

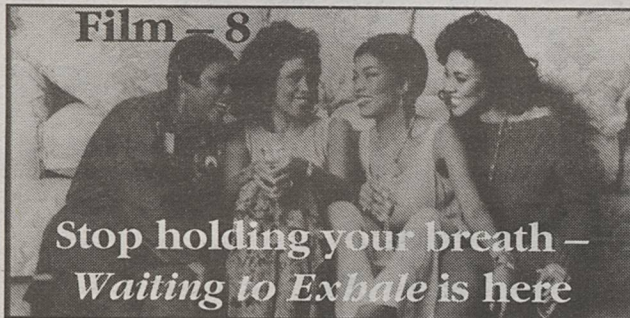
# The BEAVER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS STUDENTS' UNION

Issue 435

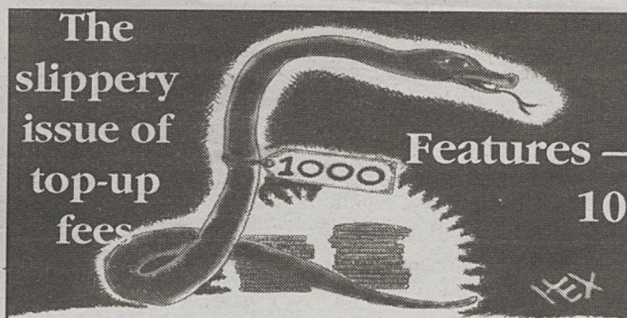
January 30, 1996

First published May 5, 1949



Film - 8

Stop holding your breath -  
*Waiting to Exhale* is here



The  
slippery  
issue of  
top-up  
fees

Features -  
10

## PEPSI PROMOTION

Remember to collect your free  
can of 'Mountain Dew' with  
the coupon from last week's  
*Beaver!*

# Rifkind swallows the big E

Chris McAleely

**T**he Right Honourable Malcolm Rifkind MP, Foreign Secretary, spoke to a packed Royalty Theatre last Tuesday. In an unscripted speech, he highlighted three key British foreign policy priorities; national security, the transformation of Europe and the UK's global role.

The main thread of his address was the dual question of enlargement of NATO and of the European Union. He spoke of the changes affecting Europe in recent years as being the most dramatic since the French Revolution, with the collapse not just of communism but of the 400 year old Russian Empire.

Mr Rifkind spoke warmly of the recent cooperation of Russia and NATO forces in Bosnia, but stressed that no country, especially Russia, should have a veto over future expansion of the organisation.

The Foreign Secretary skirted the sensitive issue of further European integration, preferring to concentrate on the implications of enlargement. The recent history of Eastern Europe has seen a trend of disintegration. He questioned what level of economic integration would be desirable given the state of the economies of potential new members like Poland, Hungary or the Baltic

states. "The EU is bound to become increasingly diverse" as it grows from 15 to 25 or even 30 member states.

Mr Rifkind touched on the "vexed question of a single currency", pointing out that with or without Britain only a few states would be ready in 1999 or even for several years beyond that.

He admitted that "Britain is often portrayed as a difficult partner" on European issues. This he attributed to the need of the government to reflect British interests: the fact that we are an island, the deep roots of the Westminster parliament and the absence of a tradition of integration.

The Foreign Secretary also highlighted the significance of Britain's role as one of the few 'mature countries' with a truly global outlook. Britain is, he believes, "by instinct a trading power". He concluded with the view that the UK has a deep self interest in political stability around the world.

He implicitly emphasised this belief in response to a question concerning the Saudi dissident Muhammed al-Mass'ari. Mr Rifkind said there was no need to offer him asylum to continue activities which the government fears might threaten normal trade relations with Saudi Arabia.

Rifkind Interview: Page 3  
Al-Mass'ari Speaks: Page 2



That winning smile: purely natural

Photo: Katrin Hett

# Higher Education faces biggest crisis

James Brown  
News Editor

**H**igher Education is facing its most turbulent period in recent history as the debate over "top-up" fees intensifies. The policy is being discussed at this Friday's meeting of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) and is closer to being adopted than ever before.

The introduction of top-up fees would mean universities charging UK and EC students fees in addition to the money the government gives to institutions in grants. Universities have been forced to consider asking students to pay as a result of further government financial cutbacks amounting to 12% over the next three years.

The meeting of the CVCP will discuss two options in response to the growing crisis; the first involves a reduction in

student numbers and the second the introduction of top-up fees.

The Standing Committee of the LSE discussed each of these two proposals at its last meeting, according to Kate Hampton, LSESU General Secretary. Hampton was not prepared to indicate the outcome of the discussions, but the Beaver understands the first option, reducing student numbers, was rejected.

In an article printed in last week's Times Higher Education Supplement, reproduced on page 10 of this week's *Beaver*, Hampton argues strongly that top-up fees will not prevent the decline in quality but will, if fact, lead to a more polarised university system both between and within institutions.

However the Director of LSE, Dr John Ashworth, was less concerned about the prospect of top-up fees describing them as "the least bad option under the circumstances". Ashworth tried to introduce them

at LSE three years ago but attracted almost no support from the academic community. In an interview with *The Beaver*, to be published next week, he defended his original decision and outlined a specific advantage of top-up fees for the LSE.

"At the moment, LSE undergraduates are being subsidised by graduates and I don't think that is sustainable in the long term." Dr Ashworth has taken a high profile in the recent debate, urging the CVCP not to preside "over the degradation of institutions that were once among the best of their kind in the world"

National Union of Students have, by contrast, been all but silent. Hampton was "very irate" at what she described as their "posturing" in advance of officer elections.

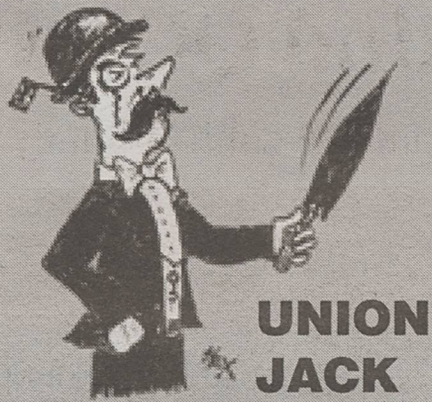
She said it had been left to the 'Aldwych Group' (whose members are the leaders of Student's Unions of pro top-up fees institutions) to write and pressure the CVCP

against any move that would threaten equality of access.

It is still not certain that enough CVCP members will be convinced of the benefits of charging students. Many are also calling on the government to increase student loans to allow students to use them to pay for fees. The repayments could be linked to the National Insurance system for simplicity.

If there is no decision at the meeting, or top-up fees are rejected, there is a possibility of a split in the CVCP ranks. The 'Russell Group', comprising of elite CVCP members in favour of top-up fees, could decide to go ahead with implementation, which is legally possible, creating a two-tier higher education system. This would perhaps be seen as the worst possible outcome of the turbulence ahead.

Hampton Article: Page 10



The Wedding of the erm... Century? Month? Day. The wedding of the day was just enough to attract a just over quorate crowd of well-wishers to this week's UGM. "Uncle" Tom Smith (Labour) eagerly gave himself to Princess Hampton (in labour), the service was conducted by the irreverent "father" Johnathon Bennet. JB gave it his best and rose piously, dog-collar and all, to the occasion, giving his own version of the wedding service. "To have and to hold, to love, to cherish, to stroke the ulcer on Tom's dick..."

Needless to say it was a wedding service with amendments. Kate said she wasn't going to be faithful to Tom. The union, as we all know, is her one and only love - like Judge Dredd and the Law. Her virginity was questioned again. Members of the balcony had their manhood challenged again, the same speakers spoke again and hardly anyone who hasn't before, turned up again. What a surprise.

There was a snippet of seriousness as the Union campaign's committee was mandated, unopposed, to support and publicise a "Free Speech Day" coming up soon. Oh, and Omer Soomro was forced to defend the chairing of a recent meeting at which George Galloway (Labour) and Muhammed Al Mass'ari (in trouble) spoke on free speech and his threatened deportation. Apart from this, there was a definite dearth of substance at this UGM.

So. Erm.... Back to that wedding. There was a moment when it looked like the whole thing might be called off. JB "priestly" asked if anyone objected to the blatantly blasphemous character of the proceedings. Thankfully nobody did. Perhaps JB was just covering his priestly butt, but it struck Jack as a bit defensive.

The right to blaspheme is an important one. Of course you have your right to worship (if you are that way inclined) but the godless should exhibit no caution when declaring religion superstitious, cruel and ignorant or just taking the piss as JB did with inimitable style.

Jack has been reliably informed that this is what free speech is all about. We all hold views which will be offensive to someone else. You might, personally, find the fluffy Christian belief that love can cure all ills particularly offensive at a time when needless poverty is a fact of life for millions. You might be equally offended by the suggestion that a quick visit and a hug from a well-heeled Princess is all people need for their world to be a better place. (Besides, Her Royal Hampton has told Jack that she is far too busy honeymooning Tom.)

Watery-eyed born-again have the right to declare their love for you at the LSE, in Leicester square or anywhere else. Or even their hatred, (if you happen to be into Satan).

An evangelical atheist, on the other hand, has the right to denounce them from the pages of The Beaver or anywhere else. So do you. And you have the right to offend the heathen scum back. If we all attempt to make debate intelligent at the same time we might change each other's minds on a few things. You never know.

The UGM is just one forum open to all. At the moment it is a relatively empty one. Use it to persuade, outrage, cajole, beset or just entertain your fellow students. And never be afraid to offend, we'll all be better for it. You might even give Jack so much to write about, you stop him ranting.

## Dissident hits out at Saudi regime

Professor Muhammed al-Massari, the critic of the Saudi Arabian regime threatened with deportation from Britain spoke at the LSE last week. He was joined on the platform at an Islamic Society meeting by George Galloway MP and Dr Sa'ad al Faqih, a co-founder with Prof al-Mass'ari of the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights.

Mr Galloway denounced the "sheer shamelessness" of the decision of the Home Office in bowing to Saudi pressure to deport the leader of what he called the "Saudi Opposition".

Professor al-Mass'ari, who Mr Galloway described as "an academic physicist of the premier rank", spoke in clear terms of his ambitions for Saudi Arabia in the future; an elected, accountable government under Islamic law. He accused the current Saudi regime of squandering the wealth of the nation, pushing it into budget deficit, and of spending vast fortunes on their own personal whims.

Some members of the audience afterwards expressed concern at the Union General Meeting over the handling of the meeting, particularly the insistence of the speakers that questions be written in advance. This, they felt, had led to certain questions not being answered and made a mockery of the School's free speech policy.

This was echoed by the School. Iain Crawford, Head of Public Relations, said he could understand perfectly why Prof al-Mass'ari, would wish to avoid answering certain questions for legal reasons. But Crawford was critical of George Galloway's refusal to take questions directly from the floor; "he is a politician and should be used to it".

A statement issued by the Islamic Society after the UGM said that the decision to ask for written questions was taken by the speakers "in the interests of order".

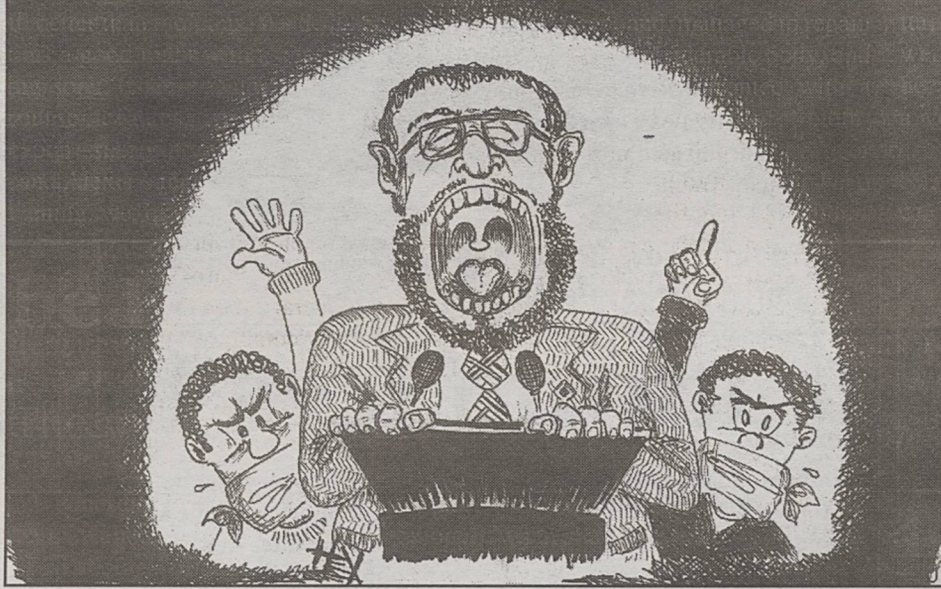
"It was not intended to restrict debate. The speakers were available after the meeting to respond to any unanswered questions".



Professor al-Mass'ari at LSE last week

Erik Werneni

## Freedom of Speech, but not for all



### Vandalism in East Building

Peter Udeshi

Last Thursday, the East Building male toilets were devastated in an "orgy of shameless destruction". Damage has been estimated at £2000 and the School does not know who the culprits are. Partitions between the cubicles, the toilet seats and a hand-dryer were destroyed and doors were ripped out.

Bernard Taffs, LSE House Manager, urges all students that if they see anything suspicious happening they should ring the emergency extension "666" immediately. He reminds students that there are red but-

tons situated in sensitive areas of the School that, if pushed, will set off an automatic alarm.

However, there are only three security guards for four thousand students should indicate to students that they need to play a part in preventing crimes such as vandalism.

LSE Site Services now face the dilemma whether they should invest a larger amount of money in new facilities which would be better able to withstand similar vandalism in the future, or whether to restore the toilets to their original condition for a lesser cost, but leaving them vulnerable to similar abuse. The toilets are not available for students' use for the foreseeable future.

## Lord Melchett speaks

Chi Kitano

On Tuesday the LSE welcomed Lord Peter Melchett, Director of Greenpeace, to the School. Due to the very low attendance he rejected the podium and addressed the small but enthusiastic audience from the floor.

Lord Melchett touched briefly on the nature of Greenpeace as an organisation and its various "green" campaigns notably against the dumping of radioactive waste, the ozone/CFC campaign and against French nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

Lord Melchett commented that although only the high profile campaigns receive media attention, Greenpeace is also involved in several "smaller but not less important campaigns". He elaborated this point by adding that some campaigns which received a lot of public attention in certain countries were often non-issues in others, for example the anti-whaling campaign which is popular in countries like Japan and Norway is nowhere near as important here in the UK.

During the question and answer period a member of the audience accused Greenpeace of altering environmental statistics and data so as to influence public opinion for its own purposes. Lord Melchett seemed at a loss as to how to reply but did in his conclusion raise the important point that it is through organisations like Greenpeace that the general public has become aware of damage being inflicted on our environment. Where ten years ago only scientists knew what chlorofluorocarbons were, today terms like this are household words on everyone's lips.

# Interview with Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind QC MP

Simon Retallack interviews the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

**Euro-sceptics in your party, and perhaps even you, warn of the great threat that the EU is posing to our national sovereignty - but isn't globalisation a far more significant threat?**

First of all, I don't think that the European Union necessarily poses a threat to national sovereignty - it depends on what kind of European Union we develop. We have our own constructive ideas which we believe can achieve the best from European cooperation without damaging the national identity, without damaging the decision making that should be the prerogative of national parliaments and national governments. You're right also to refer to other global issues. Of course there are a number of global challenges that the world has to address at the present time, I'm not sure that one serves any useful purpose by trying to prioritise them - we'd really have to address each of them with the kind of policies which will make the best impact.

