

The Beaver

The Newspaper of the LSE SU

First Published 5 May 1949

18th February 2003

Issue number 575



B:link - Anti-War
March Photo Special

B:art - Clubbing in
London's 'Hottest'
Venue



A Demo to be proud of: page 3 and in B:link pages 15 and 16

Passfield in the Cold Accommodation Crisis Deepens

- PFI Plans Close to Collapse
- Cost-cutting Hypocrisy Revealed
- SU Refuse to Comment

Ibrahim Rasheed &
Iain Bundred

The LSE administration's plan to privatize budget hall Passfield is on the verge of collapse.

It has been revealed that the rents to be charged will be far in excess of what cash-strapped students can afford. The sole remaining bidder provided four options to the school, all of which will succeed in excluding students who desperately need more low cost housing in London.

The administration is now considering a *volte face* at the bids to refurbish the run down hall and to take it upon themselves to renovate and manage Passfield. Angry officials within the school leaked the story to the Beaver after the year long privatization debacle took this farcical twist. This is just the latest in a series of mishaps that the Residences team are responsible for.

The contract was originally meant to be tendered last year so that the renovation could take place over this academic year and that the hall would be ready for use in 2003/04. Student officials argued at the time that this would mean that 197 low rent places would be lost for an entire year. David Tymms, the Head of Residential Services, then claimed that a survey had showed that Passfield was infested by Legionnaires disease and that the hall would have to be shut down and

refurbished as soon as possible.

Just as the project was set to go ahead the school declared that it could not be completed in the stated timeframe and plans ceased. Remarkably, concerns for students health and safety and the Legionnaires scare ceased as well. Former warden of High Holborn Ed Kuska said "When it appeared that the school couldn't go ahead, the health and safety issues didn't seem as important as we had been told earlier." Indeed, evidence showed that Legionnaires disease was never found at Passfield.

Representatives on last years committees can now reveal that the real reason for the failed attempt at privatization was serious legal bunglings in the tendering process. The school proceeded down the route of 'selective tendering' which meant that the project was not advertised as it should have been and contravened EU competition laws. This poses the question as to how such incompetence was allowed and suggests that the Mr. Tymms' warnings of contamination were just a ploy to push on with his agenda.

There have also been reports that the school finances were put in jeopardy during an attempt to cut cleaning costs. An informed source alleges that plans drawn up by Mr. Tymms to change companies fell into the hands of Ocean Contract



Has the bleak midwinter arrived for LSE's only budget accommodation?

Cleaning. They then threatened to sue the school for breach of contract. The source asserts that an out of court settlement running up to hundreds of thousands of pounds was made to avoid embarrassment, and that this incident and the failure to proceed with the Passfield renovations this year are "intrinsically linked".

David Tymms was hired to manage the Residential Services and to ensure its smooth and efficient running. Yet the evidence suggests that he has succeeded in achieving the opposite. Former SU Residences Officer Justin Nolan said "Tymms has pursued a policy of trying to cut costs at the expense of student welfare. But every venture he embarks upon seems to end up losing the school money."

The Students' Union Executive have been quick to deny any problems with Passfield, and have even attempted to discourage any attention to it. One member told the Beaver that the story about was just a "storm in a teacup". The SU Residences Officer Rishi Madlani got up on stage at the Union General Meeting and denied that there was any truth in rumours about Passfield.

Given the importance of Passfield, especially with regard to improving access, it is vital that this mess is brought to an end and that the Students' Union Executive extracts the digit.



Union Jack

There has been much talk recently of trying to restrict the Beaver's right to gossip about hacks' prospects before elections as well as during them. This is a most disgraceful violation of basic human rights! Jack wouldn't have a thing to write about all term: people are only prepared to read so many column inches about Wrights bacon sandwiches. So, Jack has decided to get in a few last minute quips just in case he soon finds himself out of a job. The people mentioned in this column, are of course, entirely fictitious, and bear no unintentional resemblance to persons alive or dead drunk.

Looking through this week's order paper, Jack wonders why Akela and Bellendi felt it necessary to mandate their entire exec, and specifically the International Students Officer, to get involved with the campaign against top up fees. Can the exec really be so lazy as to not bother getting involved with something most students feel very strongly about unless they have been mandated to do so by the UGM? Or, could Akela be afraid of yet another left/right split in her committee, and her inability to control dissidents? Either way, the prospect doesn't seem to have amused the International Students Officer, whose surprise resignation with only three weeks to go has caused much speculation about whether she jumped, or was pushed. Jack feels that the derisory comments made about her in the UGM last week must have had something to do with it, as did Akela's assertion that she had 'written her a letter'. The Returning Officer is having a field day however, and has promised yet another UGM election - Jack wonders if he is planning to take over from Patronising Dave as holder of the 'most meetings chaired in a term' trophy.

