

the Beaver

04/10/05

Issue **623**

The newspaper of the LSESU



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Not with a 'Bang', but a whimper

Freshers let down by poor organisation of inaugural Union party

Doug Oliver and Elaine Londesborough

The Students' Union (SU) highly-publicised foam-filled night, dubbed "The Bang", left many students disappointed as the SU failed to complete a routine application for a late license. New arrivals and returning students alike were showed the door at 11pm, leading to a likely loss in revenue for the Union, according to one Sabbatical officer.

Posters proclaimed 'overwhelming demand' as the main reason for the move to Walkabout on Shaftesbury Avenue, despite the fact that all previous advertisements had indicated the night would continue until one o'clock in the morning at the Union's premises.

Though the Students'

Union normally has a licence to remain open until 2am on Friday nights for Crush, a special application was necessary for this one-off event. Several Union insiders indicated that Union staff responsible for organising the event simply forgot to apply for such a licence or else neglected to follow through with the application.

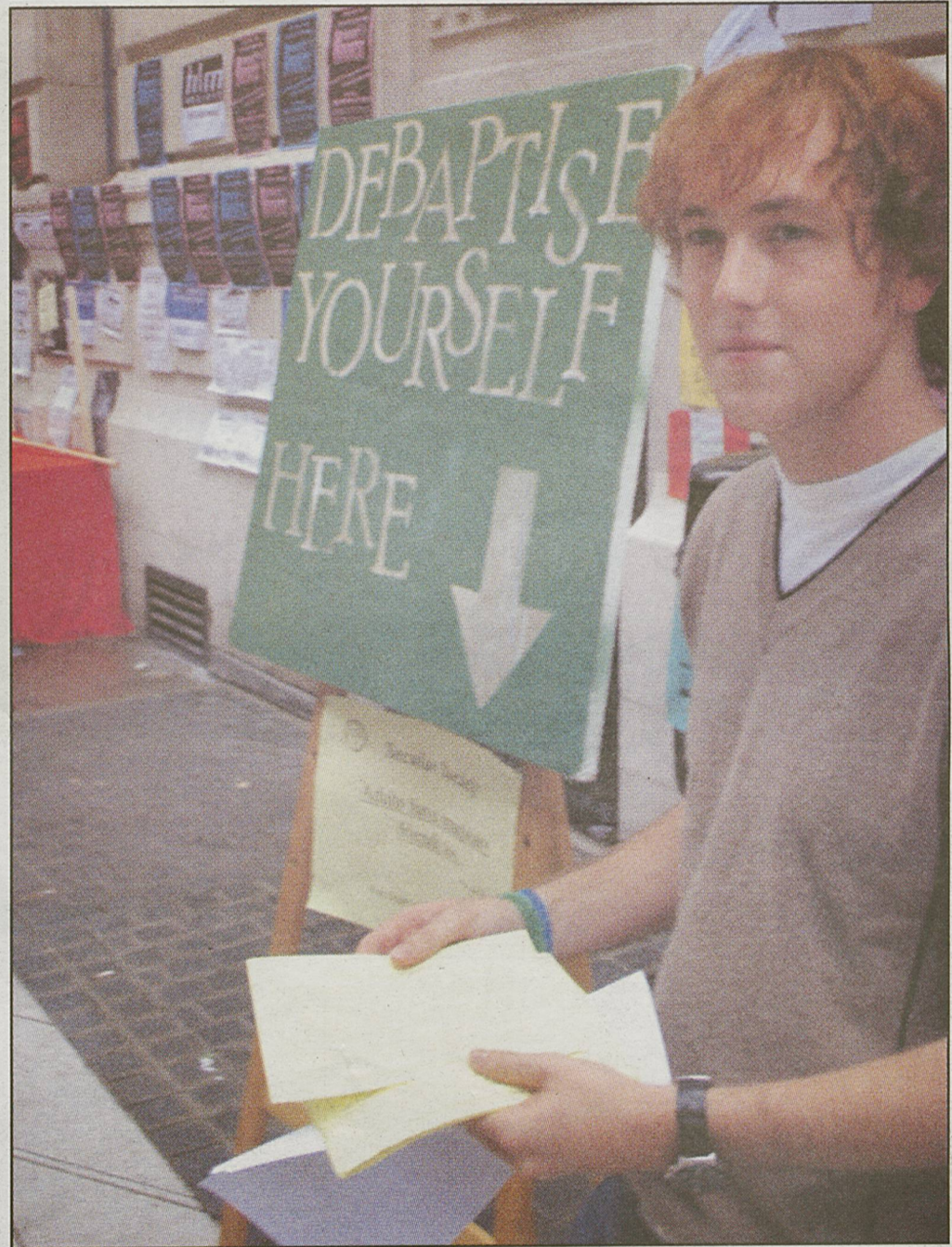
Chris Heathcote, SU Communications Officer, told *The Beaver*: "we must have lost a lot of money because we had 1,000 students drinking elsewhere for two hours rather than in the Union", adding that "in the end I think everyone had a good time and the Entertainments staff worked flat out to make sure they did."

The revelation could spell further financial misery for the SU as over 200 tickets were sold prior to the event advertising its

finishing at one o'clock in the morning. If disgruntled students decide to ask for a refund, the Union will have to cough up.

At 11pm almost 1,000 cold, wet LSE students streamed along The Strand towards the West-end bar and antipodean-theme club Walkabout. But some were unperturbed by the change in plans. First year undergraduate Ben Gill, of Rosebery Hall, said: "We had great fun - loved the foam. Got bloody cold trying to find Walkabout though." When asked who was responsible for the problem, SU Treasurer Natalie Black said "it involves a member of staff so I cannot talk about it." She also praised the Entertainments Manager for his initiative in moving the party successfully to Walkabout.

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Alex Hochuli, founder of the Secular Society.

Photograph: Sid Kamath

Secularism intolerable

Sam Jones and Stephen Gummer

The LSE Students' Union (SU) General Secretary, Rishi Madlani, has denied allegations

that he tore up posters of a new society and told some of its members that the society incited racial hatred during Freshers' Fair.

Two anonymous stu-

dents have accused Madlani of tearing down a poster advertising the Secular Society, saying he ripped it up because the society promoted religious intolerance.

Madlani, however has strongly refuted the allegations, saying that he "certainly didn't rip up any posters" while noting that he did take down one of the society's posters while its status was being confirmed.

Madlani and SU Treasurer Natalie Black both said that there was an

issue of whether or not the society had completed the process of registering in its entirety. After Black made enquiries into the situation, it soon emerged that the Secular Society had been approved as a registered society while Black's predecessor, Gareth Carter, was still on the job. Neither Black nor Madlani had

heard of the society.

Alex Hochuli, founder of the Secular Society and former News Editor at PuLSE, said that this could be "another case of sabbatical officers shying away from debate on important issues with the intention of protecting people's sensibilities."

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Weapons of Moss - Destruction

Ruby Bhavra in Blink Law discusses the cancellation of contracts and whether exceptions should be made in the world of showbusiness.

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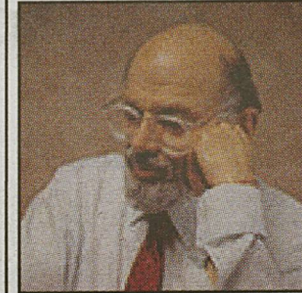
Calella



The Sports team presents the photographic evidence of the first AU booze up of the new academic year.

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Allen Ginsberg



Nastaran Tavakoli - Far explores the final performance of one of the UK's most prestigious poets.

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News

Fin-soc-gate continues

Elaine Londesborough
News Editor

Despite the allegations of fraud levelled at them by this paper last week, the Finance Society has continued to use the claim that they are 'LSE's best society' to attract new members over the course of the Freshers' Fair. Posters were placed around the school on both days of the Fair, claiming that the Finance Society were 'Voted best LSE society' - a claim that is in doubt following the revelation last week that the Finance Society filled in numerous nomination forms themselves. Tillman Boettcher, President of the Society, was defensive when confronted with these allegations. "We are perfectly within our rights to put up those posters," he said. He also pointed out that when he received the award last year: "Gareth Carter [SU Treasurer at the time] said that it was obvious that we were the most active society and that we deserved the award".

Further to this, there have been claims that the Finance Society was behaving in a bullish and inappropriate manner throughout the fair. Alexandra Vincenti, LSE SU Women's officer, who was helping to steward the event, told *The Beaver* that

the Finance Society had been trying to sign people up in the corridors of Clement House. "The Finance Society was effectively manning a second stall in the corridor," said Vincenti. "When asked to move they were unresponsive and seemed to believe that because they are a big society with big sponsors they had the right to additional space."

Only when the Society was threatened with removal from the event did they agree to stop this behaviour. "They seem to be an authority in themselves," Vincenti concluded. Simon Chignell, SU Residences Officer, also helping at the event, told *The Beaver* that "[The Finance Society] were not obeying the rules".

The Union's Constitution and Steering committee (C&S) met on Monday to decide the fate of the Finance Society. If C&S concludes under the Constitution for Union Societies article 3.4 that 'fraudulent or illegal conduct, unfair election practice, or behaviour considered unconstitutional and in conflict with the interests and aims of LSE SU' has taken place, it can recommend that the Society's committee be dismissed. If such a ruling is made, rifts are likely to open on the Executive who shall take the final decision.



Finance Society posters

Photograph: Sid Kamath

Secular Society

Continued from page 1

Black also noted that she had received "a couple of phone calls from different members of the Executive" alleging that the society's posters and, indeed, the society itself were "inappropriate."

Hochuli refuted allegations that the Secular Society was inappropriate or, indeed, intolerant and guilty of promoting religious intolerance. He said that the society did not disagree with religion, merely with its involvement in politics: "Our aim is not to censor or prevent religious groups in society from expressing their views," "Rather, our aim is to promote debate on the issue of secularism and to be free to criticise religion as one would do with any other ideology."

The society closed its stall for three hours during Freshers' Fair on Thursday, which Hochuli said was the "prudent" thing to do in an effort to resolve the dispute over the society's poster.

Concerns were raised by both Madlani, Black and Sian Errington - the Union's Education and Welfare Officer - over the content of some of the posters. Misleading information concerning the whereabouts of the stall was printed as well as what was considered some "potentially" offensive remarks considered per-

haps to close to the bone. Madlani stressed that though there was a dispute over the poster's content - this was quickly resolved with after a discussion between Hochuli and Black.

However, one source on the Executive who asked to remain anonymous told *The Beaver* that he had overheard Errington say that the society's poster was "absolutely bonkers" and "inappropriate" upon being shown a copy of the society's poster while the situation was developing.

Responding to the allegations, Errington denied she made such comments: "I think there is space for many different beliefs on campus" she said. Errington also pointed out that the leaflet had been factually incorrect and misquoted the recent Religious Discrimination Act. In addition, it was felt inappropriate that the posters and leaflets advertised the society as being able to be found next to every other religious society at the Fair.

Hochuli nonetheless stressed that he was "very disappointed that the signing-up students was put on hold due to what was, at face value, a technicality." Despite the three hours of closure, the society still managed to sign up 95 students in its first year of operation.

LSE finances better than expected

Joanna Clarke

Despite concern over the summer that the LSE would not reach its financial target for 2005/06 due to decreased student arrivals, no severe loss of income has been felt.

Howard Davies, Director of the LSE, told *The Beaver* that while the LSE had been expecting to lose £3 million because of a drop off in arrivals, the actual fall "won't be anywhere near that now".

The number of financial undertaking forms that had been received in July was significantly less than in previous years, giving the indication that fewer students were to arrive at the start of the year. However, the number of students that registered last week was no less than in other years, suggesting that many had not returned their financial undertaking form before arriving at LSE.

The School usually

anticipates that around 100 students will arrive each September not having completed the form, whereas this year the number has been put at approximately 400. It has been suggested that the terror attacks on the capital during July may have caused some students to delay the return of their forms while they watched events unfold. Davies has assured that "we will now have about the same amount of students as last year - around 7,500", and it seems the initial hesitation of some to confirm their place at LSE has had no severe effect on student numbers.

The July bombings have seen financial losses for LSE in another respect, however, with the Director admitting that they had "lost a lot of money" due to decreased attendance at the Summer school. Nevertheless, he added that this was "understandable, as worried parents knew it was not imperative to send their kids to London".

SWD handbook delayed

Publishing company blamed for the late arrival of scores of handbooks intended for the Students with Disabilities Induction

Stephen Gummer
Blink Editor

The Students with Disabilities (SWD) handbooks, expected at the SWD induction last week, failed to arrive in time to be handed out to disabled students. In a situation described by SU Communications Officer Chris Heathcote as "unacceptable", many of the school's disabled students were let down and left without the handbook.

The books were originally supposed to arrive at 9:30am, half an hour before the induction began. Heathcote told *The Beaver* that he had received assurances from the company that there would be no delay. The same company was also been responsible for delivering the LSE magazine, *The Script*, which was delivered without setback.

When a representative

of the SU realised that the handbooks were delayed they called the company to ask where exactly the books were. They were informed that they were at most, "five minutes away". Following another hour of waiting the books had still failed to arrive. It was at this stage that the Communications Officer was informed that the books had already arrived and been signed for in the post room.

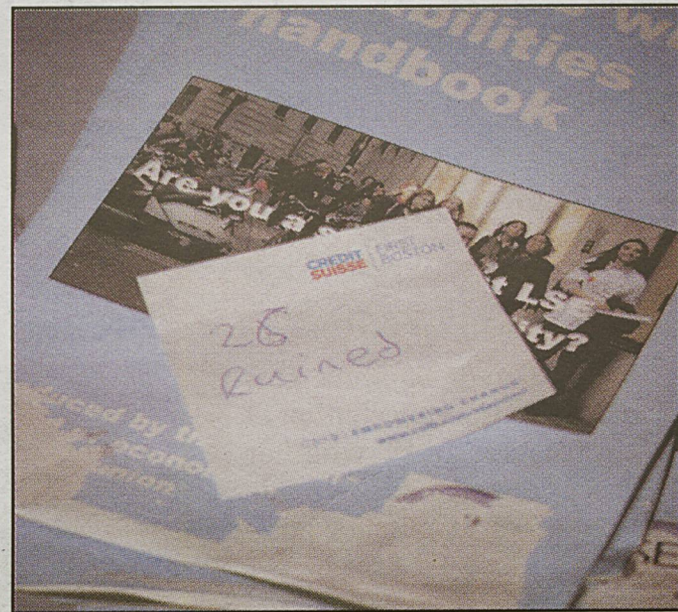
The problems did not end here however, as when the books arrived at the post room they were wet and in a terrible state. 26 were considered to be wholly ruined whilst another 25 were described by the Communications Officer as being in 'a poor condition'.

Whilst Crossprint did manage to produce both the Women's and International Student's handbooks the situation seems disappointing for a

company that receives so much business from the LSE SU. Excluding *The Beaver* Fresher's guide and the production of *The Script* the company would have received £1257 from the Union.

The SU have said that

they will not pay the £336 due for the handbook and Heathcote felt the need to take this affair further, stating "I wouldn't be enthusiastic about doing business with [Crossprint] again."



Ruined handbooks

Photograph: Sid Kamath

News

Howie and students chew over Tuns food

Tanya Rajapakse

The introduction of food in the Underground Bar has finally satisfied those who felt the move was long overdue, but has also given rise to new grumbles about the food and quality of service.

Underground agreed that the food was good, with one student claiming that he thought the food was better than the food at the Brunch Bowl. Although many were satisfied there were a few who disagreed, with one student in particular commenting that he found his

salad to be "stale" whilst another thought her pasta was "overcooked". Over one point everyone seemed to agree - the existing menu lacked variety and they would like to see more choices on offer in the near future.

Apart from long waits,

most diners seemed to be quite happy with the service. Staff were less impressed by the arrangements, however. Several lamented the "disastrous" and "stupid" decision to serve food in the Underground until ten o'clock on Friday evening

during one of the bar's busiest nights of the year - the inaugural Crush.

The Director of LSE, Sir Howard Davis, who sampled the fare at the Underground Bar last Thursday, however, remained reticent when pressed about the quality

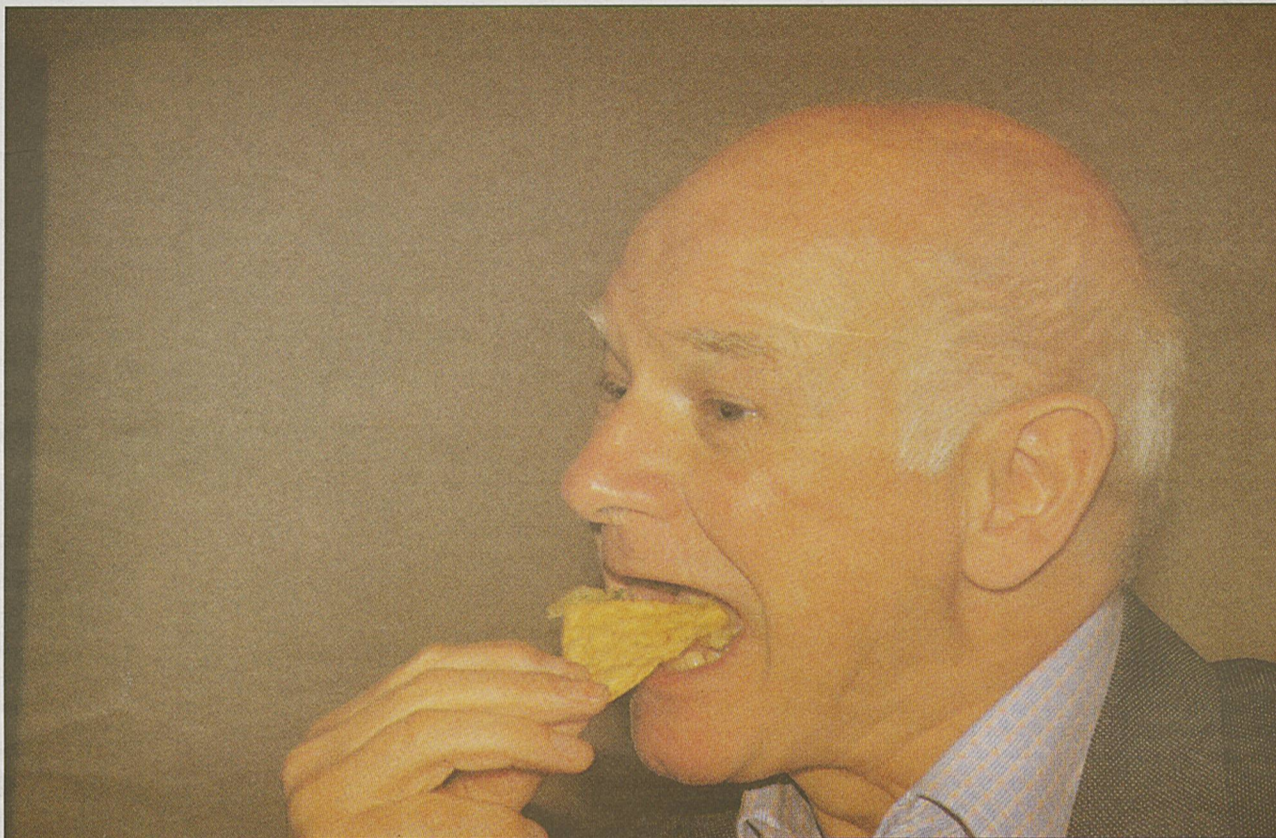
of the food on offer, replying that the nachos were, "better than the nachos in the RFK stadium in Washington", then adding "but then they do have the worst food I have ever tasted." He also observed, however, that "it's important to have more food available on campus as there are too many people around eating Subway."

Sir Howard also remarked that it would be "nice" if there was an extractor fan in the Underground, as when he visited the room was filled with smoke from cooking. This comment was echoed by a student who told *The Beaver* that better ventilation was necessary to avoid the strong smells of food that filled the area. This concern was addressed by LSE SU Treasurer, Natalie Black, who confirmed that, "We currently have problems with the ventilation in the Underground, which we are working to resolve".

Overall, patrons seemed to be very satisfied with the experience and a majority claimed that it was excellent value. The venture is already making money for the Union - a welcome source of income to alleviate the current deficit.

"better than the nachos in the RFK stadium in Washington, but then they do have the worst food I have ever tasted."

Rumours circulating include allegations that the chef is overworked. One student told *The Beaver* that he waited 60 minutes for his food. This problem is unlikely to be overcome, however, as the kitchen only has room for one chef. The *Beaver* decided to sample the epicurean delights of the Underground for itself. Speaking to several students sat at the bar, most customers in the



Howard masticates over master catering

Photograph: Sid Kamath

UCL tries to boost international standing

Chris Colvin

Students at University College London have returned from their summer break to find their institution's name changed and its logo redesigned.

Managers at the college, which is situated on Gower Street in Bloomsbury, have spent hundreds of thousands of pounds on a new corporate identity with the aim to raise the international profile of the financially beleaguered institution.

The college, which will henceforth be known simply by its acronym UCL, is currently in the process of removing all traces of its former identity from signposts, websites and published materials.

But according to the Association of University Teachers (AUT), the college's staff has dismissed the rebranding exercise as a "total waste of money". Sean Wallis, branch secretary of UCL's AUT local association, said: "It is as if they think that somehow by promoting the UCL brand, the college's problems are going to be solved".

Dr Wallis explained that his union strongly objects to the rebranding, because it is diverting attention away from the college's dire financial position. Currently the college is £7.5 million overdrawn, and plans are being implemented to axe five per cent of teaching staff every year for the next three years in order to cut this debt. Wallis said "You can't solve the problem of the University's financing with a rebrand."

One UCL student told *The Beaver* "I think it's a complete waste of money and destroys the identity of this university".

But UCL is adamant that the rebranding exercise and proposed staffing cuts are unrelated. College spokesman Dominique Fourniol explained to *The Beaver* that the amounts of money involved in the rebranding are dwarfed by the size of the college's overdraft. "The two are not substitutes," he said. "This is not an extravagant exercise. The additional one-off costs are in the order of £180,000, the majority of which is being funded from outside UCL's budget.

Other costs will be incurred progressively as funds permit."

However, the AUT estimate that the total cost of the project is likely to lie much higher at about £600,000.