**How concerned are you about the abuse of human rights in China - in particular the terrible neglect of orphans and the destruction of Tibet? How much pressure are you putting on the Chinese to change?**

I was in China two or three weeks ago and I raised exactly the issues you've mentioned with the Chinese President, Prime Minister and other leading members of their Government. China, traditionally, I'm afraid does not have a very good record on human rights; in fact it has a very bad record. It goes back very many years and is not showing any noticeable signs of significant change. I think, therefore, there has to be constant pressure from the rest of the world. One knows that when one makes representations, the immediate reaction will not be positive. But that was true in the case of the old Soviet Union, and yet step by step over a period of time, constant representation, constant pressure wore away at their ability to maintain their restrictive totalitarian regimes and was one factor in leading towards substantial change and liberalisation. One must hope that over a period of time that will also apply in the case of China.

**Do you ever threaten trade sanctions against China?**

I don't believe that is going to succeed. Trade sanctions can be used in certain specific circumstances where you have a specific ability to influence events. They were successful for example in Serbia, against Milosovic, and helped to persuade him to abandon his support for the Bosnian Serbs. When there are specific objectives, and if there is global agreement to impose them, then you can sometimes use trade pressure, but quite often they're very unwieldy and rather crude instruments.

**But are Tibet and the orphan problem definitely issues that you are concerned about?**

Yes. The Chinese, on the orphans, maintain that these are untrue stories. They invite people to visit the orphanages and the very fact that they are anxious to justify their position is itself encouraging, because it shows they are sensitive as regards the allegations. At the moment they have allowed access to the main orphanage in Shanghai

but not to the island where some of the main abuses are believed to have been implemented.

**Are you happy for Britain to sell arms to anti-democratic and often brutal regimes such as Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and until very recently, Nigeria? Would you not agree that we are over-reliant upon the arms industry in this country and should be restructuring it?**

First of all I think that the sale of arms to countries who are going to use those arms for legitimate purposes of self-defence, is justified and not unreasonable. Indeed experience over all countries over very many years suggests that countries that perceive the need to have a proper military capability to defend their territory will find those weapons from one source or another. Of course one has to distinguish from that situation and the situation where weapons or military provision might be used either for aggression against other countries, or for internal repression.

**How can you distinguish accurately? Take the case of Indonesia, where their track record on human rights is hardly encouraging.**

You can distinguish it very clearly, for example, by the kind of military provision you are prepared to provide. We have agreed to sell Hawk Trainer aircraft to Indonesia, we sold the first batch ten years ago and there is no evidence that they are used for internal repression. They are based over a thousand miles away and couldn't even reach East Timor, where the main human rights problem exists. I know there have been various allegations to the contrary such as a certain television programme by Mr Pilger, which showed Hawk aircraft allegedly above East Timor. But when we investigated further, it turned out that the film had been taken over the United Kingdom. It was a bit of very shoddy journalism. So if there is evidence then we are very anxious to see that evidence. As yet there have been allegations but no evidence.

**Can we take it that the reduction in the aid budget is a sign that you think that aid to the Third World does more harm than good?**

No. I don't accept the starting point. We are the world's fifth largest provider of overseas aid, our aid budget is some £2.2 billion. The main changes have been the increase in aid that goes to multilateral agencies; the United Nations, the European Union and so forth, but with a corresponding reduction in the proportion of bilateral aid. We believe that aid, if it is properly targeted,

can be very viable and very worth while. We have a very strict system of trying to concentrate our bilateral aid on the poorest people in the poorest countries, and that is, I believe, the most sensible and responsible way of using the vast sums that are actually being provided.

**But there has still been a cut nonetheless, has there not?**

Well there is a cut in expectation. The actual aid budget, in cash terms, is going up. But I agree that if you take into account inflation and other factors its purchasing power will have gone modestly down, but not dramatically.

**How do you see the world in 50 years time? - Do you see the UN collapsing or becoming a world government? - Do you see any severe global environmental problems on the horizon?**

It is very difficult to make a useful prediction of that kind. If you go back even ten years ago, who would have predicted the collapse of the Soviet Union? Who would have predicted a peaceful change in South Africa with President Mandela and De Klerk

sharing government? So if that's true in ten years, to try to predict for fifty years.

**How would you like it to go?**

It goes without saying - an uninterrupted period of stability, and economic and social progress.

**What do you see as the most important foreign policy decision to be taken in the next five years?**

There are going to be a number of very major issues. One of the most important will be the way in which the European Union evolves; what kind of European Union we are gradually working towards.

**Do you see European integration continuing - perhaps a single currency in the future?**

I think there will be integration in areas where it can be demonstrably shown to benefit the prosperity and quality of life of the peoples of the various countries of Europe. But I think that political integration for ideological or political purposes will be unlikely to command support.

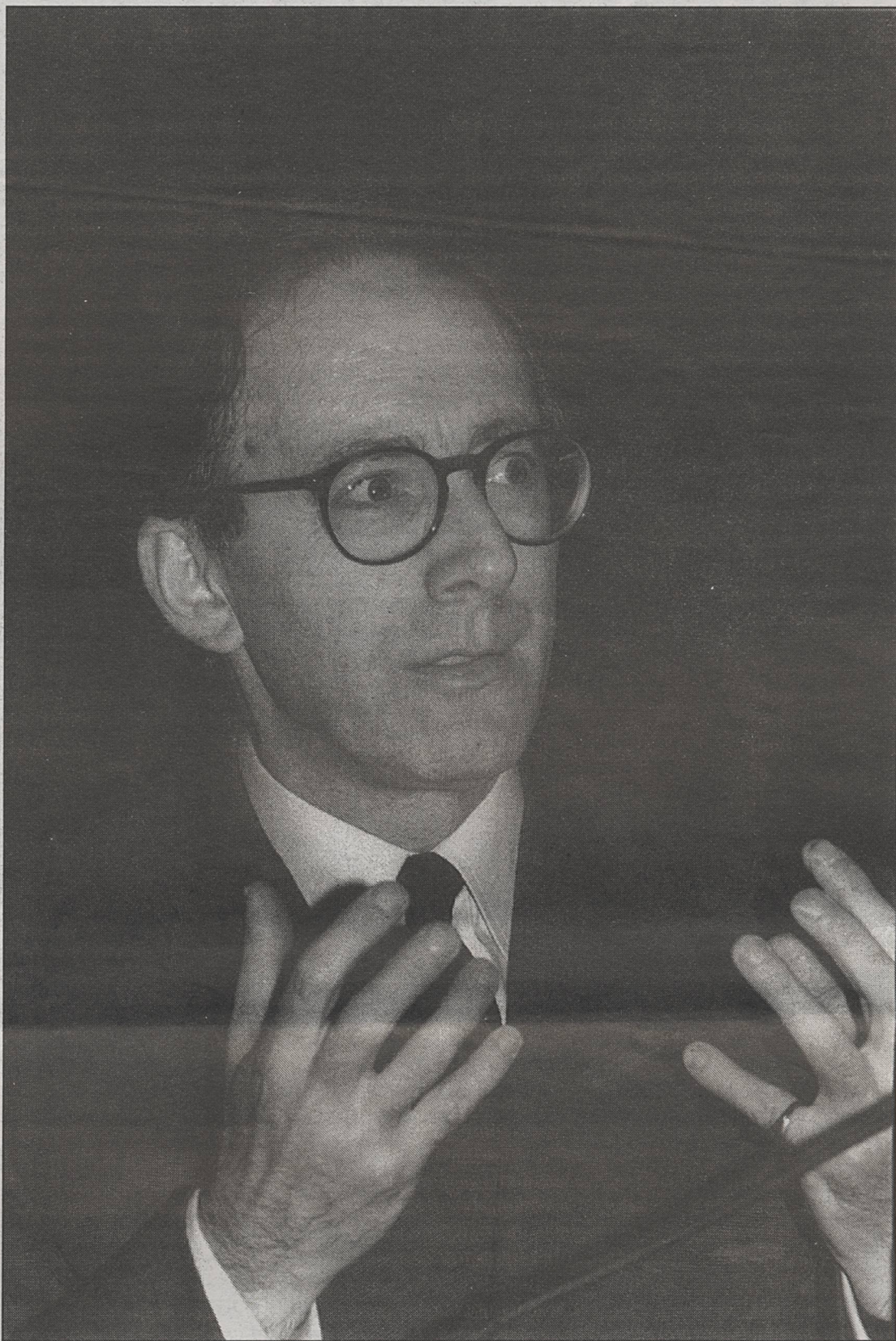


Photo: Katrin Hett

# Less rhetoric, more research

Part One, taken from *London Student*

**Ghassan Karian**  
ULU President

How often have you been accosted by a students' union hack and told that you should attend the next union meeting with inane comments like "do your duty" or that "it's vital that you go" as if missing the meeting would mean the end of the world. Being the sympathetic person you are, you end up sitting in a draughty hall, next to a tree hugger from some green-militant splinter group, discussing issues as relevant to 'joe student' as Arthur Scargill is to new Labour.

The role of a students' union is to serve the interests of its members, delivering services and facilities they require and representing their concerns. However, it is often the case that unions are run by cliques with their own interpretation of what 'their' students want. They end up following their own agenda and serving the interests of a silent majority. This creates a culture of exclusiveness which prevents student officers being properly responsible and accountable for their actions.

We are often told that the lack of student interest in the affairs of their elected representatives is due to apathy. It is true that there is a growing tendency amongst students to be less overtly political and with increasing student numbers it has become

more difficult to reach the whole student body. But citing 'apathy' is too easy a cop-out for student officers. It cannot be allowed as an excuse for student officers who are reluctant to break from established thinking and look for innovative ways of engaging the interest of their membership. Student unions can become truly representative and effective. To do so they must do two things: they must become relevant and radically re-assess their communication structures.

However, unions bombard their students with information, it will not be effective unless those students want what they are being offered. It is the relevance of union activities to the lives and needs of the majority of the student community that determines success or failure.

By actively seeking the views of students and finding out what they want, unions can tailor their services to the demands of their members. Using market research, either on a large or small scale, has helped some unions understand why their students use, or don't use, the different services they are offered, which existing services can be dumped and what new ideas can be developed. This cannot, however, be the whole answer. For students unions to be truly responsive to student needs they must face a radical overhaul of democratic structures that are an inheritance of the political correctness and bureaucratic traditions of the 1970s and 1980s.

The Quad has always traditionally been an area that the Treasurer hires out as a source of income for the Union. More importantly, it also provides students with a diverse range of things to buy that the other Union services don't offer eg: books, CDs, jewellery etc.

On Thursday 8 February, The Quad will be free for any LSE student who wishes to bring anything they wish to sell or exchange. If this idea is successful then I'll be interested in making it a regular day every week specifically for LSE students. So, if you need some extra cash or have some unused items then please take this opportunity.

If interested, contact me via my pigeon hole at SU Reception or in my office E206 (Ext 7471).

## Notice of Meetings

Constitution & Steering, Monday, 5pm E195

Finance Committee, Tuesday, 3pm, E206

Executive Committee, Wednesday, 1pm, E195

Campaigns Committee, Wednesday, 2pm, E195

Union General Meeting (UGM), Thursday, 1pm, Old Theatre

Union Council, Thursday 15 February, 3-4pm, C120

# UGM reform

Tom Smith on reversing the trend of UGM decline

This is an opinion piece by a member of the Students' Union

How to improve the UGM? This question has solicited much debate over the last few weeks. Baljit Mahal was the first to offer us a solution; Use the LSESU Executive as a 'shadow cabinet' that could respond to questions from the floor and offer a prize for the best speaker in the UGM over the term. This was followed by Nick Deardon who submitted a union motion that described the meetings as 'intimidatory'. Nick questioned whether the UGM's could ever improve - as new speakers would be put off by a hostile and confrontational forum and therefore only 'hacks' would speak. This problem would be solved, argued Nick, by a committee being set up to investigate a forum more conducive to political debate.

Why has this debate arisen? Either it is because that some feel that the UGM has ceased to discuss issues that can be considered seriously (Baljit) or that anyone who wants to discuss an issue seriously is unable to because they are not taken seriously (Nick).

I would like to take issue with both of these views. In my opinion there is not a basic problem with the meetings. If Baljit and Nick want to improve the quality then they should be more creative and submit motions around which a real debate exists. So called 'real motions' fall into one of two categories. The first is the tried and tested issue, 'save the trees', or they support the safe issue. These motions are generally treated with contempt by the UGM because

they are so intrinsically boring. It is little wonder that the 'balcony boys' laugh through a motion about student funding when they have seen the same motion in a 115 forms since the beginning of term. The main problem, I agree, is one of participation but people will not participate seriously until an issue is raised that is original and has a genuine (not contrived) debate around it. Let me illustrate this further; If Timmy Right-On submits a motion calling for the end of nuclear testing which will inevitably be opposed by a Conservative who will argue that the profit this industry generates is good. In one form or another we have all seen this motion before and are not particularly interested in going through the motions once again.

Equally administrative or bureaucratic solutions will only at best achieve a contrived debate between hacks. Therefore I would implore students who feel strongly about issues to submit their motions. The original debate on 'free speech' was a fine example of what I am talking about. It was an original topic that everyone had a view on. Where are the motions on 'the quality of teaching'? Where are the motions from law students on the use of the jury in complex legal trials such as that of the Maxwell brothers? Until full participation is encouraged and made feasible, then the UGM will continue to be filled with motions resolving the marital fantasies of Union hacks.

# Fancy a week of fun and frolics?

## Rag Society

The more astute of you may have noticed a few dodgy posters knocking around proclaiming the virtues of the Rag charity society. Okay, so it doesn't exactly sound like one of those fun packed societies but don't let that put you off. The annual Rag week takes place from the February 19, the idea of which is to raise loads of money for various charities and having loads of fun in the process. Some events have already been planned: the traditional yearly ball, the Time Out quiz, blind date

(with special guest appearances), Hypno-Dog (don't ask just imagine), film shows and a huge Friday night party. However, all of this doesn't just happen by itself... This is the bit where you can get involved; if you fancy helping out or have some ideas of your own, the Rag Society will be having regular meetings every Thursday on the top floor of the cafe (outside the AU office). Rag is by far and away the most entertaining society at the LSE, and although most of the week is spent in a drunken haze this is easily justified by the money we raise. So if your imagination is aroused and you want to meet Darrel Hare in the flesh... every Thursday top floor of the cafe at 5.00 pm.

## To all Societies at LSE

There will be a General Meeting of all the societies at the LSE to discuss the proposed societies constitution.

Two representatives from each society are invited.

Please try to bring self-tailored suggestions or constitutions to the meeting.

from Societies Officer Ali Imam

Venue, C120 on Wednesday, 31 January 1996 at 5.00 pm

Letters to the Editor \* \* Letters to the Editor \* \* Letters to the Editor

# Baljit blasted over Union Page

Dear Beaver,

As an active member of this Students' Union I would like to make a few points with reference to the Union page that appears weekly in *The Beaver*.

The 'new' constitution set in place a healthy relationship between the Union and *The Beaver*. This was an improvement on the somewhat frosty relationship that had previously existed. Although the collective is the sovereign decision making body of this paper, the union allowed a page each week. I believe that the Union has wasted this opportunity and has let itself down badly. The articles that have appeared on 'our' page have been mechanical, boring and in the case of the 'Union editorial' – unreadable. The student body nationally, is facing some very big issues, such as how our students will be funded in the future, and indeed a debate on free speech rages within our own campus. So why does our Communications Officer, Baljit Mahal, choose to reproduce a school handout (available to everyone) detailing the structure of school committees that are at best irrelevant to students. This is just one of many examples of badly written, meaningless and lazy production of our page. In case your memory is not all it should be let me give you an example from December 5 1995.

