

# The Beaver

20 February 2007 Issue 660 The newspaper of the LSE SU

PART CAREERS  
INSIDE



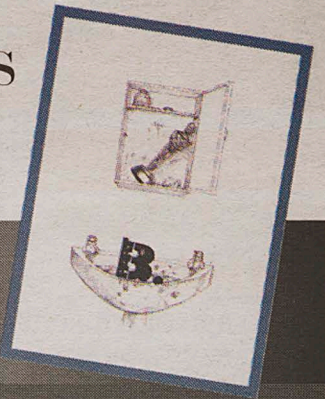
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## The uneconomical bookshop

- STUDENTS CAN SAVE UP TO 40 PERCENT BY SHOPPING ONLINE AND AT OTHER OUTLETS
- MANY STUDENTS PREFER TO RISK POTENTIAL LIBRARY FINES THAN INVEST IN NEW TEXTBOOKS

Erica Gornall  
Simon Wang

The on-campus branch of Waterstone's is one of the most expensive bookshops in London when compared to online and high street outlets.

Shopping online at Amazon Books is usually the cheapest source for used or new textbooks, and Borders bookstore offers the best in-store offers. Blackwell's bookshop, known for its extensive collection but high prices, offers approximately the same prices as the Waterstone's branch on campus, *The Economists' Bookshop*.

Essential texts for certain first year Economics, Mathematics and Statistics modules costs £155.92 at Waterstone's. Buying the same books from other stores and online outlets such as eBay, Amazon, Alpha Books and UniBooks, the student could save around £67, or approximately 40 percent off the price at Waterstone's.

Government courses' textbooks prices are also less expensive at other outlets. At both Waterstone's and Blackwell's, the sum of one first year Government student's reading list exceeds the recommended retail price (RRP) of £281.79 by £7 and £5 respectively.

Purchasing online from Amazon Books would cost the student £206.48 for the same brand new books, saving the student £82 pounds on the reading list.

Student discounts offered at the start of the academic year are useful to students looking to purchase books that have not yet reached the second-hand market.

The 10 percent discount for LSE students offered at the start of Michaelmas Term 2006 offered slight relief for cash-strapped students, but sources were uncertain if the discount will continue in future years. This was the first year that *The Economists' Bookshop* offered the discount, although other Waterstone's outlets have tra-

**I definitely regret buying from Waterstone's last term**  
First year LSE student

ditionally offered the annual discount for several years.

Borders, the international bookstore chain, offers a 20 percent discount to students at the beginning of the year. With discounts at both Waterstone's and Borders, the same Government student's reading list still costs £30 more at Waterstone's.

Approximately three years ago, a representative from the Economists' Bookshop told *The Beaver*: "We could never give

an overall discount as it would not be economically viable... it all boils down to cost."

An LSE spokesperson responded to questions about the relationship between the School and the bookshop by saying: "Waterstone's pays rent to LSE to lease its building. The most obvious advantage to having a bookshop on campus is that it is an easily accessible source for students to purchase books from."

Some students, particularly those studying law or international relations, prefer to rely on the LSE library for financial reasons. The cost of books for these subjects are significantly more expensive. Furthermore, students in these subjects are required to use the latest editions of texts.

When given a choice, many students have no preference for whether their textbooks are used, new, paperback or hardcover.

One first year Economics student said: "I definitely regret buying from Waterstones last term—you can get books cheaper somewhere else." When asked if he was going to buy books from Waterstones next year, he said, "I'm not even going to set foot in that place."

Last academic year, the Bookshop came under fire for not offering LSE students the same discounts offered at the Waterstone's situated on Gower Street near the UCL campus, after an LSE student complained to the then Students' Union (SU) Communications Officer Chris Heathcote.

Photograph: Liam Chambers



FEATURES: The death of the bookshop >>16

**Globalization of World Politics**  
J Baylis and S Smith  
RRP: £26.99  
Waterstone's: £26.99  
Borders (new): £24.27  
Amazon (used "good"): £18.00  
eBay: £16.01

**Microeconomics and Behaviour**  
Robert Frank  
RRP: £11.99  
Waterstone's: £11.99  
Borders (new): £11.47  
Amazon (used "new"): £15.00  
eBay: £11.25

**International Law**  
Malcolm Shaw  
RRP: £35.00  
Waterstone's: £38.00  
Borders (new): £35.00  
Amazon (used, "new"): £28.27  
eBay: N/A

Features: Chinese New Year



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Chinatown sees in the new year

Sports: Tennis



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Getting unfriendly

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London Fashion Week

NEWS

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Silent vigil for Al-Aqsa Mosque; LSE graduates make bank; How to "Screw the Banks"; Cambridge cartoon controversy

In other news

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

Drop age of consent to 14, says academic

The legal age of consent should be lowered from 16 to 14 for young people who are less than two years apart in age, according to an academic. Dr Matthew Waites, a lecturer in sociology at Glasgow University, said criminalising all consensual sexual activity up to 16 was not appropriate.

EducationGuardian

Plan for Swindon university run out of steam

Swindon's hopes of acquiring a university have been dashed as the University of Bath announced today that it was likely to pull out of a project to create a campus in the town.

The Wiltshire town, most famous for its railway industry and which sends comparatively few of its young people to university, has become a casualty of a change in government policy towards the expansion of higher education.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Varsity Cambridge reforms begin: leaked report reveals "deliberate defiance" of HEFCE

Yesterday, Varsity managed to gain access to a leaked green paper currently under discussion by the University Council containing a set of proposals to reform Cambridge's governance structure. If passed, the proposals outlined in the document would introduce greater accountability in the University and therefore go some way to placating the government agency. But they stop far short of the radical reforms suggested by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

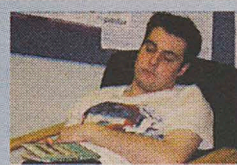
UNIVERSITY OF YORK

NOUSE

Student trapped in flooding Dusk toilet

Dusk Bar was flooded on 31 January after a University of York student who got stuck in the bar toilets was asked by staff to climb out through the window. This damaged the cistern and caused water to burst from the exposed pipes. The student was rescued from the toilet 30 minutes later when bar staff kicked the door down, despite having refused to do so at the start of the event. The student involved has not been charged for the damage. Dusk management has refused to comment on the event.

facebook watch: elections special



Special mention this week goes to Jeff Courtney who added a whopping 28 friends in just seven days.

Facebook friends: 272, friends added: 28



Arthur Krebbers: 887 Friends added: 7



Louise Robinson: 305 Friends added: 6



Fadhil Bakeer Markar: 456 Friends added: 9



Simon Douglas: 297 Friends added: 1



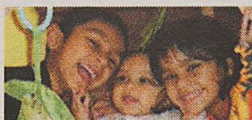
Libby Meyer: 363 Friends added: 6



Dan Sheldon: 264 Friends added: 18



Zoe Sullivan: 353 Friends added: 5



Ruhana Ali: 196 Friends added: 22

Every week in this space The Beaver will be monitoring how the facebook friend count of potential Lent Term election candidates is developing. Have these people added you lately?

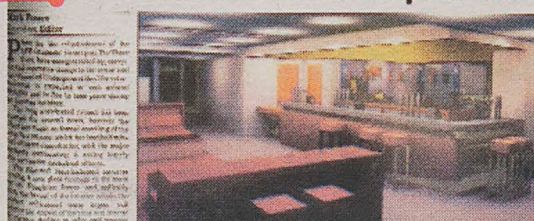
THIS WEEK IN 2004

Plans for refurbishment of the LSE Students' Union pub, The Three Tuns, have emerged detailing sweeping and expensive change to the venue and the connected Underground Bar. The refurbishment is expected to cost around £500,000 and is due to take place during the summer holidays.

The long anticipated project has been planned for several years, however the Union has made no formal unveiling of the plans in a process which has involved minimal student consultation, with the major decisions surrounding it resting largely with successive sabbatical officers.



Radical Tuns refurbishment planned



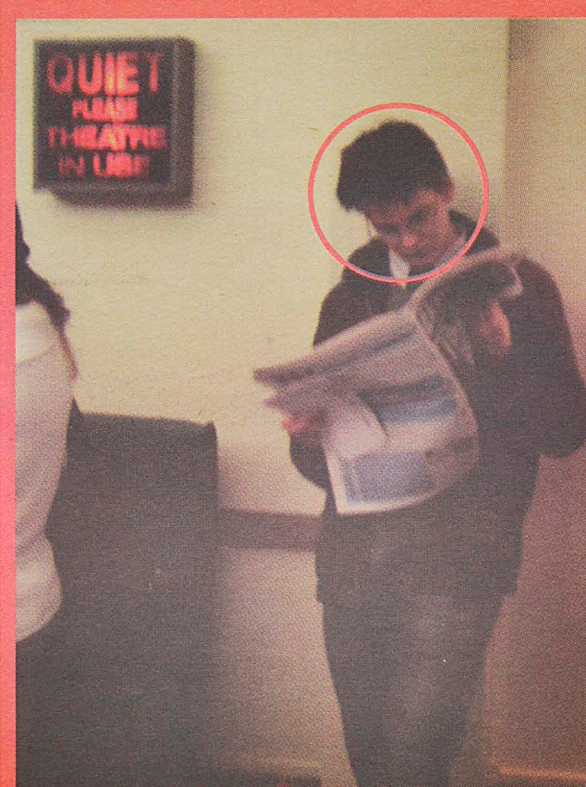
Picture of the week



Photograph: Simon Wang

Please send your submissions for 'Picture of the Week' to photos@thebeaveronline.co.uk to be featured here

READER OF THE WEEK



If this is you, email secretary@thebeaveronline.co.uk for your prize

NEWS IN BRIEF

London passing NYC as world financial capital

McKinsey has concluded that London is threatening to steal New York City's title as the financial capital of the world.

After surveying top financial executives around the globe, McKinsey found that London may relegate NYC to second-place status, according to The Guardian newspaper.

The chief executive of Goldman Sachs has an office in the City of London where he now spends half of his time, a fact many consider to be indicative of London's growing attraction to the finance world.

The mayor of New York City Michael Bloomberg acknowledged that it may be time for NYC to surrender its throne: "The financial services industry is the reason that the 20th century was the American century, and that New York was the world's capital."

The Guardian newspaper reported that from 2002 to 2005, London has been the source of 13,000 new jobs while Wall Street lost 2,000 jobs.

International finance post-9/11

Stanford professor of Economics John Taylor will discuss his new book Global Financial Warriors: the untold story of international finance in the post-9/11 world at the LSE on Tuesday 20 February.

Taylor served as head of the international division at the United States' Treasury under-secretary for international affairs from 2001 to 2005 and during the terrorist attacks of September 11th 2001. He is now a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution.

His new book explores the state of international finance in a post-9/11 world. He will speak about his thoughts on the reasons for the successes of international finance emanating from the United States, the United Kingdom, and banking institutions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The event will be held at 6:30pm in the New Theatre.

Franco Frattini Friday

Vice president of the European Union (EU) Commission and commissioner responsible for justice, freedom and security, Franco Frattini, will speak at the LSE on Friday 23 February.

His lecture will be held in the Hong Kong Theatre at 11am and is titled: "The Future of EU Migration and Integration Policies."

Frattini served as Italian minister for foreign affairs, minister for coordination of the intelligence and security services and minister for civil service prior to his appointment as Vice President of the EU commission in November 2004.

The lecture is part of a series of "The Future of Europe" events co-sponsored by The Financial Times Business and the LSE European Institute.

# Student editor forced into hiding

■ CAMBRIDGE COLLEGE PUBLICATION PRINTS DANISH PROPHET MUHAMMED CARTOONS  
 ■ EDITOR MOVED TO UNIVERSITY SAFE HOUSE AMID FEARS FOR SAFETY

Patrick Cullen  
Senior Reporter

The guest editor of a college publication at the University of Cambridge was temporarily sent into hiding "for safety reasons" following the publication of one of the Jyllands-Posten cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammed.

*Clarefication*, a weekly publication devoted to "satirical articles mocking Cambridge traditions ... silly student antics, and ...college gossip," was retitled *Crucification* and the issue in question focussed on religious satire.

According to *Varsity*, the Cambridge student newspaper, *Crucification* printed the cartoon of the Prophet Muhammed next to a photograph of the President of the Union of Clare Students. A caption beneath the cartoon of the Prophet Muhammed was the President's name, and the President's photograph had the Prophet's name as a caption.

Furthermore, underneath the captions, there were comments suggesting that the Prophet was a 'violent pae-



Photograph: Corbis

Clare College's weekly *Clarefication* has a different guest editor each week during Lent Term

dophile', while the President was 'a prophet of God, a great leader and an example to us all'.

Reports also indicate that the editor of the publication received death threats. After being moved to a university

safehouse, the editor has since met face to face with members of the local Muslim community and apologised.

The Union of Clare Students received several letters of complaint, and the Vice-President of Cambridge's

Islamic Society described the action as "crude and unabashed prejudice" which "clearly crosses the boundary of Islamophobia".

Clare College has withdrawn funding for *Clarefication*, in addition to

setting up a Court of Discipline to deal with those responsible. The Senior Tutor of Clare College, Patricia Fara, stated that the College "finds the publication and the views expressed abhorrent."

The college has begun an investigation and disciplinary procedures are likely against the editor responsible. Clare College has also been in close contact with local Muslim leaders and other religious leaders, to apologise for any offence that has been caused.

A member of the LSE Students' Union (SU) Islamic Society, called the action "a highly undignified provocation, with a malicious intent to deliberately attack the fundamentals of Islam". She said: "The original global uproar should be evidence enough that it's incredibly insensitive and offensive. Any republication is incredibly unprincipled."

However, other students at the LSE were less critical citing the importance of "complete freedom of the press and of speech". Another student said that *Clarefication* "should be able to print" the cartoons without repercussions, as "at the end of the day we have a load of stuff insulting Christianity."



## Union Jack

VOTE DAVIES '07

Good news my hack brethren, RAG is saved, Heathrow Howie has dipped into his deep pockets and matched the UGM's hundred pound charitable offering. Jack's recommendation: send the money to Africa, offer it to a struggling local community. The trifling tuppence should undo about 1 millionth of the damage that our new Chair of Council has managed to achieve in his last year at BP.

Talking of matches Halfway Howie (For he still has more that he wishes to achieve) seems to have chucked in the towel to Cesspit and Dilhole. Did they deliberately beat him off the squash court? No one knows, but we do know that the Director, sporting a new silver broom, is ready to grant the oppressed proles, who clean his floor, a pay rise. Whether or not the rise will surpass the floor the Greens had in mind is another matter. But Jack's not holding his breath.

There was a fleeting moment in the UGM when Jack felt faint - the LSE Executive has developed a conscience? Hmm, maybe not. The sub-text of Big Howie D's provisions for the masses was just round the corner. Forget Clinton and Obama for the time being, the message from the UGM is Vote Davies '07. What's the manifesto for four more years? Jack fears it's more pricey flights, less pastoral care and more nationalistic songs that offend the delicate sensibilities of the LSE's tentative racial balance.

Teetering on the verge of swallowing Howard's vomit Jack quickly took his eyes off our pandering Director and surveyed the reaction of our four Sabbs. Much like getting hit in the face then stabbed in the mouth it's hard to deny that things were progressing from bad to worse. The mass-debating Dewj-Bag was Howie's central cheerleader - he offered his thorough support for Beaver beration.

Dave Vincenti PI, was focusing on other things, she fidgeted to look back at the Beaver corner. 'Shh', ordered Dave. Jack suspects it was just an excuse to glance back at a certain editor. Probably best she wasn't listening to Howie anyway, the musical nationalism would have upset her delicate balance. And God knows it's hard enough to get her to do any work as it is.

Sabb of the day however went to Jimboid Tampoon. Who stood behind Howie D like a perverse ventriloquist - Jack sensed that Howie's facial expression varied a little too much, even for someone standing for election. The GenSec in the shadows was indeed a disturbing image and whilst Jack would never suspect that Jimbo was the brains behind any operation, in oriental dress, and continually pointing to paper offenders, he looked distinctly like a cross between Hitler (Saluting) and Mao (Glaring). More ridicule, derision and disdain next week. See you then.

# Academic prostitution

■ £720 FOR A 'MODEL ANSWER' OR FOR PLAGIARISM?  
 ■ CASH-STRAPPED STUDENTS AT OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE PROVIDE SERVICES FOR MONEY

Laura Deck  
News Editor

Students from Oxford and Cambridge are being offered funding and scholarships for their services in providing model essays and dissertations which are then sold for premium prices by a company named Oxbridge Essays.

Many students at the LSE have seen the blue Oxbridge Essays pamphlets distributed on campus.

Students and academics have raised ethical questions over student sponsorship for what appears to be plagiarism.

Customers who purchase essays must agree to an understanding that Oxbridge Essays are "intended solely for the purpose of inspiring the client's own work through giving an example of model research, writing, expression and structuring of ideas. The client must never submit as if their own work, either in part or total, to their university..."

The same terms guarantee that Oxbridge will never include essays sold to clients in any databases, and it will never re-sell or re-distribute an essay sold. It also guarantees that all work is "brand-new and custom-made" and that all essays have been scanned by plagiarism software.

This means that if a student submits a purchased essay as his or her own work, it is implicitly guaranteed by Oxbridge Essays that they would not be caught.

Universities UK issued a statement on the issue saying:

**Service**  
Essays, Dissertations & Model Exam Answers

**Type**  
Undergraduate Essay

**Standard**  
Upper First (75%+)

**Length**  
2000 words

**Delivery**  
Next Day

**Total cost**  
£1000

Oxbridge Essays has been distributing pamphlets on the LSE campus advertising their services providing model answer essays

"Oxbridge Essays claim that students pay hundreds of pounds for model answers which they then do not submit as their own. We think that this claim, along with similar claims made by other essay websites, is absurd."

Oxbridge Essays charges significant amounts for the model answers it sells. A 2,000 word undergraduate essay with a guaranteed first class mark can be provided with next day delivery for £720. A 50,000 word full PhD dissertation, with a guaranteed upper first mark, can be delivered within

It's just blatant exploitation of cash-strapped students  
LSE student

15 days for £21,250.

The Director of Oxbridge Essays, John Foster, said that the company is beneficial to Oxford and Cambridge. Speaking to *The Independent* newspaper, he said: "The university benefits from having students go on to postgraduate study who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford it."

The work is attractive to graduate students because it offers flexible hours and allows students to use their academic skills, rather than taking time off their studies to make money.

Oxbridge Essays looks for graduate students with a confirmed or expected upper-second class degree or higher.

Some students employed by Oxbridge Essays have acknowledged that it is morally questionable, but an opportunity to alleviate the financial difficulties of graduate study is often hard to resist.

One LSE student said: "It's quite a distasteful thing to do. It's just blatant exploitation of cash-strapped students. It also brings into question the value of your university degree if you're buying essays."

# Silent vigil for Al-Aqsa Mosque held by students

Michael Deas  
Senior Reporter

Forty LSE students held a silent vigil on Houghton Street last Thursday to protest against Israeli excavations in and around the grounds of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

Students sat in a row along Houghton Street holding banners informing passers-by of the dispute over the World Heritage Site, one of the holiest locations in Islam.

Last week, the Israel Antiquities Authority began an archaeological dig at the site. The legal custodians of the site under Israeli and international law, the Palestinian Waqf Religious Trust, has said that it did not consent to the project.

Religious groups fear that the excavation may weaken the foundations of the already fragile mosque.

Israeli regulation of access to the mosque has angered Palestinians.

Ziyaad Lunat, one of the organisers of the vigil, said: "Following the closure and severe entrance restrictions to the holy compound, we urge the Israeli authorities to allow for freedom of worship at the mosque as enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief."

The Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Koichiro

Matsuura, has appealed to Israel to immediately cease any actions that could lead to tensions in the region.

LSE Students' Union (SU) Jewish Society Politics Officer Zach Seeskin disagreed with the protesters.

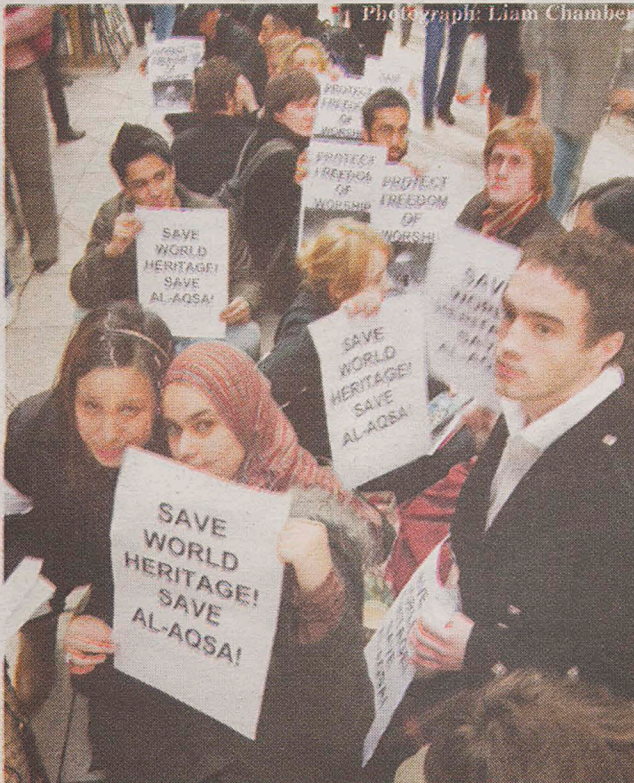
Seeskin said: "The excavation in no way threatens the foundations of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The dig is many yards outside of the mosque... Israeli authorities have taken great measures to ensure that no damage will occur. The organisers of the protest...merely jumped upon another chance to

**“We urge the Israeli authorities to allow for freedom of worship at the mosque”**  
Ziyaad Lunat

point fingers at Israel.”

The site has often been the centre of controversy. In 2000, then Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon, visit to the Mosque is said to have sparked the Al-Aqsa intifada.

Some Palestinian groups



LSE students sit on Houghton Street holding a silent vigil

have claimed that the excavation is part of a conscious Israeli plan to cause conflict with the aim of destabilising the newly formed national unity government.

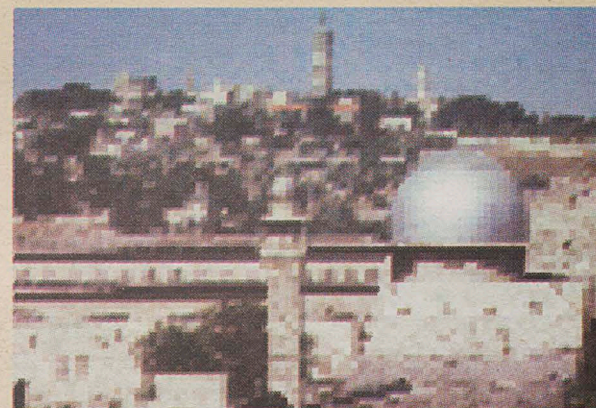
Friday's prayers were held relatively peacefully, but amid a heavy police presence.

Muslim leaders from around the world, including the King of Jordan and the Egyptian and Turkish foreign

ministries, have urged for immediate talks to resolve the conflict but no western leaders, including Tony Blair, have commented so far.

The Guardian newspaper reported on Thursday that Israel agreed to a Turkish request to inspect to work being done on the Mosque, in response to criticism from the international Muslim community.

## Al-Aqsa Mosque



1969: Michael Dennis Rohan, an Australian tourist, was arrested for an arson attack on the Mosque. Rohan was a follower of an evangelical sect known as the Church of God. In court he said he was acting as "the Lord's emissary" by trying to cause the return of the Messiah by burning down the Mosque.

September 2000: The Al-Aqsa Intifada is named after the Mosque following Ariel Sharon's controversial visit to the Temple Mount.

Israeli authorities discovered the terrorist organisation Makhteret's plot to blow up the Mosque. Makhteret is a radical branch of the right-wing Jewish organisation Kach.

## LSE grad salaries top UK national average

Patrick Cullen  
Senior Reporter

Students who have finished their first degree can expect an average gross annual salary of £24,533, according to the LSE.

These figures, released to coincide with a Universities UK report on the economic benefits of a degree, show that graduates of the School enjoy better salaries than the national average.

Head of Careers at the LSE Fiona Sandford told *The Beaver* that the average "starting salary for LSE students in 2005 six months after graduation was £26,521 compared with [the] average paid by large employers of £22,494 and an overall national average of £17,029."

The financial services firm, Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) carried out the research for Universities UK. The report aims to show that the economic benefit of a degree remains, despite the increase in fees. The report also found that those with a degree are less likely to be unemployed than those with two or more A-levels.

Universities UK said: "the gross additional lifetime earnings is now approximately £160,000 or between 20 and 25 percent more for individuals with a higher education qualification than for those with two or more A-levels."

Figures released to *The Beaver* by Sandford show that the "highest undergraduate salary reported was £100,000"

with 85 percent of those surveyed earning over £15,000 per annum. Only 23 percent, however, were earning over £30,000. Postgraduate students also benefit, with the "average gross annual salary of LSE postgraduates [being] £27,971. The highest postgraduate salary reported was £150,000."

The Chief Executive of Universities UK, Baroness Warwick, said: "We already know that graduates in the UK enjoy one of the highest financial returns of any OECD country. This report provides evidence that despite the expansion of higher education, the graduate premium has been maintained.

"While we know of course that the vast majority of graduates don't measure the value of their degrees in purely economic terms, the enhanced career opportunities and employability that a degree brings is nevertheless a key factor in deciding whether to go on to higher education."

Benefits vary greatly, however, with women gaining more financial advantage than men. In addition, male graduates from poorer backgrounds do better than their richer counterparts.

Higher Education Minister Bill Rammell told the BBC that the report "confirms what we have been saying for some time now - that graduates, on average, earn more and are more likely to be in a job than those without degrees, and that higher education is likely to be the best investment a student will ever make."

## Cold showers for Bankside residents

Rajan Patel  
Senior Reporter

The LSE's Bankside House has experienced disruption to the hot water supply over the past week, following the malfunctioning of one of the two boilers at the hall of residence.

The problems began two weekends ago, when the hot water supply was intermittent. Investigation by Bankside staff revealed a faulty transistor in one of the boilers, which was preventing the boiler from powering up. Since then, only one boiler has been used to satisfy the demand for hot water.

Last week, students were told that there was no available

**“It's a complete joke. I'm really disappointed that they lacked the foresight to keep spare parts”**

Bankside resident

spare part for the boiler in the country and that it would have to be imported from the United States. The email stated that "it will still take some 7-10 days to arrive".



It emerged that the hot water shortage at Bankside House was caused by a faulty transistor

Bankside management also explained that normally, one boiler would be sufficient in meeting all needs. However, hot water was rarely available at the beginning of the week, especially at peak times, due to "low pressure...when the demand is high".

At the height of the problem, Bankside's water supply was switched off completely between 5pm and 9pm last Wednesday, so that engineers could work on the existing boiler to ensure that it was operating at full capacity.

However, despite an improvement in hot water delivery, Bankside is still experiencing problems during periods of peak demand, such as early in the morning and during the evening. This problem will not be resolved until the other boiler is repaired.

The inconvenience for

Bankside students has resulted in many students being forced to take showers in the middle of the night in order to guarantee hot water.

However, there is disagreement over the quality of the hall's management's response to the problem. Some students feel that the management in the hall is doing its best in difficult circumstances and that they have kept residents well informed.

One student said, "If they can't source the part from the UK, what can you do but wait? At least we know what's wrong...now we can plan accordingly."

Others, however, were more critical. One resident said, "It's a complete joke. I'm really disappointed that they lacked the foresight to keep spare parts, and I've seen no improvement to the hot water since they did

the works on Wednesday."

Bankside administration explained that while they do carry some spare parts for the boiler, the part that malfunctioned is not one that they carry and it cannot be bought in the country.

Some students believe that a concession in rent should be forthcoming. When questioned on this, Bankside Warden Dr Dev Gangjee stated that this was "not under consideration at the moment".

Gangjee added: "If the allegation is that there's insufficient regularity in the hot water supply to go about normal activities, then this is an unfair characterization, especially after the recent maintenance work. It's an unfortunate situation and we'll be very seriously considering how this can be avoided in the future."

# Blair's endowment envy

■ UNITED STATES ENDOWMENTS OUTSTRIP UK ENDOWMENTS CONSIDERABLY

■ PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR PLANS TO IMITATE US UNIVERSITIES' FUNDING STRUCTURE

Rajan Patel  
Senior Reporter

Tony Blair has announced a plan to increase British universities' endowments and encourage the practice of university alumni donations common in the United States.

The plan aims to give universities £1 for every £2 they raise from alumni and philanthropists.

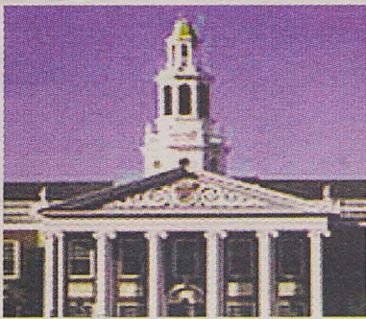
British universities are far behind their American counterparts in raising funds, and the government hopes that the new plan will help foster a "culture of giving" in the UK.

The US invests 2.9 percent of its GDP in higher education, a figure much higher than the 1.1 percent of the much smaller UK GDP spent on higher education.

Harvard University famously has a £14 billion endowment. Less famous American universities also have well-developed programmes to raise money from alumni.

In contrast, only 13 of Britain's 120 universities raised more than £5 million last year. The LSE is one of the richer institutions in the UK with a £44 million endowment.

Mary Blair, Director of the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at the LSE, said, "LSE is very pleased with the government's proposal to provide matching funds for philanthropic donations made to the School. It will provide



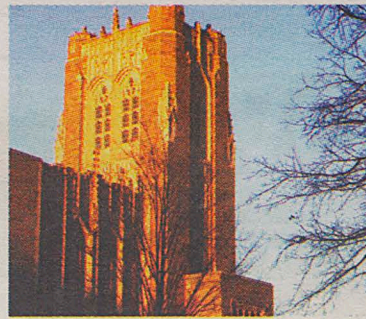
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

£14.8 billion



YALE UNIVERSITY

£9.2 billion



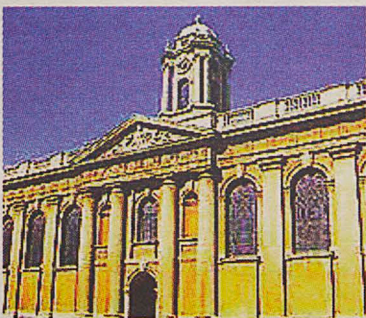
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

£6.7 billion



STANFORD UNIVERSITY

£7.2 billion



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

£2.6 billion



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

£3 billion



IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

£42 million



LSE

£44 million

extra revenue for key projects and is a recognition by the government that fund raising is an important and key activity for higher education in England."

