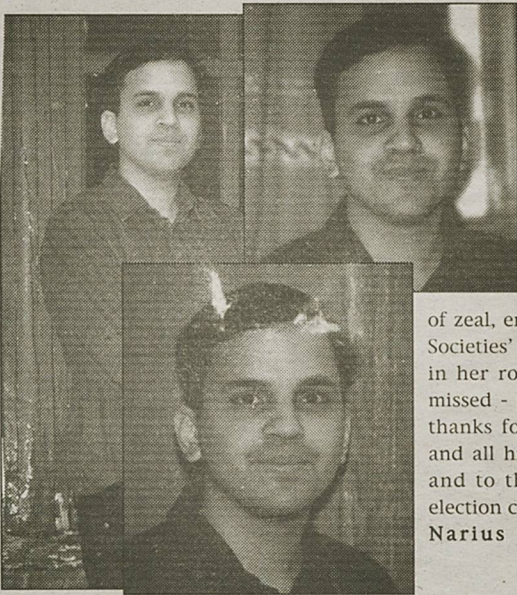
"Can somebody tell me when I'm winning, I want to start grinning like Narius."  
Yuan Potts, Independent

"I could have won it. I could have..."  
Dan Lam, LSESU Communications Officer

"So all the SWSS votes went to Reason



NARIUS AGA - GENERAL SECRETARY

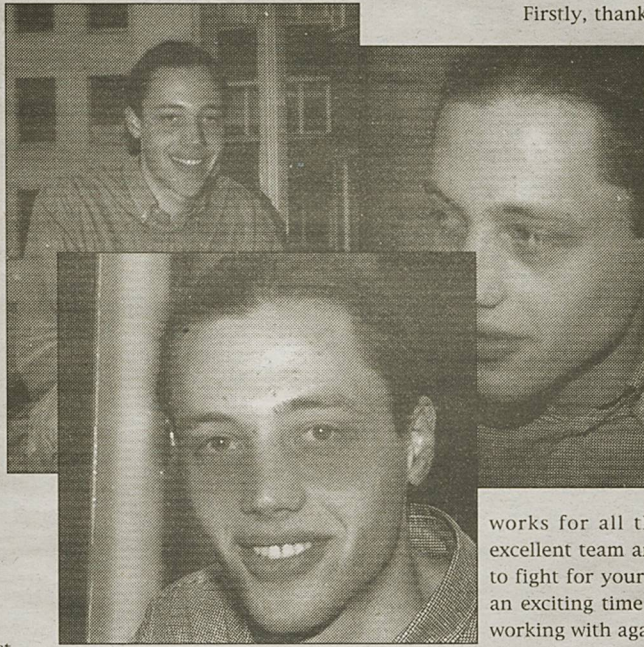


I would like to thank all my helpers and supporters during the election campaign and for all of you who voted. I have taken this election as a vote of confidence in my performance this year and will strive wholeheartedly to live up to your expectations in the year ahead. I would like to welcome Maria Neophytou to the sab team.

Maria displayed exceptional qualities of zeal, enthusiasm and hard work in her role as Societies' Officer this year and will no doubt excel in her role next year. Imogen, you'll be sorely missed - good luck in the real world! A word of thanks for Paul Ashcroft, the Returning Officer and all his assistants as well for a job well done and to the other candidates for keeping this election campaign clean and fair.

Narius

YUAN POTTS - TREASURER



Firstly, thank you to everyone who supported and put their trust in me for a second term of office. For a first time in a decade, the LSESU has the chance of real continuity and real progress. Our re-election gives us the confidence to take the tough decisions that will improve your union. The cafe will be refurbished. Entertainment will be given more resources. The union services will be improved by better communication and consultation. I owe a debt of gratitude to my predecessor, Imogen, for putting the SU on a sound financial footing.

We have an excellent base, from which we can ensure the union works for all the students. You have elected an excellent team and working with them I will continue to fight for your priorities. I believe next year will be an exciting time for the union and I look forward to working with you again. Yuan

Wahey! No real world for me until at least mid '99. Hopefully at this rate I'll be able to last out until I'm 30 until I have to get a 'proper job'.

