

6-MAR 2002

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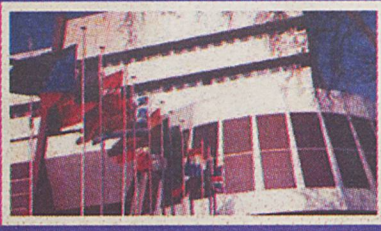
The Beaver

The Newspaper of the LSE SU

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Issue number 555



Parliament of ideals:
the EU debate goes on
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Film-making by numbers?
A Beautiful Mind
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NUS march: the fight against apathy starts here (and we beat Strand Poly again...)

Things I hate # 21: people who say, "You won't change anything". You might as well give up breathing and reading *The Guardian* if you subscribe to this rather pathetic line of thinking. Apathy may be endemic in the cramped corridors of LSE, but the *fight back* has begun.

This may be the News Section, but let's reminisce about the NUS Regional Rally last December. You don't remember? Of course you *don't* because none of you were there. 18 people, including your faithful columnist, trudged from Houghton Street to Trafalgar Square, where we joined a few more bodies to claim that students wanted better education and funding. TB was suitably unimpressed and immediately did nothing. After all the audience figures for BBC News 24 (the only channel which seemed to notice a protest had taken place) are probably dwarfed by the circulation of this esteemed publication.

Last week I witnessed the awakening of the 'infamous' political activism associated with LSE which had previously failed to materialise (along with world-class education and facilities, but hey, never mind...). We emptied a box of 50 free red T-shirts last Wednesday - for those attending the NUS National March - before we had even left LSE at the ungodly hour of 10-30 am. The fact that so many had

abandoned their slumbers to take part in the protest was ample evidence that the Sabbs' blitzkrieg of publicity, with its clear message - "An Investment in Education is an Investment in the Future" - had claimed some victims.

The SU had even commissioned an attractive blue banner which proved so enticing that even tourists flocked to our call of "Tony Blair is a right Tory bastard", led by comrade Dave Clay, who armed with a loudhailer was able to vent the frustrations of a generation. However it was soon wrested from him by other Sabbs who proceeded to launch into a 'heartfelt' rendition of *Eternal Flame* to the bemusement of the non-LSE protesters. What, you don't know why either? Of course you *don't* because none of you go to the world-renowned UGM (that apathy thing again, you see).

However, LSE's turnout was still such that we dwarfed the other London colleges, particularly Strand Poly who had seemingly just sent their Sabbs to marshal the LSE's elite corps, internet chatrooms proving too much of a draw for their own unruly rabble. They needn't have bothered, though: the heavy police presence (particularly outside participating branches of McDonalds) was strong enough to contain the newly radical Dave Clay and

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NUS figures revealed thousands of students better off on the dole

Full story page 2

Kofi Annan: 'How long can we live this way?'

Catherine Baker

Even by LSE standards, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is quite a draw, not least when he's here to stress the need to raise hundreds of millions of people out of poverty - and to ensure that resources remain to support future generations in the same manner.

A sold-out Peacock Theatre received Kofi Annan on his visit to LSE to discuss one of the topics closest to his heart, sustainable development, last Monday.

Annan's trip to London,

during which he has also spoken to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer in support of Brown's own initiative to double international aid to £35 billion every year, came as an attempt to raise awareness of an issue which underlies many causes of more immediate global concern. "As our attention has been focused on conflict," said Annan, "on globalisation, or more recently on terrorism, we have often failed to see how these are connected to the issue of sustainability."

While reinforcing the need for our lifestyle to change so that the Earth will be able to accommodate a population that may rise to as much as 15 billion, he nonetheless stated that this provides us with "an exceptional opportunity: economically, to build markets and create jobs; socially, to bring people in from the margins; and politically, to give every man and woman a voice, and a choice, in deciding their own future."

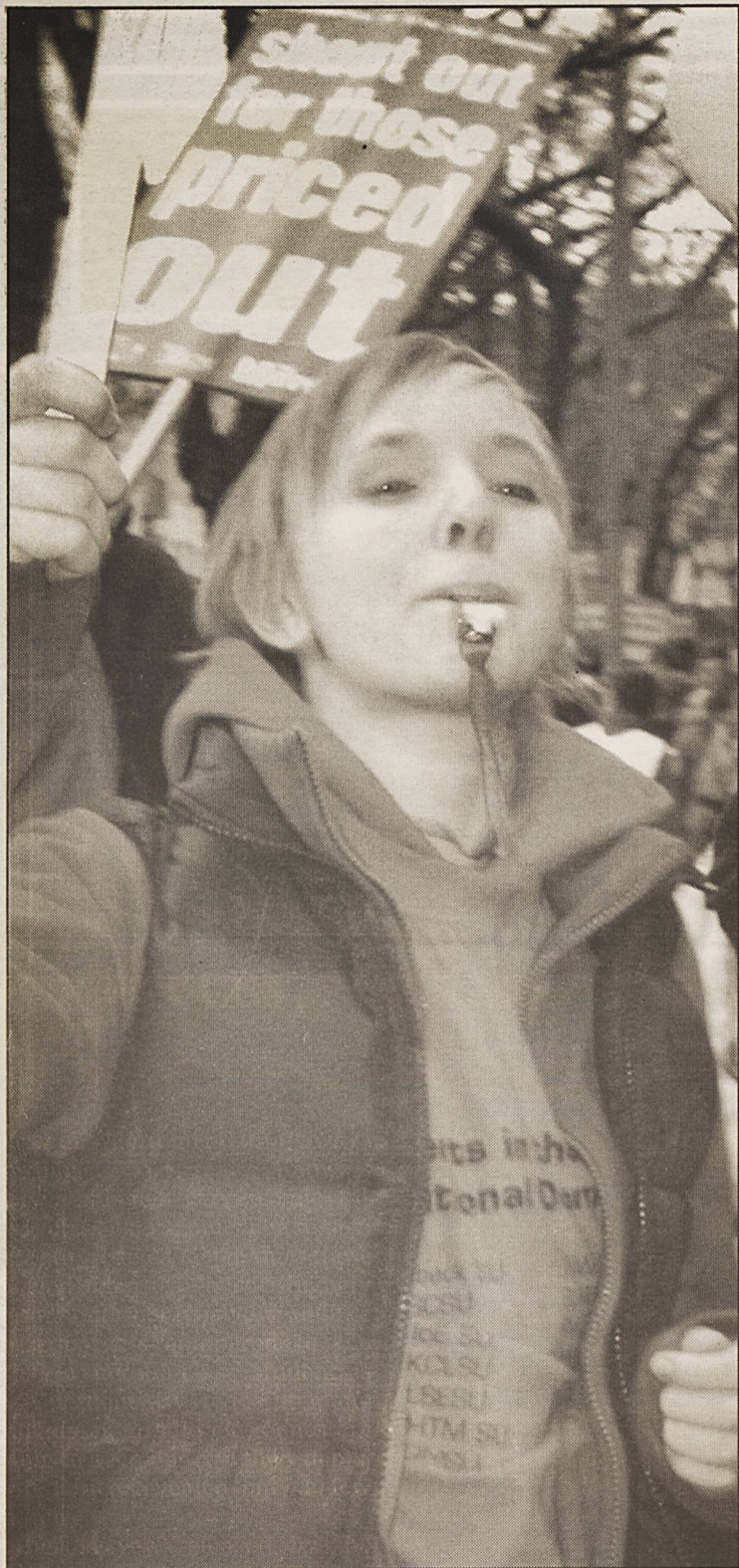
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Inside : b:link - this week's best features, 12 - 16; SU elections special, 17 - 20; B:art - the latest films and music, 21 - 32; Sports - AU elections too, 33 - 36

Summer internships just around the corner at Citigroup Corporate & Investment Bank
imagine no limits: www.citigroup.com/newgrads/recruits



Next step in fees battle: time for the stirring lion to bite



Blowing the whistle on student funding

Continued from page 1

our very own Socialist Workers who think "One Stockbroker is One Stockbroker too Many", despite being destined to work in the City.

It may have taken four hours to reach Trafalgar Square from our assembly time, but we were greeted by the usual suspects: Red Ken, a host of union spokespeople and somebody from *Big Brother* who probably wanted shooting. Your faithful columnist only stayed for the first few speeches, not being a believer in preaching to the converted. Ken's speech, for those that are curious, went something like this: "I may have no power over education policy, it is very unlikely I will ever have this (read, any) power, but if I did, which I won't, I would make everything better by heavily taxing those who work in the City." Cue loud chorus of disapproval from the LSE contingent, to the dismay of other onlookers.

So that's what thousands of



non-apathetic students did last Wednesday. On the way back I noticed that *Student Protest Causes Traffic Chaos* - once again we had seized the headlines (well, those of an early edition of the *Evening Standard* at any rate). Mainstream television and the *Today* programme

undoubtedly beckoned. TB had seen a sleeping lion stir; let's go and bite him. I dare you...

This is a personal response to the NUS national demonstration. If you would like to comment on this article, please reply to thebeaver@lse.ac.uk.

Students struggle on £30 a week, warns NUS

Catherine Baker

NUS figures released to coincide with the national demonstration have shown that thousands of students are forced to live on under £30 a week, less than they would receive on the dole.

After paying their rent, students who have no other source of support than the maximum student loan are calculated to have a weekly income of £29.11. In contrast, the current level of Jobseeker's Allowance payable to 18-24 year olds is a weekly £42. The government considers this the minimum on which a single person is able to live, although a report from the Child Poverty Action Group has estimated that, after housing costs, a single person requires £83 a week.

The disparity, attacked by the NUS as it delivered a petition to Downing Street the day before the march, is worsened by the fact that young people on the dole would receive housing benefit on top of the £42. Neither would they be under any obligation to make later repayments.

NUS national president, Owain James, has hit out at the findings, saying he is "appalled" by the actions of "a government who claims its number one priority is education," and accusing Westminster of treating students as "second-class citizens."

James also responded with concern to statistics showing that London-based students face a shortfall of nearly £5,000 a year between their income and their spending, requiring many to work long hours in badly paid part-time jobs "with a terrible effect on their grades" and still making them graduate with over £12,000 of debt.

As the Liberal Democrat spokesman on higher education, David Rendel, said at the national demonstration: "If the government want to encourage more people to go to university, they

must remove the fear of graduating with five-figure debts." According to last year's Barclays Graduate Debt survey, this fear is very real: students from working-class backgrounds have seen their debts escalate three times faster than those from more privileged families, unsurprisingly when working-class families only receive £160 of support from their parents compared to the median £1,375 that a middle-class student is likely to receive. Consequently, twice as many working-class students as middle-class ones are constantly struggling to keep up with their debts, the National Audit Office revealed only a few days before the march.

Although another survey, released by the accommodation services company Unite in January, indicated that students generally believe higher levels of debt are worthwhile, even this also found that over 40% of students are working up to 29 hours a week, chiming with James' anxieties.

The NUS' concern is that news such as this has deterred applications from the very students the government has elsewhere professed itself so keen to attract. Westminster "refuses to remove the financial barriers that force thousands of students to drop out, and prevent many more from even applying," James told the press before the national march.

The Education Secretary, Estelle Morris, has however rejected students' claims as "scaremongering" and likely to put even more potential students off applying to university. A study by Queen Mary and Westfield college researchers has said that graduates can expect to earn over £400,000 more than non-graduates during their working life, making every extra year spent in education after the age of 16 worth an eventual £50,000.

Correction

In issue 554 dated 21 February 2002, an article appeared entitled "Toilet mugging 'worst in seven years'". The name attached to the article was Cathy Wallace. *The Beaver* would like to clarify that Cathy did not write the headline or the first two paragraphs of this article, and would like to reiterate that Cathy believes that the LSE security record and system is excellent, as was emphasised in her article which began "It's never easy policing a place as large and public as the LSE". The first two paragraphs and headline were written by someone else and Cathy's name should not have been attached to them. Furthermore, Bernie Taffs, the House Manager, would like to point out that there were only two reported muggings (mugging is defined as theft with violence) at LSE in the last seven years, a remarkably low number of this type of crime for a large open campus in the middle of a massive city.



Lent Term Elections 7 March 2002

The time has come to vote. Main voting for the Students' Union elections for the Lent Term takes place on Thursday 7 March 2002 in the Quad from 9:30 am to 7 pm.

Voting in the Quad 9:30 am - 7 pm

You can also vote in advance on Wednesday 6 March when the ballot box will tour the halls of residence, and you will be able to vote at the following times:

Advance Voting:

Wednesday 6 March

11:30 am - 2 pm

LSE Campus: The Quad

4 pm - 4:30 pm

High Holborn

5 pm - 5:30 pm

Rosebery

6 pm - 6:30 pm

Carr-Saunders

6:45 pm - 7:15 pm

Passfield

8 pm - 8:30 pm

Bankside

9 pm - 9:30 pm

Great Dover Street

10 pm - 10:30 pm

Butlers Wharf

**EXERCISE
YOUR RIGHT
TO VOTE
7 March
2002**

SU Elections - Lent Term 2002

General Secretary

Daniel Lewis

Playing an active role in the Union has given me valuable insight into the issues that need to be addressed on behalf of ALL students - home or overseas, male or female, under or postgraduate.

Library and IT resources, improved teaching quality and class sizes, low-rent halls of residence, zero tolerance for Wednesday afternoon teaching, the creation of a fifth sabbatical post specifically to address the needs of Sports and Societies.

Along with fighting spiralling fees, home and overseas, I will give all these matters consistent attention.

Vote Dan Lewis; ensure a fair deal.



Tom Packer

The most experienced candidate in the LSE Student Union - Wide Experience includes Governor of LSE and Environment and Services Officer of LSE. I am the only candidate for General Secretary who is a member of the Student Union Executive or the Academic Board of LSE.

Supporting Societies - Increase budget for Societies above 5% & put Societies at heart of SU concern.

Lobby on matters of concern to all students: Rents, Hall Spaces, Fees, Class sizes, Course choice and the Environment at LSE. Increase focus on Postgraduate and International Fees.

For much more see www.tompsonacker.co.uk



Tuuli Koussa

TUULS FOR A BETTER UNION

Our "Legally Blonde" candidate Tuuli Koussa is a 3rd year law student. An international citizen, Tuuli has lived in Finland, the United States, Germany and England. She can adapt to challenging situations and introduce fresh ideas. You may have met her through her presidency of the Scandinavian Society, seen her at Rosebery or GDS halls, or heard her voice on the PuLSE soap.

Curious to hear what's in it for you?

According to Tuuli we should make LSE work for us - everyone should feel like they play an important role in the student community. Read manifesto for more.



Peter Taylor

I'm running for General Secretary to make sure that while the School raises funds for new buildings and facilities, it does not forget the people who make the LSE what it is - us, the students.

I will work to ensure:

That there are no further attacks on our halls of residence as was seen with the closure of Passfield.

That the planned increase of the student body by 20% will be met with an appropriate increase in the size of the campus and teaching staff.

Please vote Peter Taylor Number 1 for General Secretary

Contact me on p.m.taylor@lse.ac.uk



Also standing: Markos Markides

Treasurer

Peter Bellini



A student at the LSE for 3 years now studying Philosophy, I have always had a keen interest in the Students Union. I have involved myself in student representation since I came to LSE, and hope I can continue to represent students as Treasurer. Having a year left of my degree, I have a vested interest in ensuring the success of this Union not just for myself, but for all of those who will continue studying at LSE.

On Polling day Vote Bellini 1

Also standing: Yiannis Tellyros

Entertainment

Jimmy 'Mullet' Baker

VOTE JIMMY "MULLET" BAKER

ENTS SABBATICAL

Experience - Ex-Passfield Bar Manager, Crush & PuLSE FM DJ, Quiz night host

Safety - Committed to the non-slip floor in the Quad and runway lights on the stairs

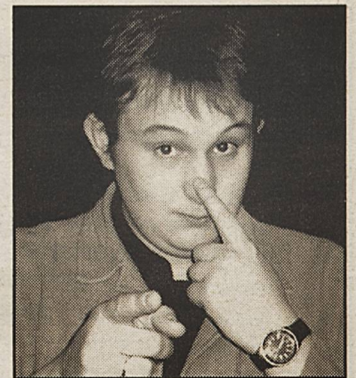
Global Week - Inter-collegiate events across London
Crush - Special Offers at the Quad bar before 11 to boost attendance

Live Music - Bringing gigs to the LSE
Encouraging LSE talent - in live music, DJing and performance

RAG - Build on RAG success with bigger and better fundraising events

Societies - Free annual events for societies with full Union support

LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU



HUSTINGS

Your opportunity to interrogate the Sabb candidates

Monday 4 March Tuesday 5 March
Bankside Hall 6 pm - 7 pm High Holborn Hall 6 pm - 7 pm
Passfield Hall 8 pm - 9 pm The Three Tuns 8 pm - 9 pm

Education and Welfare

Carole Bonner



Priya Parkash



Jane Edbrooke



As Executive Officer for Mature and Part-time students I have represented students. Before I came to LSE I was a workplace representative and negotiated on behalf of members to senior management. I will be campaigning for better teaching, smaller class sizes and no teaching on Wednesday afternoons, improved access for disabled students and more budget Halls. I want to encourage postgrads to get involved with LSESU. Employees of the SU will have better contracts of employment which will allow them to plan their lives.

Your University Needs Me!

- Committed
- Accessible
- Reliable
- Organised
- Lovely!
- Experienced

I believe that working in the SU Advice Centre gives me the edge when it comes to understanding the education and welfare issues affecting YOU. The most pressing issues that have caught my attention are the ongoing accomodation crisis, problems with academic standards, major funding issues and the treatment of minority students. I will fight, campaign and lobby to the highest levels to guarantee YOUR time at the LSE is as comfortable and as enjoyable as it could possibly be. I am driven by my determination, ability to work hard and above all, my promise to put your interests first.

Hi there. I'm Jane Edbrooke and I'm running for Ed and Welfare. My main aims are to focus on housing, halls, safety and teaching and class quality. In terms of housing I want to continue and develop the housing guide, with legal advice on where tenants stand. I want to work to keep Passfield as a budget hall and lobby the school for any future halls to be budget. We need to keep class size down and make teaching quality high. I want courses to have adequate book provision and to make the safety of students around the LSE a priority.

Vote for Jane for a happier LSE!!

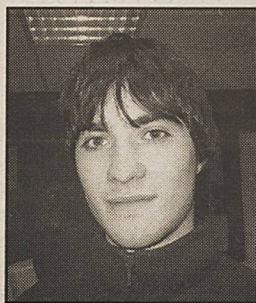
Executive Slate

**Vita
Maynard**



**Andrew
Kelly**

**Elliot
Simmons**



**Heather
Blake**



**Laura
Scarpa**

Standing For: Executive Slate, Finance & Services Committee and Constitution & Steering Committee

I believe I have enough enthusiasm and the following experience: Nationally elected member of the National Labour Students Policy Forum, Parliamentary Research Assisstant for Stuart Bell MP, Member of the Consitution and Steering Committee since Michaelmas Term and Secretary of LSE Student Labour Party.

I am a Law Student at the LSE and therefore through studying law I believe I have the necessary constitutional, political and social awareness to fulfill the needs of the students of the LSE.

I have been Communications Officer 2001/2 for SU, News Reporter for The Beaver, a RAG Week Volunteer, and the Publicity Officer 2001/2 for Debate Society.

I have spoken at the UGM on Education and have attended both NUS Anti-fees Marches.

I was also Communications Officer 2001/2 for LSE Labour

Endorsed by Labour & Debate Societies

Environmental issues affect us all and we all do something to make a difference.

We need to make the LSE a leader in achieving sustainable development. This year I have set up the 'Greening the LSE' action group as part of the Oikos society. We have already persuaded the School to begin looking into Green electricity and to improve its current recycling schemes. These improvements will begin in the next few weeks with more paper bins and better information about recycling. We are also working to gain bottle and can banks. Imagine how much more I'll be able to do if elected.

I am running for the Executive Slate as I believe I would be a worthy addition to the union.

I am a strong candidate as I am committed to the success of the union and believe its success is vital to all students.

I have enjoyed being the Vice-Chairman of the UGM and would like to further my involvement in the running of the SU.

I think I am approachable and a good team player so would be a good spokesperson for all students. I hope you will vote for me to represent you and continue the good work being done.

I currently hold the position of Chair of Constitution and Steering Committee, and would like the opportunity to make a real difference in the Student's Union.

The responsibilities of the post would allow me to speak up on the issues that matter to all LSE students, such as campaigning for exam resits in the autumn, a reduction in class sizes, attracting students from a more diverse background, and more student representation in the areas that concern us.

I'm dedicated and committed to our Union, and willing to work hard to make LSE a better place for you!

Also standing: Candice MacDonald and Justin Nolan

SU Elections - Lent Term 2002

Constitution and Steering Committee (7 places)

Oliver Jelleyman

Vote Oliver Jelleyman for C & S

I intend to see the constitution implemented in an impartial manner, and will attend very regularly in order to ensure this is the case.

James Graham Eyton

James Eyton-"a man who likes to steer". My name is James Eyton and am currently a first year undergraduate studying economics and economic history. In the Lent Term elections I am running for the F&S Committee and the C&S Committee. But enough about me. I pledge to you all that if elected I will give 100% to this union, and ensure accountability, constitutionality and free plenty of steering! So USE YOUR VOTE and VOTE JAMES EYTON this week for the Fiannace and Services Committee and the Constitution and Steering Committee.

Also standing:

Rebecca Anne Stillman

Jane-Frances Rowson

Kurshid Faizallaev

Andrew Kelly

Vita Maynard

David Bennett

International Students Officer

Jane-Frances Rowson

I am a first year Geography student running for two positions in the up-coming SU elections - International Students Officer and Constitution and Steering Committee. I feel I am capable of ensuring the welfare and representation of overseas students, as I am one myself, I am in a position to relate to any issues they may have. I am keen to improve the integration of overseas students into the Students Union and participation in the Union's events. In addition to this I aim to provide sound and valuable advice in a position on the Constitution and Steering Committee. I strongly urge you to vote for me and make the right choice!

Also standing:

Adonis Pegasiou

Finance and Services Committee (4 places)

David Landon Cole

For Finance and Services Committee

More Money for Societies,
More Respect for Students

SU Societies are grossly underfunded at LSE. If you elect me, I will seek to increase funds for all societies. SU Societies have been treated shabbily for too long by parts of the LSE.

I will also seek to change the café and give it a better selection of cheaper, better quality food. I will also seek to rectify this by ending the LSE monopoly on food.

Rex Walker

I am asking you to re-elect me to this position because I want the opportunity to continue the good work that the committee has done this year. It would be stupid to say that I will guarantee more money for societies because that is not the job of F&S. We decide how the money is spent, not how much and so I promise, as I have done this year, to make sure each society is treated fairly and that the money they get is only reflective of their budget application. I hope that I can use my experience of the job to make sure the Union's limited resources are spent wisely.

Duncan Adams

DUNC IT!

I am a 2nd year Economic Historian. I am integral to every part of the LSE. I am in the AU, I work in the Gym, DJ for Pulse, go to Crush, and am also the Union Equal Opportunities Officer (Male). I just love it here. I have a wealth of experience and knowledge of how the LSE works, and wish to put my skills to use in the Finance and Services Committee. A VOTE FOR DUNC! is a vote for responsibility and reliability in one of the crucial LSE committees.

VOTE DUNCAN ADAMS FOR FINANCE AND SERVICES!

Also standing:

James Graham Eyton

Andrew Kelly

David Bennett

Vita Maynard

Dean Lochrie

Esso next door: time for another demo

Mark Ready

ExxonMobil - which in Britain owns the craftily-disguised chain of 'Esso' petrol stations - have their London headquarters on the Aldwych, next to LSE's Connaught House. You'd be forgiven for thinking that LSE Oikos and Globalise Resistance students had no better reason for picketing the offices last Thursday than their convenience for relieving compulsive demonstration syndrome. However, Exxon Mobil are worth every second of planning, postering the LSE and its halls, painting banners, donning tiger masks, shouting, singing, playing the Irish whistle and generally making a fool of yourself whilst losing the feelings in your hands on a frosty February evening. And not just because Body Shop head and Stop Esso supporter Anita Roddick froze with us. Why?

Exxon Mobil will invest not a single cent of its \$17.7 billion 2001 profit in sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels. Now maybe environmentalists are unreasonable, but most specialists seem to agree that fossil fuels contribute substantially to global warming. The UN

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - the world's top environmental scientists, that is - and over one hundred and sixty state environmental institutions, for instance.