It seems Iain 'bundered' Bundred has resurfaced at last - with several motions on the order paper and a few pertinent speeches it looks as if he has finally got over last term's hangover and is planning something exciting for later this term. Well, perhaps exciting isn't quite the word to be used in the same sentence as old Bunders, laughable maybe.

New Residences Officer Rishi has had a busy week denying all rumours about closure of halls and other hit and miss gossip about Passfield in particular. There must be more to this case than meets the eye though, and Jack wages Our Justin must be kicking himself for missing out on such an exciting time. Meanwhile, Tall Paul confirmed that nothing had changed since he was last asked if he had done any work: so that would be the strain of attending a couple of exec meetings then, and possibly reading an email or two.

There was rejoicing and pleasure this week in Hackdom with the set up of the Unfair Play Coalition. Emails shuttled back and forth as the carefully selected group tried to guess why they had been chosen, and the identity of the 'uberhacks'. Jack is of the opinion that these Pretenders to the Throne of Hack are just playing at being the big boys. As everyone knows, there is someone who has been around for far longer than any other hack (with the possible exceptions of Nick Stoker), Friends, the ÜberHack is none other than the ÜberJack.

Nominations Open For Dev Cropper Memorial Award 2003/4

Claire Spirit

JOHN DEVENAND Cropper was a final year student in government at the LSE when he died suddenly in London on March 25th 1998.

During his three years at the LSE Dev was intensely involved in the community life of the school and beyond. He was actively engaged in the political life of the student body and served on the Students' Union Executive. He often contributed to The Beaver and was involved in a range of other public interest causes including Students Against Racism and the GMB. Additionally, he worked as a volunteer for an off campus charity, Action Against Hunger. Along with his commitment to a heavy agenda of voluntary organizations, Dev was an excellent student in academic terms and in recognition for all of his efforts he was awarded an Honorary Life Membership of the Students' Union.

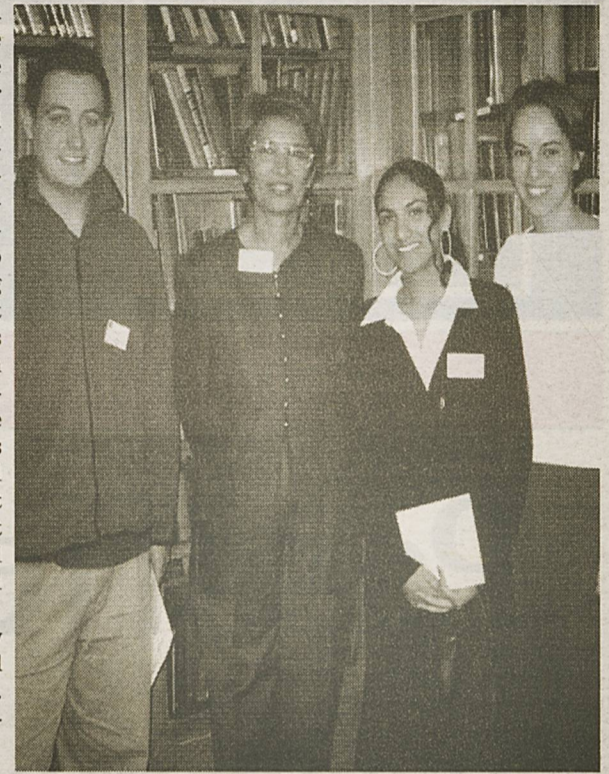
As a way of commemorating Dev's exemplary service to the student community at the LSE, an annual award was set up in his memory. The year 2003/4 will be the fifth year that the award has been made.

The award will consist of a monthly

stipend of £250 for the duration of that academic year (nine months in total, October-June inclusive). Fellow students or other members of the school community can nominate candidates for the award. The principle criterion for consideration is involvement in and contribution to student life and to the wider community during the nominee's first five terms at the LSE. In keeping with Dev's interests, students involved in cultural and educational activities organized through the Students' Union or its societies and/or charitable or political activities which provide benefit to others and/or which present educational or developmental opportunities for students will be considered.

Nominations for the Dev Cropper Memorial Award 2003/4 are now open. Nomination forms can be collected from SU reception.

For more information contact Rowan at r.l.harvey@lse.ac.uk.