The money spent on the UCL rebranding was not spent just buying a new

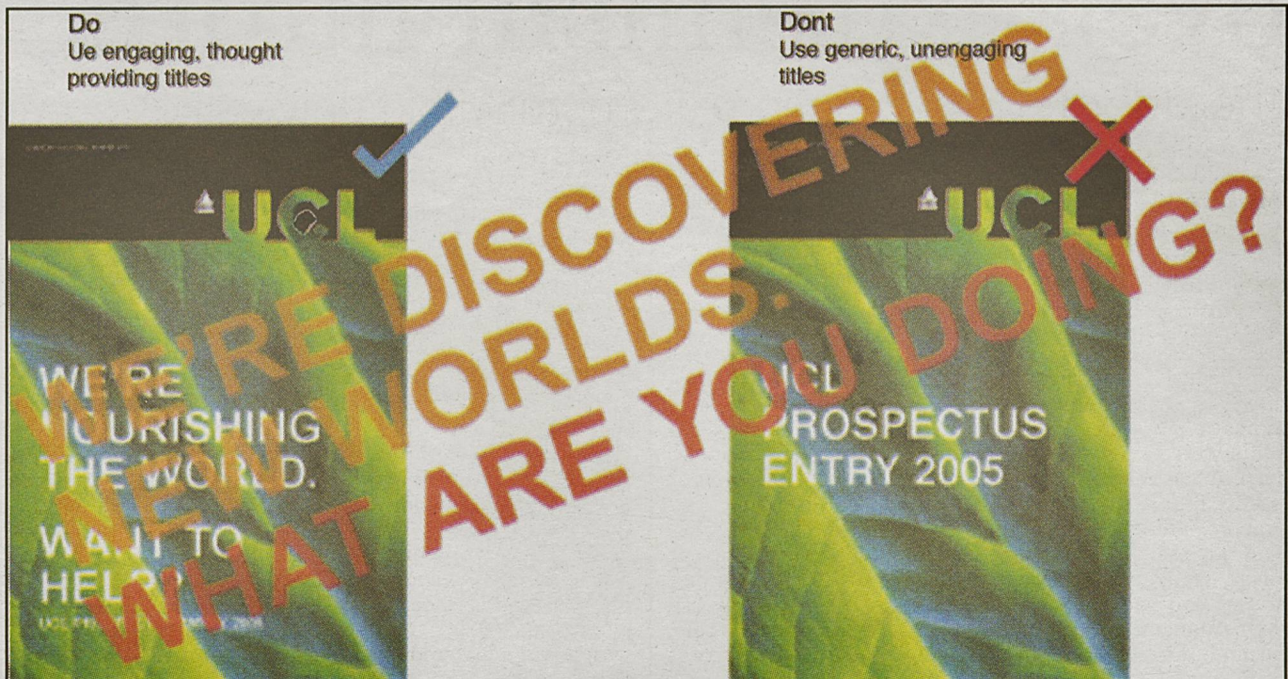
logo; the design has come up with a whole new 'concept' for the institution, apparently inspired by the college's 'identity'.

A 51-page 'style guide' issued to staff that governs the correct use of the new logo explains: "At UCL we have a view of the world. We have an impact on the

world - the world inside UCL and outside. We look further, we explore, we discover."

The University's previous strap line, "understanding the past, challenging the present and shaping the future", has been banned from "any form of communication",

and replaced with "London's global university". This choice has been highly controversial at the LSE which currently considers itself to be the most internationally renowned university in London, and is regarded as such by many around the world.



Pages from the 'style guide' given to UCL staff following the re-branding exercise

Graphic: Sid Kamath

News

Rise of the Greens

The Green Party has become the largest of LSE SU's political societies for the first time since it's creation.

Alexa Sharples
Blink Editor

Following sign-ups at this year's Freshers' Fair, the LSE Students' Union (SU) Green Party stole the show, more than doubling their membership from last year.

Established only last year, the society's 160 sign-ups included several members of the SU Executive and four members of the Constitution & Steering Committee.

Most notably of the 2005 political society sign-ups, is the fact that the LSE SU Greens, not a traditional mainstream party, signed-up more students than the LSE SU Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat Societies, traditionally the largest political societies at the School.

In a press release, acting male Co-Chair, James Caspell said: "This Freshers' Fair has shown that students feel let down by Labour for both its policies at home and abroad.

"Last year's Tsunami in South East Asia and Hurricane Katrina more recently has put environmental concerns high on the political agenda.

"Our number of returning and new members shows that the Green Party is here to stay"

Despite the Greens increase in sign-ups, the mainstream political societies all saw membership rise or remain static.

The Liberal Democrats, whose members totalled 75 last year, had ten more sign-ups this year. Notably,

"Last years Tsunami in South East Asia and Hurricane Katrina more recently has put environmental concerns high on the political agenda"

Benjamin Briggs, chair of the SU Liberal Democrats, is expecting more returning students to sign up shortly.

The LSE SU Conservative Association remained static, with 146 students pledging membership to the society. Elizabeth Fison, the society's chair, said that the society was "delighted to have so many members" and she, like Biggs, expects

more to sign up over the next few days.

According to Fison: "This shows the popularity of such crucial values as freedom of the individual, choice, enterprise and community, and should end accusations that the Conservatives are a dying breed."

The Labour society had approximately 100 sign-ups, an increase of 25 percent on last year's total.

The total figures for the left have restored LSE's traditionally politically active left-wing contingent, which suffered a fall to the right last year when total sign-ups to the Conservatives was nearly equal to those of the two other mainstream political parties, Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

Elections to a number of high-ranking School and other committees will prove to be an interesting affair, with positions on the Court of Governors, ULU Council, and the delegation to NUS Conference among others available.

Given the increased numbers within the School's left-wing societies, it may prove difficult for the right to make an impact. Indeed, last year only Daniel Freedman, then the society's chair, was able to win an election, taking up a seat on the Court of Governors.

Reuse equals Real Use

Kitchen equipment left in halls at the end of the last academic year is resold to new students

Adrian Li

In an attempt to make LSE more environmentally friendly and save students a few pounds at the start of term, abandoned kitchen equipment was resold to students last week. Victoria Hands, a postgraduate LSE Student, set up the LSE Reuse scheme working with the charity 'Crisp'.

Hands went around LSE halls of residence with the help of LSE Hall Managers and members of the LSE staff collecting equipment that would have left behind or thrown away by students at the end of the academic year in June.

Over 6 tonnes of items including clothing, computers, furniture, bric-a-brac, kitchen equipment and bedding were collected and redistributed to charities. LSE hall managers generously supported the scheme by laundering well over 100 duvets and pillows over the summer which were then donated to charities supporting the homeless. Items also went on sale last week. Around 50 people were able to buy a basic set of kitchen equipment for around five pounds per set. All the money raised went go to local charities.

The slogan "Reuse=Real Use" was emblazoned across the room in which the sale took place.

When approached by The Beaver, Ms Hands said: "So many items are used unrealistically and discarded when they could be used effectively still. Reuse sometimes sounds like a compromise so in using the term REAL use we are firmly sticking with reality."

Hands also feels that there is scope for enlarging the scheme next year, saying: "REAL use holds great potential to support students to both dispose responsibly and ethically of unwanted items and obtain them at low cost".

Joel Kenrick, LSE SU Environment and Ethics

officer, speaking to The Beaver, commented: "This scheme is not just good for the environment; it is also helping students who can face big set up costs when first moving into halls or a flat. It shows that being environmental can also improve your bank balance."

The scheme is part of the London's University Halls of Residence Recycling Project to increase recycling, encourage reuse and raise awareness of waste reduction amongst the student population living in halls of residence in London.



A collection of cutlery at the Reuse stall

Middlesex removes SU President over extremism furore

The debate over Islamic extremism within universities comes to a head at Middlesex

Sophie Money-Coutts

Controversy continues to rage at Middlesex University over the suspension of the President of the Students' Union.

University officials escorted Keith Shilson off campus two weeks ago after he refused to cancel a debate with the contentious Islamic group Hizb ut-Tahrir.

The Union subsequently issued a statement saying: "In light of recent events, Middlesex University Student Union has with-

drawn its invitation to the speakers of the debate and the debate is cancelled."

Hizb ut-Tahrir ('Party of Liberation') was banned after a move by Prime Minister Tony Blair last month and accordingly proscribed by the National Union of Students (NUS) on the basis that it "is responsible for supporting terrorism and publishing material that incites racial hatred".

However, the Middlesex Students' Union voted to overturn this, and the debate was due to take place on 28 September at the University's Hendon

campus, which has their highest contingent of Muslim students.

Shilson defended the debate on the grounds of freedom of speech and argued that the group was a non-violent organisation.

The suspension decision made by the university's Vice-Chancellor Michael Driscoll came just days after a speech made by Education Secretary Ruth Kelly, in which she said that universities should play a strong role in identifying and confronting extremism on their campuses.

A spokesman for Hizb

ut-Tahrir has said that they have written to Professor Driscoll requesting a meeting.

"The treatment of Shilson has been 'McCarthyist'"

Imran Waheed contends that the treatment of Shilson has been "McCarthyist" and is reminiscent of tactics previous-

ly used on campuses under dictatorships in Uzbekistan and Egypt.

Likewise, Wakkas Khan, the president of the Federation of Student Islamic Societies, has argued: "It is important that universities remain centres of legitimate political debate.

"Hizb ut-Tahrir is a non-violent, law abiding organisation and should be treated as such.

"The banning of Keith Shilson sends out a dangerous message."

Shilson himself has claimed to have the full backing of NUS President

Kat Fletcher and believes he has a good chance of being reinstated.

Shilson told *The Guardian* newspaper: "I don't believe the university has the right to do what it's doing. I'm hoping for the best."

LSE Students' Union General Secretary Rishi Madlani has sent out a letter of support to Shilson, saying that while this Union does not necessarily agree with the idea of bringing Hizb ut-Tahrir on campus, they support his claim that Middlesex University had no right to remove him from office.

News



Inside the library

Bag searches in library

Following the terror attacks in June, bag searches begin in library

Elaine Londesborough
News Editor

Following the terrorist attacks in London over the summer, the Library is conducting random bag searches.

The Library has assured that no group will be specifically targeted and that only large, suitcase like bags will be searched.

The Library have said this move is a response to people who felt anxious and is intended to reassure rather than scare. The scheme was trialled over the summer and had a good response from students.

Chris Heathcote, LSE SU Communications Officer was present at the meeting with the Library where the issue was discussed.

He told The Beaver: "The Student's Union is cautious because we think students should be allowed free and unhindered access to all buildings on campus and are worried some people may feel singled out.

"We are watching the scheme and if we receive complaints may ask the library to keep records of those they search or provide information leaflets explaining the reasons they were stopped."

Freshers Fair sets the year off in style

More societies than ever showcased themselves at this year's Fair

Arthur Krebbers

The annual Freshers' Fair proved highly successful this year with a record number of societies showcasing themselves - and an increased income for the LSE Students' Union.

Natalie Black, SU Treasurer and organiser of the event, sums up her achievements; "Over 145 societies were present in Clement House, on Houghton Street and in the Quad. And the income the Union receives from the stalls has nearly doubled, mainly thanks to proactive advertising and higher prices. The good thing is that all this money will flow back into the Union, so the societies themselves will also benefit."

Being actively engaged with the Union has become even more attractive for new students thanks to a sharp rise in the number of societies.

The creation of additional national-cultural societies, such as the Luxembourg and the Scottish societies, have put even more countries 'on the map' of the Union.

Currently largest amongst these is ABACUS, the Association of British and Chinese University Students.

Derrick Lo, its founder, tells The Beaver he is very pleased with the reception that his society received at the fair: "We hope to be a more open club that explores Anglo-Chinese culture. So far, we have already enlisted more than 100 members."

The political spectrum of the Union is also on the move. Richard Holden, treasurer of the Conservative Society, believes the Tories will sustain their title of largest political society of the LSE.

"We will again have a record number of members. This shows how LSE's vocal minority of left-wing students do not represent the centre-right ground occupied by most students."

The Green Party, however, think differently. One stall attendant told The Beaver "Labour and the Liberal Democrats may be no hoppers. But we, despite being a new society, are growing fast."

The same goes for many



One societies unique method of attraction members

of last year's flourishing societies.

Verena Letzerich, President of the Development Society, feels that this year's Freshers' Fair has been "a kick-start to what will be another excellent year". Tillmann Boetcher, head of the Finance Society, said: "This has been the most successful Freshers Fair for the society. We already enlisted over 1,000 members on the first day."

Simon Rees of the Question Time Society is also able to quote stagger-

ing figures: "We are gaining members at twice the rate of the previous year. What's our secret? Getting up early."

Black believes that her secret has been good organisation: "This year really was a team effort. All the executive officers have pulled their weight.

"Also, we had a team of volunteers who worked as stewards. This has given both first years and post graduates an ideal opportunity to get involved."

Society - Annual General Meetings

Room	Society	Date/time	Room	Society	Date/time	Room	Society	Date/time
D302	Business	Mon 03 Oct/12pm	D111	Live music	Mon 03 Oct/ 1pm	S421	Music	Mon 03 Oct/ 1pm
D702	Opera	Mon 03 Oct/ 1pm	E304	Visual Arts	Mon 03 Oct/ 1pm	S75	Amnesty Int	Mon 03 Oct/ 2pm
S50	Chinese	Mon 03 Oct/ 2pm	S300	Scandinavian	Mon 03 Oct/ 2pm	S78	Japan	Mon 03 Oct/ 3pm
G101	Labour Club	Mon 03 Oct/ 5pm	S75	Russian	Mon 03 Oct/ 5pm	H103	Loose TV	Mon 03 Oct/ 6pm
H103	Polish	Mon 03 Oct/ 7pm	H102	Liberty	Tue 04 Oct/ 10am	D602	Finance	Tue 04 Oct/ 11am
G212	Alternative Ents	Tue 04 Oct/ 12pm	H101	History	Tue 04 Oct/ 12am	G210	Anthropology	Tue 04 Oct/ 1pm
G1	Development	Tue 04 Oct/ 1pm	H101	Question Time	Tue 04 Oct/ 1pm	G1	ABACUS	Tue 04 Oct/ 4pm
S53	UNICEF	Tue 04 Oct/ 4pm	D402	European	Tue 04 Oct/ 5pm	G11	Film	Tue 04 Oct/ 5pm
G100	Krishna Cons.	Tue 04 Oct/ 5pm	S300	Secular	Tue 04 Oct/ 5pm	G101	Socialist	Tue 04 Oct/ 5pm
D311	UDMS	Tue 04 Oct/ 5pm	D9	Albanian	Tue 04 Oct/ 6pm	D202	CEEDS	Tue 04 Oct/ 6pm
D202	Debate	Tue 04 Oct/ 7pm	D311	Filipino	Wed 05 Oct/1pm	S421	Maths& Stats	Wed 05 Oct/1pm
G101	Sikh - Punjab	Wed 05 Oct/1pm	G1	Soul, Hip-hop	Wed 05 Oct/1pm	H216	STAR	Wed 05 Oct/1pm
G11	SAAR	Wed 05 Oct/1pm	D702	AIESAC	Wed 05 Oct/2pm	G108	German	Wed 05 Oct/2pm
S75	Hindu	Wed 05 Oct/2pm	E304	Indians	Wed 05 Oct/2pm	H202	Latin American	Wed 05 Oct/2pm
H102	Salsa	Wed 05 Oct/2pm	D602	Afro-Caribbean	Wed 05 Oct/3pm	S221	DoE	Wed 05 Oct/3pm
H103	Gaia	Wed 05 Oct/4pm	S75	Investment	Wed 05 Oct/5pm	G108	Marketing	Wed 05 Oct/5pm
S221	Colombian	Wed 05 Oct/5:30	D502	Grimshaw	Wed 05 Oct/6pm	Z129	Hellenic	Wed 05 Oct/6pm
D402	Thai	Wed 05 Oct/6pm	D306	SPICE	Thu 06 Oct/10am	G1	International	Thu 06 Oct/11am
D702	China Dev.	Thu 06 Oct/12pm	S75	Italian	Thu 06 Oct/12pm	D302	Islamic	Thu 06 Oct/3pm
H216	Turkish	Thu 06 Oct/4pm	G1	Lib - Dems	Thu 06 Oct/4pm	H201	Slavonic	Thu 06 Oct/5pm
H102	Stop the War	Thu 06 Oct/5pm	D602	Drama	Thu 06 Oct/6pm	G1	Pakistan	Thu 06 Oct/6pm
G11	Romanian	Thu 06 Oct/6pm	S221	The Script	Thu 06 Oct/6pm	D402	Christian Union	Thu 06 Oct/7pm
D306	Israeli	Fri 07 Oct/12pm	S221	Aus & NZ	Fri 07 Oct/1pm	H104	Comp. Ideologies	Fri 07 Oct/1pm
H201	Go	Fri 07 Oct/1pm	H202	Kloth	Fri 07 Oct/1pm	D702	Malaysia/ Singapore	Fri 07 Oct/1pm
S50	Actuarial	Fri 07 Oct/3pm	D202	Brazilian	Fri 07 Oct/5pm	S50	People & Planet	Fri 07 Oct/5pm
			D702	Cypriot	Fri 07 Oct/6pm			

Comment & Analysis Union

Access for All?

Dave Cole questions the lack of genuine concern for disabled students' problems at the LSE

There is a group of students at LSE that have to use a separate entrance to the Old Building, cannot access all of the campus, cannot take part in the editing of the Beaver or the production of PuLSE and cannot see the SU's various officials.

Blacks? No. Women? No. Foreigners? No.

I mean, of course, the students at the LSE who use wheelchairs.

It is wholly unacceptable that parts of the campus are off-limits to students (and others) with mobility issues. Sadly, saying so doesn't make it any more accessible. The SU should conduct an accessibility audit of the LSE site. That means a group of people who use wheelchairs and those who have other difficulties in accessing the campus going round every last

building, officer, classroom, toilet, nook and cranny and going over the whole thing with a fine toothcomb. The LSE says that some buildings are accessible which in practice means parts of them are. It says the New Theatre is accessible – so long as only one or two people who use wheelchairs want to be in there at once and no one else wants to come through that door.

That having been done, it would be possible for things to be prioritised. All the SU needs to be accessible – at the moment, the Societies Manager, General Manager, Treasurer, General Secretary, Finance Manager, Beaver & PuLSE are inaccessibly located. They could be moved to the other side of the East Building, in the rooms on the first, second and third floors

above the reception and shop. At the moment, those accessible spaces are, I believe, occupied by offices that are of a lower priority. Some of

There is a group of students at the LSE who cannot access all of the campus, cannot edit the Beaver, or work for PuLSE and cannot even visit the SU's elected officers... I mean, of course, the students at the LSE who use wheelchairs.

them are things like careers – these need to be in accessible location but don't have to be right there. Under the DDA & SENDA, the School is obliged to make reasonable adjust-

ments. Given that a lot of moving and construction is going on at the moment, it would not be unreasonable of the Union to ask the School to better accommodate it as those moves happen.

Another issue with accessibility is doors. Conventional, swinging doors are a nightmare for some people. Some doors are particularly heavy and become impossible. More powered doors (the same system as the library, perhaps?) around the place would be a good idea.

It would be possible to construct a ramp to allow people who use wheelchairs to access the Old Building through the main entrance rather than having to use the poorly-staffed back route. It could be constructed along the side of the Old

Building, heading towards the S Building. Once past the doors, the ramp could be recessed into the section after the inside steps.

There are two rest areas available for students with disabilities. There are times when neither are being used, which the School loves to jump on, but there are also lots of times when both are being used. The rest areas make the difference for some students between being able to stay at LSE to study and not being able to stay at LSE to study, both on a particular day and in general. They are, for the students that use them, incredibly important. The SU needs to work with people like Jean Jameson, the SU adviser to students with disabilities, to make sure that they are maintained and, if possible, added to.

Censorious Consensus

Risk of offence is no justification for stifling debate, argue **Alex Hochuli, Alex Kennedy and Zuhura Plummer** of the LSE SU Secular Society

Academically, the LSE proudly retains its tradition of radical debate, over anodyne consensus. We lament the Students' Union's deliberate but barely opposed slide in the opposite direction. The current state of depoliticisation is best evinced by the much-banded slogan 'Students not Politics'.

Under this banner we've witnessed a paralysing fear of controversy in the upper echelons of the SU as well as in the student body at large. This apprehension towards tackling the difficult issues in SU, and thus global, politics results in innocuous, though clearly well-meaning, campaigns – disabled

access and recycled paper are just two among many. Few would oppose such measures, but this sheer lack of ambition leaves one drained and yet still wanting. If radicalism mellows with age, one can only hazard a guess at what soporific causes today's Sabbs will align themselves with in the future.

If these were truly the pressing issues of the day, then we should have long ago sat back and shut-up in our Utopian paradise. Rather, this phoney consensus is a flaky veneer over a directionless Union and a society unsure of its values. Much to the chagrin of the "students not politics" brigade and the

managerial Blairites who are their national equivalents, politics will not stop just because you ask it to.

The upshot of this approach is new political dichotomy of apathy and extremism, as demonstrated by the declining UGM turnout and the news in the previous weeks that the LSE (along with other UK universities) is under investigation for Islamic extremism on its campus. The eager, but politically moderate fresher is faced with a stark and unenviable choice: engage with extremism, or simply disengage.

Ironically, there is a third way. Impassioned debate is not vulgar and divisive; it should be

encouraged. There are worse fates than having one's idea criticised or even ridiculed; judging by contemporary discourse, you will be reprimanded (if not censored) for expressing an unfashionable idea and an apology will be demanded for offence caused (see recent debacles: Johnson-Bigley; Livingstone-Evening Standard).

As founders of the SU Secular Society, we do not intend to engage in tit-for-tat offensives against sundry religious societies, nor to censor them. Rather we would like the UGM to become the forum for debate on important issues, the role of religion in public life being one. Because of this we are backing a

motion opposing the Incitement to Religious Hatred Bill. In the course of such exchanges, we reserve the right to speak our minds and expect others to reciprocate. Causing offence is a small price to pay for this liberty; apologising for our beliefs, on the other hand, would be the height of hypocrisy.

