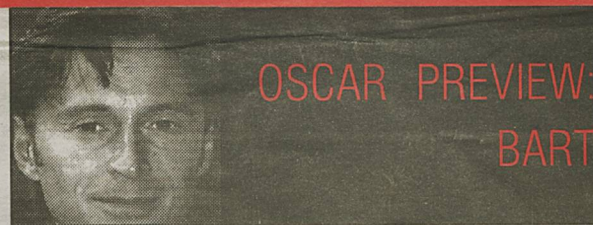


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& ECONOMIC SCIENCE

Tattoos and
Piercings
Style



Tuesday, February 3
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THE BEAVER

Giddens: "not personally in favour of fees."

Bizarre Bazaar

David Balfour

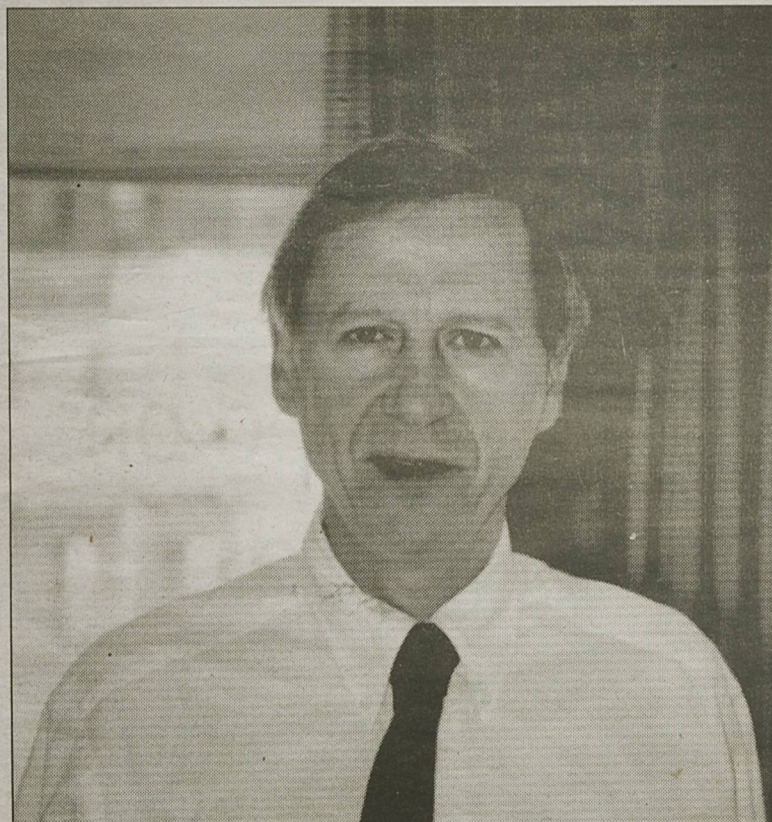
Saucy. Thats what the Tuns is, saucy. On Friday the 19th, the tuns got even saucier, so saucy that every one was slaving, with the delights that were found in the almost annual Slave Auction. Put together by Emma Pinkerton from the AU (and possible future Sabbatical) and ents Sabbatical Jasper Ward the night was intended to raise awareness and money for Greenpeace.

In total about 20 LSE students took part in the evenings frolics. It raised a whopping £140 for one of the worlds best known environmental activist groups, Greenpeace.. Apparently the slave auction was the culmination of a weeks worth of campaigning for environmentalist causes. Jasper was certainly pleased with his part to help. Further, his ego was given a push by the fact that he was the highest priced male sold, at a stonking £12. Unfortunately his wish to be sold to a, "cheap, minging whore" that would proceed to force him into unmentionable carnal acts was shattered when he was sold into bondage by tory fanatic 'Skid' Mark Turner. Turner, not one to miss the opportunity of cheap labour, made full use of his slave. Jasper was forced to wear Hartlepool FC colours all day on Thursday, an act which upon reflection made Jasper proud. He fully enjoys supporting minor clubs having been a full on Derby County fan since they were in the 3rd division. Further he had to give Mark a full english breakfast, which mark duly ate with intense ferocity and uninterrupted concentration, center stage in the UGM. Never in the history of the UGM has one man thought so hard about a banger.

Other Sabbaticals wee also auctioned. General Secretary Naruis Aga was sold to ex-LSE Ed. and Welfare office Sam Parham for £10. Current Ed. and Welfare office Yuan Potts, who sold for £5, went to two lovely ladies whose plan it is rumoured to take him to the movies. Yuan however, was not only sold but he participated in the buying. He purchased one Paddy Scoffin. The two were then almost inseperable for the rest of the evening. Paddy is planning to cook Yuan a 'nice veggie meal', but denies rumour that he'll be dressed as a french maid.

The most common use for the slaves, seems to be clean their masters houses. After all it helps clean those vomit stains from around the toilet and besides it was all for a good cause.

Talking to some of the punters on the evening they expressed amusement over the event but were disappointed by the poor quality of the slaves and the general lack of debauchery that was on display.



Professor Giddens talks back...

Photo:Nina Duncan



...while students face fees on top of fees

Photo: Library

Sithara Sernando

The director of the LSE, professor Anthony Giddens, responded last week to the latest fees controversy.

As published in a previous issue of the Beaver, the elite Russell Group of universities, of which the LSE is part, have submitted a letter to Mr. David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education. This takes issue with the Secretary of State's reserve powers to control the implementation of "differential fees"(a euphemism for top-up fees) by individual universities. The letter argues that "provided that any differential fees are accompanied by an adequate system of scholarships and bursaries for the less well off, we cannot envisage circumstances in which a Secretary of State would need to exercise reserve powers to control such fees." If introduced, differential fees would be payable in addition to the government's proposed across the board tuition fees.

In response to this new development the LSE Student's Union wrote an open letter to Professor Anthony Giddens, the Director of LSE, condemning the Russell Group letter as a "further nail in the coffin of meritocratic free education".

Following the open letter General Secretary Naruis Aga met with Professor Giddens to discuss the issue and commented to the Beaver that the School's response was not what students had hoped for. While realising the School's financial position, Aga still felt that "differential fees" would lead to a two-tier system where students would gain entrance on the basis of financial and not academic merit. This would have a negative impact on the academic quality of the student body, inevitably leading to a lowering of the School's reputation. Aga went on to comment further that he felt University Directors and Vice Chancellors should exert pressure on the government to rethink its policy, and in his opinion have failed to do so.

When the Beaver contacted Professor

Giddens to get his views on the government policy, the Director's reply was that "it is not a question of whether one supports it or not, since it is already stated government policy." However he went on to say that popular universities such as the LSE face ever increasing demands on their resources due to rising student uptakes each year on one hand, and the need to maintain and improve their high academic standards on the other. He also stressed that the LSE's financial resources have been stretched to the limit year after year in the past in order to meet the rising demands on its resources.

When questioned on his stance on the Russell Group's letter and 'differential fees' his response was somewhat ambivalent. On one hand he states that he supports the Russell Group's stance on safeguarding the ability of individual universities to raise finance through 'differential fees' should the money allocated to them by the government prove to be inadequate. At the same time he claims that "personally he is not in favour

of differential fees". He also stated that at the moment the LSE has no plans of introducing differential fees and that the possibilities are that 'differential fees' will be removed from the educational system in the future. Aga when asked for his reaction to this, felt the Director should make a public statement to this effect to stave off LSE students' anxiety on this issue.

The general feeling in the Student Executive meeting this week was one of thorough dissatisfaction with Professor Giddens' stance on the issue. In protest they are planning to carry out a series of press stunts within the next two weeks. However, it was felt that the general feeling of apathy amongst LSE students over the issue was a limiting factor on any such expressions of protest. One feels inclined to question whether this lack of popular participation is an indication that the student body agrees with the concept of extra fees, or simply reflective of a feeling that fees do not concern current students as they will not have to pay them.

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LISTINGS AND HOROSCOPES RETURN NEXT WEEK

News from Nowhere



I am sure that everyone who lived or lives within the illustrious walls of LSE's Halls of Residences knows of the hours of fun that can be had with student line. Prank calls in the middle of the night, bogus messages and such like all provide tremendous entertainment for our stimulation-deprived minds. However, a student at Bristol University has taken the idea to new lengths this week by discovering how to hack into the voicemail system and change the answerphone messages of all 400 of the halls inhabitants. He replaced messages which used to contain obligatory "can't come to the phone right now leave your message and I'll call you back" with raunchy recordings from 0898 numbers. The prank was only discovered after hundreds of unsuspecting grannies, whilst trying to make contact with their beloved heirs, were asked by 'dusky blondes' what colour underwear they were wearing and whether they'd like to take it up the arse. What is the world coming to?

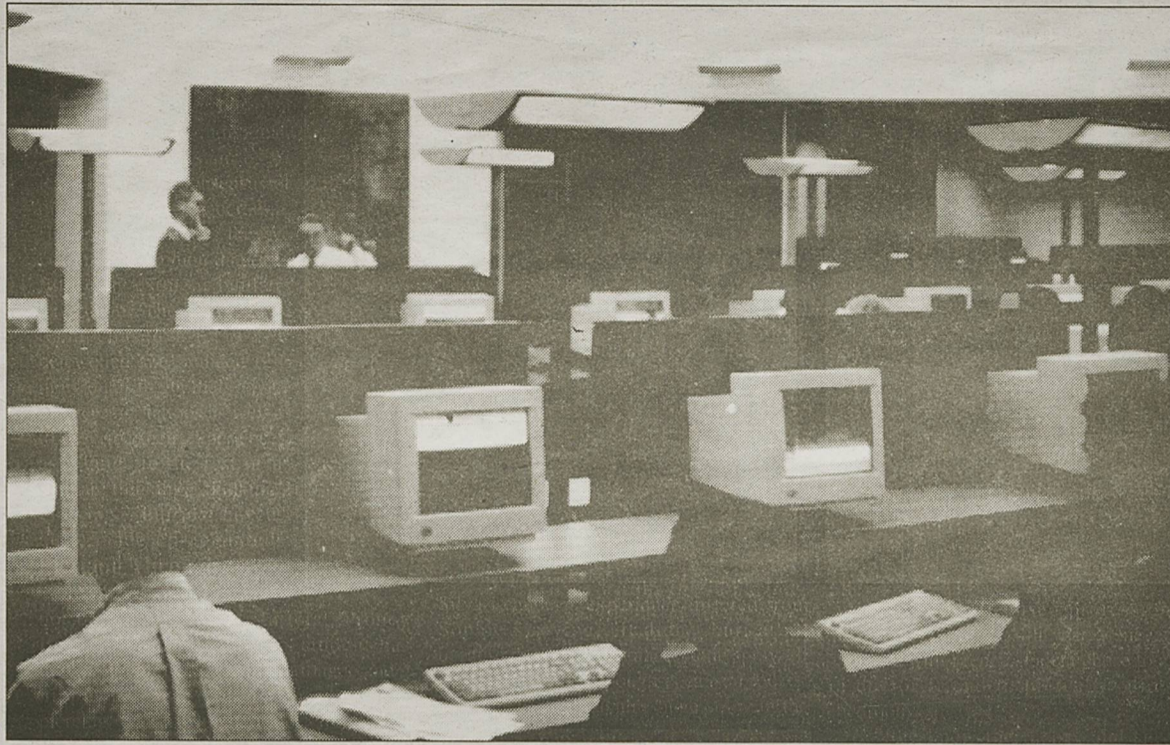
And well might I ask when I hear of two separate incidents of human debauchery this week. A lecturer at Bristol University was caught on camera sneaking into his department to use the internet in the wee hours. What was initially applauded as an example of the total dedication of a lecturer to researching his subject was later exposed for what it was, namely a grotty attempt by a grotty man to get his rocks off on pictures of infants in various sexually explicit poses. A similar story has hit the headlines in Durham this week when a porter was fined £500 for the possession of over 70 videos depicting child pornography. Also discovered in his house were a number of indecent photos of a child under the age of 16. All these people need is to be mugged by a few such kids in order to find out what the world is really about.

Alternatively, they could just read the Daily Mail as a 2nd year French and Italian student found out this week. Whilst perusing the pages of this lauded publication she happened upon a double page spread of her own beloved boyfriend, who had left her bed only hours earlier, cavorting in various states of undress with none other than Geri (Ginger) Spice. The girl is reported to be very hurt and upset claiming that she had been used shamelessly. Errr yeah...

Also used shamelessly were two cats the remains of which were reportedly found skinned and rotting in the slop bins of a hall's kitchens at Royal Holloway last week. Horror and disgust has swept through the ranks of those who had consumed the unidentifiable meat stew with relish the night before but so far no repercussions have occurred. Apparently the mass suicide of all the halls chefs 'is an entirely separate and unrelated incident'.

Tasha Kosviner

Hard Drive for Work



The new orderly and scholarly C120

Photo: Alex Trojanow

Tom Livingstone

LSE IT Services stressed this week that no decisions will be taken on the future of the partial E-mail ban in C120 without consultation with the student body.

David Dalby, IT Services manager, intends to keep the ban in force until the end of the current term. At the moment, the 40 computers in the central bank in C120 are unavailable for E-mail use between 10 am and 6 pm.

It seems that the scheme, intended to aid those who wish to work at the expense of those who want to keep up with the gossip, is working. Students who visit C120 with academic rather than social requirements have little or no difficulty getting a screen.

Most users accepted the reasoning behind the scheme, although there have been some rumblings of discontent. Some

in the C120 queue said they wished to work and use E-mail, and a few even looked back nostalgically to the pre-queuing days, when getting a screen in the room involved cunning, agility and occasionally violence.

New screens in the library basement and St. Clement's building are intended to ease the pressure on C120, and, Dalby hopes, as the term goes on, and thoughts turn to those unfinished essays, the demand for E-mail use will decrease.

Complaints against the new system are being taken on board, David Dalby assured *the Beaver*. "We are listening to students' responses," he stressed, "and we will review the situation at the end of term." He would not be drawn, however, on the likely outcome of this review. On a different note, Dalby added that he and his colleagues were doing all they could to eradicate the problem of unsolicited E-mail, again as a response to student complaints.

Some students suggested resolving the E-mail access problems by allocating some screens for E-mail only, while one second year suggested bringing a ban into force only when the queue exceeded 4 or 5 people.

If anyone has any better ideas they should email IT Services. However, if the queue in C120 is too long, you'll just have to send your answers on the back of a postcard.

Fee Radicals wreak havoc at debate

Tom Livingstone

IN A MOVE DESCRIBED BY ONE LSE student as "reminiscent of the Third Reich," the CFE and the SWP intensified their anti-fees campaign - despite attempts by some LSE students to stop them - by occupying the stage at the latest Guardian/Institute of Education public debate.

The LSE's Andy Charlwood was speaking after protesters delayed the start of last Wednesday's debate, which saw Stephen Dorrell and Tessa Jowell put the case for and against the government's proposals for higher education. As Mr Dorrell was about to begin his opening speech, the protesters, about thirty in number, unfurled their banners and began chanting their slogans.

The protest soon turned to a sit in, and - despite the efforts of some LSE students to persuade the campaigners to leave the stage - the debate was swiftly closed.

The LSE's Sara Bryson, one of those involved in the sit in, explained that the protest was "against the lack of student representation in the debate." A debate between Mr Dorrell and Tessa Jowell was, she added "a joke." Bryson also retorted to Andy Charlwood's comments, condemning them as "disgusting."

But Charlwood maintained that "the protest showed the true nature of the Campaign for Free Education." Any such protest, he added, was not helpful to the debate.

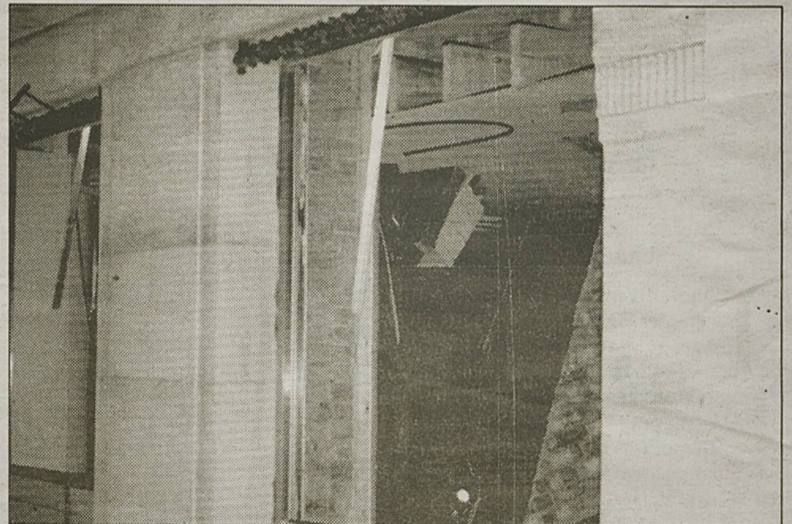
After a delay of around 25 minutes, the stage was cleared and the debate was re-opened. A compromise had been reached, whereby a third speaker, NUS Executive member Jo Cardwell, was allowed to participate.

Following the surprising emergence of Mr Dorrell as a champion of the working class, and Tessa Jowell's predictable "tough choices" line, Ms Cardwell - speaking in a "personal capacity" - called for "the market to be kicked out of education." The man all students love to hate, NUS President Douglas Trainer, was unimpressed, apparently sacking Cardwell when the debate was opened to the floor.

After much heckling and some sensible contributions from the floor, the motion "The government's policy on student funding will not achieve the national requirement to expand higher education", was passed overwhelmingly.

The CFE's actions are unlikely to be their last contribution to the debate (or rather last attempt to hijack the debate), and it is likely that LSE students, militant and moderate, will once again be confronting each other on this issue.

Time Called on New Bar



Construction work continues as bar opening is delayed

Photo: Ralph Achenbach

Ryan Conlon

AS MANY READERS WILL KNOW, the old Bank of Scotland building, at the entrance to Houghton Street, is to be the site of a new bar. Brewers Young's of Wandsworth originally aimed to open by the end of February, but delays have meant this will be shifted to early March. No precise dates are available as yet.

The bar, to be named the Columbia Bar, will be of a split-level construction. Steve Gallagher, Young's Area Manager, said the "ground floor will be very modern, with a lot of chrome and solid surfaces, while the lower level will be of a more traditional but still fairly modern style".

Mr Gallagher said the bar would serve Young's Traditional Ales, twenty different wines by the glass and of course the usual

God in the Quad

Ryan Conlon

OVER THE COURSE OF LAST WEEK, the LSE Christian Union held a 'Jesus Awareness Week'. The event, now an annual one, has become a chance for members of the strong Christian community at the LSE to come together. The Christian Union, a non-denominational society with some seventy active members, organised a range of events, and throughout the week manned a stall in The Quad dispensing leaflets and advice.

The range of events included outsider speaker Bob Hurley, commenting on the relevance of Christianity in the modern world. Further speakers included one on As well as a stall in The Quad, the Christian Union ran a number of videos throughout the week including: a 'Jesus video' based on the gospel of Luke, and another recounting the story of one vicar, who hearing a calling from God, went onto the mean streets of New York to help the young homeless and down-and-out to kick their heroin addictions.

Ben Goodyear of the Christian Union said that event was an opportunity for 'Christians to come together and try to let people know about Jesus, through talking about his relevance to various issues today'. In addition they were giving those interested the chance to read about Jesus for themselves by offering free copies of St John's gospel.

variety of drinks found in any other pub. It will also serve food.