Angela Cropper and the 3 most recent winners of the commemorative award named in honour of her son

Higher Education Crisis Deepens

Sal Chowdary

Universities are set to call upon the government to raise the £3,000 ceiling top-up fee figure, as they claim it will be insufficient to maintain standards and cater for increased student numbers.

From 2006 universities will have discretionary powers to levy fees of up to £3,000. However, in the interim it appears likely that funding per student will undergo a slight decline.

In fact, it has been predicted that a record number of universities and colleges will plunge into debt this year. The government investment of £3.7bn in higher education, promised until the additional fees are in place, falls short of the £9.94bn that Universities UK (UUK) estimate will be needed to compensate for twenty years of falling unit funding in British higher education.

On top of this, it is predicted that the additional £3,000 a year fees per student would only raise £1.8bn in extra revenue - £4bn less than the figure UUK says is needed to improve facilities and increase salaries. Also, in practice, there is no guarantee universities will be able to charge the full amount.

A spokesman for the Department for Education and Skills said: "Government spending on higher education will increase by an average of over 6 per cent in real terms in each of the next three years, so that by 2005-06 spending on higher education in England will be almost £10bn."

Although the £3,000 figure has been capped for until 2011, Professor Roderick Floud, President of UUK stressed: "We think there will continue to be, for the foreseeable future, substantial pressure from universities and on behalf of universities to raise their level of income."

Paul Holmes, Liberal Democrat MP for Chesterfield, drew comparisons with the Australian government, who had substantially reduced university funding following the introduction of fees. The report from the Higher Education Funding Council for England said that hitting targets for student recruitment and above-inflation pay deals for lecturers were contributing to the problems.

The funding the government is providing also appears prejudicial. The White Paper describes a divide between research-based and teaching-based institutions, with the bulk of research funding

year Politics and Philosophy student at Sheffield University writing for the Guardian, has blamed student financial hardship on students and their "unwillingness to curtail their excessive lifestyles".

At least the additional debt would not be an immediate concern, as top-up fees will be paid back upon reaching a threshold salary of £15,000 and then only in small increments. Foster stated that someone earning the average graduate starting wage of £20,000 would have to pay "just £8.65 a week - about four pints in our currency."

But a degree is not necessarily an automatic ticket to fruitful employment. Many graduates simply do not want careers that demand financial competence. For some of these graduates bankruptcy was an option available, enabling them to write off debts of up to £25,000 at a stroke.

However, the government aims to remove this possibility. A spokesman for the Department for Education and Skills said: "Government policy is, and always has been, that student loan debt should not be written off by bankruptcy. We are reviewing the legislation governing the new student loans which were introduced in 1998-99, and will be amending legislation to ensure it meets with our policy."

All this is unlikely to endear the majority of students and teachers to the already overtly criticised government. Sally Hunt, the AUT's General Secretary said:

"Ministers could rue the day they decided to introduce what will very quickly become a much detested tax."

She emphasised that there was no excuse for lifting the cap on fees saying, "Top-up fees are unjust, retrogressive and will produce a two-tier system between institutions and between departments. They will create huge debt."



As pressure mounts for yet higher fees student demonstrators look on...

going to those universities with an established reputation.

Dr Geoffrey Copland, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Westminster, stated: "Once new activity, in the form of earmarked initiatives, is stripped out there is no real terms increase - indeed probably a decrease - in the funding of teaching over the next three years, making it difficult to complete the work in modernising pay structures, for either academic or non-academic staff."

However, not all believe fees are necessarily a bad thing. Derek Foster, a second

The Weapon Of Mass Participation

Michael Bourke

Around 1,000 demonstrators set off from Houghton Street last Saturday to take part in the Stop The War Coalition's "Don't Attack Iraq" March.

They were joined by demonstrators from every corner of the United Kingdom as coaches and trains converged on the capital from far and wide, building a demonstration that outstripped even the most optimistic expectations of its organisers.

Estimates of the size of the demonstration vary 750,000 to 2 million. However, there is universal agreement that the march was the biggest in British history.

At ten to 11 Houghton Street was dotted with protestors, numbering perhaps a hundred in total. A sense of eager anticipation was mixed with foreboding that the LSE's contingent might prove disappointingly small.

However, as the planned departure time of 11am came and went the tempo continued to quicken. The patchwork of groups each brought their own special props. Globalise Resistance deployed a huge orange banner bearing the slogan "Stop the War: Peopple Not Profit." Student CND handed out placards. War on Want provided red and black helium filled balloons. The LSE SWSS banner was raised aloft.

