

# The Beaver

Issue 412

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THE NEWSPAPER OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS STUDENTS' UNION

## Budget gets the OK

Dan Madden  
Nicola Hobday

The LSE Students' Union Budget for 1994-1995 was passed at last Thursday's UGM with plenty of debate on the societies' amendments and no debate on the rest of the budget.

Finance and Services Officer Ola Budzinska presented the bulk of the budget to the Union. This year's income showed an increase of 6.77% over last year's budget. *The Beaver's* budget was passed with no qualms, being given a block grant of £7,500.

The number of amendments to the societies' budgets provided the main controversy with the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Society bearing the brunt of most of the challenges.

The LGB Society were asked for a total of £700 from societies and union members, all of which were overturned. The Chess Society tabled three amendments, but failed to get any passed. The proposal to transfer all the LGB Society budget to the Racing Society was objected to by Chris Cooper, the Racing Society President, who said that even if the amendment was passed he would give the money back.

After the budget had been passed Ola Budzinska commented on the list of proposed changes saying: "The Finance and Services Committee should have a say over the amendments which are included as some are ridiculous."

Budzinska complained that some appeared to have been "drafted in the Three Tuns after a few drinks."

Special budget cartoon on page 3

The elements of the budget which she was concerned about were the Women's Group allowance and the nursery and playgroup subsidy.

On the whole Budzinska said she was "delighted" with the passing of the budget.

Meanwhile the national Budget brought bad news for LSE smokers last Tuesday when Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced a ten pence increase in the price of cigarettes.

This rise is 3% more than the rate of inflation and comes at a time when the LSE is considering plans to cut down on the smoking habits of the forty percent of students who smoke.

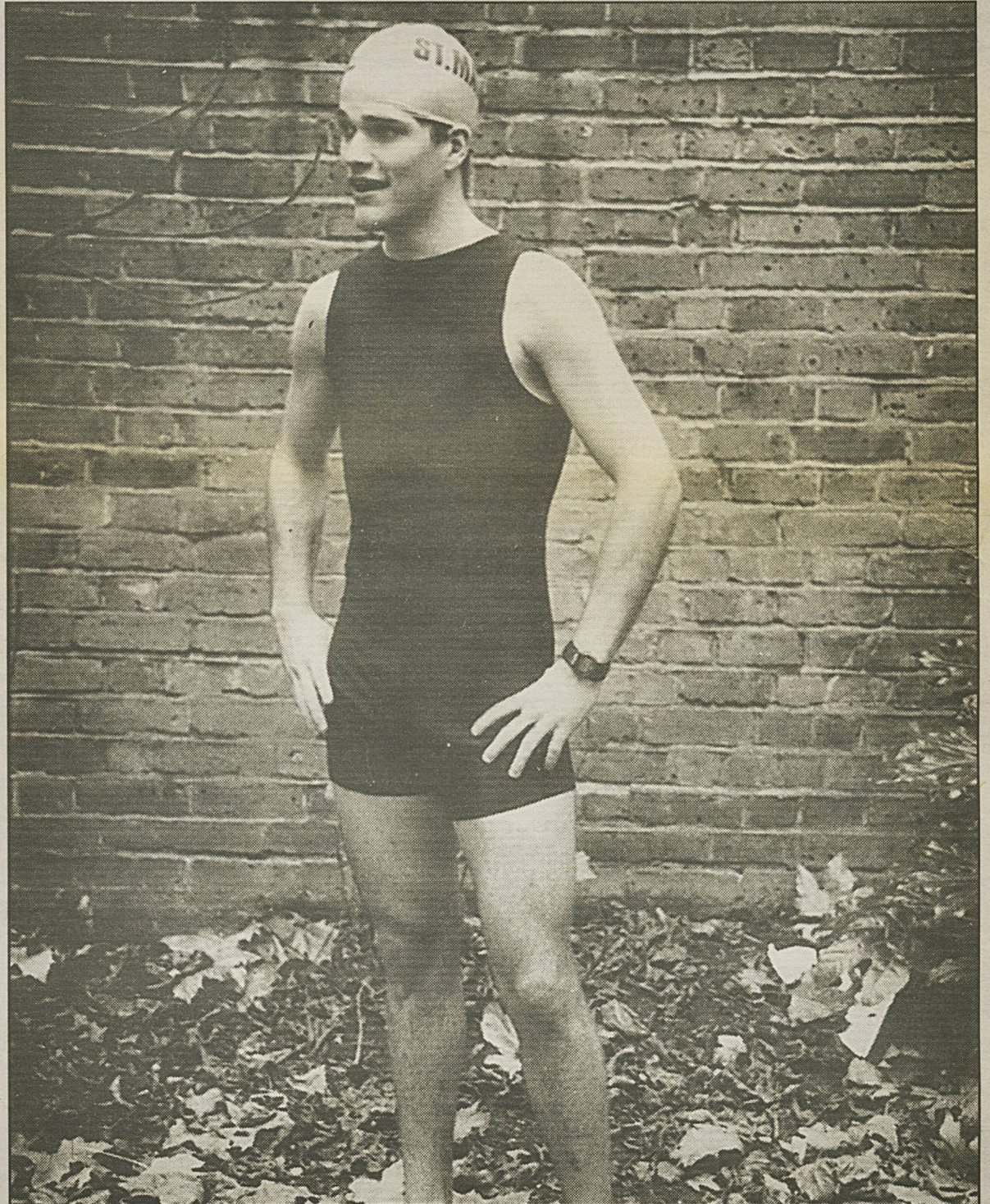
When asked if this price increase would encourage anyone to give up, most students replied in the negative, claiming they may cut down or just spend less money on 'non-essentials' such as food and books.

Students in private accommodation will find their heating bills increase as the VAT on fuel bills rises to 17.5%, as promised last year.

The fuel rise is expected to increase the typical student's heating bill by a considerable amount each year.

A meagre 1% rise was given to spending on education so it seems that the general life and welfare of the student will not rise at all.

As Kenneth Clarke was consuming malt whisky whilst delivering the budget, it came as no surprise that the price of alcohol remains the same. At least smokers will still be able to afford to drown their sorrows.



Sean Samson, the LSE General Course student, limbering up for his Channel attempt

Photo: Hania Midura

## LSE student to swim Channel

Ben Griffiths

On Sunday, December 3, Sean Samson, a General Course exchange student from Harvard, attempted to swim the English Channel.

Samson, an all-round fitness enthusiast, has been in training for four months for what will undoubtedly prove to be an arduous challenge.

The idea first took seed back home in Dundas, Ontario, where it was suggested as a possible objective during his year abroad by family and friends at his local rowing club.

Speaking before the event, Samson gave himself an "85% chance of success". He paid tribute to the support team who have assisted him in increasing his fitness, and improving his mental preparation.

Samson said: "Obviously sheer fitness is essential, but I have also prepared mentally for the hardest part of the swim - the last quarter, when the tiredness and cold really set in."

"My main training for this involved visualisation and meditation, to create mental toughness and confidence in myself. For this I really cannot thank enough Matt

Moeser, one of my coaches in North America."

Samson also paid tribute to Beth Edwards, his personal stamina coach in London:

"Without Beth I never would have been able to keep it up towards the end. During the summer my schedule was quite loose, but as we went along things became tighter, and without Beth I probably would have blown all the ef-

fort and pulled out."

Samson had intended to swim on December 1, in honour of World AIDS day, but due to scheduling conflicts has had to push his attempt back to December 3.

*The Beaver* sends its best wishes to Sean in his attempt, and we hope to have news of his successful swim in the first edition of *The Beaver* next term.

*The Beaver* would like to wish all its readers a happy holiday and looks forward to enjoying your company again in 1995



# Justice Act anger

## General Secretary of Liberty criticises the Criminal Justice Act

Harry Tomlin

"I've had my house burgled four times, my car broken into eight times and my daughter assaulted in the street. I'm as keen as the next person to see crime reduced, but my family wouldn't feel any safer after the passing of the Criminal Justice Act. It is likely to exacerbate crime rather than do anything to solve it."

That is the view of Andrew Puddephat, General Secretary of Liberty, who addressed a packed meeting at LSE last Tuesday.

According to Puddephat, new police powers to stop and search are likely to be targeted on certain groups.

After the police set up illegal roadblocks around the City of London, 9% of drivers stopped were black.

Under the terms of the new Act, rave party organisers will have to pay to have their seized equipment destroyed, and squatters will no longer have the right to have their case heard in court.

The Act also permits random road blocks, further attacks on travellers' lifestyles and discretionary powers to arrest lawful demonstrators. All have been condemned by senior Judges, the

President of Chief Police Officers, and lawyers as being unfair and unworkable.

The arrests have already begun. The day after the Act became law, hunt saboteurs were arrested on a public footpath in Essex. Whereas the Metropolitan police "may be relaxed about aggravated trespass, the Essex and Midlands police will use the new powers because the Chief Officers of these forces support hunting," claimed Puddephat.

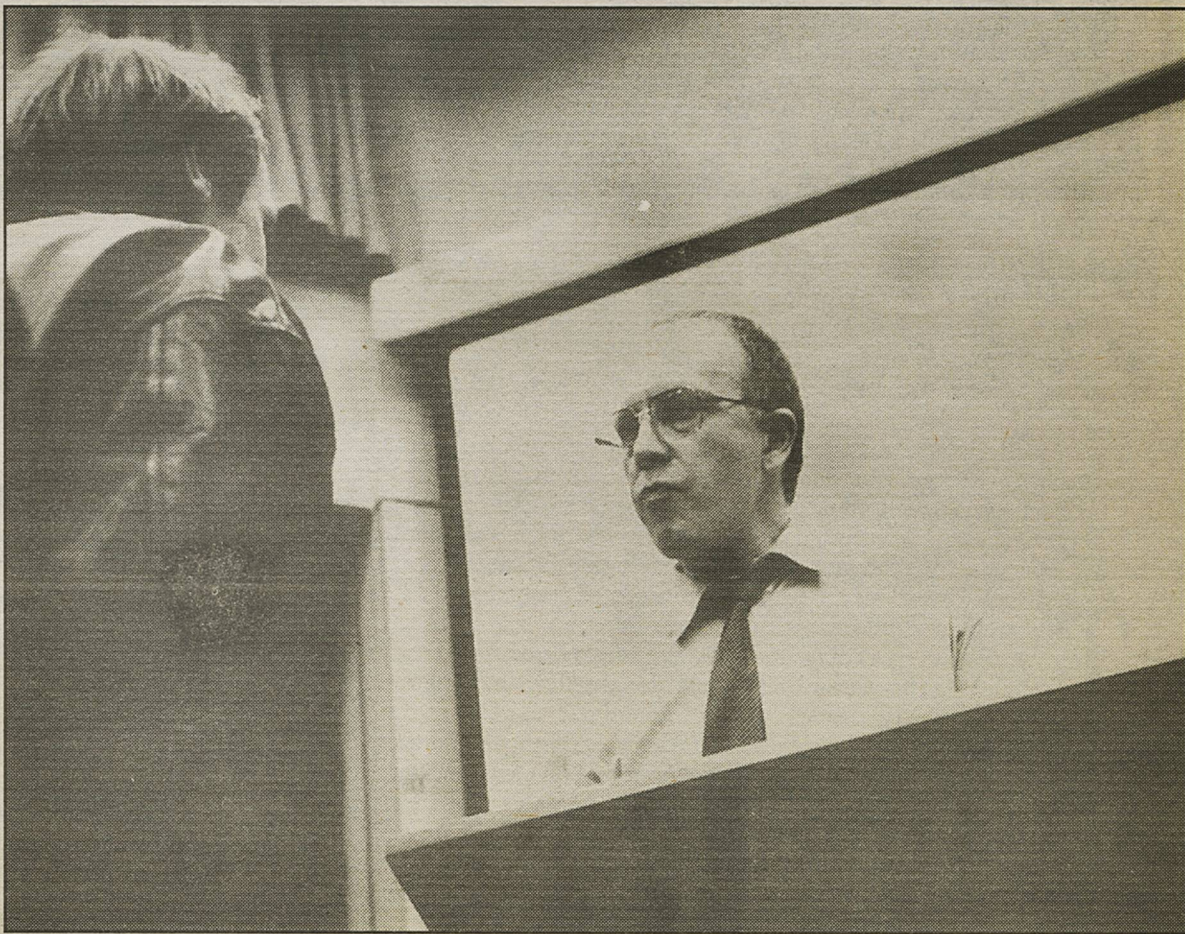
"This Act is an attack on dissent and diversity, an attempt to create a society of homogeneity and patriarchal norms."

Liberty have observers at demonstrations around the country, and a pool of legal advice which can draw upon centrally gathered expertise.

Puddephat scorned the notion of waiting for Britain to be hauled before the European Court of Human Rights, as "it will take seven years."

"Don't rely on the Labour Party either. They are desperate to avoid policy commitments and have failed to give a public lead," commented Puddephat.

Students can make a difference, Puddephat claimed: "Every protest is a defence of the right to protest, in the absence of constitutional rights."



Andrew Puddephat, a Liberty representative, speaking to LSE students last week

Photo: Hania Midura

## County deal?

Beaver Staff

The controversy over County Hall continues to hit new heights.

Last week Tony Banks, the Labour MP for Newham North West, said, under parliamentary privilege, that he believes the sale of County Hall involved a fraud.

Quoted in *The Guardian*, Mr Banks said there was "the possibility that there has been a criminal conspiracy."

He demanded that the Environment Secretary, John Gummer, MP, refer the entire deal to the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee for scrutiny.

This latest move comes after the Japanese owners of County Hall, Shirayama Shukosan, who bought the building for £65 million in 1992, announced they had abandoned hotel plans for the building.

Speculation has been rife that the former Greater London Council headquarters will now be offered to LSE.

One opinion, thought highly credible, is that the Government may now do a deal with the School for the LSE to move south of the river, sometime in the New Year.

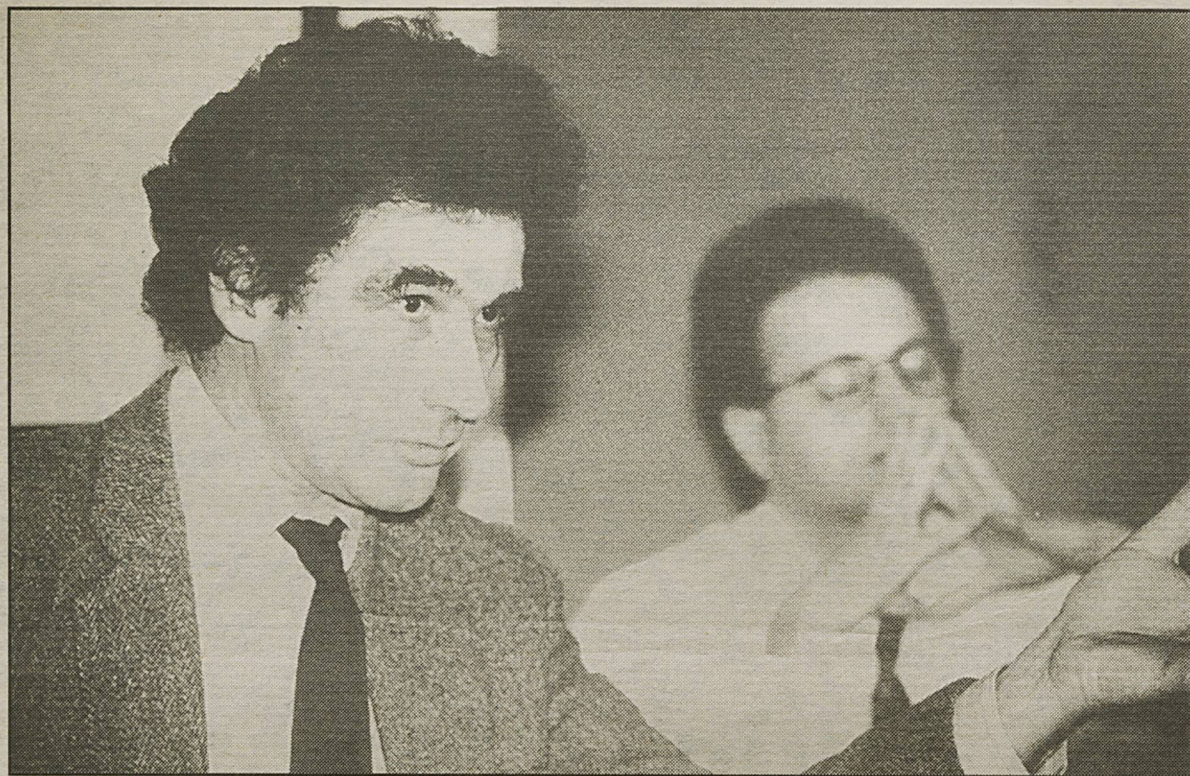
The deal may even include incentives being given to the School to make the move more attractive.

However, it has also been suggested that Shirayama may approach LSE directly and either offer the School the building or enter into a joint venture with it.

Sources within the School claim that the Japanese owners have yet to contact them in this manner.

One major hurdle to any future plan could be the legal action from Richard Branson's Virgin Group, who claim to have a binding contract with Shirayama for a hotel development.

## Brazil '95 seminar



Victor Bulmer-Thomas, Director of ILAS, another speaker at the Brazil '95 seminar

Photo: Stephen Hau

Judith Plastow

"Stability, consistency and continuity." These were the words the Brazilian Ambassador to Britain, Rubens Barbosa, used to describe his country's foreign policy.

Rubens Barbosa explained how he saw Brazil as a leading force in the development of a "new South America."

The Ambassador - who was speaking at an all day Brazilian Society seminar titled "Brazil '95: scenarios for the new government" - outlined the main facets of his adminis-

tration's foreign policy.

He emphasized the importance of political globalization and economic free trade. The international image of Brazil was also important.

Barbosa described how over the last ten years, there had been a shift towards the consolidation of a democratic system in the country and an increase in the "consciousness" of government.

The Ambassador is himself a product of LSE, having studied here in the 1970s along side the current foreign minister.

Nelson Franco Jabim elaborated on foreign trade. It emerged during his talk that the average Brazilian is educated for a total of only 4 years in their lifetime.

The political complexities of a new South America were examined. The continent's wish is to be part of a North American economic system, without losing their Latin American identity.

Mexico was used as an example. The country has 70% of its trade with the USA but still wants to be part of the South American football league.