While the Prime Minister's plan has been met with support from the vast majority of university chiefs, the National Union of Students (NUS) has been more cautious in its

response.

Gemma Tumelty, the President of the NUS, told BBC News: "Given the huge divide between Harvard-style excellence and countless other less elite universities in the USA, UK vice chancellors' and politicians' apparent determination to emulate the American system, if they intend to emu-

late it wholesale, is deeply worrying."

Government funding to each university would be capped at £2 million. Mary Blair said: "It is probably important that the government caps such funds... [it] will serve to level the playing field for higher education institutions over the UK and reduce anxiety

that the top institutions will simply Hoover up most of the money."

At the institutions which raise less money, government money would go towards establishing fundraising centres, rather than giving £1 for every £2 donated.

Some LSE students doubted whether such a move could

effectively change the British attitude towards donation to universities.

An LSE student said that "Government funding to universities will increase, which is always a good thing...but whether it will change the British culture of indifference is a different matter."

## How to "screw the banks"

Sumit Buttoo

Money saving expert Martin Lewis told LSE students how to "Screw the Banks" in an event organised by the Students' Union (SU) last Thursday.

Lewis, a columnist for various UK newspapers, was LSE Students' Union (SU) General Secretary in 1994-5. Lewis has gained recognition as the creator of the UK's most popular "consumer revenge" website,

**“If you target customers for their apathy, confusion, or inertia, I'm coming after you”**  
Martin Lewis

moneysavingexpert.com. In January the website had 2.5 million users. It is part of a campaign against unfair bank charges.

Lewis told the audience

that there is a natural adversarial relationship between banks and customers and that banks are "the opposition, rather than our enemy".

He argued that all businesses aim to maximise profits, and it is not their responsibility to look after customers' interests.

Discussing the problem of debt in the UK, Lewis said that borrowers, not lenders, are responsible for their own debt.

He related the issue to LSE students by acknowledging that young people are often forced into debt when they go to university, yet students are usually uninformed about the "going-into-debt" process.

Starting with the saying "do not spend more than you earn", Lewis explained what debt can mean for a student.

He said students leave university with significant debt. Many then begin lucrative jobs in the City of London and assume that their debt will evaporate.

Such young people are actively targeted by lenders, as they are likely to be in perpetual debt, but are unlikely to default on their loans.

After living on a student's budget the average recent graduate in the City of London is likely to spend more than he or she is earning trying to achieve a higher standard of living. This spending is likely to rise faster than the average

Martin Lewis' philosophy



salary.

Lewis also spoke of his media experience as a general financial adviser. He recalled cases where people risked their houses, relationships and families due to debt. He recounted how on one radio show, a caller told the audience he was going to commit suicide because of his extreme debt.

Such "debt disasters" could be avoided through better consumer understanding of money

In February 2003, Martin Lewis launched his website: [www.moneysavingexpert.com](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com). The site now has 2.48 million unique users in the UK and had 900 million hits in January

**A debt spiral can begin while you are a student:**

- 1) You take out a credit card and go over your limit after doing the same with your bank overdraft.
- 2) You graduate from the LSE and get a competitive job in the City of London.
- 3) Lenders start to target you, as you are probably going to be perpetually in debt, but will never default.

**Why?**

Once you start this high paid job:

- a) You are socially obliged to wine and dine at the most classy places
- b) You have to buy at least two suits.
- c) You probably need a car for status symbol if not practical use.
- d) You have the inevitable jump in living costs as you move out of your student accommodation.

Lewis calculates that the perfect credit card customer takes 40 years to pay back all the accumulated debt.

management.

He outlined how it is unlawful for banks to charge disproportionate penalties for small overdrafts. Banks are only allowed to charge an amount proportional to their own cost.

Customers should request that these charges be refunded.

If a customer asks for less than £1,000, the bank will repay it if threatened with legal action, although it is unlikely

that the banks will acknowledge any wrong doing.

Lewis emphasised that banks refund these charges every time. However, the banks continue to apply disproportionate penalties for small overdrafts due to consumer ignorance about the legality.

He concluded with a warning to potential LSE bankers: "If you target customers for their apathy, confusion, or inertia, I'm coming after you."

## UCL sports team in race row

Chris Lam  
Managing Editor

Sixteen members of the Royal Free and University College Medical School (RUMS) hockey team have been disciplined after a complaint over racist behaviour.

The incident occurred during a social outing involving several of the RUMS men's 1st team. RUMS teams are part of the University College London Union (UCLU).

All members who were disciplined admitted to the offence in front of a disciplinary panel and have been banned from UCLU until next year.

Nick Barnard, Media and Communications Officer of the UCLU said: "It is absolutely isolated and the first [such incident] we are aware of in any recent history."

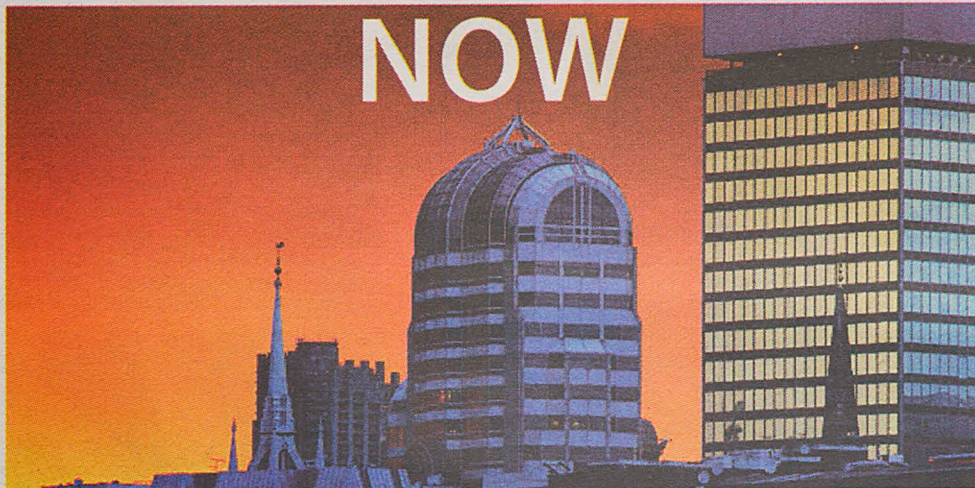
"All members are bound by our Equal Opportunities Policy... prejudice of any kind is simply not acceptable behaviour at UCL Union or in the tradition of tolerance and acceptance which characterises both the history and the present culture of UCL"

The hockey team captain, Ben Lazenby-Jones, declined to comment, but said that he was involved in an incident.

Lazenby-Jones told *The Beaver* that "everyone involved has agreed that they will not talk about it".

# Degree or internship?

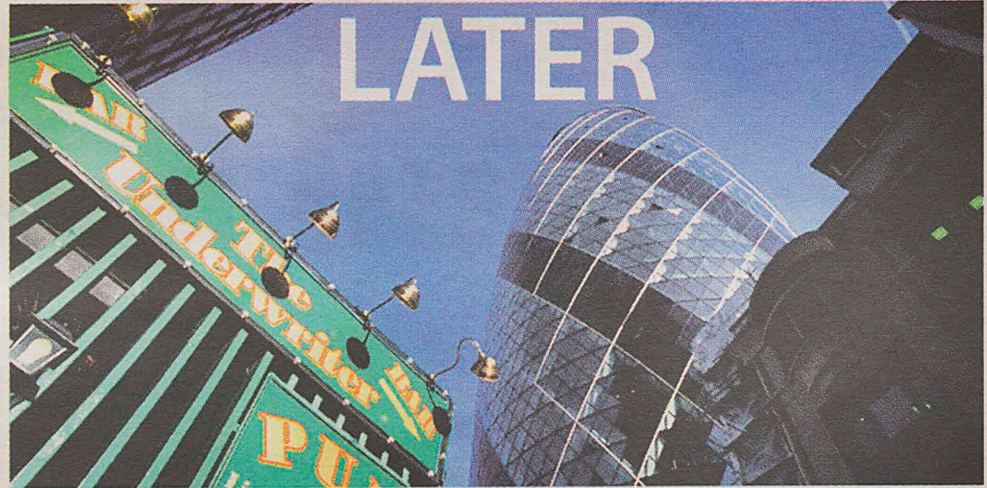
Students who have been on track for high class degrees are diverting time away from their studies and toward job and internship applications, in pursuit of the dream relayed by successful LSE alumni.



Students are "five weeks behind" in their studies and "failing two courses"



Three in four LSE students who seek internships in investment banking believe that they will obtain a grade lower than what they should in final exams due to their heavy concentration on CV's, applications and interview preparation.



Former investment banker **Polly Courtney** warned *The Beaver* that the stress of university continues in work in the City: "Suddenly I was in a world of high finance, wearing suits.... There were these guys who were pale faced and had red rings around their eyes, working three days non-stop...there is only so long you can sustain that lifestyle on natural ingredients."

LSE alumnus **Michael Lewis** joined Salomon Brothers after graduation and later wrote the book *Liar's Poker*, based on his experiences on Wall Street. The book has become a common recommendation as a starting point for young people considering a career in finance. Lewis coined terms such as "big swinging dick", meaning a successful trader or salesman.



Another LSE alumnus, **Martin Lewis**, explained to LSE students last week that recent graduates in City jobs are expected to live an expensive lifestyle and "wine and dine" at trendy restaurants, wear designer apparel and drive a luxury sports car.

LSE is the 'Dolce & Gabbana of universities' Susan Bassnett of Warwick University on the LSE: "For some people it is seen as a mark of quality. It's a bit like some people being perfectly happy to buy all their T-shirts at Primark while others insist on Dolce & Gabbana."



The movie *Boiler Room* glamourises the pressurised culture of banking, including drugs. Courtney told *The Beaver* that cocaine use in the City was far from glamorous, it was simply a symptom of the pressure.

LSE Director **Howard Davies** warned:

"Do not work on so many applications that you neglect your studies. In any event, employers will not be impressed if you let your study standards slip."

One third of LSE graduates go into banking, financial services or accounting.

## Top LSE employers

ERNST & YOUNG  
Quality In Everything We Do

Deloitte

Morgan Stanley

Goldman Sachs

RBS  
The Royal Bank of Scotland Group

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

KPMG

LEHMAN BROTHERS  
Where vision gets built.

30 percent of LSE graduates earn in excess of £30,000 upon entering the employment market. The highest reported salary for an LSE graduate in the first year of earning is £150,000.



LSE had approximately 8,000 students last year. Over 1,000 applied for a job at Goldman Sachs.

## COMMENT &amp; ANALYSIS

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## Green in the LSE

## Back to basics



Rich Morrow

*Sutherland shmutherland. Rich Morrow thinks too many Union resources are expended on romanticism when pragmatism is the way to go.*

Almost every week now, fresh evidence emerges of the environmental and climatic problems facing the Earth as a result of the emissions of carbon dioxide and burning of fossil fuels. Consequently, the issue has steadily climbed the international political agenda. Meanwhile, here at the LSE, this issue – along with other environmental matters – has been taken more and more seriously. Last year, when running for election, LSE SU Environment and Ethics Officer Aled Fisher made several promises to improve our School environment and to reduce the size of its environmental footprint. The School has shown its willingness to engage with the issue too. Yet it seems clear that the School and the Students' Union are not working together enough to tackle this issue. Whilst the SU has promised much about the environment, it seemed from a student's perspective that the focus had been lost.

At the end of last summer, the School initiated a scheme to appoint LSE students as 'Sustainability Champions' within each LSE Hall of Residence to promote environmental awareness. Like the other applicants for the scheme, I was pleased that the School was willing to expend resources on environmental issues and the promotion of energy saving projects such as recycling and preventing energy wastage. Whilst the measures were not new – switching lights and computer monitors off when not in use, recycling

reusable materials – they represented a practical and sensible approach to our environmental responsibilities.

However as the year went on I have become progressively disillusioned with the way the project had been implemented. I have been particularly disappointed with the engagement and support provided by the SU. Whilst Fisher attends the meetings, which occur twice a

**The Students' Union has wasted too much effort on conducting well-intentioned but ultimately fruitless campaigns**

term, he does not take a "hands on approach" and the SU has not been actively injecting new ideas. Rather, it seems that we as a group have collectively been left to think about it ourselves. Whilst the scheme is run by an external body to the school, Community Recycling in Southwark Project (CRISP), it seems odd that Fisher has not taken a larger role in the project. Nevertheless, it would be wrong to apportion blame solely to Fisher. LSE SU Residences Officer, Louise Robinson also attends these meetings and it is just as important that she also involves herself fully in the project. In addition, sabbatical Officers seem to have shown little interest in the scheme.

Whilst the SU's campaign weeks on the environment

have been impressive (the Climate Change Awareness Week this term was very successful), it seems from my perspective as a student "environmental champion" in halls, that the SU has lost focus on the simple practical steps necessary to make improvements. In his two years as Environment and Ethics Officer, Joel Kenrick, did much to promote sustainability on campus. Similarly, last year's SU Treasurer Natalie Black did a lot in this regard and largely as a result of their efforts, environmental issues has been placed higher on the School's priorities. This is the culmination of a determined effort by the School to up its game; a growth in recycling facilities now found throughout LSE offices and halls, the introduction of waterless urinals, campaigns to save energy by switching off unused electrical appliances, and even an ambitious attempt to use underground thermal energy

to heat the New Academic Building. All of these had been achieved when Fisher took office, but he has failed to build on them.

Whilst there are a few reasons for this loss of momentum, the principal reason seems clear to me. The Students' Union has wasted too much effort on conducting well-intentioned but ultimately fruitless campaigns. Foremost amongst which is the campaign against the appointment of Peter Sutherland as Chair of the LSE Council. Whilst most students have become bored of this issue, it is central to the loss of focus in the SU. Whilst I do not wish to

dwelve on the nature of the Sutherland protest, seeing that discussion on the topic has been exhausted, its uncompromising nature has undoubtedly put many students off the SU. The result has been that in contrast to the past where the student body often worked together to confront key issues such as the environment, certain individuals – with good intentions – have divided it, thus weakening the SU's capacity to act.

The LSE has great potential to face up to current environmental problems and be a leader in the promotion of green issues. The fundamental measures we can undertake as

students may be tedious and "un-sexy" but are nonetheless important. However, I know from experience that this issue has been allowed to slip. Whilst Fisher and others have focused their attention on imposing their brand of "ethics" on students, the SU has been allowed to lose sight of the greater importance of the simple environmental steps the LSE can take to become an environmentally friendly institution. It is really important that the SU regains this focus and work toward becoming a leader in the green movement as we head towards a dangerous era of ecological uncertainty.



## Green warriors

James Caspell & Aled Fisher

*Time to set the record straight. James Caspell and Aled Fisher stand up for their convictions against a tirade of unjustified statements.*

Last week, Doug Oliver spent several column inches defaming the efforts of the LSE SU Green Party in campaigning for environmental and social justice at the LSE. In response, we would like to address some of his outright lies and emphasise the democratic, transparent and open nature of our Party.

The Greens have been fundamentally democratic in encouraging candidates to run and participate in student politics, in particular first-years, women, postgraduates and General Course students – four groups who have typically been underrepresented in the Union. Our selection and endorsement process is open and democratic; all members can vote at all meetings and we have an 18-member committee comprised of international, female and postgraduate students, making it perhaps the most inclusive and vibrant political party at the LSE. Believing firmly in gender equality, we have a Female and Male Co-Chair and seek to have an equal number of male and female candidates run in each election.

One of Oliver's incorrect assertions is that the LSE SU Green Party "sought to reduce participation" in the Union General Meeting (UGM) through introducing an "unnecessary paper throwing

ban". It only takes a brief glance at SU Executive Meeting minutes to learn that the ban was agreed upon by a vote of the whole Executive, who had received a letter from the School informing us that paper throwing constituted a violation of various laws, especially the Disabilities Discrimination Act (DDA). Several disabled students had complained of their inability to exercise their democratic rights at the UGM because of paper throwing (while the DDA states that organisations must also be proactive on accessibility issues, regardless of complaints). The LSE SU Green Party believes that all students have a right to participate in their Union and as such, have recently campaigned to get cross-campus referenda for all students on the School appointments which affect our education.

Members of the Party have brought countless motions to the UGM this year, lobbying to keep Wednesday afternoons free for postgraduates, opposing the arms trade, tackling climate change, campaigning for a Living Wage and more. Given that LSE SU Greens have advertised and leafleted for UGMs (even for ones where we did not have motions), Oliver's comments seem to be unconstructive personal slanders on "various Green offi-

cers". If he cares so much about the UGM, then he should start bringing more motions for its consideration. If he wants to change the law to discriminate against the disabled, then he should go to the High Courts. Meanwhile, the LSE SU Green Party will fight for equal opportunities on campus and beyond.

**Greens run for elections because we want to make a difference to the world around us**

Oliver claimed that our electoral strength "increased through poorly contested elections". This is hypocritical given that Oliver was the Returning Officer in these elections, and was famously quick to advertise the fact that the 2006 Lent Term Elections featured the biggest turnout on record with 1,885 students voting. It also saw a record number of candidates – more than sixty. Again, the Green Party were at the forefront of encouraging participation, running several candidates and getting more members involved in campaigning. In addition, Oliver criticises our apparent strategy of trying to "ensure that society "block

votes" play a crucial influence in deciding SU elections". As a former Returning Officer, Oliver should know that this practice precedes the Green Party, and is common to all groups and societies who cooperate and campaign together on issues like the Living Wage.

Green Party members have struck a productive and valuable dialogue with senior members of the school, notably Andy Farrell, Director of Finance and Facilities. It is because of this relationship that the Greens were able to successfully lobby the school to introduce mandatory double-sided printing on all printers, dramatically reducing paper usage. Our lobbying has improved recycling facilities and led to the school conducting a survey on where new water fountains can be placed on campus.

In essence, the LSE SU Green Party runs political, not personal campaigns, based on policies, not personalities. Whether making our campus more sustainable or lobbying for affordable and safer residences, Greens run for elections because we want to make a difference to the world around us. We will continue to campaign passionately for environmental and social justice, and will do so in the transparent, inclusive and democratic way that has been the cornerstone of our success. Students have a clear choice between voting for those who purely 'talk the talk', and those who will 'walk the walk' in the face of the inevitable criticism that arises in reaction to successful action. Next week's elections provide the perfect opportunity for students to think global, act local.



When recycling efforts go wrong...

## COMMENT &amp; ANALYSIS

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Teaching in the LSE

## Top-up for better teaching



Ben Lamy

Education is a public good. Or at least that is what I was taught at the A-levels. I remember the same teacher who had taught the Right Honourable Kenneth Clarke, Ed Balls and, no doubt, what's his name... Geoff Hoon, having said words to that effect.



You can see exactly why England needs to invest more to keep up

Public goods should be given free, should they not? It's all a blur now. I seem to vaguely remember something about education and health.

Still, no matter. Theories and realities are not always the same. Of course, it makes perfect sense for areas of social development to be offered free,

*Fees do correlate to teaching and administrative quality and Ben Lamy thinks top-up fees will benefit UK universities*

it pushes the country forward, improves it immeasurably.

Interesting that. I am now living, for the remainder of this academic year, in France of all places where education is free. Are French universities better than our own? Should we follow their example?

No, no. For those people who have already attended an undergraduate course at a French university, please don't misunderstand, I have not been to the Sorbonne, or the privately-run Sciences-Po, but I can only go with my own experiences. I am told, however, on good authority that it is the same everywhere in France.

Free education is a great idea, but not practical in a capitalist, market-based system. You have to consider that there is now such high demand for university places and that a degree from a top institution will undoubtedly lead, on average, to a higher paid job.

So this means that free education would burden the system. More people would apply to fewer, better taught, universities and then we would end up with the French situation which is total chaos.

Packed lecture theatres, awful organisation with exam dates and timetables being given at the last possible moment, and, more importantly, so many people failing and having to resit the next year - putting an even greater burden on the universities, who themselves need to attract the best lecturers possible.

So this is my argument against 'free', as much as it pains me to make it. For this to work, numbers of applicants would have to be severely reduced and more focus placed on apprenticeship type work. This is perhaps where the government should be focusing more.

As for top-up fees? Well, it is a tough call. We do not want to pay more, but then we do want to have the best education possible. It is a 'quid pro quo' situation which leaves us very dissatisfied. Then again, we are not paying twenty or thirty thousand dollars a year as they do in the US. It is difficult to see where to draw the line. At least, in the government's favour, the fees are not paid back until an adequate income is reached.

Of course, I can under-

stand the debate about poor students not wishing to be laden with such debt; yet, the moral seems to be that if you want to spend three years doing Media Studies at Hull, then you better have money to waste. Then again, if you are going to plough ahead with a Law degree at one of the world's best institutions then £3,000 a year seems to be a small price to pay.

Just by looking at the differences between the number of American and French universities in the top 30 worldwide and you can see exactly why England needs to invest more to keep up. At the moment the US dominates the list and parents save up for years to make this sacrifice for their children. In France, the opposite is true, and I can say first hand that the third best law department in the

'Hexagon' is not a patch on the LSE in any way, shape or form. Only Oxbridge can compete with the likes of the Ivy League due to their significant landholdings and large income. They could afford to ignore top-up fees, but not everyone has that same luxury.

So listen to Tony Blair as he quotes the Only Fools and Horses song to you, that paragon of poverty: "If you want the best, then don't ask questions, 'cause brother I'm your man".

You've made it; you've got in to the bastion that is the LSE, congratulations. The rest of your life is on track. Don't get flustered by a few thousand pounds here or there. That is for students at other, lesser universities to worry about. "...Here's the one that's driving me berserk: why do only fools and horses work?"



## Small steps for giant leaps



Simon Douglas

I know I already wrote a letter about this - which Romina Spina wrote in reply to, but a few things struck me about this topic in the past week which I want to reflect upon in these few words.

The first stroke of inspiration happened at a rather unexpected time: when I went to see the musical 'Avenue Q'. In this fantastic musical, in between other hilarious songs (including 'Everyone's a Little Bit Racist' and 'You Can Be As Loud As The Hell You Want When You're Making Love')

*The quality of a university is not measured solely on teaching, says Simon Douglas, who provides some pointers on improvements.*

there was a song called 'I Wish I Could Go Back To College' and this song included the line "I need an academic advisor to point the way" in amongst other university idealisation. I think that makes it sensible to say that in musicals set in America - and, therefore, probably America as well - pastoral care at university is something to pine after. Personally, and I know there are many people out there who feel the same (for instance, three people at time of writing who replied to last week's *Beaver* front-page story on

www.thebeaveronline.co.uk) I think this is not the case at the LSE.

Which makes my second moment of musing all the more worrying. As many of you will know, Howard Davies (Director of the LSE) was at the Union General Meeting (UGM) last week, and kindly answered questions. Now, I remember that, two years ago - as a bright-eyed fresher - I heard Davies talking about how LSE's pastoral care was one thing that came off very badly in the National Student Survey (though I'm not sure I recall the context exactly), and made loose commitments to improve this area of our university life - not tricky since we were joint bottom of the table (with SOAS). So, I asked Howard about this, and the front page of *The Beaver* last week - in which the paper's random survey seems to show that nothing has improved; he simply dodged the question by attacking *The Beaver's* journalism for about the fifth - all unfounded - time in his half-hour appearance.

Ok, but here's how this article is different to all those other whining whinging articles and letters have been. I think I can suggest something

reasonably constructive. These are a few practical, and easy to implement, policies that I think could dramatically improve this patchy care.

Firstly, if students were made very clearly aware that it's actually very easy to switch your personal tutor (or so I am led to believe is the case in most departments), it would become easy to spot the patterns of students ditching their tutors. A quick slap on the wrist later, and the member of staff concerned would presumably chose to pay a little more attention to their tutees.



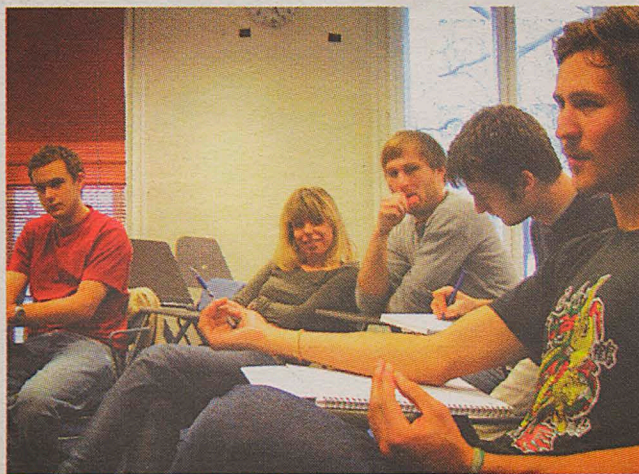
It's actually very easy to switch your personal tutor

The second would be to put some sort of incentive structure in place. This could perhaps take the form of an electronic check to make sure tutors have written their LSE for You reports, with those who have written all their reports on time perhaps receiving a small gift or something simi-

lar, and, conversely, those who never write reports at all receiving some form of punishment - preferably a threat to their job.

And once the offending tutors are identified, it really isn't that hard for them to become better givers of pastoral care. Really, it's just a matter of effort: every now and again checking a student's class registers to make sure they have decent reports and aren't pulling the old skip-every-other-class routine to not get automatically warned; writing reports on time; making at least a cursory attempt to recognise tutees on sight or actually replying to emails when tutees say they are having personal problems (my first and second year tutor failed in every one of these aspects). These things are not difficult!

No, not every tutor in the LSE is bad - just like every day is not rainy - however, sunny tutors are rare it seems. Of course having changeable weather doesn't make Britain a bad country, as having poor pastoral care does not make the LSE a bad university. However, being drab does stop people who prefer sunny climates coming to Britain; this is an attitude that the highest powers at the LSE - should they wish for our institution to remain the most applied to in the UK - should take note of.



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## COMMENT &amp; ANALYSIS

## The Beaver

Established 1949 - Issue 660

Bookshop currently prices out students...  
...but nothing is ever done about it

The Economist's Bookshop is plainly not the economical choice for LSE students. The costs of a London education are ever-increasing especially with the new top-up fees structure coming into place and student expenditure on academic supplies is set to come under increased scrutiny in the next few years.

Yet, books everywhere are getting more and more expensive, and this applies especially to specialist academic texts.

While the School is hardly to blame for the at-times extortionate prices that Waterstone's offer it is puzzling that given the constant controversy that has surrounded the bookshop's prices over the last few years, the high-street book retailer continues to call the Clare Market Building its local home.

It isn't difficult to understand Waterstone's pricing strategy. It is characteristic of such firms to charge what the market is willing to pay; many LSE students come from wealthy homes. Furthermore, if they can afford to spend hundreds of pounds in the Tuns, located just next to the bookshop, surely spending £45 on a textbook is not unreasonable.

Waterstone's needs to understand that on campus it is more than just a bookstore. It is associated with and caters to one of the finest social sciences schools in the world. As such, it should perhaps keep in mind that in exchange for a coveted location (that lends a certain academic weight to what is otherwise an ordinary high street chain), it should put more emphasis on providing LSE students with affordable access to resources that are an unavoidable necessity.

While this isn't really acceptable, practical solutions are thin on the ground. While the Library remains one of the School's more valued assets; perhaps the LSE could expand on the services it provides by making more copies of course texts available, or providing financial support to the students who can't afford their expensive specialist texts.

Perhaps the only way prices will ever change is if The Economist's Bookshop begins truly pricing itself out of students' budgets. If LSE students disposable incomes do indeed fall due to top-up fees, the situation might compel Waterstone's itself to incorporate a new pricing strategy.

In the meantime, however, it appears that many of us must rely on Amazon, eBay and Alpha Books if we want any pounds left for our pints.

Religious satire  
resurfaces...  
...to a deluge of criticism

'Once bitten, twice shy.' Or so they say. However, for an oblivious student editor, a worldwide furore seemed to have provided little warning. *Clareification*, the weekly publication of Clare College, University of Cambridge, has fallen into disrepute with their use of a controversial cartoon of the Prophet Muhammed. Faced with death threats, the disgraced editor has since been sent into hiding amidst outbursts of rage and ire. Regardless of the debate over freedom of expression, threading into a political and religious minefield where reckless predecessors have fallen is far from wise behaviour.

In an age of tenuous religious and racial relations, mutual understanding and tolerance is fast becoming a priceless commodity. It has become increasingly important to understand the fact that many social and cultural values we hold true are not universal. 'Liberal practices' are not regarded as such elsewhere. Political correctness draws different boundaries in different societies. Nevertheless, demanding that people be omniscient about the myriad of cultural and religious nuances of the world is too much to ask for.

However, it is not too much to ask that people try. Understanding that an ever-changing political landscape demands shifting sensibilities is the vital first step. Learning to steer clear of prior faux pas would be helpful as well. At any rate, standing still while the world keeps moving is a dangerous proposition.

## Letters to the Editor

The Beaver offers all readers the right to reply to anything that appears in the paper. Letters should be sent to [thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk](mailto:thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk) and should be no longer than 250 words. All letters must be received by 3pm on the Sunday prior to publication. The Beaver reserves the right to edit letters prior to publication.

## "more space"

Dear Sir

"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind" said Gandhi 60 years ago. Shilpa Shetty was unwittingly bullied and withstood racist remarks during Celebrity Big Brother yet she took it with confidence, acted with dignity and won the contest. Jade Goody and other participants from the show, on the other hand, are being subjected to a great deal more of bullying and this time intentionally and vindictively - those who are doing this are no better than Jade. As Shilpa has clearly stated, Jade's remarks came from an ignorant mind, not racist intent. We, as Indians and friends of India, at the LSE deplore this situation and implore the bullies to take on Gandhi's advice. In this era of rapid globalisation, there is no room for boundaries between cultures and race; with terrorism as such a huge threat no more space for hatred. We need to work towards building a 'one world family'. As His Holiness, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of the Art of Living Foundation aptly says, "The world needs to move from exclusiveness to all inclusiveness".

Priyanka Handa  
*Society for the Promotion of Indian Culture & Ethos (SPICE)*  
*Member of the Art of Living Foundation*

## "entirely misleading"

Dear Sir

Last week, several students signed an entirely misleading letter regarding the plethora of concerns arising from the appointment of Peter Sutherland as future Chair of the LSE Council.

BP under Sutherland are proven social and environmental abusers, being responsible for the 15 deaths and 170 serious injuries due to health and safety negligence on its part in March 2005. By cost-cutting on detection equipment and even after being fined for breach of safety laws, BP were responsible for the spill of 267,000 gallons of oil in Alaska in 2006. In response, Sutherland told shareholders that he "could not guarantee that it would not happen again".

The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline (in the Caucasus) involves a contract which overrides domestic social and environmental legislation and is described as "giving effective sovereignty to BP and its partners", undermining human rights legislation. 20,000 families have been displaced while compensation requirements are frequently abrogated. The energy supplied by the pipeline will go to Western Europe, not the energy impoverished region itself. The story is the same in Colombia, West Papua and elsewhere. BP has not universally "helped local communities prosper".