Besides the "usual suspects", the LSE's main thoroughfare also began to fill up with far less seasoned political activists. Small and slightly nervous knots of post grads were joined by hungover under grads suffering from Valentine's excesses. Almost every strata and sub section of the LSE community was represented by the time the crowd finally moved off at 11.30.

As the marchers swung onto the Aldwych, led by the simple black "No War" banner of the LSE Stop The War Coalition it became clear just how large the LSE's contribution had become. Globalise Resistance showed particular indifference to the traffic, with their chant of "Whose streets? OUR streets!" neatly expressing the London wide reality.

When the front of the march reached

Kingsway, demonstrators were still leaving Houghton Street. They formed together a snaking cord of protest that illustrated the sheer number of LSE students and staff who had decided to march.

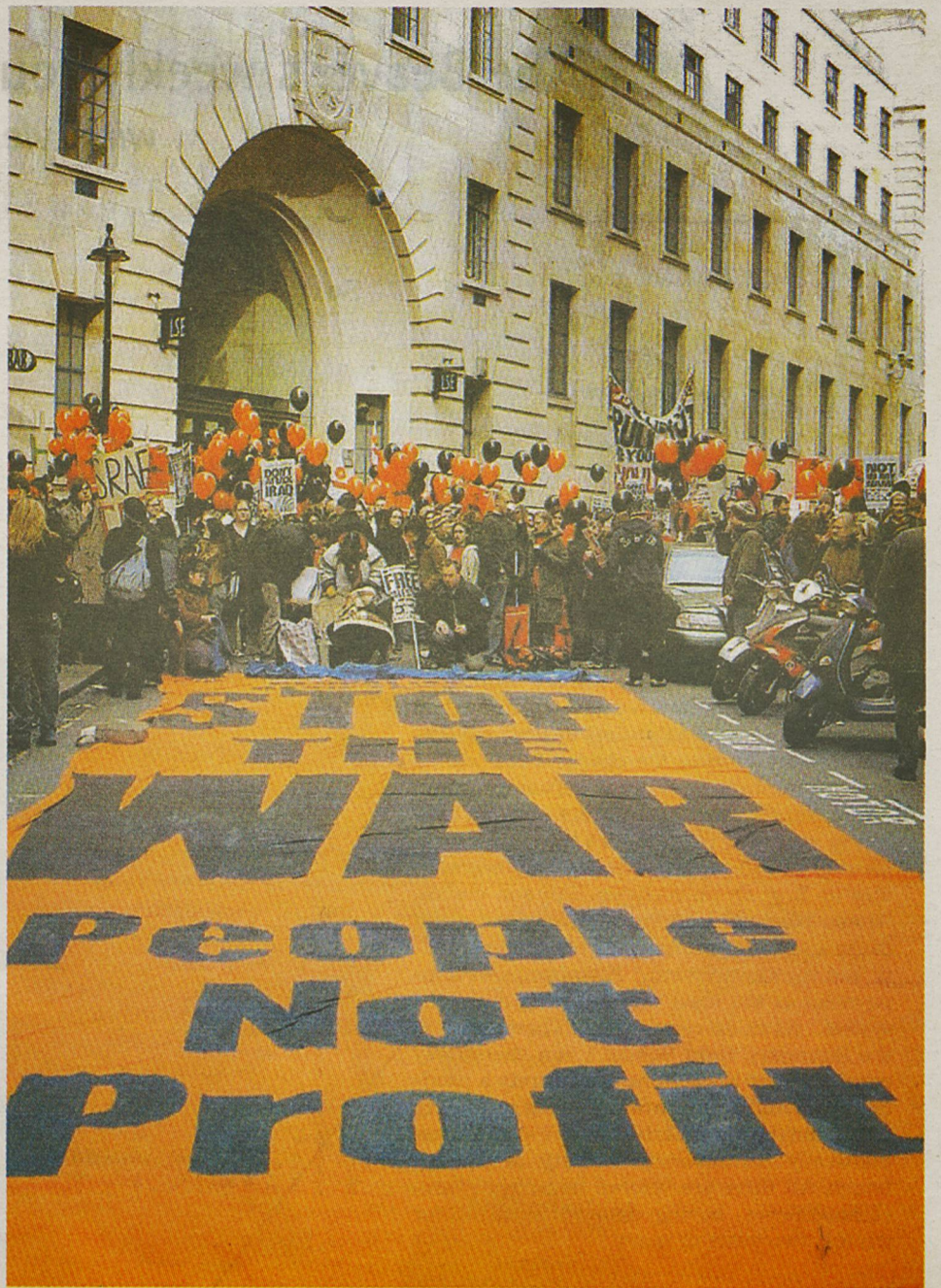
At the top of Kingsway the demonstration turned left, heading towards the Gower Street, one of the two rallying points for the wider march. On its way it passed High Holborn where it was joined by more students. After being held briefly at the end of Holborn the LSE column was lucky enough to be allowed into the main body of the Gower Street march near to the front.

