#Beaver

The newspaper of the London School of Economics Students' Union since 1949 • 19 February 2008 • Issue 682

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partB is a religion



Union tells School to divest from Israel

» Jewish and Israeli Societies boycott historic UGM
 » LSE Students' Union first in Britain to campaign for divestment

PATRICK CULLEN & ESTEE FRESCO

The LSE Students' Union (LSE SU) has become the first Students' Union to officially endorse a campaign to lobby its parent university to divest its interests in Israel and companies profiting from the Israeli occupation. The motion brought before the Union General Meeting (UGM), 'Hold Israel Accountable', was passed by 339 votes to 46 – a margin of 293.

Manchester University's Students' Union was the first to attempt to introduce a motion aiming to divest from Israel in 2002, but this failed. With the success of the 'Hold Israel Accountable' the Students' Union has become the first Union to be affiliated to the international campaign to end the siege on Gaza. The motion also mandates the Union to support and work with Palestine solidarity organisations such as Jews for Justice for Palestinians.

However, opponents of the motion, who argued that it was substantially the same as the controversial 'Make

Apartheid History' motion, boycotted the UGM in protest. Members of the LSESU Israel Society and Jewish Society campaigned under the slogan 'Don't Divest – Invest!', in an attempt to convince students not to attend the UGM. Students who opposed the motion proposed investment for peace, collecting money for the Israeli charity Save a Child's Heart, which helps to provide heart surgery for children around the world, including in Palestine.

Hannah Fisher, a member of the LSESU Jewish Society, told The Beaver that "We recognise the wider student body at LSE do not want their union to be hijacked by the Israel-Palestinian conflict. For this reason we decided to actively disassociate ourselves from this motion to exemplify our belief that the conflict should not be allowed to dominate the UGM agenda ... In short - we want to move towards dialogue and a better future of peace ... we are telling students to invest their time, energy, resources and skills in peace, dialogue, cooperation and a better future for everyone."

Emiliano Huet-Vaughn, who spoke for the motion, told *The Beaver* that "The anemic boycott of the UGM debate by the few remaining opponents of the revised motion served only to delegitimize their claims to be truly interested in debate and discussion of the issues, as they missed out on the primary forum at LSE for such debate, the UGM ... Furthermore, many students were put off by the ... aggressive attempts to discourage fellow students from casting their votes after an informed debate".

Several students noted that both the Israel Society and Jewish Society only collected money for Save a Child's Heart on the day that the UGM took place, and that they stopped as soon as voting ended at six pm. This has brought accusations that the societies were using the charity for political purposes.

The motion mandates the LSESU to "lobby the School and NUS to divest from Israel" and companies that support illegal activities until "they cease such practices ... and the oppression and colonisation of Palestinians." In

addition, the campaign will work with and "actively support ... Palestine solidarity organisations such as Jews for Justice for Palestine". The Beaver understands, however, that it is highly unlikely that the School will divest from Israel, and that the School will seek to distance itself from the motion over the coming weeks.

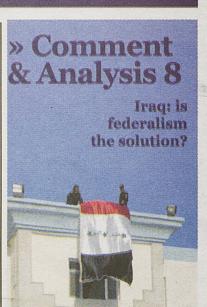
Ihe LSESU Executive Committee

is now expected to draft a document explaining the argument for divestment to be presented to the School. As the Union's charity status prevents it from active political action it's support of the Palestinian solidarity campaign will take the form of educational lectures and workshops.

Prior to the UGM, rumours had circulated surrounding the possibility of a joint motion proposed by the Israel Society and Palestine Society which would be conciliatory and inclusive.

Marilyn Carsley, Chair of the Israel Society, refuted the rumors, "we were never approached to submit a joint motion with pro Palestinian societies."

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free lunch?
Behind the scenes
with Krishna
Consciousness



» Sports 21



»Features 12



» What do LSE staff and students think of Human Rights?



PhD students short on quantitative skills

SOCIAL science PhD students short on quantitative skills, study finds.

According to a new research paper, doctoral stu-dents in the social sciences are failing to develop quantitative research skills that employers are deeming increasingly nec-

The paper, entitled "Methodological Approaches at PhD and Skills Sought for Research Posts in Academia: A Mismatch", and published in the International Journal of Social Research Methodology, included research that suggested important skills for employment such as computer programming and handling statistics are being ignored in favour of more qualitative methods.

"There is a dire shortage of properly trained quantitative researchers," one employer told Dr Rose Wiles, who wrote the report, and another said that "The lack of basic quantitative skills is the most important issue facing UK social science."

Healthy rise in undergraduate applications

ACCORDING to the latest figures published by Universities and Colleges Admissions Service undergraduate university applications are up pearly sity applications are up nearly seven percent this year. The actual number of

applications, at 430,489, represents an 8.9 per cent increase on last year, but this figure includes applications to nursing and midwifery diploma courses, which haven't been counted before. Discounting these, the total rise is 6.7 per cent, up from a 6.4 per cent rise at the same time last year.

Welsh institutions, however, experienced a drop in applications of 10.7 per cent, and Northern Irish universities saw a 5.3 per cent decline. English and Scottish institutions saw a rise of 9.2 and 1.5 per cent respectively.

Education Guardian.co.uk

Another US university gunman attack

A gunman killed five students before turning the gun on himself at Northern Illinois University last week. He was named on Friday as Stephen Kazmierczak, a former student.

A sociology graduate, Kazmierczak burst into a lecture hall filled with 150 students and fired 50 shots into the crowd at random. The 27year-old used three handguns and a shotgun he had bought six days earlier, and was wearing a ski mask and a black trenchcoat.

"We were dealing with a disturbed individual who intended to do harm on this campus," the university president, John Peters, said on Friday.

"We had a plan in place for this sort of thing. Police had practiced that plan. We did everything we could to ensure the safety of this university."



18 November 1975 Rent Strike! Passfield votes: 31-28

AT the Hall meeting on the evening of 10th November, Passfield residents voted to go on immediate rent strike. This vote was in protest against the extraordinary level of rent increase over the summer.

The meeting, attended by nearly half

the residents, heard the motion to move to a rent strike proposed and seconded by John Kelly and Simon Crabtree respectively. It was argued that the interhalls negotiating committee - compris-ing representatives from Rosebery, Passfield and the Maple and Fitzroy St Flats - had probably got as much from the School as it could reasonably hope

Specific gains made were that items of expenditure such as staff training and advertising had been transferred to the School accounts. These savings coupled with downward revisions of wage costs in the light of government policy, brought reductions averaging £27 per student per annum.



Sabb-gunking will be held this week. Currently, the General Secretary and the Treasurer are in the lead and will be covered in Brunch Bowl's finest, unless some last minute donation comes through.

RAG Week raised over.

£10 000

Bringing the total up to more than

£20 000

This is a truly fantastic result, and there's no way we could have achieved so much without the help of all the societies that were involved and all the volunteers that were at the stall.

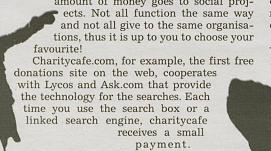
www.lsesurag.com

Speaker's Corner

Search to Donate

DURING last weeks RAG-week, have you also been in the situation when you wanted to donate, but had no cash and found that your credit card was not accepted? Or were you simply a bit too stingy to empty your wallet for a good purpose? Or you are now asking yourself "what? There was RAG-week"? Well, here is your chance to boost your charitableness without even spending one penny and by continuing to surf the internet!

There are several websites that host search engines for charity. Each time you use these to browse the web, a small amount of money goes to social proj-



The mmoney which comes from the search engines paying for the web traffic directed to their sites is donated to Greenpeace, WWF or Oxfam. Everyclick.org operates under a similar system (also powered by Ask.com) and the NUS has recently given it its backing.

Searchkindly.org works slightly differently. The technical support comes from Google, so that you get the same search results as if you used Google directly. Here, the companies that launch an advertisement on the site pay 1/3 of a dollar cent for each person visiting searchkindly.org. The raised money is given to a list of non-profit organisations working on various kinds of social projects.

And if your preferred search engine is Yahoo, you might want to use goodsearch.com. Again, the money, which is about 1 dollar cent per search, comes from the advertisers on the site and the user can choose to which charities it shall be donat-

The collected amount varies, but charitycafe, for instance, raises around £50 a month This is a good start to make the world a better place. - but your contribution can even improve it. So just log on and surf the web!



'Cabbie' with spiked champagne rapes five

A London black-cab driver has raped five women by offering them spiked champagne as he claims to be a celebrating lottery winner.

He drugs the victims and sexually assaults them when they are unconscious before driving them home.

The man has so far been linked with five rapes but detectives suspect there may be more victims still to come for-

The cabbie is white and in his early forties, and may be a registered cabbie or an impostor. He has so far looked for victims in the London Bridge and Oxford Circus area, and has struck three times in the past three months.

Residents face Games park 'tax' after 2012

THOUSANDS of residents and businesses may be forced to pay an Olympic "tax" in order to locate inside the 500-acre Games park. It is being considered by the London Development Agency as part of a "legacy masterplan" for the Olympic park, where it is the major landowner.

Millions of pounds

Millions of pounds will be recouped by Games chiefs through the "tax", which will come in the form of a maintenance charge or ground rent. It will be collected by a housing association or managing agent.

The scheme has been copied from cities in America that have used it to contribute towards the costs of municipal

Sex outdoors? Yes please, I'm a Londoner

ACCORDING to a survey by Nivea deodorant, one in four Londoners have had sex in public, suggesting Brits might

not be stuffy prudes after all. Of the 1,978 surveyed, 77 per cent say they kiss and cuddle in public, and 68 per cent say they feel comfortable receiving affection whilst in

The research also showed that bosses should keep their hands to themselves, as fourin-ten say they feel uncomfortable when touched by their boss. Further, 24 per cent said they felt repulsed when colleagues show them affection in

Rapist escapes King's Hospital

THE police have said a convicted rapist who escaped from a London hospital is still at

The 39-year-old Terrence O'Keefe, who is serving a life sentence, fled whilst visiting King's College Hospital. He pulled the exact same stunt in 2005, from the same hospital, and fled to Liverpool where he had connections.

Police said he was dangerous and should not be approached. He is a lightskinned black man, and was last seen wearing a green fleece jumper, black jeans and tancoloured boots.

School distances itself from motion

MICHAEL DEAS NEWS EDITOR

SE's leadership has moved to distance itself from the LSE Students' Union (LSESU) motion to campaign for divestment from Israel and companies profiting from the illegal Israeli occupation. On Friday, an unprecedented statement was sent to students explaining that the motion 'reflects the view of the SU alone and does not represent the views of LSE'

Sources close to the School's leadership have spo-ken of "huge panic" spreading through LSE's administration on Thursday after the motion

The School is concerned about the effect of the motion on the school's reputation and the financial repercussions of potentially large numbers of important donors such as billionaire George Soros refusing to donate money because they view it's students as anti-

fundraisers Telephone from the Department of how to deal with reluctance to donate as a result of the series of anti-occupation campaigns that have taken place during the academic year.

Several established donors have already refused to give money to the School and fears have been raised that this trend will only grow now that the LSESU has made campaigning on divestment from Israel offi-

In response to suggestions that the Palestine Society's campaigning may have a negative effect on the long-term success of the School society chair Ziyaad Lunat said, "Money conditional on Israel's violations of human rights and the opression of Palestinians is not welcome at the LSE. Students should continue to strive for equality and human rights everywhere in the world. These values should not be compromised to serve the interests of a Zionist lobby that has proven time again to support Israel's violent policies in Palestine."

Lunat also argued that some alumni may donate as a result of the School's history of vibrant political debate, of which the Palestine Society's activities were an example.

The Palestine Society's campaigning has received a large amount of media attention. The Jewish Chronicle published an editorial earlier this month claiming that Jewish students felt intimidated as a result of Palestinian campaigning. Headlines such as "Israel is killing children, LSE Union tells freshers" appeared in the mainstream press after LSESU

"Money conditional on Israel's violations of human rights and opression of Palestinians is not welcome at the LSE"

> Ziyaad Lunat Palestine Society Chair

General Secretary Bakeer-Markar and LSESU Palestine Society Chair Ziyaad Lunat sent a letter to freshers highlighting Israeli human rights abuses and calling for support for the Palestinian Right to Education Campaign. The Israeli press covered the Union's decision to lobby to school to divest from Israel.

A series of School officials, including Director Howard Davies, have written letters to the Jewish Chronicle to allay fears regarding the welfare of Jewish students. "The School will not tolerate harassment, intimidation or prejudice affecting any group of stu-dents," said Davies' letter. Ashley Mitchell, a member of LSE's governing Council, sent a letter to the Jewish Chronicle emphasising the distinction between LSE and the Students' Union as separate entities.

When the Palestine Society approached the School regarding concerns about the School's dismissal of debate over the proposed academic boycott of Israel and failure to support the Palestinian Right to Education Campaign, the School said it was not prepared

Students' Union or make political statements.

However, responded positively to a request by the Israeli Society to facilitate reconciliation discussion with the Palestinian Society. The School agreed to fund an event at the St Ethelburga's reconciliation centre in a special room called the 'Tent' in the style of a Bedouin tent.

Lunat said, "We were extremely disappointed for Howard Davies' outright refusal to meet our society and the school's lack of response to our proposal for dialogue and understanding between students. This is in contrast to the school's exploitation of ethnicity to depict mere political differences as a 'clash of civilizations' by proposing to us a therapeutic session to 'explore religious differences'.

The School has denied that it is concerned donations will suffer as a result of the actions of the Students' Union.

Representitives from the Jewish and Israel Societies did not respond to The Beaver's

UGM Motions

14 February 2008

Code of Practice Amendment: Let RAG President speak at UGM

Mandate General Secretary to

Mandate Executive Committee

members to attend taskforces

Hold Israel Accountable - Divest

read poetry at every UGM



Union Jack

The odds seemed incredible. Their hand was poor. The heretics were all in. Smelldon, Tittybum and co. had their backs to the wall and they knew it. They had but one chance at redemption.

With the weight of world upon their Yiddish shoulders, they took their leap of faith. The hopes and dreams of all the Zionists rode on their final roll of the die. For better or worse, in sickness or health, till death do them part, they were all in it

Taking a leaf out of the pages of the Thirty-Six Stratagems, the desperate and beleaguered Zionists sought their salvation with the fabled Empty Fort Strategy'. Not a single Jewish soul could be found in the Convention. The road to Jerusalem was clear and beckoning.

But where Zhuge Liang succeeded, the Zionists shall fail. Leaving but one odd warrior to hold the fort, they wishfully hoped that Joe Coattails was Horatius Cocles and that his mesmeric rhetoric would halt the heretic horde at the Tiber. Jack can only lament that their fantastical delusions would be better utilised writing science fiction or establishing insanely lucrative new 'reli-

Alea iacta est. Despite an amorous touch of a pair of proxy-delivered roses, Smelldon and Tittybum's harebrained scheme rapidly fell apart at the seams. The overtly partisan Convention roared with approval as the heretics brazenly spouted blasphemy and sacrilege in equal measure. Even Pea Braton's neutralist attempts at tweaking the mon-strous motion was beaten back by successive Emilianic counterstrokes. With virtually the entire Convention bellowing manic approval for their manifesto, Ze Lunatic and his legions soon began to detect the scent of napalm in the morning.

Bureaucratic red tape still remained between the heretics and the apparent victory they craved so badly. The ballot counting would only begin at 6 o'clock. Four hours of anxiety, hair-tearing and fingernail-chewing had to elapse before the heretic horde could sound the death knell of the Zionist resistance.

Would this forceful riposte leave the Zionist front vanquished from the halls of the Union? Jack thinks not. History has shown the Zionists to be resilient and resourceful fighters for their cause; if the murderous Third Reich could not end their existence, mere heretics cannot hope to come anywhere close.

But Jack's sources have let him in on the ghastly prospect of royal intervention. The irreverent Howie has threatened to convene Annapolis Part Deux upon the warring factions, in the hope that the intractable Union-splitting conflict could be ended with a negotiating table and some fireside chats.

Ever the pessimist, Jack has his doubts. But beyond his chronic cynicism, what Jack really has trouble with is the prospect of peace. Controversy is news. Discord is fodder. For Jack, it's conflict or bust.

UGM votes to divest as opposition stays away

» Union officials learn from chaos of previous divestment motion



now been removed. Huet-Vaughn advocated doing something more than simply engaging in dialogue, noting that students want to "act in accordance with the principle of human rights." He went on to say that "we don't want peace alone, we want peace and jus-

tice." Irene Calis, second speaker for the motion, referred to Israel's position as a democratic country, arguing, "democracy cannot be partial." She noted that the motion is "part of a much larger global awareness", invoking historical events such as the dismantling of the Berlin Wall. "There can no peace without justice," Calis told the UGM, saying, "this motion is an investment towards that goal."

Most opponents of the motion decided to boycott the vote altogether. Students who were against the motion organized a campaign encouraging students to reject divestment in favour of investing in things like peace, dialogue and the future. In conjunction with RAG week, the LSE SU Jewish and Israel Societies raised almost £1,000 for the Tel-Aviv based Save a Child's Heart

However, not all agreed with this approach. Joseph Cotterill, first speaker against the motion, said, "this is a debate that must be had." Cotterill argued that "all the resolutions ... are identical to the one two weeks ago" and they remained "morally wrong." Referring to personal experiences in the Israeli town of Sderot, he said, "I've had rockets thrown at me." Cotterill concluded his speech by saying, "we're not Hamas' useful idiots."

Clem Bromley-Young, the second speaker against, argued

it was wrong that the motion had not been drafted together with the Israel Society, but noted that he supported the principle of the motion. Bromley-Young also opposed the tactic of boycott, saying "It's about debate and they should have come here". Very few opponents of the motion were present.

Dan Dolan, who spoke against the previous motion, told The Beaver that "the campaign for this motion [was] fair, balanced and extremely informative ... those campaigning against it did the issue and themselves no justice first by their distasteful love heart theme campaign and then by an ill-advised boycott."

Union officials organised a video link to the New Theatre and instigated a new voting system for last week's UGM following the controversy surrounding the 'Make Apartheid

History' motion. It was that non-LSE students had voted, some students may have filled in multiple ballots, and not all those who wished to vote could enter the Old Theatre. To prevent such issues occurring again, Students' Union Officers allocated the New Theatre for students that couldn't be seated in the Old Theatre. Additionally, attendees were required to show LSE ID before entering the UGM, had their hands stamped on entry and collected their ballot from officials after the UGM. Votes were cast in The Quad.

Fadhil Bakeer-Markar, LSESU General Secretary, told The Beaver that There have been no complaints on the way we ran the UGM last week, and for that a special thank you should be made to all the Sabbs, execs, UGM chair, C&S Chair, Returning officer and volunteers who helped."

ESTEE FRESCO & PATRICK CULLEN

motions pushed through without proper debate in order to ensure there was enough time 'Hold the Israel Accountable' motion at last week's UGM. Motions enshrining the right of the RAG president to address the UGM, mandating General Secretary Fadhil Makeer-Barkar to read poetry at every UGM and mandating Executive Committee members to attend taskforce meetings were all pushed through without debate.

Once the other motions were out of the way Emiliano Huet-Vaughn proposed the 'Hold Israel Accountable -Divest' motion, noting that people had opposed the use of value-laden words in the previ04 Beaver 19 February 2008

NEWS

RAG Week raises over £10,000

HENRY LODGE NEWS EDITOR

RaG week has seen over £10,000 raised for charieties and the RAG collective. The has been some controversy over the separate donations for the three charities of RAG week, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), Orphaids and WaterAid.

However, Jess Cartwright, president of RAG, denied that RAG week was over-politicised, telling The Beaver, "There was no external [to RAG] or political pressure put on us to split up the buckets, we just thought that it would be nice to give the students the opportunity to see more clearly who they were donating to and to give them a little more choice in the matter. As for the politicisation, a little is inevitable – the LSE is a political school, but I don't think it hampered us in any way."

There are a lot of funds that will be pooled and divided equally between the charities, such as the money raised

through the library fines.

When asked if she was worried about beating last year's £28,000, she replied "we're on track for £28,000, and there's still so much more

The week had seen a series of fundraising drives by a number of societies as well as RAG itself. "The societies that did their own thing were absolutely spectacular – both the Islamic society and the Jewish society raised in excess

Society also raised around £1500 during Serve the World Around week, which coincided with RAG Week.

Still to come on the RAG agenda is 'Gunk a Sabb', postponed to this week as the sabbatical officers were busy counting the votes from the UGM divestment motion. Ben Phillips, RAG Secretary, gleefully informed The Beaver that fully informed *The Beaver* that Fadhil is currently leading, but Libby is reportedly a close second. One can still sign up for Jailbreak, which will be happening this weekend, the Paris hitch-hike, which will be the last week of term and the bungee jump at the beginning of the summer term

of the summer term.
"I think that the busking was my favourite event, raising about £65 in an hour and contributing to a great atmosphere on Houghton street," said Cartwright, "the shop was pretty good too. We've got a few things left over."

Particularly successful

Particularly successful were the RAG valentines' roses, which quickly sold out. "That involved a 3am visit to Vauxhall which is where the Covent Garden flower market is. We came back on the 5am bus with all the LSE cleaners." bus with all the LSE cleaners."

When asked about the week's overall success, Cartwright adopted a sober tone: "It was fun, but we didn't raise as much as I'd hoped we would. Although this week has raised its profile, RAG still remains relatively unknown, and I think we could have done more in the way of publicising

When the question of LSE



The RAG Collective: 1-r (top row) President Jess Cartwright, Events Officer Alison Berthet, Raids Officer Ben Jones, (bottom row) Treasurer Annai Patel, Vice President Charlie Samuda, Astrid Brown, Lily Yang, Merchandise Officer Vesna Owusu-Sannah. Absent: Secretary Ben Phillips

students' willingness to donate was raised, the regular issues of lack of campus and the small size of the LSE came up, but she did comment on a certain unwillingness to give: "It was much easier to sell stuff to non-LSE people; two men from Essex readily bought tshirts and they didn't even know what LSE was! There were about 40 people watching the buskers, sitting on the steps, and not one of them donated when I took the bucket round.

Library fines paid during RAG week were donated straight to RAG ever since the Library staff thought up the scheme two years ago. It raised over £1000 - £460 on the first day alone. When asked if she thought the

library would be missing the funds, Cartwright replied, "they can't want them – otherwise they'd have to keep the library open 24 hours a day."

And what of the Plasma TV? Who was the lucky winner? "Err...when I remember where the sweets are - there in a safe place – I'll be sure to let the winner know."

Antonia

Strachev

Assassinates

I have to say that my favourite RAG week event was the Assassins game. I was

assigned a first year, I shall not mention his name for the

sake of his youthful modesty. So, with the offer of a swish

camera phone dangling, I set off to secretly stick a line drawing of a bomb on his

back and declare victory. First port of call was face-

book research to try and

glean information on where

this guy might hang out. It was useless – all I saw was

that he was from Oxford, was

an LSE newbie and liked

beer - wow. I headed to the

Tuns, the Quad and the Shaw

library. By that time, so much

time had been invested I was

damned if this little runt, sorry, young man, was going home unstickered. So I checked every floor of the

library, looking down the

Looking down the rows of

books you would see; stu-

FLICK post grad sprawled out asleep FLICK a boy and girl in intense whispered conversation FLICK an empty

seat FLICK a large pile of

books and box of strawber-

ries abandoned for better

So though I didn't find that

little toad in the end and that

shiny camera phone shifts

from onto the pile of missed

opportunities - something

bout that wandering around

LSE buildings gave me a lit-

tle inkling of that elusive

ampus atmosphere'

rows of books.

LSE Students' Union Teaching Excellence Awards 2007/8

THIS is your opportunity to acknowledge professors, lecturers, tutors, class teachers any member of LSE staff involved in teaching who has inspired you or helped you get to grips with complex or challenging ideas. Closing date is 5pm on 14/03/08. For more information please http://www.lsesu.com/pages/y our_union/awards/teaching_a wards.html or contact Fadhil on su.gensec@lse.ac.uk.

LSE Students' Union Honorary Life Membership

EVERY year 20 students are awarded honorary life memberships of the Students' Union in recognition of their significant contribution to the LSE Students' Union during their time at the School. All registered students are eligible for this award.

Closing date: 5pm on 3/03/08 For further information please visit:http://www.lsesu.com/pag es/your_union/awards/honorary_students.html

The Dev Cropper Memorial Award 2008

Students' Executive Committee offer an annual award of £2500 to a student starting their final year in the next academic year. The principle consideration for the award is contribution to student life during the nominee's first five terms at the LSE.

Closing date: 5pm on 7/03/08 For further information please visit:http://www.lsesu.com/pag es/your_union/awards/dev_cro pper.html or contact Fadhil at su.gensec@lse.ac.uk

23:59:59 - The Final Drive...

LIBRARY Campaign has had significant progress since its launch early this year. The SU will be presenting the paper to the APRC on the 19th. More signatures will make the case stronger. Sign the petition at www.lsesu.com/library24campaign. If you want to get involved in the campaign please contact Fadhil at su.gensec@lse.ac.uk

University Challenge Team Required

THE Students' Union is forming a team for the next series of University Challenge, the BBC quiz competition for university students. Hosted by Jeremy Paxman, the show is considered the toughest quiz competition on television.

Come for the first written selection test on Monday 3rd March at 6pm in the Quad.

Register by emailing Fadhil at Su.gensec@lse.ac.uk

The Highs and Lows of RAG Week



» RAGathon

Perhaps the most surreal and gruelling of the events during RAG week, PuLSE broadcasted 24 hours a day for the entirety of RAG week. As Dan Dolan put it, "it was disorientating, body-breaking and at times spirit-crushing. It was ultimately, a lot of fun.



» Busking

With Ozzie Rogers & Russ Banfi on guitar, Adie Kaye on double-bass and and Daryl Li on Sax, the Houghton street buskers pulled in an impressive £65 in just one hour on



» Miss Bankside

Emily Fu Organised Miss Bankside 2008. Undeterred by the lack of model agency scouts, contestants performed a talent each, with Avi Meyers proudly claiming the tiara at the end of the night, following an impressive violin/ harmonica/beatbox routine. The night raised between £150 to £200.



» RAG Roses

One of the most successful ventures of the week was the rose stall. RAG provided valentines roses for £1.50 each, which sold out extremely quickly.



» Blind Dating

Valentines' was not just for the couples, as far as RAG was concerned, and a sixteen person, one minute each round of blind speed dating sought to pair off the singles. "It was quite ridiculous, I had to tell everyone to stop touching me,' said contestant Carys Morgan



» RAG Shop

The RAG stall on Houghton street sold London School of Alcoholics T-shirts and pint glasses, 'RAG me baby' and 'RAG me senseless' T-shirts, badges and other goodies. .



» Knitathon

A 24-hour knit was organised in the quad, and people were invited to guess the length of the scarf to be made. The winner, Hannah Gomersal received the scarf. Sigrid Gelati-Meinert, president of the Knitting Society, said it "Went really well. It ended up being 3metres and 2 centimetres.'

Charlotte Rabate



» RAG Reels

A series of short films, loosely based around the theme 'a gift were submitted to LooSE TV, and voted on by donation. 1st place went to 'The Man Who Stalked Too Much', by

New Union building proposed

ALEX JONES

he LSE Students' Union (LSESU) has submitted a proposal for a new Student's Union building. The document criticises the facilities currently available and follows the School's positive reac-tion to the LSESU's request for a new building during recent discussions over the Union's facilities.

The new building would benefit the cramped media group and create new entertainment and social areas. The document also recognises an anticipated movement of the centre of campus away from Houghton Street towards Lincoln's Inn Fields when the New Academic Building opens. The new building, which the school have agreed in principle to build, is most likely to be located near the with St Phillips buildings.

LSESU General Secretary Fadhil Bakeer-Markar said the aim of the proposal is "to highlight every little bit of our union and say how it works, what the trend is, how it can benefit the students in the future, and what's wrong with it now...after you've done that you can make a judgement on what is needed."

"This has not been created over night...we have been speaking with our sabbatical colleagues, commercial service managers, the media groups...I know PuLSE wants more space, The Beaver wants more

Speaking to The Beaver LooSE TV President Chun HanWong was keen to stress the the channel's desperate need for more space. "Ideally we want our own room or studio because right now we are sharing our office with PuLSE, and it's not ideal, because basically we have only got one desk." This then decreases the number of members who get involved says Wong:

The desk in the PuLSE studio is "not a place you want to hang out and talk about film ideas or things like that. Getting our own room would probably go a long way in solving the problem of people signing up to take part but never

really getting involved."

Kevin Perry, Executive Editor of The Beaver, wants basically a lot more space. The health and safety reports on the current Beaver office universally say that we're facing



The overcrowded Beaver office in the East Building

imminent death every time we work there. There are far too many computers and we are basically far too big for our office now. I would prefer to keep the paper close to wherever the Student Union was operating from, but it really is going to be very difficult for The Beaver to expand and to be as good and inclusive as it could be if it doesn't get any more

"But it's not just about the amount of space" says Bakeer Markar, "it's also about how best can we use the space we have". For example "the copy shop is not accessible now, the shop upstairs is not accessible, my office is not accessible, The Beaver is not accessible."

Perry pointed out that "a big issue at the moment is the

fact that disabled students simply cannot get to The Beaver office, the Pulse studio or the General Secretary's

The hope is that the new St Phillips site will provide a centre with a much better design, more suited to fulfilling its

Gethin Roberts, General Manager of the LSESU,

explained the origins of the current Union space, "none of it was actually designed for its purpose, The Three Tuns and Underground were designed as a car park and the quad is knocked together bits of what was an external courtyard and various rooms around

"This makes managing the area extremely hard. For example, the pipes that run from the cellar are unmanageably long, explaining the poor show of real ales on offer. This is actually one of the areas that are growing in the student market and we can't really tap into that because we don't have the facilities," explained Roberts.

Another hope is that any new building could provide more facilities for alcohol free socialising. "Clearly student's habits are changing. Students want coffee, they want juice bars; they want non alcoholic social events," said Roberts.

He continued, "Things like Islamic society events have to be held in the quad even though it has a little bar tucked away in the corner. Most stu-dents are fine with this but for some it is unacceptable."