As for Sutherland's role in "advancing women", as Attorney General of Ireland, he rewrote a constitutional amendment banning abortion so that it would more easily pass in a referendum. The Amendment condemns many of Ireland's women, particularly those from immigrant and socially excluded communities, to life-risking back-street abortions.

Receiving awards for 'green-washing' over major ecological and social disasters does not mitigate Sutherland's responsibility. His career is the antithesis

of everything that the LSE stands for - an open, democratic society that places social and environmental justice at its forefront. It is for this reason that so many people oppose his appointment.

Wil Barber  
Rosy Brough  
James Caspell  
Elle Dodd  
Simon Douglas  
Aled Dilwyn Fisher  
Andy Hallett  
Kevin Heutschi  
James Ketteringham  
Becky Pillinger  
Fatima Manji  
Daisy Mitchell-Forster  
Ramzi Suleiman

## "best students"

Dear Sir

Last week you printed an appraisal of Ali Dewji which seemed intentionally distorted to try and discredit him, and contained at least one factual error.

You asked me for details of Ali's record of procuring sponsorship for the SU, and I specifically told you that his total to date, with five months left in office, had already surpassed his predecessor's total for the full twelve months of a sabbatical term. You completely ignored this distinction in your appraisal, and compared the two numbers directly. This seemed the result of an overzealous editor, and I think you owe him an apology and a retraction.

The appraisal of Ali also made no mention of the excellent work that he put into producing what is recognised by all as one of our best Students' Union Handbooks in recent years, and his tireless work over the Freshers' Week and during Freshers' Fair. In recent weeks again his innovation and commitment have shown in co-ordinating excellent Global and RAG Weeks.

While I may disagree with him on some issues politically, and his sometimes combative style may not be to everyone's taste, there is no doubting that he is a hardworking and thoughtful Sabbatical Officer who genuinely has the best interests of the Students' Union at heart. It would have been nice if your 'appraisal' had reflected this.

Joel Kenrick  
*LSE SU Treasurer*

## "vanity project"

Dear Sir

I was rather dismayed with the letter written by the apparent "Campaign against the Campaign against Peter Sutherland," which stuck me as a slice of pure baloney. No-one could ever plausibly claim that 'the facts tell a different story' when referring to the environmental record of BP and its green-wash efforts.

Their argument covers only half of the controversy regarding his appointment. Unfortunately Mr. Sutherland would further a current trend at the LSE of filling vacancies with individuals more used to being mentioned in the back pages of Private Eye than in academic literature, a trend surely detrimental to the LSE and its strong current reputation.

When applying to the LSE I was attracted by the work of the then Director Anthony Giddens and prior to that academic heavyweights such as George Bernard Shaw and William Beveridge who have contributed

enormously to the world of ideas. The LSE is supposedly a university of social sciences, but the continued appointment of individuals whose success has come in business rather than in academia hastens the move of our place of learning towards becoming simply and limply a finishing school for bankers. Even if you dismiss the environmental arguments, the continued appointment of those at the fag-end of their business careers seeking a vanity project can not be beneficial to the School as a whole.

Russell Bennetts

## "without straw"

Dear Sir

I am responding to last week's front page *Beaver* article on teaching quality - yet another example, I fear, of your trying to build bricks without straw. You can sure write punchy headlines - it's a pity about the quality of your data though.

The School has taken the issue of teaching quality very seriously for quite a few years. We have our twice a year student survey of teaching effectiveness, we have the National Student Survey (NSS), we have quinquennial TLAC reviews of departments (which have had student representatives on them ever since I became Deputy Director), we have Staff/Student Committees in Departments, etc. etc. None of these reaches the same conclusions as your 'random' (= haphazard or casual?) survey of no fewer than, wait for it, 100 students.

Our enquiries don't show that the School's teaching performance is perfect, but they do show that the great majority of respondents believe that it's pretty good. So, for example, this year's Michaelmas Term survey showed that nearly 50% of the respondents were very satisfied by their class teaching and that another 40% were fairly satisfied; fewer than 10% were not very satisfied. Of course we want to do better, and we certainly take action when students indicate dissatisfaction with particular teachers in this Survey, but our numbers are quite different from those in *The Beaver*.

Again, on last year's NSS survey we were rated joint 1st on teaching among the Russell Group universities (and on assessment and feedback as well). Unfortunately, we may not make the rankings this year, because the SU sabbaticals have failed to deliver in the way their predecessors did, and so we may well not have enough respondents to qualify.

It's not clear to me why *The Beaver* thought it worthwhile to carry out such a shoddy survey, and splash it on the front page, especially when the results from the other, hugely more reliable, surveys are in the public domain. But maybe you're not that interested in reality.

Ray Richardson  
*Deputy Director*

## "wrong kind"

Dear Sir

Issue 659 raises the matter of LSE student dissatisfaction with the quality of teaching received. It is below what students expect. This is partly accounted for by the fact that most LSE teaching is undertaken by Ph.D students who "do not give a shit". This is grossly mistaken. First, to succeed in the academic job market requires inter alia a successful

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teaching record. Each Ph.D student undergoes rigorous training sessions designed by the TLDO. The termly student feedback received is taken very seriously. Second, all Ph.D students with academic aspirations want to do a good job. Remember that they self-select entry into this environment; seldom will a Ph.D student be indifferent about his/her teaching obligations. But there are problems and the editorial comment points to two of them: Ph.D students are woefully underpaid for their efforts and, naturally, have non-teaching demands on their time. I wish to highlight another: most students bring with them the wrong kind of expectation to the LSE. I am constantly exhausted by those students who believe that classes are a second source of passively receiving knowledge. They are not. They are designed for the student to share his/her reactions to what has been outlined in the lectures and to what they have read and thence to stimulate debate with their peers. In addition to having exposure to potential and actual top class academics, exposure to your peers' minds should not be overlooked as a vital constituent of the student educational experience.

Arhat Virdi  
*Ph.D student, Research Fellow and long-serving class teacher*

## "as brief"

Dear Sir

Disappointed. A word which defines my academic experience of the LSE so far. I had expected to be academically inspired, to have a desire to attend every lecture because of inspirational lecturers, to want to go to every class to have personal discussions with my teachers. Surely this is the kind of undergraduate academic experience LSE should be offering.

The undergraduate education at LSE is far from world class. There is a clear divide between the faculty and the students. There is very little interaction between lecturers and students outside of lectures which themselves are so impersonal. It is almost impossible to get to know your lecturer on a personal level. Classes are simply too short. One 1-hour class per week per subject to cover two lectures' worth of material and also an exercise is woefully insufficient especially considering that most classes really last only 45 minutes.

Office hours are so often defined by a 'Let's make this as brief as possible' attitude. Even these one-to-one interactions often make students feel unwanted and almost sorry for interrupting the work of their teacher.

The LSE offers its undergraduates too little academic support and interaction; the very basis of a fulfilling academic experience. The work involved in any LSE course is challenging enough that having inadequate support can often lead to students feeling helpless and with nowhere to turn to.

Indeed, the LSE is a research-oriented institution with a greater focus on post-graduate studies, but it is surely within its best interest to provide its undergraduates with a more inspirational learning experience, to at least make undergraduate teaching a greater priority for teachers, lecturers and all faculty.

Tony Hou

# COMMENT & ANALYSIS

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Are we as charitable as we would like to believe? **Josh Heller** tells of the dangers of RAG week in creating a seasonal euphoria of altruism

## RAG drag: Detrimental charity



Josh Heller

RAG Week as a concept is damaging to the students at this university. Charity cannot be practised and only encouraged in this one week of the year. It encourages sectioning charity off into one finite period of time.

This University should abolish RAG Week in favour of a year round programme of

events, in order to raise money for charities, promote awareness of which charities the money is going to, as well as what work each individual charity does.

There were undoubtedly people who worked hard to raise money last week and they should be commended for doing so. Presumably, those people will organise things for charity all year round. However, the effect that RAG Week can have on students is detrimental to what charity can and should be.

Charity events are often pushed to this one week of the year. After RAG Week, people seem to be satisfied that they've done their bit for charity and probably needn't give until next year. In addition, it seems that the money raised for charity is more often than not a by-product, an after-thought to whatever else is going on. This will be fun; oh, and it's also for charity.

Surely the point of RAG Week is also to raise the profile of charity work and those charities we are giving money

to? There are probably very few people who donated for RAG Week and actually knew what charities they were giving to. Something like Anti-Racism week seems more logical. The whole point is to raise awareness of racism, that people then take into consideration all year round.

**This University should abolish RAG Week in favour of a year round programme of events**

An example of how RAG Week can be damaging happened at *The Beaver* Collective meeting last week. Throughout RAG Week there had been collection buckets so people could make a donation every time they picked up a copy of *The Beaver*. Simon Wang asked quite innocently how long *The Beaver* would be keeping up this great idea. The silent confusion that met

this statement was as poignant as it was depressing.

The very notion that charity should be continuing beyond this particular week hadn't occurred to anyone there. The point is not that people should simply feel crushed by guilt their whole lives to force them to give to charity always. There must though, be a greater and far more frequent confrontation of the responsibilities that everyone has. A university has a lot of power to do that through long term raising of awareness as well as year round opportunities to raise money.

Yet there was money raised last week. *The Beaver* alone raised about £1200, the charity abseil raised £620. That money will go to help people. It will pay for numerous vaccinations and equipment for Médecins Sans Frontier. Great Ormond Street Hospital will have a little more money towards their £343 million redevelopment.

But frankly, the total amount every university in the country raised this year for

RAG Week put together isn't nearly enough to correct the massive social injustices that exist. If RAG Week had no negative effects then obviously the money raised would only be a good thing. However, not only could a year round drive for charity raise more money, it could educate people to actually make charity a part of their lives both at university and long after they've graduated.

**Is RAG a drag?  
Have your say!  
The Beaver wants  
to hear from you.**

Email [c&a@thebeaveronline.co.uk](mailto:c&a@thebeaveronline.co.uk)



Photograph: Rebecca Pillinger

British children are down in the dumps and **Louise Robinson** demands for more constructive measures to stop the rot

## Speak like a child



Louise Robinson

Shock report last week in *The Times*. British children are the unhappiest in the West according to a UNICEF report on 21 industrialised countries. As a social policy student and a recognised idealist I believe that the 'children are the future' and so if they're unhappy there's not much hope for the rest of us after weeks of essay deadlines and internship applications. Maybe Molly Tucker's op-ed last week about the joys of LEGO does teach us a thing or two about appreciating the simple things in life - even though not a lot of things are much simpler than LEGO.

Smiles are simple, but when was the last time you smiled just for the sake of smiling? When you were completing another internship application? When you emerged from the library after a twelve hour essay marathon? Perhaps. Look up from your paper now and smile and I bet that someone will smile back at you. I know that a smile

won't solve a million problems, but like a good cup of tea, it'll make you feel better for a while.

Following the report last week, the Government looked to the parents for explanations of changing social norms, and the parents looked to the government and services for explanations of why their kids aren't smiling so much these days. Some claim that Britain is a picture of neglect, and with child poverty a daily battle too many youngsters have to face, its little wonder that young people choose to drink, smoke and have more sex than any other European country. British children are also catching up to America in perceptions and statistics on child obesity. This isn't a good picture.

No one group or person is directly responsible, and clearly all agents need to act towards some resolution, particularly in light of the recent spates of shootings in London which demonstrate without doubt that real life chances are still not universal. Conservative leader David Cameron has recently pledged a commitment to 'families' but

would a family unit '2-parents, 2-children' structure make all that much difference? Social 'foundations' are clearly outdated constructs and individuals who feel that they don't conform to such a framework are excluded, and, it follows,

**When was the last time you smiled just for the sake of smiling?**

unhappy.

We look to schools, and if we look at the curriculum we see conflicting messages on how we should keep sex a taboo subject despite, as last week's *Beaver* reported, 60% of children have already seen pornography. Surely politicians have enough faith in teachers being able to discuss sex in an objective way that doesn't encourage 12-year-olds to grab a bumper pack of condoms and a copy of the *Kama Sutra*? It is clear that an honest and open debate would go a long way to alleviating some of the problems children face today. Instead we just note how unhappy our society is without doing anything constructive about it.

Magazines and food companies are blamed for the conflicting but simultaneous 'size zero' and obesity crises, but no research has been accepted as to if children really directly act on these pressures. I asked my ten-year-old cousin how she was over MSN Messenger, and what made her happiest. She replied she was happiest when she was out playing with her

friends at the after school club, or chatting to them over the internet. She said she shares secrets with her friends (and the world on her internet blog) and enjoys fruit and sweets 'about the same.' She loves Girls Aloud and knows all the words and dance routines. As far as I can tell, she is happy, like her classmates. Many children are happy, but rarely do we see new youth projects in the press, or successful educational achievement - if children see that being miserable is the norm, and given the assumption that they wish to be like their peers, will they be content to be unhappy?

Unhappiness undoubtedly means different things for different children. If I were to contrast my cousin's experience with another child, the 13-year-old sister of Billy Cox, the 15-year-old from Clapham who was shot dead on St Valentine's Day. They are worlds apart. With the press calling a 'crisis' in gun crime, child unhappiness, fashion expectations and obesity, not to mention the looming GCSE and A-level league tables, is it any wonder that children are slightly unhappy? They are unhappy for varying reasons - their experiences are difficult and troubling for different reasons, but surely individuals in their local communities should be accommodated as best as possible. Successes of local communities should be celebrated, in addition to united action on gang crimes. If fragments of society were aware of alternative options and life choices there may be some hope - the reactionary meas-

ure of five years in jail for anyone carrying a gun may be pragmatic, but surely that will only extend the gaps between the differing social worlds? Only when real and accessible alternatives are offered may some resolution be available to the young people trapped in vulnerable positions. Rather than disheartening statistics, why not present what works elsewhere and encourage replication?

Are adults happy? Are children just mirroring their parents' behaviour and finding their individual unhappiness? Whatever it is, I don't like it, and it makes me unhappy. There aren't enough smiles in the world, and miserable reports

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Of the real estate of the very, very, very...

Almost every Hack in town - even Rookie Ruhana has frantically been adding facebook friends in the build up to the big carnival. And since censorship is soon-a-coming, Hacktivist is going to mention all He can about elections this week. Smug Oliver was conducting the usual sleazy hack rounds at Crush last week, desperate for any union position - he is now set to challenge Caspell's Clone for the position of E&E. Hacktivist wishes to remind Dolly throwing his nuts at people isn't really that ethical. If any student is experiencing such sexual harassment - please do not hesitate in contacting Mother Vincenti.

Shock horror as Jimmy T'll be your friend! Tam finally displayed his nasty side. Rumour has it he smacked Comms candidate Slimy Sneldon round the head (with a wet fish!) although no Eye of Hacktivist seems to have a clue why. Hacktivist wishes Jimmy had a few muscles so he could have actually done the job properly.

This week we bid farewell to Korporate Kamath who moves on from being editor of this newspaper to director of marketing for the Business Society. Hacktivist wishes him all the best for the future and wants him to know there

will always be space for any double page advertorial he wishes to place. Hacktivist thinks The Business Society is Brilliant. This isn't an advert honest.

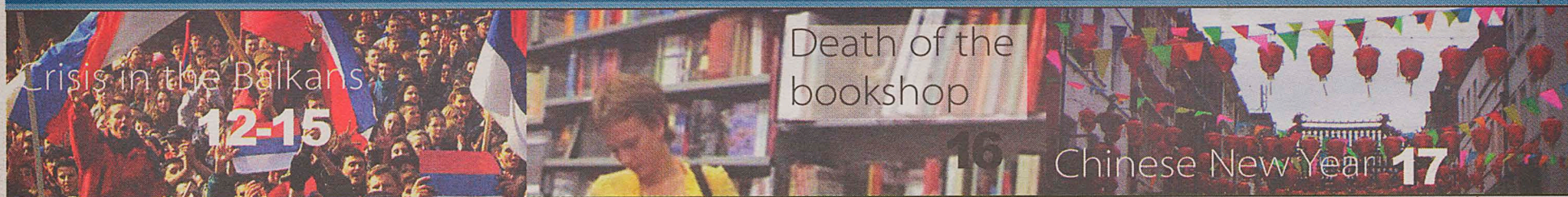
But alas a struggle for power rages in The London Paper (formerly The Beaver) office. All-American girl Dumb it Down Dee and Wee All-Pally-with-the-Sabys both have their hearts set on the top job and are waging all out war (Poor Sarcastic Sam is turning in his grave.)

Finally Dirty Dewj is STILL trying to suppress this noble column. A column which brings joy to so many Hacks. Hacktivist urges all readers to 'do a Jimmy' and smack Drony Do-shut-up-ji round the head. Preferably with his very own million dollar Glowing Balls week cup.

Want to attack a Hack? [hacktivist@thebeaveronline.co.uk](mailto:hacktivist@thebeaveronline.co.uk)

Disclaimer - Hacktivist does not condone violence in any form. This statement is especially for Mother Vincenti and Daddy Green Ken, so that they can sleep easy at night (and stop moaning on about student welfare).





## The Vladical Left



**Vladimir Unkovski-Korica**

Should US and UK troops leave Iraq now? It was clear that the vast majority in Britain did not wish the invasion of Iraq to take place in their name. Anti-war protesters made history on February 15 2003, just four years ago, when they staged the biggest political protest ever in Britain. Yet, that gutless gang of opportunist lickspittles (better known as the Westminster Parliament) criminally voted for war, and New Labour launched an illegal military invasion alongside their ally – George W. Bush. Many today recognise the war was a terrible mistake, but what can be done about that now? Shouldn't we stay to fix the mess we have created?

Talk of civil war and sectarian violence as the only alternative to the occupation is rife in some circles. Cohen's and Geras's Euston Manifesto, for instance, reminds us that the substitute to the US/UK 'liberation' are 'gangs of jihadist and Baathist thugs of the Iraqi so-called resistance'. But it must be clear to any person with a semblance of intelligence and dignity that there is more to the reality of occupied Iraq than the Bush-Blair propaganda machine is letting on.

It must come as a great surprise to these good crusaders that the vast majority of Iraqis dislike their occupiers' continued presence in Iraq. Maybe it's because the invasion created the conditions for 654,965 more deaths in their country than would have been expected – as a study in last year's Lancet medical journal established. You could expect polling conducted by the Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) at the University of Maryland to find that;

1. Your countrymen and women may, like the Iraqis, actually support attacks on occupying troops (six in ten)
2. Blame the US for the surge in violence (eight in ten), and
3. Desire that foreign troops leave within the coming year (seven in ten).

So, who could blame you if you decide that you prefer running your own country to leaving it in the hands of George W. Bush?

But there are reasons other than being a consistent democrat – and recognising the right of the Iraqis to run their own state and its resources – for demanding the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. Perhaps the obvious reason is the age-old argument that we want public money spent on public welfare and not murder, destruction and private gain. Just this month, Bush announced his plans for the 2008 budget – envisaging \$481 billion for the US Department of Defence: a rise of 62% since taking office. He requested \$145 billion for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq alone, to add to the \$555 billion already spent. Where is all this money to come from? Why, slashing the budget for healthcare, education and housing, of course! Cutting \$101 billion over the coming half-decade from health insurance for the poor and the elderly and snatching \$34 billion over two years from education. At least the rich have lower taxes.

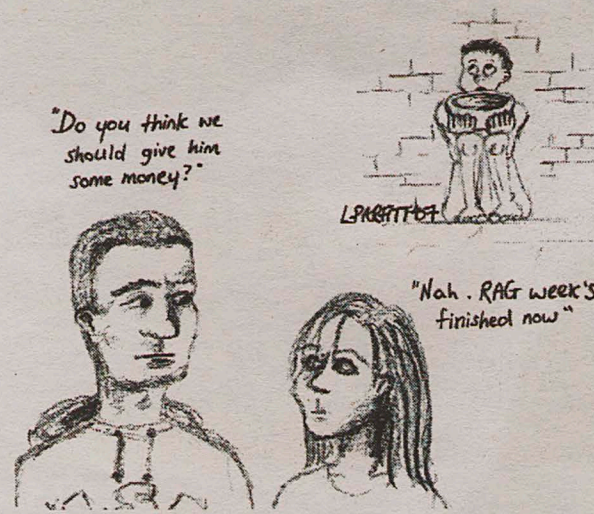
While Iraq is bleeding, the poor of the US and Britain suffer out in the cold. Not so the multinational corporations under the shield of US/UK military might. A decree passed over the heads of the Iraqis (Order 39) allowed for over two hundred state-owned assets, which included the electricity, telecommunications and pharmaceutical industries, to be privatised. Full foreign ownership was allowed of banks, mines and factories. According to the Financial Times at the start of 2006, US monopolies were hitting double-digit profit rates for the longest sustained period since records began.

For the rich of the world, it hardly matters if hundreds of thousands of Iraqis die over the period of a few years. Demonstrations are a democratic way to make the logic of 'profit above people' very politically expensive indeed. That is why it is right for the anti-war movement to be demanding 'Troops out!' and 'No to Trident!' on Saturday 24 February.

features@thebeaveronline.co.uk

## Notes on Nothing

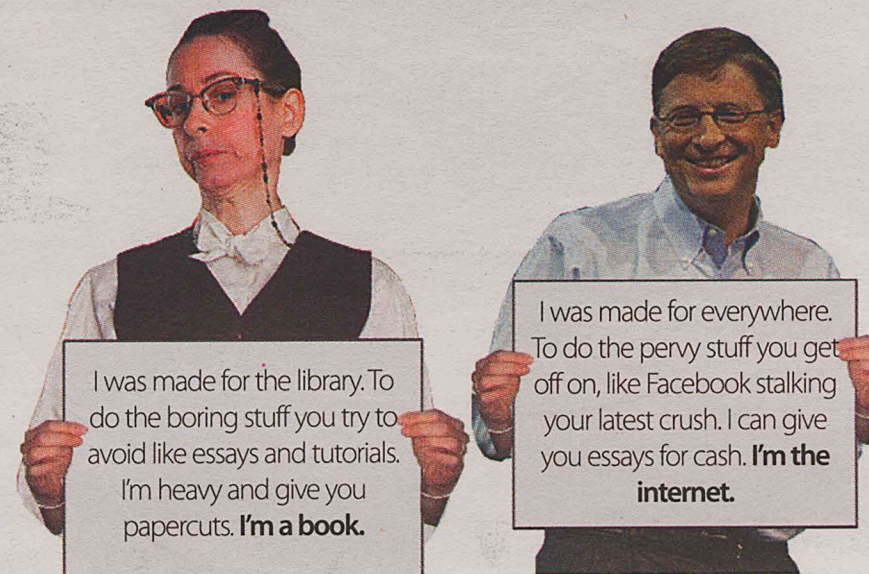
I'll say this for RAG, all the RAG events have had something in common – they're lots of fun. There's no sense on campus of sacrificing to improve the lives of others, it's all about getting wacky for charity. There was little or no effort made to raise awareness of what the charities were about, or to maintain a sustainable effort to raise money throughout the year. No, one week's about enough to cure AIDS, end poverty, sort out access to clean water and health care for the whole world. Anything we miss, we'll get back to next year.



and even greater minds than him have predicted the end since Medieval times, scholars got into a panic about the year 1000 much as we did about the millennium.

**U**rgent Medieval Update! Today in 1472, Orkney and Shetland were given to Scotland by Norway as part of a dowry payment. International relations was so much simpler then. Your king would basically own you and everything round you, and, apparently, could just give you away to one of his kingly mates. No UN to interfere in the free exchange of countries. Perhaps, there's a lesson there for the international system. Keep it simple. The Norwegians may have been crazy, marauding Vikings destroying monasteries and pillaging everything in their path, but even they would have known Iraq was a mistake.

**O**n meddling with nations' boundaries, we hope you enjoy the special on the Balkans. You can comment on any of the articles by emailing the address above, or even submit an article of your own. You can also comment on articles on our website, launched last night in the Underground at thebeaveronline.co.uk



There's more than one choice when it comes to LSE

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## The Right Approach

**Sam Burke**



**S**o Cameron was a stoner at school. There's nothing surprising about this revelation since "that question" was left unanswered in the 2005 leadership election. What is surprising – disappointing even is that Cameron is yet to turn his "regret" into real action. Why doesn't he demonstrate some real leadership in committing the Conservative Party to confronting the challenge of rooting out cannabis consumption and its destructive effects on society?

Let's go back to the genesis of this whole story: the 2005 Conservative Party Leadership election. In the course of the election "that question" was asked several times. He came close to an admission when he said, "I had a normal university experience." When the interviewer replied: "So that's a yes, then, Mr Cameron added: "There were things that I did then that I don't think that I should talk about now that I'm a politician." On one level Cameron is right to defend himself, in the same way he has done over the past week: everyone should be entitled to a "private past". I can't help feeling, however, that Cameron is hiding behind this rubric. It also leaves open the possibility that there is yet more which the press will slowly uncover about his "private past". Indeed, his previous enigmatic statement that he didn't take hard drugs after he became an MP in 2001 leaves plenty of suggestion to warrant the efforts of the hounding lobby of journalists who endlessly seek to besmirch the man.

For Cameron to imply the consumption of an illegal substance is "a normal university experience" is both wrong and irresponsible. Who is to say what is "normal" anyway? Whatever it is, I doubt very much that Mr. Cameron's experience of Higher Education was anything approaching normality.

There is more to this than "Dave" coming across as a normal kinda guy. His attitude towards drugs in general makes worrying reading. At various times since becoming an MP he endorsed a call for 'shooting galleries' for hard-core drug-users, explaining: "Anything that helps get users off the streets is worth considering." He said the UN should consider legalising drugs and state-prescribed heroin and said the legal classification of ecstasy should be downgraded. And specific to the current debate, has called for cannabis to be legalised for medicinal purposes. Cameron's solutions point to a fundamental failure to understand the scale and nature of drug abuse; drugs are widely available, addictive, an inextricable cause of crime, and hugely detrimental to health.

This is no longer at matter of opinion; it is a matter of science, medicine and sociological evidence. Here are just a few revelations:

A study, published in the British Medical Journal, found that one in ten people who used cannabis before the age of 15 developed schizophrenia by the age of 26.

Cannabis is as addictive as other drugs. Drugs such as heroin, cocaine and alcohol trigger a surge of chemicals in a particular area of the brain known as the 'pleasure centre'.

Just three cannabis 'joints' a day can cause the same amount of damage to lungs as an entire packet of 20 cigarettes, according to the British Lung Foundation.

Cameron must rise above accusations of hypocrisy and champion a crack-down of zero-tolerance not seen since Giuliani's success in New York which created the lowest crime rate for 25 years and a simple effective message to all – drugs are illegal and will not be tolerated.

The alternative to this is to embrace Blunkett's blunder of down-grading cannabis, sending out the signal that cannabis smoking is safe. But this is far from true; a soldier going to Iraq has a far higher chance of emerging unscathed than a teenager lighting up their first joint.

Cameron needs to step up to the mark on this. I don't care if it offends the progressive credentials he is seeking to establish with some sections of society. Children in the inner-cities, as well as the privileged boarders need to be protected from the pitfall to which this drug willingly leads. "That question" is no longer a silly debate about Cameron's private life but about whether he will stand up and preserve the innocence and sanity of our nation's youth.

# THE NATION STATE:



## Croatia

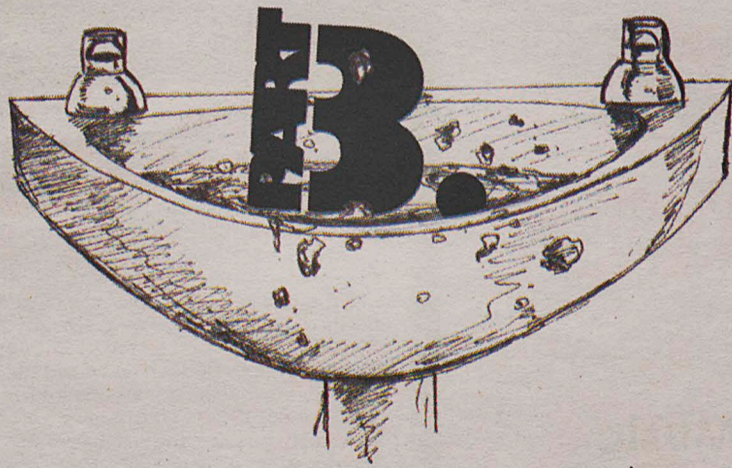
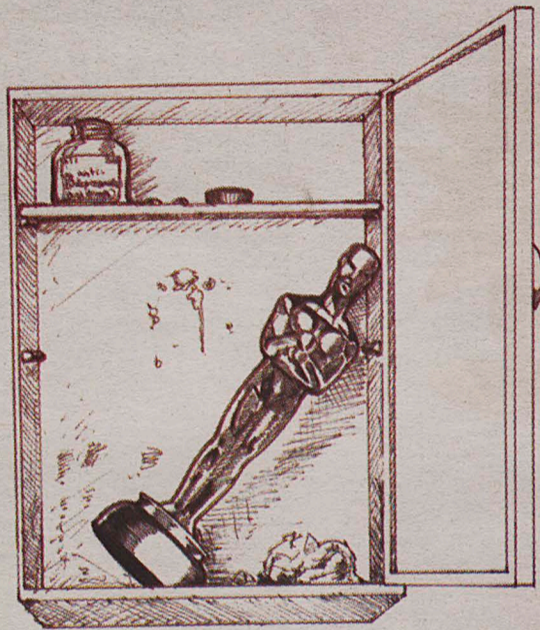
Declared independence from Yugoslavia on June 25, 1991. Croatian War of Independence 1991 – 1995: created thousands of refugees fleeing ethnic cleansing. After years of political instability the country is currently undergoing constitutional reform.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

The ethnic balance in the territory (Serbs, Bosnians and Croats) divided Bosnia and Herzegovina over the issue of whether to stay in the Yugoslavian Federation. Referenda on the issue of independence in 1992 came down overwhelmingly in favour of a split after significant boycotts by the Bosnian Serbs. Inevitable tensions led to civil war which was partly resolved in the Washington Accords of 1994. Major ethnic tensions during the war led to the massacre at Srebrenica of 8,000 Bosniak males under the direction of Serbian General Ratko Mladic. Current estimates place the death toll between 100,000 and 110,000 along with 1.8 million refugees.

## Montenegro

United with Serbia: 1992 – 2006. A referendum in May 2006 leads to its independence, making it the world's newest sovereign state.



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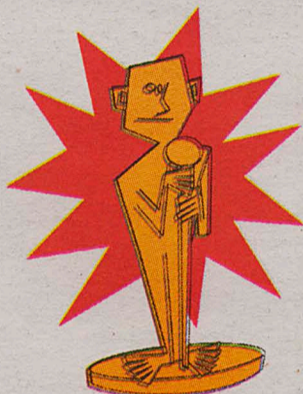
# INSIDE THIS ISSUE AROUND LONDON



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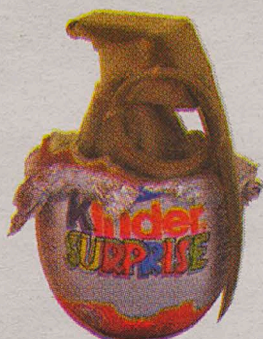
Putting things into boxes is useful. we look at genres hitherto unexplored.