Young's have no particular clientele in mind, saying they aimed to attract 'anyone who walks past the door', although they expected it to be frequented by local office workers. Mr Gallagher said 'You can aim at a particular clientele, and be surprised by those who actually come to a pub'. Unlike the White Horse pub, to the rear of LSE, with its prominent 'No Students' sign, Young's said students would be welcome at their new establishment.

On the whole, the response of students to the idea of another pub on site seems positive. However, with the Tuns so near at hand, and the prospect of paying for unsubsidised drinks in the Columbia, many fewer may make this new bar their regular watering hole.

Clinton: The choice of a generation?

The last ten days have seen unprecedented levels of scandal and controversy on Capitol Hill, generating a media frenzy that has gripped the world's attention.

Unfortunately President Clinton's survival is being perceived solely as a question of political realism. In the wake of the President's State of the Union speech, a poll for CNN showed that 78 per cent of voters declared themselves confident in Mr Clinton's ability to carry out his duties, a rise of 12 per cent from before the speech. It seems the people are satisfied with Clinton the statesman and titillated by Clinton the Romeo.

Unless Mr Clinton can be proved to have coerced Ms Lewinsky into committing perjury, he will emerge relatively unscathed. Conclusive evidence that he is currently lying to the world about the nature of his relationship would also be politically fatal, but it is highly unlikely that this will emerge. Ms Lewinsky is standing by her original statement that their relationship was not sexual and therefore could end up perjuring herself.

There is also developing evidence concerning the conspiracy theory. On Wednesday, Mr Clinton's lawyers issued a

News Comment

subpoena to the Conservative lawyer George Conway, whom they claim is providing legal support to Linda Tripp - the Pentagon worker who recorded the secret conversations between herself and Ms Lewinsky.

It has now transpired that he is also linked to the sexual harassment case involving Paula Jones, thus giving greater impetus to Hillary Clinton's "right-wing plot" argument.

This all adds up to a situation where Clinton is in the power position and Monica Lewinsky is the one most likely to lose in this game. Yet why are we not outraged by the behaviour of this man, who is after all the most powerful political figure in the world? He was elected in 1992 after his extra-marital affair with Gennifer Flowers was confirmed and now has two further charges of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct filed against him.

Sadly, the reality of the situation is that people are either indifferent to the extra-political activities of our leaders or such scandals actually tend to enhance their popularity. There appears to be some kind

of obscene fascination with the sexual misdemeanours of the rich and famous and if Al Gore were to succeed Clinton, we would probably complain that his sex life is far too boring.

Of course politicians and public figures are setting a bad example, but we should ask ourselves the more searching question, why do we so often condone their behaviour?

The hedonistic culture in which we live engenders a desire for ultimate fulfilment and the 'exit' option is always available if we are left unsatisfied. Indeed the market is entirely dependent upon our search for something new. The media constantly feeds us with images of perfect bodies, people who are charming, handsome, successful, drive fast cars and are incredible lovers.

Perhaps this permeates into our private lives and leaves us not only dissatisfied with our material goods, but our partners too. It teaches us to perceive others as a means which we can use for our own pleasurable ends, as opposed to an end in their own right. This is exactly the

assumption that Clinton has showed in his treatment of all the women that he has come into contact with.

President Clinton has done little to promote the "strong family values" that he claimed to have in the 1992 elections and even if he and Hillary Clinton have worked out some kind of 'deal', he cannot justify the pain that he is causing his daughter. Furthermore, the signals that Hillary Clinton is sending out to other women by exonerating her husband, yet again, are very damaging. Surely we should be attempting to promote high moral standards in society, rather than simply disregarding this aspect of public life as irrelevant.

Clearly President Clinton has succumbed to the same desire for instant gratification that drives modern society and in this sense he is not a leader but a victim himself. The real scandal is not so much what he has done, than the fact that we are failing to condemn him for his behaviour. The response of the American people, who do not seem sufficiently concerned to remove him from office, suggests that they will forgive his faults as long as he continues to deliver the economic goods.

Michael Collins



UNION JACK

NEW UGM - blink and you'll miss it. Jack is considering moving to a larger typeface in an effort to fill this column, since everyone in the UGM seems to have given up providing material for your favourite political journo. There was a strange noise coming from the microphones this week. Was it the dying breath of the UGM? This week's was an abysmal effort, perhaps the worst that Jack has seen.

The question on Jack's mind is this: is the UGM unable to get it up because of stress of work, tiredness and boredom, or is it permanently impotent? There seem to Jack to be two connected and mutually reinforcing problems - not enough cast and not enough audience. In the absence of former star performers (Tom Smith and Nick the Hair, where are you now?), the UGM is no longer putting on a good enough show to attract the hordes. It was always the preserve of hacks, but at least they were entertaining hacks who were keen to grab support by playing to the gallery. Now it tends to dissolve into an onanistic burst of navel gazing, which is shorter and shorter lived. So it becomes even more forbidding, and so fails to attract the new blood which is essential to revive it. There is only so long that the UGM can survive on Andy Houghton's singing.

Enough pontification: Nariusz made his usual sterling efforts to whip up the Union to a state of frenzy. As has become usual, the audience chatted through his speech. Then there was Yuan, who since beginning an anti-drugs campaign has been wandering around in a confused state, unable to remember who he is or what he's doing. Then Jasper, who did no-one any favours by emplacing Turnoff on stage with a mixed grill. Strangely, watching Skid Mark eat was only marginally more horrible than watching him speak, although the combination of both activities was pretty horrendous.

A motion about recycling came next. Maybe this offers hope for the UGM. There could be a future in recycling comic motions from three or four years ago. Admittedly they'd be full of references to John Major and the Gulf War, but that wouldn't make them any less relevant than what the UGM debates these days.

Then there was an effort at comedy from Andy Charlwood. He is to humour what Nariusz is to rhetoric. Jack's tip - Terry Wogan is not an example to follow for comic presentation. Gorgeous George didn't provide much of a response. One way of improving her performance at least in the UGM might be to prevent her entering the Tuns of a Wednesday. George has developed a simple dress code - if she's wearing a cap (keep your comments to yourself Dirty Balfour) then she did something she regrets the night before. Following their leader, the Tories seemed apathetic. Not even Richard Wignall, the Alan Sked of the UGM (neither of them should take this as a compliment), could be bothered to get up to oppose this. Only Turnoff, with pieces of his Mixed Grill showering the front rows, was able to splutter a Terminator-like response: "We'll be back". And that was all folks. Meanwhile:

- Andy Houghton's Top Five Films: 5: Red Ruck West. 4: View to a (Wright's Bar Mixed) Grill. 3: Cape Beer. 2: The Pies that Loved Me. 1: Little Prop of Horrors.

(Tickets for "An Evening with Andy Houghton" in the Pleasance Theatre next Wednesday, are now on sale in the Tuns.)

News in Brief

Wheels of Fire

On the evening of Wednesday 21 January a small fire broke out in Dr. Bike's bike shed. The fire brigade extinguished the flames before any damage more serious than a soot coated ceiling was caused. A box of clothes and other personal belongings caught alight because of the limited heating arrangement that the Dr. Bike team has to work with.

Zeeshan Azhar, the elusive Dr. Bike, took a public stand at this year's UGM budget debate to preserve the society's funding. The team need capital in order to carry out their duties and, as this incident has highlighted, to do so in safe conditions. Dr. Bike is interested in encouraging students to cycle to the LSE and in promoting the merits of cycling at a wider level. Every Friday evening Dr. Bike holds a bike surgery where students can get expert advice and assistance in the art of maintainance for their two wheeled vehicles. On a more ambitious level, members of the team are in the process of providing much needed bicycles for the people of Haiti.

Dr. Bike is providing the LSE with a unique facility and Zeeshan Azhar will not let a small fire stand in the way of an admirable cause. (FD)

It's here...

This week is Lesbian Gay Bisexual week, a series of events aimed at heterosexual students to promote awareness of lesbian, gay and bisexual matters.

Highlights of the week include debates on Gay rights by both the LSE Debating Society and various political speakers from outside the LSE as well as a filmnight on Tuesday showcasing what was described by Potts as a "light hearted lesbian film" that should appeal to a wide audience. Thursday should also see stalls from major lesbian, gay and bisexual organisations being set up in the quad to further promote awareness. Expect to see stalls from such LGB associations as Stonewall, Gay Men Fighting AIDS and The Terence Higgins Trust. Finally Friday night at Crush will feature The Quad with a "gay flavour".

Potts, who is gay himself, commented that it was his hope that "as many people who are not lesbian, gay or bisexual can find time to come to an event or two. The last thing I want is for the week to be seen as a wholly gay event."(MB)

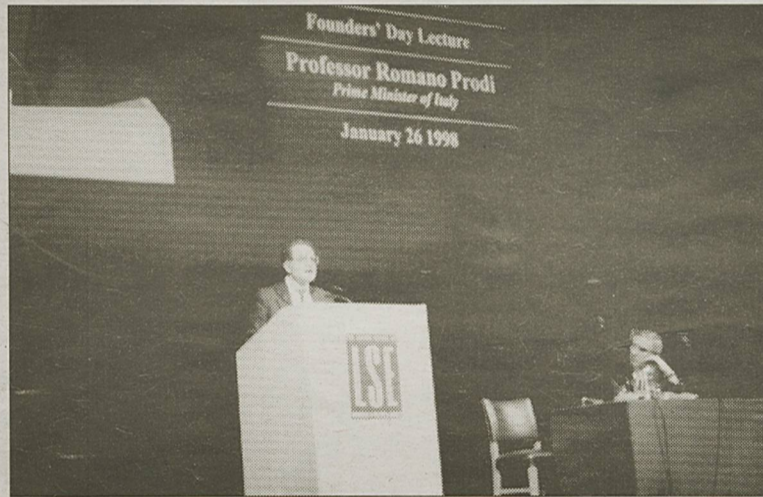
Speaker's Corner

Nico Iacuzzi

TO THE SURPRISE AND AMUSEMENT OF MOST, The Founder's Day Lecture eventually took place on Monday 26 of January in a jam-packed Peacock Theatre. Many believed that this renowned occasion would have not happened during the current academic year. No, for once, it was not the Timetable office that screwed things up. More simply the blame was to be found in Italian Politics.

Romano Prodi, the current Italian Prime Minister and ex LSE alumnus, was expected to return to the school on the 6th October to open the series of public lectures sponsored by the school. However, he suddenly had to decline the invitation because the coalition that supports his government was undergoing major difficulties and hence he had to stay in Rome. After sorting out the trouble over the Italian Budget, he was finally able to come to the School and deliver his speech, titled 'My vision of Europe.'

Professor Prodi's lecture was a detailed report of the events that have brought EU countries to work towards the creation of the single European currency and the steps which need to be taken in



Romani Prodi speaks as Giddens looks on

Photo: Jan Sabo

order to successfully achieve such a goal. Amongst these, he stressed the reduction of unemployment, distributional inequality and national public debt as the most urgent common goals.

His analysis, which for many observers lacks realism offers a full picture of the pro EMU arguments but leaves opponents of the single currency policy

indifferent because these views are based on subjective rather than empirical knowledge. Nevertheless, it's probably the utopian view that needs to be pursued; as he wittily suggested, it was the choice of joining the EEC from its birth, which has determined Italy to overtake British economic performance in recent years.

Archives

This Week:
January 30 1984

In the radical, socialist nature for which it has been famed in days gone, the LSE was, back in 1984, apparently significantly involved in protests against the Tory Governments initial proposals to scrap the GLC (Greater London Council), though opposition eventually proved futile.

The Beaver, in this week fourteen years ago, adorned its front pages with a story about the 26,000 strong protest march through the streets of London. Apparently there once was a time when student protest politics did occasionally leave the its own immediate sphere. Taking an aggressively anti government stance on the issue The Beaver explained how the proposals, still in their preliminary stages, and not to actually be pushed through for another couple of years, would result in the ...advantage for the most radical right wing Government since the war of destroying the Labour

Party's main power base outside Parliament.

"The GLC, controlled in the majority by elected Labour council members, had significant power to control local London policy on council issues, such as health and education. The Beaver described the Governments moves to abolish it as part of a continuing "onslaught" on these sectors and huge cuts in benefit payments. Evil.

Something similar in authority to the GLC may be born in the form of the proposed Mayor of London. A GLC for the new millenium?

Within the walls of the LSE itself the Three Tuns apparently took on a new Bar Manager this week in 1984. The new manager was "from the Irish Republic", however with "sixteen years of Bar Managerial experience" already under his belt already by 1984, it seems unlikely that

this could have been the first year under the reign of current manager, Jim Fagan. If so he has surely aged well.

Finally, with Drugs Awareness week in Houghton Street last week, fourteen years ago The Beaver was advertising legal "Herbal Highs" in its front pages. "Man you gotta believe it. Try some with your friends: improves enjoyment of artforms...close encounters...etc., etc.", read the advertisement on page three. Oh, to be at the LSE in 1984.

Andrew Yule



DO YOU BANK WITH NATWEST?

If you do and would like to express your views, read on!

Natwest Aldwych are looking for a first year, a third year and a postgraduate student (at least one of whom should be from overseas) to be on a panel. You would meet with the manager and student officer of Nat West Aldwych twice a term to express your views and give opinions on new initiatives. Nat West will make it worth your while providing food and drinks at the meetings!

Please help, it is all part of Nat West trying to improve their service to you. If you are interested please contact Imogen Bathurst, LSESU Treasurer in E206 or on extension 7471 or via SU reception

UNION GENERAL MEETING

Thursday
1:00pm
in the Old
Theatre
All are
welcome!

GENERAL SECRETARY'S COLUMN

What a storm in a tea cup! The motion calling for a ballot on NUS withdrawal was declared unconstitutional by the Constitution and Steering Committee. And rightly so, since the circumstances under which it was presented were somewhat dubious indeed, far from being constitutional I would say. Hence no ballot will be held this term - for the moment at least - unless it gets submitted again within the next couple of weeks and passed by the UGM. If that may be the case, hopefully, it will get the proper attention an issue of this magnitude commands. Like I said in my column last week, every factor has to be borne in consideration, including the financial argument of staying. Without a shadow of doubt, NUS have let students down this year over the fees issue, perhaps with an effect lasting for years to follow, but the argument remains as to whether it is more logical to stay within, trying to achieve change as it does remain the only nationally representative student body, in theory at least. And even if we do not feel it is no longer beneficial being a part of it for representative purposes, are we willing to forego the benefits NUSSL (its services supplier) enables us to enjoy in the shape of provisions to our bar and shop? Needless to say however, we will have no qualms in carrying out the students' mandate, my only concern is that it is based on an informed opinion and not on sensationalist whims.


The SU Executive Committee voted against the NUS National Education Shutdown as it was widely felt that students treating it as a day off (which would inevitably be the case) would not prove productive at all and would portray an image which would be counter-productive in the long run. This call from the NUS is a desperate "too little too late" measure in any case, 'coincidentally' coming a bit too close to the Annual Conference, where the NUS leadership, dominated by Labour students, will be held accountable for their lack of action in this campaign. As far as the LSE SU goes, our lobbying efforts shall meanwhile continue and we've also planned a number of press stunts during the course of this month, for which your support and involvement will certainly be welcome. The fight continues!

Extension of library opening hours is going to be a priority campaign for the next couple of weeks. The issue has been placed on the agenda for the next Library Committee meeting. We are planning to conduct a survey to get to know your opinions in this regard, so please do take a minute to fill out one if approached. It would also help if you could speak to your tutors, lecturers and class teachers to get their support on this issue. The BLPES is an institution of great repute and one immensely envied by other other colleges throughout London and it is unfortunate indeed that its full potential is not realised due to time constraints. Moreover, pressure on the Course Collection is in increasing demand during the second and third terms and it is in this direction that the main thrust of the lobbying effort will be made.

The Students' Union LGB Awareness week will be held this week. Numerous speakers and events are planned, so if you wish to get involved, please contact Yuan Potts, Education and Welfare Officer for further details.

Cheers,

Navin Agn



2nd - 6th Feb 98

LGB Week

Film Night

**The Incredibly True Adventures Of
Two Girls In Love**

A touching and amusing movie

Tuesday 3rd
8pm

The Underground Bar,
Clare Market Building

Monday 2nd
12pm
Room A44

Speaker Meeting

**Gay Rights:
Can & Should They Go Further?**

With representatives from the Conservatives, Labour and the Lib Dems

Stalls Day

Find out about the campaigning work of leading gay organisations

Thursday 5th
11.30 - 2.30
The Quad
East Building

Wednesday 4th
2pm
Room H216

Student Debate

This house believes Gay Marriage Should Not Take Place

Heated debate with the LSESU Debating Society



CRUSH takes on a surprise LGB theme with events and entertainment in the Quad on Friday night!

For more information, please contact Yuan on (0171) 955 6709, or
email: Y.D.Potts@lse.ac.uk



Raising awareness of Lesbian,
Gay & Bisexual issues

EDITORIAL

If you were one of the few people who attended this week's UGM, you will be no doubt aware of the increasing large amounts of seats that are left unfilled. This apathy is no good thing, the once proud institution of the UGM is now left as a mere shadow of its former self, lingering along with a few stalwart members who try desperately to keep the atmosphere going.

This is the LSE, which is meant to be one of the few places left in this country to be politically motivated. Are we too succumbing to the apathy that is now becoming representative of the student population? I hope that the answer is no, and the low attendance at the UGM is just a temporary lull. Everybody who attends this institution has the right to vote on issues that concern them and yet students stay away.

The right of democracy is a freedom that we as students should not squander. While at university, our vote can help change the political tide, to mould the union into an organisation that is representative of the Student body. It is our duty to exercise this right. It should not be left up to the politicians to speak our minds but it is up to us to give voice and raise the visibility of students on the political stage.

If we students united, then our voice may then be heard. This means all students campaigning and not the half hearted nature that has dogged the valiant attempts of the political bodies to prevent the apathetic student from having to pay fees. A battle lost ever since it became apparent that the majority of students would not come out fighting but would rather stay in the pub having a pint.

The only way for us to bring about change is to become politically motivated and support the actions of the UGM and if we do not agree with the actions, then we as students should be there actively fighting for our future. You may argue that we are only students for such a short time that what we want will never come about. But we owe it to future students to fight the campaigns that we believe in, only then can we hope that the proud tradition that exists at LSE will continue. To give up now, would be like binding the hands of our successors, as a situation that can never be justified.

COME TO
THE
BEAVER
MEETING
ON
MONDAYS
6:00PM
ROOM C023

LONDON STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE
EQUAL RIGHTS

Dear Beaver,

I refer to the letter written by "an overseas student" in the 20 January issue titled "Open all halls". It has obviously been written by the student in the heat of the moment without giving proper consideration to the arguments put forward in the article referred to. The School has recently been initiating a scheme to encourage students from deprived inner-city areas of London to apply to this institution and a number of schemes have been introduced in this respect; the new Futures Fund set up by the Foundation and Saturday classes to name but a few. The Students' Union certainly welcomes this initiative because we feel that financially underprivileged students should certainly be given incentives and the long-established clique of public school dominance decreased. Granting students hall places would certainly be a further step in this encouragement because accommodation arrangements do hold priority in prospective students' minds. The Directors' initiative was totally in line with this.

Carrying forward this argument - and this is my personal view - I feel that it is wrong to discriminate against London students getting places in halls in their first year. Living in halls is very much a part of the

whole University experience, one which I see no reason why they should be deprived of, just because their parents happened to live in London. Moreover, areas like Harrow and Uxbridge would still be considered in London and no one fancies a one and a half hour commute, which is often the case.