Student politics and protests are most effective when radical and open-minded. We urge our righteous Sabbatical Officers to never again speak meekly; to never engage in pre-emptive attempts to protect others' sensibilities; and to venture beyond the political cocoon which the SU has spun itself.

the Beaver

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Comment & Analysis Editorial

the Beaver
EditorialShow me the
way to go home

Inaugural freshers' bash shuts doors early.

In a week of well organised and relatively successful nights for Freshers' it was a gross misfortune that the opening event - the Christening, even - of the Freshers' Fortnight should fall flat at 11pm.

The Union forgot to apply for a late license - a gaffe so stupid it's actually forgivable. That this night was also scheduled as a foam party made matters that little bit worse. There was a certain pathetic cruelty in seeing lines of sodden Freshers' being told at 11 that that then night at the Union was over and they now had a long walk in the cold to endure before reaching the salubrious and dizzying heights of Walkabout.

Regardless, most seemed to be too drunk to care and seemed like they were just happy to be there. What is of a more serious nature perhaps, as the Communications Officer noted, was the potential loss of revenue the Union endured as a result of the managerial blunder. Our guess is that it runs into the thousands of pounds.

Further, the full financial repercussions of the situation have yet to be known, with some Union Officers fearing a rush of refund demands.

God is dead?

Secular society censorship

It was with unspeakable stupidity that certain Union Officers rushed heroically to the defence of religion and tore down posters from around the campus, allegedly in the name of tolerance.

Secularism is not and has never been about the persecution of religion. It is about the importance of separating the operation of the state and church: of removing religious discourse as a dangerous and potential totalitarian dogma in society and instead relegating it to where it belongs; to the individual as a spiritual and personal choice.

That the Society's provocative 'debaptisement' literature caused a degree of offence is less surprising, but nonetheless also defensible. This was not a society intent on causing grave upset to others, rather a society intent on engaging with students. 95 members can testify to this.

What, we ask, would happen if the Tories started to whine because Labour's ideology was questioning their belief system and undermining their values? Would we jump to their rescue, scream blue murder and tear the red banners asunder? No, because that would be stupid.

Any society or individual that claims to be offended by the actions, if not the principle of the Secular Society should perhaps start to question their faith in their own religion. For now, this paper supports the right of certain students to declare amongst themselves, that God is indeed, dead.

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 the beaver.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.

Radio ga-ga

Dear Sir

As the Station Manager of PuLSEfm, I feel obliged to respond to Clem Broumley-Young's assertion in Issue 622 that the issue of 'what radio station the SU shop listens to' is of little relevance to the average LSE student.

PuLSEfm strives to broadcast content that is both entertaining and relevant. Our DJs and presenters are all LSE students, and our newscasts, announcements and interviews are tailored to meet the specific interests of the Houghton Street population.

Mr. Broumley-Young ought to remember that it is PuLSEfm, rather than any other radio station, that carried a live feed of the Lent term elections which were responsible for his current position on the C&S committee. If we want to get students - not just hacks - actively interested in the UGM and general union politics, then we must make the intricacies of these otherwise arcane institutions accessible and comprehensible to the all. PuLSEfm will continue to do just that - in and out of the SU shop.

Stacy-Marie Ishmael
Station Manager,
PuLSE fm

NatWest saga

Dear Sir,

After reading "Natwest banking saga..." (27th September) it's good to see that one SU institution is defending the interests of students against the profiteering motives of both banks and, more worryingly, our Union Executive.

Instead of persisting to sell-out our interests to the lowest bidder (sic), why can't our Union endorse banks that give students (all of them,

including the international ones) a fair deal rather than the poor service and criminal rates of credit interest that result in many students adopting large amounts of unaffordable debt.

Aside from the latest NatWest debacle, the presence of Barclaycard at the Freshers Fair was another disgrace. Barclays is currently under close scrutiny from the Office of Fair Trading after increasing its interest rates despite the Bank of England recently lowering the official base rate. Students faced with the unenviable quandary of finding easy cash to fund their studies could easily fall into a situation where they are charged the extortionate rates of between 14.9% - 27.9% p.a. Promoting such profiteers might well make the Union money, but it is certainly not protecting the financial interests of students. One can certainly question the presence of credit cards at a Freshers Fair de facto, but Barclaycard are certainly amongst the worst of a very bad bunch.

So never mind 'students not politics', how about our Executive adopts the principle of 'students not profit'?

Yours incandescently,

James Caspell
LSE SU Green Party

Eyes to the left?

Dear Sir,

James Caspell's column starts in fine form by referring to an attack on "workers"; would a bombing of capitalists be less "tragic"?

Social exclusion is often a choice by Muslim communities in Britain, for better or for worse, seeking to preserve a distinctive culture. Muslim faith schools are an

example of an institution set up to keep their own people distinct. Where are the British government policies designed to encourage such division?

As for material exclusion: Asians do well in school and suchlike; the reasons for poor economic performance are undoubtedly more complex.

To argue that Britain isn't democratic is to destroy the meaning of the word. Had British electors felt as strongly as Mr. Caspell about the war in Iraq they could have elected the Liberal Democrats or formed a new party. They decided that other issues were more important or supported the war so gave more votes to Labour and the Conservatives. Working class voters are counted out of electoral calculation because they are tremendously loyal to the Labour Party but to be so loyal is entirely a democratic choice. Mr. Caspell, perhaps, would like coalitions; then we could have either no stable government, as in Italy or no government, as in Germany.

Caspell then goes on to cite Al Qaeda; always a worrying source. He seems to think that these attacks are essentially justified and based on a fair set of goals. That set of goals does exist but unfortunately it is not just the removal of US troops from Iraq but the establishment of a world Islamic state. This is why 9/11 and the nineties bombings took place while the dominant US foreign engagement was in Kosovo. The most destructive terrorist attack yet apparently did not require Bush's wars as a justification.

Caspell's article in the end is a massive effort at justifying those who have slaughtered the innocent to try and impose an authoritarian and puritanical value

system upon those with a better appreciation of freedom. Such an attempt demonstrates a lack of basic moral sense.

Matt Sinclair

Left-wing sensibility

Dear Sir,

Last weeks freshers fayre provided alarming evidence of deep division amongst the Left at LSE. On surveying the stalls in Clement Building I was pleased to note the summer had not dented the churlishness and inanity of groups such as the alarmingly named "Fight Imperialism!" society. What concerned me was the Labour stall: charming, polite and speaking in whole sentences, they seemed to have become totally detached from the proud tradition of humourless rudeness for which we know and love LSE's ardent left wingers. Is this the final proof that Labour has lost touch with its roots? And if so, should we not inform Blair and co?

Charles Laurence
Social Events Officer
LSE SU Conservatives

Food for thought

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my disappointment of last week's Beaver coverage of the new food menu in the Underground Bar. I have eaten in the Underground Bar every day since the food service began and strongly feel that the fantastic new service was worthy of a better place in the paper than page five, especially after a year of broken promises by the last sabbatical team.

Yours,

Chris Heathcote,
LSE SU
Communications Officer

BlinkPolitics

Eyes to the left

James Caspell



Ending the nuclear threat

New Labour likes stifling debate. Last week's eviction of CND Vice-President, Walter Wolfgang at the Labour Party Conference highlights this tendency in more ways than one. Whilst it displays the control freakery and theocratic manner in which Blair's Government operates, it also analogises their approach to a more worrying issue - the renewal of a nuclear power programme. Similar to the way that Walter was bundled out of the conference chamber, the voice of the anti-nuclear lobby, and the majority of the population who agree with it, is being ignored. Blair's conference speech, in which he said that nuclear power would be considered as a means of maintaining our energy supply whilst meeting carbon targets, is alarming to say the least.

Firstly, the extortionate costs of a new nuclear programme would siphon money away from developing low-carbon alternatives, the real solution to global warming; a single nuclear power station costs billions to build, run and decommission, and has to run for seven to ten years before it yields enough energy to equal the energy used in establishing it. Nuclear power also produces tonnes of radioactive waste that costs billions to store, posing health risks to humans for thousands of years after use. Only this week, the closure of the Dounreay treatment plant after a leak demonstrates that even after 50 years of concerted international research and an average spend in Britain of £230m per year over the last 25 years, nuclear energy is not safe enough to be continued. Earlier this year, another leak of radioactive nuclear fuel, enough to half-fill an Olympic-size swimming pool, forced the closure of the Sellafield reprocessing plant in Britain. This took an appalling 9 months to discover. Tragically, there is a ten-fold increase in cases of child leukaemia near Sellafield, an eight-fold increase near Dounreay, and a clear increase near every site of radioactive pollution in Europe. Combined with the Government's warmongering foreign policy, nuclear power plants also pose the risk of a terrorist attack that would cause unparalleled destruction.

Meanwhile, Blair's cabal tries to peddle myths of potential energy shortages if we relied purely on renewables. As someone who has had the (mis)fortune of visiting the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and seen first hand the devastation that it caused, I would personally rather endure occasional blackouts than risk consigning an entire generation to cancer, deformity and suffering. Fortunately, this is not a choice that needs to be made.

If Germany, Sweden, Belgium and many other European countries can phase out their nuclear stations and replace them with renewables and energy efficiency measures, then there is no reason why Britain cannot join them. It is not too late to make renewable energy a powerful weapon against climate change. It is safe, economical, and doesn't leave us with a health risk for generations. The question is, will Blair listen?

Demons and angels



Sam Jones, executive editor draws the fine line between fascism and democracy.

About half way on the road to its Jerusalem, Middle England has yet to realise that it is following the wrong donkey.

Ask yourself - at which point did it become prosaic to know that an innocent man can have his brains spattered violently across the inside of a train carriage in the name of justice and security?

At the same time, how does a protestor manage to clamber up the walls of parliament, just two months later, and yet get away unscathed?

The left are shouting racism, the right necessity. To a degree, both have their justifications. The problem amounts to one simple quandary: where does the apparently justifiable prejudice of the individual end and the collective psychosis of social stereotyping begin?

This is the psycho-geography of little Britain: Buried in the jam jars of village fetes and behind the twitching curtains of occupation lane are dangerous misconceptions: The small fears that

make us sit four seats down from the Asian man in a bulky coat on the tube; the second glances at Muslims in traditional dress.

Individually these are nothings - chance encounters with our darker suspicions and unwitting pessimism. The trouble with little conservatism is that, like so many things, its cumulative effect is tragic. The sum of three hundred thousand judgements against jacketed Muslims is the unjustifiable death of a South American. Out of minor prejudices, mighty tragedies grow.

Back to the donkey. The Gospel according to Blair (Ian and Tony, either angel will do), is that the tragic death of Charles de Menezes was a lamentable yet necessary martyrdom: an unavoidable catastrophe in the safe policing of London's streets.

The reality is that it was born of neglect and misunderstanding: an ordinary man was shot because stereotypes conspired against him. Was it avoidable? Almost certainly - witness the events of last week when Guy Harrison scaled parliament to protest. Harrison was arrested on grounds of aggravated trespass. Compare again to Walter Wolfgang, arrested under anti-terrorism legislation for protesting at Labour conference.

The apparent flexibility of the law belies a greater insecurity in the public domain. The inability to conceive of what is 'right' and what is 'wrong' as anything other than polarised sound bites gleaned from TV. Menezes was a casualty of dogma - with no room for flexibility or time for reasoned judgement he became a terrorist deserving of six lethal slugs to the head - never mind the overwhelming common sense evidence to the contrary.

Accordingly, the individual actor has no choice but to safeguard their own interests: to reject in times of crises the call of

compassion and ignore what may be just. Instead, we fall prey to the need for safety.

Thus atomized and separated from communities and peers, the importance to safeguard our own safety and to hell with the rest is easily assumed. It is, at face value, a reasonable response. Alas the actions of individuals shall never solve the problem. Divisions and small prejudices purported as the necessities of security and safety are the satanic verses of contemporary society: The minor notes of which, when repeated wholesale, are catastrophic.



Far from angelic, Tony Blair.

Political Digest

Bali Bombing

01/10/05 by Chris Colvin

Terrorists struck again on the Indonesian holiday island of Bali last week, killing at least 25 people and injuring hundreds more.

The resorts hit were located at Kuta and Jimbaran Beach in the south of the island.

Between three and six bombs went off within minutes of each other at restaurants packed with foreign tourists. The first of the explosions tore through a three-storey restaurant at Kuta Square at 7pm on 1 August.

Police defused a further nine

bombs on other beaches as the scale of the terrorists' ambition became clear.

Witnesses told local reporters of limbs blown off, decapitations and other scenes of carnage.

Ketut Kader, 53, who survived the blast, told reporters: "It was the most frightening thing I have experienced. I was about 20 metres from the first explosion. It knocked me backwards but I didn't fall over. Everyone started panicking and screaming. It was just crazy."

A spokesperson for Sanglah Hospital, near the Bali capital Denpasar, said 19 people had been killed and 101 others were being treated at six hospitals. At the hospital's main entrance was a long list of names, five of

them simply labelled 'Jimbaran body parts'.

It is the second time in three years that the island has been targeted. The last bombings saw 202 deaths.

Jemaah Islamiya, a militant group with links to Al-Qaeda, are believed to be responsible for the bombs. This is the same group as was responsible for the first Bali bombings, and a string of other attacks, including an explosion outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta this time last year.

Suspected of involvement is Azahari bin Husin, the group's top bomb maker. He completed a doctorate at Reading University in the 1990s and is known in his native Malasia as 'Demolition Man'. The Indonesian President,

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, recently warned that terrorists were planning 'another strike' and called for heightened security during September and October.

Tony Blair said on Saturday: "I condemn in the strongest terms today's appalling attacks in Bali. Our thoughts are with the victims and their families."

"The UK was deeply grateful for and moved by the support and sympathy given by the Indonesian government and people after the attacks in July on London. We stand by Indonesia at this very difficult time."

Implications for the tourist trade, which was still recovering from the previous attacks, have yet to be felt.

BlinkPolitics



The long march

Matt Sinclair, seeks to press the communism from a budding economy.

No one really doubts that something really impressive is happening in China. As recently as the 1970s this was a country in the depths of the Communist hell created for it by its rotund leader's ambition and lack of basic sanity. Fresh from starving tens of millions of its own citizens, the Chinese Communist Party was engaged in declaring the idea of education bourgeois and illicit, and beating anyone with the temerity to be good at their jobs and attract the attention of teenage Red Guards with too little to do.

Now all the talk is of when China will overtake the U.S. and Germany as the world's leading exporter (about five years) and when it will have the world's largest economy (around the middle of this century but it will overtake nations like the United Kingdom long before). It has been argued that this provides a model as a state with a large government role in its economy that is still enjoying rapid growth. It is held up by socialists as an example of their ill-fortuned creed actually leading to a successful state and is becoming an alternative to the endless parroting of: "Well it works in Sweden, doesn't it?"

This is not the case. China's success comes entirely from its adoption of capitalist modes of organisation and the development of a robust private sector. This can be discerned by looking at how "public" services are financed, and by looking at relative growth rates for state-owned firms versus the private sector.

If China was succeeding in combining state involvement with capitalist high growth it seems sensible to expect that the involvement will show itself most thoroughly in the services that Western governments provide to their citizens - priorities like education, healthcare and various forms of social insurance.

In education the Chinese state currently spends less (2 percent of gross domestic product) in peacetime than Chiang Kai Shek's republic did (3.6 percent) while involved in a three way battle for survival. Ironically considering that Communists like Jiang

Zemin cut their teeth in protests for higher education spending they, once in power, have done little to create the kind of education system (financed through taxation) that the European left is constantly pressuring for at home. Instead education is financed far more by the fees which pay for a part of primary and secondary school and all the cost of university tuition.

Equally in healthcare the Chinese make sure they have private health insurance. They are far closer to the American, market-oriented, model than anything like the UK's state run NHS. If you should fall ill or grow old the primary responsibility for looking after you will fall upon your family rather than the rest of society through government funding.

It is in the comparison between the stagnation of state-

court and their lawyer was held for three months and abused by police seeking a "confession". One of the accused was given a seven year sentence. These are significant risks that a private firm must run and clearly provide a disincentive that will slow growth. Despite this the private sector still manages more than four times the growth in the state-owned sector.

If it is accepted that the China's economic success is essentially a capitalist success story then the question becomes whether or not it should remain so. There are currently inequalities and poverty in China that could seem to justify a more active role for the state. The problem of inequality and of continuing poverty in some regions is a poor argument for increasing government involvement in the economy though. These are essentially problems that any underdeveloped economy expects to face.

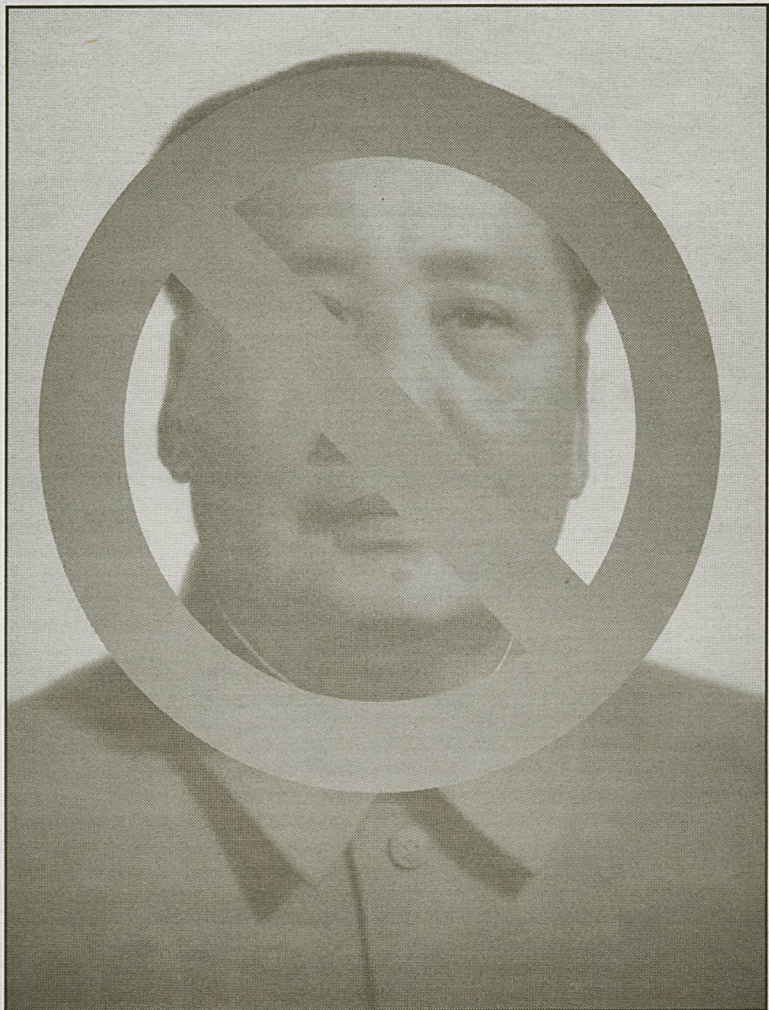
When incomes double regularly (as is happening in under a decade in China) these problems can be defeated; poor regions will become more attractive for business as wages rise in the rich regions. Any egalitarian government intervention in the economy that could endanger all important growth could clearly be counterproductive.

There are risks to the Chinese economy because of the legacy of its Communist past. Chinese politics are essentially unstable and the danger of a reassertion of Maoism like that after the Tian'anmen protests is still significant. Equally bad debts persist because of the privileged position of the poor performing state-owned enterprises. These risks though are due to the role the state still plays. China, like so many developed nations, is a capitalist economic triumph in danger from a state that would do too much.

As recently as the 1970s this was a country in the depths of the Communist hell created for it by its rotund leader's ambition and lack of basic sanity.

owned firms and the massive growth of the private sector that the capitalist nature of China's growth can be seen most clearly. State-owned firms have access to legal defence, plentiful finance and crucial state support and yet only manage a growth rate, fairly average for a developing country, of 4.6 percent whereas the informal sector is growing at a massive 19 percent relying upon kinship networks for finance and under the constant threat of becoming the next victim of what is still a capricious government.

Jasper Becker, the South China Morning Post's Beijing Bureau Chief for more than a decade, recounts the story of a joint venture that tried to resist a charge of embezzlement. They had witnesses, a plentiful paper trail and a well connected lawyer. Them and their lawyer were seized before the case came to



No more maoism

The right approach

Charles Laurence



More contraceptives; more sex

Angela Star is a nurse. In fact she is Gateshead's sexual health nurse of the year. She became famous for dispensing a contraceptive injection in the loos at McDonalds but her talents do not stop there. Her mobile number is printed all over the Gateshead area and she is available to dispense the 'morning after' pill, among other goodies, at the behest of her teenage 'clients'. Great, no more unwanted pregnancies and girls can get protected without their fries getting cold. A win-win situation. The Gateshead Primary Care Trust is justified in supporting her, right?

Wrong. While her actions may have been essential for some young people, many more are being damaged by them. Britain has spent years drowning the young in a sea of condoms and permissiveness and yet teenage pregnancy rates remain astronomical. In Lambeth, for example, an impressive ten percent of schoolgirls get pregnant every year. We have gone from a society where underage sex was not seen as acceptable to a situation where one in ten are at it before they are 14. Has no one made the connection?

It seems obvious that if you have a local Ms Star cheerily doling out the 'morning after' pill to your mates from the age of 13, you are going to project the message that there is nothing wrong with sex at that age. And yet when challenged, as the Trust was over the Star case, the authorities adopt the same fatuous defence employed by America's National Rifle Association. Yes it is true; a gun is not a killer but a killer's tool and it is not a Department of Health official who personally get the girls pregnant. But at the same time there are far more murders in gun laden countries and in Lambeth girls start breastfeeding before they start their GCSEs. The equation is quite simple: more sex means more accidents, more pregnancies and more sexually transmitted infections - however much latex and oestrogen you dump on young people. I have even heard reports that syphilis has returned to London. Nice.