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## Food & Drinking

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## Bloomsbury.

The studded gemlet in the angular nose of the square mile, the devilled egg in the fallopian tube of The City. Bloomsbury is the stomping ground of Dr Johnson, the playpen of Bernard Shaw, the sexmat of George Orwell. The place where Karl Marx drank himself to utopia, where Dylan Thomas drank himself closer to death, where Virginia Woolf stood in windows and dreamed of drinking rivers. Bloomsbury screams with the historical echoes of great personas, literary, artistic, political and scientific.

Contemporary life in Bloomsbury is not the most human of experiences. The chunky Victorian offices expunge their daytime populations around 6pm, and when the mill and churn has subsided, it is replaced by the gentle drift of visitors to and from the hotels. The inhabitants remain atomised and strange to one another.

Bloomsbury students forage for food, living mainly off the reduced sushi and sandwiches left behind by the office people. The cheapest supermarket is a Waitrose, which is a financially damaging state of affairs. Luckily for me I live next to Rupert Everett so I can always go round, borrow a cup of sugar, and know that it will be really good sugar, maybe with a pot of money attached.

I can thoroughly recommend you visit St George's church, a superb and relatively obscure Hawksmoor design. Then round the corner to Allstars bowling alley, where drunken office slags flay and giggle, messing up their white shirts and sensible ideas, whilst the men sweat competitively. From there it's a short hop to Russell Square, where you can relax in the shade of the acacia trees and the towering gothamesque deco of Senate House, sipping dandelion and burdock from tall glasses. Then come to my house where we can listen to records and fuck.

daniel.b.yates

rant comptrroller  
josheller

cartoon comptrroller  
alexsmall

visual arts comptrroller  
daisymitchell-forster

film comptrroller  
angustse

literature comptrroller  
erinorozco

theatre comptrroller  
mollytucker

style comptrroller  
abaosunsade

travel comptrroller  
jessicamcardle

food & drinking comptrroller  
kimmandeng

&c. comptrroller  
alexlevy

editorial assistant  
bealong

music comptrrollers  
iangordon and loisjeary

The Oscars are upon us. Thrilled as we are by the bloated imperialist corpse of Hollywood, still finding strength to toss itself off over the world's televisions, here at PartB, Daniel has decided to host an alternative award ceremony, to honour his ex-girlfriends. The red towel is out and the guest has assembled. It's Daniel, dressed in a towelling robe by Primark, with a bottle of cider in one hand, the other clenched around a bottle of pills. He's weeping already. Marvellous. The first award, Best Supporting Actress, goes to Becky who helped him through his fourth nervous breakdown. Best Special Effects go to Nancy for her crocodile tears and the self-harm-on-the-doorstep scene of 2001. There are no surprises.

EDITORIAL  
partb@thebeaveronline.co.uk



your wards

Kevin Perry and Daniel B. Yates

# film vs stage

charliedougherty is girls on film it's just a stage mollytucker's going through

While I only claim mediocrity, I do still call myself a director. I've directed films and I've directed theatre, but I'll tell you what. The creative opportunities for theatre are about as interesting as tort reform compared to film. I don't care how the process of making a film might compare to acting in a theatre for an actor. I just don't care. Films, if not done by stupid monkeys, are ultimately better creative products.

Film is just more engaging, stunning and often far more emotive than anything on stage. When seeing a show on stage, the audience is in a sense part of the production, acting along with the players on stage. The audience is caught in this pretentious assumption they didn't just pay £30 to see people pretend they're in some very suspect story. The observers sit pretending they aren't 'here'. It doesn't make sense, you say? I know that, I just wasted 10 minutes writing it down.

Film doesn't have these pretensions, and those that try to see a film the same way as a play belong in the foyer of the National Theatre sipping port. There is a clear barrier between a film and its audience, and it is much more of a visual story than anything on stage can achieve. You feel the characters are somewhere else because, believe it or not, they were when they filmed it. The scenery is incredible isn't it? Yes, that's because it's either real, or the technology they used to create it is stunning. (Unlike theatre, film doesn't have an issue using technology that's less than 50 years old). Film opens up unlimited points of view that theatre can never capture. There are so many instances of spectacular shots from original perspectives: birds, helicopters, or even bombs. These shots give not just innovative perspectives but also an amazing sense of

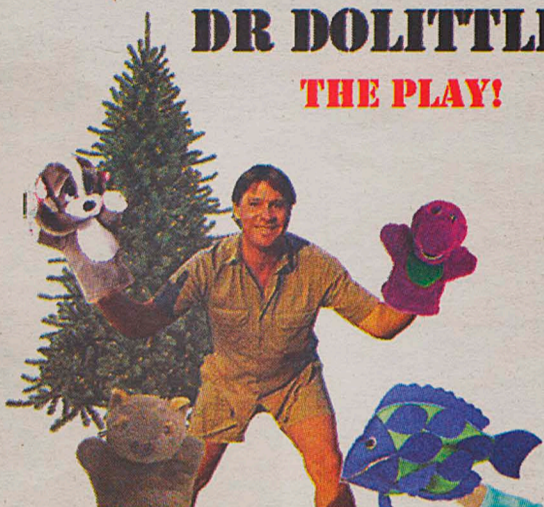
motion and travel and time and experience and so many other emotions that I just don't get from dramatic forms of lighting and symbolic walls and windows. Yes, I am a creative person and like to use my imagination, but when I show someone a scene, I want them to actual-

I know, writing this Rant, that I'm doomed from the start. I love the stage and all that tread its humble boards, but I know that I am part of about 7% of humanity who feels this way, and that once this poll goes online I will be eating film's dust. It's true: the

video jockeys. Nevertheless, I still love the theatre. The feeling I have walking home after a good play or ballet is like I've been touched by something bigger than myself.

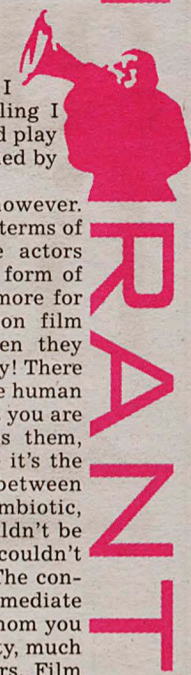
Enough proselytizing, however. Theatre just kicks film's ass in terms of quality. For one thing, stage actors actually have to possess some form of talent, and do a hell of a lot more for their money. There is a reason film actors take to the stage when they want to be taken more seriously! There is also something so much more human about stage stars - it helps that you are actually in the same room as them, breathing the same air. Maybe it's the fact that the relationship between actor and audience is more symbiotic, more of an exchange; you wouldn't be there without them, but they couldn't perform if it weren't for you. The connection is so much more immediate than with a film actor, with whom you are unlikely to even share a city, much less the same room for 3 hours. Film has to drag you kicking and screaming into the story with explosions and noise and sex, theatre doesn't even have to try. You are there already. You may be sitting down and they might be on stage, but you can smell the smoke of their cigarette, and the same light that shines on them shines on you, too. You cannot help but be a part of the reality they are creating and you are reminded at every turn of your shared humanity with the actors and your fellow audience members, whereas film reminds you at every turn that you couldn't be there or be like them even if you tried.

## STEVE IRWIN IN DR DOLITTLE THE PLAY!



ly see and feel that wall—not just pretend it's there. It's much more physical. Yes, Daniel Radcliffe is now naked on stage dreaming of bestiality, which I do admit is physical, but does he make fucking Patronuses and fly around a magical castle on Hippogriffs when not on film? Sadly not. And yes, I know that it's originally a book. But don't get me started on books.

theatre doesn't have the glamour, the money, or even the looks that the film industry gathers like moths to a shiny, materialistic flame. Theatre is a bit grotty, a bit old, a bit obscure. It's also quite long, usually, and to be honest, it's never going to shed its 'poncy' reputation. None of these characteristics are recipes for success in our modern media-based society of sound bites and



Vote for the winner of Rant at:

[www.thebeaveronline.co.uk/partb](http://www.thebeaveronline.co.uk/partb)

The winner will probably receive a really nice prize.

If you would like to write a Rant and win a prize email:

[rant@thebeaveronline.co.uk](mailto:rant@thebeaveronline.co.uk)



## last week's Rant winner:

abaosunsade for being straight

she wins 13 pints of her favourite cider



## things that are great felching

by daniel yates



To achieve greatness, a thing or a person must be elevated so far above the stinking parapet of mediocrity, that they become as distinguished as genital warts on the chin of a pubescent abstinence preacher.

Felching does this in spades. In big, filthy, sexual spades.

The practice of felching was first documented in the tablet carvings of the Inculi Priapii, a pictish tribe living in the Romford area. They would carve intricate representations of the art onto the back legs of their children, believing that if their children ran in circles the effect would be to create a crudely animated 'cartoon' of a boar and a hunter engaged in the stolen pleasure of felching. It was first called 'fletching', a derivation from the craft of arrow-production, so-called because a felcher's aim must be steady and true or the participants are required to go to the river and wash their clothes and smash their souls on rocks. During the Victorian period, felching reached its zenith as a mainstream social practice. It was customary to felch over high tea, in church, and tacit dribbling into scones was a baking norm. Children would felch freely in the playgrounds, there are even surviving examples of 'felchspoons', wooden devices resembling ladles that children of the better-off would employ in their play, usually in the dungeons of their well-appointed wendy-houses. Famous proponents of felching include Schubert, Franco and Timmy Mallett.

In OralB's 2002 leaflet entitled 'good teeth, great lives', felching is listed as the third most important activity a human can engage in. Go forth and felch.

I am really scared of animal rights protestors. Having never previously doubted the word of Greenpeace, I have suddenly, perhaps due to my university education, begun to question the need of protecting endangered species. Coming from a background where dogs, cats and monkey brains are on the menu, I see no reason not to branch out to say, the African Bush Elephant or the Gray bat.

Trawling through the literature on endangered species, I thought of several reasons why we shouldn't bother saving them.

Firstly, most of them are of negligible use to us, despite our efforts to save them. Think of the significant economic loss attempting to save the whale that swum up the Thames. Pan fry I say!

But they're beautiful, I hear you cry! An argument for keeping endangered species is that they are beautiful, irreplaceable creatures. But wait... one endangered animal is the medicinal leech. This beautiful creature is in danger of being wiped off the face of the earth by humankind. But as far as I know, there is no 'save the leech' campaign.

Anyway, tigers are probably tasty. I would definitely not advocate torturing these animals (delicacies), or making them suffer in any way. But we could at least eat them.

In a giant u-turn, partly from fear of being mortally wounded, the author actually advocates that we stop them from being 'endangered', by at least being aware of their plight. They do make up a part of the chain in our ecosystems - and yes, we will miss them when they are gone. [www.wwf-uk.org](http://www.wwf-uk.org). Good luck to the protestors!

things that are rubbish

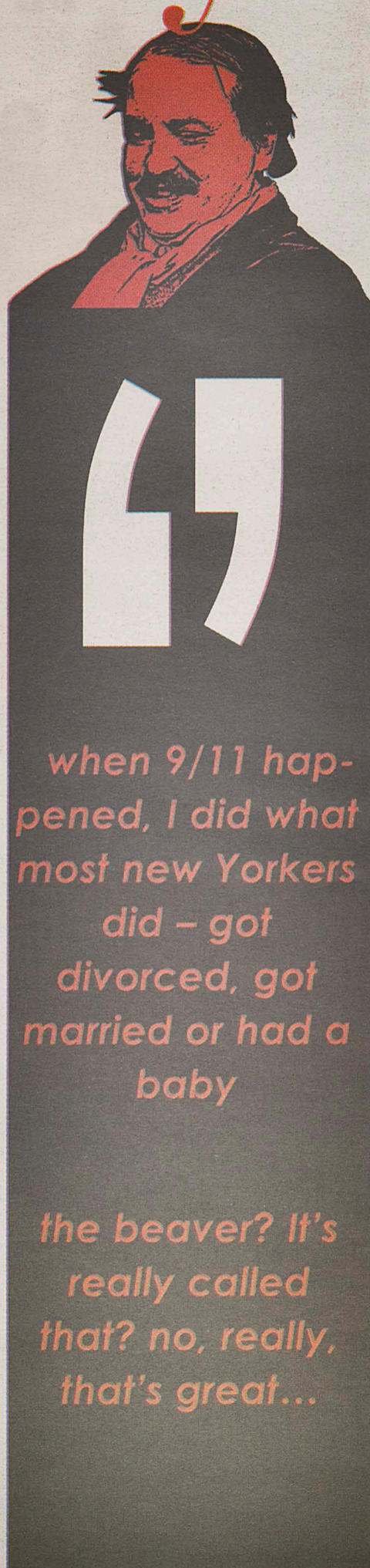
## Endangered Species

by chrislam



# an english man from new york

mollytucker talks to cory english, star of the producers, about the importance of contacts, the genius of nathan lane and getting married after 9/11



I am standing by the stage door of the Theatre Royal, nervously waiting to meet the man whose name is written in letters taller than I am on the sign outside, right above the words "The Producers". I'm nervous in part because it's my first time and I'm a total rookie at this interview malarkey, but more than that I'm nervous because the man I'm waiting to meet is Cory English, who is currently playing the biggest role possible in musical theatre: Max Bialystock, the lead in "The Producers". The hit musical, conceived by Mel Brooks, is one of the most popular West End shows in recent history, and the role of Bialystock is one of the more coveted leads in the business. Nathan Lane, played the role previously among other huge names, and English is one of the few unknowns, as it were, to ever play it.

So I'm a little nervous. We're being introduced by a mutual friend and I had very little notice, so when English comes out, all smiles and bristly moustache, I awkwardly shake his hand and search my suddenly emptied head for something to say—I have no prepared questions, no Dictaphone... Luckily for me, English is not only a West End star, but also a really nice guy, and he starts to make me feel at ease almost at once. He has an unexpectedly distinctive New York accent and as we make our way to the restaurant he chatters away about the matinee he's just performed in (filled with kids, apparently and a somewhat lukewarm audience they were too) and his family.

He has picked a restaurant called 'Joe Allen's', the London branch of a New York restaurant famous for its theatre-centric clientele. As we wait to be seated, I am almost sure I spot a couple of other Theatreland bigwigs. English is telling us about the old days, when this place used to be The Ivy of the West End: anyone who was anyone ate here to see and be seen, and the big deals were made and broken here. The stars came daily to eat before the show, and as the maitre'd greets English warmly as a regular, it's clear that he still does. This attachment to the glamour of the glory days of the theatre is endearingly old-school, as is the way he stops at a table where he spots someone he knows, shakes hands with everyone sitting there and chats to them for a minute.

I'm feeling a little less nervous by the time we sit down (although panicking that perhaps it might be rude to have my notebook out on the table, and trying to think of a way to make the whole thing just seem like a conversation rather than an interrogation) and after we order I ask him if it's alright if I ask him about his Broadway past. He eagerly starts to talk about it, telling me that he came to New York at 18 to be a dancer, taking classes and working odd jobs, until he was lucky enough to be cast in his first ever show at 21. I should make it clear that the odds were against him; getting a role on Broadway just three years after you get there is the kind of luck most struggling artists never see in their whole career, and his luck didn't stop there. He's worked with some huge Broadway names: Arthur Lawrence, Nathan Lane, Jerome Robinson, Tyne Daly, of

whom he says:

"I was doing a show with her, and watching her act; that's something else. She has this grace, this light about her. She made me want to be an actor, this young guy, this dancer; she inspired me to develop myself more."

What about working with Nathan Lane? He is one of the few major names in the business that is recognisable to the layman:

"Nathan Lane is a genius— I wouldn't call him my mentor, but I look up to him. I learned from him, definitely, it was an honour. In this business, though, contacts, the people you meet are everything to your career."

What does he mean by this, exactly?

"Well, just that not everyone can get away with acting like that. I mean, my contacts have gotten me everywhere; I call in favours all the time! I've gotten jobs by bumping into people on the street! It happens all the time in New York, because you see everyone regularly." What was that how he got his first job?

"No, I had to audition for that! My first show, I stood on a stage holding a sign. That was it! If I could have known then that I'd be doing this today...that I'd have come this far... well, I wouldn't have believed it."

So how did it happen?

"It was by accident, really. I auditioned, I wanted the part of Leo, actually, but more than anything I wanted to be in the production. And so I was incredibly grateful when I got understudy, I was understudying both main roles, and I ended up being offered the part when my predecessor left. That's what it's really about; being around at the right time, knowing the right people..." And talent, of course?

"Of course, of course!"

I comment that the role of Bialystock is not a terribly physical one in terms of dancing, and I wonder if he misses it, as his early career was more demanding:

"I'm a dancer by training. In this show, I'm hardly doing anything! I still enjoy dance, but I feel like it's part of my early career, and now I'm doing something different. New York is the dance capital, London is the acting capital—taking parts here helps you develop different skills."

So you like London?

"Well, I have to be honest; I miss New York. New York is smaller, more convenient—it's easier to get everywhere. The Broadway community is so tight too, and I do miss it, because the West End isn't so much; maybe at The National, because of the complex setting they have there. New York is an adults' playground—I lived in Hell's Kitchen and I could walk to work."

So how do you get to work now?

"Well, I have a Piaggio Liberty scooter. That's a plus, I couldn't have that at home... or my allotment. I love my allotment, and they've never even heard of them in the States. But I still miss New York, it's the only city I'll ever really call Home in that sense. I'm a New Yorker, that's what I am."

I have to take a moment to recover my excitement over the scooter thing, and then I ask him why he thinks it is that he is so inex-

tricably tied to the place.

"It's been almost my whole life, you know? It gave me my career, my friends, all the things that I love. And then, you know, September 11th happened and it's like... well, it's hard to explain to someone who wasn't there. I mean, when 9/11 happened, I did what most new Yorkers did — got divorced, got married or had a baby. Well, the second two, at least! It was a shock to your system, a catalyst. I'm not saying it was a good thing, but it jump-started my life. My wife is English, and was living over here (she's an actress also), and I was in New York; it was hard, but we were serious. But 9/11 came along, and I was walking down the street looking at the smoke over the city and I went straight into the nearest open jewellery store and bought the ring."

I congratulate him at this point; his first son was born just a few weeks beforehand. I ask him about this new role as father, and how it fits in with his current West End schedule.

"Well, it's amazing. Sammy (after the late, great Sammy Davis Jr) is just great, though I'm sure his mom would say that's because I don't see him at night! Its tough, though—I work 8 shows a week and I only got two weeks of paternity leave. But his timing was perfect; I mean, I'll never be this financially comfortable again. And we're about to go on tour, which means that since my wife isn't working, she can bring the baby and move with me. We'll never be this portable again."

With such a perfect segway, I ask him what's next — more theatre? London or New York?

"No more theatre. Not musical theatre, at least. There's no other part bigger than Bialystock...its like King Lear in dramatic theatre. There's nowhere else to go! That's why I'm looking at film and TV now. Not musical theatre, something original, unique in my career. I've got a couple of offers for when the tour is done, and a few more promising roles in the farther future; I'm just really considering my options right now. And as to where? Who knows. I'm raising a mid-Atlantic kid right now, and it's got to be about what is best for him. But someday, New York will call me back."

We've finished eating, and I hadn't even noticed. Alas, it's getting to be time for English to get back to get ready for the show ("I take a shower before the show and sing a little to warm up"), so we take our leave of Joe Allen's and head towards Drury Lane. We promise to send him a copy of *The Beaver* (a source of great amusement to him: "It's really called that? No, really, that's great...that's really great...") and leave him at the stage door. Walking home, I ponder the fact that most people don't really notice stage stars like they do movie stars—the show almost always seems bigger than its parts. Which is a shame, because it means that most of you will not have heard of Cory English, who has ten times the personality and talent as your average actor in Hollywood. One can only hope that he does hit the big time, as he looks set to do, and injects a much-needed Botox shot of quality into the movie industry's saggy talentless face.





# AND THE ACADEMY AWARDS

nityamenon's favourite time of the year is here again

There is nothing quite like a February to unceremoniously extinguish any lingering notions of a 'happy new year.' The promise of January is quickly forgotten amidst the dulling haze of a never-ending head cold, the surreal blur of red and pink shop displays; and for those of us inclined to follow developments in the world of film, the tiresome drone of a single word: 'Oscars.' If ever there were a true test of tolerance for the self-proclaimed 'film buff,' this would have to be it: enduring weeks on end of ceaseless speculation, an unparalleled level of shameless self-promotion, and to crown it all finding oneself having to ultimately discard all remnants of self-respect and contribute grudgingly to the cacophony of critique. It's the time of year when the esteemed Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences authoritatively recognises excellence and achievement, by awarding many of the 'Best' features of motion picture making from the year gone by. Or at least that is the premise that they aspire to operate on.

However, as no doubt many can attest to, instead of presenting each award to the 'Best' performance of the year, what the Academy has increasingly taken to doing is presenting it to the 'Best' promoted. One needs only to glance at the names of Best Actress winners over the past few years to evidence this none too pleasing trend. Apart from Hilary Swank's two well-deserved wins, each of the so called 'Best Actress' winners of the past eight years, though presenting middling to very good performances, could not on any analysis be said to have been the BEST performance of the year. What the likes of Julia Roberts, Halle Berry and even Nicole Kidman can undoubtedly be said to have been however, in the years of their win, is unchallenged Hollywood golden girls. The somewhat unsavoury truth is thus that what was once a highly respectable system of cinematic accreditation has over the last decade or so, slowly but surely deteriorated to becoming a rather ridiculous and over-hyped entity that year after year overlooks true talent and achievement in favour of the seasonal 'It Girl.'

It might be exaggeration to say that this phenomenon has never before been witnessed; after all even Audrey Hepburn and Grace Kelly largely won their Oscars by sitting pretty on the popularity pony. In those days however it was clearly the exception rather than the norm. Today, on the other hand, the Academy unfailingly nominates and rewards only the most successful films, the tediously ubiquitous actors and worst of all the exceedingly moneyed production studios. Of course every year most categories will have at least the one random (and even independent) nomination, but apart from paying lip-service for the sake of credibility, such nominations always amount to little. Yet, despite all our grievances, here we all are year on end predicting winners like there was ever a competition, and completely unable to look away. For the even greater reality about the Academy Awards, whatever one's other opinions may be, is that by remaining the world's best recognised cinematic award they are automatically a necessity for anyone seeking monetary (if not critical) success in the business. Such is the power and allure of the Oscars, that even a seemingly indefatigable shunner of the awards such as Sean Penn finally condescended to make an appearance the year the Academy decided it worth their while to recognise him.

It is definitely difficult to coherently explain the real appeal behind the Oscars. Why do we insist on watching or following an overly long, unfunny and definitely non-'greatest award show on the planet'? Being sentimental, for me at least it is the memory of Walt Disney with his 7 little honoraries that draws me in; continuing to kindle my belief in a system that once so accurately recognised motion picture achievement. That, and I really like pretty dresses.

angustse's a-w guide to oscar terminology

**Academy members** - Invite-only community responsible for voting for the Oscars. Demographics unknown, but strong presumption that they're an old bunch.

**British** - Academy members tend to like British thespians- e.g. Judi Dench winning Best Supporting Actress for a six minute role. Is it because American actors don't know Shakespeare?

**Career achievement** - Situations where a filmmaker/actor/actress (may be) given an Oscar not for his/her nominated film/performance, but for his/her previous work. See Martin Scorsese for *Gangs of New York*, *The Aviator* (he didn't win for either), and this year's *The Departed*.

**Feel-good** - films that Academy members have an alleged bias for over serious fare. See *Rocky* winning Best Picture over *Taxi Driver*, *Network* and *All The President's Men*; last year's *Crash* and maybe this year's *Little Miss Sunshine*.

**Independent/ Indie** - Films made with (relatively) small budgets, but no longer produced by small studios (see Fox Searchlight, Paramount Vantage). Some key characteristics: sex, oddity, quirkiness.

**Liberal** - In the context of Hollywood, accusations of 'socialist' films, free-wheeling drink and drug orgies, anti-Americanism, and Michael Moore. Backfired when *Brokeback Mountain* didn't win Best Picture, but perception still persists within the conservative community/Fox News.

**Lifetime achievement** - Honourary Oscar, in most cases given to those who haven't won an Oscar before- e.g. Charlie Chaplin.

**Mainstream** - Everything that isn't indie. Or stuff that the big studios won't touch.

**Oscar-bait/ Oscar-buzz/ Oscar material** - A film tipped to have potential to win Oscars. Not the technical nominations, but the 'main' ones. Sometimes used as an insult- e.g. 'Dreamgirls reeks of Oscar-bait'.

**Oscar moments** - Presumably memorable moments in Oscar ceremonies- e.g. that Italian Robert Benigni jumping up and down after he won something. In other words, more showmanship.

**Pundits** - People who waste their time predicting who is going to win what in the Oscars, due to the increasing predictability/ the monotonous quality of nominated films/ the organised marketing by film studios/ the stupidity and conservativeness of Academy members. See [goldderby.com](http://goldderby.com) or [oscarwatch.com](http://oscarwatch.com)

**Red carpet** - the walk to the Oscar ceremony, where celebrities show off their unique style and glamour/the suits and dresses that fashion houses sponsor them to wear as walking billboards to the millions around the world watching the show. For some, it's also a walk of shame- see Bjork's swan dress.

**Screeners** - DVD copies of Oscar-aspiring films given to voters of awards groups. Great source for piracy too- you know, the movies you download. Illegally.

**Snubs/upsets** - Those who win Oscars over the more critically acclaimed nominees. See *Shakespeare in Love* beating *Saving Private Ryan*, or *Ordinary People* beating *Raging Bull*, and many other infamous examples you can Google.

**Speeches** - To actors and actresses, they're performances.

**Weinsteins** - American film producer brothers who led Miramax in the 90s. Responsible for commercial successes for indie films (e.g. *Pulp Fiction*) as known for their aggressive marketing.

**Women** - 10% of Best Picture Oscar nominees are directed by women; 6.25% of top-250 domestic box office grosser in 2006 are directed by women. Discrimination? (Source: Alliance of Women Film Journalists')



## awards diary

### january

**January 1st:** First day for films to qualify for next year's Oscars.

**Golden Globe Awards:** Its critical importance is inflated by studios to sell their movies. Sets the 'agenda' for the Oscar race - shows how well the campaigning is going.

**Sundance Film Festival:** The festival for American indies but nowadays with Hollywood celebrities. Tarantino, *Napoleon Dynamite*, and this year's *Little Miss Sunshine* all started here.

**Screen Actors Guild Awards (SAGs):** Acting awards nominated and voted by the union of thespians.

### february

**Director's Guild of America Awards (DGAs):** A barometer for the Best Director Oscar.

**Berlin International Film Festival ('Berlinale'):** A prominent film festival. *Magnolia* and *Spirited Away* were winners.

**The Oscars.** The glitz and glamour and the red carpet, the ovations and the melodramatic speeches and woe-is-me-my-god-I-wasted-four-hours-of-my-life.

# PART C CARRIERS



**O**I'm sure you're all happy to see that Part C is back after its week's break. And this time we are taking advantage of the fact that all the city deadlines have passed, to focus on something apart from banking. So here's an issue for the more clueless of you who still don't know what you're going to do, either because you haven't spent the last five months filling out applications, or because you didn't get into your dream job.

We realise this is a scary place to be in, so consider this your support pack – there is all sorts of information on what's out there in terms of jobs and careers resources, not to mention lots of advice for both second and third years.

The section also has a brand new sub-editor (that would be me, obviously) and hopefully it will be getting bigger and stronger. We are of course still looking for new writers. Whether you're the archetypal, career ambitious LSE student, or the complete opposite – we want you to write for us. If you are interested please email [partcareers@thebeaveronline.co.uk](mailto:partcareers@thebeaveronline.co.uk).

Meryem Torum  
Part C Sub-Editor

# There is more to life than banking

Meryem Torun says working for smaller firms is just as rewarding

**A**s students we are usually quite unaware of what's out there in the business world. After spent a great majority of our lives in education, when we're finally ready and willing to acquire a job, we usually look around in a fit of panic thinking about what we want to do for the rest of our lives. As this is quite a big decision, we often go for the safe factor: we pick those big companies that dominate the news, the adverts and the career fairs. Whilst this is a valid choice, it also means that we have actually ignored 99% of businesses out there. That huge majority is made up of small medium enterprise (SME).

to move on up in a smaller company where there aren't about twenty levels of management. You will probably be under less supervision and regulation, which means that you will have both a greater degree of responsibility and flexibility. This is your chance to take initiative and show what you can do.

Companies House [www.companies-house.gov.uk](http://www.companies-house.gov.uk): This is a useful search website. They have a very large database that contains information on 2 million businesses.

Shell <http://www.step.org.uk/>: Shell Step is aimed at providing project-based placements for undergraduates in small and medium businesses. The projects last about 8 weeks, so they're a good introduction to SME if you're not sure whether this is right path for you.

Yellow Pages [www.yell.com](http://www.yell.com): This seems kind of obvious but a good idea is to search for businesses in the area you want to work in and make speculative applications. Knowledge Transfer Partnership <http://www.ktponline.org.uk/>: Provides 12 – 36 month project-based placements in various companies which help you train whilst you work.

Q Graduate Solutions [www.qgsrecruitment.co.uk](http://www.qgsrecruitment.co.uk): A recruitment website that enables graduates to search for vacancies and job opportunities in businesses of all sizes.

...we have actually ignored 99% of businesses out there. That huge majority is made up of small medium enterprise (SME).

## So what exactly is a small medium enterprise...

It seems kind of self-explanatory but there are different ideas about what qualifies as a small medium business. The Department of Trade & Industry says that its basically a business with less than 250 employees. These firms offer a wide range of opportunities particularly in sectors such as finance, media and IT.