LSE Traders' Cup Controversy: £1000 grand prize unclaimed, contestant disqualified

DEOTIMA MUKHERJEE

he LSE Trader's Cup, a stock-trading challenge organized by the Finance and Investment Societies and sponsored by HSBC and BullBearings, which ran from early November 2007 to mid January 2008 has ended with an unclaimed £1000 prize, and allegations of mass cheating amid the disqualification of a

competitor. The Beaver has learnt that an LSE student competing in the Trader's Cup was disqualified for cheating, and that such behaviour is not only usual in competitions like the Trader's Cup, but that the Cup was dogged by cheating on a large scale and, rumours insist, of hacking that sought to break into BullBearings' controls. As a result of the controversy, sponsor HSBC cancelled the award-giving ceremony, reducing it to a meet and greet with sandwiches and drinks.

Sanjiy Nanwani, Co-Head of External Partnerships for the Finance Society confirmed that there had been an LSE student who cheated, going on to make astronomical profits. However, BullBearings, which provided the trading platform, detected foul play in his transactions and informed him of his disqualification.

Nanwani explained how the student had taken advantage of a time lag between the internet stock information and actual stock information. The trading platform BullBearings provided for the

information received through the internet on current market conditions. However, such live information received through the net is always delayed by 15-20 minutes and most trading websites have this as a disclaimer on their sites. The disqualified participant had access to a live feed of information at the London Stock Exchange, which he used to base his trading on, making up to 400% profit.

"BullBearings will study how to avoid such situations in future and have asked for our input on improving future trading platforms"

> Finance Society Statement

Monitors at BullBearings spotted something was wrong when they inspected the transactions of the competitors. This student had always traded in the 20 minute intervals between an old and a new feed. Had the results been random or unprofitable, the student might not have been noticed. However, he was the highestscorer by far and nearly all of his trades were netting high profits. When the competitor was contacted by BullBearings he admitted this was the case, but denied that it was cheat-

BullBearings disqualified him anyway, as the use of live information broke the rules of the Cup. The student then approached Fadhil Bakeer-Markar, General Secretary of the Student Union (SU), to complain about the disqualification. According to the student, he had used his acumen to help him make bigger profits his skills should be applauded, not criticised. He also told Bakeer-Markar that unless the Finance Society addressed this issue immediately he would be compelled to take his complaint to Howard Davies, Director of the School.

The Finance and Investment Society issued a statement to the SU Sabbatical Officers stating that the student "was disqualified from the trading game by BullBearings ... This was done as he violated game rules by exploiting time-lag arbitrage. This was detected after an extensive review of his trading patterns and trans-action records. This is clearly an unfair strategy that violates the educational spirit of the game. The game was designed to reward an individual's investment acumen and appropriate risk-management behaviour; not to recognize those who had unfairly obtained access to real-time data and consequentially used it to make trading decisions without so much as an iota of risk. ... While we recognize his desire to champion the challenge, we surely cannot tolerate, let alone reward, such

Julian Von-Marten, President of the Finance Society, explained that this practice of taking advantage of differences in prices of identical stocks wasn't necessarily illegal in the market, but did break the rules of the Cup. He also said "such practices are not uncommon and nearly every trading competition has at least one participant who tries to cheat this way." Von-Marten echoed the opinions of Nanwani, saying that they didn't feel it was necessary for the other participants or committee members outside the Cup to be informed of the incident.

Problems escalated further when it was discovered that the genuine winner of the first prize had given a fictitious name to register in the competition. Nanwani said that "it was BullBearings' responsibility to verify the status of competitors as current students of LSE but since they hadn't done any checks, no one came forward to claim the grand prize" of £1000 and a day of experience on the trading floor of BullBearings. To date, no one has been able to contact the prize-winner. BullBearings is still deciding whether to move the prizes down to the next high scorer in line.

The Finance Society maintains, "BullBearings will study how to avoid such situations in the future and have asked for our input on improving future trading platforms. We would like to continue working with them on it. We think this event was a success on the whole and look forward to organizing more in the future."

General Secretary candidate criticised

HENRY LODGE NEWS EDITOR

eneral Secretary candidate Stephen Wall has offended the disabled community at LSE with some of his comments made at a Taught Graduate Students Consultative Forum Tuesday, 5 February.

Jean Jameson, the LSE advisor to students with disability or dyslexia said, "I was concerned that someone would still use terms such as "handicapped" and question the validity of improving physical access around the school, particularly as he later identified himself as a general secretary candidate. He needs to remember that it's not easy to count the people with limited mobility as not all disabilities are vis-

Speaking to The Beaver, Wall explained: "The inaccessibility of certain parts of certain older buildings was stressed, implying that resources should be directed towards the eradication of such. Of course I agreed with the importance of such a claim, but I felt, as a representative of all students, that it should be highlighted that this issue, while of great importance, is one of many pressing issues of concern on campus that need to be addressed. In that light, particularly with resources in LSE pressingly finite, claims on those resources must be carefully weighed out of fairness to all students on campus.

"I apologize if my comments were open to misinterpretation; they, sincerely, were not intended to cause offence. My intention was to highlight that with the current mire LSE is wallowing in (Academic Support, Sports, Campus Services & Facilities, etc) we must weigh up the plethora of claims on our collective resources, which includes, of course, the very strong claims for widened disabled access. I believe it is both a representative's right, and their duty, in representing all students, to be both moral and pragmatic in

"I was concerned that someone would still use terms such as handicapped"

Jean Jameson LSE advisor to students with disability or dyslexia

The LSE's policy on disability is in line with the special educational needs and disability act of 2001 (SENDA) and involves "Maximising accessibility to the School's services and activities for staff, students, alumni, visitors, and prospective staff and students with disabilities, and to ensure that no-one is treated less favourably on the ground of disability.", as well as "Reviewing, monitoring and revising, as appropriate, all School systems, procedures, facilities, services and buildings in compliance with the disability discrimination act of 1995 and SENDA in addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA), which includes the right not be denied access to education."

»Comment page 7

"Green" council to be set up at the LSE

RAJAN PATEL SENIOR REPORTER

Howard Davies is to chair a new School committee focusing on environmental issues and sustainability on campus and in halls of residence.

The 'Sustainable LSE Partnership' will bring together senior management figures and academics from across the School. The new group is expected to report to Council—the School's governing body—and will develop a clear strategy for pushing sustainability forward on campus.

The group's membership and terms of reference have yet to be released, but the LSE Students' Union (LSESU) Environment and Ethics Officer has been invited onto the committee. The outgoing LSESU Residences' Officer, Louise Robinson, stated that the Residences Officer and the LSE's Head of Residential Services will also be members.

Robinson said, "Howard Davies' chairmanship of this committee clearly illustrates a strong and welcome commitment towards the environment on the part of the School".

Victoria Hands, the LSE's environmental and sustainability manager, said that past progress on sustainability had been led by motivated individuals, such as student and staff sustainability champions, or individual departments.

She said, "This new structure will make sure that action on sustainability is top down, from Howard Davies, and bottom up, from students and societies. It will encompass the whole of the School, so that everyone has ownership and responsibility...it's about mainstreaming sustainability."

Hands has managed the LSE's environmental policy almost single-handedly for several years. She welcomed the School's decision to create three extra, full time posts dealing with sustainability issues and carbon management – for the next academic year.

Since the School's adop-

"Howard Davies' chairmanship of this committee clearly illustrates a strong and welcome commitment towards the environment on the part of the School"

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Louise Robinson} \\ \text{LSESU Residences'} \\ \text{Officer} \end{array}$

tion of an environmental policy in April 2005, progress has been made on environmental issues. Last year, People and Planet judged the LSE to be the greenest university in London, awarding it a 2.1 for overall environmental performance.

The LSE now recycles 50 per cent of its office waste and is implementing reuse schemes in halls of residence to reduce weets.

However, Hands noted that there are still areas where more could be done.

The School is considering a pilot installation of electricity meters in bedrooms in Grosvenor House hall of residence. Metering students for their electricity use would "reward responsible behaviour" and might help initiate "positive behavioural change".

Such a scheme might cost up to £75,000 to install and Hands acknowledged that its payback period would be "uncertain", but the specification for any new hall of residence would include individual metering.

Certification for all LSE graduates in general sustainability and environmental awareness is also a possibility.

Hands suggested that the School's targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions by ten per cent within five years were insufficiently challenging. The ability to discount carbon

emissions generated by using green energy could cause misleading underestimation of emissions and Hands called for a reassessment of the government's rules for measuring emissions.

The School had also "missed a trick" by not installing photo-voltaic panels or wind turbines in the New Academic Building. She acknowledged that the technology might not be financially viable, but argued that the School "owed it to its students" to demonstrate renewable energy generation in action.

energy generation in action.

Hands is hopeful that "senior management leadership [on sustainability] will mean that we'll consider all opportunities for making progress". She also urged students "to behave in a socially responsible manner" on campus.

Aled Fisher, LSE Students' Union Environment and Ethics Officer, said, "The Sustainable LSE Partnership will have a vital role in the next few year's of ensuring the environment is taken into account in every area of the university's operations, and particularly that new buildings are made to the highest sustainable standards right from the start. I am glad that there will be student voices in the Sustainable LSE Partnership and hope that our views continued to be heard over the coming years"

Putin closes anti-Kremlin university

ALEX JONES

The Kremlin has been accused of attacking academic freedom in Russia after one of the country's top universities was closed last week

The European University of St Petersburg was forced to suspend teaching as officials claimed the historic buildings were a "fire risk". All academic work has been stalled, all class rooms shut, and the library locked up.

Academics at the university

Academics at the university have said that the move was politically motivated, and in response to a row last year over an EU funded programme designed to improve monitoring of Russia's elections. The £500,000 grant enabled the university to advise political parties on how to conduct fair elections.

The Russian President, Vladmir Putin, charged the University with being an agent of foreign meddling and a couple of months later their academic council abandoned the project.

Maxim Reznik, leader of the St Petersburg opposition party Yabloko, argued the "this hasn't got anything to do with fire risk. The University was carrying out important work in connection with election monitoring. Now it is being punished for it." He added that "We are observing a change in the political regime in Russia from authoritarianism to totalitarianism. What happened here is one example among many."

The private university was founded in 1994 under the initiative of Mayor Anatoly Sobchak, and is now considered to be one of Russia's best. It is known for its western-educated staff and progressive views. It wants to integrate Russian scholarship with Europe and the US, especially at a time when the two are becoming increasingly detached.



The reasons for shuting down the European Univesity of St. Petersburg are thought to be political

Outlook for Ireland bleak according to Sutherland » LSE Chair responds to criticism of his role at BP

HUGH DANIEL

Peter Sutherland gave a talk on the future of the Irish economy and its public policy to members of the LSE Irish Society last week.

GOVERNEY

Sutherland spoke on controversial issues such immigration, free education, and taxation.

Sutherland put forward a pessimistic argument. He suggested that the two fundamental drivers of growth in the Irish economy were the dismantling of barriers to trade within the EU in the nineties, and the low rate of Corporation Tax enjoyed by Irish based companies. Sutherland's pessimism is derived from above inflation wage increases, and other increases in the cost of doing business in Ireland that have decreased the net savings that firms enjoy from the low rate in corporate tax; thus, decreasing the benefit of locating in Ireland. In discussing the benefits of the single market, Sutherland also stressed the benefits of immigration to Ireland and its economy.

During questioning Sutherland was challenged on the apparent inconsistency between his support for low corporate tax, and his Europhile credentials. Sutherland argued that fiscal competition was important for the EU. He also emphasised that having a low corporate tax system was not the only way to increase productivity and com-



Peter Sutherland gave a speech to the members of LSE Irish Society last week.

petitiveness. He cited Denmark as enjoying good economic performance, while retaining high-levels of tax. Mr. Sutherland stressed that he was talking about Corporate and not Personal Tax.

On education Sutherland noted that the Irish education system had not changed dramatically since the 1970s. And thus, could not be deemed a deciding factor in the birth of the Celtic Tiger. He was critical of the lack of investment in university education, and noted the very low rankings that Irish universities receive. With second-rate infrastructure, poorly funded universities and ill-disciplined public wage agreements, Sutherland accused the government of lacking the leadership to make tough decisions. However, Sutherland suggested the root of the problem originates from the structure of the political system. He argued that Ireland's 'Proportional Representation STV' system does not encourage leadership on macro-level issues. In fact, it encourages politicians to avoid debating difficult issues.

In responding to criticism of his role at BP, Sutherland said that he welcomed the debate amongst the students of the LSE. Indeed, he said that he would expect no less from an institution of debate and learning. However, Sutherland argued that BP was almost topof-the-class amongst oil companies with regards to environmental issues. BP has invested heavily in Bio-Fuels. He also mentioned that he had been asked onto an EU-level committee to look into implementing the Stern Report because of BP's reputation on the environment. But, he noted that as an oil company 'you are always going to be criticised'. Sutherland argued that there would be untold death, and suffering if there were an immediate halt in the supply fossil fuels. On BP's safety record, Sutherland conveyed his sorrow regarding the tragedy at Texas City. He men-tioned that it happened at a site that BP inherited from AMOCO following a merger. He said that BP were making a big effort to introduce its culture of safety there.

During dinner after the talk, Sutherland spent a number of hours discussing the LSE with six students. They reported that he seemed very committed to serving the School, and doing his bit to improve the college for students during his term as Chair.

New academic building will be finished by July

DAVID WOODBRIDGE

oncerns about the progress of the construction of the New Academic Building (NAB) are largely unfounded, according to those responsible for the project

Work began on the NAB in May 2006, with Director Howard Davies claiming that the finished building will "provide LSE with an academic environment consistent with its academic reputation." Any suggestion, however, that the projected completion date of July this year would not be met has been dismissed by the School, though some inside sources have suggested September is a more realistic date.

Julian Robinson, the Director of Planning & Development and with overall responsibility for the development of the NAB, said that the project was on budget and that the building would be ready for occupation in October of this year as set out in priority 4 of the School's strategic plan. He also pointed out that all such information regarding the progress of the NAB could be located on the relevant subsection of the School's website, along with committee reports.

Geoffrey Osborne Ltd., the contractors responsible for the actual construction work on the NAB, refused comment. "We have no policy regarding press enquiries" a spokesperson said. Interviews with some of the builders, however, revealed that there were no concerns on the ground as to the progress being made. Two, who were in the process of glazing, told this reporter that, as far as they were concerned, the work was proceeding in an "okay fash-ion" with "no real problems" being encountered.

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COMMENT ZANALYSIS

The marvels of the LSE library



Gary Quinn

y old university boasted few points on which it could say it surpassed the LSE. But it certainly had one; the provision of computers. It was decreed in University College Dublin, that wherever computers would be provided for student access it would be done in sized classroom labs. Irritatingly, this meant one would often have to travel up, down and across campus looking for a room with a vacancy. However, it also meant that when a room filled up, an orderly queue formed at its periphery, which would lead out the door, into the corridor and snake around the building before heading off into the

The planners at LSE, however, were momentarily smitten by a case of Soviet gigantism whereupon the contention was held that a series of classrooms filled with computers paled pathetically when compared to an arena sized computer lab. Thus the Lionel Robbins Computer Stadium was erected to critical acclaim widespread anxiety, though apparently sponsorship from BP was refused.

The extraordinary design of the Lionel Robbins Library leaves many student more than just baffled; injured and frustrated also come to mind

What a wonderful spectre those computers cut, with majestic monitors shinning incandescent; such a pity, then, that this little architectural experiment proved to be a concentrated disaster.

A short time ago, with half an hour to spare until class started, I ventured towards the computer stadium to see what societies were intent on making my inbox chafe that day. Choosing the most ridiculous stairs ever constructed as my avenue (I would love to hear from someone who has actually figured out how to use these, or at least confirm that someone forgot to remove them on April 1st), I arrived, with a limp, trying to remember how to walk on a flat surface. In the corner of my eye I spotted a blue screen dazzling with pride in the artificial light, so I hobbled towards it apace, but alas, was beaten by a fleetfooted competitor. Stout, and full of heart, I re-collected myself, stood firm, and surveyed my surroundings. At that instance there were no free computers. I assessed my antagonists. Some looked swift, while others hovered like vultures awaiting carrion.

Instantly, an opening presented itself close to the stairs. I inhaled and accelerated, before being warded off by a girl who had just entered the arena. My heart sank with injustice. And another, this

I started to notice all those patrons (ab)using the facilities. One particular criminal was sitting at a desk, yet using his

laptop.

time on the far side. Again I ran, but an adversary who had adopted the peculiar strategy of waiting in one area got the better of me. This cycle proved repetitive. The sands of time poured against me. My anger

All around me computers were being liberated only to be enslaved just as quickly. It was then I started to notice all those patrons (ab)using the facilities. One particular criminal was sitting at a desk, yet using his laptop. The outrage that machine must have felt as she sat there under-utilised, gazing jealously. Another transgressor enjoyed a threeconversation, which would've found an intellectual companion in Fahrenheit 9/11. His PC operated at 0% capacity. I ran into a friend of mine suffering the same fate. Exchanging forlorn glances, each of us was too aggrieved to attempt conversation. Time ticked on.

Hundreds used Facebook. Dozens of desks sat unoccupied while the flashing monitors transmitted an unintelligible yet ominous code that read 'brb'. I avoided them out of fear of the unknown. Someone in one row was on ask.com, asking precisely 'who is Peter Sutherland?' Still a fruitless endeavour. I would be in the library all night at this rate; little wonder there's a twenty four hour campaign. Many frustrated heads stared at LSE For You. Sitting abreast one workstation were the skeletal remains of a human; the computer in front still hadn't finished logging into the LSE network.

There were two more people reading biographies of Peter Sutherland, while a third sat gaping at a webpage entitled, 'Peter Southerland: the reason abortion is illegal in Ireland!' An uncomfortable individual conspicuously conspicuously viewed a page with the odd name of 'how to re-invent a UGM.' Barely a foot away, a user sat eagle-eyed in front of a DIY webpage: 'On destroying a nation and pushing its inhabitants into the sea.' This was for a class called 'Biblical cartography re-visited' assumed.

The darkness descended upon me in smothering force. My time was up. I prepared to retreat as my legs braced themselves for the hike up the stairs. Surrendering, I quickly

glanced at one girl's A4 pad. It was divided into two columns, and each column was designated a title: 'fascism' and 'apartheid'. What an interesting history course I thought to myself. I looked at her screen. I had never heard of the webwww.using-historicalparallels.com. Right then her phone rang. What website will I have a look at', she asked. Some mumbling followed on the other end. 'Oh cool, I'll write that down now...Quotes from US Presidents that even a leftist can use.'

From the top of the stairs, I gave my piston-like legs a chance to re-group, and scrutinised the arena. So many heads, working apace, driving in overtime, plotting and planning. Pity none of them are interested in more computers.



Balancing resources With political correctness set aside, a calm and



Steve Wall

while well intentioned, sometimes invades the sanctity of the truth; whether or not such truths are sensitive ones should not shield them from a reasonable degree of moral pragmatism. However, recent comments made by me, in relation to resources contributed to widening disabled access, have been misinterpreted. In this article, I will explain the context in which these comments were made, going on to relate them to the wider problems the School is facing; problems which need to be addressed to arrest the embarrassing decline, evident

in all recent tables, of LSE. At the meeting, the Advisor to Students with Disabilities/Dyslexia, quite rightly, stressed the importance of the continuation of widening access for disabled students on campus; while most buildings are now accessible, certain parts of certain buildings are not. No reasonable person could object, obviously. All that I asked was this: that the urgent claims of disabled students should be

balanced analysis can be made as to the priorities of resource allocation in the School

weighed against all the other pressing needs on campus, which affect all students, while at the same time complying with any law on the statute book.

Resources in the School, as we are painfully aware, are tight. On these resources, there are many competing claims: library improvements, sports facilities, building maintenance, scholarships, and so forth; widening access to the disabled is obviously one of the most urgent among these claims. However, let me be clear here; a moralistic tone is, categorically, not a trump card in an argument about how to allocate resources between competing claims, and should not be used, by implication or otherwise, as such. It is, moreover, beholden upon representatives, that in being elected to represent all students' interests - able-bodied and disabled - that we should not be cowed; we must be moral pragmatists.

Moving to a wider context. value for money (cost versus experience) at LSE is utterly pathetic; I know, from countless conversations, that many similarly. International students in particular, paying in excess of \$30,000 of tuition a year, are being short-changed; on our architecturally brilliant, but

a moralistic tone is, categorically, not a trump card in an argument about how to allocate resources between competing claims

otherwise madhouse library; on our thoroughly under-whelming sports facilities; on campus security; on class sizes and office hours. Has our pot of gold been spent on some kind of magic beans? This seems the most plausible explanation based on campus evidence.

We must demand, as a Union, more transparency, input and rationality (not to mention generosity- annual fund; brace yourself!) in relation to resource allocation. The reason, in passing, for this campus malaise: bureaucracy and red tape, of which the participants seem to take some kind of vicarious pleasure in; meetings should be considered a necessary evil, justified and judged only by their delivery of results. A direct, dynamic approach is now urgently required.

I write this article in fear; fear of shameless manipulation by my opponents. I write it regardless, because I think it is important. With elections looming, people should be free to stand up for what they consider to be the truth. Witness the stark contrast here with the cynical, idealistic, sycophantic pandering to vested interests and politically orientated societies that is depressingly common in the 'politics' of our Union (which is, lest we forget, a charity.) Our Union has always had, and always should have, a vigorous interest in politics; it should have open, frank debate leading to constructive, peace-orientated initiatives where it is deemed

appropriate by all the students of LSE. It should not, however, be explicitly political, and this will be particularly apposite when choosing among often-times explicitly (insofar as affiliations go) political candidates for the next Union.

As I've said throughout, the need for increased access for those with disabilities on campus is of urgent importance; it is, however, evidently not the only matter of urgency on campus. In passing, I would also say this: we cannot outsource our morality and conscience to the provision of ramps and lifts. We need, in addition to these, a sea-change in attitudes towards the disabled, which respects them as equal moral persons. At the weekly UGM for instance, the gulf between the feckless heckling of Officers and Sabbaticals contrasted with the almost patronising silence

and applause afforded the Students with Disabilities Officer is readily redolent of our inherent hypocrisy; equality of banter is needed, if you will. So, moving forward, we need to see the following. The continuing and gradual widening of disabled access allied to an attitudinal change in that regard, happening concurrently to a new zeal and focus applied to campus-wide tackling of administrative, academic support and service deficiencies. I think both can be adequately achieved next year, with a strong Union, focused first and foremost on campus issues; an overtly political Union will, ultimately fail. I apologise to anyone who may have been offended by the reportage of my original comments, but I ask for them to be understood, sincerely, in the light of the context demonstrated in this article.



COMMENTS

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Still three years to go



Nichole Rousseau-McAllister

n February 2007, Abdul Kareem Nabeel Suleiman, who online used the name Kareem Amer, was sentenced to four years in prison in Alexandria, Egypt. His crime? His blog. He received three years for 'contempt of religion' and one year for 'defaming the President of Egypt.' In his blog, Kareem promoted secularism and gender equality, as well as being highly critical of Islam, his religious university, and President Hosni Mubarak. He never hosted huge public ral-lies or even incited the public through rousing speeches; what he did was to go home and write on his blog. He was not charged for actions, but found guilty of words.

While in prison, Kareem has been tortured by both fellow inmates and by prison guards. After being attacked by an inmate, prison officials moved him to solitary confinement where they restrained and subjected him to physical violence and mental humiliation. As Egypt is a signatory of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the United Nations Anti-Torture Treaty, Kareem's

The continued imprisonment of the Egyptian blogger, Abdul Kareem, demonstrates the precarious situation that so many activists face

assault puts the country in violation of these international treaties.

There are over 112 million blogs worldwide. Blogging is an attractive exercise of free

He believed so much in what he was saying, in secularism and women's rights, that he did not care who knew it.

speech in politically restricted countries. where demonstrations are neither encouraged, nor protected. In the Middle East especially, blogging has acquired a cult following, where people — the youth in particular — can use it as not only as an alternative

media outlet, but also as a social networking tool. The additional appeal of blogging is the natural anonymity the internet offers; an individual can be anyone or nobody at the same time. He or she can write freely and express his or her thoughts, no matter what they may be, without fear. However, Kareem was different; because he had the foolishness (or bravery) not to hide behind his computer screen, he posted his real name, his email address, his photo, and his telephone number. He believed so much in what he was saying, in secularism and women's rights, that he did not care who knew it. Rather than technologically setting people free, Kareem's blog and his words became evidence and justification against him and allowed a government against the freedom of speech to prosecute

Kareem's case was the first time the Egyptian government officially sentenced someone simply for blogging. It sends the message that an individual's thoughts are not truly his or her own, that even in the informal and amateur setting

Iraq were stoked. Sunni versus

this national identity is unten-

able. The Iraqi police and

armed forces have been shaken

by numerous rumours of units

answering first to their tribal

leaders and second to the gov-

ernment apparatus. How can a government function if civil

servants' loyalties lie outside

it? It can't, because the

Western democratic nation-

state is incompatible in a

Middle East with conservative,

Muslim, tribal cultures. So

what is the solution to the Iraq

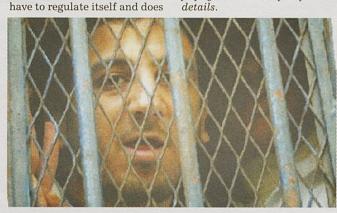
Federalise it. Create in its

But now we can see that

Shia. Kurd versus Arab.

of blogging, one must be care-

ful of what one says and does, but it does not stop there. Even more worrisome, last week, 20 of the 22 members of the Arab League adopted a charter which tightens state control over the media. In very broad and in very vague terms, the charter empowers the state to penalise media outlets which the state deems as having upset or offended the political and religious sentiment; the charter additionally states that the media "should not damage" social harmony, national unity, public order or traditional values." In particular, this is targeted at satellite TV stations (Al Jazeera, Al Arabiya), as a satellite TV station does not



Kareem, a secular activist remains behind bars in Egypt

Federalism for Iraq



Andre **Tartar**

he fate of Iraq looms larger than ever as we wade into the fray of Election 2008. The Democratic presidential candidates are pushing for troop withdrawals while the Republican frontrunners are performing a precarious balancing act between "staying the course" and a gradual downsizing. But even if American troops stay forever, the true problem of Iraq will not be solved.

Post-war plans for Iraq were straightforward: stabilise the country and consolidate a new (democratically-elected) government in Baghdad. Sounds simple enough. But then the situation descended what can only be described as a quagmire. I can hardly claim to be an

With historic borders drawn up to maximise internal conflict, the future of a stable Iraq may lie derive from federalism and decentralisation

dalliances with history books have taught me a thing or two

Thus the fires of ethnic ten-Iraqologist, but my sporadic sions and religious hatred in

about why stability in Iraq remains evasive. Modern Iraq only came into being when the victors of the First World War, Britain and France, took it upon themselves to carve up the decrepit Ottoman Empire. In a few short months, Anatolia, the Arabian Peninsula, the Levant, and Mesopotamia were segmented into artificial countries by a few lines drawn on a map. Hence was born Iraq. But the borders were not drawn quite as arbitrarily as I imply. The imperial nation-makers deliberately chose to juxtapose long-time rival tribes within national boundaries, to ensure against any universal uprising.

stead three autonomous regions (Kurdish north, Sunni centre, Shia south) under a disempowered central government. Allow the Kurds and Shias to control their oil wealth instead of funnelling it all to Baghdad and give each region its own police force, thereby synchronising state and ethnic loyalties; recognitions only the Kurds have been so far given. Create a central government with an equal voice for each group, whose main responsibilities are limited to national security coordination, infrastructure linkages, foreign policy, and the central bank. Naturally, this

may require some population

relocations to ethnically homogenise the regions along the aforementioned ethnic lines. Such a configuration will likely be decried as a leap backwards for "integration" and "unity"; but these terms have no meaning for groups whose mutual suspicions go back centuries.

The January/February 2008 cover of The Atlantic



in the Middle East, ethnicity and religion are more powerful than nationality

Monthly depicts a redrawn map of the region with such entities as Kurdistan, the Sunni Republic of Iraq, the Shiite Islamic State of Iraq, and even a Hezzbolahstant, Hamas-led Islamic Emirate of Gaza, and Syrian Druzistan. Intended for a more satiric interpretation, it does speak to an underlying reality in the region. That in the Middle East, ethnicity and religion are more powerful than nationality. But such a repolarisation may be geopolitically unpalatable. Only days ago, Kosovo made history as the first region to declare independence because of ethnic tension, the Iraqi Kurds may want to follow suit. But no Kurdistan would be complete without their Turkish kin; a secession that Turkey will not tolerate. Iran may attempt to woo the oil-rich Shia Iraqi south, but then Saudi Arabia would be faced with an increasingly assertive Iran on its borders.

not have to conform to the

norms which a national TV

the situation; it is not about what Kareem said, but whether he has the right to

express what he believes is

true and to share his individ-

ual truths with the world.

Kareem is in prison for three

more years for his blogging.

The situation is not limited to

just Kareem because with the

recent signing of the charter by the Arab League it raises the

question if the Middle East is really protecting freedom of

speech and its seekers of truth.

A small group of LSE students have organised a rally

for Kareem outside the Egyptian Embassy, 26 South

Street, W1K 1DW, on Friday 22 February at 2:00pm. Email

j.r.pugh@lse.ac.uk for further

Reflecting on the charges brought against him, Kareem said, "I am just a seeker of the truth." And this is the heart of

station must do.

A federal Iraq may likely be the only solution that staves off regional chaos and even the resurgence of an Islamic Caliphate, much desired by many in the Iraqi insurgency.



Even with Iraq's flag replaced, lasting peace seems far off

Beaver

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The Beaver is available in alternative formats.

he views and opinions expressed in The Beaver are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors or the LSE Students' Union.

Beaver

Established 1949 - Issue 682

Exercising freedoms...

...requires tolerance and open minds

The Jewish Chronicle recently declared that the LSE is a place where Jewish students are "afraid to openly express themselves." Furthermore, argued the leader writer, the School is a place where, "day after day, an atmosphere of virulent anti-Zionism that veers towards anti-Semitism is intimidating underand post-graduates to an unacceptable degree". Is this actually the case?