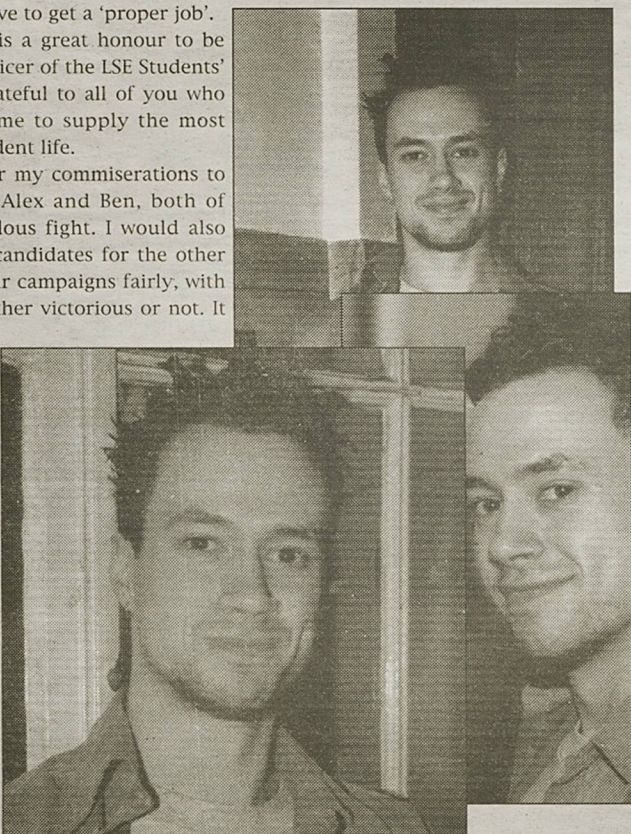
Seriously, though, it is a great honour to be re-elected a sabbatical officer of the LSE Students' Union and I am truly grateful to all of you who have put your faith in me to supply the most important element of student life.

I'd firstly like to offer my commiserations to my election opponents Alex and Ben, both of whom put up a tremendous fight. I would also like to congratulate the candidates for the other posts who conducted their campaigns fairly, with grace and decorum; whether victorious or not. It made a nice change in comparison to previous years.

So, it's on to next year with renewed vigour. This year the Tuns has been busier than ever before and there's loads of room to get even better.

It's vital that you all continue to support events at the LSE, so that together we can continue to provide a diverse line-up of events at one of the world's best universities.

Thank you all again, Jasper.



JASPER WARD - ENTERTAINMENT OFFICER



They say that life is unpredictable but not even I can believe where I am now. Coming to the LSE as a very shy, reclusive person who didn't know anyone I never would have imagined that three years later I could be education and Welfare Officer - I guess it says a lot about the whole 'LSE Experience'. I feel very privileged to have been elected, and as the only new face on the team I know I have a lot to prove (and to live up to!) I will ensure that the Students' Union lives up to its name, the election taught me that students have many concerns, opinions and ideas and it will be my job to listen to them and try to dispel the image of a 'hack's union'. PuLSE, autumn resits and improving facilities will be my priorities but above all I, along with the other Sabs, will fight hard against any more attacks on student's welfare - tuition fees, top-up fees, rises in overseas fees ~ education is a fundamental right not a sellable commodity.

I have so many thank you's to make that it isn't fair to mention anyone by name - thank you to all those who encouraged me to run, supported me all the way through, campaigned so hard for me and to everyone who voted for me. It was a very surreal experience seeing such a big number by my name as the results came out, I still find it hard to believe that so many people gave me their preferences. However, the narrow margin I won by testifies to the quality and hard work of my opponents and I wish them well.

MARIA NEOPHYTOU  
EDUCATION AND WELFARE

Maria

### Jubilee 2000 project

The LSE union has been mandated to actively support the Jubilee 2000 campaign which is calling for the cancellation of new debt of underdeveloped nations owed to the industrialised West.

This is a world-wide campaign and the LSE is doing its bit in Week 9.

You can give your support by signing the petition drawn up by the Jubilee 2000 coalition which will be presented to the main creditor nations. These will be made available during the week.

Also the world Bank will be flying in their debt expert from Paris to join a panel discussion with MP's, Academic and the director of the coalition on the Tuesday of week 9. - Debt cancellation/ reduction: feasible/ necessary?

This is a real opportunity to mark the milenium with something more substantially worthwhile and far reaching than a done!