## Library figures

Steve Roy

The number of people going through the turnstiles of the Library last year fell by 12,986, to just over 750,000, according to figures recently published in the annual report from the British Library of Political and Economic Science (BLPES).

New additions to the course collection were up 35% to 3,765, whilst the total loans issued in the year 1993-1994 rose by 25%, passing the half million mark.

The improved reference desk facilities have increased demand. Enquiries were up 15% overall, with the greatest rise in usage of

FT-Profile, the on-line database that contains every issue of the main national newspapers since 1986. This service attracted 3,023 users last year, a rise of 100% from 1992-1993.

There are also indications that damage to books and other materials is on the wane. The number of items repaired or bound fell 38% to 8,631.

Commenting on the report, Lynne Brindley, the Librarian and Director of Information Services, spoke of "another year of good progress". Ms Brindley also commended the speed with which Library assistants have become experts on the new Internet service.



# Jenkins at the LSE

Richard Hearnden

One of the most controversial English clergymen of the modern age, Dr David Jenkins, spoke to the LSE outlining his proposals for a better society.

The former Bishop of Durham, who made his name doubting the validity of the virgin birth and the resurrection of Christ; and by marching with the striking miners in 1984-5, spoke at the third 1949 Seminar Memorial Lecture in the Old Theatre on 'Goodness, Goods, and the disappearance of the Common Good.'

Dr Jenkins spoke about his influences, his experiences and his expectations of the development of social welfare and common good. He re-affirmed his beliefs that have been with him since an early age. "Being influenced by Beveridge...I saw that poverty, sickness and old age were the evils and problems of our society."

According to Dr Jenkins the modern age is dominated by the "toleration of the intolerable...we do it because we do not know what to do about it."

He does not think that John Major's Citizens' Charter is a great deal of help, slamming it as being of "trivial content and doubtful enforcement."

Introducing the so-called "Humpty-Dumpty" train of thought (which incidentally was a difficult concept for students



The former Bishop of Durham, Dr David Jenkins, speaking in the Old Theatre last week

Photo: Anastasia Shorter

at Leeds University who "knew nothing of either the Bible or Gilbert and Sullivan"), the controversial clergyman noted his disgust at the glibness of the chairman of British Gas giving himself a 75% pay increase

"at the expense of employment prospects" for the rest of society.

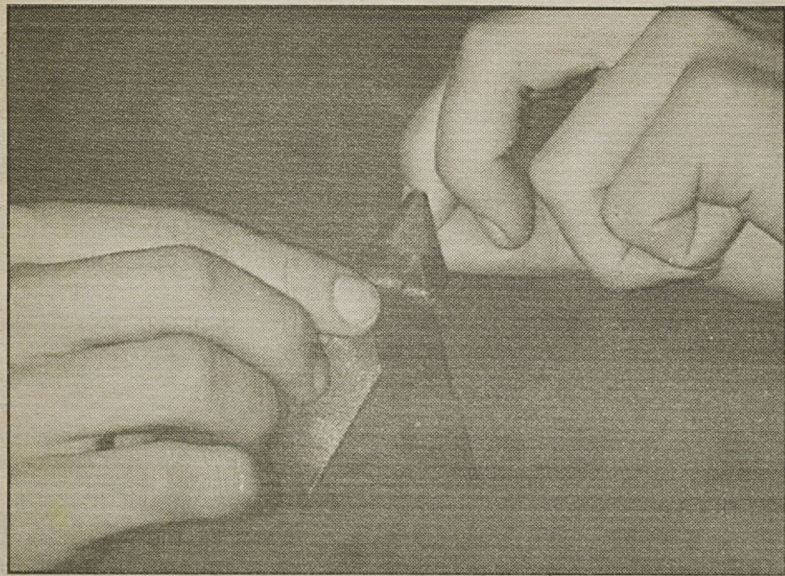
"It is prudent to become angry," continued Jenkins. "How can people be expected to accept their lot in society when

they are seeing directors giving themselves pay rises".

He also had harsh words for some of those in the House of Lords, describing them as "a lot of incompetent and ignorant bloody bastards".

"All that Thatcher did was to turn Marxism on its head," proclaimed Jenkins.

"Whereas Marxism was once thought to be the curer of all our ills, Thatcherism took over and has proved to be just as evil."



## World AIDS day marked

Laure Beauflis

"Yes AIDS is our problem." That is the message that Claire Lawrie, Sorrel Osborne, Vini Ghatate, Martin Lewis and Nick Fletcher - all officers of the LSE Students' Union - tried to convey through their poster displayed in Houghton Street on

World AIDS day last Thursday.

Executive members agreed that publicising this event was acutely necessary. The aim was to make every LSE student more aware of the AIDS issue, and to raise collective consciousness.

The Terence Higgins Trust donated thousands of red ribbons which were distributed through-

out LSE. Collections for the charity were organised at a stall in the Quad, as well as in the UGM, where there was a minutes silence in remembrance of all those who have died from the illness.

Ghatate revealed that the Union has been given 15,000 condoms, some of which were distributed last week.

## Ashworth to go?

Nick Sutton  
Philip Gomm

The selection process for the next Director of the School has begun.

All the academic staff have been balloted, so they can choose the membership of the committee who will eventually make a recommendation to the Court of Governors via the Standing Committee.

The School administration was unwilling to tell *The Beaver* who the candidates for the committee were, but they are believed to be: Mr Max Steuer, Dr Nick Barr, and Professor Michael Bromwich (all of whom are academic members of the Court of Governors), Dr Peter Loizos and Professors

John Sutton, Carol Harlow, Ian Angell, Robert Pinker and Jonathan Rosenhead.

Five of these people will join the committee together with up to four other members of the Court.

At least two of the three academic Governors are guaranteed a seat.

Dr John Ashworth's term of office doesn't end until September 1996, but he will shortly be required to state whether he intends to stand again.

Speculation within the School suggests Dr Ashworth will seek re-election.

Dr Ashworth has been the Director of LSE for four years. He arrived in 1990, succeeding Dr IG Patel.



"At least the hot air that fills the budget should protect such a small target."



# Union Jack

She walked onto the stage, nervously fidgeting with her little red box tightly clasped in her hands. After nine weeks of intensive training, the tracksuit champ had coached her into a fiscal frenzy and she was ready to perform.

And perform she did, the excitement was so great that even her fellow sabbaticals, treacherously moving to the balcony, could not resist chucking paper. The awed anticipation was non-existent as people yawned their way through the first half of the meeting. The only noise being the throttled shouts of joy from the assorted miscreant sabbaticals, when their salaries were passed intact, without anyone else realising it.

Soon the meat and two veg of the budget arrived and Budzinska successfully swallowed the whole lot at once, leading the meeting to its long awaited climax.

First under attack was the ever popular Anti-Nazi league, who deftly tried to convince us that they are not the Socialist Workers, but Tom "the hit-man" swiftly exposed the fallacy of their argument and gave us a new fair distribution of income by liberally sharing their budget amongst many others.

Arun Very-smarmy from the Conservative Chess Catamites (CCC) tried to get money from the Wimmings Group and the Lesbian, Gay and Ulster Unionist Party, but failed miserably. After more amendments from the CCC it soon became apparent why no one in the Chess club ever gets a Mate.

Soon the tarty Tories wanted to play their hand, a group of men so sadly in need of blow jobs, they make Mother Teresa look promiscuous. Unfettered though, the Lebanese and Grey Bicycle society, kept its budget, thanks to Lord Cooper of the sports pages. One rather disagreeable individual went so far in his insane 19th century views, that even James "Mr PC" Atkinson thought the need to step in and shut him up. One compromise proposal that would have satisfied everyone was to merge the two warring factions in to the Conservative Gay and Bisexual society, however most agree that there isn't much difference anyway.

Yet, it was all over a little too soon, Ola swiftly closed her box leaving the assorted audience to breath a sigh of relief and run away. We're all left to await next years budget, be it the Tin mans, managed like Newcastle United or just run by a load of Bates. The choice will be yours!

PS Great debut speech from "Goals" Cooper he had them rolling in the aisles.

# Amnesty outlines

Judith Plastow

The National Security Law of South Korea violates even the most basic of human rights. So alleged Mr Agyemen-Mensah, coordinator for Amnesty International UK, at a recent meeting at the LSE.

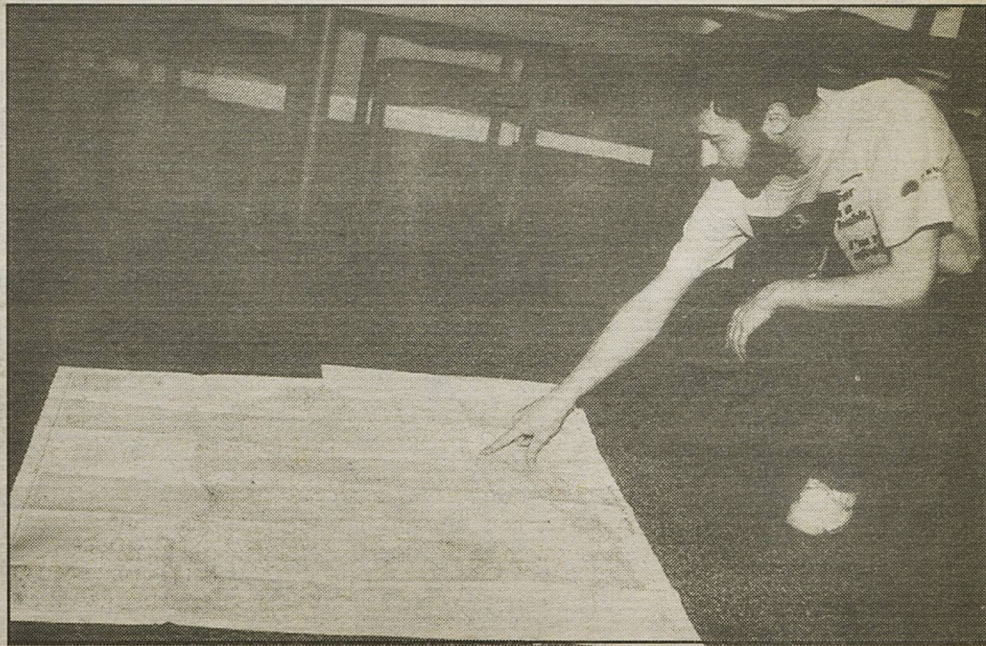
The guest speaker of LSE Amnesty spoke sincerely and emphatically with up-to-the-minute information on more than 500 political prisoners, 80 of which he is currently seeking the release of. The majority of them are students.

Mr Agyemen-Mensah's speech centred around the 1948 law which the government uses to arrest people with perceived left-wing tendencies and then imprison them.

Amnesty are pushing for an amendment to the National Security Law, not necessarily a total abolition of it.

But the South Korean government argues that it will not be altered as it is required to maintain security.

The government cites the threat of North Korea and its alleged nuclear



The Amnesty representative outlining where the main violations occur

Photo: Hania Midura

situation as justification.

Mr Agyemen-Mensah's speech was well received by the few students who had bothered to attend.

One of those there said: "It seems a

pity that LSE Amnesty manages to attract interesting and high profile speakers, but this is not matched by a suitable response from the student body."

## Decisions in Europe will mean less cash for the School

Dan Madden

The decision by Finland, Sweden and Austria to become fully integrated members of the European Union has serious financial implications for the School.

From January 5, students from these countries will be eligible to pay low fees rather than their current high fee status. This means that the School will face a potential loss of revenue of up to £200,000.

Students from the three countries were previously classed as overseas students and paid fees of £7,120. However, they will now pay fees of £750 as they are classified as EU students.

Director of the School, Dr John Ashworth, said that the School had allowed for this in the yearly budget. However, this means that these students will now be competing for the quota of European Union places allocated to the School by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

The loss of overseas revenue in conjunction with the Government's current 'efficiency' drive is placing a strain on the School's finances.

Under the Government's programme, Higher Education has suffered 25% cuts over the past five years, with further cuts of 9% over the next three years following Tuesday's budget.

Ashworth sees the question facing the School now as: "How is that loss going to be made up?" The school is competing for more overseas students from fewer countries and is placed under pressure to attract more overseas applicants.

The Director asserts that the School's priority is "to maintain our current high standards" but does admit, with a slipping staff-student ratio and financial restrictions, that "the quality of the student experience has suffered and will continue to suffer."

Ashworth foresees no problems in the filling of overseas places, the only factor being that these applicants will now come from fewer countries.

## Loans chaos

Helena Mcleod

The Student Loans Company has found itself in a bureaucratic mire. Second and third year re-application forms have been sent to students', last year addresses, resulting in a huge backlog. The Loans Company claims no backlog, although many students have been waiting for six weeks, when the loan should take no longer than 3 weeks. The company's phonelines have had 10,000 calls per minute peak time, written responses are 6 weeks behind and there are 500 faxes per day.

One disgruntled student relayed how he had received incorrect reapplication forms in June, he eventually received his loan in November. Other students are still waiting.

The delays are also affecting student applications to the LSE Access Fund. A prerequisite of applying to the fund is that the student must have already received his or her loan. The Access Fund has been forced to award short term loans which must be paid back when the student's loan arrives. A representative from the Access Fund said the extra processing of short term loan applications, from students who have already applied for hardship funds, has caused a lot of extra administration.

In 1988, the Government estimated that the scheme would break even by the

year 2000, if savings on the maintenance grant, which was frozen in 1990 and social security benefits which students became ineligible for in that year, were included in calculations. However, administration costs are high. The start-up costs of the scheme were £9.9 million. Costs amounted to £13m in 1992/93, furthermore there are substantial administrative costs to universities. The Government subsidy, due to the lower rate of interest, is estimated to be £250 million.

Student loan debts for students leaving in 1995 are estimated to be £2,503 for a three year course, rising to £3,201 in 1996 and £4,170 in 1997. Statistics reveal that 6.6% of graduates have defaulted on repayments.

In 1992/93 student loan take-up for those eligible was 44%. However, with the repayment scheme as it stands and graduate debts increasing repayments are likely to increase to unsustainable levels, the result being reduced access to higher unemployment.

An alternative method of repayment, administratively cheaper than the present system, is an income related tax similar to national insurance contributions, a 'graduate tax', originally suggested in 1968 by Howard Glennerster, Professor of Social Administration at LSE.

If the Government are committed to increasing the role of loans in higher education, the present system must be changed.

## Carr-Saunders bill

Carlos Gonzalez

Following serious damage amounting to almost £1,750 at Carr-Saunders Hall, each resident is expected to be asked to contribute at least £5 towards the cost.

The high cost, believed to cover replacing supposedly inexpensive items like ashtrays, shower caps and toilet rolls, has caused some controversy.

Examples of the 'repair costs' are believed to include £70.09 for a missing ash-trays, £15.98 for missing toilet rolls, and £29.75 for shower heads.

The Warden of the Hall initially took the decision to close the common room at midnight, and shift more porters' time to security, reducing the

telephone services to the flats.

Subsequently relenting, the Warden permitted the common room to be open until 2am.

However, an incident where somebody broke the door to the common room and subsequently got into the porters' lodge has provoked the Warden into reverting to the 12am curfew.

The decision to close the common room at certain times has been praised by some residents in the Hall, particularly those with rooms on the first floor.

The shutting of the common room has resulted in a decrease in the level of damage reported, although there is pressure for the 2am time to be reinstated, as it is more of a compromise choice.



# Date rape

## Daniela Taylor of the Women's Group

**D**ate rape... WAIT! Don't heave that sigh yet or flip on through on to the movie section. Seems like that old hot potato subject bordering on male-bashing by those screaming feminist types again? Poor Mike Tyson and Kennedy? But is that really all it's about? Is that how much we have managed to belittle the subject? Or does the problem lie in that "date rape" has become a blanket term covering such a wide variety of scenarios that none of them seem valid any more? A media-hyped, unrealistic and

marginalised subject that many people would just rather hear the end of. Well, it's not all that simple, folks.

Date rape continues all the time and this apathetic popular opinion is doing nothing to change the situation for the victims or give hope for future change. Chances are you even know someone who has experienced the trauma of date rape, but with the stigma surrounding the term, would be reluctant to share it because of the belief that they must have brought it upon themselves or would suffer some belittlement of their feelings. Why is it that we continue to create a social and political environment in which the victim is guilty until proven otherwise?

So, here we are: Date rape. Well, that only happens to those irresponsible types who go home with some drunkard. Any-

way, what did she expect, wearing that. Just a case of beer goggles. Those next morning regrets which have to be blamed on someone else. It just happens - one of those dating risks. That's all it is. Is that really all there is to today's image of date rape? That it isn't "REALLY" RAPE? That the victim must just be some vin-

I am not here to male bash because it is not a specifically male or female problem, but rather one which lies in society. It is an issue that needs to be talked about openly and needs to have this stigma of blame and fear removed from it. It boils down to the fact that - listen good here - NO MEANS NO. Another catchy little slogan, I know, but it is the point. NO MEANS NO. And there are no exceptions to that rule. No doesn't mean maybe. No isn't later. No isn't I'm drunk so it really means yes. NO MEANS NO. Period. If sex is not a mutually consenting act then it is RAPE.

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*No doesn't mean maybe. No isn't later.  
No isn't I'm drunk so it really means yes.*

---

**NO MEANS NO**

---

dictive bitch with an axe to grind?

Let's just get this straight - DATE RAPE IS RAPE. It's that simple. It violates, agonizes and traumatizes. It often destroys a victim's trust and self-confidence in themselves and others, and breeds fear and justifiable anger. As in other cases of rape a victim often turns these feelings in on THEMSELVES and lay blame in their own actions - questioning, doubting and undermining themselves further. And yet victims often find themselves alone and shut out from a support system that they critically need during this time, and often are unable to even share their experience for fear of blame and criticism. These images must change and date rape must both legally and socially be recognized as a CRIME which violates and scars victims and whose acceptance is irreconcilable in any society.

Just because the other person involved in the act is familiar to you does not change the fact - No still, and ALWAYS, means NO. Girls, you need to mean it, and, boys, you have to know we do. And there must be legal and social consequences possible if it is not respected.

I know I have greatly oversimplified the issue here to squeeze it in, and really I have only scratched at the tip of that buried iceberg. Date rape is complex and horrible and I did not mean to make light of it writing about it here in this abbreviated medium.