## Why to work for one...

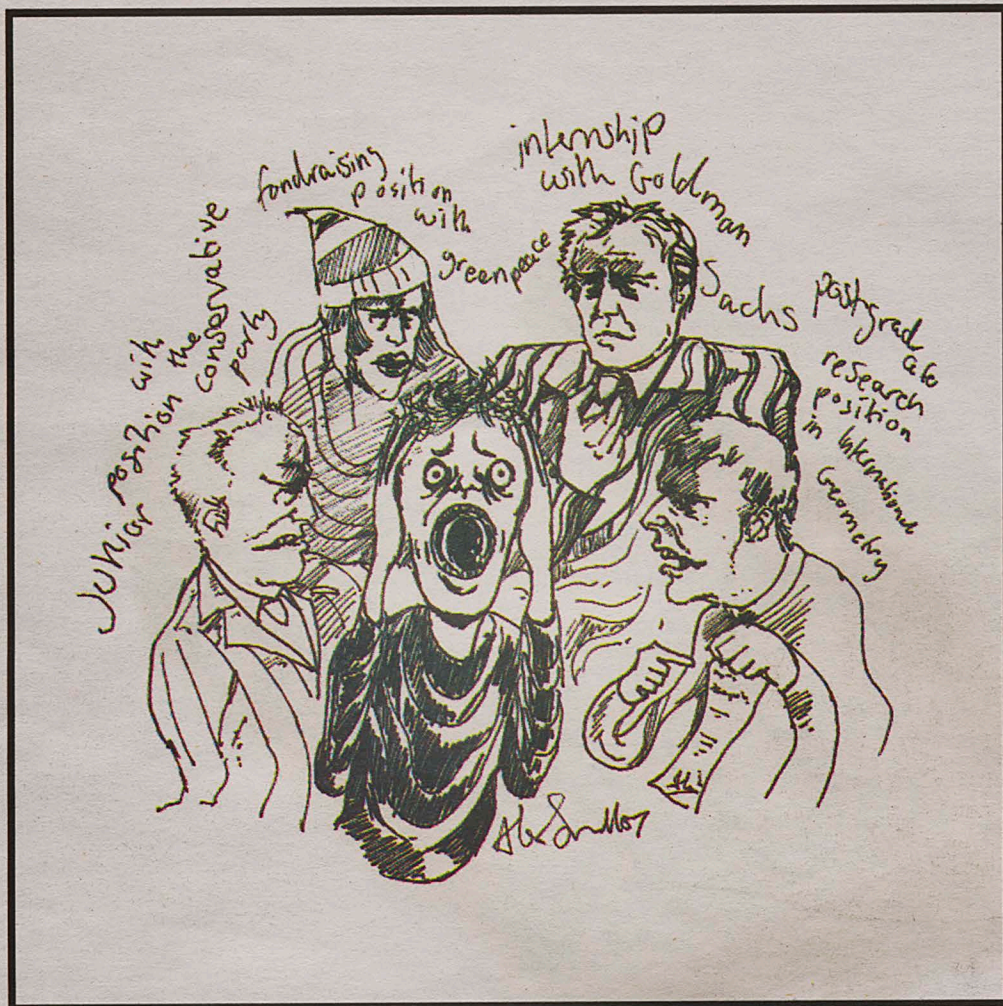
Although most graduates would never consider working for a SME there are in fact many advantages. You have a better chance to get involved, make important decisions, and have a greater contribution to the company. You may also find it easier

## To find more information...

Entrust [www.graduatesforbusiness.co.uk](http://www.graduatesforbusiness.co.uk): This is a great site that helps graduates find jobs in local small businesses. You are added to a database of graduates, then matched up to the appropriate company and position. Only downside being that they only offer placements in North East based businesses.

## Some companies to look up...

- Pareto Law** (Recruitment and training agency)
- Hart Worldwide** (Fresh produce supplier)
- Xiros** (Medical device manufacturer)
- Castleoak Construction** (Care home design and construction)
- P3 the Social Inclusion Charity**



# Looking for odd jobs

Molly Tucker talks of a simple way to find part-time jobs

**I**'ve lost count of the emails from the Careers services telling me about IB events, online consultancy applications, and internship deadlines, and to be honest, I'm really bored of it. I don't want to earn 40,000 a year straight out of university, I don't want to burn out by the time I'm thirty, and ideally, I'd like to be without gainful employment for at least six months after I graduate. If you're like me, or just missed the application deadlines/aren't interested in the financial sector/have no prospects whatsoever, then you'll have noticed LSE's Careers office isn't really there for you.

Instead, I offer you my favourite online solution: come all you unemployed, you dead-beat, you broke, to

[www.gumtree.com](http://www.gumtree.com). Set up by ex-pat Aussies in London, it is fast becoming one of the most effective, if unorthodox ways of getting a job in the capital. Granted, you won't stumble across a hitherto unseen trainee position at the BBC or personal assistant to the UN secretary-general there, but for filler jobs while you shop around for something better, it's a winner.

The site is simple and easy to use, and employers from every career sector post jobs there, from research positions to baristas to medical guinea pigs (!). There are new posts every day, and all you have to do is reply to the email address provided with your CV and cover letter.

For a lot of graduates, their final months before exams and

the subsequent summer and autumn months can be a stressful and depressing time. Either you don't know where you're going, or no-one is willing to take you on and let you go the way you want. Gumtree is perfect for giving you some breathing space while you decide, without rendering you destitute and shiftless.

And check out the Free Stuff section, it's brilliant. Don't ask, just do.

- Vacancies on gumtree.com today:**
- Part-Time Birthday Party Host
  - General Assistant
  - Outdoor Retail Sales
  - Luxury Fashion advisor

## Deadline Watch Molly Tucker

### Internships

- HSBC: **23rd February** Finance
- PWC: **31st March** Finance /Law /Consulting
- RBC Capital Markets: **28th February** Finance
- Reuters: **April 2007** Media /IT /Finance /Law
- Shearman and Sterling: **28th February** Law
- Reynolds Porter Chamberlain: **28th February** Law

### Graduates

- MBDA Missile Systems: **23rd February** Finance graduate trainee
- Siemens: **25th February** Opportunities in Business
- Ericsson: **26th February** Graduate Opportunities 2007
- Solomon: **27th February** Page Group LLC Junior Recruiter/Research Analyst, Financial Services Division
- LloydsTSB: **28th February** Graduate Opportunities
- Royal Bank Of Scotland Group (RBS group): **28th February**

# No job: Don't Panic!

**Fatima Manji** gives advice for soon to be unemployed graduates

The end is nigh. Soon university and all its strange, but wonderful experiences will be a fading memory. Yet you might well still find yourself hanging around at LSE, dreaming of days when you could legitimately do nothing all day and not have that colossal cloud of a label hanging over you... 'unemployed'. Even the word makes you shudder, but it's a prospect that seems like it's fast-approaching.

While you were partying away all year or stuck in quagmire of essays, your best friend whored him/herself at every corporate drinks reception possible and has now landed a fancy banking job with a £50k salary, trading equity acquisition derivatives or some other malarkey at Goldman Sachs. (Yes I know, I promised to resist the temptation of ranting about the horrors of global capitalism but I had to get it in somewhere.)

And so you think you might just breakdown the next time another one of those smug banking ones asks what you're doing "next year". But fear not, help is at hand. You don't have to answer an embarrassed "I don't know" and hang your head in shame - if you follow these five wonderful steps to sorting your life out. And all this from someone who is soon to be an unemployed type herself. (Full of irony, but at least I empathise.)

## Don't panic!

First up those famous words of Corporal Jones from Dad's Army. There is absolutely no use stressing yourself out simply because you haven't landed yourself that dream job. Without launching into an evangelical tirade about how life is too beautiful, it must be said that staying positive and calm is key. Stress yourself out and you'll only end up failing your degree and suffering from an overdose of negative energies.

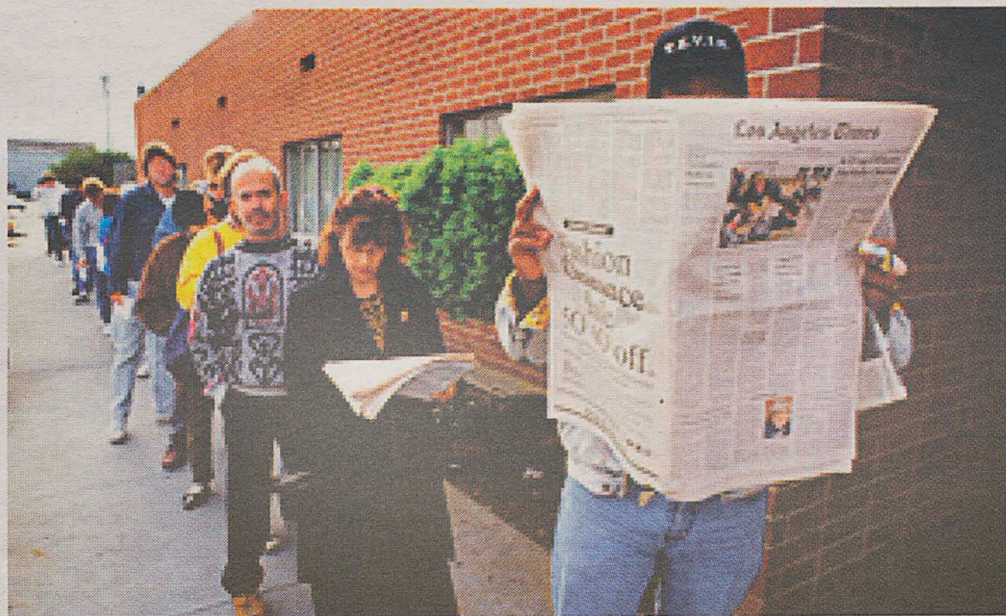
## Reflect, Research, Review

The new three R's are almost

as important as the original ones. Reflect on where you are now and where you want to be in the future. Far too many of us simply don't have a clue about the breadth of opportunities that are out there. So do your research - look up job adverts, find out what others around you are going to be doing, get advice and network, network, network. Make a list of your skills - this might give you some ideas on how to apply them. Finally plan and review your ideas constantly. And write all this down. If nothing else, it will be amusing in ten years time.

## Surf

The web, that is. But it made you think of Australia, so it got your attention didn't it? Instead of spending hours pointlessly 'Facebooking' - why not turn to one of the numerous graduate recruitment websites. These creatures seem to be multiplying by the minute, so you're bound to take a look at what's available and fill in the form to get yourself sent relevant opportunities by email. Might also be useful when looking for temporary summer opportunities, so that you're not short on cash during your hunt for a job.



## Use the Careers Service

Every non 'wanna-be-investment-banker' complains about the LSE Careers Service for being completely useless. But they do seem to have made a conscious effort to cater for more varieties and my inbox seems to have been bombarded with information on careers forums - on everything from social entrepreneurship to policy. So perhaps more helpful than you think. Plus they offer great services like CV checking, which is always handy. And if they don't help you at least you can come and whinge about it to *The Beaver* and make a scandalous front page news story.

## Keep an Open mind

Lastly it must be said, opening yourself to new ideas is essential. Its not often you'll get an opportunity like this and most people in their mid-40s would kill for the breather that you might be getting. So take your time, don't just sign a contract for the sake of it - you might just regret it for the rest of your life. Take up interesting opportunities and try something new. You never know it might lead to that dream job after all. And if all else fails you can always come and hang around at *The Beaver* office with me.

## Quick Job Find

Looking for jobs? Here are some opportunities listed on the LSE careers website that you might find interesting. For further information

<https://careers.lse.ac.uk/lse-website-main/student/search-ForPositions.html>

**Employer:** Shoosmiths

**Position:** Trainee Solicitor

**Description:** We offer a training contract of 4 x 6-month seats in most of our office locations. Contract start date: September 2008 or 2009. Key areas are Corporate/Commercial, Commercial Property, Employment and Dispute Resolution/Litigation.

**Salary Range:** £20-25K per year  
**Closing Date:** 31 July 07

**Employer:** Last.fm Ltd

**Position:** Country Manager Internship

**Description:** Last.fm's business development team is looking for individuals to help manage our international sites and work with our partners.

**Salary Range:** Salary negotiable  
**Closing Date:** 12 May 07

**Employer:** European Training Services

**Position:** Leonardo da Vinci Programme

**Description:** ETS offer exciting opportunities to go to Europe with the *Leonardo Da Vinci II* exchange programme. The programme includes:

-2 weeks of language training  
-9 weeks of work experience

**Closing Date:** 31 March 07

**Employer:** JPMorgan

**Position:** Fixed Income Derivatives Marketing

**Description:** This role involves:- Structuring, pricing and executing complex derivative transactions for large corporate and institutional clients  
Analyzing data and providing marketing material to support new trade ideas

Following a period of training, the candidate will be able to structure and market derivative solutions directly to clients  
**Closing Date:** 16 March 07

**Employer:** Econergy International Corporation

**Position:** Consultant

**Description:** The position will be full-time and the individual will operate from the Company's office in London, U.K., and will report to the head of that office. Main responsibilities will include:

Business development, including participation in conferences and seminars, presentation to potential clients, and proposal preparation.  
Coordination, management and performance of consulting assignments.

**Salary Range:** Salary negotiable  
**Closing Date:** 28 February 07

# Traveling can boost your CV

Enjoy yourself by travelling and working abroad. **Jessica Mcardle** explains all

Though you may not know it studying at LSE, the world's orbit is not centred in the Square Mile; finding out what your world spins around can often lead you to far away destinations that you may never have seen yourself. Losing yourself in work during term time is one of the prime reasons that LSE manages to top the polls annually but who says that summers should be all work? When it comes to talking points, summer internships can only get you so far, whereas working abroad, and indeed travelling in general, can often give you a genuine talking point upon which to base a genuine bond with your future employer.

In the increasingly competitive employment world that LSE students now enter, it is vital to make an impact on employers that is not entirely based on your grades; employers do look for personal flair too. Where best to shop for said flair than abroad, where you are guaranteed to get more for your pound. Working in Europe is a luxury easily afforded to UK students, although increasingly, students are looking to more distant destinations to top-up their tans, brush up on their coffee making skills and generally take advantage of the summer that they have been afforded.

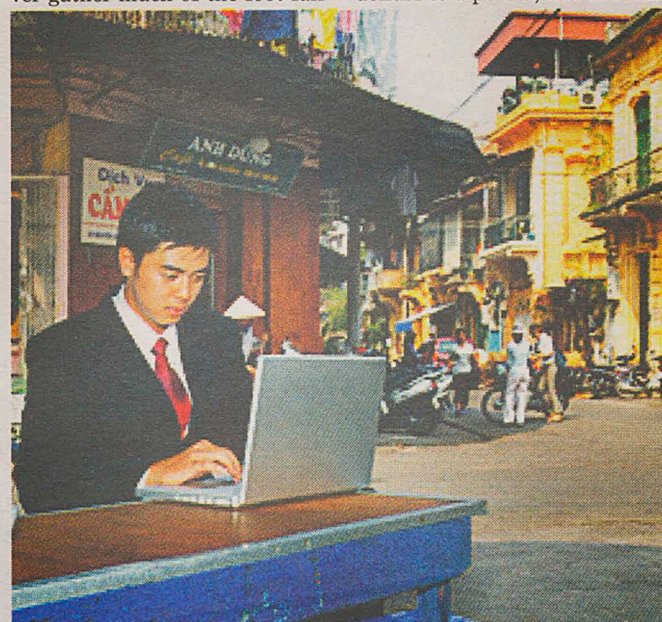
Depending on your budget and motivations, there are a se-

ries of opportunities open to you, from working in a bagel bar to building toilets. Popular extra-European options include Canada, America and New

“...it is vital to make an impact on employers that is not entirely based on your grades.”

Zealand and beyond respectively the Maple Syrup, the OC and the sheep, these destinations offer more than meets the eye. Should Canada be the end that you have in mind, working visas are easily obtainable, depending on the type of job and the location you have your mind set on, jobs are only as hard to get as you are.

The cities of Toronto and Vancouver gather much of the foot fall



from students looking for jobs; the former being popular with "big city" fans, while the latter's snow capped surroundings attract those looking for more than just a city.

New Zealand offers many both the opportunity of a ski season and an antipodean experience that could throw your orbit right off. An extremely cheap place to visit and get around, with the New Zealand dollar

typically trading at almost three dollars to a pound, this is a fan-

atically with J1 visas available to all full-time (including final year) students enrolled in UK colleges. Opportunities abound, whether you want to buff up your CV or brush up on your sandwich making skills, there are both banks to be run and burgers to be flipped. In terms of location, San Diego, Santa Barbara and San Francisco are the hotspots of the west-coast, complimented by Montauk, Boston and New York City on the East coast and then there's always the centre to consider.

Before you follow the well-trodden trail from Houghton St to the City it is worth considering taking a detour to your travel agent (internet) and measuring your options in London with those abroad. Summer holidays fly by, and entering the full-time job market spells their death so why not invest one of your hard earned summers gathering both work and life experience and a bit further from home? For more information on working holidays in

Canada see <http://www.swap.ca/>, in New Zealand click on <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/> and in USA <http://www.bunac.org>.

Finally, America is an exciting host for many students annu-

## PartC is for careers driven people

- 1) How many applications have you done?
- 2) Have a nightmare interview experience to share?
- 3) Don't want to be an investment banker?
- 4) Would kill to be an investment banker?

If you are interested in writing about what you are *really* at the LSE for, then email:

[partcareers@thebeaveronline.co.uk](mailto:partcareers@thebeaveronline.co.uk)

# Advertise with PartC

Send your paid advertisements and announcements to  
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# WARD GOES TO...

Alex Barros-Curtis picks those most likely to weep with joy

## Best Picture

**Will win:** *The Departed*- The 'safe bet'. It's good (but not brilliant) and well received. No one would be in uproar about it winning. *Little Miss Sunshine* will only win Original Screenplay. It and *The Queen* are too 'indie'/'low key'- films that the Academy prefer to shy away from.

**Should win:** *The Queen*, or even *Sunshine*, as a shock to the system. However, both *Pan's Labyrinth* and *United 93* should have been nominated - the former has a Foreign Film nomination, the latter a Best Director nomination, but both deserve more than that!

## Best Director

**Will win:** Scorsese will walk away with this one, not because this is his best film, or even the best directed film of the line-up, but because the mentality that pervades in Oscar history- 'oh, he's been nominated so many times before, we'll give it to him for this'.

**Should win:** Paul Greengrass for *United 93*, not just for having the guts to do this film in the first place, but because he directed this harrowing tale in a calm, engrossing manner.

## Best Actor

**Will win:** There is no way Forest Whitaker will be stopped. He won every major 'best actor' award so far and will cap it all off, no doubt, with an Oscar. Ryan Gosling is this year's 'hip and trendy' nomination but he stands no chance.

**Should win:** Whittaker's portrayal of Idi Amin was uncanny and unnerving. The way he perfected the psychotic personality of Amin was impressive and his 5-month effort before filming started to immerse himself in totally becoming Amin, such as by learning Swahili, is worthy of credit in itself.

## Best Actress

**Will win:** There is no way this one isn't going to Helen Mirren. Dench was strong this year in a role that she excelled in, but she's won before.

**Should win:** Mirren, for her faultless performance as *Queen Elizabeth II*.

## Best Supporting Actor

**Will win:** A wide race, but I can see this going Eddie Murphy's way. Critically successful, and 99% of awards ceremonies agree with this assessment. I really don't know why Whalberg got a nomination: his part in *The Departed* was amusing, but this was only because of his lines, not his delivery of them. Honsou is also one to watch out for as a dark horse.

**Should win:** I'd like to see Arkin get this one, and so did the BAFTAs. His turn as the crazy grandfather was hilarious and he really mastered the role to the delight of the audience. However, Brad Pitt should have been nominated for his role in *Babel* - at the very least he was as good as Wahlberg, who merely delivered well-written lines.

## Best Supporting Actress

**Will win:** This has Hudson's name written all over it. Like Mirren and Whitaker, she hasn't stopped winning. Blanchett was good, but she won this 'just' 2 years ago, and has no real chance. I was pleased to see Breslin get a nod - she was very good, and the Academy does like giving the statuettes out to youngsters (they all went wild when Anna Paquin won in 1994 when she was 11).

**Should win:** Both Barraza and Kikuchi were fantastic in their roles, but I prefer Kikuchi's performance. She masterfully put across her role as a mute, expressing the inner turmoil and pain of her character impeccably.

## Best Original Screenplay

**Will win:** I often wonder where a film would be without a great script. The screenplay categories always amuse me because so often, the winner of this rarely goes on to get Best Picture. 'Surely if I win best screenplay, that would mean my film has to be one of, if not the, best?' Prime example: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* won this - but NO nod for Best Picture!

Regardless, whoever wins this award will be given it as 'compensation' for not having winning Best Picture. I really do think *Little Miss Sunshine* has a strong chance, along with *The Queen*. Not *Babel*, for being convoluted.

**Should win:** Either *Little Miss Sunshine* or *The Queen*- both deserve it.

## Best Adapted Screenplay

**Will win:** It amused me that Borat got nominated - another example of the Academy trying to be 'hip' methinks. I bet half of them didn't even watch it, or didn't understand it. To see him walking down the red carpet however is prize enough for me: I hope he happens to stumble upon some cockroaches whilst on it - could be hilarious! Other than that, I think it's obvious *The Departed* will win this one. *Notes on a Scandal* was well adapted, but the Academy will probably ignore it, and same with *Little Children*.

**Should win:** Just for fun's sake, I would love to see Borat win it. Maybe the Academy will humour us this year and make it so - imagine how good the acceptance speech would be?! *The Last King of Scotland* should have been nominated - it swept the BAFTAs, and deserves some recognition, particularly in this category.

## CUT OUT AND KEEP GUIDE TO NOMINATIONS

### Best Picture

*Babel*  
*The Departed*  
*Letters From Iowa Jima*  
*Little Miss Sunshine*  
*The Queen*

### Best Director

Clint Eastwood, *Letters From Iowa Jima*  
Stephen Frears, *The Queen*  
Alejandro González Iñárritu, *Babel*  
Paul Greengrass, *United 93*  
Martin Scorsese, *The Departed*

### Best Actor

Leonardo DiCaprio, *Blood Diamond*  
Ryan Gosling, *Half Nelson*  
Peter O'Toole, *Venus*  
Will Smith, *The Pursuit of Happyness*  
Forest Whitaker, *The Last King of Scotland*

### Best Actress

Penélope Cruz, *Volver*  
Judi Dench, *Notes on a Scandal*  
Helen Mirren, *The Queen*  
Meryl Streep, *The Devil Wears Prada*  
Kate Winslet, *Little Children*

### Best Supporting Actor

Alan Arkin, *Little Miss Sunshine*  
Jackie Earle Haley, *Little Children*  
Djimon Honsou, *Blood Diamond*  
Eddie Murphy, *Dreamgirls*  
Mark Wahlberg, *The Departed*

### Best Supporting Actress

Adriana Barraza, *Babel*  
Cate Blanchett, *Notes on a Scandal*  
Abigail Breslin, *Little Miss Sunshine*  
Jennifer Hudson, *Dreamgirls*  
Rinko Kikuchi, *Babel*

### Best Original Screenplay

*Babel*  
*Letters From Iowa Jima*  
*Little Miss Sunshine*  
*Pan's Labyrinth*  
*The Queen*

### Best Adapted Screenplay

*Borat*  
*Children of Men*  
*The Departed*  
*Little Children*  
*Notes on a Scandal*

may

september

december

An almost-certain

A traditionally impor-  
won Golden Bears here.

carpet and the standing  
what-time-is-it and oh-

**Cannes Film Festival:** Arguably the most prestigious film festival. The Palme D'Or is the prize filmmakers want. Recently criticised for yielding to Hollywood (e.g. the nonsensical *Da Vinci Code* premiere), but the waves of booing common in screenings still exist. This year's *Babel* premiered here.

**Venice Film Festival ('Biennale'):** Oldest film festival, and still one of the most important. *Brokeback Mountain*, winner of the Golden Lion, and *The Queen* premiered here.

**Toronto International Film Festival:** Largest film festival open to the public. Recently seen as a launching pad for Oscar- aspiring films, and thus increasingly influential. *Sideways*, *Jamie Foxx* and *Ray*, and *Crash* started here.

Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, National Board of Review and other critics give their awards. Influential, but sadly only to an extent.

**December 31st:** Last day for films to qualify for next year's Oscars. The rat race never ends.

# london fashion week

abaosunsade reports highlights of the exhibition

## Cutler & Gross

With a growing celebrity following, this distinctive brand of sunglasses recently launched its "Zero Seven" collection. Inspired by the underworld of 1930's USA where boozers had to hide their every move as the government enforced prohibition, these shades evoke the spirit of jazz-clubs and mob culture. Perfect for shading the brightness of day after an all-night disco party.

Available at Harvey Nichols, £199



## Emma Chapman Jewels

Inspired by the culture of Nepal, Emma Chapman decided to establish her workshops there with the intention of promoting ethical working conditions. Influenced by the Buddhist culture and sights and sounds of the local region, her pieces evoke bold hues and natural shapes - a refreshing change from conventional jewel designs.

Available at: [www.emmachapmanjewels.com](http://www.emmachapmanjewels.com)

## Tabitha

You can never have too many handbags - that's a well-known fact. Made with style and practicality in mind, Tabitha handbags come in an array of colours and styles. The new collection, which will debut in stores in March, includes a to-die-for acid blue carry-all, ideal for long days at uni and weekends away.

Available at [www.tabitha.uk.com](http://www.tabitha.uk.com)



## Fashion East

A not-for-profit project aiming to promote young British talent, the clothes on show indicate London's east end is bursting with creativity. The outrageous cuts and colours are proof these kids are not afraid of self-expression, look out for the up and comings' creations to be hitting the rails of high street shops soon.

Pictured: outfit by Jonathon Saunders [www.fashioneast.co.uk](http://www.fashioneast.co.uk)

STYLE

## men in tights

jenniferleggett channels robin hood on the catwalk

First it was men wearing moisturizer: fine. Then it was men sporting straightened hair: ok, the rain can play havoc with curls. But men in LEGGINGS? Alas my friends, it's true. Last week the fashion houses of Marni and Prada sent men down the catwalk at Milan fashion week in violet, red and green leggings - debuting the trend that is reappearing on runways across the globe. With London fashion week over I wonder if (and dread that) the trend will emerge on the streets of our capital. Does this complete the 'metro-sexual transformation' of our modern man?

Made of microfibre cotton and wool the garments don't cling as "offensively" as one might first imagine. Long tops and averted glances are not necessary accessories for this new trend, as the fabric skims all the lumps and bumps that would otherwise cause total embarrassment for both the wearers and those who observe them. The look, however, is still utterly ridiculous. Teamed with knits, bowlers and shiny shoes on the catwalk, the models looked more 'Peter Pan' than 'Milan'. And given that socks with the leggings are such a no-no, darling, this take on so-called European city chic simply seemed haphazard as opposed to happening. I can't quite see the suits of the city in London swapping their slacks for 'slims' somehow! Yet you can't help



but drool at Marni's monochrome tees and skinny ties of the season... as long as your gaze doesn't drop below waist height! Then again, with Consuelo Castiglioni, Marni's creative director, dubbing the silhouette - skimming must-haves as 'unconventional but sophisticated', who am I to argue?

Let's face it, the catwalk has always been a place for absurdity, with the reality attire for us "plebs" being somewhat less controversial. I doubt any self-respecting male, however much he may strive for a metro-sexual status (because it's so *in vogue* these days), will actually go as far as to slip into a pair of what are effectively brightly coloured long johns in public. Doing so would take some balls \*cough\*. You can get away with a lot in London in the style stakes; you wouldn't flinch if you got on the bus to witness a cowboy-hat wearing male on the front row and a lady in a ball dress at the back, but I'm not sure if even Londoners could cope with this new fad. To be honest, I enjoy this playful side of fashion. It's a greatly needed relief from 'size zeros' and the uptight attitude of most female fashionistas. I say let's embrace the return of men to fashion, even if it does involve this most unappealing of couture trends!

Watch this space for men in tights. Now that really would be a step too far!

## size zero

preeyasud weighs in on the debate

The New Year seems to have brought in a new trend - we seem to be trying to weed out those ridiculous elements of life for which there was no excuse for having in the first place. Having rid ourselves of Jade Goody, its now the turn of super skinny models.

Following the ban of models with a BMI lower than 18 during Madrid fashion week, Tessa Jowell (Culture secretary) joined the debate, arguing that super skinny models may fuel eating disorders. Shocking then that during London Fashion Week size zero models won't be banned. Indeed, the fashion industry is absolutely right in saying that there's no link between the way clothes are modelled and how a person views themselves. When most of the clothes on the market are made to flatter sticks, the majority non-stick population naturally thinks: 'wow these super-skinny-tight-legged-hide-no-flaw jeans make me feel fabulous'.

Another argument against banning size 0 models is that the pressure from the media will lead to victimisation of naturally skinny people. It is true that perfectly healthy, really slim models exist; we all know those friends of ours who could make a bid to eat all the Krispy Kremes in the world and not gain an inch. But you don't have to be a genius to work out that there are far more skinny models than naturally slim models out there.

Aside from the issue of wanting to look like an emaciated collec-

tion of deceased twigs, the effort required to get you there is equivalent to constructing anything from Ikea flawlessly, with the added task of not injuring yourself in the process. Ultimately, the fact that we voluntarily subject ourselves to Ikea hell and ridiculous dieting simply highlights how crazy society can be - and if part of the blame lies with the fashion industry then something has to change.

However, for those of you super keen aspiring size 0 models, here are some tips for life:

1. Check your diary and cancel all social appointments. Instead go to the gym.
2. Start out with a healthy attitude. Take one meal and substitute it completely and only with Cabbage.
3. For lunch, take 8 cotton wool balls and soak for a maximum of 3 minutes in orange juice. Eat only 5 of these delicious creations. For variety substitute orange juice for apple juice every fourth day.
4. Go crazy - have breakfast. 10 almonds and 4 strawberries should do.
5. Check your diary: at this point there should be no social arrangements since you should be angry, grumpy, bitter and twisted and anyway meeting up with people means you have less time to spend at the gym.

Look in the mirror and see the results - wow don't you look stunning? Might be time to cut back on those almonds though...





# the perfect shot

jessicamcardle finds how to make her photos go down easy

When it comes to that horrific toilet, those stunning people or that overwhelming sunset, words can often let you down and memories fade, so photographic evidence is vital. Travelling and photography go hand in hand and, along with many aspects of travelling, there is a certain snobbery about your choice of camera. For instance, a seasoned travel buff will make a number of assumptions based on whether your camera is digital or an SLR and don't even get me started on disposable cameras. (Gone are the days when they were acceptable to carry, economically they're daylight robbery - £7.99 to capture 24 prints - and fashionably they're as embarrassing as a walkman or an '80s mobile phone.

Luckily the actual taking of the photos is child's-play; or is it? Not so, according to the photo experts, but they would say that wouldn't they? Apparently there are lots of factors to consider - who knew? To save you some time working out what these may be let me share a few with you:

### Tips for great digital photos:

1. Add life to your shots: Change your white balance setting from "auto" to "cloudy" as this brings out the reds and yellows and tends to give your photos more warmth and life.
2. Get the most from your camera: Shoot your photos at the highest resolution. You've paid the money for your 7 megapixel camera, now cash in on the pic-



- tures. The higher the resolution you take your picture in the larger you can later blow it up to.
3. Give your photos an edge: place your subject off the centre of the photograph to give your picture more life. But don't forget that your camera will automatically focus on the centre of the picture so lock the focus on your subject before taking

- your pic.
4. Use your flash outdoors; this will lighten pesky shadows under the eyes and nose when the sun is behind or above your subject and your friends will thank you for it.
5. The range of most flashes is 10 metres so make sure that your subject is within this range or risk leaving them in the dark.
6. Get up close and personal with your

subject, as if you needed an excuse, either physically or by using zoom, this will cut out on distracting backgrounds.