Judith Bentall (Equal Opportunities Officer)

**KEN CLARKE  
HON VICE PRESIDENT  
OF THE SU  
@  
THE UGM  
1PM  
THURSDAY, MARCH 12**



DJ RIZA

LSE TURKISH SOCIETY

presents

A NIGHT IN **ISTANBUL**

Turkish Pop Star

LET'S MEET WHERE THE CONTINENTS MEET

at the EMPORIUM on MONDAY March 16th

Entrance: £5 including 3 free drinks, Turkish Buffet

The Emporium 62 Kingly Street  
5 minutes walk from Oxford Circus Tube Station  
doors open 9:00 pm

RAFFLE: couple to go to the Turkish Riviera for one week

sponsored by Nuroi Holding Inc.



# FAWLTY HOWLERS!

## LOONY FIFTHS KEEPER MANUEL IN QUARANTINE AFTER 'BARKING LIKE A DOG'

JAMES MYTHEN

**L**SE Fifth team returned to the attention of the ULU league committee following complaints lodged by UCL about the rabid condition of their goalkeeper. An eight-page report makes frequent reference to his second half rampage, which led to a pitched brawl between the LSE and UCL teams. Eyewitness accounts claimed that he 'howled like a dog' and that he was seen to have 'frothed at the mouth'. The complaint marred the epic performance of the LSE fifths, whose sixth victory in eight games sets them firmly on the promotion trail.

The day began with no illusion of the horrors to come, the fifths warmed up on the train with their now obligatory team crossword drill. This routine has developed the team's mental dexterity and has improved their focus. However strangely Manuel did not join in, as he was more concerned with chewing a stick he found on the platform of Waterloo station.

Crossword practice has improved team communication, instead of saying pass the ball, they now call 'transfer the sphere'. However, this communication was distinctly lacking in the first minute when Andy Wyn managed to loop the ball over



Manuel as he rushed to collect the ball. The fifth's fourth own goal of the season was treated more with resignation than anger, for it was only a matter of time till Andy added to the two penalty's he has given away this year.

Spurred on by this, UCL piled on the pressure in the first half, until an inspired strike by Midfield maestro James Mythen brought LSE on level terms with a distinctive finish from 7 yards.

Into the second half and for the first twenty minutes LSE controlled the game in UCL's half. Every

member of the side was playing out of their skin and after a missed header by Zak and several sliced shots in front of goal, it was only a matter of time before they broke the UCL defence. However, in a rare break forward, UCL were awarded a penalty after Nigel Swinbank was seen to innocently tug at his opponents shirt. It was at this point that concern about Manuel's health arose. As he let off a blood curdling battle cry he began to systematically assault the UCL players one by one until a major brawl occurred between the two sides. When this was

finally broken up, UCL scored their penalty, which was disallowed as one of their players encroached into the box. As the same player strode up to take it again, Manuel's incessant scratching unnerved him, and it was here that one eye witness saw him trying to bite his own ear. UCL missed their second penalty and the subsequent clearance led to a clash further up the field, which stimulated a second brawl. Almost instinctively Manuel

made a beeline for this conflict, only to be restrained by Andy, who later claimed he saw a shade of evil in his eyes.

This ill-tempered game seemed to be heading for a draw, until LSE finally got their just desserts with a piece of elegant skill. An intricate ball from Fran Stevens sent Zak through to chip the ball over the goalkeeper from a difficult angle. The fifth's held onto their lead to complete an exhilarating victory. However, doubts lingered about the state of the LSE keeper.

After the game, Nigel was seen to have ring of bitemarks on his leg, he claimed they came through a clumsy challenge from James. However, suspicions reverberate that a team cover up is in place to keep Manuel out of quarantine till the end of the season.

## Play it again RAM?

6th team fall at final hurdle to musicians

LSE 6th 3 - 7 Royal Academy of Music 1st

Tom Bostock

It was an ignominious end for the sixth team, who after a trail of glory were cruelly exposed in the ULU Lower Reserves Final. RAM turned out to be a better, stronger team and netted a flurry of soft second half goals to ruin captain Rafeale Sudun's dream. At half-time the dream had still been intact. LSE brought it back to 2-1 with a headed goal from nifty, nimble Linios Mavramatis, who had temporarily lost interest in red cards and his mad-dog image. Then after conceding another, Miguel Limon dispatched a left-wing cross to make it 3-2. Limon later hilariously put RAM penalty-taker off by winning a mind game with him and rightly predicting that he would put it over the bar. The crushed number nine nearly cried and complained to the referee that Limon was unfair.

