

The Beaver

The Newspaper of the LSE SU

First Published 05 May 1949

24 February 2004

Issue number 597



blink gets a water feature, page 13

Brand New interview in B:art, page 15



Sir Howard explains himself - again, page 6

Radical Tuns refurbishment planned

Mark Power
Executive Editor

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

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

The planned refurbishment involves creating a new glass frontage to the main bar on Houghton Street, and radically alters the layout of the interior, which, the current sabbatical team hopes, will improve the appeal of the Tuns and reverse the current decline in sales and revenue coming from the establishment. The proposed development also seeks to address long-standing problems with the facilities of the bar, including the now decrepit toilet facilities as well as a deteriorating décor and atmosphere.

SU Treasurer Jo Kibble told *The Beaver* that the state of the Tuns bar was such that the "status quo is not a feasible option." He emphasised that the choice for the Union was between "managed decline" and total refurbishment, and Kibble indicated that he had chosen the latter following recommendations from his predecessor Peter Bellini.

A large component of the plans include a revamp of the Underground Bar and the introduction of catering services into both venues, improving the Union's catering provision beyond the currently stretched café, and increasing revenue from sales of coffee and hot and cold food as well as the bar's more traditional beverages. It is also expected that the new spaces created will create more and better spaces for societies' functions.

However, the proposed changes have provoked controversy amongst students concerned about the significant cost of the refurbishment, as well as what some fear will be the loss of the cosy and traditional pub atmosphere of the current Three Tuns. The proposed cost of the project, £500,000, amounts to half of the Union's capital reserves. These reserves are already predicted to be depleted by Kibble's budget



A bolder and brighter future for the Three Tuns? The bar as it will look after the planned refurbishment.

- Refurb includes both the Tuns and Underground
- Concerns over financial viability of £500,000 project
- Completion planned for start of 2004/5
- New facilities will include extra student catering
- Application for extended opening hours submitted

which has forecasted a £80,000 deficit, whilst some have questioned the wisdom of committing large amounts of money to an entertainments venue when the financial future of the Union seems uncertain.

These concerns are compounded by the recent announcement that included in the School's estates strategy are plans to demolish the Clare Market building, which contains The Three Tuns, in seven years time as it nears the end of its useful life.

Kibble counters such concerns by claiming that, although the refurbishment will have a relatively short shelf life, the project will break even within five years. He also claims the project will provide substantial additional benefits to the Union in terms of improved facilities and better provision for the needs of societies and the catering requirements of students.

Kibble predicts a 7% increase in sales during the first year of the new bar's operation, with a further 3% increase in the years following this. He claims that experience from other students' unions around the country shows that refurbishments, followed by the implementation of new product lines, generally result in an increase in sales to the outlets.

However, when asked by *The Beaver* to provide specific models of how he plans to ensure that the project would recover the money spent on it, Kibble was unable to provide sound basis for his predictions. According to financial advice sought by *The Beaver*, Kibble would have to provide a detailed breakdown of expected profit margins on the increased sales, thus ensuring accurate predictions for the future profitability of the bars.

Kibble, however, concedes that he has not yet decided upon the new product lines he envisages will form the basis of the increased revenue from the bars. In the estimates he gave to *The Beaver*, Kibble failed to account for costs associated with an increase in sales, such as increases in staffing costs due to the increased opening hours of the Underground Bar and the wider variety of products available, including food, which place greater demands on serving staff.

Reactions to the changes on campus have been mixed, with some students enthusiastically endorsing the plans to makeover the bars in a more modern and clean atmosphere. Speaking to *The Beaver* however, one student commented that the proposals "lacked character" and reiterated the concerns of other students who have become attached to the existing Three Tuns.

When contacted by *The Beaver* for comment, LSE Director of Finance and Facilities, Andrew Farrell, confirmed that the proposed refurbishment did indeed fit with the School's estates strategy, and supported the need for the Union to address the continued decline of the Three Tuns.

Editorial Comment, page 7

Students escape to Scotland

Jess Brammar

A 15 per cent rise in applications to Scottish universities from students south of the border has been linked to the government's recent victory on top-up fees, *The Daily Telegraph* reported last week.

Both top-up fees, which would be paid by students after they graduate and earn more than £15,000 and additional tuition fees, have been ruled out by the Scottish parliament.

Rami Okasha, President of NUS Scotland, told *The Telegraph* that English applicants were "beginning to panic" about top-up fees and were therefore choosing to apply to universities in Scotland.

The number of applications received by Scottish universities for places last October rose by 4,000 in comparison to the previous year.

Top-up fees will not be implemented in England until 2006 and currently English students studying at Scottish universities are required to pay the same £3,600 in fees as students at English universities. Under the current Scottish system, Scottish students pay about £2000 after graduation into a graduate endowment fund.

The rise in Scottish university applications may, however, be linked to a wider trend. The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), which deals with applications for English universities, has received 23,600 applications from English applicants, representing an increase of 12 per cent on the previous year.

Due to the increased pressure caused by the larger numbers and the perceived shortfall in funds for Scottish institutions, a committee recommended last December, that the Scottish parliament invest more money in higher education.

The report suggested that top-up fees, which could be as much as an extra £3000 a year for students of some English institutions, could lead to proportionally more investment in English universities, leaving those in Scotland at a financial disadvantage. The committee recommended that: "if the aspiration is to grow the Scottish economy, the Executive should significantly increase its investment in higher education in real terms." However, Jim Wallace, the Scottish Enterprise Minister, previously told the Scottish parliament that the impact of top-up fees was "far from certain" and that he was not convinced that "large additional injections" of funding would be appropriate.

Harvard approves student porn

Katie Krause

Two female undergraduates at Harvard University in the USA have been given permission to publish an erotic magazine featuring nude photos of students, in what seems to be a growing trend around campuses to engage in erotic art and magazines.

Katharina C. Baldegg and Camilla A. Hrdy gained a 14-0 approval by the Committee on College Life (CCL) to make their magazine *H Bomb* an official publication of Harvard University in a vote on February 10th.

Although labelled a "porn magazine" by a *Harvard Crimson* news writer, in a statement released by a Harvard spokesperson the two students claim the magazine "is an outlet for literary and artistic expression that is both desired and needed."

H Bomb, planned to be published biannually with the first issue due in May, will feature art, literature, sex advice, fiction

and nude photography, and "provide comfortable, relaxed discussion that doesn't hold back and puts a lighter spin on something that shouldn't be a restricted or delicate topic at Harvard."

The university, however, has only approved the publication under the conditions that all nude models, who will be exclusively Harvard students, be over 18 and that no advertisement posters be distributed on campus. No photos are to be taken inside Harvard buildings.

The Washington Times quoted Judith Kidd, Associate Dean of Harvard, saying that "recognition of student organisation does not imply endorsement by Harvard University of any particular political position or point of view."

While admitting that some people could find the content offensive, she insisted that "to deny recognition would deny free speech."

Dr Marc D. Hauser, Professor of Psychology at the university and Faculty

Advisor for *H Bomb*, replied to *The Beaver* by saying that because of the "flurry of activity" they would concentrate on the magazine content for now and stay "quiet with respect to the press."

The two student publishers were not available for comment.

Although attracting considerable attention, *H Bomb* is not the first of its kind.

Vassar College has been publishing a student-run erotic magazine called *Squirm* for five years, while the Swarthmore College counterpart is called *Unmentionables*.

Yale, too, printed pinup photos of the "50 Most Beautiful People" on campus in its *Rumpus* student newspaper.

In the United Kingdom, Durham University has already published calendars featuring nude photographs of students in order to raise money for charity.

Government is a soap opera says

Lord Wilson

Simon Chignell

Former Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service, Lord Richard Wilson, used an appearance at the LSE last Tuesday to criticise the changing attitudes of the media towards government, whilst praising the civil service.

In "Reflections of a Cabinet Secretary" - organised by the Schapiro Government Club - Lord Wilson spoke about how the accountability of the Government had dramatically increased, giving the example that under John Major, 10 Downing Street had received around 19,000 letters a day whilst Tony Blair is receiving almost half a million.

Lord Wilson, now Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, commented that "a more questioning attitude is a good thing but it can present problems" and was unsure whether deference and respect for politics in general had gone.

"The media appetite for news today is huge, with on the hour bulletins and 24 hour news channels. The government is treated like a soap-opera and they now have to try and write the episodes themselves rather than let the media decide what the story is." He also stated that today's fast-paced media dictates the pace of decision-making meaning the government has to assign people to monitor the news all day to ensure they can respond to a story even as soon as possible.



Sir Howard Davies joins Lord Wilson in a lecture for the Schapiro Government Club.

When asked about his influence as Cabinet Secretary to Tony Blair, Lord Wilson reflected on September 11th 2001, when the news began to break and he decided whether to evacuate the Houses of Parliament, or if to ground all flights over London because the Prime Minister and ministerial colleagues had begun to make their way home. He said that his duties varied from making the tea to giving heeded advice on the important issues of the day.

He stated "the job of ministers are nigh on impossible because they go into the position with no experience and because they are under pressure to perform in Parliament, whilst under media scrutiny. A vicious attack by the media, such as on Cherie Blair in the 'Cherie-gate' scandal,

can be just like being mugged in a physical attack."

When talking about his former employers, Lord Wilson spoke of the importance of political impartiality and maintaining the integrity within the civil service. He praised it for adapting under an extraordinary extent of constitutional change and also considered the possibility of the Civil Service itself becoming an election issue as the public ask "what is the function of the Civil Service?"

At the end of the warmly received talk Lord Wilson was presented with a soft toy beaver as a token of thanks from LSE Director Howard Davies, the guest Chair of the talk. Talking to Davies afterwards he joked: "I was surprised that no-one fell asleep!"

And they did verily axe graduation prayers

Elaine Londesborough

The University of Edinburgh has announced plans to replace Christian prayer with a "period of reflection" at its graduation ceremonies.

The university has made the move because of criticism that the current use of Christian prayer excludes other religions and offends atheists.

There is also a fear of legal action if the university were to continue prayer at the ceremonies. A report by Michael Anderson, the senior vice-principal, said "There is a risk, although it is thought to be very low, of legal action being taken against the university for breach of the Race Relations

Amendment Act or the religious discrimination regulations if prayers with a very overtly Christian style and form were to become the norm."

The Church of Scotland, the Catholic Church and half of the university's 14 chaplains have condemned the move, claiming that the religious element of the ceremony was inclusive and not meant to cause offence.

Students at the university, however, have supported the decision. Will Garton, Head of the Students Association, told *The Telegraph*: "We support the change because the majority of us aren't Christian."

The move comes at the same time as plans are being drawn up by the

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to include the study of Atheism and other non-religious beliefs within religious education classes in secondary schools.

A spokesperson for the QCA told *The Guardian* newspaper, "There are many children in England who have no religious affiliation and their beliefs and ideas, whatever they are, should be taken very seriously."

Since the LSE began conducting its own graduation ceremonies in 1992, there has been neither prayer nor singing of the national anthem, reflecting the wide range of religions and nationalities represented at the LSE. Previously, graduation was organised by the University of London.



No more prayers at Edinburgh's graduation ceremonies.

Constitutional amendment falls

Prashant Rao
News Editor

The Union's constitutional review was thrown into disarray at last week's Union General Meeting (UGM) after the amendments to the Students' Union Codes of Practice were voted down.

Under the amendment, the Communications Sabbatical would be mandated to, among other things, retain "primary responsibility for co-ordinating, promoting and encouraging participation in other campaigns that the UGM chooses to adopt as Union policy...".

This particular part of the amendment is troublesome as it could potentially contravene Section 5 of the Political Activities and Campaigning by Charities guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales, which stipulates that, "A charity may undertake only those activities which further its purposes and which are authorised by its governing document."

The guidance also says, in Section 4, that, "A charity should not seek to organise public opinion to support or oppose a political party which advocates a particular policy favoured or opposed by the charity."

As such, it is conceivable that if the Union were to support an anti-war protest, it could face legal action. In fact, there have been cases in the past of students' unions being refused funds over anti-Gulf War protests.

It was ruled that while "discussion of

political issues was an acceptable educational activity for a charitable organisation, political campaigning in an effort to influence public opinion was not."

In addition, it was also said that "affiliation to wholly non-charitable organisations for non-charitable purposes was not allowed."

The issue was brought up at the UGM when Daniel Freedman pointed out in his speech that the proposed amendment would be in violation of the Charities Commission guidelines. LSESU Treasurer Jo Kibble, in response to Freedman's contention said that if this were so, then the Union would simply not follow that particular line of the Constitution.

This comment sparked further controversy as current blink Editor of The Beaver and member of the Constitution and Steering Committee (C&S), Matthew Sinclair, pled in his speech, "surely if there is a part of this amendment that we would not follow because of possible legal discrepancies, then there is something wrong with this amendment."

The position of Communications Sabbatical has, itself, been somewhat of a questionable creation, with several SU officials questioning whether there is actually enough work to warrant a full-time, salaried job.

Any new Communications Sabbatical would also, as outlined in the Codes of Practice, "be the Convenor of the LSESU Media Group..." although there is some doubt as to the constitutional existence of this body.

Creation of a new Trading Oversight Committee has also raised question marks within some corners of the SU as it has been pointed out that, whilst a good idea in principle, no student with a special interest in the workings of the committee can retain a seat on it without being a directly elected member of the Finance and Services Committee (F&S) or a Sabbatical Officer.

As constitutional review continues to be debated, there are those who wonder whether it will reap any rewards at all. Alykhan Velshi, Vice-Chair of C&S, mused, "What good will come from Constitutional Review? One more chicken in every pot? A shiny sixpence for all single mothers? A child lifted from poverty? No. Just the loss of our rich constitutional tradition in exchange for Kibble's vulgar opportunism."

LSESU General Secretary Elliot Simmons commented, "The [Constitutional Review Taskforce] was set up in the Michaelmas Term, it reported back in the Lent Term, and it took 4 weeks for it to be discussed, and therefore I think its important that we resolve this matter this year while people are still discussing it, instead of leaving an unresolved problem for another sabbatical team to solve."

When asked whether he would call for an Extraordinary General Meeting, Simmons responded that he wasn't sure what he would do but that the issue would be discussed at the next Executive meeting.

Sir Howard's Total controversy

Mark Power
Executive Editor

LSE Director Sir Howard Davies is to take up a post as non-executive director of French oil giant, Total, or TotalFinaElf as it was previously known, in a move which has provoked some criticism from within the School community.

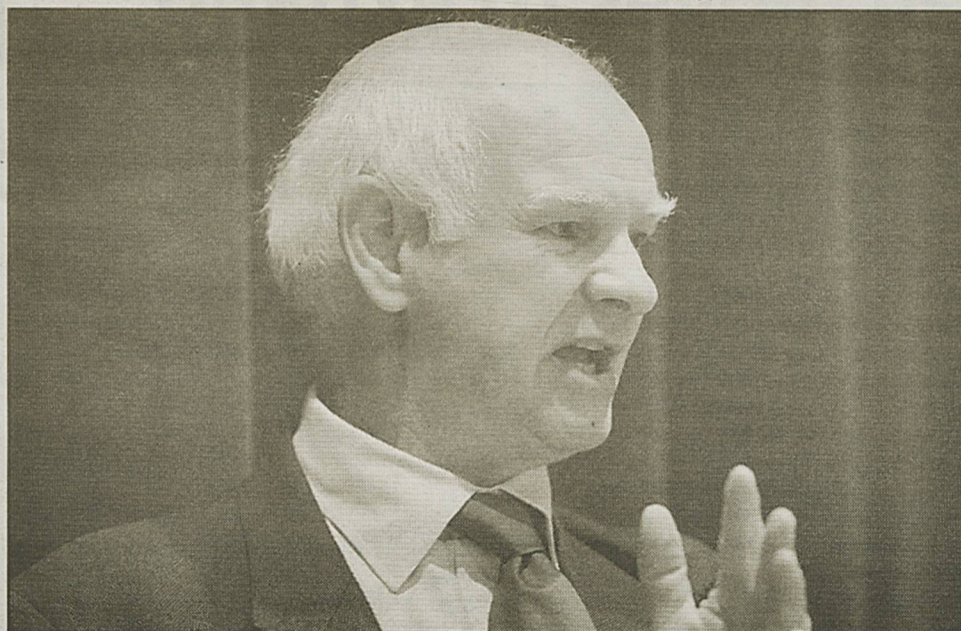
The move follows the announcement last month that Sir Howard is likely to be appointed to the board of New York based investment bank, Morgan Stanley.

A spokesperson for the Socialist Workers Student Society (SWSS), who have been involved in several high-profile campaigns on campus to discredit the Director, said that the appointment reflected "the deepest lack of moral judgement in taking up a post at a corporation like TotalFinaElf."

SWSS attacked the Director for accepting a position in the corporation which it claims has a dubious record in human rights, ethical policies, and the environment. The group cites Total's continuing involvement in Myanmar (formerly Burma) with close involvement with its military dictatorship government. Total has been repeatedly criticised by leading figures within the Myanmar opposition movement for its involvement in the country, and its implicit support for alleged breaches of human rights involving use of child and forced labour, from which, it is claimed, the company has benefited.

SWSS criticisms of the Director have previously centred on his involvement with British engineering firm, GKN, described by the group as an arms manufacturer, which was contested by Sir Howard, who told the Union General Meeting that GKN was in effect a relatively innocuous engineering company.

SWSS criticisms of Total included the involvement of what is now a subsidiary of the company, the former government



The Director is now a member of the boards of Total Oil and Morgan Stanley.

owned French oil company Elf Aquitaine. However, responding to *The Beaver*, Sir Howard said that the events took place before the acquisition of the company by Total.

Commenting on Sir Howard's future role on the Total board, a prominent right-wing activist within the Students' Union, Alykhan Velshi said he did not "understand the left's hostility to TotalFinaElf. Both supported Saddam Hussein", in reference to Total's possession of oil contracts with the former Iraqi regime under deposed dictator Saddam Hussein.

However, the spokesperson for SWSS indicated to *The Beaver* that Sir Howard's appointment was "deeply disturbing and will anger very many students and staff here."

In defence of the appointment, and the allegation that it constituted a conflict of interest with his role as director of the

School, the Director replied "I see absolutely no conflict of interest problem, and nor does the chair of Governors who has approved this appointment. The School has already worked with Total, and many other companies, of course, through Enterprise LSE and Departments."

Responding to more widespread concerns held by the wider student body, regarding the compatibility of his increasing non-executive positions with his responsibilities as director of the LSE, Sir Howard said that neither the Total, nor the Morgan Stanley position "impose significant time burdens."

The Director also said that the positions complement the "School's business in New York, where we have several partnerships, and in Paris, where we are developing our links with Sciences Po and HEC."



Union Jack

Another UGM, another constitutional change, another total farce. Jack was fortunate enough to not have to report on last year's monumental cock-up but no such luck this time round. Kibble's crusade for a campaigning union was too much for some to bear despite the left's best efforts to force the changes through. Bellini's now familiar whinging could be heard from the balcony as 'Badger boy' Sinclair and Dan 'victimised' Freedman spoke against the forces of progression and social justice...or something. The all too predictable calls for recounts and quorum didn't stop the motion falling narrowly but don't think for a second that it's over, this one should drag out until next term at least...oh good.

Enough about dull meetings, it's election time! Jack would like to offer a quick election preview and some invaluable tips for candidates. The Gen Sec race looks like a battle between Will 'the bandit' MacFarlane (that's bandit in the one-armed sense) and Omar Srouji. Well at least we know how Dan will be voting in that one. The general public could be spared for another year if Kibble's re-election campaign is successful but expect a challenge from the unimpeachable Oliver Jelleybabyman. Whispering Sian Errington will be doing her best to prove she's fluffy enough to be Ed Welfare - Jack thinks a squirrel outfit could do the trick, but rumours continue that Sister Rowan wants another year to complete her mission. Kibble's prophecies appear to have been false with no media candidates this year, so not-remotely-special K will be campaigning hard to be the first Comms sabb (in case you hadn't noticed by now) and it looks as though he'll have a slate of kalashnikov toting counterparts looking to infiltrate the part-time exec, but K will have to hurdle Willgress if he's to achieve his ultimate goal.

Hustings on Thursday will signal the start of a week of posters, flyers, stickers, t-shirts, wankers, sycophantic praise from groupies, people sticking bits of paper in your face every time you walk along Houghton street, complaints about breaking campaign rules, tears, candidates who'll never speak to each other again. Even has-been hacks of yester-year who can't let go to the tiny shred of influence they once thought they had will appear to observe the drama.

Jack hopes that this year's candidates will have learnt from the failed efforts of last year's rabble. Sitting in a shopping trolley may be convenient but it makes you look like a prat, and sporting a mullet doesn't help. Distributing tins of inedible baked beans is unlikely to help your election bid either. Other highlights of last year's election week included Bellini's (oxy)moronic campaign slogan and Beyzade's involvement always gives Jack much cause for amusement. Jack feels sure a few more worms will wriggle out before next week so look out for that random international student everyone's talking about.

Who knows, maybe Jack himself will be making a bid for glory...

The Israel-Palestine question: LSE students explore one state solution

Kheng Lim and Nazir Hussain

With proposals to end the Israel-Palestine conflict focusing on a two-state solution, two LSE Masters students have won an award to explore ideas beyond this framework.

Saifedean Ammous and Yaniv Stopnitzky held their first event last Wednesday entitled "Conflict Resolution beyond the Two-State Solution: A Vision for a One-State Solution for the Conflict in the Middle East".

The Irfan Ali Mowjee Memorial Award, administered by the Centre for the Study of Global Governance, is awarded jointly to a student from a Muslim and a Judeo-Christian background to explore an intercultural project. It is given in memory of the late Irfan Ali Mowjee, who was from Pakistan, by his parents and his friend and fellow LSE alumnus, Dave Rosen. Rosen, an American Jew, had benefited from their close friendship.

Over 100 students attended the presentation chaired by Professor Mary Kaldor, Director of the Centre. Before the presentation, members of the Israeli Society distributed a document entitled 'Why a two-state solution is the only possible answer to the conflict', produced by the Britain

Israel Communications and Research Centre with the LSESU Israeli Society logo appended.

The presenters argued passionately for a solution beyond the current power dynamics that would shape a Palestinian state, claiming that Jews and Arabs can live together, as they had done for centuries in the Middle East. Besides doubts about the "sovereignty" of a Palestinian state, the two-state solution would deny Palestinians their inviolable rights of return as enshrined in UN Resolution 194. Furthermore, the future of a 'Jewish democracy' in Israel is already being challenged by the increase in Arab-Israelis.

Whilst the presentation proceeded smoothly, there were brief interruptions - Israeli PhD student and peace negotiator Moti Cristal disputed the accuracy of the maps. Discussion was expectedly tense; some in attendance were overheard remarking that the idea was 'flirting with anti-Semitism'.

Ammous told *The Beaver* that he was pleased with the response: "The audience was very diverse, with no more than five Palestinians and ten Israelis, and was receptive to the proposal." Stopnitzky, an American-Israeli who had worked for the Israeli Committee Against Housing

Demolitions (ICAHAD), which attempts to prevent the demolition of Palestinian homes, was "disappointed that some Israelis approached the debate with pre-formed opinions, despite our pleas to be open-minded". He was nonetheless optimistic that most Israelis could be won over to this just and lasting solution.

On the preservation of Jewish identity in a one-state solution, both presenters deferred to Kaldor's distinction between "ethnic nationalism" and "civic nationalism", with the future lying in "civic nationalism".

Paul Kirby, Secretary of the Friends of Palestine Society, said that the society does not have a fixed position on a solution, but added that "the presentation had addressed the fundamental weaknesses of the two-state solution," and "all LSE students should be receptive to debating all proposals."

Muriel Kahane, Secretary of the Co-exist Society, said that the joint presentation reinforced the idea that co-operation is possible. She added, "Although the proposal appears utopian, it is about time we start exploring new ways of cooperation and solutions."

The Israeli Society could not be reached for comment.

Uncap top-up fees?

Nazir Hussain

The Oxford Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies, an independent think-tank, has published a report recommending an "Uncapped Access Scheme" as the most viable way of preserving Oxford University's pre-eminence.

The study, titled "Costing Funding and Sustaining Higher Education: A Case Study of Oxford University" and based on the university's balance sheets and budgets, shows that an on average undergraduate's education at Oxford costs £18,600 a year, compared with around £60,000 at Princeton University or Harvard University, in America.

According to the report, Oxford faces a "daunting and growing Aspiration Gap" in trying to maintain its position compared to American universities.

The problems include: lower academic pay, higher teaching loads and fewer academic support staff. An estimated £99m - £231m would be needed to close this gap, depending on whether the University of California at Berkeley or Harvard is used as the benchmark.

It is estimated that top-up fees will generate an additional £20m per annum, but that will not be enough.

Under an "Uncapped Access Scheme" modeled on the American system, students with family incomes of up to £30,000 would pay no fee, and only those from wealthier families with incomes of over £45,000 would pay more than the £3,000 maximum proposed by the government. The study proposed that the richest fifth of Oxford students could pay £7,986 per annum.

The report warned that a failure to address these concerns could see the best students go to the US, where "bursaries assure a lower cost to those with fewer resources than in the UK".

Commenting on the report, Ian Gibson, the unofficial leader of the Labour rebels against top-up fees, told *The Independent* newspaper that "We always predicted that certain universities who want to establish themselves as an elite group would very quickly attempt to remove the cap."

It has emerged that the money spent on educating an undergraduate is far lower at the LSE.

Data provided by LSE Director of Finance, Andrew Farrell, shows that in 2006/07, when top-up fees would first come into effect, it would cost an estimated £6,800 to educate a student. In the case of Home or EU students, half of this would come from fees at the current rate and government teaching funding. Charging top-up fees would reduce the projected £3,400 shortfall per student.

Currently, higher fees for Overseas students make up for this shortfall. If the School had to recover full costs, Home or EU fees would be around £5,000, assuming there is no reduction in government funding. The cost for Overseas students would be still be considerably higher as there is neither capital nor government funding for Overseas students. The estimates made reflect current cost levels and assumptions on inflation and do not take into account potential academic pay rises or estates upgrading.

According to Andrew Farrell, the issue of variable fees is far more significant for other institutions which offer more expansive courses such as medicine. He also emphasised that the School has not taken any decision on top-up fees.

Commerce slams congestion charges as Ken moves to expand

Hayley Williams and Chris Heathcote

One year on from the introduction of the Central London Congestion Charge, plans are under way to expand the zone across the capital and perhaps export the idea to other UK cities.

The proposals come despite the continuing opposition of motoring groups and business leaders. They claim that their trade has suffered and that journey times have not seen a great reduction.

Recent reports have shown that Londoners are divided on whether they support the charge or not. The London Chamber of Commerce claims it has had a "substantial and negative" impact on their trade with just 37 per cent of businesses being able to pass on the added cost to their customers, the rest absorbing the cost themselves by putting off investment.

The Freight Transport Association (FTA) also believes charging does more harm than good. Its survey shows that seven in ten journeys in the last 12 months were no quicker than before and that 90 per cent of firms have not been able to make more deliveries.

Many more claim that plans to expand the scheme could be impossible to enforce.

Yet despite this, Cardiff and Edinburgh and pushing forward with their own plans for charging systems in their cities.

Allegations are also being levied against London Mayor Ken Livingstone that he deliberately made payment of the charge complex in order to discourage drivers from taking their cars into London and to raise extra revenue in fines.

The School's central location had led to fears that congestion charging could have a serious impact on both students and staff, though increased use of public trans-



Congestion controversy resurfaces as plans to expand are touted.

port alternatives has largely undermined these concerns.

Talking to *The Beaver*, Chris Husbands, the LSE's Association of University Teachers (AUT) President revealed that he is a strong supporter of the scheme and any proposed expansion, because that he feels adverse effects on his members have been minimal.

"At the LSE there are only, I believe, three car parking spaces," he commented, "so lecturers are used to having to use pub-

lic transport." Husbands himself cycles to work.

As the mayoral elections approach, opposition candidates to Livingstone, such as Conservative Steve Norris, pledge to scrap or reform the scheme if they are successful.

The Mayor, however, promises expansion. On his official website, he states "nearly three quarters of Londoners now support the scheme- because it works."

Degrees declared waste of time

Natalie Morrison

A survey by Spring Personnel revealed last week that two thirds of UK businesses feel that degrees have lost their value.

The survey indicates many businesses would prefer to hire someone with good A-levels and a few years relevant experience than a graduate with a relevant degree.

However, there is much evidence to indicate that this does not apply to LSE students. Fiona Sandford, head of the LSE Careers Service disagrees with the survey's view.

She says, "LSE is heavily targeted by employers and does very well in the job market...it is a fact that the UK has a tiered higher-educational system, with LSE being at the top end of it. The LSE brand is very strong globally."

An investigation by *The Beaver* into the views of the top investment banks, management consultancies and major recruiters found that in their eyes the value of a degree is the same now as it has always been.

However, there do seem to be a few distinctions between degree subjects: Results from the 2001 Census show there are large differences in the returns from different degree subjects. Those for health, law, economics, business studies, and mathematics are considerably higher than those for arts, education and languages.

Fiona Sandford explained: "There exist some differences in employment trends depending on the degree subject. Graduates with technical sandwich degrees tend to get jobs quicker, however, this can be heavily attributed to a time factor. Students of finance, law or social sci-

ences often face the initial obstacle of doing unpaid internships, and within around three years, differences in employment levels tend to disappear."

Many of the employers questioned by *The Beaver* stressed that they did not discriminate against any particular degree, but that they were looking for specific qualities in their applicants.