Exxon Mobil obviously has a keener understanding than such amateurs. The IPCC met in London last September. Its draft final report included: "The Earth's climate system has demonstrably changed on both global and regional scales since the pre-industrial era, with some of these changes attributable to human activities". Exxon Mobil lobbied to amend the text by deleting "with some of these changes attributable to human activities". The IPCC rejected the amendment. By 2025, according to the IPCC's Working Group II on 'Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability' in February last year, increasing drought will mean that 5 billion - or two out of three people - will lack sufficient water and millions more will starve.

Exxon Mobil had more success with derailing Kyoto. It is a financial supporter and has an executive seat on the board of the American Petroleum Institute (API), and in 1998

helped plan a \$7 million API PR offensive to undermine scientific consensus on the threat of climate change. The plan stated that "victory will be achieved



Tony, what's being done in your name?

when those promoting the Kyoto treaty on the basis of extant science appear to be out of touch with reality." Bush scrapped Kyoto last March.

Exxon Mobil advertised the treaty as "fundamentally flawed" and "fatally politicised". Two months later Bush, classically, described it as "fatally flawed in fundamental ways". Perhaps Exxon Mobil has no influence over politicians, but surely then it would make better 'business sense' to cease 'donating' millions of dol-

lars to politicians, as Exxon Mobil has over the last ten years, and maybe invest that money in green energy instead.

Not gorged enough on influ-

but also that signatories included supposed 'scientists' such as characters from *M*A*S*H* and a Spice Girl.

Maybe Exxon Mobil is not keen on admitting the fossil fuel-global warming link because the public would then choose to buy petrol from their competitors, namely Shell and BP, more impressed by their annual \$500 million investment in green energy projects over the next three years than ExxonMobil's no-show.

Not that the public believes Exxon Mobil's 'reality'. Public pressure ensured that Bush has not opened the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to Exxon Mobil exploitation. Which is why the 60 people on the Aldwych on 21 February did not protest in vain when passers-by stopped to ask for details or feasted their eyes on leaflets as they rushed onwards through London's polluted streets. So join the Long March for the Climate from the Exxon Mobil (Esso) headquarters near Leatherhead to the US embassy in Grosvenor Square, central London, on Saturday 23 March, and boycott Esso petrol if you drive.

For more details, visit www.storesso.com.

Israeli goods may be banned at Manchester

Beaver Staff

A motion to boycott all Israeli goods has been placed before the Student Union at Manchester University.

If the motion is passed, it will extend to Israeli food products sold by major stores such as Marks and Spencer.

The proposers of the motion, Omayma Al-Khaffaf and Richard Farrow, have distanced themselves from potential accusations of anti-Semitism, claiming that "anti-Zionism or criticism of Israel is not anti-Semitism."

Dissent against the motion, however, is strong, and the National Union of Students opposes the motion as one which is likely to make Jewish students feel threatened.

Clive Gabay, the campaigns director for the Jewish Students Society, has declared that the motion delegitimises the State of Israel and threatens the future of the existence of Jewish student

groups who constitutionally support the existence of Israel and its causes. Furthermore, if the motion is passed in Manchester, "it can happen anywhere."

Gabay also expressed concern about the motion's provenance, worrying that "the literature seems well produced, like it could be from an outside organization."

The text of the motion declares that it "will send out a positive message that the international community will not tolerate racism, an apartheid system or violations of human rights by any peoples, governments or organizations. This action was taken against South Africa and had positive results."

"Clearly there's not an apartheid system in Israel," Gabay responded. "If I were a black South African this would really annoy me. Apartheid was a historically specific, systematic oppression of a people."

Manchester University has a history of anti-Zionist motions. In 1996 it received high publicity for its unsuccessful attempt to

ban all Zionist organizations from campus, and there is fear among other Jewish Societies in the UK that if the boycott motion is successful it might lead to hostility against all groups which support Israel.

In response to the news, one member of the LSE J-Soc, who did not wish to be named, stressed that "there is a difference between not supporting the actions of the Israeli governments and de-legitimising its existence." She added that the boycott would possibly have an adverse impact on people without Zionist sympathies: "Israel produces all sorts of goods such as contact lens and tissues, and many of these goods are created by both Israelis and Palestinians working within Israel."

As a good number of Manchester's 500 Jewish and 2,500 Muslim students prepared to make their stand on the motion, she also wondered "whether or not it is the place of a Students' Union to make a policy concerning the complex issues in the Middle East."

Young Persons Railcard Competition

Young Persons Railcards have always made financial sense for us poor students - a third off all rail fares is always welcome.

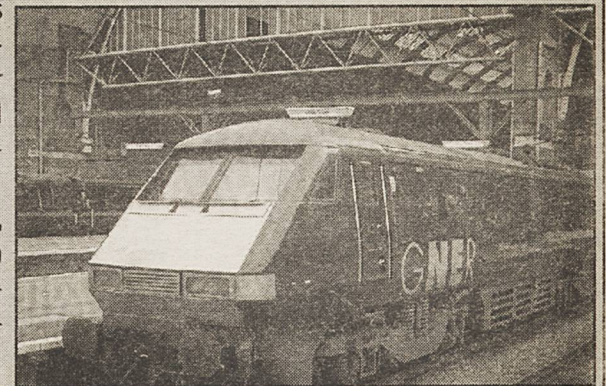
A railcard only costs £18, and can pay for itself in one journey. It's available to all full-time students, regardless of age.

As a result of the piss-poor railways, Stephen Byers (or the new Transport Secretary, if Byers has been sacked in the last few days) is offering 15 months of discounted rail travel for the price of 12. All you have to do is go to any station and get your railcard before 18 May. Alternatively, you could enter our fantastically generous competition and win one of the five we have to give away.

To win one of five railcards, simply answer the following question:
How much is a standard 'saver' return from London to Durham with a Young Persons Railcard?

- a) £15
- b) £25
- c) £52.15

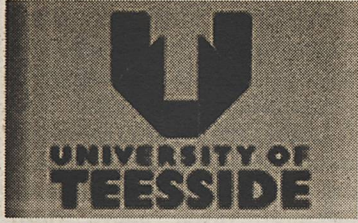
E-Mail your answers to thebeaver@lse.ac.uk



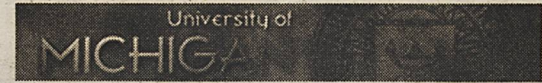
The Beaver Far Flung

The Beaver's weekly round up of student news

with Lyle Jackson & Ju Li Gan



The University of Teesside this year foots the RAE (Research Assessment Exercise) division 3. Departments are marked up to 5*, with 7 points for a 5*, 6 points for a 5 etc. Teesside found itself averaging a score of 3.0. As a rough guide for the layman, a score of between 3 and 4 is equivalent to the research required to discover what colour pants you are wearing. LSE was placed second, only out-performed by Cambridgeshire Comprehensive. St Andrews topped the tables for Scottish universities.



Scenario: boxes of important papers left lying in an open place on campus - sound familiar? Well, just to let our readers know, this doesn't only happen on our campus. Over 40 boxes of confidential paper files, allegedly containing undergraduate admissions applications and related materials, were stored in an unsecured hallway in the basement of the Student Activities Building at the University of Michigan. Most of the boxes were marked "confidential waste" - we all know that only makes the boxes look all the more interesting. The build-up of 'confidential waste' in the hallway is partly a result of the 23,700 applications received by the university for 5,400 freshman spaces last year. Typically, the old materials would have been destroyed, but the university's race-conscious undergraduate admissions policy had been brought against it in a lawsuit in 1997 by the Centre for Individual Rights, and now the university is legally required to keep all admissions-related materials. Now we'll have to wait and see if anybody wants to sue for negligent storage of confidential materials...



Trying to keep *Far Flung* themed (very slightly) this week, another awesome celebrity has decided it is that time - the university tour. Saturday night at the Union, known as Pick 'n' Mix, last week hosted former star of children's television Timmy Mallett. Timothy arrived complete with comedy instrument 'Mallett's Mallet' for a night of malleting-fuelled hilarity. Students were left wondering why they ever woke up at the crack of dawn to watch this kind of tomfoolery. On-stage hammering of a different kind is hoped for this week as Pick 'n' Mix hosts Radio 1's Nemone.



Exposé, Exeter's finest student publication, last week reported on a success technique that may even be more useful than Essex's 'almost on TV method'. This one will need a friend's help however. Exposé discovered that a 3rd year Engineering student who passed out in an exam earlier this year, helped his fellow examinees by giving them an extra 45 minutes to complete the paper! The invigilators have not been commended on their performance. Not to be outdone by Essex in any other department, Exposé then came up with their very own 'who cares' story. Apparently a national newspaper has been on campus looking for scoops on Pop Idol Will Young. Certainly one to tell the Grandchildren.

Loughborough

Exeter

Essex



Last week, Essex's student newspaper *The Rabbit* reported on their calendar recently produced by female members of the sports teams. Clubs ranging from women's rugby to netball came together to produce the 2002 calendar in aid of Breast Cancer awareness. According to the paper, "the photoshoot took a few evenings to produce, with most girls posing semi-naked. You can get your hands on the calendar (not the girls!!!) for the price of 3 beers (£5)". By the look of it, the girls themselves will take about three actual beers. Not all of the girls at Essex University have been so lucky, however. *The Rabbit* goes on to produce the worst friend-of-a-friend/Z-list celebrity story ever, reporting, "Recent Essex graduate Olga Valigourskaia narrowly missed out on a place in Channel 4's latest reality TV programme, *Eden*." Anybody with internship applications still to complete should take careful note of this CV enhancer.

Seoul University

Four students were arrested by South Korean authorities last Thursday for staging an allegedly radical protest against President Bush's visit, which resulted in a police commando operation. Special Forces had to swing down ropes on the side of a skyscraper to reach the 45th floor where 30 students had taken over an office and hung a banner from a broken window accusing Bush of heightening tensions in Korea. This was no isolated case - there were demonstrations in cities across South Korea before and during the President's visit - American flags have been burned and there have been scuffles between students and police.

Non-global but entertaining: the Global Show 2002

Saija Vuola

We were there to celebrate and appreciate cultural diversity. That is what the presenters told us. Unfortunately, that was



about half of the total of the words I could hear them saying. At least, those at the back missed out on most of what went on in between the acts. Maybe next year the mikes will finally work and the show will actually be pure entertainment. And about the diversity - to me it seemed that it was mainly Asian diversity with Latin American tango and Greek dances. Where was the rest of the world? Too scared or not proud enough of their culture? Well, for one night the world became the stage for the few who dared to climb on it.

Contemporary fashion and traditional costumes

First on stage we had a fashion show although it took me a while to see that. "Contemporary international fusion of fashion," the programme stated, but where were the presenters now that they were really needed? The fusion of fashion became a blur when no one explained from which corners of the world it was gathered. The models looked good and brought the air of professionalism on stage. Who were they, and where were they from? The same disappointment happened at the beginning of part two of the show. Flags obviously gave us some sense of geography but hearing about the history and traditions of the respective countries would have been nice, too. Or maybe it's just me who has no imagination and needs to have everything told.

Alternative entertainment

Hankering for traditions aside, this year the Global Show brought us a lot of innovative, alternative and enjoyable entertainment. When Mana and Sharbari performed their South Asian A Capella,

the audience could not believe their ears. Was it really just two girls with microphones, with no other instruments than their voices? An incredible mixture of R&B and Hindi music.

salsa and tango, two passionate dances from passionate countries, are maybe not the best dances to be performed on stage when you cannot feel the heat. The Chinese Yang Ge dance performed by Ying showed that one person can be the ambassador of her/his culture and that one picture says more than a thousand words. The seeming popularity of the songs which the Indian Society danced to under the headline "Bollywood o Bollywood" made me feel left out of something. Those who knew the hits, enjoyed it the most.

Although the music was mixed up and Karishma had to run on stage to perform her Man Mohini dance, she managed to enchant the minds of many. The Persian Society wanted to show us something contemporary and danced as they would have in a disco, one of the girls told me. I would like to see the disco

Incredible, just in another sense, was the Alternative Entertainments Society's act, too. I wish we all could control our mind and body as well as was shown in the Martial Arts act of the Indonesian Society that would most probably make the world an easier place to live in. The Gumbot Dance where the dance was clapping and the clapping was music seemed like a secret language that only the people who were performing the act could understand. The Breakdancing Society has definitely practiced a lot and they've got that street credibility which the audience respected. However, the audience should not be given any good criticism. It felt like primary school all over again except this time the pupils were not afraid of teachers who would tell them to be quiet. Showing respect for the performers by staying quiet and watching should not be too much to ask.

The world is dancing

I guess the Cypriot and Hellenic Societies' dance has already become institutionalised. Looking good and being unbelievably numerous, the Greek-Cypriot group certainly radiated charisma. Maybe making up for the lack of other Europeans, they wanted to perform twice and even invite everyone on stage at the end. That is fine but maybe to ensure the smooth running of the show the songs could have been cut, just not at the end where the men showed what dancing is really about. The Swing Dance Society's skilful swinging was really grasping and the Salsa Society's salsa in a circle looked sparkling. The emphasising of individual couples would have looked even nicer instead of the tight circle, though, as was proved by the Latin American Society's Tango. Unfortunately,

where all the dances are so well rehearsed and seductive. More traditional and less universal was the Vietnamese candle light dance that brought us peace of mind and hope of a soft bed.

The world is singing, the world is playing

As the music society got all their instruments on stage and started playing jazz, I couldn't but hope that the Old Theatre would turn into a smoky club and that all the rest acts would be cancelled. But when "The prayer" was performed by June and Charles, I was happy nothing was cancelled. Living it to the last note, they had style. Unfortunately, again, all of the audience did not appreciate the act and ruined the enjoyment for the others, too. "Hip Hop and Happening" was a rhyming story about the Global Show and the global environment of the school - if I remember correctly from last year. If this really was the same song as a year ago, I was not too bothered by the crackly mics, but I guess many people would have really

liked to hear what Temi and Nikhil had to say. Not much better was the sound reproduction in the Slavonic Society's description of the region's youth so we still don't know much more about the Slavonic folklore. Irish music performed with a harmonica got everyone excited. After all, this was "the closest we get to British culture in the show", as the presenters said.

Again I have to admit my ignorance for not knowing the name of the instrument that Yash played while singing Indo-Persian songs that were the most exotic part of the show and sounded very harras. Once more, I wished I had been able to make out more of the speeches presenting the performers.

All in all, the Global Show deserved its place in the LSE's entertainment events list. Why else would the Old Theatre have been too crowded and why else would we have had to tell each other to stay quiet and go stand somewhere else because of blocking the view? Let's just hope the global show is really global next year.

No staff in the Shaw Library

Eric Lee

The Shaw Library is a familiar place to a lot of students looking for a quiet place to relax. However, these days something seems to be missing. Wondering what it could be, one looks around. No, all the armchairs are in their usual strict arrangements, and apart from a new door to the roof garden, nothing strange can be seen. Still, the feeling that something is wrong persists - it is quieter than usual. There are no music recordings being played and the familiar ringing of the office phone is muffled.

Although the Shaw Library is still open to all of us, the office of the Shaw Library has stayed closed since the beginning of the Lent term except during concerts. There are no staff in the Shaw Library during its stated office hour.

According to Sally Stares, who worked as a part-time assistant in the Shaw Library and finished working at the end of December, the office normally opens at 12-30 pm on weekdays, which is its stated office

hour, by the assistants. Alan Lawson, the only Shaw Librarian, then comes into the office in the afternoon and stays until late in the evening for library work as well as running music rehearsals and con-

Library during concerts, explained that the closure of his office during the office hour is due to his illness and also because his part-time assistants, who are LSE postgraduates, quit in January for academic reasons. Recruitment is in progress among postgraduates but suitable replacements are not yet available. He stressed that it would not be helpful in having someone who is not "suitable and capable" to fill the vacancies.

By observation in the Library, there's no sign of recruitment at this moment although there was a recruitment notice at the entrance of the Shaw Library at the beginning of this term.

The running of the Shaw Library seems normal. The Library is still open to users and the music practice room in the Library is also available for booking. The magazines are still up to date. However, the

books and music scores from the Shaw Library are not available for reading nor borrowing as they are locked away in the book cupboards or the office of the Shaw Library.



Capable postgrads needed to fill this pic

certs in the Shaw Library. There were three part-time assistants working in the Shaw Library in December last year.

Lowson, who at the moment only turns up in the Shaw

Annan: trade, not aid, will change the world

Continued from page 1

On that last theme, the Ghanaian-born Secretary-General paid tribute to LSE for having educated "so many heroes of the struggle for independence and for development in the formal colonial world, including Kwame Nkrumah, the founder-president of my own country."

However, while Ghana and many others have won their

"Our way of life is highly visible to many who cannot share it, but who see it in glamoured form on flickering screens in slums as the model they should aspire to."

independence, the struggle will not have been won, he believes, until the developing world has also been able to escape from the vicious circle of "poverty, hunger, disease, oppression, conflict, pollution, and depletion of natural resources - each of which makes it harder to escape from the others." Among the finely honed words, one might perhaps have discerned the briefest implication that the process of decolonisation has not yet been completed. But you don't get to be Secretary-General if you're not a diplomat.

The illustrations Annan puts forward to elaborate the concept of sustainable development indicate that the effects of current, unsustainable policies reach far beyond what might be thought of as the most typical target for international aid, the "woman in a rural district in India, or almost any African country, who year by year finds she has to go further and further in search of water and fuel," or

"the son or cousin of that woman, who is now living in an urban slum or shanty town, infected with HIV."

The prosperous, car-owning factory worker waiting in traffic in an East Asian megacity, suffering from a respiratory disease caused by toxic chemicals in his workplace, is also a victim, "and the fourth face may be that of any of us in this room."

Not only do we lead such privileged lives by consuming far more than our share of the planet's resources, but "our way of life is highly visible to many who cannot share it, but who see it in glamoured form on flickering screens in those slums. It is flaunted before them as the model of 'development' to which they should aspire."

When put that way, it's a kind of globalisation that conjures up images of children in cloth caps peering through toy-shop windows in the type of sentimental film that does the rounds every Christmas. Annan's more palatable alternative is a three-stage strategy which he explained with reference to three international conferences, using the example of last November's World Trade Organisation talks in Doha, Qatar, to emphasise that "poor people in poor countries are not asking for a handout - what they want is a hand up. The poor are enormous untapped reservoirs of initiative and entrepreneurship, but their energies are often held in check by poverty, misrule or conflict." The answer to global poverty, says Annan, is "trade, not aid."

Although one questioner criticised Doha as an occasion where Europe and North America paid lip-service to development rhetoric while actually carrying out policies that furthered their own interests at the developing world's expense, Annan's assessment of the conference was that it promised a new round of negotiations which would prohibit richer countries from subsidising their own industries, notably agriculture. This would allow poorer countries to compete in "labour-intensive exports" in the global market, while benefiting the developed world as well by reducing "unsustainable practices in farming, transport and energy use."

Had more time than the allotted hour been available for the audience to respond to Annan's speech, perhaps it might have been possible to ask the Secretary-General what he would recommend to avoid situations where open competition can induce governments to

actually reduce environmental standards, or change policies which might otherwise be in their people's best interests, on pain of losing business.

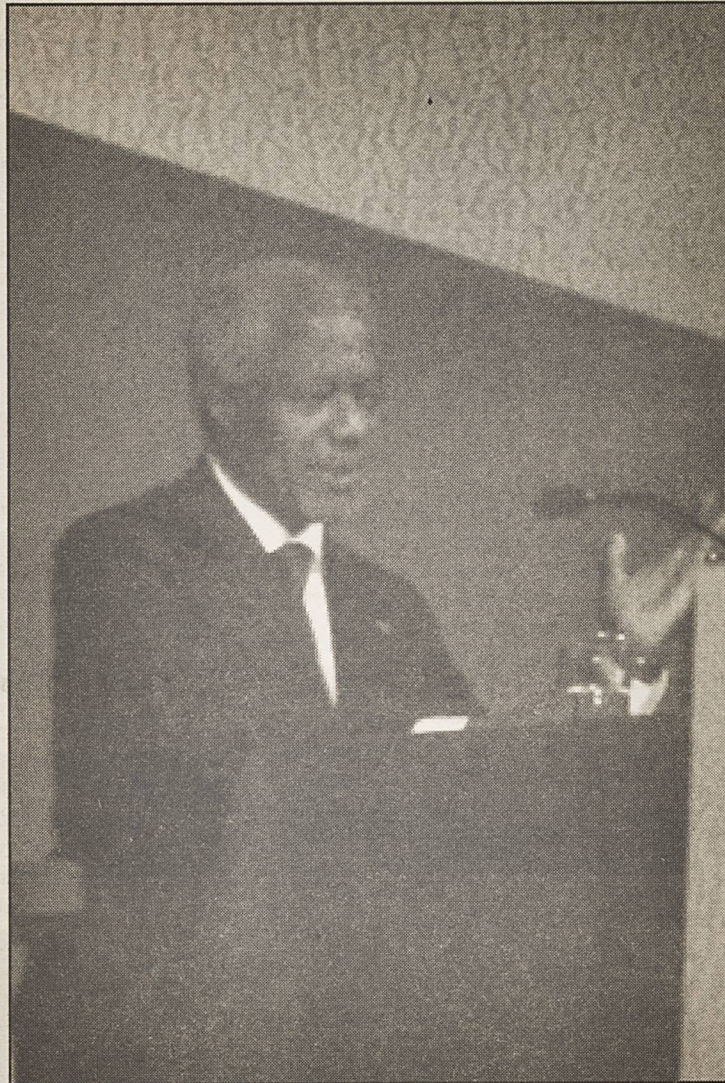
If this newspaper reaches any former employees of the Longbridge or Dagenham car plants, they will be able to tes-

Summit on Sustainable Development, which will occur in six months' time in Johannesburg, as the time to make apparent the urgency of agreeing a "road map" for attaining the real change in our way of lives which he is resolute will have to be made.

his hope that between them, Doha, Monterrey and Johannesburg might signify that humanity is finally making the effort to tackle the most difficult issues it faces, "challenged by the goals its political leaders had set at the Millennium Summit, and shocked into a stronger sense of common destiny by the horror of 11 September."

His analysis of the attacks on America echoes so many others that it hardly needs to be

"If an international commitment had been made to nation-building in Afghanistan after the Soviet Union had withdrawn in 1989, the attacks on America would probably never have happened."



Sometimes, he wonders

Pic: Claire Loescher

tify from experience that this is by no means a problem confined to the developing world.

Meanwhile, the priority for the Monterrey conference on financing for development, to be held next month in Mexico, will be to clinch a deal whereby developing countries "reform their economies and increase spending on the needs of the poor, while the rich countries support this with trade, aid, investment and debt relief."

Neither can private investment be overlooked, since it is likely to provide much more money for development than official aid ever will. 'Public-private partnership' probably isn't a good phrase to use in front of an audience many of whom will be struggling back home on a transport system crippled by one later that evening. And so he didn't.

Annan's real hopes, however, are pinned on the World

Practical ways to reduce poverty are due to be agreed there, as are methods of increasing access to fresh water and sanitation, and promoting cleaner and more efficient energy. "A coalition for responsible prosperity," he foresees, must be assembled, comprising "governments, corporations, civil society groups and private individuals," all of whom have their own part to play.

Yet as clear as Annan's vision undoubtedly is, he realises that his plans are limited by the goodwill of the UN's member states. "We can play the advocacy role," he said, "but the money must come from governments - and you here in this hall can be good advocates," he added, seeming to recognise that it is far from inconceivable that his successors may end up having dealings with a listener or two.

Annan concluded by relaying

re-iterated: "11 September drove it home to us that we cannot be indifferent to other regions of the world, or it may come back to haunt us."

Indeed, he speculated, if an international commitment had been made to nation-building in Afghanistan after the Soviet Union had withdrawn from the country in 1989, the attacks would probably never have happened.

Running through the Secretary-General's address, however, was the insistence that these issues do not just concern us as a way to achieve our own wealth and security. As Annan took questions, he reminded his audience of an old African proverb: "The earth is not ours - it is a treasure we hold in trust for our children and their children." He let his gaze roam around the hall. "Is our generation worthy of that?"

He breathed the hint of a sigh before he confessed, "Sometimes, I wonder."

Next military target... Somalia?

Anthony Oruna-Goriainoff II

Last Thursday the History Society presented a lecture with Drs Joanna Spear and Barrie Paskins from King's College,

"It appears that the US still has difficulty understanding the ebbs and flows of Somalia's intricately local society."

asking if Somalia was next in line in the US's campaign against terrorism. It appears like the answer is no. The question is what has 11 September created? The present party line lies with global support for American actions in Afghanistan.