Bambos Panayioti then carved out a great chance for himself but narrowly failed to convert, which RAM took as inspiration to saunter upfield and net another. 'Pork Chops' Sadun lifted LSE's third over the keeper, but it was all over by then and the Sixth team trudged off looking embarrassed at being hammered 7-3. They were notified by spectators that they definitely were not four goals worse than their opponents though. Nevertheless Sadun's mix of Greek Cypriots, Mexicans, Italians, Norwegians and the odd Englishman had done spectacularly well to get to the final, and the Greeks made up for earlier disappointments by doing some superbly frightening chanting at the firsts' game, causing newly re-installed ents officer Jasper Ward to lead songs about having birds and Greeks.

## Carry on Camping

'I'm still the Guvnor'- Camp

By JAMES MULLIGAN

The football world was rocked last week as third team football supremo Chris Camp announced that he was going to continue his role as captain next year. In an exclusive interview with *BeaverSport*, Camp outlined his thinking behind the decision. He said: 'I looked around the dressing room last week and asked myself- can anyone do a worse job than me?- and I believe the answer to that is no. I've taken them this far and I'd be doing the lads a disservice if I left now.'

However, the reaction from the rest of the relegation threatened thirds was less than enthusiastic when told of the news. Star striker Gavin 'Filth' Freeman summed up the mood. He said: 'Not that twat again.'

# HOCKEY BOYS WIN... NO REALLY!

LSE 1ST X1 3 - 1 RHUL 2ND X1

BY SULLY AND THE SHEEPSTROKER

The wilderness years have ended; the hockey boys have actually won a game. The last time such jubilation was witnessed on an LSE hockey pitch Jesus was a mere lad and wild buffalo freely roamed the land. Yet the miracle hath cometh and with one and a half years without a win the hockey boys finally brought home the proverbial virgin (or game). A crashing 3-1 win over the country folk from Royal Holloway took the hockey boys clear of the relegation dog fight, and as a moment of history it will rank alongside "that tackle by Moore and Nobby dancing".

Actually getting to the place caused some problems for the team however, as some country bumpkin taxi driver whose vocabulary did not extend beyond 'oo-are' drove everywhere but to the astro pitch.

The first half of the game was 'village' (as they say in Wales apparently) as the LSE resembled some mentally challenged crystal maze contestants in their efforts to play as a team. Yet as fate would have it the RHUL team were crap

although they did have their moments where they bordered upon plain shit. Dan 'Homer' Climpson was unlucky not to score a hatful as he twisted and turned like a twisty turny thing, whilst Ian 'the winging northern b'stard' caused the Holloway defence further problems by whinging at them a lot.

At half time it was 0-0 and 'Semtex' Pete, in an effort to motivate his men, promised mass spanking after the game if we managed to pull off a victory. However, during the opening minutes of the second half we needed no firing up, as we were as hot as a particularly hot Madur Jaffery curry sauce.

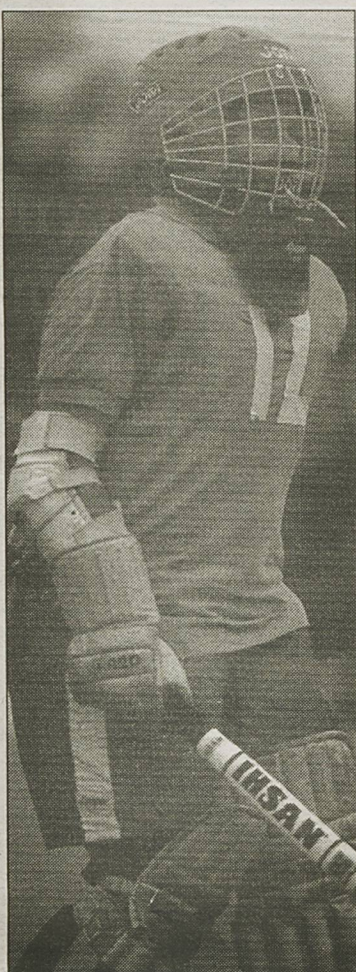
Spearing attacks by 'Semtex' Pete, Homer, and Hassan tormented RHUL and with such unrelenting pressure LSE inevitably took the lead. The goal came from a touch of class from Matt 'The Magic' Marsh who lifted the ball into the top right-hand corner of the net. Two minutes latter Matt struck again. Delightful dribbling down the right flank by 'The stroker' and 'Scouse' Sam had opened up the opportunity and Matt dispatched it with consummate ease.