Sandford agreed, "Employers want a range of analytical and personal skills, which are easy to get from LSE due to the vibrancy of the campus. Also, businesses are becoming more global, and the cosmopolitan nature of the LSE ensures that our graduates will have the same global focus."

Nevertheless, the Careers Service stressed that it is important to make career plans in good time to secure employment after graduation.

Teaching cancelled - AUT strike

Chris Heathcote
News Editor

The Association of University Teachers (AUT) has voted to strike today and tomorrow, in a move that will cause widespread disruption to the school. This is despite the fact that earlier action last September did not bring about the desired result.

According to Chris Husbands, President of the LSE branch of AUT, the industrial action is designed to pressure the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) to re-open negotiations regarding disputed aspects of a new salary and grading framework.

In particular, the organisation hopes to head off a reduction in proposed pay increases, end ambiguities over job grading, question how the present pay scales would be merged into the proposed one and prevent the reduction of longer-term earnings. London weighting is again the topic of discussion.

At this stage it is unclear what effect the strike will have on the School, because not all LSE AUT members have confirmed they will take part and members of UNISON, another trade union, have decided they will continue to work.

However, both Husbands and Elliot Simmons, LSESU General Secretary, agreed that some lectures, classes and senior administration work would be cancelled.

Husbands was unapologetic to students whose education will be disrupted even though it could mean the closure of the School on the two affected days.

He said: "The intransigence and obstinacy of the UCEA has left no alternative in the defence of academic pay-levels which have long fallen behind those of analogous professions."

Yet, Mr Simmons was hopeful that the effect of the action would be "minimal" as it had been last September and that teaching would be rescheduled - although at the moment, there was little evidence this had happened as many students seemed oblivious to what is happening.

He opined that there was "a serious case for higher wages" and that the AUT members had "exercised their term-time power by taking away teaching."

Vice-Chancellor pay rise causes anger

Trina O'Driscoll

University lecturers and teachers have this week expressed their dismay at the news that Vice Chancellors received an average pay rise of 6% last year. This compares to the 3.5% rise offered to lecturers and teachers which has led to the anticipated AUT action this week.

Other findings in the survey by *The Times Higher Education Supplement* showed that the dean of the London Business School, Laura Tyson, was the highest paid, with a salary of £315,000. Sir Richard Sykes, rector of Imperial College, received the second highest earnings of £251,000, a 15% increase on the previous year. In total, 130 Vice Chancellors and other heads of higher education institutions received higher pay rises than they offered their staff.

Speaking to *The Guardian*, a spokeswoman for Universities UK, said that vice chancellors had received lower pay rises than other public sector heads (6.4% for Vice-Chancellors compared to 7.1% for public sector chief executives overall).

"Vice-chancellors do a demanding job as chief executives of complex, multimillion pound organisations. Their packages reflect what it takes to attract and reward individuals of sufficient calibre, experience and talent."

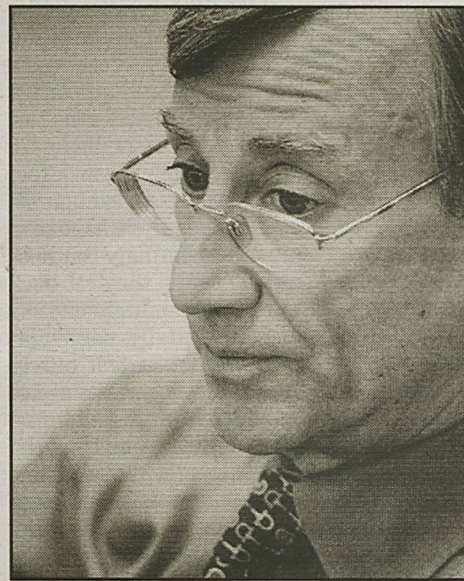
"The union have tried to negotiate and been unsuccessful," he added.

The action is supported by the National Union of Students (NUS), which has called for a national day of action on the same day and Simmons urged LSE students to use their day off on Wednesday to join the 'Carnival against Marketisation'.

Asked by *The Beaver* if he thought the Students' Union policy of advocating higher wages for staff and yet opposing top-up fees, which would bring more money into higher education, was hypocritical, Simmons was adamant that it was not.

He explained that top-up fees were not the solution because they would only raise an extra £3m at LSE, which would not be enough to pay the staff what they deserved.

"The Government needs to re-examine its whole Higher Education policy" he insisted, but reiterated that he was supportive of the School's estates policy, even though it appears to be consuming large amounts of money which might be better spent on staff.



Sir Richard Sykes / Photo: Jan Chlebik

LSE AUT President Chris Husbands, however, said that although the news is depressing it is wholly unsurprising. "Yet again, [the Vice-Chancellor pay rise] justifies the anger felt by higher education staff at the low reward for their continuing efforts at improving universities' productivity in teaching and research."

This week the AUT are striking on Tuesday forcing the cancellation of classes and lectures.

"The School needs a good estate to attract good academic staff" he stated. "Without an estate, there is no School" he added.

An LSE spokesperson said: "It's regrettable if some staff in the AUT take this course of action.

"We hope that this national dispute will soon be resolved. We will be doing all we can to minimise any disruption to students, and alternative arrangements may be made depending on the situation".

Wherever possible, the School hopes that essential work will be able to continue.

"We would ask students to keep checking the login box, their emails and with their departments for ongoing information."

However, given the apparent lack of success of previous industrial action at the LSE, many may question the effectiveness of the AUT's tactics in attempting to win support for their interests among the School's hierarchy.

Brief News

Chancellor announces gap-year funding plan

Gordon Brown announced on February 18th a new initiative to bring taking a "year out" within reach of poorer students, proposing to pay working class students £45 per week to take part in voluntary work at a speech to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). The as yet unnamed scheme will operate in England and Wales, and more details will be revealed in the Budget.

James Upsher

"Absolut Dance" to grace the Old Theatre

Following fast on the footsteps of the International Society's highly-successful "Global Show" in week 6, the Modern Dance Society shall be performing their annual production in week 8. It will be the tenth anniversary of the show which has always proved highly popular with all students, and a fantastic showcase for many talented performers within the LSE Students' Union. This year's production "Absolut Dance" shall be held in the Old Theatre on Wednesday 3rd and Saturday 6th March; featuring performances from across the dance spectrum - hip-hop, jazz, ballet, swing, ballroom, and break.

Will MacFarlane

Hayek says capitalism solves all problems

The LSESU Hayek Society's annual conference, "Capitalism: the only hope for the 21st century" featured keynote speeches on education and the environment. Arguing for a fully privatised education system, Mark Pennington highlighted the failure of state schools and suggested a private sector model for the provision of education. Kendra Okonski lectured on misconceptions within the environmental debate and proposed extending private property rights as a means of reducing pollution. A question and answer session allowed participants to further explore the speakers' fields of expertise.

Alykhan Velshi

Blair declared despot

LSE alumnus Shami Chakrabarti, Director British Human Rights Organisation, Liberty, visited the School on February 17th, condemning the series of tough legislation introduced by New Labour. Chakrabarti cited numerous examples where speeches made by Tony Blair and Home Secretary David Blunkett reveal an impatience with civil libertarians, lawyers and judges. She closed by commenting that Blair and Blunkett do not seem to realise that, "the rule of law and respect for inalienable human rights distinguish democracy from the rule of mob."

Nazir Hussain

A-Levels to be binned

The interim report of an independent review of the current secondary school exam system has recommended that the present system of GCSEs and A-Levels be scrapped in favour of a diploma system that would stretch over four years. The diploma would be divided into four stages - entry, foundation, intermediate and advanced, and would concentrate on basic numeracy, communications and IT skills. The grading system will be more detailed, with a seven point scale used to grade the A-level equivalent.

Kheng Lim

The State of our Union

As Lent Term elections loom, perhaps it's time for a new direction, says *Aqeel Kadri*.

LSESU is our union, the body which seeks to promote our interests, our welfare, provides us with services and sporting and social opportunity. And it allows us to have a part in all of its activities. But how good is our union?

Elections are almost upon us; it's a good time of year to reflect on how we can improve the state of our union, and elections might be a good place to start. Currently, electoral turnout is impressive in the context of Student Union elections but it's not just about the number of votes. There is limited opportunity to actually challenge the candidates, we may have a good number of hustings but time constraints mean there is little time for questioning. UGM hustings are the traditional start to the campaign week; they are too short but at least you get an introduction to the candidate's policies and the chance to fire a few questions at them. Hustings in The Three Tuns sounds like a great idea; the bar, plenty of space to sit; a good chance to quiz sabbatical wannabes for sure. But there isn't enough time and most of the people in there are just having a drink wondering what all the noise is about. The ideal is somewhere in between the atmosphere of the Tuns and the interest at the UGM. So, have hustings in the quad, held in the evening with the bar open and plenty of time for speeches and extensive questioning. Of course, success still depends on sufficiently high attendance but hustings can be entertaining, a better atmosphere, and some more humorous questions might just attract the punters. If every campaign poster had to carry the dates and times of hustings it might go some way towards getting larger audiences too. The other problem with Lent Term elections specifically is the sheer number of positions. A fifteen page ballot paper is hardly conducive to making an informed choice. Although combining elections for Finance and Services committee with those for sabbatical posts certainly increases turnout for the former, a balance must be struck between high turnouts and informed voting.

The UGM is LSESU's most trumpeted asset. Recent attendance though has fallen dangerously close to quorum levels. 150 may be a large number when compared to other students' unions but the lack of new faces is the ultimate concern. There is nothing wrong with only attending the meetings where there is an issue of interest to you up for discussion. Indeed

the union must encourage members to attend, even if it is only on such occasions. There is little chance of this happening when the only way to see the order paper is by attending the meeting. Posting the order paper on the website would be a good start (something which does happen occasionally), having a link that isn't buried three levels deep would be better, but actually posting the list of motions on notice boards is surely the most sensible way to inform members of business. The UGM, though, is far from perfect. It is unsuited to extensive debate, which means complex issues are trivialised and debate can be (and is) suppressed by one side or another (sometimes even by the chair!). Constitutional amendments make a good case study in this area; changes which are worthy of extensive debate are instead rushed through by the UGM-attending majority whose political ideology suits the amendment. It would seem that discussion of such changes might be ideally suited to an Extraordinary General Meeting, where the issue can be debated at length and proper conclusions drawn. The EGM is horribly underused at an institution which supposedly prides itself on fine traditions of intellectual debate. Attendance at EGM's can be a problem, but if the issue is important it will bring interested parties forward.

The global email seems to be the main element of the union's attempts at effective communication with its members. It is not good enough. This year we have seen a change from the seemingly endless emails of previous years, they've been replaced by a link to a seemingly endless webpage, which is essentially un-navigable. Next year, with a sabbatical officer dedicated to communications, we may see more effective methods of releasing information. A subscription based mailing list service and information on the webpage divided into categories for easier navigation would go some way toward making information more accessible. There are other means of communicating the union's activities too. Hall committees should be trained so that they are able to advise new students on the support and other services provided by the union. However, a deeper flaw in hall committee selection is worth noting. Gaining continuing right to residence in a hall of residence by virtue of election may seem fair but it is not necessarily the best option. A committee member elected on his promise

of hiring a bouncy castle at the end of term may not be ideally suited to assisting freshers in their task of settling in. Students should be selected to return to halls (as at some other universities) based on their potential to perform this role. Currently hall committee members may not even bother to introduce themselves to new residents (especially in the larger halls). The union should take a greater interest in the functions of these committees.

LSESU is a representative body. As with any union, its primary role is to represent the interests of its members, in this case the interests of LSE students, mainly to the LSE administration. Effective representation can only be achieved through effective consultation. Regular surgeries held by student representatives are apparently alien to this union, at least in any effective form. Actively seeking the opinions of members before attempting some kind of representation of their views seems sensible, it's about time we actually did it.

Honorary Studentships are a good way of rewarding members for their contributions but limiting them to 30 and only rewarding students in their final year undermines the whole process. This practice simultaneously gives extra credit to those who have made a good contribution, gives too little credit to those who have really strived to help the union, whilst marginalising those who have worked hard but are not in their final year. A slightly extreme analysis no doubt, but the point is still valid. Members who work voluntarily to drive this union forward ought to be recognised at more than one level. A system more akin to colours would allow different levels of honour as well as a greater number, and wider range, of recipients. It is always important to tread the line between recognising those who contribute and attaching sufficient worth to those whose contributions have been exceptional but there is certainly room for a greater number of student honours.

As the time comes to choose the individuals who will lead the union next year, it is worth thinking about how you want the union to change and what input you might have in precipitating that change. Getting involved may seem like a daunting task but it is worth the initial effort. It's our union, we should make sure it works for us.

Explaining the 'undersigned'

LSE Director *Sir Howard Davies* clarifies the controversial top-up fees advert printed in *The Guardian* newspaper last month.

In a *Beaver* editorial on 3 February, I was taken to task for signing a collective advertisement, placed by Universities UK, in support of the Higher Education Bill. The argument, if I may paraphrase slightly, was that, in signing the advertisement, I was in breach of an earlier undertaking not to imply that the School community as a whole was in favour of top-up fees.

At the UGM the week before last I tried to clarify the circumstances which led to the advertisement, and the way I thought it should be interpreted. I intend to repeat that explanation here.

The original advertisement was drafted by UUK. As it happens, I do not hold any position within that organisation. The original draft described the signatories as Vice-Chancellors who "represent" their institutions. I said that I would not sign

an advertisement drafted in that way, since it was, precisely, inconsistent with the line I had earlier taken, which was that my views on top-up fees were my own views, and could not be said to "represent" the School in the normally accepted sense of the word.

In the event, other Vice-Chancellors, almost all of whom are in exactly the same position, in other words their institutions have not made a formal decision on variable fees, supported my point and the text of the advertisement was changed. It was therefore headed "We, the undersigned Heads of..." and described Vice-Chancellors collectively as people who "lead" their institutions, not represent them.

On that basis, I agreed to sign. I took the view then, and still do, that the terms of the advertisement were sufficiently

clear, and that I was not in any way breaching an earlier undertaking.

As far as the School as a whole is concerned, if the Bill passes as currently drafted we shall need to make two sorts of decision. First, whether to impose higher fees for home / EU students and, if so, for which courses. Secondly, and in parallel, we shall need to decide how we might use some of the additional income to promote wider access to the School. The Students' Union have submitted a helpful paper to the LSE Council, setting out the issues they think we will need to consider as we move towards making that decision later in the year.

I am sure there will be a continued lively debate in *The Beaver*, to which I shall be pleased to contribute.

The Beaver

2nd Floor, East Building
LSE Students' Union
London WC2A 2AE
email: thebeaver@lse.ac.uk

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Mark Power

MANAGING EDITOR
Ben Chapman

BUSINESS MANAGER
Aqeel Kadri

NEWS EDITORS
Chris Heathcote; Prashant Rao

BLINK EDITOR
Matthew Sinclair

B:ART EDITOR
Neil Garrett

SPORTS EDITOR
Paul McAleavey; Ellie Vyras

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Olivia Mantle

FILM EDITORS
Simon Cliff; Dani Ismail

MUSIC EDITOR
Jazmin Burgess

LITERARY EDITOR
Dalia King

THEATRE EDITORS
Carolina Bunting; Keith Postler

FINE ART EDITOR
Caroline Bray

B:ABOUT EDITOR
Sarah Warwick

THE COLLECTIVE

James Allen, Jon Baylis, Hestor Barsham, Jay Bassan, Peter Bellini, Matthias Benzer, Jimmy Baker, Edd Barley, Sian Beynon, Alison Blease, Matt Boys, Ed Calow, Gareth Carter, Jon Charles, Simon Chignell, Brian Choudhary, Sal Chowdhury, Dave Cole, Naomi Colvin, Chloe Cook, Sarah Coughtrie, Katie Davies, Tom Delaney, Jon de Keyser, Jan Duesing, Chris Emmerson, Sian Errington, James Eyton, Tristan Feunteun, Jessica Fostekew, Daniel Freedman, Juli Gan, Glyn Gaskarth, Alex Goddard, Sarah Greenberg, Michael Griffith, Ceri Griffiths, Daniel Grote, Sachin Gupta, Stephen Gurman, Rowan Harvey, Louise Hastie, Sophia Hoffman, Noshir Homawala, Ben Howarth, Nazir Hussain, Nawaz Imam, Oliver Jelleymann, Tom Jenkins, Bonnie Johnson, Abteen Karimi, Joel Kenrick, Jo Kibble, Paul Kirby, Adrian Li, Kheng Lim, Van Lim, Elaine Londesborough, Will Macfarlane, Ion Martea, Vita Maynard, James Meadway, Francis Murray, Samantha Nicklin, Justin Nolan, Neel Patel, Eliot Pollak, Adam Quinn, Ibrahim Rasheed, Zaf Rashid, Loretta Reehill, Olivia Schofield, James Sharrock, Elliot Simmons, Nick Spurrell, Omar Srouji, Jon Sutcliffe, Darius Tabatabai, Jimmy Tam, Sarah Taylor, Jamie Tehrani, Chrissy Totty, Chenai Tucker, Ethel Tungohan, Alykhan Velshi, Saija Vuola, Greta Wade, Claudia Whitcomb, Matt Willgress, Dave Willumsen, Tom Winstone, Ruksana Zaman.

PRINTED BY THE NORTHCLIFFE PRESS

If you have written three or more articles for the *Beaver* and your name does not appear in the Collective, please email thebeaver@lse.ac.uk and you will be added to the list in next week's paper.

The *Beaver* is available in alternative formats and online at www.lse.ac.uk/union

The Beaver Comment

Tuns translucency

The plans for the refurbishment of The Three Tuns and the Underground Bar seem to have gathered institutional momentum during past years, which has continued unquestioned. The plans which have emerged over the past few weeks seem to be a reasonable and attractive proposition with regard to the existing services. However, there are several points of contention surrounding the plans.

The first is the worrying lack of consultation and transparency with the student body over the planned refurbishments. This is not necessarily the fault of the current sabbatical team. Their predecessors are as, if not more guilty of this than they are. But the fact remains that there has been no significant or visible attempt to canvass student opinion as to what students want from what are, after all, their facilities. The Students' Union should have adopted a consultation process similar to that being undertaken by the School currently, whereby the SU community would have had chance to air some of the doubts now circulating regarding what is perceived as a destruction of the character of the Tuns.

The second major problematic area regarding the project is the recent revelation that Clare Market building is nearing the end of its useful life. This does put the financial future of the project and,

because it involves such a large proportion of the Union's reserves, the entire financial position of the Union in question. Kibble should make public a detailed analysis of the costs and revenue making potential of the renovated space, making a clear case for its fiscal viability. Whilst it is almost unanimously agreed that the Tuns cannot be allowed to deteriorate further, and the argument that the decline could have lasting and serious effects on the future of the Union's entertainments venues is a sound one, the case for the refurbishment needs to be better made.

The plans on the table do seek to redress some of the Tun's more serious deficiencies. They are likely to make the space much more inclusive and attractive to the diverse nature of LSE's student body, through providing a more salubrious environment in which to relax from study, rather than the somewhat iniquitous, though endearing nature of the current bar. They undoubtedly include better provision for societies and daytime use, but this should not prevent the complete nature of the Union's expenditure on the project being revealed. Half of the reserves are a significant investment in an area which, Kibble concedes is experiencing a decline in profitability. The Union deserves a full and open debate on the issue.

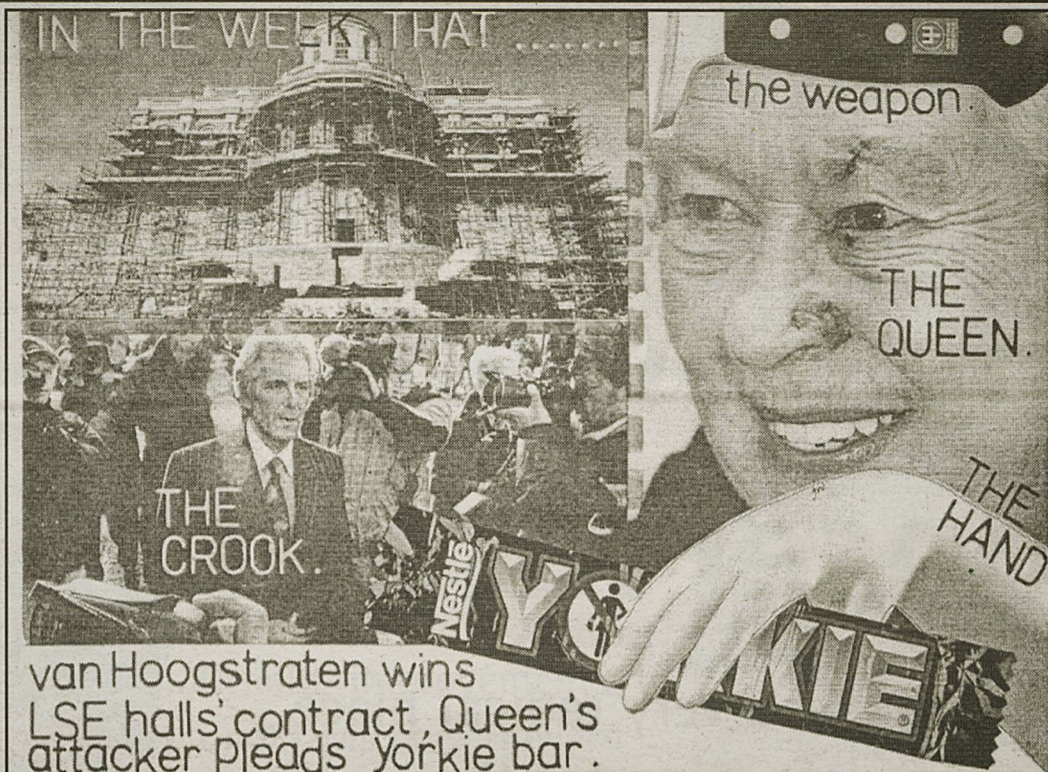
Communications break down

The defeat of the constitutional amendment in last week's Union General Meeting should be a warning to those who would contemplate attempting to rail-road through constitutional changes on a sceptical student body.

The proponents of the changes should have accepted to vote in parts on the amendment, which would have enabled them to pass the non-controversial elements of the motion they deem correctly, to be necessary for the Union to operate effectively next year. The only controversial section of the amendment was the addition of campaigning to the Communications Officer's job description, something significant numbers of the Union's more right-wing students are bitterly opposed to. This portion, however, is the brainchild of SU Treasurer Jo Kibble, who

has managed to persuade the rest of the sabbatical team that it should have been pushed through with the rest of the motion to which there was little or no opposition.

This attempt to push through the reforms as a package, even when there was a move to vote through the amendments in parts represents a desire to suppress democracy and debate on the issue by Kibble and Elliot Simmons, the proposers of the motion. They need to recognise that these tactics are not acceptable, and that there should be fair and open debate on the issue, preferably in the context of an Extraordinary General Meeting, in order that the issue be properly aired and debated instead of remaining concealed in the broom closet of the Constitutional Review Taskforce.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I read with interest your piece on Carr-Saunders and the allegation that its policy on damage charges is unfair. In common with all UK universities, LSE recovers the costs of vandalism and so forth in halls from the existing resident body. This is done individually or jointly and severally, depending upon the nature of the issue, and always in consultation with the Hall Warden to ensure fairness. Last financial year, charges levied jointly and severally varied from between just under £3 at Rosebery to around £13 at Bankside. Carr-Saunders fell between this span. Compared to the deductions many universities make, these sums are extremely modest. Furthermore, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), when considering this issue, decided that the alternative of not charging existing residents, and thus charging future occupants, would be unreasonable and unfair.

Turning to the conduct of Dino Fetnaci, the Hall Manager, I was extremely disappointed at the personal nature of the criticism which was totally unjustified. No one questions the right of The Beaver to challenge poor service, real or imagined. However, to do so via personal attacks on middle managers in the School is unacceptable and The Beaver would do well to consider the impact this article will have upon a young member of staff and his family, who all reside in Carr-Saunders. Furthermore, it is hardly helpful in engendering mutual respect between staff and students, which is vital to the successful running of any hall. In future, if you must make written attacks on staff, please confine these to Director of Service level.

In relation to your editorial, I do not accept that the "administration goes largely unsupervised". This is simply not the case and I and other senior staff in the Division are actively engaged with all the halls at both a strategic and operational level. The issue your piece does highlight is the need for a formal, transparent and blame free complaints procedure and I will be working with colleagues in the coming months to ensure we have a set-up which allows issues of customer

service to be systematically addressed.

Yours sincerely,
David Tymms,
Director of Residential and
Catering Services

Sir,

In the light of the recent front page in the Beaver and the constructive editorial it seems important to consider how best to overcome the challenges arising from those residential problems that exist. While the article in my view was scrupulously fair in highlighting some of the problems that have surfaced at Carr-Saunders, the need now is to avoid justifications of or blame for any individual's role. Rather, the problem of student dissatisfaction and the actions of bursars and wardens have to be considered more generally by all concerned with residences in the LSE. It is the lack of common regulations and the difficulties this can produce that needs to be addressed while defining good practices more effectively. Arguments over the rights and wrongs of particular situations when problems in the system need to be addressed, are counterproductive. Greater cooperation and the more effective balancing of student and commercial needs are much more likely to reduce student dissatisfaction. The formalising and acceptance of best practices, student involvement and shared responsibilities should have a positive and beneficial outcome for the majority of those concerned with Halls. If this can be done, and it is accepted that wardens, bursars and the majority of students have all to make a contribution to the development of successful residences, then we can look forward to a more positive future. Balancing the management of the facilities and their commercial opportunities has to be done within a framework that values the needs of students and their importance to the LSE as an academic institution. In working toward this end, issues such as over charging are likely to disappear beneath a more uniform, co-operative system. Wardens will not then have to confront some of the detailed arguments, highlighted

in the Beaver, before making decisions regarding damage charges. Myself and a large number of past and present Carr-Saunders students and staff will, I am sure, be more than willing to contribute to the definition and implementation of such a system.

John Kent
Warden, Carr-Saunders

Sir,

I write in response to Mr. Velshi's column in last week's Beaver. Mr. Velshi seems to be laboring under the misapprehension that the awkward position of the detainees in Guantanamo Bay is somehow an unavoidable consequence of their ambiguous legal status. In contrast to the protestations of the United States government, the legal status of the detainees is actually very clear. If they are enemy belligerents, they need to be treated in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of Prisoners of War. If they are not enemy combatants then they are civilians and are therefore entitled to the fair trial provisions found in Article 3 of both the Prisoner of War convention and the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilians in Time of War. If their status is unknown at the time of capture, then, under article 5 of the Geneva Convention, the detainees are entitled to determination of their status by a competent tribunal. The United States, Afghanistan, and all relevant States are signatories to these treaties.

In addition, any argument that Guantanamo bay is not under the jurisdiction of the United States sadly fails to take into account several decades of contrary international jurisprudence. The recent statements of the US Supreme Court stand in stark and lonely contrast to this tradition. The 'legal black hole' is entirely of United State's own making. If Mr. Velshi shares with me fundamental ideals of freedom, liberty and the rule of law he will reconsider his opinions and not be so weak as to apply those ideals only to those he deems worthy.

Yours,
Alex Pope

blink

Editor: Matthew Sinclair (M.Sinclair1@lse.ac.uk)

Politics

The New Conservatives

The LSE is not a very radical place. It's far too left-wing for that.

Kheng Lim

Be careful," my Dad tells me. "The LSE is a very radical place, you know."

Ah, my Father. An entirely knowledgeable and wise man on many matters, his only problem being that the last time he actually lived in the United Kingdom was in the late seventies, when Britain was still a Communist Republic, the top rate of tax was something like 99% and the whole place stank of rotting flesh because the undertakers were on strike.

Actually, I have found that in many ways, the LSE is a profoundly conservative institution, especially amongst its student population. This particular statement may elicit gasps from much of the student populace, particularly among those heavily involved with the LSE Socialist Worker's Student Society but worry not. The LSE Student's Union has not been infiltrated by red-faced middle-aged Englishmen having a pint in between rounds of chasing foxes with hounds and tearing them to pieces.

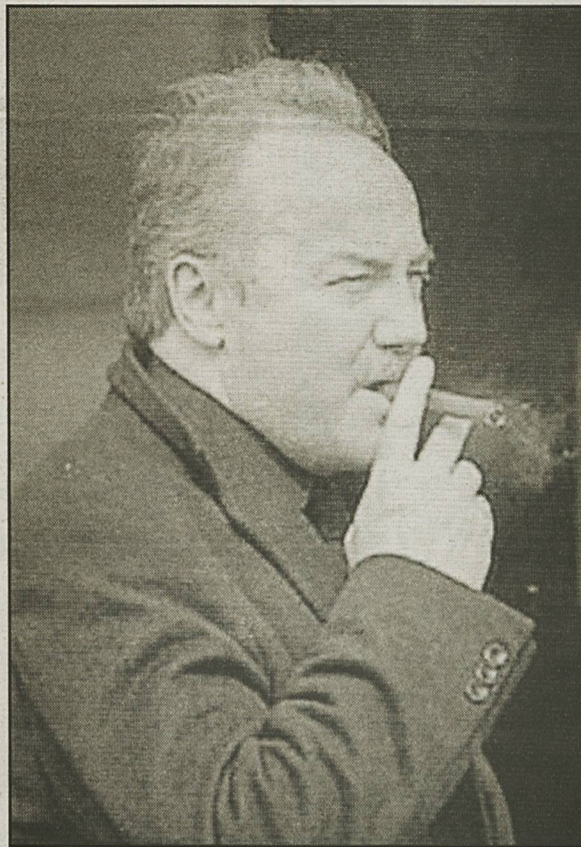
What exactly do I mean by my statement that the LSE Student Union is essentially a conservative one? Take a moment to reflect on the primary issue that has pre-occupied the Student Union for the past few weeks or so - higher education funding. The notion of students forming human chains round LSE buildings and brandishing banners telling the Government to 'Fuck Fees' does not seem like one associated with conservatism, but again, pause and think on the definition of the very

term 'conservatism'.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines 'conservatism' in many ways. One definition is the one that springs most quickly to our mind: 'the principles and policies of a Conservative party' in other words, the entire set of beliefs and principles of the Tories. Another definition is: 'the tendency to prefer a traditional or existing situation to change.'