If you don't agree with what I have written or have some addition or ANYTHING to make, please feel free (girls and boys alike) to come to the **Women's Group Meeting**, held every Tuesday at 1pm in the Women's Room (top floor of The Cafe).

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**Martin Lewis**  
**General Secretary**

**Stalls In Houghton Street**

Due to the new regulations that have had to be imposed about society stalls in Houghton Street, I have organised with the School that societies will be able to be booked out the front of the Old Theatre. Please see Gary Delaney for details.

**College Of the 21st. Century**

The National Union of Students are in the process of organising a prospectus for their college of the 21st. Century. There are many interesting and some controversial ideas in this project, which concentrated on the information super-highway, the changing nature of teaching, the International area of standardisation and the disappearance of the gap between further and higher Education.

**Academic Affairs**

I was asked by the School to officially reply to the Higher Education Quality Council Report on the Quality Assessment structures of the LSE. I will be including a review of the LSE's entire Academic structure within this scheme. Cambridge University Students' Union have just published their Charter For Education. There are many good ideas in there that may be adapted for the LSE. If you are interested or have any specific changes you think need to be made to the LSE's macro Academic structures, please see me.

**World AIDS Day**

The Students' Union organised a collection and a large banner for World AIDS day, I would like to thank all those involved in participating for their hard work, with especial thanks to those who gave up their Sunday to work on the display. We raised a nice sum of money for the Terrence Higgins trust to be put into AIDS research.

**Smoking**

The Student Governors will be raising the issue of Smoking, and the inappropriateness of the Academic Boards decision at the meeting of the Court Of Governors next week.

If you have any problems, suggestions, queries, or you just want to know how to get involved, please come and see me, I'll either help you or send you to someone who can. My Office number is E205, my phone number 071 955 7147.

I hope you have all had a good first term, enjoy they vacation and Seasons Greetings to you all.

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# The Beaver

You can tell it's the end of term there are two parties going on at this very moment, with the Guinness flowing in the Tuns and the glog (correct me if I'm wrong!) flowing in the Quad and I'm sitting here trying to write my last editorial of the term. On a couple of occasions I have been able to let other people write the editorials, usually during elections. I have often thought that students themselves have things to say and the editorial column of their paper seems as good a place as any. So in future if you have something you want to say let me have it and I will tell the world - well Houghton Street. As it is here is my last editorial of the term composed with the help of sports editor, Chris Cooper.

Now you might think this is a bad move, considering the state of the sports pages, but today Chris made a pretty inspiring speech at the Union General Meeting, in defence of the LGB Society keeping a part of its budget which others sought to pass on to the Cooper organised Racing Society. To many, Cooper would symbolise all that is wrong with the LSE, being Second team football captain, Beaver Sports editor and reknowned drinker as well. Yet Cooper showed that, like the story of the good Samaritan, there is good in all of us.

This seems a good point to make, as all of the various ethnic and religious groups that make up the body politic of the LSESU have a variety of festivals coming up in the next few weeks and so to wish you all a merry Christmas, would display gross insensitivity to the non-christian portion of our readership. With this in mind I will conclude by saying may your God go with you and thank all of you who have sailed with the good ship Beaver, which is now sailing off into the sunset for a refit. Yes, I know it doesn't make sense

Happy hols and TTFN

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Daniela Taylor, Ben Griffiths, Harry Tomlin, Judith Plastow, Laure Beufils, Hector Birchwood, Carlos Gonzalez, Nicola Hobday, Nick Sutton, Richard Hearndon, Helena McLeod, Scouse Gardiner, Alex Mcleish, Chris Tattersal, Helen Jamieson, Dan Madden, The Deakster, Rob Cheetham, Nick Fletcher and Sarah Davis.

There are another 87 members on *The Beaver* Collective

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## Beaver editor talks back

Dear Beaver,

On the way in this Wednesday morning, I could not help but be saddened by reading the news of the apparent suicide of Buster Edwards, one of the "Great Train Robbers". I'm not going to dwell on the crime, or his flight to Brazil and return to face 9 years in jail, but on his help he gave to LSE Rag over the years. Yes, this reformed man kept a flower stall at Waterloo and every year in the Rag treasure hunt the old stalwart question was to get a photograph of a team member with a "Great Train Robber", something that I took delight in doing. In the two years I did this I found Edwards articulate and willing to talk - except where the unrecovered money was hidden. If we manage to have a Rag treasure hunt this year, that question will be sorely missed by me especially as another part of English criminal history has been laid to rest.

Also, after reading last week's paper, something I actually enjoy, I would like to comment on Clare Lawrie's quote in the news article on Ents. As someone



The Beaver editor takes bribe shocker!

Photo: Navin Reddy

who has attended all the Chuckle Clubs this term, bar the first one, as I went to a free concert - Wedding Present - and then a Rosebery Party. Although Claire can comment that "the comedy club on Saturday is great!", it would have been better if she had been able to speak on a personal front rather than recycling what others had told her. I have yet to see her either in The Under-

ground or in the Three Tuns when Harry Hill performs. If this quote was taken out of context then OK, but if you are going to be quoted by a newspaper, then at least it should be a personal comment made through personal experience rather than second hand plagiarism.

Yours  
Ron Voce

(In a personal capacity)

## Degrees of discernment

Dear Beaver,

I am writing in response to a particular letter which I came across in an issue of *The Beaver*, dated November 14. The letter concerned a first year Spanish student who complained of being 'fooled' into purchasing 'loud-speakers' at extortionate prices along Tottenham Court Rd. Although I lament on such subterfuge being practised on vulnerable and innocent foreign students, I come to the conclusion that this particular student was partly responsible for his own loss. Living and studying in London requires a certain degree of discernment in a person, be it through experience or not, and it is absolutely naive to expose one's

vulnerability and credulity, certainly not towards the many rapacious rogues out there which plague the streets of London. By "explaining to them that I was a student and I couldn't spend too much" it automatically renders the individual highly susceptible to being duped.

Furthermore, in the letter, he spoke of 'getting a gun and blowing the whole of Tottenham Court Road to pieces' and moreover he finally stated that 'hate' is the first step before 'racism'. I have no idea what he is trying to imply by both these statements. Why can he not realise that the prime cause of his experience was due to his own naivety and any hatred he may have towards these

'rogues' should not and does not warrant or justify racism in any way. To say that hatred breeds and is a precondition of racism is one thing, although I do not entirely agree, but to endorse this and adopt such a view, seems symptomatic of racism in itself.

I think one lesson surely is to be learned from this common experience. That is people, particularly students must be exceedingly prudent when exchanging their money, be it dollars, deutsch marks or pounds for goods. So in the run-up to Christmas, I do advise all students to be extra circumspect when doing their Christmas shopping this month.

HAPPY SHOPPING!!!!

Sue

## It was personalities not sexualities that lost the LGB motion

Dear Beaver,

I was more than intrigued by Nik Deardon's letter in the last issue of your esteemed publication. Indeed, I was very surprised to hear of the unexpectedly large turnout of LGB members at the UGM Nik referred to. Life continues all predictable and routine-like, when, suddenly, an exceedingly atypical event occurs, like for example all these people turning up on exactly the day the LGB Executive officer proposal was being discussed - it is this sort of uncanny occurrence that makes you think really doesn't it? Anyway, I was most unhappy to hear that Nik was on the receiving end of unnecessary abuse, but I fail to understand his "counter democratic" pitch. He claimed that there was a large "counter mobilisation ... from groups who have no interest in Union democracy." I don't see what point he is trying to make.

If these people were entitled to vote, being students at the LSE, their opinion has just as much

validity as anyone else. And I don't see that being a straight white man should debar me from making decisions about Union policy, whatever my opinion. Please don't assume that everyone else is "uninformed" simply because they don't agree with you, Nik. The simple truth is that Nik lost that motion because he came across as hopelessly self-important and self-righteous, and the opposition speaker was a lot funnier. In the very same UGM a motion to keep the cafe vegetarian (hardly your average straight white male issue) was resoundingly supported, basically because the speaker was a very funny man indeed. Democracy is government by all the people and not for anyone. If there is a majority for something, that is that, and tough shit if you don't like it. I'm sorry that you lost your motion Nik, but please don't whine about it publicly, it just makes you look exceedingly dim.

Yours sincerely,  
Craig Walmsley.

## Pseudonym sadist

Dear Beaver,

I am getting increasingly annoyed at letters which are obviously written by somebody other than the ridiculous pseudonym which accompanies it. Could you please rectify this? Thank you ever so much.

Yours sincerely,  
Ponsonby Pickle-Puff jnr

**All opinions and views expressed in these pages are those of the named authors and not necessarily of this newspaper. The editor reserves the right to edit all material received.**



## Beaver tells it first

Dear Beaver,  
With regard to your article on Bertie Ahern last week (LSE old boy to be new top dog in Eire?), I would like some clarification as to what inference was intended. Since Eire refers to the whole of Ireland, this is somewhat misleading.

If the person in question had been from Spain, Italy or Germany would you have said LSE old boy to be top dog in Espania/Italia/Deucheland?

If you had wanted to put the whole headline in Irish you only had to ask (Seanghasur LSE le bheidh ina Thaoiseach ar

Phoblacht nah Eireann. But considering that top dog is an English colloquialism, that bit I cannot).

Perhaps you are pre-empting the outcome of the peace process by suggesting that Bertie is the rightful ruler of Ireland as a whole.

Are you suggesting that Albert Reynolds will be acting as the back seat driver in any new administration (ie. Albert sending out rations from his pet food company to the new 'Top Dog?')

I think we should be told.

Is mise le meas (respect)

Michael ó Dochataigh

## A load of old chestnuts

Dear Beaver  
Entertaining News, Beaver, 28/11/94

It must be getting close to Christmas. I can distinctly smell the odour of the Beaver roasting old chestnuts again. No real news, so let's make up a story about how terrible Entertainment is at the LSE.

A few points of information:

1. The Entertainment Officer has a budget of about £8000 to spend. He's meant to lose money during the course of the year.

2. It is difficult to attract students to LSE events, apart from at the beginning and end of each term. This is due to:

a) the diverse nature of the student body (overseas students from 100 countries; postgrads). That's why there are so many active societies.

b) the range of other activities in London. Compare LSE with Lampeter University which is twenty miles from the nearest pub.

c) antiquated British licensing laws (This year's Entertainment Officer, Gary Delaney, is trying to apply for a change of licence).

Let's set out some objective

criteria by which to judge the Entertainment Officer's performance:

a) Does he provide a variety of events throughout the year? Eg. A Foam disco, different DJs every week, various gigs, regular comedy nights.

b) Does he organise really good parties at the beginning and end of every term? For example, did Freshers Fortnight events make a profit?

c) Does he help societies to organise events? After all, his job is Entertainment and Societies Officer.

d) Does he attract the target audience for an event. Just about everyone who might have wanted to see Roy Ayres attended his gig, because it was well-publicised. Not everyone likes great music!

e) Does he have money available to invest in new equipment? Does he make improvements in the available facilities?

Finally, a comparison: Thousands of students pay to attend LSE Events. How many would pay to read a copy of the Beaver?

Yours faithfully

Justin Deaville

Ents and Societies Officer

1993/4

## Gen Sec stops stalls

Dear Beaver,

As many of you already know, the School and the Students' Union have banned all students and societies from having stalls on Houghton Street. Only two stalls may be set up in the entrance outside the Tuns. This isn't enough, and it stifles student's social, political and cultural life here at LSE.

If you're in a society yourself, you will have received an explanation for the necessity of this measure, along with dire warnings about communist agitators and shady Islamic fundamentalists. In his circular to societies from earlier this month, Martin Lewis explains that the police themselves requested the Union to ban all societies from Houghton Street, so that one 'intimidating' group (Hizb ut-Tahrir) could be prevented from harassing students.

As students, we find this an insult to our intelligence and self-respect. As society members, we are outraged that our activities have been curtailed by none other than our own Union. It's as if Martin Lewis thinks of us as children who can't conduct our own lives or think for ourselves without his protection. We're victims waiting to happen, and he is the watchful eye who 'cares' for us all.

Martin Lewis thinks that one group should be barred from talking to the vulnerable, impressionable lambs that are LSE students.



Not Speakers Corner, but it's all we've got Photo: Pam Keenan

Our Union's policy now is that our freedom to talk to and argue with whoever we want to puts us at risk. He thinks that restricting all societies from using Houghton Street is a reasonable price to pay to ensure that none of us have to worry about nasty people. Sorry, Martin, but we don't need your protection. We're perfectly capable of arguing against groups or ideas that we find unacceptable.

Finally, in your reply, Martin it would be pathetic to argue that stalls either disrupt the Law department, or that they are technically illegal in a public highway. Hardly any stalls play the loud music that allegedly threatens the academic 'integrity' of the department. As to the illegality, the law is an ass in Houghton Street. The police neither can nor want to enforce the law here. Furthermore, your ban prevents us from even trying to legalise stalls in Houghton Street with some kind

of broad license or other measure.

Student Unions should defend our right to think, speak, and associate openly with each other. In his circular to societies, Martin Lewis tells us that the Union is 'here to help societies, not to hinder them.' The best way to do this is to let us get on with our particular aims. Instead, we are saddled with a Union intent on policing us.

Signed

Adam Pembury, *Juggling Society*, Max Holland, *Latin American Society*, Chris Hutchfield, *LSE Review*, Jim Kennedy, *CAM*, Ralph Wilde, *Liberty*, Fayez Khouri, *Lebanese Society*, Khilan Dhodia, *Tequila Society*, Omer Soomro, *Court of Governors*, Sanobar Killedar, *Pakistan Society*, Steffen Frölich, *Jazz Society*, Gregor Claude, *RCS*, Kate Hampton, *Green Action* and *Third World First*

### Look who came to the last Beaver party!! Tuesday, December 6th - Underground Subsidised drinks and disco 'til eleven



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## Our man in Copenhagen, Frank Rogers Owen asks in his last article courtesy of "Erasmus"

# If you were an animal, what would you be and would you watch TV and be home sick?



The view from Frank's flat of the boats on the Baltic Photo: Ron Voce

**I** raise this point with you all back in Blighty for an important personal reason. I have for some time held the view that if I were an animal the most suitable would be a badger. I have better things to talk about than the reasons for this on *The Beaver* politics page. Needless to say if you ever spot me in my 'set' underneath Houghton Street I will gladly fill you in and even invite you to share a cup of tea with my friends Mole and Ratty. If you ever spot *The Beaver's* leading political journalist, that's me, in any trouble, please help. I hear badger baiting is on the rise again.

Norman Lamont has long been known in Westminster and the country at large as a badger look alike. This is due to his round face, large eyebrows and peculiarly large and deep set eyes. I take exception to this use of the purely external features of the badger to compare it to the dissipated countenance of the political washout Norman Lamont. When I compare myself to a badger it is on a far more profound level than appearance. Badgers are determined and straightforward sons of the soil who loyally stand by their fellow badgers and never surrender. A real badger would never have given in to teenage 'forex' traders, devalued Sterling or resigned in disgrace. Enough said.

Except perhaps that a badger is at least not a Rottweiler and even she (Mrs Thatcher that is) was eventually mauled to death by a dead sheep (Geoffrey Howe).

In Denmark most of the politicians are like badgers. They have mostly blond hair, if they aren't bald, and on the whole are better looking than Mr Lamont (especially the women – Here in Copenhagen I'm safe from the Women's Officer). So Danish politicians don't actually look like badgers. However they do act like them.

In the past 21 months the Social Democratic "Rasmussen" government has endured three senior resignations. Justice, Social Affairs and Tax ministers have all left the government. The peculiar thing about this – at least through the cynical eyes of Frank – is that none of them were forced to go because of their private lives or for misusing their public position for personal gain. They left because of incompetence or misconduct in implementing policy. In short they were crap politicians or at least crap politicians for getting caught.

It is important to think once again of the badger. "Clever" badgers don't get into

fight or at least win the ones they can't avoid. Stupid badgers by contrast lose their fights and are killed (similar to a politician resigning in disgrace). No badger however, is killed by its fellow badgers, however stupid it may be (badger experts please correct me if I'm wrong), and no badger actually invites trouble from badger baiters. However politicians in Britain seem to take delight in the personal scandal of their colleagues, and in a minority but not rarity of cases they put personal interests ahead of public interests. The moralising of the Right and recently the holier than thou pronouncements of Tony Blair make "baiting" of Westminster politicians by the press seem almost justified.

The badger like loyalty of Danish politicians is proving a handicap in resolving the Danish "Tamilgate" affair which has been dragging on for two years now. "Ninn"

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*It's not all political innocence, generosity and veneration of anyone with an English accent*

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Hansen, ex justice minister, resigned nearly two years ago over the illegal treatment of a large group of Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka granted asylum in Denmark in the late 1980's. As Justice Minister he had illegally prevented the refugees from having their families join them in Denmark.

Hansen has recently sought exemption from prosecution for his actions on the grounds of ill health. With his ill health questionable, despite his 72 years, and it's relevance to his standing trial even more questionable – many unwell people are forced into the witness box – the likely reason for his being granted amnesty from prosecution is his popularity in the Folketing (parliament) and the tendency of all MP's to stick together in Denmark.

The question now is whether investigations of the European Union Commission will bring to light more information as to who else was involved in the "Tamilgate" affair besides Hansen. Further, to the issue of Danes covering each other's backs, it is alleged that the Danish Interior Minister Bertie Weiss is confident the President of the European Court of Justice (ex Copenhagen University) is unlikely to criticise the government's behaviour. It is possible the European Court

will have to investigate the "Tamilgate" affair and apportion blame, possibly fining the Danish government. If the Court is genuinely affected as I suggest, by the nationality of its judges then we should all worry. We Europeans in particular might start to question our trust in "impartial" international institutions.

Frank, always ahead of his time, has long known the European Commission, for example, to be the home of communists, vegetarians and Frenchmen. Even with Jacques Delors gone, the countless arrogant and insecure continental lawyers will continue his dastardly work, making Europe an enlarged, imperfect copy of "La France".

I don't wish to leave you this week with an unhappy view of Denmark. Nor do I wish to induce in you Europhobia and unhealthy patriotism which can only be found in an Englishman abroad. I hope you can accept a world of imperfections and still find something worthwhile in it.