Certainly the School does not play host to vocal members of hapless far-right parties like the BNP. Our students do not fear violence or any physical threat on campus from their fellows on the grounds of ethnicity or political views.

Israel's occupation of Palestine is a controversial and contentious issue, but it is wrong to confuse criticism of a government's policy with hatred for a people. The LSE has no place for racism or violence, but it is a place where freedom of speech and the right to debate issues must be paramount.

Such debate can be heated, but heated debate should not intimidate people who, after all, are academics or students at one of the most prestigious educational institutions in the world. Students have brains, and wit, and skill at using both, and should not be browbeaten by rhetoric. There is no reason to fear discussion, as we all have the right to our own opinions – and to espouse them

Racism of any kind should not be tolerated, that much is clear. It is, however, not the case that the LSE has an atmosphere that oppresses and represses. Yet that does not mean that we can lower our guard; we must work against any emerging circumstance that bars anyone from openly expressing themselves. The last word should go to Hanna Fisher, secretary of the Jewish Society, who told *The Jewish Chronicle* that "free speech and academic inquiry are the lifeblood of the LSE — but so too are tolerance, understanding and a genuinely international student body"

Elections beckon...

...and every vote counts

Clinton or Obama, McCain or Huckabee. The flurry of electoral excitement that has captured the imagination of the American people may have left the Jed Bartlet believers amongst you feeling left out.

But contrary to popular belief, democracy (as seen on TV) can be found beyond the land of the free and the home of the brave. Even here in Britain, and of course, where else but the LSE Students' Union.

The nomination closed last night for this year's LSESU sabbatical and executive positions, and a full list of all the candidates is now available online at the LSESU Media Group elections newsblog, www.votesu08.com

Working together with Pulse Radio and LooSE TV, we'll be able to bring you inside information, soundbites and video footage of the various electoral races every step of the way.

Over the coming two weeks we'll be featuring exclusive interviews with all the candidates, behind-the-scenes information on

election strategies and much more.

You too can have your say about the way the races unfold.

Opportunities will be abound for students to leave comments and opinion quips on the website. The election experience can be

shaped and enhanced with your invaluable input.

Contribute insightful posers to candidates. Leave no stone unturned on their campaign promises and political track record. Filter through the hype, hearsay and heckling and arrive at your own conclusions on the merits of each prospective Union executive officer. Empower yourself with Media Group elections cover-

tive officer. Empower yourself with Media Group elections coverage and ensure that you are an informed and educated voter before you cast your ballot.

Your decision makes a difference. Let not your indifference or apathy be the foundation of a decaying Union, poisoned by the

Your decision makes a difference. Let not your indifference or apathy be the foundation of a decaying Union, poisoned by the election of inept officers. Let your vote be one that steers the Union on to being a vibrant Union that is relevant and enriching for all students.

Letters to the Editor

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

"ethical investment"

Dear Sir,

We are pleased that LSE students have taken a step in the right direction voting with a seven to one margin to support divestment from the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands. This was a historic step in the struggle for human rights and equality in Israel-Palestine and we commend the overwhelming solidarity shown, in a time of desperate plight, to the Palestinian people.

We note moreover that attempts to delegitimise the democratic process of our Union utterly failed. With 339 votes for and 46 against, the revised motion gained support from many of those who had previously expressed reservations. The appeal to boycott the UGM made by a small group of students achieve nothing and cut them off from debate with the rest of the student body.

LSE students want our school to have an ethical investment policy by refusing to collaborate with the violent system of control and oppression that hold Palestinians hostage against their own will. We call upon our school to listen to the student voice and collaborate with the Students' Union in the achievement of this objective.

We are yet to receive a reply from the Israeli Society and the school administration about support for our proposal for dialogue based on commonly shared values. We are always willing to work in cooperation with fellow LSE students in support of a just peace in Israel-Palestine founded upon human rights and international law.

LSE SU Palestine Society

"already rejected"

Dear Sir,

I would like to commend the Israel and Jewish societies for the amazing, positive campaign that they ran last week to raise money for RAG. The 'Don't divest, INVEST' campaign was innovative and fun and showed an example of LSE students doing something constructive to make a difference to the lives of suffering Palestinians and Israelis.

I commend them for choosing not to engage in a motion that students already rejected. I hope that this good example can be built on further. Unfortunately, the Palestine society are discouraging dialogue partners by demanding agreement for a one state solution as a starting point.

The issue of the Israel-Palestine conflict is extremely complex and depressing. Playing a blame game is futile. Blame is what leads to Hamas militants strapping bombs to their children and sending them to Israel to blow up, murder and maim innocent Israeli children. Likewise blame is what causes Israeli govern-

ment ministers to make decisions that lead to the deaths of innocent Palestinian children.

We must take a stand against this paradigm and take every opportunity we can to move forward and support cooperative and peaceful methods to bring an end to the suffering on both sides. This week, I am proud to say that the leadership of the societies that I belong to did just that.

Samantha Cohen

"immense disregard"

Dear Sir,

The objections to the recent motion concerning divestment from Israel have been rather confusing. The slogan of those boycotting the vote - "Don't divest, invest" diverted attention away from the issues in the Middle East, implying that micro-level charity was in their minds more conducive to peace than political change. Whilst the cause - 'Save a Child's Heart' - is laudable in both action and symbolism, it is limited in scope; in no way does it contribute to peace, in the way that fundraising for a peace-building NGO or a human rights organisation in Israel would have. Painting lipstick hearts on one's cheeks did not address any of the issues raised by the motion. In fact these antics merely served to cheapen the suffering of the Palestinians and Israelis who are in the midst of the occupa-

Having mentioned the importance of dialogue and debate countless times, whilst ignoring many attempts to engage in such by other societies, the Israeli and Jewish societies called for a boycott of the UGM on 14th February 2008. To me at least, this was an attempt to subvert student democracy, calling on people 'instead of voting no, don't go'. Surely, by not attending the UGM those society members were shunning an important opportunity to interact with other students on the matter, and were showing immense disregard for the UGM. This suggests that the opponents of the motion have as little regard for democratic processes as they do for those living under occupation.

Olga Gora

"an anarchist"

Dear Sir,

I was quite pleased to see that partB (Issue 680) was "an anarchist." I found many writers' familiarity with and sympathy for anarchism, an oftenmaligned and much-misunderstood but nonetheless potentially emancipatory philosophy, rather heartening.

I would like to point out, though, that, Patrick Cullen's otherwise affirming viewpoint notwithstanding, his equating of 'anarcho-capitalism' with anarchism is questionable. As Cullen explains, anarchism

(from the Greek an-arkhos-'without ruler') takes rather serious issue with hierarchies and authoritarian social relations and, as such, finds capitalism, with its emphasis on labour's subordination to capital, its decidedly anti-human system of economic valuation, and its ecocidal 'grow or die' maxim, fundamentally inadequate. Liberal 'anarcho-capitalists' may want to eliminate regulation of the 'free market' in order to further promote the subsumption of society to capital, but in so doing they merely reveal their authoritarian-

I definitely agree with Cullen that life in a society bereft of the domination which anarchists have long sought to do away with would be far more desirable relative to the status quo, but I must disagree with his assertion that "[m]ost of us, really, are Anarchists." If this were the case, I imagine the LSE would not be a "university of elite conformity," as Enrique Martino-Martin rightly observed in these pages two weeks ago, and I suspect that the controversy surrounding a UGM motion condemning the apartheid imposed on the Palestinian people would be much less palpable than it has been - to say nothing of the motion's defeat.

Javier Sethness

"beyond tired"

Dear Sir,

This letter will no doubt provoke a foaming at the mouth of some hardcore campaigners, but I feel a little backbite is necessary. Hands up who doesn't want the library to be open 24 hrs a day? It can't be just my five fingers, can it?

The 79% of the 350 questioned in The Beaver survey who said they'd like roundthe-clock opening hours must have answered with a kneejerk reaction, dazzled by the mere idea that a 'world-class' insti-tution should have a permanently open library. Those 276 students (a paltry portion of the 8,000 odd that study here) are unlikely to be leafing through the course collection at 2.32am, frankly. The ubiquitous posters asking 'Are you tired of being thrown out at 11.59??' seem to want to elicit outrage, but I'm sure many departing at midnight are already beyond tired and their concentration Furthermore, how many of them are actually using resources specific to the library, rather than just computers or printers (available in the 24-hr computer room A039?). Even though I am feeling the pressure of the 3rd year, and appreciate how much harder it must be as an MA or PhD student, I too work a part-time job and study irregular hours. But to be honest, if I am reading and scribbling until 3am, I can do it in the

comfort of my own bedroom

rather than costing the school

an extra £74,704 a year for the

pleasure.

Furthermore, my biggest problem with the campaign is that it fails to address the sacrifices that would have to be made in order to have a 24hr library. £74,704 may be a 'relatively low figure in the context of an institution with a multimillion pound turnover', but where might that money be better spent? In the first few weeks of this term, I attended a weekly class in which 80 or so students were squashed into a room with about 50 chairs. Nestling between a radiator and a chair leg made me wonder who is running the timetables or room organisation... the discomfort of the library chairs, no doubt responsible for many aching spines, also makes me wonder if the money might be better spent on improving their ergonomics. Those who have responded that they do think the library should be open 24 hours are frankly unlikely to use it in the way that they suggest until the madness of revision time. It seems more than excessive and bizarre to me as to why people really think studying at 3,4,5am in the spiral-stair-cased cavern should deserve those thousands of pounds, man-hours and electricity.

Sophie Knight

"didn't capitulate"

Dear Sir,

Hugh Governey accurately balances the record with regard to Peter Sutherland's role in the 1982 Pro-Life Amendment to the Irish Constitution, pointing out that as Attorney General his hands were tied in the matter as it was a political decision, and also his highlighting of Mr. Sutherland's personal opposition to such a move. Yet, in a valiant attempt to set the record straight, Mr. Governey unfortunately implies that all parties in Ireland at the time made pre-election promises to propose such an amendment.

Whilst the two conservative parties of Fine Gael and Fianna Fail perpetuated their long tradition of acquiescing to the demands of the Catholic Church, there was one party that did not. The Irish Labour Party held onto the courage of its convictions and didn't capitulate to those who thought Ireland would be better off as a theocracy.

Unfortunately, the extremists and social conservatives won the day in 1982. Since then, Ireland has buried its head in the sand with regards to abortion law; morally con-demning those who need abortions in it's constitution but at the same time allowing those women who need to avail of it to travel to England. It is to say the least, an Irish solution to a typically Irish problem. Prochoice students at LSE should not hold Mr. Sutherland to blame, rather they should criticise the conservative majority in Ireland.

Ian Michael O'Mara

COMMENTS

c&a@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Israel Divestment motion



In the shadow of Hamas



Joseph Cotterill

Thursday in a legitimate debate. Students are going to have to lump it, but they still don't have to lowes, is going to do whatever it pleases.

Student unions are in the business of making grand gestures, and it is entirely right for them to have foreign policies. However, that role - and the political capital we get from studying at the world's best social sciences school make it really important that the messages that this Students' Union sends abroad are the right ones. In the petty world of student politics, deigning not to tar Israel with the brush of Apartheid was therefore a brave, mature and moderate decision on the part of the motion's proponents. I do not think they themselves believed a word of their new rhetorical stance; but beggars cannot be choosers when it comes to encouraging a reality-based perspective of the Middle East's international

The democratic nature of Israel inherently means that it is responsive enough to correct its wrongs without motions from our Students' Union

politics. Unfortunately, every single resolution the motion made - and has now won - was bad for the Union, bad for the School, and bad for the region the proponents were trying to help

help.
The motion's proponents brought the mark of Hamas upon themselves by resolving the Union to ally itself with the so-called "international campaign to end the siege of Gaza." Israel has had a long history of mistreating the occupants of the Gaza Strip: I would even concede that it failed to engage Hamas after its 2006 election victory in Palestine. But Hamas' June 2007 coup changed all that. End the "siege" and withdraw Israel's forces, and rockets will rain down on southern Israeli civilians like an April morning. The motion's divestment proposals, however, were really outrageous.

Indeed, last year's Sudan Divestment Campaign puts the Palestine Motion debate into an unflattering perspective. Unlike the damage limitation exercise put into effect by the School last week as the result became known to the outside

world, the Sudan Divestment campaigners persuaded several figures on the LSE's governing Council to accept their calls for complete institutional

4

every single resolution the motion made - and has now won - was bad for the Union, bad for the School, and bad for the region

divestment from one of Africa's worst regimes. Rather than mire the Students' Union in a sea of unvetted, unchecked third party organisations, the campaigners won support for their actions from no less a figure than the Luis Morenz Ocampo, the Prosecutor for the International Criminal Court,

who had just launched an investigation into Darfur. Above all, divestment was a necessary and proportionate response to a regime that had scorned every norm of international behaviour in the book. Khartoum had made the prime suspects in Ocampo's war crimes investigations government ministers and officials protected under jurisdictional immunity in international law: China refused to budge in its support for Sudan: UN peace-keepers were a distant prospect. Divestment's time had come.

By contrast, Israel is a free society that does not deserve to be placed in the divestment rogues' gallery of Sudan, Burma and Apartheid South Africa. Human rights abuses by the government have been dealt with by the Supreme Court and at the ballot box.

Any one who has read the Winograd Report's coruscation of the Olmert government's mishandling of the 2006 Lebanon War will recognise that while everything is far from rosy in Israel's political culture, it is able to correct itself. Of course, right now, there are still over five hundred Israeli army checkpoints dotted around the West Bank: Israeli "settlers" still think they can barge in on land that rightfully belongs to the future state of Palestine.

But the motion's proponents don't see how the diplomatic situation has changed. The Sharon government's withdrawal of settlers from Gaza in 2005 showed that self-correction in action. It has faded from view since, true: but that is because the shadow of Hamas blotted the picture. On the bright side, we have the

opportunity now of building a Palestinian state around the nucleus of the presidential apparatus in the West Bank. The Annapolis peace plan will give this growing state legal recognition by the end of this year. On the dark side, Hamas will bust a gut to start an international war in the same timeframe. Motions and campaigns to end its siege will in the end not make a blind bit of difference to its bloodlust, just as the ebb and flow of ceasefires have not affected the rockets fired from Gaza on the Israeli town of Sderot.

All of this is not just special pleading for Israel, nor for Palestine. Loud noises of divestment from a foreign students' union would be bad idea in any complex conflict resolution process, especially one in which rapid democratisation and economic integration are crucial to getting peace. The Palestinian Authority does not want divestment; but it is certainly grist to Hamas' mill. It is a shame that the Union is now going to have to learn this the hard way.



With Hamas in control of Gaza, Kassam rockets will continue to fall over southern Israel

Our communities divided

disregarded moral duties for

expediency's sake as they

inflicted force on the inhabi-

tants of the area in order to

quickly establish a Jewish

state on land populated by non-Jews.

Such a history of domination has resulted in a current

state of affairs where I, like

any other Jew, can return to

Israel, party in the coolest

clubs in Tel Aviv, and enjoy my

now claiming victims in Gaza



Ella Ben Hagai

t doesn't take an advanced student of the social sciences to realise that fundamental fear and mistrust is always rooted in segregation and lack of communication, promoting in-group/out-group dehumanisation. In the case of Israel and Palestine, the rigid geographical, economic and social segregation of Israeli Jews and their Palestinian neighbours imposed by the state of Israel has led to the lack of recognition of basic human rights and historical injustices which today comprise the central obstacle for

petre in the Milate Hasti.

So close and yet so far while relaxing on Tel Aviv beach

Although some students advocated a boycott of last week's motion, many failed to realise that passing this motion is in the interest of us Israelis

As an Israeli Jew whose family played a key role in the founding of Israel, who has served in the Israeli army, and who is profoundly concerned with the future of my country and the well being of my family and friends in Israel, I must acknowledge that in this current state of segregation and fear, my people come out on the "winning side". My grandparents came to Israel at the beginning of the last century under the mistaken belief that it was a land without people. Traumatised by pogroms and later the Holocaust, European Jews came to Palestine and

time in cafés and on the beach without for one second having to become aware that only half an hour's drive away, people are living under tight military occupation, horrendous economic conditions, and with no right to travel freely. The fact that us Israelis can live our life not recognising the deadly injustices which our military occupation creates prevents us from understanding the pain of the Palestinians and the causes for their uprising and aggression. Hence, we mistrust them. This segregation which begets fear and hate among individuals, ultimately helps to perpetuate the long lasting cycle of violence that is right

and Sderot.

Fortunately, segregation and separation do not come naturally to students at the LSE. Last week, Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Muslims, and all those in



voting for last week's motion is not an attack on those with different opinions, ethnicities, or religions

between, voted in a commanding 339 to 46 vote to recognise historical human rights violations committed by Israel against the Palestinians and to support numerous Jewish and Palestinian organisations working for a just peace and an end to my country's occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. By demanding our school withdraw its financial support from corporations that profit from the occupation, students pursued an end to a military

regime that damages both Palestinians and Israelis. Obviously, the Students' Union's loud call for a just benefits Palestinians. But also, and in spite of what some on campus have claimed, this motion also benefits Israelis, whose universities and educational system are under-funded because of the billions spent each year on the occupation; who must sacrifice years of their life in mandatory military service; and who are made less safe because of their government's brutal military rule over Palestinians and the animosity which it inspires.

The antagonism that the Middle East conflict creates between Muslims and Jews around the world need not exist. To end it though,

requires individuals to recognise that acts like voting for last week's motion is not an attack on those with different opinions, ethnicities, or religions - as some have misleadingly claimed - but an attempt to stand up for human rights and peace and to break down the walls of segregation and separation. Those who contend otherwise, like those who attempted to boycott the motion, do no service to the people of my country or to the values of social justice and open debate so long a part of the Jewish tradition.

It now falls on the university to act on the mandate given to it by the student body. We – people of all faiths and nationalities united by a shared belief in the inviolability of human rights – have spoken. We do not want our school's money to support occupation and domination. We do not want to abet policies of segregation. It is time for the LSE administration to listen.



Closed communities in the Occupied Palestine Territories

Red isn't Dead

Kosovo: it's a long way to Vetevendosje



Vladimir Unkovski-Korica

he Balkans is again on the brink, the playground of the Great Powers. By the time the Beaver goes to press, it is all but certain that Kosovo will have declared unilateral independence from Serbia under US/EU sponsorship. Meanwhile, Serbia appears to have won Russian backing to prevent Kosovan independence being recognised in the UN. The real losers will be ordinary Albanians and Serbs, and the other peoples of the Balkans, whose interests will once again be decided in Washington, Brussels and Moscow.

NATO waged its first and illegal war under the pretext of 'humanitarian intervention' in 1999. Its 73-day bombing campaign against Serbia was ostensibly launched to prevent Serbia's brutal crackdown on the Albanian population from turning into ethnic cleansing by Milosevic's army and police. In fact, it temporarily exacerbated the humanitarian catastrophe. According to the United Nations, around 4,000 Albanian refugees had fled Kosovo within the first three days of the bombing campaign. There were up to 200,000 internally displaced people in Kosovo before the war had begun. Milosevic responded to NATO bombardment by expelling up to 863,000 Albanians from Kosovo by mid-June. After Kosovo became a de facto UN protectorate, reverse ethnic cleansing began under NATO's watch. Around 200,000 Serbs and Roma have been forced to leave Kosovo since 1999.

Nor was the West particularly interested in the freedom and well being of ordinary Kosovars. UNMIK, the 'peace-keeping' UN mission to Kosovo, has veto power over legislation. Moreover, despite more than eight years of rule by the 'international community', Kosovo has the lowest per capita income in Europe. In last year's elections, only 40% of people bothered to vote. Repression of Albanian groups who want immediate and unconditional independence, with an end to what they call 'neo-colonial' rule by the 'international community', has been brutal. Last February, a non-violent demon-stration called by 'Vetevendosje!', or 'Self-determination!', was brutally attacked and two protesters were shot dead. The group's leader, Albin Kurti, was placed under arrest despite no charges being brought against him for months. His trial, condemned by Amnesty International, is set to collapse after the entire Bar Association of Kosovo refused to act as defence counsel in an UNMIK court.

Even after its unilateral declaration, Kosovo will not have real independence. Rather, it is likely to get only 'supervised' independence. Under the Ahtisaari plan, EUMIK, UNMIK's EU successor, will have ultimate sovereignty. Camp Bondsteel, the biggest foreign United States base built between the Vietnam and Iraq wars, will remain in Kosovo. Kosovo will not be allowed to join Albania even if a majority of its citizens want this to occur. Serbia will also continue to fund Serb local municipalities in Kosovo, effectively giving it direct influence on a supposedly separate country. Ethnic division will be

re-enforced, not overcome.

World leaders make little pretence about the real issues in Kosovo. George Bush said in a visit to Albania in 2007: "The question is whether there's going to be endless dialogue on a subject that we've already made up our mind on. I'm worried about expectations not being met in Kosovo... Sooner rather than later you've got to say, 'Enough's enough. Kosovo's independent.'"

Similarly, Russian president Vladimir Putin has also been vocal about Russian interests. He said last week that any unilateral declaration of independence by Pristina would be "illegal, ill-conceived and immoral". He went on to lecture Europe: "Other countries look after their interests. We consider it appropriate to look after our interests." Russia is playing a game of geopolitics. A Russian oil pipeline is planned to pass through Serbia, while Gazprom has secured ownership of the Serbian energy sector for a sum below the market price. Russian help doesn't come any cheaper than US help.

Building up a real sense of multinational confidence and overcoming ethnic rivalries can only be secured by a grass roots, pan-Balkan anti-imperialist movement ready to challenge all forms of oppression, and crucially, that can argue for genuine selfdetermination. Only the people of the Balkans can decide on their own future if it is to be a future of unity, peace and prosperity.

Blue is True

Welfare Britain isn't working



Annette Pacey

orkfare is back. Last week Gordon Brown announced plans to reward unemployed people who return to work or attend skills training with extra benefits. This follows a suggestion by Housing Minister Caroline Flint that unemployed council housing tenants should sign commitment contracts" pledging to seek work or risk losing their homes. Labour has been careful to dress up these right-wing pronouncements in lan-guage palatable to the party's left-wing base. Mr Brown spoke of families escaping the "injustice of poverty" and Ms Flint stressed she was not announcing policy but "opening up a debate". Despite the cautious language the message is clear: jobseekers allowance and a free council house can no longer be a lifestyle choice for the workshy.

Such policies are sorely needed, and Labour is no doubt keen to avoid allowing the opposition to gain the upper hand in what is traditionally Tory territory. The current system is mad - it rewards those who chose to stay at home with a regular income and a council house. Why would anyone in that situation bother to get a job, when they would lose their benefit and have to start paying rent to the council for their home?

Rich countries like Britain can afford the luxury of a safety net for those who would otherwise fall into utter destitution and homelessness, and it would be to our shame if we allowed the kind of shanty towns and abject poverty common in poorer countries to occur here. But too many people in Britain abuse the system to get a free ride. Conservative leader David Cameron claimed in a BBC interview that there are 2.6 million people in Britain on incapacity benefit, of whom half a million are under 35 years of age. He rightly refuses to accept that so many young people in this country are genuinely unable to work, and the Tories have outlined plans that would penalise benefit claimants for repeatedly turning down offers of

The truth is that some people regard work as optional and see nothing wrong with a life on benefits. With British unemployment at record lows, claims that there is no work available do not stand up. The BBC quoted one worker at Jobcentre Plus as saying that "the majority of the long-term unemployed know the system and have no intention of working". Some people are uncomfortable with the idea of forcing people into 'demeaning' jobs which they consider beneath them, but nobody has an automatic right to meaningful, satisfying and well paid work. Most people have to put considerable effort and sacrifice into develop-ing their own skills, whether that means getting themselves into debt at university, or spending years working their way up the ladder.

In any case, even a McJob is better than no job. When a benefit claimant goes off benefits and starts working it not only lifts the burden from the taxpayer but it does more for the dignity and prospects of the individual than receiving a benefit ever could. The long term unemployed can end up out of touch with the world of work, and some lose even basic life skills like being able to turn up on time which further reduce their chances of ever finding meaningful employment. It's easier to get a better job if you've already got job than it is if you're unemployed. Working brings the chance to learn skills, prove your reliability, and get a reference in order to move on to something better. The benefit system in Britain has extended far beyond the necessary safety net to create a dependency trap in some sections of society, where generations not only the unjustified public expense but the terrible waste of people's potential that needs to be

Britain's something-for-nothing culture has got to go. There is too much emphasis on people's rights and not enough on their responsibilities. Those who can work, should - or face losing their benefits. Of course the genuinely vulnerable should be protected from poverty and homelessness, but there are too many who milk the system at the expense of the rest of us. If they can't find the motivation to get up off their sofas and get a job, then the government is right to intervene to provide an incentive for them to do so.

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Notes on Nothing

Escape from the Rock

Nationalising Northern Rock became ever more likely as the crisis wore on. That still didn't make it right

he Government may have smuggled it out on a Sunday night, but we are all now shouting the N-word from the rooftops.

The danger of nationalisation should have been voiced long before. Northern Rock, the credit crunch casualty taken over by a Treasury team yesterday, was effectively nationalised on the day in September 2007 that Gordon Brown's government stepped into to guarantee small shareholders' deposits. That move put £100 billion of taxpayers' money on the line, ensuring that the bank would one day face a very public death. This demise has now been put back by months, years - decades, but it will still

The only answer, then, is get it over and done with now. Pay the Rock's creditors through the nose; let borrowers off their repayments scot free; fling compensation at hedge funds and shareholders like there is no tomorrow: for in truth, nationalisation never works, and above all, it never works for ordinary people. These need to be lifted off Northern Rock's sinking ship right away. Any cost borne now will be much less than the cumulative burden of likely government control. of Conservatives have called Mr Brown's handling of the affair a classic case of his dithering decision-making style: this is a chance to be bold, but it won't be taken.

Instead, the economy Labour built is entering an ugly phase of corporatist controlThe Government must now gird itself instead for the institutional legacy of Northern Rock's death rattle. In an age of globalisation where one false macroeconomic move spells oblivion, this has barely begun to unspool.

> Joseph Cotterill **Features Editor**



This year is the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, born out of the end of the Second World War to affirm the commitments of governments to the rights of every individual. But throughout its sixty years it has been questioned, and more recently it has come under direct attack. Never having any actual legal force itself, some have labelled it redundant. And with some governments increasingly declaring it to be culturally biased, it has been claimed that it no longer serves as a useful tool.

Since its adoption at a meeting of the General Assembly in 1948, the Declaration has provided the foundation for the increasingly large amount of international law that provides for human rights. There are nine core treaties which have been

produced in its wake, with every member of the UN ratifying at least one, and 80 per cent ratifying four or more. The UDHR has acted as a founding document for international human rights law: while not legally binding itself, many of the rights it covers (and a few more) now have binding treaties in place to protect them, dealing with issues from racism and refugees to members of linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples. As a launch-pad for the development of specific international law, it has served very well.

But the Declaration has recently drawn fire from states that see it as a secular incarnation of Judeo-Christian, or more broad Western values, under the guise of 'universalism'. This has been espe-

Sixty years after the Universal Declaration, what does LSE think of human rights?

"Universities must promote debate"

Over the last decade, in response to the growth of new forms of terrorism, governments, perhaps particularly here in Britain, have put forward a number of measures which threaten basic human rights.

At such a time it is vital that universities promote debate on the balance to be struck between collective security and individual liberty. The School's Centre for the Study of Human Rights does that very effectively. I see it is one of the jewels in our crown.

Howard Davies Director, LSE



cially true of countries such as Sudan, Saudi Arabia and China. Iran even went as far as to claim that to implement all of the rights would require it to break Islamic law. But it has been pointed out by human rights advocates that these calls rarely come from anywhere but government, and usually come from governments which would have to rely on notions of cultural difference to get away with otherwise reprehensible acts. In other words, the language of the Declaration is broad, and it is hard to find people of any part of the world who would regard actions such as arbitrary arrest or forced labour as culturally acceptable.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is largely symbolic. But what it symbolises is our shared humanity and a goal of equal respect for all people, a symbol which must be turned into a reality. There are many different perspectives from which to approach the Declaration – Ronald Regan saw it as "a standard by which any humble person on Earth can stand in judgment of any government on Earth", while Pope John Paul II described it as "one of the highest expressions of the human conscience of our time". However it is approached, it holds something of value for every individual and must not be abandoned.

Sean Whittington Roy

"Ethical beg

I used to be very bourgeoise trick to But in a world of choosers. The ide and for the idea to treated in a digni even right wing p it might have rese

In legal terms the an even more illibotherwise have of groups that in outhave been available challenging, more language of humanope for.





"Equality o

It goes without sal Declaration major accomplist codifying of bas an important rewhich man had However, it is pubering that hum lution to all males.

In the 19th Cen remarked "In Ento all - like the I rings true today ration enshrines all citizens. How meaningless in of people cannot fending their bapointing a lawy to Court. Key



hear from the honehos here anikamathur

Decided fashion's a religion even though no fucking minks ever got killed for any god that I know!

> page 6 <-----travel honcho willjoce Went on holiday to coerce with the Soviets. He sent us a post card saying Wish

You Were Here. Fucking liar.

literature honcho -----> page 7 rahimrahemtulla

Finished his story and found a poem about sex so powerful the only word to describe it is pseudonomic.

ericlundquist When Eric was in kindergarden he told everyone he wanted to be Stevie Tevie from Charlie and The Chocolate Factory. The whole class laughed. Eric cried. Who assistant editor -----> pages 8 and 9 is laughing now? Eh?

ravimistry Stared at all the religions for hours on end. Like a spiritual polymath he's mastered

them all. The only way out is atheism.

pages 10 and 11 <-----music honcho adamjohns 👂 🌉

> Eloped with his bass guitar. No matter what people say there was mutual consent. Guitars have feelings too. The couple bring a new meaning to the concept of making sweet, sweet, music.

-----identity honcho

film honcho -------> page 12 bernardkeenan

Is still haunted by this weeks film, it makes chairs in his house move inexplicably.

