

Will the government keep paying for our books/booze?
Pages 8 & 9

High Holborn:
House of Horror
Page 3

In depth analysis of the OJ Simpson trial, Page 4

Extremist Islamic group target LSE

Hizb ut-Tahrir say "this is the nut we want to crack"

Richard Hearnden and Nick Sutton

The long-running battle between the extremist Islamic group Hizb ut-Tahrir and Students' Unions centred on the LSE last week as four members of the group 'gate-crashed' the Union General Meeting (UGM).

The representatives of Hizb ut-Tahrir – who are not thought to be studying at the School – attempted to address the meeting from the floor, to the response of cat-calls from many students.

Hizb ut-Tahrir, representing an extreme brand of anti-Semitic and anti-Western Islam, have been the subject of a concerted campaign by the National Union of Students (NUS) and other Students' Unions to have the organisation banned across UK campuses.

An NUS hotline, set up in the wake of a spate of racist and homophobic attacks on students, has been inundated by reports of intimidation tactics employed by the Islamic group.

The demonstration preceded a debate on free speech tabled by the Revolu-

tionary Communist Party as a specific response to the activities of the fundamentalist group. The motion, which would have enabled supporters of all groups to address the LSE Students' Union (SU), regardless of whether they are in breach of the SU's Equal Opportunities Policy, failed.

However, in a move earlier last week, the SU Executive decided not to directly challenge the group, believing that intervention would lead to an escalation of intimidatory practices, and a more threatening presence on Houghton Street.

Despite the opposition of the SU to the group – one officer commented that, according to the Police, "there's not really anything that can be done" to prevent Hizb ut-Tahrir setting up a stall at the School.

Hizb ut-Tahrir were also present at the New Students' Fair – not as a registered society, but outside in Houghton Street.

Although the Police were called a number of times and asked to remove Hizb ut-Tahrir from the campus, no action could be taken as they are not in breach of the law.



Hizb ut-Tahrir's stall opposite the entrance to the Old Building.

Photo: Beaver Photographer

The LSE House Manager, Bernard Taffs, a former Metropolitan Policeman, also became involved in the dispute. He was manhandled as he attempted to remove one

of the group's posters which had been plastered to the side of the Old Building.

Union Jack, page 2

Good news for students as Library opens on Sundays

Duncan McGrath

God clearly wasn't enrolled at the LSE when he put his feet up on that precious seventh day. Following in the footsteps of other institutions, the School library – the British Library of Political and Economic Science (BLPES) – has splashed out, and bowed down to student pressure to open on Sundays.

For those of you already battling with the seventh day dilemma created by the extension of pub opening

hours, the relaxation of Sunday trading laws, and everyday betting, you may now opt for a day down at the BLPES.

Jan Wilkinson, Sub-Librarian, was keen to point out that this was part of a wider programme of improvements scheduled, all dependent on much needed financial support. Now that funding has been secured for the purpose, the library will be open for the following year as part of a pilot scheme, from 11am-6pm on both Saturdays and Sundays during term.

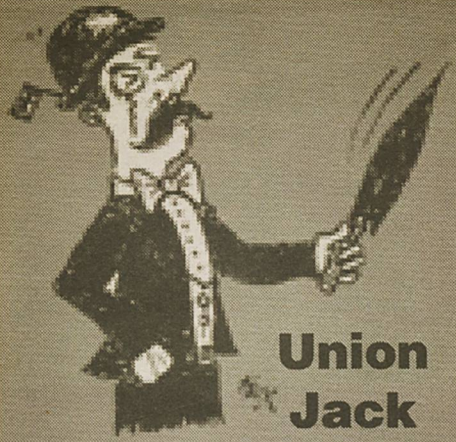
The planned refashioning includes the development of the site along the lines proposed by Sir Norman Foster (the out-

come of the library's £7.5m Heritage Lottery Fund application should be known soon) and more efficient provision of services such as the self-renewal system for books starting at the end of this month. Further improvements are planned throughout the academic year, details of which should be available by January.

Kate Hampton, General Secretary of the LSE Students' Union (SU), was "happy with Sunday opening" but pledged that the SU would press for further changes at BLPES. Following complaints from users the SU is calling

for more seating, better IT facilities, improved lighting and ventilation, and longer opening hours during the week. "All of us here in the SU are pleased with the changes, but this is only the beginning. Further improvements are badly needed and we will be pressing for them at every available opportunity."

Cynics and conspiracy theorists may well have their doubts about all this. Particularly when you consider that the changes in opening hours will only become permanent if they are used this year.



Union Jack

They say that cream and scum rise to the top in equal measure. As an illustration of this theory, LSE Student's Union in recent years has been a perfect example: of four sabbaticals, two have always been good, and two ghastly.

It was therefore a pleasant surprise for Jack to find that this year's crop are all cream. There is perhaps some flotsam and jetsam in the executive committee, but they don't count. No, not even Baljit Mahal.

Baljit wasn't at last Thursday's Union General Meeting and therefore for the first time in living memory he didn't give a report when he was entitled to. Is nothing sacred?

Probably not, if last Thursday is a guide. Jack lost count of the number of rules broken. It started well enough, with Kate Hampton organising the election for Chair and Vice-Chair. Kate was obviously keen to find someone good for the role of Chair to ensure her year at the helm goes with a bang rather than a whimper (It is rumoured, however, that she goes with both in her office). So keen, in fact, that she forgot the rule that as temporary chair of the UGM, she shouldn't vote.

Not even this blatant attempt at vote-rigging (she also acted as a teller) secured her wishes. The victor, John Bennet, had quoted de Gaulle in his hustings speech ("I am proud to be the leader of a nation with 210 cheeses") but singularly failed to display any of the skills the man must have possessed to become president of France.

Jack knows that de Gaulle had the occasional gap in his knowledge of the French constitution. But the complete ignorance of the present Chair towards the LSESU constitution, former beloved instrument of political one-upmanship and control, is of another magnitude.

Throughout the rather important debate that followed, there was not even a passing attempt at rectifying the situation by sneaking a quick peek at the rules. Instead, things drifted on a sea of banal rhetoric and pointless screaming.

Dennis "The Menace" Russell's motion on free speech should have been a fine start to the term. A model debate, in fact. Dennis was in fine form; just a hint of the menace behind the soft-spoken Irish facade. He was arguing that the extremist Islamic group, Hizb ut-Tahrir should be allowed to be heard on the campus. Jack couldn't help but revel in the irony of Dennis speaking out for a homophobic, bigoted religious organisation.

Jack can only think of one explanation for Dennis's position. Namely, he likes a good fight. He longs to be able to take on the BNP et al in face-to-face shouting, at which he is very good. Instead, he is reduced to having petty arguments with other left-wingers and any Tories that can be bothered.

Kate Hampton did her best to balance the arguments between free speech and the Union policy on Political Correctness. She won the day, despite a passionate outburst from Adam Morris (who had earlier failed to become Chair). "Free speech" he said, "is like virginity; either you have it or you don't". He jabbed violently in Kate's direction on the "don't", which left nothing of Adam's thoughts on the matter of Kate's experience to Jack's imagination.

The Chair's lack of experience had been by this time truly exposed: proceedings, regardless of the amount of cream around, were taking the rather flabby shape of an unruly seminar on the evils of censorship. Jack could not help feeling that unless something happens, the already-fragile UGM will die with a whimper.

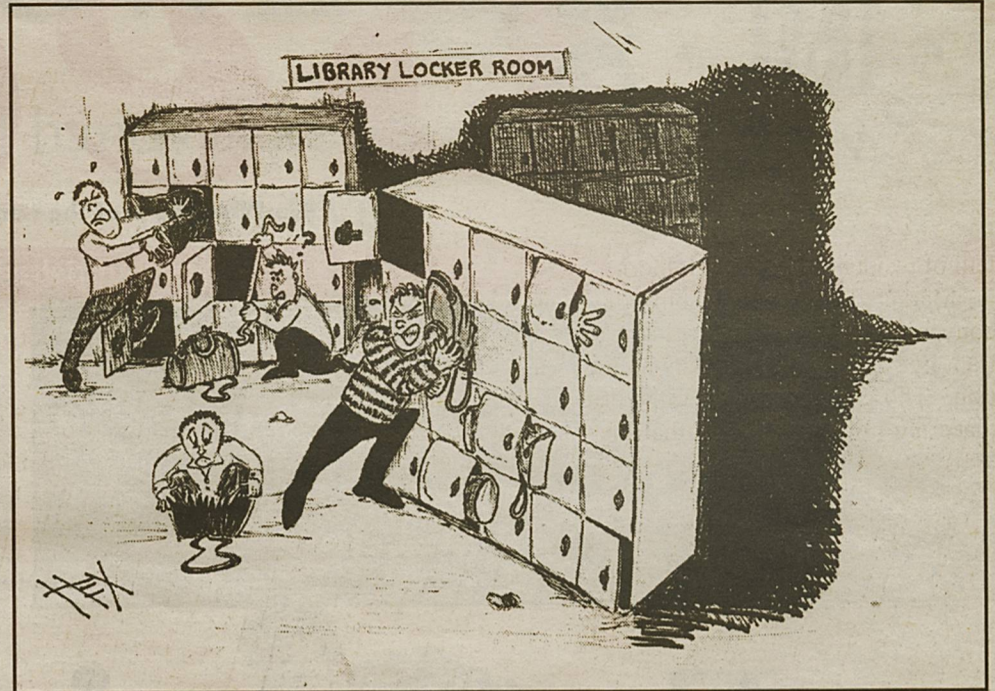
Last dance for Library porters

Juliet Horsley

With the new millennium approaching, more and more posts previously held by people are falling victim to technology. At the LSE, our very own library porters have recently lost out – to a new locker system.

This last point of human contact prior to entering the library has been eradicated and replaced by some considerably less animated lockers. Whereas previously you could be sure of a wisecrack, dinner invitation, or simply a rather impressive dance move while being provided with the necessary ticket, now we must make do with the faceless boxes whose most complex movement is a rather dull back and forth swing.

When asked about the new system, many said they felt a void where the porters once stood and that they found it reminiscent of their local swimming pool lockers. It may also be worth reminding people to collect their locker money upon leaving, so as to avoid the irritating few who insist on checking the empty lockers for forgotten cash.



Whereas porters were equitable to any baggage and treated all with equal disrespect, tests conducted by *The Beaver* showed that certain rather bulky cases did not fit securely within the new lockers. Although

the School has promised to acquire some larger lockers, it seems that for most people, when winter coats are needing storage they may be forced to resort to the ultimate fashion faux-pas: the pac-a-mac.

Housing shortage for LSE students

Judith Plastow
Sulin Lau

Queues outside the Accommodation Office, and students being forced to sleep on friends' floors, illustrate once again the perennial LSE student housing problem.

Over 4,200 students – a 16% increase on the previous year – applied for the 1,623 LSE hall places and 327 intercollegiate places, and consequently many have returned to LSE with nowhere to live.

Places are allocated randomly, although priority is given to all first year students and those with medical problems and special needs.

Paul Trivett, Accommodation Officer, is under much criticism from students. One homeless student commented bitterly, "I am currently sleeping on a friend's floor. I am a third year and foreign but it means nothing to these people."

The plain fact is, however, that the supply of hall places does not meet demand and some students will inevitably have to lose out.

Sue Garrett, Students' Union Welfare

Officer, blames the problem partly on London's shrinking private sector "It has a smaller rented private sector than any other major city." In 1993/94 2,408 students used the accommodation files.

Students have also experienced problems with the Accommodation Office failing to pass on all of the intercollegiate application forms they receive. Some students have only been able to obtain hall places by contacting the wardens directly. Trivett answers these complaints by explaining that around 500 students apply for 20 allocated places per intercollegiate hall. Forwarding all the forms received would merely swamp the halls and slow the room allocation process down considerably.

There are no more hall places left available and students with nowhere to live are advised just to keep trying in the private sector.

LSE is trying to address the problem by building more halls of residence. High Holborn has provided 435 places and Bankside, due for completion in 1996, will house 414. However while the school continues to admit more students each year, Trivett is fighting a losing battle.

Foundation fundraisers

Baljit Mahal

Congratulations are in order for the students that worked for the LSE Second Century Campaign since November 1994. They have raised nearly £900,000 in pledged donations. – a sum described by the Director of the LSE Foundation, Mike Smithson, as "far better than anyone in the school thought".

Of the 11,000 alumni reached during the campaign, 36% made a donation – on average £282. Amongst those noted to have given smaller donations were 70's graduates, and those who were evacuated to Cambridge during the Second World War.