This week the Tivoli Gardens opened for Christmas for the first time ever. Last week Carlsberg and Tuborg brought out their special Christmas beers, delivering them by horse-drawn carts to bars of Copenhagen at midnight the day they came out. Even the families of the Tamil refugees which "Ninn" Hansen tried to keep out of the country will have forgotten about politics when they first tasted "julepilsner". Skal.

**A**fter reading the first half of this article you are supposed to believe that I am speaking to you from the capital of Denmark. It's very important to you to be getting authentic "News" from the Front-line". Your weekly *Beaver* may not have the resources of the BBC or CNN, but you expect to "inform" and "entertain" In this week's seminar on "The Role of the Media in Post Modern Society", I'd like to pose the following questions:

1. Who informing you?
2. Who's entertaining you?
3. Who's fooling you?

Of course these are rhetorical questions, since Frank is no more informed about the workings of the media than one would expect from a working class lad made good though hard work and gritty determination. However these three questions do highlight much of the pretence and deception that we are subject to whenever we switch on the TV or read our reduced price FT.

Strange as it may seem your friendly *Beaver* has very little reason to try and fool you. I can only imagine it would try to do this if it were dealing with its own future or the interests of someone writing for it. These hazards are in the first case understandable (few organisations wish to disappear) and unimportant (*The Beaver* fulfils a reasonable need among students and could be reformed quite easily if enough people or the Students' Union thought it necessary) and in the second place real but understandable, and not very dangerous (Frank for one, has a little job in the Turkish Justice ministry lined up for after graduation and wouldn't want anything to jeopardise that). It's not really up to me to judge how much *The Beaver* "informs" or "entertains" you. However, you'd be surprised how reliable it is.

When it comes to the rest of the media however, one should suspect treachery and deceit at every turn. In particular beware the TV. I hope I pleasantly surprise you when I say that I am not now going to berate the TV stations for being commercially driven and obsessed with advertising revenue, nor indeed for presenting a politically biased view. It is rather the gross over-confidence, reporting inadequacies and thereby their false representation of the world as a "Global Village" that I will point out as the major faults of the big "Global" newscasters (CNN, Sky News, BBC, NBC, etc. Even were these organisations capable of truly "Global" news coverage, as some of them nearly are, it is ridiculous to think that the news they would then provide would be either informative or accurate.

Firstly "Global" news would not be informative because most people are only concerned about what immediately affects them and are only interested in other news if it entertains (ie the funny bits at the end of ITN news) For most people the events in their own homes would be "news" to them if they only found out about them. Earthquakes in the Pacific are only worth watching for the exciting action and the reassurance that it's all happening half way around the world.

Secondly "Global" news is not accurate because of the way it's presented. Having two minutes on the situation in Bosnia is insufficient to address the many complicated and interrelated problems affecting the situation there. Two minutes is regarded as enough time for an update on the latest "Market Data" in New York and so enough for Bosnia. This is wrong. What is more, taking this view leads us to see the world as an easily understandable place where the rights and wrongs can be added up finally, rather like the winner and loser on the stock exchange.

It is likely this will be the last "Our Man in Copenhagen", at least from me, Frank Rogers Owen. I'd like to think I've entertained and informed you. I do live in Copenhagen and those meatballs are still in my cupboard waiting to be eaten. To the end of honestly bringing enlightenment to you all back in the cut and thrust of London I have tried to give you a feel for my life out here, starring out over the Baltic. It's not all political innocence, generosity and veneration of anyone with an English accent.

There is political intrigue and real issues to be fought over (The Norwegian "No" vote to EU membership is a key issue for its neighbour and trading partner Denmark). There are issues that go ignored by international political commentators but have real import here on the ground (The Swedish nuclear power station just over the water, and elsewhere in the Baltic the Lithuanian "Chernobyl Style" nuclear power stations, both viewed as real threats here in Copenhagen). There is also a varied international feel to Copenhagen. It is not as varied and Cosmopolitan as London but it is an open crossroads city with a strong identity, viewing itself as the capital of a "Moral Superpower"

Copenhagen may not be the capital of a "Moral Superpower" but it has great public transport and the Christmas decorations are lovely

Happy holidays and see you next term.



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# Film 94

## The Arts Editors round up the year's cinema

### THE BEST

#### Three Colours Red/ White

Established Kieslowski themes of crossed paths and parallel lives are much in evidence here. As with the *Dekalog*, these films should be taken as part of a whole. But individually, they remain masterpieces. *White*, a comedy with a pitch-black core, comes with the most satisfying unresolved ending ever. *Red's* astonishing final scene – drawing together the trilogy's main characters – looks almost like a happy ending. But with Kieslowski, nothing is ever quite as simple as it appears and it's more ambiguous than on first impression. These films warrant repeated viewing – each time there seems to be something you overlooked before, each time they leave you reverently speechless as only sheer genius can. (DL)

#### Short Cuts

There are marked similarities between the two best films of the year. *Red* and *Short Cuts* both deal with random encounters and both leave you with an overwhelming feeling of helplessness in the grand scheme of things. Robert Altman takes a clutch of Raymond Carver classics and puts them together in a way most other directors can only dream of. Reminiscent of *Nash-*

*ville*, this brilliantly links twenty-two characters lifted from eight Carver short stories. Even with the rich and distinctive source material, this has Altman stamped all over it, which sometimes means that this adaptation lacks the pathos of Carver's best work. But he acquits himself by adding as much to the characters as he takes away from them. Aided in no small part by a perfect ensemble cast, *Short Cuts* is an amusing, touching, large-scale movie about chance, coincidence, destiny, fate – it's the work of a true master. *Pret A Porter*, Altman's look at the Paris fashion world, is out next year. Can't wait. (DL)

#### Thirty-Two Short Films About Glenn Gould

Glenn Gould was one of the greatest pianists of this century and this fitting tribute – literally comprised of thirty-two shorts – is an intelligent, intriguingly structured pastiche that successfully depicts the true nature of genius – sometimes tortured, often remote, always enigmatic. A fine film. (DL)

#### Farewell My Concubine / The Blue Kite / To Live

Set against the same backdrop of tumultuous 20th century Chinese history, these outstanding films by three accomplished directors should still all be seen because of their vastly different



Julianne Moore and Anne Archer clown around in *Short Cuts*

Photo: Artificial Eye

takes on the subject matter. Chen Kaige's *Farewell My Concubine* is a sumptuous, spellbinding tale of unrequited love. *The Blue Kite* by Tian Zhuangzhuang is a straightforward but very affecting look at family life under Mao, told through the eyes of a young boy. Perhaps not the best but certainly the most interesting is *To Live* – director Zhang Yimou includes surprisingly large doses of black humour, but that doesn't prevent this from being a most uplifting film. (DL)

#### Grief / Go Fish

The former opened and the latter closed this year's London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. Both are far superior to the disappointing selection of gay films on offer at this year's LFF. *Grief* deals with delicate subjects (AIDS, mourning, gay relationships) with refreshing wit, always avoiding mawkishness and contrivance. In the process, it shows *Philadelphia* up as an unconvincing cop-out. *Go Fish* is a celebratory lesbian comedy, shot in grainy black and white, but a completely colourful experience in every other respect and one of this year's most romantic movies. (DL)

#### The Hudsucker Proxy

The latest in a line of winners from the superb Coen brothers. This time, they borrow heavily from Frank Capra and come up with a wacky, fantastical fairytale in which a small-town buffoon foils the plans of a scheming bigwig by err ... inventing the hula-hoop. First-class performances from Tim Robbins, Paul Newman and especially Jennifer Jason Leigh, all of whom make the most of a snappy, witty script. Perhaps not up to the Coens' usual exceptionally high standards, but this pisses from a very great height on practically everyone else. (DL)

#### Clean, Shaven

Unforgettable insight into schizophrenia that invariably provokes one of three audience reactions – fainting spells, walk-outs or stunned awe. Unlike any other film released this year, this makes writer-director Lodge Kerrigan a man to watch closely in the future. (DL)

#### Speed

Just when you thought the action movie genre was doomed in the hands of Sly, Arnie, and friends, Keanu Reeves proves you wrong. It's handy that this film doesn't demand much of our Keanu in the thespian department, which isn't exactly his strong point, but as for the jumping on buses to foil Dennis Hopper's dastardly plans department he's Oscar material. It is indicative of the film's content that the production notes spend a paltry four lines summarising the plot, not that there's any more to say, and three and a half pages eulogising the stunts and special effects that basically are the movie. After this, you'll never use public transport again. (SLS)

#### Pulp Fiction

Horrifying as it is to admit, I am the only remaining person in the world who hasn't seen *Reservoir Dogs* (Resign! – DL) so I can't compare it to Tarantino's second effort. I can say that *Pulp*, although long, is bloody funny, sharp and of course violent, but only in the nicest possible way. Finally for the absolutely last time (promise) I'd just like to say IT'S GOOD BUT THE PALME D'OR SHOULD HAVE GONE TO RED. Thank you. (SLS)

## THE WORST

#### Forrest Gump

No contest – worst film of the year. Misguided critics said 'It'll leave a lump in your throat' – well, yes, but that's my lunch on its way up. This is a film with a moral – always a bad thing. It wouldn't be quite so bad if the moral were simply "You can succeed if you're a little on the slow side". What this is trying to say is "You can succeed – in fact, you can become an internationally idolised war hero/ cultural ambassador/ shrimping tycoon – IF and ONLY IF you're really, really, really, astronomically stupid. Moronic. Brain-dead. Thick as two fucking short planks". And oh yes, if you have the audacity to be female, promiscuous and a hippy, you die. Nauseating, reactionary, jingoistic tripe. AND Barry Norman liked it. I rest my case. (DL)

#### The Lion King

Disney's dramatic plunge in form after the excellent *Aladdin* is now the most successful animated film ever despite the fact it's the worst one for years. There's no plot, the songs are by Elton John and at one particular bit the animators appear to give up on drawing and hope no-one will notice, because, hey, that oh-so-cute little lion is singing. Most offensive is the assumption that all known forms of life, including wild animals in Africa, are Americans at heart. This film makes you want to reconsider your position on animal testing. (SLS)

#### Anything with Vanessa Redgrave

Ms Redgrave joins the ranks of performers who should have retired while we could still refer to them as "respected actors" without smirking. 1994 saw her in a trio of disasters: *House Of The Spirits*, in which she was spectacularly decapitated (unfortunately that got cut out of the final version), *Mother's Boys*, in which she tumbles – again quite spectacularly – down a flight of stairs and *Sparrow*, in which she plays a deranged lovesick nun. The words "institutionalise" and "medication" spring somewhat cruelly to mind. (DL)

#### Anything with Juliette Lewis

There are those who find Juliette Lewis' drawled, slurred diction sexy – then again, there are those (myself included) who think it must be indicative of a two-figure IQ. Impressive leading men couldn't save her films. Despite Gary Oldman's presence, *Romeo Is Bleeding* still came across as this year's lamest, least successful attempt at noir-simulation. The tragic *Kalifornia* just about dashed any hopes of seeing Brad Pitt elevated to screen icon in the near future. Lewis slinks through both films playing exactly the same part – that of an intellectually stunted vamp. And she was in *NBK* (that's two serial killer road movies in a year), WHICH WE HAVEN'T SEEN BECAUSE THE BBFC (AND THE DAILY MAIL) THINK WE'LL ALL GO OUT ON KILLING SPREES IF WE DO – and I have a sneaking suspicion that might just belong here as well. (DL)



Repeat after me, "Stupid is as stupid does"

Photo: UIP





As if one Arnold Schwarzenegger wasn't enough

Photo: UIP

# Labour pains

Dennis Lim previews the films opening over the holidays

**J**unior (Dec 9) reunites the *Twins* team of Danny DeVito, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Ivan (Ghostbusters) Reitman. Arnie plays a brilliant scientist - how's that for casting against type? - who decides to have a baby. All in the name of science at first, but with each passing trimester, his maternal instincts come ludicrously to the fore. Emma Thompson - in an inexplicable attempt at flushing all remaining credibility down the toilet - is the clumsy, inexperienced researcher who falls in love with him. It's sickly sweet, predictably dumb and not funny, i.e. exactly what you'd expect. And Arnie masquerading as an ex-member of the East German women's athletics team has to be the least convincing drag act ever. Ghastly sequels abound. **The**

**Never Ending Story** (Dec 16), clearly living up to its name, is in its third instalment - ten years on (at least the makers have the decency NOT to be prolific). Also, we have the follow-up to the penetrating insight into the sporting world that is *The Mighty Ducks* in - yes! - **The Mighty Ducks 2** (Dec 26). The biggest December opening is however **The Specialist** (Dec 26), a talent-free zone featuring the mind-boggling collaboration of Sylvester Stallone and Sharon Stone. Scary. Completely different and far, far weightier is **Vanya On 42nd Street** (Dec 30), Louis Malle's film of an undress rehearsal of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*. Dry and totally uncinematic, it's little more than a chance for some fine actors to show off.

The first weekend of '95 sees the opening of what could be the

finest film of next year - Hal Hartley's **Amateur** (Jan 6). With characteristic style and economy, Hartley slips in his usual themes - love, sex, relationships, religion, trust - and turns out his most emotionally rounded effort to date. Isabelle Huppert plays an ex-nun trying unsuccessfully to be a writer of soft porn. Martin Donovan is an amnesiac coming to grips with a possibly violent criminal past. Fans might be a little disoriented at first as Hartley, claiming to be bored of his unique linguistic dexterity, has trimmed the dialogue. *Amateur*, replete with memorable images, is his most visual film. There's no reason to miss this - it's funny, it's moving, it has a great soundtrack (My Bloody Valentine, PJ Harvey) and score (Hartley himself responsible) - hell, it's perfect. For those who

haven't yet recognised that this man is the best thing to happen to American cinema since Robert Altman, this is as good a place as any to start.

As for the worst thing to happen to American cinema recently, it's fast turning out to be Quentin Tarantino - nothing to do with his own films, but the endless stream of pathetic clones his films have spawned. Roger Avary, *Pulp Fiction* co-writer, has given us **Killing Zoe** (Jan 6), a mindless, messy heist movie, which has it all wrong from boring start to bloody finish.

The truly dreadful **Stargate** (Jan 6) is the first of 1995's big-budget horrors to be forced upon us. The *Stargate* in question is a mystical portal that transports all who venture through it to some faraway galaxy - whose inhabitants are not little green men, as that would make things slightly problematic on the love interest front. Instead, they're, erm ... Egyptians, who are condescendingly portrayed as some primitive tribe (wide-eyed fascination at cigarette lighters etc) presided over by the despotic Jaye Davidson (of *The Crying Game*). Kurt Russell, exemplary specimen of manhood that he is, struts around purposefully, speaks in monosyllabic growls and emphatically shows the baddies who's boss. Even the normally reliable James Spader, cast as an intelligent but weedy Egyptologist, is quite abysmal. No amount of flashy special effects can make up for the astounding

crapness of the whole fiasco.

**The River Wild** (Jan 13), however, is solid Hollywood fare. A dependably entertaining action thriller directed by Curtis (*The Hand That Rocks The Cradle*) Hanson, this has Meryl Streep proving most impressive in action heroine mode. A standard story-problem-plagued family (he's spending too much time at the office) bump into some murderous villains - is relocated on a white-water rafting expedition thus increasing the excitement factor tenfold.

Moving away from the States, **Shallow Grave** (Jan 13) is much-needed evidence that "good British film" isn't necessarily a contradiction in terms. Set in Glasgow, Danny Boyle's wickedly black comedy centres on three flatmates who set out to find a fourth. After a series of hilarious and extremely evil interviews, they settle on Hugo (Keith Allen) - only to find him dead the following day. Problems arise when they find a suitcase bursting with money under the bed. The misfortune which follows is probably fitting punishment for anyone reckless enough to have Keith Allen as a flatmate.

Anyone who enjoyed Ang Lee's *Wedding Banquet* will love his new one, **Eat Drink Man Woman** (Jan 13), a gently amusing film about an ageing master chef and his three daughters. With the added attraction of some astonishing culinary stunts, this is trademark and all the way - bittersweet and richly fulfilling.



Amateur, already '95's best film, probably Photo: Artificial Eye

## Punk with princess in palace shocker

Nicky Maragliano

With the exception of the director, Mike Sarne, and the director of photography, those involved in the making of

**The Punk and the Princess** were all under 25 years old. Hmm; smells fishy already. Student shoestring-budgeted creations of this sort really worth their salt are few in number (Only *Man Bites Dog* springs to mind).

When you find out that the director is the bloke who inflicted worldwide audiences with *Myra Breckinridge* in 1970 which was unanimously accepted as a complete dog, you start to think that the ticket money could have been better spent elsewhere. But I'm digressing here. *The Punk* is a modern day Romeo and Juliet story but here Romeo is a young London punk - the film tries to scare us with the idea that they still exist - named David (Charlie Creed Miles) and his Juliet is called Rachel (Vanessa Hadaway), a rich American girl whose accent keeps slipping suspiciously into the South London format.

The story was originally written as an English essay by schoolboy Gideon Sams over 20 years ago, and was unwisely recovered from the bin by his mother who, even more unwisely, sent it to a publisher at Polyantic Press. It

was published and released through record stores in the mid-seventies and sold 23,000 copies. The plot stumbles around with the odd traumatic event in David's life to spice things up which are then forgotten about as easily as they occur. When David's mum can't take the stress any more, goes as berserk as Mr Cadbury's Parrot and winds up in home for the mentally screwed, the matter is given only ten minutes, and then resolved or forgotten, you decide.

Mike Same shows us a Notting Hill that is so bland and tasteless you'd be forgiven for thinking the film was set in Milton Keynes. It's a wasted opportunity considering the area's potential to convey a gritty, suffocating atmosphere that the film could have gained so much from. Sarne said that he'd utilised lessons from French and Italian directors to make the film neo-re-

alist cinema techniques but he's probably twigged on by now that he ain't created no *Bicycle Thieves* with this effort. Charlie Creed Miles copes passably well with his role, and newcomer Vanessa Hadaway copes with the fact that she can't act. The main problem is probably the lack of rapport that the two actors are able to exude on screen together: you'll find more chemistry going on in your toffee popcorn.

Production notes proudly boasted that at a preview screening at the Glastonbury festival earlier this year, 90% of those polled rated the film as "excellent" or "very good", but since figures for the audience's average intake of hallucinogenics over that weekend weren't given I'll ignore the statistics and tell you that I thought it was poor and certainly nothing brilliant. Spend the extra £5 on Christmas presents, not a ticket to see this.