There was a time when being left-wing was associated with radicalism. All this changed, as we all know, after the Second World War with the establishment of a Socialist Government in the UK in 1945. I won't patronise you with a summary of the achievements of the post-war Labour Governments but I merely want to draw your attention to the fact that from then on, people slowly got used to the idea of Socialism which became the accepted orthodoxy rather than a fringe theory. Subsequent Tory Governments were not able to stop the encroachment of Socialism into the fabric of the nation. Human beings are powered by inertia and it is because of this that the Thatcher years of the 80's were so shocking to the system. Again, I won't patronise you with a description of the Thatcher era but I'm sure my point is clear. By this time, there had been a major flip in people's mentalities and Toryism became the radical movement in society.

Coming back to the example of fees, Student Unions may argue about how top-up fees and the idea of student debt will put potential students off university but the main thread of their argument is that top-up fees reflect a marketisation of the



higher education system which is inherently undesirable. The mentality of the Student Unions is as follows: "For decades, the higher education system of the UK has been funded by the Government (and international students but let's leave that out of the equation for simplification's sake). Why should it change now? Why should I have to pay for my university education when my Parents had it free, when entire generations of students had everything paid for? Why should subsequent generations of LSE students have to pay higher and higher tuition fees? I don't want change. I want things to remain the way they have been for years."

How many times have we heard of the concept of a return to 'traditional' Labour values? Think back to Gordon Brown during last year's Labour conference and how the grassroots members of the party literally lapped up all he had to say about the cherished principles of the Labour Party. Obviously, many people have nostalgic feelings for the times when Britain was certainly a more caring and less cut-throat place, when the State looked after its peo-

ple rather than leaving them to the ravages of market forces. But it is the very use of the word 'traditional' that marks these people out as actually being conservatives. Hard core left wingers don't want society to change - they would prefer the hands of time to run backwards in order to reach that Socialist utopia. Student Unions, considering their penchant for supporting everything that is Socialist clearly fall into this category of individuals.

Before anyone bites my head off, I will concede that this is merely a generalization of the situation. There are still aspects of society where the left can still be considered radical: the legalization of marijuana, gay marriage, asylum seekers and immigration spring to mind. But it is quite clear that the central plank of left-wingism, that of a more just and equal society has ceased to become one that has the gentle ladies of polite society reaching for their smelling salts.

FACT: Left-wingers are conservatives.

Kheng Lim is a first year economics student.

The Final Caption Competition



"Smile M. Le President. Say cheese-eating surrender monkeys." - Alykhan Velshi

Well... it didn't work out.

Politics



Simon Bottomley

The Conservative Party, it seems, has begun to find a direction under Howard. It has tried to distance itself from the old harsh days of Thatcher to a more enlightened liberal era. Michael Howard announced on February the 10th his support for same sex partnerships; it is a prime example of this new direction.

The Conservatives desperately needed to change. The leader of the Conservatives was referred to as a "Hate figure and the embodiment of fascist Tory policies" not by the press nor opposition, but by Boris Johnson, Conservative MP for Henley upon Thames. But can a party change? And have the changes initiated by Michael Howard gone far enough to make a difference to the Conservative party? Can LGBT people ever be persuaded to vote Tory?

If the Tories hope to appeal to the gay and lesbian population they have a long way to go. Conservatives are seen as the architects of Section 28 and in the House of Lords they campaigned long and hard to retain it. This piece of legislation had a huge impact on every school in the country and made it impossible to teach students that being gay was ok; it meant LGBT sex education was ignored and made dealing with homophobic bullying problematic. They have in their quest to protect 'family values' demeaned gay relationships and the rights of LGBT people to become parents. An example of this discrimination is that of Ivan Massow, a gay business man, who was heralded as proof of a more inclusive Conservative Party, but ended up leaving due to homophobia.

The stance under Michael Howard seems to be shifting. He now backs the rights for same sex couples to get some form of legal recognition. For many, this was heralded as a move away from the old ugly days of conservative homophobia. However, it is limited; Michael Howard did say that he did not support gay marriage in a measure to appease the old guard. For many gay people this becomes pointless, separate is not equal and gay people have the right to be married like the rest of the population. Another move that pleased the

'They have, in their quest to protect 'family values' demeaned gay relationships'

modernisers in the Conservative Party is that John Bercow has also been invited back to front line politics after quitting the front bench over the Conservative stance on gay adoption. John Bercow was seen as a martyr to rational conservatives as he quit after a three-line whip was imposed on what many considered to be a moral and non-political vote. The invitation back does much to heal the divisions caused by previous campaigns to block progressive, gay-friendly legislation through parliament

The move has been praised as a sign of progressiveness, but the reason could be much more cynical. The Conservative Party under Iain Duncan Smith had a near civil war about gay rights. It seems that the Tory modernisers and much of the general public use gay rights as a yardstick for liberalism and tolerance. The party was not benefiting from its opposition; while it pleased some of the party faithful, it put off, swinging voters and annoyed the reformists. Iain Duncan Smith became isolated when he had to use a three line whip on the issue of gay partnerships; his famous call to his party to unite or die failed to elicit a response and the party looked both divided and outdated. Michael Howard is playing it safe to avoid such controversies under his leadership. It also allows him to move away from his past. He is often perceived as the architect of the infamous Section 28. The move allows people to see that the Conservatives have changed, and are changing. Michael Portillo put the point simply in his website: "Since 1992, the Conservatives have lingered a little above 30 per cent in the opinion polls, ten percentage points short

Where is the Love?

Despite improvements under Michael Howard the Tories should not yet be trusted with the gay vote.

of election-winning territory. I argue with my colleagues that on issues like Section 28, we appear to be inviting gays to vote against us. Apart from anything else, that's bad politics. After all, a number of estimates put gays at about ten percentage points of the population!"

Conservatism and gay rights are not always at odds. Dick Cheney, for instance, has publically supported his lesbian daughter. Studies show that when a child comes out the most supportative parents are likely to be Conservative voters and not those who vote Labour or Liberal Democrat. It could be that the party is merely moving to keep up with its constituents. Let us not forget that Section 28 was also backed by Labour. This point is worth clinging on to; things don't have to be this way and homophobia is not a right wing problem, but one that all of society should address.

The best summary for this comes from the message board of www.thegayvote.co.uk someone had posted: "We don't have short memories Mr Howard. We remember when as Margaret Thatcher's local government minister in 1988 you were responsible for bringing in Section 28. We remember how you consistently voted against an equal age of consent, most recently in February 2000. And we remember in May 2002 how you voted to deny equal adoption rights to gay unmarried parents. Mr Howard, you once vilified Britain's lesbian and gay community. You do not deserve our trust again."

The trust if there was any has already died, it took 2 days. The Conservative Party voted against Clause 165 of Labour's Housing Bill on the 12th of February. The Clause would equalise rights of tenure succession to secure, assured and Rent Act tenancies, guaranteeing the right of same-sex couples to stay in tenanted accommodation after the death or departure of a partner. It seems, as sad as I am to say this, nothing much has changed with the Conservatives. They don't deserve the trust of LGBT people to deliver human rights and they are not the inclusive party they say or claim to be.

Simon Bottomley is a second year Geography and Environment Student and the Student's Union LGBT Officer.

Musings

Big Brother Arabia

Matthew Sinclair

blink Editor

If ever proof were needed that globalization is truly irresistible it can be found in Big Brother Arabia. Twelve men and women from across the Arab world have come together to spend a few weeks prostrate before the camera. They have entered a specially fenced home and will now be forced to undertake gruelling tasks, confess their most carefully hidden emotions and get on with each other in desperately cramped conditions; whether they will have to take care of animals is beyond my meagre research. Hold the jihad.

It does make you wonder about predictions of a Clash of Civilisations or any analysis based upon widespread hatred of the West in the Arab world. Apparently Arabs, like the rest of us, have much better things to do than dream of martyrdom.

There will be differences to the Western model pioneered by the Dutch. There will be a prayer room, something of a change from the African version's Shower Hour, and a slightly more rigid segregation of the sexes but we are looking at basically the same model.

Some of the participants are colourful characters. From Abdul Hakim, one of Saudi Arabia's less flammable exports, who wears his sunglasses at night in a display of wanton eccentricity to a musician from Iraq, presumably doubly grateful for the downfall of nasty old Saddam. There is also Bashara from Lebanon who has brought twenty pairs of trousers into the house; a character to put our assortment of dozy liverpudlian builders and uninspiring Welsh girls to shame.

It's nice to see something less intense from the Arab world. For so long we have been hearing of burning oil wells, fiery ethnic conflicts and unstable regimes collapsing into a conflagration of internecine conflicts. Now they can act a little more normally and Now they can act a little more normally and watch inane television dreaming of uninspiring fame.

It is important that we are reminded of the limitations of grand analyses every so often. Too many people view life in terms of the grand games played by the elites; these games determine the options for those lower down the pyramid but have relatively little to do with how they make those choices. Arabs will watch Big Brother because they find it amusing, in exactly the same as Westerners and Africans, they will pay relatively little attention to the consequences, however, there are consequences.

Any hopes of even the Islamic world challenging the West on the principles that it holds most dear seem misplaced; even the West's least tasteful expression finds an audience in the most hostile foreign climes.



Broadly Left



Preconditions for Justice

Matt Willgress
blink Columnist

We recently saw the Cancun trade talks collapse with a number of developing countries believing little progress was being made on the key issues affecting them. The talks were part of new international trade negotiations, the Doha 'round', originally due to be completed by January 2005. However, with a War on Want opinion poll finding that 82% of poor country delegates said the WTO is monopolised by rich countries and 83% saying that in their experience the WTO is not democratic, it is unclear where the process will go from here.

Many people have falsely and simplistically presented the collapse of these talks as being a result of developing countries' stubborn refusal to accept further international trading. Yet the reality is more complicated. Governments of countries such as Brazil are in favour of further international trade - recognising that increased trade can benefit all sides and help in development and economic growth. Indeed in many ways these are preconditions for social justice.

The collapse of the talks reflected these concerns of developing countries. For example, there is rightly great concern with the issue of public services. Basic services like water, healthcare, electricity and education, are essential to delivering sustainable development. They are a core element of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals, and receive considerable attention from institutions like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations. In this context, development agencies and international financial institutions are understandably facing increasing opposition, as they are seen to force the straight-jacket of privatisation on people and governments in the South, without popular domestic agreement.

The main concern of Southern Governments is privatisation being a condition for further progress. The existing 'main function' of the WTO is to 'ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible'. An increasing number of NGOs and governments are now proposing that the WTO should work to ensure that trade facilitates poverty reduction, sustainable development and human and economic rights. As we have seen with our railways, privatisation for the sake of privatisation can have a damaging effect on the quality and availability of services.

All governments now need to look at how they can help develop and regulate trade to enhance social justice. We need a system that reflects the needs of the world's poor. There needs to be an agenda developed that makes the global trading system facilitate better development, lower poverty, and improved human rights leading to higher standards at work and so forth. It is must not be the dogmatic imposition of certain forms of development and economic reform from elsewhere, but based on understanding specific local needs and circumstances whilst increasing positive trade. A form of 'globalisation' if you like - for the many, not the few.

Law

Law Correspondent: Stephen Gurman (s.d.gurman@lse.ac.uk)

How to cut the spam?

What are the best methods available to reduce junk mail?

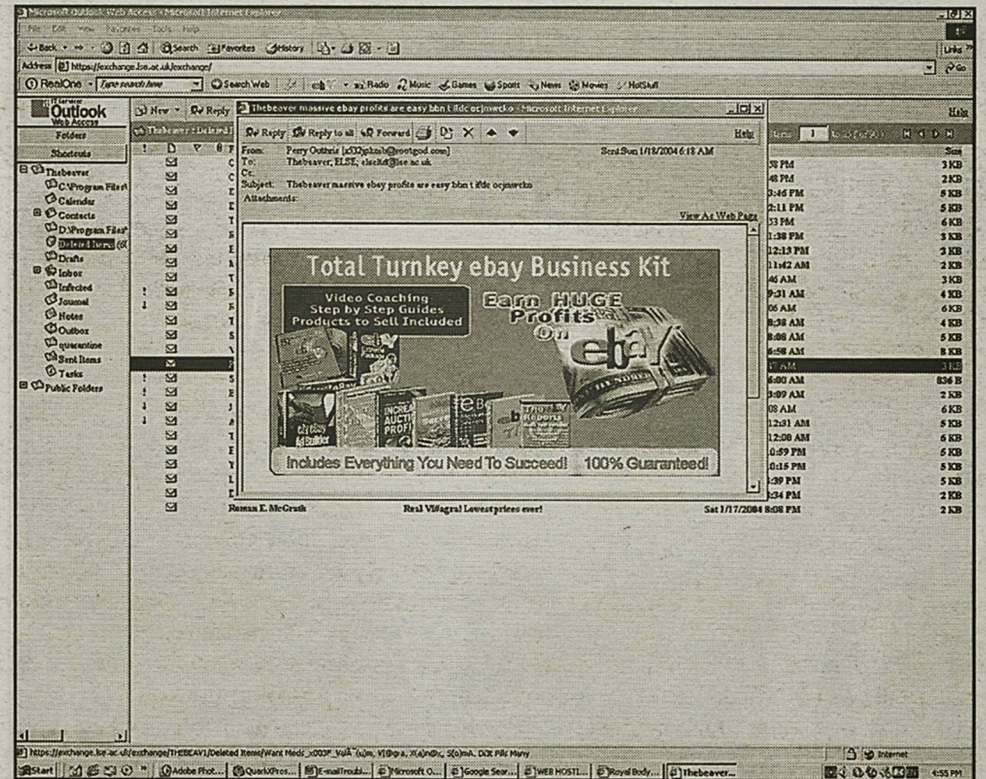
Just how annoying is spam?

Stephen Gurman
Law Correspondent

The most recent initiative from the EU on spam email is the Directive on privacy and electronic communications 2002/58/EC. The Directive has been implemented into UK law by Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003. This attempts to legislate against the use of Spam email being sent out by any company or person. Section 22(2) says that 'a person shall neither transmit, nor instigate the transmission of, unsolicited communications for the purposes of direct marketing by means of electronic mail unless the recipient of the electronic mail has previously notified the sender that he consents for the time being to such communications being sent by, or at the instigation of, the sender.' This definition is useful, but flawed, it can only be effective against a person who is sending spam email for direct marketing, this will catch a large proportion of spam emails, as most are indeed for marketing purposes. My inbox is regularly filled with offers of cheap loans or super fast weight loss; the regulation may be effective against these types of spam emails. However, what about the malicious use of spam emails, where a person doesn't want to market a product, but merely seeks to overload a server, forcing it to shut down or to stop the targeted account from receiving any more messages? The regulation contains nothing to cover these eventualities.

The regulation also tries to limit the sending of anonymous spam, section 23 says that you can not send email for the purposes of direct marketing 'where the identity of the person on whose behalf the communication has been sent has been disguised or concealed' or 'where a valid address to which the recipient of the communication may send a request that such communications cease has not been provided.' This section is more useful when a non-spam email has been sent as it allows the receiver to effectively remove themselves from the mailing list that they are on, but it is also a useful tool for prosecuting spammers, as often they will disguise their real email address and any mechanism for being removed from their list will often have no effect and could alert the spammer to the fact that you are actively checking the account.

Despite the good intentions of the regulation, I have doubts as to whether or not it will be effective. The regulation will be broadly implemented to the same effect across the EU, so pursuing a claim against



'Despite the good intentions of the regulation. I have doubts as to whether or not it will be effective.'

someone operating in a member state should not prove too problematic. However, the Internet is a global environment that doesn't operate within the traditional concepts of territory and jurisdiction. The regulation will offer little protection to account holders who receive spam from places such as South America or Asia as it has no jurisdiction there.

Another problem with the regulation is its enforceability even within the EU. It makes it an offence to send unsolicited email from an anonymous account, but if spam is sent from an anonymous account it can be hard to track down who sent it before they have closed that account down and are operating from a different one. It also places a larger burden on the ISPs. They will inevitably have to cooperate with investigatory bodies in tracking down and closing accounts which are being used to send spam, in an individual case this may not cost much to do, especially if automatic programmes are used to monitor traffic, but there is the potential that this could cost the ISPs money to implement. Is this burden fair? I don't think that we blame and penalise the royal mail for unwanted post that we receive.

If legal methods are to be used to stop spam then I think it will only be achieved through a more co-ordinated international approach, world leaders could implement something similar to the Berne Convention, which created an international system of Copyright Law. Although the law is not harmonised globally, it guarantees a minimum level of protection, so is almost similar to creating some sort of right to copyright. If this was used in relation to spam, there could be some sort of right to not receive spam emails.

A number of companies are turning away from the law and developing tech-

nology to stop spam. There are a number of programmes on the market that purport to remove spam from email accounts and even Microsoft Hotmail has an inbuilt filter that does manage to remove many junk e-mails. At the recent World Economic Forum in Davos, Bill Gates suggested that spam would be stopped in the future by requiring the sender to buy an electronic stamp, or 'payment at risk' which would mean that they would be charged in terms of computer processor time if their mail was rejected as spam. This appears to be a more realistic technological approach than just using a filter system, which Gates has said is not 'the magic solution'.

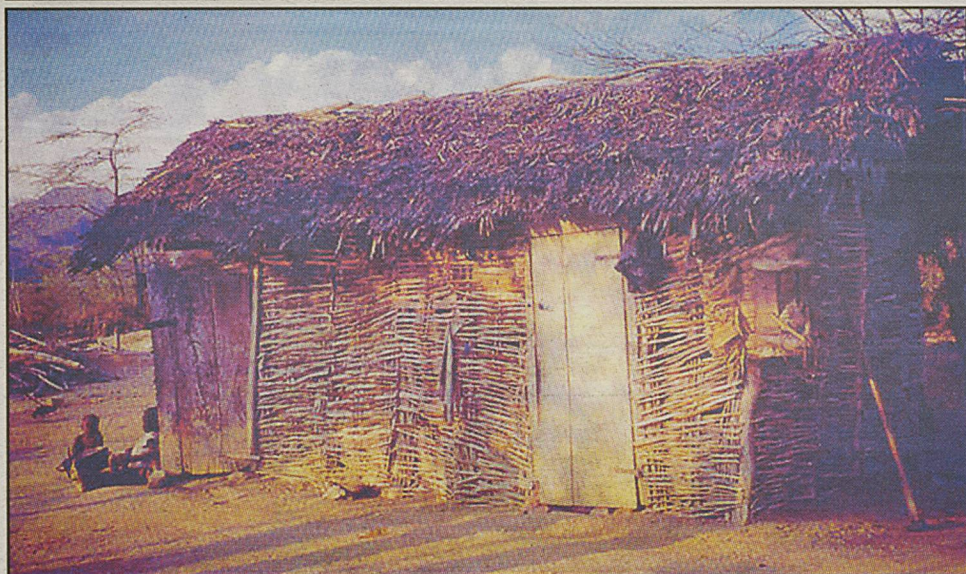
However, is spam a bad thing? Are people overreacting? I would argue that there is nothing intrinsically wrong with spam, it is not so obviously an offence against morality as murder or rape, I don't live in fear of junk e-mail. However, I appreciate that some people find it to be an invasion of their privacy, an expense, as the messages have to be deleted and frankly just a nuisance. Drawing parallels with other types of advertising does make spam seem less problematic, though. When I walk down the street I can see adverts on the sides of Taxis and on large Billboards. I do not want to see these adverts, so I ignore them and get on with my business. For similar reasons I do not see spam as a significant problem; if I don't want to read the emails I delete them.

Although the EU and other countries are attempting to legislate against spam, the legislation is flawed and there will be few effective measures until an international legal solution is found to the problem, enabling effective enforcement. The usual problems of the Internet being a global network persist in spam as in many other areas. The technological solutions are appealing, but if by sending spam the law is already being broken, I doubt that the promulgators will have a problem with finding methods to bypass these measures. If governments do believe that junk e-mail is a real problem then they need to be able to take action, wherever the senders may operate from.

Stephen Gurman is a Third Year Law Student and blink Law Correspondent.

International

International Correspondent: Anchit Sood (a.sood@lse.ac.uk)



Anchit Sood
International Correspondent

Unfortunately, this weekend saw yet another country officially join ranks with other ill-fated members whose political institutions are on the verge of collapse. With Senate elections due this year, opposition parties and many active citizen groups in Haiti have started putting pressure on the current president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide to reform the electoral system, if not the government itself, since early 2003. This weekend saw street fighting break out in the northern regions and mobs took over the major cities of Gonaives and Cap-Haitien. Violence has also broken out in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

The issue at hand is the legitimacy of Aristide's current presidency. In 1985, a student uprising, ironically originating from Gonaives itself, deposed of the tyrannical dictatorship run by the voodoo doctors Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier and his son Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, resulting in Aristide being elected as Haiti's first democratically elected President. A coup saw that change just 9 months into his regime and he fled to the USA. Then 1994 saw an American-led military intervention re-instate him as the President but on the condition that he was barred from running for another term. During this time, Aristide was a popular leader. He was known for his commitment to institutional development and was popular amongst Haiti's poor.

While he obliged in 1995 when the next elections were scheduled, presumably due to American pressure at that point of time, he held the remote control throughout. In 2000, he decided to contest again and this is where the latest round of problems originates. The main opposition parties refused to run in these elections, alleging that Aristide intended to rig these polls. His party, the Lavalas Family Party ended up winning 80% of the votes. Local sources say the turnout was a paltry 10%. Rigging did surface in some Senate seats, where the Lavalas were declared winners though a second-round voting was required. The fairness of these elections were questioned by the international community and \$500 million worth of aid to Haiti, Latin America's poorest nation, was barred.

With this Aristide began his second term, which saw him degenerate from the popular leader of the Haitian poor to a suspect absolutist tyrant. With no international aid, economic stability collapsed. In fact, the government has failed to pass a budget in 6 years. While the coffers run dry, drug-money is said to be responsible for maintaining the lavish lifestyles of the President, the Prime Minister (Aristide's childhood friend) and senior Lavalas party officials.

'Despite the good intentions of the regulation. I have doubts as to whether or not it will be effective.'

Perhaps with memories of the earlier term fresh in his mind, Aristide is said to have used chimeres, local gangs from the slums, to deal with opposition against his rule. Businessman and richer Haitian families have been forced to flee due to constant kidnappings. Opposition members complain that these gangs often break up peaceful protests with rocks and guns. University students report that they break into campuses to beat up dissidents.

Several opposition parties, business houses, civil society organisations and student bodies have organised themselves under an umbrella called 'Group of 184' to continue demonstrating against Aristide's rule. They fear that he might rig the Senate elections this year and want him to step down before the elections.

It is these street protests that turned violent last week and mobs were able to take over cities. How did that happen? For a country of 7.5 million people, Haiti has very limited policing forces. Haiti's army was disbanded in 1994 when Aristide was re-instated. It has roughly 5000 policemen, quantitatively inadequate as well as qualitatively poorly supplied. Mobs took over the main police station and were able to overcome the convoy sent to re-establish central rule.

This development however does not help solve Haiti's problems. Firstly outbreak of violence does not help a community that has already suffered a history of impoverishment and oppression. But also, these rebel groups are not the same as the opposition parties that seek reform at Port-au-Prince. These riots have created a third party in the negotiations, rebel groups who are willing to use guns to get their 'demands' fulfilled. Significant figures in these groups are not reliable figures either. Louis Jodel Chamblain, a key leader in these take-overs, is associated with the military dictatorship that overthrew Aristide in early 1990's. Guy Philippe, another leader associated with these events, is held responsible for another attempted coup in 2001.

Whether these rebel groups will be willing to initiate negotiations is doubtful, so is their agenda in case they decide to meet on the discussion table. Aristide has already ruled out sharing powers with these groups. Meanwhile, more peaceful,

Trouble in Paradise

Aristide and the rebels are leading Haiti down the road to ruin.



and constructive, protestors of the government have been pushed away from the limelight.

International attention has certainly been attracted to the island. America fears a refugee surge but has so far been unwilling to commit, the Aristide government was considered one of the big international achievements of the Clinton administration. France seems willing to help and will probably start an initiative soon, like the one in Cote d'Ivoire. The key international player involved so far is the Caribbean Community (Caricom), which has given Aristide a March deadline to abide by its suggestions such as disarming pro-government gangs and reforming the police. However when America gave a November 4th 2003 deadline last year expecting a concrete plan aiming for constitutional reform, it was ignored.

March it seems will decide what the next step towards solving the crisis in Haiti would be, and to what extent the international community will choose to get involved. Until then, one hopes that the casualties will be kept to a minimum.

Anchit Sood is a 1st Year Government Student and blink International Correspondent.

Smite 'n' Spite



It's the War, Stupid

Alykhan Velshi
blink Columnist

Emerging from within President Bush's camp is a simple message: the elections will be fought over the War on Terror. No longer will voters be forced to endure the "I feel your pain" schlock of the three previous elections. We're in a war; crying is for sissies. *Soyez attentif Monsieur Chirac.*

Good. President Bush as war-time leader is an easier sell than John Kerry. Whilst John Kerry may have fought the good fight in Vietnam (killing more Vietnamese than even General Wesley Clark, it is sometimes told), he has since squandered his war-leader capital. When Kerry left Vietnam, while his fellow men were still dying on rotten Commie soil, Kerry testified before Congress that U.S. soldiers in Vietnam were "rapists" and "thugs."

As a Senator, his war record is unimpressive to the hilt. Kerry voted against Gulf War I (whilst telling constituents he supported the war), in favour of Gulf War II (all the while claiming to be an anti-war leader), and against the recent Iraqi reconstruction package (but still pretends to be a nice guy).

Bush, on the other hand, spent much of Vietnam in the National Guard or AWOL in Virginia free houses (depending on who's story you believe): either way, neither is particularly heroic.

Nevertheless, against Kerry's confused war record, Bush's is stark. He's winning the War on Terror. Most of the Taliban are rotting in Guantanamo. Saddam Hussein will never again sit on his gold-encrusted toilet seat. Osama bin Laden, if he's not already dead, is living the life of a caveman; occasionally releasing grainy home videos whose quality wouldn't pass muster on even BBC 3.

More importantly, terror attacks in the Western world have dried up quicker than Clare Short at the mere mention of that yokel of a President. Al-Qaeda, once capable of flattening skyscrapers in Manhattan, is reduced to attacking Western tourists in its own backyard: Morocco, Indonesia, Iraq, Afghanistan. Even there, a majority of the people whom it kills are not infidel Americans, but the indigenous Muslim population.

Bush's War on Terror has rolled back al-Qaeda's worldwide operations to the region from whence they originated, and has moreover led to tremendous successes against the global terror nexus. To those who wish to destroy the West's values, liberties, economic success, and, in due course, its civilization, Bush has a clear message: Bring it on.

As President, Kerry promises to "strike a friendlier note," calling for a consensus-based foreign policy. Bush, on the other hand, has, and will continue to take the fight directly to terrorists. That's the choice: consensus or deterrence. Terrorists prefer Kerry, with his anti-war message, to Bush, who pronounces 'nuclear' as 'nucular' and doesn't even care.

An Enigma Wrapped In a Mystery?



Russia's economy has a bright future, however, the government will be playing a leading role rather than adopting the laissez faire approach of the Yeltsin era.

Malcolm Bell

I cannot predict to you the action of Russia. It is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma'. That quote from Winston Churchill is now over 50 years old, but this is still the attitude of many academics and business people around the world towards Russia, perhaps unfairly.

The Russian Federation is the world's largest country in terms of territory, with a population of 145 million people. With vast natural resources and a highly educated workforce, Russia has huge growth potential. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia launched reforms aimed at transforming its centrally planned economy into a free-market system.

The Financial crisis of August 17th 1998 was a setback. The government announced the devaluation of the ruble, debt defaults, and a bank bailout. The crisis led to a downward spiral, in which the political stability that was one of the positive steps achieved during the Yeltsin years disappeared overnight. However, since 1999 the Russian economy has stabilised and grown at a remarkably fast pace with such political and macro-economic risk factors being severely reduced. The Government has implemented policies with the full knowledge that sustainable long-term growth will require the implementation of far-reaching structural reform to develop a liberal market economy by a democratic political system.

Here comes the good news.

Many of these reforms include de-bureaucratisation, a new labour code, corporate governance policies, judicial reform and tax liberalisation. These reforms, along with increased export earnings from the higher price of oil and gas, brought about yearly improvements since 1999.

As a result, Russia has now passed

through the first phase of an economic transformation process. Competitiveness in Russian domestic industries has improved, macro-economic stability has been achieved, and a basic market environment has been created, (I know what you are thinking, I will talk about Yukos later).