The impact of the campaign has had far-

reaching consequences. The LSE Foundation now clearly has a background of effectively organising a large and complex fundraising effort successfully. This means that exciting new prospects are being explored such as a US-based effort to reach the 10,000 alumni in the US.

At this moment a bid is being made for £7,500,000 from the National Lottery Fund for the LSE library, for which the previous campaign's success will be a significant boost.

The campaign itself ran against the backdrop of the School's Centenary Celebrations held in July, which acted as providing a significant opportunity for alumni to meet and establish stronger links with LSE.

E-mail glitch as School switches system

Peter Udeshi

Although every student has access to the School's electronic mail system, most don't seem to understand it. Those who do send or receive e-mail were affected by the painful transition from vax-mail to cc-mail last week.

A lot of patience is required and many students wonder if the move was worth it. At present the system is plagued by initial operational difficulties. Information Technology Staff eulogise cc-mail, claiming it is far more "user-friendly" and much better overall than the out-dated vax system.

Staff, could not, however, divulge any figures on the difference in operating cost between the new system and its predecessor. They claim this information is classified by decree of the Budget Committee.

Leaflets are available in the reception on the first floor of the St. Clement's Building, which give lucid and concise instructions on how to adjust to the new e-mail system. Students should not hesitate to go there if they have any problems with their account. However, the friendly staff are often unable to help because of "system overload".

The problem is aggravated by the sheer number of students eager to try out the new system, and sending too many undeliverable messages. Another possible cause of the chaos – that meant no messages could be sent at all last Wednesday – is that many of the older computers are unable to cope with the new system.

Continuing students are advised to send mail using vax and read their mail in their cc-mail account. Some students are even introducing commands that stop incoming messages to their cc-mail accounts.

Perhaps students will be able to fully appreciate the merits of this innovation when the system is operating smoothly, hopefully in the not-so-distant future.

Holborn Hall horror story

Toby Childs

An absence of telephones, leaking showers, no hot water and poorly ventilated kitchens are just some of the problems plaguing the model hall of residence on High Holborn.

Marketed as a modern, comfortable and convenient hall it attracted a glut of applications by students envious of its central location. Those lucky enough to be offered a place are now discovering that their high rent does not cover many of the facilities they expected.

Rent was hiked by £15 to just under £75 per week cross-subsidising other halls, and justified on the unusual argument that money saved in travel costs could be claimed in extra rent, so removing one of the reasons for the hall's popularity.

Most students accepted this change but were then amazed to find the facilities they were informed existed were not yet ready. The failure to install phones caused the most complaints. Although a socket is fitted in every room, costs have risen sharply and work has been delayed by the contractors, AT&T, until a decision is reached by the hall management. The expected installation date has steadily moved back from one week, to three weeks time.

Outraged students are demanding an apology or compensation for the misinformation and for what many see as gross

inefficiency and incompetence.

Critical residents point out that the management has had since July to install phones so there really can be no excuse for the crises at this late stage. Moreover, as the residence was run as a hotel over the summer, faults should have been spotted and mended.

"I accepted the astronomic rent on the assumption that the services I was told the hall would have would exist. They do not and I'm angry," said one American post-graduate.

Particularly hard hit are the finalists attempting to obtain job applications. The hall management seem not to have prepared for the situation, and 480 students must fight for the use of one of four pay phones.

The computer room has also failed to materialise as has connection to the LSE system. Despite being clearly advertised features they are not expected to be complete until next year at the earliest.

At the first hall meeting of term, the hall committee faced a barrage of complaints from furious residents. President of the committee, Barbara Serra, promised to exercise her influence but remained doubtful as to whether the process could be speeded up.

"What residents forget is that they're paying high fees for the area, and not because of the extra commodities which the hall will eventually offer. . . A personal phone and computer link in every room is a luxury in a student hall, and although the

committee will ensure that all of High Holborn's promises are fulfilled, residents must realise they are still getting their money's worth."

Amongst a litany of complaints made by students were the lack of hot water, showers which leaked, fridges incapable of meeting the needs of up to five people, congestion with only three lifts serving 13 floors and no kitchen bins being supplied when something as elementary as boiled egg slicers are.

However, students could not expect to find such cheap accommodation in the Covent Garden area, and despite the "teething trouble" it remains the most popular hall with a long waiting list and one student offering a £500 payment in exchange for a room in Rosebery.

The construction problems are being tackled and there is no doubt that it will



High Holborn Hall - so much promised, but not delivered

Photo: Mark Baltovic

continue to be regarded with envy. Lift congestion is perhaps a small price to pay for an easy ten minute saunter to the LSE and a roof over your head.

Registration hold-ups

Narius Aga

Unprecedented delays were witnessed during Registration at the start of term.

Queues of new students snaked from the first floor steps of the Clare Market building through Houghton Street reaching the door of the Union Shop where students faced a wait of upto two hours at one point.

"I had to wait about an hour", said Marianna Constant, a Social Psychology student, although she added, "It was a good way to meet people".

Not everyone shared her opinion - "Horrendous!", said Andrew Hardy of the Economics Department. "It's just ridiculous".

Many students complained about missing the Student Union's introduction for new undergraduate students in the Old Theatre because of the queues - "It was very frustrating. . . I can't understand why it took so long", said Nicola Bliss, a Sociology student.

Janet Futerman, from the Academic Registrar's Department said that they "constantly strive to improve our performance. . . Students have problems and questions and we have to give them as much time as needed to help them out. We also need to get their documentation right the first time, simply because it saves work later on". The introduction of six new computer terminals onto which information was entered directly was also cited by Mrs Futerman as a cause of delay.

Until a new, more user-friendly registration system is introduced in two years time, the only way to avoid a repetition of the queues seems to be for students to be more prepared and have their paperwork organised beforehand.

IT helpdesk facelift



New IT helpdesk in St. Clement's Building

Photo: Mark Baltovic

Dev Cropper

A modernist redecoration of the Information Technology reception area has made the department more attractive but drawn criticism from users worried about the allocation of funds.

The remodelled room, on the first floor of the St. Clement's Building, now matches the popular perception of computers as hi-tech and glitzy. Blue and green countertops and glass panelling give a space age feel to the area, which is intended as a general reception for all computer users in the LSE.

When *The Beaver's* reporters visited, the new room was busy with new students picking up handouts and advice on an unfamiliar computer system. But it is the system, many are complaining, which should be the subject of any improvements.

The new reception is believed to have cost £15,000, and some students have questioned whether this sum should be spent on cosmetics when the LSE's computer network is, by popular consensus, in need of more basic improvements.

One new post-graduate compared the system here unfavourably to his previous university, Hull. He claimed, LSE suffered from a shortage of computers, up-to-date software and slow processing.

Slow processing speeds - the time it takes for the computer to carry out a particular task or run a program - are a common bugbear for students here. Several claim that they are not improved because, unlike numbers of terminals or remodelled reception areas, they cannot easily be shown or explained to non-computer users.

The Beaver was unable to contact the Manager of IT Services for comment.

Former LSE Student becomes Nepalese PM

Swarnim Wagle

Sher Bahadur Deuba, 50, a former student of the LSE, was sworn in as Prime Minister of the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal last month.

The election of Deuba as Prime Minister raises the number of former LSE students who are past or present prime ministers, presidents or heads of state to 24.

Deuba heads a centrist three-party coalition government and has members of the royalist National Democratic Party as his principal cabinet colleagues along with senior members of his own Nepali Congress Party.

Deuba's appointment to the Prime Ministership follows a collapse of the minority Communist government after a no-confidence motion tabled by Deuba himself was passed in the elected House of Representatives.

Sher Bahadur Deuba joined politics actively in 1965 by becoming the first President of the pro-democracy Nepal Students' Association and for the next twenty five years he campaigned for the restoration of multi-party democracy as a member of the then banned Nepali Congress Party.

A social scientist by training, Deuba is a graduate of the Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu where he has also taken a post graduate degree. He attended the LSE as a research student in the Government Department from 1988 to 1990.

Trial by media: the OJ Simpson verdict

Duncan McGrath on the court case turned media circus which divided America.

The OJ Simpson trial, that commenced in January this year finally ended on October 3rd with him being found not guilty of either of the charges of first or second degree murder of his wife Nicole and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Much has been written and said about the trial and many conclusions drawn from it, yet precisely what will result from all this frenzy is unclear but potentially explosive.

Simpson stood accused of the murders of his wife and Goldman on June 12 1994. On July 22 1994 he pleaded "absolutely 100 percent not guilty" to the charges. But before any evidence was presented in court opinions had already been formed on the minds of the American public.

What seems clear is that all the media hype associated with the trial achieved little other than confusion and confirmation that such intense interest served no purpose but to fuel the wants of the OJ addicts. Indeed the media could be seen to wander off on its own trial of "the juice", whilst Judge Ito presided over the legal battle.

The case itself presented the prosecution team from the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, led by Marcia Clark, with near insurmountable problems. There was no murder weapon, no witness and only a solitary thumbprint. All the evidence that they presented was circumstantial.

Facing them was the "dream team" headed by the flamboyant Johnnie Cochrane, and comprising others such as Barry Scheck, who was instrumental in creating doubt over the prosecution's DNA evidence - perhaps their strongest weapon.

What is curious to the observer is precisely where the strength of the case against Simpson lay. There were blood stains said to match his genetic makeup, a degree of motive, an incompatible alibi for his whereabouts, and the infamous articles of clothing - primarily the glove.

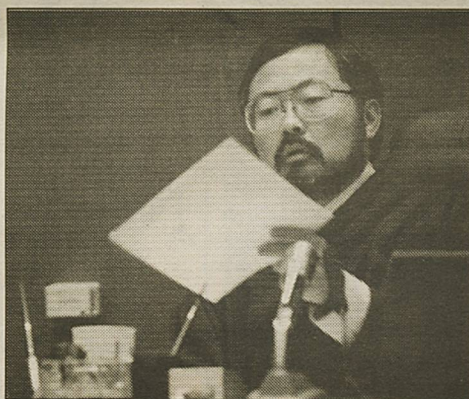
All these would suggest a possible link between Simpson and the crime. However, for the criminal charges that he was facing to stick the case against Simpson had to be proven by the prosecution beyond all reasonable doubt. There is no earthly way that such a degree of certainty could be reached in this case.

The defense team of lawyers

merely had to do the job that it had been hired to do by its client which was to sow the seeds of doubt in the minds of the jury. In this task they were aided not only by the fact that the jury was sequestered for 296 days but also by a central prosecution witness, the former police officer Mark Furhman, being proven to have lied in the witness stand. With this behind them the dream team had to expend only a minimal effort to concoct the theory that the police had planted the evidence in order to save Simpson from prison.

Ironically it may well be the accused himself who feels the most aggrieved by the whole process when he reflects on the scant evidence against him and the considerable legal bill that he now faces which is rumoured to be anything between \$6-8 million. He still has to defend himself against three civil charges relating to the murders all of which carry a lower burden of proof than that required by the criminal courts.