"When we sit through the executive meeting each week and discuss decisions that will affect the student body, paramount in our minds is doing the best for the students that elected us"

What is he talking about! The Union page is not a forum for rationalising his own lack of activity. Or is it?

"Let no one be in any doubt that my one fundamental aim is to do the job I already have to the best of my ability, without regard or reference to one I do not have"

The quality of content is appalling. Baljit

Mahal every week uses the Union page to legitimise his own muddled and incoherent opinion. The indisputable fact is that the Union Page is the only contact that the vast majority of students have with the Union. I am not surprised that, on this evidence, they choose not to become more involved when they read this drivel on the Union page. To these people I would like to point out that the LSESU does do a large amount of work on your behalf but our Communications officer prefers to address you with his personal (and not LSESU) opinions.

I supported the idea of a Union page written by the executive but I believe it is not working. This page should be opened up to those who want to comment on Union issues. For example, Nick Deardon proposed a radical change to the structure of our weekly UGM meetings that he described as 'intimidatory'. Nick proposed that a working party should be set up to investigate other potential forums. Indeed Baljit himself has offered his own opinion on this subject from the Union pages, but nobody outside the UGM is likely ever to hear Nick's views. Kate Hampton as General Secretary should write a POLITICAL summary of UGM discussion that someone out there might believe that we do actually participate. The rest of the Union page should be opened up as a 'notice-board' discussion forum. Why not invite a Liberal Democrat student to spell out why graduate tax is the best way forward for HE funding? Why not invite the numerous sides of the free speech debate to write 150 words supporting their view? These issues would be responded to.

Stop printing Baljit's rantings and use the Union page to actually reflect our Unions activities. I would like to end with a point of information for Baljit. The Union page is 'our' page and not as you claimed at the Beaver collective 'your' page.

Yours,

Tom Smith

## Do 'quickies' satisfy?

Dear Beaver,

I am writing regarding the report in *The Sunday Times* (20/01/96) about 'quickie degrees'. Our government at present is planning to introduce a 'quickie degree' taking fifteen months to complete.

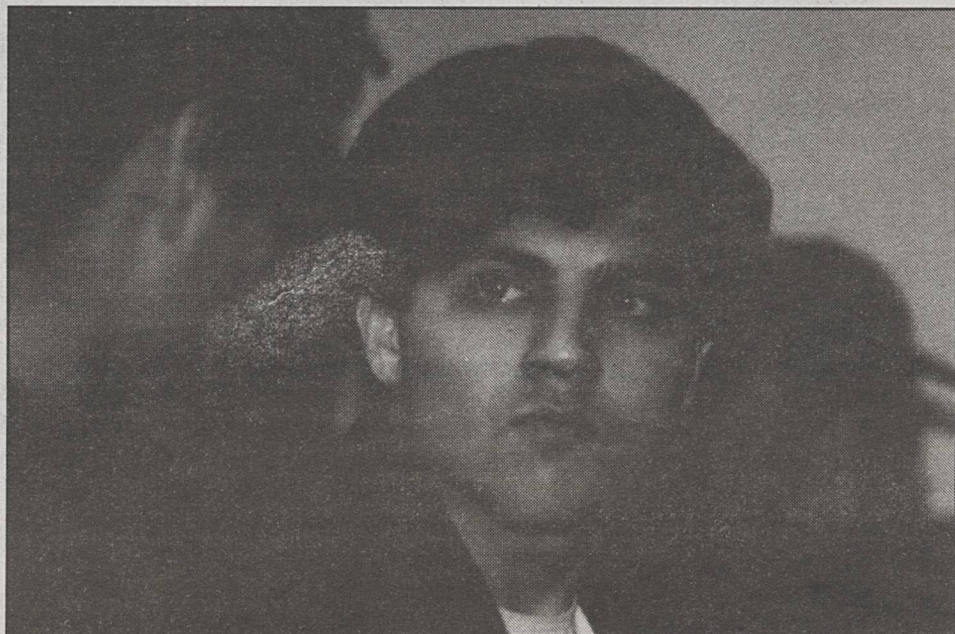
'What's the problem?' I hear you ask. Gillian Shephard certainly believes this to be a highly advantageous system. The idea is that such a scheme will ease the burden on mature students who cannot afford the normal three years away from work. The fifteen month course, with more lectures, LESS SOCIALISING AND NO HOLIDAYS, would reduce costs for both students and taxpayers. In part the idea has been inspired by the findings that university students spend only fifteen months on average of a three degree actually studying.

Here are the problems: 1) How can such a shortened degree course be seriously classed as being of equal value to the stand-

ard three year degree course? There is more to graduating than learning fifteen months worth of work. This view is supported by David Triesman, General Secretary of the Association of University Teachers who has said that "people who think degrees can be taught in fifteen months have no understanding of advanced teaching and learning".

2) Does Ms Shephard have no regard for the increased pressures that such proposals would put students under? It is clear that if enforced, those who are economically disadvantaged would feel obliged to take the more stressful option of a fifteen month degree course so as to avoid huge debt, even if this means losing out on the broader education that university has to offer.

3) Those cynics among you may well have recognised that such plans would certainly save the government large sums of money in student grants. Shephard is shortly expected to allow universities to charge students tuition fees of £300 to £500 to help



## Three Tuns frontline

Dear Beaver,

A few words are necessary for The Three Tuns drug dealers and their sad cling ons. PISS OFF!

It is not cool, it is not clever and it is not welcome: Es are dangerous, tabs are for losers, and if anyone is desperate for hash they can fuck off to SOAS.

I personally object to being asked if I am 'in the market for some gear' by certain pathetic creatures in shiny red jackets.

For goodness sake, this is an internationally renowned university bar, not a narcotics

outlet. If you are that keen to explore narcotic rave culture why don't you go to some of the real 'underground clubs', shack up in a council flat in Stockwell with a couple of squatting junkies and run your retentive business from there. Incidentally, has anyone told you that the drug culture isn't trendy anymore? HA!

This is not a joke. You know who you are – stop what you are doing because eventually you will not get away with it.

Yours,  
Anonymous

## A very sexist letter ...

Dear Beaver,

The women at LSE suck shite. They minge for England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Malaysia, China, Ghana, Russia, Germany, France, Sweden ... I would like to draw your readers' attention to a certain article written on your 16th issue by Liz Chong, Traffic Lights connoisseur and general bitchy no-life minger. Apparently, Liz 'lambasts lads'. The truth of the matter is, our wonderful university's plagued, fucked-up, infectious rough manbeasts resort to Blind Date to meet their man. Not because there is something wrong with us guys, but because our conceited Barbara (who inci-

dentally is not from Milan but from shite-infested Sicily) looks and talks too much like a cross breed between Margaret Thatcher and Mrs Kenneth Clarke to be able to pull a zit from David Mellor's nose. Perhaps I have just been a blind minge these past two years and not noticed the Utopia of permanently randy, oiled up, wet and ready cleavages floating around Houghton Street disguised as the fleas on an orang-utan's left gonad. And if you think you can drink us under the table, see you in the Tuns Friday, Liz.

Yours  
One of the lads

## Haxton harangued

Dear Beaver,

Iain Haxton seems to have missed several points recently. Namely to do a music review you have to actually mention the music somewhere or at least be funny. Strange as it may seem to him we do not want to read about whatever grievance he might have. When I started here last year there weren't many renowned bands features but at least the articles weren't self indulgent meanderings. *The Beaver* is not a forum to voice juvenile niggles, unless you count the letters page, and I do not condone the use of Union money, our money, to print articles like that. Sort it out laddie and I might even read one of your articles without yawning.

Yours,  
Robert Ferguson

There was a letter submitted by Wayne Rogers but it was considered far too intimidating and therefore against the constitution, as I'm sure you know Wayne! –Ed

Yours,  
K Soteri – The Devil's Advocate  
PS Does this sound like the writings of a lazy bum who is desperate to put off doing an honest day's work for as long as possible?

**The Beaver****Executive Editor**

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**...SOCIETIES...****Liberty Society***"The Asylum & Immigration Bill"*

Mr Jeremy Corbyn MP  
Tuesday, January 30  
1.00–2.00 pm, C120  
All LSE students and staff welcome.

**Jewish Society**

Free bagel lunches and top speakers!  
Weekly Meetings  
Every Tuesday  
1.00 pm, S75

**German Language & Cultural Society***Meets for Elections*

Tuesday, January 30th  
5.00 pm, C720  
Non-German speakers most welcome.

**Marxist Lectures***"Are you a stakeholder in a classless society?"*

Alan Hudson  
Senior Lecturer  
Canterbury College  
Rm A44, 7.00 pm

**Cigar Club***Cigar Smokers:*

*A Call to Arms (or at least armchairs)*  
Tuesday January 30  
George IV Pub  
(Portugal Street)  
5.00 pm

**Latin American Society***Spanish Classes: Learn about Latin America...*

Wednesdays  
1.00 – 2.00 pm Begin.  
2.00 – 3.00 pm Inter.  
Room Y001  
Thursdays  
4.00 – 5.00 pm Begin.  
(only for newcomers)  
5.00 – 6.00 pm Inter.  
Room Y014  
£2.00 per person for one class  
(less if you can't afford it)

**Latin American Society**

invites you to a round table on current trends in Latin America:  
*"Recent Changes in Argentinian Economics and Politics" – Views of the Critics*

**Guests:**

Senator Jose Octavio Bordon (FREPASO) – Former Presidential candidate during the 1995 elections.  
Deputy Federico Storani Union Civica Radical (UCR) – Leader of the opposition in the Lower House.

Dr. Gustavo Beliz.

Partido Justicialista (PJ) – Former Minister of the Interior.

Wednesday, January 31  
5.00 pm, A86

**Francophone Society***Film Night: La Reine Margot*

Members free  
Non-members £2  
Wednes., January 31st  
7.00 pm, New Theatre

**Snooker Club***LSE Snooker League*

Join the league & enjoy an hour of snooker every week. Prizes for top players. For info, call 0956-640 331.  
Wednes, January 31  
Outside A Bldg, 1.30 pm

**Christian Union***"Every awkward question you ever wanted to ask a Christian"*

Fred Tao on common objections to Christianity.  
Thursday, February 1st  
6.00 pm, A86

**Psychology Society***"The Construction of Expertise in Audience Discussion Programmes"*

Dr. Peter Lunt  
Thursday, February 1st  
7.00 pm, Social P. Dept

**European Society***"1996: Europe at the Crossroads"*

Ian Davidson  
Financial Times  
Thursday, February 1  
1.00 pm, Vera Anstey Room

**Indian Society***"Dilwale Dhulaniya: Le Jayenge"*

Monday, February 5th  
at Bloomsbury Theatre  
Tickets on Sale now from Mankash

**Marxist Lectures***"The Demographic Timebomb"*

Phil Murphy  
Economics Editor  
Living Marxism  
7.00 pm, A44

**Conservative Association**

Presents

The Rt. Hon. Peter Lilley MP Secretary of State for Social Security  
All Students & Staff Welcome

LSE ID cards required  
Library & ISIC cards are unacceptable  
Strictly no bags, coats, food, drinks or banners.  
Questions to be led by Dr David Starkey.  
Tuesday, February 6  
1.00 pm, Royalty Theatre

**Law Society**

presents

THE  
*"Law Ball"*

at The Waldorf Hotel  
Thursday, February 29  
Tickets on sale soon...

*Deadline for What's On submissions: Thursday 4.00 pm to appear in the following Tuesday's Beaver*

**Lectures****Geneva Association: 20th Annual Lecture***"The Economics of Intergenerational Transfers"*

Professor Denis Kessler  
University of Paris,  
President of the French Federation of Insurance Companies,  
Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the Geneva Association.  
Chairs: Mr. Roger J. Taylor & Mr. John Hills  
Admission Free  
Thursday, February 1  
5.30 pm, Old Theatre

**Centre for Economic****Performance***"The UK Economy"*

Gavyn Davies  
Managing Director  
Goldman Sachs  
Chair: Professor Richard Layard  
Tuesday, February 6  
5.30 pm, Old Theatre

**Institute of Economic Affairs**

*"Community without Politics – A market approach to welfare reform."*

Dr. David Green  
Director of the Health & Welfare Unit,  
Institute of Economic Affairs  
Monday, February 5  
1.00 pm, Y002

**LSE Foundation Careers Evening**

Come & talk over a glass of wine to LSE graduates working in fields such as Law, Media, Finance, Accountancy, Industrial Relations, Advertising, IT... All students are welcome!

Monday February 5th  
6.00 pm, Senior Drawing Room  
For further details, call Caron Rohsler, LSE Foundation on 0171-955 7377

# Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead

Sarah Davis enjoys Tom Stoppard's  
humourous modern classic

This is the play which made Tom Stoppard famous. Having walked out of the opening night in 1967 after hearing one comment from the lady in front that "it hadn't got going yet", he woke up the next morning to rave reviews and critical acclaim.

The play is absolutely fantastic – at the risk of sounding cliched, 'un-missable'. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* highlights the dilemmas of two minor characters from Hamlet. The two are friends from Hamlet's university days who are summoned by his Uncle Claudius to keep an eye on Hamlet's strange behaviour. Arguably, it does help to have an understanding of the plot of Hamlet, but no more is necessary than can be briefly explained in two minutes.

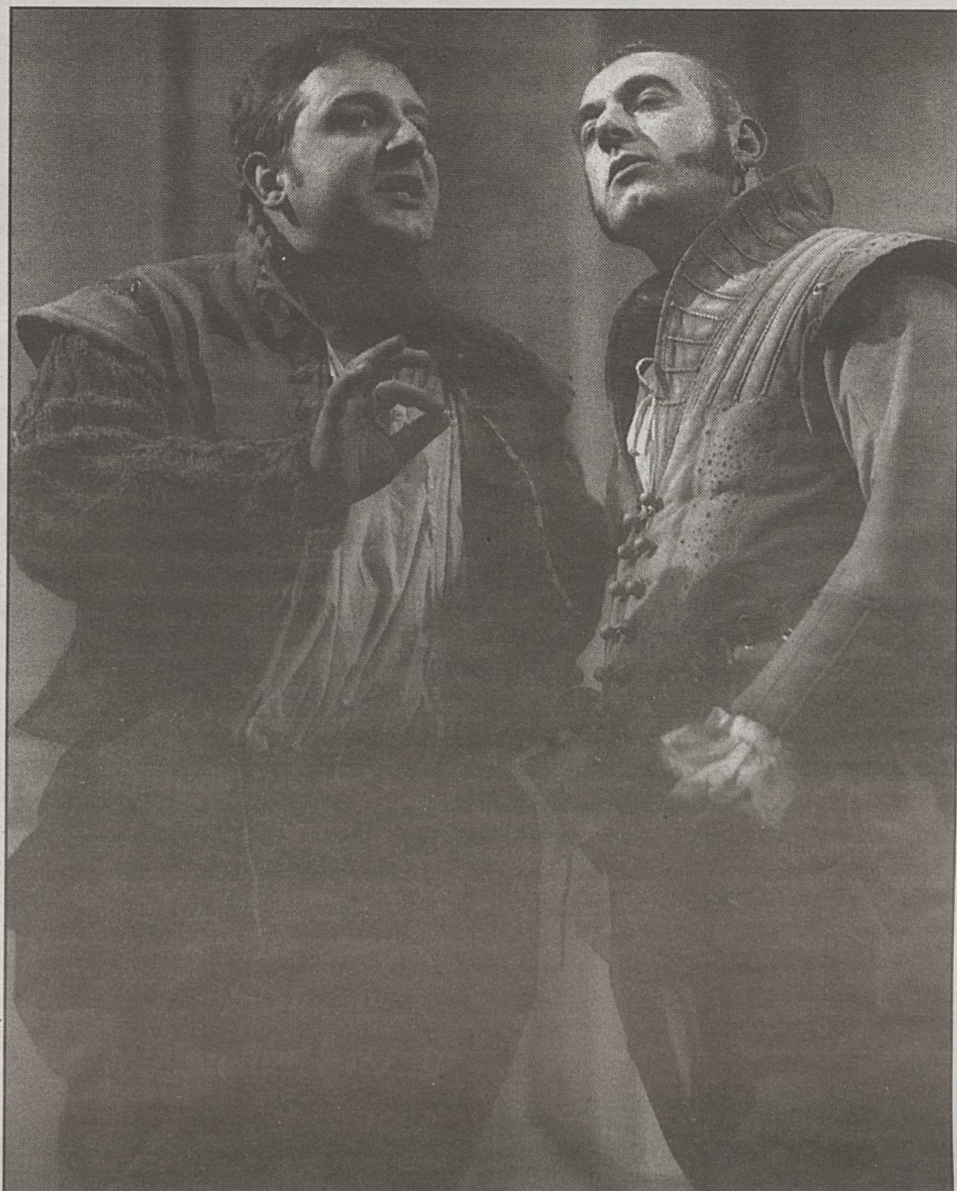
Adrian Scarborough (Rosencrantz) and Simon Russell Beale (Guildenstern) keep up a non-stop repartee for the full two-and-a-half hours. A long play, but you'll be laughing so much that you won't have time to be bored. Although their conversation is that of two naughty schoolboys, the Elizabethan dialogue of the other characters gives the performance a definite period feel, as do the set and sumptuous costumes.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern still play games from their childhood days – the performance opens with them tossing coins – but whilst doing so they discuss theories of probability. There is much to be gleaned from their words on both a serious and a comic level.