The President and his government are actively promoting policies that are friendly to foreign and domestic investment. Membership in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is a top priority and as a result, trade and foreign exchange will be liberalised. Despite world economic trends since 2000, the Russian economy is showing resilience and is likely to continue expansion throughout 2004, continuing on from 2000.

However, most likely due to world-wide economic trends, Russia has yet to fulfil its investment potential and foreign investment remains low as a proportion of the total. Both British (BP-TNK) and other companies (Exxon, Chevron) have expressed a strong interest in one of Russia's key resources, oil - a resource that has in fact driven the economy over the last few years, although other sectors such as manufacturing are also increasing their contribution to economic growth.

After year's of runaway inflation, (15% - 20% Year) Russia has also managed to achieve relative financial stability through tight monetary policies. In addition, the United States designation of Russia as a market economy will help smooth its path to eventual WTO membership.

The government is very optimistic in its projections and forecasts for the economy to grow by over 6% this year and by as much as 7% for next, whilst inflation is likely to remain at a more stable rate between 7%-12% in the next few years. Both Standard & Poor's and Moody's increased Russia's sovereign rating in 2001

'Russia has yet to fulfil its investment potential and foreign investment remains low as a proportion of the total.'

to BB- and the financial sector has grown in confidence. Overall, the Russian economy continued to be relatively unaffected by the slowdown in Western markets.

Presidential elections take place in March of this year and there is little doubt that current president Putin will be re-elected. In the run-up to the elections the pace of reform is expected to slow although progress continues to be made.

Here comes the bad news.

I began this article by suggesting that Russia is still seen as an enigma in many Western eyes and recent trends and events have fuelled such an outlook. The arrest on October 25th 2003 of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, Russia's richest man and CEO of one of its largest companies, Yukos Oil, has not helped Western confidence in Russia's legal infrastructure and respect for property rights. However, few economic analysts dispute that Russian businesses do not always pay their tax, Yukos included. After all, arresting Khordokovsky for tax invasion is like giving him a speeding ticket in the Indy-500.

The seriousness of this arrest was reflected in a 20% fall in the Russian RTS stock market, an estimated \$8-10 bn Q4 capital flight and an outburst of questions

from governments, investors and news agencies around the world. However, although much has been written and much more said in the week since Khodorkovsky's arrest - few have touched on the real and ultimately more important significance of this event.

Whilst headlines have focussed upon the possibility of a redistribution of property, presidential elections and political power, the selective application of the rule of law and a supposed seizure of power in the Kremlin by a group known as the Siloviki, nobody has written of the fact that from now on, it is likely the Kremlin will decide which investors are allowed to play in Russia, which industries will develop, where and when and how they will do business. This was a point I made in a published letter to the Financial Times in November of last year.

I believe that no longer will enterprise be a purely business-to-business affair, but instead, the government of the Russian Federation, much like the government of China, will control implement and drive the economy. However, this will not become 'state owned' but it will certainly become 'state led'. A stronger Putin government leading the economy without the pressures of 'robber capitalism' to which George Soros has referred, will be good for the country's economy, its political health and above all, its people.

Whilst Russia is still seen by many as 'different' or 'corrupt', its efforts in the last few years have been rewarded and the improving environment presents opportunities for domestic and foreign companies to take part in what may be the economic success story of the 21st century.

Malcolm Bell is an undergraduate Economic History Student and chair of the Russian Business Society



Drop by Drop...

More drinking fountains would be good for the health and happiness of students.

Kanan Dhru

I distinctly remember that it was my first day at LSE and I was completely novice to everything around. I was really expecting a lot from the place since I had heard so much about its reputation! The inductions, registration, tour around LSE, everything took almost the entire day and I was extremely thirsty by the end. I started asking people about the availability of water coolers, since I had assumed that there would definitely be some water facilities on the campus. As I had heard from so many friends of mine about good availability at their universities, it seemed obvious that I could expect some.

I searched everywhere for drinking water fountains, but, to my dismay, couldn't find any on the campus. (It was later, that I came to know that there are a few, inconspicuous water coolers in a couple of buildings across the campus.) At the SU canteen, when I asked for a glass of water, the lady told me 'this water is not drinkable'.

Ultimately, I had to buy water from a shop and was so horrified at the thought of buying water in a country where the tap water is supposed to be amongst the best in the entire world. From that day on, I have never forgotten to carry a bottle of water with me every time I come to school.

In the weeks that followed, I observed that, most of the students carried a bottle of water with them from home and that some of them buy water on a regular basis. I come from a country where you definitely do not drink water from taps. Due to extreme shortages of water, in some areas water comes on in the houses, once in a whole week. Still we are not faced with a situation where the students or citizens in general, have to buy water everyday.

I found that as required by English law, every LSE building has at least one drinking water source in all its buildings. These drinking sources are not connected to the

main water supply, but to some special hygienic tank.

But the surprising thing is that may be not many students know about them, as they do not use these facilities often. (Frankly, the drinking facilities in the toilets are not fully utilised as assumed by the authorities.) Almost everyone either prefers to buy water or have a substitute of water like tea, coffee, cola or juice while in college. However, having excessive tea and coffee is not only hazardous to health, but it also dehydrates you rather than satisfying your thirst. So ultimately you crave for more water. Having cola all the time is also not very desirable. I have nothing to say to those who can afford buying juices and water everyday. But then according to the doctors, pure water is healthier alternative for the students and it is the duty of the school to see to it that it is provided.

If we take the whole of UK into consideration, the entire water industry was completely privatised in the last 15 years and now the entire system has become extremely sophisticated and more technologically sound as large investments are coming in. However, in 1995, there was a big controversy going on in Britain over the hygiene of drinking fountains. This was the time when at LSE, the Clement House was being refurbished and this controversy discouraged the installation of drinking fountains in the other buildings.

I am sure not every student can afford or is willing to buy a bottle of water everyday to satisfy one of the very basic and fundamental needs - thirst. However, let's assume for the time being that from tomorrow on, I start buying a bottle of water everyday, (if that is something LSE wants its students to do) then that is, 80p per day (the price at the vending machine in the library)... that makes 4 pounds a week.... 120 pounds a year.!! If we multiply that with 8000 students, then it comes to almost 1 million pounds on water every year!! Whereas installing a water cooler would

'I searched everywhere for drinking water fountains but, to my dismay, couldn't find any on the campus.'

'Most of the students carried a bottle of water around with them from home and that some of them buy water on a regular basis.'

cost hardly a few thousand pounds per annum. It is very surprising that neither the Students' Union nor the school administration has done anything about this issue.

According to Mr. Christopher Kudlicki, Estates Director at LSE, the existing water coolers are installed by individual departments, and not centrally. So, it is up to the departments if they want to spend money on them. When asked, if LSE has any plans on hand to improve the water facility, he replied that, should LSE's new building plans come to fruition, then drinking water facilities will probably be taken into account and incorporated into any new buildings. But until then, there don't seem to be any big plans for installing more coolers or drinking fountains on campus. Kudlicki stressed that, until then it is up to departments if they want to spend money on water coolers.

The more students I spoke to, the more I realised that there is a growing need for proper water facilities on the campus. It is against the health and safety rules not to have basic access to water. There is just one appeal - the school should ensure that there's a central authority governing the water facilities on the campus, rather than individual departments having their own say in the matter. We don't mind having the water supplied in the toilets. But the request is just to make the services more accessible. So that we don't have to climb 4 floors and go all the way to the Brunch Bowl to fill our bottles or to the stinking toilets.

This year is international year for freshwater and my appeal to the school is only that if LSE can afford to have bigger libraries and more and more acquisition of wealth, why not satisfy the need for something as basic as drinking water?

Kanan Dhru is a 1st Year Law student.

Your Guide to What's On This Week

T
U
E
S
D
A
Y

LSE FINANCE SOCIETY Presents
Deloitte 'Present Your Case' Business
Game

Tuesday 24th February, 5pm - 7pm,
D602

Gain an insight into the UK's No. 1
tax practice and find out more about
life at a leading global professional
services firm. The game will intro-
duce you to the challenging and
thought-provoking role of a consult-
ant in a 'hands on' way.

Members Only - To register email
su.soc.finance@lse.ac.uk stating your
name and dept.

W
E
D
N
E
S
D
A
Y

On the day of the National Union of
Students Shutdown, support the lec-
turers' strike and say...

"OUR EDUCATION...NOT FOR
SALE!"

CARNIVAL against MARKETISA-
TION

Jugglers! Samba band! Tomfoolery
and general hurrah!

Gather in Houghton Street

1pm Wednesday 25 February

Bring banners, whistles, costumes,
flags, small dogs, etc etc

Supported by LSESU Don't Price
Students Out Campaign, LSESU
People and Planet, LSESU SWSS

T
H
U
R
S
D
A
Y

LSE FINANCE SOCIETY Presents
'PwC Business Integrity Case Study'
Thursday 26th February, 1pm - 3pm,
D402

An opportunity to take part in an
engaging case study looking at PwC's
role and the service that it offers to its
clients. Representatives from the firm
will be on hand to offer advice and
answer any questions that you may
have.

Members Only - Email
su.soc.finance@lse.ac.uk stating your
name and dept. to register.

F
R
I
D
A
Y

Islamic Society - Discover Islam
Week

DIY - Discover Islam Yourself

3 - 6 P.M.

S75

Ajmal Masroor

Do you have an issue with Islam?
Come and clear it up in a no-holds
barred Q&A session, once and for
all...

N
E
X
T
W
E
E
K

Colombian Society

Parranda Latina No. 2

Boat The Yacht Club, March 4th, 9pm

Ticket arrangements: £5 non mem-
bers - £4 members

Any other information/brief descrip-
tion of event : following the huge suc-
cess of our first Parranda Latina
Party for which we completely sold
out and many where unable to get a
ticket, we decided to have a second
one, following popular demand!
Please get your tickets early!

Hellenic and Cypriot Societies
present

Carnival Party

Dig out your best carnival cos-
tumes and dress up to join us and
remember, the best costume will
win a very special prize!

Underground Bar

7pm, Tuesday 24 February

As part of **National Student
Volunteering Week**

'How volunteering can help you
career'

1pm, Wednesday 25 February

E304

Go/Igo/Baduk/WeiChi Society

Weekly Meeting

2-4pm Wednesday, Room Y215

Free and open to all

Latin American

Weekly Salsa Classes

Every Wednesday at 7 pm in the Old
Gym (Basement Old Building)

Slavonic Society (in cooperation with
the CEEDS, European Society, Polish
Society and Russian Society)

MegaSlavonic Party

Thursday 26th February 7pm, The
Quad

£1 members/£2 non-members

Any other information/brief descrip-
tion of event

- 50p/pint

- raffle £400+ worth

- free welcome shots

- good music

Sponsored by: LA Fitness, Imax
Cinemas, Midas Touch, LSE Central
Catering...

Islamic Society - Discover Islam
Week

"Islam in the West: A crash of civ-
ilizations?"

4 - 6 p.m.

D211

A talk by Abdel Rahman Malik,
LSE Masters student, Social
Policy

£2 cost per drop-in session

Julian (from Club Salsa) will provide
a friendly class with the basics of
Salsa dance. No experience required.
Singles welcome.

Islamic Society - Discover Islam Week
"Mum, I'm Muslim..."

2.45 - 5.30 p.m.

D302

4 converts to Islam, 4 life-altering sto-
ries, 4 testaments to the truth of Islam

**Room available at LSE Passfield
Hall**

£73 per week, £55 per week during
vacation period

Includes 2 meals per day, broadband
internet, and all utilities

Located in WC1 in friendly and fun envi-
ronment, just 15 minute walk or 5
minute bus ride to LSE.

A gigantic double room with full dividers
to share with very nice female post-
graduate.

Contact coral58@hotmail.com
asap.

LSE RAG Week Event

MEN SALE

This is your lifetime opportunity to get a date
with one of the cutest guys at LSE!

**Bid for your favourite LSE hunk out of our exquisite
selection of 10 and he'll be all yours for one night.**

Package includes drinks or dinner worth £20 or £30 at a hip Soho venue.

The Auction will take place in the Underground Bar at Crush, February 27.

Boardwalk Tel: 02072872051 **SOHO** The Soho Tel: 02070257844

B For further product information please contact:
Desal Popova d.p.popova@lse.ac.uk 07970246461
Kati Krause k.krause1@lse.ac.uk 07961923515

Mexican Society will be hosting

MexSoc UK Congress 2004

19th and 20th March

For more information contact
su.soc.Mexican@lse.ac.uk

ABSOLUT DANCE! - Modern Dance
Society

The biggest Dance Show at LSE !

Come sample the many flavours of
dance:

ABSOLUT HIP HOP, JAZZ, BALLETT,
CONTEMPORARY, BALLROOM &
BREAK DANCING!

Also featuring a DJ'ing set and much
more!

Dates: 3rd & 6th March (Wednesday
& Saturday)

Venue: Old Theatre

Tickets: £2 (on sale at Houghton St.)

**Central and Eastern European
Society (CEEDS)**

TRIP TO PRAGUE

21st-26th March 2004

The cost is £165 (inclusive of b&b
hostel accomodation and return
airticket), 50 deposit required

The programme will include visits to
major European embassies (UK, D,
USA), foreign ministry, EC delega-
tion, Pilsen Brewery and, of course,
Prague itself. Don't miss this oppor-
tunity to Czech out the city in the
heart of Europe!

R
A
G
W
E
E
K

see page 26 for details

B:art

Edited by Neil Garrett: N.Garrett@lse.ac.uk

B:music - P 15-17

B:film - P 18-19

B:about - P 20-21

B:theatre - P 22

B:literature - P 23

B:fineart - P 24

B:general - P 25

B:music

edited by Jazmin Burgess and Neil Garrett

Brand New

There's not enough good things to say about Long Island's Brand New. In fact, with two totally kick ass albums under their belt (their infectiously hyperactive debut 'Your Favourite Weapon' and 2003's way beyond brilliant 'Deja Entendu'), they're one of the few bands around who are talented enough to totally diversify their sound, and do so with style. So, on their recent sold out tour over here in the UK, **JAZMIN BURGESS** caught up with singer and guitarist Jesse Lacey to wax lyrical about rock journalists, crickets and the possible death of Ben Affleck..

So, you've had more or less widespread critical acclaim to 'Deja Entendu', but how have you found the average Brand New fan's reaction to the album and your slight change in musical direction?

For the most part they're into it. There are a few people who didn't get it, but for the most part they were younger kids, our younger audience that really haven't developed their taste in music yet. Otherwise it was pretty great. I mean we're so happy to see some of our old fans who loved the first record and then come up to us and tell us that they love the new one even more!

I interviewed both The Get Up Kids and Hot Water Music recently and you know how both of their albums took a slightly different direction, and both of them said that their fans who really loved them tended to love the new album too, whilst it was just their 'casual fans' who tended to have a bad reaction to it..

Yeah! Exactly, I think that's really true. If you love a band's other material you're probably likely to be more able to find what you really love in their newer material, even if it's quite different. I think both them and Saves the Day tended to get unfair press for their records, even though they were probably some of the best things they've ever done. I mean I couldn't believe how good The Get Up Kids record was and I understood that kids didn't give it a chance because it's hard on the first listen, but once you get used to it it's really amazing. People tend to have a sense of nostalgia with bands' older material and often they want to hold onto that so much that when a band changes they're not always willing to go along with it. It's sad. But kids learn, and hopefully those who don't like this album will go back to it eventually and fall in love with it..

So, 2003's been a really good year for you guys... what have been the highs and the lows?

Probably playing at home to the biggest audiences we've ever drawn and to be able to play to all our families and friends. All the usual stuff (laughs) so, how's it been for you?

(laughing) Good! But 2004's going to be better I'm sure... Okay, so last time you guys were in England I caught up with the rest of the band and asked them what Brand New song they were most proud of, and which one they were most embarrassed by. And so, seeing as you weren't there, thought I'd get your choices on the matter....

(laughs) That's a cool question so go on, dish the dirt! Which ones did they say?? (laughing) Okay. I think I'm most proud of 'Play Crack The Sky' off our new record. It's pretty simple but I think it's the best song I've written to date. Just because it kind of captured lyrically the feeling that I've been wanting to capture all my life. It's the first song that I'm completely happy that we've done and that I wouldn't change anything about. Do you like that one??

Yeah! Of course!

(laughs) Phew. Okay, good. So what's your favourite then?

(laughing) so I'm being interviewed now?! I like 'The Quiet Things That No-one Ever Knows'

Actually, that song turned into something that I was much prouder of than I thought I'd be when we first started playing it (laughs) so it's a good pick!

That's me, good taste. So are there none that you're ashamed of then?

(laughs) Oh god yeah! There's a few on the first record and maybe just one on the new record. But I think it's always because we're a step ahead of ourselves and because we're always thinking about what we're going to be doing next... not that I'm not proud of all our songs, but if we were to do it again I'd think it out a little more. (laughs) I wish you'd tell me what everyone else said..

So, are you going to stick with the sound you've established with 'Deja Entendu' or move on again with the next record?

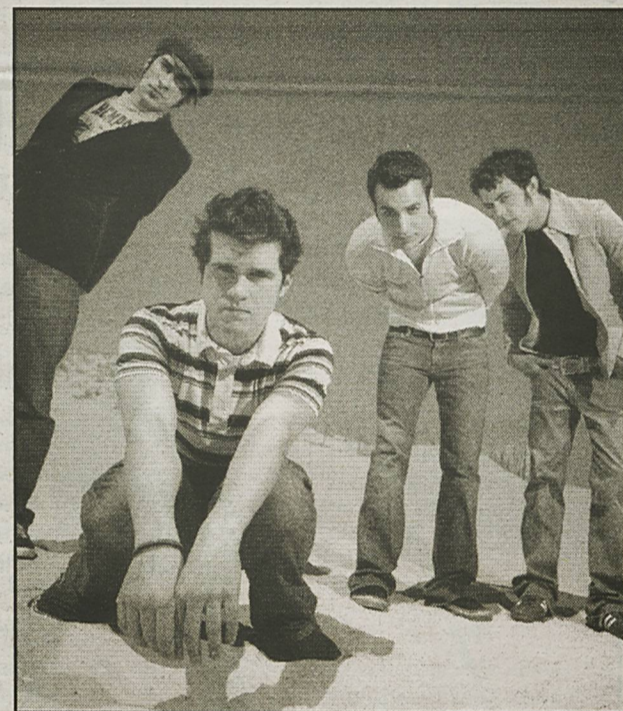
No, I can't imagine we're going to stick very long with anything! I'm sure there's elements on this record that will make their way to the next, but for the most part I think they'll be as much a change between the second and third as there was between the first and second. Whatever direction we move in, I think it's just the way we work - how our tastes change and all that. I mean in the songs I've already written myself I can already see some difference.

Well conveniently leading on from that... I got the 'Sic Transit ...' single the other day and heard the dance remix of 'Soco Amaretto Lim' so is dance party-esque direction the way Brand New is going next? Is some kind of remix album on the cards?

You know what?? That wasn't even a remix! We just re-recorded it all from the ground up. It's pretty interesting how we can perform a song so differently whilst it still technically being the same song! I'd love to do a remix record you know, but I'd rather we just wrote a dance record from scratch - cos we're fans of that music and we can definitely do it... I imagine there's going to be elements of electronica in our new record, just cos we've been thinking about it so much. Maybe we'll do two records actually (laughs) one dance and one rock..

(laughing) Corner all the markets! So, I've heard that with your new record deal you have your own imprint label? Any plans to sign any bands?

Yeah, we have our own imprint label, so our new record will come out on Dreamworks and our imprint at the same time. There's a few bands we're interested in signing actually but of course that kind of thing takes money and stuff and we don't know if we're in a position to do so at the moment... but if I find a band that I really believe in, then I'll definitely find a way (laughs) so do you have a band?



Nope... (laughing) but if you're offering me a deal I'll form one! So, you guys have been labelled everything under the sun. What's the worst thing you've heard yourselves been described as??

God, we've been labelled some horrible things, but the worst is 'Mainstr-emo' what's that about?? (laughing) Actually don't even put that in! I don't even want people to know that word exists! I agree very rarely with anything anyone ever writes about us. The only time anyone ever writes a good description of us is when a journalist doesn't use a label and just uses their talent. But that's a rare thing. It's so difficult to write about music because it's impossible to describe in words what a song sounds like! Someone said once actually that 'writing about music is like dancing about painting' which is so true, the two are just so different.

Right, and finally, last time I met the rest of the band I asked them who they'd get to play each of them if a movie was made of Brand New..so, who would you get to play you?

Hmmm... Jude Law maybe? (laughs) he's pretty hot..

Ah, Brian already nabbed him! And apparently he's making out with Gweneth Paltrow and Winona Ryder. And that's the plot of the film. (laughing) Oh and you kill Ben Affleck and James Van Der Beek..

(laughs) Sounds like a pretty good plot to me! Okay, I'll get Billy Crudup to play me! So we kill Ben Affleck and James Van Der Beek? That's awesome! I couldn't think of two people higher on my hitlist... Especially since Ben Affleck's ruined every film I've seen with him in it. (laughing) I tell you what, that's going to be one good film...

Lamb

Is Louise Rhodes really a pixie? Chloe Cook finds out...



Before they came on stage, I had doubts as to whether the Manchester duo that is Lamb could possibly pull off, with style and panache, their unique fusion of off-beat trip-hop, drum and bass and funky jazz live on stage. A genre defying conglomerate if ever there was one, Lamb totally surpassed my expectations and proved their musical brilliance in front of 5,000

people, a number of such proportions to sufficiently flabbergast the endearing duo. "It's not our record label that got all of you here," enthused Andy Barlow, jumping up and down with child-like excitement "it's word of mouth, you told your friends!". A band with such diverse appeal to different musical tastes and moods needs little advertising once the word is out.

Lamb onstage both embrace you with their warm personalities and make your arms goose-pimple as they take you on their musical roller-coaster of climaxes and subsequent comedowns. Within a space of ten minutes the audience would have finished

dancing to one of Lamb's more up-beat offerings, mellowed out to an instrumental, string based piece (one such song 'Angelica', off the new album *Between Darkness and Wonder* has led to the preposterous accusation of being 'coffee table music') and yet another climax would be brewing as the lights dim and singer Lou's haunting voice would echo around the Academy.

For me, it is Louise Rhodes that puts the 'baa' into 'oh baaaaby' - like a little pixie that dances and skips barefoot on stage, she huskily tells everyone to 'look out for each other and love' (although luckily I don't think she saw the drunken brawl five minutes later between one woman and 10 other people with full on bitchy hair pulling) and grins charmingly. There was however, some slight tension between Louise and Andy, whose personal differences are well known. Nevertheless, the vibe was good and the pair create wicked music between them, with Andy playing around with a massive variety of instruments, leaping from bongo drums, to synths and then attacking the electronic drums.

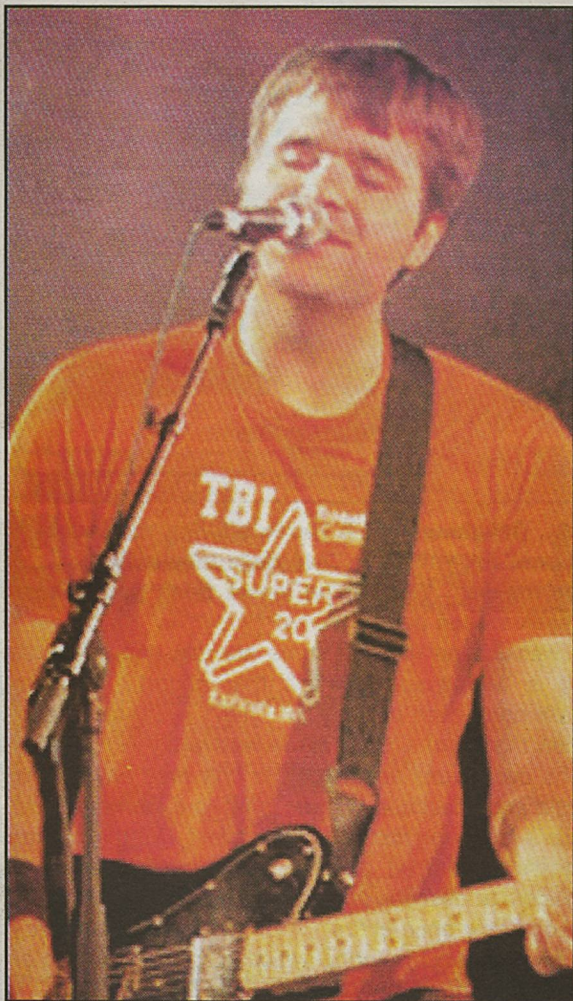
Although only two songs were played from *Fear of Fears*, which I think is their best album, all the favourites were there spanning all four albums including, of course, their most famous songs *Gorecki* and *Gabriel*. The setlist apparently included *Cotton Wool*, but it never made it into the show and was sorely missed.

All in all, an extremely impressive show and a band definitely worth seeing if you have the chance.

CHLOE COOK

Death Cab for Cutie

Good name. Good group. They play ULU...



My love for Death Cab For Cutie stems back a long time: having seen lead singer Ben Gibbard's musical beginnings in All Time Quarterback, then into Death Cab For Cutie, and into his latest adventure Postal Service. His latest work is *Transatlanticism*, Death Cab's newest album. It is both masterpiece and genius. While it reflects the band's tightness, it is crisp, fresh and utterly dynamic.

As expected, their ULU gig was without a doubt, superb. The tour was in promotion of their new album '*Transatlanticism*', but the show felt more like a celebration of their finest songs. The set was eclectic, diverse and energetic. The show vibrantly started off with 'Movie Scripting Ending,' the single off their previous LP, *Photo Album*. Followed 'Guinevere', then 'New Year', their rocking new single, which was released last Monday. Other highlights included *Blacking Out the Friction*, a poetic song filled with metaphors about love, denial

and devotion. Also performed was *Photo booth*, a song about summer love, off DCFC's terrific '*Forbidden Love*' EP. Also included was '*The Sound of Settling*', which is planned to be the second single off *Transatlanticism*. (Be sure to check out the video, it features each member and a giant ginger man).

ULU's audience enthusiastically welcomed DCFC, and were well received by both new and old fans. It was a gig both melancholic and sincere, but offered a stimulating, and charging perspective. Who wouldn't react Ben Gibbard's utterly truthful words: so raw and simple, brutally honest. It was a show not to be missed: rocking and inspiring. If you were unfortunate to miss it, make sure to check them out the next time they rock the UK.

MELISSA DE-WITTE

Air

Cool Gallic chaps return with a new album and a live tour...

I have been given the task of not mentioning once the words 'Gallic' or 'cool' at any point during this review.

With regard to Jean-Benoit Dunckel, Nicolas Godin and co, however, we have much more to talk about. There is such a large degree of charm about their set that one gets the distinct impression that these boys would know how to romance a lady. Dialogue with the audience is limited, although peppered the obvious exotic accents - it is the music that really lets us realise their intentions. The ever strong and hypnotic bass lines are complimented by an intriguing and only ever subtly threatening range of sounds. The finale of '*La Femme D'Argent*' succeeded in drawing in and obliterating onlookers in a magnificent fashion.

However, there are signs that all is not quite right. The smooth talking is tarnished by the occasional unpleasant burp. At times the masks slip somewhat and Air go a bit Jean Michel Jarre on us; losing the groove and staring at the keyboards a little too much. These are the points when one realises that the line between being extremely trendy and really quite nerdy is actually very thin.

It is quite bizarre that one expects there to be more musicians on stage and yet three men behind their stack of keyboards deliver the crux of the performance. This



to some degree accounts to the problem Air will always face when they play live: essentially they are not putting on any type of show and there is little or no focus that the audience can centre on. In a venue such as the Brixton Academy, designed for the more traditional rock 'n' roll performers, one can almost feel lost watching mere silhouettes tinkering away, despite the reality that they are actually producing some fantastic music. Another nagging worry was that throughout the show the staple of the material that the audience appreciated is now six years old.

You can't believe that they'll be kicked out of bed just quite yet though.

LAWRENCE KAVANAGH

Album Reviews

Island records album sampler

various artists

V/A ISLAND SAMPLER 2004

This mixed bag begins with a song by an artist as eclectic as the rest of the album put together; 'in my bed' by Amy Winehouse. Breathless online descriptions of the 20 year-old Londoner and double Brit award nominee's fragrance, tunefulness and beauty are tempting me to jealously slag her off. Instead I will politically describe her combination of jazz, funk, pop and folk decorated with Goth lipstick as interesting and leave judgement up to the reader.

Moving briskly onwards, 'break my world' by Dark Globe belongs to one of those dance-related genres best left to psy-trance society members. Keane, Span and Sia have already had judgement passed upon them in these pages, if you've been paying attention. The former are the only really annoying ones, though of course we haven't got to Blink 182 yet. Busted also feature, as though to give (cough) credibility to their Californian pop punk big brothers. I urge you to spend your time more productively investigating Bell X1 and Chikinki instead. The Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster follow, keeping up the pace in the mid-section, before being upstaged by the superior Mars Volta.