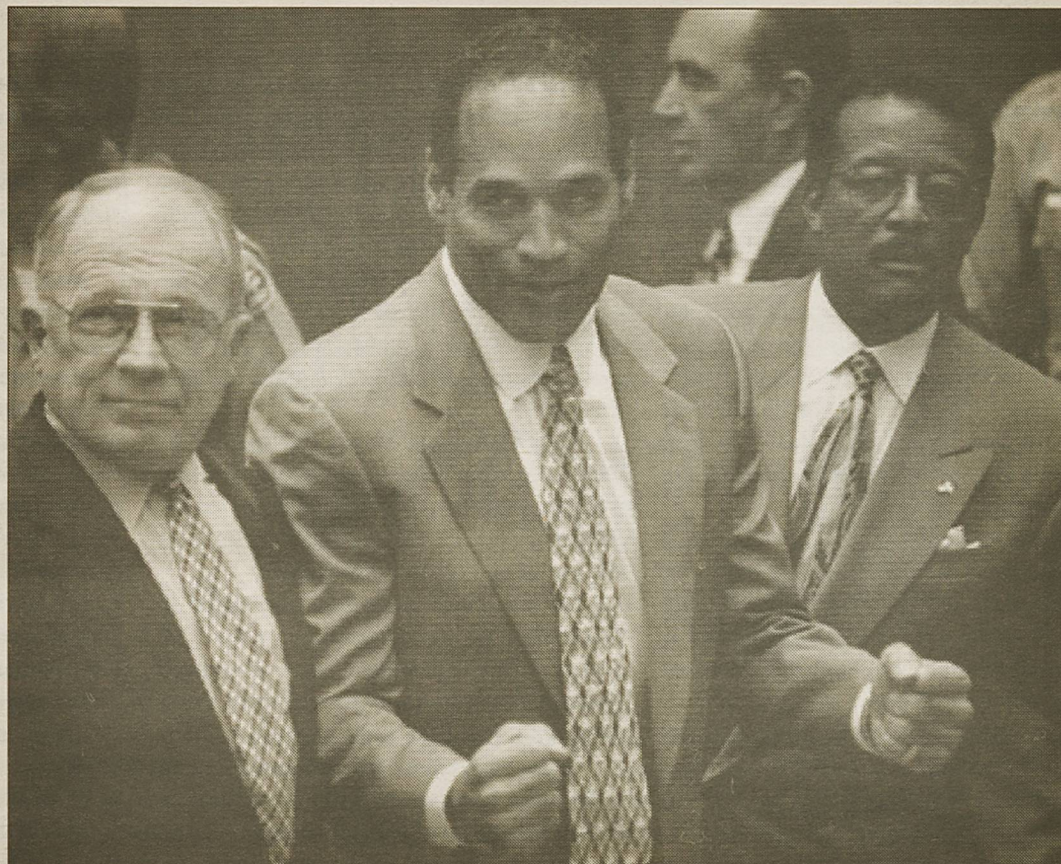
The defence team has been criticised for playing the race card in



the case as to appeal to the supposed sympathies of the black majority jury. The fact is that they were perfectly entitled to do so as key elements of the prosecution case were based on the findings of Furhman who was unaccompanied at the crime scene. Also plain is that had Simpson been white it would have been equally simple to cast doubt on Furhman's findings by playing the wealth card, for example. Anyone defending a client and faced with such evidence as the defence team would have done as Cochrane did. As he himself argued, not to have done so would have amounted in malpractice, an ugly argument it may appear to some but that was



ing racism in the Los Angeles Police Department is all very well but it should stop there and not be



OJ Simpson celebrates his victory with lawyers F Lee Bailey and Johnnie Cochrane. Left, Judge Lawrence Ito. Right, disappointed prosecutors Chris Darden, Marcia Clark and William Hodgman. Bottom left, Simpson's family hear the verdict
Photos: Myung Chung

his job.

This is the precise point where the media left the legal realities of the trial and elected to inject moral and sentimental values into the case. For all that will be written about the American judicial process in the coming months it should be borne in mind that it did its job. The jury kept itself free from sentiment and judged the facts presented to it. It was the job of the prosecution to put forward its case, for the defence to question it, for the judge to ensure that all was done fairly, and for the jury to pass judgement. This all happened as it should have done and a result was reached. People may judge that result as they wish and attach opinion to it but when put in the position of a juror I would doubt they would come to a different decision provided they are free from hangups about race, colour, creed, wealth etc.

From such a perspective the media circus that has accompanied the proceedings can be described as nothing less than absurd. The worrying factor though is that it will now seek to influence the judicial process in America when it is relatively sound. One can only hope that a pre-emptive strike is launched in defence of the legal process to ban the media from courts in the USA so that it doesn't damage anything.

The media have done nothing to help the trial, they have merely served to spread division in America. Publicising racism in the Los Angeles Police Department is all very well but it should stop there and not be

endlessly debated so as to worsen the problem. Equally the media has attempted to criticise proceedings from a moral or racial standpoint rather than from a legal one. This was a superfluous concern to the court as Judge Ito was only too right to show through his refusing to let the defence to play more from the Furhman interview tapes than was absolutely necessary to discredit his testimony. Race will indeed be an issue when it is raised in the trail that Furhman now faces on civil rights charges, but in itself was not entirely central to the Simpson trial.

What can be gleamed from all this is that the American public is clearly disgruntled with certain things such as the police, the inequalities of the legal system, the poverty gap, racial discontent, and



the nuclear family to name but a few. It was a cheap trick of the media to use the OJ trial as an excuse to bring such disquiet into the open. Presidential races are the usual vehicles for such debate. Using the trial to discuss such issues was a mistake. All that may be achieved is that the American public is questioning whether or not the legal system is the very backbone of the country but at the same time is seeing it as a source of salvation. To demand such answers and solutions as are being asked from the American legal system is deeply unfair. Judges and lawyers are not politicians, social workers, or welfare providers. They merely

interpret prescribed rules and apply them in as neutral capacity as they are able to for the purposes required of them.

The media has only succeeded in raising expectations from a system that cannot hope to meet them and was not designed to. True, the law should reflect common standards and respect them but this was not what the American media were after. What they wanted were audiences which is what they got. What they have also done is to mislead many people. They should now accept responsibility for it and attempt to forestall what they may well be a ugly backlash.

The media can test itself over the coming weeks as further revelations about discontent within the dream team, jury and prosecution surface. They should refrain from seeking proof to their hypotheses from what can only be understandable reactions to such a prolonged trial. At base, I doubt that any involved in the case itself can fault the structure of the system they worked by.

So far as the criminal process in America is concerned Orenthal James Simpson is not guilty of the charges, and the case, as presented against him. The American judicial process did what was asked of it. That is fact.

Opinions differ as to the non-legal guilt of O J. But such questions do not concern the courts. If America wants to solve its own problems it should look at itself and not at the courts for its answers. If Americans desire the courts and legal system to serve an alternative purpose that is a different question entirely. But all such questions should be correctly addressed, Ito's court room was the wrong address from which to expect a reply.

Tony Blair's new age: A new Jerusalem or a virtual illusion?

Simon Retallack decodes the message behind the Labour party leader's rhetoric

On Tuesday afternoon, the leader of the Labour Party, Tony Blair gave the keynote speech to his party's conference in Brighton.

Last year Blair gave us New Labour. This year came the second instalment, his vision for a New Britain.

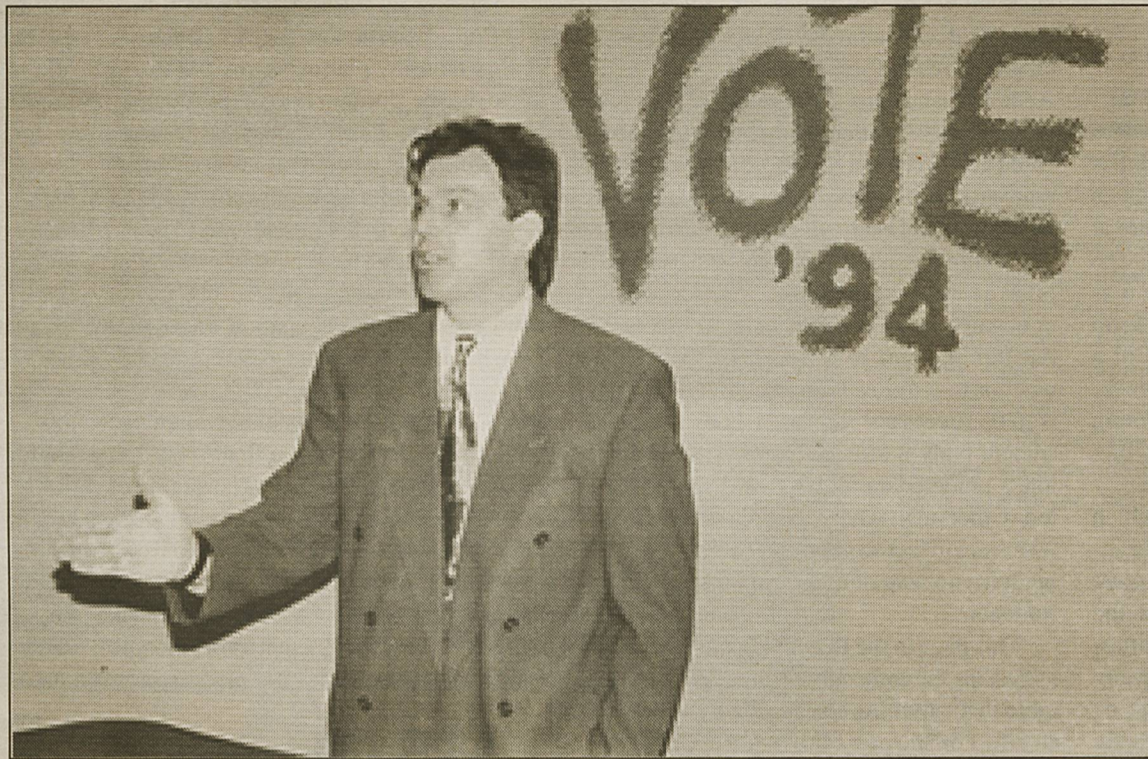
It was a confident, rousing speech which was rapturously received in the hall and even prompted some to suggest that Blair was Britain's Kennedy. But in the cold light of day, did Blair say anything which offers Britain genuine solutions to its widely acknowledged problems?

For it is easy to blast the Tories for their broken promises and incompetence, and it is just as easy to identify symptoms of this country's malaise. But beneath the slogans and rhetoric what are Blair's answers and are they sufficient?

In his speech, Blair made education a central issue, promising to reduce class sizes, provide nursery places for every three and four year old and give every child access to a laptop computer. This particular pledge is a key characteristic of Blair's vision of a New Britain. Repeating the familiar dictum that knowledge is power, he added, "the more you learn the more you earn."

He suggested, in a way that is perhaps reminiscent of Harold Wilson's approach, that the means to this end is technology. Indeed, whilst last year's big surprise was the reform of Clause Four, this year's was the announcement that the Labour Party had done a deal with British Telecom to provide every school, college, hospital and library a free link-up to the Information Superhighway. This was all part of what he called "a new deal for classrooms," to be funded, he said, by the abolition of the assisted places scheme.

For the unemployed youth and single mothers, Blair promised a scheme to put them back to work



Tony Blair speaking at the LSE

Photo: Scott Wayne

funded by a windfall tax on the privatised utilities.

For the sick he promised to save the NHS from Tory privatisation by being more efficient than them in finding waste, and for the low-paid he promised a minimum wage and the Social Chapter.

To tackle crime he pledged more policemen on the beat and claimed that the best crime prevention programme was to have jobs and stable families to forge care and respect amongst individuals.

Blair committed himself to an integrated transport system in one of the two very brief references he made to the environment, and significantly, for the first time, he also pledged that under a Labour government the railways would be under public ownership.

One of the more obvious gifts to the Tories' propaganda machine was a guarantee that under Labour the UK would lead Europe, stating

"it is a vital part of our national interest."

Blair also undertook to "wipe away Tory sleaze," by implementing all of Lord Nolan's recommendations and establishing proper democracy through an assembly for Scotland and Wales, a Public Information Act, a referendum on PR and the abolition of the voting rights of hereditary peers in the House of Lords.

Finally, after claiming to have appropriated the issues of the economy, families and law and order back from the Tories, Blair wrapped himself in the Union Jack with a call for patriotism to be valued once again by the country, in the interests of a "new civic society."

"We live in a New Age," said Tony Blair, and these are the policies that he believes will take Britain into it. But there are still gaping omissions. Noticeably Blair promised very little new money. So it is all very well for BT to provide the wires of a Superhighway, but how will Blair provide the computers? How will he pay for more teachers in order to have smaller classes? How will he pay for a growing number of students going into higher education? How will he pay for a significantly improved transport system? How will he fund an ever growing NHS? How will he continue to support an ever increasing ageing population in retirement? How will he finance the creation of enough jobs to remove three million from the dole? Indeed the whole issue of future funding for the welfare state was studiously avoided.

Another very significant omis-

sion in his speech was the absence of a coordinated strategy for the protection of the environment. He simply ignored this issue together with the issues of the value of nuclear weapons and the arms trade in which Britain so disgracefully plays a major part. This is all the more remarkable because he acknowledged that we lived in a world that was still at risk of being on the brink of environmental or nuclear disaster. And yet he offered no solutions to this situation.

There are other contradictions too. He advocates the need for strong families and civic institutions but now supports the free market system that many in his party claim has played such a significant role in breaking them up. And since he understands the importance of education, shouldn't Blair also be looking at the substance of what is being learnt at school to see if it is sufficient to

prepare an individual for life and to make him aware of the world and its problems? Some would also question the extent to which he values the role of the computer in the classroom. Blair talked admiringly of the possibility of virtual reality tourism. Does he really believe the future lies in promoting virtual reality?

Also, if he is truly committed to a genuinely democratic future for this country, many would argue that he should pledge himself to changing a system which has enabled a single party to govern this country for sixteen years on 40 percent of the vote.