As the title suggests, death is a major theme – Hamlet is overwrought by his father's death and Ophelia by her father's; the players who arrive to 'amuse' the court claim "to do death very well", although Guildenstern tries to persuade the Player King (Alan Howard) that death is final – is it, in fact, possible to perform death convincingly?

However, you don't come away from the theatre feeling that you've just had an intense philosophy lecture, but that you've enjoyed a brilliant evening's entertainment. The comedy is a combination of slapstick humour, pantomime jokes, subtle sarcasm and blatant one-liners. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* is showing well into February, but who knows how long it may be at the National after that. Make sure you see this production while you can.

Venue: National Theatre  
Student Standby £6.50



Simon Russell Beale (left) and Adrian Scarborough philosophise on life.

Photo: Robert Workman

## COMPETITION

We have 2 tickets to this fantastic production to give away to the first person who can name another two of Tom Stoppard's play's

Answers to Emma or Asim in the *Beaver* office by Monday February 5

# CHUCKLE CLUB COMEDY CABERET SHOW



Trendy? Do others follow your lead? Get a life! Try the CHUCKLE CLUB Comedy Caberet Show. Every Saturday in The Three Tuns Bar at 7.45

This Saturday February 3 there will be ...  
Mark Hurst, Gayle  
Tuesday, Rory Motion  
and Guests

Admission: £4.00  
Students £6.00 Other

## Waiting to Exhale

Liz Boucheral examines what's girlie



Loretta Devine, Whitney Houston, Angela Bassett and Lela Rochon have a good natter

Okay, guys. Care for a glimpse of how women talk about you behind your backs? Check your ego at the door and spend a couple of hours *Waiting to Exhale*. I can't guarantee enjoyment, but I can promise illumination as to such nonsensical female expressions as "Real Men" – the lack of which unites four women who seem to have nothing in common save that they've all been burned – make that scalded – by members of the opposite sex. So basically, they wait. But there's a better chance of Godot showing up than the "real men" the members of this African-American Joy Luck Club-With-Sass are holding out for.

Well, they're not exactly holding out. While they're waiting for Mr Right, they have to settle for Mr Arrogant, Mr Two-Timer, Mr Freeloading Substance-Abuser, Mr. Selfish in Bed, and Mr "I Love You Baby, But I Can't Leave My Wife Right Now 'Cause She's Vulnerable". They fall for these types – because frankly, they're desperate – and when they inevitably wind up disappointed, empty-armed, and torn by who's to blame, they're left with one choice: guilt tripping or burning his stuff. Masquerading proudly as "a tale of true friendship", never in recent memory has such a blatant male bashfest hit the big screen.

*Exhale* features a strong cast headed by Angela Bassett, who plugged us deep into the heart of female disillusionment as Tina Turner in *What's Love Got to Do With It*. Here, she shines with steely determination as Bernadine, whose anally-retentive husband dumps her for his blonde book-keeper. After bouts of vindictive rage, self-pity and gut-wrenching longing she finally finds

peace and realises life goes on. Needy but sweet-hearted ditz Robin (Lela Rochon) pouts her indecisive way through a frightening string of losers in as many skimpy-yet-structured underthings before finally getting the point. Just when we think underappreciated mom Gloria (Loretta Devine) is hands-down winner in the Given Up On Love category, we meet lonely heart Savannah (Whitney Houston). Her cool detachment and bittersweet resignation are all the more stirring in that she seems less obsessively Houston-centric this time around.

The producers ambitiously try to smooth over glaring narrative inconsistencies with airbrushed aesthetics and a neverending flow of interchangeable Babyface ballads – perfect for those Houston aficionados who found *The Bodyguard* soundtrack a tad too metal. Nevertheless, for all the film's flaws, it does manage to dodge cliché, giving us surprisingly "real" female characters – not just snivelling babydolls or over-the-hill Tupperware mavens in Harlequin withdrawal.

And in its exhilaratingly lucid moments, it hits some of the festering male-female paradoxes head-on, virtually cutting the female viewer into the onscreen gab session at every turn. Yet in a sad justification of these women's grievances against men, *Exhale* is already being shrugged off as a "chick flick"... In terms of this film doing something to improve male-female relations, don't hold your breath.

**Director:** Forest Whitaker  
**Released:** January 26 (Nationwide)

☆☆☆

## The Innocent Sleep

Caroline Hooton checks out the British effort

*The Innocent Sleep* is the latest in a string of British movies (which began with Danny Cannon's *The Young Americans*) which attempts to attract a British audience through using a popularist American-style formula. Unfortunately, as with *The Young Americans*, it does not quite come off.

Rupert Graves plays Alan, a down-and-out scouser who spends much of his waking hours drunk. The story revolves around his attempts to escape from a 'bent' copper (Michael Gambon) whom he witnessed executing the business partner of a shady Italian entrepreneur (Franco Nero). With the aid of a fellow drunk (Graham Crowden) and a hard-bitten journalist (Annabella Sciorra) he attempts to uncover the reason for the execution while trying to stay alive.

Perhaps the biggest problem with the film is the script which is both unoriginal and poorly written. The dialogue is stilted, the relationships between the characters are not fully developed and the characters themselves are little more than ciphers. For example, the police are all graduates of the 'strike a light guy' school of dodgy cockney accents. The movie also suffers from poor direction – while allowances should be made for the fact that this is director Scott Michell's first feature, the fact is he completely fails to keep up any kind of pace or excitement. What tension he does create is ruined by an intrusive orchestral score by Mark Ayres – as soon as the cellos start up you know that a baddie is in the room.

The ultimate effect is to waste the talents of a reasonable ensemble cast, Rupert Graves is creditable as a desperate drifter with a performance that proves he has a wide

range. Annabella Sciorra is also fine (although why an American is working on a London paper is never explained), Graham Crowden is incredibly hammy at times but otherwise is okay, but John Hannah's cameo is totally surplus to requirements, serving only to provide the incidental information needed to continue the story.

Ultimately *The Innocent Sleep* turns out to be something of a big yawn as we Brits prove that, as far as Hollywood action thrillers are concerned, we can't seem to grasp the American way.

**Director:** Scott Michell  
**Released:** 26 January (Nationwide)

☆☆



A man behind a boat

Photo: Library

### Next Week

- ◆ *Johnny Mnemonic* with drop-dead-gorgeous Keanu Reeves.
- ◆ *Clockers* by Spike Lee with Harvey Keitel and newcomer Mekhi Phifer.
- ◆ *Les Misérables* the non-musical film version of Victor Hugo's classic.
- ◆ *Rendezvous in Paris* directed by Eric Rohmer.
- ◆ *Les Enfants du Paradis* at the Barbican.

☆☆☆☆☆

Excellent

☆☆☆☆

Very Good

☆☆☆

Good

☆☆

OK

☆

Turkey

## The Flower Of My Secret

Stephen Lloyd has seen the premiere

Leo (Marisa Paredes) is a writer and a heroine of sorts and like all writers, she is under pressure from her publishers to produce another commercial success. However she faces a problem; her marriage to a soldier who is serving out in Bosnia is faltering, consequently her work grows desperate and dark, and she becomes hemmed in by her own emotions. Her future seems uncertain.

*The Flower of my Secret* is Pedro Almodovar's first mainstream film and his most important British release, it shows a marked change in his work; he has shifted his emphasis towards more mellow themes and although this may alienate his more

vehement fans I think that it is for the best. The direction is as tight as usual and forces us to sympathise with Leo and her situation.

There are humorous moments as well, but these fit in well and do not detract from the serious theme, that is omnipresent. Amongst the cast there are some familiar faces from Almodovar movies of the past. He manages to bring out a fine performance from all, especially Paredes who is faultless.

**Director:** Pedro Almodovar  
**Released:** January 26 (Nationwide)  
**Showing at:** Curzon Mayfair  
Screen on the Hill  
Renoir Brunswick Square

☆☆☆



Marisa Paredes gets inspired by the Spanish national newspaper

Photo: Library



# Beaver Golden Oldies

## Nº 3: Casablanca (1942)

Director: Michael Curtiz

There are few films which have stood the test of time with the same finesse as Michael Curtiz's *Casablanca* has. When the shout goes up to "Round up the usual suspects", what is probably one of Hollywood's greatest ever films commences (well I think so).

Set in Morocco at the height of World War II, *Casablanca* has the laconic Humphrey Bogart playing ex-patriot Rick who runs the local night club and gambling den "Rick's café". Ingrid Bergman is Bogart's love interest whose classic beauty is far more alluring than the slutty look of many Hollywood actresses today (Sharon Stone eat your heart out).

The acting of these two stars is superb, Bogart's cold heart is melted by his old flame, shy and retiring Bergman, and they stare into each other's eyes whilst that tin-

kly tune plays in the background - "You must remember this, a kiss is just a kiss...". Quite surprisingly he manages to kiss her pretty well too even with the paralysed upper lip he got in the first World War. Obviously this wasn't detrimental to Bogey's personal life either as he later married Lauren Bacall. The two leads can't take all the credit though, as the supporting cast are equally memorable - the excellent Claude Rains plays an unscrupulous and scheming Chief Inspector who's always looking to make a quick buck on the black market - well aren't we all?

Surprisingly the story is not just slushy romance as we get a finely crafted story of love (it had to be in there somewhere) deception, betrayal and personal sacrifice. The arrival of the resistance movement's head followed closely by the menacing SS, creates the dramatic heart of the play as the web of deceit spreads to encapture neutral bystander Bogart in the suspicious going ons. Without spoiling the ending I can say

it is quite unexpected and even Ingrid Bergman was kept in the dark as to whether she would fly off with Paul Henreid or stick around with Bogey - I think I'd go off with the dodgy inspector.

There are so many memorable scenes from the film that it's almost impossible to pick out any one in particular but those carrying the ultimate in ultimate of classic lines such as "Here's looking at you kid" or "Play it again, Sam" must go down in cinematic history. However, I think its only fair to inform you with a very important piece of trivia that "Play it again, Sam" is never actually said in the film, now I betcha didn't know that before! One will invariably laugh at these clichés but we love them all the same and "This could be the start of a beautiful relationship..." is still a great chat-up line.

EJ

*Casablanca* is re-released on February 5 and priced at £7.99 it's a bargain.



# Withnail & I

## What's in a cult film

The thing that I can never understand about cult movies is who decided that they deserved a cult following in the first place. But having seen *Withnail & I*, which is the father (and related family) of all modern cult films, I have worked out the necessary criteria needed to achieve such status. So for all those budding film directors (yes, both of you), here's what you need if you want to have a bunch of weirdo junkies setting up your fan club and dodgy photos of yourself on the internet:

1. Must be filmed in any down and out no-hope area in America, if this is not available Camden will do (though avoid Sundays and the market). Finding the obligatory house/flat that is a foot deep in mould, with fitted dirty plates et al, shouldn't be that hard; try Student Pages.

2. Copious and beyond-human quantities of grass must be smoked. *Withnail & I* has managed to improve on this; all the gear is kept under wraps until the final scene when a film's worth is piled into one giant bifta and then smoked (see competition).

3. If at any point smoking pauses then it must be supplemented by copious drinking. To achieve such total chaos on screen, it

helps if the cast is actually drunk and caned rather than having to pretend to be so.

4. A pair of John Lennon glasses must make a brief and understated appearance.

5. The theme of the movie must be either guys who have dropped out from society or simply ultra-violence. Don't mix the two or you'll end up with a cross between Scooby-doo and Tarantino, Mr Shaggy et al.

*Withnail & I* managed to get five out of five so it qualifies with style. Surprisingly for a cult movie, it was actually good, because it was about real believable people rather than cool-but-totally-unreal homicidal maniacs.

*Withnail* (Richard E Grant) is an out of work actor with an obsession for drinking. 'I' (Paul McGann) is also an out of work actor with an obsession for drinking, and together they hang around a great deal, drinking. However their hectic lifestyle along with the fact that they can't afford the heating drives them off on holiday (a logical conclusion-Ed). They borrow *Withnail's* Uncle Monty's country cottage and head down to Penwrith in their clapped-out Jaguar. Unfortunately Uncle Monty takes rather a liking to 'I' and when he unexpectedly



Richard E Grant and Paul McGann hang around a great deal drinking

Photo: Library

follows them down to the country there are complications! When 'I' gets the lead part in a play, and as the decade draws to a close, the two friends are forced to part.

*Withnail & I* is worth seeing not because it's about camel-roaming Osmonds-listening nomads (because it isn't), but because it will make more sense to you than anything

else you ever seen. (Yeah, and it's really cool as well).

**Director:** Bruce Robinson  
**Released:** February 2 (Nationwide)  
**Showing at:** MGM Shaftesbury Av, MGM Fulham Rd, Ritzy Brixton.

SAS

☆☆☆☆

# Mother Courage

## James MacAonghus on a monumental production

Stunning. I am not going to follow the current critical trend and tell you to kill someone to get a ticket, but by all means mug the person next to you for one. The National Theatre has lived up to its usual outstanding standards in this new adaptation of Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage*.

Written in 1941, the play is set in the thirty years' war, but it could have been any war - the superbly staged eagle that flies around the stage reminding us of the way every war preys on even the innocent. This is the tale of Anna Fierling, and her battle to survive the nightmare around her. Diana Rigg, in the lead role, gives a powerful performance that glides the audience through her suffering, black humour and bitter de-

feats. One by one, her sons are taken from her by the endless war - a war that eventually also deprives *Mother Courage* of her dumb daughter Katrin, movingly played by Lesley Sharp. Her insistent refusal to admit defeat at every step forces the audience to believe that things must get better, but *Mother Courage* is gradually worn down to a mere shell of the strong woman who greeted us in the first scene.