To conclude the above dribble of consciousness, this is quite a crowd-pleaser as a collection, but if I were to play it at a party I'd change the CD well before the Sugababes provide the half-hearted finale. (6)

SARAH TAYLOR



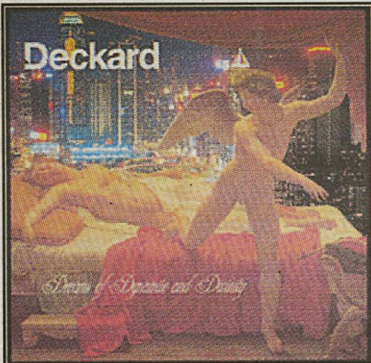
COURTNEY LOVE AMERICA'S SWEETHEART

Long before Janet Jackson's lame "Let's flash at the Superbowl" debacle, Courtney Love was regularly writhing semi-naked in the crowd with the now disbanded Hole. But six years later is Love, like Jackson, actually all controversy and no substance? Her back catalogue suggests not and if you still weren't convinced then America's Sweetheart is the decisive proof.

Love has a history of opening her albums with punchy rock songs like 'Violet' and 'Celebrity Skin'. This time around its 'Mono' in which Love screams "Hey God you owe me one more song/ So that I can prove to them/ That I'm so much better than him". Fortunately God was listening and sent twelve perfectly formed miracles. Meanwhile the album shocker is her bizarre collaboration with Elton John's lyricist Bernie Taupin on 'Uncool', which is far from the mismatch you might expect.

Anyone expecting a return to Love's 'Pretty on the Inside' (1991) punk roots, will be disappointed. Those hoping for an album combining the lessons of the under-appreciated 'Live Through This' (1994) and the catchy but slightly over-produced 'Celebrity Skin' (1998) will be rejoicing, with two-fingers for conspiracy theorists who suggest it was Kurt Cobain who penned Hole's 1994 release. Courtney Love may have a personal life which continually threatens to eclipse her records but she continues to serve up music that is colourful and unapologetically kick-ass. (8)

LAURA ROSE



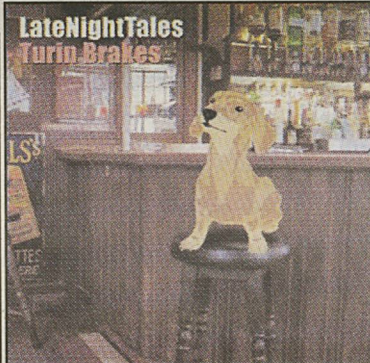
DECKARD DREAMS OF DYNAMITE AND DIVINITY

The recent rise to prominence of the likes of Franz Ferdinand and Dogs Die In Hot Cars seems to have re-established Glasgow as the home for all that is quirky, esoteric, arty and clever in pop. To the observer it would seem there is an entire underground community who spend all their days in cafes writing poetry, discussing Kafka and getting signed to Rough Trade.

Whether such a community exists outside the sleeves of Belle and Sebastian records or not, it is clear in any case that Glaswegian rockers Deckard are not part of it. There is nothing particularly quirky about citing The Beatles, Radiohead and Queen as your main influences. Nor are any notably literary pretensions betrayed on 'Dreams of Divinity'. Indeed, it seems Deckard are more of the school of thought that 'books are for knobs' if they really think the hurt and abandonment of a breakup can be adequately conveyed with the words 'I'm halfway out of the door / as she stares and calls / I must use the loo' / 'Good day to you', found on slow, 'emotional rock' number Grace's Estate, and delivered in singer Chris Gordon's oh-so-American twang.

Things don't pick up much throughout the remainder of this shockingly mediocre record. There are some Muse-esque riffs but with none of the catchiness and played at about half the pace. That said, they may pick up fans among those rock lovers who found Feeder's latest work a bit too 'experimental'. (2)

DANIEL GROTE



TURIN BRAKES LATE NIGHT TALES

Following Nightmares on Wax, Sly and Robbie, and Jamiroquai in the Late Night Tales influences series, England's Turin Brakes compiles fifteen songs and covers one more for their turn at playing DJs.

The disc has a few notable highlights: Smog's "Cold Blooded Old Times," Gillian Welch's "One and Only," and John Hammond's "Dreamy Eyed Girl." But for the most part, it's a soporific collection of forgettables. Back-to-back jazz tracks by Les Barons and Grant Green don't detract from this effect; they just stick out like sore thumbs. David Palmer plays a piano version of Elliott Smith's "Speed Trials" that makes a meaningful song sound like badly-mixed elevator music. The appeal of G. Love eludes me as usual, and Al Di Meola's guitar work is technically flawless but not especially interesting. The disc also features not-the-best song by not-the-best Stephen Malkmus project, Silver Jews' "Send in the Clouds," which is still a head above most of the tracks. The other seven picks are hardly worthy of comment.

But the infuriating thing about this compilation is the band's attempt to pass it off as "the blues." The blues are about hearts broken and tears shed, but the blues are also about grit and sweat and danger and revenge, none of which surface in Turin Brakes' safe-and-clean selections. In short, this disc is sterile. (2)

BONNIE JOHNSON



KATIE MELUA CALL OFF THE SEARCH

Katie Melua. Looks just like Norah Jones, sounds just like Norah Jones, who sounds just like Eva Cassidy, who looks nothing like either of them.

It's not that this is entirely boring, or that this genre has been done to absolute death. What I do take issue with is that it sounds completely lifeless. After all, this is blues music, music for the broken hearted to wallow in their utterly depressing existence. It's meant to have a dusty edge to it, wistfully sung by some poor lonely individual whose been a victim to life's cruel relentless blows; a means of introspective cleansing. When it's faultlessly produced like this, with perfect orchestrated accompaniments and harmonies intertwined, it just sounds wrong. It has no soul.

Her voice is remarkable in its range but the tone of it is synthetic. And when there's little interest in the music apart from the emotional depth of it, it's ineffective. This is why Cassidy has proved so enduring since her death; she sounds genuinely hurt on the songs she sings. Katie, without being harsh, sounds a bit like a robot.

On another note, does anyone know what I'm talking about when I say that you can hear the sound of salivating on this record? A sort of mucousy sticky ness that gets caught at the sides of your mouth and expresses itself when you try and speak before having a glass of water to clear it. Well, it's not nice to hear on songs as beautiful as Lilac Wine. Maybe this was the human element I thought was lacking though. (5)

NEIL GARRETT

Singles

HAWKSLEY WORKMAN WE STILL NEED A SONG

Hoping for the sexed-up piano of "Jealous of Your Cigarette," I got this instead. I know he's eccentric, but these three cuts are bafflingly inconsistent. "We Still Need a Song" is feel-good pop for yuppies, "Addicted" sounds goofy rather than sinister, and "Love Will Tear Us Apart" should have been left alone.

BONNIE JOHNSON

JOHN SQUIRE ROOM IN BROOKLYN

Poor old John Squire. Routinely held to be the 'genius' behind the Stone Roses, he now finds himself consistently eclipsed by a man whose most notable traits are body odour and a propensity to threaten to chop the hands of fair hostesses. 'Room in Brooklyn', moreover, will do little to redress the balance, being an unspeakably boring Neil-Youngish country number that is remarkable only for being even worse than The Seahorses.

DANIEL GROTE

SUGABABES IN THE MIDDLE

A slick pop machine in full action. With equally banal lyrics and beats, this song has been crafted, nay, engineered for the dance floor. Perfect for clubbers who listen to radio 1 midweek as this song will stick in your head like a six inch nail. Seriously though, they'll be first against the wall when the revolution comes.

MATT BOYS

NORTHERN HEIGHTS LOOK AT US

Commercial dance, ergo cheap and nasty. Repetitive, simple beats that could entice you to dance like a horrendous, sweaty bird of some sort, I feel ashamed to tap along to the rhythm. Generic melody and lyrics that will plague me for the rest of the day. Thanks.

SIAN BEYNON

SIA 'DON'T BRING ME DOWN'

Moving away from the RnB style Sia Furler may have been associated with, this single off her new album Colour the Small One is actually quite good. The Dido-esque popness is, unfortunately, omnipresent but the haunting chorus adds a darker edge to the song, making it just a little bit more different from that genre of music that has been described as 'music to microwave lasagna to'.

CHLOE COOK

THE BARBS THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EVIL

Crikey! It would seem that Peaches and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs have unleashed a wave of feisty, spiky female-led guitar bands. The Barbs continue the trend in good form. For the more dangerous among you, it sounds as if they are at the jagged edges of any generalisation. Anyone for a tattoo?

LAWRENCE KAVANAGH

B:film

edited by Simon Cliff and Dani Ismail

B:Film London Awards Night Report...

The Orange British Association of Film and Television Awards 2004

IONMARTEA rubbed shoulders and schmoozed unreservedly with the Hollywood A-List at this year's BAFTAs. He reports for B:film...

This year's BAFTA was given a difficult task at matching the pomposity of last year's ceremony, when 90% of the nominees (including Nicole Kidman, Julianne Moore, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Meryl Streep, Michael Caine, Adrian Brody, and Daniel Day Lewis) attended the ceremony. In a year dominated by average film-making, with no obvious modern classics, with the exception of *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* (for all the wrong reasons though), the prospect of the 2004 BAFTAs was rather bleak, especially as the nominees matched the Oscar race quite poorly (thus even less reasons to campaign from the popular names).

In all fairness however, the shortlist presented quite a mainstream outlook, including the likes of Uma Thurman (who failed her promise to show up), Bill Nighy, Emma Thompson, Laura Linney and Scarlett Johansson (mentioned twice in the Leading Actress category), getting nominations in spite of Oscar failures, and the award favourites like Sean Penn (nominated twice), Johnny Depp, Renee Zellweger, Sofia Coppola, and Peter Jackson, whose last instalment of *The Lord of the Rings* was tipped as a likely winner (with 12 nominations), along with *Cold Mountain* (13 nominations).

Back to the Red Carpet: the first person to grace it was the beautiful Holly Hunter, who arrived unusually early for her status (5:08pm), followed swiftly by the likes of Emma Thompson, Sofia Coppola and Scarlett Johansson (looking suspiciously similar to a young Marilyn Monroe). With Benicio del Toro, Jude Law and especially Johnny Depp all attending the ceremony, the girls had something to scream about also. Ian McKellen being quite rude to the official BAFTA interviewer was a sight to treasure.

The show itself is always a delight, especially with Stephen Fry as the MC. With no 5 second delay, he could easily plug "*Bright Young Things*, soon to be released on DVD", and warned that his "breast might accidentally pop out", in case the speeches were too long (thank God that didn't happen), and during the technical delay, ended up saying: "They should have got a MAC, these PCs are hopeless... Oh well, I have two minutes to go and vomit".

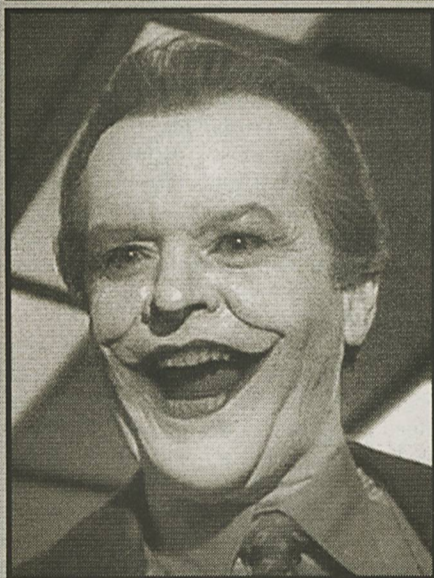
BRITISH
ACADEMY
OF FILM AND
TELEVISION
ARTS

Don't worry, he did not vomit, especially as the winners, (though not always the best picks), were worthy of praise. *The Return of the King* scooped the Best Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Cinematography, and Best Visual Effects (as if there was any question about this one), giving Jackson the chance to use the same speech twice, in an interval of 20 min. (and the Lack of Originality awards goes to...). *Master and Commander* did a great job of getting four awards, including Best Director for Peter Weir. And *Lost in Translation* was left with Honours for Murray and Johansson in the Acting categories.

In terms of best speeches it has to be Murray's letter, read quite badly by Coppola (who looked very disappointed of losing the Best Director award), and Bill Nighy, who said "You made an old rocker very happy. I can't wait to kill the band". Oh, and Depp did think he was going to get it: his disappointed face was

monumental.

In the year of poor films, the BAFTAs were actually quite a treat. It is worth mentioning the Career Award handed out by a "hideous old rat-bag with hygiene problems" (that's Fry on Emma Thompson) given to Working Title, and the Academy Fellowship gone to John Boorman (*Deliverance, Hope and Glory*).



the editor's cut

The sad irony of cinema, and another top ten to ponder...

By the time you read this, dear B:film lovers, chances are that *Return of the King* will have become only the second film in history to reach the fabled \$1 Billion mark at the worldwide Box Office, not surprising given its massive following and overwhelming praise from critics and audiences alike. What is more surprising, and also rather disturbing, is that it has only just topped *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone* for the spot of second highest grossing movie. This rather terrifying trend is added to by the fact that the hideously

bad *XXX* and *Tomb Raider 2* will cost you about 15 quid on DVD at HMV, yet modern classics *Donnie Darko* and *The Shawshank Redemption* can be had for little over a fiver. I find this all very odd, though personally I'm not complaining.

On to more serious matters. After last week's outing into the depths of filmic depravity, this week I'm going for laughter and frivolity, as I list the 10 Greatest Comedies of All Time. Chortle away:

10. Airplane!
9. American Pie
8. This Is Spinal Tap
7. Monty Python's The Life of Brian
6. Grosse Pointe Blank
5. Toy Story
4. The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert
3. Some Like It Hot
2. Monty Python and The Holy Grail
1. Groundhog Day

Let's hope that sometime soon the big-knobs at The Beeb recognise the brilliance of the Python team (listed twice above, no less) and start repeating some of their classic sketch shows. Until next week, start campaigning for dead parrots and silly walks, and behave yourselves...

Comments, ideas and Tony Giddens sightings to s.e.cliff@lse.ac.uk

Out Now...

The Dreamers

JASONTSAI on Bertolucci's latest...

There is an odd moment deep into Bernardo Bertolucci's new film *The Dreamers* in which the camera, leaving the main characters to retreat to the back row of a cinema, pans across the theatre and then settles, full-on, upon the audience. An elderly man next to me gasped at this point and I felt quite the same way: Bertolucci's eye had fixated itself upon ours and in this fleeting, disarming moment of reality, in which two duplicate audiences stared at each other, we came to understand our collective love of cinema.

And the director's newest film is exactly that – a love letter to cinema. That is, to cinemathèque. Matthew (Michael Pitt, of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*) narrates to the audience at the opening of *Dreamers* that "only the French would house a cinema within a palace." He is an American in Paris, in town for a year to learn the French language, and in coupling this with his affection for foreign films, we are automatically drawn to him in a romantic sort of way. Take away roughly three decades and you could plant him in a Parisian coffee shop next to Hemingway, both chain-smoking cigarettes and rubbing their bleary Yankee eyes.

Pitt's character narrates throughout the film in a bored monotone that one could easily pass off as terrible voiceover, were it not realized by the end of the movie that he sounds this way because he is telling us a story after the fact. I was reminded of F. Scott Fitzgerald's description of Tom Buchanan: a man who had reached such an acute excellence early in life that everything afterwards savored of anti-climax. And one can't help but think that, as the movie unfolds, Matthew is immersing himself into a similar coming-of-age sort of story. He soon finds himself befriended by a pair of French siblings, Theo and Isabelle (Louis Garrel and Eva Green), and is impulsively drawn to their enigmatic, if questionably incestuous, relationship. Bertolucci has made a career out of making films that delve into the disconcerting consequences of sexual relationships (think *Last Tango in Paris* or, more recently, *Stealing Beauty*) – this movie is no different.

Dreamers, however, is less about sexual exploration and more about capricious, defiant twenty-year-olds who seem to know all the angles. Matthew and the siblings' lifestyle, which is funded by money the latter's parents left them before embarking on an extended vacation, is dreamlike in itself – the three of them watch movies incessantly and debate indoors, away from the raucous student riots that plagued Paris in the spring of '68. There is a magnificent montage halfway through the film when the three take a page from Jean-Luc Godard's *Band of Outsiders* and insolently race throughout the Louvre, leaping and screaming.

Bertolucci's film works as an effortless tribute to Paris, youth, music, and love. These are the things the three title characters embrace, so that when it comes to the last shot of the film, when Bertolucci's trademark colourful visual style bleeds into documentary monochrome, the loss of innocence is that much more palpable, and the sadness is much more authentic.

Director: Bernardo Bertolucci

Starring: Michael Pitt, Eva Green

Running Time: 116 minutes

Certificate: 18

Exclusive B:Film Preview...

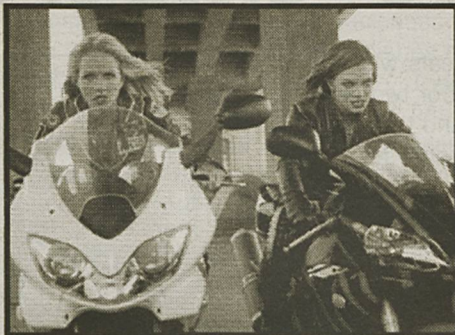
Torque

MORWENNABENNETT on the latest "bimmers-'n'-bitches" flick...

Torque is brought to you by the producers of films such as *The Fast and The Furious* and *XXX*, so I could largely end the review here. Directed by Joseph Kahn, famous in the music world for working with the likes of Eminem and DMX, his debut movie feels very much like an extended music video with motorbikes.

The story follows biker Cary Ford (Martin Henderson) who returns home after six months to win back his girlfriend, Shane (Monet Mazur). Sadly this forces him to confront the reason he left town in the first place - he'd stolen some motorbikes belonging to leader of the Hellions gang, Henry (Matt Schulze), who wants them back pretty badly. After refusing to return them, Henry frames Ford for the murder of a rival gang member, causing that gang - the Reapers, to want him dead. To add insult to injury the FBI are also after him. So, he has to get past these adversaries, win back his girl and stay alive. Luckily he has some pretty sexy motorbikes and loyal friends to aid him in his quest.

The film has a little slice of everything - fast bikes, loud music, half-naked biker chicks (at one point re-enacting what can only be described as a scene from *Bikini Carwash*), blatant product placement, gangs, guns and a big desert to ride around in. *Torque* certainly has the funding. Action sequences involving motorbike chases are highly impressive and greatly enhanced by the pumping music blasted out during them. The soundtrack will appeal to those of a hip-hop persuasion. Also worth



Director: Joseph Kahn
Starring: Martin Henderson, Ice Cube, Monet Mazur, Matt Schulze
Running Time: 81 minutes
Certificate: 15
Release Date: 5th March

mentioning are the fight sequences, often conducted while hanging off a bike, or using parts of bikes as weapons. Yet at points the stunts do become somewhat over enthusiastic, and the computer graphics are sadly not up to scratch with the cream of recent offerings.

Notable and believable performances were given by Henderson and Mazur. Neither have had leading roles before and the Director Kahn hails Henderson as possessing qualities of actors such as Steve McQueen and Mel Gibson - let's not take it anywhere near that far. They work well because they look as though they are enjoying themselves. What really lets the film down is its script and intense overacting by largely the rest of the cast. Ice Cube's performance as 'bad ass' gang leader is at points painful and at others simply hilarious. He actually says while holding a gun to Ford's head "You know I could smash you right now, you and your tricycle friends." I tell you I was scared.

But by the end of the movie you are swept away with the action, unable to fight it, and begin to go with the cheesy flow which does deal a few surprises. It doesn't matter that you find yourself laughing at inappropriate movie moments; I don't think they're taking themselves too seriously either.

Torque is essentially *The Fast and The Furious* with motorbikes. If you laugh every time you hear a motorbike referred to as a 'crotch rocket' then there's a chance you'll like thischeese-filled romp of a biker movie. It's inoffensive and mildly entertaining fluff. ★★☆☆

Classic Review...

The Wicker Man

RUTHAUSTIN loves this cult occult classic...

Uptight calvinist copper (no sex, no fun, no dancing) Sergeant Howie (Woodward) goes to an isolated Scottish Island of Summerisle which is mysteriously able to grow fruit and veg aplenty, in order to investigate the disappearance of a young girl...and begins to suspect that she has been murdered. The islanders it turns out, have a taste for paganism, beer, alternative medicine and sex, sexual initiations, sex in public, sex with gods and, oh yes, more sex. Howie is horrified at all this "pagan barbarity" and when he tries to return to the mainland for reinforcements his plane doesn't start...

Let me get one thing out of the way; this is not quality and nor is this art. The psychological horror-esque plot and its twist are obvious from the beginning. But something about this film is irresistible; once it's under your skin it stays and before you know it you'll have bought the t-shirt, the soundtrack, the collector's edition DVD and be joining in with the online scary cult type conversations about Christopher Lee's roll neck jumpers. The director's cut is miles, miles better than the original cinematic version; the timescale makes more sense, there's some storyline context, an extra song and a lovely sequence of two snails having what one can only assume to be the snail equivalent of "how's yer daddy".

There are folk songs written in the English style, not the Celtic (whoops), by an Italian, many of which are cringe worthy (and a few of which work really well with the action, my favourite is the restored song "Gently Johnny") Some of the accents are

Director: Robin Hardy
Starring: Christopher Lee, Edward Woodward, Britt Ekland
Certificate: 15
Running Time: 99 minutes

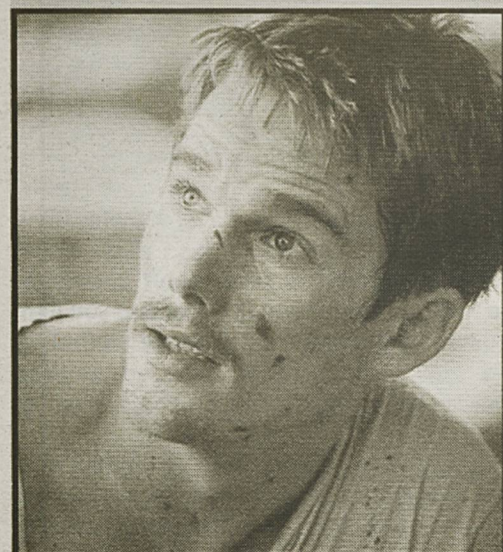
so bad that they might be an aural walking tour of the British Isles (or Poland in one case) and Britt Ekland proves why she isn't one of our national treasures, but why she's got a lovely pair of personalities. All of this should add up to one terrible film but instead it makes for a wonderful bit of kitsch and some truly great moments with Lee (who maintains this is the best film he's ever made, but then at the time it probably was a nice departure from playing vampires) getting the best of the lines.

To give the design and props teams the credit they really do deserve, the detail in each scene is tremendous and I pick out something new each time I watch the film. The March Hares everywhere, the dolls, the eye symbols on the sides of the boats, the schoolroom register that says "Belthane Term" etc etc I could list the minutiae for hours but I'll spare you the pain.

In short the moral lessons of *The Wicker Man* are quite clear:

- 1) Genetic modification of food will always end in tears
- 2) Virgins are always the sacrifice; have as much sex as you can
- 3) When girls dance and sing naked in the room nextdoor and thump the wall, run
- 4) It's much too dangerous to jump through a fire with your clothes on
- 5) Christopher Lee could pull off wearing a dress and long hair long before LOTR
- 6) DON'T VISIT REMOTE ISLANDS ON YOUR OWN YOU DAFT BUGGER!!!

Movie Matters with Dani Ismail



In 1994 Ethan Hawke bounded on to our screens as the hapless American Jesse who fell in love with and inevitably left the French Julie Delpy in Richard Linklater's *Before Sunrise*, the classic 24 hour love story. In the 9 years since, they have also appeared in an animated computer feature *Waking Life*, of Linklater's that tantalisingly gives fans a glimpse of them lying in bed together, but now the real story has come out. For those who know the movie, you will be happy to hear that a sequel has come out, *Before Sunset*. Following real time to a tee, nine years has also passed since their love-at-first-sight meeting and now the story places them in a Parisian bookstore.

After they meet again they have 80 minutes (also in real time) to conclude their relationship and feed our need to find out what happened - did they meet in Vienna 6 months after the first movie, as they planned? Does a one night stand hold? Is

Ethan Hawke better looking now or then? All these questions, and more, will be answered in this indie sequel.

The girls are crying all over trashy magazines; fans nationwide are rueing the end of this momentous Friday night occasion; discussions are raging as to who the protagonist will choose - sexy male ballerina (man-erina?), or Mr Big, which we all know says it all. Yup, it's none other than the finale of *Sex And The City*, the HBO show that has taken the world and countless men by the balls. Anyway anyway, we all know that, but they're making a movie of it! I'm slightly wary but also excited.

Getting axed by the tax will be *Tulip Fever*, a Keira Knightley and Jude Law effort, due to the inland revenue bastards closing a loophole that previously helped fund many a British movie. As *Microeconomic Principles* really gets under my skin, the most problematic outcome of this that sprung to mind was the pressure of competing with glamorous, glitzy - but most importantly - slutty, American films that have millions pounded into them like extremities into Hollywood Boulevard hookers. How is, for example, the everyday Scouse indie film maker expected to be able to bring to light his possibly strange but undoubtedly wonderful drug excursions and sex initiations and intricate plot twists? How will they fare under huge lump sum taxes, increasing marginal costs and prices? Will their demand function falter (does that even happen?)? That lame excuse of economic wording just made me realise how limited my knowledge of it is. Anyway. Expect more and more films to find huge gaps in their funding. Bye all.

B:about

edited by Sarah Warwick

Hail to the Gastropub!

There are a lot of pretenders to the name gastropub: dirty little locals which serve up your standard burger-chip combos with a token lettuce leaf or two on the side or wine bars that have expanded to include scraps of this and that on ciabatta! However stumbling down the Edgware Road on a rainy Tuesday night looking to get out of the rain I found a gem of a place with comfort, style and delicious food just off the Marylebone road of all places! To be fair it was warm and dry so I might have been slightly biased but as soon as I came in I felt comfortable. Warm smells of bread and cheese

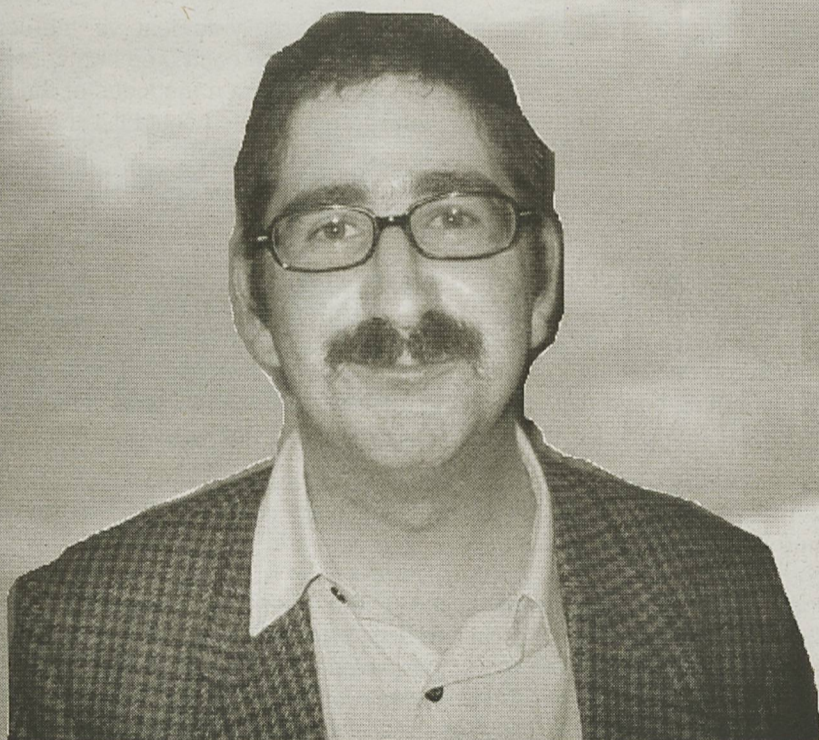
The food was beautiful: we ordered vegetarian vegetables with 3 cheeses. The flavours in the vegetables were beautiful and they were glossy and smooth without being slimy. They slipped down a treat with a large glass of red wine (£3.80 for the house, or more for something a bit more exciting) The whole place smells like a Tuscan hillside restaurant: bready and garlicky: fatty yet wholesome. Breathing in the air was the perfect antidote to the wet wind lashing against the walls and for a while I almost forgot I was in London (which at this time of year is a blessing!)

The atmosphere was generally friendly with big groups of friends lounging over a few beers or huge plates of pan-fried meats and potatoes. If the clientele seem a bit snooty it's clearly only because they're smug at their discovery of this place! I'll definitely be back, and if you ever need to find me I'll be sitting under the fairy lights with a vat of Chianti. Mmmmm.

Worship at The Chapel on 48 Chapel St, NW1. More details on 020 7402 9220



Love under Low Lighting



Grey Goose cosmopolitans and raspberry stolly with cranberry juice were a much needed relief after a long day of stressful structuralism and evil ethnography! Sipping these in a cave under Baker Street decorated with fringed lamps and beige velvet sofas I felt like I should be in some sort of porn movie. As if on cue a moustached middle aged man approached: 'can I buy you ladies a drink?' he slurred. Cue the bottles of baby oil and writhing on the shag pile!