So what can be done? The age of moralising to the under sixteen-year-olds is over. The lesson from America is that it simply does not work. We need, dare I say, to find a third way. People like Ms Star need to realise the role they play in granting acceptability on something that can have disastrous consequences. How is a 14-year-old in Gateshead supposed to resist the already massive peer pressure to have sex, when Ms Star is cheering him or her on from the sidelines? Sex needs to be presented to young teenagers with appropriate seriousness. This will protect those who do not feel ready, and create a new boundary for the rebels to kick against. And when those rebels do need Ms Star's help, the setting should give the feeling that pregnancy is an extraordinary occurrence. I am not sure if that is possible between a Big Mac and a McFlurry.

BlinkPolitics

Bigger Pie, Smaller Slices



Suffering of the third world

Lim Shu Hao looks at the undemocratic distribution of wealth across the globe.

It should come as no surprise that the rich-poor divide is widening. This is the framework of reference for the entire world, a country, a region or even a city. Even in what is usually considered a decently egalitarian country - Australia, for example - the statistics should shock anyone with any concern for other human beings. The poorest quintile has just eight percent of all national income Down-Under, while the richest 20 percent have 38 percent. An international comparison will yield more egregious figures.

Logic, or seemingly so, flows: rich countries ought to help their poorer counterparts. With Britain and its Chancellor leading the G7 with its "plan for Africa", surely there must lie some help for the neglected regions? No, not now, and not soon. A quick search on the internet will have one going through a laundry list of grandiose plans to tackle poverty. Most, if not all, have failed. While British initiative is to be applauded, history has taught us to remain pessimistic.

Tackling poverty in poor countries has failed for numerous reasons. Bar dramatic disasters like the December tsunami, money - substantial amounts of it, anyway - will be slow to trickle into the needy countries. Donor fatigue demands consideration as well.

What about corruption in

the recipient countries? Yes, these obstacles are well-rehearsed. However, the biggest obstacle lies in the structure of the world today.

Why would rich countries do something so ostensibly harmful to poor countries? The governments of rich countries are not electorally-responsible to their poorer counterparts; which explains all the subsidies to agrarians in rich countries. In countries like America and France, the farmers can swing the results of elections. Even for a developed country like France, agriculture and farming is still considered the heart and soul of the French country.

In America, partly, but not exclusively, because of the electoral college system, farmers have proven that they can swing a whole state and add substantial electoral college votes in favour of any one presidential candidate. No wonder, then, that Bush and Kerry took pretty similar stands on free trade and subsidies - stands that only serve to reinforce the rich-poor

'Surely there must lie some help for the neglected regions? No, not now, and not soon. A quick search on the internet will have one going through a laundry list of grandiose plans to tackle poverty. Most, if not all, have failed.'

divide by pricing out producers in the developing world.

If one needs convincing that protectionism is definitely not the way to help the poorer world and is indeed stupid (for the lack of a better word), I am compelled to quote, at length, Frederic Bastiat, an eccentric Frenchman who lived in the early 19th century:

"Petition of the manufacturers of candles, waxlights, lamps, candlesticks, street lamps, snuffers, extinguishers, and of the producers of oil, tallow, resin, alcohol, and generally everything connected with lighting

To the messieurs the members of the chamber of deputies Gentlemen,

... We are suffering from the intolerable competition of a foreign rival, placed, it would seem, in a condition so far superior to our own for the production of light, that he absolutely inundates our national market with it at a price fabulously reduced... This rival... is no other than the sun.

What we pray for, is, that it may please you to pass a law ordering the shutting up of all windows, skylights, dormer windows, outside and inside shutters, curtains, blinds, bull's-eyes; in a word of all openings, holes, chinks, and fissures.

... If you shut up as much as possible all access to natural light and create a demand for artificial light, which of our French manufacturers will not benefit by it?

... If more tallow is consumed, then there must be more oxen and sheep... if more oil is

'Democracy can work for the betterment of poor countries; but the optimal way for it to do so is to be extended once and for all on a global - not international - level.'

consumed, then we shall have extended cultivation of the poppy, of the olive... our hearths will be covered with resinous trees.

Make your choice, but be logical; for as long as you exclude, as you do, iron, corn, foreign fabrics, in proportion as their prices approximate to zero, what inconsistency it would be to admit the light of the sun, the price of which is already at zero during the entire day!"

While his defence of free trade is dramatic, it does a great job at revealing the ironies of protectionism.

Farmers are not, in themselves, the problem. So what is the problem? Consider this: a democracy demands that any government be responsible to its electorate - and most of the time, nothing more than its electorate. Moreover, voters may or may not always know what is best for themselves in the long-term. Even if and when voters are aware and confident of their self-interests, therein lies the problem: only self-interests are taken into account. The system of sovereign states that we have today does nothing but to com-

pound this parochialism. Democracy and sovereignty (and its commensurate non-intervention in another's affairs) can bring immeasurable benefits, no doubt; but admittedly, it has its drawbacks.

These, unfortunately, are drawbacks we have to put up with if we are to enjoy the fruits of democracy and sovereignty. I preach not the abandonment of democracy. I preach not the adoption of Plato's philosopher-kings. I preach not the familiar escape of a benevolent dictatorship. After all, the freedom to live the life we want cannot be valued. For all the fear of government taxes, perhaps the Scandinavian model of social democracy is something to look towards. Even then, however, the "social" in "social democracy" is mostly extended only within an individual country's borders. That is to say, democracy can work for the betterment of poor countries; but the optimal way for it to do so is for it to be extended once and for all on a global - not international - level.

Borders have got to go when we need a solution to what is labelled by U2's Bono as "stupid poverty". A supra-state structure that at the same time devolves power down to the lowest level will, and has to, fare better. This is a supra-state structure that bears allegiance to no flag, but humanity at large. However, how nation-states will unite as one humanity is the biggest challenge - indeed, the greatest challenge of all time. Keep this in mind, however: flags are hard to abandon when money is an issue - the issue.

BlinkPolitics

Brian Haw - prophet or pariah?

Stephen Gummer, Blink Editor talks to Westminster's most famous dissident.

Sitting half-slouched and apparently lost under a contemplative cloud, I caught Brian Haw continuing his seemingly eternal protest. Brian has been outside Parliament both night and day since 2 June 2001 with only occasional breaks for court hearings. In the eyes of the left his protest has become a staunch symbol for the anti-war movement, and his continual legal victories a bulwark of democracy. For certain members of the right he is seen as little more than a nuisance, whose meaningless rants have long since become tiresome.

Following a few brief moments of verbal tussling in which Brian journeys from hostile and outwardly awkward to quite the gentleman, I am invited to sit down. To be honest I didn't blame him for the frosty reception as I can't imagine he gets much sleep. Especially not with the continual bombardment of traffic outside Parliament, which seems more suited to a runway at Heathrow than the road outside our nation's seemingly tranquil seat of democracy - this was a topic that I had every confidence would crop up more than once in our conversation.

Brian's introduction to protesting for peace was reportedly his excursion to Cambodia in 1989. He corrects me that it did not begin there but with, 'Adam and Eve'. He pauses for a moment to add that in his opinion, 'we haven't got much right since then have we?'

This mystifying start encouraged me to ask more about his cause. He made it very clear that it was not just the Iraq War that he objected to, but the violent history of our nation. He spoke about Bomber Harris, 'burning and bombing babies'. Developing this point and with a greater tone of sarcasm in his voice he stated that the British armed forces didn't seem too bothered about helping the Kurds then. 'So what are these wars all about if not liberation and avoiding threats to our country?' I muse. He looks at me almost bewildered 'What is this war about? It's about money, dosh, collateral...the filthy lucre. That's what its about. What else?'

Perhaps his best argument comes in the form of analogy. He describes a situation in a pub. Here a man has spilt your beer. You don't want him to do this again and so is it ok to think 'I'd better do a pre-emptive strike on him first? You'd be arrested wouldn't you?' I nod. He's certainly persuasive. His use of this analogy, as well as his neat rhetorical questions and lengthy repetitive speeches, show a strong



Sitting in front of the Houses of Parliament, Brian Haw exercises his democratic right to disagree.

Photo: Sid Kamath

and underlying deference to the rule of law that is admirable. However a part of me wants to break out into a wry smile as I imagine attempting to co-ordinate a pre-emptive strike on everyone likely to spill my drink at Crush on Friday. This too may well have been an intended effect.

Part of me was tempted to point out that some of Saddam's crimes were a little more provocative than spilling beer.

'What is this war about? It's about money, dosh, collateral...the filthy lucre. That's what its about. What else?'

However, the intensity of his conviction is unnerving and to an extent is a little terrifying. I am also struggling to get a word in as Brian is, to say the least, talking persistently.

Half-way through the interview Brian gets up to change his gas canister. Living out on the

street is tough work and the worn skin on his face and hands don't hide this particularly well. When I'm left alone in the chair staring toward Parliament you get a sense of the isolation Brian endures on a daily basis. Watching the world continually flowing past and not only not showing any support but implicitly upholding the system that has caused all this bloodshed in the first place.

I move on to Brian's legal victories, of which there have been six. To put it more in Brian's terms, he is leading the Prime Minister 6-0. He states of 'ex-barrister Blair' that, 'it's just as well he gave up the law'. Haw also regards all of these cases brought against him as ridiculous. In terms of the Government's nuisance suit against him he points to the booming loud traffic and says cynically that this is 'for obvious reasons exempt'. His protest however, is subjected to these laws. In his own words, 'do they take the piss or what?' It's hard to deny he's got a point. This is especially true when you consider that there is no way of crossing the road to Brian's pathway, nor indeed are there any people looking out-

raged as they can't access that one limited piece of pavement.

He continued to speak candidly on the new Government legislation regarding protests outside Parliament. Following a recent court ruling only he will be able to do this without a permit. Brian questions, 'How ridiculous is that?' He tells me that people like the Suffragettes had to fight for the right to protest here and 'now it's been stolen from us'. However whilst his voice here sounds resolute and determined I detect a slight sense of isolation. Whilst I don't doubt Brian's fury about the loss of a core right, I'm inclined to believe that he is more irritated about being the only one who cares. This sense must have been enhanced by his belief that he is the only one who has noticed.

Trying to overcome his building sense of aggravation I move on to try and uncover the man behind the protester. This may have been a mistake. He tells me of his estranged wife and describes his years in unemployment. He told me of his anger at having reached 40 just to find that he was 'surplus to requirement'. One may moot that this old carpenter's protest could just be

sour grapes at not getting on in life. That he was protesting about pretty much anything going. However there are millions more unemployed guys out there who haven't taken to picketing Parliament and I doubt many of them would manage four years of persistence.

There's doubtlessly a bitterness there and damned right too. This is a man who has been sat in the same place for four straight years. He's been assaulted by countless passers-by and legislatively brutalised by his elected representatives. What sets Brian Haw apart isn't what he campaigns for nor the method that he employs. It's simply the fact that his continual presence is an affront to an almost overwhelming tide of bureaucracy. It's also confirmation of the fact that democracy is still alive and well. The fact that Tony Blair can never look out of his window without seeing the voice of one man is a profound statement. Regardless of whether you were for or against the war in Iraq it's hard to not at least agree with the well acclaimed phrase that; 'I may not agree with what you have to say, but I'll fight to the death for your right to say it'.

BlinkLaw

Weapons of Moss-Destruction

H&M MODELLING CONTRACT

• The CYO program reflects Christian attitudes and values of sportsmanship. Parents should be a positive example of sportsmanship and a source of support for your child and coach.

Opponents make playing games possible. Your child needs help to handle competitive pressure. Help your child learn to understand that losing, being, or to see play will not be a defeat. Good plays by other teams should be applauded and sportsmanship includes respect for game officials. I will by word and example, to accept officials' decisions and instructions of referees.

These are volunteers. They give their time so that you, child, can participate in competitive athletics. Be supportive by scheduling your child's compliance with team schedules for missed games and following team practices. Assist and support a coach's efforts to help your child attain the long-range benefits of a rewarding CYO experience.

A player that engages in poor sportsmanship or a violation of the rules governing St. Hilary Parish CYO athletics will be subject to disciplinary action. Such action may, if appropriate circumstances, include exclusion from the CYO program. Your child learn that in CYO sports, as in life, playing by the rules is essential.

KATE MOSS

Signature

Ruby Bhavra discusses Kate Moss's recent cocaine fuelled contractual disputes.

Due to her exposed drug-taking, Kate Moss has lost her contracts with H& M, Burberry and Chanel. One would have thought that big stars, which notably boost a product's image, have secure contracts. However, this does not seem to be the case.

Insurance for brand-owners

When a company signs a contract with a celebrity it is inevitable that wild lifestyles, criminal convictions and other endless scandals are attached with them. That is perhaps why Lloyd's standard wording for its insurance relating to the 'Death, Disability and Disgrace' of celebrities excludes 'any action of the insured person that is consistent with the known public persona or behaviour of that person which gives rise to offence, insult and the like'. Therefore, brand-owners and corporations cannot collect on the insurance with celebrities who are notorious partygoers, such a Kate Moss.

However, whether such insurance had been taken out by Moss's various clients is uncertain. Even Moss and her agents would not know because such insurance is confidential. There is the fear that if celebrities did know, they would feel free to conduct themselves in an offensive manner confident in the knowledge that their client would be covered.

A serious criminal offence?

Does Kate Moss deserve to have her contracts cancelled and not renewed? A serious criminal conviction would leave a celebrity up the creek. Day by day, the drug abuse allegations against Kate Moss are proving true. So much so that she has publicly claimed full responsibility and promised

to take steps to address her problems.

Once the threshold for a serious criminal offence is crossed, contracts can be torn up immediately. Until that point is reached, it is a matter of how far the celebrity has attracted 'disrepute'. Most lawyers recommend caution before clients take the step of cancelling a contract. What degree of 'disrepute' did Moss create, particularly in view of her past? And did such allegations prove her to be 'too hot to handle' for brand-owners?

Public responsibility

On the contrary, being a celebrity does carry some responsibility for the public in terms of acting in an appropriate manner. Public perceptions of what is acceptable behaviour - for example, overt drug or alcohol consumption - may play a part in how a celebrity is deemed to have fulfilled their contract. Lloyd's definition of 'disgrace' is 'any offence against public taste or decency...which degrades or brings that person into disrepute or provokes insult or shock to the community'. This seems to be the case with Kate Moss's situation, as brand-owners such as

and reputation. Celebrities such as Kate Moss should therefore act in a manner which is respected by the community, and perhaps cancelling her contracts due to her behaviour were justified as she could no longer be the model 'face' for promoting products or fronting campaigns.

Don't forget to read the small print

What about the small print? The crux of contract negotiations between a celebrity's agents and the brand-owners' lawyers are the definitions of what is, and what is not, acceptable behaviour. Celebrities will always attempt to narrow the list of offensive actions to the bare minimum. Brand-owners will try to expand it as far as possible to guard against the least possible embarrassment. Where the line is drawn depends on a celebrity's marketability. Considering the amount of contracts she has received in the past, Kate Moss is highly marketable. However, her explicit drug consumption has degraded not only her image, but the image of the companies if she continues to model for them. Thus, perhaps Kate Moss's failure to read the small print about acceptable behaviour rightly took away her contracts with large brand-owners.

One size fits all

One should not forget that beyond the celebrity world, normal employees would probably get the same treatment Kate Moss has received, perhaps even worse. If an employee has acted wrongly outside the workplace which has an impact within it, it could lead to a dismissal, which would be upheld at an Employment Tribunal. Moreover, every employee is inundated with training and staff codes from their employers about conduct and what is considered unacceptable behaviour in and out of the workplace. Therefore, it is only fair that celebrities do not get

away with acting disreputably.

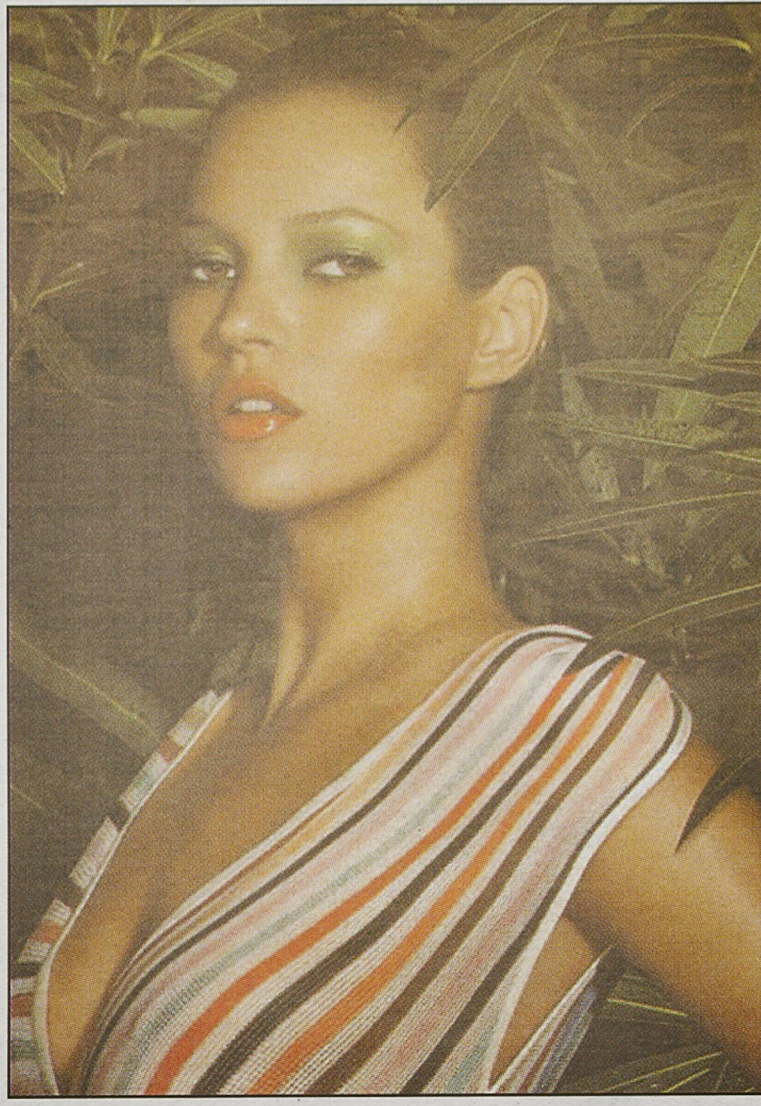
At the heart of the debate is whether a celebrity's private lifestyle should remain private or whether they should be kept in the limelight to set a standard for the public.

Celebrities are seen, especially models, as people who should act in a respectable manner, which is subject to public viewing. Their private life can never really be private, and their lifestyle will almost always affect the status of their jobs. This is why Moss lost such lucrative contracts.

At the same time, it is thought that celebrities should receive the same treatment as employees outside the celebrity world. Whilst having this double role, perhaps celebrities do suffer and this raises the question as to whether there should be exceptions. Kate Moss still has contracts with Christian Dior and others, but has lost most of her other major brand contracts, and could potentially lose more. It is a harsh world out there, and perhaps celebrities do get the raw end of the deal.

Public perceptions of what is acceptable behaviour - for example, overt drug or alcohol consumption - may play a part in how a celebrity is deemed to have fulfilled their contract.

Burberry felt it was 'inappropriate' to go ahead with her contract as it would tarnish their image



BlinkBusiness

Who dares wins-but not at the LSE?



Minh Doh questions whether student entrepreneurial ventures are worth the risk.

The start of a new school year and the start of a new stage in life for this year's freshers. What better way then to start the Beaver's business section with an article on starting one's own business?

It is a statistical fact that 90 percent of start-up businesses fail within the first 12 months. Half of those remaining will close their doors within the next 18 months. Does this mean that entrepreneurship is a risky road to go down? Without a doubt it is. But for many entrepreneurs, starting their own business was not only an option; it was the only option.

"I wanted to be an editor or a journalist, I wasn't really interested in being an entrepreneur, but I soon found I had to become an entrepreneur in order to keep my magazine going." - Richard Branson, Entrepreneur

For many, taking the step to begin your business is forced by circumstance. The fact is that many people, especially LSE students, forget about this part of entrepreneurship. Being an entrepreneur is about survival and cashflow.

Of course many entrepreneurs quit their well-paid jobs and make a conscious decision to start their own business. But that being said, many would-be entrepreneurs never manage to take this step because of risks involved.

Is being an entrepreneur a viable career option? Essentially, being an entrepreneur is not a 'career option'. Starting your own business is not the same as being a banker at Merrill Lynch or a lawyer at Linklaters. There is no 'career path' to speak of. The concept of entrepreneurship is to

take advantage of opportunities and instigate change.

"There will come a time when big opportunities will be presented to you, and you've got to be in a position to take advantage of them." - Sam Walton, Founder of Wal-Mart Inc.

It is interesting then, that in a school that prides itself on its knowledge of the market and market forces, that the LSE does not turn out entrepreneurs in droves. Perhaps an understanding of the market does not necessarily lead to an ability to understand how to sell things to the market. In fact, the only entrepreneur of note that LSE has produced is, of course, Stelios Haji Ioannou, the famous founder of Easyjet and the Easy Group.

It seems that the LSE itself has been alerted to the fact, because although the institution definitely offers more than its fair share of graduates to the City, the school lacks and even fails to offer any successful enterprise program, or even substantial support for entrepreneurs.

Director Howard Davies is himself a keen supporter of entrepreneurship, and his 2002 Davies Report on Enterprise and Education highlighted the fact that enterprise training and support can reap rewards for society and the economy. Thus, there has been news recently of a major upcoming entrepreneurship event, organised jointly by the LSE Careers Service and the LSE Entrepreneurs. Taking the format of a business plan competition, the event will see entrepreneur and star of the BBC show Dragons Den, Doug Richards, here at the LSE on 29 November.

Starting your own business is a big step to take, and without a doubt not everyone is cut out to be an entrepreneur. But there is no limit to who can be an entrepreneur. From charismatic Howard Schultz (Founder of Starbucks) to visionary computer

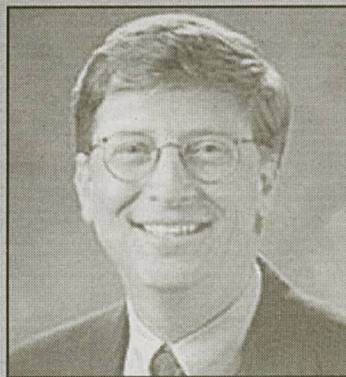
geek Bill Gates, entrepreneurs come from all walks of life. There is no doubt that entrepreneurship carries great risk. There can also be no doubt that the potential rewards are greater than any job

can ever offer you.