This student also fails to carry out a coherent argument in his/her letter. I totally fail to see why continuing (second and third year undergraduate) Overseas students should gain priority over Home and EU students on the basis of paying more fees. The educational system in Britain has been operating on this fee paying ratio for years and Overseas students accept that system when they come here. I am totally against discrimination of any sort, so-called positive discrimination included.

As students, we should all be united in urging the school to create more spaces by building a new hall, instead of fighting amongst ourselves on the grounds of fee-paying status or origin.

Student accommodation is a right and not a privilege and should be given the necessary priority as such by the School administration. It is really disturbing to see students running from pillar to post and

queuing outside the Accommodation Office day after day. On its part, the Students' Union has been lobbying the School on this matter on a priority basis since the start of this year and I personally have not lost a single opportunity in numerous committees as well as meetings with School officials including the Director to impress upon them the urgency of this situation.

Before ending, I must comment on how appalled I was at the crude remarks the student made. Attacking the Director's views and disagreeing with him is one thing, being abusive personally is another and doing so in such an offensive manner is not only wholly unnecessary but out of order. In the future, I would also urge students to come and discuss issues like this with myself or one of the other sabbaticals before sending off sensationalist letters to the Beaver, so that the School's explication, which the Students' Union is always made aware of, can be explained. You can still disagree with it, but will at least have a more informed opinion.

Yours sincerely,
Narius Aga
General Secretary

HALL EQUALITY SHOULD EXIST

Dear Beaver,

I write in reply to the letter by the "overseas student" published 2 weeks ago. I feel that the following points are relevant.

Why should London based students be denied hall accommodation? Looking at a simple A-Z will illustrate the fact that Greater London is a vast area. Why should those who are officially London based have to travel 30 plus miles late at night, if at all possible or affordable depending on the transport, (if we take the individuals argument to

the extreme), when accommodation in Central London would be far more practical and enjoyable.

Student rights in general! Why should overseas students receive better treatment than London based or Home students just because they pay £8000, or overseas alumni contribute financially to the LSE. Whether overseas alumni contribute anything at all constitutes a personal choice and should not be a consideration in who gets priority in hall accommodation. Secondly this individual shows complete ignorance in relation to the British Tax System, (sorry this bits boring). REMEMBER parents of London based

(and home) students as well as the students themselves in later life will pay vast sums to the Inland Revenue, a significant proportion of which is spent on education, including University funding. Taking these factors into account financial contributions from home students are in real terms ultimately no less significant than those from overseas students or alumni.

Finally it is arrogant to suggest that it is only overseas alumni who contribute to LSE's global reputation.

Yours,
ALEX SMITH

NUS PRAGMATIC AND PRACTICAL

Dear Beaver

I disagree with the views expressed by Olympio Pinto and Tony Lee in last week's Beaver Letters Page. I am concerned that tuition fees are likely to deter a great number of able British students from lower-income homes from coming to the LSE, and I do not believe that anyone in our university community would benefit from that.

However, I do have considerable sympathy for the views they both expressed as they apply to certain of our union officers, namely our General Secretary. It appears that the more they fail to mobilise the student population at LSE, the more strident they become in denouncing the government, the National Union of Students, the Labour Club - in short, anyone but themselves.

The attitude taken by the NUS has been a pragmatic and practical one. The government, which both I and most senior Labour Student members of the NUS are proud to support on any issue other than this one, has taken a clear decision to legislate

for tuition fees. It has a majority of 179 in the House of Commons. Whatever you try, and the NUS have tried with their week of action, the prospects of success are not great. If you go in with all guns blazing, the chances are that you will come out of the other side shot to pieces.

The change of government on that glorious day in May last year heralded a change of political culture. The government is prepared to listen to people involved in education, both teachers and students, rather than just to lecture to them. The student movement has been assiduous in using this opportunity - remember the change of heart by Higher Education minister Lady Tessa Blackstone on fees for gap-year students, or the £165 million boost for the HE sector.

As an officeholder in the Labour Club I have never claimed that the NUS leadership is perfect, but the onus is on our own sabbaticals to show how they would have done better. Some people are coming up with alternatives - like the normal fifty-seven varieties of loony tunes

left-wingers with their master plans to soak the rich, abolish the armed forces and give all the cash to students (well, what doesn't go into subsidising the production costs of their tacky newspapers anyway). I doubt many people will go for that option somehow.

I have been asked where my loyalties lie, with the government or with students. The fact is that I am loyal to both. Fees might be wrong but Labour's values of social justice mixed with financial realism and self-reliance are those of most students. It is others who must now decide whose side they're on. Are those who harp and carp about Labour Students and the NUS going to come down on the side of moderation and reason, or will they align themselves with our hard-left opponents who constitute the only real alternative?

Its time to choose.

Yours sincerely
Joe Roberts
Secretary, LSE Labour Club

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The future of money

Johannes Tynes discusses the role of digital cash

Recent years have seen the explosive growth of the Internet. Much has been talked and written about the coming of the on-line economy and electronic commerce. One of the most important aspects of this development has been the growing demand for methods of secure payments over the Net. This demand, coupled with advances in cryptology, has facilitated the growth of digital cash, cash constituted not of pieces of paper or metal objects, but streams of digits.

An important quality of digital cash is that it has the potential of being entirely anonymous, through the use of mathematical "blinding" techniques, both with regards to usage and holdings. This means that, as with physical cash, there are few, if any, traces for the government or other institutions to survey.

When using credit cards digital signatures are left which can be linked to the specific individual, describing where, when, and what was purchased for how much. This feature of credit cards has made many people claim that technological developments lead to greater control by the state over the individual. The anonymity of digital cash would be a development in the opposite direction. In other words the widespread use of digital cash would render the prospect of a 1984 scenario, in which governmental surveillance creates a society of fear, suspicion and suppression unlikely and act as guarantor of individual freedoms.

This anonymity does have its drawbacks, however. One example of this is criminal cases in which evidence of financial transactions are often integral requirements for correct judgement and sentencing. Thus the financial anonymity of digital cash can make it harder to

An important quality of digital cash is that it has the potential of being entirely anonymous ... and in theory anyone can issue it

convict criminals than it might otherwise have been.

Anonymous financial transactions and holdings also make it generally easier for money laundering to take place. It can be argued, however, that this is relatively easy as it is today with few currency controls and falling costs of overseas banking, but with the advent of anonymous digital cash, the costs and risks associated with money laundering would fall considerably. Tax evasion would also become easier for the similar reasons.

Just as the increasing ease of international capital movements has caused governments world-wide to shift the burden of taxation from mobile to stationary capital, one consequence of the reduced disincentives to evade taxes may be increased taxation of geographically fixed assets. Hassle free money laundering could lead to the extension of organised crime.

An intriguing property of digital cash is that in theory anyone can issue it, and it is by no means clear that banks will be the most successful players. The basic element of a successful currency is confidence, and the issuers who command respect amongst consumers have a huge advantage over others. Companies like Microsoft, Amazon, and Coca-Cola would therefore have a good base from which to start due to their impeccable reputations and solid brand names.

An important determinant for which



Check out the new arrival! Digital cash will guarantee individual freedom.

Photo: Library

currencies will be accepted and trusted by consumers is what they are backed up with. At present the vast majority of currencies are fiat based. This means that they have no intrinsic value and are not linked to anything of market value. The only reason why people accept such paper currencies is that they expect everyone else to do the same.

Such a system, however, could not possibly originate from scratch. Digital currencies would therefore either have to be proxies for governmentally issued currencies, so that for instance one "Coca-Cola-Dollar" can be exchanged into 3 USD, or backed by assets such as precious metals, equities or bonds in a fixed ratio.

Which of these two routes would dominate depends largely on the performance and reliability of the governmentally issued currencies. But comparative economic studies show that currencies based on for instance precious metals are more reliable and stable than fiat currencies. This is exemplified by the successful operation of the pre World War I gold standard, which played an integral part in the 'Golden Age' of market liberalism.

Another implication of the prospect of digital cash is increased currency competition. In the current situation currency competition is limited to competition amongst the various governmentally issued currencies. This means that if you distrust your local currency, like for instance many people in Asia do at present, you may choose to accept only USD or GBP and chose to keep your cash holdings in these currencies. The currency competition is, however, presently limited by the relatively dominant position of a local currency in an economy.

Currency competition has increased in recent years as a result of deregulation of financial transactions and currency regulation falling out of fashion. Some people claim that we already see the results of this in the relatively stable, non-inflationary period that major currencies such as USD, DM and sterling have experienced.

Digital cash offers the prospect of competition much more intensive and extensive than what we have at present.

The various players would have to compete on qualities such as inflation, reliability, stability, confidence and easy of use.

For private banks there is an incentive to push the level of fractional reserve banking as high as possible. This means that they issue more in terms of credit letters such as loans, short term credits and potentially digital cash than they have reserves to repay by gambling on the unlikelihood of a majority of their creditors wishing to withdraw their funds simultaneously.

The market mechanism balances this incentive to hold fractional reserves with the consumers' desire for minimal risk (and thus a high ratio of assets to credits). The free operation of currency competition would thus drive the process towards the ideal balance according to the preferences of the consumers.

Consumers would probably get information about the reliability of the various digital currencies through the media and special consumer interest groups and through the development of brand name reputations in the same way as they do with goods such as cars and furniture today.

The introduction of digital cash would also redefine the role of regulators, such as central banks and the Federal Reserve. With the establishment of a competitive market in which the laws of supply and demand determine the nature of the currencies in use governmentally supplied currencies would either have to compete in accordance with the preferences of the consumers or obtain special privileges.

Given the immense financial security of most major governments compared with most corporations it seems likely that governments, if sufficiently aware of the situation, would be able to compete on equal if not better terms than the private sector.

When it comes to regulating the digital cash industry, however, governments would face severe difficulties due to its international nature. If a particular government decided to place restrictions on, or even forbid, the use of privately issued digital cash nothing could keep the citizens of that very country from using digital cash issued abroad.

The only way in which it would be possible to effectively limit the use of digital cash would be if a broad coalition of governments issued a collaborative policy to this purpose. Even then, small countries could act as free-zones for digital

Digital cash offers the prospect of competition much more intensive and extensive than what we have at present ... the introduction of digital cash would also redefine the role of regulators

cash issuance in the same way as they do with regards to off-shore banking today.

The current failure of governments to effectively combat illegal material on the Internet shows that the ongoing developments of information technology place real restrictions on the governments' power and that, in the absence of extensive and effective international agreements, digital cash would face very limited threats from the regulators.

Also worth noting is that some regulators seem reluctant to regulate digital cash. In particular Alan Greenspan of the US Federal Reserve has taken a surprisingly non-interventionist approach. This may be down to his background in Austrian economics (which advocates free banking and return to the gold standard) and his intellectual history as contributor to books such as 'Capitalism the Unknown Ideal' by Ayn Rand.

But with a major economic power such as the USA seemingly willing to accept the unhindered development of digital cash, it will in turn be up to the consumers to decide whether it is preferable to the governmentally issued fiat currencies of today.



MIDAS

Good-bye and Good-riddance!

This is Midas' last column before he is replaced by a younger and leaner version. Frankly, Midas has lost much of his energy and he would prefer to leave the rat-race and retire to a tax-free haven in the warm sunshine of the Caribbean. I hope that my mad ramblings were of use to you as I attempted to demystify the nuts and bolts of money laundering, options, futures, insider dealing and all the information which will make you RICH. However, before Midas sets off into the golden sunset, he will once more attack the common economic fallacies which pervade in the minds of the ignorant...

It is widely believed that government intervention in industry can and does benefit consumers. Economists have developed careful and clear analyses of the situations when regulation could be desirable. But does regulation in practice have these desirable effects?

Adam Smith certainly doubted its efficiency. To restrain people from entering into voluntary transactions "is a manifest violation of that natural liberty which it is the proper business of law not to infringe but to support". Nevertheless, he argued, "those exertions of the natural liberty of a few individuals which might endanger the security of the whole society, are, and ought to be, restrained by the laws of all governments..." He defended regulation in such cases in principle. But he objected to the practice. The legislature, he argued, is directed not by a view of the common good, but "the clamorous importunity of special interests". His view was that whatever regulation could do in theory, in practice it usually benefits those regulated.

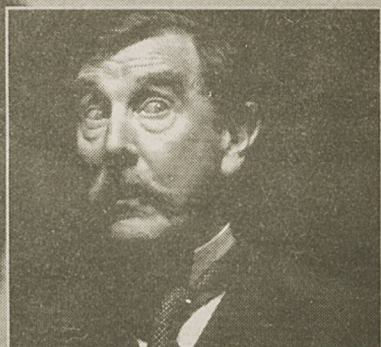
What does the evidence say? A pioneer in this area is George Stigler. In a study of the electricity industry in the US, he found that regulation affected neither rates charged to customers nor profits earned for shareholders. In a study of the securities industry, he found that regulation governing the listing of new securities, presumably intended to protect the investor, had no significant effect on the returns to new shares as compared to ones already in the market.

A current UK example which should lead one to wonder about the benefits of regulation is food. When it was feared that eggs were likely to be harmful, and sales dropped, egg farmers were offered compensation - which was paid of course by a levy on consumers, who had just very plainly indicated in the market that they did not wish to support egg farmers! In contrast, how was a different group, one not close or important to the regulators, treated? Producers of non-pasteurised cheeses - a tiny group of farmers - and foreign cheese makers, were both threatened with having their products banned on health grounds before consumers had a chance to show if they were concerned!

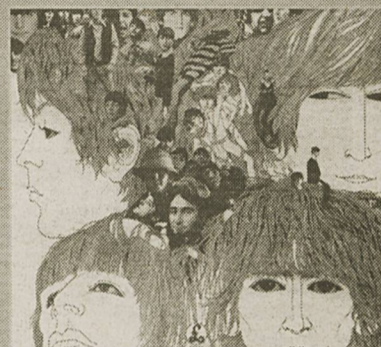
Regulation has two vices. It restricts competition - all producers are compelled to behave in a similar way. And it restricts information - information has to go to the regulator, but not to the consumers who buy the product. Informed choice is not possible without information; and restricting competition means that there is less pressure to raise quality and lower cost. For these reasons, regulation by government generally harms the consumer. The best regulation is by competition combined with provision of information.

Bart

INSIDE



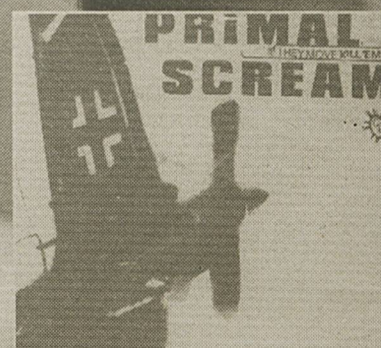
THE INVENTION OF LOVE
THEATRE



THE BEAVER ESSENTIAL
GUIDE MUSIC: PART 2



PRE-EMPTING THE OSCARS
FILM



SINGLE REVIEWS
MUSIC

LIFESTYLE

Catch the right books

Visionary Tongue

Nadezda Kinsky looks beyond JD Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye

Risking a massive generalisation, it could probably safely be said that when most people hear the name J. D. Salinger, they think of The Catcher in the Rye. While I accept that this is his most famous work, I also regard it as his worst. It is a shame that many have not come across his brilliant collection of short stories For Esme - with Love and Squalor, or his semi-biographical

While I accept that The Catcher in the Rye is his most famous work, I also regard it as his worst.

books regarding his (fictional) siblings, Franny and Zooey, Raise High the Roofbeam, Carpenters and Seymour: an Introduction. Maybe the reason these are not pushed down the throats of English Literature Students is the welcoming dedication: "If there is an amateur reader still left in the world - or anybody who just reads and runs - I ask him or her, with untellable affection and gratitude, to split the dedication of this book four ways with my wife and children."

In Salinger's writing, the reader can

get hopelessly lost in his world, and involved with the lives of Franny, Zooey, Boo Boo, Buddy (the 'I' character) and most of all Seymour Glass, members of the family of seven siblings, all of which in their childhood regularly appear on a children's radio quiz, called, "with perhaps typically pungent Coast-to-Coast irony", 'It's a Wise Child'. This is not to say that Salinger treats only the experiences of seven children of intelligence and a sense of existentialism far beyond their years on a radio program that reeks of conventional America in between the

wars. As a matter of fact, their youth mainly provides background and takes the form of memories from the point of view of their adult selves of what used to be seven professional celebrity children.

To say that all the central characters are bordering on the insane is an understatement (something which should not come as the greatest surprise). All of them are extremely intense and decidedly intellectual. This provides the books with

their style and mood - very similar to the characters in not only this, but also their battle with recurring philosophical dilemmas and influences and their extreme morbidity and existentialist tendencies.

The characters are both disturbed and disturbing, yet still carry the reader with fascination through the stories. One reason why these might hold up the interest more than The Catcher in the Rye often does is the fact that they are shorter - all of them could qualify as short stories - the longest one ('Zooey') is only just over

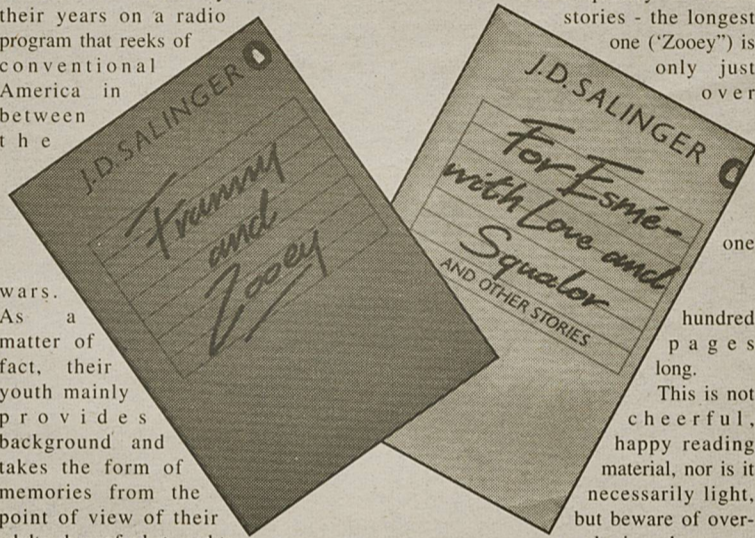
out there, there must be a highly disturbed mind at work. At the same time, one could do the author the favour he asks for, and 'just read and run'. Take it as using a story to evoke a mood, and leave the hints as hints, without too much deep thought. ('Let it flow over you', to put it in a cliché).

On the one hand, his books invite analysis and theory, with the conclusion that somewhere out there must be a highly disturbed mind at work

If you liked The Catcher in the Rye, it's worth it exploring his other works, and if you hated it, maybe you will actually enjoy these other stories, especially when not accompanied by a teacher.

Just be an 'amateur' about it and be prepared to be confused, disturbed and try not to become too morbid as a result.

J.D. Salinger's books are all published in the UK by Penguin and are wonderfully cheap (for books, anyway)



The Visionary Tongue Collective is, in my opinion, one of the English small press's best. It is well-produced and the artwork and layout is of a professional standard. Produced more or less quarterly it is a self-proclaimed forum for dark and erotic fantasy.

The stories submitted are subject to rigorous editing and the quality this ensures is noticeable. Editors are themselves genre writers including Storm Constantine, Brian Stableford, Kim Newman and a host of others who all take time out to encourage fresh writers to hone their skills as well as comment on the proficiency of old hats such as the amazing D F Lewis.