Shit no... that's just in my head, but Low Life lives up to its name in seediness. In a basement just off Baker Street stairs lead down to this swish bar, slightly overpopulated by suits most of the time but the friendly barstaff and excess amount of vodka make up for this. Eclectically stylish,

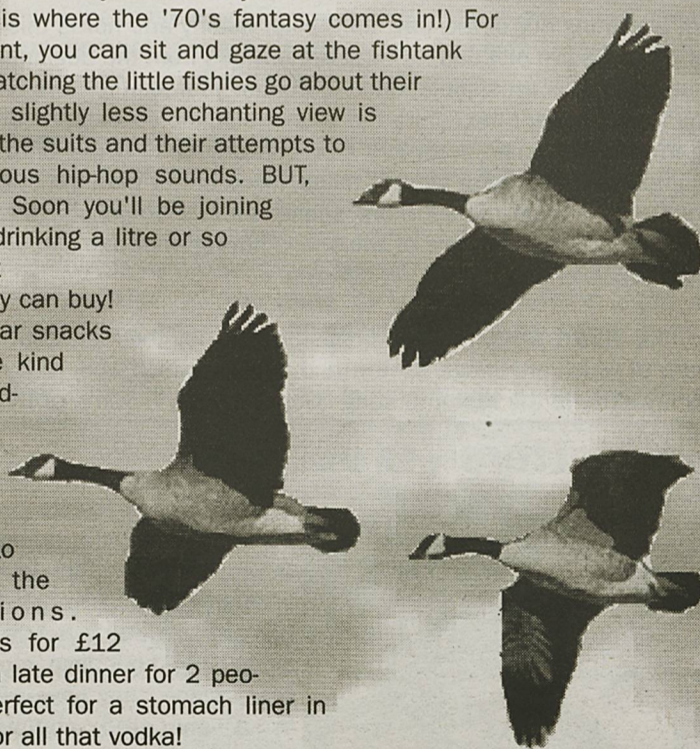
take your pick from a perch a top one of their impossibly high round tables or hide yourself away in one of their secluded caves (this is where the '70's fantasy comes in!) For entertainment, you can sit and gaze at the fishtank for hours, watching the little fishies go about their business; a slightly less enchanting view is provided by the suits and their attempts to bop to various hip-hop sounds. BUT, who cares? Soon you'll be joining them after drinking a litre or so of the finest vodka money can buy! They offer bar snacks as well: the kind of post modern that make your mouth water just to read the descriptions.

Three plates for £12 will do for a late dinner for 2 people. Just perfect for a stomach liner in readiness for all that vodka!

The cocktails aren't cheap... but they're handed to you on a silver platter... literally. Table service with a smile is all in the deal and you'll no doubt develop a crush on one of the ultra-friendly beautifully flirty bar staff at the same time.

There you have it: seventies decor, a floor show and lots of Vodka. Just bring your own baby oil!

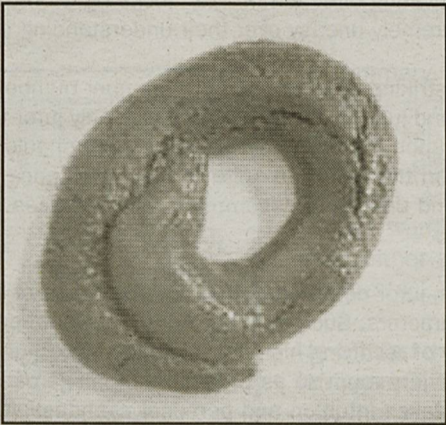
Low Life, off Baker Street. Open til 11 every night



Old Street is dead... Long live the Kingsland Road

There's no denying it...Old Street is living up to its name. Time to move on to greener pastures and who better to lead us there than queen of cool and east London devotee RUTHBARLEY.

I've completely lost count of the number of times I've heard the following lament: "God, Old Street has gone so shit, every bar is the



same, I don't know why I keep going there". It's not that I disagree; the suits have moved in, the prices have crept up and any character the place once had seems to have got up and moved out. No, I find this incessant moaning so irritating because the solution is so simple. Next time you find yourself queuing outside 333 in a state of despair just shuffle a hundred meters down the street, swing left and see what Kingsland Road has to offer.



Admittedly, Kingsland Road is mainly a night time haunt but is not without attractions in the day. The artistically inclined will love Flowers, a new contemporary and graphic

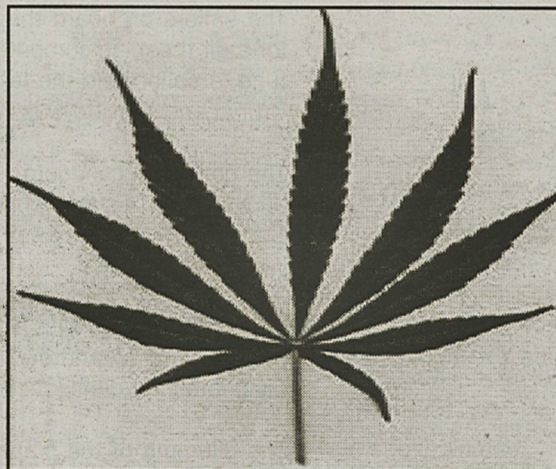
art gallery. Happily there is nothing intimidating or highbrow about this gallery, it's very welcoming to the casual browser and there is no entry fee. The current exhibition is a John Keane retrospective called "Back to Fundamentals", a collection of evocative politically inspired art. For details of forthcoming exhibitions and opening times see www.flowerseast.com. Across the road is the greatest video shop in London, Today Is Boring. This little shop is a one man battle against Blockbuster, providing an extensive choice of cult, arthouse and independent videos (you need some ID and proof of address to join before you can borrow) and they even serve home-made popcorn. Options for retail therapy on Kingsland Road used to be non-existent, but the recent addition of No.one has solved that. It's a delicious boutique affair crammed with tempting clothes by new designers and lots of one-off delights; don't expect to leave empty handed.

The number of restaurants and variety of cuisine is overwhelming. The street is best known for the proliferation of excellent Vietnamese restaurants situated towards its Hackney end. The Viet Hoa consistently receives the critics' acclaim as the best

Vietnamese restaurant in the capital. Au Lac also serves up a wide range of dishes cooked to perfection and both are great value. If you want to sample Vietnamese fair in more luxurious surroundings try East, it's flamboyant décor is a cheeky nod to classic Chinese restaurant tackiness. The menu has a staggering 221 Chinese dishes and a whole separate section of Vietnamese. The prices are better than reasonable and East has more of a 'night out' feel rather than the canteen ambience of the other restaurants. There's even a bar downstairs which stays open until 1am.



The most recent addition to the Kingsland road eateries is Anda Da Bridge (situated, oddly enough, under the bridge). Leaping from Vietnam to the other side of the world, this restaurant has a mesmerising Caribbean menu including curried goat and jerk just about everything. The bar serves Red Stripe and a staggering array of rum cocktails! The prices are shockingly tiny, with starters from £2.50 and mains from £5, although you'd never suspect it from the stylish interior of the venue. This is definitely the place to be seen at the moment so arrive early to avoid being trampled by the trendies fighting for a table. If you want to grab something quick before heading out for the evening then drop into Bang, the posh persons pie shop. It serves burgers, chunky chips, sausage'n'-mash and the like, but all prepared with quality ingredients and dished up with loving care.



Kingsland Road definitely has the edge over Old Street in terms of bars and clubs, proving that quality is so much more important than quantity. The venues do however share Old Street's sporadic or 'flexible' approach to opening hours, or even whether they will open at all, so it's always worth a phone call in advance. This obviously doesn't apply to the fantastic Herbal, the most long standing and infamous club on the street that continues present an eclectic mix of old and new talent from across the globe. If you're looking for an achingly hip venue then go no further than Catch (at 22 Kingsland Road, ha ha). Downstairs is a DJ bar complete with big squishy sofas and a

pool table whilst upstairs is a club and music venue, it's never very busy but I'd put that down to the fact that the majority of people are out queuing for 333.... On The Rocks wins the prize for scruffiest venue of the year, both inside and out. However, it provides a welcome alternative to the electro overdose that grips Shoreditch, particularly the Coast to Coast night on Saturdays that features a blend of reggae, ska and funk. On The Rocks also hosts live music and is one of the few clubs in the area that offers cheap(ish) drinks. One to avoid is Dovebridge Studios, which lurks under the bridge and is so cooler-than-thou that it doesn't even have a sign save for some microscopic lettering above the door that disappears as soon as it gets dark. As a venue it has no stage and no easily discernable bar. It is also virtually impossible to find listings, which may or may not be some half-arsed attempt at exclusivity.

An interesting feature of Kingsland Road is its plentiful supply of 'gentlemen's clubs'. Not that anyone at the LSE would be interested in such shameless degradation of women, but should you want to pass any information to friends then Browns is the most up-market of them and probably the wisest choice.

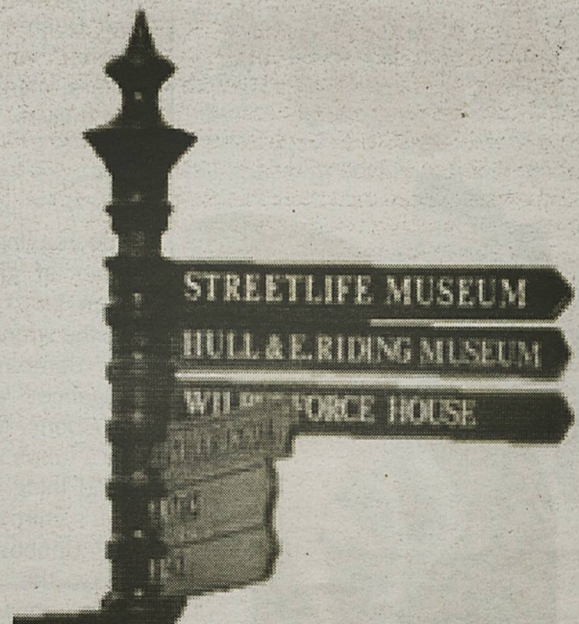


At the opposite end of the spectrum is the Spread Eagle. Obviously I would never frequent this type of institution but I'm reliably informed

"it's like Bar 170 with a manky old naked bird on the stage". And be aware that sticking your head in for a look will probably cost you a tenner.

So next time you find yourself faced with the dilemma of whether to go or not to go to Old Street, you'll know what to do. Although in its defence I would like to add that Bar 170 is the cheapest place to drink for about 10 miles and no bar will ever be as lovely as Cocomos, so don't give up completely.

Nearest tubes to Kingsland Road are Shoreditch, Liverpool Street or Old Street.

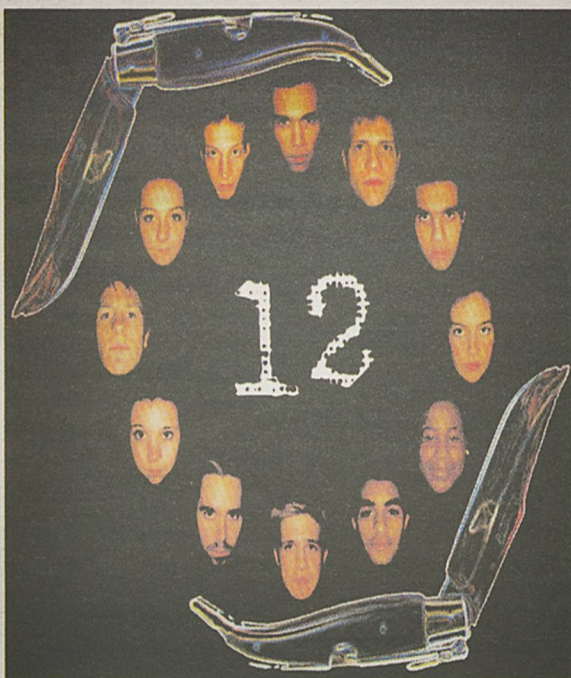


B:theatre

edited by Carolina Bunting and Keith Postler

Truth or Coloured Facts?

Play: Twelve
Playwright: Reginald Rose
Venue: Hong Kong Theatre, LSE
Days: Feb. Fri 27, Sat 28
Ends: March 1, 2004
Performance rating: 4 out of 5 stars
Running Time: 2' 30"
Curtain Time: 19:15
Program rating: 4 out of 5 stars



An eighteen year old boy is being tried for allegedly killing his father. Twelve jurors are locked into a room to establish the truth. This is "Twelve".

Reginald Rose's thought-provoking play leaves the audience unsettled, breathing both hope and fear when regarding the human capacity to condemn a life. Yiannis Kyriakides captivating direction of "12" locks right onto the theme of uncertainty. His interpretation should leave many feeling extremely uneasy over their understanding of truth.

The cast gives a compelling performance. Oliver Knox gives a striking rendition as juror member number 8. One of the central characters of the play, he originally embodies hope and justice, for number 8 is the only juror to question the guilty verdict the other eleven are so determined to bestow upon the boy. He believes no one should be sent to death without a proper discussion and recommends a debate on the facts. In spite of their reluctance to discuss the "solid" facts, the characters soon reveal their prejudices and unspoken assumption, which shakes the ground of "objectivity" they so firmly stand on.

The quest for truth is disturbing. The personal baggage of each juror determines their interpretation of Truth. One should pay special attention to the different agendas of the characters. Such as Kinar Kent's powerful performance as a father who insists on condemning the defendant as a way of rectifying his past mistakes. The humorous Tim Weigel, perhaps even more disturbingly, wants to race out of the jury room so as to catch the ball game on TV. The jurors hold no respect for the truth and are guided by their mistaken intuition and personal agendas. As one juror puts it "facts [can be] coloured by prejudices of people who present them."

The pieces of the puzzle are quickly thrown at the audience's face. However, as the play progresses, one eventually notices that the images that once seemed so clear in the pieces are fuzzed by subjectivity. Originally the play is intended to reveal the danger of the juror system and man's power to obscure truth. Although this is true of Kyriakides' production, he highlights a much less positive theme of the play- uncertainty.

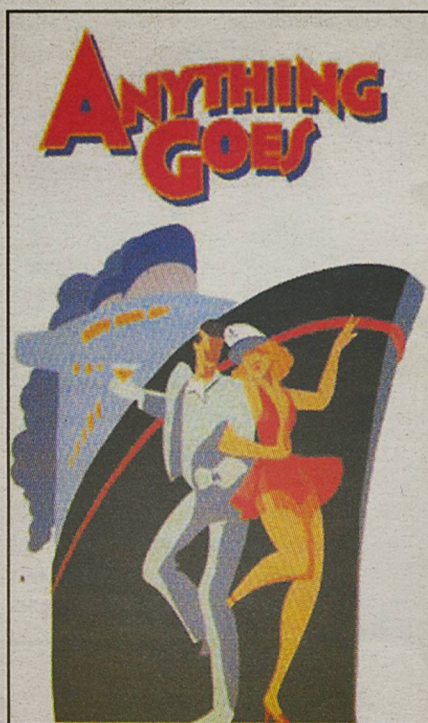
Number 8, a solemn faced man no longer embodies the absolute goodness he represents in the original production. Instead, he symbolises the quest for truth through ambiguity and highlights the subjective nature of fact and interpretation. Even when the verdict becomes obvious one is still left questioning exactly what happened on the night of the murder and more importantly, what is Truth.

So, if you want your brain to be torn apart by these disquieting questions, watch "12" and discover your own interpretation of the truth.

CAROLINA BUNTING

Anything Goes: poetry-in-motion

Play: Anything Goes
Playwright: Cole Porter
Venue: Drury Lane Theatre Royal
Days: Mon to Sat
Curtain Time: 19:30
Running Time: 2' 45", 15" interval
Performance rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars



A précis, as far as love stories go. Set on a transatlantic cruiseliner during the Great Depression, Anything Goes draws together an eclectic cast: Lords, bankers, clergy, ladies of the night and petty thieves.

The theatre has been searching for a new sound for quite some time. To counteract the decreasing popularity of the stage, all manner of gimmicks have been tried. Andrew Lloyd Webber's sappy melodies drew the wrong type of people to the theatre. Bombay Dreams' ethno-cultural indulgences aren't adaptable to most productions. Mamma Mia had to rely on Abba's tunes for its sales, which is never a good thing. Anything Goes - with Cole Porter's chirpy ballads - might just do the trick. Unabashedly and unrepentantly kitschy, the music is reminiscent of 1930s show-tunes; it took all my strength not to break out in song and dance.

The sailors on board the ship, minor characters chosen more for their voices than for their thespian competencies, gave the songs a new dimension. During one breezy tune, a sailor held the lowest note I've heard since Showboat was last staged. The Drury Lane Theatre was rumbling at the bass of his voice.

The orchestra conductor - Gareth Valentine - was thoroughly charming. Short in hair and stature, his presence was felt even when he wasn't visible to the audience. Getting a bit carried away with the tunes, even he was dancing whilst conducting the melodious ballads.

Most productions with a blockbuster score tend to have sub-par scripts. For example: anything by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Anything Goes couples bubbly melodies with laugh-out-loud dialogue. The barbs were cutting; the banter nuanced.

The dilemma of the plot has Hope Harcourt in an engagement of convenience with Lord Evelyn. Her mother, Evangeline, has fallen back on her debts and needs the cash infusion that relations with aristocracy are bound to bring. Problem is, Hope Harcourt is in love with stockbroker Billy Crockett, whose best friend, Reno Sweeney, secretly adores him. Love triangles are the pinnacle of clichédness; however, Anything Goes avoids the traps with a storyline rife with subtleties and surprises.

Lord Evelyn stole the show. A gaunt-faced applejohn, he parodied the sobriety and pretensions of the upper class with deft elegance. But he is haunted by a didicoid secret from his family's past which, in the end, turns the plot on its head.

For those looking for a West End romp, forget Lion King, Misérables, or all the other tourist traps. The discerning theatregoer should see Anything Goes, which is, in a word, enchanting.

ALYKHAN VELSHI

B:literature

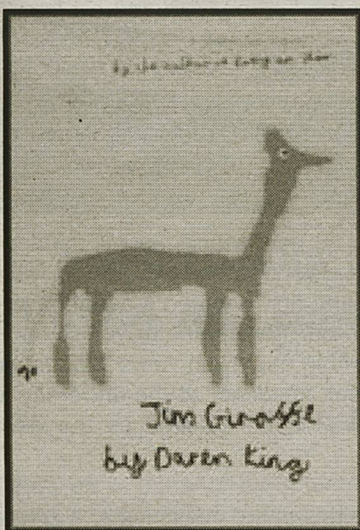
edited by Dalia King

JIM GIRAFFE

ALEXANGERT: Jimmy goes flaccid when compared to Slimer and let's face it, LSE students are filthier.

Just The Facts...

Author: Daren King
Publisher: Jonathan Cape
Date: February 2004
Price: £10



Halfway through Daren King's *Jim Giraffe*, I beg myself to stop. Instead I keep plodding on across this pebbled flatland, hoping that what I thought was a brilliant concept might eventually after 100 pages, after 150 maybe-bear fruit. But no.

In summary, the novel sounds hilarious. Scott Spectrum, an oblivious writer for a popular sci-fi series, loves his computer and his high-tech chair but thinks sex is dirty and refuses to touch his beautiful wife Contenance. All looks hopeless until, one night, an alcoholic pervert of a ghost giraffe leaps out of Scott's wardrobe with boxers on his head and tells Scott he must either shed his sexual repression or let it kill him with a heart attack.

Nevermind that the giraffe is four hooves away from a copyright infringement on *Futurama's* boozing robot Bender. Nevermind, too, that guys like Scott aren't likely to get married in the first place, at least not to beautiful women who have pet names for their husbands' penises. Nevermind a lot of things, really.

Reading King's novel is like meeting the class clown from your grammar school days, only he still thinks that boogers are funny and by now you know better. Maybe it's me, but these endless pages of tepid banter and half-assed puns don't draw

so much as a smile, much less a guilty chuckle. Others have remarked on how 'outrageous' and 'filthy' the giraffe's adventures with Scott are. I'm sorry, but a sprinkling of four letter words is hardly enough to make me blush. There are two sentences devoted to fellatio. There are six pages devoted to the eating of garlic soup. Draw your own conclusions.

Jim Giraffe has bright parts, but they come at the very end, when it's too little too late. Maybe that is why King's ongoing blog at jimgiraffe.com continues the novel's vain attempts to bring the superstar giraffe to life, to flesh him out. But Jim remains a flaccid ghost, with less substance than Casper and fewer antics than Slimer-so peevish is his bitching and moaning that it's Scott we feel sorry for (not to mention ourselves).

Now I have gone through this book and am saving you the trouble. So take a nap, take a stroll, or better yet, take the opportunity to show Jim up with your own 'outrageous' and 'filthy' adventures. At one point towards the end, Scott turns to his next-door neighbour and asks, "Did you enjoy the show, Eddy?" Eddy replies: "It was shit. Should've stayed at home, watched it on the telly." My sentiments exactly.

MEATMARKET / DOUBLE COINCIDENCE OF WANTS

Original Fiction

Boy meets girl...or, in today's PC world, Potential Candidate #1 meets Potential Candidate #2; eyes (lips) lock; names (numbers: fake?) are exchanged; eyes (or other body parts, depending on the level of alcohol in the blood) remain locked, as does the bathroom door; eyes open (in shock) in the adorning horror of the mingin' creature beside/on top of you; the door opens/breaks and you slowly realise you've 'done "it" again'; fallen into the trap of pseudo-relationships and Crush-based liaisons.

People have always argued that mystery=attraction, but it seems as though with the introduction of high-speed technology mystery has become a thing of the past. It appears that details about virtually anything can be found just by typing a few keywords into a box of 2x10. There seems to be a similar pattern in human interactions; flirting seems to be out and meaningless one-night (or the new multi-night) stands have fought their way back into the scene. We rarely see people going out on dates and dwelling on whether they should endeavour the legendary first kiss. Now it seems as though this is just a given and that "stage 4" is the question every new 'couple' has on the table right next to their desert plates... if they even get there, that is. When the date is over and the girl is as lucky as to have her date accompany her home, it seems as though it is only customary for the exchange of fluids to occur. What has the world come to when "Do you want to have some tea together?" translates into "Will you sleep with me?"

The seventies and eighties were all about orgies in bed as well as in relationships, whereas the nineties represented monogamy's comeback. Has the 21st century managed to completely wipe out romance in only 4 years? Can we blame globalisation for the spread of commonly newfound knowledge that has erased romance from our dictionaries? In a world where tradition and culture (namely the Italian and Spanish clichés for romance and love) are being wiped out and replaced by a common market, it appears as though we are undergoing a comeback of the 'meat market' where sex is the only blatantly common feature between the sexes. Feelings can now be stored into electronic journals if friends are unavailable and problems can be solved using Google. The only part of the conventional relationship that still remains irreplaceable is the actual sexual act...and even that is easily obtained through 'escort agencies' or otherwise. So, have relationships been wiped out all together or does one still have hope?

Valentine's Day approaches. Can it be argued that hope still exists, packaged in the form of this hopelessly commercial 'holiday'? The city seems to be suffering from an outbreak of 'romance'...a rash of red hearts, pink elephants, Rose buds, hug-

bears: you name it, and I've seen it. People are spending immense amounts of money ordering flowers online, buying trips around London in hot-air balloons, booking theatre seats, dinners, get-away weekends months in advance, just so as to spend a single day letting the one they love know how they feel. Personally, I have never understood this logic. If one feels the need to let someone know how one feels, why bother waiting a year? What exactly is it that screams 'romance' about a cold, windy day in mid-winter?

To answer this query, I did some research on the history of this 'holiday' and found that there are a number of legends relating to a certain Valentine or Valentius, who was something ranging from a priest to a saint and lived around 270 A.D.; a time when Emperor Claudius II of Rome decided that unmarried men only were 'man enough' to fight, thus outlawed marriage for young men - his crop of potential soldiers - altogether. Valentius, a hopeless 'romantic', saw the injustice of this, so courageously began clandestinely performing marriages for young couples. When the Emperor discovered this disgrace, his reaction was that of indignation. Immediate arrest of Valentine followed, and he spent the rest of his days in prison, where he swiftly became acquainted with the lovely (and blind) jailor's daughter. On his execution day Valentius beseeched a piece of paper and a pen which he used to write a note to his beloved one. His last words were 'From your Valentine' (obviously). Accordingly, ever since this "sympathetic, heroic and most importantly romantic" gesture, Valentine was proclaimed a saint and it is up to this day that mid-February is celebrated as a time of happiness, rather than despondency for it was the death of another innocent man.

And whatever happened to Cupid? Would it not be more logic to have the two pair up and spread love (or whatever it is that they are meant to do) in spring time? Unmistakably, winter is a time of misery and despair; February being its shining star with winds coming out of nowhere, yet successfully chasing away all your newly accumulated notes ubiquitously across Houghton street, where you are faced with even more pink/red/flowery/hearty/fluffy spam set out to catch the attention of all the singles to attend the Special Valentine's Crush, Traffic Light Party and whatnot. Do those miserable singles who end up going seriously think it possible to meet that 'special someone' at a drunken university bash? Or are they in denial and in need of the day's meat market speciality? (Or perhaps, a hug bear.)

M.S. relates internationally

B:fineart

edited by Caroline Bray

Look Up...Art on Houghton Street!

When you walk down Houghton Street this week as the dull sun sets behind the still city skyline take time to look just to the right hand side of the St Clements Building entrance where you will find a intriguing surprise...

If you do you will be greeted by a video screening showing numerous people apparently waving at the students passing by. Look further up to the top of the East Building on your right and you will see a further screen with more people waving. 'But what is it all about?' I hear you cry!

The art installation you see is the result of an ongoing project between the artist Michel Herreria, the LSE language centre and students within the university. The project aims to highlight the relationship between language, art and the social sciences and it all began in October 2003 when Michel started posting his graphic animations onto the web based learning forum, Web CT. A 10 week period them followed in which discussions occurred between Michel in France and LSE students, here in the UK, about the pieces he was presenting them with. The artist saw Web CT as a good tool for exchange which allow an online platform enabling the development of a community to be created.

An example of an animation that Michel would show is his La Langue de Bois (the Language of Woods). This piece highlights the artists concern with the emptiness of political rhetoric and discourse - so called spin doctoring. Another example, OgreNG compares NGOs to an Ogre and was influenced by political events such as the UN bombings happening at the time of the project. This particular piece can be seen on the LSE website at www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/language/French_main/seminar. One of Michel's main fascinations is language which he likes to manipulate to find equivalent expressions in different dialogues.

The project then wanted to bring interaction within the LSE campus and hold an exhibition. Michel's main aim was to make the piece relevant to current issues and bridge the gap between speech and action. In addition, he wanted to emphasise a link between sensitivity and meaning to accentuate the feeling that each one of us is a grain of sand in a larger institution.



So the suggestion came about for an exhibition to be held within the LSE campus. Something which Michel was initially dubious about. The idea of an exhibition within a busy campus of many buildings and constructions at first seemed a daunting task for the project. However they tackled the idea head on. The aim being not to shock or attack the viewer but to allow slow realisation within each who views it of 'where am I?' So Flippant was born, the result of a two week residency at the university for the artist. During this period he collaborated with students to produce the visual piece which now graces Houghton Street.

As someone with a passion for the arts I truly hope this is the beginning of a greater presence of creativity around the school. Education is an all-encompassing process and as history shows through artists such as Gillray and Hogarth the social sciences and art are strongly linked. The student body has a lot to gain from such projects as their minds will be broadened beyond the constraints of their degree modules.

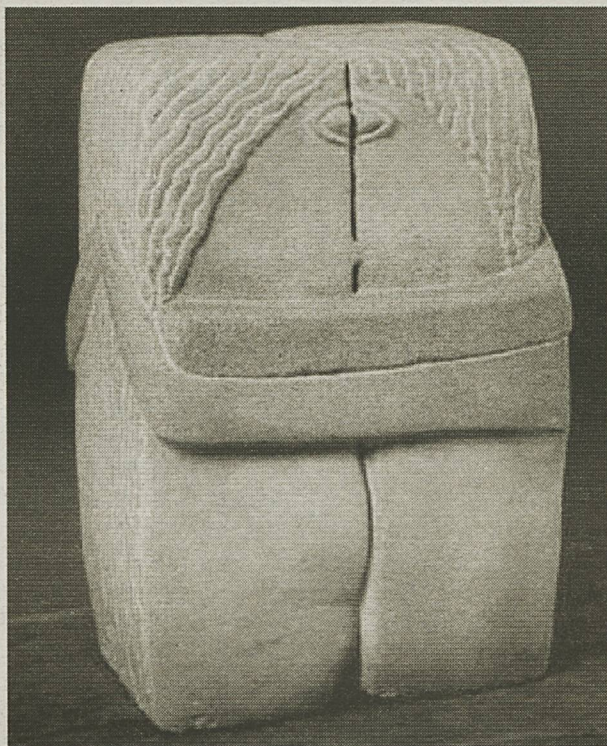
Flippant will be on show on Houghton Street until Friday 27th February 2004.

Perfection on a Pedestal

Brancusi's sculpture is the physical expression of life itself. The reduction of the human structure to its fundamental and essential components. Primitive, abstract sculpture that heralded a modernist revolution for the world of sculpture at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Constantin Brancusi (1876-1957) became a leader in the field of sculpture as he produced groundbreaking pieces using innovative methods of the time. His pioneering methods first came to the fore in 1907 when he broke with traditional method of modelling in clay for the model to be enlarged by specialist craftsmen. Instead Brancusi carved his materials directly, a technique that allowed cooperation with the material in the creation of his work, a method that laid the ground for some of his masterpieces. Using techniques of medieval masons, Brancusi upheld that carving his material directly enabled him to create sculpture in which the material was as verbal as the form itself. The current exhibition at the Tate Modern attempts to portray his revolutionary modernist methods and his universal voice.

Brancusi strongly believed in the concept of symbolic narrative and believed his pieces should contain a universal significance. The Kiss (1907) is a superior example of this belief as through the piece Brancusi presents the viewer with the notion of ideal union - the male and female of the sculpture are almost indistinguishable from one another. He also manages to balance the integrity of the stone with the symbolic narrative. The Tate's exhibition highlights his aims with skill as two versions of The Kiss - one from 1907 and one from 1916 - are placed together in the room. The two versions show how Brancusi has explored the effect of the stone itself as the 1916 version becomes much smoother and the size of the piece larger as if to portray a stronger message of union.