> hodgean Hung out with the beautiful people at LDN beautiful people week, where people watch skeletal figures strut places half naked in heels. Sounds like a party.

thomaswhittaker

Found someone who dreams of Thatcher and Vaseline, a new take on greasy politicians.

> page 14 <----- visual arts honcho fionamackay

> > Explores the post and an NW1 borough. Not the Royal Mail though. She hates licking stamps.

food and drink honcho -----> page 15 danielbyates

Sent someone to interview a monk. Ate so much Hare Krishna food he couldn't come in on to lay out.

> -gender honcho alicepfieffer

Got a man to write about how shaved women are traitors. Gender fears controversy like a brick fears fish.

LAST FUCKING CHANCE!

TO WIN A YEAR'S MEMBERSHIP AT THE TATE MODERN!

Visual Arts presents a competition with a one word subject: Interpret how you will and submit work in any format: paintings, sketches, photographs, sculpture, whatever bring submissions to the Beaver office, room E204, with your name clearly visible on the work, AND email thebeaver.partb@lse.ac.uk to notify us of your submission. Entries must be in by the end of week 7, Friday 23rd of February. Get those creative juices gushing! The top three works will be exhibited in partB in week nine.

josh heller

We're a religion and we're talking about all the other ones. I'm in a slice of toast. If partB were a religion I guess that'd make me in charge. The songs would all be from West Side Story, the pilgrimage would be to White Hart Lane and you'd have to photoshop at least five times a day.

The words politically correct are used by a lot of idiots as an insult. People use "it's not politically correct but..." to preface things that are just racist. That phrase doesn't nullify the content of the rest of the sentence. Political correctness is great, it makes us give careful consideration to the words we use and the power they have.

The centrespread this week might just be the most elegant and delightfully eyecatching monstrous battle of beautiful mocking that this paper has ever seen.

I interviewed Noah and the Whale. Objectivity is a myth, bias is the new black. They are fucking amazing but I think I've taken gushing to hitherto unimagined heights.

Gender continues it's machinations to be the best section. Bernard is the smartest person and he knows more than anyone. He says when you turn twenty five you get a booklet with all the best films in it. I turned twenty one last week and I got a booklet from a chinese takeaway. I don't know if the two were related.



unconstitutional guest editor

That's me in the corner. That's me in the spotliaht. Losing my religion. The immortal words of the bald guy with trouble sleeping. Lord hopes that this weeks centrespread helps me find it like an obese kid at fat camp looking for cake. Divine inspiration has flowed throughout this weeks pages. Rant has rediscovered the ten commandments and Music explores unconvential relations with musical instruments.

Last weeks guest editor has been excuted. The power went to her head and she tried to stage a partB coup. She held the Houghton Street Elephant hostage on top of East building and threatened that she would drop it onto the street below unless her demands for power were met, fortunately she was easily sedated by two pints of snakebite and a sambuca... let's see how long I last. God help us all.

fashion believers unite

anikamathur discusses the ins and outs of a religion most of us are subconsciously following...

he year is 2008, we are in the 21st century, we do as we please, we fear no one, we have strong opinions and we pursue what we want when we want it. It is an era in which religion for many is a trivial concept. There are those who call themselves atheists, those who sit on the fence under the label of agnostics, those who claim they believe in a "higher being", those who are moderately religious and finally there are the extremists. The people who declare that they follow a religion are most likely to follow the ones which we were taught at GCSE Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. All of these 'classic' religions share, 'prayer' and the belief in 'afterlife'. However, they seem to be becoming derelict in the 21st century. On the other hand the se religions which I can observe as being widespread and practiced regularly are Materialism, Fashion and Media. I propose that religion has taken on these new forms in the 21st century.

Personally I only have to objectively think about the last couple of months and decide whether my religion is Fashion? Think about it yourselves and ask the following questions:

Have I a) been to a place of worship? b) donated

Then ask yourself the following: Have I a)

been to a shop? b) paid homage to retail by purchasing some-

thing from a shop? c)

Have I read a fashion

magazine, whether

it be a weekly or a

monthly glossy?

money to a religious organisation? c) read any religious scriptures or literature?

If you answered yes to more of the second set of questions as opposed to the first, then the theory pre-

We seem to walk through life looking through magazines, looking at people around us, gazing into shop windows, blindly following fashion, not wondering how to find salvation but wondering what we are going to purchase next, how we will combine that item with the rest of our clothes, and why didn't we think to do what the people dressing the shop windows have done?! We put all our faith into the magazines that dictate trends, and eagerly await their next instalment of instructions, especially Vogue which is widely accepted and perceived as the fashion Bible. Our values consist of knowing the latest seasons, knowing brands and designer names and knowing what's hot and what's not. Religious festivals have been taken over by fashion weeks, and the marks of new seasons and collections. It is the age where our material goods, not our deeds or karma, determine if we are worthy. We are the people of the lost generation, our souls are lost in what the world has become while our parents still pray for us.

It's almost as if London Fashion Week is a major religious festival or even a pilgrimage. It was advertised and documented to the same extent as

nent here is open to make for yourself an idol. This require days, it literally meant one shouldn't

ment suppose is open to create in the olden days, it literally in modern times. I worship them believing that such suppose in the olden create idols, the olden days, it literally meant one plastic (probably not plastic) would grant create idols, then go on and piece of wood or plastic (probably not plastic) would evant innes I think idols grant can be piece of wood or plastic (probably not plastic) would grant least nore them good synthing we fortunes. In modern times I think idols can be significance than on our religion. In my case, sometimes I feel anything we place too much significance than on our religion. In my case, sometimes I feel and my religion and

significance than on our religion. In my case, sometimes I feel thought about preligion to thought about 15, I definitely more than my religion and thought about breasts more

as though I think when I was about about 15, I definitely more than religion. Thus in those two cases, I idolised money and when I was about 15, I definitely thought about breasts more and

Jour Shall not make wrongful use of the hame of this one all the time! For example, I stub your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses think this is as

his name.

my toe and I do this one all the time! For example, I stub other commandments, but still...

this name.

my toe and I do this one all the time! For example other commandments, but still...

this is as

my toe and I scream Jesus Christ! I don't think

as the other commandments, but still.

Christmas is and is equally as commercial and hyped up as the religious holiday. With posters and locations and I don't worship any other sod, other sod, all over London, daily updates of collecnent here is open to interpretation in modern times.

tions,

sightings in the papers and the most exclusive parties it is definitely the event of the year on the calendar. Only the most devoted followers were able to embark on the journey past the barriers outside the National History Museum. Fashion royalty (that can also be dubbed as religious figures) were all present. The 'priests/pandits/gurus' (or any other form which you identify with) in the form of fashion designers were present in all their glory. They were accompanied in the front row seats by the 'nuns' of this religion (those that have devoted their lives to practicing fashion at its height) in the form of editors of magazines, journalists and celebrities all eagerly awaiting new collections to be displayed on the models which have come to be the idols that we worship.

If you think that fashion week is bad, it's about to get a whole lot worse. The announcement of Dubai building 'Isla Moda', (which translates into fashion island) marks the of the rise of the shrine of all shrines for fashion believers. The island is going to be dedicated to fashion and will feature hotels and villas designed by the most renowned designers. This elitist religion is about to get a lot bigger.

The Fashionista's Prayer - Our cash, Which art on plastic, Hallowed be thy name, Thy Cartier watch, Thy Prada bag, Online, As it is in store, Give us each day our platinum Visa, And forgive those that stop us spending, And lead us not unto Louis Vuitton, For thine is the Gucci, The Dior and the Armani, For Chanel No.5 and Eternity, Amex.

sell I would, but never a human wouldn't hurt a fly...

Yet and thus exempted by default. However some J. You shall not commit adultery. I'm not married this as do not fornicate either. If so people thus exempted by default. However some admitting to being a virgin people interpret this as do not formicate either. If so the beaver! That won't do wonders being a virgin a virgin. The

Tons, a declarion of love for Jesus

well I would, but nurder I wouldness.

in the beaver! That won't do wonders being a virgin that, love Doctor still a virgin. The

8. You shall not steal. Sometimes I forget to pay on the

9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour aint into snitch-

9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour ing! to do isn't it? I aint into snitch-

sex slaves! Like a few of the others, the requirements in this are open to mod

ern interpretation.
It means we should be content with what we have and not it was It means we should be content with what we have and not as far as wishing the owner ran me over. envy I know, I saw a Retrari vesterday and sue him for the car! Everyday, we cover things we mine. In fact, I went as far as wishing the don't own (David Beckham's face, Ben Dover, covet things we stoll leg, etc). so I could sue him for the car! Everyday, we covet things we commandment would don't own (David Beckham's face, Ben Dover's third leg, etc).

be broken, I have chosen to amend its interpretation. I would Because of the frequency be broken, I have chosen to amend its interpretation. I would like and

be broken, I have ehosen to amend its interpretation I would like, and Say it means that if you see something you would like, to acquire it from that person illegally, then

you plot to acquire it from that you covet something and go to acquiring it

you have broken this command through legal changes and in IBD to buy the Ferrari in 30

through legal channels (like work share) then to buy the Ferrari in 30

years) then to buy me reman us alright. If

Jou shall labour and do all your work. I like this one. I do not Jou shall labour and do all your and keep it holy. For six days that's because You shall labour and do all your work I like this one. I do not do anything on Saturdays either and do anything on Sundays, but I wouldn't say that's because extra credit. Vednesdays, but I don't do anything on Saturdays either a credit. s. Honour your father I love my parents and that your mother, so that your days een times, may be long in the land that the I love my parents and I hat the I though, but in general, I think relate to their vour God is giving you this one pretty well. to it. It's shameful really because I should be more zealous about my faith. I mean, I love Jesus Christ- I really do- and I want to make it to heaven, but I am so lazy whenever it comes to things of that sort. For economic students, the assumptions made for the condition to hold in my case are the Ten Commandments. I say, any Christian who follows all ten can be said to be the most religious. This is how religious I am:

covet you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or naide our's house; you shall not belongs to your neighbour ox, or ox, or naide our neighbour. This is covet your neighbour's the hardest one I think to keep to I've never coveted my donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbours one I think to keep to your neighbour This is and none of my neighbours have the hardest one I seem sex slaves! Like we or ox and none of the outdated and thus are open to make a few of the others, the requirements have a few of the others of my neighbours have a few of the others. So I scored 7 out of 10. I think that makes me quite religious, but not enough. In the words of 2 Pac, "only God can judge me now" so I guess we'll see, when I cease to

NOAU AND THE WHALE

joshheller meets the brilliant folk band but wonders why whales would give a shit about a flood

•f there is a folk revival happening in London, then Noah and the Whale, must surely be its emerging stars. With a couple of singles out and an album on the way, their support is growing as their sound evolves. I met them at the ICA, halfway through the Young and Lost Club's (their label) first ever tour.

"Yeah our biggest ambition was to support Thanksgiving. Then we did it and everything since then has been downhill."

The band consists of five youngsters. Guitarist and lead vocalist Charlie Fink writes the music. A good-looking fella with a mass of dark curly hair, he's crafted a stage melancholy that seems to vanish when he's not performing. Charlie's brother Doug is the band's drummer, with the physique of an athlete he looks suspiciously like a young Willem Dafoe. Tom Hobden is the fiddler, a quiet and somewhat reserved chap. Marling, her solo career currently on a stratospheric rise, sings and plays various percussion in the band, whilst Urby Whale plays bass as well as a cacophony of other instruments including the xylophone and harmonica.

I ask the band whether their group has a leader. A room of fingers all point at me, I fleetingly think they want me to join and lead them, after weighing up the pros and cons I realise they're pointing

at Charlie who is standing next to me. Urby isn't sure about the question, "Leader's a weird word. Focal point I man where it all starts." Laura reiterates this point. "If Charlie it'd be Laura Marling and the Whalers." With his ever-present hat and jovial grin, Urby is an articulate chap. Perhaps the best way to describe him is as someone with whom you know it would be truly spectacular fun to get drunk with. I had developed a theory that Urby was the creative centre of the band. This was based on little more than the fact that people who wear constantly wear trilbys are invariably creative and interesting. However, Urby himself as well as the entire rest of the band assure me that it is Charlie who is at the heart of the music they make. He's an undeniably gifted writer and producer. He produced Laura's album, which is getting the plaudits it deserves, and he composes Noah and the Whale's music. This is a man who understands how to build complex musical structures. He's also got a razor-sharp wit. A nice oozy camembert backstage, as well as a few throwaway comments, betray Charlie's love for cheese. It would probably be a few years away but I hope he doesn't retreat to the country and morph into this generation's Alex James.

"I think bracketing bands into groups demeans the music. Each person's individual ideas within that creative thing much more important than the concept.

There are a significant number of US, who are producing folk music. There has been an undeniable resurgence, if not in terms of a quantifiable increase in output, then at the very least as an influence on contemporary mainstream artists. It is far more acceptable now, for the lead singer of a rock band to occassionaly strum away on a 12 string acoustic. In my eternal quest for (yet constant struggle with) definition, I can reel off a list of different sub-genres and offshoots. There's anti-folk, folk-

plenty more. With all these people producing music, there are those commentators that would group them into certain genres. Do these groups exist? Is any "movement" merely the construction of a media eager to pin down and define? "I think it is basically a construct, it's a media thing. Having said that there are a lot of people playing similar kinds of

"Honestly she played music and we played music and she played with us, then she went to do her own thing."

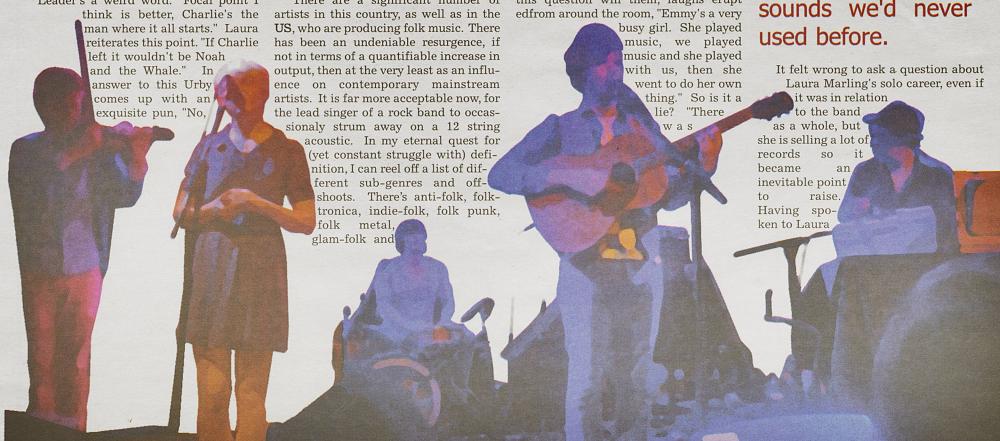
music, but I don't know any of them." It remains the case that a number of musicians with similar sounds are playing with and supporting each other. Although perhaps to define something as a movement their must be a marriage of individual action with collective intent. "I don't know, I think bracketing bands into groups demeans the music.. Each person's individual ideas within that creative thing are much more important than the concept. That's not saying we don't think there's a lot of good people in that scene."

One active proponent and star of the current anti-folk movement in London is Emmy the Great. Her songs combine comedic whimsy with an often very frank and honest pain. She used to play with Noah and the Whale but is no longer with the band. I had read a vicious internet rumour that Emmy was kicked out of the band. When I raised this question wih them, laughs erupt

never a formalised thing saying she's got to play with Noah and the Whale. She was never under contract." I realized too late that cunning politicans they aren't, but no one had fully answered the question! However, I didn't sense a real amount of animosity and perhaps it's best if that story simply enters into antifolk-lore.

Brilliant folk songs have been cropping up with alarming regularity on adverts for everything from mobile phones to cars. Think Joanna Newsom for Orange, Devendra Banhart for T-Mobile and a myriad of other similarly unpleasant examples. The plastering of beautiful music over some cack-handed corporate attempt to sell things, is, I feel, a horrible and jarring juxtaposition. The music that Noah and the Whale have released so far often has had a happy and uplifting texture to it and would probably be ideal for selling a whole host of different products. I wonder aloud how long it will be until a Noah and the Whale song is played in some advert. When the reply comes, "that's a very topical question," I get a little worried. "To be honest, I personally feel pretty nihilistic about that kind of thing. Not if it's a product we don't like, but if it was for cheese or cinemas or something." Urby suggests Ben and Jerry's. "Yeah, we wouldn't promote smoking or McDonalds but otherwise... I don't take adverts into account when I write music, so I just don't care really.'

It's different from the singles. It's the texture, some of it's very sparse, with sounds we'd never



week earlier, I was disappointed to see that the intervening period as a basically famous person hadn't lead to outrageous demands for champagne fountains, beluga caviar and bowls of exclusively blue Smarties. Like Dizzee with Roll Deep would Laura be bringing the band on her wave of success? "They're on their own wave of success." It's fascinating to see how the band deal with Laura's identity as a solo artist. A number of people in the crowd were excitedly chattering as they saw Laura appear on stage that night, perhaps unsure if she would actually be appearing. She though, is extremely unwilling to use this occasion to promote her own music. She says she wants the two to be seperate. There were clearly a number of people who were there at least in to see part Laura, when Charlie mentioned her

album being out that day they raised an almighty cheer.

"I think we get classified differently by the media just because Laura's a solo artist and we're a band." This may be true, although in fairness this could be because of the greater difficulty in interviewing a roomful of people rather than one individual. There is a real difference though, when trying to quantify an individual artist as compared to a band. A solo artist is literally one voice, one point of view and one person's ideas. Yet with a band, even with the afore mentioned "focal point," it's more difficult to ascertain where the creative energy and inspiration comes from. The mass of discussions, compromises and executive decisions cannot be examined to be understood. Urby sums this conundrum up quite nicely. "Band's a different word to solo artist. It's two

Noah and the Whale have had two

singles pressed already. The first was Five Years Time," it provided a nice introduction to the band. Particularly the video, which helpfully names each band member. The song itself is an undeniably happy number., the ukulele strumming giving it a certain bounce. The lovely chorus of "love love love, wherever you go" and some chirpy whistling put Noah and the Whale on the radar of a number of UK folk fans. The b-side "Jocasta" was less jolly but had a higher tempo. Doug's urgent drumming on the frame of the drum is an interesting device he's used a few times to good effect. Their single out now is "2 Bodies 1 Heart." It is a slower more ambient sound to their other work and just edges the right side of sentimental. It is somewhat overshadowed by the

excellent "Rocks and Daggers." A

genuine crowd pleaser that has people clapping and singing along. It's a nice

track
to see
live as it
allows fiddler
Tom to show off his
talents and the vocal
harmonies come together

beautifully.
The video to "2 Bodies 1 Heart" (and "Five Years Time") was directed by James Copeman. The latter is a hilarious montage of the band as athletes. From the colours of the outfits to the angles and the actual cuts, if Wes Anderson directed music videos, this is precisely what they would look like.

Having recorded their album, I asked how similar it is to their previous output. "It's different from the singles. It's the texture. Some of it's very sparse, with sounds we'd never used before." A video on youtube gives a tour of their studio. This is anything but lo-fi. Room after room of a plethora of instruments gives the impression of a more than complex recording process. "We've used a lot of distortion which links in with the grunge thing." Kind of like post rock? To which Charlie suggests the magnificent, "post-grunge-folk."

They reckon that the gig that night was the largest they'd ever With headlined. awareness growing and some sell out nights already it seems their future success is all but assured. How far do they think they'll go? Charlie smiled sarcastically, "Heard of a little band called the Red Hot Chili Peppers? That's pretty much where we're headed."

As partB's exploration of success last week demonstrated, it's a hard thing to define. "The thing about success is that you're never gonna have a constant goal.

I've don't think there's anyone who's had one goal, achieved it and then thought oh brilliant." At this point Laura momentarily assumes the role of interviewer, "Wasn't your one goal to support this band called Thanksgiving, who no one's ever heard of anyway"

Then
you did it last year."
Charlie responds, "Yeah there
was like 20 people. It's true, our
biggest ambition was to support
Thanksgiving, then we did it and
everything since has been downhill."

Like any real artist, their goal isn't this ill-defined notion of success. "to be honest, you write music completely independently of any goal you might have. You'll try and create the best thing you can create. Then once that's been done, you think, now what are my ambitions with it. But those ambitions are kind of, "who cares" ambitions, the creative ambitions are much more important."

Noah and the Whale's single "2 Bodies 1 Heart" is out now Young and Lost Club

Fscarpe from Tourist Hell

willioce finds there is more to the Iberian Peninsular

isbon is off the destination radar for most tourists and even, surprisingly, most travellers. It has none of the ostentatiously high brow attractions of somewhere such as Barcelona, nor does it have the miles of beach developments needed for the hordes seeking simply sun, sea and sand. This is fair enough, but to judge destinations within such blinkered criteria is to miss the opportunities off the beaten track, which so many travellers claim to be seeking. And Lisbon is, in my opinion, precisely one of these little-discovered gems.

Situated, like Rome, on a series of seven hills and the valleys in between, Lisbon undulates, weaves and meanders its way up from the sea. The city, like so many in Europe, is divided between the intriguing and beguiling tangle of the old town and the charmless, dull convenience of the out of town developments. Although it may lack the adrenaline pumping tourist attrac-

tions of other cities it has many assets that make it worth more attention than it gets. History is palpable throughout the city; a maritime empire

grew outwards from here encompassing lands in India, Macau, and Africa, a second Iberian dictatorship flourished but then crumbled after a revolution rose on the streets of the city. Grand cathedrals and countless churches mark the

ever present Catholic influence, including attempts to draw heavenly protection for sailors setting off across the oceans. Imperial era villas line the sea front and lead out to Belem, the genteel locale set slightly along the coast away from the city centre. Here the impressively large, but undeniably ugly, Monument to the Discoveries looks towards them and nestled quietly away from the hustle and bustle is the picturesque and calming Belem Tower. Built as part defence, part monument and part decoration this is one of the abiding symbols of Lisbon and has been classified as a **UNESCO** World Heritage Site.

The old quarter, the Bairro Alto, is obviously the beating heart of the city, it is the place to stay, the place to eat and the place to meet and chat to locals. There is a timeless feel to this higgledy piggledy collection of cobbled alleyways and narrow backstreets that snake up, down and around. Sudden vistas reveal themselves after mazelike wanderings and shadowy chasms give way to bright sunlight and warm, fragrant

sea

breezes. Old women gossip as they lazily beat carpets outside their front doors and their grandchildren, absorbed with their iPods, lazily watch. Clanging trams clatter through the streets, making unwary pedestrians lead out of the way at the last minute and dappled sunlight glints off the chrome bodywork of 1950's style cars. The provincial feel of this city has nothing to do with the negative connotations of that word; the close knit, friendly character is so alien to inhabitants of London that it is more reminiscent of a small country village than a nation's capital. Lisbon manages to capture the best of both worlds in this sense, a vibrant cosmopolitanism means the evenings are not silent deaths, but with none of

the greed inspired rudeness that can feel so disturbingly familiar.

There are some unusual tourist attractions in Lisbon. When Gustav Eiffel finished building his famous tower somewhere in France his apprentice moved back to his native Lisbon

> The two towers now embody the main characteristics of the cities that surround them. One is brash, vulgar and ugly, towering over Paris like a phallic nightmare. The Santa Justa Elevator, on the other hand, is a quirky, subtle and under-

> > to the city. It towers over the streets below it, but it can only seen you are directly next to

stated addition

and began

own creation.

his

it. Tucked into the shadow of a hill it exists entirely as an elevator to ensure the weary do not have to walk up several flights of stairs but can be whisked straight to the top in some impressive turn of the last century engineering. On the other side of the valley, dominating the skyline from atop a different large hill is the preserved castle. Wrapped around another tangle of narrow streets, the castle has been destroyed and rebuilt many times in its long history and now seems slightly disjointed. Walls end abruptly, paths draw you to dangerously vertiginous drops and doors lead to nowhere. The main attraction, however, is the view. Sitting astride one of the ancient cannons you can look out across the city, from the outskirts right down to the seafront hundreds of feet below. Planes coming in to land at the airport sweep overhead seemingly close enough to touch and the sky has never seemed quite so blue. I could have spent days up there, lying on my cannon in the sun and watching the world go silently by, but duty

I felt I should at least visit the developments outside the centre and planned a day around the massive and effective Lisbon Aquarium. In its efforts to raise awareness about the devastating effects of climate change on the aquatic ecosystems of the world it is nothing short of a storming success. Sharks and sea-otters frolic while crustaceans and plankton float aimlessly, all under the unceasing and oddly magnified gaze of open mouthed visitors. The tanks themselves are divided into four various regions of the world, tropical, arctic, temperate and the central eclectic tank. The lessons to be learnt are presented in an engaging but not lecturing way and I left feeling that I had enjoyed myself while learning. The developments around the auarium are mundane and derivative of so many attempts at 'modern architecture', although I did find myself giving way to excitement when riding on the cable cars that lead out towards Vasco De Gama Tower. The return trip, however, being more of the same saw the novelty wear off and my cynicism return. I was glad to head back into the city and leave the shopping malls, fast food joints and cinema multiplexes behind in their soulless boxes, unnerved by the feeling that they had pursued me from Luton or some other suburban wasteland.

A city is nothing without its food and Lisbon is ideally placed to offer a treat, whatever your tastes may be. The main local dishes are heavily influenced by the sea and the maritime heritage, shellfish being a particular speciality, although the overall feel is similar to general Iberian cuisines. Olives are featured in abundance and goat's cheese seemed popular in many of the restaurants I visited. Portuguese ties with India are also represented, making any roving Britons feel at home with the aromas and flavours of the curry house but with specific Goan twists. Shark vindaloo was a particular favourite of mine.

Portugal is very easy to get to from the UK, Lisbon itself marginally less so. Full service airlines operate out of Heathrow or Gatwick, TAP and British Airways go direct, Iberia routes through Madrid. Budget airlines, fairly predictably, tend to stick to the tourist traps to the north and south of Lisbon which are an option if you feel like travelling through the country but Easyjet recently opened a direct flight to Lisbon from Gatwick or Luton. Lisbon is quite a cheap city, certainly by London or tourist trap prices, although accommodation can be pricey. There is no best time to visit, although in high summer Lisbon will be busy with domestic Portuguese tourists.



seven

"Another Day at the Office"

part two of a short story by rahimrahemtulla

he tall man stood in the doorway with his gun raised and pointed it directly into the room. He saw a fat, black haired man behind a desk and a woman sitting opposite. He shot them both. His accomplice came up behind him and said, 'nice work. You don't mess around.' The tall man rubbed the scar under his right eye and merely nodded his head.

The two men moved further into the room and surveyed the scene. The black haired man lay slumped over his desk in a pool of blood and the woman was face down on the concrete floor. With quick and practised movements the gunmen went through the contents of the office. Their gloved hands opened filing cabinets, removed false bottoms from drawers and searched the bodies of the corpses. All the while the faint hum from the warehouse carried on incessantly.

Before long they had all they needed; files detailing international transactions, memos - inexpertly coded - instructing assassins to kill high-profile politicians, and most incriminating of all, a briefcase containing \$5000 in twenty-dollar bills.

When they were satisfied they had taken all that was necessary the two men retreated back into the warehouse, leaving the corpses where they lay. Retracing their steps along the route from which they had come, they found themselves once again facing the back door of the warehouse, only this time, the security guard seemed to have woken from his slumber.

Quick as a flash the taller man was upon the guard, wrestling him to the ground and twisting his arms behind his back. The guard tried to cry out but his assailant was too quick, and with a gut-wrenching crack, the guard's neck twisted and snapped, offering no more resistance than that of a matchstick.

The tall man rose and brushed the dirt from his hands. Without so much as a glance over their shoulders the two men stepped out of the warehouse and fled into the darkness of the night.

"That was a fine job you boys did over at the Harpman warehouses." A detective is sitting behind his desk facing two young men. One is tall and has a scar under his right eye. "We've got all the evidence we need now," the detective continues, "I wouldn't want to make rash judgements but I think you boys may be in for a promotion."

A woman is sitting on a park bench watching her children play. She opens up a newspaper and scans the headlines. 'Warehouse triple homicide leaves police baffled" she reads. She considers this for a moment but her attention is distracted by the shouts of her six-year-old son, who is about to go down the slide. As she goes over to attend to him, two men walk past the bench where she had been sitting. One of them, tall and with a scar under his right eye sees the headline on the discarded paper. He turns to his companion and says, "you know, I think we made a decent job of it in the end. Shame I had to shoot that girl, she was pretty." His companion nods with a satisfied smile and as the sun begins to descend behind the trees, the two men continue to walk casually down the path.

A boy and girl sit on opposite sides of a room and in their faces you can see the impending sense of doom.

As they approach each other with caution and smiles he tries not to let his mind run wild.

But so open is her face and pretty her legs he can't help but consider the nature of her embrace.

A few words later and a casual caress, he notes with glee there is not a hint of duress.

As day turns to night so a new current emerges this one with meanings, with pleasures, with urges.

And so hands search and clothes slide as minds and bodies but not hearts, collide.

He as a stallion and she a mare, their bodies move in harmony without thought or care.

Thrusts and squeals, without moral ideals, burn as one into the glow of the morn.

A silence pervades as rest overtakes, desires, now sated, fade into air.

The sweat of his brow tells of a tale, of lust, of wonder, of ultimate betrayal.

As the throbbing subsides and the mind returns, he surveys the body so recently spurned.

Head tilted back like a king on a throne, "What time," he whispers,



jeremiahsputnik delights us with wonderful wordplay

D, E, T, A, I,

ericlundquist explains a show that no one really understands

posters and advertisements which has descended upon central London's major streets and intersections. These three words herald the return of television's favoured child, ABC's Lost. This the mysterious and elusive drama returned to the UK for its fourth iteration on February 3rd, capturing the highest non-sports television rating. The American import will run thirteen episodes on Sky One before terminating in May.