Overturing the idea that Brecht has to be boring, this adaptation will keep you enthralled whether you laugh at the Whigfield Saturday-Night dance or mourn at the touching death of Katrin. Do yourself a favour and see it.

**Venue:** National Theatre

**WITHNAIL and I**

TEN YEARS ON AND THEY'RE STILL ON HOLIDAY BY MISTAKE!  
*WITHNAIL & I* IS RELEASED ON **FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY**  
AT A CINEMA NEAR YOU TO CELEBRATE THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE MAKING OF THE FILM.

YOUR FAVOURITE CHARACTERS: JAKE THE POACHER, UNCLE MONTY,  
DANNY 'HEADHUNTER' THE DRUG DEALER AND OF COURSE  
*WITHNAIL & I*. IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE CHANCE TO WIN...

- \* TEN SIGNED *WITHNAIL & I* POSTERS
- \* TEN VIDEOS OF *WITHNAIL & I*
- \* TEN SCREENPLAYS OF *WITHNAIL & I*, SIGNED BY BRUCE ROBINSON
- \* TEN *WITHNAIL* T-SHIRTS

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS...

1. WHAT IS A CAMBERWELL CARROT?  
A. A ROOT VEGETABLE B. A FRUIT  
C. SOMETHING THAT'LL TEND TO MAKE YOU VERY HIGH

2. WHY IS IT CALLED A CAMBERWELL CARROT?

SEND YOUR ANSWERS TO *WITHNAIL & I*  
PO BOX 4AD LONDON W1E 6JZ BY MARCH 1ST 1996

*Withnail & I* Video out on CIC Video 25th March *Withnail & I* Screenplay out now in Bloomsbury paperback

*Withnail & I* is released on Friday 2nd February at a cinema near you

## Indefinite Article

“For men who should know better”; “Smart girls get More!”; there appears to be a distinct mix-up in light gender reading material. I’m talking about men and women’s magazines. While men dive straight to the female problem pages, women I know are just as keen to know the causes of impotence and the secret successes of Martin Clunes in this month’s *Loaded*. While both magazines are superficially male or female in their editorial approach, those buying it seem to be both men and women interested in how the other half live, or at least what they aspire to.

This is the age of the New Man. It’s okay for ‘her’ to be good at her job and in the high earning bracket, just so long as he can reap the benefits of his own suaveness after a good night out. This seems to be the message given out to men by their magazines each month and these editors will tell you “How to last longer in bed” (*GQ*), and “what women really like about their bodies and themselves” was the discussion in the interview with Gina Gersha in this month’s *Loaded*. Where to drink, what to wear and how Paul Ince got to where he’s at, were the topics this month. Information on male sport (and a bit about female fillying thrown in on the back pages), highbrow Japanese fashions and cricket are all ways of making the Modern Man feel good about himself.

Or is it? The *Guardian* January 19, 1996 shows that 30% of the young men who glossy magazines seem to be aiming at, are in trouble: jobless, poor, being beaten at the top by women. Is it really appropriate to raise the hopes of young men who are unlikely to become the ideal Modern Man? It may just be a bit of fun to read, but doesn’t such glamour instill feelings of failure in its twenty-something readers? I think that Martin Deeson (editor of *Loaded*) has put together a brilliant magazine and I’m sure that its readers would not want anything less, but he may find that some of the growing female audience are taking things more seriously.

Men’s magazines are a good way for women to find out about men’s secrets in the same way that some women’s problem pages reflect the doubts of today’s women. But are male magazines really reflective of the typical man that we meet in the pub? Even more interesting is the fact that many men’s magazines do not have problem pages. Is this proof that men can’t talk about their fears or just that they don’t have any? Thus the overall result, which I do not think the male editors are aware of, is that men today are portrayed as being confident sexually, in their career and socially. Women want that man, not the one in the bar who’s between jobs, earning less than his ‘partner’, wearing market clothes and doesn’t care less about the shape of his torso. No wonder male esteem is considerably lower now than it was two generations ago, or even dramatically less than his female counterpart (female crime 22-25 = 3%, male crime 22-25 = 25%).

Of course, *GQ*, *Loaded* and *Arena* are not there to rebuild the Tory failure of young men today or create anything more than light reading, but cross-readership has perhaps become an issue now for editors to consider. And this is why I think that “Men should get more” out of their magazines and “Smart girls should know better” when it comes to believing everything one reads. AB

# Top-up fees – would you be prepared to pay them?

Kate Hampton, General Secretary, gives the lowdown on why top up fees wont save quality in Higher Education

The issue of top-up fees is not one that we can afford to ignore. It is, in fact, a very real possibility in the very near future. In 1996/97, the total resources available to the higher education sector will decline by over £300 million, that is 7% in real terms. Over three years, the cuts imposed by the last budget will amount to over £550 million, or 12%. This includes a decrease in capital funding of 52% in real terms over three years. On February 2, the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (the CVCP, comprised of university

cussed at LSE by the Academic Board, a figure of £1000 per student was suggested. The following is part of a campaign to prevent the CVCP from deciding to opt for top-up fees at their next meeting ...

The draconian cuts now facing the HE sector are making the once shunned concept of top-up fees appear increasingly attractive to universities. It appears to some administrators that fees are the only route out of the quagmire of declining quality in UK institutions. The debate has already been restricted, it seems, to “fees and quality” versus “any-

effect on applications (down 1% to 1.5% this year) and on the academic performance of those students who manage to stay on. Top-up fees would compound these alarming trends. A spokesperson for the CVCP, quoted in the *Independent* of January 17, said, “Financial hardship and academic failure are often connected. Students fail their courses for economic reasons”.

The current system of higher education in the UK is divided between research-led

**Would this not undermine the very purpose of education: that of broadening horizons, intellectual and social?**

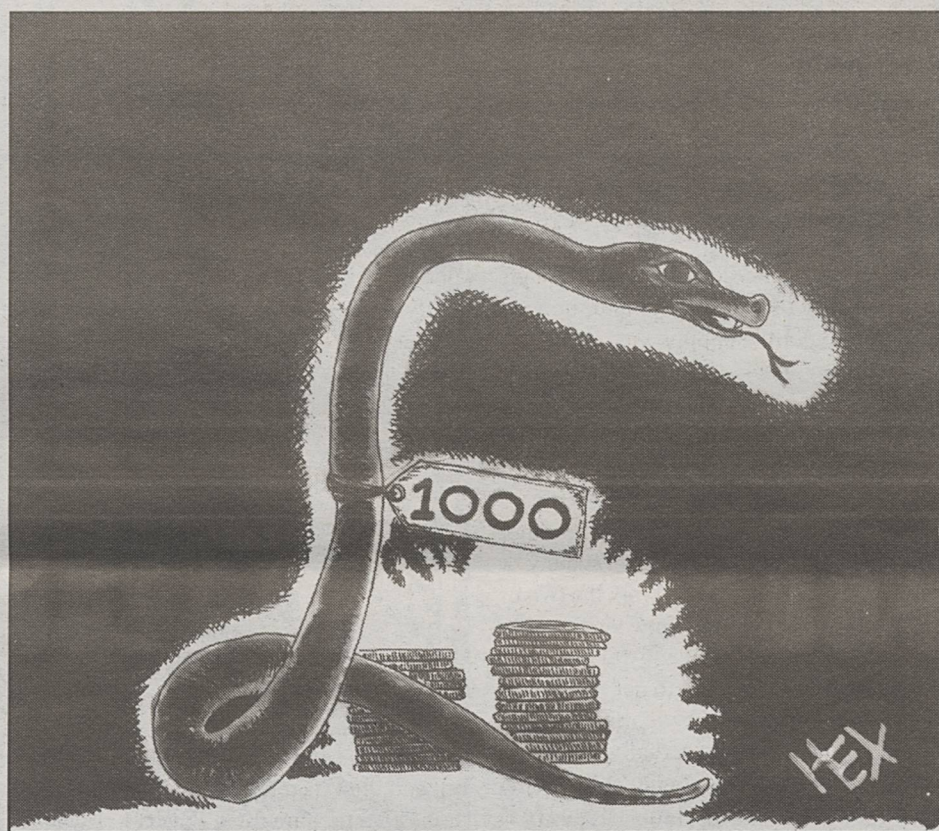
institutions and those more dependent on teaching. Increased segmentation would be inequitable and detrimental to the HE sector. All universities must combine teaching and research. The imposition of differential top-up fees would further deprive many institutions of investment, much needed to develop a culture of research and improve teaching quality. Research-led institutions must maintain a teaching base to train the academics of tomorrow.

The charging of differential top-up fees evidently implies that financial resources will be concentrated in those areas where higher fees can be levied. Courses and institutions that are historically successful will maintain their resource base while new or failing courses will be starved of the cash necessary for consolidation and improvement. Within universities where cross-subsidy occurs, the pressure to achieve immediate results will be enhanced, thereby encouraging a culture of short-termism.

The paying student will increasingly be regarded as a consumer of rather than a participant in his or her education. Student representation enables the institution to construct a pro-active partnership with its students, thereby enhancing quality provision and accountability. The HEQC advocates high levels of student participation in all universities. Top-up fees will undermine progress in this area.

It is clear, therefore, that top-up fees will neither maintain nor enhance the quality of higher education. They will also impose further administration costs on universities. Must limited short-term appeal outweigh long-term prospects for improvement? Fees spell disaster. If universities impose fees, what prevents a government that already expects institutions to rely more heavily on the PFI and that imposes further efficiency gains, from using top-up fees as an excuse for further funding cuts? Any solution to the funding crisis must involve the government, not bypass it.

It is for these reasons that we oppose top-up fees and offer our support in any attempt made by the CVCP to examine and propose alternatives to the current funding crisis.



heads) will meet to discuss how to address the budget cuts.

What follows is an article submitted to the *Times Higher Education Supplement* drafted by the General Secretary. It was co-signed by the presidents of the following students’ unions: Oxford, Cambridge, Man-

**Top-up fees are little more than a very short-term solution to the funding deficit**

chester, Warwick, Imperial College, UCL, Durham, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Bristol, Nottingham and Southampton. It is at these universities that top-up fees have repeatedly been mooted as a method of supplementing public funds, particularly since the budget cuts were announced. Together, some of them constitute the Athenaeum Group of elite research-led institutions which discussed the formation of a so-called British Ivy League last year. In the light of the recent budget, however, more and more university administrators are considering top-up fees, which are fees charged to the student on top of those awarded by Local Education Authorities to HE institutions to pay for the tuition of Home/EU undergraduate students. When the issue was last dis-

thing else and irreparable damage”. However, top-up fees are little more than a very short-term solution to the funding deficit and such fees may prove to be the source of irreparable damage themselves.

The most serious argument against the imposition of top-up fees has always been one of access. If some institutions were able to charge more than others, or some courses carried higher fees than others, it is clear that prospective students would choose courses and/or institutions at least partially on the level of their top-up fee. Scholarships and bursaries may address the problem in part, but they will never eliminate or even minimize it. Such a system would only serve to compound existing divides in our society. Would this not undermine the very purpose of education: that of broadening horizons, intellectual and social? The student movement is unanimous on this issue. Education must be free at the point of entry.

If top-up fees were a registration requirement at the start of each session, the drop-out rate would increase as students faced unforeseen financial difficulties. Student hardship has led to an increase in drop-out rates of 10% this year. In this sort of climate, universities will find it more problematic to plan for the medium-term. Examiners might even be placed under pressure not to fail students where budgets were based on enrolments. Rising levels of student hardship are also having a detrimental

# The pitfalls of Tigerism

Guy Burton questions the wisdom of imitating the countries of the Far East

Tony Blair and half the Tory Cabinet's recent trip to the Far East weretaken as a sign that the West has a thing or two to learn from countries such as Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan with regard to economic management and growth. And to a lesser extent, law and order. Politicians such as Malaysia's Mahathir Mohammed, Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew and China's Li Peng see this as a triumph of Asian values over those of the West.

Yet what have these states got in common? Their leaders would have you believe that it is a respect for elders, family values and a community spirit that we lack in the West that has been the essence of their nations' economic growth and social law and order. These beliefs are collectively known as Asian values. If we adopted such measures we would supposedly have richer economies coupled with a more orderly, crime free environment.

But like Faust there is a price to pay. In those East Asian nations it is the acceptance of regimes that adopt a form of authoritarian capitalism—in essence controlled state capitalism in which citizens have very little freedom of expression, be it social, political or economic. Entrepreneurship, for example, has been hampered by paternalistic and unaccountable governments, while the av-

erage worker works for far less than his Western counterpart—the profits invariably seeping their way back to the political elites.

Just as bad, citizens must 'respect their elders' in government or risk being dealt

the authorities varies from country to country. In Indonesia and China troops are sent into East Timor and Tiananmen Square to put down demonstrators; while in Singapore Lee Kuan Yew sues his parliamentary

family members a state contract by virtue of their office.

Is it any surprise then that most citizens in these countries keep their heads down and accept such constraints on their human rights? While it is true that economic growth is improving the general quality of life in East Asia, there has been no relative advance in individual rights and freedoms. Aristotle once said that man is a political animal. Yet through their words and actions it would seem that Asian leaders would have us believe differently.

Rather than looking for a solution to economic management and social order in Asia, Blair and the Tories might do well to look closer to home; to the liberal democracies of the West. Here it is not acceptable for the state to take such control over its citizens' lives. If we allowed it that chance it is conceivable that we could risk losing not only political, but also individual, freedoms to an arbitrary power. And such a state could have the power to shape us into exactly the kind of society our existing political elite might want. Blair and other politicians who might be attracted to such a prospect might consider what it would be like to be on the other side, damned by the government for their criticism. If Singapore's judicial system is anything to go by they had better have deep pockets.



Photo: Library

with severely. Repression takes form through the censorship of newspapers and the victimisation of political opponents. Criticism of any kind is not tolerated, though action by

opponents into financial ruin. And as for family values, read family interests. Corruption is rife in Indonesia and South Korea, where leaders have been known to give

## Why government still matters

Simon Retallack warns of the folly of abandoning government in the interest of free trade and big business

All governments and bureaucracies are inherently evil. This is the mantra gleefully recited by the New Right – from the Vulcan to the Newt. Why? Because governments exist solely to produce red tape of course. They interfere for the sake of interfering.

But there is no need to worry because the Information Age and the free-market will save the day. They will create a world where government is extinct and business is free – free from tax and regulation, free to do just as it pleases – no less than paradise on earth in fact. But there is just one tiny little problem – those annoying people who make up most of the world's population. Yes, you remember them – the people who want jobs, decent wages, schools, hospitals, crime-free communities and a clean and healthy environment. How are the free-market and the information revolution going to help them to achieve a good standard of living in the absence of any government? You only need to look at the effects the free-market and new technology are already having, whilst we still have governments, to foresee how even worse it would be without them.

Despite having paid allegiance to the sacred god of economic growth by increasing its GNP by 80 per cent in 20 years, the number of people without employment in France, in that same time period, has increased from 420,000 to 5.1 million. Is that a good deal? In the US, despite having increased productivity by 23.2 per cent in the 20 years since 1973, during the same period real weekly wages, in inflation adjusted dollars, have dropped by 19.2 per cent. Is that a good deal? In Britain, despite

a large increase in GDP over the past 20 years, 25 per cent of all households and nearly one child in three live in poverty. Is that a good deal? And that is not all. Just look at the destructive effect this has had on communities and families, with the consequent explosion in crime, across the Western World.