It is clear that many questions still have to be answered if New Labour is to produce a New Britain. But Tony Blair deserves credit for his vision. At times his speech sounded like a sermon, rich in Christian Socialism and references to the need for spiritual values as opposed to the values of material consumption. "The challenge," he said, "to be a successful country, is economic, social and moral." Personal responsibility is of the essence, as well as rights for all. Prejudice, he said, had no part to play in a new Britain, warning the Tories not to play politics with race and immigration. Blair also had the courage to condemn France for its nuclear tests and poured scorn on the Tories for cutting Britain's aid budget to the poorest countries in the world. Above all, in his final rallying cry, Tony Blair called for a return to the spirit of fraternity and national unity which Britain had in the Forties, asserting his belief that real patriotism is not

just about jingoism, but about helping your neighbour. Tony Blair clearly believes that the vitality of this new spirit of tolerance, respect and compassion will be of crucial importance in building his new Jerusalem, "a young Britain." Tony Blair sees the next general election as "a battle for the soul of the nation." But he still has some way to go to convince the electorate that his promised land is not just an illusion.

Noticeably Blair promised very little new money. So it is all very well for BT to provide the wires of a Superhighway, but how will Blair provide the computers? How will he pay for more teachers in order to have smaller classes?



A voice

**Baljit Mahal
Communications Officer**

Communications is a vital issue for anyone that takes an interest in student welfare at the London School of Economics. The reasons for this are clear. When it is students that must make decisions, form policy and implement it on behalf of a student body as a whole it is fundamentally important that there is maximum contact between students in terms of information, ideas and suggestions.

Communications is that matter which addresses the need of students to be informed about, not just the general student life of which they are a part, but the crucial decisions, campaigns and interests that they have in common. For any Union structure to be effective, that is, successful in its aim - the student body must be informed of what the Union is or is not doing - and the reasons for this being the case.

In order to emphasise the significance of this fact consider the consequences of a poor state of communications at the LSE. The Union's structure - Executive,

Council and UGM make a series of policy proposals. These are not communicated to the student body though these policies will dramatically affect them. Because they are not informed the policies gain momentum, though they have not really been subject to open and wide scrutiny by students as a whole.

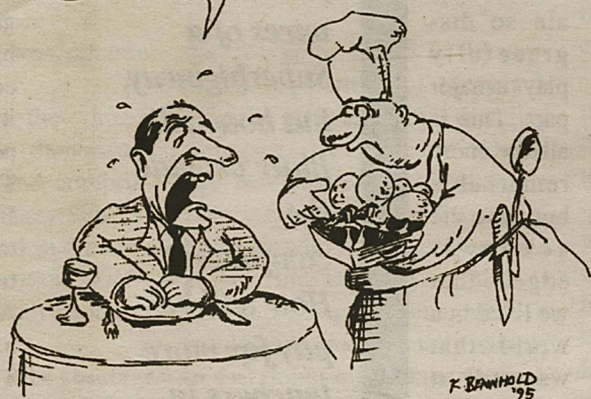
In effect, the Executive, Council and UGM are in a state of limbo because the proposals have not been brought to the attention of students as a whole and therefore there is no real groundswell of concern over either their positive or negative aspects. The proposals, amidst an apathetic reverie are passed and implemented and only at this stage do we become aware of their advantages or disadvantages. There has been no chance to really form quality input on them. Actual illustrations are numerous, not least the unsuccessful attempted occupation mandated in November 1993. Students cannot unite around policies they are unaware of, or which have not been fully presented to them.

Communications is a significant because it has a reciprocal in terms of the net positive or negative reaction from students. Positive reaction amount to support, and negative reaction to scrutiny. Ultimately, if any policy is to be successful it must be known by the student body it affects. Otherwise, the Union is rendered an ineffective organ of Union democracy, where its needs and aims - which are in fact so great and so overwhelming have no way of being communicated to students.

This page in the Beaver is a step towards redressing the communications deficit. But, more than anything else, it sometimes takes an effort on the part of the student to ensure that he or she is informed and aware of what is being decided and what the Union hopes to do. In short it is hoped that you can benefit from this page, and perhaps especially from attending the **Union General Meetings (UGMs)** held, every Thursday at 1 pm in the Old Theatre.

Nuclear world

Non! I've got enough mushrooms on my plate as it is!



**Katrin Benhold
Environment Officer
&
Kristina Dahlström**

Once upon a time there was a French presidential candidate who received only 20.8% of the votes in the first round of elections - the lowest score ever in the present system - but still managed to settle down in the Elysée Palace. "La France pour tous", he said, and decided to resume nuclear testing. Ignored were the international moratorium of 1992, the opinion of 60% of Mr Chirac's compatriots (*Le Monde*, September) and environmental concerns worldwide.

According to the International Institute

for Strategic Studies, Chirac's objective is three-fold. First, despite the existing potential to destroy the earth roughly 45 times (Greenpeace) and despite the NPT's commitment to reducing nuclear arm stocks, Chirac thinks it vital to develop the new TN-75 warhead for submarine ballistic missiles. Second, the tests will help design computer simulation techniques, although this information could feasibly be attained from Britain, Russia and the US - an American offer was submitted to the French already. Finally, two tests will be concerned with the safety of older warheads. This is where terminology reaches its height of absurdity - safety for whom?

After 20 years of over 120 underground testings, the Mururoa atoll can in appearance be compared to Swiss cheese: it is a

web of vitrified cavities threatening to collapse, threatening to open direct channels for radioactive waste into the oceanic ecosystem. Due to the penetrating and distributing qualities of water, scientists have already linked to the nuclear testing at Mururoa a tremendous increase in food poisoning as well as high rates of cancer and birth abnormalities in several Pacific islands.

Dr Clark, seismologist at Leeds University and spokesman for the Verification Technology Information Centre, asserts the possibility of one more test triggering the atoll's fracturing. His view is supported by Dr Davies, University of Sydney, who states that "there is insufficient evidence to rule out the possibility ... of a major rupturing of the atoll" which would release plenty of Chernobyls into the marine environment.

The fair

**Claire Lawrie
Treasurer**

I'm going to refrain. I'm not going to bother writing a relentlessly regurgitated "Hi, my name is and welcome to the LSE SU" diatribe.

I've already delivered such like in the Students' Union Handbook and at various inductions so hopefully there is no need to duplicate.

Alas, if you did (un)fortunately miss all of this then succinctly it was about:-

My hair, my platforms, my flares, my job to run the Union services, the finances, New Students' Fair, societies, ULU financial reform and where you can contact me and various Union sundries (not necessarily prioritised in that order).

The obvious starting point is the **New Students Fair**. Whilst you were all on your holidays my prime occupation was organising it. There were around 30 companies and charities and over 100 societies & sports clubs and more freebies, wallcharts, newspapers, sweets, etc than there has ever been at the Fair before. The quality of the two day event was encouraging considering that we now have had not only an increase in the number of societies, but also an increase in each society's membership. Thus suggesting that more people

had attended the fair (estimated 2,000+) and that each society made more of an effort.

I gave a prize for the best decorated society stall, so I'd like to congratulate the Green Action Society - winning an extra £50 to their budget. There will be a subsequent increase in the overall societies budget to cater for the greater student and society participation. This has been made possible due to the fact that the 1995 New Students' Fair has been more profitable than any other fair in the past. The extra fees from the higher company fees allowed more expenditure on the Fair's advertising such as pink balloons, the banner and all the posters. This year I also produced 'The Guide' which was there to help those attending find where everything was. Finally, I would like to thank all those people who helped me in its final preparations to make it such a great success, ie for unloading 175 huge boxes from a lorry, arranging all the desks, blowing up balloons up to midnight the night before and many other onerous tasks, etc, etc. Particular brownie points to Katie, Katrin, Teresa, Paul, Martin and those that handed out the SU bags.

You may have noticed that in the Quad I've booked various market sellers, selling things such as CDs, books, perfumes, linen, cloths, bags, etc. I've booked twice as much this term to give greater variety, despite the higher congestion, so if you want to know who's going to be there and when then please ask me. I can be contacted through Room E206, Ext 7471 or my pigeon hole at Reception.

Welfare

**Omer Soomro
Education and Welfare
Sabbatical**

I would like to welcome all new and continuing students to what I hope will be a fruitful year. My name is Omer Soomro and I am the Union's Education and Welfare Officer. I'll save you from the constitutional blurb of my job description. I was elected earlier this year to coordinate the welfare rights and advice services of the Union.

Your Students' Union offers you a very wide and varied range of facilities, in fact the LSE Welfare Office is among the best in the country - so do come to us for any problems that you might face during your course of study here. These can range from student housing, (which is a country-wide phenomenon) to immigration, finance, academic difficulties, council tax, harassment - the list goes on. All these problems can be solved on the second floor of the East

Building!

The Union also offers counselling which is strictly confidential and is there to help you in making any painful decisions during the year or just help you sort out your problems.

In addition we offer a number of funds to cater for the different financial needs of the students - the hardship fund, (interviews for which are in the second term), a women's right to choose fund, a disabled students' fund and a childcare fund.

I will be organising a number of campaigns this year like disability awareness, alcohol awareness, sexual awareness and an Anti-Racism campaign. We will need help to organise World Aids Day, so do get in touch if you have any suggestions.

Also keep your eyes open for signs about the Global Festival, a week long gala of culture and free food. There will be a general meeting about organising it, anyone interested please contact me or Nick Fletcher.

My office is on the 2nd floor of the East Building, Rm E295, I have no fixed office hours so just knock and come in at any time. I hope you have an enjoyable year.

13 kilotonnes (kt) exploded in Hiroshima, 22kt detonated September 5 1995 and the latest testbomb out of the planned series of eight carried 110 kt. Chirac has invested tremendous diplomatic and political capital, the atoll might not fracture and, yes, a true-zero test ban will supposedly be implemented after May 1996. None of this, however, justifies a risk anywhere as high as the one in question. The term 'safety' should be discussed in the concrete context of the environment and therefore humanity across the planet - and more specifically in the context of the inhabitants of the Pacific islands. There is no rational alternative. Chirac must not find forgiveness by promising that the "next time" will be the last.

(Our tip: boycott French products and give Jacques a hard time)



You're fresh out of college and you're bursting with inspiration, energy and ambition. You've cultivated a fertile and lively mind, so the last thing you want to do is end up working somewhere where good ideas fall on stony ground.

Already one of the world's leading mutual life assurance companies, we have assets of over £38 bn, and products ranging from life assurance and pensions to unit trusts and health insurance. Our continued success in the fast-growing and competitive financial services market depends on us keeping one step ahead, which is why talented and forward-thinking people are crucial to our future. At Standard Life we aim to provide an environment where innovation is positively encouraged, and where new ideas can take root and grow.

Besides a high quality, individualised training and development programme, and an enviable benefits package we'll provide a flexible framework in which you can bloom and build a rewarding career. That's not to say it's a bed of roses. Whichever area you chose to move into, whether it's Actuarial, Accounts, Sales, Investment, Property or Customer Service, you'll find it continually challenging and it will demand your utmost commitment, stamina and tenacity.

So if you've started putting out shoots why not visit us at the Careers Fair on Wednesday 11th October. For more information and an application form, contact your careers office.



Competition

Yes, it's competition time once again. This time, *The Beaver* is offering, in conjunction with Dillons bookstores, the chance to win a £50 Dillons voucher. The Dillons chain of stores includes our very own Economists Bookshop, and their flagship store on Gower Street stocks many a hard to find academic textbook, along with a good fiction section and even a secondhand department. All you have to do is answer these six simple questions, and then hand the coupon below to *The Beaver* Office (CO23 - Basement of the Clare Market Building by Friday, 13 October. Good luck

- 1 Which Scottish writer won the 1994 Booker Prize with "How Late is was, How Late"?
- 2 The sequel to the novel "Bladerunner" is published next month. Who wrote the original book upon which the movie was based?
- 3 Which George Orwell title celebrated an anniversary recently and was published featuring illustrations by Ralph Steadman?
- 4 Which Irvine Welsh novel is the first to be made into a movie, due for release early next year?
- 5 Whose autobiography is entitled "Take it Like a Man"?
- 6 Which former "Young Ones" star has just published his first novel, "The Gobbler"?

The Beaver Dillons competition

Name: Tel No

Address:

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 |

The death of free

In the not too distant future, students may look back upon this as the the 'golden age' of higher education when the government used to pay for their booze fags and books...