"The cover-your-butt mentality of the workplace will get you only so far. The follow-your-gut mentality of the entrepreneur has the potential to take you anywhere you

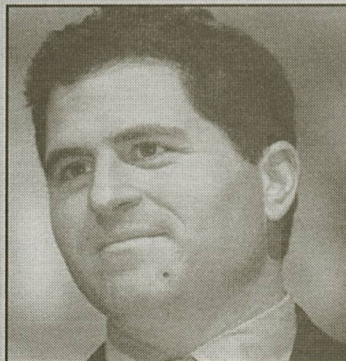
want to go or run you right out of business--but it's a whole lot more fun, don't you think?" - Bill Rancic, Winner of The Apprentice

University Entrepreneurs



Everybody knows that Bill Gates dropped out of Harvard University to start Microsoft with Paul Allen in 1975. Nobody knows what the world would be like today if he had stayed at university and finished his degree. Since taking that decision, Bill Gates has altered the lives of everyday people many times over with the release of MS-DOS and later Windows and the Microsoft Office Suite.

In the course of things he has become the world's richest man, with an estimated US\$50 billion dollars in personal net worth. Bill Gates has also become the world's most generous philanthropist, and founded the world's wealthiest charity, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, that has an endowment of close to US\$30 billion.



For the past four years the undisputed world's richest man under 40, Michael Dell, began selling personal computers out of his dormitory at the University of Texas. Calling his business PC-Limited, Dell sold made-to-order PCs and carried nearly zero inventory. The company was successful enough that Dell dropped out of college at the age of 19 to run his company full time.

His direct sales technique - cutting out the middle man and selling directly to customers - made sure that Dell Computers became the world's most profitable PC manufacturer. Having only just turned 40, Michael Dell will still be around for at least a couple of years.



The Google founders need no introduction, especially considering their meteoric rise to the top of the list of Fortune's 40 richest under 40 list. Google is the company everybody is talking about, particularly with the release of products such as the recent Google desktop search.

As the Beaver was going to print, Google submitted a proposal to cover 95% of San Francisco with 300kb/s wireless internet access with no charge to the city or the users. The company's market cap over the weekend was a mind boggling US\$ 88 billion.

After these students put it online, they realised that the rest of the world thought that search engines such as Lycos and Excite were not up to the job.

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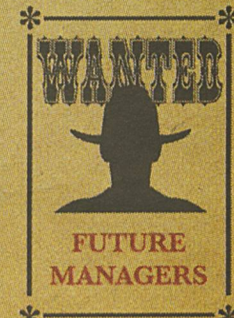


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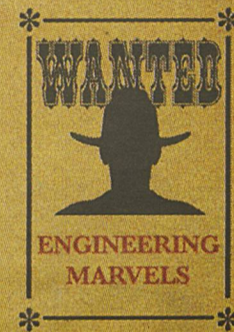


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If you're curious and learn fast, you'll soon pick up the vocabulary. If you are interested in learning how our Securities division operates, be sure not to miss our Securities Open Day, which takes place on the 25 October 2005. As well as hearing from some of our senior management and participating in interactive games, you'll be able to work-shadow and talk one-to-one with people who already work in our Fixed Income and Equities divisions.

To book your place at this event, please submit your CV and a covering letter, explaining why you would benefit from attending, to www.csfb.com/standout by 17:00, Friday 14 October. Please note that expenses are covered and that only a limited number of places are available.

www.csfb.com/standout

CSFB | EMPOWERING CHANGE:

Kruger Calls in at the LSE



Bart Editor Nastaran Tavakoli-Far calls on LSE's General Course students to join Barbara Kruger

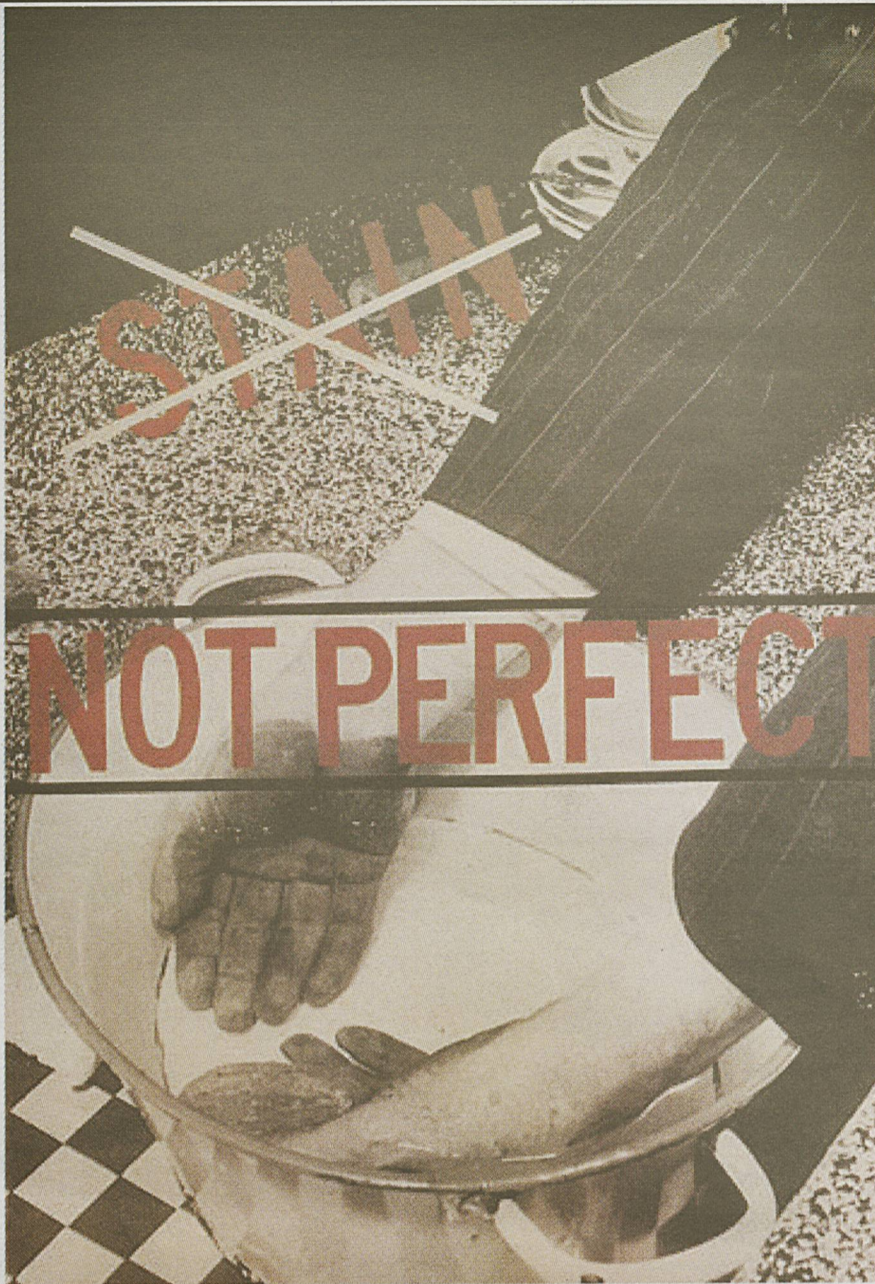
Finally your chance to be involved in a work of art at the LSE! No, the crazy photographer who composes landscapes from naked bodies won't be visiting Houghton Street so keep your clothes firmly on. Conceptual American artist Barbara Kruger will be on campus on Tuesday 4th October requesting students to read lines written by her. Do you have fifteen minutes to spare between 4:30 and 6pm? Then head up to rooms H616 and H606. However, only those with American accents will be allowed to take part in Kruger's work. General Course students: grace your year at the LSE with an appearance in Kruger's work.

Elsewhere, National Poetry Day is on Thursday October 6th. B:Litrature has been lucky enough to get hold of some copies of beat poet Allen Ginsberg's final poetry reading in London.

We have two DVDs to give away, all we ask is that you submit your poems. Poet Laureate Andrew Motion will also be giving a free reading on the day at the National Portrait Gallery. Turn to B:Literature for further listings.

Furthermore, Factum by the infamous and miserable American drunk, novelist and poet Charles Bukowski has been made into a movie. B:Film have been lucky enough to get a preview of this movie, set for release in November. Film Editor Jami Makan also interviews the founder of the world famous Raindance Festival which is running in London as you read this.

For lighter fun turn to B:Visual Arts, where I have reviewed two photo exhibitions currently on at the National Portrait Gallery. The World's Most Photographed features JFK as well as James Dean, with Cornel Lucas : Shooting Stars packed with hot snaps of Brigitte Bardot and Lauren



Barbara Kruger needs LSE students with American accents

Bart

Jami Makan interviews Elliot Grove in B:Film page 18 » Allen Ginsberg DVD competition in B:Literature page 20 » Nastaran Tavakoli-Far goes to the National Portrait Gallery page 23 » Sam Ashton sees Cat Power at The Barbican in B:Music page 24 and Gareth Rees goes to Borough Market page 26

The Editor's Week

04/10/05 - 30/10/05 - 30/11/05



Alison Goldfrapp will be playing the Brixton Academy to celebrate the release of Supernature

Tuesday 4th October

Paco De Lucia
Flamenco's leading innovator Paco De Lucio will be playing a selection of his material.
At: The Barbican
Price: from £30
Tube: Barbican

Thursday 6th October

Andrew Motion
A poetry reading from the Poet Laureate Andrew Motion and John Weston to celebrate national Poetry Day.
At: Room 20,

National Portrait Galley
1.10pm
Price: Free
Tube: Leicester Square

Tangled Tango Trio
This trio claims to fuse the tango together with jazz and klezmer. Mixing three of the most exiting and different of musical styles is either a superb idea or a grave mistake. Go see for yourself.
At: Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank
Price: Free
Tube: Waterloo / Embankment

Goldfrapp
Bath electro-stars Goldfrapp celebrate the release of critically acclaimed new record *Supernature* with a series of shows.
At: Brixton Academy
Price: £20
Tube: Brixton

Lee Scratch Perry
One of the most important people in the world of reggae, Lee 'Scratch' Perry is responsible for producing gems by The Wailers as well as being a celebrated musicians in his own right. Here he returns to London to play with the Mad Professor.

At: Jazz Café, Camden
Price: £20
Tube: Camden Town

Sunday 9th October

Vienna's Mozart Trio
The trio will be performing Mozart's Piano Trio in B flat K. 502 and Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor Op. 66. This performance is billed as a 'coffee concert' and coffee is included in the ticket price.
At: Wigmore Hall
Price: £10
Tube: Bond Street/Oxford Circus

Monday 10th October

Bret Easton Ellis
The writer of *American Psycho* will be talking about his new tome *Lunar Park* among other works.
At: Queen Elizabeth Hall, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank
Price: £9 (limited number of concession available)
Tube: Waterloo / Embankment

Missy Elliott
Hip-hops first lady will be playing tracks from new LP *The Cookbook* plus other gems.
At: Hammersmith Apollo
Tube: Hammersmith

Book Now

Yo Yo Ma
The world's greatest living cellist. Period.
At: Sunday 4th December
The Barbican
Price: from £15
Tube: Barbican

Sundance

Listings stuff to make your life less dull...

Tate Modern

5 October

A screening of Mexican film *Por La Libre*, directed by **Juan Carlos de Llaca**, will take place at the Tate Modern's Starr Auditorium at 7pm. Presented by London's Mexico Tourist Board, the screening is related to an exhibition of artwork by Mexican artist Frida Kahlo (1907-1954). Tickets are £4 and can be booked online at www.tate.org.uk/modern.

British Museum

7 October

An event will take place at the

British Museum's Stevenson Lecture Theatre at 6:30pm featuring *Cinema Iran*, a documentary directed by Mark Cousins about the country's surprisingly robust film industry. Tickets are £3.

Barbican

4 October

A screening of *The Devil's Miner* will take place at 7pm. Telling the story of two young brothers working in the Bolivian silver mines of Cerro Rico, the film offers insight into the physical hardship and religious plight of mining families. Tickets are £5 if booked in advance.

7 October

At 7:30pm **Souleymane Cisse** will discuss his experiences working and making films in Mali. He has also served as president of UCE-CAO, the Union of Creators and Entrepreneurs of Cinema and Audiovisual Arts of Western Africa. Tickets are £5 if booked in advance.

Raindance

Through to 9 October

A complete listing of remaining events and screenings can be found online at www.raindance-filmfestival.org.

Heads up!

Blockbuster season may be coming to a close but don't panic. The coming months promise a wide selection of celluloid wonders, whatever your taste may be.

There are films a-plenty that are worth your money at the moment. Not to mention some that are not. A few from either section:

Horror director legend **George Romero's** return to the big screen with *Land of the Dead* is no masterpiece, but sheds sufficient blood and entrails to turn your stomach and keep zombie enthusiasts content. Footie biopic *Goal!*, following the fate of an amateur Mexican football player plucked from the LA police force and catapulted into the crazy world of Newcastle United, is in theatres for its first week.

Keira Knightley hopes to leave audiences as breathless as a girl in a corset in her turn as Elizabeth Bennet in the newest adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. **Guy Richie's** first film since the unfortunate *Swept Away* hopes to reinstate some of the value of *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*. Put *Revolver* to the test. September 23 saw the opening of Japanese animation master **Hayao Miyazaki's** latest creation, *Howl's Moving Castle*, a film not to be missed.

Coming up very shortly (released on October 7) is **Ingmar Bergman's** first film since he announced his retirement 20 years ago. *Saraband* is a meditation on the darker shades of human existence, no surprises there.

Roman Polanski's shot at a Dickensian classic hits the silver screen on the same day. See whether *Oliver Twist* manages to twist without falling flat on his ass.

Finally, October 7 will see the release of a promising contribution from a nation that is often disregarded in the cinematic world. Russian sci-fi, fantasy, horror and action extravaganza *Night Watch* is predicted to be a necessary counterweight to the Hollywood superpower.

Keep your eyes peeled for enthusiastic raves or disgusted rants about the film events of this season.

Elliot Grove Interviewed



How did you originally become involved with film?

I worked as a scenic artist and set designer. I have worked on 68 features and over 700 commercials as a set decorator and designer.

Can you tell us how Raindance originated, the circumstances and motivations?

I worked in film in Canada and I came back here in 1986, did everything else. I got caught out in the property bust in 1990 and went bankrupt. Felt sorry for myself for a year and then I started doing training courses here in London. A lot of my friends started making movies, but in 1992-1993 if you were British you only had two options to show your film. One was Edinburgh or one was the London Film Festival, but in the world cinema section. So I decided to start Raindance to showcase British films, and of course now it has become international because you British didn't trust me, you went to London. And it's only been the last few years the British filmmakers have got it. The Americans, French, Indians and Japanese got it way before anyone else.

Does Raindance offer anything special for students?

Students get discounts, massive discounts at Raindance. And we love student films because they're most likely first-time films. We've

got all kinds of stuff that we're planning in the coming year. And I think that the so-called dearth of British filmmaking is a myth, I think that it's people like the people that read your paper who are far more likely to come up with an exciting and interesting feature film, the next groundbreaking film in the grounds of *Blair Witch* or *Reservoir Dogs*, than the so-called students coming from the so-called film schools or the film industry. I really do believe that.

Would you recommend any particular films during the rest of the festival?

On Tuesday at seven o'clock we're doing something called Live!Ammunition! which is a pitching panel which is a real laugh. On Wednesday I would recommend, well there's this documentary *Billy Childish is Dead* which is really good. This film here *Johanna* is the story of Joan of Ark but it's an opera. It's totally weird. Joan of Ark cures soldiers by fucking them from the hospital and the doctors get jealous and burn her in the incinerators, totally bizarre.

On Thursday we have *Edmond* which is really good. On Friday *Dumplings* by Fruit Chan, this is the hottest film in the festival. On Saturday we're doing *Evil Aliens*, the British horror film that's the new *Shaun of the Dead* by a young director. *No Limits* at

jamimakan literally woke up, bullshit-ed his way into Raindance and found himself standing next to the architect and director of the acclaimed British independent film festival

4:45pm on Sunday is a French film with just two actors in a country house, it's great.

How has Raindance impacted British cinema?

I don't know? We have been at the forefront of first-time filmmaking and the so-called 'lo-res' movement in film, which is exciting.

Filmmaking nowadays is not so much about making feature films but communicating to your audience through a variety of media, be it a pop promo or little fifteen-second short or feature film or documentary. And moving pictures are becoming so much a part of our life now, much more so than even ten years ago with all this new web-based stuff, you can get TV on your mobile now and all that. Did you see this mobile phone? I just got it, it's a prototype and the image quality is unbelievable. Zoom and color balanced and all that shit.

Do you have any message for younger students who are starting to make their own films?

Don't think about it. Come up with an idea for a movie, then get some film stock or tape stock, put it in a camera and expose that tape or film stock to actors. Because that's what filmmaking is really all about. And don't make excuses.

B:Film

Factotum

here ahmadkhokher and anchitsood are now, but this film can't entertain them

Charles Bukowski is a legend, one of the very few things to come out of the American postal system that's truly noteworthy in the great march of history.

When anyone goes about trying to put his work on film, there is always the risk that the bigger star will be his original work, regardless of the quality of the filmmaking. *Factotum*, despite strong direction, a good screenplay and a fantastic performance by **Matt Dillon**, suffers from just that, as well as the fact that it is mindnumbingly dull at points.

Bukowski was born in 1920 in Germany and moved to the US at the age of two. First published in 1940, he is most widely known for having worked for the United States Postal Service in Los Angeles for ten years, a job that required no effort except strength to show up and patience to perform mindless operations.

During that time, his life bordered on insanity and death, both of which represent prevalent themes in his work. He has written 50 novels and numerous short stories and poems.

The movie follows Hank Chinaski, Bukowski's alter ego, as he drinks, has lots of sex, drinks, gambles and drinks. In between

he writes and shares his pieces with a Mr. John Martin at what can be assumed to be *The Chicago Tribune*.

Most of his work is sent back to addresses no longer his, giving him reason to drink even more. He tries to hold a job, actually a string of them, his favourite being a generic flunky at a bicycle warehouse. We aren't kidding you.

It's not so much that Hank wakes up one day to realise the purposelessness of his life. Rather, it's a realisation that has dawned upon him at a time even before the film begins. What we get, therefore, is not the beginning of one man's drifting, but an invitation to join him as he flits along.

That itself makes for great viewing. His nonchalance is brilliantly portrayed by Matt Dillon, who takes us to a world where each day is truly lived for the next round of scotch.

But that might be exactly what is wrong with the film. Nonchalance makes for a great lifestyle choice, but as the subject of a 90-something minute film, it struggles hard to keep audiences interested. The most attractive parts of the film are when Hank writes his stories, all of which are



Released 18th November

picked verbatim from Bukowski's work.

The film, however, is a technical success. The directing is spectacularly understated, gritty and real. **Bent Hamer**, acclaimed for his work on *In the Kitchen*, practically makes us smell the hours of alcohol, cigarettes and sex when in Jan's (**Lili Taylor**) apartment. Dillon himself offers a performance as good as that in *Crash*. A veneer of unshakable indifference and a smoky voice make him the quintessential Chinaski. First think of Holden Caulfield grown up to find the world as fucked up as he thought it would be, and then add more sex and alcohol.

The core ideas and themes of the movie are also intriguing.

These include frustration with modern day life, escapism through substance abuse, desperation and desolation. However, the credit for such goes to the source material, meaning the novel itself and not the screenplay. In retrospect, given a choice between reading the book or watching the film, we would probably go for the read.

So that's the verdict. A solid production that just doesn't hold together under the stress of a pressing demand for entertainment. Nevertheless, if you do like character pieces that don't really go anywhere, you might want to check *Factotum* out. After all, 'Sometimes you just gotta piss in the sink.'

Steven Spielberg presents Taken

natalievassilouthis looks for meaning beyond the sky



Taken was first broadcast as a mini-series in the US in 2002. The ten episodes trace the fates of three families: the Crawfords, the Clarkes and the Keys, as well as the strange experiences they have been having.

The series begins eerily: we are aboard a bomber plane in the second World War, on the Allied force, fighting the Luftwaffe. Suddenly, lights appear in the sky and our pilot, Russell Keys, is saved from an inevitable fiery plunge.

To say that *Taken* is about aliens alone would be trite and misleading, not to mention off-putting. Humanity and Hollywood's fascination with 'our friends' in the far reaches of the universe has ensured that the subject has been at the centre of many a tired project. So despite his established reputation, Spielberg had quite a task on his hands.

One of the enticingly unique qualities of the series is the perspective of the narrative. Hauntingly voiced over by an incongruously knowledgeable and wise childish voice provided by rising star **Dakota Fanning**, the story line also develops strictly chronologically, the audience

acting not only as an observer but also as a participant in the quest to discover the meaning of the abductions.

All this may seem annoyingly cryptic, yet it is impossible to describe almost any of the plot without spoiling information that is not even available in the first episode.

The facts are unveiled with a realistically painful slowness, the satisfyingly complex and textured characters kicking, screaming, searching and stabbing each other in the back as they try to understand the most quintessential of all questions: why?

Apart from the now celestial Fanning, the cast is largely unknown, save a few who are vaguely recognisable (**Heather "The Blair Witch Project" Donahue**).

However this is not a reflection on their capabilities, as they seem to be eclectically chosen and frequently excel with an understated intensity that is at once sympathetically and grittily believable.

Each episode has the touch of a different director, all overseen by executive producer Spielberg.

Luckily, CGI is confined only to the most necessary scenes, avoiding the video-game quality of many modern science-fiction films.

The painstaking development of the plot ensures that there are no noticeable conceptual gaps, also allowing the time for exploring the dark repercussions the action has on the Earthlings, even those with the noblest intentions.

Neither the writers nor the directors went easy on the more deplorable side of human nature, dwelling consistently on people like the murderously ambitious Colonel Owen Crawford, played by **Joel Gretsch**.

Disregarding the slight element of cheesiness that accompanies the final sequence, the series somehow manages to refrain from becoming tiresome.