As LSE students mingled in with the main march it became clear that it mirrored the diversity of their own delegation. Little old ladies and children in pushchairs reinforced the feeling that the march was far from ordinary. Elderly Asian gentlemen in suits walked side by side with stilt wearing circus-style protestors.

The march headed down Shaftesbury Avenue with LSE STWC's megaphone being used to lead several chants. The evergreen "This is what democracy looks like!" was heard several times as was "Who let the bombs down? Bush, Blair, Sharon!"

The latter hinted at a controversial aspect of the demonstration, namely its subtitle of "Freedom for Palestine". In the days leading up to the 15th February this decision had been queried by some, both nationally and within the student community. Doubts were expressed about the wisdom of the link and several students contacted by the Beaver said that they had been deterred from marching by what they considered its anti-Israeli overtones. However, others were supportive of the inclusion of the "Freedom for Palestine" slogan, arguing that it was far from anti-Israeli and highlighted a crucial aspect of Middle Eastern instability.

At 12.45 the main body of LSE students, by now somewhat dispersed in the human river of the protest, reached Piccadilly, the point of confluence with the Embankment half of the demonstration. The site of one of London's most luxurious hotels shortly afterwards provoked great enthusiasm from some



Houghton Street was a riot of colour as LSE students assembled before the march

amongst the delegation, who broke into a chant of "The Ritz! The Ritz! The Ritz! We're going to get rid of the Ritz!" However, in keeping with the calm and peaceful mood of the demonstration there was no attempt at any direct action to back up the jubilant rhetoric.

Hyde Park was reached by 1.45, an arrival time to be envied by those who would still be marching as the rally was ending at 5pm. The grass, the subject of such concern for Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, was undeniably rather wet. However, the

feared quagmire failed to materialise.

Inside the park a huge video screen had been erected to relay pictures of the many speakers to the massing crowd. A wide variety of opinions were heard over the next 3 hours. Tariq Ali called on those present to "Bring Blair down!" and a selection of trade union leaders lined up to threaten the future of New Labour if the government did not change course. Charles Kennedy, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, told the crowd "I have yet to be persuaded that the case for war against Iraq has been made." National STWC Convenor, Lindsey German, called for mass civil disobedience if war were to break out.

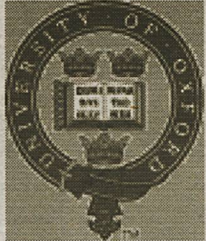
Jesse Jackson contributed a strange, somewhat inappropriate address, heavily laden with Christian imagery despite the many faiths present before him. Informed American sources that had warned the Beaver that the former presidential candidate would prove disappointing were vindicated.

However, the main focus of the afternoon was on the ever-escalating estimates of the total number of people involved in the demonstration. While most LSE students were still on their way to Hyde Park, a rumour had gone round that the BBC were saying a million people were involved. At 2.25pm it was announced from the stage that Sky News were saying 1.5 million. At 4.15pm the organisers relayed their claim that 2 million people were either still marching or on in the park itself. The news was met with the biggest cheer of the day.



The LSE delegation makes its way down Kingsway to join the biggest demonstration in British history

The Beaver's weekly round up of student news with Lyle Jackson



Three University of Oxford undergraduates have quietly been taking the law into their own hands, using the tried and tested method of non-compliance to protest against government policy. During the chaos of the top-up fees debate, Julia Buckley, Phil Thompson and Laura Santana are "non-payers", having chosen to withhold the flat-rate tuition fee payment of £1,100 expected from all undergraduates at English universities. Santana claims, "if non-payment were more strategic, it could cause a serious problem for both the university and the Government." Thompson sees non-payment as the ideal way to "bring down the system". As an ex-class mate of Thompson's at the legendary Judd School I can thoroughly conclude that his actions are entirely a product of his higher education. During secondary education, he was notable for the slightly less politically controversial activity of playing tennis. All three are veteran non-payers/education-thieves, having delayed payment for the last two years or more.