This season which originally planned to feature sixteen weekly installments, had been truncated by the recent WGA strike to a meager eight-especially compared to the 24 episodes aired in each of the first three seasons. However, executive producer Carlton Cuse recently announced an additional five episodes to conclude the season's storyline as originally intended. These should air subsequent to the original eight, albeit after a short break. Cuse and ABC have also committed to produce the remaining three episodes, which must now be included somewhere into seasons five and six. Lost's creative team has announced that the show's final conclusion would appear after its

For those unfamiliar, Lost begins in media res with the harrowing crash of Oceanic Airlines flight 815, en route from Sydney to Los Angeles. The 40-odd survivors find themselves on a large island unknown to the outside world, and must struggle to adapt to

nswers are coming. Thus reads the glut of on twelve main characters with radically diverse backgrounds—a former Iraqi republican guardsman (Naveen Andrews), a has-been Manchester rocker (Dominic Monaghan) and almost everything in between. As time passes these mutual strangers probe the island's endless mysteries, and discover they're not alone after all.

> As with any ensemble series, there are almost always multiple concurrent subplots, either through physical group divisions or sub-group secrecy. Each episode not only chronicles the survivors' collective actions on the island, but also reveals information about a certain character's past through a series of flashbacks. With almost no exposition, these flashes partially unearth the background of all major characters, tracing their paths onto the island. However, they do so in disjointed and ambiguous pieces occurring sometimes years apart-forcing the viewers to attempt to riddle out the collective jigsaw puzzle for themselves. And quite a riddle it is.

> Lost has become famous for its superlative ambiguity and unanswered questions. In addition to numerous pop-culture references and a whole lot of water-cooler chat, fans have spawned an online wiki application, appropriately named Lostpedia. Here, along with summaries and news, we get people theorizing the island to be Purgatory, or some kind of

Truman

Show on crack. Some theories have created so much buzz that the show's creators have had to publicly deny them. Mysteries abound and conventional dictates of reason are often broken, sometimes remaining without concrete explanation for whole seasons, if ever. Not even the most attentive and logical of viewers will ever have all the answers, even though some are coming. Immensely frustrating for some, this ambiguity nonetheless has created a cult fan base unrivaled in dedication.

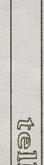
The fourth season holds out a real possibility of rescue, and features a new plot device: the flash forward. Unlike previous seasons, we now get glimpses into the lives of several survivors who have made it off the island and back to civilization. This opens a whole new bag of questions. The eventual survivors, who number far fewer than those surviving the crash, will not publicly divulge the whole story of what happened-someone has thrown some skeletons into the closet between now and then.

Despite having almost no idea what will happen next, viewers may at least take solace in the fact that the show's storyline has already been completed, with every episode building to the eventual finale. Lost won't turn into The X-files, wandering aimlessly until finally getting cancelled. If you decide to catch yourself up on DVDs, I advise you to clear some free time, especially for those with an addictive personality.



Warning: Spoilers above.

a strange new environment that seems to defy reason and reality alike. The camera focuses



HINDUSH

With paint throwing part of its religious calendar these guys are an art attack not to be messed with.

CHRISTIANITY

They may field a weakened squad, with half an eye on their midweek game against the ancient greek gods.

JEDI

From a long time ago, the Jedi have an ageing line up. Injuries could see them call up their younglings. Hayden is really shit though.

CONFUCIANISM

Looking for "the way"
to the final by confucsing all their opponents.
They have the element
of surprise because a
lot of opponents don't
really know what
they're up against.

SCIENTOLOGY

Hoping to Cruise their way to victory. Their celebrity credentials should get them far. Their only weakness is they're all fucking mad.

BUDDHISM

Meditating notions of success, although pacifist, once riled these guys will give you a peace of their mind.

FOOTBALL

"It's not a matter of life and death, it's more important than that." Bill Shankly is truth.

CAPITAISM

The Bourgeoisie hoping to bash their way to brillance by exploitation and generally fucking over anyone who's poor.



HINDUISM **VS** CHRISTIANITY

Lacking any direction, the Christians search for a conspiracy in a bovine enema. Enraged the hindus rain down some religious hatred and the Christians are knocked out early on. Manager Jesus comments, "It's been downhill since the crusades".



JEDI VS CONFUCIANISM

The confucians expound philosophies more insightful and well written than anything Jedi Master George Lucas could ever come up with. Just as victory is about to be declared the Jedi's remember they have lightsabers and use them.



SCIENTOLOGY VS BUDDHISM

Foiled by their own belief in reincarnation Scientology triumphs as the Buddhists are sitting down quietly and trying really fucking hard to think.

HINDUISM VS JEDI

Holy cow! This fight takes ages to start as both sides adhere to their non-violent philosophies, until the Hindu's dont believe it anymore, which is why they fail!



JEDI VS SCIENTOLOGY

The Hollywood head to head.
Both sides wielding A listers, unfortunately their success is accompanied by their over indulged ego's. Both teams reappear on Oprah, where Tom Cruise's sofa leaping antics just edge out the paternity test of Luke Skywalker... the Jedi's plot their revenge to release three of the very worst films ever made.



The Final clash Scientologists achil birth and rocks out ing. The Scientologis quiet room to nurs brought about, fearithe extraterrestrials celebrates with a 72

CAPITALIST FOOTBALL **VS** SCIENTOLOGY

in the ultimate clash of celebrity titans David Beckham defects to join his hollywood homey Tom Cruise much to the distress of his team mates.



FOOTBALL VS CAPITALISM

Each side struggles for victory, as capitalism is gaining the upper hand. Football invents the Premier League, teams up with capitalism and the two become CAPITALIST FOOTBALL!

ROCK N' FU

FLIGION



ISLAM

Aiming to follow the five pillars to achieve greatness. Inzy is their b ig fat secret weapon.

ISLAM **VS** SIKHISM

In a bout more hotly contested than Kashmir, the Sikh's edge this encounter after bowling the Muslims a googlie. The Muslims are disqualified anyway after being accused of ball

SIKHISM

Cotton pants may be an integral part of their religion but so is a fucking massive, curved sword.

BASTA VS SIKHISM

A hair vs hair matchup here, as both sides entangle with each other the Rasta's just pull through by deploying their ultimate weapon... scissors.

The battle of beats began

well for the Rasta's. But the laid back tunes soon got the best of them

as Rock guitar soloed its way to the

finish line.

RASTA VS FASHION

No surprises here: fashion being far too self-obsessed to actually engage in a fight. They contemplated swinging a handbag only to realise that it was Hermes darling and stopped to admire the stitching.

Taken from Africa, to the heart of the Carribean. Let's get together and beat the shit out of everyone

MSHION

Looking good is the only route to happiness and if eating is cheating then they've more than a slim chance of winning.

JUDAISM

Although they have peen under the kosh for the last 4000 odd years their vast experience gives them an upper hand.

LOGY VS ROCK

Knowing that noise was the les heal Rock gate crashes a silent until every ear in the room is bleedsts are forced to retreat to a darkened, e all the new trauma the noise has ng that the Rocker's had been sent by to brainwash them again. Brian May 2 day long guitar solo. Rock on!

JUDAISM VS HARE KRISHNA

Currying favour with free food, the hare krishna's gain the apper hand. Yet as will happen in the Carling Cup Final, the might of the Yid Army sweeps them to victory.

HARE KRISHNA

Fresh from the streets hey aim to smother the opposition with free books and an unholy amount of lentils.

JUDAISM VS ROCK

In the ultimate drums verses dradelfest there could only ever be one winner. "Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel. I made you out of Clay" lacking the lyrical genius of Meatloaf and his Crew. Rock rules.



ROCK VS SATANISM

Master vs apprentice! This civil war ends with a tragic failure of confidence for the satanists. They lacked match practice after spending too much time playing guitar hero.

ROCK

Having survived various bastardisations from Punk to Prog, the power still courses through its veins. Are you ready to?

SATANISM

There are demons Demons and big fucking winged dragons and little pointy teethed things that spit acid. Bless 'em.

CKING ROLL!

rochelleburgess with a post-Valentine's ode to the sexiest instrument of all time

he cavernous space is ridden with dark corners - reserved for acts best left unseen, but still allowing sound to vibrate, ricochet and recoil around the ears and minds of those willing to receive it. Most sit waiting for something. I sit waiting for anything. And then there's this beat. Followed by another one, and another. Thumping, low and soft, almost beyond the reach and capacity of my ears to hear, almost as if I imagined it. There is the possibility that it was my heart, but then it comes again, irregular at first: thump, bah – dump, again and again until finally it finds the rhythm it seeks. And I realize then that it's not my heart. I look up and see a man, hat askew with one blue eye showing, holding his instrument with the kind of tenderness usually reserved for a lover. And much to my enjoyment, he looks at it in the same way. His gentleness makes us feel as though we've interrupted a private affair, as though we are watching something that is too personal to be shared. Because to him, there's no-one else in the room but this mass of wood that's been shaped and shaven, sanded and lulled into something that bears resemblance to a curvaceous female frame. He holds it gracefully, and we watch and listen as he slowly moves two fingers up and down the frets. The beat drives forwards, building each time, filling the space with the rumblings of his heart. The rest of the band members slowly rejoin him on the stage, but it's no matter, he's still alone with his love, and he pushes the beat on, and we are mesmerized by the movement in his stillness. The band chimes in, his moment is over and I wish they had left him alone with his double bass. Because it was all sexy as hell.

I believe that I was 16 when I first saw one, at that jazz club somewhere in Toronto with a name I can't recall - not that it matters anyway as I've clearly taken what needed to be retained of that memory and solidified it in my being. Since that time, nearly a decade ago (Christ I'm so old!), I have harboured this passionate love for the double bass and all those who aspire to play it. I'm unsure

if I can put into words precisely why I feel the way I do. Yet in honour of Valentine's day, which is supposed to be about love and all that goodness, I will provide a meagre attempt.

Perhaps it is because of that first time. It was pretty special in a way, unlike the other first times that I've tended to regret in the end. Plus, the guy who played it was so hot. But as I traversed through this block of space and time we call life, I've seen many a bass player who was not so easy on the eye (in my opinion), and still found myself intrinsically drawn to them. Sometimes I think it's the quietness that they manifest - their extensive talents are hidden beneath blaring trumpet and guitar solos, and if we're lucky, a singer who has fully mastered the art of scatting a-la Ms Ella Fitzgerald. The man (or woman, though I've only met one) wielding a double bass is camouflaged, yet content in that. They leave their skills there for the trained and appreciative ear to seek if she chooses. It takes a totally different kind of confidence to be an unsung hero, to carry the basic structure of a jazz group on your back and rarely receive any glory for it: I don't imagine it would be an easy task for many and that's hot. It could, however, be the way all bass players hold their babies as if they were... well their babies. As with any great love in one's life, I can't say precisely what it is - it seems false to break it apart and find reasons to explain why I feel the way I do. And to be frank, I don't think I have to. That's the beauty about music, and love in general - sometimes something or someone speaks to you on a level that you can't explain, and you feel as if it's a part of you from day one and it just seems right. Singing strings, tinkling keys, notes on a shiny trombone, the heart beat of a bass- whatever it is that gets you going, that's all that matters. At the end of the day, something just needs to get you going... and for me it is the sexy sound of a rumbling double bass. Listen next time you get the chance, you won't be disappointed.

cholic Infinite Radness

richdewey loses his empathy for tortured gourds as Smashing Pumpkins play the 02

aturday night saw the return of the American ensemble that obviously lacks camaraderie, band Smashing Pumpkins to the O2 Arena in South London. Some might argue that it wasn't really the Smashing Pumpkins, as leader Billy Corgan and drummer Jimmy Chamberlain are the only remaining members from the original band, and they're probably right. The current line-up is just another vehicle for Billy Corgan's musical energies that happens to play old Smashing Pumpkins songs, but that seemed to be alright with the near capacity

The show started off with "Porcelina", the long and winding epic tune from their multi platinum Mellon Collie album. The Pumpkins worked through a couple more loud tracks before they broke in an electric, uptempo version of "Tonight, Tonight." After another solid hour, Corgan gave his mates a break and played a beautiful solo acoustic version of "Perfect." The Pumpkins then returned to play the "Rose March" and "Tarantula," a few picks from their new album Zeitgeist with a crowd sing-along version of their defining "Today" sandwiched in between the new tunes.

As the band worked through new and old material alike, their exhausting rehearsals became evident: it is rumoured that when Corgan assembled this neo Pumpkins group, he required his new band to learn over sixty songs. They not only had to learn, but presumably master each song according to the meticulous whims of Corgan. The result is a lean and focused but works well together from a musical standpoint. This extensive preparation allowed the Pumpkins to jam extensively on half a dozen songs and draw on a range of material from their canon. It must be noted however that original lead guitarist James Iha and bassist D'Arcy were sorely missed. Some of the Pumpkins staple songs such as "Soma" and "I am One" that were heavily influenced by Iha were absent from the set as were the songs that feature D'Arcy on vocals.

The dominant energy displayed by Corgan was startling as he continued to rock and bound about stage well into the second hour of the show. He cordially let his worn out cast take a breather after the raucous "Bullet with Butterfly Wings," but remained on stage to entertain the crowd with a brilliant version of "1979." He followed with "That's the Way," which actually sounded better with Corgan alone than it does on the new album. He concluded his solo performance with a surprising rendition of the classic "My Blue Heaven". The mini acoustic set showcased Corgan's rare ability to captivate an audience with nothing but his voice and acoustic guitar. It must have left many to wonder if a solo troubadour-style throughout might have been even better.

As an ardent fan who witnessed the Pumpkins play multiple times at their zenith, I can't say that this was a great show. In their heyday tickets were impossible to obtain, the crowd was awash with black "ZERO" t-shirts and knew the lyrics to every song. There used to be a sense of excitement that few bands can engender. This time around the crowd remained glued in their seats, even for the most popular of songs. The reformed Pumpkins experimented with many new songs, arrangements and improvisations which added little to the show. The evening was defined by Corgan who gave an inspired performance and sprinkled in enough of the classic songs to satisfy the audience. The show ended with a tribute to Echo and the Bunnymen, who Corgan deemed "one of the greatest bands to ever come out of England," with a cover of "Lips Like Sugar" The Pumpkins owned the song as though it were one of their own and the little jam at the end coupled with Corgan's heartfelt appreciation for the crowd provided the perfect end to the evening.

bernardkeenan experiences Alexander Tucker and Fuck Buttons in Brighton

2000, Barry Hogan's rather genius idea of a weekend music festival called All Tomorrow's Parties (after the Velvet Underground song) curated by the coolest bands in independent music (thus stroking their egos and prompting them to call in all their coolest mates) has grown, from an annual pissup in a run-down holiday camp on Camber Sands, into a three-times a year mega-fest. It's also a record label, a series of London concerts in which once-great bands play a classic record live from start to finish (such an anti-artistic idea can only fly thanks to the wads of cash changing hands) and a series of smaller gigs, which would be like any other gig, except the poster starts with 'ATP Presents...'

Like this one. Alexander Tucker has played a few of the weekend festivals; he is an interesting young brand. He alternates between picking his acoustic guipedals to modulate, bend and loop what he plays. It all builds into a rich collage of noise, full of the shadows of each layered melody, and ends with an apocalyptic cacophony. But after he's done essentially the same thing for the third time, the limits of his approach become clear. Tucker has taken the simple promise of the loop pedal to its logical extreme – and at the same time become so dependent on it that he can't move any further. Soon his technology becomes an excuse for having too few ideas, and as the audience spend more time watching his feet hit pedals than his hands make music, the magic disappears.

Fuck Buttons have been making some waves of

t's been a rich and luscious decade for ATP. Since English artist getting a lot of support from the ATP late. The Bristol duo treads the line between harsh electronic noise and soft melodic drones. It's a sort of tar, bowing an electric mandolin, and singing into the magpie approach to outer limits music. Fuck Buttons mic each time using a combination of guitar effects—let the likes of Prurience or Dead C do the dirty work. then soften their ideas, add a few major chords, and package it up in a hipster-friendly way. Their new E.P Horrrsing was recorded by Mogwai's John Cummings, which is apt, as Mogwai did more or less the same thing with mathematical post-rock in the '90s. Which is to say that this isn't a bad thing, far from it. This is the dialectic; it's how indie music (whatever that means) will move forward. If Fuck Buttons fulfill their promise, the world will become that little bit louder, and much more colourful - bright pink glows, warm yellow burns, pale electronic glass shattering, falling in slow motion.

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Blood, Shoes, and Adolescent Blues

adamjohns talks violence, madness, and dog attacks with Blood Red Shoes

imes are tough for the young, awkward and aggressive. Not only does it just generally suck to be young, awkward, and aggressive, but compounding the problem, these individuals have no decent music to listen to in this day and age. Emo is out if you have any sort of taste. Metal is creepy. Indie rock is getting increasingly overladen with fashionable baggage; as the Lagerfelds and Slimanes and Mosses sink their claws further into the scene the misfits get ever more marginalized. So where does one turn if they want to vent their angst with some good old-fashioned aggressive self-loathing rock music? Enter Blood Red Shoes.

The Brighton duo of Laura-Mary Carter and Steve Ansell, who formed out of the ashes of their previous bands, have been delivering wholehearted slabs of angry, loud, 90s-influenced rock since 2004. After 3 years of touring that's taken them all over England and Europe and as far abroad as America

and Japan, the band is set to finally release their first album in April, and is making a run at the top 40 with current single 'You Bring Me Down'. PartB had the chance to sit down with guitarist and covocalist Laura-Mary before their gig at London's Club 223 on the 1st of Feburary, 3 days before the release of their single.

Despite their near-constant touring, the band has still not released their debut album, Box of Secrets. Completed in 2007, the album was pushed back due to the sale of their original label V2 to Universal. While aggravated by the delay, Laura-Mary seems to have things in perspective. "It's frustrating but I realize why its been put back and it's probably for the best, 'cause our label changed and everything kind of had to catch up, if we'd put it out we wouldn't have had that much radio play or press behind us. People wouldn't know who the hell we were."

Recorded in July in Rockfield, Wales, the recording session was a positive experience for Laura-Mary. "I'd never recorded an album before, this is my first one, and it was actually not that bad. I thought it was going to be arguments and

stress, and it was a bit stressful obviously, but we got on really well... I think the fact that we're a twopiece makes it a little bit easier in terms of, like, you've only got each other to argue with. You know, you don't have everyone going 'yeah, I don't like that'. It was fun."

The recording experience was positive, but the studio atmosphere left something to be desired. "The town itself that we recorded in was in the middle of Wales, in the middle of nowhere, it was a bit like being in The Shining 'cause it was a big house and there was only four of us. There were like about 10 bedrooms or something, all these different rooms". While there wasn't any blood coming out of the elevators, "I think I had some nightmares that there was", Laura-Mary related. "We heard noises at night, just like bats flying around. The nearest shop was 15 minutes drive away, so we really couldn't go out anywhere. I went out on a walk once and got chased by a dog; I think I had gone into someone's field. I literally got chased by this vicious dog."

Dog-chasing. Isolation. This is heady stuff which is bound to have a phychological impact, and in fact many of their songs hint that all may not be rosy inside the minds of Blood Red Shoes. "We looked at all of the song names on the album", Laura-Mary confesses, "And it's like, 'You Bring Me Down', 'Doesn't Matter Much', 'I Wish I Was Someone Better', and it just goes on and on. We were like, we've got no uplifting happy songs! There's a lot of frustration in our songs, a lot of confusion. Why isn't this better? Why can't this be better? Boredom as well, there's a lot about being bored and frustrated with life. 'You Bring Me Down' is quite an old song. That was when we were doing the band and it was going quite well but we had to work as well. I was working at two jobs and I wouldn't get home until 11 at night, then I was practicing until 4 in the morning and then I'd have to go to work again. We'd play a gig and I'd have to go to work after no sleep, and I worked weekends as well. I

bouncer brawls weren't enough, Laura-Mary regales me with even more episodes of gratuitous self-injury. "I broke my foot once." She tells me. " Last tour in Peterborough. Such a shitty gig, and I kicked this door in, and I broke my foot." Steve, it seems has not been immune to this plague of foot-injury either. "Steve got his foot ran over the other day, actually for being drunk." I don't ask if his shoe turned blood red, but I probably should have.

Despite these tribulations, Laura-Mary is clearly enjoying her band's rising popularity. "Obviously we are really excited with everything that's going on with us right now. We really appreciate that we can do this. We're not a band that's like 'yeah, whatever' you know? This is what we've always dreamed of doing, and to think that we're doing it, we've just got to make the most of it. 'Cause it might end tomorrow." Will their music reflect this new optimism? "I don't know, maybe the songs might get a little more...

> When I see them onstage later that night, all the dog-fleeing, foot-breaking fury hinted at during the interview is evident in their performance. While she appears polite and demure during our interview, onstage Laura-Mary seems 100 feet tall, wailing on her guitar in a glamorous rage, Steve hammering the drums beside her. The up-to-11 loudness of their live performance, and the flailing, rapturous, and slightly awkward energy of the crowd, reminds me of nothing so much as the heyday of 90s grunge, an opinion which I related to Laura-Mary earlier . "You're the first, well not the first but one of the few people that mentioned the 90s influence thing, cause that's really what we love. I mean I grew up listening to Nirvana, Hole, Babes In Toyland who were my favourite band, Bikini Kill, like the punk scene. Steve's the same, his old band were a sort of political punk band.

That's like the scene we've come from. Honestly, if you look through my iPod, that's mostly what's there. We're not really into the current UK music scene, it's not really something we know about or like. I mean, some of it's alright, but that's basically our influences. Sonic Youth. " Despite all the grunge in their sound, however, the band still have a wholehearted respect for pop. "We do like Madonna and Justin Timberlake," she laughs. "It's all mixed in. And this band called Q and not U, who is one of our favourite bands, we actually got to play with them early on. They've split up now, but they used to be sort of like, disco...They mix in guitar music with disco, I think that's where we get our little poppy element."

Judging from the response to their live show, this grunge-cum-pop approach seems to be resonating with their fans. The band is filling an important gap in today's musical landscape, producing noisy, angstridden, complex rock and roll with style. While their album isn't going to see the light of day until mid-April, the band are embarking on tour again at the end of March, and will be playing Kings College in London on April 9th. Those with a little excess rage



still had no money, and that was what the song was about really, you really want to do something that you love, and you're really trying, but you've got to be able to make a living, to support yourself, and at the time it was really difficult. Obviously now it's a bit different, we've got other things to worry about."

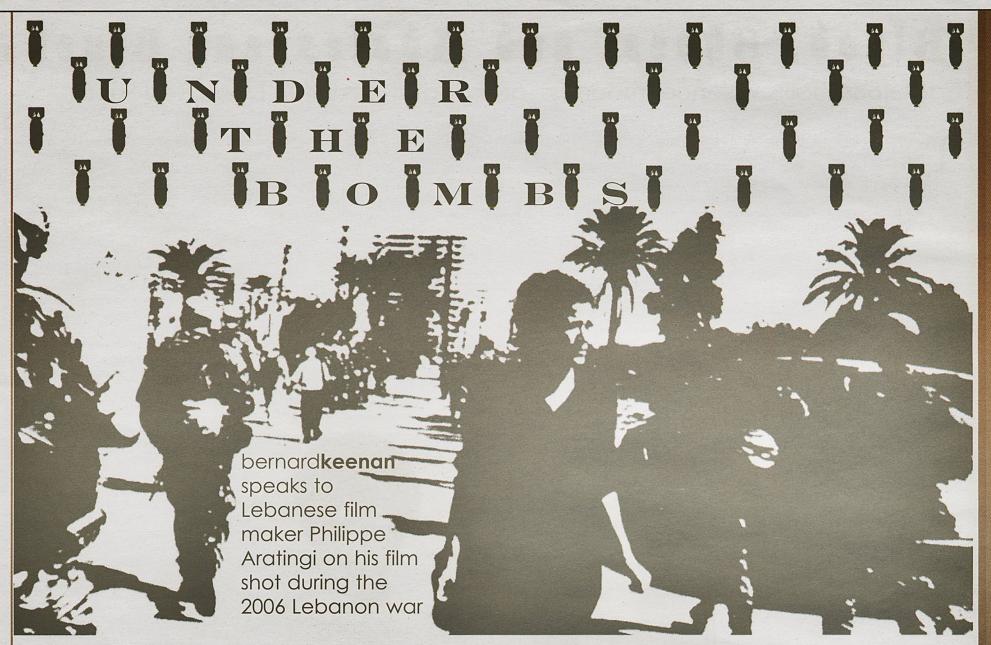
The duo's lives still aren't all smiles and chuckles, despite no longer having to worry about their day jobs. The rock and roll lifestyle has taken its toll on the band in numerous subtle and not-so-subtle ways. "We do get drunk quite a lot, we drink whisky a lot, and we did nearly get arrested once for like... stealing. Well it wasn't actually us, but something went missing at Koko when we played there. The police came, our van got searched and actually it was just someone who was with us that had stolen something, we didn't know anything about it." While this particular brush with the law ended well for the band, they haven't always been so lucky. "I got beaten up at my own show once", relates Laura-Mary, pointing out an ugly scar on her arm. "I brought a bottle of wine in the crowd and [a bouncer] decided to beat me up. Yeah, he just lost it, we had a big fight. I had blood all over me. I was concussed for a couple days." As if would do well to see them.

Yeasager - All hour Cymbals

easayer are the most depressing band I know. It's not that their music is particularly sad - they play a sort of Afro-indie along the lines of MGMT (and other Brooklyn bands who enjoy drum circles). Their lyrics are kind of depressing - "2080", a song about the inevitability of the end of the world, features the line "I can't sleep when I think about the future I was born into". Okay. So somewhat depressing, but it's still no Radiohead. The thing about Yeasayer that is really depressing is that they are hippies. Hippies aren't supposed to be sad. They are supposed to take acid and groove on Birkenstocks and generally cheer the rest of us up. This album means is that the hippies are getting sad. And when the hippies get sad the rest of us are pretty much fucked. Pass the Prozac.

Duffy - Mercy

rith a Winehouse shaped void in the heart of commuters throughout London, the industry has thrown another soulful British lass into the ring, though Welsh this time. You wouldn't guess it from her voice though, which instead has a sultry Mo-town quality to it on her debut single, 'Mercy'. With an organ riff the Doors would be proud of and a huge funky beat setting the scene, Duffy proceeds to repeatedly beg for mercy in a manner which soon induces irritation rather than elaborate rescue attempts. She will inevitably be compared to that famed Rehab dweller and on this basis will come off worse, although she can be comforted by her lofty perch atop the iTunes chart and recent legal adoption by



The land shakes, but will not fall.

I'm an hour late when I call Philippe Aratingi, director of Sous Les Bombes, at his home in Paris. It's been two days since I first watched it, and before I've introduced myself, I've blurted out that I still feel haunted by his film. Images and words keep coming back to me. I'm not the first one to tell him this.

The story is quite simple: As the Israelis and Hizbollah called an uneasy cease-fire after thirty three days of war in August 2006, Zeina (Nada Abou Farhat), a Lebanese Shi'ite woman, affluent and cosmopolitan, has come home to search for her son, who was staying with her sister in a south Lebanon village when the war began. The only taxi driver who agrees to take her south from Beirut is Tony (Georges Khabbaz), a Christian, whose brother is exiled in Israel. Together they make their way into this beautiful, devastated country reeling from the violence, searching for a trace of her little boy.

But they are actors, and this is a fictional story, shot amongst real people. When the war broke out, Aratingi, a successful Lebanese film maker, took just ten days to prepare to enter the south and start shooting. But he wasn't interested in making a documentary. He says, "I've done documentaries before and they didn't change anything. A documentary speaks to the mind, but fiction, emotion, speaks to the heart. By bringing in characters, bringing that emotion to the front, then I can get away from the questions of 'who started it', 'who did what to who?'"

The film therefore, does not aim to tell *the* story of the war, but *a* story of the war. One among the thousands that we cannot see, will never hear. Says Aratingi, "This is not the first time I've been slammed by life, by war. It makes you feel like you're nobody. You feel like you just have to cope, and shut the fuck up. But you want to react, to do something to change things. I'd already thought of this in 1989. In that war I wanted to put two actors into the middle of the chaos. But I was too young then, I wasn't ready. When this war came, I had done forty documentaries, a feature film, and a study in 'docudrama'. By this I mean an essay, a form of film not defined completely by documentary, not completely by fiction. *Under the Bombs* is also an essay. I was ready to do it, the only thing that could stop me was fear."

Aside from two minor characters played by actors, everyone that Zeina and Tony encounter in the film is real. They speak in their own words. "We did some research with them about their experiences, and they played their own roles. It gave a real reality to the dialogue, made it more authentic. The girl who tells Zeina that her sister died – she improvised. I didn't give her any lines, I told her to tell her that her sister is dead and she simply said, 'Don't cry, your sister is in paradise.' I couldn't write that, I am a Christian from Beirut. This film is for the Shi'ite people in the South, and this is how they feel, how they think, how they react. It gives authenticity. It's my way of being truthful to these people."

This is where the lines between reality and fiction become blurred. The picture is shot on digital equipment, giving it an ultra-real, hard look. It is a strange feeling to be there with these actors, as they somehow maintain their characters in the face of the devastation. Where does the act end? I am convinced their tears are real. How could it be otherwise? This tension is what draws you in, more than a traditional documentary ever could.

But when must the camera finally decide to look away? The bodies of the dead

are not shown, but there is a scene in which Zeina moves among the workers as they exhume coffins from a temporary mass grave, to take the dead for proper burial. Says Philippe, "While shooting the coffins scene, I felt I shouldn't use it. We had a whole argument about it, everyone, the producers and the crew. I wasn't comfortable with the scene. I thought, 'these are the people I wanted to make the film for, now am I using them to try to make a film?' Everyone talks about me for making this film. But it's about these people. That scene was very tough, very hard to shoot and to edit.

"Nada wanted to do it. I had a problem with it, but – I don't know if you believe in this kind of shit – sometimes you feel like something bigger than you is happening. And I felt that. I sincerely felt that it wasn't me making this film anymore, but that I'd become a tool for something bigger. To act as a witness for those who died – the people in those coffins. I felt I should show them with some honesty. I think we did that."

He pauses. "It could have been cheap, too emotional. I think it's a tough film, but not a cheap film. A lot of people have told me it stays with them; it keeps coming back to them. It really talks to you. It's a true story – ok, it's a fictional story – but it's a true reality, perhaps. And in that sense I felt yes, I should put this scene in."