7. Always carry a larger memory card than you think you will need, you never know when you will get a chance to upload them onto a computer.

8. Combine practicalities and size; choose a camera case that won't need its own suitcase but also one that will protect your camera from trips and spills.

### When it's all over:

Use [www.Flickr.com](http://www.Flickr.com) to store and view and share your photos; it's free and easy to use. You will never again lose friends with boring photo albums. Treat yourself by printing out all your favourite pictures; I recommend [www.photobox.co.uk](http://www.photobox.co.uk). You'll get 30 free prints just for opening your account and the rest of your photos will cost as little as 5p each. But remember though these photographs may well be a lifeline for you: one man's photo album is another man's Ikea catalogue, exhibit your photos proudly but don't shove them down people's throats.

**Tomorrow:** Itchy feet, the travel society of LSE, are holding a photo exhibition in the Quad from Wednesday to Friday. Come along and vote for your favorite picture.

The TV licence fee is a strange concept; a supposedly left-wing organisation imposing what amounts to a poll tax on the people. Oh sure, you don't have to buy a television, but then the TV Licensing Authority sends you those menacing letters claiming they can somehow sense you have one and that they are coming to get you. But the benefit of the licence fee is that it makes the BBC duty-bound to provide good television: none of this "if you don't like it, just turn over" malarkey. No, with the Beeb, I believed I could expect responsible, non-sensationalist programming.

And then I watched *The Verdict*. I have no idea how this series got made, but the discussion must have gone something like this:

"How are we going to compete with *Celebrity Big Brother*? We need a ratings grabber like that."

"But it has to be public service broadcasting and isn't reality TV over anyway?"

"Oh no, we just need it to be sensationalist: *Big Brother* had that racism controversy - that brought in the viewers. We just have to come up with something every bit as shocking as racism."

"I've got it: a fake rape case!"

"And we'll man the jury with second-rate celebrities! Eureka!"

Accuse me of intellectual snobbery, but I felt *The Verdict* was absolute trash. Not trash with a few redeeming features, like *The OC*, but just unforgivably awful shite. And that's before I even consider its effect on women. The Beeb clearly thought it was on to a great idea: a celebrity jury, actors playing the role of defendants, victim and witnesses, and real prosecution and defence barristers. But the show was incredibly clichéd: tacky "tension-building" music, more fitting of a horror movie than a courtroom, and long, supposedly-telling close-ups of the jurors, probably hoping to show their anguish but really only exposing their boredom, coupled with patronising voiceovers. Each programme was also stretched out for far too

long: half of the episode was filled with the jurors walking to the courtroom, walking back from the courtroom and with shots of Alex James looking rather bemused and smoking lots of cigarettes outside the court building.

If the BBC believed it was in some way addressing attitudes to rape, then it should not have had a celebrity jury. The presence of celebrities muddied the issue, taking the attention away from rape vic-



tims and trivialising their experience. Rather than address the issue of low conviction rates (currently in Britain, around 5% of reported rapes), the programme centred on whether the victim was telling the truth, perpetuating the myth that most women lie about being raped. In fact, the percentage of false allegations is believed to be no higher for rape than for other violent crimes. But by concentrating on the celebrities, it ignored the important issue of the judicial system's appalling bias against rape victims. Even more shocking-

ly, it was revealed on *Woman's Hour* that the makers of the show didn't even bother to consult organisations counselling rape victims nor women who had been raped themselves. Now that's responsible journalism for you!

It would be hard to imagine a more bizarre (and incidentally, more prejudiced) group than the show's jurors. Stan Collymore, in an inspired piece of casting given that his attitude to women is quite

terrible suffering, I found her presence wickedly exploitative. Really the choice of jurors begged only one question: where was Jade Goody?

Unsurprisingly perhaps, the discussions between the jurors seemed to be based on the Churchillian principle, "Bad point: shout louder", dominated by Collymore's boorish rants with occasional interruptions from Megaman. Thank God for the mute button which saved me from listening to Collymore's incessant droning. Even the more educated jurors seemed extraordinarily ignorant: no one mentioned that rape is often not about sexual gratification at all, but about a desire to dominate. Thus Megaman's suggestion that, since one of the accused was supposedly a Premiership footballer, he could have any woman he wanted and thus had no "need" to rape, was not even called into question. He also questioned how any women could be raped and fail to go to the police herself, not considering that a woman may feel too ashamed. After watching this programme, she may also realise quite how prejudiced a jury could be against her. Thus *The Verdict* reinforced my belief that juries should never be involved in rape trials. The decision should be put instead before a tribunal of experts.

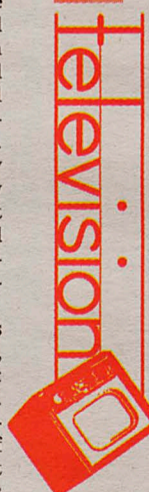
All this programme really showed is how low the BBC will stoop for ratings, producing the worst type of television: tawdry, exploitative and very damaging. Turning rape into entertainment is horrific enough since it ignores the story of the genuine victims, but worse is the fact that *The Verdict* may make women less inclined to report rapes. Voltaire never exactly said, "I disapprove of what you say, but will defend to the death your right to say it" but if he had, what he should have added is, "as long as I don't have to pay for it". In reality, *The Verdict* presented two cases: one against juries determining verdicts in rape cases and the other against the licence fee. Maybe *The Verdict* was public service broadcasting then after all.

# 'the verdict' or why I want my licence fee back

rosamundurwin finds the bbc guilty



TRAVEL



# under-represented music on campus

variousfunkypeople talk about their favourite under-rated musical genres

## Axl Rose: underrated genius or just rubbish? russellbennetts



Having lived in Howard Hughes-esque seclusion for over a decade, some have speculated that the career of the frontman of Guns 'N' Roses has imploded in self-inflicted fashion brought about by his prima Donna behaviour and erratic persona. However such attacks only bring to the attention of others just how under-rated this drug-added country hick turned global megastar seemingly is. As a modern day Farinelli with an extensive vocal range and mastery of numerous instruments, Axl truly is a castrato with balls.

Without Axl, who else would be up on stage in an ill-advised kilt, or disturbingly tight spandex shorts, singing songs penned by Charles Manson, inciting riots, biting security guards, or most rock and roll of all, fighting Tommy Hilfiger? Besides introducing us to the genius of a certain long-haired guitar maestro from Stoke-on-Trent (Slash) and surely the greatest guitar shredder ever to have been raised in a chicken coop (Buckethead), Axl reintroduced some danger and excitement to a music scene dominated by poodle rockers and vapid pop acts. Perhaps the eventual unveiling of "The Most Expensive Album Never Released", Chinese Democracy, will allow him to reassert himself as one of rock's greatest frontmen and characters.

If progressive (prog) music could be summed up in a word - it would be 'intelligent'. It takes much time and thought to write a progressive piece, and equally, takes patience and thought to listen to and fully appreciate it.

The title 'progressive' came about probably because the songs are just that - they are dynamic and move through different phases, taking your emotions on a musical journey. Unlike the monotonous footings of the various pop acts today (easily replicable with a computer, sampler and a few innocent looking teens); these musicians have spent years mastering their instrument(s). It's not about fancy dance moves and bare midriffs, it's all about the music: complex time-signatures, exotic scales that create different moods and, if nothing else, something to listen to and gasp in awe at the amazing sounds that you've just heard. As a result of this, most fans (and indeed, the musicians themselves) are hardcore musical geeks, but don't let that put you off. Early prog bands such as Genesis and Yes were hugely popular until the so called 'electropop' and dance era came along, transforming all those harmonies into a single note drone. Thankfully, all is not lost, as many new progressive artists have since exploded into existence, mixing various aspects of jazz, rock, metal and old progressive styles into some timeless pieces of music (Dream Theater et al).

When you get your first taste of 'real' music, everything else you've been listening to suddenly becomes inferior. Along with classical music and jazz, prog will take you on your way to musical enlightenment. Patience is always rewarded.

## In the Court of the Crimson King

nselsagar



The answer to Wiley's rhetorical question, as it turned out, was Grime. Things were exciting back then, for the first time in a while British urban culture had a music all of its own, bred and born on the streets of East London Grime had a unique sound and lyrical perspective firmly rooted in the tough lives of its makers. For a moment it looked like Grime would explode worldwide: Dizzee won the Mercury Music Prize, all sorts of MCs had major labels sniffing around and fashionista's the world over were quivering with moist excitement. Of course, all the attention evaporated as fast as it had arrived, and Grime turned out to be just one in a long line of genres briefly adopted by the hip indie world: they quickly moved on to Baile-Funk and Reggaeton. Those that did release major label albums faced a catch-22 of sorts, some diluted their sound with R&B and more traditional hip-hop only to alienate their grassroots fanbase and loose whatever quirky appeal they had in the first place, others stuck to producing to the same sound, only to find that such an aggressive, creative and weird music as Grime would never be fully accepted by mainstream.

If you only read the mainstream music media and the fashion blogs you'd be forgiven for thinking Grime had disappeared, but quite the opposite was true. Freed from the spotlight of wider attention Grime was left to sound however the fuck it liked, and such an underdog vibe created a scene full of hungry MCs rapping what they knew and producers free to make their beats as evil and messy as they like and it sounded incredible.

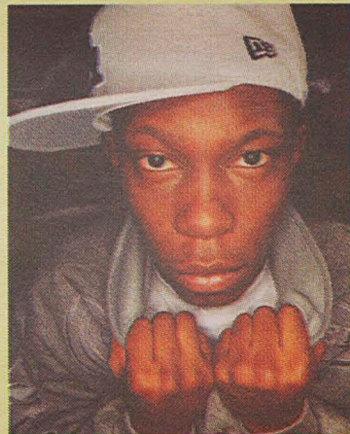
Parallel to the development of Grime there was another original London sound called dubstep: its' moody cousin that quietly skanked in the dark spaces of south London. Dubstep never received the critical adoration of Grime and so was left free to slowly develop the most earth shattering b-lines and melancholy half-step beats London had ever seen. Last year however, as Grime was left underground, people started to pay attention to dubstep, with everyone from Mary Anne Hobbes, BBC Collective and Plan B magazine giving it a critical tongue-bathing. Clubs that had been half empty for years were suddenly bursting at the seams, and tunes like Skream's 'Request Line' started getting plays all over the place.

So this Friday, along with a host of other underground dance sounds, dubstep and Grime are coming to Crush. Despite living in London, LSE students rarely engage with London culture outside of dancing to cheese on a Friday night, so instead of encouraging you to make the necessary journey in order to check out the thriving music scene that exists just around the corner we're bringing it to your doorstep. Manning the decks will be Leeds Dubstep Supremo BEN UFO, Nottingham's Tomb Crew and a veteran of techno raves in a field, The Naom Chomsky Memorial Soundsystem.

BEN UFO is a dubstep mogul of sorts: running his own club in Leeds, a weekly radioshow on Sub FM, DJing at London dubstep night Redstar and now starting his own record label, whose first release is Single of the Week on Mary Anne Hobbes's Radio 1 show. He'll playing out a mix of fresh white label dubs and heavyweight dubstep anthems with a touch of Grime and Techno. Tomb Crew hale from Nottingham where they run their own Grime mini-empire, putting on monthly shows and club nights, they'll be spinning Grime tunes that span the genre's history from Dizzee's classic 'I LUV U' to Boy Better Know's 'Duppy'. And finally the Naom Chomsky Memorial Soundsystem will be bringing his eclectic techno, electro & disco laptop set under a roof for the first time. Be sure to bring your skanking shoes.

"Wot do you call it?  
Garage?  
Wot do you call it?  
Urban?"

samashon



Alt-music Crush!  
20:00,  
23rd Feb.

## Islamic... music?

jinanbastaki



Islamic music is called Nasheed, and is characterized by its religious themes, such as singing about God, the Prophet (peace be upon him) and general virtues. Traditionally, a nasheed is sung a cappella, accompanied only by a drum. This musical style emerged because of the interpretation that Islam prohibits music, except for drums.

While in the Arab world, the nasheed style remains similar, the type of nasheeds in the mainstream in the West now are not traditional in any sense. While the themes are the same, the style is merged with popular hip hop and ethnic sounds. Most of the contemporary style is either very mellow, with a concentration on the voice of the singer and the words, or very upbeat, with more of a focus on the instruments played.

Arguably, the most popular nasheed artists today are Sami Yusuf, known for his soulful voice and use of cultural instruments, and the Danish group Outlandish, who have a more hip hop beat and occasionally Latino influence.

Scotland's Society is holding a Ceilidh in the Quad on Tuesday, and proudly proclaiming that "It's like a Scottish rave!" This humors me because as a child I considered Celtic music a form of Scottish torture. Listening to the intricately fiddled jigs of Capercallie, or the accented moanings of Marie Brennan and Mary Black for the hundredth time on our hundredth family trip between Tarbert and Campbeltown was almost unbearable. At first I tried mocking it by adding my own shouts of "Hoyley hey!" and "Hoyley hoo!" to the most ridiculously frisky parts of each song. When that became tedious I acquired a Sony Walkman and drowned out the soundtrack to every Scottish journey with my own schmaltzy mix of Mike and the Mechanics and Texas. And so I managed to avoid hearing any music in which the violin could be potentially referred to as a fiddle for the following decade, and felt much better for it. Nonetheless, it has occurred to me recently that not all Celtic music is despicable, my parents just had really bad taste. There is something awe-inspiringly beautiful about hearing a town-hall full of drunken Irish expatriates whine along to "Cockles and Mussels" at a wedding party. Beyond that there are several excellent contemporary albums based upon the traditional Celtic sound, the Waterboy's "Fisherman's Blues" being the most notable example. Even the terrible old jigs that my parent's used to subject me to are bearable if you distract your ears by 'Stripping the Willow' or saluting the 'Dashing White Sargeant'. Sure Scots dances are repetitive, but they involve so much twirling and do-si-doing that you will be too nauseated to care. Plus Scots dance is so rigorously heterosexual that you are bound to meet a lot of women in the process even if wearing a kilt vaguely emasculates you. So to conclude, do attend the Scot's Society Ceilidh, but if you are driving anywhere in Scotland for God's sake bring some proper music.



angusmacauchenfocher  
Scottish Country Prancing

# the masala zone

do not adjust your dinner, anything can happen to rahimrahemtulla

**Y**ou are entering the Masala Zone' proclaimed the menu. And we did enter. And it was good.

It was fairly busy too, for a Monday afternoon. They'd certainly captured a cross-section of lunch-goers; there were some eating alone with their books or newspapers, some office types on their breaks and then of course me and my companion, students. That said, by about 2:30 we were more or less dining alone, not that this presented any kind of problem, but you could say that once the chatter of other patrons had disappeared the background music wasn't quite so background anymore. Not that it hindered our conversation in any way, and we were there pretty late to still be having lunch.

One of the great things about the Masala Zone is its relaxed atmosphere. On the menu it claims itself to be unlike the typical curry house and that is certainly true. If this were the traditional Brick Lane style Indian restaurant you'd have tablecloths, waiters decked out in formal waistcoats and general feeling of pomp and ceremony; at Masala Zone it is not so. The staff keep things informal, as does the décor. The lighting and colours are soft; there is plenty of space and a general feeling of openness. It makes a very pleasant change to eat Indian food outside the usual setting which we've become used to.

And quality Indian food it was too, all things considered. We were treated to selection of starters; chicken samosas, dhai puri (wholewheat 'biscuits' filled with lentils and spices) and another dish known as 'aloo tikka chaat' which could be described as a spiced potato cake. They were all tasty, particularly when had with the delicious mint yogurt, which came on the side, and the samosas weren't greasy

at all which was a pleasant discovery, though the pastry was fairly thick. Strangely, the chutney the dhai puri was served with came in a glass beaker, exactly of the same type you would find in a chemistry lab, complete with 'Made in Germany' stencilled on the side. We weren't sure if this was a

trasts. I opted for the orient-inspired garlic and chilli vegetarian noodles whilst my mate went for the 'Ultimate thali.' It's fair to say I got the short end of the stick.

There was nothing particularly wrong with the dish, but really nothing great about it either.

I'd avoid it if I was you. The problem was, it was a fairly standard

Sainsburys to get the ingredients. On the plus side, the portion was massive and entirely filling but even so, I wouldn't recommend it.

That said, part of the reason I wouldn't recommend it is because of the fact that the Indian food on offer was so much better. The thali came up trumps in most departments. There were delicious lentil and cauliflower curries, the popadum was full-flavoured and the actual presentation of the dish (on a round silver tray with individual pots) was most pleasing. Only the flavour of the lamb curry was a touch dubious. Still, the thali is probably one of the best ways to get a well-rounded experience of what the Masala Zone has to offer.

We wrapped up off the meal with a serving of the mango kulfi, which is similar to mango sorbet but blended with a selection of spices. On this particular occasion there were hints of cardamom and pistachio which really worked beautifully with the mango. The kulfi was undoubtedly the highlight of the meal, almost worth going for alone.

The prices at Masala Zone, with starters at about £4 and mains in the region of £6-7, represent decent value for money and are what you'd expect from a quick, informal style restaurant such as this, much in the vein of Wagamama. Other perks include a delivery service and in fact if you order £40 worth of food or more you'll get a 25% student discount.

If you like Indian food, Masala Zone is well worth checking out. Whilst it sometimes succeeds at fusion and diversity, (Masala Coke for instance, is great), stick to the traditional Indian dishes and you can't go far wrong,



quirky touch or if they had run out of proper serving dishes.

Moving on, our main courses presented us with some stark con-

ditional stir-fry and I felt I could have whipped up a pretty good replica of it in my own kitchen in about 10 minutes after a trip to

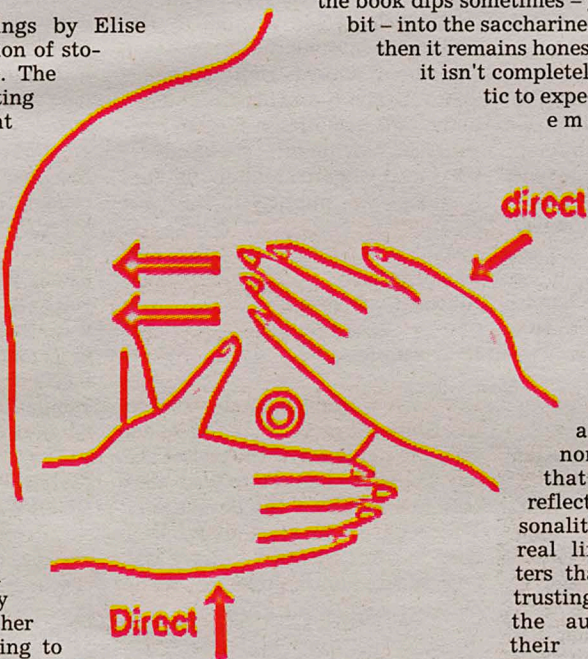
**I**t might do singletons still feeling the bitter wind of exclusion from Valentine's Day some good to grab a copy of this book. I don't guarantee that it won't make you even more bitter, but if it works the way I think it should, you'll end up feeling something kind of warm and fuzzy, and much more optimistic about where unconventional walks of life will lead you.

The Book of Happy Endings by Elise Valmorbidia is a precious collection of stories about people finding love. The author, who teaches creative writing short courses at Central Saint Martins College, sought out the hidden histories of real people - relatives, friends, friends of friends - and gave them a voice. At the book's launch last Tuesday she said, "It's funny. You walk into someone's garden or their living room and within five minutes of meeting them you're asking them these really personal questions."

This book spans cultures, eras, geography. London. New York. Iraq. Italy. But the stories are never trite. Each story is unique. Microscopic. Intimate. Two childhood sweethearts meeting again as adults. A young woman defying her family and age old traditions to follow her heart. A chance encounter leading to love. Enemy football fans finding common ground. Two people who've lost each other finding each other again. A Chinese waitress falling in love with an English man. A relationship lived out in handwritten correspondence. Exiles finding their home in each other. Two women in love. It seems simple but it's always more than what it is. These are stories in which nothing is predictable, and nothing is ordinary.

After all, there is nothing formulaic about love. In fact, it would be safe to say that it almost never makes sense.

The stories are accompanied by a collection of poignant black and white photos, and this exquisitely composed book is a keeper. However, unavoidably, due to its subject matter, the book dips sometimes - just a little bit - into the saccharine. Still, even then it remains honest. After all, it isn't completely unrealistic to expect shows of



Pull-rolcaco 7X - 20X

emotional immodesty and abundance from some people. Other stories are more emotionally economical, but that only reflects the personalities of the real life characters that have so trustingly invited the author into their personal lives.

Ultimately this is a collection of diversity which illustrates the various metamorphoses in which love can take, how it means different things to different people, and most importantly, how sometimes happiness is found where you least expect it.

**T**he Echo Maker is a daunting book. It's hardback exterior holds four hundred and fifty one pages of thought-provoking meditation on the brain and the ways in which it can expose and protect us. For the duration of these drawn out pages, one is immersed in the intensity of personal loss and the search for redemption.

The story is set in Nebraska and the reader is presented with a Capgras victim, Mark Schluter, who cannot register any emotional recognition of his sister, Karin, who comes to take care of him after what should have been a fatal car accident. Medical professionals, including an internationally acclaimed neurologist, come to study this extremely rare case as Mark embarks on what seems to be a hopeless quest to find his 'guardian angel', i.e. the person who discovered his car wreck. He has only a mysterious note to guide him.

Short synopses of the book prove promising, however, what is notable is that despite the loaded premise of this book, it takes an extraordinary amount of time for the author, Richard Powers, to actually introduce any sort of significant conflict between the characters. The bulk of the book relies upon the simple dynamic of sibling non-recognition, occasionally drifting into sub-plots regarding the characters' personal lives. As a result, the novel, although catching the reader's attention to start, drags on in the middle, and only really makes anything of the situation towards the end.

What both made and ruined the story were the characters. Mark Schluter is endearing even through his paranoia. Yet the treatment of his sister Karin and the famed neurologist, Gerald Weber, are frustratingly simple. Karin's nervous quirks and inability to move without the approval of others becomes repetitive far too quickly. Weber, on the other hand, is unapproachable emotionally. His thoughts are encumbered by medical terms and debates about behavioralism, making him inaccessible to the reader, even in the wake of personal disaster. Deeper character development could have gone a long way towards contributing to the overall enjoyment of this story.

Despite these criticisms, I recommend this book, perhaps not over more celebrated titles and authors, but for those looking for a unique premise to modern fiction, an occurrence more rare than Capgras.



Food and drinking

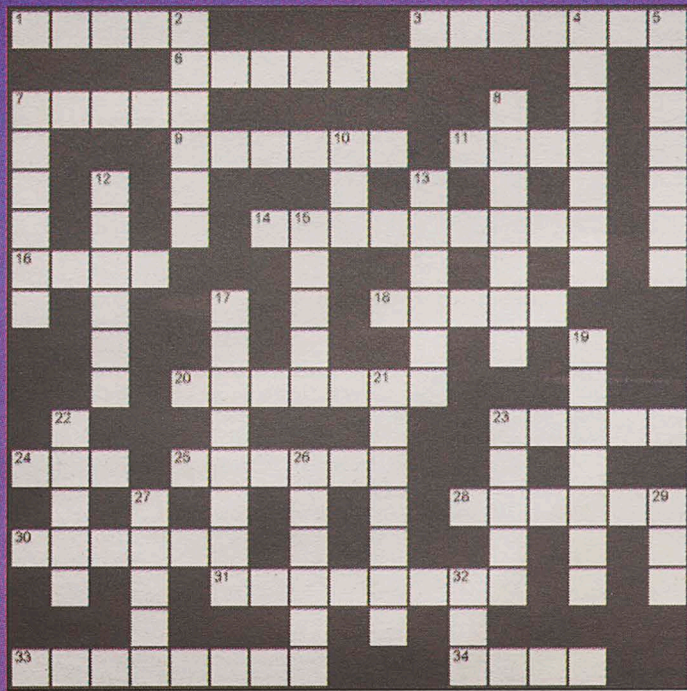
Literature



the book of happy endings and the echo maker

erinorozco reviews books

SET BY FAMOUS ACTORS



- Across**
1. a tape you watch (5)
  3. country in eastern europe (7)
  6. last season (6)
  7. difference (6)
  9. continent (6)
  11. calmly paced (4)
  14. work for free (9)
  16. largest city in the east of thuringia (4)
  18. from round here (5)
  20. busines of travelling (7)
  23. like a sink (5)
  24. really big kind of fight (3)
  25. country in western europe (6)
  28. stayin in is anti\_\_\_ (6)
  30. long things full of water (6)
  31. unpaid university-dwellers (8)
  33. information pool (8)
  34. place to walk the dog (4)
- Down**
2. possessors (6)
  4. connected things (7)
  5. make non-alkaline (7)
  7. sequence of links (5)
  8. very naughty (7)
  10. friend
  12. widespread interview (6)
  13. fill-in (8)
  15. water cat (5)
  17. forward moveyness (8)
  19. after something (7)
  21. biological category (7)
  22. wireless transmission of signals (5)
  23. for reading! (5)
  27. organised mass communication (5)
  29. big rules (3)
  32. t-shirt, jumper, vest (3)

Last week:  
 Down: 1. hijack 2. adieu 3. snuff 5. miff 6. zealous 7. decamp 8. groucho marx 14. intrude  
 15. dislike 16. fiasco 17. groovy 19. retro 21. v-neck Across: 1. hoarse 4. amazed 9. juicer  
 10. franc 11. chuff 12. uniform 13. bite the dust 18. interim 20. sewer 22. squat 23. reinvent  
 24. ocelot 25. weakly

7	6		8	1	
8	5	1			
9		3			
5	8	9	2		
9				3	
		8	3	9	5
			9		2
			5	6	8
5	2		6		7

Difficult

Very Difficult

			7	6		1		
6		3	4				2	
	4							8
		9			6		3	
		2				4		
	1		5			7		
4							7	
	3				4	5		9
		5		3	8			

sudoku

the c-word



Ask

Auntie Shaw



I'm awfully sorry about leaving you column-less last week boys and girls. Not only am I going through some of the most gruelling of menopause, but I also had to escort Mr Shaw to his vasectomy appointment. Last week's blackout got Raising And Giving (Students always seem to assume we know what RAG is, bah!) Week off to a great start with a blackout on campus...ooh my how exciting!!! In my eyes, ladies and gentle-boys, a day off for hard working academics truly captured the essence of charity. I understand it was also reading week for many of you young 'uns, so I hope you used it most productively. My current state of (un)raging hormones and Mr Shaw's recent antics have temporarily stripped me of my caring nature and maternal instincts. I fear my responses over the coming weeks might be slightly reckless, erratic or harsh. Boys, I am sure you are used to this when dealing with your ladies.

Dear Auntie,

My girlfriend of about two months is SUCH A PAIN IN THE ARSE!!! It's like she's constantly on the blob or something. You might be asking at this point, why don't I just leave her? The sex is amazing, she is super fit, and when we're having a good day it's a great day. For the past few weeks it's been like she's on constant pms or something. Auntie, please give me insight into the mystical world of why women get like that?!?! I am so so so frustrated. For valentines day, I gave took her to her favourite restaurant and then brought her home to a candle lit room, sprinkled with chocolate and what have you (if my flatmate is reading this, cheers mate!). She just burst out crying and totally fucked up the mood.

LSE '08  
 LLB Law

Right you ignorant bastard. First of all PMS stands for PRE-, PRE-, PRE-!!! PMS normally happens about two weeks before a female menstrual cycle begins. Crying outbursts, tender breasts, bloating, acne, insomnia, fatigue, wanting to be alone and conjunctivitis are all proven medical symptoms of PMS so next time you think why a girl is being un-characteristically unreasonable, THAT IS FUCKING WHY. Now to your actual dilemma my darling...It seems as though the problem is you. Re read your letter (un-edited) and you tirelessly go on about "her body and her tits and her body and her tits". Please stop yourself now before she realised what a tit you are and humiliatingly dumps you publicly in the Tuns on Tuesday. Insomnia and fatigue - a bastard of a combination Auntie Shaw xoxo

Dear Auntie

I've been waiting behind books in the Shaw library 'til the cleaners turn the lights off at the end of the day, hoping to bump into your mischievous hands in the dark again. Where have you been all week? I miss the fun we used to have last term please auntie, I feel lost without your comforting grasp.

Joe R (Facebook)  
 LSE '09

Oh Joseph, flattery will get you everywhere dahling. I'm afraid the frolicking and fun we had last term will always be last term. Mr Shaw's secondment in Cornwall is now over and since he has returned to the Shaw library I've been on somewhat of a tight leash. Unless it is someone joining both of us in the bedroom on the sixth floor, I cannot entertain you anymore. However, there are always alternate ways we can 'get it on' as they say in student

lingo.

It's no Da Vinci Code Auntie Shaw xoxo

Dear Auntie

I'm running for a position in the SU elections and announcing my intention to run on Thursday. I was wondering whether you endorse candidates. As you already know I am an enormous fan of your column, and with our combined number of friends on facebook, we will capture more than half the students who vote. I am positive endorsing a winning candidate will heighten your reputation and stature on campus and together, we can become a popular team working together to better the lives of students at the LSE in the coming academic year. I would also request you keep this confidential but I will leave that in the hands of your good judgement. Please contact me via facebook if you want to start a joint campaign and share friends. Kindest Regards.

NAME WITHHELD  
 YEAR WITTHELD

Oh my, it's a hack!!! Oooh, the cheek and the nerve to even conjure up such a thought such as 'Auntie Shaw endorsement'. The answer to your question dahling is simply a NO. Rather, I shall be running myself and I will be sure to mention your letter in my manifesto to demonstrate that running for a position is not simply a facebook count. Loser. You were wrong about my judgment Auntie xoxo.

If you want to share (or scare) me with you problems, rants and general nonsense, please do get in touch at [thebeaver.partb@lse.ac.uk](mailto:thebeaver.partb@lse.ac.uk) or through Auntie Shaw on Facebook.

Ever your Auntie xoxo

# a failed experiment?



## Vojvodina

The province was nominally autonomous, but effectively controlled from Belgrade under Milosevic.

After the fall of Milosevic in 2000 the province now has achieved a real degree of control over its' own affairs.

## Serbia

Fighting between Serbian and Kosovan Liberation Army forces in 1998-1999 led to a 78 day NATO bombardment from 24 March to 10 June 1999

NATO action ended by a deal involving Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic.

In 2000 Serbian protest forced Milosevic to concede power.