## COMPETITION

Warner Brothers Theatres launches a luxury multiplex at the Royale Leisure Park in Acton, W3 on Friday, December 16. Conveniently located near Park Royal underground station, the nine-screen cinema seats 2,500 and offers free parking for up to 900 cars. Student concessions will be available.

We have 50 pairs of tickets to give away for Friday or Saturday late night performances

to the first 50 people with the correct answer to this question: Which Warner Brothers film, directed by Oliver Stone and starring Woody Harrelson and Juliette Lewis and whose initials are N.B.K., had its release put back by the nation's moral watchdogs a.k.a. the British Board Of Film Classification? Answers to the Beaver office (E197) by Friday, December 9.



# True blues

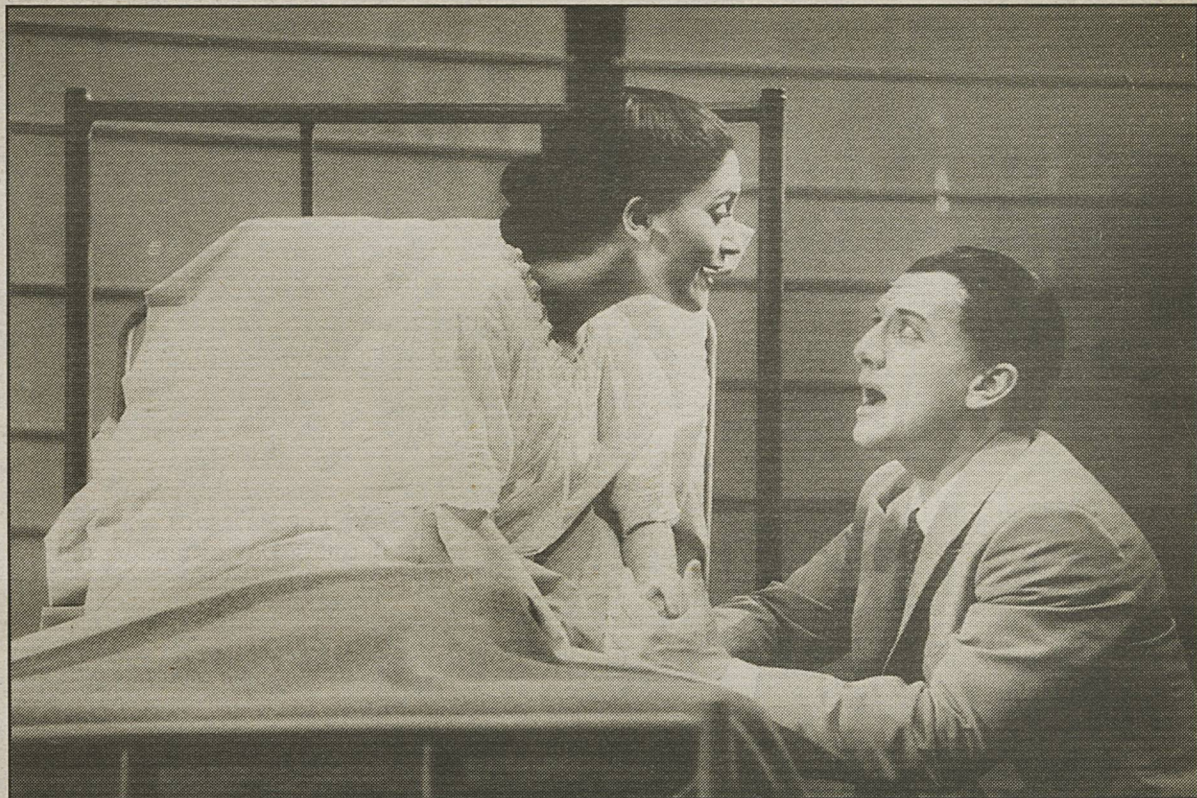
## Philip Lam on a new musical

**O**ut of the Blue is the breath of fresh air that the musical scene has been waiting for since Miss Saigon. However, before I go too far and give anyone the impression that this is the must see of the year, wait. I must stress that this musical is carried only by the strength of the performers' singing. Those expecting lavish sets and costumes must be prepared for disappointment. This is a musical mainly for those who'd like to hear good singing; there aren't any barricades that move apart and come together, nor are you likely to find a helicopter on the stage. That said and done, Out of the Blue still looks set to become a part of the London musical scene.

The story revolves around Father Marshall, and how he finally gets reacquainted with his daughter, Hana, whom he'd thought had died long ago from radiation poisoning. The lie about the daughter's death is perpetrated by Marshall's brother-in-law, Hayashi, who never looked too kindly upon the

wedding between his Japanese sister, Hideko, and the (then) American bomber pilot Marshall. Hideko was affected by the radiation from the Nagasaki bombing and subsequently died. For some mysterious reason that is only explained later, Marshall gets thrown in prison. Upon his release, he is told by Hayashi that Hana has died as well. Grief-stricken, Marshall returns back to America to become a priest, not knowing that his daughter has in the meantime become a nurse in a hospital at Nagasaki. As chance would have it, the doctor that Hana works for meets up with Marshall and tells him that his daughter is still alive. What follows is the "daughter realises dad is alive but does not want to meet him because he disappeared on her a long time ago though it really wasn't his fault so they finally meet up and the bad uncle gets found out and they all live happily ever after" routine. So much for the plot.

The credentials and experience of the performers recruited for this musical are quite im-



Now, what seems to be the problem

Photo: Stuart Morris

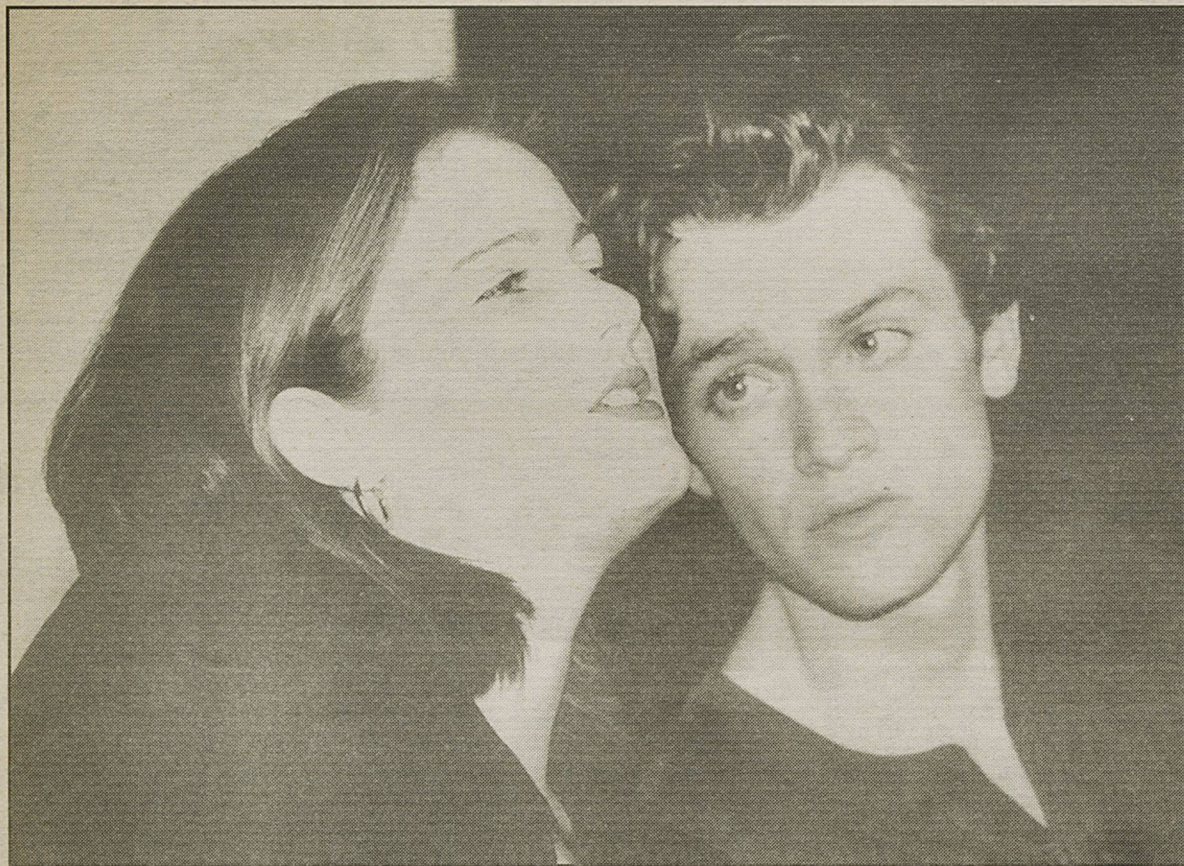
pressive. Meredith Braun (Hideko), Simon Burke (Young Hayashi), David Burt (Old Hayashi) and James Graeme (Father Marshall) all have extensive experience with musicals. James Graeme has appeared in the lead role of 'Phantom of the Opera' over 400 times while Meredith Braun was Eponine in 'Les Miserables'. These two deserve special men-

tion for their especially good performances. I hope I'm not exaggerating, but the standard of singing that they bring is what one hopes to hear in a musical. The music was composed by Shun-ichi Tokura, winner of Best Composer of the Year twice, Best Composer - Tokyo Music Festival twice, and various other awards. The standard of the score is very, very good, but there

really isn't one song that stands out from the others. However, you're not likely to find better fresh entertainment this year. Overall, a good night out, even if you're picky like this reviewer.

**Out of the Blue is playing at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Monday to Saturday with Thursday and Saturday matinees.**

# Drama right on our doorstep



Mary Hannah (Merteuil) and Daniel Crowe (Valmont)

Photo: Phil Gomm

The LSE Drama Society undertakes its most ambitious project yet with this version of the Christopher Hampton play, Dangerous Liaisons. This production, boosted by the participation of new young talent, has been entered for this year's National Student Drama Festival at Scarborough.

Deborah Goldemberg, the director, has updated Hampton's play, setting its 'dangerous intrigues' in the contemporary world. Cruelty, corruption and lust still feature in the lives of

the main characters. Valmont and Merteuil manipulate the lives of the virtuous Tourvel and the innocent Cecile until Valmont - to Merteuil's horror - finds himself falling into a trap which he has so far managed to avoid so adroitly. Parallel to this runs the underlying issue of the plot - how such intrigues and deceptions overtake the lives of the characters so much so that they become completely unaware of the suffering of people around them unless they can be made to serve a certain purpose.

The production aims to broaden the perspectives of the play by updating it, while keeping to its timeless themes. As one of the characters says "the only thing which might surprise one is how little the world changes."

**Dangerous Liaisons is being performed in the Old Theatre on 6, 7, 8 December at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £3.00 or £2.00 for members of the LSE Drama Society and are available on the door.**

# Stand up and be counted

## Helen Jamieson on an excellent production at the Etcetera Theatre

The evening started with promise: the Etcetera Theatre, in central Camden, is like many fringe theatres located above a pub. Given the smallness of the theatre and the intensity of the subject matter you could be forgiven for thinking you were about to sample a large dose of "luviness". But the superb quality of acting lends a genuineness to the play which actually whisks the audience off to another place entirely.

Only forty or so could sit down to watch - the lack of space creating a suitable atmosphere and intimacy to the production.

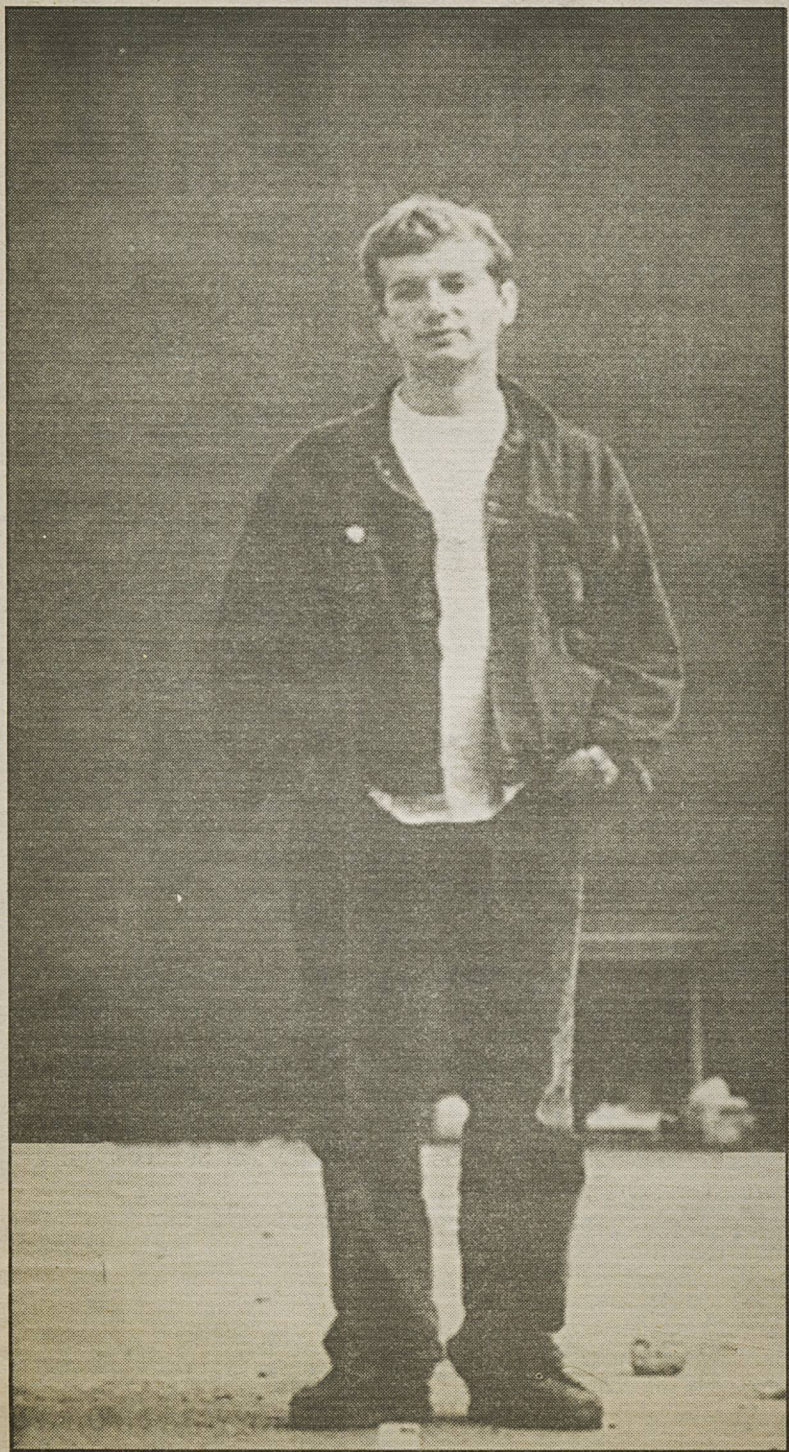
The performance is a powerful one depicting the traumatic experiences of three young women in a rural town. Each has been abused and endured horror in one form or another. All the actresses are extremely good, with Rebecca Forrow as Ruby being especially noteworthy.

The stark content of the plot is accentuated by "in your face" acting with a lot of mime and improvisation. The set also adds to this theme. It is minimalist - basically because there isn't room for anything else. Even the lack of set however is employed to maximum potential with lights and sound greatly adding to the atmosphere.

A barrel of laughs this play is not - tackling some serious and upsetting issues. But it does make for a different and enjoyable evening and is well worth the money which may at first seem expensive.

**Can't Stand Up for Falling Down is at the Etcetera Theatre, 265 Camden High Street until 18 December every day except Monday. Performances start at 9.30pm, tickets are £6.00 concessions, and the Box Office number is 071 482 4857.**





Unsurprisingly enough, Frank Skinner

Photo: Library

# Being Frank

## Steve Roy gets a skinful

Frank Skinner has in the past year reached Alan Titchmarsh-like levels of television ubiquity. Not only does he co-host "Fantasy Football League" with his real-life flatmate David Baddiel, but he has also featured in "Do the Right Thing", "Gagtag" and "Blue Heaven". Skinner is evidently a man who will do anything for money; hence his decision to take his nationwide tour to Croydon.

The majority of the audience had come to see Skinner talk football; in particular, about his beloved West Bromwich, still propping up the First Division. He was faced with several people who didn't know their Uniteds from their Walsalls; identifying Alison in the front row as one of these species, Skinner referred all football jokes back to her. There's not much point going to see Skinner if you hate football. You're better off staying in Shadwell, playing with your British Rail signal flags.

There is a stark difference between the sanitised, granny-friendly Skinner you see joking with old Bob Monkhouse on "Gagtag", and the raw, explicit comedian live on stage in Croydon, cracking funnies about anal sex, which in Skinner's view is the test of a real relationship.

Skinner not only managed to take the piss out of himself - his material saturated with references to the state of his sheets during years of alcoholic abuse, but also out of a member of the second row called Tony. Tony got up to take a leak mid-way through; when out of the room, Skinner asked his girlfriend if she had any secrets about Tony she'd like to share with the audience. Despite warning her that he'd make it up anyway if she kept quiet, the girl was unforthcoming. Tony came back, Skinner carried on, then with brilliant timing, suddenly told Tony that his girlfriend had revealed, he squealed like a hyena when ejaculating.

Despite the presence of some non-football lovers, or Luton Town fans as they're more commonly known, there was something in Skinner's material for anyone; anyone that is who masturbates, likes anal sex, and has in the past pissed in their bed. Even the women Skinner goes out with, he compares to football. He recently told a men's magazine that although he'd like to date a Milan in the San Siro stadium, he invariably gets drawn against Southampton or Grimsby. His least memorable sexual experiences are compared

to waking up and finding he's played some 'sparsely attended Cup game against a below-strength Wrexham side'.

The undoubted talents of Skinner are not maximised simply in straight live comedy; his use of props and edited video footage on "Fantasy Football League" is far more sophisticated, and his brief stint as a replacement for Alan Hansen on Match of the Day showed that there is a great deal of humour in football.