The continuation of the idea of universal qualities continues into the second room of the exhibition as Brancusi's head sculptures stand as a symbol of the body and life as a whole. The Newborn (1919-21) is a truly minimalist portrayal of a head with one angled plane across the ovoid form of the sculpture representing the screaming mouth and struggle of entering into the world. The marble Sleeping Muse (1909-10) is then a reductive portrayal of the human head which elegantly communicates its human features by a long graceful nose that flows into highly arched eyebrows. Here Brancusi's talent for creating a whole form from minimal lines shines through.

The egg-like forms of Brancusi's head then culminate in The Beginning of the World (1920) in which Brancusi challenges the traditional distinction between the work of art and its base. He slowly diffused this work-base hierarchy to make pieces that were accumulations of forms in contrasting materials. For example the piece in question consists of various materials such as bronze and marble. Universal aspirations are embodied in The Beginning of the World as the piece hints at fertility and the idea of cosmic origins. Its delicate, pure and minimal form is truly something to marvel at - perfection on a pedestal.

The exhibition concludes with an exploration of Brancusi's sculptures in wood and highlights his sympathy for once functional materials. Many of his wooden pieces were sculpted from reclaimed house timbers into mysterious religious-like idols. These pieces are more energetic than his marble sculptures and include an element of spontaneity in the process of production. Again, his emphasis on the relationship of the work and the material is powerful thus strengthening his attempt at universal symbolism.

Constantin Brancusi - The Essence of Things 29 January - 23 May 2004.

£8 (£6 concessions)

Book online with Tate or call Tate Ticketing on 020 7887 8888.

Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9.45 to 17.50. Tickets for special exhibitions can be bought at Tate Britain or Tate Modern seven days a week from 10.00 to 17.00, with late opening until 22.00 at Tate Modern on Friday and Saturday.

B:general

media

"This is the greatest Brits I've ever been to," hailed Dr Fox as he presented an award at Earls Court last Tuesday. To which we all replied in unison, "First time here then Doc?" In truth, the appearance of the gormless DJ summed up this year's ceremony in a nutshell. The Grammys have Mohammed Ali presenting awards whilst we have Dr Fox, a man for whom life must be confusing; he is neither a doctor nor a fox.

Sitting down to watch the Brits last Tuesday night, I couldn't imagine that they could be any worse than last year. Two hours later, not only could I now imagine it but I'd sat through it.

The big news as we kept being told was that this year, 'booze was back' at the Brits. Sadly, the funds for said

alcohol obviously came straight out of the draw marked 'budget for presenter.' There's nothing wrong with Cat Deeley per se, in fact there's quite a lot right with her, but after being promised Britney or Posh Spice presenting, it was a slight disappointment to have the brash, brazen Brummie on our screens. Incidentally, those who may have been wondering where Posh was only had to wait until OutKast's performance where she excelled as one of their background dancers.

The end of the show as ever saw the awarding of the outstanding achievement award, this year to Duran Duran. Viewers who demanded an outstanding achievement award for still watching the show at this point were to be disappointed.

The newspapers the next day described how the Darkness had descended on the Brits 2004. They weren't wrong.

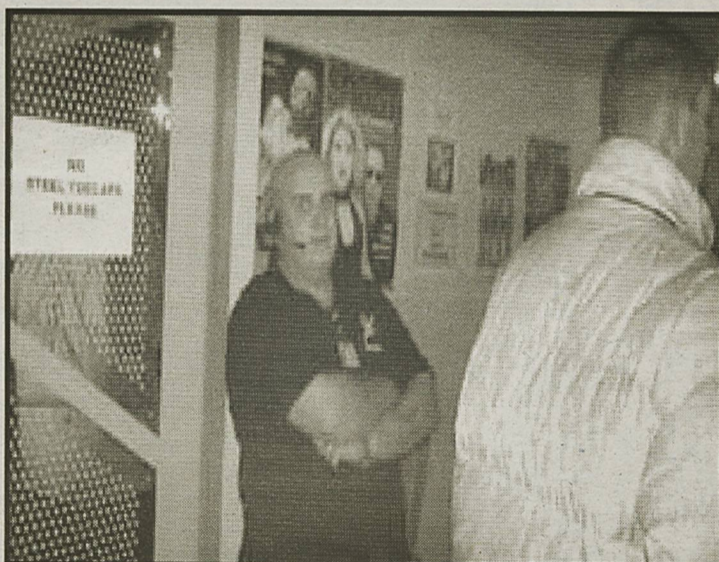


Avoid Looking Rubbish! Prevent Making Schoolboy Errors! Just Follow Gareth's Amazing How To Guide To London!

This week: Gaining entry to a nightclub. Pissed off your face.

Again, we've either all been there, or we've got a mate who has: the classic situation of being turned away from Limeabout, Hombres, Cheapskates, Crush or any other mucky student drinking institution for being too drunk to distinguish colours any more. Usually, you'd have to leave the queue on your own, at 11:30pm and try and find the correct bus home to Northolt or the Isle of Dogs or Ealing Broadway or wherever it is you call your home, as all your less-pissed mates have the time of their lives after gaining entry. However, with a few tips and tactics, you too can get yourself into a club despite not being able to walk properly, listen up and listen good.

First off: Don't talk. Not at all. It always seems like the best tactic in the world when you're stood outside in the lonely queue, pushed up against the rope that a seven-foot ex-convict is barring your entry with, to try and converse on the bouncer's level, in the hope he'll recognise a kindred spirit in you and let you in, despite your vomit stained attire. Maybe conversations along the lines of 'so, beaten any people up for no good reason recently?' or 'aren't newspapers difficult to read? I just look at the pictures, don't you?' pop into your head. Don't. For a start the guy is more likely to want to break your skull open for daring to talk to him after he's spent so much time picking out his most intimidating bomber jacket, and secondly you're bound to betray your true drunkenness by slurring every single letter of every single word you say. Just keep your mouth shut and hope he'll ignore your dribbling.



Right, so if you've kept your mouth shut you have a pretty decent chance he'll raise the red rope to let you in. Now, put every ounce of concentration you have left in you into putting your right foot in front of your left foot and then repeat with the left in front of the right. Make sure you walk in a straight line. If it means looking at your toes, and not at where you going, then fine, so long as you don't walk into a bouncer. Just don't go swaying off all over the place and banging into the plastic pot plant most clubs have there to camouflage the sawdust-ridden interior. This will result in you being hurled to the pavement and possibly having both of your arms broken, depending on how drugged-up the doorman is/isn't.

Okay, so you've navigated a straight line to the reception-y area thingy. Now, if you'd been thinking ahead, you'd have got exactly the correct change out of your pocket to begin with, since spending five minutes trying to distinguish between a five-pence piece and a five-pound note isn't going to impress the bouncers. If you haven't got the right change to hand, you might have to just hold a fistful of change out to the women at the till and see what happens. You're skating on thin ice here though. Best to have thought ahead and have the right amount stashed away separately somewhere, so that you aren't tempted to spend it in the Tuns beforehand.

GARETH CARTER

mail

re: Freud, Covent Garden

It's a pile of trendy, overpriced 30-something wank. And it took about 15 minutes to be served when I went.

Sarah

Subject: Friends

I've never been the biggest fan of Friends but having just watched the first episode of the new series on Ch.4, I think it's safe to say that they've made the right decision by making this the last series. The jokes seem so forced it just doesn't work.

Tom

Subject: T

Ever felt intrigued by the "15 minute" peppermint and liquorice tea at the plaza cafe? I was. Big mistake. 65p for an hour's bad aftertaste after just one sip.

Daniel

Subject: Darkness

The Darkness have showed themselves to be the most arrogant set of wankers at the Brit awards last week. Upon receiving their award Justin cat suit Hawkins announced that they were the best British group which they aren't and even if they were it's arrogant to state that you are in front of all the other nominees (which included Radiohead).

Lucy

Spread the Love...

Got anything to tell us? Disagree with any of this? Send your b:mails this way - conveniently labeled B:mail - and we'll print them here. Anything and everything arts related welcome: Beavermails@yahoo.co.uk or N.Garrett@lse.ac.uk

Nice one

Marakon Associates

Summer Associate Consultant work experience programme

Apply with CV and Covering Letter
via the website by:

Sunday, 29th February 2004

Marakon Associates London
Office invites penultimate year
students to apply for an 8 week
Summer Associate Consultant
work experience programme

- Application: CV & cover letter via website
www.marakon.com/apply.html
- Deadline: February 29th 2004
- Enquiries: ukrecruiting@marakon.com

www.marakon.com/apply.html

LSESU RAG WEEK 2004

Raising money for charity has never felt so good!

Get involved, give some of your cash to worthy causes with LSESU Rag week. Proceeds from our events this year go to Cancer Research UK, Unicef's Iran Earthquake Appeal and the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee school, a local special needs school. Make sure you get hold of one of our exclusive and very limited "London School of Alcoholics" t-shirts and pint glasses from the RAG stall in the Quad all week.

Monday 23rd

LSESU International Food Fair, Quad, 7.30pm, £3 entry.

Sample food and drink from all over the world and enjoy live music. LSESU societies represented include Afro Caribbean, Austrian, Columbian, Japanese, Vietnamese and Southern African. Make sure to arrive early!

Tuesday 24th

Legendary LSESU RAG Pub Crawl, Three Tuns, 1pm

Turn up on your own to join a team or bring your team with you, choose one of the pub routes and go round London's boozers having a drink and raising money! To register a team please email su.ents@lse.ac.uk. There's a prize for the team raising the most money. Then, it's back to the Tuns for... RAG Week Three Tuns Quiz, 8pm. Kindly sponsored by STA Travel.

Wednesday 25th

Stars In Their Eyes & AU Hustings, Quad, 7pm

Watch out Matthew Kelly, LSESU is hosting it's own Stars In Their Eyes! Watch our ridiculous acts make t*ts of themselves all in the name of charity. The winner is the one who collects the most money after performance with their buckets. Look out for a certain sabbaticals Tina Turner impression.... Sleep Out in Houghton Street, join other students braving the cold to sleep out in the foyer of the Clare Market Building ready to catch the LSE staff coming to work on the morning for some charity cash... Then it's over to Wright's Bar for an MG.

Thursday 26th

Abseiling down the Old Building, 2pm - 5pm.

Ever fancied flinging yourself off an LSE Building? Now you can! Grab your sponsorship form from SU reception and raise at least £20 and you can abseil down the Old Building or just bring 20 quid along and do it!

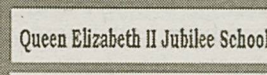
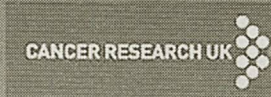
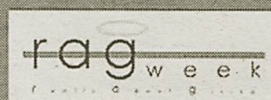
People and Planet Society sponsored fast takes place over today.
Contact su.soc.peopleandplanet@lse.ac.uk for details

Friday 27th

CRUSH, Quad, Underground and Tuns, 8pm - 2am

Before CRUSH we have the RAG men sale in the Underground 9pm - 10.30pm make sure you get down there! Come in your RAG t-shirt for free entry into CRUSH! Jimmy B plays in the Quad and Josey plays the best of R n' B in the Underground.

Make sure to visit the RAG stall in the Quad, open everyday in the Quad.
If you would like to get involved please email [Jimmy Baker su.ents@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Jimmy.Baker@lse.ac.uk)



Lent Term Elections

Hustings for Sabbatical Positions

Thursday 26th February 1pm Old Theatre

go home for the summer

Special direct flights to Asia

return from

Beijing

£373

Hong Kong

£328

Singapore

£524

Kuala Lumpur

£526

*fares include tax, booking fee,
airline failure cover & insurance*

SPECIALISTS IN STUDENT TRAVEL

STA Travel, The London School of Economics
East Building, Houghton Street, London WC2A

STA TRAVEL

450 branches worldwide



STA TRAVEL LTD

Eligibility restrictions may apply. Booking fees apply.

Try the AU Diet!

Women's Rugby did it for Sarah, it could do it for you!

From this...



and this.....



To this.....



Following a heavy diet of Carling and Mixed Grills in her first year, Maths and Econ student Sarah Barnard found herself being mistaken for the 91 bus when she walked down the Aldwych. The sorry state of affairs could not be allowed to continue.

She heard a rumour on the internet about the latest dieting craze - the AU Diet. A sample day (let's say a Wednesday) on this simple, but incredibly effective program entails:

Breakfast:
(location: Kitchen)

2 x paracetamol to kill blinding headache from previous night's drinking with the Fifth Team.

1 x Remains of last night's kebab

Lunch
(location: Waterloo Station)

- 1 x Mars Bar
- 1 x Benjy's Sausage and Egg Roll
- 1 x free journey at expense of British Rail

Afternoon exercise - Women's Rugby
(location: Berrylands, Surrey)

- 5 x tries scored
- 15 x opposition asses kicked
- 1 x BUSA Championship

Dinner
(location: The Three Tuns)

- 1 x bacon roll (from Wright's Bar)
- 1 x Hula Hoops (packet of)
- 7 x Stella (pint of)
- 2 x Snakebite (pint of)
- 1 x rendition of Wonderwall
- 1 x fall in the toilets

Apres-dinner
(location: Limeabout, Shaftsbury Avenue)

- 3 x failed attempts to gain entry
- 1 x successful entry
- 4 x Reef (bottles of)
- 1 x Bacardi and Coke (glass of)
- 1 x catfight in the toilets
- 1 x altercation with Australian bouncer
- 1 x nightbus home

The AU Diet - Published by The Three Tuns Press. Available from all good bookshops (so not the Economists' Bookshop then) priced £5.99

Hockey the Victims of an Unprovoked Gimp Attack

LSE 1st XI.....	4
Gimperial 1st XI.....	5
Battersea, Dogshome	

LSE 1st XI.....	4
Gimperial Medics.....	4
Chislehurst, Fuck Knows	

was displaying all the dexterity and awareness of a baked potato. Three shots on our goal had yielded three notches on the opposition's bedpost, despite the best efforts of the defence, who deserve a mention, and some incomprehensible ranting from a now rabid Russian speaking Armenian. Two goals were pulled back thanks to the infallible endeavour of Mowgli and another was scored at the wrong end, but the team entered into the break with a two-goal deficit. 4-2.

decisions coupled with the best efforts of Mowgli, who had suddenly turned into the hockey equivalent of Emile Heskey, concluded in a 5-4 loss.

Wednesday was to see us host ICSM, a team whose appearance seemed to suggest that the 'I' in their title does actually stand for 'Inbred'. They played like a team whose genetic make-up derives from a shrinking gene pool and we were equally bad. A shite match. 4-4. Mowgli scored an insane goal, one to which hyperbole could never do justice and superlatives would just fall short. It was pretty nice though. Of course no match would be complete without Jacko taking the customary blow to his face. A mention must also go to Bhangra, whose commitment to the team was finally rewarded with some time on the astro. Some clever runs, a few nice touches and the rest the team is eternally grateful for. Physical comedy of the highest order.

Thanks to last week's article in this fabulous publication, FT Boy for once stopped pleasuring himself with dreams of uncompensated demand curves and the like and actually tried to fulfil his role as social secretary. The festivities started well and much merriment was had; even Britney S, our one and only supporter, partook in the alcohol infused entertainment as we gladly welcomed the onset of inebriation. Sadly this was to be the limit of the team's social interaction. The Tuns was briefly visited and the dispersion of the less gregarious contingent of the side ensued. Only a hardcore few made it to the grope-fest that is walkabout, although names should not be mentioned. A poor showing...

For those of you who read these articles for intellectual stimulation, one question: "If there are 25 shoes in a shoe box and if Mayur fallen over in every game, then how many false teeth will Jacko have by the end of the year?" Take pi as 3.14. Clue: The answer can be extracted from this week's edition of Gardeners' World. The answer may or may not be printed next week. Enjoy.

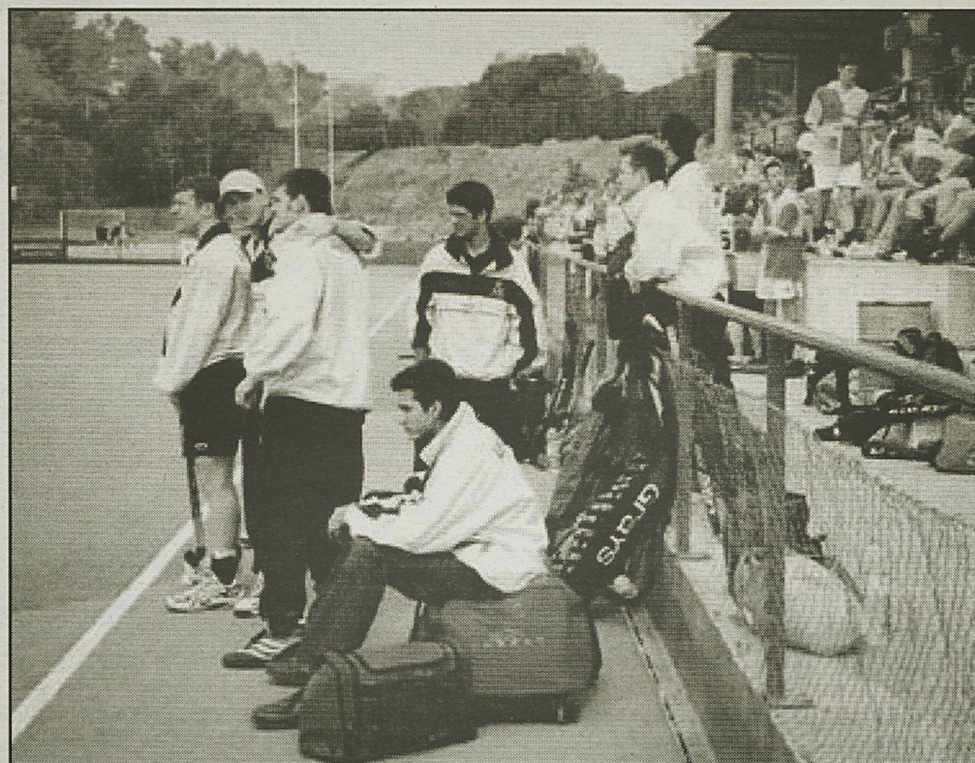
Richard 'Spok' Wainwright



In looking at some of the individuals of whom the LSEHC 1st team is comprised, it is not hard to see why stepping onto the same pitch as these legends can be an intimidating prospect. This is supported by the fact that, until recently, our beloved team had enjoyed an unimpeded run in the ULU cup. The first three rounds had paired us with three sides that depressingly aspired to mediocrity. Three involuntary bowel movements later and the shuffling of soiled underwear resulted in three byes, thereby ensuring safe passage to the semi-finals and a date with a highly rated Gimperial side. Unfortunately for us, amongst the tap tapping of graphical calculators and animated discussions about Dungeons and Dragons, these young upstarts had actually managed to summon the testicular fortitude to take up the challenge from this much-celebrated LSE outfit.

The match started worryingly well. Slick passing moves and intelligent play was resulting in our utter domination of the outfield. Mowgli led the line well, supported by the deft touches and vision of Suppa while as usual BB Dancer was imperious in midfield. Pedro the Chilean was uncompromising as ever, the supple and exposed limbs of the Gimperial unfortunates viewed as fair game in the futile exercise of satisfying his blood lust. C*nt was showing glimpses of genius and even Spok, your humble narrator, was displaying some succulent skills on the left flank. Unimpeded by the precocious case of

Parkinson's that has characterised many a night in the Tuns, Spok proceeded to embark



upon several excursions down the wing, allowing his marker the opportunity to perform a credible impression of a traffic cone.

However, the team's strokes of artistic flair on the sand-based canvas failed to make any impression on the score-line and somehow, after 20 minutes, we found ourselves three goals down. Unfortunately for the rest of the team, Sharon, our diminutive goalkeeper,

The half-time speech from Jacko resembled a scouse conversation, meaningless drivel punctuated by the word 'fuck'. However, it seemed to have the desired effect and after much battling the score-line achieved parity and it appeared as though our beloved team would produce the victory which our talent merited. Sadly this wasn't to be the case and some questionable umpiring

HOCKEY SECONDS CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING SPECIAL

Bagpuss Bags Five!

LSE Hockey Seconds.....5

SBLH Hockey Thirds1

Dreamtown, Neverneverland

Nosh
And Sach



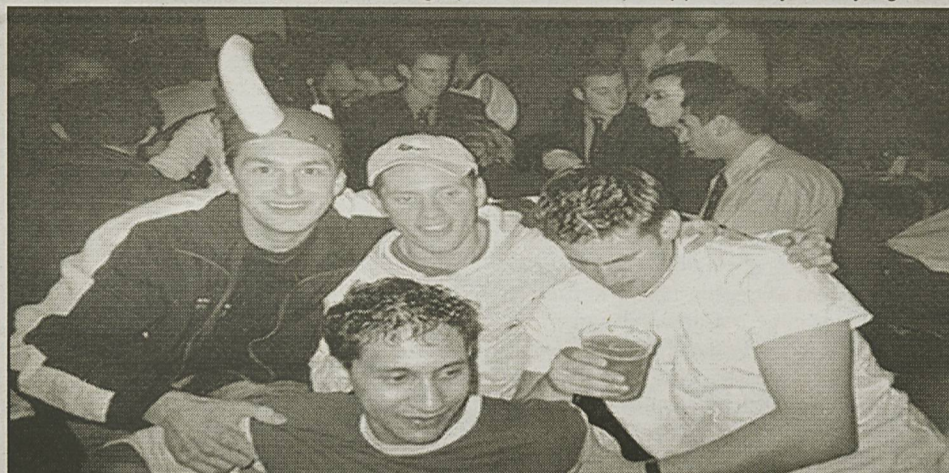
Before we get to the match we have some unfinished business to attend to. Our R&D budget has finally reaped rewards (other than finding out that the few pints it buys us gets us drunk).

Guess who we played this week. Yes you got it - SBLH 3rds. Fun fun fun. They turned up ten minutes late, two players short and dressed like ___s who may have escaped from *****'s basement. Ok we've run out asterisks, so we can't mention Rishi Madlani anymore. Oops.

When we finally got the game underway, we wished we hadn't. It was hard to tell from the opening twenty minutes which team was which. Again for you Irish Nobel Prize nominees, that means we played shit. Dropped to the bench and after a temper tantrum that even Roy Keane would have been ashamed of, Moet agreed to umpire the match. Looking back, it may have been more beneficial if he had actually started since he displayed

more movement through obscure hand signals and facial expressions than then rest of the 2s put together.

Fortunately, Bagpuss was playing which meant he was scoring. His first was hit straight from a short. So was the second. Damn this is easy. His third also came from a short, only this time it was set up by our captain marvel (who incidentally is also the author of this report). Breaking up

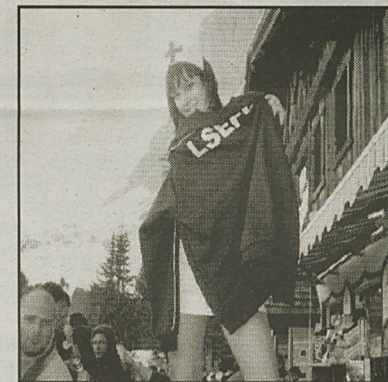


an opposition short corner, carrying the ball with pace and poise (and in his hand - how did Moet not spot that one), he raced up the pitch, decimating the defence, before releasing a pinpoint pass into prolific Pete the poacher's path producing perhaps possibly, probably...fuck it...that's enough alliteration (stupid people - just get a dictionary) for today. Oh yeah, he scored from it. His fourth no one

can remember. He did explain it to us but we weren't listening. His fifth was champagne hockey. Whilst the third goal we just mentioned was clearly made up, this goal really was amazing. It started at the back before being played up the left channel to Qaz who played it into the middle to Nathan. After running around the ball five time in some kind of ancient Gaelic rain dance he stopped dilly dallying and

sprayed Katen out wide (heehee). Katen lapped it up and came round the back to Bagpuss who did what he was supposed to. We did actually concede a goal but that was Sach's fault, but was understandable given that he's afraid of the ball and had to give himself time to get out of the way. We won 5-1. The end. But read the article below for the sequel.

Play football for LSE, meet international supermodels!
Perspective of an LSEFC substitute during reading week:



"It all started when I walked into the bar in Val d'Isère. She saw my LSEFC drill top and walked straight over. She asked if I knew the famous Dave Bains, Harry Stoakes and Joss Sheldon. I said I knew the first two, but denied knowing the third. She was impressed. She whispered into my ear "tell me about the time in Calella you rolled about in your own vomit". I willingly obliged. From then on it was love. She plans to move to London next year, and get a job behind the bar in the Tuns. This is the Real Thing".

T. Julen (LSEFC)

Hockey Seconds Win League, Offend Many.

LSE Hockey Seconds.....5

SBLH Hockey Thirds1

Graceland, Memphis

Before we get to the match we have some unfinished business to attend to. Firstly, if you haven't read the article headlined 'Bagpuss bags five', then read it now before you read anymore of this bullshit. If you have read it and understood it, well done (JJ that was an hour well spent eh?) and you may continue reading this. Secondly, if you haven't worked out who the Frenchie was from the aforementioned article (this is mainly aimed again at the Irish contingent of the team -if you're Irish, don't take it personally), it was our very own (formerly known as Bandana) Boy (or should we now call him Garçon?). He's lucky though, cos cussing French people is boring (we're not the type to churn out old clichés), so instead we'll turn our attention to the usual suspects. No we don't mean Rishi (no doubt we will cuss him all the same). Thirdly, if you have any mates (that rules you out Hayden) and wanna play us at hockey, then let us know. We'll be in the Tuns every Wednesday from now on (around 2pm), since we don't know what else to do. Don't cry Sach; we can still write fake match reports if you want.

Now onto the match. For once we played a team that we weren't sick of the sight of. Gimps, Knobs and Tommies (that's GKT you Irish fucks) made their first appearance at Battersea after wading their way through sea of dog shit that greets every pedestrian in SW11. For a team that hardly ever plays, they had a squad with more members than the So Solid Crew. Luckily they were more akin to Westlife than hardened criminals. After watching the 1sts give away a three goal lead in spite of having a 'helpful' ref, we were in a jovial mood which was reflected in a lack-lus-

tre opening twenty minutes. We knew that just a point would cement our place in history as ULU League Champions 2003/04. Unfortunately rather than a team pushing for the title, we performed like a team destined for relegation. GKTommies pummelled us from the offset and demonstrated greater athleticism and hunger than an Ethiopian long distance runner. We were never really worried since our resident prophet Muhammed 'my friends call me Osama' Ali Mohammed (sic) Qasim had predicted that he would get on the score sheet. Despite playing like morons, we managed to take the lead going into half time against the run of play. Following a wayward short corner, Qas was on hand to fire the ball home with unnerving accuracy from all of about four inches (apparently that's a long way where he comes from). We should have been two up, but Sach misinterpreted the notion of running in at the far post, instead running INTO the far post. Fucking Spastic.

With Moet unable to make the match (what a darn shame) due to a lecture, the team talk was left to our captain Nosh. What a talk it must have been (no one remembers what he says) as we came out with all guns blazing like a high school student wandering the halls of Colombine High (Send all emails voicing your disgust to Rishi, cos Nosh doesn't care). We got an early goal coming from, yes you've guessed it, Bagpuss. Another stunner from all of about two yards. The next was scored by Katen, a carbon copy of the previous one, drilling his shot at the near post. The fourth, from Bhangra, was arguably the best goal of the bunch, surprising the opposition, us, himself and even his mum when I told her later that night. Receiving the ball from a short, he jinked past two challenges before despatching a low shot past the hapless keeper. All these years we thought Nayan was a retard and, to be fair, he is. Aside from that short ten second spell where he didn't trip over his ogre sized feet, smack into the ground and further bending his bent nose, he exhibited some moments of skill. Not many people can miss the ball six times in one match. The fifth, and

definitely best goal of the bunch came from yours truly. Clearly it's not going to be Nosh. It came from another short. Despite having an earlier shot (if you can call it that) saved from a similar position, Sach decided to give it another go. This time it went in though (Sach - rocket from an acute angle from the edge of the D, taking a slight deflection of the despairing goalkeeper and hitting the top right corner - goal of the season!).

Final Score 5 - 0 and the title was ours. Yippee.

Before we go, we feel it's our duty to make sure that everyone who played gets a mention. We don't however, think it's our responsibility to be nice about them.

- Septic** - you had fuck all to do in goal most of the season and still let a shit load in.
- Nobike** - you're ginger. Don't ever forget that.
- Rishi** - You're a fairy. Don't ever forget that.
- Ash** - what can we say. You're bald but you and Jacko can go and buy wigs together, actually, take Phil along for good measure.
- Nosh** - five years ago, Nosh came to LSE, a starry-eyed youngster (luckily Rishi didn't appear for another two years). He's about to leave, with no goals to his name, big shoes and a haircut that exaggerates his new 'extra chromosome' look.
- Qas** - played every game. scored goal of the season. Got rejected by Al-Qaeda (failed the online flight simulator test - he landed ok). Slim-fast made him fatter. Been offered a contract by Michelin to be the Michelin Man's big bro. They're only paying him peanuts (literally) so he won't take it unless they throw in some cashews.
- JJ** - you injury prone Irish tit.
- Gilo** - Rishi likes you.
- Nathan** - you lazy Irish shit. You should have played more matches...
- Boy** - you cheese-eating surrender monkey. You make Andy Cole look prolific.
- Sach** - After all that trying, you finally got to administer oral love at a professional level,



Rishi surprised everyone with his Barrel outfit

well done. Your parents must be so proud. If only you were taller...