Under the Bombs is sweeping up awards – in Dubai, Venice, France, and elsewhere. Soon it will be shown at the Jerusalem Film Festival. And it must be said that this is not a propaganda piece. As critical of Hizbollah as it is of Israel, it does not channel hatred, only sadness. "A lot of Israelis have spoken to me about the film, they come out after it crying, glad to have seen it. Even though there is a lot in the film that is difficult for them to watch. Hizbollah have seen it, and accepted it. In the south of Lebanon, where a lot of people are brainwashed by the political parties, it's widening the perspective. We showed at Sundance Film Festival, and there too it has, slowly, widened some peoples' perspectives. So it's having a different dimension than my talents – if I can use that word – its impact is wider than just being the film that I made. That's why I say I was just a tool to make this. You can understand that if you watch the film."

Aratingi seems almost annoyed that his remarkable film is lauded at the expense of the people in it. Success in the glitzy movie world doesn't interest him. Again and again he returns to the one thing he cares most about, the victims. "We hear all about Isreal, Hizbollah, but not the people who had their lives changed by these wars. These people are still there. This war shook their whole lives, but also the whole Lebanon. And it's still on the edge of a terrible crisis. There is a lot of hatred. Either you move to trying to understand the Other, and who the Other is, or you go back to hating. We are back in this circle. We forgot about that. People in the Lebanon now are seeing this film and remembering that hate is the first reason why things are shaken."

Under the Bombs is out 21 March www.underthebombs.com

Sex, Drugs and Thatcher

rahimrahemtulla reviews ed hamell

Everyday Life' is an entertaining and sometimes hilarious joyride through the skewed consciousness of one man and his guitar.

The stage, before his entrance, is adorned with only a microphone stand, a Fender amplifier and a battered, heavily-stickered guitar case. We are thus alerted early on to the fact that this is not just your ordinary, straight-talking stand-up act, but there is some kind of musicality involved. In fact, said musicality ends up taking up centre stage and the pure spoken word to the backseat

Whilst waiting for Hamell to arrive I scan the crowd and realise that firstly, given the long, bench-style seats with no armrests, this is an excellent theatre to get to know the opposite sex you want to get close to, and secondly, even though tonight is supposed to be a press night, I can't tell if I'm surrounded by journalists or not; I am the only one with a notepad out, but that is probably more a testament to the fact that I am a neurotic amateur journo, whilst everyone else is a well-spoken, middle-class seasoned pro working for the BBC, Timeout, or other such media institutions.

The fact that I smell dope, then realise it is on my own fingers, is apt considering that Hamell turned out to be a prodrug advocate, with many-a-story to tell about narcotics (such as the amusing one about tripping out on mescaline at a folk mass). His CD, flogged at the end of the show, is called 'Songs For Parents Who Enjoy Drugs'.

When Hamell does arrive on stage he passing

does so to the backing of a raging guitar riff which he is bashing out of his electro-acoustic. Behind him is a screen broadcasting a live black and white video of himself on the stage, taken from the side-view by a camcorder setup on a tripod. Why this is done, I'm not sure.

Its ok to look at, but most of the time I'm looking directly at the real Hamell in front of me anyway. He opens with an anecdote about his family, then moves through one or two neat little jokes (Doctor: You're going to have to stop masturbating. Hamell: Why? Doctor: Because I'm trying to examine you) before going on to songs about drugs. These songs, mostly told as personal recollections, will bring a smile to your face, and perhaps even warrant the odd chuckle here and there, but they are not particularly funny; mildly amusing would be the most pertinent terminolo-They are quirky however,

and Hamell's colourful language and smooth delivery keeps them interesting, though a heavy reliance on understatement for comic impact means they sometimes miss the mark. Constant use of the guitar to turn what could be no frills stand-up into songs

into songs seems at times superfluous. The small, p a s s i n g remarks in between songs are often the funniest; a few political remarks, a quip about masturbating with sandy vaseline, and something about wanting to fuck Margaret Thatcher bring laughs and cringes in equal measure.

A song about his wife, skilfully played and eloquently articulated, once again amuses without pushing the audience into the realms of side-splitting hilarity. The highlight of the show undoubtedly comes in the form of two songs; one about cops and tasers, the other about cunnilingus. Both are full to the brim with witty one-liners which come one after the other without pause and give little opportunity for breath in between all the guffaws, chortles and snickers. The latter is particularly good, and despite the subject matter, is handled without the merest

impressive. At this point, the audience stotally in Hamell's hands; still recov-

trace

of

vulgarity,

which is

ering from the mirthful highs caused by his massively comic tuneage, we are relaxed and ready to laugh more than ever, even at jokes which are not particularly funny. He totally fails to capitalise on this opportunity however, and thus it is absurd that after these two mini-masterpieces, he feels the need to launch without the tiniest of breaks into a dark, fractured, and entirely unfunny song about a double suicide. It leaves in its wake an unsettling air of gloom which completely ruins the mirthful highs of his previous efforts.

A few tone-lightening jokes later, an hour has flown by, and Hamell begins to say his thank yous and goodbyes. It's not completely over yet however as after the initial closing remarks, he continues to play on for another quarter of an hour, but adds nothing to the quality of the show, and in fact mars it somewhat. Particularly irritating is the fact that, on the back of no apparent running theme, he launches into a serious, 'right-on' piece about how he wants to live in a world full of love, respect, tolerance and a whole load of other idealistic drivel. This has not been the message of his show; his show has no message, and tacking one on to the end of the set feels cheap and hollow.

Hamell should stick to delivering quirky personal recollections about drug experiences in his deadpan, understated style, and singing hilarious songs about female sexual organs.

all the fun of the fashion fair

hodgean reckons beauty is more than skin deep

lick through any high-fashion magazine and see how many black models you can spot....well lets see...you are lucky to see one representing any major fashion house. It even seems that Naomi Campbell has disappeared off the fashion radar.

When someone asked me how many famous black supermodels I could think of, I managed to name three, Naomi Campbell, Tyra Banks, and Alek Wek, a Sudanese supermodel, who made it big in 1996 when she signed to Ford Models.

With London Fashion Week winding down, the queen of diva, Miss Campbell has highlighted that the fashion industry is definitely not flawless. Campbell spoke out against the injustice which black models face today, "Blackmodels are being sidelined, even myself, I get a raw deal from my own country in England."

Campbell's close associate Carole White, who had represented her for 17 years, also supported the worthy cause providing a recent example she had encountered. "I showed a picture of a new black girl to an agent in Milan and he actually recoiled. He said: "We don't have black girls in Milan. It's impossible."

Campbell is not the only one to speak out on this issue, in fact it has been previously discussed and has spread beyond Europe. Many photographers and fashion journalists are complaining that it has become too 'boring', diversity; glamour and the 'wow' factors are slowly slipping away.

It's all about consumerism and commerce, where is the reality in fashion? Personally I have always seen black skin as the perfect canvas to represent shockingly bright colours as it shows such contrast, giving the clothes personality, uniqueness and desirability. However it is almost as though the fashion industry are naturally expecting the blonde haired and blue eyed ideal.

The question that needs to be asked however is whether, 'we are all just so used to Caucasian beauty in the fashion industry that we have accepted it as the norm?'Or, do ethnic models just not sell as much as their white counterparts?

Whatever it is, let us remember through the immortal words of Micheal Jackson, "It don't matter if you're black or white" only if you're skinny enough.

abaosunsade puts the beautiful week in a nutshell

ondon Fashion Week revealed the style guide for Autumn/Winter to be an eclectic variety of colours, shapes and trends. While there were no huge shocks from the established houses such as Jasper Conran and Vivienne Westwood, hotly tipped House of Holland made shockingly sexy use of tartan in his Autumn/Winter collection. Kickstart the trend by hoarding Walkers Shortbread wrappers and patching them onto your outerwear. Meanwhile at PPQ there were delights-a-plenty with short, robust cocktail dresses echoing 80's proms,

effortless elegance and, oddly, cakes. The perfectly rounded ruffles and frills looked as if they were inspired by ornate icing decoration, whilst the tiered numbers mirror the succession of shapes on a wedding cake. Christopher Kane made amazing use of texture with delicate dresses echoing 1920's silhouettes adorned with shiny shells and luminous shapes - definite closet fillers for the magpies of the fashion world. Having graduated

e fashion world. Having graduated from St Martin's in 2005, he is going from strength to strength at the tender age of 25. He has famously designed for the lead singer of The Gossip, and

currently is in collaboration with Swarovski another testimony of London's reputation for producing promising new talent. While New York, Paris and Milan may flaunt the older, traditional houses, London is the place for the fresh and new, giving attention to the up and comings yet to make their mark in the fashion world. The New Generation scheme is an initiative which furthers this aim. Established by the British Fashion Council in 1993, it is heralded as "the most internationally recognised talent identification scheme in the UK". Since its launch, it has helped establish the careers of big shot designers such as Giles, Matthew Williamson and Alexander McQueen. The winners this year include David, Hannah Marshall, Poltock & Walsh; invest in their pieces now as they may be collectors items in the future. It was evident at Fashion Week that the Green agenda dominating contemporary life has also premeated the fashion world, as the 'Estethica' movement attracts more and more companies. 'Estethica' is a sustainable fashion initiative where designers stick to a creed of five basic tenements: make ethical trades, make 'slow' clothes (meaning clothes not be produced at a rate so fast it strains the land), use eco fabrics, use organic fabrics, and recycle. It's pleasing to see that the growing number of ethical consumers has encouraged producers to also tackle the sustainability issue. Perhaps the next fashion week will see the world's first Organic catwalk collection. Until September then....

Talking pictures

Andy Warhol exists outside the Pop Art paradigmm jshen thinks his photographs speak for themselves

hinking of Andy Warhol probably brings to mind silk-screens of glamorous celebrities, Campbell soup cans and other idiosyncratic modern art pieces. Andy Warhol is one of the most important artists of our times, the 'father' of that most playful of art movements, Pop Art; but he was also "one of the most serious artists of the twentieth century", according to Kynaston McShine, Chief Curator of The Museum of Modern Art in

Despite this expert claim, you might still be forgiven for thinking Warhol's pop art was all about trashiness, gimmicks, expendability and mass-production, with little attention paid to intellectual appeal. If this is the case take yourself off to the latest exhibition at Timothy Taylor Gallery, which shows Andy Warhol's art to be a

A word of caution, however: this exhibition should be

left for dedicated Warhol fans - anyone else might be

bored by a collection of over 200 10" X 8" grayscale pho-

tographs of various inane objects, taken in the last ten

first encounter with the medium-sized room that makes

up the exhibition area, which is bare with the exception

of the montage of numerous grayscale photographs

against a blue background. The pictures are all of equal

dimension, all of inconsequential people and objects. I

had arrived with the expectation to be shocked, amused or amazed at the way Andy Warhol plays with the blur-

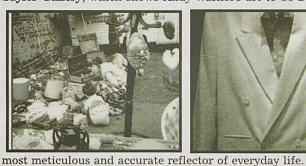
Focus and meaning are what seem to be lacking on

ry boundary between art and reality, but the only thing that seems vaguely controversial is the photograph of a man, standing naked in front of a toilet bowl with his back to the camera. But this picture lacks context and seems to have no relation to the rest of the exhibition. In fact, meaningful connection between any single picture and the body of work as a whole is tenuous.

In this room I found photographs of pigeons, of an old lady feeding the pigeons; of a statue, of the same statue but with its feet in view this time; of vegetables and fruits and shirts and all sorts of merchandises on sale; of food on the table, of pavements and of cars. Every picture is unique, but every picture is banal.

Yet in this room I also found an honest representation of real life - no hyped-up drama captured in glamthe image itself; there is no trace of the artist's 'hand' in the production of art. In presenting the world to us, Warhol essentially made himself transparent, so that we might see through him and past him, and thus see truly for ourselves. It might be true that Warhol actually had nothing to say for himself-in interviews he is known to be reticent, giving frustratingly short responses of "yes" or "no", and he was often quite happy to let others speak for him. This peculiar silence made it almost impossible to discern the character of the creator in Warhol's works, which made him that rare sort of artist able to keep his work remarkably open, to be interpreted with as much freedom and imagination as the mind would allow, without actually resorting to abstraction.

Looking back, if I may indulge in a tendency to over-



years of the artist's life.





orous photo shoots, no high intensity of emotional expressions, nothing of great cultural, historical or even personal significance. In this exhibition Warhol presents to us city life as it is - inconsequential, monotonous even in its diversity, lacking in focus, poignantly meaningless in its many shades of grey. While other artists inject their own personalities into their art pieces, offering alternative and new interpretations of the world, it is an uncanny knack of Warhol's to present the world just as it is, nothing more, nothing less.

Warhol seeks to represent items exactly as they are, and in doing so he was ironically able to make the process of mass production uniquely his own. For this iconic artist, all interpretation of his work pares down to





analyse, it seems that the stripped down austerity of the exhibition gallery perfectly echoes Warhol's unwillingness to allow his own personality to get in the way of presenting the world to us. Andy Warhol is not just any pop artist; his work is like a looking glass through which we see the world, exactly as it is, but clearer.

Exhibition runs until February 29th All photographs by Andy Warhol, circa 1976-1987. Copyright Andy Warhol Foundation of the Arts 2008

CAMDEN CONFIDENTIAL

Sex, murder and intrigue: Not much changes in Camden Town then, says elledodd

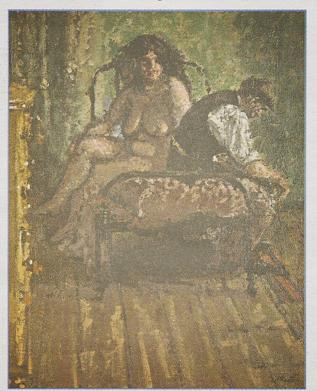
ate Britain is offering a fresh perspective on life in Camden Town, something different to the drinking till dawn, celeb and emo infested view of the area that you might have. The exhibition invites you to take another look at the colourful town, with the first comprehensive display of the Camden Town Group's artwork in Britain for fifty years.

Not the Indie band that they might sound like from the name, the Camden Town Group was a collective of artists that depicted life in North London leading up to, and during, the First World War. Formed by Walter Sickert, an eccentric impressionist painter in 1911, the group's work took inspiration from Van Gogh and other French impressionists, yet focused on ordinary Londoners and their changing surroundings

The exhibition guides you through various, sometimes controversial, topics covered by the Camden Town Group, beginning with a brief introduction, by means of portraiture, to the group's main actors. The second room has a more metropolitan feel: bright, almost unnatural, colours enliven the illustrations of the bustling city, newly invented automobiles and Bright Young Things enjoying the music hall scene.

The main section of the exhibition shows a stark contrast between a working class woman's role at home and increasing sexual liberation. These artists valued the genuine nature of the lower class existence above that of the privileged upper classes, who were tainted by a predilection for fashion and style. Moving away from the tendency in the 19th century to idolise and glorify the naked female form, the Camden Town Artists paint naturalistic nudes, and often not in the most flattering poses. This more overt approach to sexuality in the art world occurred at the same time as Edwardian Britain was starting to embrace family planning and represents the foundations of women's liberation.

There are insinuations of the prostitution industry, with which Camden is still associated, in paintings such as Sickert's La Hollandaise, which depicts a naked woman sprawled on a dishevelled bed in a poorly lit, nondescript room. Alongside the exhibition are a collection of Daily Mail cuttings from the controversial Camden Town murder: the killing of Emily Dimmock, a part-time prostitute, caught the media and the public's attention with rallies calling for John Wood, her secret



lover and the accused, to be acquitted. Sickert and others artists used their position to question the circumstances of the murder through art, portraying multiple scenes of a clothed man and a nude woman, leaving the viewer to decide whether it portrayed a scene of criminal and victim, or simply two lovers - an example of

which can be seen pictured (Sickert's Dawn 1906, courtesy of Harewood House Trust)

After that flurry of excitement the exhibition settles down to a more typical interpretation of life in the 1910s. Room seven contains mainly images of industry and urban landscapes, including the garden city of Letchworth, which is described as a combination of "the physical and moral health of the countryside with the intellectual and economic vitality of the city". Standing out from the rest of the exhibition, room eight shows picturesque, remote landscape in the countryside around London. Whilst in the same unnatural palette, and of equally high quality, the images have little of the social intrigue found in most of the Camden Artists'

The penultimate room shows the works completed during the later part of the decade as the world around them was degenerating into brutal war. Sticking to the area they knew best, the Camden Town Group, as well as the newly formed London Group, focused on the home front. They captured some of the societal changes that the First World War brought, including greater numbers of women in employment, food shortages and the general gloom that descended over the city.

The final space is a collection of rail and underground memorabilia from the time of the artist's work. It is interesting to see how the relatively new underground was being promoted as the transport option for the general public, particularly women, and the various different maps and signs that were used.

Perhaps Camden isn't so different to how these artists saw it all those years ago. It is still a bustling transport hub with a mix of recreational and industrial activity, rich in entertainment and with ever-changing social norms. There's certainly a lot more liberation - if that's what you can call underage drinkers at Koko and the prostitution business is unlikely to ever go away. But this exhibition makes one wonder who, besides the paparazzi, is recording the lives, the places and the changes in Camden Town today.



tuesday the nineteenth of february two thousand and eight

GREGOR ULM GREGOR ULM ULM ULM GREGOR GREGOR GREGOR RAMA GREGOR RAMA RAMA RAMA ULM ULM

s many of our readers are aware, every weekday free food is being served during lunch time on our campus. It rivals our much beloved Brunch Bowl, not just in terms of value for money, but also on taste. Not only is it a free meal, it's also very nutritious. The people responsible are the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), which runs two closely related programmes, called Food for Life, and Food for All.

Having not heard of ISKCON for quite some time, I wasn't too sure what to expect. However, as soon as I entered Krishna Pranadhika's office, I was put at ease as she gave the impression of being a very competent and well-meaning person, eager to answer all my questions. In her role as School Officer, she gives talks in primary and secondary schools, and furthermore is a member of the Westminster Standing Advisory Council on Education (SACRE). Religious

I don't know how she explains Hinduism to schoolchildren, but the discussion we had on the nature of religion as opposed to the nature of science was clear and objective. We didn't disagree on much, and after a few minutes we found ourselves summarizing by pointing out that knowledge or complete certainty cannot be achieved, and that in a certain sense acts of faith permeate all aspects of our lives. This is less trivial than the uninformed reader may tend to believe, as the wide array of literature in the field of epistemology. This led to her point that blind anti-religionism as proposed, for instance, by Richard Dawkins, is a questionable pursuit. While it remains true that terrible events arose from the actions of religious zealots blindly following ancient writings, this should not be used as a pretense for critiquing religion as a whole. Islam, for example, was a major influence on the Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution, but at least one nation holds a rather negative view of Muslims.

After these general thoughts on religions, we proceeded to discuss ISKCON in particular. It was interesting to learn that every temple acts as an independent unit, and is responsible for

generating its

own income.

London, the lion's share stems from the profits of their vegetarian restaurants, while donations, book sales and profits from their shop make up the rest. A look into the ledger would reveal the financial basis of the temple in Soho Street. On the other hand, the size of the local community is very difficult to determine. Their local mailing list has roughly 3,000 names on it, but there are various levels of dedication of its members. On one extreme, there are currently twenty-five men

and eight women, living in the temple as monks and nuns and following a monastic life style, adhering to four regulative principles: lacto-vegetarian nutrition, no illicit sex, no gambling, and no intoxication, which includes caffeine and tobacco. On the other end of the spec-

trum, things are less austere with members visiting the temple once a year. However, this does not pose a problem at all for ISKCON, according to Pranadhika, every one has to decide

how to incorporate their spiritual into their worldly life. The latter aspect was also a consequence of the change of the culture of ISKCON from a monastic to a congregational one, which opened it to members of the general public.

Finally, we talked about the Food for Life programme. Since the beginning of the Lent term, LSE students have had the opportunity of enjoying a free vegetarian meal. (Yes, it is really free. No, there are no strings attached.) This programme goes back to A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the founder of ISKCON, who was repulsed by the sight of village children fighting with dogs over scraps of food, and so he proclaimed that "no one within ten miles of a temple should go hungry". Life is not quite as rough around Houghton Street. Yet, the appreciation is clearly visible.

As Krishna Pranadhika elaborated, there are actually Food for

Life

Soho administers free serving of food in Lincoln's Inn Fields from Monday to Thursday, whereas another basis in Caledonian Road, Kings Cross runs the Hare Krishna Rickshaw Project, serving areas in Kentish Town, Camden Town and King's Cross. In addition to that, two campuses enjoy the same service. One is the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS),

in operation in

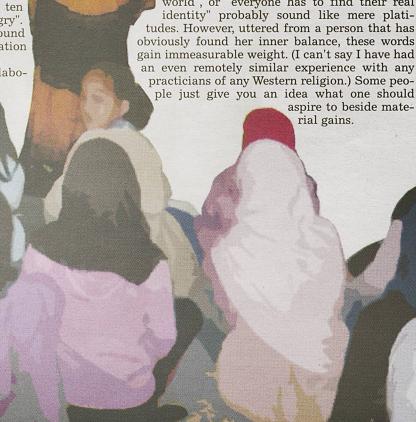
London. The temple in

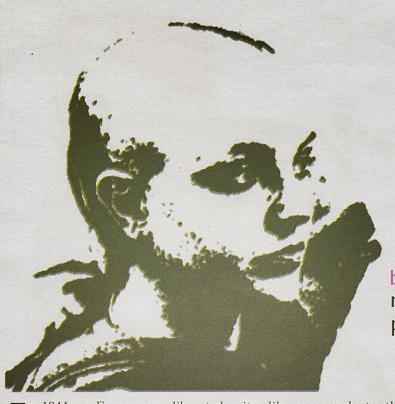
which is being served for eight years now, filling 250 plates and stomachs a day. The latest addition is our campus. This is indeed a very laudable project, and public recognition is not unheard of. In this respect, Krishna Pranadhika proudly pointed out that the project run from Caledonian Road won the City of London's "Sustainable Cities Award" in 2007. It is a matter of belief whether one might really

want to attribute, as ISKCON does, a purifying element to such a diet, and finally "become more evolved as human beings by putting ourselves in our own centre", but this is slightly off the point. More to the point is that there clearly has been a change of consciousness regarding vegetarianism in the United Kingdom, which is the second country after India that has a label on food indicating whether it is "suit-

able for vegetarians and vegans".

Being a hard-boiled atheist, I cannot help but be impressed by the aura spiritual people exude. The few seasoned veterans of Eastern religions I have had the pleasure to talk to in my life all had a similar effect on me. To give an example: on paper, a statement like "we are all brothers and sisters in the world", or "everyone has to find their real identity" probably sound like mere platiple just give you an idea what one should





like a natural Momain

bernardkeenan raises the question asked so impertinently all those years ago by Eve Libertine from anarchopunk band Crass: shaved women - are they traitors?

It doesn't take Foucault to know

It's hardly controversial to say we

that getting out of oneself is the hard-

est thing to do, but perhaps we can try

to read more closely some of these

live in a sex-obsessed culture, 'sex

n 1944, as Europe was liberated, women deemed to have collaborated with the German occupation had their heads forcibly shaved, and were made to parade through town. These shaved women were to be marked out as traitors, humiliated, cast into androgyny.

In 2007, a woman named Britney

Spears, whose body has for the last decade symbolized idealised sexuality - a smooth, teenaged, curved, pristine body-without-organs - shaved her head in full view of spectacular media. What did she mean by this, asked the (self-reflexive) gaze of the spectacular society, as the pictures flew around the electronic networks of the world. Has

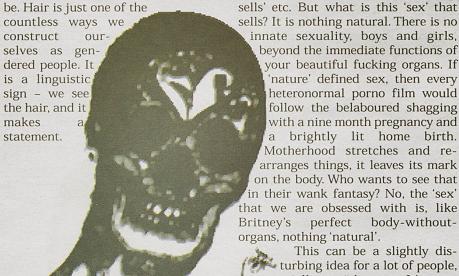
she gone mad?

Perhaps, yes. If madness still means anything, then it has only ever meant a deviation from the norm. Like the idea of madness that obsessed Freud when he wrote about 'hysterical' women, something about the image of a former starlet hacking off her locks held us in thrall. And yet Britney (I feel like we're on first name terms by now) was merely doing to her head what millions of women do to parts of their bodies every day. Shaved women are everywhere! Thousands upon thousands of them. With whom are they collaborating? More pressingly, women have you all gone mad?

As a man, I last felt anxiety about body hair sometime around 1995, shortly after the onset of puberty. It's a cultural quirk in the UK and Ireland that guys with red hair are fair game for pisstake - 'fanta pubes' etc. Fortunately, hormones also made me taller than my classmates, and so the issue was resolved with the traditional male ritual of hand-to-hand combat

For women, things are usually a little more complicated. Girls typically begin shaving their legs and armpits as soon as there is something there to shave. While boys are scraping fluff from their chins and cultivating mousy taches, teenage girls are learning the science of electrolysis, the discipline of wax, and the mysteries of those pioneers of razor technology, the Gillette Corporation. Mothers instruct daughters, passing on the secrets of femininity, like passwords to the gates of maturity. In other words, to grow up, you must first learn to conceal the signs of aging.

Why? We cannot hope to identify a moment when, one fine day, it was decided that this was a better way to be. Hair is just one of the



especially straight guys. It's comforting to think that we just 'are' sexual, because if sexuality is constructed by history and language, then gender is something we do, not something we are. But that means that we might be into... well, anything!

> rules are fairly fixed, and the idea of female sexuality in history and culture is one largely written by and for men. Hence fantasy the female body presented in ornography is infantilised, innocent, submissive and childlike

But, for now, the

both appearance and action. The idealised sex that has emerged is a sex-without-sex, flesh without spirit, body without mind.

But why must this

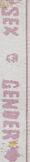
ideal woman (girl) be shaved? Perhaps it is part of the continual history of producing and reinforcing gender opposition. As every great male writer from Plato to Bukowski knows, woman is 'not man', and the ideal man is hairy, wild, and animalistic. Driven by his libido, he will eat what he kills; take what he wins, and to fuck when he feels the need to. Woman, the other, strictly limited by 'nature' to 'wife' and 'mother', cannot possibly be the same as man. Vulnerable and vain, she must attract a strong mate, tame him, serve him, receive his seed, give birth to his son, and enable him to fulfill his earthly potential. It's nice to imagine we've moved beyond these notions - but how far have we really gone? These binaries remain with us, in pay gaps, in the crime of rape, in the body of Britney Spears - who first appeared to the world as the singing, dancing embodiment of Nabokov's Lolita, a schoolgirl provocatively begging to be hit, one more time. Shaving the body (and not shaving the head) will always be implicated in these binaries.

So? It's hardly my place to suggest the way forward. But I have dated women who don't shave. It isn't gross, it doesn't freak people out, it doesn't make a massive statement, and no bush was thrust in any face (at least not in public). Just a simple affirmation: that no one can be defined by their body, gender, race, or the type of cigarette they smoke; and if these things don't really matter, then why waste money and time on them? Ask not 'what is beauty?', but 'who calls it beautiful?'.

"Fine," says my inner-Gillette PR department, "but women today are aware, empowered, liberated from patriarchy! Much like the freedom to become a lapdancer, postmodern women are free - free to choose to remove as much or as little hair as they like!"

You must kill your inner PR department. Like every PR department, it is a tool of a ruthless paymaster. 'Equality' does not mean that all choices carry the same weight. That way lies nihilism, where nothing matters but the profit margin.

The personal is still political, and politics is not dead.



cal beggars can't be choosers"

to be very sceptical of human rights, seeing them as a pise trick to foil the push by true radicals for real equality. I world of capitalist hegemony, ethical beggars cannot be rs. The idea of human rights stands for equality of esteem the idea that everybody is entitled to respect and to be in a dignified way. Unlike the old language of socialism, ght wing people use this language in a way that suggests thave resonance for them.

terms the UK Human Rights Act has definitely prevented more illiberal response to terrorism than would ise have occurred. It has given chances to vulnerable that in our current, reactionary climate would simply not sen available. Until something better - more radical, more ging, more egalitarian - comes along, I'll stick by this ge of human rights as the very best that progressives can r.



Professor Conor Gearty Centre for the Study of Human Rights



"Governments - particularly Britain - have over the last decade put forward a number of measures which threaten basic human rights."

iality of Justice"

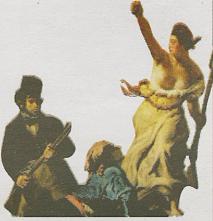
s without saying that the Univerclaration of Human Rights was a accomplishment of humanity, a ing of basic human respect and portant rejection of the atrocities man had meted out on man. ver, it is perhaps worth rememy that human rights are not a soto all makind's woes.

19th Century, Sir James Mathew ked "In England, justice is open like the Ritz Hotel", and this still true today. Article 7 of the Declaenshrines equality of justice for zens. However, that statement is ingless in a world where millions uple cannot afford the cost of deg their basic civil rights by aping a lawyer or going

Kevin Perry, Beaver Editor

"Rights have something to do with dignity, with community, and with our obligations to each other...

Human rights are just the starting point."



"In the UK, the Human Rights Act has definitely prevented an even

prevented an even more illiberal response to terrorism than would otherwise have occurred."



"What still needs to be done"

60 years long, it is still questioned as to whether everyone on earth is able to exercise their rights. There are people who still don't know their rights and what they mean to them, there are people tortured and prosecuted against the UN declaration of human rights. Yes six decades since its inception the declaration should be cherished, but one shouldn't forget about what still needs to be done. Even the smallest action in safe guarding or help safe guard ones rights should be recognised.

With this in mind, I have to say that I am proud to be a part of the LSE SU, a union that has campaigned against human rights violations around the world. Our union will continue to lobby and campaign against violations of human rights all around the world and that is something we all should be proud of.

Fadhil Bakeer-Markar, LSESU GenSec

"The language of rights is unclear"

I think that the language of human rights is a kind of attempt to secure a negotiable element of human dignity.

However, I wonder if human rights are the best way to secure this. Rights are a strategic way of thinking - if we talk about rights, we have to talk about obligations. The concept of human rights too often culturally trickles down to "my" rights, what rights "I" have, when actually it should be "my" responsibility or "my" obligation.