Now, with GATT and the arrival of global free trade, the situation is set to get worse; not only impoverishing and destabilising the industrialised world, but also at the same time cruelly ravaging the third world. With the global political changes that have occurred over the past few years, over 4 billion people in low-wage countries such as China, India and Vietnam, have entered the free world economy. Now companies can employ 47 Vietnamese or 47 Filipinos for the cost of one person in the developed world. What is more, as the libertarians rightly point out, none of these developing countries have anything like the expensive but necessary social or environmental protection that exists in the West. With the rapid and free movement of capital and trade, goods can be manufactured anywhere in the world and sold anywhere else.

So, instead of employing expensive workers at home, companies can transfer their production to a country with cheap labour and low levels of social and environmental protection. Then they will import the products that they make using that cheap labour and sell them in their home markets (though not necessarily at a cheaper price – as Nike proved when it moved its manufacturing from the US to Asia, shoe prices did

not drop, instead profit margins rose). So the West loses jobs, foots a spiralling welfare bill and imports too much, whilst the developing countries are stuck on very low wages, very poor social safety nets and a degraded environment. What a rosy future for the world!

The free-marketeers argue that to compete, we must abolish government regulation. If we take this to its logical conclusion we would have low wages for those who did have work, we would abolish unions, sick pay, paid holidays, any costly environmental regulation and we would abolish taxation, since this is the ultimate form of regulation. We would therefore need private schools, private healthcare, private police and private pensions. In short we would have to take a radical step backward and accept a huge drop in our standard of living – which, incidentally, means more than the level of GDP and the price one has to pay for consumer goods. Only the rich would survive. Who would possibly vote for this?

The answer is, of course, the ultimate free-marketeers, those 100 multinational corporations which control about one-third of all foreign direct investment. The globalisation of the market is vital to them, both to produce cheaply and to sell universally. And because they do not necessarily owe allegiance to the countries where they operate, there is a divorce between the interests of transnational corporations and those of society. While society is impoverished, multinationals' profits are rocketing upwards. But they will be like the winners of a poker game on the Titanic. The wounds

inflicted on society will be too deep, and brutal consequences will follow. This is already beginning to happen. People think that the problem is with the party in power. Of course it is not. It is with the nature of the system itself.

As for the Information Age, this has as much negative potential as good. Whilst it is a welcome decentralising force, new technology also poses another grave threat to employment. The eminent American economist Jeremy Rifkin has recently warned that as much as 75 per cent of current jobs will one day be carried out by machines. This would be an even more terrifying statistic if it wasn't for the fact that governments are still in existence to try to ensure that alternative forms of employment are found.

Governments are still essential, perhaps even more essential than ever. Indeed, we may need to move towards a form of global government in order to restrain and repair the follies of the free-market. Of course no one likes to be constrained or to pay taxes, but it is universally recognised that this is the price to pay in order to belong to a civilised society.

We have a duty to protect all those who cannot protect themselves; that includes vulnerable humans as well as the environment. The free-market won't care for the sick or clean up the planet, in fact it does precisely the opposite. And since we do not yet live in a world where every individual, chairmen of multi-nationals included, has a high sense of moral responsibility for his or her own actions, as well as for the welfare of others, governments must still play a part in guaranteeing a fair and just world.

# Religions of the world unite

Neda Azenian reports on World Religion Day hosted by the Baha'i faith

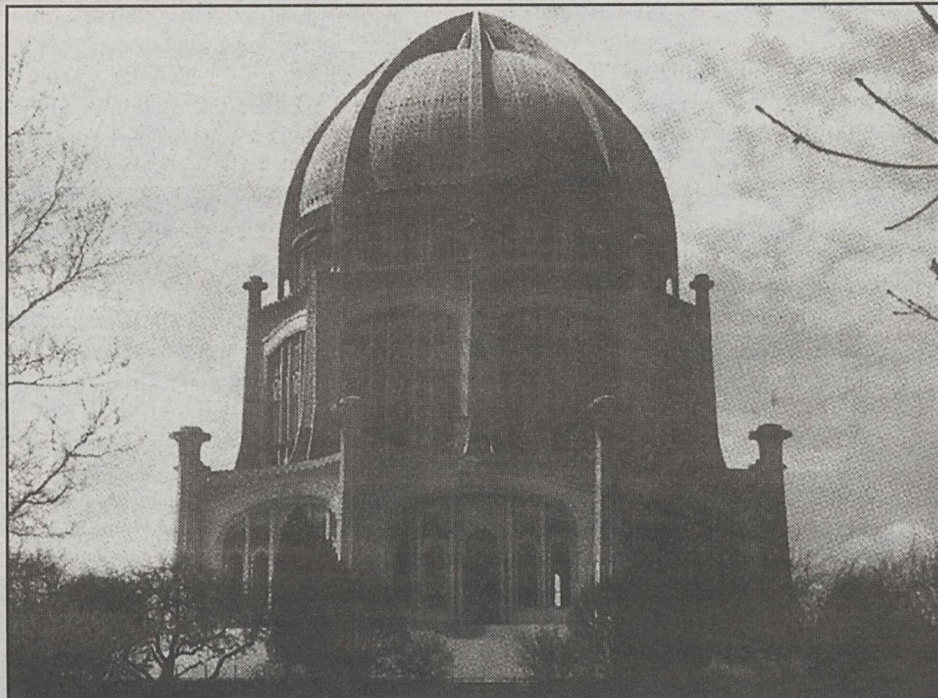
**W**orld Religion Day is held on the third Sunday of every January, but the LSE religious societies got together last Monday to hold a "CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY". To my knowledge, this is the first time such an event has been held at the LSE.

Each society gave a five minute informative speech about their main beliefs. Following that, each group tried to show the spirit of what they believed. The Jewish Society gave a fascinating demonstration of prayer in Hebrew with the special prayer shawl. The Christian Union and Catholic Society joined to sing, but they each also performed songs that they use to worship. The Baha'i Society quoted writings from their scriptures exhorting all peoples of all religions to 'consort with each other in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship' There was also a Baha'i prayer chanted in Arabic. Personally, I was most touched by the Hindu Society. This is because it was the religion I knew least about, and I appreciated having my ignorance dispelled to some extent.

Unfortunately not all the world's major religions were represented. This was not because they were unwilling to participate; it was through poor communications which shall certainly be remedied next year from this first experience.

We were all very uncertain as to how the evening would go. There was an air of anticipation about what we were trying to achieve. No one dismissed the fact that religion does and has caused problems – what an understatement! BUT – anyone with an inkling of what God and religion is knows that its main purpose is to foster the well-being of mankind.

The common denominator for us all was



The Baha'i House of Worship in Wilmette, Illinois, USA

that GOD and RELIGION have a significant, positive role in our lives. One society mentioned praying especially when needing help for exams!! Religion has become a taboo word with many connotations: wars, cults, superstitions and so on. Yet for many people, including students here, GOD still has a POSITIVE part to play in their lives. Anticipation disappeared and there was ample opportunity to make good friends and acquaintances. We all agreed that it was constructive.

The Baha'i Society at LSE seeks to promote unity in diversity on campus. The Baha'i Faith originates from Iran. It is an independent religion of about five million people from all over the world. It was founded

in 1844 and its founder is Baha'u'llah (translated 'the Glory of God'). Last term there was an introductory lecture on the Baha'i Faith. Baha'u'llah basically taught that mankind is going through a process of maturation. Right now we are behaving like reckless adolescents but the day will come when we fulfil our destiny and unite.

**WATCH OUT FOR US AT GLOBAL FESTIVAL.** Baha'i comedian Omid Djalili, currently performing at Riverside Studios in Hammersmith will be here to make you ache with laughter. The Scotsman called him "an elephant on acid" at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival! Musician Conrad Lambert from the World Music Festival will be joining us.

## Multi-culturally challenged

Nick Robin and Dhara Ranasinghe explore the degree of integration at the LSE

**L**ack of integration amongst LSE students seems to be a major problem, but did it have to take Raj Paranandi's article in last week's *Beaver* to show the natural segregation which has taken place, and is noticeable even in lecture halls? Once you have sat down after having fought your way through the crowds, it is difficult not to notice a natural tendency for students to aggregate into cultural, if not ethnic groupings. You find yourself in a very multi-cultural atmosphere, with sounds of German, Russian, Japanese, and many other languages coming from every direction. Although this is certainly uplifting, and stresses the unique distinctive characteristic of the LSE, it is sad to see that few of these groups consist of students coming from all walks of life. Is this because students have found it more comfortable to fit in and mix with those peers from a similar background? This may not be such a bad idea; however for a school which stresses its multiculturalism, little appears to have been done in the way of integration and assimilation. Aha, I hear a voice cry 'Isn't this what societies are for?'

True, societies are a forum for broadening one's horizons of the different nationalities, and there is a lot that can be enjoyed, such as dancing with the Latin-American society, or wine-tasting with the Francophone society. However, if societies are here to promote the culture of their members, they soon become a deterrent to the melting-pot. There, foreign students are given an opportunity to meet fellow nationals, with whom they will then spend most of their time. Moreover, for some of these societies, the aim is by no means integration. These will find their membership rather exclusive, and an individual not matching certain criteria will feel slightly out of place in meetings.

But the societies are only echoing a problem that arises at the level of the school itself. In halls, group culture is at its highest: where the tendency again appears to be that there are similar groupings, evident for example in the dining rooms. That such behaviour is natural in any form of society is true. However these groups are almost at all times based on cultural and/or ethnic criteria and for a college that professes the virtues of multi-culturalism; this is somewhat sad. Isn't it about time that the LSE started promoting exchanges between students, and not making the same mistakes as society at large?

## FROM FEBRUARY 7 TO 9

KENYANS

FRANCOPHONE

COLUMBIANS

BULGARIANS

BRAZILIANS

JEWS

# GLOBAL FESTIVAL

BAHAI

PAKISTANIS

MALAYSIANS

INDIANS

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN

## FREE FOOD AND DRINK - BE THERE

The winner of the twenty pounds in cash for completing last week's exciting *Beaver* questionnaire is ... Hamza Elahi

Well done and thank you to everyone who filled one in. We will be conducting more research before we finally publish the results.

# Murder Most Seedy

Iain Haxton digs up Kylie and Cave on seedy CD

**Artist:** Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds

**Album:** Murder Ballads

Oral sex at gun point. Dead whores. Dogs nailed to doors. They found him the next week up one mile creek with his head bashed in. Hmmm. This is the, um, "theme" of Nick Cave's latest album, and he is clearly not a very happy man. Yes, he has always been a tad darkly eccentric, but in the cases of his last two albums "Henry's Dream" and "Let Love In" this has been a good thing. This time around however, things have got a bit more, how can I put this, extreme.

So the first tune is called "Song For Joy". Now, Nick Cave is never going to be "joyful", and so it becomes clear the song is

about Nick's wife and children being stabbed to death, sliced up into pieces with a kitchen knife and all the bits sewn into a sleeping bag - "And the killer never was caught". What is the casual listener to make of all of this?

Because you find yourself humming to a random catchy little number, and then you find yourself singing something like "Those twenty children, they all gotta die", it's all a bit disconcerting really. I mean, obviously the man is obsessed. Incidentally, the twenty children are hacked to bits with a circular saw, and then thrown into a lake. Then some more children are burned to death in the Bella Vista slum and a little girl is set on fire with gasoline. Easy listening this isn't.

Atlantic 252 playlisting is probably not part of the overall marketing strategy, but this catalogue of atrocities, far from being revolting, just ends up being *amusing*, and I'm not sure that's the point. Whatever the

case, at least you can't argue with his consistency - even the "nice", "tender", duet with Kylie, "Henry Lee", has the usual Cave "dark" stamp on it: Girl meets boy. Boy meets girl. Girl loves boy. Boy loves someone else. Girl kills boy and dumps his corpse down the bottom of a very deep well. Oh well, at least Kylie's singing is quite nice.

Lyricaly it is clever - dark, brooding, menacing, etc. Musically, however, it does wobble about in a bit of a pedestrian fashion. Unlike the last few albums the Bad Seeds only provide a dark, brooding, menacing, etc accompaniment, and a very quiet one at that. Sort of sinister background music over which Nick half-whisper half-shout (in a most alarming fashion) lines like "And then with an ashtray as big as a fucking really big brick I split his skull in half".

With a couple of exceptions ("Crow Jane" and "Stagger Lee") there is no POP!, hooks, melody etc. The album is really like

a singing horror story. Verse, chorus, verse, bridge, guitar solo and you know, standard song structure kind of stuff is abandoned for a stream of consciousness style of depraved anecdotes. Like Tom Waits but *more scary*. "O'Malley's Bar" is fifteen minutes of half-whispered, half sung monologue about death, despair etc etc. "They found her the next day cuffed to the bed, With a rag in her mouth and a bullet in her head". Nice.

So I'm thinking in what possible context is this meant to be listened to? It's clearly not a going out to a party kind of vibe, nor is it a seduction record (unless you are *quite* strange). The ideal setting is alone, at 4 am, after a week's self-induced sleep deprivation, burning some incense candles and carving the names of those that have sinned in your chest with a bread knife. Um, this is only a recommendation if you want it to be.

You listening, Fred West?

Singles \* \* \* Singles \* \* \* Singles \* \* \* Singles \* \* \*

## Whole lotta bugging

**Artist:** Gold Bug

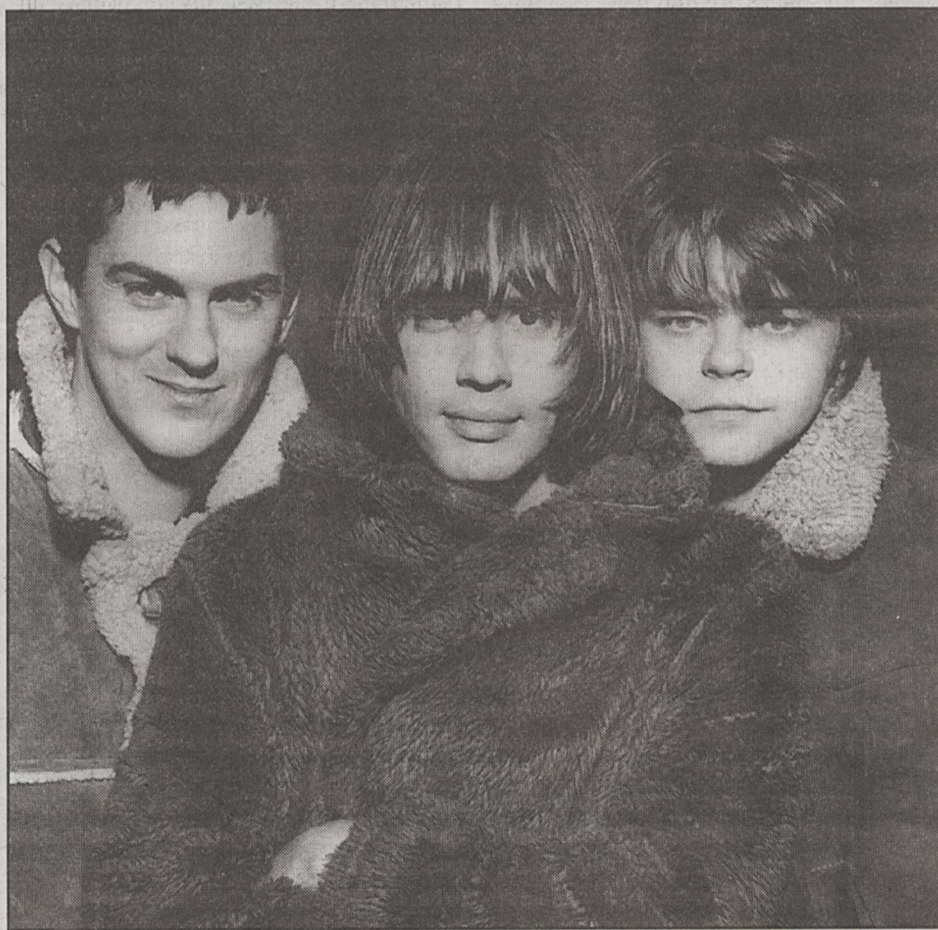
**Single:** Whole Lotta Love

As small children we are reliably informed that stealing is a completely disreputable, nefarious and downright naughty thing to do. Yet, musically speaking, stealing is generally thought to come under the heading of "way cool". From Vangelis to Vanilla Ice and including numerous instantly forgettable dance artists, samples have been fashionable to the point of tedium. Indeed, so poor have most efforts been that most should by now have had their hands judiciously removed in recognition of the bastardisations they have produced. Yet sometimes, just sometimes, we get a diamond floating in amongst the turds.