The nationwide tour material has obviously been carefully targeted. Skinner knows his real fans are those who relish his male preoccupations; football and sex. His material is therefore geared to meet those with similar interests. But as his TV exposure has shown, Skinner can create laughter right across the age and gender spectrum, and on a wide variety of subjects. The tour seems a bit of a sell-out, and a regression back to his working men's club comedy roots, rather than a progression into more universal, popular subject areas. A broader material base would no doubt see more women in his audiences. Skinner is one of the few comedians around who can generate laughs without resorting to the liberal use of the F-word; his ability should not be wasted.

# Over the Hill

## Nick Fletcher at the Chuckle Club



Harry Hill. Well, who would you expect?

Photo: Ron Voce

Many apologies for this Marticle but I feel like gloating. For all of you who were not in the Tuns the other Saturday night, I have no sympathy. You missed one of the best nights of the year so far. Okay, so I hate to drone on about the Chuckle Club because nobody normally pays much attention, but bear with me on this one. Heard of a bloke called Harry Hill? Yes, that Harry Hill, the Time Out comedy award winner - well you missed him.

I hate using old gags, and the

two hundred or so people who were in the Tuns will have heard them all, suffice to say in three years of watching stand-up, Hill is the best act I have seen. However, one man does not make a great night, indeed the other four acts admirably played their part. The Tuns was jammed like a Friday night (with an extension), the drink was cheap and the audience willing.

Mr Compere himself, Eugene Cheese, kicked the show off in his unique style followed by Pinner and Gilbey. To note just

how good this pairing are, they have been given a regular spot next term. I urge you not to miss them. Simon Bligh and Steve Gribbon followed, both of whom have made regular TV appearances and are destined to continue in that vein. Special mention must go to Gribbon for fitting all of the Government's scandals in a five minute song.

Two quick open mikes followed, I won't embarrass the first of these by naming him, but Liz Webb managed to win the audience back with a string of vibrator and Duracell battery jokes. Fantastic (even though I didn't understand). But, it was Harry Hill we wanted and we were not disappointed. For a mere four pounds, the cheapest you will ever see this master of comedy for, it was awesome value for money. I have asked many people to describe Hill's style and nobody can. You just have to be there.

Forget his TV show, it's just no comparison, anybody who gives a damn about stand-up will know what I mean. Those who were in the Tuns on Saturday will know what I mean and as Harry Hill has been booked for at least two more appearances next term, you too can know what I mean. The Chuckle Club goes from strength to strength.



Lee Evans

Photo: Library

Forget Montreal, you don't have to go to Canada to see the best comedians. The London Comedy Festival is on at the Riverside Studios in Hammersmith from December 4 to 18. It features a wealth of talent including Arnold Brown, Greg Proops, John Shuttleworth and double

bill comedy films from the likes of Woody Allen and Pedro Almodovar. Lee Evans will be appearing at a Cabaret Party Benefit on 17 December

Call the Riverside box office (open 12 noon to 9 pm daily) on 081-741 2255 for enquiries and bookings. Check The Guardian for daily offers.



# Stop wanking Sir!

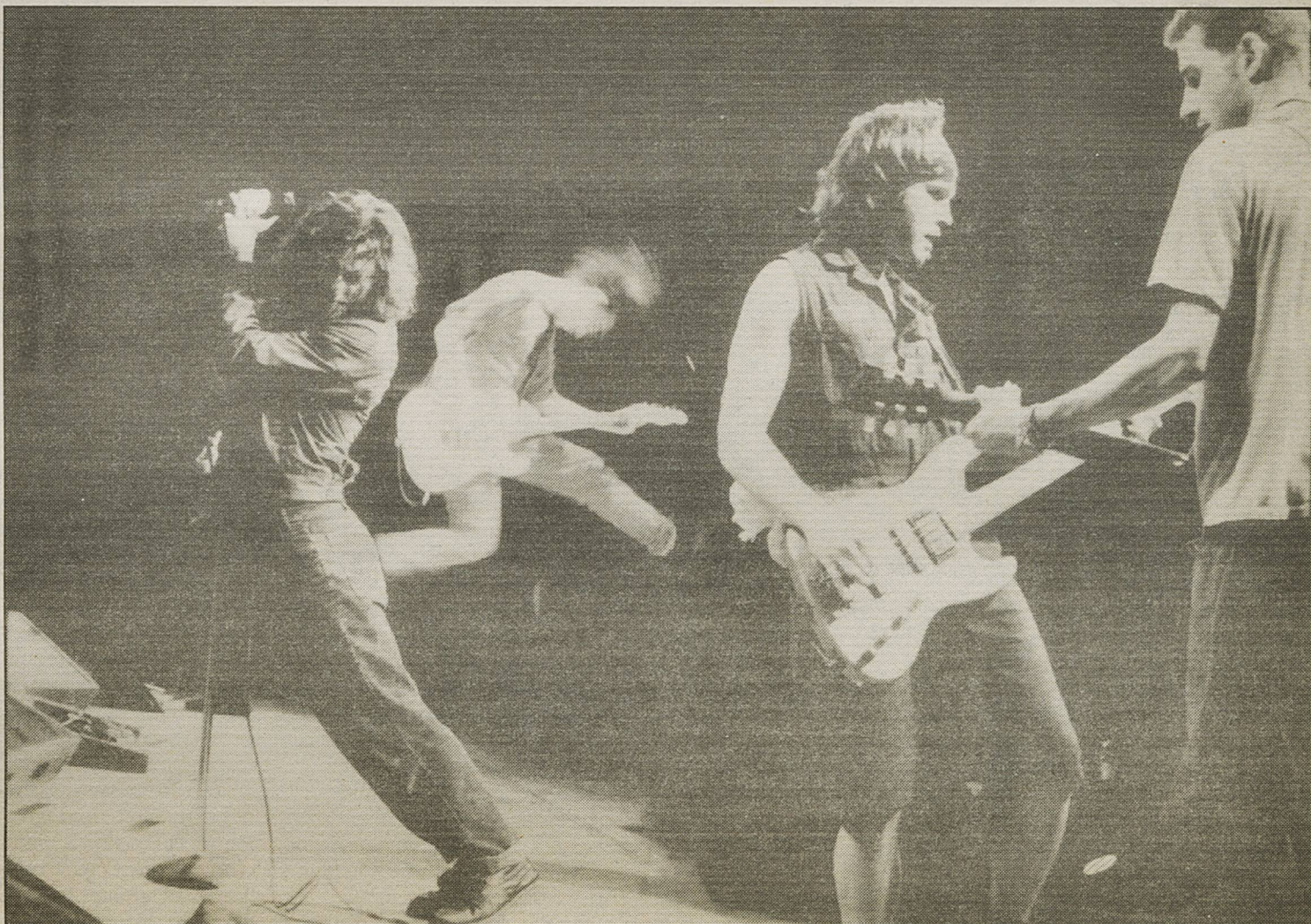
Gary Lee reviews the new Pearl Jam album

Edie Vedder is a nob. He's a big fat flappy cock and I wouldn't let him into my house. The man can however, write a damn fine tune. Everybody remembers **Ten** with 'Alive'. Nobody gave them a hope in hell of improving upon it, but they did. Last year they released **Versus**. Although not as rich in hit songs it didn't have a single bad track and had a finish to rival any album.

The review of their new album from most quarters seemed to think that **Vitalogy** was their best effort yet. It's supposedly unfashionable to like **Pearl Jam** but I won't give a fuck as long as they keep producing great songs. I was as eager as *The Beaver* when I sat down to hear this new work - the best yet. The first song was shit, but then again so was the first song on the previous two albums at the first listen. The next song **Spin The Black Circle** is their first release from the album as a single, but it still sounded like shit. Persevering, I listened to the end praying for a finale like the last, but it sadly never came, even though it was a hell of an improvement on the start.

They lost their way a bit with the gentler end songs with some songs bordering on the down right wierd. I was disappointed.

Something within me made me listen to it again. I don't know what happened or how but it suddenly became brilliant. Even the turd of a song that passed as an opener sounded excellent. The fucking swine. I even ended up tricking myself into believing that track 5 **Nothingman** is the best song they have ever done. The bastards. Every single song left me wanting to hear more and the end of the songs left me gently humming them ever since.



Pearl Jam jamming

Photo: Lance Mercer

**Nothingman** goes like this da-da-dum-de-di-tra-la-la and I think you'll agree it's a masterpiece. Mercifully there were no references to Kurt Cobain although I'm sure some pretentious git from the NME will read something into an innocent lyric.

The tracklisting is as follows: **Last Exit, Spin The Black Circle, Not For You, Tremor Christ, Nothingman, Whipping, Pry To, Corduroy, Bugs, Satans' Bed, Better Man, Aye Davanita, Immortality and Stupid Mop.**

As a little treat for the purchaser the album comes with a little book taking excerpts from a 19th century book of the same name. It proudly informs us that your health deteriorates if you touch your ..... no, buy it and find out!

# Maid in Heaven

Barney Yellow-Donkey reports on Scubamaid

There are two problems, the Carr-Saunders pisshead argued, with **Scubamaid** putting the LSE back on the music map. Firstly, nobody's heard of **Scubamaid** and secondly the LSE never was on the music map in the first place. Wrong! The LSE has always been on the music map. For instance just look at those who went on from the LSE to the fantastic heights of Super-Mega-Stardom, like Mick Jagger and...er...the bass player from Suede. The problem is that LSE students shit their knickers simply at the mention of going to watch a live band, instead preferring the dangerous living of the hall karaoke night and shunning anything remotely out of the ordinary. As for **Scubamaid** they may not be household names just yet but as one of an increasingly privileged few who have heard their last EP, I will testify these four feisty Derby lads are a whisker away from the big time.

These lads have got what it takes and after an extended period of posterior kissing I was installed as London publicity Dude, in fact I would gladly eat my rotting Doc Martin's if Scubamaid don't set London alight. To any students from the East Midlands, **Scubamaid** won't seem such an unfamiliar name. In their hometown,

Derby, they are huge. Since first appearing live over a year ago, their enormous following has commanded dates in all the prestigious venues of the East Midlands, culminating in July of this year in a headline appearance in Derbys' premier venue, the two thousand capacity assembly rooms. They have supported the likes of the Fall, Bark Psychosis, Lilly Livered, Chumbawumba and only the fact that the first day of lectures prevented singer guitarist Jabba going back to Derby put the mocca's on a monstrous support with Pop will Eat Itself.

The lads have funded themselves, the recording and release of two sell out EP's, the latter of which featuring their super punk anthem **Barmy**, prompted a European label Axle Records to offer them a deal which they duly accepted. A huge merchandise store has also resulted in Derbys' student dives being masked in an ocean of **Scubamaid** T-shirts and the lads have appeared in session and hilarious anarchistic interviews numerous times on local radio.

But their greatest honour in Jabbas' eyes is the crucial airplay of **Barmy** before every Derby county football match on Baseball ground radio. But what is really special about Scubamaid is not only are

they one of the biggest bands in their region, they are also one of the youngest. Jabba or Jasper as first year BSc Sociology students know him better is the old codger of Scubamaid having just turned nineteen. Drummer Abdul and bassist Bill are both seventeen and the other singer and guitarist John is a very tall and very sweet sixteen years old!

Now **Scubamaid** have turned their attention to taking London. Already Jabba has got the ball rolling as listeners to London FM, if there are any, should already be familiar with some of **Scubamaids'** material and hundreds of stickers have begun to appear all over the West End. Scubamaid last played in London last August to a fairly large crowd at the Rock Garden in Covent Garden. But now after long negotiations between Axle Records, LSE Ents and the Carr Saunders Committee, **Scubamaid** take on the notoriously difficult task of playing at the LSE. **Scubamaid** were scheduled to play in December but are now likely to play in The Underground next term. Support should be provided by Devolution, fresh from their date at a packed Mean Fiddler. Coincidentally, both bands have members at the Carr Saunders hall where the social secretaries had the excellent idea of

paying a small sum to Scubamaid who are funding the gig, in return for free entry for anyone from the Carr Saunders Hall as part of the CSH end of term celebrations.

Further **Scubamaid** info and tapes can be obtained from Jasper Ward or Social secretaries Martin and Dan at the Carr Saunders Hall 071 580 6338 flat F62 or F34.

If anyone is planning to see a gig in London, come and see either of the music editors beforehand and we can probably get you in free and maybe throw in some backstage passes so you can booze with the stars. The only catch is that you have to write a few hundred words on how great/wank it was.



# She's tickled Indigo

## Rachel Cuthbert watches as the girls frolic

The Indigo Girls did a two night gig in London last week. Those that missed these outrageously good concerts should cross their fingers and hope that they come back soon. Over the past ten years the Indigo Girls have built up a wide and varied following. Capturing a large chunk of the mainstream audience through their contribution to the equally brilliant *Philadelphia* soundtrack, the Wonderstuff also covered one of their earlier singles "Closer to Fine".

Their melodically mellow guitar duets have long captivated American audiences, but have only recently taken off over here, attracting a mainly female following. The bulk of which dominated the audience on Tuesday night.

Gabrielle Howle, a gutsy, hypnotic and stirring guitar soloist, opened their Tuesday night gig at the Shepherd's Bush Empire, with a disappointingly short set of her acoustic folk music. She was followed by an awful Irish guitar soloist, who not only forced half an hour of his crap music on us but also his rather, no, exceedingly, dull life story.

If the distraction of the film crew tainted anyone's enjoyment of the 'Gals', the fact that they played for over two and a half hours more than made up for this. Opening with "Fugitive" from their new album *Swamp Ophelia*, the Gals began the crowd on an almost ritualistic singfest. The high point of which was an incredible rendition of "Galileo". The Gals played most of their new album and just about every other song any faithful fan could wish for, with the noticeable exception of 'Joking' and "Land of Canaan".



No, it's not the Irish one from Casualty, it's Emily Saliers!

Photo: M Halsband

Towards the close of the evening the Gals invited Dale Ann Dorsey and their guitar handler (the Gals change guitars every song, if not during the

song, hence the need for a guitar handler) from New Orleans, to support them in an awesome rendition of Aretha Franklins' "Midnight Train".

The Indigo Girls will be back in the country early next year (hopefully), so watch the press for details and get your tickets early.

# Honky Are donkey!

## Rob Cheetham poo-poo's the Doncaster donkeys and fancies scrubbers

"I want to die," explains Steve, drummer with Honky, "after a load of marijuana and about three hundred magic mushrooms."

Matt, guitarist, remains unconvinced: "I'd like to die slowly, over a period of 150 years. I want to be smothered with my head between Sandra Bernhardt's legs. Don't put that down, though. I'll sue."

The record is put straight by Rob, who tells me: "You can put what you like, they can't afford it." And he should know. Rob is Honky's... press officer? Communications rep? I don't know what his exact title is, but essentially Rob is Everybody's Friend, cast out of the same mould as game show hosts and SU General Secretaries. I arrived at Southbank University to review the Honky gig last Thursday and after working out who I was, he proceeded to be nice at me for the rest of the evening - "The student press is so much easier to deal with than the commercial press", "I've read your name in the paper" and, later on, "The band really enjoyed talking to you" - and promised to supply me with lots of Levi's stuff that I never actually got.

Now, to be fair, Rob wasn't to know that I'd spent an hour navigating my way around the Elephant and that at LSE I'm exposed to enough self-promoting wannabe politicians being nice at me already. He is also probably used to those execrable student journo's who just want

their name in print, or, even sadder, those who review gigs so they get to meet the band - it is an enlightened few that realise writing is merely an evil to be tolerated while you ride the gravy train of free gigs and free CDs. But I found the whole routine slightly patronising and *The Beaver* joke he made at the interview was unforgivably obvious.

The Interview... "Do you want to ask the band some questions?" Rob asked me before the gig. "They're all for it." Though unprepared, I said okay, planning to think up some questions during the set. At which he said "Great, come this way," leading me to a table where Steve and Matt were sitting. With literally twenty seconds advance warning and knowing absolutely nothing about the band, the usual stuff about influences was exhausted before anybody had said anything interesting enough to write down.

And so we got to the Sandra Bernhardt debate. Sandra Bernhardt, to the uninitiated, is the one who plays the woman who helps behind the bar in Roseanne. Whatever Wayne says, everybody fancies Darlene - Bernhardt is the real divisive issue. Personally I think she's gorgeous. What did the band think?

"She's got a nice bod." Matt's analysis is sharp and incisive. Do you not think she's really attractive as well? "She's got a bit of a weird nose. She's a lesbian anyway, isn't she?" I know her character

is, I didn't know she was in real life. "Yeah, I think she used to date Madonna or something. I do like her."

Who do you dislike most?

"Michael Portillo," says Steve. "Definitely. He's xenophobic, hypocritical and a bigot to boot. Him or Steve Davis." Why Steve Davis? "I've always had a thing about Alex Higgins." Fair enough.

"It would have to be a humane killing, though... but I don't really believe in all this death business anyway." Steve makes expansive gestures with his hands. "Death isn't the end. You... go on."

"Oh, come on," says Matt. "You die, that's it, you're feeding maggots. If everyone survived death how come there aren't billions of ghosts everywhere?"

More expansive gestures from Steve. "They're not limited to Earth, they sort of spread out into space and distant galaxies."

A more immediate question facing Honky at the moment: Is there life after ZTT? Matt denied being 'chucked out' by the label they were signed up to until recently: "WE left THEM. The band's relationship with the company had deteriorated so much we weren't even on speaking terms. They let us go but said we were committing commercial suicide." The current tout is a preview of their new stuff, including the new single "Sign of the Times", released on December 5th.

If anyone missed the review of "Sign of

the Times" in last weeks issue, Honky are essentially peddlers of that genre of heavy rap that's popular in London clubs at the moment built around strong central rhythms and up-tempo delivery. The review is worth mentioning because it differs almost completely from my experience of the band at this gig: "The lads from Doncaster have got what it takes to perform on the likes of "The Word" - if you think so, it depends what you think of "The Word". I think - along with much of the audience, judging from what people kept shouting at the stage - the lads from Doncaster ought to practice a bit with the amplifiers so you can actually hear the lyrics over a drum pattern which is obviously sampled and pre-recorded and too loud to physically play. The presence of the drummer on stage escapes me.

The songs themselves were not really distinctive and the night kind of blended into one big inseparable experience. All tended to follow the Kriss Kross Jump! Jump! Jump! model: the choruses of 'Break the chain!', 'Tear it up!', etc. were only thinly disguised mutants. I'm quite willing to accept that they may take off - this is a popular formula at the moment - but I doubt they will attract many fans from the people who were there watching the gig, who were silent until they applauded the announcement of the final song, and then jeered and shouted abuse as Honky beat a strategic withdrawal.