That doesn't mean I'm against human rights as such, but sometimes the language is unclear. Rights have something to do with dignity, and they have something to do with community - something to do with our obligations to each other. Human rights are just the starting point.

In the great sweep of globalisation, and all that entails, there's a great pressure for everyone to become like everyone else, and a particularity or an individuality gets lost that is part of the given nature of creation - or the createdness of human beings. I think there are rights that guard that as well.

Rights instead try to find a common ground which in a sense nobody really inhabits. Actually cultures and people are organic - how do you live peacefully with that which is other, and different? That's what rights mean.



upreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's recent talk at LSE flagged up some interesting issues regarding apparent divisions in the United States Supreme Court between liberals and conservatives. Not only does this have constitutional implications within the US; it also touches on human rights.

Scalia has been labelled the most controversial of American Supreme Court Justices. Professor Conor Gearty, of the LSE's Centre for the Study of Human Rights, has described Scalia as unequivocally right wing, abrasive and aggressive. Some, however, view him as endearing. Scalia argues that big social or policy decisions should not be made by judges. In the past change through democracy has sufficed for society - Scalia cites that it was men who voted for female suffrage. For constitutional law, however, correction through legislative action is an incredibly difficult and long process and the court has often overruled its earlier decision.

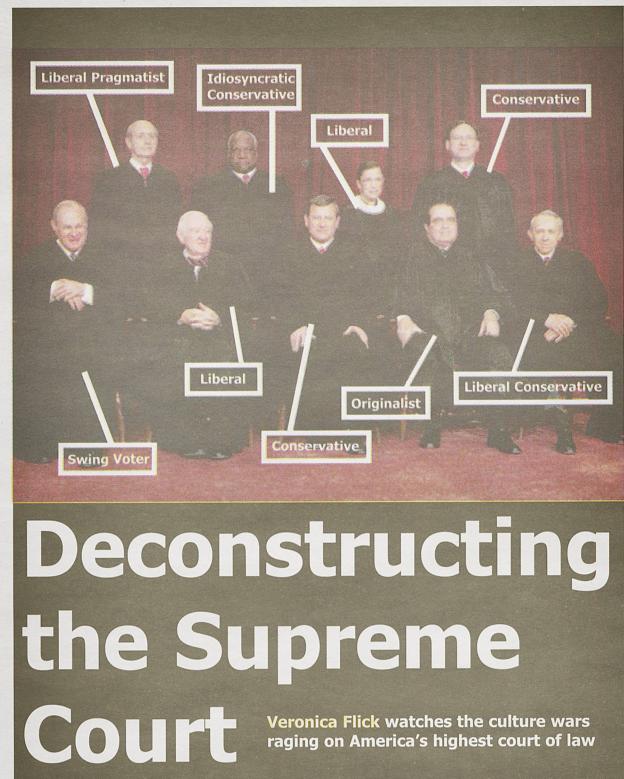
Usually, when public sentiment has changed "the Court bows to the lessons of the experience and the force of better reasoning," according to the New Deal-era Justice L.D. Brandeis. The example often given is the shift from 1896's 'Plessy v Ferguson' reinforcement of racial segregation to the landmark civil rights ruling of 'Brown v Board of Education' in 1954. Where previously it was argued that 'separate but equal' facilities for blacks and whites was constitutional, 'Brown' reversed this. In his LSE lecture, Scalia argued that he agreed with the minority in 'Plessy' and that thus Brown righted an incorrect reading of the Constitution. It was not, according to Scalia, that the courts decided to reason the case on public sentiment, but that the Constitution had been misinterpreted

Legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin's recent best-seller, 'The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court', suggests a power struggle is nevertheless underway to decide the Court's jurisprudential orientation for decades to come. Toobin quotes former Chief Justice John Rosen in saying "I think it's bad, long term...if people identify the rule of law with how individual justices vote." However, in the US Supreme Court's last term (which ended in June), more than a third of the argued cases were decided by votes of 5-4. This is a modern and ominous record, given that unanimity has traditionally been encouraged in Supreme Court rulings. Eight of those decisions were radical departures from precedent. They all moved toward a more conservative view of law and life. In most of the important cases it was the same six who made the changes: Chief Justice John Roberts, and Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, and Samuel Alito. As Justice Breyer commented last year, "it is not often in law that so few have so quickly changed so much.'

This all understandably feeds a common belief that there are two factions to the court; liberal versus conservative, with a swing voter Justice deciding the law of the United States. Justice Scalia disputes this in saying that law is not dependent on a struggle between conservative and liberals and, surprisingly, that he himself is an example of this. He stated that he has written more opinions in favour of defending the rights of the accused in US courts, not a traditionally conservative position.

Toobin aims to explain these recent trends in the Supreme Court by looking back to the beginnings of the contemporary conservative political movement in the 1970s and 1980s. 'Roe v Wade', the 1973 Supreme Court decision establishing a constitutional right to an abortion, was crucial in forming the nation's view of the role of the courts. Here the legal conservatives' complaint is that the language of the Constitution simply does not extend to finding a right to abortion. For Justice Scalia, as an originalist

(i.e., he does not agree that constitu-



GAY SEX, JURISPRUDENCE AND VIDEOTAPE: IS ANTONIN SCALIA **REALLY AN ORIGINALIST?**

"We have become addicted to abstract moralising." Two weeks on from Justice Antonin Scalia's on from Justice Antonin Scalia's speech on "Mullahs of the West" at the LSE, his words still stick in the craw. Scalia is famous for stubbornly insisting that judges apply constitutional law, not delve into basic moral rights. Originalism is indeed a powerfully austere and cogent judicial philosophy. Justice Scalia, on the other hand, is no originalist.

ing moral expertise without thrashing out openly and in good faith the morality of social issues faith the morality of social issues in their judgements. He is of course an expert in this area, having dissented to 'Lawrence vs. Texas' – the Supreme Court's 2003 judgement striking down Texas' criminalisation of gay sex – with a classic slippery slope moral argument. The Court had "signed on to the so-called homosexual agenda" without considering that the law must be based on socithe law must be based on society's moral basis: it had now left

the legal route clear to perverse practices such as bestiality. This is a valid argument, but it is in no way a doctrine of reliance on original constitutional texts.

So strong is Scalia's moral compass that it leads him to attempt the same "judicial hegemony" he decries in his liberal opponents. In his LSE lecture, Justice Scalia mounted an attack on the judges of the European Court of Human Rights as the supreme practitioners of moral arbitrage in place of interpreting legal texts.

He employed the 1999 case of Laskey, Jaggard and Brown v United Kingdom,' in which the Court threw out the applicants' claim to an infringement to their right of privacy after police seized video materials of what Scalia called a "five-man homosexual orgy." (The total participants actually numbered about forty-four.) Scalia railed against the Court's application of a test of "protection of health or morals" to disregard a right to privacy as if this was pure value-laden pre-tence on the Court's part to moral expertise. It is in fact a wholly originalist strict construction of the text of Article 8 of the Convention, and, in any case, the Court ruled that this test was best decided by national governments.

So, Justice Scalia is more a plain So, Justice Scalia is more a plain vanilla movement conservative than a consistent originalist. This doesn't mean originalism is itself a busted judicial flush. Scalia argued in his lecture that it was enough that homosexual acts were illegal "when the Constitution was framed," a contention based more on the discredited theory of guessing the Founders' original intent than true textual originalism. Homosexual acts are of course not actually mentioned at all in the United States Constitution, which states that rights not enshrined in its that rights not enshrined in its text are reserved to the people. A consistent originalist, then, should have no difficulty reading homosexual rights into America's founding document. As a jumping off point for defending human rights in Europe's public order, lawyers could do worse.

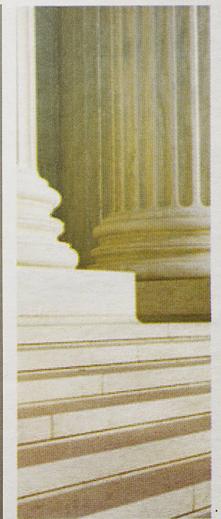
Joseph Cotterill

tions should evolve to suit a changing society), the fact that the framers of the Fourteenth Amendment did not intend to protect a right to abortion ends the matter. On the other hand it has been argued by other members of the Court that the amendment's general language required judges to make

judgments on its specific application. Scalia argues that the Supreme Court has become politicised precisely because it has adopted an evolutionary notion of the constitution, which has given the Court an enormous amount of power as a result. If enormous political decisions are going to be made by judges, then it makes sense for the people to choose judges in a political fashion. That still leaves the Court's jurisprudence in the lurch of key appointments, and not always in favour of returning to Justice Scalia's originalist Eden. Anthony Lewis of the New York Times argues that the Court's major current problem is Chief Justice John Roberts, appointed by President Bush with sizeable bipartisan support. Roberts is a committed legal conservative, "not an originalist like Scalia but someone determined to read the laws and the Constitution to achieve conservative

The way things have developed in the US Supreme Court's broader rela-tion to American society is that presidents pick justices to extend their legacies. If we want a different Supreme Court, we must pay attention to that issue in electing a president - not throwing in our lot with this or that jurisprudential trend. Scalia has stated that Americans have figured out, when they pick judges, not to look at whether they are a good lawyer, impartial or have good judicial demeanour. What is most important is whether this person will write a new constitution that you like.

"Scalia has been described as aggressive, abrasive, and unequivocally right-wing. Some view him as endearing."





Britain marches to the Olympics

Joseph Cotterill doesn't believe the British Olympic Association on athletes' freedom of speech

19 February 2008



t least Prince Charles' position on China's 2008 Olympic Games is clear. The Mail on Sunday reported in January that the Prince of Wales would refuse to attend the Games because of his well-known involvement with Tibetan rights groups. As Clarence House has since taken pains to inform journalists, the Prince was never invited to Beijing and has not attended any Games at all since Montreal in 1976.

This particular Olympic scandal has turned out to be a minor squall. It is easily put in the shade, however, by an ongoing dispute over the head of the British Olympic Assocation, the body charged with sending UK athletes to Beijing. The political speech restrictions that were built into the athletes' contract - until apparently backtracked upon by the BOA last week - sum up the West's dilemma as it confronts the human rights dark side of the Beijing Games.

side of the Beijing Games.

Section 4 of the BOA Team Member's Agreement forbid athletes to "comment on politically sensitive issues," and it reminds them of the obligation in the International Olympic Charter that "no kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Olympic sites, venues or other areas." The British Olympic Association has stated that under the terms of the contract, British athletes will instantly lose their places on the team if they make their own protests about human rights or other political issues in China.

Until now, that is. After an odd reannouncement of its position on political speech last Sunday, the BOA was forced into a U-turn literally overnight due to pressure from human rights groups around the world. Chief Executive Simon Clegg promised that the contract would be redrafted to meet concerns that the contract

would "gag" athletes even from speaking to journalists. Even then, this U-turn is not all it initially appeared.

The situation is as clear as mud because of the BOA's inability to maintain a coherent Beijing policy. This in turn is already starting to damage Britain's image abroad. The BOA has loudly proclaimed its independence from the British government in its justification for keeping itself - and its athletes - out of politics during the 2008 Games. Mr Clegg points proudly to the BOA's defiance of the Thatcher government's call for a boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games. But he also wants his team to be seen as "ambassadors for the country." His organisation's behaviour has at any rate sent it straight into a political crisis. BOA officials are clearly not up to the task of presenting a united front to the media. Mr Clegg first rolled out his organisation's tough stance on political speech acts in an August 2007 interview with 'The Daily Telegraph': he should therefore have known well before now that "problems of interpretation" existed in the contract. in the contract.

After all, BOA's proposed changes to the contract - to make it clear that athletes can speak to journalists about human rights and other issues—were already signalled before, under the old contract. BOA already said six months—ago that "giving an honest answer" to reporters' questions was different to making "a specific political point," so it is difficult to see how the new draft will improve upon this basic ambiguity.

Boasic ambiguity.

BoA's restrictions may not even apply to all the athletes it is sending to China. Athletes who have been placed on the team's reserve seemingly will not face any restrictions at all, and will go to China without having signed contracts. According to a source on the reserve team of British



Association wants its team to be seen as "ambassadors for the country" in Beijing. It has walked straight into a political crisis

competitors, "we will be in China training, and as far as I know we are allowed our freedom of speech." The BOA did not respond to requests to clarify these points.

It is additionally still unclear what sanctions which athletes will face for contravening speech restrictions. These include Article 51(3) of the Olympic Charter, to which the relevant clause in the Team Member's Agreement refers, and the clause itself. Mr Clegg seemed very sure in his August 2007 interview that the BOA would have no hesitation in throwing athletes off the team mid-Games if they landed the British delegation in political hot water. Athletes obviously take this threat seriously. One told me that "they have sacrificed a substantial portion of their lives for the chance to represent their country, and that is not something I would personally give up."

But the BOA's recent change to its

But the BOA's recent change to its position now leaves its warning in doubt, and it was any rate never clear from the very beginning that the Association could seriously enforce expulsions in the face of a likely legal challenge against them.

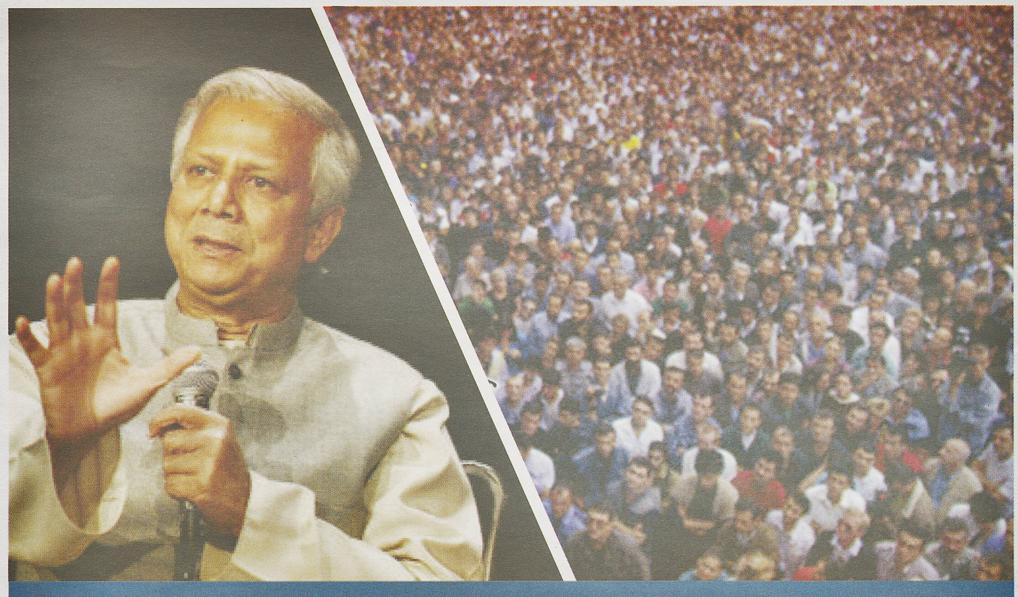
In the first instance, the BOA will not be able to cast athletes out from Beijing for having contravened Article 51 of the Olympic Charter. The International Olympic Committee itself can at most withdraw its accreditation of the BOA as an official Olympic organising committee, although that would still be a disastrous outcome for a body that has been tasked with preparing for the 2012 London Games as well as training athletes for Beijing. The IOC could even threaten to withdraw the Olympic license from the British team in the middle of the Games - but since Britain will inherit the Olympic Torch from China at the closing ceremony, this would be an immensely damaging

blow to Olympic prestige overall.

The BOA's own repertoire of punishments ring even more hollow. It claims precedent from the United States team's suspension of sprinters Tommy Smith and John Carlos for having made Black Power salutes as they ascended the podium at the 1968 Mexico Games, but it is very difficult to see how this will be given viable legal effect in English courts.

These technical details of contract are hugely important - they will decide the West's response during a Games that is already shaping up to be the "politicised" monster that Chinese leaders wish to avoid. At any rate, the BOA's credibility is in doubt - it seems to have restricted athletes' freedom of speech when it would have been best to give them a light rein around journalists, but to have relaxed disciplinary structures when Olympians in the reserve are most capable of staging a political demonstration.

It is not just Britain's representatives that are so far marching to Beijing under a cloud. The International Olympic Committee's whole gradualist strategy on confronting China's human rights horror story now looks in doubt. Beijing's bid for 2008 won out over Toronto in July 2001 because Chinese leaders promised to improve their record, but the IOC's framework for ensuring it receives regular reports of China's progress is in disarray. Nor have the Chinese authorities relented in their repression of dissent. According to Sports Illustrated's fannation.com, IOC President Jacques Rogge insists "history will tell that more good than bad has resulted from hosting the Olympic Games in Beijing.' British team is starting to find out that history has other ideas.



THE WORLD MICROCREDIT MADE

Su Ying sees growing pains ahead for the microfinance revolution

irst it was the establishment of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; then it was NGOs and charities; recently they've been followed by Fair Trade and celebrity endorsements. Policymakers in both rich and poor nations have been trying hard to figure out the optimal way to reduce global poverty. Now it seems a definitive solution is in reach. Microfinance, a means of providing small amount of financial services to the poor, has been working rather well in the over 70 countries that practice it. Although a long running phenomenon, but it wasn't until the late 90s had it started to receive worldwide attention. Dr Muhammad Yunus is one of the main figures who have helped to bring microfinance onto the mainstream, and together with his Nobel Prize-winning Grameen Bank, they have transformed millions of lives.

Grameen Bank will always be recognised as the Bank for the Poor, but in essence, it is a social enterprise in itself. It should be seen as more a revolutionary innovation than simply just another business model. Its loans have encouraged, and more importantly, enabled, impoverished individuals and households to generate income through projects that would eventually allow them to exit poverty by accumulating wealth during the process. As Yunus puts it, "Income is the best medicine."

Those who have seen microfinance in action certainly agree that it is more of an entrepreneurial process, with actual risk-taking involved. Microfinance's success shows that it's not just the rich and the privileged that can practice entrepreneurship, contrary to common misconceptions. By supporting poor entrepreneurs and allowing them to apply their skills to

even the smallest social projects, microcredit loans have put entrepreneurial spirit and innovation back into the picture as a powerful engine for economic growth. This is vital for any poor nation, but it has traditionally been overlooked: associating poverty with entrepreneurship amongst the poor remains a taboo.

Yet microfinance has without a doubt benefited those living in poor countries that needed support the most - women in particular. Many developing nations have a male-dominated culture: microfinance institutions have given women the responsibility of representing the household financially. Research shows that women are more likely to return loans on time, and that they tend to use the funds more effectively, taking into account the needs of the entire household. This is a huge boon to women's socioeconomic status.

icrofinance certainly is a plausible model. Still, it is rather naive to think that it can single-handedly defeat global squalor. This is not only because poverty is such a complex issue, but also because of weak empirical evidence and theoretical explanations to back up microfinance as a sound solution to the problem. Muhammad Yunus' lecture at the LSE on Friday only underlined these problems.

Most microfinance institutions rely heavily on external capital, which is often difficult to obtain in some developing countries. Only a very small amount of funding comes from savings. This is hardly surprising since the poor have a higher propensity to spend for each unit of extra currency they have in their pockets. Thus it is not as sustainable as many people have thought: some go so far as to call

microfinance just more boilerplate for plain old charitable giving.

Yunus himself disregards microfinance as charity, however - even as he he insists that he is not a banker, either. He describes how top-down governmental programs and international charity often result in dependency and corruption, failing to help poor people as intended. Yunus states that "social business is not a charity. It is a non-loss, non-dividend company with a social objective. It aims to maximize the positive impact on society while earning enough to cover its

"Social business is not a charity. It is a non-loss, non-dividend company with a social objective."



costs, and, if possible, generate a surplus to help the business grow. The owner never intends to take any profit for himself." He pointed out that charities receive one-off funding, and are usually dependent on someone or some organisation - and that thus no permanent institutions, as microfinance banks certainly are, can be formed.

At the same time, there are key obstacles to running microfinance as a business, even one with "social objectives." Since a significantly large proportion of economic activities amongst the poor take place in the informal economy, it is extremely difficult to examine the actual influence of microfinance, as that unrecorded part of the economy has little, if any, impact on economic growth at all. For instance, a majority of poor people in the developing world rely on farming, and have little non-farming income. Providing their entrepreneuriallyminded counterparts with microcredit may worsen income inequalities further. Yunus disagrees that entrepreneurs alone benefit from microfinancial services, as he believes that everyone has the potential to benefit, not just those lucky enough to "unwrap the gift." He uses an extreme example of providing small loans to beggars to get onto the right track, just to show that if they can make themselves better off, so can anyone

The role of governments in microfinance is nevertheless unclear. If the government was to invest more heavily on education and infrastructure for a sustainable development, as Yunus suggested, then it would deprive the amount available for the desired spending on the government's priobjectives. However, Yunus argued that society should move on, and we have to accept the fact that by investing more in education and infrastructure, it would not be harmful to other groups of individuals. Rather, it could create spill-over effects on all members of society. Yunus referred to the governments as "show machines" that don't usually respond to social change; individuals and organisations, on the other hand, are much faster at adjusting. This makes sense. Government has to regulate for society as a whole, and its decision-making is often clouded by political scandals, bureaucracies and

opacity in the system, whilst on the other hand individuals and the firm each have their own clear objectives, and would probably work towards them more straightforwardly. All the same, we cannot ignore the importance of government in fixing structural problems in developing economies, as well as the importance of intergovernmental organisations in facilitating coordination and conflict-resolution. Without these, microfinance initiatives worldwide would soon go awry.

Yet microfinance's march continues. Microfinance banking first worked in Bangladesh, and then spread to most South Asian countries, to Latin America, Africa and even developed nations in Europe and North America, such as Romania and Mexico. The most fundamental question of all, however, is whether microfinance's benefits can last well into the future after going global like this. Its success has since gathered interests from big commercial players, who originally thought that offering loans to the poor is a no-brainer. Now that major corporations around the world - banks, consumer products groups and insurance firms alike - have decided to tag along and cut a slice of this potentially profitable social business model, it is difficult to foresee the benefits or the hidden dangers associated with such joint ventures. Would it make microfinance projects more susceptible to the general macroeconomic turbulence that all other financial services fear? Probably not - for the moment. It is true, in part, that microfinance may be subjected to similar systematic and legal constraints as other loan types. However its basic features, namely no collateral, no guarantee and no lawyers, distinguish itself from commercial products. That, at the very least, will make sure that the microfinance revolution survives the current credit crisis in the world economy - and possibly even thrive.

www.lsesu.com

TUESDAY, 19th FEBRUARY

Coffee Morning with 11:00 George Kassimeris Grimshaw, D703

Knitting 12:00 Knitting Society, Quad

EPIC movie screening:
'The Call of the Entrepreneur' 13:00 EPIC movie screening: 5421

Stelios on Brands, Serial 18:30 Entrepreneurship, the **Environment and Giving** Something Back! **Old Theatre**

19:00 The Economics **Debate Cup Final New Theatre**

WEDNESDAY, 20th FEBRUARY

13:15 Mass Chaplaincy

The Boston 18:30 **Consulting Group** on Marketing D202

Lecture: 17:00 'Gendering Development' Oxfam, H103

19:00 Swing Dance (Beginners) Parish Hall

THURSDAY, 21st FEBRUARY

Union General Meeting 13:00 LSE SU, Old Theatre

Entrepreneurs Startup 18:30 Panel with Mozzo Coffee, Pat Philpott, Wrapology & SuperJam

19:00 HipHop (Beginner) Dance, Parish Hall

20:30 HipHop (Advanced) Dance, Parish Hall

FRIDAY, 22nd FEBRUARY

14:00 Lecture China Development, D302

Film Screening: 'Hero' 18:30 China Development, **New Theatre**

19:00 'If it were easy, everyone would be doing it' with **Ashley Mitchell** (LSE Governor) D302

21:00 Crush! LSESU, Quad/Tuns/Underground

SATURDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY

MSS Night:Talent Show 19:30 Malaysia Singapore, Old Theatre

MONDAY, 25th FEBRUARY

13:00 Event Opening: 'It's Carnival Time' ACS, Houghton Street

SU EXECUTIVE OFFICE

General Secretary, Fadhil Bakeer Markar Thursdays 2.30PM, Quad

Treasurer, Libby Meyer Thursdays 2.30PM, Quad Communications Officer, Kayt

Thursdays 2.30PM, Quad Education and Welfare, Ruhana

Thursdays 2.30PM, Quad

Women's Officer, Daisy Mitchell-Forster

Thursdays 12PM, Quad **Environment and Ethics**, Aled Dilwyn Fisher

Thursdays 12PM, Quad

.

LGBT Officer, Dominic Rampat Wednesdays 10AM,N3 Societies Officer, Carys Morgan Thursdays 2PM, Quad



What does China think?

Time: 2 - 3pm Venue: U8 Speaker: Mr. Mark Leonard, Executive Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations. *Organised by LSESU China Development Society

Implications of Taiwan's election for Cross-straight relations

Time: 6 - 7pm Venue: E304

Speaker: Professor Chris Hughes from the International Relations Department at the LSE.

Wednesday 20th of February

What lessons can China's policy-makers learn from Japan?

Venue: D202 Speaker: Mr. Julian Jessop, Chief International Economist of Capital Economics Ltd. *Organised by LSESU China Development Society

A workshop on Peking Opera - 'An Actor Prepares': Introduc-tory performance and talk-demonstration

Speaker: London Jing Kun Opera Association
*Organised by LSESU China Development Society China Week Basketball Match (CSSA VS Chinese Society)

Venue: South Bank Sports Centre

Thursday 21st of February

Workshop/Tasting event on Chinese Tea

Time: 2 - 3pm Venue: G11
Speaker: Mr. Edward Eisler of Jing Tea.
*Organised by LSESU China Development Society

Film Screening - 'Secret' by Jay Chou (不能說的秘密)

ne: 7:15pm Venue: U8 intime: 102mins Subtitle: English Time: 7:15pm

Friday 22nd of February

China, her history, her relationship with the EU member states and their future prospect

ue:D302 Speaker: Mr. Nirj Deva, MEP and Leader of Overseas Development and Cooperation Commit-*Organised by LSESU China Development Society

Film Screening - 'Hero' starring Jet Li (英雄)

Time: 6:30 - 9pm Venue: E171 *Organised by LSESU China Develop

CHINA WEEK CRUSH!!!

Time: 8pm - 2am Venue: The Quad

Experience the first ever crush with a Chinese theme!

Indulge in the sexiest Western and Chinese clubbing music and enjoy the exclusive discount

LSE SU Societies Awards 2008

That time of year has arrived again to celebrate the achievements of those individuals and societies who have contributed most to life on LSE campus - The LSE SU Societies Awards!

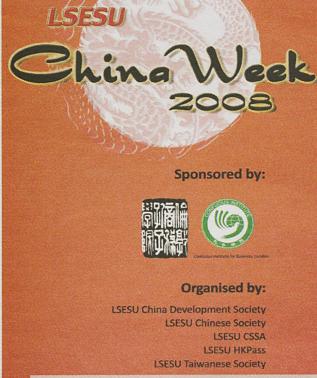
Nominations are now open for the following awards:

- · Best overall society
- · Best society event (for specific event)
- · Best society week (or series of events)
- Most improved society
- · Best RAG/charitable event
- · Best society joint event
- · Best new society (any society established after Freshers' Fair 2006 can apply)
- · Best society contribution to the SU

There are also 18 Individual Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Societies available.

Nominations forms are available from: http://www.lsesu.com/pages/activities/societies/ and should be emailed to Societies Manager, Alice Kington at a.j.kington@lse.ac.uk by 5pm on Thursday 28th February at the latest.

Awards will be presented in Week 10 of Lent Term in the Underground Bar - Its shaping up to be a good event with lots of free food and drink - so make sure you get involved...



Tuesday 19th of February

LSESU China Week Food Fair 2008

Time: 12 - 2pm Venue: Houghton Street Handwritten Chinese couplets

Venue: Houghton Street

Do you want to get some luck in the year of the rat? Come to Houghton Street and get your words of luck from our chinese calligraphers!
*Organised by LSESU HKPASS

Fortune Telling

Unique Chinese fortune telling which tells you many things about yourself in the coming



Enter the 2008 LSE **Bernard Levin Award** for student journalism

Funded through an LSE Alumni and Friends initiative encouraging higher journalist and writer standards within the School

All students eligible

Win £500 and an internship with The Times Newspaper

To enter write a newspaper column of up to 1,000 words on LSE and its campus being in the centre of London, and its impact on being a student at the School

APPLY NOW

Final date for entries 29th February 2008

For more details, application form, samples of last years entries, Bernard Levin's style email Libby Meyer Su.Treasurer@lse.ac.uk

How Ready are Chinese Companies to go Global?

Date: Monday 18 February 2008

Time: 4pm

Venue: D502, Clement House Speaker: Ms Ting Zhang

the recent Chinese investment into Wall Street hitting the headlines, people are wondering whether Chinese companies will be taking over the developed countries market soon. However, are the Chinese conglomerates really ready to transform into a truly global company? What are the opportunities and challenges facing the new generations of Chinese multinationals? What will be the impact for the businesses in the UK and Europe?

Ting Zhang is the Founder and CEO of Business China Solutions, a leading China specialist firm based in Cambridge. She has 17 years

experience of internatrade tional investment in China. Since she set up China Business Solutions in 2001, she has advised many clients from hitech start-ups to FTSE100 companies, as well as government agencies in England and Europe. Her area of expertise covers China strategy, market research, partner selection, due dilitechnology gence, transfer, IPR protection, China recruitment and HR, and has personally coached many senior executives on Chinese culture/HR and business practices.

In the last two years, Ting has been increasingly involved in advising regional UK

development agencies on attracting inward investment China. She has also worked with a number of Chinese companies with their European market

strategy.

Ting Zhang holds an MBA degree from the Judge Business School, Cambridge University. She is a native Chinese, fluent in many Chinese dialects and has lived in the UK for ten

This event is free and open to all with no ticket required. Entry is on a first come, first served basis.

This event is held by LSESU Development Society.