Nations such as Yemen, Libya, Syria and even Iran (pre axis-of-evil days) are cooperating with the US and making sure that they are not seen as terrorist countries in American eyes. But countries such as India, the Philippines, Russia and China, which have also supported US actions in Afghanistan, have been quick to capitalize on the current situation and have opted to manufacture threats to their state as tantamount to

those which the US suffered on 11 September. In the case of Yemen, the US has sent personnel to help in training Yemeni army units against local terrorist factions - as well as having a large part of its debt cancelled. Vietnam, anybody? But of course, it is not only these countries which

have taken advantage of the American predicament. In Afghanistan the US Army, manipulated by local warlords to settle scores, 'accidentally' got rid of opposing local factions - poor US intelligence.

Ironically, it would appear



Will Somalia ever see something else?

that President Bush's current axis-of-evil axiom - upheld recently in China - has helped to improve relations between Iran and Iraq - a fortnight ago they held a five-day meeting cementing their common goal vis-à-vis the US.

After much exploring of American actions in

Afghanistan, Dr Spear reluctantly began to address the anti-American situation in Somalia. Which situation? Exactly. Nonetheless the question was addressed and again the US came off badly. Why? Poor intelligence even now on the American side.

It appears that the US still has difficulty understanding the ebbs and flows of Somalia's intricately local society. Dr Paskins mentioned that in Somalia "even Islam is foreign."

Dr Spear remarked that the US is entertaining post-facto documentation which claims - by way of an excuse to go there again - that there was an al-Qa'ida component last time the US military was in Mogadishu: well... Needless to say the Somalis declare that they did what they did without any for-

eign help. This idea has helped nonetheless to stop the al-Barraquat system consisting of Somali revenues from abroad which represented up to 60% of Somalia's revenues. It was used by many local factions to fight local warlords. But still no clear ideas why the US might want to go there again.

Iraq, however, has been designated as a sponsor of terror, and the US has long been looking for a way back there - especially since US biological weapons intelligence is four years old. So what might happen in Iraq? Last week Cheney was in the Gulf region discussing with American allies what a post-Hussein Iraq might look like. Iraq might be broken up if the US intervened - a Kurdish state looks likely. A viable option especially following the periodical purging of the Iraqi Army by Hussein and the possibility that his son may "inherit" Hussein's position. All in all it appears that, according to Paskins and Spears, Somalia or no Somalia, what 11 September has created is the return of power politics on a global scale.

Free Meningitis C Vaccination for LSE Students

Are you 24 or under? You should now be immunised against one of the causes of meningitis with the MenC vaccine if you haven't been vaccinated already.

You can be vaccinated for free every day this week between 8 am and 5 pm in the Peacock Theatre, even if you're not registered at St Philips

The MenC vaccine has already been offered to people under 20 with tremendous success. The number of people aged 15-19 with meningitis C has fallen by 90% since the vaccine was introduced.

The only trouble with the vaccine is that it is quite expensive - but the Government has now found the cash to offer it to everyone under 25 for free! Britain is the first country to offer the vaccine so widely for free - so take advantage of their generosity (and other people's taxes!)

Meningitis is an inflammation of the lining of the brain. It can be caused by a number of viruses or bacteria. Meningococcal group B and C are two types of bacteria that cause a high number of cases of meningitis in the UK. Group B is the most common, but group C causes the most deaths.

These bacteria can also cause septicaemia (blood poisoning). In septicaemia, bacteria infect the blood and may spread through the body to make you very ill. Meningitis and septicaemia can kill.

The vaccine protects you against group C meningitis and septicaemia. The vaccine is not live. It contains parts of the bacteria which should protect you but cannot give you the disease. You only need one dose, which is given in an injection. One injection should protect you for the rest of your life.

For more information, visit the lovely people at St Philips Medical Centre and pick up a leaflet, or see their web site - www.lse.ac.uk/health-centre

Signs and Symptoms of Meningitis^o

Early signs can include:

- being sick
- a fever
- pain in your back or joints
- a very bad headache
- a stiff neck

Get medical help urgently if you:

- can't stand bright lights
- become disorientated
- develop a rash which looks like a bruise and doesn't fade under pressure
- start to lose consciousness

Do the glass test - If you press the side of a glass firmly against the rash, it should fade and lose colour under pressure. If it **doesn't** change colour, contact your doctor immediately. If it **does** change colour, and you've got the above symptoms, you've probably just had a good time at Crush.

Not only sheep... New Zealand's Prime Minister addresses past and current issues

May Ling Lee

Last Thursday, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Helen Clark, was at the LSE to give a public lecture entitled "Implementing a Progressive Agenda in a small country after 15 years of Neo-Liberalism: New Zealand's Experience".

Chaired by the Director of the LSE, Professor Anthony Giddens, the event was well attended, with the Old Theatre filled to the brim. Amongst the diverse audience were many New Zealanders. Later at question time, Professor Robert Wade, a New Zealander himself, appealed to LSE students who were New Zealanders and who were interested in setting up a New Zealand Society to meet him after the event.

In delivering her lecture, Helen Clark firstly gave an overview of the political and economic situation that had prevailed in New Zealand in its modern history. In 1950, New Zealand had ranked third in terms of living standards. This was not the case in the years to come. Today, it ranks below most of the European Union nations in terms of GDP per capita.

Heavily dependent on the manufacturing industry and exports trade, New Zealand's leaders failed to steer its economy in the right direction in the

face of globalisation and increasing competition. As a result, unemployment rose and the country saw its budget deficit and current account deficits grow. As the economy continued its downturn, political pressure mounted and a need for a change in government was clearly mandated. Indeed, in 1984, the Conservative government was ousted and Labour came into power.

It was, however, unfortunate that the Labour government aimed at implementing policies heavily influenced by neo-liberal ideas. It floated the New Zealand dollar and conducted an extensive programme of economic deregulation and restructuring. Amongst these policies were the demolition of farm subsidies, the removal of import protection and opening up of financial markets. These changes were rapid and the government at that time failed to re-think these policies and their potential social consequences.

Essentially, these policies hailed the market as the king and, in their quest to achieve

further changes in the economy, the re-elected Conservative government in 1991 finally extended restructuring to social policies. The welfare state was removed, leaving more people worse off and more unemployed. Labour law was also altered, leaving trade unions in a weaker position to bargain. The period following this saw the New Zealand economy riding high and low. The Asian economic crisis hit New

various other countries such as in Britain, the Netherlands and France.

Later into her lecture, Helen Clark gave an overview of what her government stands for and what it envisages may be the future of New Zealand. She asserted that her government aimed to promote innovation and enterprise, to create a civil society which is inclusive and compassionate and to achieve sustainable development for future generations. The triple bottom line of integrating economic, social and environmental factors into decision-making is an important technique employed by policy-makers in her government.

Two years into office and what has this government achieved so far? It has increased levels of public pension provisions, made education more affordable, injected more funding into the health system, reduced property crime, increased number of jobs and implemented fair rentals for public housing. Apart from

social policies which aim to achieve more social justice, the government has also improved the country's economic health.

So far so good. However, what are the government's future strategies which are crucially important to ensure that New Zealand does not fall back into its woeful days? Helen Clark said that her government sees New Zealand as "a land where diversity will be valued and reflected in our national identity, a great place to live, learn, work and do business, a birthplace of world changing people and ideas and a place where people invest in the future." This is to be achieved through developing skills and talent by investing in education and industry training and developing a comprehensive immigration policy which seeks to harness foreign talent and to attract home New Zealanders who have moved abroad. Acknowledging also the evolution of the knowledge economy, she further emphasized that research and development was of prime importance especially in the areas of biotechnology and information technology. Last but not least, she said that New Zealand's image required rebranding. It needed to change people's image of New Zealand as a land more than just "clean, green and beautiful with lots of sheep." New Zealand was to emerge as a 21st century city, sophisticated, smart and innovative.

A highlight of her lecture which seems appealing amongst other things is the recognition of the importance of a cohesive society achieved through policies characterized by inclusion and diversity. An important evidence of this is the government's engagement in conversations and partnerships with different sectors. Indeed, it works with local governments in policy discussion over transport planning, environmental management, regional development and new legislation. It also works with non-governmental organisations and specific private sectors. Most importantly, it recognized that mainstream economic structures may not work well for the Maori people and it has developed partnerships and programmes as well as funded programmes specific to the Maori people.

In conclusion, Helen Clark reiterated the need to increase social justice and fairness in New Zealand, which has been lacking during the 15 years of neo-liberalism. Social justice and economic development need to be reconciled and it seems that progressive governance is the answer to this.



About those sheep...

Picture: Margo Rocklin

Zealand in 1998 and this further added to its woes.

A new government was then elected in 1999, which consists of a minority centre left coalition led by Helen Clark today and supported by the Green Party in Parliament. It captures ideas of social democracy - ideas which have been used in

Butcher's Short Back & Sides

BLOODY HELL. As you, dear reader, may probably gather from the rather clever word play in the title, this column has had to undergo a face-lift for this week. Not to worry - the issue after next, it should be back to normal.

As it happens, not much has been going on this week, although LSE has really pissed me off. Internet connection in hall rooms is all very well and good, but should we not be warned about how much porn there is on the internet?

Now, far from Short Back and Sides to be disgusted with porn; rather, he is extremely worried that internet porn seems to be shifting, for him, from being a small hobby to becoming a full-time fascination and occupation.

It is the view of this columnist that there is no harm in a quick view of porn every now and again but

when it runs on tap like Guinness in the Tuns, everything from the time of day to the state of your eyesight goes wrong.

A quick check of the old email turns into an elongated masturbation session involving more than just one dirty sock.

Praise be to the Lord that the internet doesn't serve pies otherwise this surfer would never leave his slightly damp desk.

However, the most distressing thing about free internet access is the plethora

of online gambling sites. Upon the advice of the Sun.co.uk, this writer signed up to an online betting company

promising a free £5 bet after you'd spent five quid.

With the Pop Idol final then looming, I decided to have a bash on Gareth Gates.

The limit per bet was a quid, so

after all that fanning about logging in, I stood to win 17p.

After that bet, £9 was left to have a further punt on other such events (are you

keeping up with the maths, you economists?).

Now, after discovering a new lottery service, this columnist is down to the tune of 30 quid.

A note for all you surfers out there...

Should you have internet access in your room, more time on your hands than Jonathan King, a fairly high disposable income and an addictive personality - delete all traces of porn from your computer and never, repeat never attempt a punt on the internet.

With that, I'll have to leave you, but before I do, just a quick look on amp-land.com and a swift wager on the 3.30 at Kempton Park...

Doing it my way, seeing it my way, got a lot of love to share, life's a big banana sandwich, I haven't got a care!

"YORKSHIRE!"



Editorial Comment

Morris' Merry Dance

One march on Westminster later, we can hold our heads high with confidence. Whatever reputation LSE might have had as uninterested, uncooperative even, when it comes to national student campaigns can be considered set aside.

If we are being realistic, Estelle Morris was never going to gaze out of her Whitehall window, furrow her brow and order Margaret Hodge to restore full maintenance grants to the demonstrators below, no matter how many brand new banners we had got. (Depending on how this matter is resolved, there is either a sketch-show double act or a Hammer horror duo in that mise-en-scene. But as yet *The Beaver* is not sure which.)

To a politician in her middle years whose government-funded student years are long behind her, Morris' reasoning presumably makes sense. When challenged by Owain James, president of the NUS, that the maximum student loan actually leaves young people less to live on than they would receive if they abandoned higher education altogether and retreated on to state benefits, Morris not unreasonably pointed out that the extra earnings graduates receive over the course of their working lifetime more than compensate for the

typical debts of nearly £10,000 with which many will leave university. Unsurprisingly, she did not feel the need to add that this is thanks to the decision of a Labour government to introduce the tuition fees from which the Tories shrank.

Yet it may be asking too much of the very students Morris' department is so keen to attract to take this longer-term view. At least three years of hardship, juggling cash from the state loan, overdrafts and part-time McJobs, is not in the least an appealing prospect, especially to potential students with no family tradition of attending university. If half of all young people between 18 and 30 are supposed to be in higher education before the decade is out, it is quite a sacrifice to demand for the honour of competing with more and more graduates for a limited number of graduate jobs.

As the Welsh and Scottish assemblies have already recognised in reintroducing more generous systems of student support for their own students, more incentives from the government are called for if they are going to fulfil their own ambitions to widen access to higher education.

Or perhaps the extra applications from students our own age recorded by the Open University this year will not be such an anomaly after all.

Faces of the Future

Kofi Annan remembers the role LSE graduates had to play in liberating the former colonial world from crumbling European empires when he was a young man.

Indeed, you would be hard-pressed to find a young nation none of whose ministers had ever sat in the Old Theatre.

Or tapped their feet and glared at their watch inside the very same East Building lift, by its appearances.

Nearly half a century on, the struggle today is to ensure that the citizens of the developing world are able to enjoy those minimum standards of human dignity that we would take for granted. It is an endeavour that may be harder-won than a tricolour flag, a national anthem or a seat at the UN General Assembly, not least because it is likely to exact much more from ourselves.

If the 'footprint' of waste, consumption and pollution left behind by Europeans and North Americans is so much greater than our share should be, logic alone suggests that in time we shall have to make a more

equitable distribution.

But it is easy to be an armchair logician when you are not having to limit your own use of fuel.

It is to be hoped that LSE students, on the other hand, can aspire to influencing a much wider sphere than their armchairs.

There is a role for every one of us will play in the years ahead of using the planet's resources in a more equitable manner, whether we would like to or not.

But over and above the contribution we will all make to conservation, it is a certainty that behind many of the plans for the new development which will be made in the crucial next decade or two will be thinkers and politicians who are on Houghton Street at this very minute. And they may even be reading *The Beaver*, with a bit of luck.

Of course, it may be just as certain that at the helm of the corporations and organisations who will take the most persuading to accept the rationale of sustainable development there will also be an LSE graduate or two. But don't tell Kofi.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

I disagree with most of what Blake Bailey writes. That said, his ideas should not simply be dismissed as "arrogant, jingoistic, and woefully stupid."

I have argued with Blake many times, and I can tell you that his ideas are well thought out and his facts come from reputable sources.

Blake does have a very conservative and American ideology. Although I do not agree with it, his perspective is legitimate and worthy of consideration. His ideology is mainstream in much of America and is held by many intelligent and highly educated people.

Being at LSE gives us the invaluable opportunity to engage the ideas of other people whose backgrounds are fundamentally different from our own. When we argue ideas with both liberals and conservatives from around the world we gain the

opportunity to see different perspectives, refine our own ideas, and grow as people.

If we resort to insults or dismiss students with different perspectives, we all lose.

Yours

Jamie Rubenstein

Dear Editor

Many people over the past several weeks have pointed out several of Israel's failings. They conclude that since democratic Israel is not perfect, it is the equivalent of its tyrannical Arab neighbours. To that, I have this quote to offer...

"Whatever may be the moral ambiguities of the so-called democratic nations and however serious may be their failure to conform perfectly to their democratic ideals, it is sheer moral perversity to equate the inconsistencies of a democratic civilization with the brutalities which

modern tyrannical states practice." -- Reinhold Neibuhr

Regards,

Blake Bailey

To all students in the department of Information Systems

There will be a Teaching Quality Assurance Committee Review of Educational Provision on Friday 8 March in room V1101, in Tower Two.

The review team will be meeting with MPhil and PhD students at 11-45 am, and taught Masters students at 2 pm.

This is your opportunity to express your views on the teaching and facilities you receive, and refreshments will be provided.

Yours sincerely

Rob Traynor

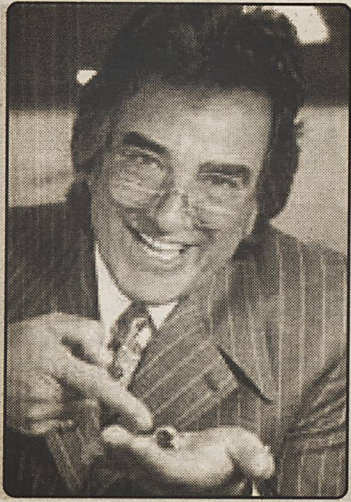
Bang Bang's Thoughts



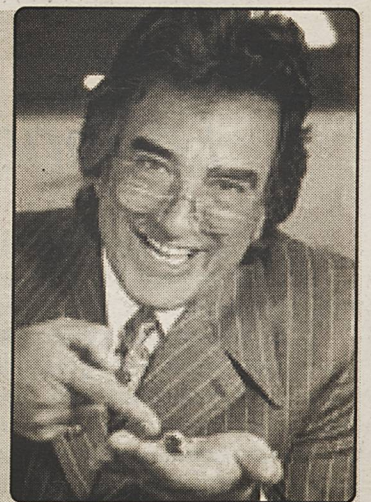
"Where there is love, there are miracles."

To submit letters or articles, please email them with your name and contact details to thebeaver@lse.ac.uk. Letters should be in a text format.

Articles for the News Section should be no longer than 600 words and should be emailed to us by Monday morning. If you require photographs to be taken for your article then please email j.j.kraljic@lse.ac.uk well in advance.



This week only: it's David
Dickinson's
Societies Page



Upcoming events this week

If you've got an upcoming event, tell us about it - we'll put it in our Societies page. E-mail thebeaver@lse.ac.uk.

LSE music society presents Lent Term concerts

Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th @ 7.15 in the Shaw Library

Come and listen to the LSE Orchestra (conductor Tom Hammond) and the LSE Singers (conductor Pamela Hay)!

The programme features

Dvorak: *Violin Concerto in A minor*, op. 53 (soloist Keith Ramsell)

Mozart: *Piano Concert Rondo in D*, K. 382 (soloist Rona Nish)

Berlioz: *Song Cycle*, op. 7 (soloist Judith Russell)

Brahms: *Gypsy Songs* (LSE Singers)

Tickets will be on sale in Houghton Street and on the day - £5 for an armchair and £3 for a normal seat

Societies Round-up

LGBT Party Success

Last Monday saw another legendary LGBT party in the underground with the legendary DJ Mullet on the decks with a special guest DJ. The party continued on at Heaven, and by all accounts the night was a roaring success.

Live Music Society

Under the trusted guidance of Raoul, the Live Music Society are doing really well this year. They had the Underground on Wednesday, and if the quality of music was anywhere near as good as the time before when I worked the night, then it must have been a good night.



Mexican Week at LSE

5-8 MARCH 2002

Mexico: An Unorthodox Path to Democracy and Global Development

Tuesday 5th: Culture

6:00 PM

New Theatre: "Culture and Globalisation in a Democratic Mexico"

Lic. Sari Bermúdez
Dr. James Lull

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Film: *Como agua para chocolate*

Wednesday 6th: Democracy

4:00 PM

New Theatre: "The Future of Democracy in Mexico and Latin America in the Global Era"

Dr. David Held
Dr. George Philip
Mtro. Jesús Silva Herzog
Márquez

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Film: *Todo el poder*

Thursday 7th: Economy

2:00 PM

Old Theatre: "Taxes, Development and Inequality: New Solutions to Old Problems?"

Ambassador Alma Rosa Moreno

Dr. Enrique Cárdenas
Dr. Francisco Panizza
Deputy Jorge Chávez
Presa (to be confirmed)

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Film: *Y tu mamá también*

Friday 8th

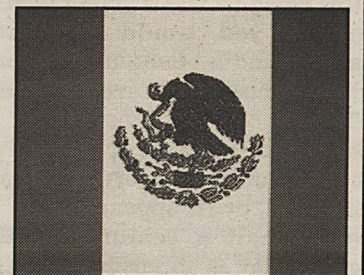
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

New Theatre: "Weaknesses of the Global Economy"
Ing. Cuauhtemoc Cárdenas Solorzano

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Film: *Amores Perros*

Closing: Mexican Party

All lectures will be given in English.



Sri Lankan Society

Following its tragic collapse in the summer of 2000, this year sees the revival of the new and improved LSE Sri Lankan Society!

(From left to right) Nimit Jani (Events Co-ordinator); Abi Balendran (Publicity Officer); Vidhya Mylvaganam (Publicity Officer); Thakshala Fernando (President); Ruwani Fernando (Secretary); Tamini Dias (Vice-President); Sachini Pathirana (Treasurer).

The new committee has been keen to organise a number of

cultural events and nights out and has also acted in association with the Lingo Society to provide free language classes to all its members in both Sinhalese and Tamil.

Following the huge success of its last event, where members wined and dined at one of London's top Sri Lankan restaurants, comes the next instalment of eastern entertainment...

SERENDIPITY!

A Sri Lankan night of fun... with R & B, Garage, Baila, Tamil Remix and of course MASSIVE bar subsidies! Tickets are on sale now - £2.50 for members and £3.00 for non-members.

Sadly we were forced to turn away a number of people from our last event due to seating capacity: we therefore advise all those interested in this event to make sure you get your tickets early so as to avoid any disappointment!!

Tickets will be sold on Houghton Street on 27 and 28 February, or alternatively you can e-mail: su.soc.sri-lankan@lse.ac.uk

Coming soon:
Wed week 9 -
Law Ball
Wed week 10 -
AU Ball
Contact us if you have something for next week's page

Cycle UK 2002 update: Show us the money!

We are now fully into fundraising mode. In an appropriately RAG Week environment, we will be going out to raise money from all over the school. We are raising money for Cancer Research UK, the new national cancer charity formed from the merger of Imperial Cancer and the Cancer Research Campaign.

We are obviously going up to people we know for sponsorship, but will be having a stall in the Quad or Houghton Street in the last few weeks, to allow those who do not know us personally but who want to contribute to do so. Hopefully you will see us there. If not you can always e-mail on i.d.curry@lse.ac.uk and we can sort out giving.

Training is carrying on, with the usual round of Sunday treks and weekday gym missions. This weeks Sunday was made slightly less com-

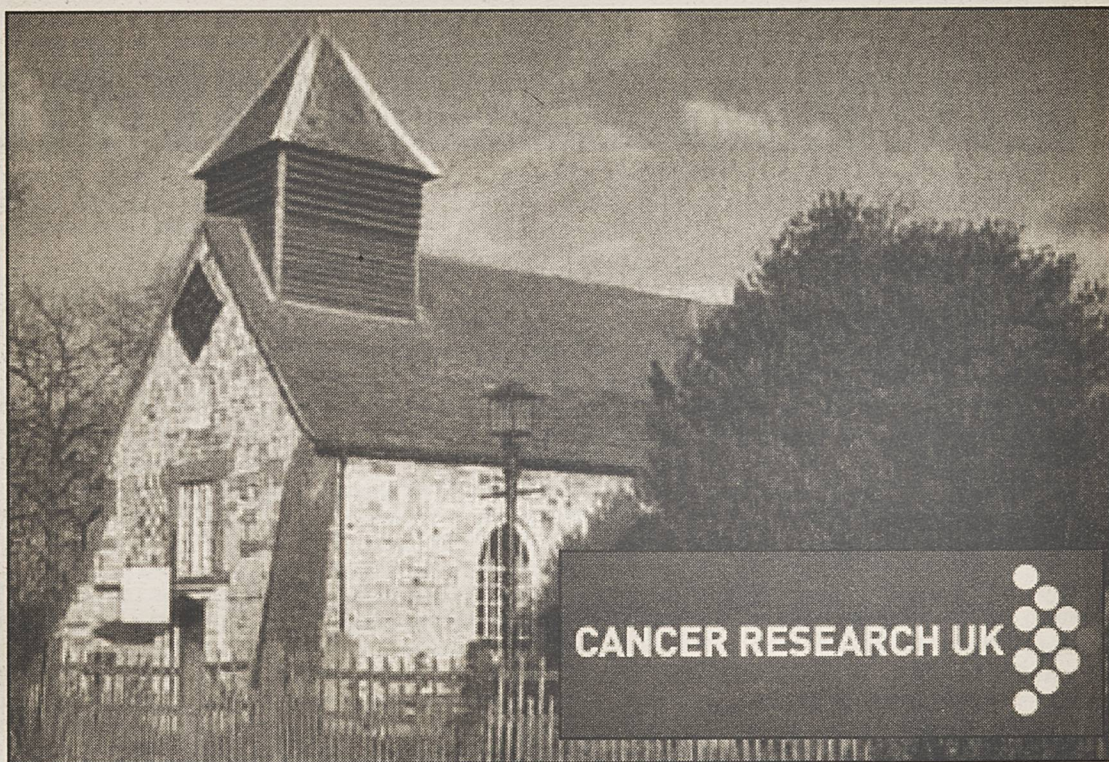
fortable due to the buckets of rain that dogged us throughout, but that will be good experience for when the weather is not the best on the road.