Gold Bug borrow two little bits for this single; mainly from an old Zeppelin song, and partially from an old cinema 'Pearl and Dean' theme tune. Upon this equation (crap + crap = ?) one would logically deduce "crap" to be the predictable outcome. Wrong. Very wrong. Fair enough, the name Gold Bug may mean diddley squat, but this combination of bizarre styles leads to a whole far superior to the sum of its parts. Unlike the majority of Acid Jazz releases, it is not just for the purist with a ridiculous goatee beard and bizarre dress sense. It aims for success, and as cheesy as the whole affair may be, it will probably succeed.

In all, what we have here is irritatingly catchy, obscenely hummable and eminently danceable. Indeed, so commercial is it that you can almost hear Chris Evans coming on at the end: "and now, lets see what the roads are like today ...". It sounds like it has been around for ever, and probably will be from now on - if you don't like it, you'd better get used to it.

James Crabtree



60ft. Dolls... chartbound sound!

Photo: Neil Cooper

## Giant Alcoholic Dolls

Toby Mason stays in to praise the Welsh

**Artist:** 60Ft. Dolls

**Single:** Stay

You've never heard of them, but you soon will have - this little ditty looks set for the Top 40, and we all know what happens to bands then. They have free access to drugs, drink and women, lots of journalists write about them, and their photograph is plastered everywhere from Wolverhampton to the Pope's arse crack. This indeed seems to be The Dolls' gameplan.

They go about it like they mean it. 'Stay' is the distilled essence of rock 'n' roll, in all its ugly splendour; pounding drums, teeth-on-edge guitar and suitably shouty vocals. The lyrics are as supremely dumb as is to be expected, but to expect anything else is to miss the point. The Dolls are a *drinking* band, they stomp around like you do when you're drunk. Oh, but they do it for a living. Mike-the-bass was recently featured as hunk-of-the-month in *More* magazine, and my friend (who should know) reckons he's as good a shag as he looks. That deserves respect, in anybody's book, and they're Welsh, which equals double respect.

## Acid or Skunk?

**Artist:** Skunkhour

**Album:** Feed

Personally speaking, there is a real problem with Acid Jazz. Don't get me wrong, it's not the people, or the image, or the kudos, or the zeitgeist which annoy; merely the entire genre grates somewhat. See, as a music type, AJ is supposed to be left of centre, innovative, cool, laid back and scuzzy. To become left of centre, innovative and whatever else, dictates that you must out-innovate the last chap, to maintain your place on the cutting edge of cool. What this means, in practice, is twofold. Some bands noodle away and produce music so obsessively lost in its own weird hip as to be completely credible but simultaneously utterly unlistenable. Alternatively, the road to inspiration can simply lead to tedium, with innovation becoming a non-term for lack of ideas.

The answer to this is simple; stop making Acid Jazz records. Skunkhour have done this by cobbling together an LP which is part funk, part noodle, part art, part heart, part rock, part rap, part dance ... in fact it's part goddamn near anything you could care to mention. This random skipping across the musical sky has both positive and negative aspects, yet perversely it never seems to blend into a cohesive whole. Certain tracks come across more like an ensemble of the Red Hot Chilli Peppers and Rage Against the Machine. Others convincingly plumb the depths of melancholy feeling. Yet, eventually, this musical leap-frogging ceases to endear itself, and becomes mildly numbing. Obviously, you could praise such a records for its experimentation, diversity and variety, but, why bother? Despite having numerous positive qualities, Skunkhour seem to end up slightly stale; for such a record this must constitute the ultimate sin.

# Loveless lifestyle leaves LSE lachrymose luvvies lamenting lusty longing

**L**SE student life is no different from any other. We have our ambitions, we have our interests. Yet as in any other college or place of work there are those amongst us who yearn for love: the warmth of an embrace and the thrill of a kiss. For these people I feel sad. Yet, diary readers, there are people for whom my heart breaks more. There are here



amongst us, individuals who feel this way about each other. She loves him, he adores her; yet neither know how the other one feels.....the part that breaks this diarists heart is that they probably never will! Every evening they waste their time intermingled in each others minds, together in fantasy, at one in hope yet brutally apart in time and space. This weeks diary takes a turn away from ridicule from cruelty and grips cupid's arrow in one last attempt to hit the mark.

Our first couple are Peter and Francesca, I can't disclose their surnames as dignity is all they have. These two individuals (I can't describe them as a couple) dream of each other every single night yet..... Let me introduce Peter, he was born a heroin addict, a good looking lad - bearing a striking resemblance to Marc Almond. Let us peek into his Wednesday ...

Wednesday 10 January 1996

11pm

"I couldn't sleep again last night, I'm not sure I can go on, she just will not leave my mind. People think I spend all my time in The Tuns because I haven't got any friends, of course this is true, but I sit there just hoping for a glimpse of my red hot chilli.

'I'm standing on tiptoes' and looking over fences, waiting for someone like you to kiss me senseless  
Let us take a lift of desire climbing the floors, my passion surges higher.  
Shelter me in the London rain and kiss me on the temple again.

Knowing that I can never kiss that face, I decided to try and sleep with a few men because I knew that I could never go with another woman. Tom Smith was alright and Whippe didn't put up a fight. Oh Fran how I'll never forget you."

Fran has never worked out what it is that she sees in Peter. She can't remember how it started or how it happened. All she knows is that she has never felt anything so strong as the emotion welled inside her at this moment. Emotions are so strong and affect us in all we do. Yet Francesca, a worker on the college campus never lets it show. The next time you are at the SU reception give her a smile. Let us peek into her Friday ...

Friday 12 January

11am

"Another week over. My work for the SU, living with John and my MSc keep me going, they give my life a framework that I can just follow with no effort. Last night I saw 'While you were sleeping'. Peter Gallagher could be my Peter, it was so romantic. Why can't I be

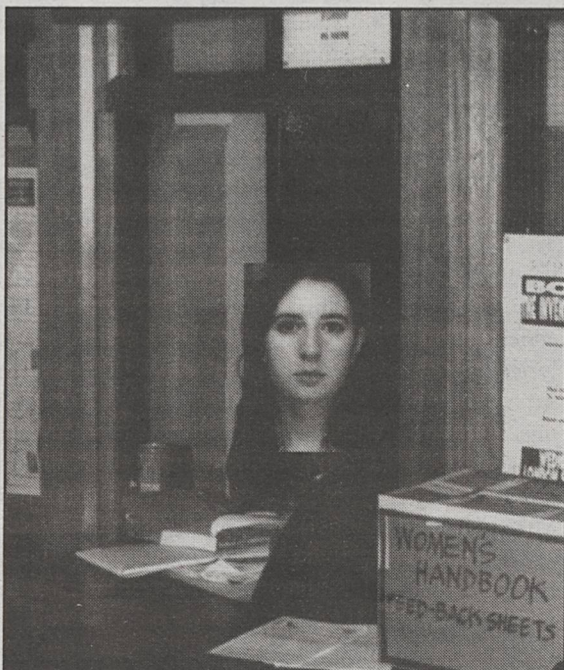
reception window everyday but he doesn't know that I exist."

7pm

"I SAW HIM! I wasn't sure where to find him. I asked Nicola Hobday and she said that he might be in The Tuns. A long shot but I gave it a go. There he was sat in the corner discussing the implications of a global economy with Scouse Gardiner. I thought "this is it," my one chance to try and speak to him. I walked over to him and said 'Hi Pete do you want to share my umbrella?'. He simply said 'No Fran, it's not raining'. I walked out in a hurry."

But, my diary voyeurs, what Fran didn't know is that Pete followed her out to catch her up ... but she was gone. A sad tale but they aren't the only ones.

Our second couple, Ali and Kate, are also a secret item but their love has to be



kept quiet for other reasons. Kate feels that it would be embarrassing if people new about them. She is worried that everyone would take the piss. Don't misjudge her though, her feelings are genuine. This diarist urges her to follow her heart if those people really are her friends then they will come round. I obviously don't want to reveal too much about Kate, it will suffice to say that she is a salaried

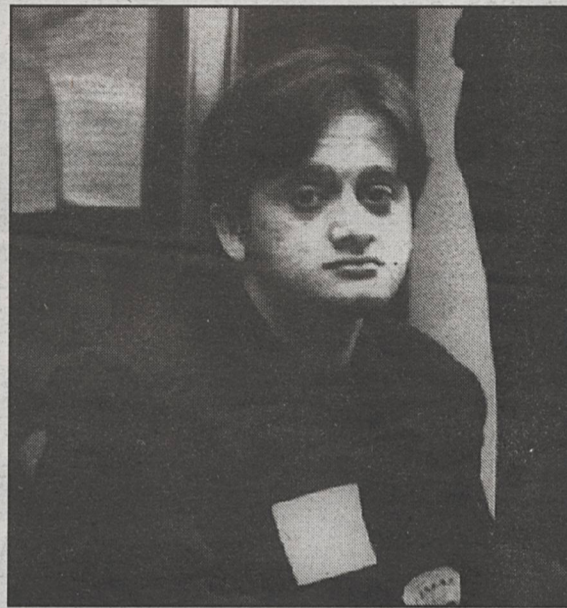


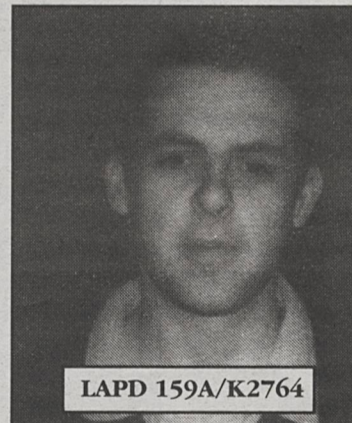
Photo: Kenneth La

Union representative and part time model. We join her at her busiest time, Monday morning ...

Monday 8 January

"Monday morning and I am, like, just so busy. I have meetings with the other Sabs and have to speak to Gethin. I have just, like, a huge pile of correspondence to deal with okay. However as usual I am spending my morning desperately trying to get out of bed. I have been pleasing myself physically by imagining that goldfishbowl face, those sparkling eyes. I know that he is not everyone's cup of tea, all I know is that the thought of never seeing him again sends shivers down my spine.

'Calvin Klein hat and wet look hair



body of a god with political flair'

The course of true love never runs smoothly. If Kate could only communicate these feelings to Ali and be open with her friends. Ali, son of a famous film star, has been at the LSE for a couple of years. At first he kept pretty much to himself but when the Union demanded political 'big guns' he joined the fray with style - topping the poll at last years LSESU Executive election. Ali is pretty much one of the lads, usually staying out all night with his big buddy Baljit, getting drunk, brawling and doing too many drugs. Recently, his secret affair with Kate has changed this. He is to be found most nights staying in and waiting for that call ...

Thursday 14 January

"I do understand why Kate won't go public about us, it's because she thinks everyone will assume that she will be trying to get me elected, but she could still tell some of her friends. I know it is ridiculous but sometimes I think she might be

ashamed of me. No - at home I was the finest looking boy in the village. Admittedly when I first arrived at LSE I may have been naive about fashion but since I started wearing those Hi-Tech trainers and designers woolly hats. Actually this fashion incentive has really made me popular with the lads. My Number One guy Baljit is Mr Popular and knowing him has brought me a huge amount of friends. English humour, though, is hard to understand but now I know that when people shout 'Ali - you twat', that they are just being really friendly.

I am going to sign off now but to all those lonely people out there, adieu. There could have been many other couples in this column, you know who you are. Wayne and Claire, Scouse and Hobday, Dan and Katrin, Sean and Ed, Gareth and Samantha

## Poetry Corner

### Ode to Diana

Diana, Diana, I wanna be your mana  
I've got this great plana  
to long you with my spanner  
Your long blond hair, skin so fair  
I'd like to lure you into my lair  
and do you

Inspiration, Public Economics Monday 1-2

Poetry Corner

Poetry Corner

## Rugby lads can't pull as many birds as the football team

The adventure began with Vince, our jellied-eel-eating driver taking us to the port of Dover. The journey down had seen the one and only Brian Femi falling in love with a roll of toilet paper; the relationship was all set to blossom, only to be interrupted by a Yankee basketballer. Being of jealous disposition, Femi had to intercede, and he did so with a measured left hook.

Our illustrious warriors settled down for a few quiet ales; a certain Father Abrahams reared his ugly head, and demanded to see prime examples of 100% British beef. Unfortunately, these specimens were suffering from severe bouts of Mad Cow Disease – an especially serious case was that of Nick the Hair, who showed the whole ferry how to chuck, causing Captain Birdseye, our ferry skipper, to give him a tour of the hind quarters. A certain individual, who shall remain anonymous, decided to expose his shapely black buttocks to the sleeping passengers, causing several of them to jump ship, and swim away.

Our French host kindly fed us their shit food on Friday morning – we thanked them in the time-honoured way by starting a food fight and hitting them with baguettes. This set the tone for the day, as we set about beating Frenchies on the pitch as well as off it. Our pissed warriors nobly staggered onto the proving-ground, eager to do battle, psyching up by downing champagne. Straight from kick off, the carnage began – suffice it to say they were fucking atrocious. Alexis Woodpecker, Femi (2), Maximus, and even Agaylord scored – the latter cursing his inability to touch down off the pitch even as he scored.

Worse was to come for the French, as the triumphant army stormed the fortress of the ENSAE bar. Their place was shit even before we got there – babyfoot and chess – but it was still better than the Tuns. We decided to round off a good night with a beer fight and a sing song. They countered this by bringing out some radioactive waste as their secret weapon – surely the only explanation for Nick and Alexis's fucked up hair. Later on that evening, we, or rather Ben, reached

the lowest point of the tour. To cut the crap, our illustrious captain took a shit. Now, this may not seem deviant, but when I tell you he left Daytona-style skidmarks in his pants, you might begin to understand what I'm getting at. The same anonymous individual who bared his buttocks earlier, was also,



All together: Christine Droit, Christine Droit, Christine Droit, Merde, Merde

allegedly, wandering around butt-naked going into various rooms, claiming he was lost. When confronted, Femi, errr, I mean he, denied all knowledge of the incident.