Katen - you boring subsistence-farm-owning-leopard-chasing-can't-lift-the-ball-over-the-keeper knob-jockey.

Emms - you dress like a camp cat and steal food from the homeless. Rock on!

Moet (James you northern monkey) - learn how to use email, you're not that old. You talk a good game. Shame about how you play it.

MashER - learn how to spell your nickname. Learn how to play hockey. Also, stop pimping out your older brother to Sach. He [your brother that is] can do much better.

Bhangra - you're not good enough for us. Your shoulders are too big, if they get any bigger, they will block out the sun's rays, causing all life on earth to cease to exist.

And finally, this is (probably) our last report ever. We know Beaver readership figures will now dwindle down to just the SU Exec and people like Emms who can't afford toilet paper, but that's life. By the way Boy, you owe eleven quid in fines. Not playing doesn't excuse you from fines. So I guess this is it. As two tears roll down our respective cheeks, all that is left to say is Thankyou Please.

Netball Beauties send St Barts to Casualty!

LSE Netball 2nds.....	16
St George's.....	32
Tooting Broadway	

LSE Netball 2nds.....	36
St Bart's.....	24
Mile End	

Alison Blease



Ever wondered why there is never a doctor around when you need one? Because they are all apparently playing netball against the mighty LSE 2nds. And why is the NHS in the poor state that it is? Because they are either shit or completely fucking evil...

On Monday night we gathered for the much anticipated cup semi final against St George's who were an unknown quantity as they play in the league above us - as in fact do the other two teams left in the cup at this point - or at least we tried to but only me and Louisa actually made the trek down to Tooting Broadway on time.

The game started something like this... fairly close, St George's pull away with a lead and then LSE begin to claw it back... In the meantime Louisa talks to her GK... GK cannot recognise LSE wit and sarcasm believing that Louisa really does think the mixed race umpire is the white GK's mum... GK tells Louisa economics students have no sense of humour... Lou is slightly bemused as she is not an economics student and points out that LSE is a real uni where more than

one course is taught. This is the point about 2 minutes into the game where the GK and GD of St George's decided to kill our delightful attacking duo of Krystal and Louisa. We have played a lot of netball games this year and believe it or not quite a few more previous to this in our lives and I have never seen such a pair of cheating, evil, fucking bullies in my life who tried to make up for their obvious lack of skill by employing tactics stolen from their rugby team. In fact I would hazard a guess that they do not have a rugby team but just one team of girls who play every sport believing that wrestling can in this way conquer the world. And the whole time there was constant sniping between their defence and our attack. They contacted, they intimidated (the actual foul in netball and also literally) and they basically crashed into our players as often as they could. With only one umpire they got away with it a fair few times as well and not surprisingly it didn't have the greatest effect on our playing skills when every time we managed to get the ball anywhere our circle our players got the shit bashed out of them.

You don't need any more detail, the result as you can see is the score at the top - no it is not a typing error and yes it is our first defeat since October but we needn't lose too much pride as we made it to the semi's and further than anyone else

in our league. Also there is no way that St George's will actually win the cup cos they have about as much skill in the game of netball as a pot plant.

On Wednesday we gathered to put the memory of Monday far behind us and we had a secret weapon - pegleg Marie was coming with us to Mile End to give us some serious support. The only slight hitch is that our GK Laura has decided to live it up in the Big Apple for a week so that left, er, me as GK. As I have mentioned before I am not very tall, in fact our whole team is pretty tiny preferring to rely on speed and skill rather than a few inches. We have two obvious exceptions in Louisa (who scares the crap out of defence cos even the tall ones aint as tall as her) and Marie but she is slightly less effective on a crutch. Anyway I was a bit worried when both their shooters proceeded to be at least 5' 10" if not 6'. Still, as has been the 2nds key to success all season I gave it my best shot jumping around like a jack-in-a-box.

At first the game was pretty scrappy, they really were not very good but unfortunately we were playing down at their level throwing away a few silly passes and generally not being calm enough. However with Marie's coaching at quarter and half time we pulled our game up and despite a few players playing out of position and Aine's shoulder nearly killing her, we succeeded in winning quite convincingly. The team (Lou, Krystal, Rach 'n Rach, Captain Fiona, Aine and me) played really well to keep calm and get the right result. In theory we have five ULU games to go where the league is entirely up for grabs - hopefully by us!



The Paddy's Piece

Womens' Rugby season's long winning streak recently came to an end, when they were callously dumped out of the cup by a King's side who between them boasted more horse hormones than Ascot on Grand National day. But fuck it. Womens' Rugby have the BUSA League in the bag already. The LSE Karate Club (yeah, I never knew they existed either), returned victorious from the BUSA National Championships in Manchester. And Mr. Miyagi taught Daniel San that there's more to martial arts than just fighting, so everyone's happy. The Sixths march on in the cup, following a penalty shootout defeat of UCL. The best moment of the game was when Matt Bawden stepped up to take a penalty in the shootout. The keeper saved it. As the ball rolled back to him, in a fit of rage, Matthew went to blast the ball into the back of the net, to show that he could actually score. He hit the post. Then he fell over.

If you missed Crush last week, you missed an encounter with a legend. For one week-end only, Mr. Ian Dow (aka Scouse from last year's Footy 4ths) was in London. For those of you who do not know this man, let me paint you a picture...

Ian made history by being the first person who actively wears shellsuits to be admitted to LSE. In Calella last year he was assaulted by a Spanish policeman, leading to the nickname "Martyr" being added to his already burgeoning list ("Scouse" as he's got a Liverpool accent, "Wiggy" because he's actually from Wigan. And his hair looks shit). At last year's team dinner, Ian was sober at 6pm when he entered the Tuns, and entered unconsciousness around 8pm when he reached the restaurant in Camden. By 9pm he had been dragged back to his room by exasperated team mate Axel. He slept a deep, alcohol induced slumber for seventeen hours, leading his roommate to believe he had died. Ian once memorably blinded himself for twenty minutes, following a schoolboy error with a bottle of poppers, believing they should poured down one's nose, rather than inhaled. During this time he inadvertently set fire to a table. Another schoolboy error was committed by Wiggy when he failed to realise that Carlsberg Special Brew is super strength lager. After drinking four tins of said beverage in an hour at a house party, he woke up in a bush the next day with no pants on. Ian has fond memories of the Avenue nightclub in Calella, where in a Trainspotting's Begbie style fit of rage, he threw a pint glass off the balcony, leading to an lively conversation with, and subsequent ejection by, the club bouncers. This man holds the world record for use of the phrase "It's one of those", uttering the saying approximately seven times per sentence. He failed his first year at LSE and left for Liverpool Hope University. Hope is what you'd need fucking lots of if you were studying there. Needless to say, the man is a legend, and the Tuns has missed him greatly - nobody steals drinks from behind the bar and pours their own pints like Ian. He is sadly missed.

You may have noticed that my better half, Ellie, has followed Gareth and departed BeaverSports, so I'm all on my own. After two such prominent figures in my life have left me, I'm beginning to feel like Paul McCartney after John Lennon and George Harrison died. Except I don't have a wife with a wooden leg.

Bye

Charlie's Angels Disowned by LSE

LSE Womens' Footy.....	0
Queen Mingers.....	4
Chislehurst, Fuck Knows	

Dame Linsey Wilde



Our problems began when my old friend Jose Cuervo showed up. Riding high from our domination over the UCL seconds the Sunday before, a few of us die-hard Tuns groupies decided to gather for a Mexican feast in the heart of Soho. And what fiesta would be complete without topping off dinner with multiple rounds of tequila? In struts Jose and out goes all composure.

In less than an hour, Jose was gone but his spirit was still with us. We all managed to make it to the Tuns, although I can't say the same for the Walkabout. For the third week in a row, Mrs. Robinson had to be taken home by 10:30. Apparently, some dude from the rugby team saw her drooling on herself in the middle of the Tuns. Good work, girl - way to make us proud!

As for our piss poor rendition of "The Tequila Song," the only person that knew the lyrics was Dirty Den. Really, it doesn't surprise me - she's been having an affair with alcoholism for some time now. I think the only thing she's actually coached us on is how to drink half the liquors stocked at the bar.

Walkabout was standard as usual. I managed to sign up for my third SWOT card, even though my signature looked like it was written by a four year old. However, more noteworthy, our Swedish captain surprised us all by getting more sloshed than the Gremlin. For once, he had to carry her home, but at least she wasn't talking to a wall. As for yours truly, I proceeded to pass out on my couch with a half-eaten burrito on my chest. Yet another picture to put up on the Wall of Shame, right next to the ones of



the Wallbanger after his Field Hockey initiation. All in all, it was an awesome night. Not a shady stalker in sight.

Unfortunately, Jose's spirit seemed to linger on until Sunday's match, seeing as only ten of us showed up to play the mingers of Queen Mary. Dirty Den didn't even bother to show. As for QM, these girls were so narly. Their burly stopper was especially nar nar - she could easily be a linebacker for the Raiders and she had the deepest manly voice we've ever heard. Apparently, one of their forwards was overly keen on the game since she decorated her face with paint. Really, who does that? It just screams, "I'm a tool!" Figure it out, dude.

Although we were a man down and at times two men down, we played exceptionally well, giving everything we had. Juliet rocked it on the left wing - throwing bows left and right. She definitely got in there. Xtina, our sweep, saved us as usual and even managed to take this ginormous chick out who was twice her size. Solid. Mrs. Robinson used her whooping cough as a defensive tactic (again). Stace played well until she got injured.

The funniest part of the game was when Anna screamed post-rampage, "FUCKING

SMILE!" after QM scored their second goal. I, for one, was scared. However, the Swedish duo, Antonia and Anna, twerked it in the mid-field, one touching it past everyone. They both played like champs. Antonia - I still got faith, man.

Alas, we still couldn't put the ball in the net despite our many attempts. Janne and Juls worked it together up front but Juls was obviously distracted by her Germanic Warrior on the sidelines.

Our keeper, Arisa, had the game of her life. My personal favorite save by her was a leaping dive with all of her limbs extended, her face contorted with determination, as she slapped the ball away from another score. It was a Kodak moment, for sheez! She was all over the ball the entire game, but the mingers got lucky. Four times.

This week should prove interesting for the Ladies Football team though. We have two birthdays, Juliet's twenty-third and Anna's twenty-first, to celebrate and a cup semi-final to dominate. This just spells out disaster as we'll be raging like rock stars all week. So if any of ya'll see some chick falling on the dance floor and slurring her words, assume it's a member of the LSE Women's Football Squad.

Valentines' Day Massacre Sees Euston Tech Slaughtered!

LSE Footy Firsts.....	2
UCL Firsts.....	1
Shenley, by Thameslink	

Gaz 'The Pirate' Carter



Richard Curtis bounds into Channel 4 studios, and places a large type-written copy of his latest script on the desk of Kevin Lygo - Channel 4 Director of Television. 'What are you doing here Richard?' Kevin asks, 'I only deal with Television'. 'Shut up, Kevin' replies Richard 'Gareth couldn't find out who the Director of Film was. I've got this script, it's about this guy -Mikey Griffith- who's desperately trying to make his way to his Valentine's Day date right? But first he has to play football in the middle of fucking nowhere, ie: Watford. So, he does that, then his bus breaks down. The denouement comes when he finally meets up with her at 10pm, about three hours late, right? So, this is all about his trials and tribulations, sound good?' Kevin thinks for a bit. 'How does it go?' he asks.

Travelling up to Radlett to play UCL is a little bit like sitting in a small room with nothing in it for three days. It's dull. It's so dull that you'd give anything to even have Average Dave from the sixth team there to make it a little more spectacular. When you've got Shiva Tiwari smacked off his face on Valium in the seat beside you, you want to start poking your eyeballs with sharp pencils just to give you something to do. It's so dull, you're even wishing Dom was there. With that hideous physiological picture painted, it's a miracle the first team disembarked at Radlett in anything like the state needed to go about learning the UCL idiots. Thank God for Gaz Carter's 'motivational' speeches ('We've been shit since about November, so let's not be shit today, deal?') and thank God for the Island Gardens laundromat, which meant that for once we weren't wearing kit that smelled like it'd been washed in tramp's urine.

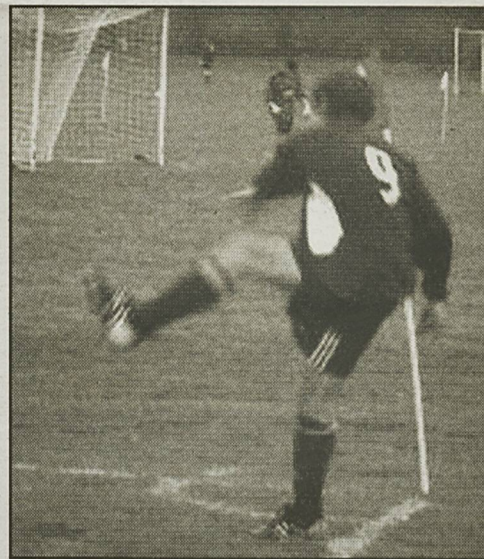
With an early kick-off to thank for the fact most of us didn't set about waking up until after UCL had forced four corners in the opening five minutes, the mighty mighty first team roused themselves and slowly started to out-class the inadequate Neanderthal bastards from Euston Tech. Swift interchanges, and with more passes being made than by Bill Clinton at an Intern convention, the firsts were flying. Cyril Sneer's feet of flame danced down the right, with Dom slipping the cheeky nut in every time he stitched up his marker. Our defence were passing the ball around like sex, and Mikey T and Gaz Carter were taken up better offensive positions than the Wehrmacht ever did. Stelios, our little Cypriot freedom fighter was battling harder than ever, and Jimmy Little was fending off a man three times his size and one fourth his intellect with aplomb. The breakthrough came from the Rooshter, as Stelios flicked on a goal kick, and Dom -lurking around the defence like Shiva does around public toilets- nipped in and slotted home.

Our passing was fluent, and our positioning impeccable. If anything, we became too confident -dribbling around four players when we should have settled for three for instance. In one such case, Mikey T megged two players, before unwisely deciding to pass to Gaz 'feet of lead' Carter. An undernourished UCL runt nipped in and miss-hit a cross which smacked off the head of some freakishly tall deformity of a human wearing a UCL shirt, and lopped over Pete Wright (deputising for amorous Nick Hill in goal) to make it 1-1.

Clearly aggrieved, the mighty mighty first team decided not to play silly-buggers anymore, and set about kicking everything that moved, round or not. After an interchange with Dudu, one of their players was heard to shout 'You posh bastard!'. The Pirate took offence at this slight to his team-mate and responded with the heart-felt 'yeah, enjoy your council estate you pikey twat'. Ah, what an LSE education does to your social perceptions... Confrontation was as inevitable here as when Donald Rumsfeld makes a state visit to James Meadway's house, but it took an unlikely source to start it. Young Hide, irate at not having started, hurtled into a three-footed challenge on their terrified centre-midfielder. Not content with merely having broken both of the guy's legs and at least one of his ribs,

Hide proceeded to rabbit-punch the guy so hard his nose bled. In the astonished silence of Radlett, the referee looked as shocked as the rest of us. Perhaps that's why he decided not to bring criminal charges against young Hide, but let him off with a warning instead.

We scored a cracking second. Jimmy 'four yards' Little blasting home from, yup, four yards, after a sustained period of pressure forced several LSE corners.



Stelios was outstanding, and kept driving at the UCL defence, opening it up for Gaz Carter to hit a 40-yard boomer which the keeper finger-tipped over the bar. 'That shot was Going Places, that was' mused Gaz, 'yes, it was really Jill Dando-ing it...' (She used to present holiday programs, ie. programs about 'GOING PLACES', you see? - Ed). It wasn't the last time Gaz would mumble stupidly. After a hefty 50/50 challenge in the centre of the park, a half somersault ended with Gaz smacking his head on the turf and lying prostrate on the ground, pole-axed for about 5 minutes, fending off concussion and embarrassing affronts to his mathematical abilities by John McDermott. 'How many fingers?' asked John, as he waved his middle finger in Gaz's face. No sympathy, that boy.

The inevitable Last Stand came with 20 mins to go, with Stevey G making a match-winning challenge on the goal-line after an amateur backpass from Scouse, which was fortunately at odds with his quality defensive play and 'fastest man' status. Dudu learned

how to kick again, and began to make up for lost time by kicking everything that moved. He also cleverly blocked Gaz Carter's own-goal-bound 'clearance' from an innocuous corner.

Stevie G had a goal disallowed, and the pressure was back on. Pete in goal claiming some quality crosses, and settling the jitters at the back. Mikey T and Gaz kept kicking people -Gaz's concussion seemingly not preventing him from tripping up every opposition player that got past the midfield line. Stelios was huge, helping out the midfield, and Jimmy Little's running was without comparison.

Minutes after Hide's assault and battery of their number 3 (in minute 56 of a 45 minute half. Honestly) the ref signalled for full time, and we were through to the semis. Joy was unrefined, and their crying manager grudgingly said that we'd probably not deserve it, but that he wouldn't appeal to the authorities. Nice of him.

Having finished the game by 4 o'clock, the sexed-up first team fancied their chances of an early doors arrival back into Central London for the Day of Valentines. Scouse was playing it by ear, and Shiva had a court order telling him exactly what he could, and could not, do that evening. Unfortunately, the bus failed to arrive for two hours, and when it finally did, it was driven by a man with as much intelligence as an ironing board cover. His possession of a legitimate driving license, let alone passport, was seriously in question when, after an hour long search to discover the source of 'a weird beeping sound' (it was one of those window break-y hammer thingies that had come loose) he stalled the coach three times getting out of the car-park.

With Scouse's plans falling apart faster than post-war Iraq, the coach driver decided we'd not quite seen enough of the countryside, and drove us the wrong way for forty miles. Jimmy Little was forced into reading 'a poor man's Heat' and Scouse figured that asking everyone what time sit was every 5 minutes the journey would be over sooner. It wasn't, and it left Gaz and Scouse to leg it home on the DLR, before Scouse finally rocked up to his date, about 3 hrs late. Hide went home, as did lonely boys Big John and Little J, and Gaz Carter fell asleep on his couch watching The End of the Affair. Happy Valentine's Day, from the sexually mismanaged First team.

A Little Note to say Goodbye...

After a year of corruption by the Pirate and then being bent over backwards by the Paddy, it's time for this sweet, innocent, and not to forget beautiful rugby girl to bid a final farewell to BeaverSports. I reached my claim to LSE fame with EllieSports and times were even better when petitions and protests were held against the Pirate and his Wench for the infamous Guess the Breast. But please don't cry for me Beaver, I have decided it's time to move on to bigger and better things.

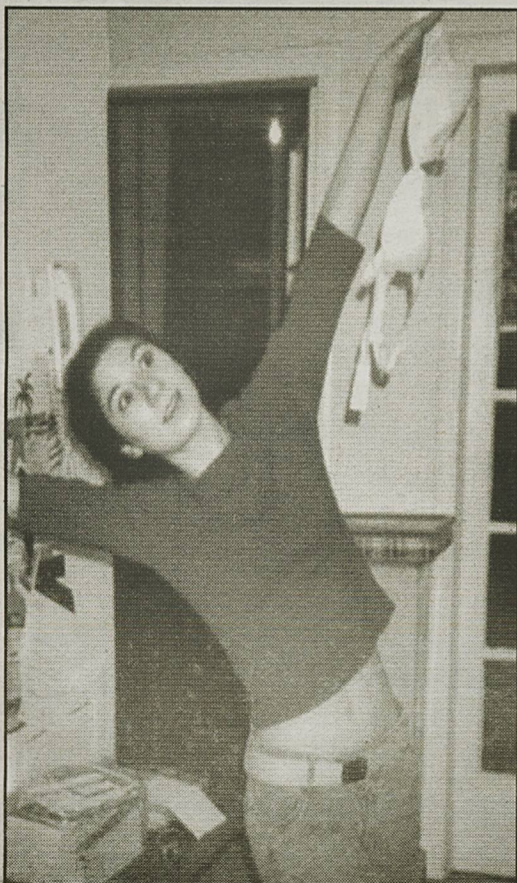
The day has finally come to devote myself to my calling as number 1 fan of Michelle McManus (a.k.a Pop Idol moose). I believe that if I munch 5 pork pies with gravy for breakfast, KFC family bucket for lunch, and a glass of lard for dinner, someday I hope to resemble the wholesome figure of a real She-Man. I dream of cruising in my little red Nova behind the Pop Idol tour bus on the motor-

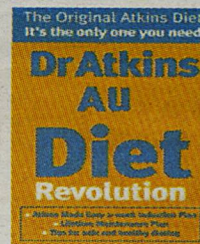
ways of our fine country, hoping she might pass a glance in my direction.

If this fails move on to plan B; become an ickle Greek eating, baby-making machine. After all, it would be selfish of me to deprive the world of little Ellies. Helping the needy and doing lots of good works. If I ditch my Aussie and find a well endowed rich husband, I will be able to weight hand and foot on my man-beast hubby and the rest of our animals on our small farm in Cyprus. Who knows what the future holds?

Here comes the corny bit, but I just want to say thanks to everybody who has written articles and helped me out in BeaverSports, I am going to miss you guys, especially the Beaver team, past and present who I have grown to love and lust over. As said in Lock Stock, "Its been emotional".

Bye xxx





From Fat Chance to Fat Cats - The Super Sixths March On

LSE Footy Sixths.....1

UCL Footy Sixths.....1

After Extra Time, LSE Win 4-2 on penalties

Fortress Berrylands, Surrey

Oyvind 'Maldini'
Johnsen



The pressure is inhuman. The referee places the ball on the spot, and Stuart, the UCL captain, starts the long walk from the centre circle. Every leg on the pitch aches from the strain of 120 minutes of box to box action, and nerves are severely frayed. Stuart knows he has to put the ball past Andy the Cat in goal. If he misses, his team are out of the cup. The ref finishes reading him his rites, and Stuart starts his run. He places the ball past Andy. And past the left post.

Like a latter day Roberto Baggio, Stuart's head drops in solitary despair as LSE start their wild run towards the goal. I think it's fair to say none of us really remember what happens in the next few seconds, but I do vaguely recall a massive pile-up in the goalmouth and the kind of homoerotic behaviour usually reserved for the gay sauna of Camberwell. The LSE 6th team have qualified for the semi-final of the ULU Vase.

It hadn't looked that way a little earlier that fair Berrylands afternoon, not to mention earlier this season. Our first game as promoted Champions of the Fourth Division was a tough welcome to Division Three, courtesy of an 8-4 loss at the hands of none other than UCL 6. UCL had the stronger start in this second encounter of the season as well. Their 3-5-2 formation crowded out our midfield and never allowed us time to settle on the ball. Every attempted clearance seemed to cannon unfavourably off the opposition, and we were unable to take advantage of their 3 man back line. Finally the inevitable happened; a ball through, a quick turn, a neat finish past the helpless Schwartz in goal, advantage UCL.



To our credit, we hung on till the welcome relief of half time.

UCL must have felt then that this was going their way, and one would forgive them for doing so. But on our side of the pitch, we knew differently. Maybe it was the support of the travelling fans, notably Claire and Elisa. Maybe it was the abundance of oranges we'd brought along. Or maybe it was just the knowledge that we were losing only because they wanted it more. Either way, we weren't going out like this in what was for many the last competitive game at Berrylands. A pact was made to go out and hustle, chase, tackle, pressure, kick, stress and overrun the opposition, even if it meant drawing our last breaths. Tactical substitutions saw the lighter, technical wing duo of C.Ivan and C.Lee replaced by Dave and Kesh - under strict instructions to tear up the pitch on either side. The second half saw a whole new ballgame.

Suddenly UCL were being caught in possession, and the panicked shouts of 'GET RID!' and 'CLEAR!!' were coming from their side. All 11 players worked like men possessed, spurred on by the turning tide and the infectious sight of team-mates getting stuck in. Schwartz was more dominant than ever, commanding the back line and making the box his own. Francis and Matt at centre-back cleared their lines majestically, and the fullbacks Simon and Joss defended and attacked in force all along the touchline. Wario and myself held our own in the middle of the park against UCL's three men. Kesh.Patel9 epitomised our fighting spirit with his juicy tackles and willing

runs, and Adequate Dave put his name to shame after stepping in on the left flank. Rich and Oslo up front turned up the pressure on the three at the back, working along the ground and in the air, even with Oslo carrying an injury that almost saw him come off at half time.

Still, though, we lacked the goal. And that goal duly arrived courtesy of an identikit 6s strike from the usual suspect. Rich Lomas had been our main provider with 19 goals so far this season, and his 20th was arguably the most important of all. Kesh lofted in a high pass, Oslo's mane towered over the defence to head the ball into Rich's path. Muscling their centre-back off the ball, Rich just squeezed a trademark finish via the goalkeeper's gloves into the back of the net. Truly galvanised, we set about attacking their goal with the reinforced belief that we could complete the comeback. However, no more goals would come in the second half, despite both teams going near. Two cutbacks from myself just failed to fall right for the strikers, and Matt and Wario saw efforts go close. UCL even hit the crossbar as the battle raged on, and Schwartz was forced into tricky saves on and off his line.

The ref signalled the end of full time, so the stage was set for another gruelling half hour of extra time. Even as our lungs were burning, we were determined not to give up now. Again we came out fighting again and had UCL on the ropes, without creating too many opportunities. Oslo hit a header just wide, while UCL hit the top of the crossbar again. Completely

drained by nearly two hours of football, it takes a heroic effort to keep going. Carried by the welcome cheers from our special friends the LSE 5th team and professional referee Silver Carlton we soldier on, every run that much heavier than the last. In the end the final whistle, signalling penalties, seems almost a welcome sound.

Robbed of the on-form Caant Ivan (off the back of recent performances at QMW and Isle of Dogs) and our dead-ball wizard Andy (the Cantonese duo were resigned to their natural ethnic role of filming) as well as the missing Huckleberry Fynn and Roadracer Lyle, we barely scraped five brave volunteers for the spot-kicks. As if there wasn't enough pressure already, the ref had wisely chosen the end of the pitch where the penalty spot was buried in a hole, throwing in a frankly unnecessary random-factor. Lomas stepped up to take the first penalty, and buried it confidently to his right, sending the keeper the wrong way. UCL score, and R.Patel9 is next. The keeper goes the right way, but has no chance on the low drive into the bottom left hand corner. Again UCL score, this time it's my turn to step up. Somehow extra aware of the weight of the armband, I nevertheless despatch a low shot into the right hand corner, the keeper again going the wrong way. Sensing his moment of glory has arrived, Schwartz waits their next penalty taker out and pounces. Wild celebrations ensue for a brief moment as Andy makes the save and triumphantly screams out, but there are still penalties to be taken. Joss collects his thoughts and walks up to the spot. Cool as ice, he buries the shot to the left, leaving the goalie no chance. For the first and last time, the team allows itself to celebrate a Joss Sheldon goal as its own. UCL score their fourth penalty as well, so S. Roast Matt is next up. Our celebrations are temporarily muted as the UCL goalie breaks with tradition and dives to his left for the first time, managing to stop Roast's effort. But it serves only as a final humiliation for the guests, as the UCL captain approaches the spot to finish the job...

In the spirit of correctness, celebratory Hydros were greedily imbibed, several pints of beer enjoyed, Cooper's visited, and a sixth team party was sent to put the 'Error' in Schoolboy Disco. The 6th team are marching on. To cup glory.

Mr. Miyagi Pleased as LSE Karate Emerge Victorious

Olivia
'Daniel San'
Thornton



On the 14th and 15th of February, two dedicated members of the LSE karate team gave up their valentine's weekend to enter the BUSA National Student Championships that were held in Manchester. LSE were up against university squads from all over Britain in the championships, which were in association with the World Karate

Federation (recognised by the Olympic Committee and in the World Games). Yunis Abasov and Kizito Kiyimba both competed in Kata on the Saturday, and were very successful in Kumite on the Sunday. Kizito, a 1st Dan black belt (one

you don't want to mess with!) fought in the Men's Senior under 80kg category, and after some exhausting fights managed to get to the quarter finals. Yunis, a green belt, entered the Men's Novice heavy weight category and fought incredibly well, keeping up the standard until the very end. He kicked arse all the way to the finals, before bringing home another gold medal for LSE! Dario (Instructor) says: "Both Kizito and Yunis this weekend discovered once more the returns of hard training. Kizito is more experienced, plays with strategy and Yunis simply dominated right from the beginning over his oppo-

nents of his category. Both athletes showed good karate spirit and we should expect their distinctions in Katas as well. LSE Karate club definitely has more athletes (men and women) that could do excellent in the championships, and I really hope this will become apparent to everyone in the near future. The potential of LSE Karate Club is always growing and partially demonstrated with every single opportunity..."

This is our second successful karate competition this year, and lets hope our third one this weekend will be just as victorious. Thanks a lot boys!

RAG Week Five-a-Side Tournament

Want to tread the hallowed turf of Berrylands? Want to play football, have a laugh, and raise money for charity at the same time? Calling Men, Women and Andy Schwartz - the RAG Week Cup needs you! It's this Sunday, 29th February, enter a team by raising fifteen measly quid and contacting C.R.Whitcomb@lse.ac.uk. Referees, supporters and money-grabbing collectors needed too!