Visionary Tongue isn't focused on a narrow-band of story types such as many of the American small press seem to be. Their broad nature allows for a variety of fiction and poetry that is beautiful and involving.

It has been going for several years now and looks set to continue to the Millennium (though everybody says that nowadays!). Visionary Tongue is available by mail order. Contact Eloise Coquio at 6 St Leonard's Avenue, Stafford, ST17 4LT.

B

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Wireless
In Love With the Familiar



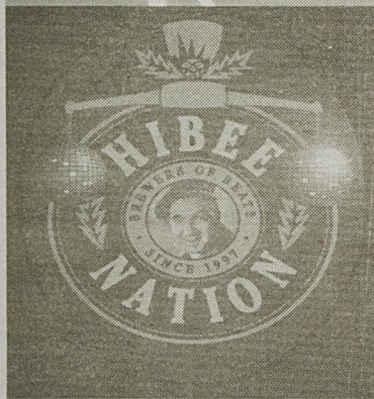
Wireless
In Love With the Familiar

Not set to be the best song of 1998 - or of the month, or of the week, or even of the day. On the other hand, it's not the worst song of the year, month, week or day either. A piece of indie fluff, it's not the first song of this genre, and it certainly won't be the last. But ultimately it's too ordinary to get me swinging in my pants. (5) **SH**

Hibee Nation

I Sentence You To A life Of Dance

A run of the mill, disposable, cheesy dance affair. The CD's packed full of mixes which try to spice up the original but at the end of the day, as the saying goes, you can't polish a turd. Due to it's uninspiring nature, I fear that "Life of Dance" will be heading for a Woolworth's bargain bin near you soon. (2) **SS**



Grandaddy

Everything Beautiful Is Far Away

The song started with a soft, comforting voice for indie/rock lovers but I waited two minutes for the track to actually get going and when it did I wished it

hadn't. What followed can only be described as an annoying, childish instrumental drawl. Whoever signed Grandaddy should be given a good talking to, they need to be told to stop wasting record company money on dull bands whose music has been heard thousands of times before. (3) **SS**

Anywhen
Blank

An amiable lisle ditty, about the lead singer (whose voice is oddly strange) having a "blank" day, when he's "not entirely happy, not entirely sad". That's fair enough, but the other two efforts that appear on this CD are decidedly depressing. In fact, I wished they had taken their own advice and left the rest of the single blank. The dance version of "Blank" is like the original, but with a drum 'n bass backdrop, in fact it seemed totally unnecessary to do a dance version of "Blank" at all. I predict that Anywhen will not be going anywhere in their musical career. (4) **SH**



James
Destiny calling

Hey, that's not too bad. Surely, there's nothing very new about this kind of music: brit pop melody, the good old "we live in the nineties and people get sold in test tubes" sort of thing. With a warm chorus in the background and a simple guitar tune just the way Liam Gallagher would have done it. Nothing transcending but definitely nice and comforting music to accompany your first sip of beer in the Tuns. (6) **ND**

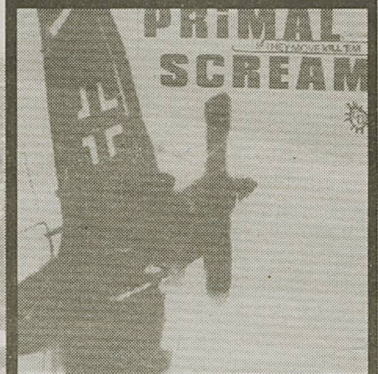
SINGLES

Single of the Week

Primal Scream

If they move, kill 'em

This sounds like God damn nothing on earth. Take John Coltrane and Miles Davies out into space with Primal Scream and give them ten grams of crack



Going down in flames, screaming...

each. Make sure they take it. Not too difficult, really. Then add Kevin Shields (My Bloody Valentine) for a radical remix and this is what you get. F***ing breathtaking, almost unrecognisable from the LP version. "Very extreme, like heavy free jazz", as chief addict Bobby Gillespie puts it. And with it comes the beautiful The Jesus and Mary Chain cover 'Darklands'. Chilling and hypnotic, Primal Scream have their heads in the clouds. Who else could hit the right sound for the next millennium as fascinating as they do. To be released on 16th February for one week only - rather smart way to keep it out of the charts and make sure it's worth a fortune next year. So go and get it. And should they move, then bloody well kill 'em. It's worth it. (10) **MG**

Gusgus
Polyesterday

When I put that in the stereo I thought "Oh no not another boring piece of trip hop with a refrain that sounds like cheap dance." Infuriated

(cause the cover looked cool), I switched the music back to Vivaldi. But after listening to it a few times a blurry, mysterious sort of atmosphere settles in and it really makes you loosen up. The "Bix and Ottar" mix of the song offers a smooth, jazzy variation to the main theme. Also worth listening to on the same single is "Purple" (more in the dance category). Pretty good ambient stuff. (7) **ND**

The Hybirds

See Me Through

This song is so boring - I'm not sure it really exists. It is monotonous, tedious and banal - not the sort of qualities you expect from a rock song! The Hybirds show us what The Verve would sound like if they weren't good. Annoying squealing guitars litter its lifeless void while vocals emanate with all the vitality of a dead ferret. It is totally dull and uninspiring. Thank God it is only two and a half minutes long. (1) **SS**



The Dandy Warhols

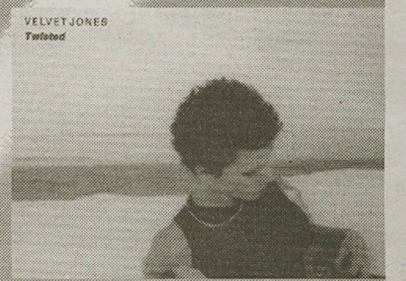
Everyday should be a holiday

I thought music was all about expressing some very special feeling you have inside of you - until I listened to the Dandy Warhols' new hit single. 'Everyday should be a holiday' is one of the things you find so uninteresting to say that you just don't

say them. And these are pretty much the only words you can distinguish from the lot...Fair enough, maybe if I listen to the music a few times without paying attention to the words I'll get into it. Well not really because the melody (it's one of these that get stuck in your head forever and for no particular reason) sounds like a bunch of rattling guitar strings and a few noises in the background that - must be laser guns. God I can still hear it. (3) **ND**

Velvet Jones

Twisted



Velvet Jones are rather inappropriately named. They are not smooth at all! In fact, they are a bit rough around the edges, and should be called 'Sandpaper'. Their singer sounds like George Harrison trying to be Brett Andersen. He tries hard to make the song interesting in the chorus, but is let down by the lack of ingenuity in the rest of it. (5) **SS**

Deni Hines

Delicious

Featuring Don-E, this classic funky soul duet brings out the best in Deni, with her smooth, seductive, sultry vocals. Her opening line, "In April, When you get those stars in your eyes..." makes me go weak in the knees! The excellent Colour System Inc Gold Mix speeds up the rather tame radio edit and adds a groovy dance beat to make it positively uplifting! (8) **SS**



Get inside The Beaver!
Would you like to see your name
in print?
Beaver meetings Monday 6pm
C023

SUPERGRASS SETS BUSH ON FIRE

The wrist has finally healed and they're at it again. Dan 'The Kid' Lewis ventures out to West London to see if Supergrass can still cut it.

Supergrass

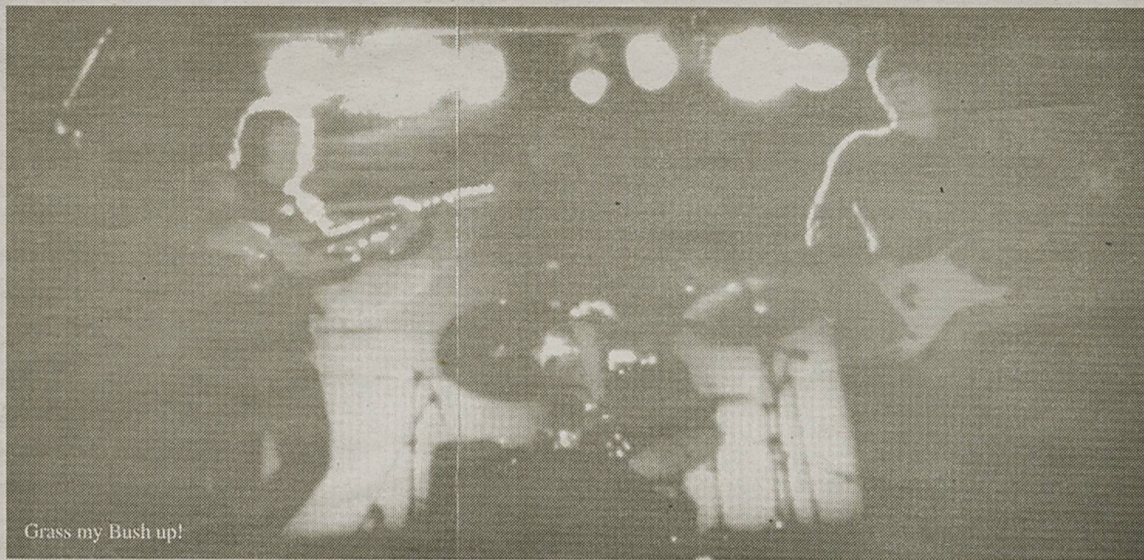
@ Shepherds Bush Empire

It's about 6 months since 'In it for the Money' came out and Supergrass became officially 'less fun'. Tonight was a chance to see if this was true live. It seemed they were still jokers when I discovered that the 'Special Guests' were to be Spacehog, a rather mainstream-strange group who insisted on letting the bassist (who looks, and sounds, like that bloke out of Bush) sing far too much. Bush they are, which is about as disingenuous as I get. However, on the rare occasions that the rhythm guitarist got behind the mic in more than a backing capacity Spacehog developed a new dimension and a bouncier, lighter, and all-round far more enjoyable time was had by all.

After about thirty minutes of tearing my hair out trying to get a beer, I returned to see the main support was already on. This comprised of the occasional Bugs

Bunny cartoon, interspersed with some hilarious 70's public safety broadcasts - Alvin Stardust, Kevin Keegan and Charlie (of 'Charlie says' fame) all made appearances. And just as the 'That's all folks' of the last cartoon came up (the one where Yosemite Sam tries to make Bugs do a high dive but consistently fails), the white curtain dropped and the Grass ripped into 'Strange One's', and all the kids below me started bouncing like kangaroos on turbo-charged pogo-sticks. The set continued at a blistering pace, composed of both the new albums in equal measures.

I'm probably getting old because as great as the 'I Should Coco' stuff was ('Alright', 'Mansize Rooster', 'Time', 'Lose it' and the excellent 'Caught by the Fuzz' all made a showing) it was the later album's offerings that I was really waiting for. Despite all the time I'd had, I had yet to form an opinion about it. Now I have. Superb. Despite Gaz's need to introduce every 2nd album track, I was really getting into them. Even when 'Going Out', the



Grass my Bush up!

only damp squid of the night, came on they swiftly returned to their best, especially with their 'acoustic set', made up of just 'It's Not Me'. Other songs such as 'In it for the Money' and 'Late in the Day' proved how good they've become.

One downer was that there was no sign of any new material, just the occasional B-side, and this long after the latest album, we'd expect something. But that's a concern for another day. The gig itself was very enjoyable (it's nice to see that

Danny's wrist has healed well) and I'd definitely recommend you to check them out if you get a chance, if only for the cartoons.

Daniel Lewis



.Finlay Quaye, Red Snapper @ London Astoria

Finlay Quaye's 15 minutes of holotropic therapy with 'A guy called Gerald' was supposed to be the precursor for tonight's hedonistic jamboree. Was it fuck? The lack of melodic inspiration (or any musical ability whatsoever) made one feel insipid, in the best senses of the word. The sarcasm of the band's name need not be interpreted - I presume any random 'Gerald' could have made an improvement on what was a dire performance coupled with songs that don't even deserve the definition of music. In short, they were a bag o' shite!

Red Snapper, however, offered an altogether different proposition. A strange act to be supporting the chilled vibes of the boy Finlay, it turned out to be just the right contrast for an evening of hard beats and soulful reggae. It may seem absurd, but with 30 minutes to vary my substance abuse, I really was up for the comedown. Red Snapper were reminiscent of Squarepusher, with, at times, an incredibly

quick tempo, but with enough instrumental variation to keep dancing away. This is an example of the new genre of dance - that which has bridged the gap between guitar alternative and (what was once upon a time referred to as) techno. That is why we now see them on an NME stage... and it all started with the Prodigy at Glastonbury in 1995.

It was then the turn of Sony's biggest investment of '97, Finlay Quaye, who does deserve the plaudits he has received after a classy and highly original debut album, 'Maverick A Strike', was at those reefs again. "Sunday Shining" was performed more jazzily than last November's gig at the LA2, while "Your love gets sweeter everyday" had a full blown brass and woodwind support: it sounded smooth, relaxed and it went down so well (or is that something else?). The highlight was again, like the last gig, "Even after all". This number provided that all-top-rare spine tingling feeling, that only the best music can give you.

Lyric of the night:
"I'll be your hero, like Robert de Niro".

Zak

Tempo

@ Club Mars

Jungle, jungle, jungle. Breath taking music of the future suddenly becomes too much embedded in the present, and whereas it used to sound like revolutionary fucked up rude boy grooves from outer space, it's now the soundtrack to tampons and air freshener adverts.

But there are no estate agents in here tonight, thank fuck. The opening night, moved from the Velvet Underground to Club Mars is now vibing, vibrating, reverberating - the rubber soles of my trainers (or should that be soul - wicked trainers have definitely got soul) are tingling with the earth-quivering, bowel-

loosenig bass. As phat as the ocean. That wide.

This is the tuneful head nodding funky-melodic shit though, the stuff that's bad but still brings a smile to your face. It's pure quality, but it has to be. Jungle's explosion in the last five years or so has meant that a load of cowboy chancers have come along with a drum machine, a PC and a "How to write your own secon-rate drum'n'bass tune" program. So it's now gone the way of house - most of the records released are shit.

Fabio's remedy to this is to skilfully 'meld together a selection of hot shit that no-one's heard before and isn't going to be in the shops for years. It's like a little community of exclusive elitist dub plate

heaven cream of the crop, shit hot shit. DJ's are small boys doing a wicked model of one-upmanship. Whose box holds the most dynamite tunes? This is good however, it pushes the music forward, your ears get the favourites packed in with the most steaming hot freshest joints.

There are moments of abstract jazzy bollocks, but these are far and few. Fabio does not subscribe to that Metalheadz scary dark being whipped round the head with a sheet of cold metal on crack cos like, proper tunes are for wusses kind of thing. Anyway, that stuff's only in vogue to scare off the estate agents, and hence, keep it real, man.

So the place jumps on regardless, and my head is dragged out a bassbin by some nice girl at the end.

J R Hartley

Stereophonics ASIAN DUB FOUNDATION WARM JETS the audience @The Astoria

Anyone who has half a brain of their own will know that anything associated with the word 'hype' should be avoided at all costs. This applies to the NME-run Brats awards. Originally designed to stick a finger up at the Brits awards, it's actually become the indie version of it, and that finger, along with their metaphorical head, has gone up the NME's own arse. So on this cold, Sunday evening, we venture out in the middle of London with hostility towards all the corporate bullshit that's gonna surround this event (yeah! Anarchy! Kill the system! etc. etc.)

Kicking off tonight's proceedings are The Audience, who I didn't manage to catch due to the mile long queue that decided to form the minute before I came (probably), but let's just give them a cheer for allowing us to revel in the 'The Audience were very good tonight' -joke.

Next up are the Warm Jets, and although it didn't help only knowing one of their songs, it seemed that they were teetering on the edge of being average. They did their stuff, y' know. Strutted around looking confident, told the crowd when to crowd-surf, and jumped a few times in the musical interludes, and made for okay entertainment. But as I've said before, and I'll say again, the only thing worse than being bad is being okay. Maybe in a couple of years time.

Now get this; sitting upstairs at the Astoria, there weren't much of a gig thang going, because as packed as it was (great for sleazy guys: Whoops, was that your arse I just brushed past?), it's the home of the typical record company execs. The type that change for a gig by taking off their tie and unbuttoning the top of their

shirt. Yet by the end of the first song - wait for this - they were actually nodding. Nodding, I tell you. See, with Asian Dub Foundation, it's impossible to resist bodily movements (however lame). You'd have more success trying to suck through a fruit pastille. They had everything a great band could possibly ever need: more licks than the average tabby, more energy than the Prodigy, and as much social awareness as the Manics ('This one's dedicated to Jack Straw' they say before launching it to what I've called 'Hypocrite', because I don't know any of their song titles, and that). Jumping around with huge enthusiasm, they immediately put the Warm Jets to shame, and when their guitarist plays his axe like he's in Metallica, you realise that these guys are so naturally cool they nullify the problems of the greenhouse effect. The 'kids', unsurprisingly, go crazy, and the security have much to cope with as flying bodies are passed to the front. At this point, much respect is due to the dude with the long dreaded hair who was actually encouraging the crowd to surf, instead of beating up anyone who does, as is the accepted norm. But then how can anyone resist ADF? Big things are afoot for them, I predict (somewhat belatedly). Possibly the best dance band ever.

And on a totally different note, the Stereophonics, the Welsh lot who single handedly helped the Super Furry Animals, the Manics and Catatonia build up Wales as The Coolest Place To Be. Once the Bristol shock had worn off, that is. If you've heard them before, you'd pretty

much know what to expect: seemingly middle of the road rawk, but with lyrics that resemble the type of witty poems you'd read for school, and a fuck-off voice.

This beauty of their live performances, though, is that you realise that the fuck-off voice isn't gift-wrapped courtesy of hi-tech studio equipment; it's as real as the heat in the venue. Need proof? What about the perfectly held 10-second note during 'Traffic', or the chorus of former single 'A Thousand Trees'. Singer Kelly Jones comes across as not so much an entertainer as a live singer, contrasting greatly with the act beforehand. Stuck behind a microphone most of the time, eh? There is only a limited capacity to play the part of the crowd rouser (but God knows that security guard's got it covered in that area). And any chance he does get, is spent jamming to the drummer, who is at this point doing anything to avoid acknowledging the video camera stuck up



his right nostril. It's the sheer musicianship which form the foundation of the Stereophonics, and in an age where radio play and press backing can get any tosser a sold out crowd, it's a commendable thing.

Such a diverse set of bands is perhaps not ideal when you've only got one crowd to play to, but on the flipside it's better than having a band headline, and a second-rate version of that band as support. The last gig of NME's London shows was definitely a thumbs up, Asian Dub Foundation and the Stereophonics especially were perfect examples of what alternative music should be heading towards. If there's any justice. Which there isn't.

Shilpa Ganatra

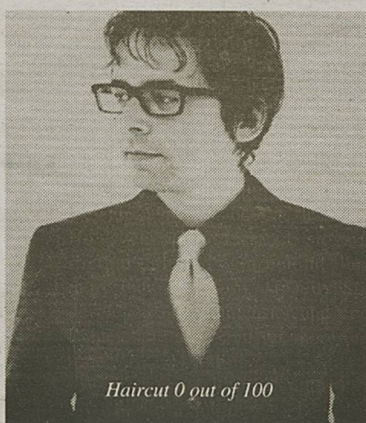
ALBUMS

Nick Heyward
The Apple Bed

Rockstar comebacks have become a tedious fact of life. Bands as diverse as The Sex Pistols and Echo and the Bunnymen have reformed to work off their middle-aged spreads and overdrafts while blasting their last vestiges of credibility to hell. At least these bands were great in their heyday, and the Pistols revelled in the blatant fact that they were going to milk their image for all it was worth. Nick Heyward has no such redeeming features. Once the frontman of Haircut 100, who blazed a trail as electropop boyband pioneers in the early eighties, Heyward has returned as an official product of Creation Records Incorporated. Creation have evidently put a great deal of effort into reinventing Heyward as a Weller style mad-for-it golden oldie. He showed off his credentials as an ersatz teenager in an interview with the Melody Maker where he managed to use the words "fuck" and "cunt" in the same sentence.