After a slight mix up about the best way to 'do shots' at the student's union, an Edinburgh student has been charged with a firearms offence. Following a police raid, Benjamin Wray, 19, was arrested and taken to St Leonard's police station. He was charged with breach of the peace and a firearms offence, but this was later dropped. 40 officers cordoned off a road in Edinburgh for several hours after a man was seen brandishing a gun. Police discovered it was just an imitation firearm after the raid, but a spokeswoman said: "It doesn't matter whether the firearm was real or not - it is still a very serious incident that caused great distress to local residents." Wray may face the maximum sentence of life imprisonment for brandishing the weapon in public, regardless of whether it was fake or not.

THE UNIVERSITY of York

Chaos ensued at the University of York after a student broke a bathroom panel in a hall of residence to reveal a dangerous amount of asbestos. The carcinogenic substance was left unreported until a cleaner spotted the warning signs behind the panel and raised the alarm. An immediate investigation followed revealing damaging levels of asbestos in buildings campus-wide. The resident tutor offered the best form of sympathy to students by offering to charge each one of them £100 if nobody owned up to breaking the panel! Maybe a lecturer in Priority Management?! The University of York Estates Service now has the problem under control.



A highly confidential report investigating the future of the Students' Union buildings at Bristol has been leaked. Students at Bristol were amazed to discover that their Union would be reduced to about a third of its current size. The report was mistakenly published online and was the result of an investigation carried out for a number of years by the Estates Committee, which concluded that the Union would have to be moved and reduced to 36 per cent of the size of the current building. Mike Phipps, the University Bursar and author of the report, writes: 'it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the building is near the end of its useful life', asserting that 'the whole building should be demolished in due course.' Bristol currently has one of the biggest Union buildings in Britain, but with Student's Union floor space and quality of university clearly inversely proportional, students should be delighted.



Bar FooTSiE, first heard about in your favourite Beaver article (that covers student news from around the country, at least) is visiting the University of Portsmouth. For those not in the know, Bar FooTSiE serves drinks with prices based on demand. Popular drinks see their price rise, while Reef sees its price plummet. Prices are displayed on screens throughout the venue and are updated as orders are taken. Any budding traders should head down to Portsmouth tomorrow (Wednesday) to take advantage of the arbitrage opportunities.

BANG BANG BANGS ON

All the make up that you wear can't hide the flaws, and if the Bang saw anything this past week it was that millions across the globe were not supporting a so-called war! Indeed, it has been a week of turmoil and change, most of which going on unnoticed or unreported! Well I'm here to try to remedy that the best I can without recourse to my fluent, vulgarian tongue.

Herr Blair did an excellent job this week in trying to school the young on the virtues of going to war to spread a holy creed (that old chestnut about rights, freedom and democracy). In doing, he showed his true contempt for ordinary people who thought themselves to be citizens. He demanded all of us to acknowledge that the remarkable peace marches this past weekend would be unthinkable in Iraq and even punishable by death, therefore we should support the bombing of old Babylon.

Well, if you can't see just how little affection Mein Blair has for democracy you may as well pick up your bags and take a trip to Disneyland where the tales are a little more wholesome and honest. From me to you Tony, why in the blue hell have you let your self be so overcome by the dark side of the force? When

was the last time you really smiled my friend? Do you not understand that you in your arrogance are not building a successful New World order? Your manipulation of human fear will not succeed! No power on earth, if it labours beneath the burden of fear, can possibly be strong enough to survive.

Indeed, it was a dark day my friends when The Bang saw the tanks back on British streets outside Heathrow airport midweek (But my dedication to Jack Daniel's on Wednesday did seem to counter balance there presence!). Did our ancestors not die faces down in the mud to avoid such a sight? What have we come to when we blindly feel safer with cannons on the streets? Why do we trust a regime known as New Labour (a regime nobody trusts on issues such as health and education) when it arms Her Majesty's forces (who never took an oath to serve you the people, only to do the bidding of the establishment) in the interests of 'security'? Well how long will it be before those bullets and taser guns and poison gasses are turned on you in the future?

Nonetheless, it fills my heart to see so many people actually thrusting their will out into the wind whether I support them or not. The marches were not dom-

inated by sweaty sweating students or half-twitted intellectuals handing out half twitted manifestos that nobody reads. There were thousands of housewives, mums, dads, grandparents all side by side, which gave their cause more credibility. It was a pleasure to see their vitality rekindled having been laid dormant since the 60's and 70's.

Meanwhile, in the backdrop of celebrity world, everybody's getting cash for their bums and everybody wants to know how Hollywood rudy-pooos are hung. I suppose that's because deep down, no matter what, humans have an interest in other humans, and with this fact in mind, we can will a better future.