Discovery is paced cleverly, seasoned with long, hard, disturbing looks at the ups and downs of our species. Answers don't come easily. Like the effects of an alien abduction, *Taken* will stay with you long after the lights disappear back into the skies.

Film Review

B:Film

Out now

National
Poetry
Day 6th
October

Allen Ginsberg (1926-1997)

nastarantavakoli-far explores the only full-length recording of the Renowned Beat Poet's final UK performance.

An old man decked out like a dull chemistry professor mounts the stage while the large student audience howls away, much to the man's delight. Those of you who know why would have howled along too. And if you don't know why the audience swapped a cheer for a howl then you need to acquaint yourself with 'Howl', the most incredible poem you could read (equivalent to being dragged kicking and hysterically laughing while on a midnight caffeine rush).

This DVD is the last UK poetry reading by America's icon of counter culture, Allen Ginsberg. The reading took place in 1995 at Charing Cross' Heaven Club, with the DVD clearly showing a largely student audience, excited yet playing cool.

Ginsberg begins with a bizarre and rather weird meditation sing-along on the accordion. Famed for being the poet of a generation, his poems manage to strangely fit in perfectly with today's political and social climate. This not only shows his power for writing poems which are essentially about timeless themes but gives us a worrying glimpse of the fact that not much seems to have changed politically and socially since the 1950s and 60s. He reads with energy as his poems flow effortlessly between his main themes: stories of war and poverty, sex and highs, eastern spirituality and honest, honest questions.

'Who'll cough up billions in Iraq to save a President's face?' he asks, the question as relevant now as in 1995. The poem

'Elephant in the meditation hall' continues that 'nobody does anything right' referring to everyone from the Pope, to poets, to bums. Ginsberg jokes about the nothingness of the world and talks of committing suicide though he stresses 'it'll be a beatnik scandal' to a laughing and cheering audience, his trademark style of mixing serious issues with jokes being in full force. 'The while universe is a scandal' he laughs, before ending with the simple and throwaway though the all important line 'anyway, the national dead will approach 4million any day' say the homeless on Compton Square in New York'.

Then there are his trademark homoerotic poems, simultaneously weird and exploitative and yet oddly caring. He talks of a young boy he meets in a room he's rented, of the father and son air between them before vividly describing 'the heat of our embrace / familiar'. Ginsberg has a naughty way of pronouncing the word 'pleasure'. Again, he moves effortlessly and shockingly from exploitation to care to humour, with the landlord walking in on the scene and demanded they pay for the covers!

This season is apparently all beatnik what with berets and black and white stripes. With scandals over models and cocaine, and wars, be it in Iraq, Afghanistan or on terrorism, nothing really seems to have changed over the past 40 years with Ginsberg's fury still blazing. Ginsberg's voice continues to cut through the cacophony of bland rubbish.



Win Ginsberg DVD's

Poetry Competition

We have two DVD's of Ginsberg's last ever UK performance to give away!!!

For a chance to win the DVD and to have your winning entry published please submit your poem by 14th of October 2005 to r.begum@lse.ac.uk. Both winners will have their poems published on the fifth issue of the Beaver.

Retail price for DVD is £13.00. Diva and

National Poetry Events

casket with the words 'endless / heartless / the death of love'.

Tuesday 4th of October
Living Tradition in London's 'Poet' Church. Nine poets read from their own works and from those of classic poets.
At: St Giles-in-the-Fields
60 St Giles High Street
Covent Garden, WC2H 8LG
Price: £5 with NUS
Time: 7:30 pm

Wednesday 5th October
Temptation Tour
Readings from five poets John Berkavich, Lucy English, Niall O'Sullivan, Dike Omeje and Kimberly Trusty.
At: The Poetry Cafe
22 Betterton St, Covent Garden
Bookings: 020-7924-3410
Price: £4 with NUS
Time: 8pm

Wednesday 26th October
Film Screening of Ginsberg
Including more footage of Allen Ginsberg's friends. For tickets in advance contact johncarryngton@hotmail.com
At: 'The Poetry Cafe' see above for address

Creative Writing

The Wanderer

By Rothna Begum

Banners swathed from above, threatening to devour the hundreds of people milling down below. In the midst, silver trays floated around attached to clawed hands, stopping here and there for tempted fingers to pluck the tiny delights of pleasure. The buzz of laughter and talk rose up high into the alcoves where soft beamish lighting struck the grand ceiling with its coy corners, textured skimmed gold and waves of lines.

He swallowed it all in a few seconds and the shivers that ran through him made him all too aware of himself. Uncomfortably shrugging off this feeling, he became resolved to what he had set out to do. He turned towards the cloakroom and while doing so took off his bag, long coat, and anorak revealing a thinner man in a fine tailored suit. The transformation went unnoticed as he glided his way over. With just a piece of paper in his hands he fought his compulsion to play with it and took powerful steps into the room. Some turned towards him with warm smiles and a sense of acknowledgement that he was one of them, softened his unease. Still, his jangled nerves remained as his eyes roamed the room and slowly meandered his way through the crowds.

A set of friendly eyes finally locked onto his before he had reached the entire length of the area. Smiling to acknowledge them, he stopped in front of a man who appeared to have been melted down by the velvet liquid, the evidence of which lingered in the now empty glass. 'How do you do?' the smiling stranger half-slurred with the hint of an RP accent slowly disintegrating. He replied warmly while they shook hands and took care to speak clearly. 'Marcus' he replied when questioned about his name, 'Marcus Beaumont'. The words sounded hollow in his ears but the gentleman reacted with the utmost delight smiling widely and his eyes brightening up. 'Marcus Beaumont? As in the son of The George Beaumont?' His excitement showing in his hushed voice. 'Oh my, It is a pleasure to meet you!', the words rising as the surprise expanded his chest.

Marcus however became weighed down with a sinking feeling. The lie had taken its course: there was no going back.

If you wish to continue this story please submit it to r.begum@lse.ac.uk.

B:Literature

Carol Ann Duffy reveals *Rapture* as her new set of poems; nastarantavakoli-far

Carol Ann Duffy, one of Britain's most treasured and accessible of living poets, unveiled her new collection of poems at the Royal Festival Hall's Purcell Room a mere two weeks ago. *Rapture* is a book of love poems following the course of the four seasons. Though *Rapture* may sound like a joyful collection of poems singing the wonders of love, beware. *Rapture* will lure only to expose weak hearts and open wounds. A very dark set of works which appears to question the benefits of love.

'Rain' is full of religious imagery and themes of crucifixion. 'Cuba' is candid and blunt, ending with the lines 'no getting away from this / no midnight kiss / no Cuba'. Contrary to its title, the poem 'Rapture' is sad and slow. The poem opens with an eerie sense of doom as Duffy talks of being 'trapped in time / queuing for



death' before love enters,

though the general air remains unchanged. Extremely raw and personal. Desperation rings through 'Betrayal' with Duffy begging 'I will obey / obey / obey' and 'make me your name'. However it is right at the end of winter when 'Over' firmly slams the final nails into the

National Poetry Week



"I feel privileged to work with the people in my team. It is one of the most exceptional and talented groups of people I have ever, and no doubt will ever, come across. Working with them has allowed me to progress significantly in my understanding of financial analysis as well as my knowledge of specific industry sectors."

ALAN CHOI, ANALYST
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Epitaph
for
George
Dillon

Epitaph for George Dillon

jannamakash enjoys this portrayal of 50s disillusionment



Joseph Fiennes and Francesca Annis. (Nobby Clark)

What do you get when you put a handsome penniless actor/play-writer into a late-50s suburban domestic idyll populated by four women? Pure chaos – and out of this slowly emerges a classic dystopia: the death of an artist's dreams and a 'shipwreck' of that decade's omnipresent Illusion of Comfort.

The Elliots are your archetypal middle-class working family, the harmony of their peaceful respectable lives violated by the appearance of George Dillon (Joseph Fiennes), a bohemian guest who Mrs. Elliot (Anne Reid) has brought in as a surrogate for her son killed in the war. Dillon is a model of the epoch's angry young idealist. Intellectually restless, he is soon feeling asphyxiated by the mediocrity and banality of the Elliots' clichéd lifestyle, but has no way out due to the typical unemployment limbo many artists find themselves in. Cornered in this social *impasse*, he splutters soliloquies, parodising lower-middle-class aspirations, and fires off caustic invectives

at the home's inhabitants behind their backs, as he can do nothing else. "Depression is frozen anger", as Sigmund Freud would say. Dillon only reveals his true melancholy and disillusionment before Ruth Elliot (Francesca Annis), the university-educated 'dark horse' of the family and his soulmate. Their common languish and intellectual longing is much reminiscent of Chekhov's *The Three Sisters*.

Joseph Fiennes delivers a convincing performance of a failed 'Montmartrian' running around in circles trying to escape from his *cul-de-sac* existence and the 'Pleasantville' nightmare he got himself into. Ms. Annis (who is also, coincidentally, Ralph Fiennes' girlfriend), with her deep smoker's voice, expertly conveys the drama. All the supporting cast are superb, yet first prize goes to Ms. Reid for an unforgettable comical rendition of the stereotypical elderly middle-class *frau*.

'Epitaph' is one of those rare, intellectually-inspiring plays which actually makes you want to read the script.

Where: Comedy Theatre, Panton Street (Nearest tube: Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square, Charing Cross)
When: 7.30pm (Saturday matinees 2.30pm)
Runs Until: 24 January 2006
Prices: £15 - £40

Director: Peter Gill
Playwrights: John Osborne and Anthony Creighton

'Epitaph' is one of those rare, intellectually-inspiring plays which actually makes you want to read the script. It is written in the style of domestic realism by two of the best 'kitchen sink' dramatists – as the genre group came to be called. Dated 1955, the play certainly evokes an era: ponytails, jazz nights, 'colour telly' and James Dean. Yet, as revealed through Dillon's satirical gags, the play is also an ironical take on philistine life, condemning what Virginia Woolf called "the inane politeness of all this existence...the old treadmill feeling, of going on and on and on, for no reason". Indeed, underlying the brilliant comedy that *'Epitaph'* at first seems to be are three tragedies: one is the Elliots – a symbolic image of your average middle-class family – who are "all sleeping the deep, deep sleep of England", as George Orwell would say. The second is Ruth – intelligent and independent, a symbol of the new emancipated woman – who is too old to set up a family and too short on qualifications to set up a career. The third tragedy is that of George Dillon – a universal image of the ever promising, but never accomplished artist. In his regard one can recall Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*:

"There's no place for people like that any longer... That's why he's so futile... He doesn't know where he is, or where he's going. He'll never do anything, and he'll never amount to anything." This statement of pessimistic nihilism is an epitaph for an artist who is beyond hope and is thus dead to the world.

Still, there remains somewhere at the play's core, even if it cannot be explained, an almost Chekhovian belief in humanity and a brighter future. Someday the 'dead' artist will be resurrected, echoing the famous optimistic ending of *Uncle Vanya*: "We shall hear the angels, we shall see the sky covered with diamonds... And our life will become peaceful, tender and soft as a caress. I believe...I believe..."

What The Butler Saw

Where: Criterion Theatre, Piccadilly (Nearest tube: Piccadilly Circus)

When: 7.45pm (Tuesday and Saturday matinees 3pm)

Runs Until: 22 October 2005

Prices: £10 - £40

Director: David Grindley
Playwright: Joe Orton

In what has been described as one of Orton's most outrageous plays, *What The Butler Saw* sends the world of one fashionable London psychiatrist and his clinic into a parallel universe of gender confusion, mistaken identities (and lots of them), nakedness and sexual trickery. You might be wondering where the problem is...it all seems in a day's work for some of us students. Needless to say, the hapless, and until this point reputable, Dr. Prentice is not used to such mayhem and when he attempts to 'interview' a charming, aspiring secretary, he sets in motion a disastrous series of events that make one hell of a bad day.

Watching the play, I was instantaneously reminded of Monty Python in its seemingly slapstick manner, when in fact it is tightly scripted, carefully choreographed and timed to perfection to produce maximum laughs. In order to make this a success, much relies on the cast and it is here, perhaps, that the play succeeds the most. The cast are well suited to their respective roles, especially those of Dr. Prentice and Dr. Rance, a visiting asylum inspector. Both time their responses and over-exaggerated facial expressions to perfection. Clearly, the cast are at ease with one another, which is no doubt useful for the poor bell-boy, who has to strip to his bare underwear – and nearly a little further – not only once, but twice. In this respect, it may be wise to plan exactly where you wish to sit in the theatre: ladies may wish stage right, whereas the gentlemen might prefer a back seat, preferably in the shadows.

If you had asked me beforehand what I should expect from this play, lurid tales from a sleazy motel where staff and guests fight to see who can rip off their clothes quickest would have been my first answer. Instead, the 1960s doctor's surgery décor, complete with gurney, medical books and liquor, were just a few clues that indicated the quirkiness of this comical play, no matter how worrying its continual obsession for incest was. Whether this particular fixation is to your liking or not, the entire audience is carried along in the general ebullience of a play which is not designed to be award winning, but rather just a plain old hoot.

alexbarros-curtis

Picture Perfect

nastarantavakoli-far looks at the photo freindly

Contrary to belief that the advent of photography would murder the art of portraiture, photography has played an enormous role in capturing individuals and their different personas.

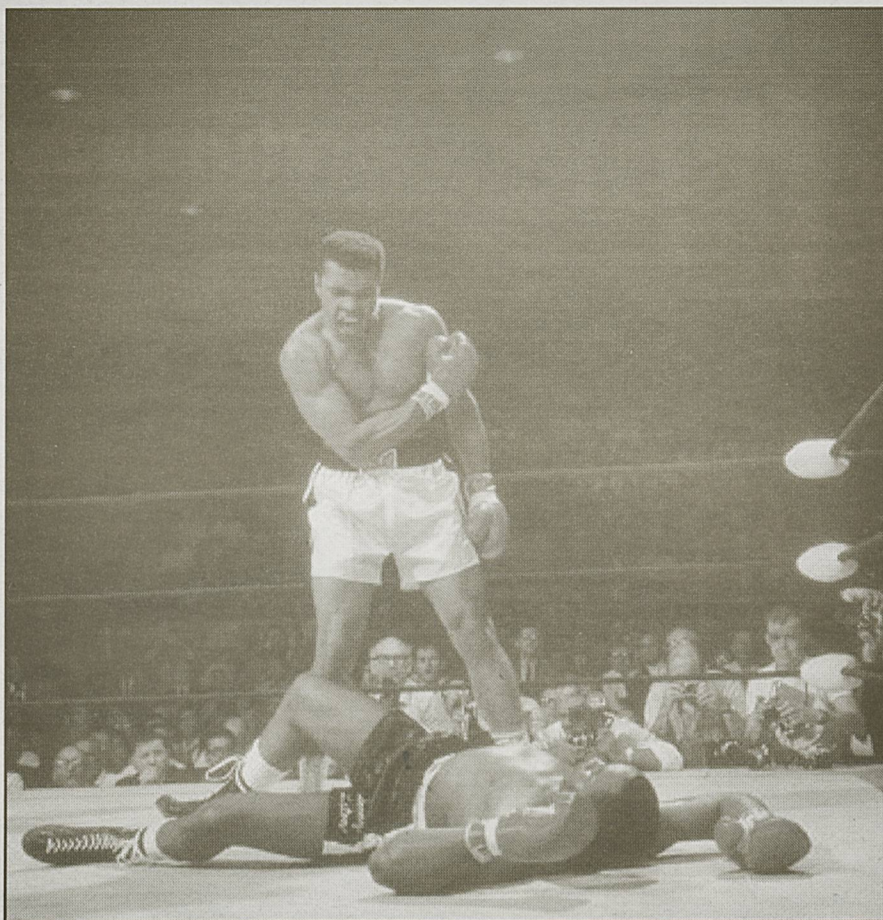
The World's Most Photographed aims to display the way in which the past century's most recognisable icons understood and used photography to mould their public personas. In reality the exhibition gives little insight into the skill of the photographers involved. **Queen Victoria** is simply always a sulky old lady and we only see **Gandhi's** change of dress from his anglicised suit worn as a law student to the famous robes of the father of India. All to be learned of **Hitler** is that Lederhosen were not the best look for a fascist leader. However, Walter Frenzt does snap a contemplative Hitler after the defeat of Stalingrad and captures a sombre and very private moment with sensitivity. Henrich Hoffman also steals some fascinating shots of an orator passionate to the point of insanity with his photographs showing Hitler's furious gesticulations and expressions during speech.

Even pictures of the most glamorous of leaders, **John F Kennedy**, fail to reveal much. A *Life* magazine photo by Irving Dennis shows the president elect in a rocking chair, supposedly to show a 'wise' and highly approachable leader (though in reality to aid the frail president's back). Displayed is a campaign poster by Jacques Lowe with

bright red and blue blocks surrounding Kennedy and the slogan 'A time for greatness, Kennedy for President'. Garish and frightening in its boldness, the piece provides a real contrast to other shots of JFK by Lowe showing a frustrated man amongst heavy shadows on the gruelling campaign trail.

However, the exhibition really comes to life when the beautiful and stylish are concerned. The most mysterious woman of the 1930s, **Greta Garbo**, seems to have relished poses which made her appear rather crazy and terrifying. The portraits of **Marilyn Monroe** perfectly prove just why she was a favourite of photographers. Monroe was always coy and slinky, slithering around for the cameras in the most playful of gazes and poses. However, she remained strangely dominant and in control of every photo despite the blatant 'ditziness' which seems to have seeped from her. In contrast is **Audrey Hepburn** who managed to reinforce her natural great looks with composure and character. As for **James Dean**, he strove to be 'brooding and sexual'. Some of the exhibitions' most fascinating, and disturbing pictures are of Dean fooling around in a funeral parlour and pulling faces while hopping from one casnet to the next.

However, up to this point, the exhibition appears to have gathered random photographs of the famous. It is only really in the case of **Elvis Presley** that the exhibition makes any attempt to actually analyse the power of photography in carving a public image. From 1956 onwards



Nick Leifer's world famous shot of Mohammad Ali towering over a fallen Sonny Listen

Presley was no longer to be caught off guard, his manager 'Colonel' Tom Parker made sure that of this. Though Presley could often be sloppy when caught off guard, it is the early photographs which capture any intensity. It is exactly in such situations that he really radiated the energy and pure danger of his music. The famous take of Elvis rocking with his guitar by William V Robertson would not be repeated. The exhibition then cleverly contrasts these with later, immaculately staged photographs of an almost plastic looking man devoid of passion or fire.

The exhibition definitely leaves the best until last. Photographs of **Mohammad Ali** show a shining young man, dripping with confidence and energy, though to be fair this could be captured by any photographer. Niel Leifer's notorious shot of Ali standing furious and statue-esque above a fallen Sonny Liston is powerful due to Ali himself and not anything which Leifer may have done. Filip Schulks takes a series of awesome shots of Ali training underwater with now the water at his mercy.

If you are attending this exhibition to learn about the way which the most photo-friendly icons used the power of photography to mould their public personas you will be disappointed. The exhibition rarely analyses the actual work of the photographers themselves, with much of the praise written about the photographs being more the traits of the protagonists themselves. If you're after some swell photographs of a few very famous political leaders and a few of the prettiest of gorgeous people, it won't do much harm.

The World's Most Photographed
At: National Portrait Gallery
Price: £2.50 with NUS
Tube: Leicester Square

Shooting Stars

nastarantavakoli-far sees yet more pretty, famous people

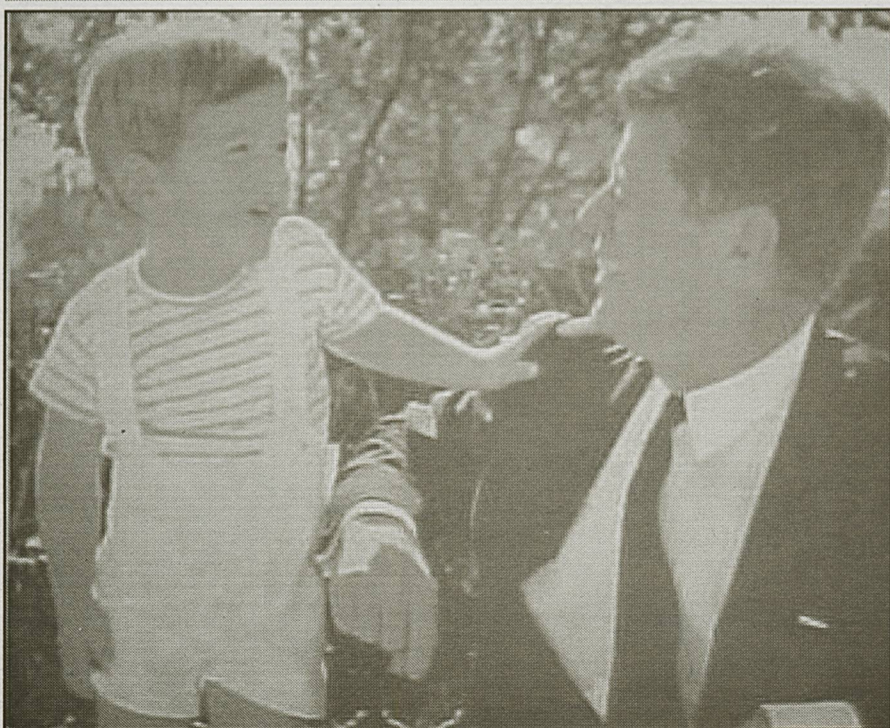
Many of the greatest film stars of the 1940s and 1950s have been sitters for photographer Cornel Lucas, who continued to snap celebrities well into the 1990s. This exhibition gathers together 50 of his portraits from such a diverse range of stars as **Lord Richard Attenborough** and **Steven Spielberg** to **Lauren Bacall** and **Brigitte Bardot**.

Like *The World's Most Photographed*, this collection mainly focuses on photographs of pretty people as opposed to exploring Lucas' style. There are a few gems to be found however. **Doris Dors** looks utterly absurd clad in a bikini on a lido during Venice Film Festival though she herself was to blame for the composition. There is a frightening yet mysterious shot of a stunning young **Joan Collins**. With huge eyes and her feline face reflected boldly by water, Collins looks almost like an ancient Persian Goddess.