Sadly no amount of posturing can conceal the fact that his music is utterly shite. Heyward moans along like the ageing father of two which he is, trying to be reflective in an ocean of plodding sub-Beatles syrup. His voice is spectacularly boring, while the lyrics are a masterful exercise in the noble arts of plagiarism and banality. He sounds like John Lennon might have done had he turned his hand to piped supermarket music. Perhaps unsurprisingly, considering the boy band pedigree which they share, this album has a lot in common with the solo material of Robbie Williams. Heyward seems unlikely to challenge Robbie's chart pre-eminence, however, as most of his fans are either dead or far too busy at their desk job to pay much attention to this unlikely resurrection. The repeated injection of Indian instruments and a pointless string adornment at the end of 'The Man You Used to Be' are another half-hearted throwback to the Beatles and Oasis, while the single "Today" is a Cast Bed in all but name. It is disturbing that

Alan McGee, boss of Creation and discoverer of Oasis and the Super Furry



Haircut 0 out of 100

Animals felt the urge to add Heyward to his roster. Maybe his grandmother wanted some music to knit to. (3)

Chris Roe

Kristen Hersh
Strange Angels

Kristen Hersh is the paramour of indie obscurists. Her 'main band' - the Throwing Muses - are accused of being the most under appreciated band of their generation. The reason? Could be that they (a) consistently produce work of the highest quality and 'people' just don't listen. YOU LISTENING TO ME? Or, as this reviewer is more inclined to believe, (b) they have consistently produced work which, in the words of my school teachers, 'shows great potential'. Much like Chelsea: looks good, people root for them, ends up smelling of old roses. Enter Ms Hersh. Shows great potential.

And let me tell you, this is the most gruesome edition of E.R. ever produced. But, I digress. If for nothing else, Kristen Hersh already has a classic. 'Your Ghost', a lilting duet with the svengali of all things goods Michael Stipe, ensures a reputation. Problem 1: a one classic wonder? The previous album never hits the same heights. Problem 2: neither does this. To be fair,

Strange Angels is a greatly more even offering. Fans of her older material will see all the signs: metaphors about loss and being stung by animals interjected with poetic yet indecipherable yarns about the price of stilton. Disregarding the fact that track 3 sounds unerringly like 'Crash' by the execrable Dave Mathews Band, Hersh offers a mixed bag of slower ballads. Up tempo is clearly off the agenda, as she addresses her thoughts to an unknown suitor for whom 'love as a needle goes all the way down'. Not a lot of variety, and no instant classics, but an album of acoustic trundles which hit the spot on listening 11. Mood music for a bad day, with words which make sense in the morning. But, perhaps we all want a sing-a-long once in a while? Still, some of the songs, 'Gazebo Tree' and 'Beesting' for example, are well above the mean.

A little variety? Not really, but plenty of aching. Its difficult to appreciate pain by proxy, especially when it doesn't turn into angst ridden crap. Genuine. Classic. Not as Good As 'Your Ghost'. Anyway, as a friend said, I had AIDS before it was cool. Perhaps the Clarence Higgins trust would be the way forward (cf. copious grovelling apologies in the next issue). Good stuff. (7)

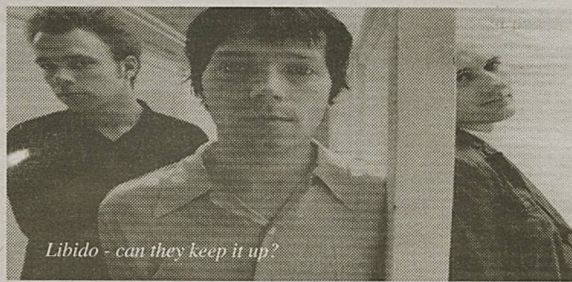
James Crabtree

Libido

Killing Some Dead Time

Let's face it, you don't hear of that many Scandinavian bands plying their trade in the hope of fame and fortune. However, there are some notable exceptions in the form of The Wannadies and The Cardigans - evidence enough that there is indeed life after ABBA. Indeed, these two groups, and others, may well find themselves, sharing the limelight with Libido, a Norwegian three piece, now based in London.

It has to be said that Killing Some



Dead Time doesn't exactly come across as innovative. In fact it seems deeply entrenched in the Indie tradition. To be fair, the band's strength lies in its ability to

deliver track after track of well-crafted songs, such as 'In My Shadow', and 'Supersonic Daydream'. Aply backed by Jorgen Landhaug (drums) and Cato Eikeland (bass), Even Johansen leads the band with a mixture of restrained and no holds barred guitar playing. Libido are given their finishing touch by Johansen's voice which comes over as a cross between Brett Anderson and Thom Yorke. They're given a further dimension by their mastery of tempo, from the lazy sounds of 'Revolving' and 'Crash Out' to the manic 'Molest Me'.

This debut (and the current single from it, 'Overthrown') are by no means accessible, but they're worth killing time for. (8)

Robert Fleming

Finitribe

Sleazy Listening

Described by Melody Maker as 'a dark Satanic cocktail lounge cult of psycho-sexual breakbeat obsessive', 'Sleazy Listening' clearly came highly recommended. And to be fair to the artists, this is by no means a bad collection of tracks. Whether you see 'a dark Satanic cocktail' depends on what you want to find from the album, and also depends on how much LSD you took before listening to the collection.

The method of the band is to use a slow drum beat with synthesisers to create a dark, almost morbid atmosphere before using slow, well delivered lyrics to reinforce the darkness implied by the background. Overall, this works pretty well provided that you allow yourself to listen to the music. If you give a lot of attention to the music and the themes, then the album is easily likeable; however, for those into a more shallow listen, the tracks appear to be rather mundane and repetitive. The outstanding track on the album is undoubtedly more chilling, which uses all of Finitribe's tricks to bring about Melody Maker's vivid image.

Overall, whether you will get much out of the album depends on whether you have the patience or the mood to listen to it. It is worth sticking with provided that

you have the time as it is the type of collection of songs that easily grow on you. (6)

Michael Epstein

In the second chapter of the Beaver guide to essential music Sunil Sodha invites us to the heady days of 1966. Love was in the air, LSD in our veins and The Beatles ruled the new psychedelic era.

Classic Album II

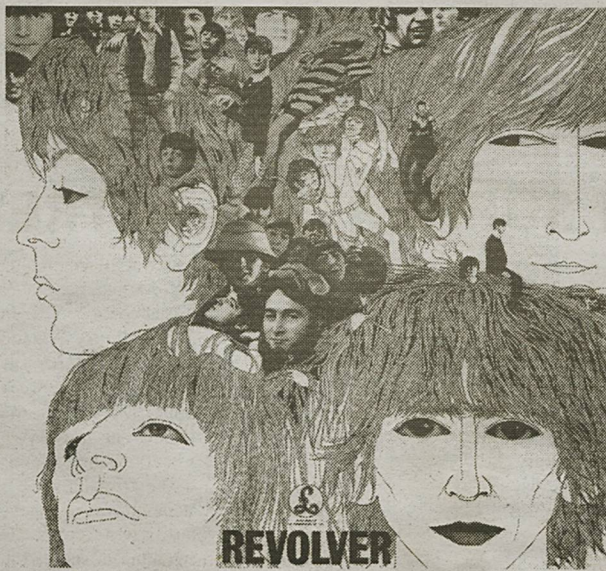
The Beatles
Revolver (1966)

You know you're dealing with a classic band when you can't decide which of their thirteen albums to view as a 'classic album'!

Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club and is probably the most famous and historically significant album the Beatles ever made; a soundtrack for the 60s that taped the whole course of music. However, the Beatles' progression from the itchy three-chord love songs found on their early albums to the clever and imaginative tracks they made later on in their careers, was a gradual one. The trend started with Rubber Soul, which was full of excellent songs with excellent lyrics. Revolver, the Beatles' seventh album, came in-between these two, and musically, was their finest. They had become disillusioned with screaming fans drowning out their music on stage, and were eager to try out new studio techniques to make music like nothing ever heard before.

The album opens with George Harrison's 'Taxman', an attack on the ludicrously high tax-bracket the Beatles found themselves in. Though the subjects of their disgust (Mr Wilson and Mr Heath) are no longer cause for concern, its catchy bass-line riff lives on in Beck's 'New Pollution'. No prizes for guessing which

came first! George has two other tracks on the album. 'Love You To', sees him giving a stab at making Indian music. He was just starting to get spiritual, and had become totally enchanted by the mysticism of the music of the East. It is an up-front (rather



rude) song that tells us to 'make love all day long, make love singing song'!

John Lennon really had his mind opened by LSD. Not only did it enhance the creativity in his surreal poetic lyrics and inventive hypnotic music, but it was also the actual subject of many of his compositions on Revolver. 'She Said She

Said' was based on John's recollection of his second LSD trip taken at a party where Peter Fonda told him, "I know what it's like to be dead". The subject of 'Doctor Robert' was an infamous New York doctor who dispensed far more than prescription drugs! 'I'm Only Sleeping' was a s (blasphemously) covered by Suggs a few years ago; the original is far more dreamy, and includes the Beatles' first use of backward guitars. A song which we can tell the Beatles had a lot of fun recording (from its out-take on Anthology 2) is 'And Your Bird Can Sing': a really jolly, bouncy two-minute song

with the coolest bridge section ever. Paul McCartney plods along behind John Lennon in the inventiveness stakes (as usual) on Revolver, but produces some undeniably beautiful ballads in the shape of the superb 'Here There And Everywhere' and 'For No One'.

Ringo gets in on the action in the

sound-effects laden children's favourite 'Yellow Submarine', which of course inspired the animated film, and Oasis's current video.

The most amazing musical masterpiece comes right at the end of Revolver: 'Tomorrow Never Knows'. This is John putting an acid trip to music. It is incredible! All he needs is one chord! Constant drumming pounds your head while John's 'Dalai Lama' voice caresses your mind. Loops of weird noises suddenly come out of nowhere and gently float away. The lyrics are deep, to say the least. It starts: 'turn off your mind, relax and float downstream', and goes on to tell us to 'find the meaning of within', which is, of course, love!

The fourteen songs on Revolver are all of varied styles, but their common factor is they all sound great, and together they form an undoubtedly influential, psychedelic, thought-provoking album that still sounds as fresh today as the day it was released.

Sunil Sodha

1. TAXMAN (Harrison)
2. ELEANOR RIGBY (Lennon/McCartney)
3. I'M ONLY SLEEPING (Lennon/McCartney)
4. LOVE YOU TO (Harrison)
5. HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE (Lennon/McCartney)
6. YELLOW SUBMARINE (Lennon/McCartney)
7. SHE SAID SHE SAID (Lennon/McCartney)
8. GOOD DAY SUNSHINE (Lennon/McCartney)
9. AND YOUR BIRD CAN SING (Lennon/McCartney)
10. FOR NO ONE (Lennon/McCartney)
11. DOCTOR ROBERT (Lennon/McCartney)
12. I WANT TO TELL YOU (Harrison)
13. GOT TO GET YOU INTO MY LIFE (Lennon/McCartney)
14. TOMORROW NEVER KNOWS (Lennon/McCartney)



Beastie
Beaver

Word, homies. Y'know yours truly, the original, gen-u-ine, one of a kind all rodent, has been throwin' it down with some seriously wack shit this week. It ain't all cheeba and mackin' downtown in the urban woodland. Check it: life's hard like Clinton. So let the aquatic maestro o' tha mic drop you one dope beastie lecture on dead people.

Whuh? Hell no! Beastie ain't on no necrophilia flow (If I wanna screw corpses I'd hang out at the Tuns, 'kay crew?). It's dead rock stars in the B-boy's ear goggles right now. Wanna know why? Well, if you was up on the 411 you'd know. It's been three years since Richey Manic vanished like fresh style at an Oasis show and exactly nineteen since punk Sid Vicious committed suicide after supposedly offing his girl-friend.

It's these things that make you think, ya know. Why do they all go the way of the Great Spirit before the Great Spirit has even considered their name? Hell, must be something rea-aal gummy fresh about that. I mean, why else do ten celebrities bite the big one each year? And why else do they all double-check that they go in style, like hitting trees while skiing? Well most of the time then... There must be some god-damn-good reason for it. And, fellow homes and blood, your Beastie Beaver has figured it out. It's been my theory for years and now I get to drop it to an audience. So open your ears to the Beastie Principle of Celebrity Death.

I've always known those fuckers would be fakin' it big time. All these celebrities dying one after the other, its all just one seriously wack trick. Kurt Cobain blowing his brains out, Michael Hutchence hanging himself for the ultimate orgasm, Jimi Hendrix choking on his own puke, Marvin Gaye getting his ass capped by his own pa, Jim Morrison taking his last bath and Elvis turning into a lethal Double Kirby wit' ludes Big Mac. All mutha fuckin' lies. They're all out there, happy on their little Fiji island where grandma Monroe does the tea for grandpa Kennedy while Janis Joplin has her weekly lunch with the three drummers from Spinal Tap. They told us that it's 'better to burn out than to fade away' then split like cheap slacks to their very own celebrity paradise. Thanks, guys. And why all that? Because you can only climb the Olympus of celebrity legends if you, well, kick that bucket in time. Die young and you're forgotten for the rest of your life, become a martyr, a hero for generations. Die old, and you're forgotten before you're even dead, the sad remaining of long gone days, hoping your old fame would cash in for an appearance in the Sun gossips at least. Or isn't that so Mick and Keith? And who gives a damn about Status Quo or Paul McCartney nowadays? Give up, boys. Please.

But once you're dead life is only about to start! Not only can they have a blunt spliff with Johnny Lennon or play Monopoly with MLK, but think of all the cash they can make out of it. Books, posters, T-shirts, mugs, key rings and pants. Check the hype overdrive if the Spice Ho's had a plane crash tomorrow. Best of - CDs. Very best of - CDs. Re-releases and tribute albums. Comeback albums. Live albums. Photo albums. Lost tapes and lost tracks. The streets to heaven are paved with gold. I tell ya. They all sit on their little island, having a laugh at us. Having a laugh at all the tears we shed for them: all the bullshit we make up about them. Guess, we don't deserve much better. But neither do they.

Well then, Sid and Richey, by the Beastie Principle of Celebrity Death you can't fool us anymore. May you rest in peace. But wherever you are, boys, Beastie's dollars say yo' keeping it ill.

Anyway nuff shit for this week, this Beaver's gotta bail. Late homies.

And The Winner Is...

Caroline Hooton pre-empts the Oscar nominations

Well, as the New Year rolls in, so too do the Hollywood award ceremonies. Those of you who haven't spent the last couple of weeks in a cupboard cannot help but have noticed the sweaty foreplay that leads to the Oscars in March. Already speculation is rife - who will win, who will lose, who will wear the shittest outfit? Questions and deliberations will develop apace after the nominations are officially announced February 11th, but speculation as to just who those lucky few nominees will be is swelling faster than Hugh Grant on Hollywood Boulevard following the Golden Globes on Sunday 18th January. The Golden Globes, awarded by the Foreign Press Association in Hollywood, are considered by the industry to be an excellent predictor of who will walk away with their more famous big sister in the spring - indeed 12 of the last 16 Best Picture winners won the Golden Globe for Best Dramatic Film. Therefore, armed with only the list of Globe winners for this year and my Mystic Meg powers I aim to provide a speculative guide as to who the Academy will recognise and ignore this year.

BEST PICTURE

James Cameron's Titanic is currently tipped to sweep aside competition for the Best Picture category following its Globe win. Lauded as the most expensive film ever made it could do with a win and the usual \$100 million in extra ticket sales it would bring. However, pity is no reason for recognition and whilst the Academy may like the sumptuous romance and tragedy brought by an overgrown ice cube, there is stiff competition from the Spielberg directed Amistad (not yet released in the UK) about a slave revolt on a transport ship in the early 18th century and the subsequent American trial of those involved. Widely praised, both for acting and direction, its own bid for award success stands to be scuppered by an embarrassing plagiarism suit which could unnerve an Academy keen to promote a squeaky clean image.



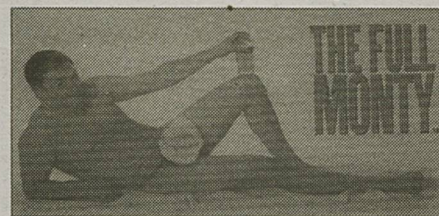
Independent productions last year with its orgasmic appreciation of The English Patient and, having delivered such a rebuke it may well prefer to embrace the errant studio flock once again. British interests could also be represented by The Wings Of The Dove - an adaptation of the Henry James novel with a strong cast led by Helena Bonham Carter and Linus Roache. Beautifully shot in Venice and widely recommended by critics on both sides of the Atlantic it screams pedigree and class - but so did The English Patient last year and if there's one thing the Academy dislikes it's repetition in recognition, plus there's the fact that



whilst it is an excellent film, hardly anyone has been to see it, which could affect the voting of the more lazy Academy members.

In the event that these last two Brit backed productions knock each other out of the running, the way would be opened for Good Will Hunting, starring Matt Damon, Robin Williams and Minnie Driver. Essentially a redemption story (always popular with voters) it has the strength over adversity themes that any self-respecting voter would wish to advocate, plus it combines independent film making with studio money and values - as such it makes a good compromise. Stalking horses in this category would include As Good As It Gets, Men In Black and My Best Friend's Wedding.

Should Win:- Good Will Hunting
Probably Win:- Titanic



comedy with a discussion on 90s gender politics and the effects of unemployment on a Sheffield community - oh yeah, and 5 men get their kit off as well. Unfortunately it's not American, and it's not a studio production. The Academy did their bit for

BEST ACTOR / BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Competition in both categories looks to be another tight affair this year with some truly excellent performances (as well as some really emotionally manipulative ones) Peter Fonda won the Golden Globe for best dramatic performance for his role as a bee keeper (?) in Ulee's Gold but this is widely being regarded as an anomaly seeing as the film largely disappeared in the USA. However, such a win at the Oscars would not be without precedent (Jessica Lang won for her role in Blue Sky 5 years ago, a film which also disappeared on its eventual release and which was largely considered a sympathy vote for her failure to win previously). Plus there is the fact that Fonda has been out of circulation for the last 20 odd years, possibly provoking sympathy from those voters who still remember seeing Easy Rider first time around.



LA Confidential could see its two Antipodean stars Guy Pearce and Russell Crowe cancel out each other's challenge in the Best Actor category, which is a shame as both



utterly as opposing shades of grey undergoing their own redemption of sorts. A better bet for success, if there was any justice in the world, would be Kevin Spacey in the support category for his role in the same film. However, he has already won once in this category, and it is more likely that, were he to be recognised by the Academy it would be for his role as possible gay murderer in Midnight In The Garden Of Good And Evil, partly because the Academy likes to reward courage in roles (see Tom Hanks for Philadelphia) and partly because it may well want to rectify its mistake of not nominating in the same category for his

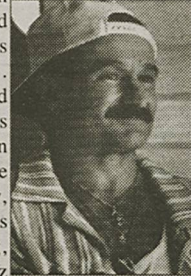
role as Keyser Soze in The Usual Suspects.