Serbia declared its intention to join NATO and the EU Talks over its entry in to the EU have stalled due to the alleged failure of the government to cooperate in the capture of former war criminals hiding in the country, General Mladic and Radovan Karadzic.

SERBIA

KOSOVO

## Kosovo

1990-1992: Kosovo attempted to achieve independence constitutionally but the Dayton Accords which ended the Balkan conflict in 1995 failed to resolve the issue of Kosovan independence.

After the 1999 NATO bombardment, Milosevic agreed to withdraw forces from Kosovo. Kosovo become a UN protectorate (UN resolution 1244) but remained de jure part of Serbia.

Since 2001 Kosovo has been on the path towards self-government.

- 1166 Stefan Nemanja founds the first Serbian State which becomes the most powerful state in the Balkans
- 1389 Serbia defeated by the Ottoman Empire in the Battle of Kosovo, becoming part of the Serbian empire until 1879
- 1879 Serbia gains independence after Ottomans lose to the Russians in the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-1878
- 1914 Radical Bosnian Serb nationalist Gavrilo Princip assassinates Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand, sparking the First World War. Serbia becomes occupied by the German alliance and suffers massive casualties.
- 1918 The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes is formed
- 1945 The country of Yugoslavia formed under Tito (Josip Broz)
- June 1991 Yugoslavia begins to fall apart - Slovenia leaves quickly, but Croatia and Serbia fall into a long bloody war over a Serbian dominated Province in the north, Vojvodina.
- 1992 Serbia falls into war with Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has a 31% Serbian Minority
- 1995 Dayton Peace accords between Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia, ending the Balkan conflicts
- 1996 The Kosovo Liberation Army attacks Serbian Police forces, beginning the Kosovo War
- 1999 Kosovo War ends after NATO bombs Serbia intensively
- April 2000 Milosevic extradited to The Hague to face charges of crimes against humanity in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo
- June 2006 Montenegro announces independence and becomes 192nd member of the United Nations

# A View from Serbia

Ksenija Pavlovic interviews the foreign policy advisor to the Serbian president

**M**r. Dušan Spasojević, LSE alumnus and current Foreign Policy Advisor to the Serbian President, explains why any kind of independence for Kosovo is unacceptable to the Serbian

**If you had been the policy advisor of Slobodan Milošević in the 90s what would have been the best strategic move, if any, to avoiding the violent conflict in the former Yugoslavia?** For him, Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia to resign. Second best strategic move; to adopt democratic rules and values and a free market economy with a view to Yugoslavia becoming a member of the European Community. In that case, Yugoslavia might have stayed whole.

**Do you think that the violent conflict could have been avoided in that case?** Perhaps we could not have avoided the dissolution of Yugoslavia, but we could have definitely avoided the violent conflict.

**Should Serbian people feel responsible as a nation, for what Milošević did in the past?**

Yes and no. Yes, as Serbia holds the biggest responsibility for being the biggest nation in ex-Yugoslavia. However, as it takes two to tango, Serbs cannot solely hold responsibility for the break up of Yugoslavia. I will give one example: Albanians from Kosovo boycotted elections in Serbia, which actually meant they kept Milošević in power during the 1990s, so they also hold responsibility for the policies of Milošević.

**How would you explain the fact that in 2007, seven years after Milošević was removed, Serbian people are still not free to travel abroad without visas, and therefore standing in the endless lines in front of the embassies?**

It is very frustrating fact that in 2000, under Milošević, Serbs did not need visas to travel to Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, but today, seven

years after Milošević, Serbs need more visas than in 2000. The explanation for that lies in Brussels, and certain European capitals. We are doing our best to fulfil all the requirements for the Schengen White List, but we also need help from EU to achieve this.

**When you are meeting with international actors, do you think that their sentiment towards Serbia is positive or negative, or even pragmatic, as they say?**

In 1990s sentiment was negative and pragmatic, and today it is positive and pragmatic. Let me just remind everybody that Milošević at some point was a hero for some international policy makers in the 1990s. For Richard Holbrooke for example, Milošević was a man peace and stability as he signed the Paris-Dayton Peace Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina. I think that by praising Milošević those people betrayed Serbian democratic forces in the 1990s.



**“Serbia is a western society, probably the most western in the former Yugoslavia.”**

**In 2007, some people are saying that new sanctions are on the Serbia's doorsteps. Do you think Serbia is a defeated society?**

Serbia is not a defeated society. Serbian citizens are not a defeated people. Serbia used to have problems; she was not on the right path in the 1990s, but again, many nations in the 20th century have not been on the right path, either. Nobody should feel defeated in the Balkans. Serbia is a western society, probably the most western in the former Yugoslavia. Our President and Prime Minister were never members of the Communist Party. If you look at the presidents and prime minis-

ters of other ex-Yugoslav countries, you will find people who were high ranking officials of the Communist regime. On the other hand, for example, 6 out of the 8 advisors of the President of Serbia were educated in England or the United States and hold Master of Science and PhD degrees from the LSE, Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard University.

**What advice have you been giving President Tadic in regard to Kosovo's independence?**

Although the President does not need it on this matter, it is for Serbia to positively engage in further negotiations and to be positive about the process. Serbia is and will be a part of the solution and not a part of the problem.

**Is Kosovo independence as such, acceptable for the Serbian government?**

Any kind of independence for Kosovo, our southern province, conditional, unconditional, controlled, uncontrolled, is absolutely unacceptable for Serbia. But if a solution of the future status of Kosovo is to be imposed upon us in 2007, we might all be defeated. We are urging now our European and American friends and our friends in the United Nations not to do this, as this will have very bad consequences for South East Europe.

**What is the alternative?**

The alternative is very wide autonomy within Serbia. Kosovo is not a unique case. We want international law and common rules that are applied to everyone else to be applied to us. There are many examples of these kinds of problems in the world: in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Ireland, France, Macedonia, Spain, Turkey and in ex-Soviet Union Republics.

**“Kosovo Serbs have been ethnically cleansed from Kosovo since 1999, and the remaining 100,000 live in terrible conditions”**

**But let's assume that Kosovo gets its independence. What would be the future of Serbian community there?**

That Kosovo will get independence is highly hypothetical. We are aware that people, who are responsible for the situation in Kosovo, do not want their mission to be considered a failure. Unfortunately, it is a failure, and the unbearable situation in Kosovo, has been going on for years. Kosovo Serbs, and let me

briefly remind that 250,000 Serbs have been ethnically cleansed from Kosovo since 1999, and the remaining 100,000 live in terrible conditions; they do not have electricity, they do not have freedom of movement, nor freedom of speech and worship and their lives and livelihoods are under constant threat. It is absolutely deplorable that anybody should be treated that way in Europe today.

**Can Serbia really rely on Russia's possibility to put veto in the Security Council in regard Kosovo status?**

Serbia relies on itself and is reaching out to as many allies and friends as possible. While we highly appreciate the support we have received from China and Russia we also welcome the support we are receiving from within the EU and our friends and allies in the Balkans.

**What do you find problematic in Marti Ahtisaari's proposal as such at the moment?**

We received the paper a couple of days ago, and it is still being carefully examined. This paper does not mention Serbian sovereignty and territorial integrity as stated in the United Nation's Security Council Resolution 1244 and it opens up the way for Kosovo independence. There are some details in the plan that are good, and some that we want to change and enhance but from the outset, the proposal as such is opening up a possibility for Kosovo's independence, which is not acceptable. We still have the possibility of further negotiations. What we need in SE Europe is long lasting stable solutions acceptable to both sides. Otherwise it will be very short-lived solution that will allow further instability, not only in Serbia, but in the wider region.

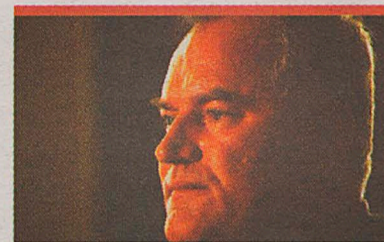
**Would Serbia be able to form and send a negotiating team to Vienna at the moment, when the government after recent elections is still not formed?**

It is still not clear who exactly will lead the next government, but this is what democracies are about. All the parliamentary parties had a meeting and reached a consensus that Serbia will be involved in further negotiations. Democratic forces in Serbia speak with the same voice with regard to the Kosovo issue, and we have a joint plan, and I am sure that the new parliament will continue with this policy.

**Would you agree that Kosovo independence would be a first stage in creating the great Albania?**

Unfortunately, I think that there are lots of people in the Balkans who dream about the possibilities of cre-

ating such a state. And this dream does not only involve usurping parts of Serbia, but also parts of Greece, Macedonia and Montenegro. I think that the implementation or attempted completion of such plans is totally unacceptable in the 21st century and would only result in further instability and violence in the region.



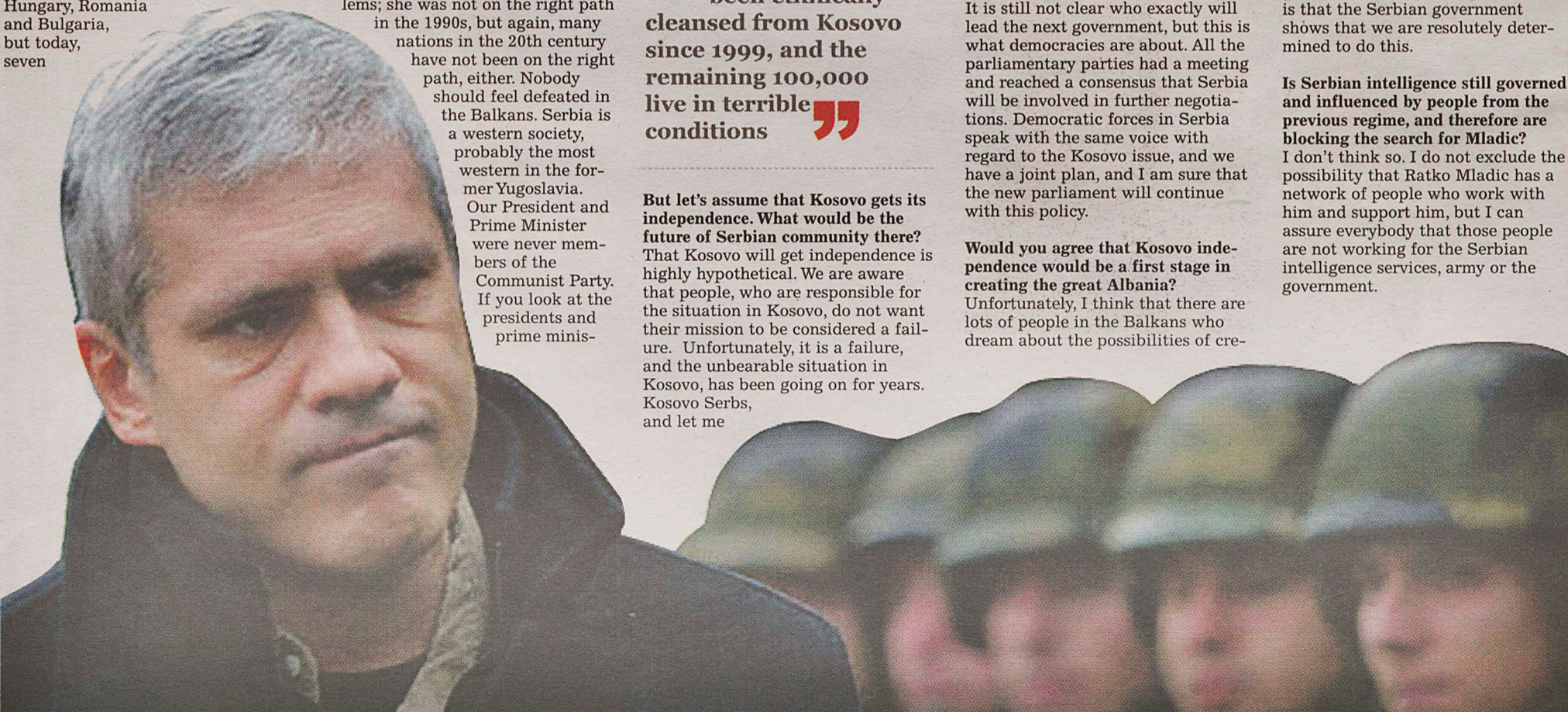
**“We simply do not want indicted war criminals to walk free.”**

**Why is Serbia failing to fulfil the request to deliver to the Hague tribunal generals Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic?**

As far as Ratko Mladic is concerned, we are determined, and President Tadic won the elections on that platform, that all indicted war criminals are to be arrested and extradited to the ICTY. I need to say that this is primarily our moral obligation and in accord with our internal law. We simply do not want indicted war criminals to walk free. The forthcoming Serbian government, led by the Democratic Party, has put that at the top of the political agenda. However, no one can guarantee that General Mladic is hiding in Serbia. Maybe, he is hiding, as the Croatian General Gotovina did, somewhere on an island in the Canaries where we cannot apprehend him. It took American forces more than 6 months to catch Saddam Hussein, and Osama Bin Laden is still at large, so there are no guarantees. The most important thing is that the Serbian government shows that we are resolutely determined to do this.

**Is Serbian intelligence still governed and influenced by people from the previous regime, and therefore are blocking the search for Mladic?**

I don't think so. I do not exclude the possibility that Ratko Mladic has a network of people who work with him and support him, but I can assure everybody that those people are not working for the Serbian intelligence services, army or the government.



Lanterns festoon the London streets



Stallholders display their wares.



Strings of firecrackers



Colour-co-ordinating dragons and pom poms



Delicious food, and fast



The crowds gather in Chinatown for the festivities





## the Beaver Previews

### Warning: May cause symptoms of Itchy Feet

By Jessica McArdle

Freezing and miserable with wild hopes of running away to warmer climates racing through my mind, I came across a bright-eyed fresher (is there any other sort?) with the same preoccupation and importantly the can-do attitude to do something about it... With my travel withdrawals, Roger's enthusiasm and lots of fervent supporters, a plan was hatched to start a travel society; a society who planned to spice up Houghton St life and give those suffering from the travel bug a drug to ease the pain of staying put.

To cut a long story short we now have over 180 members ranging from travel virgins to veritable high-way whores. Unlike many of the career and CV improvement societies at LSE, Itchy feet is based purely around an adoration of travel and a foot-loose and fancy free attitude to living and in the words from Old School; "we plan to give nothing back to the academic community".

With this in mind we would like to cordially invite you to the inaugural "Itchy Feet Photo Exhibition" which will run this week between Wednesday and Friday (Quad and/or Library reception). Come along and see 100 of the best photos we've received from our members on their travels and vote for your favourite.

Lastly but certainly not least, being a travel society it should not surprise you that we do actually travel and would like to announce that our first trip will be to Prague between 19 and 23 March, spaces are limited so contact us soon to avoid disappointment: [k.heivoll@lse.ac.uk](mailto:k.heivoll@lse.ac.uk) or come and see us at the photo exhibition. The trip, like the beer, will be extremely cheap and chilled; we hope to see you there.



## ITCHY FEET

WHEN 21st-23rd February

WHERE Quad / Library

HOW MUCH Free



### LSE exclusive: Ceilidh dancing

Following the massive success of last term's party, the Scots Welsh and Irish will again be teaming up for an even bigger and better night.

This time a well-known Ceilidh band will perform and lead LSE students through traditional Celtic dance routines. Students will be well fed on traditional food and effectively oiled thanks to a generous bar subsidy.

This event promises to be huge, with students coming from all over the capital to attend. Make sure you buy your tickets from the Houghton Street stall in advance. Tickets will go on sale early next week. Bring along your friends for a night which ought not to be missed! Tickets are available on the Door. Be there or be square!

### China Week 2007

26th February - 2nd March

Financial System, Economies, International Trade, Foreign Investment, Law, Food, Culture, Movie, Kung Fu ... Learn everything you ever wanted to know about China in One Week! LSE China Development Society, in cooperation with CSSA, HKPASS, Chinese Society, Taiwanese Society is organising China Week, which consists of a week of juicy activities and intensive speeches given by important figures on China related issues. Through China Week, we aim to promote a better understanding of China's culture and economic development on campus. All events are free and open to all with no ticket required. Entry is on a first come, first served basis.

[www.chinadevelopmentsociety.org](http://www.chinadevelopmentsociety.org)

### Nordic Entrepreneurs in the UK

The Scandinavian society is hosting a panel discussion, called: "Nordic Entrepreneurs in the UK - Evading High Taxes or Finding Exclusive Opportunities?"

The panel are coming to discuss their experience of challenges and opportunities of entrepreneurship in the UK. Featuring participants from various Chambers of Commerce and Trade Councils in London, the lecture will take place on Thursday 22 February 2007 at 6pm in room D602. A reception will follow where you will get to rub shoulders with the panellists.

Panel members include:

-Lena Björck (Sweden), Founder and CEO of Inn or Out  
-Joachim Ritter (Denmark), CEO of Soho Clubs & Bars  
-Christina Schmidt (Finland), Founder and Marketing Director of Skandium and  
-Ivar Plahte (Norway), CEO and Co-Founder of OnRelay

WHEN 22nd February 18:00

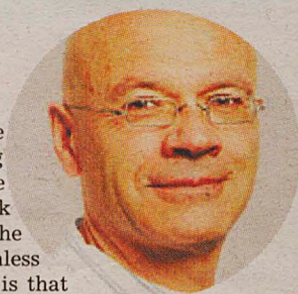
WHERE D602

HOW MUCH Free

### Must China Be Like The West?

In this seminar, Mr. Martin Jacques from the Guardian will discuss with us his following point of view on China's modernity: the temptation in the west is always to think that China will somehow one day be like the west: indeed, that China cannot succeed unless it becomes like the west. The assumption is that there is only one kind of modernity, that of the west.

Wrong. China will never become like the west: its history and culture are profoundly different. The challenge of China is not simply or even mainly economic, but the rise of a new kind of modernity with different assumptions and expectations.



Martin Jacques is a columnist for the Guardian. During the last year he has been a visiting professor at Renmin University, Beijing, Aichi University, Nagoya and Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto. He is presently a visiting senior fellow at the National University of Singapore and also a visiting research fellow at the Asia Research Centre, London School of Economics. He was editor of Marxism Today from 1977-1991 and deputy editor of the Independent from 1994-96. He is also a former Sunday Times and Times columnist.

WHEN 21st February 14:00

WHERE U8

HOW MUCH Free

### World Premiere of "ZALZALA: The Pakistan Earthquake"

"ZALZALA: The Pakistan Earthquake", produced by Hickory Dickory Documentary Films, is a documentary about death, destruction, loss, and survival in the face of disaster. It deals with the aftermath of the most devastating natural disaster in Pakistan's history, the earthquake of October 8th, 2005.

This Film documents the human impact of this disaster, the stories of family members lost, homes destroyed, and tells the victim's stories through the eyes of the Canadian aid workers and film crew who witnessed the devastation. The project sheds light on an international disaster, providing global awareness and increased humanitarianism through film and media. Jason Watt, president of Hickory Dickory Documentary Films said, "When I arrived home from my disaster relief work in Pakistan, I realized that I could accomplish far more with a camera than with a syringe."

The event is organised by LSE Health and Health, Development and Pakistan societies.

WHEN 21st February 20:00

WHERE New Theatre

HOW MUCH Free

COMING UP

WEEK 8

CHINA WEEK 2007

MEXICO WEEK 2007

SU ELECTIONS

### Contracts, Reference Points, and the Theory of the Firm

This lecture launches two new annual lecture series, the Coase Lecture and the Phillips Lecture. These names reflect the authorship of the two most famous articles ever published in *Economica* (the 'Phillips Curve' article was the most heavily-cited macroeconomics title of the 20th century; Ronald Coase won the Nobel Prize for his work on the theory of the firm which began with his *Economica* article). In this inaugural Coase lecture, Oliver Hart will discuss how his recent work with John Moore on contracts as reference points can be used to shed light on the theory of the firm.

Oliver Hart is the Andrew E Furer Professor of Economics at Harvard University, where he has been teaching since 1993. A major authority on contract theory, the theory of the firm, and corporate finance, he has published numerous articles in leading scientific journals, as well as in the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Financial Times*.

This event is free and open to all with no ticket required. Entry is on a first come, first served basis. For more information email [events@lse.ac.uk](mailto:events@lse.ac.uk) or call 020 7955 6043.

WHEN 22nd February 18:30

WHERE Old Theatre

HOW MUCH Free



## the Beaver Listings

TUESDAY  
20/02

- 08:30 CU prayer meeting, *Chaplaincy [Everyday]*  
 09:10 Catholic Pro-life Group meeting, *Caffé Nero*  
 14:00 Yoga Ashtanga Yoga, *Badminton Court*  
 15:00 CSSA Chinese Classes – B-class, *D206*  
 17:00 SU, 200 years on: Commemorating the abolition of slavery, *V312*  
 18:15 Yoga Intermediate Ashtanga Yoga, *Parish Hall*  
 19:00 Debate Weekly meeting, *D302*  
 19:00 Dance Ballet (Beginners), *H216*  
 19:00 Israeli 'The Middle East from an Israeli Perspective', *D702*  
 20:00 Dance Ballet (advanced) *H216*  
 20:00 Irish, Scottish, Welsh, CELTIC PARTY with Ceilidh Band, *Quad*

WEDNESDAY  
21/02

- 11:00 SU, Societies Forum, *S78*  
 13:00 Catholic Mass, *Chaplaincy*  
 13:00 Green party, Weekly meeting, *H104*  
 13:00 Hindu, Vedic lunch, *D211*  
 13:00 Anime & Manga, Drawing Class and Gaming Session, *Z129*  
 13:00 Accounting, Homework help session, *G107*  
 13:00 Student Action for Refugees, Weekly meeting, *A283*  
 13:00 Go, Weekly meeting, *V103*  
 13:30 Yoga, Intermediate Hatha Yoga, *D002*  
 14:00 Pakistan, Weekly meeting, *U203*  
 14:00 Opera, Weekly meeting, *H104*  
 14:00 China Development Talk: 'Must China be like the West?', *U8*  
 15:00 Maths and Stats, Homework help session, *Z332*  
 15:00 Chess, Weekly meeting, *K05*  
 15:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes – B-class, *V103*  
 16:00 Bridge, Weekly meeting, *G107*  
 16:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes – I-class, *H206*  
 18:15 Politics Discussion forum / meeting *H103*  
 19:00 Swing Dance, Improvers Classes, *G108*  
 20:00 Development and Pakistani, World Premiere of ZALZALA, *New Theatre*

THURSDAY  
22/02

- 11:00 Australia and New Zealand, Weekly meeting, *D9*  
 13:00 SU UGM, *Old Theatre*  
 15:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes, *K05*  
 17:00 AIESEC, Weekly meeting, *H104*  
 17:30 Yoga, Hatha Yoga, *Badminton Court*  
 17:30 Argentinean, Tango classes, *K05*  
 18:00 People and planet, Weekly meeting, *H103*  
 18:00 Sikh-Punjab, Music class, *S78*  
 18:00 Dance, Intermediate hip hop class, *S75*  
 18:00 Filipino, Tagalog lessons, *G107*  
 18:00 Scandinavian, Nordic Entrepreneurs Panel, *D602*  
 18:00 Visual Arts, Life drawing class, *D206*  
 18:15 Catholic, Bible-sharing Group, *Chaplaincy*  
 18:30 CU, CU Central, *G1*  
 19:00 Debate, Workshop, *D302*  
 19:00 Dance, Hip Hop (advanced), *H202*  
 20:30 Dance, Hip Hop (beginners), *Badminton courts*

FRIDAY  
23/02

- 13:00 Yoga, Intermediate Acrobatic Yoga, *D702*  
 14:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes – A-Class, *Y115*  
 16:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes – O-class, *S221*  
 16:00 GO, Weekly meeting, *H104*  
 17:00 Hindu, Gita Classes, *D11*  
 19:00 Dance, Ballet Class, *S75*  
 20:00 SU, CRUSH, *Underground, Quad, Three Tuns*

MONDAY  
26/02

- 08:30 CU Prayer Breakfast, *Chaplaincy*  
 12:00 Knitting Workshop, *Quad*  
 14:00 China Week, Talk: 'China's Financial System', Sir Howard Davies, *U8*  
 16:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes – B-class, *K05*  
 17:30 Yoga, Hatha Yoga, *Badminton Court*  
 18:30 Peruvian, The Politics of Economic Intergration: "Where does Peru Stand in the Global Context?", *S75*  
 19:00 Swing Dance, Beginner's Classes, *D502*  
 19:00 Dance, Street Jazz, *G1*  
 19:30 China Week, Chinese New Year Show, *Old Theatre*

Want to get involved?

Email us at  
thebeaver@lse.ac.ukSend your ads, announcements and  
personals to

listings@thebeaveronline.co.uk

by Friday

## QUAD OFFICE HOURS

Aled Dilwyn Fisher Environment and Ethics Officer, *Monday, 13.00*  
 Anushka Shenoy General Course Officer, *Tuesday 13.00*  
 Sid Kamath Executive Editor, The Beaver, *Tuesday 14.00 E204*  
 Fadhil Bakeer Markar International Students Officer, *Tuesday 13.00*  
 Ali Dewji Communications Officer, *Tuesday 16.00*  
 Emma Hallgren Students with Disabilities Officer, *Tuesday 15.00*  
 Jimmy Tam General Secretary, *Thursday 17.00*

Michail Retsinas Mature and Part-Time Students' Officer,  
*Wednesday 16.00 D302*  
 Joel Kenrick Treasurer, *Thursday 14.00*  
 Alex Finnegan LGBT Officer, *Thursday 14.00 (Alex  
Vincenti's office)*  
 Adrian Beciri Returning Officer, *Thursday 14.00*  
 James Caspell Postgraduate Officer, *Thursday 15.00*

Zoe Sullivan Women's Officer, *Thursday 10.00 D703*  
 Louise Robinson Residences' Officer, *Thursday 12.00*  
 Alexandra Vincenti Education and Welfare Officer, *Friday 14.00*  
 Shanela Haque Anti-Racism Officer, *Friday 11.00*  
 Arthur Krebbers Societies' Officer, *Friday 13.00*  
[www.lsesu.com/whatson](http://www.lsesu.com/whatson)

## the BeaverReviews

The Lunch Hour:

**EAT.**

EAT.

**THE REAL FOOD COMPANY**

Student cuisine is an endless battle between trying to find something that costs you as little as possible, and something that tastes better than micro waved cardboard with a side of melted cling film. Understandably, most students are either too busy, or too lazy to search further than Subway and so they eat nothing but crap. There is, however, much more out there to tempt the student palate if you walk just a little further into Covent Garden, and for a surprisingly reasonable chunk of change. A personal favourite of mine is EAT, on Bedford Street across from Tesco. The cafeteria atmosphere leaves a little to be desired: every lunchtime sees it packed with businessmen and shop workers, and the noise level is appallingly loud. However, the food is healthy, tasty and inexpensive, sometimes all at the same time. And you can actually eat from their take-out containers on the go-it is eternally frustrating to me when I am provided with a soup container that seems specially designed to tip my food down me as I walk... speaking of which, the soup is the specialty of the house, with varieties ranging from Bold to Chunky and a dangerously tempting super-size offer that makes a large only twenty pence more than a medium. However, if soup doesn't float your boat, EAT also offers sandwiches, pies, cakes and coffees; all at similarly accessible prices. So next lunchtime, shed the shackles of LSE catering and Kingsway, head over to Covent Garden and EAT!



Wong Kei, 41-43 Wardour Street, Soho

Nearest tube: Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square

So it isn't the most glamorous of restaurants, and it is unlikely that Wong Kei will be up for Michelin stars either, but I don't think that that's what they're going for here. This is one of the best student-y Chinese restaurants around - the food is fairly cheap, the service is fast [five to ten minutes on average] and somewhat entertaining in itself, and the flavour is probably more authentic than some late night takeaway flyer that your halls of residence keep in reception. Oh and of course you can get unlimited refills on your complimentary Chinese tea. Wong Kei is also pretty unusual in that the seating is very common - you basically get thrown onto a table with people you don't know [or in some cases don't want to know either] but it is an excuse to meet new people. Overall, great for a quick meal before a night out.

Website of the week:

Toothpaste for Dinner



when polled, 43% of  
americans over the  
age of 18 replied  
"what"

If you tend to find yourself browsing the internet pointlessly, facebook stalking that certain someone a bit too much, or just not feeling like working, then you could give [www.toothpastedinner.com](http://www.toothpastedinner.com) a go. You might end up passing hours without noticing. The website doesn't really have a point, it is just a collection of comics by an artist in Ohio. It might tire after a while but then again it beats having to read for your next problem set.

G-A-Y Late

5 Goslett Yard, off Charing Cross Road

Last weekend I went to G-A-Y Late, just off Charing Cross Road in Soho. Entry is free with a flyer from G-A-Y Bar and the compensation for waiting 15 minutes in the queue and being questioned about your entry qualifications is a light frisking from a lovely Russian lady. Drinks are cheap during the week and standard at the weekend, which allows most to lose enough of their inhibitions to have a boogie to the ever-so-slightly cheesy gay boy pop blazing out. Widescreen TVs cover the walls so there's something nice to look at, even if there isn't anyone nice to look at in there. Lots of latino men who seem to have been misdirected won't hesitate to grind you but it wouldn't surprise me if you were saved by a fellow LSEer you bump into. Despite my moanings, I always have a bloody good night. You can pop to any of the late-night fast food places afterwards or even go onto G-A-Y club, if you're hardcore enough. There's no pretentious bitchyness from scene queens apart from some from the often sexist barstaff. There are plenty of comfy sofas and good air conditioning system making for an all-round relaxed atmosphere. The perfect place to go if you can't decide on anywhere else!