In a few years the whole face of higher education funding will have changed. The knowledge comforting most British students that at least some of their maintenance will be paid for by the government will soon be replaced by the startling reality that we will all have to pay for our own maintenance and maybe, in the future, our own funding.

Although the problems with the present situation are probably fairly obvious to most of us it would be useful to outline why it is that the current system of funding has to change.

The present situation is that the numbers in higher education have increased from one in eight in 1979 to one in three in 1994. In line with this the government also cut grants to students and cut per capita funding to universities. Grants have been cut successively by 10% over three years. More students and less money. A recipe for crowded lecture halls and high drop out rates as a result of student poverty.

In order to alleviate the problems of student poverty the government introduced Student Loans. These are riddled with imperfections. For instance they do not allow the student to borrow enough money (adding together a full grant and a full loan this still does not leave you that much money to play with). It also enforces repayment within five to seven years as soon as the graduate is earning 85% of the national average wage. If earnings are only just over this limit then the level of repayment can be quite harsh on the new graduate.

So what are the solutions to the problem we are undoubtedly facing? At present NUS policy is the same as it has been for quite a while. That is a call to return to full grants at the pre-1979 levels plus the reinstating of housing and social security benefits. This was recently maintained as policy in the NUS Extraordinary Conference although there was a strong challenge from those with a more pragmatic response to the problems in the New Solutions lobby. However, in order to implement these proposals it would cost the government, or rather the taxpayer, £11 billion. This would mean an extra 5 to 6.5 pence in the pound on the ordinary rate of income tax purely for students. Left wingers would have the rich pay for the lot through taxation, this would raise their high level of income tax by 22 to 27 pence in the pound. It is quite obvious that no political party is going to pay for this kind of outlay. It is important to establish a feasible system of funding higher education. As much as we would all like to be purist and ideological about funding, the time has come when the sacred cow that is free higher education may have to be put out to grass.

What then are the other alternatives being put forward? There are suggestions that the Student Loans Company could be privatised. This would not be feasible because it is unlikely that any private company would take over a scheme where default is so high and repayment takes so long. Even if a company did take over there would be little protection to those students in debt that they would not raise the interest rates on loans and there would be less sympathy for defaulters. All the money gener-

ated by the scheme would be redirected out of education and into the pockets of the private lenders in the form of profit.

Top up fees have been suggested by some of the top universities in the country including the LSE. This system may very well go ahead but would be unacceptable if it involved payment up front. The whole principle of access to higher education is dependent on no up front payment being involved as this would deter those with less money. Higher education must not be determined on the ability to pay. Those with more money would have access to institutions that can offer a higher quality of education which would reinforce an elitist education system.

A Graduate tax scheme is popular with

As much as we would all like to be purist and ideological about funding, the time has come when the sacred cow that is free higher education may have to be put out to grass.

some although also presents difficulties. If a graduate is taxed one pence more in the pound for the rest of his or her working life then it is most likely that he or she will pay the government back more than has been spent on their education. The graduate will not know the amount that he or she will be paying until retirement and even then it is not certain. Money made from taxation would go into the general taxation pool and would not necessarily go back into education.

What are we left with then? The principles that must be maintained in funding of higher education can be simply listed.



Photo: Library

Access to higher education must be determined by personal intellectual ability, not by ability to pay. It must be free at the point of entry, ensure funding for all and it must ensure that higher education is equally accessible to all. Most importantly funding must prevent student poverty. Student debt is not the same thing as student poverty although if badly managed it can become the same thing. Being in debt when graduating is not such a problem if the methods of repayment change and this brings us to the last and most realistic option being circulated.

The situation as it stands: As from September 1995

The grant has been reduced by 18% of its 1990 value to £2340 (London), £1885 (elsewhere) and £1530 (students living at home).

Loans for 1995/96:

Full year: £1695 (London); £1385 (elsewhere); £1065 (students living at home).

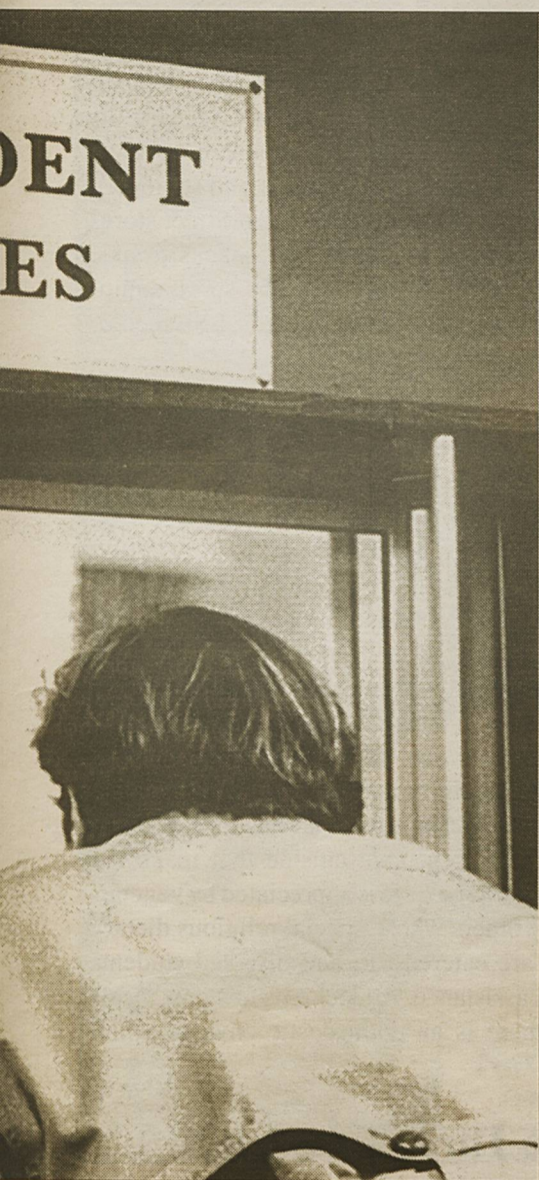
Special Rate: for students living away from home and studying in London but receiving at a home grant rate; £1530

Final Year: £1240 (London); £1010 (elsewhere); £780 (students living at home).

Welfare Benefits

Full-time students (other than loan parents, those with disabilities, pensioner students and students couples both of whom are students with dependent child(ren)), have lost entitlement to Income Support, and Housing Benefit.

Higher education?



dependence on your parents until you are at least twenty one? This would also stop the problems many students suffer when parents do not pay the amount they are expected to in 'parental contributions'. The amount you are allowed to borrow is less restricted than the present Student Loans scheme. This means that you could borrow a sum like £5000 or more each year to cover all your costs; no more scrimping and saving and no more having to survive on paltry grants or parental handouts.

Of course the main concern of students will be how repayments on the loan will be organised. This is the main advantage of this system. Firstly the loan does not have to be repaid over five or seven years as in the current system; it can be paid back over the rest of the working life of the graduate. This is particularly useful for those who were earning slightly over the 85% of the average national wage and had to pay back a sum that is a substantial part of their take home pay. In particular this scheme will help those who take on socially beneficial jobs that are not well paid such as social work. The method of repayment is fairly simple in that instead of having to hand over a cheque to the Student Loans company every month you are charged a slightly higher rate of income tax (one pence in the pound) or National Insurance until your loan is paid off. This also would prevent defaulters as it is hard to default from paying income taxes and National Insurance contributions. The default rate would go from 70%, as it is now, to 98%. You pay back in proportion to what you are earning and no money is actually handed over, so the effect is that you are not paying anything back and you are not really in debt - pain free borrowing!

It is important to note that those with low paid jobs that are socially beneficial may not at the end of their years working have paid of the money they borrowed during their time at University. In such cases the Government would be subsidising those people. In fact there may be some element of subsidy for those in low paid socially beneficial jobs such as nursing and teaching.

So where is the catch? Well, at the end of the day it means that we as students will have to pay for our maintenance. This is an idea that still feels very uncomfortable to those of us who consider education a right as supposed to a privilege. However, a University education is undoubtedly beneficial to the individual. It usually means higher wages or a higher capacity for job enjoyment, therefore the individual ought really to contribute something towards the cost of it. The individual is not the only benefactor of higher education. The employer and society are also benefactors and they should also carry the cost. It is suggested that employers will make some kind of contribution through National Insurance, probably another one pence in the pound to contribute towards the institutional costs of education.

One of the key arguments over higher education is that it should become less elitist and that funding should encourage wider participation of an institution that still seems to be reserved for the middle classes. This is

one of the most difficult and emotive aspects of higher education funding. Universities have long been criticised for being bastions of middle class privilege. With the recent increase in the numbers in higher education, the percentage of those from

Student debt is not the same thing as student poverty although if badly managed it can become the same thing.

social class category V attending universities is still 1%.

This is a problem that those discussing Higher Education are trying to address. However, it could well be argued that the number of students coming from the working classes has little to do with finance. The numbers of students from the working classes has neither risen nor fallen in the last thirty years. Numbers did not fall when grants were reduced and numbers did not fall when Student Loans were introduced (in fact they rose slightly). If we take the situation in Australia we can see how finance has perhaps an inverse effect than what one might have thought. In the late 1970s student grants were given a generous rise so as to encourage more people into University. When this was found to be too expensive the situation was changed to include a contributory element to their funding system. Instead of less well off students being put off, higher education participation actually increased. In reality then we can see that it is not just financial issues that determine whether or not members of the working classes take part in higher education. Other issues come into play such as culture and pre-sixteen education.

The case of pre-sixteen education is the proof that perhaps higher education is already a privilege as supposed to a right. Well off middle class families can afford to give their child a better education. They can send them to a public school, move to an area where there are Grammar schools or better quality state education leaving those with less money in the city centres where the situation in pre-sixteen education is slowly in decline. This way the middle classes give their children the advantage early on in life and in this sense access to higher education is a privilege and always will be.

In all honesty there is no real easy solution. There are problems with the MICL scheme. For example, how will home students who take out loans while at university in this country and then end up working abroad pay back their loans? The solution is not clear. There is also the additional suggestion of having a FICL system which stands for Funding Income Contingent Loans. This would involve a loan being taken out to cover the cost of tuition and then being paid back in the same way. The amount would be determined by the gov-

ernment and the loan would be obligatory for all students. This idea has less appeal with the majority of students and yet we could still see the advent of this system in not too many years. It is certainly a possibility that we may have to use some kind of loan scheme to pay for top up fees at this and other top of the league universities.

Although there are no clear cut answers to the question of higher education one thing is crystal clear: whether we like it or not things are going to change irreducibly and it's something about which we should all be aware.

Funding of higher education - European comparisons

Belgium

Tuition fees exist. Some students qualify for a means tested grant. All state support is performance related. 22% of students receive some sort governmental assistance.

Austria

No tuition fees exist for state universities. Parents are expected to support students the majority of students have no access to state support.

Denmark

No tuition fees exist. Some scholarships are available. Most students combine degrees with paid employment.

France

Fees are payable in state universities. There are a significant amount of private universities where fees are high. Some means tested funding is available but loans exist.

Germany

In 1984 student support changed from a combination of grants and loans to a loans only system. In 1989 maintenance grants were reintroduced and the ratio of grants to loans is 50:50. Repayment of loans must occur within five years of graduation.

Ireland

Tuition fees are currently being phased out and will end in 1997. Grants are means tested on parental income.

34% of students receive government support.

Italy

Institutions are now allowed to set tuition fees and they differ significantly. Some state support exists for student maintenance but it is minimal.

2.5% of students receive some sort of government assistance.

The Netherlands

Tuition fees exist at a flat rate. All students have been given grants for five years and after that time they take out loans to cover the rest of their costs. A grant only covers 60% of living costs. Students from low income families can obtain loans and supplementary grants.

100% of students qualify for some sort of government support.

The Maintenance Income Contingent Loan (MICL) is the scheme advocated by the New Solutions lobby. It basically entails the student taking out a loan for all of their maintenance, this means no governmental contribution and no parental contribution. Although it may come as a shock to some that the government will no longer pay for all their books/booze it also means that your parents' salaries do not affect how much money you will get. After all at the age of eighteen you are a consenting adult with the right to vote and do almost anything - why then should you be forced into

Basic criteria for funding

Any system of funding that is introduced must apply to these ten criteria

1. Open access and expansion
2. Education free at the point of entry
3. Alleviate student hardship
4. Student awareness
5. Additional government investment
6. Ring Fencing
7. Income Contingency*
8. Government administration of any scheme*
9. Subsidized interest rate*
10. Securitised loans*

*These criteria apply to loans based schemes.