I'm not advocating a politically correct family of nations where you have to hear all about 'respecting' other cultures and how we should all be nice to each other from those sitting in meeting rooms; I don't have time to heed such misguided pontificating. I'm talking about real life, not textbook dogma. We have to realise how dear we are to each other; we must realise how important real friendship in our communities is. Real friendship is even more potent than kinship; for the latter may exist without goodwill, whereas friendship can do no

such thing. You can see its unique power when you consider my point.

Life is such a funny old thing. The old order is falling whilst I'm growing up. I hope the universal treasure house of the memory will remember this past week's massive events accurately. In an ideal world I would and should have marched. I didn't because my marching days are still ahead of me and there are always more ways then one to reach your goal. Just as there is always some injustice left to fight and right now, I'm preparing for the title fight a few years down the line.

If anything, at least you should be bold enough to say you played a part no mater how small in human history and avoided monotony. But, for me right now, it's more important to tell you that I think your real self is not that palpable shape but the spirit inside. Looking up to the blue sky ahead is where you belong, that place is your home. Its flight there will be more rapid if in the time you spend in your body you range freely and by contemplating the world outside you, finally contrive to detach yourself from the body to the greatest possible degree. That's why those with out your fire fear you.

Until next time, BANG BANG!!!!

Tuuli's Gen Sec Diary

For it's been months since my last column, I'm not entirely sure how to best utilise this space. I feel kind of honoured to have my column back, yet I recognise that this may be a one off privilege.

After all, I was only given this space after a few readers harassed the Editor of this splendid paper last week, demanding the return of the Gen Sec Column. (I promise I had nothing to do with this!!)

As Lent term elections are fast approaching, my time seems to be running out. I've been the recipient of a host of email queries and visits from potential candidates weighting their arguments against and in favour of standing for my position. Hold on, I'm not done yet, being my initial reaction, I turn to look at my 8 months in office. And no, this is not an obituary, I'm writing this to shed some light into my position, particularly keeping in mind those who have considered standing, and those who perhaps haven't quite realised yet that they would be going for it. After all, I hadn't even thought of standing until after the nominations opened last year! The thing I've noticed with students who've expressed an interest in my position is that most of them have little idea as to what the Gen Sec really does. So here comes a brief account of what it's like..

Looking back at the past 8 months, I have mixed feelings as to how enjoyable everything has been. I can confidently assert that the positive aspects of being Gen Sec at LSE in particular are so strong that they encourage one to neglect the inhumane working hours and the occasionally very rude students who think you do nothing but hang around trying to look important. Indeed, up to 80 hours a week are required at times when things are at their busiest.

Most of the work involves sitting in

committees. The Gen Sec is a full member in roughly 40 committees that meet more or less regularly, and all the meetings require prior preparation in order to make attendance useful. In addition, there is a never-ending load of administrative work that counts for the less glamorous part of the deal.

Random emails appear in the Gen Sec inbox in thousands, and despite the common temptation to multi click delete I haven't allowed this urge to take over. The Gen Sec also deals with media and external organisations, and represents LSE students at events where ????. So why would I ever recommend this job to anyone? People expect a lot from the Gen Sec, but there are definitely fun parts to the position too! Even though long hours are required, most of the work is actually interesting. Every day is different and being a sabbatical means that you work very independently without anyone holding your hand and telling you what to do. It's like you're thrown into the deep end before you've learnt to swim, but once you manage to stay on top, it's fascinating how everything clicks together. There are also perks such as a constant flow of parties.

Invitations poor in (be it for a tea party at the Buckingham Palace or a random LSE staff Party in the Senior Common Room) in such numbers that attending all would be virtually impossible.



Another fun aspect of the job is that you get to travel. These trips are to enable you to attend dull meetings and training events, but there is usually time to spare for some sightseeing too. Especially being a non Brit, I've made the most of the opportunities at hand. In August I incorporated Edinburgh Film Festival into a Conference Trip to Scotland, and in April I will be going to France for the second time this year - for work naturally.

Still, I must say that the greatest

moments have been here in London. This has been an eventful year with a packed UGM on more than one occasion. Not many heads of Students' Unions would be able to look back to the time when they've been yelled at for not organising a video link for their oversubscribed weekly meeting held in a room with a capacity of 450 students.

My highlights of the first term would include the NUS National demo in December, dressing up as a reindeer for the Christmas UGM, and doing interviews with media about the anti war occupation here at LSE. This term, the release of the Government White Paper has kept student officers busy. We are currently living through some of the most exciting times in the history of the whole HE sector, and these issues will be ongoing for quite some time still. Finally, this Saturday's Stop the War March was one of the most wonderful things I've ever been involved in; I felt magnificent pride as the 1,000 strong crowd strolled out of Houghton Street.