We are also doing well with our campaign to get places to stay on the road, but we have not found everywhere. We particular would like to hear from people in the south-west and Scotland.

So with general fitness increasing, fat decreasing and places to stay lined up, we are now just rolling towards the inevitable! We will be leaving on the last Thursday of term.

If you are motivated, desirous or simply bored enough we would welcome people to join us for a day, or meet us along the route. Be warned, the pace will hopefully be quite hot, but it could be a nice day out and some good exercise.

Just get in touch.



Pictures : Surrey, the lovely (near) London county, and (inset) Cancer Research UK, our chosen charity



I wandered lonely as a cloud ... (or our route !!)



We are including details of the route for a couple of reasons. Firstly to inform and interest the great *Beaver* readership. And secondly to see if any of the aforementioned great and good have places we can stay along the route. Anything that makes this run cheaper for us is obviously incredibly important and appreciated.

Continuing through from last week, **Day Four**. Bridgewater - Cheltenham. We will be leaving the south-west, officially at least, to begin our northward journey. This day sees us rounding the peninsula around Bristol, and

moving through to Gloucestershire. A mixture of country and towns will make today one of the more interesting of the entire journey. A38 Bridgewater - Gloucester B4063 - Cheltenham.

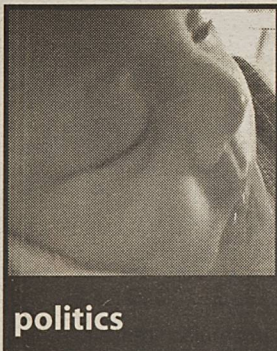
Day Five. Cheltenham - Coventry. Winding through the B-roads of middle England, we will go diagonally towards Coventry. Countryside and flat roads will be a nice part of this day. Coventry won't! B4632 Cheltenham - Stratford-Upon-Avon A43 - Sherbourne A46 - Old Milventon

On to Coventry.

Day Six. Coventry - Nottingham. Lady Godiva to Land of Robin Hood. Towns, forests and hills make for a variable day. Merrie Englands here we come. Coventry - Nuneaton A47 - Barwell A447 - Barton-on-the-Beans/Nailston On to Bagworth & Bardon B591 - Loughborough A60 - Nottingham

If you live, or know of anyone who does live, close to this route, please get in touch with i.d.curry@lse.ac.uk.

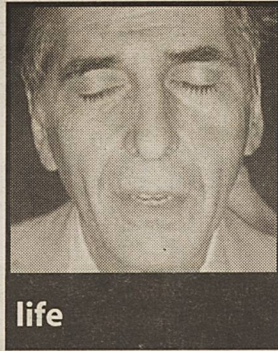
For more information, or sponsorship details, contact the team on thebeaver@lse.ac.uk



politics



culture



life



beaver link

edited by charlie jurd : c.r.jurd@lse.ac.uk

unions resist hard Labour

What keeps Tony up at night, other than baby Leo? A Prime Minister in the midst of his second term might be expected to be preoccupied with the fear of an economic downturn or perhaps the possibility of a resurgent opposition. Yet while die hard Tories might desperately want to believe Iain Duncan Smith is leading a government in waiting there seems little evidence of a Conservative revival sweeping the nation and the Chancellor is managing a relatively buoyant economy.

It appears that Blair believes the greatest danger exists rather closer to home. At the Labour Spring Conference at the beginning of February, Blair made a highly controversial speech in which he was perceived to be attacking the unions, the backbone of the Labour Party, for their role in "wrecking" his

government's programme of public sector reform.

Union activism certainly is on the increase. 354,000 worker days were lost to strike action in the first ten months of 2001, an increase of 25 per cent on the days lost in 1998. Key marginal voters in the commuter belt of the southeast suffered days of disruption earlier this year with industrial action taken by South West Trains. The disruption looks like it will continue. The RMT and Aslef unions have voted in favour of 48-hour stoppages on the Tube after failure to resolve a pay dispute. Similarly the Communication Workers Union (CWU) look set to strike over postal workers pay and the government policy of privatisation by the back door - as they perceive the opening up of the postal delivery to competition.

Disruption, especially to key

voters, is understandably irritating Blair. But the Labour Party was established out of the trade union movement and industrial action is seen by trade unionists as a key right. And, while days lost to union activity might have increased over the past few years, the total number of days lost is miniscule compared to the 29 million lost in 1979, the year of the first Thatcher government.

So Blair's use of Thatcher's phrase, "wreckers", to describe those who oppose his investment and reforming agenda is especially antagonistic to the unions. For Blair the increase in industrial action represents a chasm which is opening between those inflexible representatives of the workers and his pragmatic government.

In attacking on so-called small "c" conservatives Blair asked, "are we going to make patients wait in pain for operations because of some dogma about not using private hospitals, even though they may have spare capacity to do NHS operations?"

Central to the dispute between Labour and the unions is the privatisation of public services. The unions fiercely opposed rail privatisation and the creeping marketisation of education and health under John Major. They did not expect to face a similar battle with a Labour government they bankrolled.

Yet private sector involvement in the public sector - note not the privatisation of public services - is a major theme of New Labour's reforming agenda. To increase standards of public service provision requires a huge increase in investment, which the government believes the public is simply unwilling to finance through an increase in taxation. So New Labour has turned to the private sector to provide the financing of investment public services through Public Private

Partnerships (PPP's).

So while recent trade union disputes may on the surface be based on short-term issues of pay and conditions perhaps it is actually an ideological difference between unions and the government which underlies the undeniable tension between New Labour and its financial backers. Certainly the emergence of the new "awkward squad" of union leaders who are not linked to the Labour party and in many cases are advocating cutting union donations to the Labour party supports the idea of an ideological divide.

Most vocal among the awkward squad are the gruffly named Mick Rix of Aslef, the train drivers' union, and Bob Crow of the RMT. They are unapologetic in their commitment to retaining the state control of financing public services and are distinctively anti New Labour in their

beliefs. Bob Crow has been often quoted as saying that the Labour Party is not socialist enough for him. Apparently his favourite motto is: "You pay tax and you buy civilisation"...sentiments probably unlikely to be echoed by any card carrying New Labour Party member.

The gulf between the government and their natural supporters might be limited to a select band of radical union leaders. However, if the leaders are accurately reflecting their membership then Blair has a problem. If the workers are not behind the government's reforming agenda it will be an uphill battle to demonstrably improve public services before Blair asks to be elected for an historic third term.

This is the author's second article for b:link



Is she one of the 'wreckers' Tony?



inside

italy 2002: where now?



response on the EU



defining terrorism



the last italian

words by ahmadreza rezai



Petroni, Director of Advanced School for Public Administration, Italy; Paul Ginsborg, Author of *Italy and Its Discontents*; Chaired by LSE's own Anthony Giddens. (Mr. Ginsborg's notable prior works include, *A History of Contemporary Italy, 1943-1988* as well as his currently claimed best seller, *Italy and Its Discontents: Family, Civil Society, State 1980-2001*; both courtesy of Penguin Books.)

Paul Ginsborg has something to tell us and it may be well worth hearing. Most of us love Italy in some way. It may be the food, the art, its uncanny sense of fashion. For Paul, it is his life's work. Previous author to the well regarded *History of Contemporary Italy: Society and Politics 1943-1988*, he now has a new book out: *Italy and its Discontents: Family, Civil Society, State 1980-2001*. And that is exactly what he talked about when he and a host of others were so kind as to further enlighten us as to the changes this country has experienced in the last 20 years. What he told us is intriguing - the Italian family would be no more, whether you look at it qualitatively or quantitatively.

It may surprise most to hear that Italy has the lowest birth rates in the world. The families are not replicating themselves for a next 'Italian generation'. Not only that, but the concept of family itself is already undergoing vast changes. With more women than men in schools and universities such shifts in focus from the family to alternative competing interests will have profound ramifications for individual and collective family cultures. Perhaps this in part explains the low birth rates that help propel a paradigm shift that nonetheless, according to the author, Italians are just now coming to terms with.

There is also the issue of the middle class in Italy, they are by far the overwhelming majority and they, according to Paul, are not talking with one another, have remarkably different ideologies that are increasingly being manifest in terms of legal framework in society. Another issue that concerns Paul is that Italians more than ever are watching TV. This is of course good news for the Italian Prime Minister who now owns some 90% of the Italian television market. Perhaps he owes his position to this monopoly. One would imagine favouritism, and a likely lack in genuine efforts towards muckraking, so highly prized a virtue of an open free press. But apparently he doesn't have as much control as he would like and what others think

he has, as his private interests are still under constant attack and in the canvas of the vast open media.

There are many indicators that Italians are not happy with their political options, so far as leaders go. Even a film director who recently criticized this lack of choice was himself as a result marked as a potential candidate. He criticised the political leadership as being out of touch with the people they are supposed to represent. And that, more than anything else is the driving concern for Italians, their friends and neighbours. The current and alternative heads are seen as dangerous to be in the drivers seat and yet do not explain a greater reality. All proud old-world cultures are also xenophobic in nature, and certainly Italy is no exception. In the presence of vast numbers of legal and illegal refugee influx into the country, primarily as a result of the unfortunate Balkan crisis of the last decade, many Italians and especially their leadership amidst dwindling birth rates are duly concerned about the integrity of their culture in the future. Such levels of cultural protectionism has been mislabelled by not so proud or old world cultures as fascism, whereas it is such declarations themselves and their owners which are insensitive, dictatorial and fascist in nature.

The Italian culture, its future

integrity is being assaulted on all fronts, directly, indirectly, most of the time, unintentionally. Conservatism requires power, genuine interest, and bureaucracy - many already or would-be gainers stand to lose from this necessary measures to protect, preserve and promote the fantastic Italian culture for a many generations to come regardless of natural shifts in internal social attitudes. In so doing, conservatives do themselves, their legacy and a world in love with Italian culture a distinct service. There is a time to be liberal, and a time to be conservative. Quite frankly, I can see the likes of the Prime Minister as a fantastic asset to Italy and the overwhelming majority of Italians heartily do agree.

Italy and its discontents: Family, Civic Society, State 1980-2001. As important as the book is, it pales in

comparison with the current and emerging issues of the last several months that historians, politicians, entrusted overseers should far more charge themselves in duly addressing at LSE. Its a great book, but to be frank, that's not what pulled in the crowds (a vast number which were Italian) on this particular evening and perhaps this is acknowledged through insertion of "discontent" in the title to capitalise on the contemporary Italian social momentum, though offering little guidance in book or such sessions that should have more aptly been entitled as Penguin books review proceedings of which it would still be a proud sponsor, as it was in this event.

Ahmadreza Rezai is
International Editor for b:link

Welcome to the Hong Kong Theatre
LSE European Institute and Penguin
Books present a public debate:

Italy and its Discontents 1980-2001

Speakers: Paul Ginsborg, Robert Leonardi
and Angelo Maria Petroni

Chair: Anthony Giddens



conference and events unit
www.lse.ac.uk/events



• could tell by the tears that flowed into [filled] her eyes that something far more keen was afoot than due and deliberate proceedings of a mislabelled book review session. I declared it as so in hindsight and completion of a talk that ended before it ever began and wondered of my two hour Italian neighbour who sat next to me [but talked incessantly during half the proceedings,] what would entice her to tears in reply to my claim? Could her feelings be rightly indicative of a greater, why?

The invited guests included Robert Leonardi, European Institute, LSE; Angelo Maria



an EU to aspire to

words by malte lohan



In an article on the European Union (EU) in *TheBeaver* (Issue 553) ("The EU - Superstate not Superpower"), Blake Bailey argued that the European Union was created on the basis of the aim to become a competitor to the US. Looking at supposed ideological, economic and military disparities, it has been argued that the EU, so far, has been unable to "challenge" the US, and that therefore the European project has failed. However, besides numerous factual mistakes, the attempt to judge the success (or failure) of the EU on the basis of the extent to which it has managed to compete with the US is to fundamentally misunderstand the issues at stake.

The European Union was certainly not created in order to present an "ideological, economic, and military" competitor to the US. In fact, the establishment of the 6-member European Economic Community (EEC) by the Treaty of Rome in 1957 was largely a result of Franco-German attempts to create an environment favourable to stability and economic growth in post-war Europe. The US, for their part, were strongly supportive of the European project, which was seen to be mutually beneficial. The purpose of the European project was not to create another superpower on equal terms with the US. The entirety of the author's argument therefore lacks empirical foundation, and the conclusion that the European project has failed because the EU "does not have what it takes to challenge the land of the free and the home of the brave" is utterly absurd.

It is also widely noted that Charles De Gaulle was certainly not "the premier European advocate". On the contrary, the notorious

'Eurosclerosis' - a virtual halt to European integration in the 1970s - was brought about largely by De Gaulle's insistence on the 'Luxembourg Compromise', a non-binding deal by the then EC governments to agree by unanimity in the Council even when this was not required. If one is looking for the real intellectual origins of the EU it is Jean Monnet and Robert Schuman, the 'founding fathers' of the EU, who deserve to be given credit.

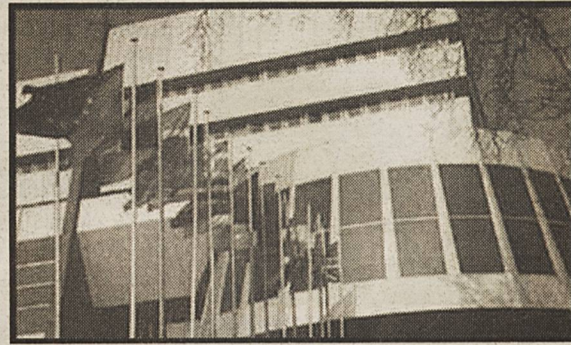
The EU's ideals can certainly not be reduced to what a recent article in *TheBeaver* described as a "somewhat fuzzy" principle of an 'ever closer Union' no more than the ideals of the US can be reduced to 'land of the free and home of the brave'. Even though this principle of an ever closer Union has formed the cornerstone of European integration, the EU's ideals are much more extensive. In particular, the EU has developed a Charter of Fundamental Rights that not only include the "legendary" liberal ideals found in the US but also significant collective rights such as the right to education, employment, or the free development of one's personality. Furthermore, the social equality provisions specified by the European Treaties go far beyond those of any other political system in the world. If anything, therefore, the ideals of the EU give the US something to aspire to.

The EU can certainly not *prima facie* be labelled undemocratic ("the EU does not stand for democracy"). In fact, the EU has strong and clearly defined democratic ideals that are specified explicitly in the *acquis communautaire* and imposed on all aspiring members, as the case of the

applicant countries in Central and Eastern Europe clearly exemplifies. Referendums do not "repeatedly fail, and are not "summarily ignored". The Irish Referendum on the Nice Treaty, the only referendum affecting the entirety of the EU that failed in the recent past, has certainly not been ignored. A second referendum might be held, the Nice Treaty has not yet been ratified, and perhaps it never will.

Of course, it is true that there are concerns about the democratic legitimacy of some of the European institutions. However, this by no means gives rise to the claim that the EU does not stand for democracy. It needs to be emphasised, moreover, that this issue is increasingly being addressed. Since 1979, the European Parliament is a directly elected legislature which, since the Amsterdam Treaty, is genuinely co-equal to the Council of Ministers. In this sense, the legislative system in the EU has many features of traditional bi-cameral systems of government, such as Bundestag and Bundesrat in Germany. Secondly, there are constant efforts to make the EU system more transparent and accountable, with significant success. Finally, the author should be aware that the Convention for Constitutional Reform, established at the Laeken Summit in December last year, will introduce wide-ranging reforms to the EU's institutional structure to address precisely such concerns as the 'democratic deficit' of the EU.

Arguments about a military balance of powers between the EU and the US (or lack of it) seem fundamentally absurd when cast in the light of current affairs. Glorifying the fact that the US "spends over \$100 billion more on their military, a gap that will only increase as the War on Terrorism progresses" is worryingly reminiscent of recent Bush talk of an 'axis of evil' and the

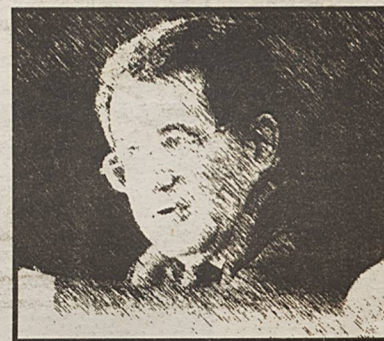
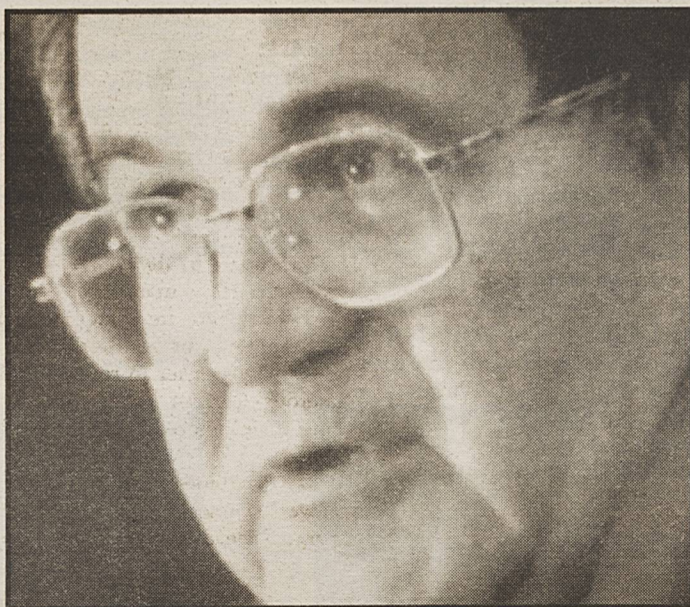


'new realities' facing the world today. God forbid that such opinions spread to the European continent. Europe has no aspirations to race the Americans to the hotspots of the world in order to "achieve victory" first. Rather, Europe has realised that as long as it has nothing to offer to a coalition with the US technologically, it will be unable to exert enough pressure on the US politically for the US to take into account the European stance, and will simply have to follow suit. Secondly, the purpose of the Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) is primarily to provide a common European military response on the continent in cases where NATO or national armies are unable or unwilling to intervene, such as natural disasters or peace-keeping missions. It is not to "reach enemy position". The RRF will work with existing military structures, not against them.

The realities of modern Europe are very different to those recently depicted in *TheBeaver* by Blake Bailey (Issue 553). The overall story of the EU as we know it today is one of remarkable success. What started out purely as a customs and tariffs union has in four decades evolved into a full-fledged Single Market, with economic and monetary Union already in place, political and fiscal union a real possibility, and a highly

sophisticated institutional framework, combining intergovernmental and supranational forms of government, to serve the interests of over 300 million European citizens. It has ensured years of peace, stability and prosperity on the continent, and will soon open its boundaries to extend these privileges to the formerly Communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe. This is not to say that there is no room for improvement, on the contrary. Reforms are urgently needed in a number of areas to ensure the efficient continuation of the enlarged EU's work. Decision-making procedures, the rotating EU Presidency, the Common Agricultural Policy or the European Court of Justice are just a few examples of areas where reforms are pressing. Nonetheless, however, it is absurd to attempt to evaluate the EU's progress in terms of its ability to match or compete with the US. The very *raison d'être* of the two is fundamentally different, and such an attempt is therefore simply beside the point.

Malte Lohan is at LSE doing an MSc in EU Policy Making and is also a former president of the LSE European Society.



when is a terrorist a terrorist?

words by owen lysak and akhilan theiventhirampillai

People have a need to be validated. Not just validated personally, by friendships, family, social relationships and such like, but validated as human beings. That we, as human beings, are somehow better; destined for something greater. When we speak of civil rights, for instance, we speak of human beings. We are implicitly a higher form. We document lower species, lower animals, and we document ourselves, reaffirming our own superiority. Yet the search to delineate these topics, these spheres of interest, leads us only to document our differences; not our differences from other inhabitants, but in effect, differences from each other. The focus becomes not what binds us as human beings, but critically what keeps us apart. We become defined by our different cultures and histories, and as we search further and further for validation of our own interests, our own identity, we become bound in our own 'boxes', preoccupied with our own interests and beliefs which we inherently consider right. Our self-satisfied superiority, our need to be validated, blinks us in the face of 'competing' societies, competing histories, competing cultures; this can only lead us in a quest to impose our 'box' on others (Bill Clinton).

Indeed, the world is dominated by 'them vs. us' attitude; the powerful West with its 'unique' doctrinal system dismisses those who oppose them as 'crackpots' and 'illogical',

people who don't adhere to the 'civilised' and 'peaceful' precepts to which the West has always been dedicated. Any other doctrinal system is implicitly devalued. From the treatment of native inhabitants of the Americas and Asia, through to the modern day power games played out by the West in the Middle East, this has been a permanent theme of history. We must always validate our own beliefs. Similarly, the aftermath of the horrific events of September 11 have led us to scramble for an adequate definition of terrorism, a definition that could validate any military response. The statement that "terrorism represents a confrontation with the oblique" (a response to the attacks on the World Trade Centre in 1993) mirrors the definition of terrorism held in many US codes; "a calculated use of violence or threat of violence to attain goals that are political, religious or ideological in nature. This is done through intimidation, coercion or instilling fear". Denigrating such definitions have been the proliferation of 'pragmatic' alternatives, most notably an Orwellian definition of terrorism, too cynical for general use, that "terrorism is terrorism when it is perpetrated by official enemies". Nevertheless, as Chomsky has argued, this definition is in effect what is propagated. It is a 'working' definition. For if we were to define terrorism simply as terrorism, then the US and its allies themselves



the status quo. It is primarily geared towards states, and so tends to ignore these minority groups. Moreover, on the international stage, law is secondary to politics, secondary to political interests: the political endorsement of other states can help your case immensely, lending an air of legality and support to what would otherwise be an internationally condemned use of unwarranted force. Yet if this is not cultivated, if freedom-fighters do not play the rules of the game, the rules of those who chose to endorse them, support will be revoked, and without any requisite change in outlook or actions, the group will become terrorists once again. This is not to suggest that it is immediately easy to understand the struggles of others, when you are in the majority, or even worse, on the outside. The inclination to follow widespread beliefs that those fighting their governments tend to be terrorists, unless we deem their governments to be violent dictatorships, is compelling. Perhaps, if we knew both sides of the story, the crimes that states can commit against its own minorities, then legitimate armed struggle with popular support might become understandable. Therefore, so long as the use of force committed under the banner of the self-determination are not senseless acts of reprehensible violence directed towards civilians, then it is unquestionably true that "you can't separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom" (Malcom X). Yet the immediate concern with our own identity, the need to validate our own interests and dismiss those groups who we do not fully understand, can only disenfranchise the minority and prevent freedom for those who seek it; we are choosing to deny the freedom that must surely bind us as human beings.

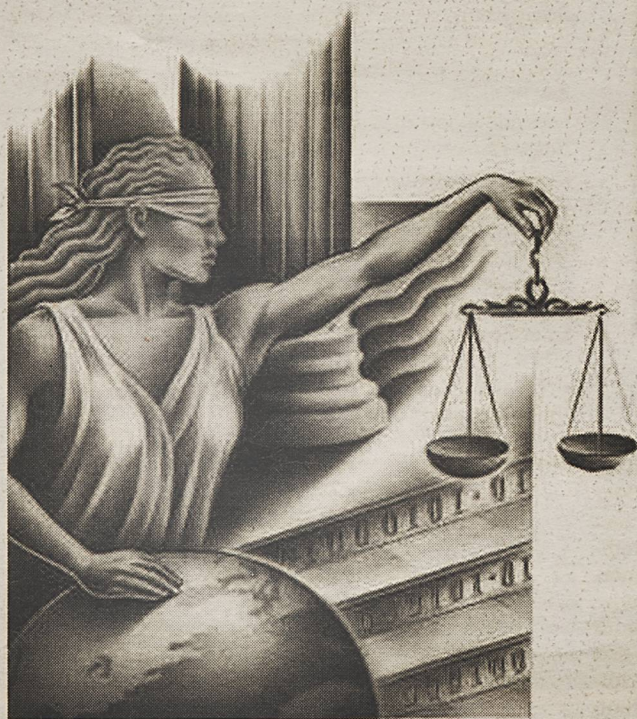
would be guilty. Israel has adopted state terrorism against Palestinians. The US is guilty of state-sponsored terrorism in Cuba and Panama through to Vietnam. The 'low intensity conflict' doctrine to which the US is officially committed is simply international terrorism writ large. However, any recognition of such a state of affairs is anathema to our search for identity; our 'box' can't be infringed, our doctrinal system cannot be violated.