Morgan Freeman could step in to become the first black actor recognised by the Academy in this category for his role in Amistad. Widely considered to have missed out for his role in The Shawshank Redemption (given extraordinary competition that year), Freeman has built up an deserved reputation as one of the finest actors of his generation, and as such the Academy would do almost no better. Unless of course, they choose to go with Wales' own son Anthony Hopkins, another Amistad star who gives another compelling performance which continues his apparent penchant for playing former American



Presidents. However, it is more likely that Hopkins will be sidelined into the Best Supporting Actor category given his limited screen time.

Matt Damon stands an excellent chance of nomination for his title role in Good Will Hunting, building on the reputation earns in Francis Ford Coppola's Rainmaker. Recognition could also be made of his co-star Robin Williams in the supporting category, who finally tames his tendency to mug, shout and schmaltz and delivers a truly beautiful turn as a widowed psychiatrist helping Damon's



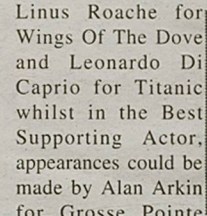
character cop with his genius. He hasn't been this good since The Fisher King and it is highly plausible that the Academy will recognise him should he earn a fourth nomination.

Burt Reynolds carried off the best supporting actor Globe statuette and it is highly likely that he will be nominated in the same Oscar category for his role as porn producer in Boogie Nights. However, whilst 70s nostalgia is at a premium at the



moment, and although it is certainly his best performance since Smokey And The Bandit, it is unlikely that he'll similarly succeed in the big league, primarily

because the character simply does not have sufficient depth. Suggestions currently making the rounds are that Tommy Lee Jones could earn the final nomination in the supporting category for a wonderful deadpan turn in Men In Black. If so, such recognition would undoubtedly be for the colossal popular success of the film as much as the acting. Stalking horses in the Best Actor category include Linus Roache for Wings Of The Dove and Leonardo Di Caprio for Titanic whilst in the Best Supporting Actor, appearances could be made by Alan Arkin for Grosse Pointe



Blank and Tom Skerit for Contact.
Should Win Best Actor:- Morgan Freeman
Probably Win:- Peter Fonda
Should Win BSA:- Kevin Spacey
Probably Win:- Robin Williams

BEST ACTRESS / BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

This year is a little better than those gone by as there were more decent dramatic roles for women than usual. Hence competition in both categories can be expected to be fiercer than normal. Favourite for Best Actress has to be Helena Bonham Carter for The Wings Of The Dove. Failure to win a Golden Globe should ironically strengthen her claim come Oscar night due to the furore caused by critics which should make voters rush to their video to see what the Globes failed to recognise. Giving a strong, intelligent and yet emotional performance which breaks the mould of her usual pale pansies, Carter deserves such a break. However, you cannot discount competition from Judi Dench whose Queen Victoria pushed Carter out of the Globe win. Another



for her performance in Contact - another studied and technically acute turn from multi-winner Foster but which essentially

emotionally complex and strong performance could well lead the Academy votes to cancel both ladies out. In which case the way could well be opened for Kate Winslett, another Brit for her lead romantic role in Titanic. However, her case is scuttled by the comparative light weight of the role - while she brings a depth and maturity to what is essentially a romantic cipher, the Academy may well prefer a more complex character. Which brings me to Jodi Foster



for her performance in Contact - another studied and technically acute turn from multi-winner Foster but which essentially lacks the heart necessary for Academy sympathy. Sigourney Weaver could see recognition for The Ice Storm, Ang Lee's examination of 70s life and the effects of an affair on children. Having enjoyed a consistently strong career and a nomination track record only beaten by Glenn Close, there is every chance that Weaver will be given the opportunity to take the rostrum.

Best Supporting Actress will essentially be a two-horse race between Globe winner Kim Basinger and Britain's own Minnie Driver, again for Good Will Hunting. Basinger is stunning as the hooker

with the heart whose seen it all, combining a knowing attitude with warmth, but Driver equally impresses in what could be a slight role as the love interest. Emily Watson could steal the statue from both for her role as an IRA wife in The Boxer torn between her husband and Daniel Day Lewis, the recently released prisoner she truly loves (and who can blame her?) Again however, hardly anyone saw the film on its US release and critical attention was nominal - however, she could win votes as compensation for her failure to succeed in the best actress category last year with a deeply disturbing performance in Breaking The Waves.

Helen Hunt could provide a shock should she be nominated for As Good As It Gets in the support category. Although she

won a Globe as best actress, the slight nature of her character (while well acted), combined with the fact that comedy performances do not traditionally do well in the main category, could see her sidelined into the lower league. Watch out as well for a possible surprise nomination for Helen Hunt for her angel from hell performance in A Life Less Ordinary, widely reviewed as the best thing in an otherwise disappointing film, and demonstrating excellent sense of timing combined with a certain ambiguity.

Should Win BA:- Helena Bonham Carter
Probably Win:- Helena Bonham Carter
Should Win BSA:- Minnie Driver
Probably Win:- Kim Basinger

Let us pray that no one mentions Princess Diana in their acceptance speech (Ed)

Getting Attention



Set in the present time, on a South London council estate, 'Getting Attention' paints a bleak picture of moral and social deprivation. The play is centred around the living room of a flat and we witness a volatile, rather dysfunctional relationship between a young mother, Carol and her boyfriend Nick in which an undercurrent of violence and abuse constantly lurks. Intermingled with a continuous flow of references to Carol's four year old daughter's abnormal and disturbing behaviour we learn that Nick has been abusing the child throughout.

The intimate nature of the small studio theatre and proximity to the action provides the audience with the feeling of peering through the living room window. Coupled with convincing performances from by Sacha Billingham (Carol) and Gary Maynicker (Nick) the play was brought grimly close with harsh

realism.

However, whilst outlying a depressing sequence of social events, Crimp fails to explore or suggest any possible causes. The characterisation of Carol was underdeveloped and ambiguous; amidst blatant neglect, she voices occasional concern for her daughter and her apparent helplessness seems unfounded.

A well acted, thought provoking play nonetheless.

Brenda Lee Burke.

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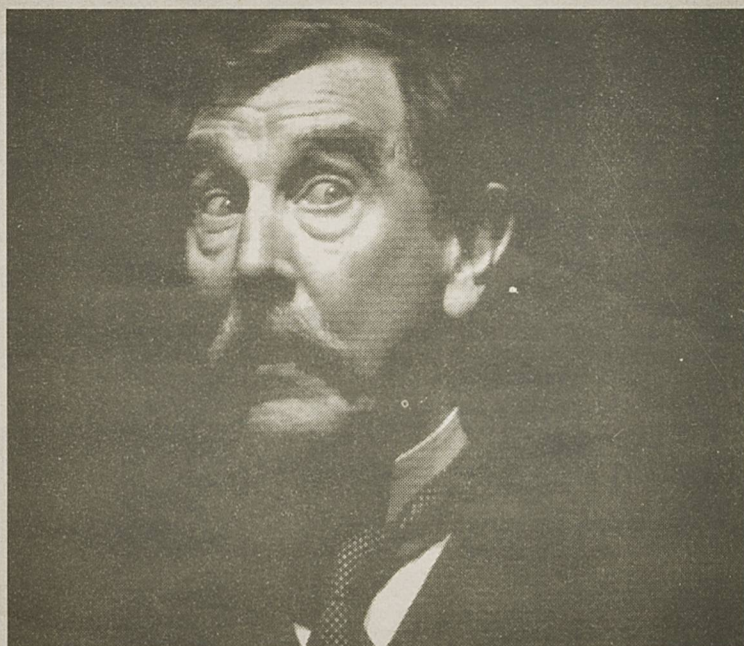
The Invention of Love

Think you know all about the British? Love them, hate them? The playwright Tom Stoppard may be your cup of tea especially interesting to the immigrant and overseas members of the student body. Born as a Czech, his childhood spent in the East (Singapore and India), he settled on the threshold of his teens in England after Indian independence, 50 years of which last year just marked. Don't know your Stoppard from your Pinter? The NT has given you a chance.

His latest play, as I see it, has at least seven themes: the worth of living a life of textual scholarship and creative artistry; the nature of taste (aesthetics); the debate between science and art; the meaning of death; the opposition of Christianity to Paganism; the contemplative or creative life versus the life of action; and the nature of pederasty and homosexuality. I leave it as an open question whether or how these themes relate to each other and to the play's title.

Stoppard uses as his dramaturgical means the world of classical antiquity in the person chiefly of the English poet and classical scholar A E Housman as a metaphor for the play's themes. True to form, Stoppard's consistent inventiveness comes into play, as it were. He takes the technique of inventio from the latin rhetoricians to startlingly experimental lengths—a hint of which one finds in the word Invention of the play's title. The play begins at the end of Housman's life, his death, flashes back to scenes real and imagined during the course of his life, and again ends where it began, with his death. The play, in having the structure of a circle, breaks with linear chronology and also keeps it in that the course of events dramatized from the character Housman's recollections are mostly chronological. One will not find the strictures of Aristotelian drama in force here.

The complex framework of the play contrasts with its lack of action. Housman's recollections take the form on stage of dialogues with the few significant others, as the phrase now is, in his life. These are a civil service colleague



and those with an academic connection to his Oxford days and to his subsequent profession as a professor of classical studies. What the play lacks in action it makes up in wit. The play has none of the farce and manic action of his early plays but retains their brilliant and sizzling wit in dialogue turned to satirizing the material of his themes.

The imagined dialogue has the same barbed quality, which the character Houseman's imagined dialogue with his contemporary, Oscar Wilde, exemplifies. They never met while at Oxford; Wilde took the poetry prize that Houseman never received there. Stoppard outdoes himself by turning dialogue into monologue. The actor of the elder Houseman talks with the actor of the younger on stage: he talks with himself. One scene has Houseman alone on stage delivering a philological lecture at once academic and satirical.

This play gives the lie to previous criticism of his plays as simple frames as pegs for his wit. He does keep to his past in dialectical drama but now has a host of antagonists and protagonists through which the dialectic of his themes speak,

but rarely act. The dialogue depends heavily on classical references and the world of Victorian Oxbridge. The complexity and brilliance of the play's rhetoric overshadows its structure. The audience did not seem to mind. On the one hand they showed enthusiasm; in the interval half scurried to the bar, the other half buried their noses in the program. Who knew what was going on? I for one don't need to go to a play to hear an academic lecture for entertainment. Your enjoyment will depend, I suspect, on whether Stoppard can hold your interest in material remote to most people. Yet through his material he seemed to speak to the audience of what matters. It is the best biography I have seen or experienced—if one has an interest in the material of the play.

KP

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Princess Diana was the greatest person that ever lived!

At least that's what two people decided in the religious survey conducted around the halls last term. Fortunately the other 198 who answered that question didn't agree, although there were some other interesting proposals such as Charlie Chaplin, John Lennon and "My Mum". For anyone concerned about the continuing intellectual credibility of the LSE there were some sensible answers too. 35% thought Jesus was the greatest ever, 12.5% Buddha and 9.5% Mohammed while only 2.5% thought the same about Confucius. One of the most surprising results was the 22% who said that Gandhi was the greatest. I wonder if people really meant that or whether it's just the trendy thing to say these days; most people don't seem to know much about him other than he was a good, peace-loving man who did great things for India. Gandhi should be given the respect he deserves, but to give him as many votes as Mohammed and Buddha put together seems to suggest a certain spiritual bankruptcy.

Peace, however, does seem to be an important concern to students at the LSE. When quizzed on the most important issue facing the world today, world peace received 28.3% of the vote, while the favourite was economic/social issues with almost a third. Fair enough, this is the LSE, but sorry to all you government students: democratic/political issues received only 11.7%. Spiritual/moral issues were way down the list with 6.5%. The most important personal issue was tied between education and the family with 17.6% of the vote each. Living up to its altruistic, non-materialistic reputation, less than 4% of the LSE claimed that the acquisition of wealth is the most important issue to them, and a mere 6% put their career as top of the list. Interesting...

Despite the apparent lack of interest in spiritual and moral concerns, over

two-thirds say they believe there is a God. One in five, however, are convinced that there's no such thing. Good luck to you. Quite a few respondents added comments to their answers such as their conception of God being different from that of the Christian one, or that they believe in "some force". This is strange considering no one proposed George Lucas for the greatest person. Almost a half of those questioned said they believed there's a heaven (although again definitions varied) but only just over one in three could say the same about hell. It's interesting that a lot of people believe in heaven but not hell (except, no doubt, when it comes to Hitler, the IRA etc.)

Although Jesus was the favourite choice for being the greatest person there was still much disagreement concerning who he actually was. The most popular suggestion that he was a teacher/prophet had over 38% of the vote, while less than one in five thought he was the "Son of God". 13.2% believed he was a legend (I hope there are no historians among you), "a good man" received 14.9%, with religious lunatic and con man getting 0.7% between them. The "others" category (3.6%) included such gems as "ruler of nature", "philosopher", and, "mass of energy resulting from expression". Congratulations to the 0.7% who think he's either a lunatic or a con man. Those two conclusions are more sensible than either the "teacher/prophet" or the "good man" theories. When was the last time any good man told you to worship Him? Which prophet ever claimed that he himself is the means to salvation? As CS Lewis points out, either Jesus was the Son of God, or else he was deluded or a devil from hell. The biggest mistake anyone could make about Jesus is to acknowledge him as one of the great prophets who "did a lot of good." The road to hell is paved with such beliefs, because people with that opinion are completely rejecting all that Jesus came to achieve. As a good prophet, we can keep

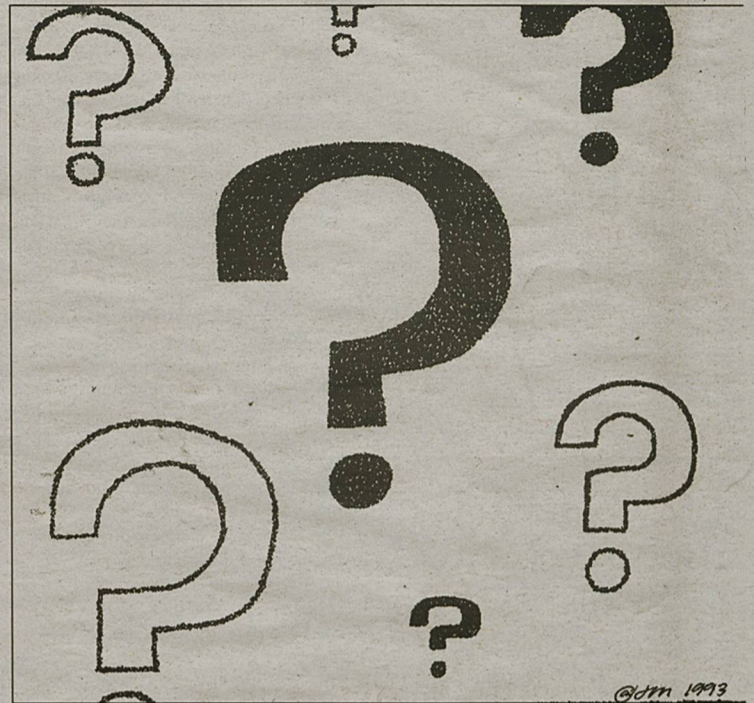
him for when he suits us and not have to face the massive implications of his death and resurrection. But Jesus never gave us that option. Either he is the means to eternal life or he's not.

But let's give LSE students the benefit of the doubt; the teacher/prophet or good man conclusions do not seem to have come about through intellectual error, but rather through lack of research. Only 22.7% of those questioned claimed they had read "a lot" of his teaching. This leaves at least 13% who, while believing he's the greatest person who ever lived, haven't even read all his teaching (which, incidentally, can be read in a day). Another 11.7% said they had read none at all. It beats me how anyone can claim to have knowledge without having read the most influential figure in the history of the world.

Anyway, back to the greatest person, I'd say Jesus must win, since he's the only one of the famous people mentioned who's not dead.

SURVEY RESULTS (percentages)

- 1) What would you say is the most important issue in the world?
 - Peace 28.3 Environment 12.2
 - Economic/social issues 32.2 Democratic/Political 11
 - Happiness 4.3
 - Philosophy/moral/spiritual 6.5
 - Others 4.8
- 2) What's the most important issue in your own life?
 - Family 17.6 Education 17.6 Happiness 12.7
 - Love/sex 3.7 Career 5.7 Money 3.3 Friends 6.1
 - Personal satisfaction 12.7



Others 4.1	Hitler!
philosophy/spiritual/moral 7.4	Others 11.5
Altruistic goals 6.6 Health 2.5	
3) Yes No Not sure	5). Who do you think Jesus is?
Do you believe there is a God? 68.8	Teacher/prophet 38.1 Son of God 28.9
21.1 9.7	Good man 14.9 Legend 13.2
Do you believe there is a heaven?	Religious lunatic/con man 0.7
47.2 40.2 12.6	Others 3.6
Do you believe there is a hell? 36.6	
50.8 12.6	6) How much of Jesus' teachings have you read?
4) Who is the greatest person that ever lived?	None 11.7 A little 32.6 Some 33.0
Jesus 35 Gandhi 22 Buddha 12.5	A lot 22.7
Mohammed 9.5 Confucius 2.5	
Moses 2.5 Father/mother 2.5	
Mother Theresa 1.5 Princess Diana 1	

RERUM COGNOSCERE CAUSAS - To know the causes of things?

Andy Seah

Many of us in LSE pride ourselves as intelligent people, eager to learn and find the political, economic or sociological theories that explains the world as well as the solutions to its problems. Alternatively we may just want to get a prestigious degree, go out to the corporate world and earn bucketloads of money. Assuming noble intentions, we need to find 'the causes of things', analyse their effects and think about the appropriate response.

We are all quite good at looking at the Big Picture. We like to think BIG because it makes us feel we are very important people (how else do you become a top executive?), yet the lesson of microeconomics must be that without proper fundamentals, you will be left to flounder in the deep blue sea. It is at this point that I find LSE students' (AND academics') lack of interest or avoidance in finding out the answers to life's most important questions bewildering.

Any rational and thinking person

must have, at some point in their lives, thought about questions such as, 'What is the meaning of life?', 'Is there a God/Higher Being?', 'What am I doing here?', 'Am I just a bunch of creative and hyperactive molecules?' and many others. Without answering fundamental questions such as these, what is the basis for living our lives? Does life not degenerate into a 'chasing of the wind'? We at LSE claim to want to 'know the causes of things' yet we steadfastly avoid any attempts to find out more about who or what cause us and the world into being! If you want to think big, it just doesn't get any bigger!

Why do we avoid asking the big yet fundamental questions? Is it because they have the unpopular and unfashionable tag of 'religion' hanging around them? Let's be objective, how much and how deeply do we understand about each religion? For many of us, being born in "Christian" countries, our religious experiences probably dates back to our Sunday School days. I'm sure we were all intelligent and well-informed by that point in our lives to make rational decisions! (Trick question: When was the last time you read the

Bible? The whole thing?) I think you would have guessed by now that I believe in God. "But it's irrational to believe in God!" Come on, give God some credit! If God is really there and if God really created us as intelligent beings, then He must be smart enough to give us good reasons for believing in Him. Christians believe that God has indeed revealed Himself to us, through the Bible, through the person of Jesus Christ and through Christian experiences. Don't believe it? Why not check it out? You owe it to yourself to investigate it. Nobody likes to live life through not knowing why they have just lived it! If you decide that Jesus is not who He claims to be, it would have done you no harm finding that out. So why not grab the nearest Christian you can find and ask them some serious questions or join one of the LSE Christian Union's Just Looking groups where you can find out more about Jesus, Christianity and the Christian answers to life's biggest questions in the context of an informal discussion group? Email Hugh Batty at \Batty, HS.

LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND... IR

Hilary Batty

As most of my fellow students will testify, International Relations is a frustrating subject. We look for the answers to such abstract questions as 'What is Power?', 'What is Sovereignty?', 'Does the nation exist?', in the hope of finding a theory that will explain the world and equip us to solve the world's problems.

This is the intention. In practice, there are many theories, and sub-theories within those theories, and sub-theories within those sub-theories.... Each "ism" suggest different explanation of the state of the world and a different solution to the problems. Our task as students is to discuss these theories endlessly and inevitably discover that there is no answer to the questions posed. It can be very depressing to discover, just as a theory is appearing to be particularly convincing, that actually it has a fatal flaw. It is a subject where essays end "so-and-so is a little more right than so-and-so but there is no answer and we'll never really know".

So what is the point? Not only in IR, but I'm sure in other subjects at the LSE, the only conclusion drawn from 3 years of study is that there is no conclusion.

Bringing God into the realms of IR is not considered to be a particularly intelligent move-it is more rational for us to look for the answers from a human point of view. However, through studying IR and understanding more about my Christian faith, I have come to one important conclusion: I cannot even begin to understand International Relations if I leave God out of the picture. I believe the truth is that God created the world and that problems arise where we try to ignore him and his plan for the world. Having grasped this truth I have used it as a starting point from which to understand the subject that I am studying. Remarkably I have found that it answers all those abstract questions and necessitates that having faith in God and acknowledging his plan for the world (at the centre of which is Jesus Christ) is the only way in which the problems of the world can be solved.

I have found that an understanding of the truth is essential to an understanding of IR and of life in general. IR will remain a frustrating muddle if we rely on subjective opinions. Because of this, I urge everyone to search until you find the one truth that explains the world that we live in. Alternatively be content that fundamental questions will never be answered.

What's the story, mourning Tory?

Alex King on the Conservatives' search for an identity

THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY IS UP THE CREEK, AND EVERYONE KNOWS IT. BUT IS ANYONE PADDLING? LAST MONDAY, CHIEF TORY POINTYHEAD DANNY FINKELSTEIN CANOED UP THE STRAND TO ARGUE HIS CASE AT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS.

Finkelstein, Director of the Conservative Research Department, argues that the future of British Conservatism lies in pursuing an "agenda beyond economics". Since the public cannot really grasp macro-economic policy, he suggests, electoral success lies in emphasising a public morality to which people can relate.

THE CONSERVATIVES ARE NOT GOING TO WIN THE NEXT ELECTION, NOR THE ONE AFTER THAT, BY APPEALING TO PUBLIC VALUES

Concentrating on issues such as law and order, individual self-reliance and familial responsibility will, Finkelstein believes, win the electorate over.

Disarmingly and entertainingly honest about the Conservatives' abysmal performance at the polls in May, the ebullient Finkelstein was quick to

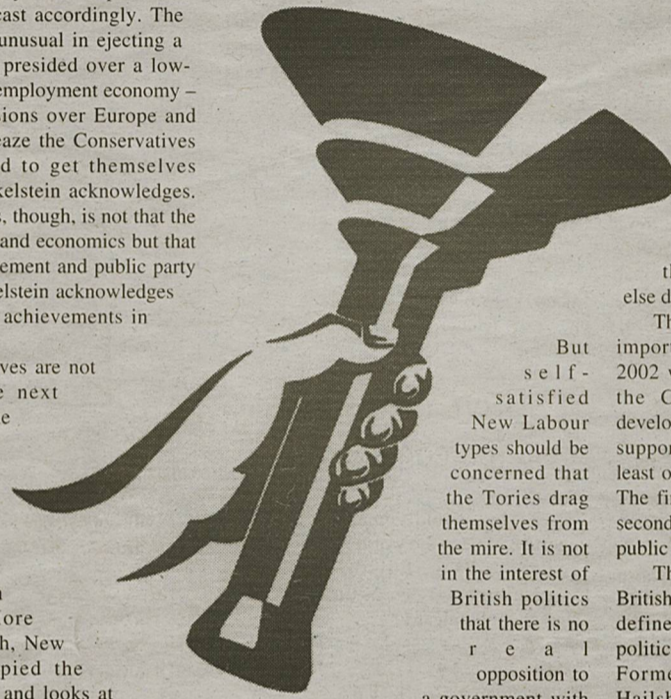
emphasise that the new agenda will have nothing to do with "Back to Basics", the Major government's family values crusade which ended in tears. "After all", Finkelstein observed, "as soon as we announced it we'd find three of our backbenchers in bed together".

So will Finkelpolitik work? Is politics beyond economics convincing? History suggests not. Although economics alone does not decide elections, pub economists everywhere know how much their food and mortgage costs, whether they've got a job or not, and who they hold responsible. Votes are usually cast accordingly. The 1997 election was unusual in ejecting a government which presided over a low-inflation, falling-unemployment economy – but then with divisions over Europe and allegations over sleaze the Conservatives worked quite hard to get themselves thrown out, as Finkelstein acknowledges. The lesson from this, though, is not that the public don't understand economics but that private party management and public party image is vital. Finkelstein acknowledges Tony Blair's great achievements in these areas.

The Conservatives are not going to win the next election, nor the one after that, by appealing to public values. For one thing it is too soon after cash-for-questions to try such a tactic. More importantly, though, New Labour has occupied the moral high ground and looks at home. Blair has the middle-England family values and Brown the High Church austerity. Jack Straw has, rather improbably, managed to become both the

Michael Howard's Michael Howard, and the Parent Struggling With Difficult Offspring Just

Like Everyone Else.



Has the torch gone out?

strong scrutiny. It is also not in the interest of the Labour Party to find its most vocal

critics on its own back benches - nothing will unite New and Old Labour like an active Tory party.

In the short-term the Tories can only limp along. Their parliamentary and media performance since May has been worse than dismal. This is only to be expected: the party is still licking its wounds, and its members' conflict over the EU in general and EMU in particular shows no sign of quieting. Their attacks on New Labour have been restricted to moments of opportunity pertaining to overpriced wallpaper. John Redwood, allegedly the Tories' "star performer", might think that bickering over Margaret Beckett's homestead will bring the government down, but no-one else does.

These short-term failings are not really important, however. Labour will win in 2002 whatever happens. What matters is the Conservative party's long-term development. To regain widespread public support, the Conservatives need to do at least one of two things, and possibly both. The first is to attack Labour properly, the second to build a big picture with workable public policies to fill it.

The former option might be enough. British Conservatism has traditionally been defined more by its opposition to other political forces than by its own ideology. Former Chairman of the party Lord Hailsham saw nothing inconsistent "in having opposed Whiggery in the interest of the Crown, Liberalism in the name of Authority, Socialism in the name of liberty." But it is difficult to see how the Conservatives are going to generate a

devastating critique of New Labour. There are plenty of avenues open to them – economic and/or moral liberalism being the obvious ones – but Finkelstein rules these out. His attacks on Labour are based on the argument that Blair is an intellectually empty creature, that all he wants to do as Prime Minister is to win the next election. Someone ought to point out to him that the principal aim of every Prime Minister is to

IN THE SHORT-TERM THE TORIES CAN ONLY LIMP ALONG. THEIR PARLIAMENTARY AND MEDIA PERFORMANCE SINCE MAY HAS BEEN WORSE THAN DISMAL.

win the next election. This is pre-election tabloid hyperbole, not Research Department quality criticism.

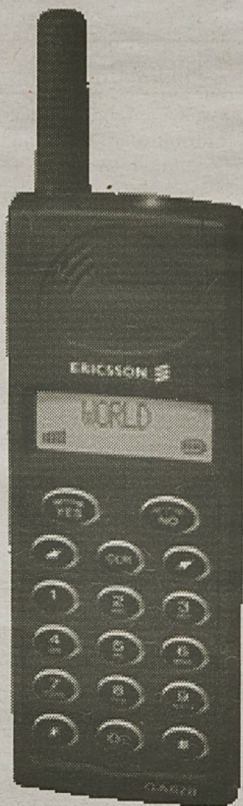
The prospect of a Conservative "big picture" seems still more remote. Where are the brilliant new stars, the policy wonks who will generate rhetoric and policy for the shadow cabinet? Finkelstein includes amongst his Young Turks Peter Lilley (54) and Iain Duncan-Smith (43). In fairness there is also the energetic Tim Collins, 33-year-old MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale and formerly of John Major's No.10 policy unit. But this is hardly a crack squad. Part of the problem is that Conservative funds have dried up, and the Research Department is a shadow of its former self. A one-man Fink-tank is not enough.

Ringling in your ears

Lachesis January has mixed feelings about mobile phones

The sound of a mobile phone cheerfully chiming in a lecture theatre, perhaps one of those horribly distinctive tunes or the traditional "it could be mine and a hundred other peoples' phone" ring, will set off a series of reactions amongst the surrounding students.

Many will attempt to ignore it, either wrapped up in the lecture or trying to seem that they are. The latter group are themselves an entertaining breed, obviously hungry to observe like a person trying not to goose-neck while driving past a road accident, wanting to seem superior to the hordes that have succumbed to the morbid temptation and caused several miles of tail backs in doing so. They will not look in some vain attempt to improve themselves.



Others, less self-deceiving or more impulsive creatures, will turn round, some attempting to employ subtlety whilst others have no need of it, to see whose it might be. The chances are they won't know the person, but that's not the point...

There is a general irritation with the owner, perhaps some contempt and smugness by other phone owners who were cunning enough to stop their calls, and a general air of superiority by all, either because they don't own one at all or because they own one, but do it better.

And the last reaction visible in this disturbed lecture is a frantic, red-faced scrabbling for the phone, for the button that will stop the terrible ringing, for the end of the humiliation.

It seems to take forever and these long seconds are filled with a tumult of mental swearing. Perhaps the unfortunate incident is taken by the perpetrator as nothing. Perhaps they are one of those confident people, worried by nothing. On the other hand, this might be an incidence of embarrassment they will never forget. (Which will ensure no further ringing in a lecture, conveniently.)

Mobile phones are a convenience that's worth the occasional embarrassment, though whether they're worth the loss of freedom as suddenly everyone who has your number can locate you wherever you are (except in the tube, which is usually when you need to contact them, irritatingly enough).

Perhaps this is why whenever ringing a friend with a rather convenient mobile phone one tends to find that the damned thing has been switched off. Saving battery life is a poor excuse for wanting a little privacy. This can be taken one step further in the home. Often, to remain elusive, we just unplug the phone. The mere sound of them ringing is irritating, and occurs during mealtimes or any half-decent program on television.

People look forward to mental communication, telepathy as the future replacing the phone. This would be fine if one could still be out of contact, or engaged, or disconnected due to hideously large bills...

The alternative to awkward interruptions, of course, is to get a vibrating battery although admission



of ownership of such a thing might prove more of an embarrassment than the odd call interrupting a lecture.

Or to purchase a new snazzy phone that discriminates between groups of callers, once implemented, if this is remembered.

Or to leave it permanently turned off.

Or to simply remember that one owns a mobile phone and that, no matter how few friends one has, or how few people have one's number, somebody is bound to phone at your least convenience. This is Sod's law, a healthy admission of which will prevent lack of anticipation of such events.

Algeria: the nightmare continues.

Hiroko Tabuchi looks at the Algerian situation and places the burden of guilt on the West's so-far ineffective policies towards the regime in place.



An estimated seventy-five thousand lives have been lost, and the world can do nothing to help. Over the past few weeks, figures alone were enough to cause an international outcry as the latest atrocities in Algeria's bloody civil war claimed a further 1000 lives over this period. These numbers, together with accounts by survivors of pillaging, rape, and mass-murder, have resulted in mounting pressure on somebody 'to do something'.

Why, then, is nothing being done? The fundamental problem lies in the Algerian government's outright rejection of any outside intervention on the matter. An EU mission sent last week to Algiers was denied access to massacre sites and failed to secure

promises on increased transparency into the matter. Algerian authorities have also snubbed efforts by UN high commissioner for human rights Mary Robinson to send investigating teams into the country. When France condemned the violence and commented that it was the duty of any government to enable its citizens to live in peace and security, the Algerian government responded angrily that it was

The West, terrified at the prospect of an Islamic Algeria and increased terrorism in Europe, turned a blind eye to this blatantly anti-democratic move and since then has financially supported the army regime

unacceptable for the French to remind them of their duties. However, the Algerian army and government has continuously failed to stop or even intervene in the civilian massacres and

this inaction has raised suspicions that they are actually involved in the

Furthermore, large exports of oil and gas to Europe have boosted Algeria's economy and reduced its dependence on international financial aid

rampant killings themselves.

Not surprisingly, the Algerian government has vehemently rejected such accusations. Instead they blame the recent massacres on the Armed Islamic Group, an armed faction of the Islamic Salvation Front from which the Algerian army stripped electoral victory in 1992. The West, terrified at the prospect of an Islamic Algeria and increased terrorism in Europe, turned a blind eye to this blatantly anti-democratic move and since then has financially supported the army regime. In hindsight the West's irresponsible support has sown the seeds of the present crisis - a government of doubtful legitimacy that is causing trouble today most probably could not have come to power or stayed entrenched there without western support. Furthermore, large exports of oil and gas to Europe have boosted

Algeria's economy and reduced its dependence on international financial aid. This has greatly increased the power of the Algerian government to play by its own rules. According to one European official, Algeria "cannot be easily bullied around unless there is concerted western pressure, perhaps even through oil companies, and this is very unlikely". Thus the situation is a dire one, made worse by western diplomacy.

What can be done to bring peace and security back to Algeria? The scope for action from the outside is

Meanwhile, as the world carries on the debate and waits for somebody to "do something" Algerian citizens, as innocent victims of the conflict, continue to live in a genocidal nightmare.

very limited, unless the west is prepared to force its humanitarian demands on Algeria. The EU lacks a coherent policy on the matter and the US seems to be unwilling to commit



troops to any mission involving a serious potential for losses, especially after the Somalian experience. A completely forced and hasty intervention would also bring up the traditional tension between a state's sovereignty and its right to deal with its own domestic affairs versus the right of other states to enforce international norms of human rights in that state. Some analysts argue that continued dialogue with Algeria may be the only way to gain a clearer understanding of the conflict without driving Algeria into deeper isolation. Meanwhile, as the world carries on the debate and waits for somebody to "do something" Algerian citizens, as innocent victims of the conflict, continue to live in a genocidal nightmare.

Kyoto: too little too late?

Jean-Martin Bauer looks back in disappointment at the ground-breaking Kyoto conference on global warming and ponders its missed opportunities.



Neville Chamberlain, on March 8th 1938, returned from Munich. In front of an eager press corps, he brandished a copy of the treaty he negotiated with Adolf Hitler that same day. Chamberlain described it as a guarantee of 'peace in our time'.

Similarly, on December 1, 1997, delegations from the world over converged on the imperial Japanese city of Kyoto to discuss the issue of global warming. After a tense week of negotiations, the delegations emerged from the meeting beaming for the cameras, claiming the negotiation of an accord that would save our planet from the ravages of global warming.

The parallels are frightening. A view of the pre-conference developments might help us to understand why. In 1992, the Rio conference, attended by president Bush, called for the reduction of emissions to their 1990 levels by the year 2000. Everyone agreed, shook hands, smiled

for the cameras. But emissions continued unabated, as did the trend of global warming on our planet. In the US's case, emissions are up a whopping 12% from 1992 - underlying the need for a new conference setting binding targets for reductions.

In the run up to the meeting in Japan, the participants fielded propositions for the reduction of greenhouse gases. The newly green Europeans called for a 15% reduction by 2010. Japan modestly called for a 5% target. The US and Australia pushed for a mere stabilisation of emissions by 2010. The summit, after much wrangling and arm twisting, produced a

As in Rio de Janeiro, the attendants of the conference emerged with broad smiles and even broader relief.

protocol setting individual targets on a regional basis. Europe could cut its emissions by 10%. The US and Japan could settle for 5% reductions by the target date of 2010.

As in Rio de Janeiro, the attendants of the conference emerged with broad smiles and even broader relief. It was a landmark in international cooperation on the pollution problem. Never before had countries agreed to set binding targets for reducing pollution. It also demonstrated that political circles were no longer

immune to the pressures exerted upon them by the urgency of the greenhouse issue.

the Kyoto agreement omits two thirds of humanity. The accord only applies to developed nations, leaving out the fast-growing and fuel-hungry populations of the South

However, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. And it does seem like we are heading down that direction.

Firstly, the proposed reduction targets - a worldwide average of 6% - are, for all intents and purposes, marginal. The negotiators' lack of ambition and vision are stunning, considering the high expectations of the meeting. If - and this is a big 'if' - emissions do fall by 6% in 13 years, it would only bring emissions down to their 1990 levels, hardly putting a dent in the problem.

Secondly, the Kyoto agreement omits two thirds of humanity. The accord only applies to developed nations, leaving out the fast-growing and fuel-hungry populations of the South. Admittedly, these countries emit small amounts of pollution per capita. However, the fast pace of industrialization in NICs, in addition to the delocalisation of polluting industries to their shores hints at a very

big problem in the medium term. The world's developing nations should have been included in the final accord as, in the near future, they shall weigh into the global warming equation with authority.

Thirdly, as with all international treaties, the accord is only applicable once the countries' legislative bodies have ratified them. In Europe's environmentally aware parliaments, this should not be much of a problem. But ratification is much less certain in the United States' congress, where a rabid anti-green backlash has sidetracked much of the environmental legislation pushed by Bill Clinton these past years. Furthermore, mid-term elections make 1998 a crucial electoral juncture, and the temptation to humiliate a weak president may prove too enticing to resist for the Republican congress. With the US accounting for 25% of total greenhouse gas emissions in the world, non-ratification could rob the accord of legitimacy and significance.

For the above reasons, there is a very real chance that the Kyoto agreements may turn out to be a dud. It was not

9 out of the 11 hottest years on record have occurred in the past decade. The trend may already have influenced global climate patterns

nearly ambitious enough and is ridden with loopholes that could render it as worthless as the paper it's printed on.

And it is a bad time to be playing around with smoke and mirrors. This month, 1997 weather summaries were released, showing that the planet's average temperature had yet again risen. 9 out of the 11 hottest years on record

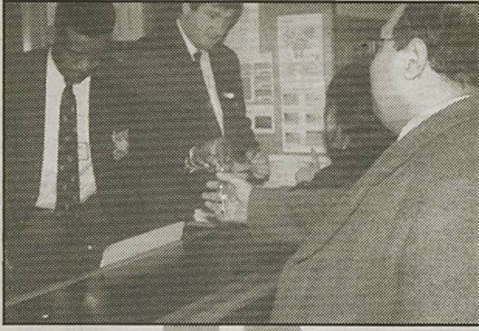
we shall have to get used to a reality of more extreme weather, disruptions in human habits, and, in the long term, of a reduction in quality of life the world over

have occurred in the past decade. The trend may already have influenced global climate patterns. A case in point is the exceptionally strong El Nino brewing in the South Pacific, whose exceptional intensity may be linked to global warming. The event has provoked billions of dollars worth in damage around the globe. Future El Ninos may become more frequent and more intense, presenting a very real threat to human welfare.