The Beaver

Executive Editor

Rachel Cuthbert

Business Manager

Scott Wayne

Arts Editors

Leila Butt
Susha Lee-Shothaman

Campus Editor

Dave Whippe

Features Editor

Nicola Hobday

Literary Editor

Danny Silverstone

Music Editors

Mike Goulding
Wayne Rodgers

News Editors

Helena Mcleod
Nick Sutton

Photographic Editors

Steven Hau
Anastasia Shorter

Politics Editor

Issam Hamid

Sports Editor

Chris Cooper

Cartoonist

Hector Birchwood

Staff: Mark Baltovic, Laure Beaufils, Graham Bell, Annika Boseenquet, James Brown, Toby Childs, Sarah Clifford, Sarah Davies, Teresa Delaney, Nick Fletcher, Scouse Gardiner, Deborah Goldemburg, Tom Greatrex, Kate Hampton, Richard Hearnden, Kerrie Henderson, Helen Jamieson, Dana Johnson, Emma Justice, Sonia Kalsi, Sarita Khajuria, Toby Krohn, Philip Lam, Claire Lawrie, Karen Lie, Dennis Lim, Alex Lowen, Duncan McGrath, Dan Madden, Baljit Mahal, Nicky Maragliano, Jessica McCallin, Adam Morris, Ben Oliver, Sorrel Osbourne, Sarah Owen, Antonio Sosa-Pascual, Judith Plastow, Zaf Rashid, Mervyn Rees, Silvia Santoro, Asim Shivji, Ina Woyseth and Hae-Yin.

PUBLISHED BY THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS

Societies Diary

Tuesday, October 10

History Society

5.00 pm E509
(History Department Study Room)
History Society inaugural meeting and distribution of membership cards

Fabian Society

5.00 pm Vera Anstey room
Stephen Pollard
National Student Liaison for Fabian Society followed by hustings and election of new LSE Fabian Society Executive
All members of Fabian Society may stand for election. First years encouraged

Living Marxism

7.30 pm
The Politics of Limits
John Gillot, Science Editor and author of the forthcoming book, *Science and the Retreat from Reason*

Wednesday, October 11

Debating Society

1.00 pm Room A85
This House Believes that Space is not worth exploring

Islamic Society

2.00 pm A42
Introduction and first General Meeting

The Chaplaincy

4.30 pm Room K51
Womens Group Party

Thursday, October 12

LSE European Society

1.00 pm
Michael Jay, Deputy Under-Secretary of State, Foreign & Commonwealth Office
The IGC and beyond: The UK's agenda

Olive Branch Society

5.00 pm New Theatre
Inaugural Meeting
Agenda:
1 Opening by Lord Desai
2 Elections
3 Debate

Psychology Society

7.00 pm Room S318
"In me head, Son" Dr George Sik
Founder member of British Psychological Society

Monday, October 16

The Chaplaincy

5.30pm Room K51
First meeting and Welfare Party for ECUMENICA

LSE Liberal Democrats

Lunchtime
Charles Kennedy MP
See posters for more details

SU Services

The Union Shop

East Building

Opening Hours:

Term time 10 am - 5pm (Mon - Thur),
10 am - 4 pm (Fri)
Vacation 10 am - 4 pm (Mon - Fri)

The two floor Students' Union shop sells everything and anything you will need whilst at LSE with its extensive variety of goods at reasonable prices - sanitary products are sold at cost price and stationery is cheaper than in any of the other High Street stores and is often discounted. The Shop sells: snacks, drinks, phonecards, cigarettes, paper pads, pens, sports equipment (some can be hired), greeting cards, LSE memorabilia, T shirts, etc, etc.

The Café

Basement of East Building

Opening Hours:

Mon - Fri : Term time 9 am - 6 pm,
Vacation 10 am - 3 pm

The Café is undoubtedly the most convenient place to have a break or lunch at the LSE. There is a large selection of international foods which can be consumed in a spacious and comfortable atmosphere. And it is the home made cakes, fruit, herbal, and standard teas and delicious vegetable cuisine that make the Café very popular. The Café is appreciated by vegetarians and many others whose special religious dietary requirements are catered for, and disabled students who are given assistance. Added to its low cost meals and snacks, there is an enthusiastic environmental concern.

The Three Tuns Club

Ground floor of Clare Market Building

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri:

Term time 12 pm - 3 pm & 5 pm - 11 pm
Vacation 12 pm - 2.30 pm & 5 pm - 7.30 pm

The Three Tuns is the focal point of student entertainment and social activity, probably because it is by far the cheapest bar in London (by a significant margin). It boasts a very friendly atmosphere with a wide selection of lagers, real ales, ciders, imported bottle beers, wines and spirits - all at low prices. There are also fresh sandwiches, baguettes, crisps, and other snacks available throughout the day. The Three Tuns is a convenient place for a rest after a tiring day in the library or for the odd game of pool or pinball.

The Print room

Back of East Building, Second Floor.

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri:

Term time 10 am - 7 pm,
Vacation 10 am - 5 pm

The print room offers subsidised photocopying facilities for printing, copying or duplicating any documents. It is cheaper than the library and far cheaper than print shops in London. A Printroom supervisor is always present to offer assistance.

Any comments about these services see

CLAIRE LAWRIE
SU TREASURER
Room E206 Ext 7471
Pigeon hole at Reception

Investment Banking Careers

How does outstanding talent stand out? It's all in the presentation.

Global investment banking is an increasingly complex business. A business in which only the most highly motivated and intellectually gifted individuals will succeed.

NatWest Markets, the corporate and investment banking arm of NatWest Group, is one of the largest and best capitalised international banks – with over 5,900 staff in 22 countries and total assets exceeding £76 billion.

We recruit the most outstanding graduates and we make the most of their exceptional talents. We believe that our Graduate Training and Development Programmes are truly world class. Tailored to match the strengths and ambitions of the individual, these programmes are geared towards careers in the following areas:

- Investment Banking
- Corporate Finance
- Banking & Specialised Finance
- Ventures
- Capital Markets
- Treasury
- Equity Securities
- Investment Management
- Trading Risk
- Credit Risk
- IT
- Operations

If you believe you have the outstanding ability our business demands, we look forward to meeting you at our presentation at:

**The Board Room, Level 11, NatWest Markets,
135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR on Thursday 19th
October at 6.30pm.**

Please book in advance with the Careers Service to secure your place.



NATWEST MARKETS
Corporate & Investment Banking

Public Lectures

Wednesday 11 October
5.30 pm, The Old Theatre

The Legacy of GLF

A Gender Institute Lecture in commemoration of the Gay Liberation Front

Chair: Dr Henrietta Moore

Thursday 12 October
5.30 pm, The Old Theatre

I have seen the future, and it works (for some)

Ian Angell, Professor of Information Systems

Chair: Mr A S Grabiner QC

The Clifford Barclay Enterprise Lecture

Tuesday 17 October
5.30 pm, The Old Theatre

Gunther Teubner

Alera Pars Audiatur: Law in the Collision of Discourses

The Otto Kahn-Freund Professor of Comparative Law & Social Policy
Centenary Law and Society Lecture

Tuesday 17 October
9.30 pm – 4.30 pm

Regent's College N1

The Institute of Public Relations
Careers Day

The Beaver needs you!

Wanted: writers, photographers,
reviewers, production assistants and
anyone else willing to put time into the
paper

Come to our weekly meetings
Monday, 6.00 pm
C023 (Basement, Clare Market Building)

The Beaver apologises to Darrel Hare whose article on freshers on page 6 last week was wrongly credited to Dave Whippe. It was too funny for one of Dave's articles, anyway.

Alan Mustafa issues the New Order



Photo Library

Tongue Twister

Rob Cheetham practices his spittle control

What kind of music do you like?" You're in the Tuns, finally talking to the Athenian god you've had your eye on and, after a few preliminaries, he's pulled the common-taste-in-music opening on you. Quite a common one this, second only to 'So, you got a single room in hall then' and 'Exactly when does your boyfriend get out of prison?' Best to pick something neutral. Blur, perhaps, or Oasis, or...no, there can be only one answer.

"Scheer." You smile sweetly. Home and dry!

"What? That popular Northern Irish five piece? God, can't get enough of them myself, etc."

That this never happens cannot solely

be attributed to the spittle factor. You haven't heard of them because, well, they haven't done anything. 'Schism', a four track EP, is the group's first, and it is released on the back of their successful double A-sided single 'Demon/Howling boy'. The single was a 'limited edition' mail order only, and is now sold out. Of course, it would be cynical to wonder whether 'limited edition' is one way of saying 'they only made ten copies anyway', especially when Melody Maker, the Irish Hot Press magazine and Deadline judged it respectively single of the week, fortnight and month. But judging from 'Schism', Scheer's success looks like being a one-off.

The lead track, 'Sometimes', sounds vaguely like Babes in Toyland, but its grind-

New Order were always a band open to the, dare I say it, post-modern practice of remixing. Their groundbreaking early eighties forays into dance distanced them from the darkness and pain of Joy Division into a more positive and uplifting set of emotions best expressed with technology. Hence there resulted a string of classic "orchestrated disco" singles that were widespread in sales and appeal but whose creators stayed credible, unconventional and distant.

The question mark on the cover seems appropriate here. What's the point of this album? A stop gap to avoid new material? A contractual obligation? A money-spinner? An extension of their art? The full stop to an illustrious career? I can't answer these questions but I can tell you about the album. It's basically a best of collection of the multitude of recent remixes with a couple of new ones to tempt completist mugs like me.

Given it is a mass marketed affair no remixes are too radical or extreme. The greatest departure from this trend is the pump panel reconstruction remix of *Confusion*, which bears little resemblance to the original. Over a pumping techno beat a distorted robotic voice intones some of the lyrics while distant chants of confusion add to the tension. Emotionless and harsh, this takes the Kraftwerk and technological influences to the extreme. This is a cracking, exciting dance track but hardly a New Order song. *Love Triangle* faces a similar reconstruction but is messier and weak.

The rest of the remixes are more respectful. The four *Republic* singles fare the best. This album was recorded with the band in a gloomy state amid the collapse of Factory records and as they admit the ideas were disjointed and failed to translate. The remixes lift the songs from their duller and understated album versions to bring out the full glory of the songs. *World* gets a typical Oakenfold touch with a great house intro before crashing into a cleaner, more upfront version than the original. House breaks and a layered backing makes this slightly cheesy song into a fine feel-good anthem. The ace

Regret mix retains the depth and poignancy of the original adding a mellow dance beat and replacing guitar with keyboard. Things get better with the k-class mix of *Ruined in a Day*, originally called *Reunited in a Day* on the B-side of the single. Indescribable in its brilliance this was played to death by me and I still never tire of it, unlike my flatmates. Unfortunately *Flukes Spooky* is a disappointment and a bad final song.

The only non single here is the excellent *Age of Consent* from the *Power, Corruption and Lies* album. The most interesting and original mix here, with a funky resonant backing. *Touched by the Hand of God* is also sombre; all echoey chants, organs and a gothic trip hop backing. Despite getting more upbeat it maintains the menace of the intro and results in an unsettling and grand take on the original. Long and gripping.

What remains should be familiar to everyone considering that these songs are overplayed regularly in every club and pub and club in studentland, if not nationwide. *True Faith* is close to the original and still great but suffers from a long and pointless instrumental finale full of drum machine arsing about. *Blue Monday*, the biggest selling 12" ever, is the centre point of this collection. The song was originally written so they could try out their new drum machine and set them on the dance path that culminates in this remix album. The *Hardfloor* mix is great, refreshing the sparse and dated original. But this is its third release and the limited free CD contains the '83, '88, '95 and five other mixes, true overkill. The dubby Andrea remix is the most original and best.

In all this is a fine album with some classic moments but hopefully will end this remixing and reissuing lark before it descends into tedium. Its time for new material or that rumoured split. This is not such a compulsory buy as the 'Best of' album but fun nevertheless. While raising questions on the merits of remixing it shows, without doubt, that New Order are one of the best bands ever. For that reason alone this album should be bought.

ing guitars and assertive drums are reminiscent of the Hard Rock/ Industrial rhythm popular with the pale and young. 'You say' is lighter, sounding vaguely like the Cranberries with teeth, but both tracks are unsatisfying - you keep waiting for the chorus to come in, even during the choruses. Down a gear into acoustic for track three. 'Baby Size', which sounds a lot like 'Headphones' from Bjork's 'Post', is actually all right, but like the first two songs it doesn't wander far from where it starts off. And so to 'Take you Anywhere'. The distortion is back, and thankfully less intrusive, but in its place comes a chaotic lead guitar clamour which spoils an otherwise halfway decent song.