The great danger now is the polarity of outlook; the 'either you're with us or not' campaign that has swept the world in terms of terrorism. This dichotomy is most dangerous to those groups who seek self-determination, groups representative of a different 'identity'. The line between freedom fighters and terrorists has always been blurred; its demarcation dependant on the classification of powerful states acting on their own geopolitical interests. At one time Nelson Mandela's actions were considered terrorist, although today no one would dream of calling him a terrorist. The search for domestic self-determination is in jeopardy of being devoured by the whirlwind of terrorism. How many states can you recall where freedom fighters are struggling for self-determination? Is it not easier to recount the numerous terrorist groups intimidating their innocent governments instead?

The rich tapestry of humanity that we seem so keen to document is, prima facie, being reduced to two

boxes; every 'alternative' outlook is being tarred with the same brush. Of course, the ultimate validation is that we alone are right and everyone else is wrong. Why do freedom fighters not use non-violent methods instead? Why do they insist on opposing our identity, our core of interests, which must surely be right? To use peaceful means to further your cause, to play within the 'rules' of those who you are fighting against for your freedom, is to adhere to an identity that you have not chosen. The very fact is that such an identity is weighted against you; the legal system and any accompanying forms of non-violent discussion tend to be biased, merely perpetuating the continued hegemony of the majority. Surely employing violent force to reach your end is the last resort, brought on by the failure of the existing 'peaceful' system to achieve a satisfactory solution. Both state-terrorism of its own people and third party state-sponsored terrorism are not uncommon and the methods used by the states are nearly always violent, yet it is rare for a state to be known as a terrorist regime. The methods used by states and terrorists/freedom-fighters may be similar, yet it is only the latter who receive the censure.

What does become the norm is a 'merry-go-round' of definition. It is unlikely that International Law provides any help for those we can loosely consider freedom-fighters. Law, especially International Law, changes very slowly, emphasising



Owen Lysak and Akhilan Theiventhirampillai are both 3rd Year Law Students.

the eu : a civilisation

words by nick pauro

It is often contended that the European Union sets itself up to do battle with the USA on economic, ideological and military grounds. Some would say it is destined to fail on all three accounts. I on the other hand, propose that we see the EU as an 'idea' that goes beyond such a simplistic assertion; more than simple consumerism, the EU represents a certain spirit that the USA does not share.

Indeed, whilst it is true that the EU does strive to define itself in relation to other political blocs, it embarks upon a very different path to them, especially in comparison to the USA. Although the EU is visibly forging an identity that seems very new and unsettling to the current world order, it does so for reasons that are inherent in its people, perhaps foreign to others and therefore sparks opposition in many. Moreover, that in our future, the model that the EU is building may become the global model that even the USA adopts.

Many strive to indicate how 'free' America is and how cherished her Bill of Rights may be. In comparison, they see the EU's member nations as 'closed shop' states dealing behind closed doors. Not for a second do I propose that Europe is free of covert secrecy and corruption. However, I urge those American idealists to acknowledge the massive fraud, deception, undemocratic and even imperial character of her 'great' polity.

Her Second Amendment is under daily attack, the CIA and FBI are eavesdropping and eternally spying on their own citizens every day and the citizens of 'sovereign' nations abroad causing and ending profitable wars for 'Uncle Sam'. The Federal Government pushes through agendas that individual states have no mandate to impose whilst land is taken from the citizenry and given over to federal hands. President Bush, following in the footsteps of Mr Clinton, has delivered more executive orders than ever before, thus overriding the need for democratic scrutiny, and is thus centralising power in his hands. Through the manipulation of political instability, America has succeeded in enslaving nearly half the globe in financial debt through 'aid' programmes, which are often nothing more than tools of empire building without arms. The land of opportunity also continues to hold immigrant populations in contempt, reduce her inner cities to war zones and is busy creating the most obese population on earth. So much for limited Republican government and the pursuit of happiness.

Economically, many also hold the USA up as a model of economic efficiency and low unemployment. They often use statistics to prove their case, forgetting that 68.9 % of all statistics

are a fiction. Moreover, that defining society purely by quantities ignores the value of quality. The USA may very well have higher employment rates than the EU average. What we must remember is that much of this statistical omnipotence may be built on the fact that millions of her citizens work in sub-standard, unfulfilling jobs with prospects that are no better than those held by sweatshop labourers in supposedly less advanced nations.

When we compare the USA and EU militarily, we can also draw some distinct differences. Whilst the USA fears for her very being enough to spend billions on new weapons of death, the EU securely rests on the security of solid ideological grounds.



America contends that you are 'either with or against her' whilst the EU pursues internal development and extending co-operation with her neighbours. Thus, whilst the EU recognises the need to have the military capability to exert its will when pressed, namely for humanitarian reasons, the USA drives itself into an arms race that diverts public funds from public services and scatters her

sons and daughters across the globe. When America understands, like Europe, that war is begun in the mind and so therefore is peace, it must learn to adopt the idea of peace or forever fall on her own sword. Only then can she begin to relinquish her current militaristic agenda that is driven by her insecure economy (Which is almost \$7 trillion in debt) and her belief that 'to expand is to thwart recession.'

In comparison, a very different spirit drives the EU. This spirit is one of learning from the continent's historical mistakes and the great lie that we were not one, diverse people but aggressive, competing peoples. By acknowledging our common bonds, we have ceased to do war with each

Hence, the EU's creation of new governmental institutions across the continent (though these are still imperfect), active human rights legislation, cultural, social, economic and political programmes of progress, representation and improvement. The EU promotes the social good as well as the needs of corporate finance as we have understood that we need both sectors to compliment each other, and not risk one impinging on the other.

Much of today's scientific breakthroughs come from European minds and EU initiatives. Indeed, the EU is a social mechanism that promotes communitarian values, in contrast to America's consumer society that renders individuals open to numerous threats, whether these come in the form of distant wars, job insecurity or street crime. Indeed, the EU treads a charted course between harmonising public and private interests with great skill and positive effect, with the result that Europe is rapidly re-finding the dynamism that once caused her ancestors to design, to build, to explore and consolidate the fruits of civilisation. Whilst the EU internally progresses and disperses its goods in the global forum, the USA exports its insecurities and in so doing, ignores her personal internal plight at great cost to us all.

In conclusion, the EU does not challenge the 'Land of the Brave', for the EU is in a different league to the USA and plays a very different game. Putting natural bias to one side, I find it sad that America, founded by Europeans who sought to build a better world, have only managed to build a different world. Her freedoms exist in a fiction. 'Flying the flag' following the chaos in New York is the limit of America's cultural dynamism. Buying burgers and paying taxes are the limited expression of her people's liberty. Her global consumer empire has brought only momentary happiness and a host of greater ills for millions. Her economic imperialism has jeopardised stability and started wars and her latest political paranoia has now built a new Eastern threat following the death of the USSR.

In short, for global peace to be enjoyed, it is time for the USA to learn from her older cousins in the EU, or else wake up one morning to find that CNN and Bloomberg are not showing the latest stock market news.

Nick Pauro is a regular contributor to TheBeaver and is more commonly known as Bang Bang.

not a commodity

A Beautiful Mind

Ian Vinten checks out Richie Cunningham's latest to see if it's just film-making by numbers

Director: Ron Howard
Starring: Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly, Ed Harris
Running Time: 135 mins
Certificate: 12

Release Date: Out Now (West End), 01/03/2002 (Nationwide)

Good Will Hunting proved an interesting result that holds only under certain conditions; mental anguish + mathematical genius = fine entertainment. Whilst Darren Aronofsky's *PI* went some way to support this, it was a bit too profound and downright confusing for most. *A Beautiful Mind* once again looks at the math-o-tainment equation telling a dramatised version of the life story of John Forbes Nash Jr; father of modern day game theory.

Nash is falling behind in all his classes as he searches for a 'truly original idea' that will let his name go down in history and is on the verge of being thrown out of Princeton when his Eureka moment strikes. Sitting in a bar one day with three of his classmates, five lovely ladies walk in; four brunettes being led by a more attractive blonde. Nash realises that if they all go for the blonde, none will get the gal as they'll fall over each other trying, and that then the brunettes will turn them down too as no one likes being second best. If, however, they go for the brunettes and ignore the blonde then each will have a fair chance of pulling without treading on anyone else's toes. And so the Nash Equilibrium is born. That's all the game theory you get though, so don't go expecting deep insight for your micro classes.

The film isn't really about Nash's university years, more the problems of his life that come after. The first 45 minutes are set in Princeton and don't really seem to gel, feeling as jittery and uncomfortable as Crowe's John Nash. The film seems to stutter, never really flowing and it's only after he works out his 'truly original idea' that the film lives up to its Oscar nomi-

nation hype. *A Beautiful Mind's* real triumph is its depiction of schizophrenia and what a wicked disease it must be for not only the people who suffer from it but also for their friends and family. Crowe is more than worthy of his BAFTA win and Oscar nomination for best actor playing the supremely intelligent but psychologically unsound Nash. It's hard to believe that the nervous, briefcase hugging, social misfit on screen is the same person that a few years ago was chasing tigers round the Colosseum. Whilst Crowe is good, Jennifer Connelly is simply fantastic. Going from beautiful belle-of-the-ball to the devoted wife of a mental patient, you really get a sense of how devoted she is to her husband but at the same time how hard it must have been to see him fall so ill. If she doesn't win the Oscar to accompany her best supporting actress BAFTA then something doesn't quite add up. Ed Harris is once again excellent playing Ed Harris and Brit Paul Bettany is excellent in this as he was in *Gangster #1* only this time he's in a good film.

A Beautiful Mind has not been without its critics. The life story is apparently very dramatised, with some episodes being completely fabricated and any mention of Nash's homosexuality kept firmly in the closet. The film ties up a bit too nicely at the end and Ron Howard occasionally lets the cheesy sentimentality run free. Still, it doesn't happen too often in a film that could have easily descended into clichéd hammy toss. This true-love-conquers-all tale is well done with unbelievably good acting, well worthy of the handful of Oscars that it should, and probably will, pick up come late March.

★★★★☆

Now SHOWING

Ali

★★★★☆

Michael Mann's biopic of the greatest sporting personality ever. Fight scenes to rival *Raging Bull* and would be president (I kid you not) Will Smith delivers a knockout performance as the troubled Alabama-born Ali. Too long for some but Mann really knows what he's doing with a camera.

★★★★☆

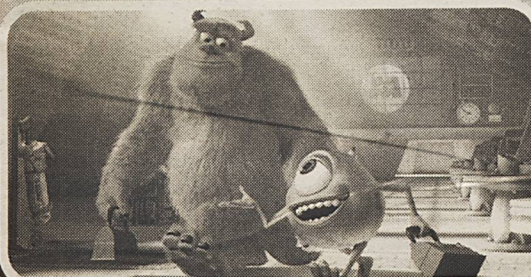
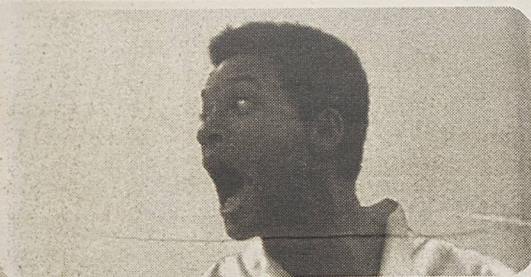
Ocean's Eleven

Good looking film full of good looking of good looking people. Witty dialogue and great performances let down by lack of really engaging plot. But with the coolness levels off the scale this is one that you can just sit back, turn off any enjoy.

Monsters, Inc.

★★★★☆

Enjoyable kids romp from the same people that brought us the *Toy Stories* and *A Bug's Life*. Jaw dropping visuals non stop gags keep you amused from beginning to end. Billy Crystal and John Goodman perfectly cast as the one eyed monster Mike and the furry Sully. Not quite up there with *Toy Story 2* but still a fine way to spend 90 minutes.



The Mothman Prophecies

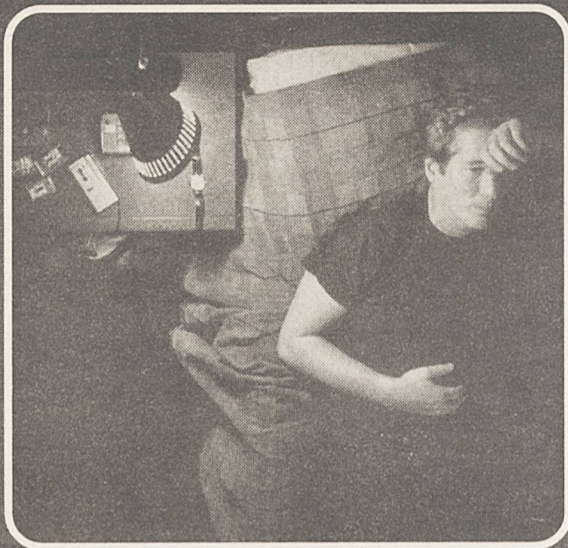
Tom WHITAKER meets the Moth Man and asks: Prophetic species or pathetic faeces?

Director: Mark Pellington
 Starring: Richard Gere, Laura Linney, Will Patton
 Running Time: 118 mins
 Certificate: 12
 Release Date: 01/03/2002

Director Mark Pellington's breakthrough feature, *Arlington Road*, didn't do too well in America. The Jeff Bridges/Tim Robbins thriller was replete with a talented cast, an interesting premise, some just-about-allowable zealous direction and a real doozy of an ending. Sadly, it didn't appeal to the American audience who were (dare I say it?) less interested in terrorism back then. And that's a shame, because whilst his follow-up, *The Mothman Prophecies*, is a rather more measured, mature affair, it's considerably less satisfying. Brownie points, however, for trying something a little different...

The Mothman Prophecies has its basis in the real-life legend of the Moth Man, a mysterious creature/aparition-type-thing fabled to have appeared before certain large-scale tragedies, including the Chernobyl disaster. This particular story updates one Ohio catastrophe from the 1960s (any more details would give away the ending), which involved John Keel, the writer on who's book the film is based. Pellington brings the story up to date, placing it in a contemporary setting, and focusing on the experiences of *Wall Street Journal*ist John Klein (Richard Gere). Following a car crash which leaves his wife dead (and what exactly did she see in the road that caused her to swerve?), the story skips forward two years, with John taking another road trip. Breaking down on a quiet backroad, John walks to find help. But there's a strange presence about, and when John discovers that he's driven a great distance in an (impossibly) short time, it becomes clear that all is not what it may seem.

And then it all goes downhill. *The Mothman Prophecies* starts very well, with a visceral car crash shattering an idyllic life, and a real sense of impending... stuff. Because at that point, it's not clear what kind of territory we're on; which genre Pellington is going to plump for. Clever did-see-that editing and some eerily effective sound design tempt you into thinking you're watching a horror film, but it never quite comes together. Because *The Mothman Prophecies* isn't a horror film at all. The Moth Man him-

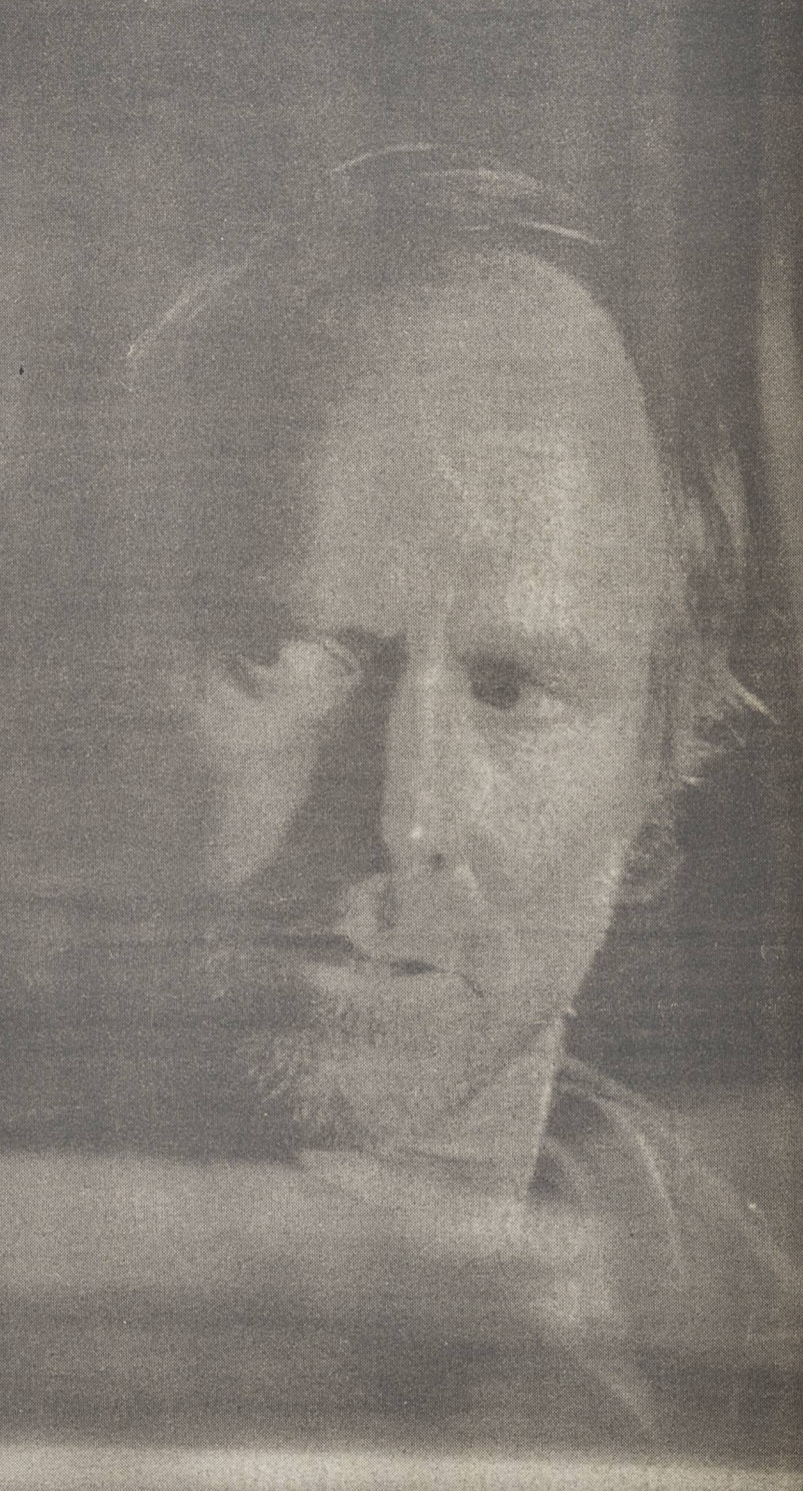


self is no stalk-and-slash killer, and appears to all of the characters in different ways and for different (mostly unexplained) reasons. As the plot (involving the Moth Man's legacy and his links to past tragedies) unfolds, the film loses its way somewhat. On one hand, it attempts to keep us uneasy, with an overdose of weird, eerie noises played over everyday sounds (telephones ringing and the like). But the poker face is poor, and the audience figures out that we're meant to be confused and intrigued as opposed to scared long before the film stops trying to give us the heebie-jeebies.

The film is hamstrung by the script. The performances, from Gere and Laura Linnery (appearing here as a small-town cop, after excellent turns in the brilliant *Truman Show* and the almost-as-brilliant-but-that-would-be-pretty-sodding-hard *You Can Count On Me*) are both more than adequate. Pellington's direction is mostly solid too, aside from some occasionally unnecessary hyper-active flying camera shots, but he's forced to try and squeeze tension out of situations where it doesn't really exist. For the most part, it's a horror film without a malevolent presence, and when it makes the leap to supernatural mystery, it's too little too late.

Still, at least it falls down for trying to break away from pigeon-holed conventions, which is far more forgivable than a botched stab at a formulaic genre piece.

★★★★☆



Competition TIME



RICHARD GERE LAURA LINNEY
 — THE —
 MOTHPHMAN PROPHECIES

The Moth Man flew by *TheBeaver* office earlier this week. Whilst he was hypnotised by our light fittings we mugged him and nicked all his belongings, so we have some freebies to give away. We've purloined one goodie bag containing posters, a T-Shirt and a very useful small device enabling you to see the world through the eyes of a moth. And we've got loads of these prizes to give away separately so there's 'nuff chances to win!

All you have to do is (in not more than 50 words) tell us who would win in a fight between a Moth-Man and a Butterfly-Man. And why?

The most ingenious and entertaining answers will get the prizes. Mail your answers to beaverfilm@yahoo.com before the 12th of March to enter.

Good Luck!

ANDREWSWANN & RIYANITANI play tribute to the legend who is **PETERDAVIES**

This week esteemed music editor Peter 'babies' Davies finally wrote his last puntastic headline. The graduate of the school of *Kerrrrang!* had spent two years defining the role given to him, although finally he realised what everyone else knew a year and a half ago - he was crap at it and it was time to leave!

Anyone acquainted with the rosy-cheeked Welshman who was used to his stubble-less greeting of 'OhHihowsitgoing?' will immediately realise the last scandalous comment was merely a joke in the face of a loss of Titanic proportions. Indeed some may even go as far as saying Pete was the de-bin-ative music editor. With his valley tones and wit so dry it left a sandy taste in the throat of anyone who read it, Pete was a breath of fresh air within the all too serious realms of the Beaver office.

Pete will be sorely missed, as will the computer he has become moulded to after two years continuously in front of the screen. A man? A legend? Nah, just good old Pete Babies, hero of the Park West toilet seat.

Peter Davies 2000-2002 RIP



Beaver Sound System

JONPUSHPA-RAJAH

1. Nelly Furtado - *Woah Nelly!* (lp)
2. Shed Seven - *Going For Gold* (lp)
3. Slipknot - *Iowa* (lp)
4. Gay Dad - *Transmission* (lp)
5. Kula Shaker - *K* (lp)
6. *The Best Drive Time Album In The World Ever* (double lp)
7. Gary Glitter - *Best Of* (lp)
8. Soulwax - *Much Against Everyone's Advice* (lp)
9. Hoobastank - *Hoobastank* (lp)
10. Andrew WK - *I Get Wet* (lp)

CATHERINEBAKER

1. Andrijana Janevska - *Nostalgija* (mp3)
2. Natasha St Pierre - *Je n'ai que mon ame* (lp track)
3. Doris Dragovic - *Ja nocas umirem* (lp track)
4. Mecano - *Hijo de la luna* (lp track)
5. V Imperio - *Mar de folhas* (lp)
6. Goran Karan and Jelena Radan - *Kada jesen dodje* (lp track)
7. Ketj Garbi - *To kati* (lp)
8. Minea - *Madjarica* (lp track)
9. Severina - *Virujen u te* (lp track)
10. Ivana Banfic - *Imam te* (mp3)

Aspects

MIKEBURN inspects 'up-and-coming' west country hip-hop ensemble the Aspects at the Camden Monarch

Getting foul in London Town are Bristol's Aspects. The best thing British Hip Hop has produced in a long time. Their take on it is cheeky and irreverent. They seem to acknowledge the potential ridiculousness of British Hip Hop; the fact that it's important not to take yourself too seriously for the fear of coming across like Tim Westwood.

Tonight's set is jovial and upbeat, there is copious head nodding. The setting of the Monarch is surreal; it's not a venue associated with Hip Hop in anyway, shape or form. If the first phenomena is British Hip Hop itself then the second is live Hip Hop.

Part pantomime, part Beastie Boys, part Five, the Aspects are performers of the highest calibre, they give it there best to an oh so cool indie crowd.

Looking like a Frenchman who's noticed a bad smell but can't place it's location, rhymes are delivered with accompanying beat-box: nothing less than totally impressive.