Saturday night was a momentous occasion for our boys, in particular Denise Agaylord and Andy Northener. Supposedly kidnapped by Frenchies, they returned in a state that defied belief. Two normally quiet gents were reduced to being a pair of inadequate wankers. In between drooling uncontrollably over all and sundry, the Agaylord would apologise about his tiny manhood and his latent desire for Chloe. Andy, on the other hand, managed to regain control of his not inconsiderable body, and rejoined reality to be confronted with a horrific sight; Tom Twat, devoid of all clothing, writhing and cavorting in the streets of Gay Paris, showed all of us how not to keep our bodies in shape. His ample tits, volumi-

nous love handles, and Rhino-like backside, were eventually covered by the Union Jack. With Agaylord snugly tucked up, the boys dissipated into the various groups as we entered the Red light district. Brian Femi had the misfortune of being lumbered with James Redier; unbeknown to the masses,

beneath his redmop and reserved manner, he happened to be the biggest lover of pornographic material on the face of the earth. The number of individual cabins he managed to enter was staggering; suffice it to say by the end of the night he had wanked himself into a frenzied state and passed out in a porno cinema. Meanwhile, the Black Beast was merely keeping up his reputation (unlike his knob) by not only sampling the delights of his own porn empire, but chatting up the male owners of various cinemas. Having been rejected, he worked himself up into a sexual whirlwind and was forced to turn to "working girls". Unfortunately, they were having none of it, and thus Brian Femi became the only man (?) to be blown out by a woman who sells herself to all cummers.

To sum up the tour, a good time was had by all. Roll on 1998, and fuck the Entente Cordiale!

## Squash team don't pull No change there then

The LSE super 7 proved yet again that they were unbeatable, squashing the funny French 14, 14-0!! Highlights of the trip included:

Treasurer Jay 'C\*\*\*' aria won both matches but failed miserably in his navigation skills. Being the only one who could say "bonjour" the fat shit failed to find the Eiffel Tower. Ziyad 'Anal' Rahim finally managed to regain winning form by beating the only girl on the team. His other achievements included a live anal show at the Sexadrome in Pigalle and his hard work in perfecting his 'new' found skills (Ranjeev being the one to suffer). Skipper 'Ghatia' Bhatia impressed all with his form, in more ways than one. Upon being asked whether he'd like tea or coffee by a sexy French waitress, he gave her his room number – great use of the 300 pound French course skipper. These skills were repeated on "Innocent Eja" at Cité University where he preferred using his body language. Rahul 'Shitty' Rasan caused a stir by suddenly disappearing on Saturday night. After frantic searching the squash team found him naked and shaven outside the Moulin Rouge, murmuring "Poussez Poussez...Poussez real good!!" That's about the only French he learnt.

Chris 'Itcheah kuitch-each' had a massive 'itch' after his Pigalle visit and his hands were in the front of his pants for the rest of the trip. Hard core Iwen Morsingh from Tai'Iwen' (or thereabouts) went to Pigalle with great expectations. When asked to comment on his lesbo experiences at the Sexdrome, he blurted, "but where were the horses la?". But the star of the trip was Fart 'Yee' Fung (Jonathan Cheng). First he farted his way through the squash match, his opponent had to be carried out with an oxygen mask. Then he successfully dispersed the Eiffel Tower queue in no time. When asked to comment on his current form, he said, "I just couldn't control it". The sex...oops squash squad (ho ho ho), thus returned home successfully.

## The Empire strikes back

### The women's hockey team do it again

On Wednesday the Women's hockey team valiantly ventured back to the East End to face off against QMW, aiming to stretch our winning stretch to four games. We had our star player Joy and our new secret weapon Lesley with us so we were feeling confident as we strutted onto the -5 degree pitch. We gave QMW a false sense of security by letting them score the first goal, which slowed us down a bit, but soon enough Joy and Lesley teamed up to score our first goal. After that, there was no looking back as we quickly took over the game. The match had many interesting points though, as the QMW players always felt the need to dispute Karen's calls (she was playing the position of ref), and Chloe took some of the QMW's ref's calls a little too much to heart, and ended up being sent off the pitch. The game ended with LSE's wonderwomen on top again, 3-1, even though we played without a goalie. Our

majorette Emma acted as kicking back though, when she was awake – concentration has yet to be experimented in.

Allison and Carrie have yet to get a goal, although Carrie has been busy scoring off the pitch – c'est l'amour! But with Joy, Lesley and Sheba carrying the load, they are compensated for more than adequately. Our defence played heartily, with all the halves (Lesley, Joy and Allison) covering all ends of the pitch, backed up by Evi, Emma, and our first year sensation Deepa. The defence played exquisitely as usual, while the famous forwards – Sheba Carrie, Chloe, Anna, and Liz – certainly performed fabulously, keeping the ball QMW's side of the pitch for most of the game. The right, as usual, ended with a celebration at The Tuns, which is becoming more and more the norm these days as our winning streak continues, most likely until the end term!

## Sporting Trivia Teaser

Which member of the LSE sporting community has not only slept with a prostitute but has also got his penis out in a Parisian bar and been thrown out of hall for Sliver-like antics? Send all answers to Pron Bose competition, Beaver Towers, Clare Market Building

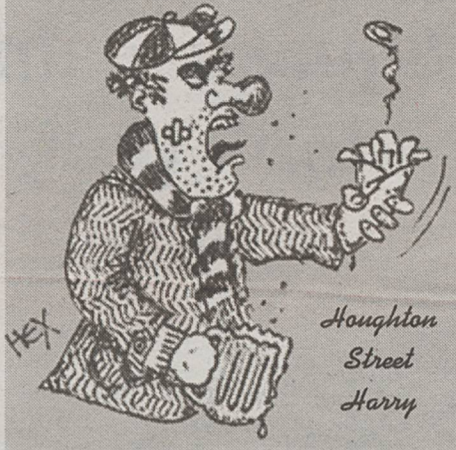
## Barts lose hospital and football match to LSE Babes

The words 'lamb' and 'slaughter' come to mind when trying to describe this match, goals galore in deepest Kent last Sunday at LSE's match against the soon to be defunct St Bartholomews, but we refrained from singing *where's your hospital gone?*

For once Lotta, captain as Mia was in Wales for some unknown reason, led out a full team – see how long that lasts. The Barts brats were appalling, and did not seem to realise that eight players constantly going for the same ball is not generally a good strategy. As they strived to exit their own half and failed miserably, Silvia and Anna

scattering 'defenders' in their wake, the LSE back four had time to put their feet up on the half way line, have a fag and a cup of tea. Goals from Anna, Silvia, Jo and Connor put the glory girls into the lead early on and after half time Christina scored her first goal for LSE. Pri's goal was rarely challenged, as the medics gave us untold acres of space but 'crazylegs' Connor still felt the need to mow down a few hapless opponents.

Well deserved hat tricks for Connor and Silvia, a superb display from all the team and the direness of Barts meant we whipped them 9-0. We meet our greatest rivals next week, are you watching Kings?



Houghton  
Street  
Harry

When Harry first sat down to pen this week's offering, the aim was definitely to have a go at Americans. Let's face it, Superbowl week would annoy the fuck out of Gandhi and Florence Nightingale, and I'd venture that Pope John Paul would get pretty pissed off with lairy buffoons that get pissed on two Buds and still think that they're God's gift wrapped present to England. But gradually I'm coming round to the Ben Tallis way of thinking; I admit it, Americans are lovely, and I was wrong.

That's not to say that I don't think you've got your faults: the US are shit at football, although that's hardly surprising when you consider that your best player is a gay ginger with a shit beard. And your sports events are crap as well; where's the challenge in a World series where you're the only team allowed to enter? Again, though, that's par for the course considering your track record in proper battles – just look at Vietnam. And Pringles do piss me off...and that fat useless shit Oprah... and people who clap after TV programmes... and verbose blondes that shout "Valerie" every time they climb the stairs and substitute semi-orgasmic squeals of "Ooh" for nouns and adjectives ... and my ex-girlfriend. Not that my ex-girlfriend was American, she just pissed me off.

But despite all these things, you're not nearly as annoying as the British. Because we really are the biggest twats on earth. It's not that Brits are prejudiced against anyone in particular – it's just that we hate everyone and everyone hates us. We should change our national anthem to the Millwall tune "No-one likes us", because it's a pretty good summary of affairs.

The upper classes are the worst – too much time spent at Public School ejaculating over digestive biscuits and perfecting buggery techniques have left them insular and depraved, convinced only that "birds love it". This works on the presumption that "it" refers to being salivated upon by a lard-arsed duffer from Rugby with a fifty inch gut, breasts bigger than any page three girl, extreme halitosis and an incurable incontinence problem. Which woman could resist?

But 'lads' are equally bad – if there's anything annoying to do then we'll do it; urinating over bicycles, defecating on cashpoints (adding a new meaning to the phrase "dirty money"), flashing in Parisian night-spots (see football article), we offer every possible service.

And our women are lamentably poor. We've bred a nation full of bleached wales that are about as attractive as the majority of LSE tour pulls (see football article, again). Let's face it, you wouldn't backscuttle them for fear of them turning round.

So I apologise, we were at fault all along. Now this could have something to do with the fact that I'm in a strange mood this week, or even be linked to the fact that I've fallen for an American girl. But from now on I agree; Ingerlund, Mingerland – viva America!

# Victory on the pitch ... disappointment off it

Last weekend witnessed an unparalleled feast of debaucherous scandal as the LSE football boys pulled off an emphatic away result in glorious Paris. The way was led by group leader Chris Cooper; only he had the ability to vomit on the coach, wear only one pair of pants all weekend, throw cake and red wine, and get battered in a bloody bus brawl by heavyweight contender Raj Paranandi.

The official business of football against a highly rated ENSAE side turned out to be a mere formality. While they were highly rated, our own LSE heroes turned up highly ratted after an evening of meticulous preparation in The Tuns and on the ferry. Despite this handicap the brave lads pulled off a truly remarkable result against the type of flair not seen since the halcyon days of the 1970s. Not only were the French scummy bell-ends unbelievably shit, they were French scummy bell-ends, which on its own is enough to warrant one hell of a beating from a side as physically attractive as their football. The level of physical determination was up there in the same echelons as Howard 'Animal' Wilkinson used to be on a Friday night in The Tuns, before he got banned for the sort of bad performance which has blighted his three years at the LSE.

The LSE took the initiative early on as a perfectly finished rocket half-volley from Andre 'Oaf' Granditsch smashed the back of the proverbial French onion bag, from a pin-point corner by Chris 'lairy-still-pissed-tramp' Cooper, which dribbled into the box just as his sick had dribbled into the coach's upholstery only hours earlier. From then on the game was about consolidating our lead and twatting seven shades of "merde" out of the unsuspecting garlic-breathed buffoons. Highlights included Chris Cooper's 'carte jaune', a challenge which would be considered illegal for under-21s, and Scouse 'Rolex-Robber' Gardiner's scything down of a pair of cravate-sporting French "bastardes" in one foul swoop.

Despite the departure of Steve 'genou malade' Curtis, Matt 'tout le monde refusent

d'accepter qu'ils ont le shagger' Miller and Andre 'thick as merde de pig' Granditsch, the walking wounded were ably deputised by Bloooooargh Jonny Parr, Raj 'the Prince' Paranandi and Rhino Scouse 'King of Porn'.

The game was settled late on with a superb effort, set up by Dave "Badger Bond" Whippe and tucked away by Mike "up t' Miller's t' arse" Tatterstall with a shot that true to form didn't touch the sides. Goal ace Tatterstall later exclaimed that with the

with much suspicion by UN observers on account of the fact that she resembles the love-child of Mike Gatting, Bob Willis, Craig Johnston and Pron Bose. Let's face it Marcus, even Terry Pratchett is incapable of conjuring up something that gruesome. Other poor performances were also turned in, especially by the British Bulldogs – Stevey Boy Curtis and 'Dynamite Yid' Danny Fielding. Trevor's mongrel was probably the result of Dave Mellor's passionate



Granditsch forces in a winner his effort that evening was less that evening was less accurate

Photo: Scoop Gardiner

keeper stranded it was easier than throwing a banana down an alleyway, although Cooper claimed it was much tighter than that and he would've had more difficulty putting it in.

The performance on the pitch was superceded by the brave team performance on the following night in the heart of gay Paris. Not content with humiliating their Gallic hosts the brave young lions set about annihilating the pulling reputation of the rugby team with a convincing 12-0 scoreline. The 'Ming of the Match' award was handed to popular Fritz, Marcus 'dirty boxers' Kern. His effort contravened not only any FIFA regulations but also basic humanitarian requirements; the femme fatale is being viewed

rendez vous avec Madame Whiplash, inheriting both of their retarded genes. Despite her best efforts Steve's 'oiseau' limped in a distant third in the ming stakes on her one good leg. Both the boys deserve credit for closing their eyes and thinking of Mingland. Later they chortled harmoniously "Those birds stank, oh yes, they really stank!"

Raj Paranandi claimed to have pulled later, although rumour has it that this was just to avoid the ignominy of being the only fella except Pron "knob out for les filles" Bose not to pull (bunch of arse, mate), or the prospect of being caught in the Miller/Tatterstall lurvethang. Ooh Aah Bren McGraw, meanwhile, busied himself devouring Irish temptress Christine O'Madminger jr before resorting to paranoid fits after the discovery that his birds had been previously defiled by Matt Miller. This in itself was an unlikely occurrence since Matt was preoccupied with Burnley bombshell Mike "I've never shagged a \_\_\_\_\_ but I've come quite close" Tatterstall.

Scouse 'six foot minger' Gardiner busied himself with a burly Danish weightlifter. "She was six foot tall and blonde" remarked the highly unfortunate Liverpoolian. Yeah mate, but so were Big Bird, Stan Collymore and David James. Not content with the goods he'd acquired at the club, he invited her home so that he could rob her of her ring/timepiece.

Cooper, Lowen and Whippe, meanwhile were happy with their generic Saturday night routine, retiring to the hotel to indulge in hair-loss, weight-gain and solitary stimulation respectively. Rikos and Jon Parr turned down the glamour spoils (glamorous boils more like – realism Ed) of European competition, favouring the daily grind of domestic competition. Crazy John Edipidis, though spent the evening having an "unbelievable night to remember" with a purely platonic Parisienne pig. Overall, the tourists' ability to pull foreigners revealed what cunninglinguists they are.

## Yianni scores in Paris

### He proves he's a true rim boy

Henry V's army at Agincourt was a motley crew sick with cholera. Our 1996 version of an invading army had its own problems: a ten hour-trip, liberally sprinkled with fights over toilet paper, a sleepless night punctuated by boisterous singing, and eight empty stomachs. Not to mention the fact that we had to play the French right after eating lunch, a schedule which was obviously part of a conspiracy to interfere with our athletic performance. The lads at ENSAE even recruited their coach to act as referee. All to no avail. Ferrin had promised that we would trash the froggies, and, in the end, it was only the ref's criminally biased decisions which stopped the score at 68-50. A walkover, with admirable performances by 'Machine-gun' Bret Rosen, 'Sweet' Teague McKnight, Joe 'Santa Claus' Schwirtz, the Flying Spaniard 'Oz' Ferrin, Damir 'Mustang' Hadziosmanovic, Jay 'Microweave' Bernstein, 'Nor-dic' Nick Latham, and Yianni 'Scorer' Hadoulis.

But we didn't stop there. Fully realising our responsibilities as representatives of the LSE in a heathen land, we couldn't leave without exploring the local 'flora and fauna'. After all, we of the basketball team believe that a good performance in court should always be accompanied by an equivalent performance out of court. And so, from Pigalles to the Bastille, from the Champs-Elysees to Malakoff, we selflessly undertook the task of adding some hope to the dull lives of the Parisian girls. We did a pretty good job, especially considering the fact that we only had one full day at our disposal, and there were no complaints. In fact, we have a standing invitation to return, and as soon as possible, please. As proud upholders of the basketball tradition at LSE, we take this invitation quite seriously. Our aim is to please. Through one way or another, we left our mark on Paris, and sixteen weeping maidens to go with it. It is hence our duty to return. We'll be back, that much we pledge.