The boys were on a roll as dazzling play by 'Hockey' Kev and 'Chocolate' Oli set 'The stroker' up

for the third; a slap shot from the edge of the D of deadly accuracy and blistering pace leaving the keeper stranded. Having reached the dizzy heights of 3-0 the boys consolidated in defence as Sully, M.D.G, and 'Swiss' Chris were as tight as Sully's shorts after his customary seven pre-match pies.

'Kingo QC' was playing a blinder as stand in keeper and was able to spend the majority of the match plane spotting and swearing at the defence, and would have kept a clean sheet had the LSE boys not taken pity upon Holloway and let them score a late consolation goal, which we can't be bothered to write about. In any event though, LSE held on for a comfortable if not memorable victory.

After the game, 'Semtex' Pete resigned on a high, handing the captaincy over to 'Swiss' Chris, who in his inauguration speech stated that "being a Hockey captain was like making love to a beautiful woman" (i.e. something totally out of reach to the rest of the hockey team...doh!). However the hockey lads finally got laid and 'shagged the virgin' that they had been searching for all season. We can only hope that there are more definite shags to come.

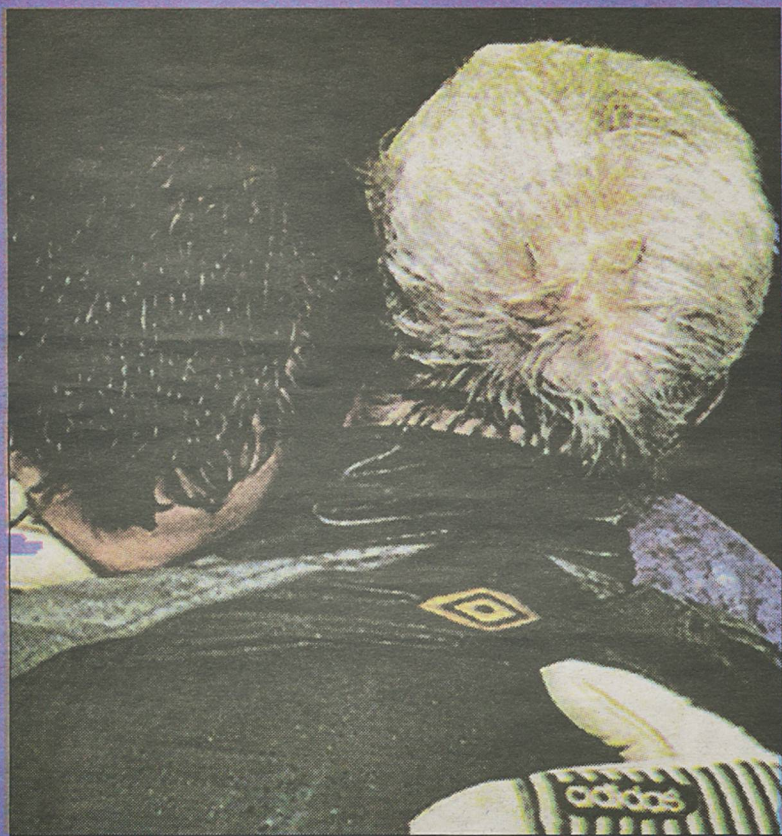




LSE dick Imperial special \* \* \* LSE dick Imperial special \* \* \* LSE dick Imperial special \* \* \*

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## ULU Challenge Cup Final: LSE 1st XI 4 - 0 Imperial College 1st XI Your Man At Motspur Park - James Mulligan

Genius. Pure football genius. If you were one of the lucky few who braved a cold Motspur Park last Saturday morning, you would know what I'm talking about. Spectators bore witness to nothing less than the ritual humiliation of a hapless Imperial side, with them suffering what only can be described as a DICKING of truly great proportions.