The leading star in this collection however doesn't feature any 'stars' but the people who brought us the famed: the cameramen. Lucas' best piece is undoubtedly a black and white photograph of a glimmering ocean and a smudgy sky behind the silhouette of several men with a camera squeezed on a rock, the real artists caught this time.

Cornel Lucas : Shooting Stars
At: National Portrait Gallery
Price: Free
Tube: Leicester Square

John F Kennedy posing for a Life magazine cover



National
Portrait
Gallery

B: Visual Arts

Mum
and Cat
Power at
the
Barbican

Back to the future: Múm and Cat Power

B:Music hack samashton revels in the finery of the Barbican, and enjoys performances of classic albums by ethereal Scandinavians Múm, and the saccharine tongued, unpredictable, Cat Power

Don't Look Back' is a season of concerts promoted by All Tomorrow's Parties in which the selected artists are 'invited to represent a retrospective of one of their works in its entirety'.

Such an idea is fantastic; to experience the definitive album by your favourite band live is surely near the top of every indie kids musical wish list.

There must have been a lot of tears when Belle & Sebastian signed up, but tonight we are presented with the diverse double bill that is **Cat Power** and **Múm** performing 'The Covers Record' and 'Yesterday Was Dramatic - Today Is Ok' respectively.

First up, **Cat Power** (known to her mum and dad as Chan Marshall) is set to enthrall us with her clutch of inspired cover versions. As Chan walks out to the stage the tension is palpable, she has a reputation for freaking out live and not being able to play her songs, which makes for a disgruntled audience; tonight we're all praying that this doesn't happen. Remarkably

Chan surprises us all; although her frailty is evident through her indecision concerning which order to play the album and her obsession with covering her bum from our prying eyes, she still manages a complete set with (almost) no mistakes.

Like Chan herself the stage set up is modest, only a guitar, autoharp, piano, and that voice. It's an oft over used adjective but Chan's voice truly is enthralling, at times almost no more than a whisper it seems as though a gentle breeze would snap her vocal chords in two.

But what about the songs? As on the album Chan opens with '(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction', but when she sings 'When I'm drivin' in my car. / And that man comes on the radio / And he's tellin' me more and more,' there's none of Mick's pouting sexuality, just some gently picked chords and Chan's soft emoting.

On record the chorus is noticeable only by its absence, but live Chan casually slips it in, providing the first of many spine chilling moments. Over the next forty minutes The Velvet



ph:hörður sveinsson

B:Music

Underground, Nina Simone, and Smog all go into the black hole of Chan's mind and come out as spectral shambling folk songs. The highlight is however Mississippi John Hurt's 'Salty Dog', which despite the overbearing sensuality of the voice singing it manages to evoke the rough blues of its ancestor. As she finishes off the album with the sultry autoharp strum of 'Sea of Love' the crowd is ecstatic, but it is at this point where Chan pulls the spectacular 'House of the Rising Sun' out of the bag; whichever indie dweeb denigrated the humble cover as never being as emotional as the original was definitely wrong.

Múm are largely associated with majestic songs which compare to their compatriots Sigur Ros, and the occasionally sublime but often grating vocals of Kristín Anna Valtáðóttí, so its bizarre that the album chosen for tonight is distinct from

Múm's back catalogue for having few of either. The obvious touchstone for the music is Warp Records. Warm synth chords evidently inspired by the likes of Aphex Twin, but also Autechre style clicks, pops, and glitchy beats are present throughout all of tonight's songs, except with the addition of live instrumentation care of the guitar, glockenspiel, melodica, trumpets, xylophone and accordion.

Concert (and album) opener 'I'm 9 Today' begins only to end abruptly as Kristín realises she hasn't introduced the album. The sprightly beat programming and beautiful synth melodies begin again, gradually building to an awe inspiring crescendo led by melodica and trumpet, that convey the contentment with the present but longing for the past that's so encapsulated by the album's title.

Childhood is evidently an influence on the band that stretches far beyond song titles. 'There is a number' swirls with gently chanted child like vocals, that I'd like to imagine are actually Icelandic nursery rhymes - they'd certainly give me a blissful sleep.

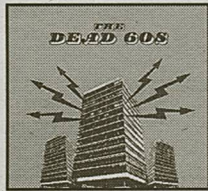
Even Kristín herself resembles a china doll from bygone times. If I were to criticise Múm it would only be for the inclusion of some later songs in which the obsession with childhood deteriorates into inane melodies and Yoko Ono like wailing. 'The Yesterday...' material is however faultless.

The 1984 stylings of the Barbican centre are the perfect setting for such mellow music. Its comfortable seats and lush acoustics only add to the wonder, evoked by two stunningly creative and emotional sets.

Múm return for one more song, but something goes wrong with one of their machines 'never trust computers' shouts one band member, and with that sentiment they leave us, one and all pining in a carefree whimsy for that most excellent of times, childhood.

samashion

The Review Section



The Dead 60s: The Dead 60s: Eagerly anticipated debut album from the tipsters

favourite Liverpoolians. Despite being often classified as 'ska', this is a much too constricting term. Whilst singles 'riot on the radio', and 'you're not the law' clearly have deep reggae roots there are much more tangible trends across the album. The vocal strains of Iggy Pop and Vicious-era Sex Pistols litter the album with aural flashbacks.

An air of desperation stains this record from start to finish. Here is a band with an agenda, an agenda of protest. Desolate song titles, 'the last resort', 'nowhere', and 'riot radio' provide a hint of the lyrical content. This seemingly negative message however uplifts rather than depresses. **The Dead 60s** possess a jauntiness and energy which cannot be subdued by such depressing talk. The use of rhythm and their realisation that in production sometimes less is more means that this album possesses a rarely heard grace.

Oh, and for the record, this album does not sound like either the Coral or the Zutons. Just to set that one clear.

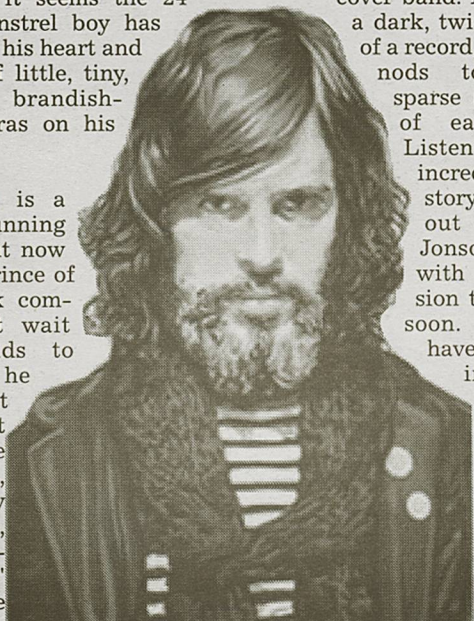
After the rant, back to the review. This is an album that has the capacity to bewitch feet. It makes them tap. Repeatedly. Although no replacement for seeing the '60s incendiary live show, it is adequate consolation. As protest records go, few will be more fun.



Devendra Banhart: Communal life must be treating everyone's favourite modern day folknik, **Devendra Banhart** pretty well.

Still going steady with golden voiced Bianca Cassidy of CocoRosie (who along with the rest of the 'family' guests also on the album), it seems the 24 year old minstrel boy has got family in his heart and the sound of little, tiny, tambourine brandishing, Devendras on his mind.

This record is a string of running themes. Right now the crown prince of the new-folk commune "can't wait for the kids to come", as he laments that he doesn't "want it to be an only child, a lonely child", no, no, and if anything, fo' sure, they're



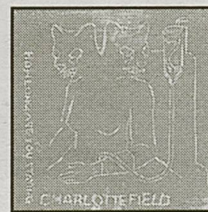
all going to be "Chinese children", be that whether he chooses to live in "Thailand, Russia, Prussia, India, or Ireland" or best of all, the heady utopia of "Myland", with Cripple Crow playing as a big bristly 'welcome' mat to the latter.

This record is a whopping 22 tracks of his own honey coated brand of sublime, yet it preciously defies the inevitable, flying in the face of any model daring to suggest an inverse proportion between quantity and quality. In this record, Banhart introduces us to a third way, for in his Shangri-la you CAN have your cake and bathe in it.

Cripple Crow achieves a rare balance, where despite the abundance of talent provided by his invariable motley cru of chums, every track isn't swamped in dense instrumentation, and everything's kept chilled and laid back, nice n' easy now, with one and all patiently taking it in turns, just as it should be in an ideal world.

In this 74 minutes of your complete and utter full attention, you get the obligatory protest song, some beautifully palatable Spanish ditties all wrapped in an unbridled zeitgeist of subtle lo-fi chill, as well as something to be merry to, something to dim the lights to, all with a couple of fertility incantations thrown into the mix, or at least the underlying sentiment anyway.

The cover photo of the record includes all his friends which make up his family of troubadours who all collaborated on the record, an entire movement captured on both one record and in one photo opportunity of a lifetime, they're all gathered together in a Sgt Pepper-esq family portrait, a big welcome to "Myland"; kettles' on, care for a spot of tea? neshyboukhari



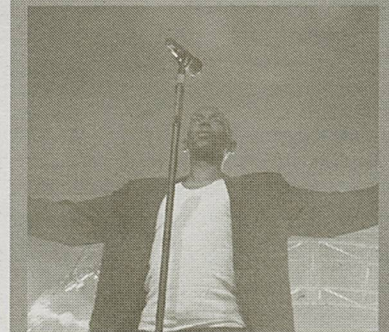
Charlotte Field: How Long are You Staying?

Brighton's **charlotte-field** are one of the few bands around right now who actually take the post-punk template and do something interesting with it, instead of sounding like a Gang of Four cover band. This record is a dark, twisted, fuck up of a record, with healthy nods towards the sparse (proper) emo of early Fugazi. Listening to it is incredible; end of story. The CD is out now on Jonson Family, with a vinyl version to follow real soon. They also have dates coming up: the London show is a Plan B night at the Spitz with Comanechi on October 19th.

mattboys

Creamfields 2005

jamestopham on the cream of dance music festivals



We arrived at the disused airfield in Liverpool, parked the car, and followed the crowd into a very large field. I thought we had gotten lost and accidentally gone to a fun-fair - what with the bumper cars, dodgy looking rides, burger stands and stripy tents. However, I then noticed the ground was shaking at 138 beats per minute and that there were a fair number of people dressed in day-glo jumpsuits with over-size sunglasses drinking and taking drugs.

Turning up at five after the party had been underway for a couple of hours, I purchased my programme and headed straight for the main stage to check it out. We caught the **Audiobullys** finishing off their set with their version of 'Out of Space', which was well received but not as good as the original (obviously). They left the stage, leading us to believe we had missed 'Shot Me Down', but luckily they were doing the obligatory "leave-then-come-back-on-for-one-more" routine; crowd loving the theatre of it. We wandered over to the Strongbow tent to quench our thirst, before venturing into the Chibuku Shake Shake tent. We got loose, latino and slightl funky with **The Plump DJs** for an hour or so, then decided we should explore.

I have been psyching up for seeing **Faithless** live for the first time ever. We decided to go and get a spot near the front of the main stage 45 minutes or so before they started, but sadly 35,000 people had the same idea, so it was a bit tight. A fantastic half-hour set by **Paul van Dyke** through the sun set while the crowd eagerly anticipated the arrival of the headliners was brilliant.

Faithless were awesome. It truly felt like a religious experience. I have no words to describe the break of Insomnia. No words at all. Just go and see them before it's too late. In fact, **Faithless** were so good that the acts I saw afterwards including **Basement Jaxx**, **Eric Morillo** and **Ferry Corsten** were just not that noteworthy. This is my Church, boys and girls.

Mum and Cat Power at the Barbican

B:Music

The
Borough
Market

The Borough Market

Your illustrious about editor tries to go a whole page without making crap "Free Market" puns ...

Borough Market - haven of organic fanatics, fine food seekers and, strangely, many Bollywood film production teams looking for an interesting place to film part of their 'London Montage' - is quite simply one of the best food markets in London: larger and not quite as hideously over-priced as those "Farmer's Markets" found in the more well-to-do of the suburbs with a fabulous selection of meats, vegetables, cheese, breads and pastries, and superb beer and wine vendors.

History:

A significant market has existed in Southwark area for at least 2000 years - it was even made mention of in the writings of Dion Cassius (if you don't recognise the name don't worry yourself too much!). Needless to say it's prime position on the South side of London Bridge meant it became hugely successful ... perhaps too much so. The first official mention of "Borough" market was in 1276, so referred to because it was causing huge congestion problems due to it's immense popularity.

During the height of the Victorian era the majority of food imports arrived at the wharves along Tooley Street - further lending the market even greater levels of produce and trade.

Borough Market is threatened by the pressures of redevelopment in SE1. The long delayed extension of the Thameslink train service requires a new viaduct and new platforms at London Bridge Station which may require the demolition of the Victorian structure. So visit this year - next time your in London it may be too late.

Traders:

"*Flour Power City*" - don't be put off by the god-awful play on words for a name (I actually found it quite amusing, but then if I admitted that you'd all just laugh at me ...) because their baked goods are supremely good. I tend to use them for bread rather than their sweet things, but last time I checked they had some very appealing brownies on offer!

"*Gorwydd Farm Cheese*" - being half-Welsh I have to give some attention to my semi-compatriotic cheese-making friends as they make probably one of the finest Caerphilly (Welsh Cheese) that I've ever had the pleasure of eat-

ing! They also give out free samples of it so you can try before you buy.

"*Neal's Yard Dairy*" - Without shadow of a doubt it's a cheese-lover's paradise (there are apparently some comparable cheese-mongers in North London, but who wants to go all the way there?) and as one of the aforementioned tyrophiles (that's Cheese Lover in Greek for all you etymologists out there) I can vouch that it truly is exceptional.

They offer some excellent bread, fresh UNPASTEURISED cream - it's the colour of gold and exactly how cream should be, as well as an immense variety of British cheeses. Personal recommendations are Montgomery Cheddar, Appleby's Cheshire and Gorwydd Caerphilly.

"*EastTeas*" - Offers an excellent array of Eastern teas (mainly Japanese and Chinese it seems) at



Just a small glimpse of the selection of cheese (and other items) available at "Neal's Yard Dairy"

a fair-ish price. An absolutely essential visit if you're a fan of tea. Incidentally, if you like this sort of thing there's a great patisserie/tea house/Dim Sum restaurant called "Yauatcha" in Soho which serves a large range of just these sorts of tea.

"*AppleBee Fish*" - There are plenty of excellent fishmongers in Borough, I simply chose to highlight AppleBee as it was the last one I used. One can find almost any form of seafood, be it lobster, sea bream, monkfish cheeks, Indonesian king prawns or cockles.

"*Total Organics*" - It's another situation of there being absolutely plenty of good fruiterers/grocers here and me choosing a random one offhand - I've used most



One of the many wonderful stalls for fresh, organic fruit and vegetables

of them at one time or another and there's not a duff one amongst them. Potential purchases of note include Kaffir limes, glorious small pineapples, curly kale and swiss chard, but all of the more conventional fruit and veg available are of excellent quality.

"*The Richard Bramble Collection*" - If you're looking for a pricey gift or just an extremely expensive treat for yourself this stall can furnish you with obscenely priced but stunning crockery - high quality plates painted with various fish/vegetables etc.

"*Cool Chili Co.*" - You can now find some of their goods in Sainsbury's (I shan't accuse them of 'selling out') but this is an excellent stall which offers a mind boggling amount of chilli related goods - of note are their 'Habanero Chilli Powder' (beautifully hot) and their 'Achiote Powder' (a potent blend of crushed annatto seeds, chilli powder etc. used in Mexican cooking).

"*Gamston Wood Ostrich*" - Does what it says on the tin ... Ostrich eggs (big enough to make an omelette for 10), burgers, steaks and feather dusters!

"*Wyndham House Poultry*" - Definitely the place to go if you want to buy and poultry or game birds. They stock probably the most expensive chickens I've ever seen called a 'Sutton Hoo' (the last one I bought cost £14 ...



The impressive entrance to Borough Market.

absolutely great but far too expensive) as well as wonderful duck, partridge, pheasant, grouse and guinea fowl (and everything else in between). A big upside is that they are generally very happy to sell you parts of a bird rather than the whole thing (although I would recommend just buying a whole one - it's a lot more economical).

"*Ginger Pig*" - I come here for just about everything else except my poultry - butchery at its best! Super beef, lamb, veal, pork, bacon and sausages at reasonable prices.

"*Mid Devon Fallow*" - A venison specialist which purveys this fine meat in every form imaginable - haunch, fillets, diced, sausages, burgers ... any way you care to imagine.

"*Utobeer*" - Purveyors of almost every continental beer I've heard of (and many more besides - they even stock some obscure Greek ones that I have never found outside of the Ionic islands). Essential for the beer-lover or if you are looking for scarce spirits such as top-quality Umeshu (Japanese Plum Wine) or Chambord (Wild Berry Liqueur).

"*Bedale's*" - Excellent array of non-mainstream wines (you won't find these in Sainsbury's!) as well as a superb fine wine section downstairs (which I sadly don't have the cash to freely enjoy). They have also introduced a new wine bar on the ground floor so you can try a selection of wines before you buy them. Keep an eye open for the guy who works there called Alex, he's the brother of Ed Harcourt (up-and-coming musician).

Key Information:

Opening Times :-
Friday 12:00 - 18:00
Saturday 09:00-16:00

Location :-
Next to Southwark Cathedral

How to get there :-

Train - London Bridge
Tube - London Bridge/Borough

Alternatively, walk East along the river if you are coming from the South Bank region!

B:ABOUT

theBeaver

The Beaver is the Newspaper of the LSE SU

Get involved!

The Beaver is written by students for students.

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Whether you're interested in news, politics, law, business, culture, travel, fashion or sport we want you to get involved.



Intelligent Design.

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Sports

the sports column
jen bush



So, Initiation. This weekend, those of you clever enough to join a sports team will have enjoyed some kind of initiation. I personally am in between Church and Walkabout.

Yet I find it a strange one for the LSE. Normally people are too studious to indulge in the banter that takes place in sports teams.

As people laughed as I questioned whether they had considered taking up women's rugby at freshers fair, I remembered that primarily LSE produces straight-laced, mother-obedient, investment *ankers.

The AU for me breaks the mold. Not all women's rugby players are short, dumpy and of questionable sexual orientation. Not all Netball players are blond, ditsy and of questionable humour. The LSE gives you the chance to try something new, to try something fun and to try something that will define your time at the LSE. In no way would I ever wish to be defined by women's rugby until I came here.

So if I am not already preaching to the converted, join a sports team. As Ed and I will readily tell you, it is the best way that you can spend £10 whilst you are here. Sure it can buy you three Economists, or 20 copies of the Times, but the AU is more than just the Barrel. That £10 will buy you the pretence that you are at any other Uni. It will buy you entrance to the best social events of their year.

I hear a complaint that this is the first year that it has cost £10 to join the AU. I fully acknowledge that it has made it harder for minority sports to sign up as many people. Women's Ruby has struggled. Yet it is well worth the money.

On a practical note it buys insurance. It buys kit. It buys referees, transport and team dinners. It also includes a feeling of inclusion in a University that is primarily driven by the desire to beat the others around you. Starting with initiation.

Initiation is only part of it. If you are anything to do with Rugby then you have already been to the Church. If you haven't been then next time that you have a Sunday free, head to Kentish Town.

There you will find an establishment that epitomises London. Its not cheap, it's not classy, it's full of Australians and it

will be one of the 'funnest' days you spend off campus. Sunday was made for drinks and strippers.

Hockey have an equally 'fun' time. If you are fortunate enough to still have both your knee caps after hockey initiation then you are one up from the unfortunate fresher from last year. It matters not to me what is involved in Initiation but only what you get out of it. I am yet to find anyone who regrets joining the AU.

If you are Men's Rugby then welcome Ballsucker's Ballsucker. So as not to scare the rest of you off, this is only one man who puts himself forward as worthy of sucking balls.

For the rest of them they merely have to put away a few drinks before making a good impression on the women. Kitty being involved with the stripper at this years Church is enough in itself to excuse all the men.

This issue of the Beaver also includes Calella. It is a week where the AU escapes the LSE. A week where we may still look down on the polytechnics who are unfortunate enough to cross our paths, but where we can also shake off the prejudices which stating that you come from the LSE brings with it.

We can be from a Uni which plays sport. From a Uni which relishes that. From a Uni which enjoys the ridiculous side of its students. No doubt if you turn a few pages you you will see the photographic evidence of this.

Every person on these pages subscribes to this belief, that by being part of the AU you maximise your enjoyment of being at such an 'impressive' university. As sycophantic as I may sound, I would also say it sober.

As you are wandering campus in the next few days I want you to look out for the golden fleeces of the Rugby boys, the self-satisfied smiles of the AU girls, the canary yellow football shirts and the talented badminton boys.

You will see and hear them on Wednesday night in the Three Tuns. You will see and hear them on Thursday in the UGM. You will not be able to avoid the noise throughout your entire time at the LSE.

I am women's rugby. I am more than proud of it. I will announce it to the entire LSE. It also makes for interesting questions at interview...

Aye Aye,

We meet and greet the new

Aerobics

Name: Tomasina Reilly
Status: Single
Drinks: Archers & Lemonade
Favourite memory of last year: The Barrel dressed as Moulin Rouge.
Aim for this year: Get involved socially.



Badminton

Name: Daniel Wright
Status: Single
Drinks: Jack Daniels
Favourite memory of last year: Ladies winning Team of the Year at the Ball.
Aim for this year: To stave off relegation.



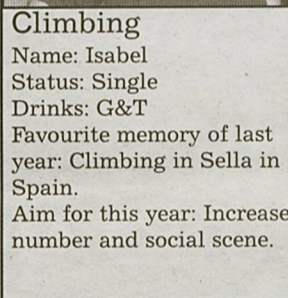
Basketball

Name: Henrik Jorem
Status: Single
Drinks: Orange Juice
Favourite memory of last year: Sharing a bus to Essex with rugby and being the only LSE Team to win.
Aim for this year: Win.