There is also, wait for it, a hidden track. Thankfully hidden. A freeform nonsense story about nothing in particular, spoken over a slow instrumental, it's indescribably bad. About as pretentious as the concept of

born-again virginity.

In all, 'Schism' fails to thrill. A song starts, drags on for ages, it becomes predictable and rarely offers anything new to look at. Nothing wrong with the band, who are talented enough, or with the mixing, which was done in collaboration with Head of PJ Harvey fame. It is the sound which has dated: a dirty, noisy sound build up of long and messy distortion introductions, voice effect units, rapid double bass pedalling and indulgent guitarists.

Two years ago this would probably have been moderately successful, a welcome relief from the glut of Indie bands with acoustic guitars and single syllable names. Now, with so many interesting developments in British pop, it's a shame that every other pub gig features bands that are only interested in playing American rock covers and writing imitation grunge.

Bad show, chaps.

Moondog reviewed

Iain Haxton reviews the latest single from the Belgian group 'Moondog'

God, I love press releases. Designed for the hard of thinking reviewer, it hopes to prompt the lavish praise the record company would no doubt like heaped upon their latest offering. Hah, *no chance*.

"Moondog Jr", for those that care, is the "side-project" of dEUS bassist Stef Kamil. Hmm. Bassist solo-outings are not always (ahem) a good idea. Especially if you're from dEUS (who are Belgian, and quite crap, believe me).

"An EP of laid back, smoky beauty" gushes the press release breathlessly. What "TV Song" and "Moondog" amount to is dull, self-indulgent sub-Dylan meanderings by musicians who have spent far too much time on their own. No doubt Stef, and his "collection of long-time friends and collaborators" (it says here) wish they were deep in rural America, sitting in some rickety ol' shack, the paint peeling off the shutters, playing battered acoustic guitars on the porch. Give it up chaps and leave that sort of thing to Beck! ... you're Belgian for Godsakes.

Maybe I'm being over harsh. I mean, your dad would like the first two tracks. Oh no. The B sides are quite good though; "Ice guitars" is subdued Tom Waits, chilling and atmospheric and "Tiddly Winks" is flipped-out like the bonus track on "Second Coming". Imagine a soundtrack for some old black and white sixties Euro arthouse flick. Vaguely cool when they forget the Americana. Thing is, you read "laid back smoky beauty" on the cover and you look



Photo credit: Stefan de Batselier

inside to see the band photo: all crap Euro haircuts, dull jumpers, glum expressions, and ... berets. Berets! Jesus. Berets worn at

a jaunty angle!

One of them's even wearing an *anorak*. And he can't see either.

Tipp-Topp City

The Amps get the shock treatment by a man that forgot to include his own name

And so, trudging through the door comes yet another much hyped and much hoped for American alternative band. Music fans, saturated with the tedious punk-by-number of the Green Day/Offspring new wave, must (surely?) be crying out for something just a little more original, and much has been expected of Kim Deal's new outfit. But, and it's a big BUT, is it any good? Well, sort of.

You have to feel sorry for Kim Deal. It seems that her bands either achieve, or are destined to achieve, greatness and then, BANG! Everything explodes rather messily in her face. Luckily, Deal seems to be able to wade on through life's sludge, put misfortune down to an integral part of life's rich pagament, and get on with the serious business of being in yet another group.

The effect of her sister's heroin addiction, and the (temporary?) destruction this has wrecked upon the Breeders, appears to have unsurprisingly moulded the Amps' sound; what this first single offers is lean, raw, and distortedly punky mix of the rougher early Pixies sound with an occasional smattering of the slightly more commercial aspects of the Breeders.

'Tipp City' itself is fairly standard stuff, starting charmingly with the lament, "Cock head, Cock head, I say I will...", before degenerating into layers of screaming distortion. The real star however is the throw away B-Side 'Just like a briar', which shows that Deal's capacity to write a 'top tune' remains undiminished. Sadly, the third track is a crap tuneless scream-fest four-track affair, which should have record buyers across the land hitting the track skip button immediately. Enough said, eh?

So, a passable debut. The Amps seem a good deal (geddit?) better than much of the dross coming out of America at the moment (Hootie and the Blowfish, anyone?), even if this is a little more Tennis Ball than 'Canonball'. Expect great things, and hopefully a great album, in the future.

Free CDs and concert tickets

All this and more if you write for the music pages!

Come along to the collective meetings in the Beaver Office (C023) on Monday at 6.00

Old but Bold

Thomas Stone struts to the sounds of 'The House Collection: Volume Three'

Jeremy Healy certainly has an impressive track record. He's been spinning discs in clubs all over the world for over a decade, which must surely make his knowledge of dance music and its roots a difficult thing to rival. But the question has to be asked, as to whether or not a DJ so long in the tooth is set in his ways, or is still going to be able to keep up with the rapidly changing house scene of today.

This album proves, however, that Healy is by no means losing his touch. The tunes he knocks out are perfectly selected, and the mixing is as smooth as a pint of Theakstons (although not the type found in the Tuns). This certainly is an essential album for anyone who's enjoyed themselves at a house club, and even if you haven't, buy this and you'll get a good idea

of what it's all about, and maybe even find yourself liking it! Healy's style may not appeal to the hardened clubber as it does get a bit commercialised at times, but this should be accepted as part of his style, mixing hard-core house with more popular tunes. The only drawback to this album is that it is maybe a few months behind the times, which emphasises the poppy nature of some of the tunes (since they've been around long enough to start getting on your nerves!). It is very much a retrospective of house over the past six months, a 'greatest hits' if you like. But if you want to remember some great nights you've had, then this album is more than likely to have tunes with some great memories.

Having finished listening to the Jeremy Healy offering, I have to admit I was left

feeling pretty good, but maybe with just a slight worry that house is starting to stagnate and becoming too retrospective. But...this is a double CD package, and you won't get your sweaty mitts on Healy without being forced to take Allister Whitehead home too. Whitehead's style is something a bit different, an attempt to bring American Garage to the British scene. In reality the tunes don't differ that much in style from your average house, except for maybe having less vocals on them.

The main difference is that these are all new tunes, unlike the Healy CD you probably won't have heard many of these before. But they are, when all said and done, pumping tracks, and will keep you interested enough to listen again. This is listed as the second CD in the package, and should probably be listened to second as well. The first couple of tracks are more housey to blend with the first CD, and later the more garagey elements begin to become apparent.

Basically, it's all here, a look to the past, and a vision for the future. Jeremy Healy is undoubtedly the star of the show, but Allister Whitehead provides a commendable back-up. Oh, and the limited edition CD box is covered in rubber spikes!..take care!

Just for laughs

The Beaver continues its guide to entertainments in London, focusing on visual art and comedy

From the comic novel to comedy clubs London has it all. It now has more comedy venues than anywhere else in the world so you can pop into one any night of the week and expect to be entertained – whether it'll be good or not is another matter altogether. The eighties explosion of alternative comedy, and later the craze for improvisation brought a few deserved stars into the spotlight but also paved the way for pale imitators with no talent. However, one fringe benefit of the recession is the successful weeding out of the completely hopeless.

The best known place to go to is the Comedy Store but do queue up a few light years before the show starts or you will probably be refused entry just as it comes to your turn. There's stand up comedy on offer at the Store, if you're lucky (?) you might catch some of the regulars on *Whose Line is it Anyway*, Channel 4's absurdly long running improvisation show. It is well known that one appearance on that show can guarantee you your own half hour sitcom starring and written by yourself, but there is genuine talent among some of the performers. Expect politically correct = sensibilities to be slighted and men's egos to be pricked. The show's on six nights a week at 8pm and student concessions are available on certain nights so its worth at least one visit.

The LSE itself has its very own Chuckle Club, back by popular demand, which operates in the Three Tuns every Saturday. So if you fancy a laugh and a drink roll

along and remember there won't be any embarrassing moments – at least not very embarrassing since you'll be a student among students and won't stick out like a sore thumb among the yuppies you'll see elsewhere.

If you've got that extra jingle in your pocket a trip to the Comedy Spot would be the place to go. You can eat (optional) whilst trying to stomach the more obnoxious jokes thrown at you periodically. Not a place for the faint-hearted since the jokes don't always aid digestion. The show's on Monday nights so keep your hectic schedule open.

If you feel like humming choose the Oranje Boom Boom on a Wednesday night. There's a Dutch-style coffee bar if you fancy that extra kick. You'll get a mixture of old and new comedians trying to appeal to your baser instincts so watch out all you girlfriends.

Trying to beat Banana Republic at their own name is the Banana Cabaret. It's on two spacious floors and weekend shows attract people in the hundreds so if you want to be just another face in the crowd then that's your place.



100% PURE COMEDY



Jenny Eclair, above, became famously the first woman in fifteen years to win the Perrier award when she scooped it at Edinburgh this August. She's been called "the Courtney Love of stand-up" and her act is coming to London as part of the Perrier Pick of the Fringe Season. She's at Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket on Sunday 29 October at 8.00 pm, and her show's provocatively called "Prozac and Tantrums". Probably worth a look, though not for the squeamish or easily offended. Like most winners, though notably not Lano and Woodley, she's made the move to higher things - she's on Radio 4 this autumn having cowritten the programme, and is going to record her own show with Thames Television. Catch her while you still can.

The Hackney Empire used to be a variety theatre so if you like your comedy with a bit of oomph go for there for a laugh. It's far out but it's worth the trip and come on folks, what's one weekend to your exam results?

Close to LSE halls is the Meccano Club which again has some of the best comedians in town. It's lively, loads of fun and is relatively central

so don't miss out.

Eddie Izzard, perhaps best known for wearing a dress but nevertheless an inspired comic, goes back to the day job after his brief foray into acting. He starts a run at the Shaftesbury Theatre on October 10, finishing in December. His show's called definite article, and marks his third West End run. As not seen on TV.

Otherwise, London is littered with comedy clubs though more often than not they can be of uncertain pedigree. But you can always stay in and watch the television - Friday night sitcoms on Channel Four are as funny as funny gets - *Frasier* being the perfect example.

For all those arty people out there, London is the best city to be in. Just shimmy round some of the numerous art galleries and you'll be soaking up culture with no effort at all.

If you're the conservative sort a visit to the National Gallery would suit you well. It's filled with paintings from leading European art schools and covers the thirteenth to the twentieth century. Their daily guided tours and lectures will ap-

peal to the extra keen but watch out for the tourist season or you might find yourself people watching rather than picture watching.

For the more adventurous contemporary paintings are on exhibit at the Tate. Everything's on offer from the dreamy Impressionists to the Cubists. And watch out for Salvador Dali's lobster telephone.

The British and Victoria and Albert Museums also have vast collections which include ancient art. So if you've been

complaining about the acute lack of Eastern art available on display you can trot off to one of these.

Otherwise - the Royal Academy has regular exhibitions which range from the Italian masters to the Post-impressionists. At present it has a major exhibition on Africa spanning several centuries. Several colleges including Goldsmith's College and the Royal College of Art exhibit their student's work so if you're into upcoming art those are the

places to go to.

For those of you interested in the glossies the National Portrait Gallery should be on your hit list. You'll see the people you've seen, will want to meet and probably never will meet in your life. Oddly enough the Royal family feature the most in this collection but don't get discouraged, you'll get you quota of starlets.

If you want to know more just pick up any old newspaper or magazine to find out what's on.

"They're all gagging for it!"

Ceri Hopewell gives the lowdown on the average LSE Lothario

There's a popular myth among many males at the LSE that "birds love it". For most, nothing short of being dismembered by Mrs Bobbitt would convince them otherwise. But what girls do and don't love isn't the issue, the point is the sort of blokes who say it are never going to find out anyway - it's that self-deluding bunch of lads who think all females want to jump into bed with them but fail to notice that none ever do. You can see them in the Tuns at lunch times filling their fat faces with Jim Fagin's best pies, leering at "The Sun" and discussing last night's classic episode of "Men Behaving Badly".

Friday night provided a typical example of their idea of an exotic mating ritual. Four of LSE's likely lads staggered on to the stage after necking ten pints and just managed to drop their kecks and expose the hairy horrors beneath before falling off and vomiting. There's no point explaining to them that they'd have a better chance of

getting their pants off later if they kept them on in public because their reply is guaranteed: "Shut up you lesbian, birds love it".

It is also rumoured that on the same evening Chris Cooper flopped out something even more offensive. The AU President's maggot isn't wet knickers material in anyone's book and after that amount of beer all you could do with it is splint it up and sit on. Not that you'd want to.