# SOCIETIES REVIEW

## THE LSE DEBATING SOCIETY Suggested List of Motions

**"This House is tired of wants to go to bed"**  
Wednesday, December 7 at 1pm in A85

### GREEN ACTION!

Working group on waste at the LSE: Discuss actions and campaigns for next term.  
New Members Welcome.

Tuesday, December 6 at 12:30 - 1:30pm in A698

### HISTORY SOCIETY

**"European Union in Historical Perspective"**  
by **Dr. Alan Sked**, Lecturer in International History (LSE)

Wednesday, December 7 at 5pm in A220

### JAZZ SOCIETY

#### JAM Session

Every Wednesday, in The Underground  
2 - 5pm

### JEWISH SOCIETY

Presents

**Woody Allen, Freud & Jewish Neuroses**  
by **Rabbi Dr Nathan Lopes Cardozo**  
With Bagel Lunch

Tuesday, December 6 at 1pm in H216 (Connaught House)

**Food, Guest Speakers & Fun.**  
Every Tuesday, 1-2pm in H216

### LSE RACING SOCIETY

**A Race Night in The Underground**  
Massive Bar Subsidy!!!

Tuesday, December 8 from 7:30pm  
£1 Members - £2 Non-Members  
Tickets available in The Tuns or at the door.

### LSE VIKING MANIACS

#### "Toga Banquet"

Includes Free Beer, Party Games and Music

Wednesday, December 7 from 8pm  
£4 Members - £5 Non-Members

### THIRD WORLD FIRST SOCIETY

**Nescafé 'vs' Cafe Direct: Fair Trade Awareness**  
Learn how to become more People Friendly.

Come to our stall in The Quad from Tuesday December 6  
between 12-2pm.

Any society wanting to advertise in *The Beaver* should leave a note in the What's On tray in *The Beaver* Office (E197) addressed to Valérie Handal or Priyanka Senadhira by 1pm on Wednesday for the following week.

### CHRISTMAS CAROLS FOR DRINK, DRUG AND MENTAL HEALTH CHARITY: TURNING POINT

**Louise Jameson** (Star of BBC TV's "Bergerac") and **Trevor Phillips** (presenter of LWT's "The London Program") will give seasonal readings at this year's Turning Point Carols & Candles Concert. Refreshments and opportunity to meet after the performance.

Monday, December 19 at 6:30pm at Southwark Cathedral,  
Montague Close, London SE1 (London Bridge Tube).  
£5 Concert Only - £7.50 Concert and Refreshments  
Available from Turning Point's on 0171 702 2300  
ALL DONATIONS WELCOME!!!

### PUBLIC LECTURES

Wednesday, December 7

LSE Gender Institute  
Seminar:  
**"The politics of the Family"**  
by **Jenny Somerville**, North  
London University.  
at 4:15pm in A47

Mannheim Centre for  
Criminology and Criminal  
Justice Seminar:  
**"Thinking about  
Masculinities and Crime"**  
by **Dr E. Stanko**, Reader in  
Criminology, Brunel  
University, and **T. Newburn**,  
Senior Research Fellow, Policy  
Studies Institute.  
at 6:30 pm in A142

Thursday, December 8

Geography & Planning  
Research Seminar:  
**"Is GIS a Science or a  
Tool?"** by **DR E. Joao**, LSE

4:30-6pm (Tea at 4pm) in  
S400.  
Chair: Chris Board.

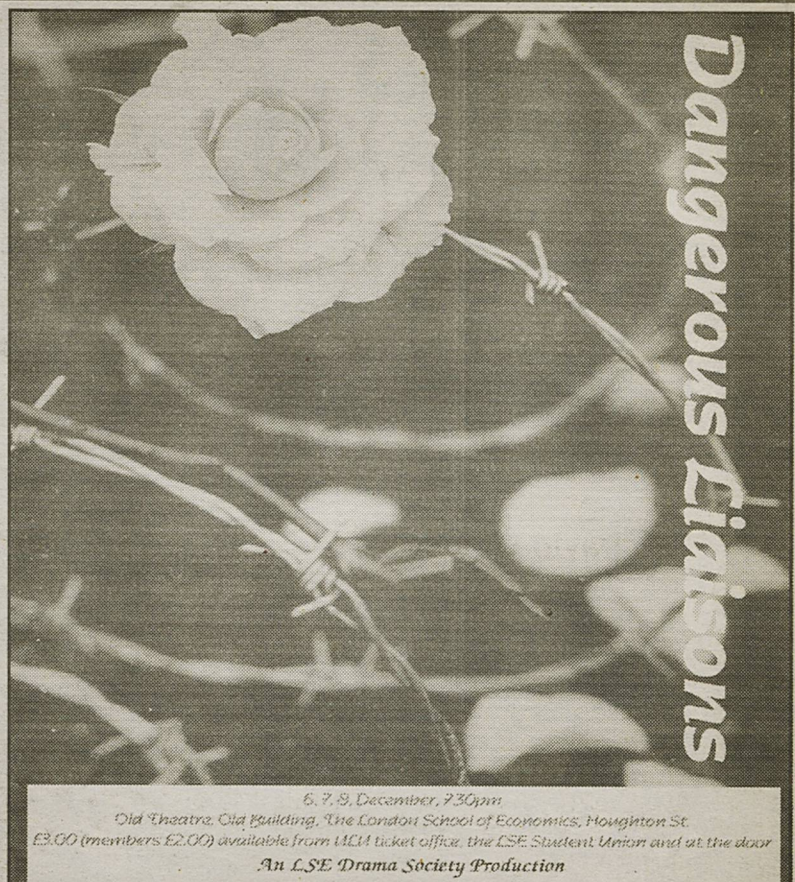
### AFRICAN CARIBBEAN SOCIETY

Presents

**"African Reparation  
Movement"**  
by **Rt. Hon. Bernie Grant**,  
MP and **Dr Stephen Small**,  
Dept of Sociology & History,  
Leicester University

Thursday, December 8 at 6pm  
in The New Theatre.

Come One Come All!!!



Dangerous Liaisons

6, 7, 8, December, 7:30pm  
Old Theatre, Old Building, The London School of Economics, Houghton St  
£3.00 (members £2.00) available from UCU ticket office, the LSE Student Union and at the door  
An LSE Drama Society Production

**LSE DRAMA SOCIETY PRODUCTION**  
December 6, 7, 8 at 7:30pm in the Old  
Theatre.

£2 Members - £3 Non-Members  
Tickets available from LSESU, ULU Ticket  
Office and at the Door.



### LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETY

Invites you to

#### LA PACHANGA NAVIDENA

Monday, December 5 at 10:30pm

L'équipe Anglaise, 21-23 Duke St,  
London W1 (Bond Street Tube)

Tickets on sale in Houghton St



**HAVE YOU EVER PLAYED THE "FAKE  
DOGGY-POO" JOKE ON A LOVED ONE?  
DID YOU REALISE THAT YOU WERE A POOR  
SAD PERSON?  
YOU DEFINITELY NEED CHEERING UP!!!!**

There are two ways to do this, (Apart from sitting next to Jeremy Beadle)  
They both take place at 7.45pm in the LSE Underground Bar,  
Houghton Street WC2. They are both comedy shows run by ageing,  
bald, fat, singing impresario **EUGENE CHEESE**

### CHUCKLE CLUB

**ON SATURDAYS.** Admission £4 Students,  
£5 others. Presenting the comedians  
in the country. **This week,**

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"Red Dwarf"

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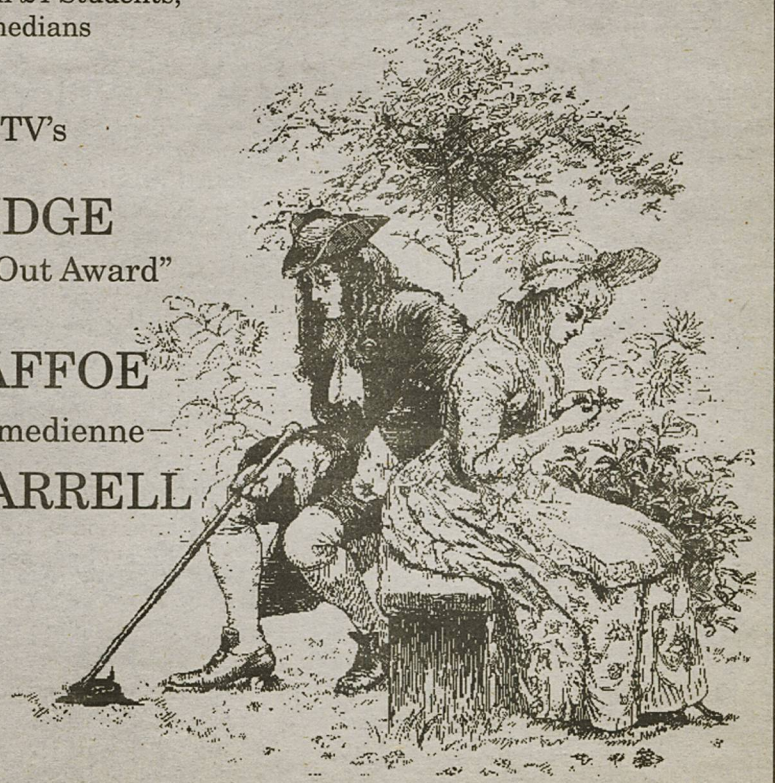
Previous comedy "Time Out Award"  
winner

**BOOTHBY GRAFFOE**

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**DREENAGH DARRELL**

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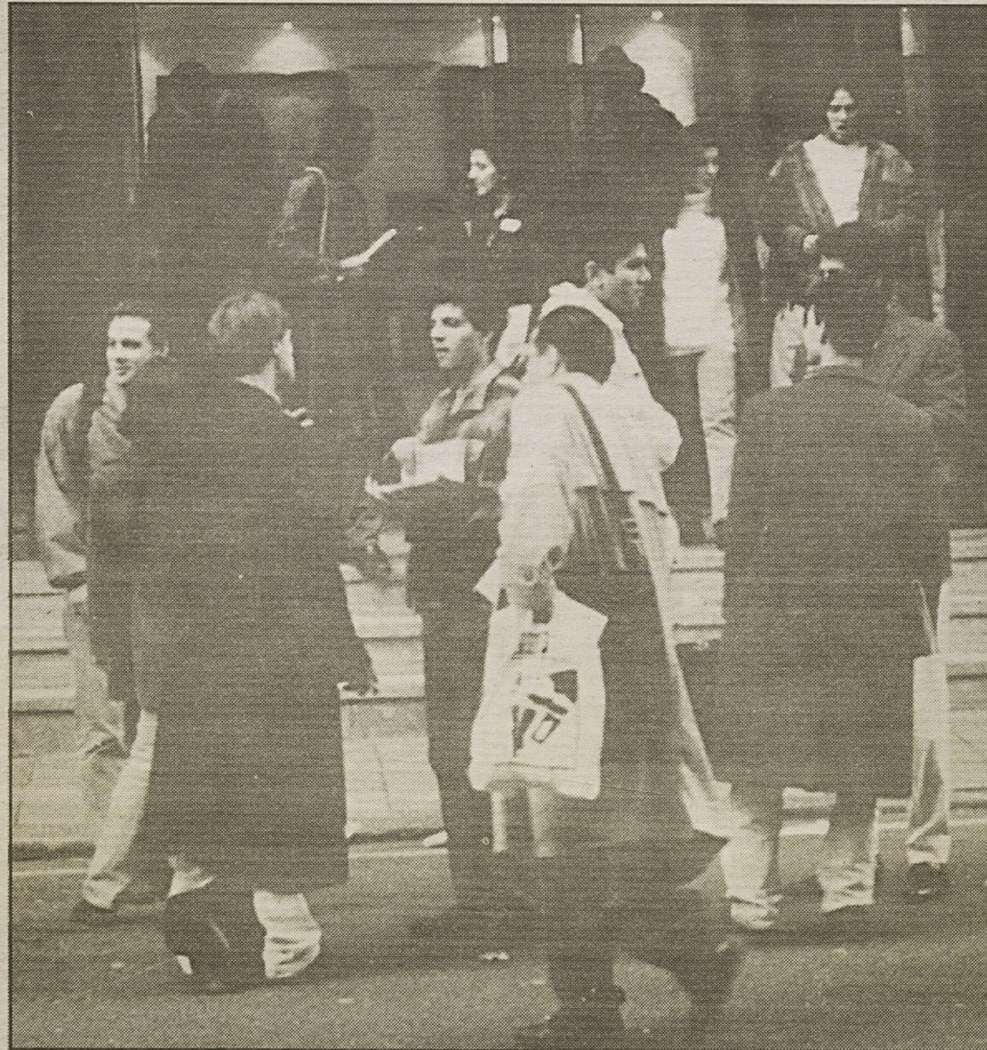
# The Beaver 'bushed by Baljit bungle

David Whippe

It's been a week of nail biting tension for *The Beaver* Editorial team, as we all find ourselves with our backs to the wall, despite the fact that Ben Oliver no longer works for us and we have no further need to protect our sexuality. The reason for this heightened state of alert has nothing to do with our relative paucity of ideas or inability to write properly, but is rather caused by the forthcoming UGM motion accusing us of corruption on a scale comparable to a quiet afternoon for the Tory cabinet.

In normal circumstances of course, these events would not particularly bother the hard headed and heroic members of *The Beaver* Collective, yet we've all found ourselves inconsolably rattled by the revelation that the motion has been penned by those two giants of the Union, K Bowany and N Lasi. Now, the reason that I've only initialised their first names is that these two are in fact not the political heavyweights I previously claimed, and no one in LSE circles seems to have a clue as to who they really are. Considering that this motion has an inside knowledge of not only the constitution, but also *The Beaver* staff, it has led some more cynical members of the public to speculate that these two actually have no idea about the subject and are just sticking their sorry names to a motion which somebody else has drafted. This is of particular relevance to the whole affair, as one thing we've been accused of is including and writing articles produced under pseudonyms, so I find myself utterly perplexed by the irony of a situation where a motion accusing us of these sordid and devilish acts should be guilty of the same heinous crime at the outset.

Your guess to the identity of the real culprit is as good as mine, yet William Hill issued a statement yesterday that they have stopped taking any more money on the odds-on favourite, Baljit Mahal, who has previously proved to be a thorn in our side.



Baljit Mahal (centre) rallying the troops.....

Photo: Steven Hau

If it were Baljit, and God forbid that I'd ever suggest or contemplate such a thing, then a few of the missing pieces could well be placed into the puzzle. For example, one of the points accuses *The Beaver* staff of taking its computer equipment home over the summer, which was always Baljit's somewhat tenuous excuse for failing to produce the alternative prospectus on time, and then leaving it to *The Beaver* staff to do at the last minute. The fact that there are numerous other computers around the school and that Baljit was too incompetent and crap to produce the prospectus himself seems to have relatively little bearing upon his train of thought regarding this subject.

Not only are we accused of the aforesaid points, yet also of the act of self promotion, meddling with people's articles and the use of offensive language. These accusations, though, are levelled with apparently little knowledge of the conditions we are forced to operate under. Firstly comes the fact that because the LSE is teaming with sad "wankers", such as the proposers of this motion, we have nothing to write about and are therefore forced to fill our pages with irrelevant photos. Secondly, most articles we get are either too short or boring and we are compelled to edit them in order to make them funny and readable.

In answer to the accusations over swearing, it is an undeniable fact that profanities are an integral part of our language, and educated people have the capacity to choose on an intellectual level whether they actually want to read an article written in this manner. It is a matter of providing something for everyone, and there is a demand from certain sections of our readership for this style of writing. As it is, most of the bad language comes in the Sports or Campus pages anyway, and it is common knowledge that these two are the least serious sections of *The Beaver*, so if they offend you, don't read them. In the light of this, therefore, it would be hypocritical of me not to swear, as I am merely "articulating the views and experiences" of the people who like this style which, after all, is what the motion calls for. As for those who don't like it, I really couldn't care, as they live their fantasies out in the realms of their textbooks, and their opinions mean very little to me anyway. This is basically an equal opportunities argument in favour of those who possess a lifestyle.

Finally, it is necessary to deal with those who find it unsatisfactory that *The Beaver* gains no recognition in *The Guardian*/*NUS* student newspaper awards. The question that should be asked, however, is whether winning these awards is desirable in terms of the sacrifices made for them.

The motion seems to link LSE's ranking in terms of teaching with the quality and standing of *The Beaver*, yet the school prides itself not only on its academic reputation but also on the cosmopolitan and individual nature of the students in attendance here. To produce a paper that would win awards would mean writing stale, unreadable articles placed in a boring format, which would ultimately undermine the individuality which we cherish so much. At the end of the day, this is a student newspaper aimed at students and not awards. For those of you who disagree with this point of view, there remain two options. Either buy *The Guardian* itself, or start reading *London Student*.

## The Italian stallion goes in search of action

'The birds are even better than the Bolognese' - Mike Tattersall

Chris Cooper

On Wednesday 23rd the Italian Society held their first event - a pasta, wine and ice-cream extravaganza in the Quad. Of the 233 members, around 150 showed up, according to Italian Society President and master pasta chef David Rosa. As well as the many bronzed Italian signor and signoritas there were plenty of students from other countries, hoping to sample some of Italy's high culture. Indeed, Italian Society treasurer Christophe McBride is one who joined because "it's a really well-organised society, full of friendly people, and we have a really good time." Mike Tattersall, a first year undergraduate, had his own motives for attendance, stating "There's bound to be some fit Italian birds here; I'm not going to talk to them like, but I'll have a good leer."

The first delight to be served was 'Penne all'arabbiata' (*sic*), a spicy pasta dish, followed by a mushroom and cheese number and some spaghetti. Unfortunately, the night was a victim of its own success as massive queues developed for a taste of the culinary delights. Luckily though, the vast amounts of wine that had been supped left many in a talkative enough mood not to notice.

The night ended with some ice-cream and traditional Italian plate-smashing, and it must have been a success because I fell asleep on the tube and woke up in Hertfordshire.

The next event will be a traditional Italian Christmas celebration in The Quad on Wednesday December 7 and, if this was anything to go by, I'd wholeheartedly recommend it to everyone, despite what Schumacher did to our Damon.