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STUDENT DISCOUNT:

Get a FREE soft drink or bottled water with every hummus purhcase--or get any other drink on the menu for just £1.

And salads are 1/2 price.

And YES, you can even use this free dessert voucher at the same time...

*Valid 11am-12pm & 2pm-10pm. Additional conditions may apply.

hummus bros

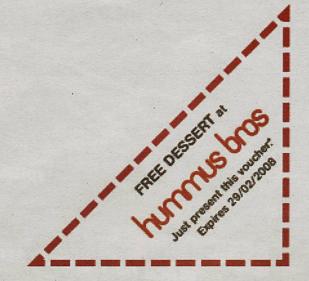
Victoria House 37-63 Southampton Row London WC1B 4DA 020 7404 7079

Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 11am - 10pm

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AU Star of the Week

BeaverHeat Magazine interviews Kathryn Nixon on behalf of the Beaver Sports...



Do you have any nicknames?

To name but a few: the name that seems to have stuck the most 'nixie' as a result of the shortening of my surname by the infamous 'faygo'....

Other tried and tested nicknames that have been popular and not gone unnoticed in *The Beaver* for example – no nix –on, no knickers on, knicker face (a particular favorite of my roomy of 3 years) and finally the simple short and sweet 'Nixon'.

Not content with those and I'll also respond to 'nixie slag slut bitch whore', or just slag, slut, bitch or whore – note the reoccurring theme here...

What's the silliest thing you have done drunk?

There really are tooooooo many occasions on which I've been drunk and done something silly –

but here goes – on being told I was drunk by a stranger after a fire alarm at Crush, standing on Houghton street – I proceeded to spit my mouthful of vodka in his face whilst saying before saying 'me? Drunk?' Kissing Nick Hammond

99.9% of the blokes I 'accidentally' fell on when pissed. Losing the prestigious three tuns award the night that I won it

Do you have a secret AU crush?

Its not a secret anymore you know who you are and you know I'm going to sit on your face...it's in your own interest...Ange

What's your most humiliating experience?

Again...... There have been so so so so very many. Falling out of the fire exit at crush and into the rubbish is a particular favorite, as well as crying in the middle of the tuns during Crush after being soaked by the soda gun but that can't be beaten by the very first carol in existence that I attended in my third year.

Where do I start? Firstly I guess by explaining the copious amount of alcohol involved before I arrived. Hence other than arriving at Walkabout at 7.30 – I remember very little. My fine (the first one of the night) is the first memory that escapes me You'd think you'd remember snogging a ginger Jesus!!

Following that I managed to get vomited on/ just covered in vomit, have not one but 2 pints of water poured over my head after it was announced I didn't look wet enough. I fell over so many times I gave up wearing shoes and was promptly taken to the loo's where I was told to remove

my top by a friend whom then washed it in the sink meanwhile was found singing 'spin the wheel' (21 year olds and over will understand this one - everyone else ask an old au member)..... There was no wheel I failed to exchange all my drinks tickets for drinks. I was refused bar service approx 8.30 pm and had no idea that the quadruple vodka and cranberry juice I'd got a friend to buy me was actually just cranberry juice!! I then decided on the dance floor to chat to a particularly lovely male rugby team member who dressed as a lse wrfc slag had lost his bra. So what did I say.... 'hey have my bra- I don't need it' therefore losing and removing ones bra from ones person for a guy in desperate need of support in the middle of the dance floor in walkabout :S and yup before u ask - some how I ended up in his bed?!? Even I wouldn't have taken me home - however in retrospect he maybe took pity on me after I realised I'd lost my entire handbag including phone, makeup, perfume, purse etc etc.

Who was the last person to see you naked?

Wouldn't like to go into details but there have been a couple of occassions this week where I've been naked – I had a feeling the new cctv cameras in the tuns would capture my cheeky side.

What is your favourite karaoke song?

The old ones are the best ones.

Found myself along with the rest of the three tuns singing a long to tina turners 'whats love' about a year ago on thurs eve......it was possibly one of the most surreal moments in the three tuns ever!!

Do you have any bad habits?

One word: facebook.

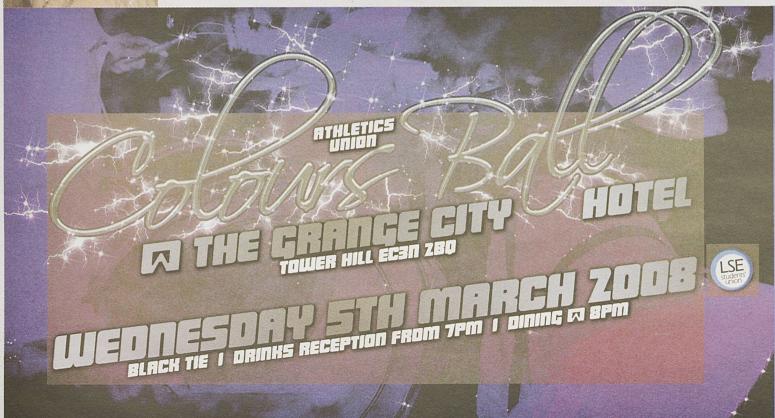
If you could change one thing about the AU what would it be?

I'd be in charge for a start and in force some respect like the old days..... oh and not forgetting add lashings of banter!!!!

Calella- ugly or beautiful?

Ugly can too be beautiful. However as they say – beauty is in the eye of the beholder.... Shame that the whole time you're in Calella u've a serious case of beer goggles from start to finish:S





Tickets now on Sale!!

£40 per ticket £380 per table of ten

Tickets available at the gym office: 11:00-12:00 2:00-3:30

CM

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Orange shorts look silly



D Piddy

woke up Sunday morning with the definitive 'Sex and the City' episode guide open to a big picture of Miranda and an empty toilet paper roll encircling my flac-cid penis. That may not sound unusual to you, but I suffer from a rather intense case of the fear, you see. The two hour journey to Kingston for Winter League provided me with far too much time to contemplate the path my life is taking. My problems were quickly trivialized by the malignant spread of a considerably more serious malady: a third of the squad was sidelined by a devastating outbreak of 'Sailors Itch.' NHS spokeswoman Kathleen Pritchard had identified the team custom of 'glory-holing' in Greenwich as the likely cause of the pandemic, and suggested that in the future we, "stay away from the obvious slappers." Some sound advice, and team management has subsequently established a moratorium on attending lectures in the Gender Studies department.

Reduced to twelve, the mixed team lost their first three successive matches to Curve, Kent and ABH2. The Captain, on league suspension for sarcasm and insincerity during post-game cheers, was forced to vent her anger and disappointment from the sidelines. "I'm sick and tired of an 0-11 record," she screamed, clearly channelling a drunken Bobby Knight. "You don't wanna play, then I'm getting the fuck out of here. I mean, if you're not gonna cover deep, if you're just gonna let them run right by you, then I'm leaving and you fucking clowns can try out for the Cricket team. I'm tired of this shit."

We calmed the Captain down and then beat the shit out of Oxford, finishing the London Winter League season 1-11. On a more upbeat note, Mike was the last man carrying the LSE flag in a game of German Porn Star. "I'm not the

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biggest," admitted Mike, "but I can usually go the longest. I can also slide the bulbous head of a butternut squash down my gullet, but it's best to keep that on the down-low. I don't want the other guys to think I was holding out on them."

the other guys to think I was holding out on them."

On the men's side, an impressive mixture of talent and athletic prowess was on display over 3 games, and they are sincerely disappointed that you weren't watching.

you weren't watching.

The acute racial tension that has plagued the team all season was eased over the journey home by the universalizing revelation that 'Singlish' is highly derivative of English.

It was quickly renewed however when someone passively mused that any impending global recession would be the sole responsibility of ignorant, obese caucasians. That triggered the stunning rebuttal that George Takai is the only noteworthy Asian since Genghis Khan. Harmony thus remains a work in progress.

The squad will travel to Hull this weekend for Mixed Nationals, an event where LSE has an impressive reputation for employing that age-old male enhancement device, the tube sock. As last year's Newcastle Times reported:

"Never before has an abnor-

mally grotesque crotch bulge been displayed with such utter contempt for the delicate sensibilities of womenfolk. This spectacle of filth made one strangely yearn for the days of cod-pieces." Grotesque indeed. The undeniable highlight

The undeniable highlight of the tournament came from the sidelines when Stein, with faux-humility, confessed to a rather attractive Australian lass that his semen not only tastes like marmite, but also shares its colour and consistency. With points awarded for wit, her response of, "I've got enough yeast, thanks," is still the most disgusting thing I've heard in a while.'



Results

Who Shat on Who?

Football

LSE 6ths 2-3 Queen Mary 4ths
LSE 7ths 1-1 School of
Slavonic 1sts
LSE 5ths 3-0 School of
Pharmacy 1sts
LSE 2nds 2-0 Kings 1sts
LSE 1sts 2-2 Imperial 1sts
LSE 4ths 0-0 St.Georges 2nds
LSE 5ths 10-1 RUMs 3rds
LSE 6ths 3-0 RUMs 4ths
LSE 7ths 3-1 Imperial Medics 4ths

Women's Football

L SE 1sts 2-1 Kings 1sts

Women's Rugby

LSE Women's 1sts 17-42 King's Medics LSE Women's 1sts 5-29 Royal Holloway

Men's Rugby

LSE Men's 1sts 83-7 Queen Mary 1sts LSE Men's 2nds 19-28 Buckinghamshire Chilterns

Basket Ball

LSE Men's 1sts 50-36 St George's

Netball

LSE 1sts 34-55 St George's LSE 2nds 30-28 Royal Veterinary College

Squash

LSE Men's 2nds 2-3 Imperial College 3rds LSE Men's 2nds 5-0 Royal Free and University College

Badminton

LSE Women's 1sts: 5-3 University of Bath 2nds

Tennis

LSE Men's 1sts 7-3 Southampton Solent 1sts LSE Women's 1sts 6-4 UWIC 1sts

Volleyball

LSE Women's 1sts 0-3 College of St Mark and St John

BUSA South Eastern Conference End league positions:

1A Badminton Men's 1sts: 4th 2B Badminton Men's 2nds: 2nd 1A Badminton Women's 1sts: 2nd

1A Basketball Men's 1sts: 1st 2B Basketball Women's 1sts: 4th

1A Golf 1sts: 6th

3B Hockey Men's 1sts: 2nd 5B Hockey Men's 2nds: 6th 3A Hockey Women's 1sts: 6th

> 4B Netball 1sts: 2nd 6B Netball 2nds: 5th 6B Netball 3rds: 7th

2B Squash Men's 1sts: 4th 1A Squash Women's 1sts: 2nd

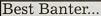
1A Table Tennis Men's 1sts: 2nd 1A Table Tennis Men's 2nds: 8th 1A Table Tennis Women's 1sts: 7th

2B Tennis Men's 1sts: 1st 3B Tennis Men's 2nds: 1st 1A Tennis Women's 1sts: 3rd

2A Volleyball Men's 1sts: 6th 2B Volleyball Women's 1sts: 2nd



This week's contributor wished to remain 'anonymous'





Girl: "What's your name?' Jon: (Pause) "Jake." Poole Jon: (To lads with a smirk) "Never tell them your real name."

Worst Banter...



Kirill Sukhan enko

Never has a Russian accent been so besmirched by terrible banter. Best get back to the squatting mate!

Best Player...



Andrew Shaw

Six match attendances, six losses. Maybe some pompoms would help?

Worst Player...



garajah

Apparently he has injured Sahnmu his knee ligaments. Pussy. Also wins the award for smallest legs.

Most likely to pull in Walkabout...



Tom **Davies**

Rarely can make it past the Tuns these days, such is the demand.

Least likely to pull in Walkabout...



Expect the usual spiel about being 1stXV Captain and 'kind of a big deal'. Don't believe it.

The Biggest bench Press...



Tom Jack-

The man is a MACHINE.

Worst Bench Press...



Gupta

Last seen asking Felix for weightlifting advice...

If you would like to see your team featured in 'Team Mates' then email us at thebeaver.sports@lse.ac.uk

Formula One

Has Hamilton Earned The Hype?



Mark Richardson

espite being Roman Catholic, Lewis Hamilton hasn't always aided the cause of his faith. Take for example, going to church on Sunday. This is because all typical, British Sunday activities, from visiting the mother-in-law, mowing the lawn to singing those hymns have rapidly becoming secondbest to watching Mr Hamilton on the box. It was only a few

erning body) apparently failed to notice that Schumacher had deliberately punted Damon Hill off the circuit in the 1994 Championship decider, just about everyone else who saw the replay of the incident knew what really lay behind the German's actions.

Enter then the Hamilton factor. Now it seems even those who once couldn't care less about four wheeled machines, who thought 'Tamburello' and 'Rivazza' were fancy Italian restaurants (corners on the San Marino Grand Prix circuit for those that still do) are now the most avid of F1 fans, form-

in qualifying and third place in the Grand Prix seems comparatively mundane. Matching Hamilton's effort of four rookie season wins (although Villeneuve took his first win after four races, Hamilton after six), taking the championship to the final round of the season and ultimately also finishing second overall, it's tempting to think that Villeneuve is a demonstration that Lewis isn't so unique or spectacular and, dare I say it, even makes Hamilton look overrated. Villeneuve might also have had the edge on Hamilton in terms of his

early racing career. It is this which highlights that Hamilton only got to where he is now through raw talent and his ability of sweet talking Ron Dennis into taking an interest in his career when he was only eleven. If he can do that, Hamilton might even be able to sweet talk Dennis' lookalike, Mr Davies, into getting a place at the LSE. I'm not sure which is harder...

Of course, the success of both Villeneuve and Hamilton has to be seen in context. Had they not been at the helm of F1's most elite of elite vehicle in their respective rookie sea-



years ago that F1 was beginning to be deemed farcical, mainly as a result of the so called 'Schumacher factor'. The German's utter domination of the sport, demonstrated most vividly in 2004, where he won an unprecedented thirteen races and finished every race on the podium may have rewritten the Formula One record books, but paradoxically removed the market of even the most die-hard F1 fans who bought Formula One record books. Nor did this do much to impress everyone else who just wanted a T-shirt. The monotony of his success was not matched with any sort of flare or passion. Schumacher's craving for victory, comparable only to Amy Winehouse's drug addiction, also tarnished his reputation as a sportsman, with numerous racing incidents considered foul play. Consider him a bit of a 'Maradona.' The referee may not have spotted the handball, but just about every spectator did. In the same way, although the FIA (Formula One's gov-

ing a united hatred for a certain short tempered, Spanish racing driver and collectively laughing, albeit somewhat cruelly, at the fact that whenever he says 'pits stop' its sounds suspiciously like 'piss stop.' Most have even adopted a special place in their hearts for Hamilton's stern team boss Ron Dennis, whom it has to be said, looks a lot like (and probably is as wealthy as) Howard Davies. The only difference I can see is that Dennis has no plans for an all expenses paid sabbatical...

The real question is though, has Hamilton earned the hype? It's been analysed this way and that, but not one has thought to look at F1's last and somewhat sidelined F1 rookie sensation, Jacques Villeneuve. Villeneuve exploded onto the scene in 1996, take pole position in his very first race and would have gone on to win the grand prix had he not suffered an oil leak, which demoted him to second. Hamilton's first race effort, in which he achieved fourth place

instant ability to show up the opposition, with an unforgettable outside overtaking manoeuvre Michael Schumacher at the Portuguese Grand Prix, whilst also managing a first season win at Silverstone, which Hamilton so desperately desired but failed to achieve.

The difference perhaps, is in Villeneuve's father, Gilles. A flamboyant Ferrari prodigy whom despite failing to win the World championship is considered one of the greats, tragically killed in a racing accident in 1982. Although his son Jacques' first season effort was immensely imposing, the expectation that he would have instant impact was somewhat anticipated, whilst the tricky and treacherous path to the top of motor racing was made much easier by being the son of a racing icon. In total contrast, is Lewis Hamilton, from a deprived estate in Stevenage whose father, a former IT manager, had to work up to three jobs at a time just to maintain funds for his sons

sons, its more than likely they'd have been just another F1 no one. The proof of this is shown no more obviously than in a certain Spanish driver, Mr Alonso, whom in 2001 for Minardi (the sort of Tim Henman of F1, a lot of taking part, not much winning) managed an impressive zero points and would surely have disappeared had his manager not also happened to be the team boss of Renault. Handy that.

The real test for Hamilton will be his success in 2008. On the evidence so far, it's not going to be easy. Hamilton's new team mate, Hekki Kovalinen has been more than equal to the Brit in pre-season testing, whilst Hamilton has ended two sessions in the gravel trap. Lest we forget, he's already lost one Championship in there. One good omen perhaps, Jacques Villeneuve, F1's last rookie sensation, went on to become World Champion in his second season. Only a fool would rule out a Hamilton repeat being on the cards...

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Football

Old News Is Good News



Gabs Butu

LSE 3rds LSE 2nds

uca Vialli gave a public lecture at the LSE last Friday and had much to say on a range of topics. The former Juventus captain and Watford manager spoke of being clever in life and how he defines this as getting maximal results with minimal effort. According to Luca's definition, the FC 3rd team must be a very

clever team indeed.

The FC 3rds have established themselves over time as an FC institution, coupling footballing flair on the field with an insatiable hedonism off it. This year's set of players has consolidated this spirit, embodying the 3rd team crux to a tee. Previous 3rds have claimed that depravity off the field is all that ever distinguished them from the 1sts. This has long remained hot air, until this season, with the 3rds joining the 1sts and 2nds in the ULU Premiership.

It was no longer possible for the 3rds to dish out their rhetoric from the safety of Division 1. The time came last Wednesday for us to man the fuck up and live up to our bravado and needless to say, we did. It was against this season's barrel scrapers, the 2nds, a monumental encounter in

terms of its ramifications as a relegation decider, and sym-bolically, as a derby. Pete "BUSA" Lynes was ruled out for the encounter

with a career threatening dead-leg and suspected raving commitments, leaving the job in midfield in the bare safe ing comfort in that fact that our opponents had naffin'.

Team America came out

late for warm-up, no doubt busy inside getting a tactical breakdown and a run-through of the offside rule from Al Lerner and his trusted notebook. Getting lairy on the sidethe right place at the right time to capitalize on a loose ball following a standard whipped corner by Oli Bomba Ursino. It looked like same old same old for the seconds, downtrodden, as hapless as Titus Bramble on ketamine. Possession was all ours, Yoga

a header, delivery again regards of Oliviero, the ball perchance deflecting off the Souleman's shoulder following a mistimed dive, into the top corner and out of reach of Charles Manson in the 2nd team goal.

Rob Veyron and the firsts died down, their thoughts visibly turning towards their match against us the following Saturday, as we continued as we were, cruising, with the only danger coming from Toby 'grab 'n clench' Irving and his handling abilities, an attempt on the author thankfully warded off in time to avoid the clench.

The second half didn't continue, it has to be said, where the first left off. The seconds came out improved, following some half time discipline from Commandant Lerner. We were under more pressure, as possession balanced out between the two sides. The final third is clearly not their domain however, and clear-cut opportunities were as limited as Thomas' vocabulary.

The 2-1 came from a situation of no ostensible threat or succeeding any real wave of pressure, the ball falling in the box right into the path of "G.I. Joe", as MC Wacko dubbed him, up front, his cleat making clean contact with the ball sending it low past Scott, officially HIV negative as of late last week. With the worry of the test results still on his mind, and the inkling that the goal may have been offside, a

rare act of decent from the lovely northern fresher instia disproportionate response from the second team linesman. A berserk fit of rage, unwarranted, irrational, hilarious and confounding to all watching on. "Are you calling me a prick? Are you calling me a prick? ARE YOU CALLING ME A PRICK?" having already thrown down his flag, eyes bulging, he paced rapidly across the pitch towards Scott. Two onlookers had anticipated the reaction, restraining him but having a hard time doing so – "Are you calling me a PRICK?!"Those present looked on in quiet disbelief, trying to muster up the audacity to shout over "Well if he didn't before mate, I am now"

With this rendition of a scene from 28 Days Later finally over - and the linesman replaced - Charles Manson surged forward for one last shebang and very, very nearly succeeded in beating MC Wacko on the third team goal line with a well-placed header. This scare was to be our last, as the second half ended and we all went over to congratulate the geriatric referee on making it through another 90 minutes.

Having done the job on the field, more carnage than Dresden ensued off it, London being painted a deep shade of red, a much anticipated trip to the Ghetto on the advice of Oli and Vic, being well received. True to 3rd team spirit, we had outdone our rivals, both on and off the pitch.



Miguel "Yeah, but" was absent as well, and with Joe Biggs at Paddington/Victoria/any station but the right one, again, Muggsy and the dream-team set off to Berrylands with a depleted work-force, but find-

hands of Yoga and Whitcomb.

lines were the boisterous firsts, supplying us with some of their trademark "shit banter" as Victor 'MC Wacko' eloquently put it, throughout the opening minutes of the first half.

We were 1-0 up within 5 minutes, Max Soule as ever in

Makelele clearing up any sniff at an attack this broken team had to offer, and it didn't take long for Max Inzaghi to find the right place at the right time once more, sneaking in behind the 2nd team defence to loop in a haphazard attempt at

Netball

Firsts Netball Comes to a Climax



Essex 1sts

Nicci O'Regan

LSE 1sts

e'd never been together before. Doing it with girls we'd only just met was a nerve-wracking experience. Balls were flying, hands were reaching, skirts were riding high. For Hannah 'Sandwich Me Now, Girls' Davies it was just another day, but for the rest of us it was the start of the netball season. Five weeks later we are sitting pretty, oh so pretty, at the top (yes - THE TOP!!) of the BUSA ladder, and when we finally play some ULU matches there's no doubt we'll be dominating their less intelligent

As exciting as the season has been thus far, this week brought the netballing tension to a head - a climax, if you will with the clash of the titans: Us vs. Es-we-have-a-lot-ofunderage-sex 1sts. In preparation for the match, we trained our cute, pert, non-manly (yes, that's right 'womens' rugby) butts off. After a couple of rounds of suicide (a fitness drill, not the performance of a group pledge) and circuit training with the Sexy, sexy seconds, everyone was panting and a little bit more naked than when we arrived - not a

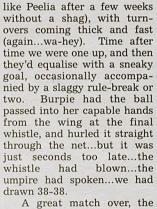
good way to be in Oval, but we survived. Harry 'Just Call Me Plank' Robinson put in a par-ticularly good effort (we hear she's good at lying still) while Sandwich girl and Effy-notsO-Soba giggled their way around the court, concluding by the end of training that, aside from being a skilful, intense sport (did someone say sport?? Sport?? I think they

Sandwich and Drunkard have plans of netball domination -Freshers, beware - in your third year you will be made to pull random boys several times each week (with cameras flashing if single, without if

not).
When match day came around, the opposition weren't half as orange, blonde or pregnant as we'd expected and so

girls, not the same burning as you're all too embarrassed to tell your mates about), and the war began. Nic 'Effy, Glyn and Hannah you all owe me two pounds for Smirnoff Ice and don't forget it biatches' O'Regan lost the toss (wahey...insert obvious joke) but quickly regained face by forcing the other team on court before they'd warmed up...you

come-back from 7-14 to being roughly equal at the end of the third. Lins 'I love Westlife and Leona More Than My Team' Peel played a very reliable and energetic Centre as always, and together with Capitano and Delia 'Pee(lia)' Floyd provided a smooth transition from Asha-I-love-the-Lads-wa, Charlie 'Tight On' Glyn and Drunkard in defence to



umpires felt it necessary to show Drunkard what three feet looked like (apparently she was too drunk to concentrate in Netball 101), and a hard core decided to employ the guy at the Berrylands bar for once (what DOES he do the rest of the time?!), come up with the skeleton of this fantastic article and support the seconds' match. That's the theme of the week, really...team togetherness, support and...oh, who am I kidding?! It's about getting back to winning, damnit ...! Go 1st team, go!!

And since the actual writing of this article, the 1st team have indeed gone back to their winning streak. Only one match remains, in which we plan to dominate the obviously lesser St Farts (hahaha sorry had to be done!) on Monday....watch this space!!



did...), netball has the extra advantage of being played on courts located right next to the rugby-boy-filled fields. other news, I hear that

we were initially a bit thrown, but them turning up later than is fashionable (or polite, even in Essex) rekindled our burning desire to win (no, rugby

snooze, you lose - FACT.

Our third quarter, traditionally our worst, in an exciting turn of events was actually our best. We had an immense

Sandwich, Gill 'Fuck off Burpies' O'Regan and Plankie in goals.

The final minutes of the match were tension-city (much

Mary's Mauled by Metrosexuals



Yeung

83

LSE 1sts

Queen Mary 1sts

3th February 2008, it was the last home game of the season and a final game at the Fortress Berrylands for the likes of Jon Poole-I-am and Charlie "Pout" Davies. Charlie earns his nickname by his extensive use of the pout on all girls on the average Wednesday night. Jon Poole was unfortunately unable to play as his old age related "gammy" ankle had started to act up. Queen Mary (ranked a lowly 42nd on the Times University Guide) is pretty crap academically and their 1st XV showed that they were also pretty crap at rugby too. In light of this, I advise my fellow Beavers to never advise a friend or family member to attend Queen Mary unless you want them to wallow in mediocrity. With the previous fixture being a 33 - 3 win for LSE, the boys knew that the return fixture would be no walkover, luckily we had underestimated the dearth of talent and skill in the Queen Mary 1st XV and Queen Mary in general.

The game started with LSE receiving as Queen Mary had won the toss. A few phases after the kick-off, LSE were able to score in the right corner of the pitch. Rob Argent fortunately remembered to bring his kicking boots and skilfully converted in from 10 metres from the touchline. Rob was able to land 7 out of 7 relatively hard kicks on the day. LSE simply dominated in the first half as they limited Queen Mary to only 5 touches of the ball. LSE however had less than desirable handling as the backs gifted Queen Mary some possession with some knock-ons. The backs however rectified this with some strong running from debutant Adam Clarke with Tom Davies commanding from number 10 and Matt "gravy" Walker was also running some slick lines. By nail time, LSE were 7 tries up including 1.5 tries from Jacko. Jacko was able to finish off a slick passage of play by catching and running 1.5 metres to score. This had doubled the distance that Jacko had run with ball in hand all season. Jacko's half try was pure hilarity. Claiming to be Ronnie Coleman's brother from another mother with claims of yeah buddy and saying that all weights in the gym were light

weights simply showed his lack of strength by picking up from a ruck and getting driven back. Luckily Andrew Shaw was in support to help with Jacko's apparent lack of strength and helped push Jacko over for him to score. With 7 tries in the first half and 7 conversions from Rob, LSE knew the game was virtually won. However with next

week's fixture against Essex 1sts, Ollie Perry and Jon Poole advised the team to stop playing 7's style rugby and concentrate on our set pieces. As combined with the lack of talent in the Queen Mary's 1st made it hard in the second half for LSE to play any structured rugby. The second half started easily with LSE scoring off their kick-off. Queen Mary knocked on ball in their own half and 2 passes later LSE dotted down for the posts. With 6 tries in the second half, it clearly showed that with their limited intellect; Queen

Mary had unable to say anything motivating at half time. Finn, Sharkey and Murderer were subbed on at 50 minutes as they replaced Rees, Rob and Alex respectively. Highlights of the second half included a conversion from the touchline and some skilful interplay between Charlie and Andrew Shaw. Charlie made a break from our 22 who offloaded Shaw. Shaw then offloaded back to Charlie for him to score on his final game at Fortress Berrylands. Ed "The Stig" Studd was able to show presence by Without saying a single word during the game, it was sometimes hard to tell if Ed was actually on the pitch. Even with some skilful rugby in the second half there were two calamitous moments by Tom Davies and Ollie Perry. Tom Davies decided to throw a miss 4 pass in our 22 and missed all the backs on the team to give Queen Mary possession. Secondly, Ollie Perry with his dreams of performing in Swan Lake after university decided to swan dive into a tackle where it was easier just to run around the hapless Queen Mary fullback. Instead of a try Ollie got a penalty awarded against us.

All in All the try scorers

Rob Argent x1, Ollie Perry x2, Andrew Shaw x2.5, Tom Jackson x1.5, Ed Stud x1, Matt Walker x1, Adam Clarke x1, Arun Kalra x2, Charlie Davies

Adam Clarke had a solid debut with strong runs and a try. Rob Argent may have had a solid game at number 9 with good box kicking and a perfect 7 out of 7 kicks but the Man of the Match award had to go to Andrew Shaw. Shaw was all over the field in defence and attack. In attack he made good runs and provided invaluable support to his team mates. He simply was everywhere and he

formance off with 2 tries. He also showed that he was an unselfish player as he helped push Jacko over the line to score. Jacko may claim to be Ronnie Coleman's brother from another mother but his physique is quoted by Captain Perry as having a body of a (skinny) Netballer.

Villain of the Match:

Even if the score was a monstrous 83 - 7; there was one moment during the match when Tom Davies decided that a miss 4 pass inside our 22. The miss 4 pass however eluded all the backs and resulted in Queen Mary gaining ball in our own 22. Without the usual support of Jon Poole, Davies claim that "it was on" soon fell expectedly fell onto deaf ears. Ollie Perry's swan dive was also deserved of the villain of the day but since it was his birthday we let him off.

1 Arun "cage" Johar-Gupta, 2 Kirill Subhanenko, 3 Philip 'yellow" Leung Junior, 4 Tom 'Jacko" Jackson, 5 Alex Jones, 6 Andrew Shaw 7 Charlie pout" Davies, 8 Ollie "bottle" Perry, 9 Rob Argent, 10 Tom Davies 11 Ed "The Stigg" Stud, 12 Adam Clarke, 13 Matt "gravy" Walker, 14 Arun Kalra, 15 Rees "Reesey" Sutton

Replacements: 16 Phil "murderer" Burkimsher, "hammerhead" Jonathan Sharkey, 18 Finn "Finnegan" O'Drisscol

headed onto the Rag Pub crawl. With the Northern Charm of Matt Walker and friendliness of Rees Sutton, the rugby team was able to raise an impressive amount of money. After that the team headed to Walkabout where I don't really remember much so I'm not going to pretend I do...

Until next time, your friendly neighbourhood token, Phil "yellow" Leung Junior