Correct English by the Aspects is out now on Hombre Records



LSEMUSIC: CALLISTO

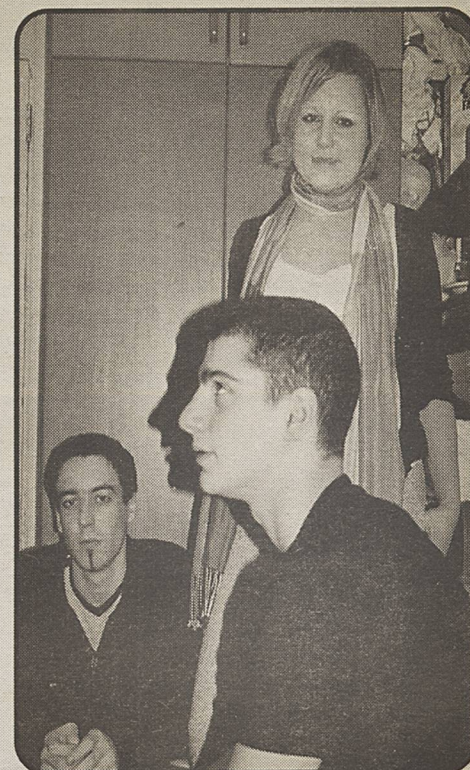
JENWELCH on up-and-coming LSE band Callisto

It was in a small recording studio at Shepherd's Bush, with only family and friends; their first gig, the first time Callisto was performing in public, only two months after they first met. The friendly chatter that filled the room instantly stopped as Alex stroke the first chords of his guitar, quickly followed by the powerful, touching vocals of their talented singer, Ida. The intensity of their lyrical and melodic sound struck hard and fast among the public, who was then completely silent, still in awe of the band's original and harmonious energy long after the five song set was over. You'd have liked them.

After meeting through the LSE Live Music Society and common friends, Jack explains how they started working together, with the likes of Soundgarden, the Deftones, Alanis Morissette, Bjork, Tori Amos and Flea, the Red Hot Chilli Peppers bassist as their influential background. "The amazing thing about this band", he says, "is that each member brings along a different quality besides his instrument". Alex's experience as a singer in his previous band, for example, gives his guitar sound and song writing a more three-dimensional aspect, whereas Ida's energy and "drive" are revealed in her strongly poetic lyrics. Jack, who was the last member to join, added depth and a whole range of new possibilities to the music of the band, with his funky and original bass lines. Both Alex and Jack also agree that Ida's feminine presence in the band works as a calming influence and allows them to work in a more positive and productive atmosphere. Finally, Ida says that even though they come from different backgrounds, they all seem to be on the same vibe. And what a vibe!

Despite limited access to money and equipment, their passion for music brings them together at least once a week to write and rehearse new songs. But the interest of the band "is not so much what it is today, but what it's going to be", says Jack, who recognises that they are still young and "fresh". And it is this energy, this drive, which directly translates into their music that makes them so special to listen to.

So make sure you don't miss future gigs planned at the Rock Garden and possibly the LSE, if we are lucky! (For more information about the band, next gigs, etc. you can email Ida at i.norheim-hagtun@lse.ac.uk)



Vocals	: Ida
Guitar	: Alex
Bass	: Jack
Drums	: Igor
Cello, Keyboards	
Acoustic guitar	: Johnny

singles

LAST MAN STANDING
NOBODY

Although this lot don't sound like the made for kids metal bands, their music is hardly original or definitive or revolutionary- you get the message. What I'd like to know is this: who told the lead singer that singing as if your voice is breaking is cool? Boring, boring Heavy Metal.

☆☆☆☆
NAZIARAHIM

WHITE STRIPES
FELL IN LOVE WITH A GIRL

Fell In Love With A Girl Siblings or Lovers? The Detroit duo who managed to dub the press has released yet another excellent single. The uniqueness of the White Stripes' sound will capture your spirit and blend it with Jack's superb blues guitar riffs throughout the perfect 110 seconds of Fell In Love With A Girl. The equally brilliant B-sides *Let's Shake Hands* and *Lafayette Blues* successfully extend this moment of perfect musical bliss. This single is a must for any indie lover!

★★★★★
VALERIASEVERINI

CORNELIUS
DROP

A gem from this month's long-playing highlight *Point*, *Drop* is everything you could ask for from Cornelius the ingenious pop scientist. A maverick who's deification is more than justified. In addition to the album track included here are two new mixes from Tusen Takk and Matthew Herbert, both of which add to, and do not detract the track.

★★★★☆
MIKEBURN

SUBWAY
SUBWAY EP

Manchester duo Subway are Nuphonic's latest release. This is a 4-track EP meant to give you a taste of what Subway's music is like. Well, it tastes pretty damn good: the first track, *Givin' It All Up To You*, uses a voice sample from one of Simply Red's classic hits to create an excellent, chilled-out house tune which will be sure to get your heads bopping to the beat!

★★★★☆
RLEFROGGE

THE 45s
WAITING FOR MY HEART TO
BREAK

This is a simple three-chord Britpop-esque offering from The 45s, a new Brighton-based, 4 berth beat combo. Psychedelic tinges foil a bouncy chorus which is satisfying enough to be getting along with. However, the next few months will indicate whether they are destined to reach Supergrass-like peaks or the bargain-bucket trough of Supernaturals-dom..

★★★★☆
CHARLIEJURD

BETA BAND
SQUARES

The Beta Band: you'd think one day they might lose their gift of managing to perpetually turn out musical and conceptual gems. Well, thankfully not yet, because *Squares* doesn't disappoint. Yet another wondrous trip into experimental/psychedelic beats and dreamy vocals, somehow making a tune which in essence is rather melancholy put a summer-esque smile on your face. A slice of genius? Without a doubt...

★★★★☆
JAZMINBURGESS

ANDREW WK
SHE IS BEAUTIFUL

"She is beautiful, she is beautiful and when it's time to party we will party hard!" The new single from Mr WK is unquestionably the same as his previous effort and joy, *Party Hard*. Duh Duh Duh, Duh Da! The man is a god of irony and he rawks.

★★★★☆
MIKEBURN

single of the week



THE EIGHTIES MATCHBOX
B-LINE DISASTER
MORNING HAS BROKEN

Coming on hard and loud, giving you it full and aggressively in the face it's the **Eighties Matchbox B-Line Diaster**. One of the new faces of UKROCK, the 80s MBD are like the Cramps brawling with the Stooges in a dirty, oily garage. Get excited, be afraid, they've come for you and your family and they're taking no prisoners.

★★★★★
MIKEBURN

The Medical Model

MIKEBURN examines Clinic's third album: *Walking With Thee* & talks to bassist Brian Campbell from the band. The diagnosis?...



Clinic are like a swarm of bees. They buzz ferociously around you with an irrepressible energy. Their sound is unique; an amalgamation of elements from different times and different genres. Punk, Soul and Dub all being prominent in their sound. However Clinic are described; concept-rock, art-rock, punk or whatever, their originality is their strongest point.

Walking With Thee is the follow up to their immensely successful debut album of 2000, *Internal Wrangler*. *Walking With Thee*, however, sees a slight departure in direction from the Liverpool four-piece. The different elements come to the forefront. The Donna Summer-esque disco bass line on *Harmony* is particularly notable. *Pet Enoch* is the punk in Clinic manifest, ferocious and biting. *Come Into Our Room* shows their most sinister side, which is indeed very sinister.

Critics would write this album off for not producing anything 'new', for not building on the Clinic sound. The Clinic sound, however, is what their fans have come to love and although the album seems samey in parts one cannot fail to appreciate the Clinic formula.

Bassist Brian Campbell told me that the band we're conscious of not being contrived; they wanted to make an honest album which remained to true roots. For a band who thought they would never get this far they are delighted. Brian, on a certain song which appeared on the advertisement of a certain multi-national clothes company: "if we hadn't have done that, then we wouldn't have been able to make this album".

Brian told me that the reason behind the masks isn't some attempt to be concept rock but the fact that the band are all hideously ugly.

Whatever the Clinic formula is, for me, it's a winner and *Walking With Thee* is an album which has in its originality much more to offer than the majority of the current crop of indie bands. (8)

Walking With Thee is out now on Domino Records

"Clinic are like a swarm of bees. They buzz ferociously around you with an irrepressible energy."

Custom Built

VICTORIA PECKETT checks the build quality of the up and coming Custom Blue

Custom Blue don't come across as the kind of group who enjoy being interviewed by a bunch of motley students. Not that they aren't completely friendly, albeit in a professional manner. It's just that they'd rather let the music speak for itself. Hence we find ourselves gathered in the dingy confines of Notting Hill Arts Club, waiting for the duo - Alex Pilkington and Simon Shippey - to take to the stage with the bare equipment of two acoustic guitars and a bassist, to do just that.

The gig was part of Radio One's regular One World Live night, the self-professed 'melting-pot' of electronic club influences, ranging from hip-hop and breakbeats to underground house and dub. So hang on - why were Custom Blue choosing this atmosphere to reveal their acoustic debut? The answer lies in their forthcoming album, *All Follow Everyone*, which fuses beats to the raw shell of their guitars. They have clearly been influenced by club culture, confessing that they have fought very hard ensure they aren't pigeon-holed with the NAM (New Acoustic Movement) label. Alex stressed the point further by mentioning the amount of time that had gone into the electronic side of things. Rather than whacking beats over the tracks willy-nilly, they used old instruments, tweaking the sounds to make them personal and lending an organic flavour to the album.

Their conscious rebellion against the straight indie format all seemed a little ironic, however, given their desire to use the acoustic set to let the songs shine through. If the pure songwriting format is obviously so important, why not leave it stripped down on the album too? The answer became clearer as their set finally began. Although some aspects worked very well in the live setting, the majority of the songs patently lacked something without beats and strings to flesh the mood out. The lyrics are intimate, but not intimate enough to stand their ground against the chatter of clubbers and the poor sound quality they were unfortunately lumbered with.

This is despite their obviously heart-felt approach, where songwriting is 'something that just seems to sort of happen' at 3 am in the morning, when all those real emotions come flooding out. The one touch that often redeemed the set from timidity was the unexpected beauty of Alex's voice. It really did come of nowhere, and visibly shocked most of the audience with its power and sincerity. That kind of craftsmanship is something that just can't be forced, and on balance, it carried the soulful elements of the album onto the tiny stage of the NHAC admirably.



Biffy Clyro

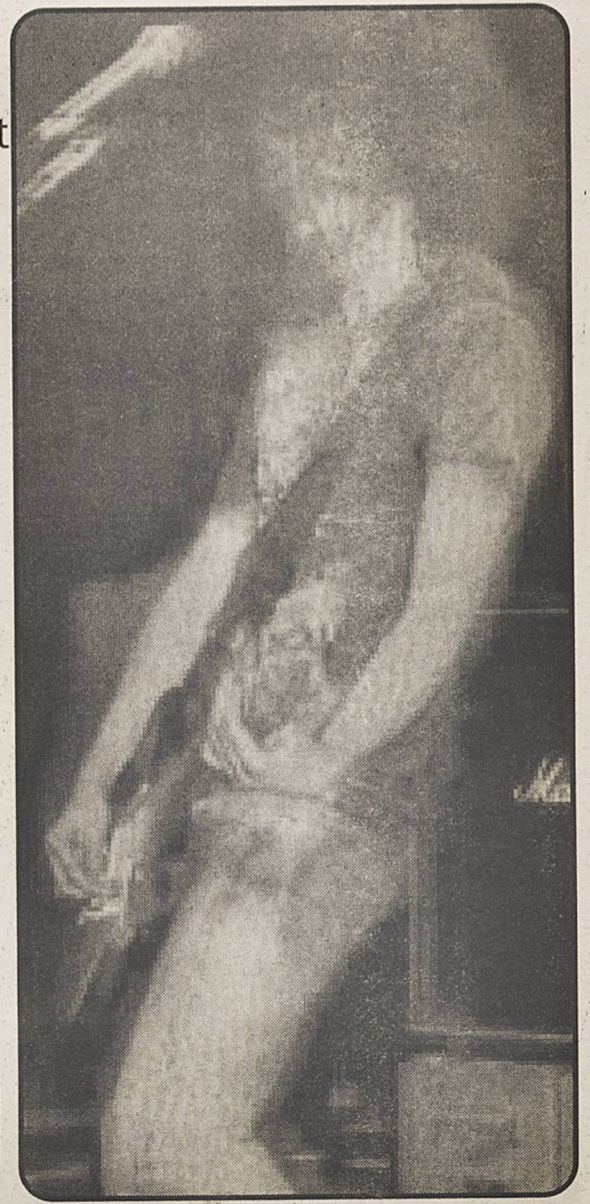
CHARLIE JURD on the Glasgow popcore outfit at the Highbury Garage, Islington

Surely taking an early lead in the running for 2002's Hardest Working Band, *TheBeaver* encounters Biffy Clyro slap-bang in the middle of their own headline tour, which began just three days after their tour with hot new alt-rockers The Cooper Temple Clause. The Scottish three-piece now signed to Beggars Banquet have moved quickly on merit through the ranks of independent labels dropping gems such as *thekidshoptodaywillrocktomorrow* on the way.

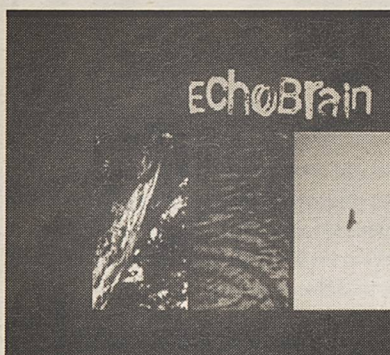
The sound is rock: ragged and uncompromising; but the guitar distortion and random howls are only half the Biffy Clyro story. Rousing choruses and harmonious vocal interplay between guitarist Simon Neil (imagine Mitch from *Neighbours* doing Kurt Cobain at karaoke) and bassist James Johnston, also wash over the audience like sonic tsunami. On tracks such as *hope for an angel* they succeed in making lots of noise seem simultaneously fragile and beautiful.

As the new single *57*, complete with its "oooh, oooh, oooh" audience participation sing-a-long chorus threatens to lift the roof of the Highbury Garage and recent single *27 (House!)* gets its 27th live airing this year, it is clear that Biffy travel well.

Sounding not dissimilar to recent rock breakthroughs My Vitriol, with a debut album *Blackened Sky* set to spurt out of the record pipeline on 11 March, and barring a burnout from their incessant touring schedule Biffy Clyro could have a very good year indeed.



albums



ECHOBRAIN
ECHOBRAIN

Echobrain is ex-Metallica bassist Jason Newsted's new band. I must confess the music was a huge, albeit refreshing, surprise. Instead of heavy and quirky the album is mellow but at the same time does rock. It has been likened to many bands such as Soundgarden yet has a distinctly unique flavour. Every track has something different about it.

Kirk Hammett and Jim Martin make appearances on the album and it has to be said that the tracks they feature on (*SuckerPunch* and *Spoonfed* respectively) are probably the best. *SuckerPunch* is an epic track which features many dynamics. *We Are Ghosts*, featuring strings, has an eerie feel to it which is comparable to Radiohead. The opening track *Colder World* is a fast based riff driven number.

The album is well produced and has a rich texture to it, allowing the different layers to glow. The singer's voice is a bit weak though and doesn't immediately stand out. However, after a few listens it does grow on you.

Metallica fans might want to give it a listen before deciding whether it is worth purchasing to avoid any disappointment. The album will probably most appeal to those favouring a more chilled type of rock. **(8)**

IRASHEED



IKARA COLT
CHAT AND BUSINESS

One of the most impressive debuts for a long time, Ikara Colt's *Chat And Business* reeks of confidence and competence.

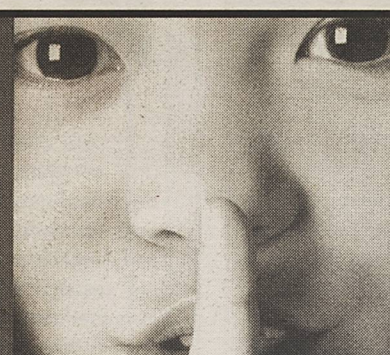
Singer Paul Resende is a version of Mark E Smith. Not a bad thing; I regularly fail to understand why more don't imitate the great man.

Ikara Colt can slot into the new emergence of punky, aggressive music that actually excites as opposed to extinguishes emotion. Rumbling bass, sharp guitars and pounding drums all combining for the Ikara Colt effect. Short, sharp aural assaults, to which you can move. They have shake appeal. Bassist Jon Ball ploughs away throughout relentlessly beating the strings into submission. Guitarist Claire Ingram delivers melodic hooks and ferocious riffs.

You get a sense that with Ikara Colt you have a band who actually oppose something, a band who don't want to be disposable. This alone earns them my respect.

Each and every track here has an abundance of redeeming features. Punk rock the way it should be: ferocious and energetic and in your face. **(9)**

MIKEBURN



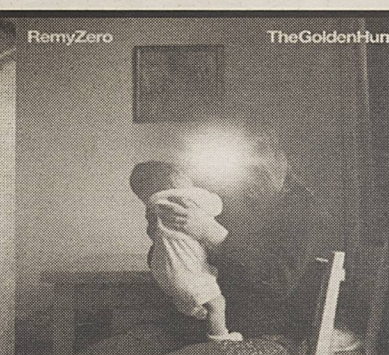
TIMO MAAS
LOUD

Expecting some kind of avante-house or at least something vaguely inspiring from Timo, disappointment quickly ensued. Opening track *Help Me* featuring Kelis is however, beguiling and bass heavy; the album's highlight. It is the enduring persistence of artists such as Timo Maas with such a limited musical form which baffles me. *Loud* has nothing new to offer; I feel jaded within the first eleven minutes. *Loud* has a timidly aggressive sound to it but nothing remarkable. Disposable music for disposable lifestyles. Why someone would buy this album is beyond me.

We Are Nothing is the album's 'stand-out' track for its ridiculousness and its pseudo Baz Luhrmann drivel. "My mouth dry from the heat of endless possible futures, the sweet promises of tomorrow quenching my thirst, all we need to do now is cheat death for as long as we can". Pretentious and entertaining. *To Get Down* tries to rock and fails.

Timo Mass could learn a lot from Trevor Jackson, *Loud* is the poor man's Playgroup. Finlay Quaye guests on *Caravan* and appears to be his usual gimpish self. This is an album chocked cram full of bollocks; brimming at the rim with vacuous and inane rhythms and melodies, nothing to offer. **(4)**

MYKEBURN



REMY ZERO
THE GOLDEN HUM

Alabama rock quintet Remy Zero follow up 1998's acclaimed *Villa Elaine* with this fine offering, a more accessible yet equally compelling record that serves to justify the lavish praise heaped on them from the likes of Courtney Love and Thom Yorke.

Their sound bears hallmarks of both U2 and Queen, frontman Cinjun Tate's vocals echoing those of Freddy Mercury (especially on *Save Me*). Thankfully, their epic, brooding rock shows that they certainly have plenty of their own ideas, and the crashing, instrumental title-track starts the album on a strong note. This is followed by the driving rock of *Glorious #1*, before the band slow things down with the luscious, string laden *Out/In*.

The acoustic based *Perfect Memory* is perhaps Remy Zero's finest moment to date, its poignant lyrics matched by the tender vocals of Tate, whilst *Save Me* could quite easily fit on to Queens' masterpiece *A Day At The Races*.

Although the album slightly tails off towards its latter stages (in particular the bland *I'm Not Afraid*), this is still another great rock album from the Zero. Golden! **(8)**

PETERDAVIES



DEPARTURE LOUNGE
TOO LATE TO DIE YOUNG

Departure Lounge's new album is a refreshing assortment of mellow indie, ambient, dub and electronica songs. A wide variety of instruments serve the purpose of defining all the nuances of the semi-bohemian, semi-introverted soul portrayed throughout the record.

The adventurous harmonica of *Coke & Flakes* unexpectedly resolves into a delicate acoustic guitar solo ballad, *Silverline*, before taking the shape of a modern lullaby whispered by a soft choir of brass instruments in *Animals On My Mind*. *I Love You, Tubular Belgians In My Goldfield* and *Alone Again*, constitute a mysterious ethereal trio, which seems to have developed from an underground stream of new age music.

Unfortunately, the first song to be chosen as a single doesn't live up to the standards of the rest of the album. *King Kong Frown* is, in fact, a slightly repetitive and not very inspiring tune.

The same can be said of *Be Good To Yourself*, which doesn't seem to fit the general atmosphere of the record. Despite these two average tunes, *Too Late To Die Young* is an overall enjoyable album filled with creativity and surprises. The Nashville/Brighton quartet are definitely a promising band for 2002. **(7)**

VALERIASEVERINI

My Way or the Pieway

On 13 January in Clackamas, Oregon, Richard Petrillo hit Fred Durst in the back of the head with a coconut cream pie. The band was returning to the Guitar Centre where they were holding the tryouts for their new guitarist, following a food break, when the 18-year-old ran past a line of autograph-seeking fans and gave Fred a little more to chew on than he had planned on when he went out to eat. Two of Limp Bizkit's bodyguards helped detain the thrower of the pie, while sheriff's deputies handcuffed him. Durst then signed Petrillo's forehead and drew an "X" on his cheek with a sharpie marker. Clever one Fred. Always a quick thinker. Petrillo was taken to the police station and placed in a cell for under an hour before being charged with disorderly conduct and five counts of harassment.

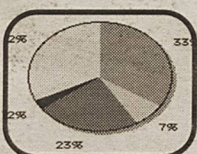
BeaverMusic Quiz: Which of the below is Fred's favourite kind of pie? Don't email, it's just for fun!



Mr Durst. Which pie is his favourite? a: Mamma Durst's Apple Pie



b: Sticky Apricot Pie



c: A Pie Chart



The 'Other' RSC

A Complete History of America

"It's not the length of your history but what you do with it that counts!" This has never been truer than in the Reduced Shakespeare Company's production of *The Complete History of America*. These three men take you on a wild and crazy romp through 13,000 years of American history in just under two hours: good old Amerigo Vespucci, some early Native American history, the revolution, Salem, the most amazing Civil War slide show you'll see this side of public television, all the way through the grassy knoll, both World Wars and some gratuitous psychedelic drug use. They sing, they dance, they fight wars, they discover new lands - how much more excitement could you

ask for in one evening?? The show is fast paced and exceptionally funny, though definitely geared more at the American ex-pat community. However, being an American ex-pat myself, I found the show to be uproariously funny. The production was

not flawless, however - lines were forgotten, jokes were laughed at, but it added to the homey feel of the show, and left you unsure of how much of the show was improvised. A word to the wise - they do a question and answer session on American History, so before you go think up a few outrageous questions and see whether the boys on stage can handle them.

The Complete History of America would never be classified as high art, but it is by far the funniest thing I've seen in London to date. I laughed non-stop for the entire duration of the show. So if you're looking for some mindless escapism, I highly suggest the hilarious antics of the *Complete History of America*.

★★★★☆

Reviewed by **Emily Gray**

The Criterion Theatre, box office: 020 7413 1437, Piccadilly Circus.



King Lear

One of Shakespeare's most important tragedies, *King Lear* materialises when he asks his three daughters, Goneril, Reagan and Cordelia, if they love him. The first two say yes and only Cordelia is honest and says that only as a daughter. For pretending to love their father, Lear promises Goneril and Reagan each half of his kingdom while Cordelia is disinherited. His two most 'beloved' daughters then plot his downfall to gain their legacy. Lear then goes mad and dies tragically.

The first shock comes when you walk into the Almeida and discover a beautiful stage that ends up being gradually destroyed, mainly by one of the best rain scenes I have ever seen in a live theatre, because it includes real water coming out of somewhere of the theatre for about 20 minutes, as well as great thunder effects. Very good acting from all actors, especially from the many awards winner, Oliver Ford Davies,

who plays Lear. He has a commanding presence, a resonant voice and is every inch the patriarchal bully confronting his own moral blindness in the three hours and 10 minutes that the play lasts.

To all of William Shakespeare's fans, I think you shouldn't miss this play. For everybody else, I should just warn you that this drama lasts for about three hours and ten minutes; also, if you are not very used to 'old' English, there are many parts of the play that you will not understand a word of what they are saying. Nevertheless, I think it is a worthwhile play to see for everybody.

★★★★☆

Reviewed by **George Mendez**

Almeida Theatre at King's Cross until March 30. Box office: 020 7359 4404.

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Theatre News!

Perth Brendon Burns will be bringing his foul-mouthed, but sharp-witted and highly original comedy to London for 4 nights only at the Soho Theatre, London from Wednesday 20 - Saturday 23 March at 8 pm. His television credits include: being featured throughout the Channel 4 series *Edinburgh Or Bust*; presenter *The 11 O'Clock Show* (Channel 4); presenter *MTV Hot* (MTV), *The Stand Up Show* (BBC) and the sitcom *Turn The World Down* (Channel 4). **'Simply a legend in the making...sparkling stuff'** *The Guardian* **'Cocky, confident and charismatic...he has what it takes to be the best'** *The Times*

Carmen

Georges Bizet's work of art, *Carmen*, performs at the Royal Albert Hall in its authentic opera-comique form. It is a masterpiece with a balance with words and music that is used to give a dramatic purpose. It is a tale of passion, love, honour and betrayal.