So, it proved to be third time lucky for the first team boys after the disappointments of the last two years. This year they have had to contend with an exhaustive route to the final - two games - but never did they look battle weary. From the kick off, it was all LSE and as Miller, Nader and Steph began to dominate the middle, it was only a matter of time before a goal. This duly arrived after twenty minutes when Nader swung in a free kick from which Goodman rose like a salmon out of water to head home, thus ensuring not only a goal lead, but also that Goodmans encroaching baldness was not helped.

Within minutes LSE had got a second, as Filippo's piercing run through the middle of the park

culminated in a pass to Greek god Steph who finished with the minimum of fuss. At this point, with the cushion of a two goal lead, the LSE supporters became more vocal in not only their support for the team, but also in berating the Imperial fan's, who quite worryingly, were all male. With such a sitting duck it wasn't long before the abuse reached a new nadir, with Jasper 'I think I'll stay at LSE for a fifth consecutive year, because I love it here' Ward leading the way with some truly inspired chanting. Indeed, it was Jasper 'I've got a 2:2 and basically I'm fucked in the real world' Ward who came up with the best lines, continually shouting to the Imperial students about how they 'had no birds'. After half an hour of this, they finally snapped and shouted back that the girls at LSE were 'mingers', at which point a large section of our crowd went strangely quiet with nothing said apart from 'Well, they've got a point...'

However, whether the LSE is full of mingers is irrelevant, as it was the game that was important. Before half time, Goodman added a third with an

exquisite lob over the exposed Imperials keeper after a wondrous throughball by Nader. At the break then it was three nil and as the players went in for the obligatory half time cuppa, the LSE fans went in to the bar to get well and truly plastered on the subsidised booze. Refreshed, the fans once again took to their seats for another forty five minutes of libellous chanting at the Imperial fans and players.

The second half also included some football, naturally all coming from LSE. It was now a question of what would be the final tally. However, the floodgates never truly opened, so LSE settled for just the one goal in the second half, coming from the head of Steph who steered home the cross from Filippo.

At the final whistle, all that was left was for Filippo to lift the trophy and Tibble to nearly drop the trophy. With a job well done, it was decided to carry on the celebrations on at the notoriously crap ULU club 'Beano'. The effects of the obscene amount of drink imbibed meant a few early casualties, but the few left made it a night to remember.

### LSE Roll-Call:

- 1. Richard '007' Tibble**  
Didn't have much to do in the match as the Imperial forwards were shit. Most animated when told of the Wolves score.
- 2. Amol 'Mandie' Mandrekar**  
Deceptively quick for a lard arse, Mandie's foraging runs down the right side were a constant menace for the shit Imperial defence.
- 3. 'Super' Kev Sharpe**  
The man's a finely tuned machine who never missed a header or tackle. Captain of the firsts next year.
- 4. Richard 'Homeboy' Wright**  
The wannabee Yank was in fine form. Didn't put a foot wrong and has formed a formidable defensive pairing with 'The Magnet'. Just ditch the stupid trousers and baseball caps.
- 5. Matt 'The Magnet' Miller**  
A colossus at the back who gave the Imperial forwards absolutely nish-all. The blond bombshell thought he had a bad game. I'd like to see him playing well then!
- 6. Scott 'Batman' Forsythe**  
Slippery trickster on the wing who

once again disappeared in to the night after the job was done.

- 7. Nader 'The Monk' Fatemi**  
Terrier like tenacity throughout the match from the lad who combines aggression with sublime passing skills.
  - 8. Andy 'Gooders' Goodman**  
A flawless performance from the boy Gooders. Bagged two, but failed in his quest for his own personal 'hat-trick' in the ULU bar.
  - 9. Stephano 'Taking the' Michalis**  
Blatantly too good for this level of football, you really had to pity the shit Imperial defenders. Two clinical finishes brought seasons tally to 30.
  - 10. Filippo 'The Fonz' Venini**  
The captain lead by example with a great display. Quick, strong and held the ball up well. Could have scored, but it was a feeble effort.
  - 11. Andrea Callea**  
The big man on the left wing was a constant thorn in Imperials side, whipping in crosses with clinical precision.
- Subs**  
**Matt Cole, Rob Allen, Francois Verlainne**

LSE dick Imperial special \* \* \* LSE dick Imperial special \* \* \* LSE dick Imperial special \* \* \*