These degenerates are a lost cause but there are already tell-tale signs that our fresh faced new students are slipping from grace into their seedy web. When this year's male freshers have a conversation with you, be assured that it will be directed at your chest and not your face. It's a common enough male trait but it seems to be particularly prevalent among the first years. The traffic light disco was another revealing indicator of things to come. How many of them pulled at it - not many I'd wager, who'd go near a boy wearing an "I'm gag-

ging for it" sticker, it might just as well read "I'm so desperate that my balls are about to explode".

Unfortunately, sexual frustration in freshers week leads to more sinister things as the year unfolds and they consistently fail to pull. The seeds have been sewn for LSE's next generation of sex-craved louts to emerge in all their uncouth glory. The first sign is the comfort eating signified by pies at lunch time, soon after they discover that the closest they're ever going to get to a naked woman is the photographic variety on page three (but even she's still got her knickers on), and finally on Thursday nights at ten-thirty on BBC1 they find something they can empathise with; the new series of "Men Behaving Badly". All too quickly, one pissed up night in the Tuns, it becomes all too obvious what's happened as they lock themselves together, arms round shoulders, and slur their rallying cry, raucously reassuring each other that "birds love it"...



Busy Beaver

Bonjour mes petites virgines de fresheurs. Je m'appelle Busy Beaver et qu'est ce que vous faites pour votre A-Levels. I'm BB and I'm here to inform you of all the gossip that's been going on. New students won't know anyone but I don't care. First of all some news of last year's Passfield crowd. Ever-popular Social Sec Edd Banal has declared his undying love for Lindsey Lee in a letter, sealed with his own special wetness. She was impressed by his genitals but turned him down as they rest squarely on his face. Another of those unlucky in love was Peeping Porn Bose. His failed attempts to woo Sally from underneath the shower door only ended with a premature ejection from the hall. Meanwhile Raj Paraplegic, having spent too much time sharking mingers to concentrate on the tough first year exams, decided to defer QME, choosing the novel approach of going to hospital in a straight-jacket rather than to the timetables office. Well, he said he was going to get fit...

Meanwhile, back in the present, LSE Gen Sex Kate Tampon, having failed in her attempt to shag her way to the top of the music industry, turned her hand to TV with an appearance on The Big Breakfast. As Scouse coated his golden flakes of corn with his jiz, while his flat-mate sniffed poppers during 'entertaining' in the bedroom, Tampon gave away her breakfast secrets. "While I obviously enjoy enormous helpings of pork sausage," she said, seductively gobbling a banana while tossing her hair and adjusting her 'belt', "I also butter my toast on both sides." Flares Lorry, a good friend of Tampon, has also been nibbling at the sausage of Tom Shit, a big fan of Queen's Pork Rangers, which is the only logical explanation for giving this Queen a porking.

While Tom Shit may be very big in the LSE Labour Club, one girl who won't be going into Labour is Karen Lay, because Alex Lowen is a jaffa. The blobby Yeltsin look and smell-a-like will not be following in Lou Carpenter's footsteps, except for being fat that is, because he can never have children. Probably a good thing.

It was quite a successful Freshers week, with Dick Felcher arranging all the usual events from comedians and hypnotist to the regular Friday Fight Night round the pool table. As Howay Wankeredson represented the Students against those with such shit jobs that they can only afford drinks in the Tuns, the only casualty was a scruffy Northern tramp who used to beg a lot last year. And that's about it for this week. Au Revoir.

The LSE drugs guide

The Beaver gives you the official Union approved guide to illegal substances

Drugs have a great amount of cachet in student circles deriving mainly from their illegality and the perception that a blatant flaunting of the law will garner you genuine respect and legendary 'cred' on the mean streets of Bloomsbury and Holborn where your halls are. For those aspiring to a 'reputation', drugs fall into two varieties, hard and soft, though for the purposes of this article, they are all just fucking well 'ard alright?

CANNABIS

This drug has too many names to even bother trying to keep up with, and if you can remember even half of them after a few puffs (as in drags), then you are a high achiever. Pot is not good for the short term memory, and usually, if you do it long enough you will lose your long term memory, your dress sense and your mates. Everybody knows that if you smoke too much, you mature instantly, sprouting an overnight goatee, dreadlocks, and a wardrobe straight from the bankruptcy sale of the armed forces of some former Eastern

European military dictatorship. You also start to smell as your stupor renders you incapable of leaving the couch for menial tasks like using a proper toilet, wiping the wank stains from your jiz covered hands, or using the fifteen quid you just wasted on an eighth to LEAVE THE HOUSE AND MEET SOME PEOPLE.

LSD

Comes mainly in tablet and capsule form and is a hallucinogenic which can produce incredibly vivid experiences. A particularly harrowing example for someone on acid might be going to a club and imagining you actually have friends. Of course, a very large amount must be ingested before such surreal mind tricks can be played on yourself.

MDMA

E's come in tablet and capsule form, and will either produce a general feeling of euphoria, or de-worm your cat depending on the particular 'chemist' you bought them

from. You will think everyone loves you which is just as well as your new mates will think you are a sad drug dependent tosser and will have cleared off hours ago for a few pints down the Tuns. This means that your paranoia will be increased and there will be no one there to tell you that your life is worth something, and not to kill yourself. Shame.

AMYL NITRATES

Poppers are especially useful if you get a rush from splitting headaches and nose bleeds. It may also make your arse bleed as it is a well known gay drug due to its propensity to relax the muscles, namely your bum, and make it easier to stick everyday household objects up there, or even trouser snakes. Best not to tell your mates about this one.

HARD DRUGS

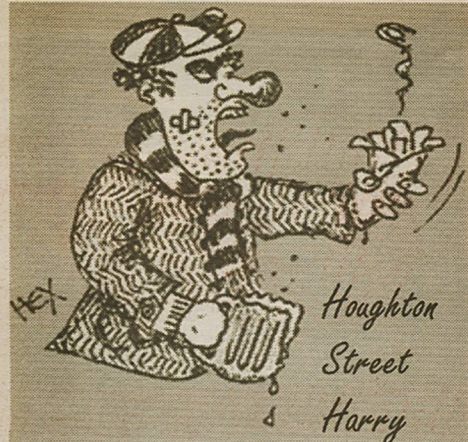
Basically Heroin (making a comeback since Pulp Fiction) and Cocaine, plus other concoctions involving mixing these two. Hard drugs killed River Phoenix, that renowned clean living vegan and drugs abstainer, and they will have no qualms about killing inconsequential little students. If you don't die from an overdose, then you will probably get shot while attempting to hold up the nearest twenty-four hour store, as you are trying to get the funds to fuel your addiction. This is, of course, unless you are a rich little turd, in which case I hope you die anyway.

ALTERNATIVES

Fags and booze will also kill you, but at least they have the advantage that you can sign your death warrant while in the company of your mates. Remember kids, if you ever see some dodgy looking bloke in a club avoiding the bouncers, steer clear of him and just say "No!"



A little Lowen? Not in a million years



The Students Union handbook defines Mature Students as 'students who enter into higher education at the age of 25 and over.' Now this is perfectly correct, although when the original definition was made, nobody noticed that it continued onto the back of the page with 'and are only here because their first attempt at life has failed so miserably.

They are also invariably bell-ends.' It's true, honest! Harry doesn't hate all mature students as a rule, and I'm sure that many of them are really very nice (not any that complain next week though), but it just so happens that all the ones I met are absolute wankers (not in the masturbatory sense - although I'm sure that, as they never pull, they all do wank profusely onto their beards (it's full of protein and good for the skin by the way girls)).

I don't have a problem with the lack of contribution made by postgraduates, because they are paying lots of masters fees and are essentially here to work, but mature students have no excuse at all. Despite them being so worldly-wise and knowledgeable from their six years spent bus-conducting or in an abattoir, they still feel the need to take up places in the over-subscribed halls which should be going to poor undergraduates who have not yet screwed up their life. Not only that, but they have the gall to complain about the noise and demand to watch TV on their annual sojourn into the common room.

And another thing. They always sit at the front of every lecture with their dictaphones, ask stupid fucking questions all the time and always make my presentations look shit. When it comes round to exam time, however, I have the last laugh as they always do shite, the reason being that they are generally thick as pigshit, which is why they worked on pic 'n mix at Woolworths in the first place. Actually, I don't have the last laugh because I do shit as well, but the principle's still the same.

That's not the big problem though. It's the way they think that their failure in life should be applauded. '...went down t'pit at 14, then they shut the pit. Then I worked in a factory for eight years making mud, but when I missed out on promotion to chief of consistency control, I decided to go back to school.' Just when you think they are going to burst into a rendition of "My Way," they run off to camp down for the night to queue for the best locker.

Harry's not in the minority here (for once). Everyone complains about their whining, their superiority complex and their need to wear LSE scarves as they lap the Tuns looking for similarly sad individuals. The only mature thing about them is their rancid stench and the only benefits they provide are when their nubile, under-age daughters come to stay in hall, providing Raj the chance to pull another fat-arsed ming Queen.

Normally I would expect lots of complaints but I'm quietly confident that not one fucker will reply, as this would be seen as contributing to LSE, and so can't be done.

Showing off

Freshers and old hands alike attempt to dazzle at the team trials

**Danny Fielding
& Chris Cooper**

Wednesday saw the first appearance of the year at New Malden of the LSE sporting Gods for the trials of football, rugby and

hockey. One intrepid new student decided to make the long trek for Volleyball, not knowing that LSE do not play it at New Malden (or, indeed, at all), except of course for Alex Lowen, whose wank-handed incompetence spiked many balls into his own net. Other freshers did turn up for correct sports in their hundreds, hoping to catch a glimpse of their boyhood idols, prospectus-quality players, legends such as Goals Cooper and his deadly left boot, defensive hard-man Danny Fielding and self-appointed hard-man Scouse Gardiner, who puts up the nets.



Steve Curtis, who goes to church, cynically scythes down Goals Cooper in full flight.

Photo: Steve Hau

As usual, numerous county players were in attendance, though surprisingly they were all a bunch of arse. Current players were still looking nervously over their shoulders at the talented ones, except for Takis who has got so obesely rotund that his kebab neck doesn't turn far enough. Raj Paranandi soon realised that the only way he would keep his place would be to put people off playing, and so he removed his shirt. The sight of his rippling layers of lardy, putrid flesh sent scores of people away from the pitch, retching uncontrollably, many in tears, onto the coach.

As it sped away, it was soon replaced by a bus-load of Japanese cosmetics and sushi reps with harpoons at the ready. He's still

thinner than Pron though, who only turned up because the gaps in the women's showers are big enough to get his ample frame underneath.

Meanwhile, the Rugby trials were going very well indeed, with several promising newcomers and a few bloaters. Perhaps the Second team might score a point this year?

captains to separate the wheat from the chaff and unearth glittering diamonds from the coal bunker that was the trials. The sheer numbers meant that even Brian the groundsman was keeping his one good eye on everything.

The new players tried hard to impress while the old players just took the piss out of

each other and played shit, because they'll all still get in anyway. The new captains are all quite optimistic now, despite the personal challenges they all have to face. First team skipper Rikos Leong-Son has recovered from his knee injury only to find he has an enormous pain in the arse every time he walks into the Tuns, while Second Team captain Brendan McGraw has unfortunately not shaken off his persistent stench ailment.

The new leader of the Thirds, Ian Devine, is having to bring new enthusiasm into a very sterile side which lacked spunk last year,



Cooper gets the scrawny little vicar back with interest

Photo: Steve Hau

The threat of the women's rugby stealing their thunder has obviously got them going, and quite alarmingly the boys are avoiding a friendly against them. Women's hockey also had a healthy turn-out of lovelies, with Sheba, who shares her name with cat food, looking very happy (and ravishing too - Sports and Campus Eds) due to the ability on show, and the fact that she could momentarily escape the attention of the marauding perverts Scouse Gardiner and Zaf Yousuf as Lowen, moping around with his puppy dog eyes and puppy fat body, would never leave her side.

And so it was left to the individual team

while no-one can understand a word that Fourths supremo Mike Tattersall says.

The one we all feel sorry for here at Beaver Towers however is "ooh ah" Johnny Parr of the Fifts, as it appears Graham 'interesting' Bell is looking for a game. So what will the future have in store for the LSE sportsmen and troggs this year. A tough season is lying in wait and nothing is certain (except that Whippe will still not pull). Progress in the BUSA national championships from very tough groups would be a great achievement, but ULU cup glory could well be just around the corner.

We shall wait and see...