The story starts in the public square of Seville where a group of soldiers are stationed on duty. Don Jose, one of the soldiers receives a message from home urging him to marry Micaela, the girl who brings the message. She is an orphan girl his mother had adopted. He considers his mother's advice. However, at this time, the factory women around their station get into a fight and the main culprit is Carmen, a gypsy girl with fiery eyes and temper to match her flirtatious personality. She is pursued by every soldier except Jose who thinks her disgusting. She is sent to jail for maliciously wounding another woman. Jose is ordered by his commander to take to jail. However, she persuades Jose to become her lover and let her escape.

This is the beginning of a roller-coaster ride in their relationship, which is full of suspicion, obsession and grave jealousy but leads to murder. It is a great story and well performed at the Royal Albert Hall. In the 127 years since its premiere, *Carmen* has inspired dozens of plays, musicals, ballets, films and books. It is one of the most popular operas to date and for those who wonder what opera is all about I recommend *Carmen* to you. Let it be your first love!

★★★★★

Reviewed by **Shola Babington-Ashaye**

Royal Albert Hall, box office: 020 7838 3100. Thursday 21 Feb to Thursday 7 March 2002.



The Glee Club

Richard Cameron's new play at the Bush Theatre, *The Glee Club*, follows the lives of six miners-cum-singers through a year when music and everything else in their lives changes forever. The musical director and founder of the glee club, Phil, is wrongly accused of touching young choirboys, while Walt wrestles with the death of his wife and sending his children off to live with other people because he can no longer deal with parenting. Bant's wife has left him and is gallivanting around with the Rington's Tea Man. Scobie is expecting his third child very soon, and Jack recently met up with the woman of his childhood fantasies. Colin, the youngest member of the group at 19, is trying to decide whether to settle down with his girlfriend Sandra, or pursue his dreams of becoming a rock star. Add to this some serious infidelity, homophobia, unplanned pregnancy, alcoholism and a practical joke taken a little bit too far, and you've got the makings of a brilliant soap opera. But these six men are so very raw and human that, despite all their flaws, you can't help but get caught up in their stories.

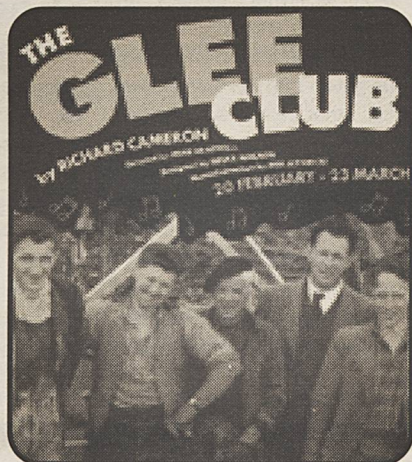
Theatre is supposed to transport you, to make you step outside of yourself for a while, *The Glee Club* does just that. All six men are powerful actors with some musical talent to boot. David Bamber does a particularly stunning job as Phil, the quiet

martyr of the group. Unfortunately the whole show is done in a thick Yorkshire accent, which was difficult for my American ears to understand at parts. The Glee Club is well worth seeing, though audience members should expect some brief male nudity. Be sure to get there well before curtain, however, since the way to the seats is through the stage, so no latecomers are admitted.

★★★★☆

Reviewed by **Emily Gray**

Bush Theatre, Box Office: 020 7610 4224, Tube: Shepherd's Bush.



A Masked Ball

A Masked Ball, by the Italian composer Verdi is a story of betrayal, abuse of power, sorcery and true love. The plot is very unoriginal, and nothing you haven't seen or heard before: the King sleeps with his best friend's wife, and his best friend seeks revenge by killing the King and everybody grieves. End of story, all go home. Why then is there so much excitement in the media about this particular opera? Not for the fact that it's a play by Verdi, but for the fact that it is Calixto Bieito who directed it. He is well known for the 'boos' he received after his destruction of Mozart's Don Giovanni.

The stage is set and the scene opens. Greeted by 14 men sitting on lavatories with their trousers around their ankles, you know that this is a Calixto Bieito work. His fascination with graphic scenes of violence and sex borders on the disturbing and he does not restrict himself here. The English National Opera warns of the black humour and adult scenes, but most of them are just unnecessary and silly. While their defence is that we see worse things on TV- we expect better from the opera. All throughout I wondered if these scenes added to my understanding of the play, or if they contributed to the emotions being portrayed- most times not really. Of course not everybody agrees with me and according to Times critic Rodney Milnes the first scene where a 14 men were sitting on toilets with their trousers down was "actually rather beautiful". No comment.

In all honesty, the scenes were not as disturbing as the media have made it to seem but they really are unnecessary. I agree with Rupert Christiansen, the Daily Telegraph opera critic, who wrote "transvestites, dwarves, gratuitous sexual couplings and visits to the lavatory distract us in every scene". It's true- why can't Bieito just stick to the plot? Was it absolutely necessary for one of the conspirators to rub his hands all over that lady's chest? - I think not. Plus, how feasible is it that the king and his lover (or anyone) would want to attempt to make love with a dead body some inches away? These scenes were not part of Verdi's original opera and do not warrant inclusion. The Evening Standard claimed that the reasons for the gratuitous sex scenes are a stab at publicity- so that's the end of that.

Regarding the actors each actor performed to the best of their ability- that fact is not disputed. Vocally, everyone deserves kudos- and the orchestra did a magnificent job.

If you are able to ignore the aforementioned scenes of sex and violence (including gang rape) then you should be able to enjoy this wonderful piece by Verdi.

★★★★☆

Reviewed by **Adejoke Babington-Ashaye**

English National Opera, Box Office: 020 7632 8300, Trafalgar Square, £13-£55

Pushup

Having sex in the boss's office, watching TV without thinking, and searching for nude pics on the net are some of the out of work pursuits of the employees chronicled in the play *Push Up*. *Push Up*, German playwright Roland Schimmelpfennig's first work to be shown in the UK, is part of the International Playwrights Season at the Royal Court Theatre. The play, with uncompromising parallel structure, takes a look into the lives of those climbing the corporate ladder, showing the sad emptiness that comes about with unending searching for money or corporate success. Although the characters are combative in conversation, their internal monologues line up side by side, often repeating each other, showing the characters' similarities and at times foreshadowing their future. The play comes to the simple conclusion that money or success at work does not equal happiness. However, the parallel structure shows this a little too simply, to the point where the play feels too structured.

The first segment shows two women, the owner of the company and an employee, arguing about the rejection of the employee's application for promotion to the coveted job in Delhi. The two women, at odds, have identical empty sexless lives with the same difficulties deciding what

to wear in the morning. Although lines such as "Just so you understand: the problem is not that you're fucking my husband. The problem is that you need to," made the exchange interesting, the repeating of monologues word for word to show the similarities between the two became somewhat tiresome. However the performances of Sian Thomas and Lucy Whybrow in this segment, along with the performances of all the actors, were engaging. The second segment was less repetitive, and the third segment, although not as repetitive, I found slightly boring. The idea behind the play, that the pursuit of money and success will not necessarily lead to happiness, is interesting but not really groundbreaking. I found the line drawn between the happy joking of the security guards and the melancholy of the driven employees too simple a description of the elements of happiness. The play provides for an intriguing look to the futures of the LSE's aspiring bankers, but Schimmelpfennig's careful construction allows for no grey areas, resulting in a play which compares corporate lives interestingly, but too strictly.

★★★★☆

Reviewed by **Ellen Correia**

Royal Court Theatre Upstairs. Box Office: 020 7565 5100. Tube - Sloane Square

Freebies!

AND WHO CAN RESIST THAT?

- 1) For free tickets to **A Complete History of America (Abridged)** tell us which politician *recently* had a serious conflict with a pretzel.
- 2) For free tickets to **Pushup**, tell us in which Travis video is singer Fran Healy seen doing a day's worth of pushups?
- 3) For free tix to see **A Masked Ball** at the English National Opera, tell us which came first, clothes or jewellery?

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- 4) For tickets to see **Carmen** at the Royal Albert Hall, tell us how many years ago it premiered?

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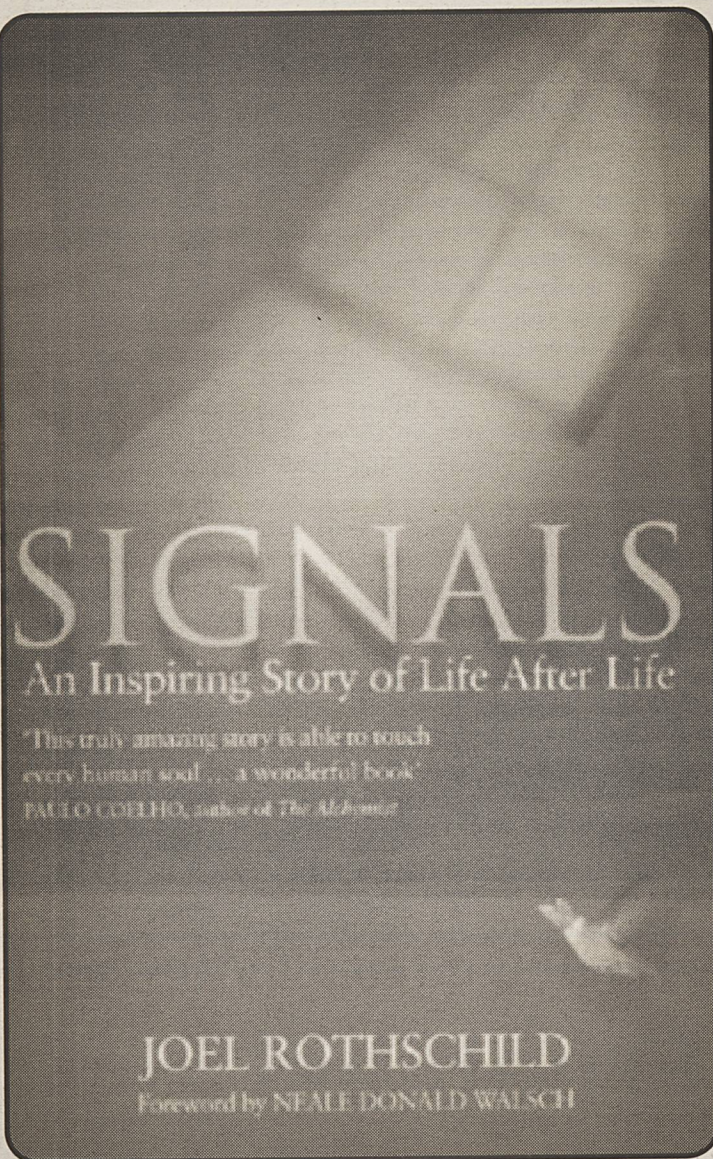
FOR £10: Any show at the National Theatre, student standby 45 min. before the production.

Standby to see **The Complete History of America** or **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare** at the Criterion Theatre, 1/2 hr before production.

Signals

Just The Facts...

Title: Signals: An Inspiring Story of Life After Life
 Author: Joel Rothschild
 Release Date: February 2002



How do you cope with the loss of a loved one? Do you ever think of life after death and is it really that far-fetched to believe that contact can be

he might have. He would signal that there was a world beyond. This would be our signal of hope'. However, after Joel discovers Albert has taken his own life

"Whoever was first to die would try to contact the other-with a signal, with whatever psychic ability he might have. He would signal that there was a world beyond"

made between this world and the next? 'There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, Than are dreamt of in your philosophy', comes to mind and Joel Rothschild conveys this beautifully in his book, *Signals*. It is a true story, focusing on Joel's friendship with Albert Fleites (to whom this book is dedicated) and the impact this has on Joel's life. *Signals* highlights the intense relationship between Joel and Albert as they battle against AIDS. Living in LA, during the early days of the AIDS epidemic, these two best friends witness the disease take the lives of many of their closest friends. Consequently, they fear that they will be next and so decide to make a pact, 'Whoever was first to die would try to contact the other-with a signal, with whatever psychic ability

on 1 June 1994 his whole life is shattered, 'Now I couldn't care less about this pact. I didn't want his signals'. 'My greatest friend, my ally, my family, my life, my joy, my laughter, had taken his own life...that selfish act had broken every promise he had ever made to me, including the promise he would never abandon me'.

Yet, despite his anger at being left behind, Joel cannot ignore the signals, support, words and guidance that

"What started off life as a private journal, ended up as a published masterpiece."

Albert is sending him. He also begins to discover that his late friend has left him a special gift, a psychic aware-

ness, he can use to help others. The amazing encounters, life-saving experiences, and sudden appearances of humming-birds and hearts (which were very significant during Joel and Albert's friendship) portray more than just coincidence. We all want to believe in afterlife. This

living AIDS survivors, if not the longest-living AIDS survivor, Joel Rothschild has outlived his doctors' prognosis and two of his doctors. Albert's signals to Joel have given him the power and will to continue and heal. 'A work of great beauty and profound spiritual power. Everyone who has lost a loved one should read it and that is no exaggeration'- Raymond A Moody, author of *Life After Life*. What started off life as a private journal ended up as a published masterpiece. Thank you Joel Rothschild and thank you Albert.

★★★★★

reviewed by **Seniha Sami**

Just The Facts...

Title: Sin to Win
 Author: Marc Lewis
 Release Date: February 2002

SIN TO WIN

I have only been given the introduction and a trial chapter to Marc Lewis' book and thus my views are entirely based upon those meagre 42 pages.

speaker. This I can believe as his book is written in an incredibly easy to read trashy style and you can almost imagine every sleazeball word emanating from his mouth.

Sin to Win is a self-help book of sorts which is orientated entirely around the premise that if you disobey the Seven Deadly Sins you will succeed in all facets of life. This is of course a load of rubbish and Marc Lewis does nothing in the way to convince me otherwise.

"Sin to Win is a self-help book of sorts which is orientated entirely around the premise that if you disobey the Seven Deadly Sins you will succeed in all facets of life."

I fully intend to lie and cheat my way through life being proud and lustful at as many opportunities are available to me so I fail to see the point of this book what so ever. Thus I can only assume it is designed for an American market or other group of simpletons who actually pay attention to any of this self-help rubbish.

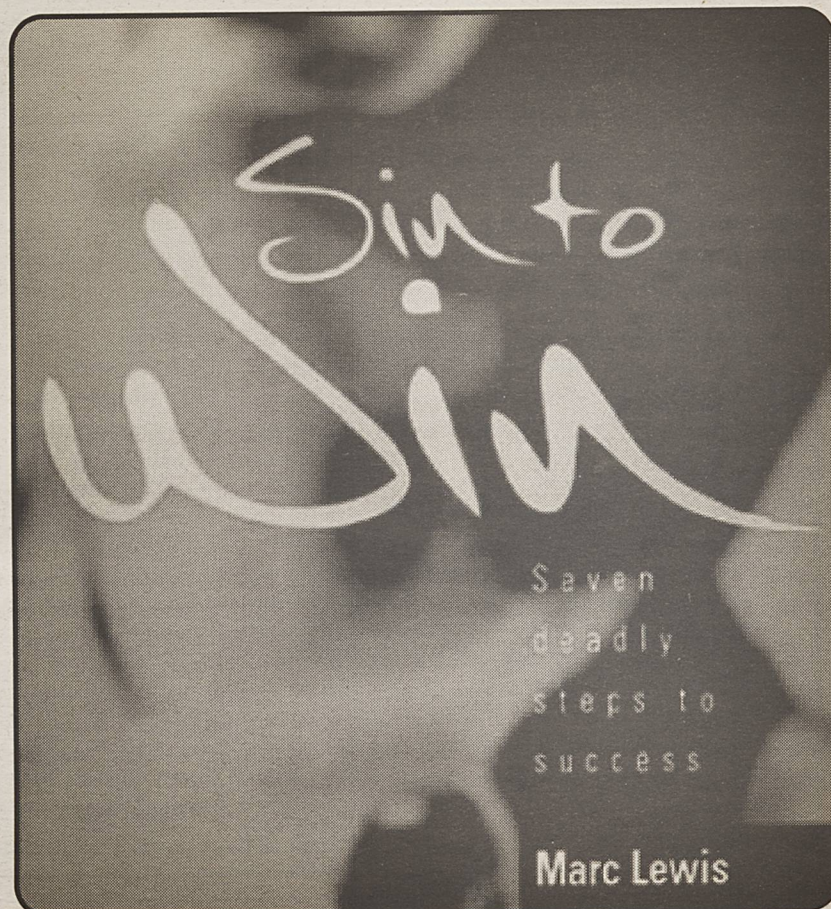
I have investigated Marc Lewis and other than being very rich no doubt down to behaving like a bastard he is also considered to be quite the talented public

of the book and its puerile philosophies. I would be tempted to buy a copy just to see how low it can go but not that tempted.

If you feel the need for some book for your toilet that if in emergency can also be called upon for toilet paper replacement then this is for you other than that steer well clear and above all do not look to it for career or life advice as it is sadly confused and quite simply full of cack.

☆☆☆☆

reviewed by **Matt Trenhaile**



Fury

Life is fury. Fury - sexual, Oedipal, political, magical, brutal - drives us to our finest heights and coarsest depths. This is what we are, what we civilise ourselves to disguise - the terrifying human animal in us, the exalted, transcendent, self-destructive, untrammelled lord of creation. We raise each other to the heights of joy. We tear each other limb from bloody limb.'

Malik Solanka is the subject of this novel, a millionaire doll maker and historian of ideas resident in the sprawling metropolis of New York. More specifically, it is the struggle of Malik with his anger and return to his abandoned son. Malik is a man that has left a ruin of marriages behind him and his friendships break too. The women that come into his life are destined to leave him, even when he believes that his love has won over anger. The story is told against the backdrop of murder and social upheaval, all motivated by anger, which Rushdie tries to write as one of the

sinews of the soul. The book ends with a sense of personal tragedy and new hope as Malik absurdly frolics on a bouncy castle. The book is a swirling mish-mash of language. It is as if Rushdie has become half-crazed with all the books that he has read and spewed them all forth in a feverish stew. He aims at a meta-language which is ultimately a failure because of all the

"It is as if Rushdie has become half-crazed with all the books that he has read and spewed them all forth in a feverish stew"

baggage that it carries with it. There are other faults of style too: it seems that Rushdie watches far too much CNN and expects us to do the same. The book is almost certain to prove ephemerally contemporary and as a compensation for this, Rushdie conflates it unsuccessfully with Greek myth. Rushdie can also not resist writing with the muscles bulging out of his biro and we find that the

dictionary is almost an essential companion to this novel.

What of the preoccupations of the novel? In disgusting excesses of language, almost a modern Dickensian, Rushdie launches into a tired tirade against capitalism while at the same time glorifying it. The novel exploits the themes of sexual perversion and

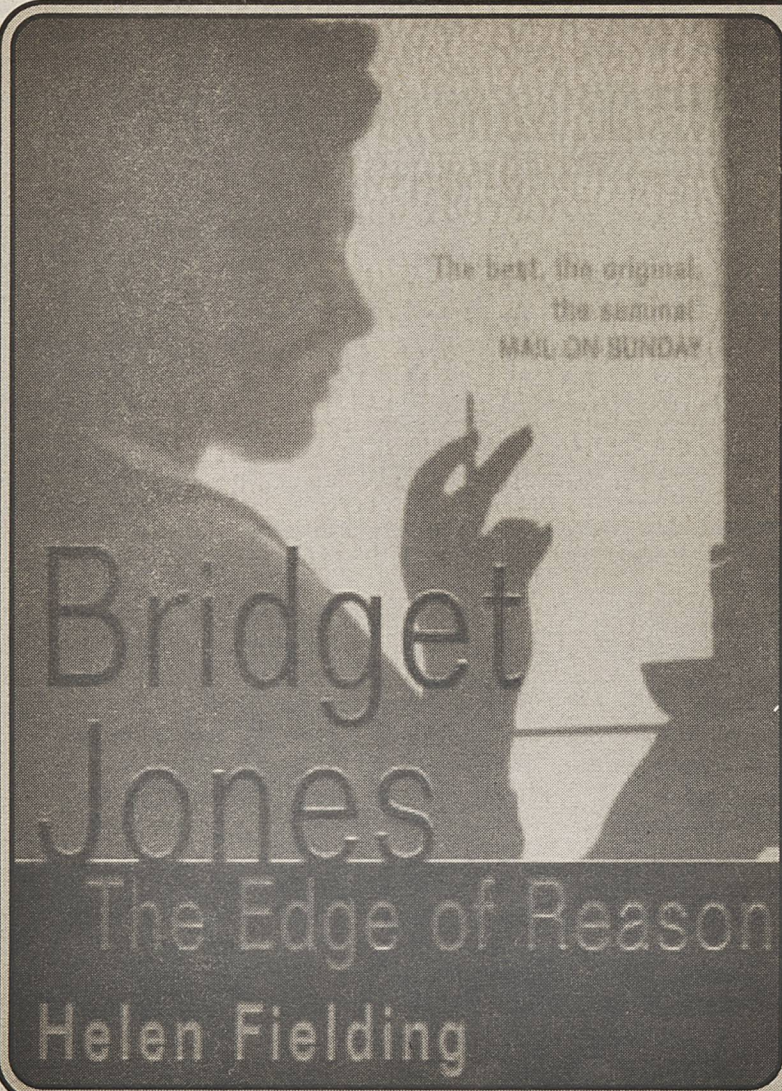
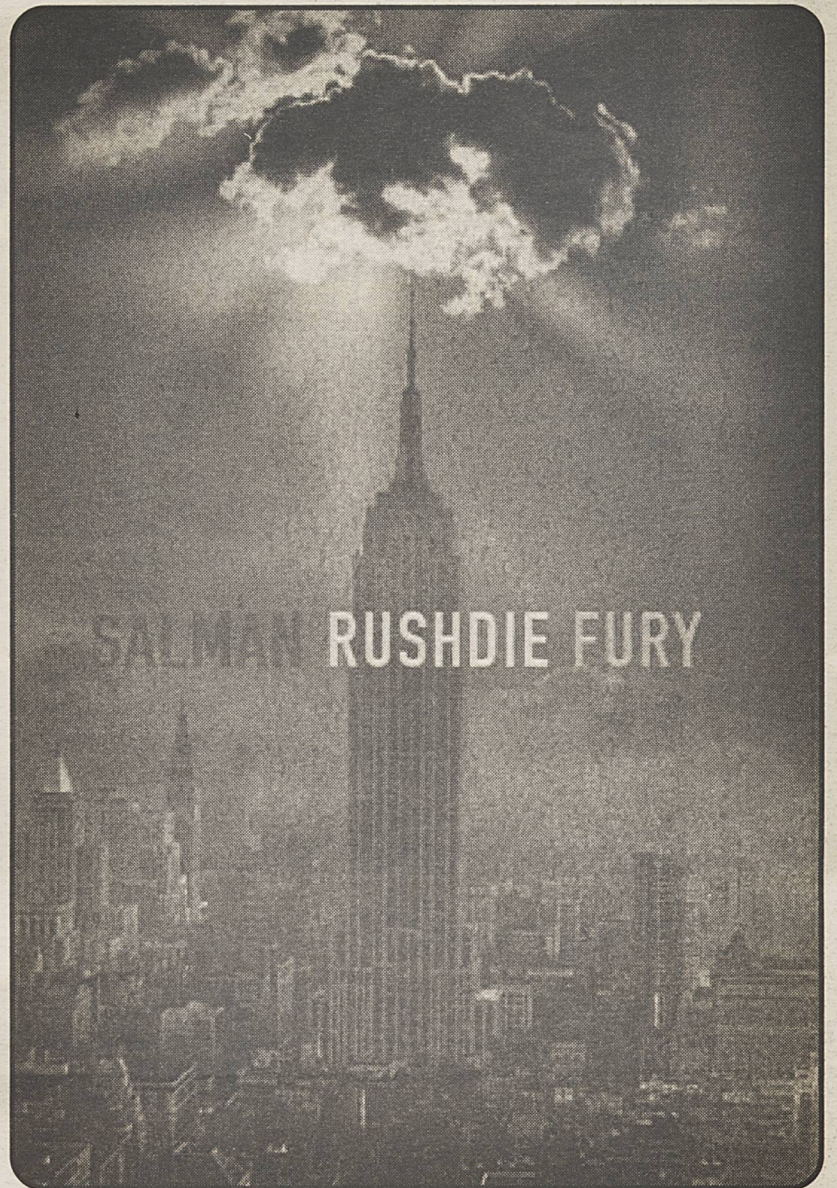
The characters in this book are, in short, unlovable. This is not a criticism as such, but the fact that they are uncomplicated is. The doll leitmotif is pretentious and obvious in the case of Mila. Neela is impossibly beautiful and idealistic (also leading me to the question of the rhyming names and linked names, what is the point?). Malik's friends, who all seem to commit suicide, or have no morals at all, all talk alike and seem to derive from a homogenous strain of jerk, as he himself does.