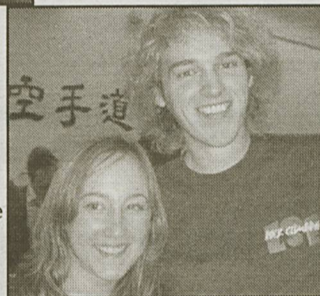
Capoeira

Name: Blandine Yernaux
Status: Attached
Drinks: Mojitos
Favourite memory of last year: The initiation ceremony, gaining a belt.
Aim for this year: Good numbers from the beginning.



Climbing

Name: Isabel
Status: Single
Drinks: G&T
Favourite memory of last year: Climbing in Sella in Spain.
Aim for this year: Increase number and social scene.



Darts

Name: Jonathon Bartley
Status: Single
Drinks: Guinness
Favourite memory of last year: Dancing with chavs to make them look gay.
Aim for this year: To get an exhibition game with a pro-player and win more.

Cricket

Name: Rich Hooper
Status: Single
Drinks: G&T
Favourite memory of last year: The fluorescent batter who helped us beat UCL.
Aim for this year: Increase socialising and winning.



Frisbee

Name: Feng Qian Ang
Status: Attached
Drinks: Anything classy
Favourite memory of last year: Combining with UCL to come fourth in the nationals.
Aim for this year: Compete in the first division.



Golf

Name: Tan Chantrapannick
Status: Attached
Drinks: Snakebite
Favourite memory of last year: Beating Imperial
Aim for this year: Qualifying to play against other parts of the country.



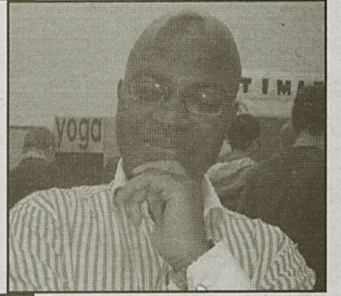
Karate

Name: Chris Yeah
Status: Single
Drinks: Coke
Favourite memory of last year: Doing well in BUSA.
Aim for this year: To do better in the competitions.



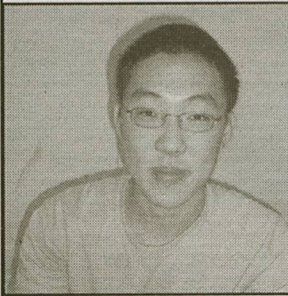
Jitsu

Name: Alexander A'Air
Status: Very Single!
Drinks: Anything Sweet
Favourite memory of last year: A brand spanking new club to the LSE!
Aim for this year: Global domination.



Lacross

Name: Arts Radia
Status: Single
Drinks: Evian
Favourite memory of last year: Almost beating Imperial.
Aim for this year: Win all our matches and be the best team in London.



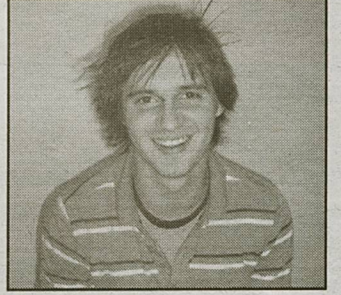
Football

Name: John McDermot
Status: Attached
Drinks: Bourbon on the rocks
Favourite memory of last year: Making Brummie cry after beating the seconds.
Aim for this year: Win more silverware.



Hockey

Name: Robert Moore
Status: Attached
Drinks: Baileys
Favourite memory of last year: Baller getting punished at the Barrel for lateness (messy!)
Aim for this year: Promotion!

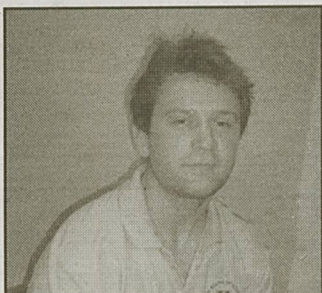


Captains

generation of club captains

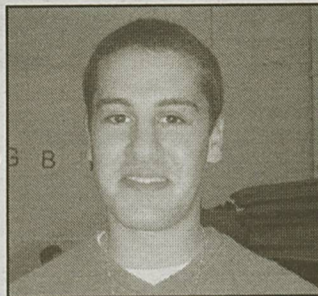
Men's Rugby

Name: Ed Harrold
Status: Don't know!
Drinks: Monster
Favourite memory of last year: Girls not winning ULU Cup Final.
Aim for this year: Win more games than the girls.



Mixed Martial Arts

Name: Mike Bank
Status: Single
Drinks: H2O on the rocks
Favourite memory of last year: 40 people turning up for the first class, and knowing they will not last. Aim for the year: A charity fight night.



Netball

Name: Ros Ferguson
Status: Single
Drinks: Double Bacardi, Cranberry and Lime
Favourite memory of last year: Sarah being sick down Helen's leg in a taxi.
Aim for this year: Silverware.



Shooting

Name: Sam Dash
Status: Single
Drinks: Coke
Favourite memory of last year: Winning BUSA
Aim for this year: Re-break the records set last year by the club.



Rowing

Name: Andrew Lomax
Status: Attached
Drinks: Snakebite
Favourite memory of last year: Racing mens head and having a corker of a night out afterwards.
Aim for the year: Win at Henley.



Running

Name: Kevin Badeen
Status: Single
Drinks: Stella
Favourite memory of last year: Getting left behind at Wimbledon.
Aim for this year: Winning the league.



Squash

Name: Natalie Husdan
Status: Attached
Drinks: Champagne
Favourite memory of last year: beating the nastiest Kings team ever 3-2.
Aim for this year: Win the Cup, and find an awesome 3rd player for the ladies.



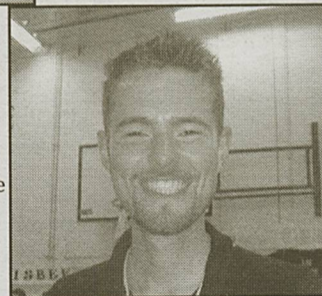
Table Tennis

Name: Sam Nair
Status: Single
Drinks: G&T
Favourite memory of last year: Women coming second in BUSA finals.
Aim for this year: Get both teams into the finals.



Tae Kwon Do

Name: Chris Burns
Status: Single after a disastrous summer!
Drinks: Toffee Apples
Favourite memory of last year: Vlad busting the face of a Cambridge loser.
Aim for the year: To be more sociable in the AU.



Men's Tennis

Name: Pete Kuzarow
Status: Single
Drinks: Bourbon
Favourite memory of last year: Winning the league.
Aim for this year: Winning the league.



Women's Football

Name: Rohrfunn Chin
Status: Single
Drinks: B52
Favourite memory of last year: Winning with only eight players against QMW.
Aim for this year: Have fun!



Women's Hockey

Name: Meenal Patel
Status: Single
Drinks: Sex on the beach
Favourite memory of last year: The Barrel. (Jade in particular!)
Aim for this year: Get 11 players training every week.



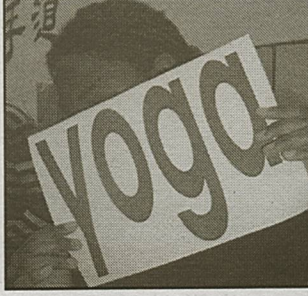
Women's Rugby

Name: Sandy Kunkler
Status: Single (very!)
Drinks: G&T, Egnog
Favourite memory of last year: Getting cold and naked for charity.
Aim for this year: Remain a very social, beautiful and successful team.



Yoga

Name: Priscilla Essuman
Status: Single
Drinks: Water
Favourite memory of last year: Farting during the pose.
Aim for this year: A greater presence at LSE.



The AU. We couldn't really leave it out even though it is the most obvious and banal choice...We truly do love karaoke.

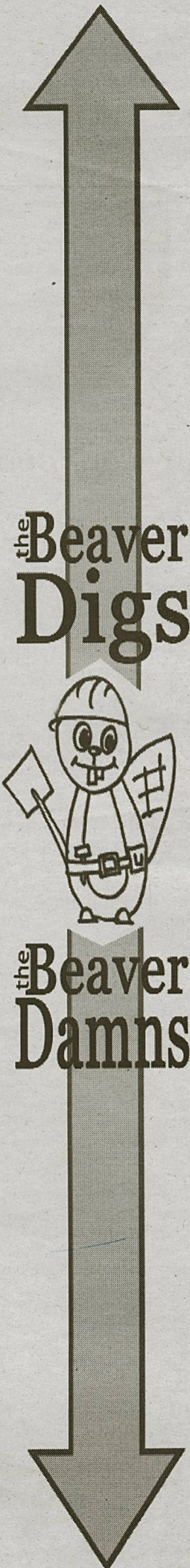
The Tuns. It is not only the venue for infamous Wednesday nights but also where we spend most of our days. It also now provides food so we don't even have to venture to Wright's bar.

Checking out the new AU freshers, yes we are third years and yes we will use that if we think it will help us get laid. Plus we love General Course American sports groupies.

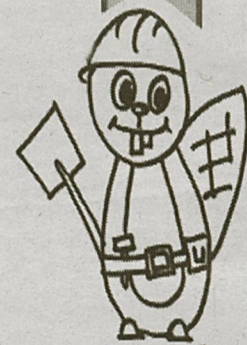
Assumptions. Yes we play sport but it doesn't make us stupid or unsociable. We do it because we love it. Try and stop us.

People who believe that sports are not a valid way to spend your free time! (So it won't help you be an Investment Banker, who gives a mon-keys!)

Wednesday nights being forced into the mold of 'STA Karaoke challenge' instead of being their true selves as the AU night in the Tuns. Where sports get drunk and sing.



the Beaver Digs



the Beaver Damns

Calella Uncovered...Calella Uncovered...Calella Uncovered...Calella Uncovered...C



The Guys

Boys on Tour:

'Spurred on by Britain's pusillanimous decision not to oppose his insurrection, in 1938 General Francisco Franco's forces conquered the sleepy coastal town of Calella leaving a trail of destruction, rape and blood in their midst.

In 2005, the LSE AU went one better.

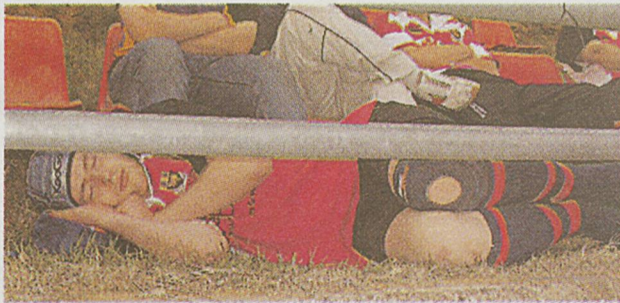
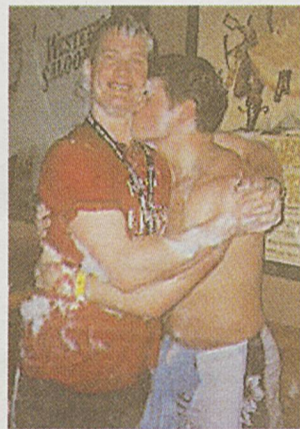
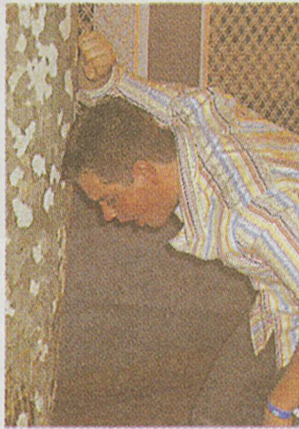
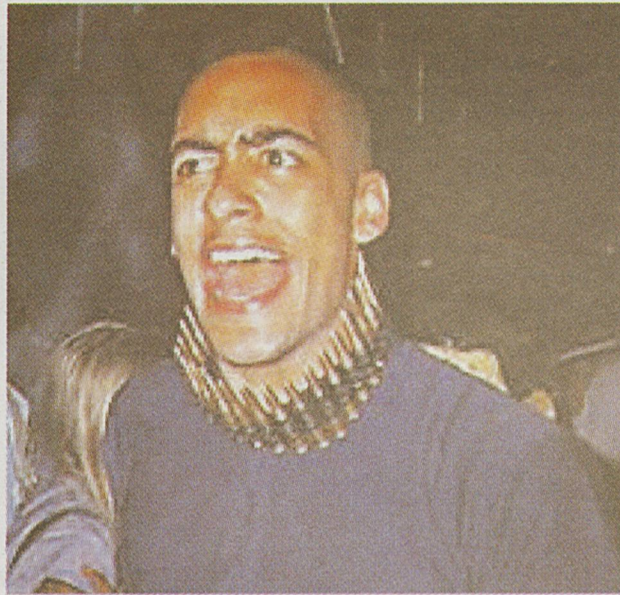
Upon returning from Calella, the average AU male will have gained two stone, consumed Mossian proportions of chemicals (including a bizarre energy drink that induces jaundice and hallucinations, turning its user into a parody of Jordan's manbaby), smoked more than Bill Hicks, not slept for days, and have worse cock-rot than a hoard of lepers.

Yet, when the question invariably comes, "How was your holiday?", there is only ever one reply: "fucking brilliant".

Why? Because for a few days, the LSE male gets to return to the state of nature. It is a war of every poly against us. Sexual activity is frequently solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short. Anarchy reigns and we love it. The lack of law and etiquette allow us to embrace the lash to Defcon 5 levels. Where else could Taffy feel at home? Where else is Fabs able to plausibly claim that he indulged in a spit roast? Where else do the women's

rugby team look remotely tempting?

An unbridled riot, a reminder to yourself that you are a horrible person that thrives on indulgence, debauchery and fornication. Roll on 2006.'



Calella Uncovered...Calella Uncovered...Calella Uncovered...Calella Uncovered...C

Calella Uncovered...Calella Uncovered...Calella Uncovered...Calella Uncovered...C

The Dolls



Girls on Tour:

When people ask me about Calella, I admit that it sounds like a lads' holiday. But that is because you have only heard about Calella from a lad's perspective.

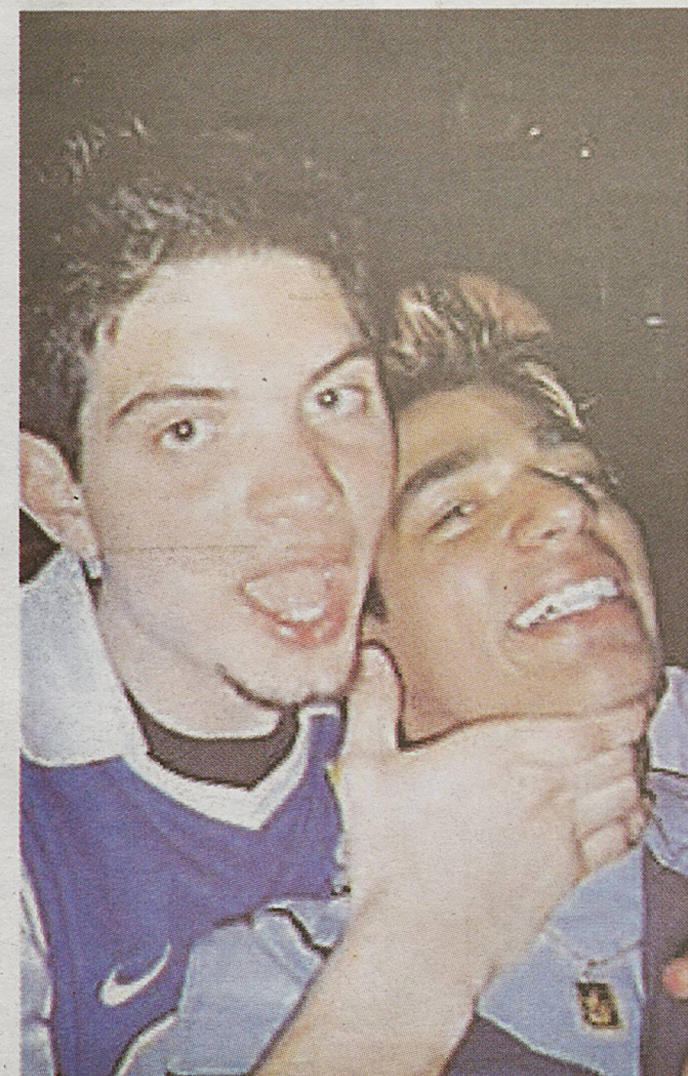
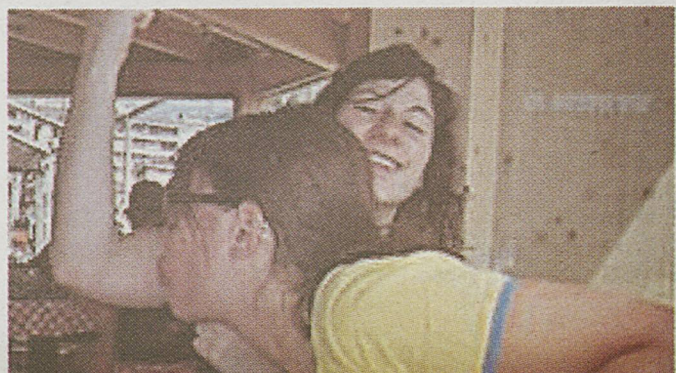
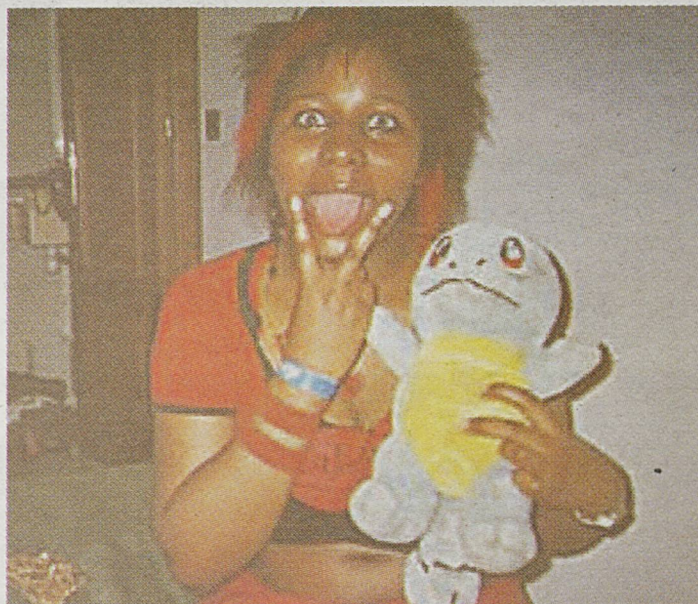
with LSE men but we do not share their standards.

An unbridled game, a reminder to yourself that you are a beautiful person that thrives on indulgence, vodka and girliness. Roll on 2006.'

I was dubious enough doing it for myself, let alone describing it to family and friends at home. However, Calella is what you make it. For the girls it is a chance to spend six days with your team. For sober or drunker your 'team' will both stand by and encourage you. We went as women's rugby yet half the girls were a different sport, or social members.

Yes, Calella remains some of the drunkest times of my life. Yes, I am slightly embarrassed of the entire week. But, the girls went out for dinner, we went shopping, we went on the lash. It was the best girly holiday that I've been on, we just shared it with the guys. Calella is not just about the dubious sexual experiences and the inhuman amount of alcohol.

For me it was more than a team bonding exercise. I know the fifteen girls that I went away with better than I will ever know anyone. Calella for the girls is also about laughs, we find it easier than the lads to get laid and we enjoy it more. Girls go to Calella knowing that it is them that call the shots. We may share a coach



Calella Uncovered...Calella Uncovered...Calella Uncovered...Calella Uncovered...C

the Beaver Sports

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The numerous faces of the AU clubs

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It's Jens turn...

New Year, New Buzz

Capoeira: muscles you never knew existed



Linda Lonnqvist



If you're happy and you know it clap your hands!

Looking for a fun way to do exercise? Want to become lean and mean but without the stress and pressure? Look no further than capoeira classes at LSE.

Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art, but it involves little body contact or bruising. The 'martial' side of the game is mental and strategic rather than physical: while you aim to kick your opponent in the head, this is normally done by tricking her or him into dropping their guard and then stopping your kick a few inches from the target: you show that you could have kicked him in the head, rather than actually creating ambulance casualties on a weekly basis.

This not-quite-fighting takes place in a circle of people (called a roda, a wheel or circle), to the rhythm of live music and singing, in a constant, turning and circling interaction. Some people call it a dance, but that is just one element of the game.

Capoeira gets you fit without even trying. There, that's the single most compelling reason to take it up. I shouldn't even need to mention the buzz, the grace and swing of the game, the satisfaction of finding new muscles, the rich culture, the rhythm and the interaction and the friends you make: capoeira gets you fit without even noticing, and that should be advertisement enough.

Initially, there is the mental challenge of getting your head around the movements: I'm putting my elbow where? My centre of gravity becomes what? And meanwhile, what am I doing with the left leg? In the movement drills you

move upside down, turning around, you stand up, sweep along the floor, from a standing kick into a crouch into a kick from the ground into a handstand. And there is usually something for everyone: no matter what your fitness level and personal physique are like, there will be something you're good at. For example girls are usually better at flexibility and boys at strength, but with training, girls end up stronger and boys more flexible. The learning curve at the beginning is steep and it's deeply gratifying to realize that you've just done something you couldn't have imagined a few weeks ago. You come away with lactic acid ache in exotic and mysterious places.

This is appropriate since capoeira itself originated in exotic and myste-

rious places. The first written records mentioning capoeira are police records from Rio de Janeiro from the late 1800s, about the illegal capoeira street gangs. Capoeira is considered to have been developed by plantation slaves in Brazil: the story is that the slaves practiced fighting, but disguised it as a dance so that it would look harmless if the white boss happened to notice. As

such, capoeira has been a clandestine black people's game, and only became legal and officially applauded in Brazil in the 1920s. It includes many elements of African culture and religion which are evident in the song lyrics and music.

Today, capoeira is taught worldwide, including our group Raizes de Rua taught by Mestre Pastel and Instructor Pedro

at the LSE. Come join the classes in the Polygym (near the badminton courts) in the basement of the Old Building on Mondays 6-7.30 pm, Wednesdays 6.30-8 pm, and Saturdays 12-2 pm. Wear a t-shirt and long trousers that allow movement. You can be barefoot or wear trainers. There will be sweat on the gym floor, but no blood and no tears.

The sights, sounds and tastes of Calella inside: "At least the taste of vom covered up any other nasty tastes"