If Greenhouse gas emissions go on unabated, and temperatures keep rising, we shall have to get used to a reality of more extreme weather, disruptions in human habits, and, in the long term, of a reduction in quality of life the world over. These prospects, apparently, did not seem to move the negotiators at Kyoto last month. Are leaders with vision too much to ask?

Kyoto: too little, too late?

Sinking into the red seats of Peacock Theatre, we take it for granted that it's bright, warm, and that we can understand the lecturer (acoustically at least). The man responsible for insuring this is Sam. Officially, he is the Fire, Safety and Security Officer. But he is much better described as an extremely friendly man. Here is how he takes care of the day-to-day runnings of the Peacock Theatre:



At 9:00 in the morning (for some it's still in the middle of the night) he gets his impressive bunch of keys from the Porter's Lodge...



...and then opens the stage door on Kingsway.



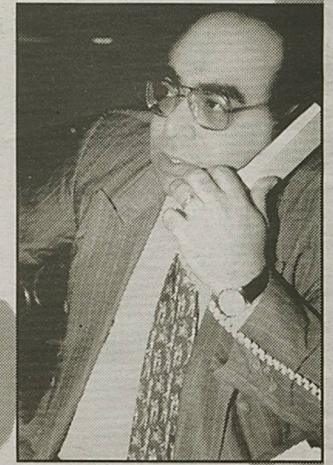
In the secret labyrinth of the theatre's basement, all lights are switched on and the oil supply and power backups are checked.



Next, the front door is opened in anticipation of the stream of striving students...



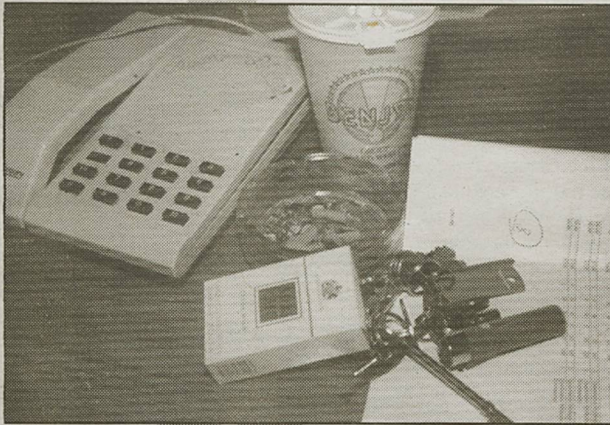
Lecture time begins at 10:00 and goes until 17:00 with only a one hour break. The only problems arise if a really large lecture is directly followed by another. In order to avoid jams on the stairs, the students have to use the side exits. Reminding them, Sam appears on stage. He usually prefers backstage jobs, but the exuberant applause suggests that he should try bigger roles on stage sometime.



During the lectures, co-ordination for events like public lectures or speeches takes place from "the office".

Theatre Sam

...and the latest news are exchanged with Craig Hickson (a.k.a. "bossman"), the head of all the time tabling at the LSE.



The next lecture will be attended by someone in a wheelchair, and so Sam sets up the disabled ramp.



When, late in the afternoon, the rows of the auditorium become deserted again, the theatre is handed over to Sadler's Wells. This transition has to be smooth and fast, as 10 minutes after the final student was violently woken from his dreams, the stage is occupied by the dancers of tonight's performance.



He always spares a kind word for everybody, co-workers, Sadler's Wells staff and students alike. The friendly and relaxed atmosphere he creates and cherishes is truly remarkable.



Sam also recovers lost items and returns them to their rightful owners.



When the keys are returned at 17:15, we look back at another day in the Peacock theatre. See you tomorrow.

Ralph Achenbach

Pierce Pressure

Piercings and tattoos, ooh... the sign of a disturbed individual. That was more or less the general consensus of the baby boomer generation. However, these days they've become so common that even future investment bankers have them. The Beaver Style team chased after a few bejewelled and branded LSE individuals to get their advice on piercing/ tattoos as well as to describe their experiences, as a guide to the rest of us who are thinking... thinking... thinking... but just haven't quite made up our minds.

Piercing Through

You've seen him, he's not that hard to miss. In total, Pronoy Buse, 3rd year Economics student has thirteen piercings, including a tongue and a nipple piercing, making him quite a piercing expert. Although most would fear the puncturing of the tastiest muscle, Pronoy insists that the anxiety is unnecessary.

"The tongue didn't hurt, really. It was all over in about 3-4 seconds. They used a needle to make the hole and then screwed in the stud."

Commenting on the aftereffects, Pronoy said they were minimal as well: "I couldn't eat for about a week because my tongue swelled up quite a lot... Food does get stuck in it sometimes but it's been alright. It was a bit weird having it in at first, but it feels strange now when I don't have it in."

When asked about his other piercings, Pronoy said the nose didn't hurt, the lip didn't hurt, but "my nipple hurt quite a bit. That bled quite a bit at the time and I had to put dressing on it when I went to sleep and stuff. I've only had it for about 2 weeks, but they say it takes about 2-3 months to heal."

So why pierce so much? Says Pronoy, "I really like facial jewellery and the tongue piercing is good for kissing."

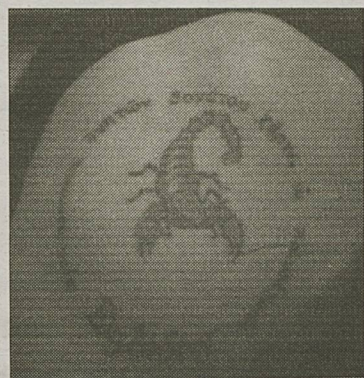
Sexy Sparkle

Sex appeal seems to be a common theme for piercers, as one anonymous non-piercer exclaimed, "I'm too scared to get it done myself, but I love pierced parts. They're extremely sensual." Navel piercings are thought by many to be particularly alluring, but the trade-off for the jewelled tummy is giving up all trousers that aren't hip-huggers, especially for the first 6 months.

Describing her navel piercing experience, 3rd year Industrial Relations student, Sophie Krawbee said, "It hurt so much. I couldn't believe it! And it never stopped! It was like painful forever!" Former General Course student Katja



Silva-Leander's experience differed from Sophie's saying, "It didn't hurt at all because they used this anaesthetic spray. It was really terrible though because I looked down and there was this huge straw in the



hole and it was really weird." **And when you sneeze?**

Nose piercings have become quite common-place among LSE students. However, although their acceptance has grown dramatically in recent years, those that have them still believe that their employers from earlier generations will find them unacceptable. Entertainment Sabbatical Jasper Ward said about his nose ring, "No regrets - except for when I get a job. I'll have to take it out."

Similarly, Katja Silva-Leander said, "For interviews I think I'll take it out because it doesn't make a very good impression."

Jasper and Katja also agreed about the pain experienced with a nose piercing. "It was fairly painful but I managed not to cry. My mum told me to get it done. It was her idea. I had to do it because she was egging me on. If I hadn't done it, I'd have seemed like a right wuss," said Jasper. Katja's reaction was a concise, "It hurt. I cried."

Both Jasper and Katja explained that nothing happens when they sneeze but that these piercings are particularly susceptible to infection during the flu season.

Who dunnit?

Although most people interviewed made sure that their piercings

were done by licensed professionals, Massimiliano Sfara, 4th year Management Science with French student chose to allow a doctor friend to pierce his lip in a bedroom.

"She knew the theory and she had done some others before She pierced with a needle from the outside in and then went from the inside out with the piercing. It took ten minutes. It didn't hurt, it didn't swell or anything. The first week I couldn't laugh because then the piercing was going to go everywhere," explained Massimiliano.

Infectious

A major fear of potential piercers is infection. Said Kate Treglown, 3rd year Sociology about her eyebrow piercing, "It bothers me because it hurts quite a lot and it swells up occasionally so it's a bit annoying. I have moments of regret when it goes funny."

Professional Help

Seeking the advice of a professional when you're unsure is always best. MetalMorphosis helped us out with some information on piercings and how to keep



them safe.

Beaver: How do most people react?

Metal Morphosis: People come in and psyche themselves up. They go in to have their piercing and then they come out

laughing at how stupid they must have looked before they went in. It's all just mental.

Beaver: Do you ever use an anaesthetic.

Metal-Morphosis: "We do offer it, but we don't like to use it because it kind of affects the piercing and the healing process. It can blister around the piercing because it's so cold. It's just a spray that freezes the area."

Beaver: How long does it take to pierce and could you explain the process?

MetalMorphosis: The whole process takes about 2 seconds. The piercings are done with a canular needle, which has a plastic lining. The needle pierces through the skin and then it is pulled out while the plastic lining remains in the hole to keep the pressure on the piercing. Through the lining, the jewellery is inserted. **Beaver:** How long does it take to heal? **MetalMorphosis:** Different piercings take different lengths of time to heal and this depends upon how well your body reacts to the piercing and how clean it is kept. For instance, a navel piercing takes roughly between 3 months to a year to fully heal. Hygiene is a very big factor!

Beaver: Do your piercers have a piercing license?

MetalMorphosis: MetalMorphosis has its own training school in Hackney. Grades 1, 2, and 3 must be passed to be a qualified piercer. **Tattoos, too!**

Less of a trendy fetish than body piercing, tattoos have symbolic and sentimental meaning for their owners. Masters student Hector Birchwood's Greek orphic hymn wrapped around a scorpion has particular significance for him because of its representation of the Greek god Hades. Similarly, 2nd year Economics student, Yasmine Chinwala, said

jokingly that her tattoo of the Egyptian eye of Horus is a reflection of herself because of its "all-knowing" connotations.

Choosing something that you won't tire of is key. Chris Sutcliffe, 3rd year Anthropology, says he highly regrets one of his tattoos. "It would cost me 2,500 pounds to get it removed. I would spend a lot of time thinking about what it is you want."

NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE: BEAVER STYLE SITS IN ON A TATTOOING SESSION!

TH

Where to Go?

Metal Morphosis

10/11 Moor Street
(End of Old Compton Street)
Soho, London W1V 5LJ
Tel: 0171-434-4554

Highly recommended for their sterile facilities. Piercings for ear, nose, eyebrow, nipple, tongue, navel, male and female genitalia available.

Skinflash

Kensington Market
Kensington High Street
Tel: 0171-934-9554

Dark basement tattoo studio, described as "kind-of frightening, but wicked." Highly recommended.

For more tattoo information, check out *Skindeep Magazine*.

Style wants your help! If interested, please contact Twyla at j.huang@lse.ac.uk

In need of RADICAL change? Enter your name in a drawing to let the Beaver Style team experiment on you!* Please put your entry in the Style box in the Beaver office or e-mail Twyla by 7 February.

*Entrants must be non-violent and easy-going.



All Photos by Alex Trojanow



Rugby boys on their way to victory

Rugby boys in win shocker!

Hogton, Flossy and Twat lead the way in victory over medics

LSE Rugby 1st XV 15 - 14 Royal Free Hospital

IK

Sarah's Mighty White Warriors got on the train to Turkey Street for the first fixture of 1998: a 'friendly' against the med. students of the Royal Free Hospice. But in the immortal words of our legendary leader, Andrew 'Salad' Hogton, "there is no such thing as a friendly."

Due to the tardiness of some Churchillian namesake and the comically inept organisational skills of LSE's sexiest Brummie, Captain Timothy "Do I make you horny baby?" Bradshaw, we arrived at the medics grounds at 2:35 for a match with a scheduled 2 PM kick-off. After what was surely the shortest warm-up since Rugby and brain cells first came together, this reporter did not share the seemingly foolhardy optimism shown by Messrs Hogton and Bradshaw and a certain member of the Welsh fraternity, Thomas "Flossy" Jeans (he of the Sexy Undergarments).

Given LSE's notoriety for slow starts even after hour long warm-up sessions, the odds suggested we would find ourselves

down by 30 points at half-time before making our typical comeback to lose by 3 points and pat ourselves on the back for an excellent 2nd half performance. Alas, Wednesday the 21st of January 1998 proved to be a strange day in recent LSE Rugby history. Right from the kick-off we had the young doctors on the back foot. Wave after wave of pressure resulted in a penalty in front of the posts and after a few moments indecision, Brummie Bradshaw opted to go for goal. Up stepped the Welsh magician, Owain "Lord of The Rings" Morgan, with his brand new kicking boots to slot in the goal and give us a deserved 3 point lead.

The opposition seemed to wake up to the reality of the situation: whoever had told them we were crap had not done his homework. Their fly half decided to try out our aerial defences and after 2 uncharacteristic dropped catches from David "The Hands" Hurley, the big blonde med. student began to grow in confidence. The

spirit and the determination were quite clearly there from the Purple Warriors but so was the rustiness. Good opportunities were squandered due to silly mistakes and poor decision making. Big Jez got a quick lecture on the art of self-defence from the referee for "pushing one of the opposition away" with his clenched fist. Don't worry Jez, we believe you (honest). The resulting penalty found the medics deep in our territory but we defended bravely. Throughout the early exchanges, Bradshaw was noticeably uncomfortable and far from his usual unruffled self. The reason for this being the Royal Free scrum half who was - believe it or not - actually sexier than the Boy from Birmingham. This pretty boy proceeded to embarrass Tim and his back row by dummieing his way past them to score a try for the home team near the posts. Big blonde fly half calmly converted the try to take the medics up by 4 points.

The scores remained unchanged for the rest of the half but some incidents were worth mentioning. The absence of one of LSE's Legends of the Houghton Streak, Sir Thomas Twat, was very evident as no one appeared to be talking ridiculous mounts of drivell on the train to Turkey Street and our line out jumpers were actually catching the ball on our own throw. But perhaps the thing most sorely missed was that there was no one on the team inclined to get into fistieuffs with the spectators on the sidelines - even the referee (who had officiated one of our previous matches) asked where he was. However George "Italian Stallion" Bonello did give some abuse to a medic who appeared very masculine on the outside but

was clearly of the female persuasion. Zar Wade... (I can't spell the rest 'cos I'm an idiot) stepped into the gap left by his Twatness with great aplomb hitting his line jumpers with remarkable frequency, although he was a little uncomfortable in the scrums. It was an admirable debut performance in one of the most difficult positions in Rugby.

The 2nd half saw LSE return with renewed verve after yet another inspirational talk by Rob of The Leather Jacket. Dave "Son of Bunce" Neequaye went on some of his trade-mark bullocking runs, the forwards were always in support as the rucking improved and Owain kicked some beautiful benders behind the opposition putting their back 3 under constant pressure. Ginger Dobbin (a.k.a. Keith Wood a.k.a. Vietnam War Veteran) was suffering yet again as both his shoulders (injured in a live grenade mishap during the war) took a pounding. Not even the standard NYPD issue bulletproof vest he had underneath his jersey could protect him and the flaming carrot top once again had to limp off the field of battle.

There was one blemish on Owain's record for the day as he struck a kickable penalty wide of the goal with LSE still seeking that elusive score. The Welsh Wizard wasn't too thankful for the hospital pass he received from Hogton when the 16 stone prop decided that Owain's 8 and a half stone frame was better suited to take the big hit. After significant pressure, Royal Free infringed in front of goal and a penalty was awarded to LSE. Bunce quickly took the tap and looking wide, saw Ik "Greased Lightning" Roche tearing up the right flank.

A beautifully floated pass found Ik and put him into space for an easy run in for a score under the post - his 13th in LSE colours. The 2 month lay-off due to a supposed head injury did nothing to curb Ik's greed as he went through an entire 80 minutes without passing the ball once. With the conversion, LSE were now 10 - 7 up and looking for the knock out blow, but yet again they got careless. After a good series of attacks the medics set up a ruck in front of LSE's goal. Ik had come infield off his wing to provide cover and then inexplicably turned around to return from whence he came leaving a clear run in for the Royal Free hooker. We were now down by 4 with 15 minutes to go.

Frantic attacks resulted in silly mistakes and squandered opportunities but still we pressed for that winning score. A quick attack down the right saw Ik brought down outside the Royal Free 22. From the ruck, Bradshaw spun the ball left and quick hands from the 3 Daves, released George Bonello into space rounding his winger and seemingly headed for a score in the corner. Several curses were heaped on his entire family by all present as he cut inside at the last moment but George knew what he was doing. Neequaye and Owain were looping around him and he popped the ball onto the RingLord who grounded it but missed the conversion. It didn't matter, it was all over and we had won by a point in injury time. Sweet payback for an injury time defeat at the same ground against the same opposition the previous season.

Man of the match: Owain Morgan

Pinkerton for ENTS

Stakes are raised as busty blonde enters the race

LSE Mixed Hockey XI 7 - 3 Royal Holloway

Kev Lui

For the first time since Tony Blair was just a twinkle in his mothers eye, Manchester United were crap at football and the Tuns sold lager that didn't bankrupt you (let's not get too carried away here) LSE were involved in a ten goal thriller which involved them scoring.

The omens were good as the team met at Waterloo station. Pistol Pete the mens captain was recovering from a mysterious back injury. Rachel Knight mixed organiser had gone home to Wales and LSE Hockey's golden couple Hywel and Rebecca were spending the Sunday doing their best impressions of a couple of rabbits on ecstasy. Thus minus any distractions the elite squad made their way to Motpur Park under the leadership of Malte Gerthold, making his debut as LSE mixed captain.

LSE looked to begin the game playing the wing-back, flat back four, inverted 'W'

formation as advocated by all the well respected coaching manuals and the Majorcan primary schools 3rd XI, however this was soon transformed to a simple 3-3-3 when it was realised that only 10 players had bothered to turn up. With only four girls playing as opposed to the usual five it was much less the Spice Girls and more like the All Saints as they proceeded to play sweet harmony across the pitch. And then the game started and they left the business of playing hockey to the lads who in turn left that part to Joy.

Despite Holloway's protests that they hadn't borrowed players from the prison of the same name their 'female' players somewhat gave the game away throwing the ball towards the nearest main road and then running away to 'retrieve it'. However 'Fortress' LSE wasn't about to let them escape so easily piling on the pressure with wave after wave of attack. LSE were fortunate to have first team footballer Rob 'chubby' Allen playing up front having

been found trying to hang himself with his new #40 'Tino' Asprilla Newcastle shirt. Fortunately the young Geordie had taken so long to brush his hair that he was saved before he could do himself any more permanent damage. The early pressure could only lead to goals and taking advantage of rare moments of lapse concentration at the back Holloway scored them. Christian pulled one back and LSE went into half time 2-1 down. The by now customary comedy segment that is Malte's half time team talk failed to materialise and miraculously LSE seem to be better for it, starting the second half like starved greyhounds on the scent of blood, on speed, wearing Nike Airs. Christian scored the important equaliser and the floodgates opened as Rob (twice) and Kevin (once) (could have been more if he knew what a goal looked like) helped themselves. 5-2 up and-cruising LSE were strolling down the boulevard of dreams.

Joy had during the match experienced

a certain amount of ambivalence towards scoring goals, getting into a number of good positions but failing to hit the target. However she made up for her previous inadequacies by scoring two late goals to give the scoreline some semblance of respectability.

In defence Ian epitomised a bored goalie with nothing to do, Emma epitomised loveliness, Malte epitomised solidity and strength and James epitomised chips, lager and a playstation. With this lethal combination at the back it was no surprise that the dirty dogs of Holloway hardly had a sniff of goal all half. (That and LSE were banging in goals left, right and centre).

Royal Holloway did manage to sneak a consolation goal at the death but by that point nobody really cared. LSE minds had drifted to the ticker tape parade on Houghton Street that was sure to greet them after this resounding victory.



The netball girl playing Hockey