I would recommend you to tongue-kiss a turd rather than read this book. It is written for and centres around a literati-coterie and tells us nothing about being human in the modern world. It is sometimes offensive but overall, and perhaps worse of all, it is banal and unmemorable.

★★★★☆
reviewed by **Suneel Mehmi**

Just The Facts...

Title: FURY
Author: Salman Rushdie
Date: August 2001
Publisher: Quality Paperbacks



Bridget Jones The Edge of Reason

Bridget Jones Part II. Sequels can be dodgy. I cite *Speed*, *The Swan Princess* and *Young Guns*. But literature (with the exception of *Scarlet*; *Gone with the Wind II*) has more success. In the tradition of C S Lewis, Tolkein and McCaffrey - Fielding has only got better. The story borders the sublime, but still seems to reflect my own life in so many ways. Bridget is still getting pissed on her own and striving to be poised and sophisticated and still falling. The diet and fitness crazes are there - and the constant worry over her weight and appearance. Just when you thought they'd had their golden happy ending, Mark Darcy and Bridget face more trials - mainly in the form

of naked Phillipino boys and skinny whiney bitches. There's a 'Bangkok Hilton' type diversion - but without all the harrowing scenes. After all where better to lose weight?!! Fielding keeps it light and witty, an ironic portrayal of 30-something single life (and in my case it's very like 20-something single life), yet with an underlying acknowledgment of the modern dilemma's and worries facing women and men.

"The story borders the sublime, but still seems to reflect my own life in so many ways"

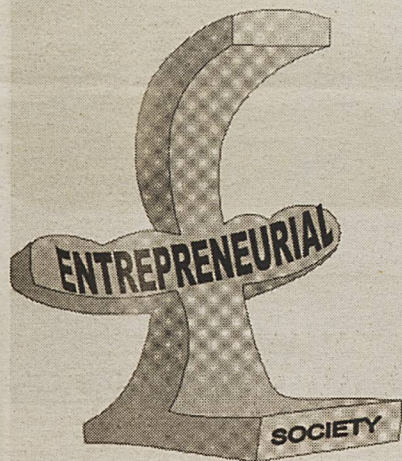
Bridget Jones is a genius of a comic creation, embodying women's fears and woes in working and personal situations. Life doesn't end at 30!! Yeah!!!!

★★★★☆
reviewed by **Broke Jado**

b:end

scuttle on back next week for reviews of *the shipping news* and *hearts in atlantis*, *black rebel motorcycle club* and *icarus line* live and more stuff we haven't dared dream up yet...

b:art will return



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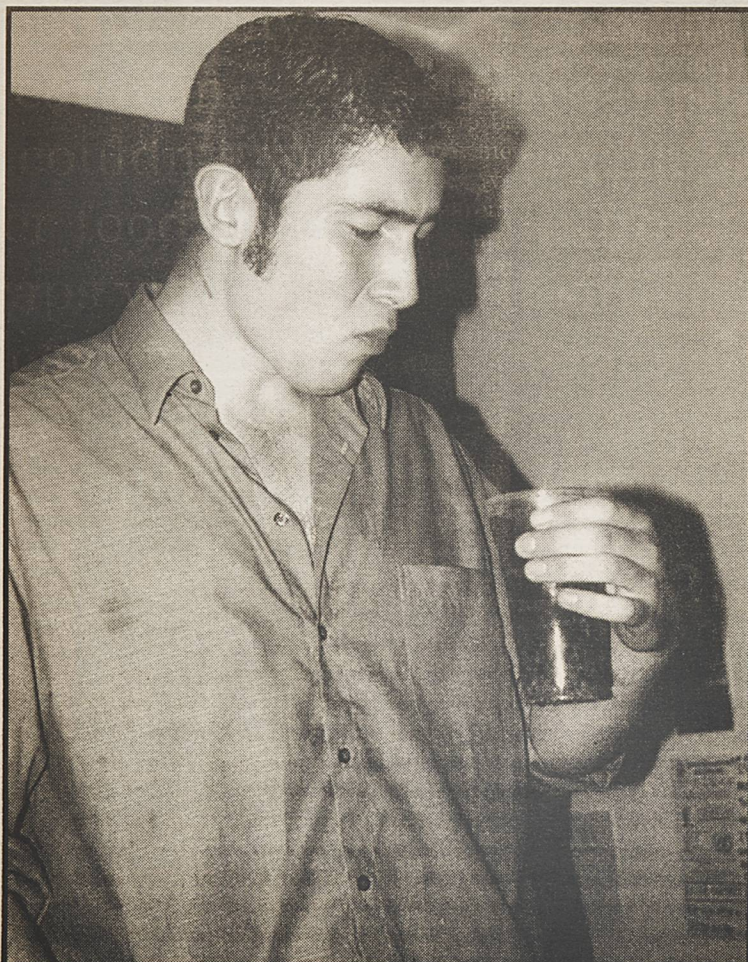
Rugby give UCL every last inch!

Darius
"Pop Idol or Gay wet dream?"
Tabataba

Men's Rugby	Loads
LSE 1sts	None
UCL 1sts	

I would like to be able to say that it was a season covered in glory for the mighty LSE first XV, and that our final game was nothing more but a formality in our run to league superiority, but unfortunately after a season that had been tighter on points than a virgin's pussy with cock, we were struggling for survival in a relegation battle with the benders from Russell square. Even with such a season record behind us, our heads were high, and with the call made by our glorious leader, Captains Cook's band of merry men, was swollen with the re-emergence of Simon Gilbert, and South African Dave.

Having managed to put together quite a useful little team from out of nowhere, it has to be said that Cookie was so excited that his pre-match team talk consisted of little more



Darius tries to swallow what UCL could not!

than invective. Regardless of the endless facial of abuse that seemed to come from Edward in between bouts of his usual pre-match vomiting routine, everyone seemed cool and ready to go. And then we hit the pitch, I can't really remember most of the match and I won't bore you with the details, but I for one don't think that UCL

were ever really in it, and after some rugby that was "Fantastic to watch." (I quote one of their supporters) we headed for the shower covered in glory.

For me the most entertaining part of the day came when even Cookie's colourful line of abuse, was made as nothing beside the UCL scrum-half who after being given a yellow card, ten minutes from the end, at the end of the match strolled up to the referee and told him; "Referee, you are a twat. You are the most useless ref. I have ever had to put up with." To which the referee said nothing and then, had a word in the UCL skipper's ear to tell him; "I don't mind telling you that your friend will never play for college again." Well, fair enough I guess, I for one certainly wasn't crying.

So we kicked them at rugby, and then we laughed in their collective dayces. The UCL hooker was good enough to give an interview to BeaverTV, in which he said "They fisted us good. I am nothing but a bad-tempered, stumpy little pikey. I am very short because my parents raised me in a caravan with a soggy roof, and couldn't afford to feed me proper food. I often lived off food scraps which I found under the other caravans in our pikey-park. Anyway today we lost to the better team. Sadly there is no room in the motorhome for me on the way back to the trailer park at Russell Square, and I will have to live in a dustbin until someone can come back for me.



Combine inches = marathon of cock!

Spare any change, guv'nor?" At this point we felt sorry for him and left him to his own misery.

So what next for the rugby team? Well, we stay up and that gives us the chance to

play King's next year in the league. Most of the team are first and second year so we can only get better (?), and roll on our BUSA playoff fixture, if we are lucky we could even play someone who will really cock on us.

"They beat us good. I am nothing but a bad-tempered, stumpy little pikey. I am very short because my parents raised me in a caravan with a soggy roof, and couldn't afford to feed me proper food. I often lived off food scraps which I found under the other caravans in our pikey-park. Anyway today we lost to the better team. Sadly there is no room in the motorhome for me on the way back to the trailer park at Russell Square, and I will have to live in a dustbin until someone can come back for me. Spare any change, guv'nor?"

UCL Player

Squash in Poly facial shame

"STRAND POLY CELEBRATE SEMI-FINAL VICTORY WITH fi PINTS IN TUNS. POLICE CALLED TO INVESTIGATE TRAVESTY"

Will "I am a grubby inbred with a double-barreled name" Rowlands-Rees

A cup semi-final against our biggest rivals should have been the thrilling tight derby affairs that only Newcastle and Sunderland can produce in the premiership (Merseyside derby=dull boring passionless tedium, north London derby=easy Arsenal victory as Spurs are kak).

Having been spanked 5-0 early in the season in BUSA we were keen to show them just how much we improved since that dark day in our history. All turned out in our spanky new kits except Charlie who had forgotten his despite repeated reminders, we certainly looked the part. In fact Charlie started out in his match like a man possessed, charging around the court like an enraged bull on Viagra. Unfortunately this 'new Charlie' latest about three points by which point he looked completely shagged. However, he did play bloody well, and certainly can take no shame from his close loss, on another day he would have spanked the maths and physics student into the upper stratosphere.

Ed too played a competitive match against some tit that loved Kings so much, that after his 4 year degree has decided to a degree in medicine and stay there for another 5 years. Lucky boy. Still not even the Field Marshall could prevent defeat against his canny onslaught.

Tom played perhaps the best game of the year, certainly that was how it was described to me by both him and Charlie. Racing to a 2-0 lead against camp Pete, having never beaten him in three years and at least 5 previous attempts, all looked rosy for Bungle. However, a distinct lack of endurance training of late with his Missus (apparently the tantric sex wasn't her cup of tea) meant that Tom faded somewhat in the third, only to roar back in the fourth to be denied by a dodgy call or seven from their scorer. However, despite his best efforts, Tom too



Banana proved to be a poor substitute for meaty cock!

fell at the final hurdle.

Myself, I played their captain in a much anticipated match, more from him I think than me. My first game performance was so bad, I was thinking of retiring early to the Tuns and leaving everyone on the courts wondering where I had gone. Still, one self-motivational talk and a speed wank by the Salsa class in the quad, I steamed back into the match with a hard fought win in the second. Game on I thought, as did everyone else. However, my inner psychi had other plans, and despite good play and points, I lost the next two games.

Moises. Moises. What to write about this stud of LSE squash. Somewhat disturbed by

Men's Squash	
LSE	0
(Robbed!)	
The Poly	5
(Filthy Cheating Poly!)	

my comments a few weeks back regarding his sodomisation of a random Lithuanian (I am still not sure if he disagreed with the sodomy, the randomness of the girl, or whether he doesn't particularly fancy Lithuanians or a combo, but mark my words he was upset), he was all fired up to beat the lanky sod that had the cheek to play our legend. Unfortunately, their player was fresh back from the Danish national championships where his national ranking had gone up to 6. A true legend of the game, he dispatched Moises despite some of the most athletic displays on a squash court since the era of Chris Woolley.

Final result LSE lost the ULU cup semi-final 5-0. Afterwards Will was embarrassed because whilst buying a round in the Tuns, he had to order a number of fi pints of Caffreys for the Kings boys. Will would like to go on record as apologizing to all Tunes staff that were affected by this shocking incidence, and promises that whilst he is squash captain Kings squash players will NEVER be allowed into the Tuns again. Sorry.

Drunk Ridiculous Man on AU Election Sleaze

Election fever has once again hit the AU (and, less importantly, the SU). It's that time of year once more: AU hustings in the Tuns are a reality. However, this year it's slightly different, the incumbent Athletic Union Events Officer, an undistinguished, retiring and generally quiet fellow by the name of Peter Drewienkiewicz, has asked the other half of his personality, one 'Charterhouse', to organize the hustings.

Charterhouse kindly agreed to become MC for the evening and has arranged a hellish obstacle course of death defying feats for the prospective candidates to perform. Not only will candidates give the customary 2 minute speeches they will have to do so in fancy dress. Then cometh the wheel. Yes, the return of the wheel of death, last seen at the AU Barrel. So, as Loyd Grossman might say in a sick, twisted, alternative version of through the keyhole, "who on earth would put themselves through an ordeal like this?" Let's meet the candidates:

AU President: Which clown would we have lead the beloved AU? Up first

we have a mystery man who used to think that he was Pelé and now believes himself to be George Dubbya Bush. However, he will be known to history as 'the shirtless wonder'. He claims that his credentials for AU President are insuperable since, like the last two AU Presidents, 'El Tel' Wogan and 'Bullshit' Callas; he is a fat, shit, useless centre-back. Up against 'the shirtless wonder' we have 'super tramp', the sabb shagger. This man has managed in 2 years to achieve what Bernardo Duggan took 12 to do. Congratulations are in order, but do they stand him in good stead to be your president?

AU Secretary: It has been said that the responsibility of the secretary is only to make the President coffee and perform fellatio on him. Mr. De Quelen would disagree and say that these roles have been reversed for the previous year. This year two netball beauties (surely a contradiction in terms? - ed.) fight for the right to control both the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings and the content of the drinks served therein. They shall simply be distinguished as 'the tall one' and the 'not tall one'. The tall one certainly has the brains since she reached the final round of the LSESU's search for candidates for University Challenge, but does she have the fellatio ability? The not tall one is a sultry vixen who has been known to prey on men, only JP can tell us whether she has the fellatio ability.

AU Club Liaison: This position must require someone with the gentle, diplomatic, understanding touch you may foolishly think. The candidates would disagree, being called, as they are, Psycho, Pirate and Felcher. Psycho has been terrorizing other ULU Rugby clubs all season

and thinks that he can do the same to sports clubs within the AU. The Pirate would contest this; he has used his hook to savage opposition strikers throughout the football season and claims that he has the weaponry to do it to the AU Clubs. The Felcher thinks that her welching, felching techniques would translate nicely from the hockey pitch to the AU.

AU Treasurer: The AU budget is no trifling matter; it requires some with competence and skill to distribute.

Shame about the candidates then, there really is nothing to choose between these two muppets. Bisexual Billy Muppet has been struggling to sort his own life out for many a year now and believes that he can lend his experience to the AU treasury. However, can you trust a man that travels from Hombres to Wood Green via Peterborough? Emmo says that he can be trusted with the AU budget since he has experience with these kinds of things. However, he is constantly fined by his Rugby peers for forgetting which sports club he belongs to

and he has been living with the likes of Fat Angry Man and Oslo for a prolonged period. His mind must have been warped.

AU Communications: Who will design the posters and publicizes the AU for the next year? Ugly and boring, but pulls quite a lot, JP is a candidate, however his experience at communication can only be described as grunting both on the rugby pitch and in the bedroom, but mostly on the rugby pitch. The Vikingsque leader of the fledgling women's rugby team also believes that she is the right person for the job; will her creative but fiery touch prove successful? Light as a Feather Holly believes that her match making abilities gained through trying to set up hapless losers in the RAG week Blind Date can be put to good use in the Communications role. Who will win this desirable prize? Only a WWF-style triple threat match will tell.

AU Events: Who can top Munterhouse? Anyone with half a brain cell I hear you cry. But, only two have been brave enough to throw their respective hats into the ring. As his name befits, Mr. DVDA is certainly proficient at creating rather more intricate pornographic events within his north London pad. He is also known to pull more than just beautiful pints; can he do all this for the AU? Against Mr. DVDA Emms stands, her argument simple: one limelight missed in two years and that was to go to Cheapskates. Didn't Callas use this in his manifesto last year? And what did he become...a smug, boring tosser.

AU elections take place on Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th March. Good luck to all candidates.

By Doug Hancock

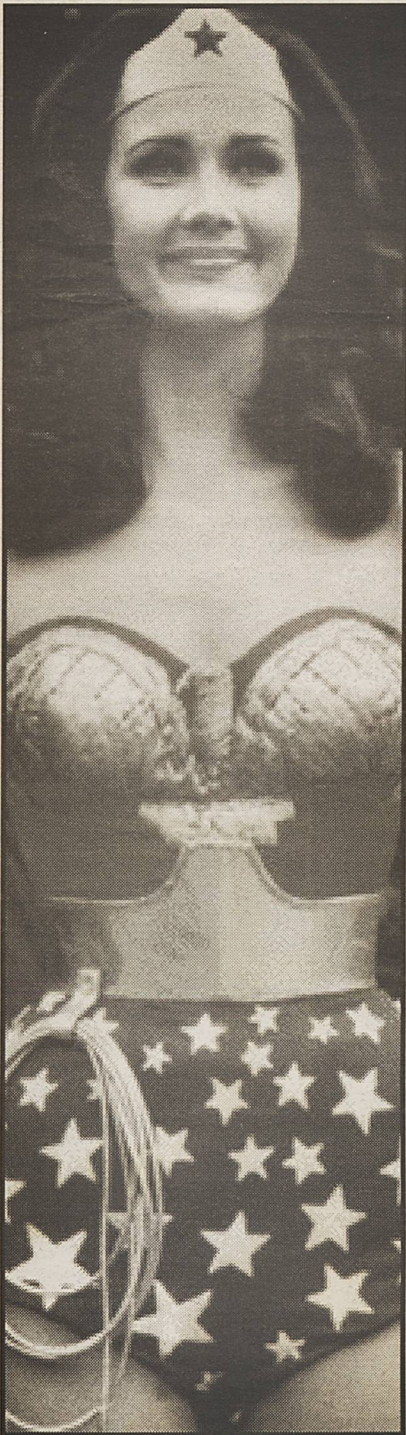


Typical AU Candidate!

Continued from back page.

What's left to say is a big thank you to Captain Presley for her unseconded effort all season! Thanks to you, team! I don't think a women's hockey double has ever been seen in LSE's history! All the best to Nina, Cinzano Girl, MJ, Jo, Katie J, Loni, Captain Presley, Aisling and Maria the Dude who will all leave LSE this year (sorry if I've missed anyone). Until then, see you all in the Tuns and good luck next year for those of you who're (un-)fortunate enough to stay! I've thoroughly enjoyed the season and hope nobody took my on-pitch encouragement/ insults personally! You've been wonderful! It's been a great season!

And a little note from Captain Presley: It's been great being on the team with you guys on and off the pitch, shame the year is up. An unrivalled season, matched by an unrivalled team, I'm sure I speak for everyone by saying that this really has been a pleasure, and I personally will miss all you guys immensely. I'm glad I was able to do my bit to help things along - wouldn't do it for anyone else you know.....Girls, it's been fun, and wishing you all the best.



Wonder Woman wished she had been able to fist the Poly like the Hockey Girls!

QM Wank left with it dripping rancidly from their chins!

Pete
“Holder of longest breath performing cunnilingus”
Callas

After the heroic quarterfinal victory over RUMS thanks to the deciding penalty from LSE's favourite son Callas, it was unanimously agreed that we would win this semi-final comfortably within normal time. Never mind.

After managing to find the end of the earth that is Chiselhurst, the game got underway. However it was not a pretty start. The first 20 minutes were extremely scrappy and the 1sts found it hard to play the champagne football which has characterised their season thus far. Indeed QMW managed to score in this initial period thanks to their striker managing to manhandle both Pepperami Billy and Callas releasing the centre-mid who scored in off the post leaving 'The Most Violent Man in the World' G with no chance.

LSE, though, did not crack. As the half progressed we managed to start putting together more than 3 passes (our cumulative total for the whole of the Lent Term). A throw-in from the write to Bigs Lochrie, a neat Cruyff turn, which fooled even his own team and a toe into the corner, levelled the match. It was a game in which players had to stand up and be counted and Lochers was one of those who did. 1-1.

From here on in, LSE being top of the league and having beaten the Wankers from QM 4-2 on the first day of the season were expected to win convincingly. However this was not the case and we needed crucial interventions from both G and Deej in order to go in at half-time level. Deej in particular ran for 50 yards tracking his man and then made a goal saving challenge about 6 yards from his own goal line! Half time and it was 1-1.

At half-time frustrations manifested themselves within the team. The ref (as blind as Callas is slow) was allowing the game "to flow"- a cover up for allowing QMW to molest all and sundry in an S&M jaunt on the field. The half-time team talk saw most players compare cuts and bruises with each other and saw Ickle trying to see whether

the LSE 1st XV's front row was available to take a few of those wankers out off the ball.

The second half was a mirror of the first with LSE trying in vain to get their game going. Peter Pan and The Pirate combined well down the right flank and looked our best chance of unlocking the QM defence for a second time. Buttery (AKA 'The Man Who Wasn't There') tried to get in the game and was successful on a number of occasions in getting the ball down and playing some exquisite balls. Lozzer again was good defensively and



Pete Callas shows QMW how to take it with a smile on your face from the LSE

saved LSE's blushes late in the second half when QM looked odds on to score the winning goal. Up front The Phantom Finisher and Sexual Andy chased and harassed the QM defence all day- although their team-mates weren't exactly helping them too much with the service they were getting!

The last couple of minutes were very tense and G came to the rescue yet again- although at

Men's Football

LSE 1sts

2

QM Wank

1

significant personal cost. With Pitty looking on, LSE feared the worst as G went down under a challenge from the QM striker. Luckily he was able to carry on, although his injured ankle meant that he was well below 100% fit going into extra-time.

Déjà vu hit the firsts as extra-time commenced. Ickle came off the bench for Sexual and encouraged everyone in the team to give one last push for glory and the final at Motspur Park. The injection of fresh legs helped immensely. Half way

to inject some fresh legs into the LSE midfield. After a nervy last couple the ref blew for full time sending the 1sts into jubilant scenes.

After a failure to hi-jack the QM bus we made our way to Borough High Street to celebrate reaching the ULU Cup Final. After a few drinking games most of the team left a little worse for wear- although Old Man Sharpey showed his worldly wise knowledge of 80 years by failing to get stung in the Name Game. Callas, after foolishly

through the first half LSE won the ball and Lochrie played a through ball, which the Ickle Tyke ran onto and fired into the bottom corner. LSE were ecstatic. For the remainder of extra-time LSE's job was to shut the game down. It was a tall order but everyone played his part in holding onto the victory. From the goalkeeper to the strikers LSE played with spirit and camaraderie. Old Man Sharpey came off the bench for Lochrie

challenging the team to each come up with their own unique put-down hung his head in shame as he was forced to buy yet another round for opening his incredibly large mouth yet again. Lozzer even managed to come up with 5 of his very own at the end! Callas' punishment is trying to keep silent for the whole journey to Berrylands on Wednesday! Rock on the final on March 9th- HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE!!!

Find out about this sweaty man and his lust for banana deep in this grubby Beaver!



LSE Apolycalypse!



LSE
(Well endowed with big sticks) sporting legends

19

The Poly
(marinated and left to simmer in their own juices)

0

LSE Hockey in all their glory

Skywalker "Destroyer of the evil Poly empire"

When you beat the Strand Poly 19:0 what else is there to say? This was most certainly the most efficient way of retaliating and showing the Poly who are the 'Lords of the D'. As to the match itself, we certainly ruled Battersea last Wednesday. Thanks to the Destroyer's leg (special effects kindly donated by myself), we had a reputation already in the changing rooms before the match... or was that because Funky Monkey was just too friendly to those 5 year old boys?

So it was the last match for almost half the team and we really did want to make the most of it. Ten minutes into the match we were already 7:0 up and I am sure you'll forgive me for just not remembering who scored what goals. Little Kate aka the Destroyer deserves a special mention though not only for scoring her first goal of the season but also and especially for putting in an appearance in the Tuns later that night. There was

a hat-trick by Nina and even one by our Chef de Defense the Corrupta. Captain Presley put in another 4 goals and so it became a real feast.

Remains to be said I did fear for my life at some stages of the match simply because Kings wasted the energy they could have put into playing hockey on some Hakka-type - not very feminine - screaming ritual whenever one of us would lose the ball. So what, we did feel sorry for them and took them out for teas but obviously not before emptying the obligatory Smirnoff and Malibu bottles in the changing rooms. Maybe the screaming had blurred Kings' perception of the match as on the phone to their coach (what on earth would they train with him? Certainly not hockey!) they claimed to have lost only 2:0... Oh well ...

Good turnout later at the Captain's place, it must be said. I almost think we should put in a team contribution to your water and alcohol bills and definitely get Funky Monkey to repair your shower! (very lucky that happened only at the end of the season).

Even better turnout in the Tuns, but really girls, some more modesty would have done you all good... Limelight was a lonely place without you! And frankly how often do you get to celebrate a double league victory? **Continued on page 35**

Would you rather voice your opinion at the watercooler or in the conference room?

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