Laura Parfitt

G.R.E.S UNIDOS DE LONDRES  
THE LONDON SCHOOL OF SAMBA

CARNIVAL  
IN RIO

Photo by Terry George

Thurs. 22 Feb      8pm- LATE

The Quad, LSE

Address: Houghton St. WC2A 2AE Nearest Tube: Holborn  
In Advance: £3 member/ £4 non-member At the door: £5  
*We're mixing it up with a full bateria (the guys on drums), Passistas (those pretty dancers, like the one on this poster), caipirinhas and samba all night long at the hottest Carnival party outside Brazil! See you there...*

# 喂

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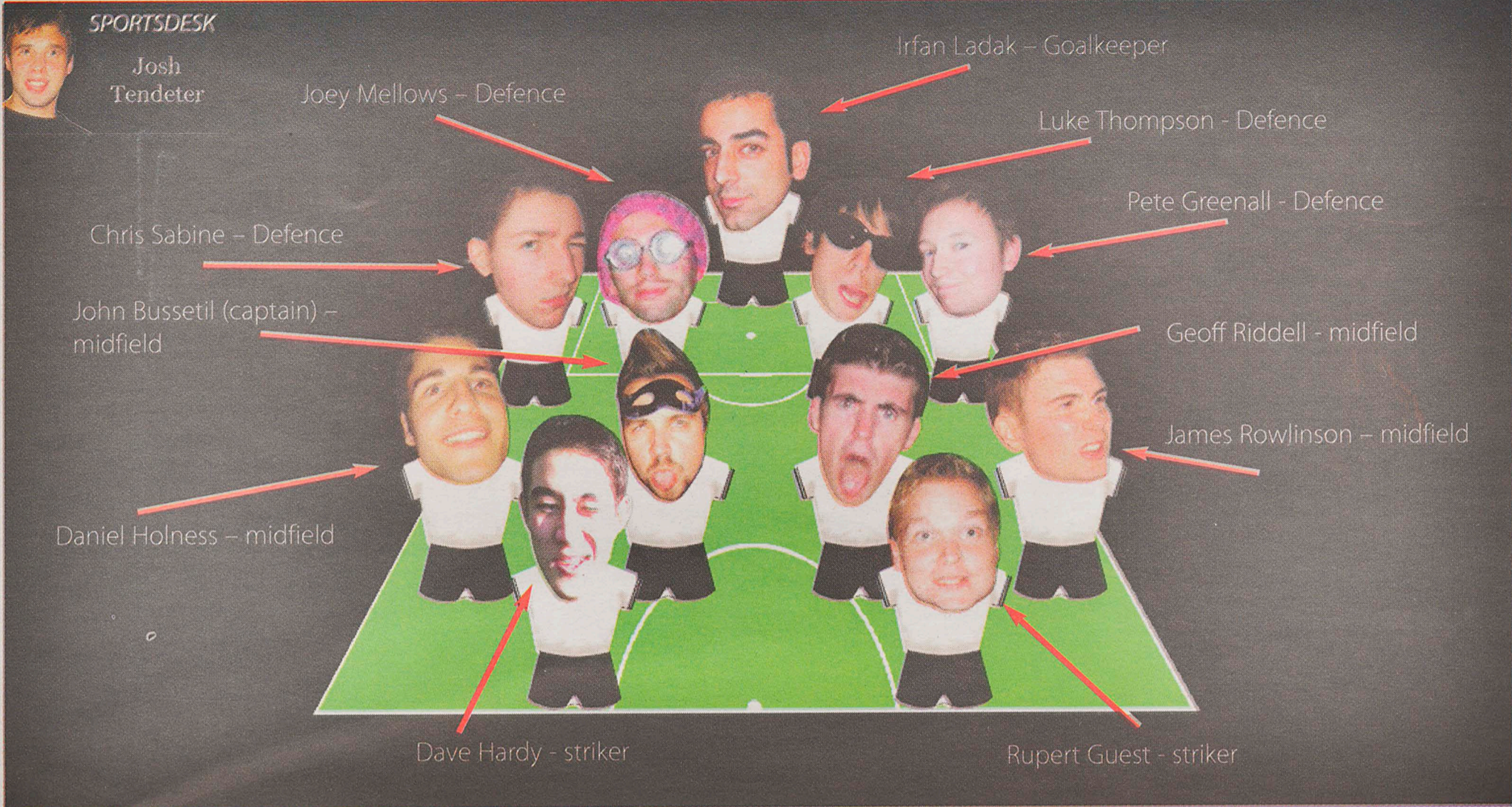
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## Team of the week



## Another AU Rant

## Walk in, then walk back out

Kathryn "No Nicks On" Nixon and Annelies "Should Be On A Leash" Vermeulen

If it started with a kiss, then why is it then that a few months down the line or even the very next day, someone you've been so intimate with finds it so easy to just ignore you around campus?

It starts with 'that' Wednesday night AGAIN and there's that AU boy who's looking quite attractive after your 1st bottle of wine followed by that 5th double vodka. If you were anywhere else but the LSE you probably wouldn't have even given him a passing glance or even have acknowledged his existence. "I pull much fitter guys at home, I mean I can't believe I'm actually beginning to fancy a guy who rides a bike to school and plays a trumpet!" said one AU Blonde. However, those of you who socialise in the AU it can be said, there really isn't much choice. Furthermore, I think it would be fair to say that the male AU guy has a pretty large chance of finding what is commonly called a 'fitty'.

All this aside though, you decide to take your life in your own hands, move things forward, turn up the heat, risk making a total twat of yourself, not to mention REJECTION. What's more is that you also risk being ignored, shunned, talked about for the next who-knows-how-long, all for that one sneaky pull, or

even that long walk home.

So you wait until they've had a sufficient amount of alcohol to drink before making your move, in a somewhat vain attempt to minimise the first

**I can't believe I'm actually beginning to fancy a guy who rides a bike to school and plays a trumpet**



set of above 'risks' just mentioned. By that time, you've found yourself in Walkabout.

Walk in, survey the dance floor, pluck up the courage to go dance next to, or stand at the bar next to, or just directly go and start chatting to that lucky girl or boy. I mean really, what's the point in beating round the bush? You establish whether you like each other enough to go home together by one means or another (use your

imagination here) and you then walk out. Now, after that bottle of wine, ten double vodkas and five tequila shots, YOU ARE HOT.

Before you've had a chance to sleep all off the above alcohol, it's Thursday and, oh you guessed it, someone's had to do that walk home and you eventually head off into campus to face the music. And him/her. You know that everyone knows what you've been up to by now, thanks to some "subtle" gossiping (you know when someone says to you, "Okay, but promise you won't tell anyone..." and within five minutes everyone sitting around you in C120 knows too) I mean, of course your flatmates are going to notice that you've not come home with them and they've been locked out and the only set of keys within a mile radius are yours. And in the large majority of sports teams' inboxes there's an email detailing your whereabouts in Walkabout and who you went home with. For those lucky few of you, there's photographic evidence which is sure to appear later that day on facebook.

It's not surprising then that you're ignoring each other. Too many times have I heard it's because "he cares about his friends think." Whether it be true or not that you have a 'rep' or because your from a different clique. To be perfectly honest I don't know really how else to say that the girls often caught up and let down by these guys are actually quite nice, quite funny, very attractive and very intelligent girls,

amongst other things. And of course, having one (okay, several) too many may unleash a whole new side to these girls but at the end of the day, it takes two to tango. Indeed, this is not to say she is any less culpable than he is. On occasion it hasn't been uncommon for girls to use and abuse guys for their own purposes. But don't be so immature to ignore each other. She may be a slut and he maybe have been the unfortunate victim this time round (or visa versa) but it doesn't mean that he or she isn't worth knowing or heaven forbid getting to like. It's a great feeling when you prove people wrong and shatter the contrived

impression others have painted of you, so do bear this in mind the next time you get with that AU member who's favourite game is playing the field. Especially whilst they're under the influence.

It's so easy to ignore each other and so normal to do so because of a) what your friends are saying and b) the emails that are going round and c) if you're lucky enough, because of the mentions you're getting in *The Beaver*. Yes, you may either now feel ashamed or wish that you weren't in the AU but it's as simple as... if you don't want people to know about it, don't do it. At the same time, why are you even

bothered though? It can't be emphasised enough that this is typical behaviour of students just like us all over the country. In fact it's if anything a scaled down version because contrary to popular belief its not happening as much as you would think. To those in the know however, there are some of you who are flying under the AU sexual radar who don't get the notoriety they deserve, and some, unjustifiably far too much. So once again, we say GET INVOLVED. You only do Uni once, it's about time we made the most of it.



## Jitsu

# Almost there for silverware

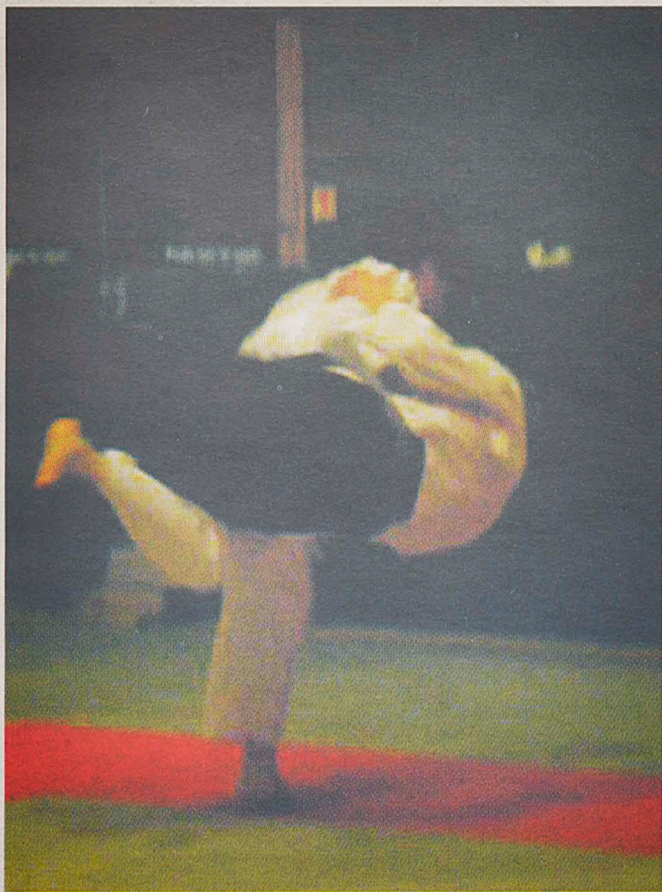


Andrew Cadden

would have seemed like the beginnings of a day trip for psychiatric patients. Sadly, you would have been mistaken.

The gathering of increasingly angry white pyjama clad individuals were the London Jitsuka waiting to head off to the Atemi nationals in Birmingham. One and a half hours of waiting in thin gees (white pyjama like training outfits) on a cold morning, was the first of many challenges for the competitors.

If you would have happened to have been strolling around the side streets of UCL at around 6am at the start of last November, you would have come across what to the oblivious onlooker



Held annually, the Atemi Nationals span Saturday and Sunday, all morning and afternoon and drew just under 1000 daring competitors from all across the UK. This was LSE's first appearance for the two days of intense training, drinking and competing.

Our day on the mat began with an extended warm-up followed by general training led by a 3rd Dan (the most senior belt in Jitsu) instructor known to us as "Viking". Separated into our belt categories, all the way from white to black it was our opportunity to try out our best Jitsu under pressure, and bring back a medal for our club.

Even as I expected what was to come in the trials ahead I have to confess feeling nervous. I can't imagine what the white belts felt like. Split into groups of about 15, only three of us from each group would go through into the final round the next day. After months of training I found myself feeling noticeably more comfortable under pressure. The first stage, involved being within a gauntlet, i.e. flanked on both sides by attackers armed with an assortment of weapons including rubber knives, plastic bottles and koshes (large wooden sticks).

The participant has to walk up and down the gauntlet with attackers attacking from either side at a random order. They have to defend themselves from each attack, disarm and disable their attacker, before continuing ready for another attack.

The second stage, the V, where the participant stands with two lines of attackers

coming at them in a V shape. Attackers come at you almost continuously, every three to four seconds, if you can't deal with one fast enough, the next one doesn't wait... shit! Despite this, I managed to just about maintain my composure and was fortunate enough to get through into the final round the next day.

The next morning, after a warm-up designed to show who had been out drinking and a brief period of training, it was time for the competition finals.

Despite the sickly feeling in the pit of my stomach and the rapid pace of attackers, set by sensei Kheng of London School of Arts, I felt my gauntlet and V didn't actually come off too bad. I think the pace must have had something to do with the new bad ass image he's trying to cultivate. I also felt one of the most beautiful Tani Otoshi throws ever (I wish I had seen it from a distance, but I was being thrown).

This was followed by the open competition. As the name suggests, it is open to all belt categories in theory but always consists of those of at least a brown belt standard and shows martial arts at its best.

It was great seeing five foot tall sensei Mary Bishop taking out terrified six foot black belts, sensei Nigel Price's power throwing, and the resilience of all the uke (attackers) on the receiving end of it all. It was without a doubt the highlight of the whole weekend, showing some amazing Jitsu and providing an inspiration for us to train hard.

At the end of the competi-

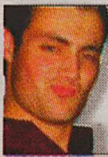


tion, seated along the edge of the mat, I was surprised and overjoyed to be called up to receive a silver medal in the orange belt competition. I was ecstatic both from satisfaction of months of hard training paying off and for bringing back LSE Jitsu's first piece of silverware. With the Randori

Nationals only a month away we intend once again to put in a good performance from all of us at this event and to bring back some silver-ware for the LSE!

## Football

# Sixth Team: So hot right now



Nathan Capone

against arch-rivals Queen Mary at Berrylands. Yes, Queen Mary; those fuckwitted Neanderthals who make Tourettes sufferers sound eloquent. Inexplicably they are second in the league and had the audacity to turn up 45 minutes late. We were angry and wanted blood. So the 6's took to the field with the purpose and single-mindedness of a suicide bomber. We were also overjoyed to actually be playing again after a cluster of postponed matches due to waterlogged and frozen pitches as well as teams not turning up (University of the Arts, who were presumably too busy with their colouring-in).

We were joined by Essex lad Danny Harris on loan from Brighton Uni (recruited by Mylo) and Fourth Team midfielder Josh Tendeter, playing for the first time since dislocating his knee in December. Despite being told by the physio that he could do 'fifteen minutes of light jogging', Josh, as any hardened member of the FC would, promptly ignored this advice and put in a superb sixty minutes of top quality

football. This is what the FC LSE is all about, we don't let anything get in the way of the game, if you can't hack it then go play some pansy sport like Ultimate Frisbee.

The match began with some slightly wobbly defending, with Mylo unsure whether he should scuff up his hair by heading the ball and myself somewhat distracted by the sight of a green parrot which kept flying over the pitch.

Amateur ornithology aside, the 6's quickly found their rhythm and opened the scoring after ten minutes. Norwegian right-winger Erlend Falch received the ball from a throw-in inside the box then swiveled quickly to volley it past the keeper on his left. QM came back quickly, forcing Wilko to make a spectacular acrobatic save; giving one the impression that in a former life he was a trapeze artist, or possibly a spider-monkey, I don't know. Yet the resulting corner, although well delivered, should have been dealt with by the defence and ended up being headed in for the equalizer.

“Being the whining knobs that they are, QM started getting frustrated with my refereeing decisions”

We weren't going to stand for this and responded five minutes later. It was a truly poetic combination of Norwegian strength and Iranian flair that allowed Erlend to hold up the ball in the box and feed it to Bobby who resolutely banged it passed the keeper. Bobby then grabbed his seventh goal of the season not long after, one-on-one with the goalie after some

smooth play from Josh.

We were 3-1 up; a position we were in at one point in our last game with QM before we drew 3-all. Not that we were going to make the same mistake twice. The 6's started the second half even more fiercely than the first. Josh was quick to capitalize on the fact that the QM centre-backs were as easy to dribble round as traffic cones and his solo run ended with a smart finish into the corner. Myles then scored his first goal for the 6's, although it was in the wrong net. Yet at 4-2 things were looking peachy, QM seemed to prefer running into Eppers at the back as opposed to around him and Myles had given up caring about his hair and was also rock-solid.

QM decided they needed more firepower up front and introduced their Edgar Davids look-a-like winger (complete with goggles. Seriously). But unlike his professional resemblance, he was about as useful as an amputee. Toby then came on to replace Josh, who with Danny and Tom began wreaking havoc in the QM defence.

Due to a groin strain (it's not serious ladies, don't worry) I took over from Drels as referee who slotted into right-back. It was at this point that things began to get ugly.

Being the whining knobs that they are, QM started getting frustrated with my refereeing decisions and their centre back was nice enough to call me "a fucking cunt". I'm sure if he met me socially he would agree that I am not a cunt. I am a perfectly pleasant and likeable individual. If said fat prick is reading this then perhaps he would be kind enough to go out with a drink with me so I could demonstrate my friendly nature? We could also talk about his inevitable lack of employment opportunities when he graduates because he attends a shit university.

The game finished at 4-2 and our title challenge was back on. All together now: "We're the Sixth Team, we're the Sixth Team, we're the Sixth Team LSE!"

LSE Sublime 6's	4
Queen Mary 6's	2
Berrylands	

The match against Queen Mary shows one thing that is truly sublime about the Sublime 6's; we get knocked down but we get up again. And we do it in style. Despite two disappointing results against two different GKT teams the week before, the 6's picked themselves up off the canvas to deliver a knockout punch to Queen Mary on Wednesday. Blood, sweat, tears and snakebite, it's all here.

With our pride stung having drawn against GKT Fifts and lost to GKT Fourths, the only way to re-inflate our already oversized egos was to seize victory in the match

## Tennis

# School of Old Arses are Shit



"Double Dutch" Krebbers

LSE	7
SOAS	3
Highams Park	

As anyone who has ever been to an LSE tennis team tryout will testify, getting into the competitive league is utterly, utterly difficult – verging on the impossible. Nearly as difficult as trying to reconcile a hardened Trotskyist with the benefits of free market, or convincing your Finance Society friend not to budge for the six-figure bonuses offered by the City.

While a lucky few are cherry-picked to represent the LSE in all its glory, the majority of us lay players have to settle for weekly 'social sessions'. Fortunately, this is set to change.

Former president and all-round tennis champ Sumit Buttoo has initiated special competitions for the amateurs and fun-loving racket-handlers. An LSE men's and women's tournament has been

followed by intercollegiate matches, our first sparring partner being SOAS.

A nippy Saturday afternoon saw an ad hoc team of male and female players take the train to Highams Park: a quite remote place, technically still in London. Hardened by the freezing temperatures, we made our way into the giant, air-controlled tent at the local Chingford School of Tennis. After a few minutes of practice

lost in our first inter-university friendly last year.

Nevertheless, the first series of matches completely crushed their ambitions. The art-ful men's double team of Artem and yours truly swiped the floor with our opponents, winning a humiliating "love set": six games to love. Admittedly, we all hadn't warmed up properly. We were lucky to be the side making the least mistakes and keeping our cool. The SOAS team quickly resorted to loud, screeching howlers, the content of which would be inappropriate to print in this newspaper.

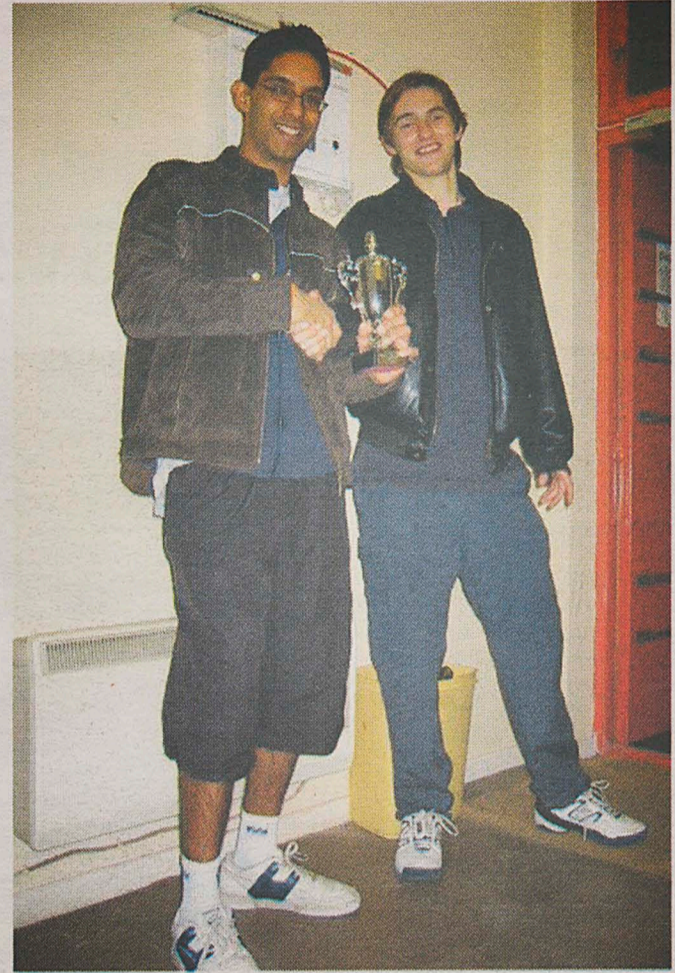
After the first round of matches, LSE was up 3 matches to 0. The clean head start did, unfortunately, not prove to be sustainable. The men's singles were devastating for our side, with Artem being struck by a bout of amnesia and forgetting the proper manoeuvres of a solid backhand, thereby losing 6 to 0. Thomas played a strong and impressive game against Louis, the SOAS captain, but unfortunately ended up losing 6 to 4. Head honcho Sumit restored some masculine glory in his seemingly easy 6-3 victory over Hashim, the audacious and highly audible player from the School of Oriental and African studies.

The LSE women fared

much better, remaining undefeated throughout the entire afternoon. Tennis Soc president Patrycja left no one doubting her status as queen of the court: she beat her adversary Hiroko six to nothing. Sandra faced a tougher game, and played some excellent tennis resulting in a 6 to 4 win. Women's doubles became a perfectly weighted average of this result: 6 to 2. The SOAS girls Hiro-ko, Wako-ko and Mari-ko had been duly left KO'd.

The sparks also flew off the court in the mixed double's. These matches tend to be highly unpredictable, a truism which definitely applied here. While Rebecca and Thomas thrashed their counterparts six to absolutely nothing, Verity and Pedro struggled, scooping just two games.

As the sun gradually set over suburban Greater London, the LSE could rejoice and turn to snacks and beverages, kindly offered by the owner of the tennis school. In his victory speech, Sumit aptly thanked SOAS for "turning up" ("because that's basically all they did"), and oozed confidence. Motivated by his warrior spirit, the LSE team seems set to gain a tennis-esque hat-trick next year.



The SOAS team quickly resorted to loud, screeching howlers, the content of which would be inappropriate to print in this newspaper

rallies, the SOAS ensemble entered the big top. They were dead set on regaining the glory and the silver trophy they had

## Women's Hockey

# A moral victory for women's hockey



Lol Venables

LSEWHC	2
Gimps	6
Heathrow	

It's tough being good. Teams start to get a bit scared of you, and develop a really

annoying habit of phoning you the night before a game to cry off, citing 'lack of players' or 'forecasted snow'. Take Portsmouth: 31st January was destined to be a glorious Wednesday for the LSEWHC. The day we secured champion status with a win against a weak Pompey side. The fixture promised goals a-plenty, perhaps even another hat trick for Gabba, who knew? Nope. The oppo e-mailed over their request to grant us a 4-0 win

and call it quits. So, events conspired for us to win our league with a game to spare, and no moment of glory in which to bask.

This got me thinking (often dangerous). We wanted promotion from this lowly BUSA division so badly, yet the moment we got it, it ended up as a big anti-climax. An awful lot like Ashes 2005 if you ask me; remember Billy Bowden trying to inject the moment of victory with some drama by

scooping off the bails? In fact... LSE Women's Hockey team bears a lot of resemblance to Vaughany/Freddie/Sraussy's England Cricket XI.

2005/06 saw us relegated in BUSA. It was cruel, unfair and all Essex's fault. They walked us over, costing us a three point penalty, because we were 21 minutes late after being stuck in traffic. In the end, we went down fighting last season, just like Ashes 2002/03, when England clawed back the final test in Sydney. There were stars in our 05/06 team, as there were in that England side, but we, like England, lacked a full package.

We knew we had a chance to put the BUSA record straight in 2006/07 and we have worked hard from outset to do so, just like the cricketers. As with the men in white, it has not been a tale of instant glory and thrashings of opposition. I was at Trent Bridge in 2003 when England beat South Africa, but there was still a chasm separating us from the Aussies (Richard Kirtley, anyone? Ed Smith? Where are they now?). The LSEWHC beat Reading back in November in a tense match, and also St Mary's in an equally close encounter. We knew more had to be done to make our victories emphatic, and by 6th December a 2-1 win against St. Mary's had been transformed into an 8-1 trouncing in the return fixture. I know, Ashes 2005 was hardly a whitewash, but to beat

Australia for the first time since 1983 was a remarkable turnaround for England.

This is where the comparison gets a little unfavourable (for the LSEWHC). Ashes 06/07. Painful to say the least, especially for a fan like me, who doesn't know an awful lot and keeps thinking maybe... just maybe we can score more than 150 in an innings? We kept it out of the Beaver for a while, but Sunday 21st January was the date that our hockey team lost a game this season. We had been drawn against Bart's in the first round of the ULU Cup, but they pulled out (players too hung-over) so off we trekked to Imperial Sports Ground in the quarters. I guess it was a bit like going to Australia, it's that bloody far away. They were very arrogant, with good reason; Imperial are in BUSA 1A, four leagues above us. The Aussies also had good reason to see England as fair game in the recent Ashes (no genius captain, a stressed opener scarpered home, Simon Jones-less, may as well have been wicket-keeper-less, and ill-prepared for the toughest contest in cricket).

Imperial struck first blood with two quick goals and it looked ominous for us. Two goals to the bad in just five minutes, we were looking down the barrel of a cricket score (one comparison too far?). But wait! Just like that Northern, ginger, wiry, scampy Collingwood's double hundred

in Adelaide, LSE Women's Hockey showed we hadn't missioned out past Heathrow for the Sunday morning gags. First Alex, then Parf got themselves on the score-sheet. I couldn't believe it, I celebrated like Monty (bit embarrassing), whilst the knobhead Imperial captain Roxy lost her blonde head. She was screaming at her team and we felt an upset in the air...

I suppose the second half was the whitewash bit. We stood up tall to them, especially Betty and Verity at the back, but Imperial's quality showed. A superb solo goal from Roxy sealed the deal, and this at least stopped her awful chat as she swept off in a plane motion with a yelp, celebrating on her own (of course, no one likes a twat). I blame myself for a shocking showing at centre-back (not a great position when you can't tackle), but like Freddie I took the positives from a bad experience. Betty Lee was a warrior, especially running out at short corners to a girl who struck the ball like a man. New girl Reyes looked lively and Jade certainly saved our blushes in goal. We came off the pitch psyched up and proud; we gave a good account of ourselves against the second best team in London. Let's hope our 2006/07 season ends on a high - something similar to beating the best one-day cricket side in the World three times in a row wouldn't be too bad. Get in, England - I never stopped believing.





20.02.07 | sports@thebeaveronline.co.uk

# Beaver sports

## Basketball sweeps league championship



Justin Gest

Champagne was flowing in Bloomsbury last week, as the Men's Basketball team toasted their 10th consecutive league win, and a continuing undefeated season.

"Nobody messes with the Beave," point guard Dan Greenberg slurred. "I mean, we've worked hard, man. And, and, and this is just like 'Nam, man. Just like it. And you know what? I love you, man. I never told you this before, but I love you."

Indeed, as Greenberg futilely attempted to explain, the team overcame significant adversity to take the BUSA Southeastern 2B Division title.

They entered the winter holiday in December fresh off a game at Essex, in which they were outplayed at times and disadvantaged by an uncertified referee. The game would be nullified with LSE down five points at the start of the fourth quarter, because Essex had not booked enough time in the rented facility.

Then over the break, the team learned from standout forward Phil Worland that the American general course student would sit out the rest of the season after exploratory surgery identified a torn labrum in his shoulder.

And three weeks later, Head Coach Torbjorn Gehrke was forced to take a brief hiatus to return to his native Sweden and coach the professional Sodertalje Kings of Stockholm under contract.

### Beaver Believers

Yet the Beavers showed resilience.

Their first game back was against Premiership-level Oxford: a Top 10 team in England. However, the short-handed Beavers responded with a dominating performance, perhaps their best game of the season.

The 72-53 victory was a "statement game", Gehrke said at the time, "that this team can compete with anybody at any level in BUSA." It also rendered the team the momentum it needed to resume its league schedule.

LSE returned to overconfident Essex on 24 January and never let Essex come close in their replayed match: an 80-50 win. Neutralising Essex's fast breaking offense and rebounding ability, the Beavers buckled down and held their opponents to their lowest scoring



total of the season.

"It was all about our D today," said Andrew Butters. "I mean it was huge. We stopped all penetration, and for the most part, any balls around the rim were ours. And it was that D that allowed us to go down the other end and score."

With their huge "D," they then clinched the league championship by defeating second-place Greenwich at home the following week, 76-53.

**"We stopped all penetration, and for the most part, any balls around the rim were ours"**

**Andrew Butters**

### Beaver Grievors

Shortly after the Greenwich game, Gehrke would need to return to Scandinavia, where he is known as "Thor: Slayer of Celtic Vermin."

"Torbjörn var farmaður mikill, var stundum í viking, en stundum í kaupferðum," said captain Henrik Jorem, which can be translated to "Torbjörn's a bastard for leaving us like this, but hey, we'll deal."

Indeed, it was Gehrke's strategic wizardry that helped get LSE as far as they were, and those lessons would not depart with the 6'8" pedagogue.

Assistant Coach and British National Team captain Ronnie Baker would fill Gehrke's enormous shoes well, and lead the team through several rounds of the London Cup tournament, defeating RUMS by forfeit, ravaging neighbouring King's College, and then sealing off Goldsmith in Southeast London.

However, Baker was not available to coach the team in their final league match against Kent in Canterbury on 7th February.

Someone would have to step up to lead. As fate would have it, it was Worland. Though plagued by his shoulder injury, he never left his teammates;

attending practices, and offering insight and mocking criticism from the bench during games.

Worland assumed bench duties with easy willingness, but without a full squad. Minor injuries and midterm papers would leave the Beavers shorthanded against a Kent team with nothing to lose.

In a hostile environment, Worland never let the team overextend themselves. He coached a conservative game with patience beyond his years. The team would respond.

Rob Steinmetz had 24 points, Michael McMahon followed with 14 more and 15 rebounds, and the Beavers put the stamp on an extraordinary, undefeated season with a 71-47 victory.

"There is still a long way to go, what with the postseason coming up, but we feel ready," said fresher wingman Nick Broadway after the game, peering over at McMahon in the changing room. "Right, Daddy?"

### Beaver Achievers

The team now looks towards the postseason.

**"There is still a long way to go, what with the post-season coming up, but we feel ready"**

**Nick Broadway**



This Wednesday, 21 February, the Beavers are scheduled to face Loughborough in the first round of the National Shield Tournament at Brixton Recreation Centre.

Tip-off is at 2pm, and the Athletic Union is encouraging all students to attend and support LSE's most dominating sports team this year.

Admission is free and fans will have the opportunity to interact with the team's usual supporters: a chorus of unemployed bodybuilders, janitors on break, kids waiting to use the court next, and a collection of Brixton streetwalkers who call themselves "The Walking Clap."

### Something that rhymes with "Beaver"

The following weekend, the Beavers will face off against their league rivals Queen Mary, in the London Cup Championship at London South Bank University on Sunday 25 February at 1pm.

Again, supporters are urged to attend and help carry the London Cup down Houghton Street for the first time in recent history. For details, email Captains Jorem and Justin Gest: h.jorem@lse.ac.uk and j.gest@lse.ac.uk.

"In my two years of military service, I've seen plenty of fucktards. But this guy takes the cake." - CHW