Plate smashing time at the Italian Society

Photo: Scoop Gardiner



# Eagles soar in absence of Cornish donkey and Northampton tart

LSE 29 - City and Guilds 15

## The Deakster (Great Ormond St, Ribcage Unit)

After encouraging results against Royal Holloway and Royal Free, the rugby team lined up against the worst opposition they could get a fixture against, and proceeded to display the talent that they all knew was there. As Snow White and the Seven Dwarves were unavailable, our fixtures secretary lined us up against City and Guilds and the team knew our chance of victory would never be better. Notable absences such as Mutley (appointment with library), Surfer (nose fracture?) and Fernando (haven't got a visa, gone to embassy to try to stay in the country) were not missed as several Second team players made excellent First team debuts.

After finding 15 players we kicked off and immediately went on the attack with Brian Femi crossing the line in the first three minutes. However, City and Guilds piled on the pressure and led a ferocious attack; after ten minutes of committed defence a kick from Benchos went straight to their full-back; he chipped the ball into the welcome arms of Daniel on the wing. His excellent acceleration and mazy running let him cross over to score from five yards out to bring the score to 10-0 in LSE's favour. However from the kick-off weak defence let them score under the posts. Very agitated by this, Deakster Dashwood decided to exert his influence on the game, but his phenomenal running

of the ball yielded nothing as, going unnoticed, no-one passed to him. As LSE lost their way, one man held strong - Brian Femi - and he burst through their defence for the third try. Under the posts, the conversion seemed a formality, but Femi giftlessly chose to spoon it wide. LSE should have had another but Big Jim's first ever try was disallowed by the unsighted referee.

After the changeover, LSE started well with Big Jim recovering a kick-off. Instantly Ben 'Clarke' Johnston shot down the blind side and with an outrageous turn of pace burst through the ten-strong backline. Evading each man (some twice), he found himself with only the wing and full-back to beat. Eyeing up the situation he cunningly accelerated and upon showing the wing a clean pair of heels-leaving him clutching at thin air-he stepped inside the full-back to score a touchline heartbreaker under the posts. Johnston began the move a full 75 metres out and finished it single-handedly in a style that must surely lead to a call-up for England against Canada. The whole team wait with baited breath. Upon taking the conversion, Benchos decided that under the posts was too easy and kicked it over from the football pitch 65 metres away. If Johnston plays for England then Wales could do well to pick a young prop like Benchos to beef up the front row. The rest of the game became meaningless as LSE were able to score at will.

However, they decided to score only once more, as Femi passed to Steve Ire-



Femi kicks ahead while the Deakster looks on

Photo: J. Arong

land to score in the corner (and allow Femi to avoid the inevitable consequences of a hat-trick). He did do himself justice with a long range conversion to seal the match and a shocking victory but let himself and the team down by refusing to wash the kit because he couldn't carry it to the station!

John 'that's my boyfriend' McKee's contribution was a sad indictment of what a violent girlfriend and old age can do to a once electric young player. On realising

one of the opposition was holding his hand, John took exception at this blatantly homo-sexual pass and slapped him (back-handed) across the face. But the strength has gone from this once vigorous young man and as he slips into middle-age this may be his last great rugby rumpus.

So finally a win for both rugby teams (the Seconds also triumphed), our fixtures secretary waits to hear if there are any other teams of 15 year old plumbers and pipe-fitters in London.

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# Netball girls do it twice in a week

## Still no goals for Summerfield

## St Georges 13 - LSE 17 LSE 29 - Kings 24

Sarah Davis

Well, what can I say? In their last three matches the netball team stand unbeaten. The results of the enthusiasm and commitment of the team speak for themselves. Credit must really go to Alison 'Goals' Summerfield, captain, who has encouraged everyone that at 1.45, with a 2.00 bully-off, we really should leave the Tuns and gravitate towards the court at Lincoln's Inn.

The result of the Wednesday game is a still-unbeaten league record. LSE soon took command of the game by breaking Kings' centre pass with Mary and Aimee

successfully out-dodging their defenders, and Livy often moving in for the second pass. One more pass into the circle and with Mary and George both on fine shooting form, LSE soon began to pull away.

At half-time LSE were in a dominant position leading 20-9, so what happened? Kings began to close the gap and actually managed to level the scores. However, in the final quarter LSE showed that they were not about to be beaten. The centre passes continued to work brilliantly as aid to the back-line passes (thanks Liz!). With Alison often double-marked it was up to Eline to move down the court to receive Nicola's pass in the space created by Alison luring the Kings

attack to the other side of the court.

Eline played well despite the distractions on the side-lines of the first male supporters at a netball match (she loved it- Sports editors). She provided back-up for the attack as well as marking her own player well whilst still having her one good eye on ... Dave, is it?... who had brought his friend Ian along for moral support. Respect to you, Eline!

This weeks match really was a combination of excellent organisation in attack and pure aggressiveness at the back which left Kings standing. Can you really blame us if we got over-confident and complacent in the 3rd quarter.

As for Saturday's game, yet another winning result. Not everyone would have

the inclination to play the morning after Friday night but fortunately LSE has enough interested players to cope. Thanks go to Michelle and Nola who consistently manage to drag themselves out of bed to play at the week-end. Justifiably spirits were high as the beer was flowing in the Tuns on Wednesday night. Alison perhaps had too much as she ended up chundering repeatedly outside a curry house. Maybe if she watched her hectic lifestyle she might make it into the box more often and score some goals. There is no doubt that the team is up for the last two matches of this term, so start getting those beers in now. And while you're there, mine's a Chicken and Mushroom.



# Fantasy Beaver Ball™



As the LSE football season reaches its winter break, the race for the Fantasy BeaverBall™ title looks in danger of being over already as Serbian refugee Andreja Popov opens up a twenty point lead at the top, snatching the lead from Chris Cooper. Perhaps the explanation of his success is in his own omission from the Third team, despite him being comfortably fat and shit enough for their criteria. "Even though I've not been playing, I've been honing my fitness by playing Lethal Enforcers in the Tuns," he said jubilantly "and only conscription or a Bosnian sniper is going to stop me taking the title."

This week's highest climber is Dan 'Teflon' Coulcher, who moves up into ninth place due to the shrewd judgement of not picking himself.

Meanwhile, down at the basement, Mike Tattersall is delighted to have picked himself up off the bottom of the table: "I've achieved my first aim of not being last, now I'm going to try and pull a nice-looking lady." No chance. The new holder of the wooden spoon is Josh Charlesworth, whose paltry tally of eighteen points has come about mainly because of the 'potent' strikeforce of Tim Ludford-Thomas and Mburu Kierini.

As for the individual players, Fifth team darling Mark Gomes rules the roost with 37 points, and narrowly leads his chum Rainbow Nelson in their side-bet 37-8. Nelson should soon catch up though, what with all the goals he's been banging in recently. In second place is Grant Delea with 36, making him two points better than his partner (apparently they play alongside each other too) Angus Kinnear, although the lads agree the gulf in quality between the two is a lot more than that. The joint worst players are Dan Coulcher and Chris Tattersall on -16, but we all knew that anyway. So, without further ado, here are the updated standings.

1	<b>The Balkan Snipers</b> Andreja Popov	165	15	<b>Things Can Only Get Better Rovers</b> Rikos Leong-Son	102	28	<b>Howard's Biftas</b> Howard Wilkinson	68
2	<b>Simon Gardiner Gets Off With Ugly Birds At Kings But Can't Get It Up</b> Chris Cooper	145	16	<b>Julia's Jazzy Jizm Jamboree</b> Julia Mather	99	29	<b>Los Teamos</b> Carsten Thode	59
3	<b>Sean's Sweaty Headband FC</b> Sean Gollgly	136	17=	<b>Warwickshire's Treble Warmongers</b> Fat Elton James	97	30	<b>Jozza</b> Johannes Hertz	58
4	<b>Massage Minger Marie's Men</b> Marie Darvill	133	17=	<b>Andre's Old Washing</b> Steve Roy	97	31	<b>Kettering Town FC</b> Chris Tattersal	56
5=	<b>Macca's Magic</b> Alex Mcleish	126	19	<b>I'm A Home-wrecking Bastard</b> Dave Whippe	92	32	<b>Eat Them All</b> Andreas Leoccis	50
5=	<b>Cooper Shags Birds With Teeth Missing</b> Simon Gardiner	126	20=	<b>Jimmy Trees Is A Tight Yorkshireman-Pay Up To Victorious Saunders</b> Tim Payton	88	33	<b>Greece</b> Max Richter	49
7	<b>I Only Picked Cooper Because He Forced Me</b> Clare Wilson	122	20=	<b>Assorted Football Players And Farmyard Animals</b> Alun Howard	88	34	<b>Beaver's Best</b> Frederic Lam Cham Kee	47
8.	<b>Windmill Rashers</b> Rashad Manna	121	22	<b>Cooper Loves Slappers XI</b> Alex Lowen	85	35	<b>Burnley Belvedere (B)</b> Mike Tattersal	29
9=	<b>Shandy's Chunders</b> Nick Charalambous	117	23	<b>A Sort Of Beaver XI</b> Ron Voce	82	36	<b>Josh's Wycombe Wanderers</b> Josh Charlesworth	18
9=	<b>Perry Groves For England</b> Dan Coulcher	117	24	<b>VFL Alfter</b> Dirk Pagenstert	81			
11	<b>I Pull 12 Year Olds At Hollywoods</b> Grant Delea	109	25=	<b>The 2:2's</b> Justin Deaville	75			
12	<b>It's Goals Cooper</b> Chris Cooper (2)	107	25=	<b>General Secretary's Assorted Rosebery And Cheap Players</b> Martin Lewis	75			
13=	<b>Messrs Kinne are &amp; Cooper - Wankers</b> James Trees	105	27	<b>Studiously Worse Than Grantham</b> Paul Jacklin	71			
13=	<b>The Winning Champions</b> Takis	105						

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The LSE Racing Society presents a Race Night in the Underground Bar on Thursday December 8, starting at 7.30pm  
Members £1, Non-members £2



## Houghton Street Harry

It's that time of year again, when the leaves have fallen off the trees and I'm passing blue tramps on my way to college, that I know it's coming up to Christmas time. This used to be my favourite time of the year, but now, more and more, it's becoming too much of a hassle. I can still vividly remember my childhood Christmases, eagerly waking up at five in the morning, baying for my presents, only to be pacified for a few hours at least by some satsumas and the Roy of the Rovers annual. Nothing much has really changed nowadays. I still get up at five in the morning, if only to drink five pints of water and take a couple of Paracetamol, before trying to shake off the mother of all hangovers.

There's certain things which are just part of the tradition, and the Queen's speech is certainly one of them. I've always wondered how she does it, God bless 'er. By three o'clock the Royal Family should act like every other household at the time. Rather than wearing her crown, she should deliver it resplendant in orange paper hat, pissed up with a glass of cheap 12% wine in one hand and a mini-screwdriver set in the other. While she does it, the Queen Mum (God bless 'er) should be fast asleep in a comfy chair, snoring and farting all the while, while Prince Phillip complains about her continued presence each year. As the rest of the family sit down to watch Mary Poppins, Harry and William do the washing up much to their consternation.

The people I feel sorry for are those born on or around Christmas Day. It must take the shine off their birthdays when everybody else is getting presents as well (except, of course, they have the advantage that if they want an extra big present they can get it). The only person who seemed to do well out of the Birthday/Christmas situation was Jesus because he got loads of presents. Lucky devil.

If Christmas isn't bad enough, then New Year really takes the biscuit. In my home town, instead of "Auld Lang Syne" it's "Come On Then" when the clock strikes twelve. As for New Year's resolutions, I've given up because I never manage to keep them for more than a week. In fact, I always break one of them within ten minutes of getting back home.

Another thing that winds me up about Christmas is the people who go "Oh no, not Star Wars again." I personally do not mind that Mary Poppins is on Christmas Day this year because by then I'm in no sort of state to follow a complex John Grisham plot or read subtitles on Jean De Florette. If I had my way, Christmas Day should be filled with the crappiest films ever made for all the bloated pissheads to veg out on. Starting at ten o'clock, it would be "Digby-The Biggest Dog in the World, Return To Witch Mountain, Escape To Victory and The Italian Job", with intermissions for Top Of The Pops and Noel Edmonds of course.

I'll leave for this term on a happy note. We've just received our first Christmas present from our landlady. What is it you ask? Why, it's the traditional gift of a tin of biscuits and a box of crackers. She really is an old slag and she snoops around while we're out as well. Never mind though, because this Thursday in the Underground there's a race night, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £1 for members, £2 for non-members and there's going to be a massive bar subsidy. It's going to be great.

# Sweet little Sixteen

## And we're not talking about Sean's girlfriend!

LSE 4ths 16 - QMW 5ths 0

Alex Mcleish

After Saturday's one sided, one goal victory at the mud flats at Queen Mary, things were looking up for the Fourths. Top of the league, in the quarter finals of the London Cup and in the last 32 of the UAU it seemed like nothing could stop Scouser's juggernaut of an ego. Yet Wednesday saw them come up against the side many fancy as being the best in London. QMW Fifths may not sound that impressive but they have already claimed many scalps this season including two goals against gifted beardo Dan Coulcher. However, true to form, the lads led by El Spoonhead Virgin Gardiner, put on a show that stunned, bewildered and aroused the capacity crowd (Brian and Chris). Despite tremendous odds, they batted for a famous victory, scoring sixteen goals on their way to a famous victory.

Spartak Sergei, the humourless James Bond baddie, put the Fourths ahead by showing he's got more than one free-kick in his repertoire. After that the game became a bit of a blur with goal following goal with unerring frequency. At five nil, QMW conceded a penalty, and in accordance with pre-match negotiations, the responsibility fell to would be model Mcleish. The keeper stepped up to hit his shot, as Grolly was laying even money that he would miss and true to form, he saw his feeble effort saved and even contrived to miss the rebound. Anyway, this forgettable moment was nothing to compare to Seans first goal. Shocking in its conception, nonchalant in its execution, and lucky in its result. After the match, he was asked if it was his best goal ever. He remarked "It would certainly be in a video of the top 100."

Thomas Grace had a blinder of a game,



Mcleish is so fat even three can't lift him up in the air

Photo: Steve East

obviously invigorated by his controversial trip North to see one of his numerous extremely gorgeous and not at all ugly or pretend girlfriends. Goals Granditsch returned to form, making the hapless ball a willing slave of his God-given boots, and tucked away five spectacular goals. Talking of spectacular, every one of Kinnears goals will earn a place in his Grandchildrens bed-time stories, (should he ever lose his cherry). It must be said though, this man has more gems in his right foot than the entire South African diamond industry.

Another clean sheet for the Fourths, but there was one moment of danger, when Scouser, who had been anonymous for the entire match, contrived to let their centre forward clean through on goal. Fortunately, the QMW number nine suffered an epileptic relapse, and collapsed in a pool of saliva. However, controversy struck

after the match with the QMW skipper claiming that the wild look in Andre's eyes was more than sheer enthusiasm. Rumours abounded about his 'trips down the line' as the opposition said "No one could be this fast on adrenaline alone." Urine tests have thus far proved inconclusive.

Scouse's Spoonhead army are surely on the road to glory in the piss-poor league that is Division Four. Claims that the scoreline was a ULU record are yet to be confirmed. Speaking of records, the Fourths are releasing their cup single this week "Were gonna beat you black and blue" featuring a hard-hitting rap by "Gangsta Ice" Elkin. The B-side features skipper Scouser with his acapella version of Madonna's "Like A Virgin." All proceeds go towards the Alex Mcleish dental reconstruction fund.

## Rasher brings home the bacon

"He's still crap though" - Angus Kinnear

LSE 5ths 3 - St. Barts 2nds 2

Chris Tattersall

With nine players and an injury list as long as a diplodocus, the intrepid Fifths took to the field last Saturday somewhere in deepest H E Bates' Kent to show St Bartholomews Hospital the meaning of the word determination. After being forced to play the 'toilet' formation (ie with a huge gap in the middle (surely full of piss and shit-Sports editors) against Imperial, skipper Bell was not going to make the same tactical mistakes again. Indeed he quickly enrolled in the Ron Atkinson school of tactical football and decided to play an attacking 3-4-1 system. The game began somewhat nervously as Barts tried to mark people who were still in their cosy Carr-Saunders beds. The nerves were not helped by Dan, who did his level best to pass to their striker within a minute. As usual, the mess was cleared up by a defensive duo (the men with jobs) who were once again to go on to perform the thankless task of keeping their marksmen at bay.

Before long the Fifths had taken the lead. Jamie latched onto a mis-controlled ball on their by-line and made no mistake with the finish. Five minutes later Jamie turned provider with a long throw which found Rashad in the box (sit down readers, take a deep breath of that fresh Tuns air, and read on). A quick shimmy and Rash chipped the keeper from an acute



The toilet formation - A hole in the middle

Photo: Marc Baltovic

angle on his left peg. After half-time the shortage of men proved tiring and Barts managed to level the scores on 85 minutes with the sort of mess in the box that reminded me of when I walked in on Elton James and Dan Coulcher down a backstreet. Yet the heads simply refused to drop. Just as all seemed lost, Rash tied his designer laces, swept back what hair he has left, accepted a pass from the right edge of the box and slotted home from six yards with the last kick of the match. The crowd went beserk.

With the final score 3-2, there were good performances from the three new players and I can already hear chants from the terraces that Rash should swap teams with his fat flat-mate.

## LSE Squash quash Queens

LSE 15 - QMW 13

Issam Hamid

In a recent home match the LSE squash team beat QMW to continue its winning streak in the University of London Intercollegiate tournament. This close fought encounter was tied at two games apiece, but the LSE won on points as they had lost fewer games. In the initial match LSE's Khalil Ali recorded a straight games win over Kelvin Young. The next two matches however saw defeats for Daryl Arnold and Ranjeev Bhatia. LSE needed a victory in the final, thrilling encounter and Ziyad Rahim duly obliged, levelling the match and giving the LSE a narrow points victory.

Khalil Ali beat Kelvin Young  
9-2, 9-3, 10-8

Daryl Arnold lost to Ivan Campbell  
2-9, 9-3, 4-9

Ranjeev Bhatia lost to Nick Shaw  
4-9, 9-6, 9-7, 4-9, 8-10

Ziyad Rahim beat Ian Curry  
8-10, 10-8, 9-3, 9-1