To finish off, I'd like to say that I hope that I have inspired rather than discouraged potential Gen Secs to be. There is an amazing year to be had in this position. The long hours and hard work are easily balanced by the high level of responsibility, interesting and varied tasks and finally by all the people you work with. By the end of the year you will have made many close friends and built close working relationships with people like Tony Giddens (Sir Howard next year) and those who've lectured for you in the past. You will have gained an enormous amount of work experience and you will have developed superior skills in time management, argumentation and diplomacy to start with.

If you think you might enjoy anything that has been described above, seriously consider standing for election. You would definitely have an astonishing year ahead of you.

The Guantanamo Precedent

Tom Burn

FOLLOWING LAST month's visit of Rabinder Singh QC, the Centre for the Study of Human Rights has hosted another very interesting event looking at the effects of The War Against Terrorism on human rights.

The legal status of those held at Camp Delta in Guantanamo Bay has caused many people a great deal of concern. These men have been captured by American with



Detainees arrive at Camp X Ray in an early image that shocked the world.

allied forces in Afghanistan and accused of fighting for the Taliban or al'Qaeda.

The opening speaker, Gerry Simpson, an author in the field of International Law and a former Legal Adviser to the Australian Government, explained how the men in Camp Delta were in a state of legal limbo. He criticised the American government's refusal to grant the alleged fighters either Prisoner of War status, nor criminal status. The latter necessitates the presentation of a legal case and allows those detained regular access to lawyers.

Simpson continued by condemning Washington's designation of alleged Taliban fighters as 'illegal combatants', arguing that they were entitled to claim that they were fighting for the government of Afghanistan. However, he did show an understanding of the task faced by US policymakers, agreeing that the situation was different with al'Qaeda fighters.

He recognised that the Geneva Convention had not been drawn up with non-state military organisations in mind. Nevertheless he stressed that, as human beings, suspected al'Qaeda fighters did retain some rights, despite the severity of the accusations levelled against them. Washington's claim that it was entitled to hold the 'detainees' until it judged The

War Against Terrorism to be won was also questioned as this could take many years.

Andrew Coyle, the Director of the International Centre for Prison Studies emphasised these misgivings. He explained how he saw the severity of the conditions at Camp Delta as an extension of American penal culture. Pointing out that a quarter of the world's prison population can be found in US jails, he also drew attention to the proliferation of Super-Max conditions that are applied domestically to the prisoners who are considered most dangerous. Drawing on his many years of experience of prison systems around the world, he portrayed the US establishment as intent on presenting prisoners as The Other - dissimilar to, and less deserving of the rights of 'normal people'.

Finally, Louise Christian spoke of her experiences representing British citizens detained at Camp Delta. Adding to the earlier criticisms of the conditions in which the detainees were kept, she also drew attention to similar cases in the United Kingdom. Since the passing of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Bill in the aftermath of September 11th, the British authorities have also detained suspected terrorists without trial.



A cartoonist's take on the dangers of getting caught up in the Guantanamo issue...

The event was very well attended and certainly thought provoking. Perhaps an idea for a future event would be a debate between a Human Rights lawyer and a security expert. Human Rights are a very important aspect of The War Against Terrorism, but the effectiveness of factors like security must also be considered carefully. Decision-makers these days must find a balance between these two issues and it would be interesting to see a figure from the security world address some of the points raised by this panel.

Global Show Offers A World of Variety

Claudine Kouzel

“SENSATIONAL, ENERGETIC, amusing and colourful” are some of the words that immediately spring to mind in describing the LSE Global Show.

Despite some minor technical hitches at the start, (what show doesn't have them?) the two-hour showcase of LSE talent was an explosion of music, singing and dancing. The audience was whisked on an epic journey encompassing the sights, sounds and colours of an array of countries from Vietnam to Colombia, Cyprus to Nepal and Spain to India (with many countries in between). The mind boggles to think that so many acts could be jam-packed into a two-hour show.

As the audience streamed into a completely transformed Old Theatre, the atmosphere of nervous excitement indicated that it was going to be a great show. The audience were not disappointed, with a lively Lady Marmalade routine followed by an introduction from the suave and hilarious hosts of the show, Rob and Jawad.

From then on the audience was taken on a cultural journey around the world

without even having to move from their seats. The traditional dances and elegant costumes of Vietnam and Nepal, along with the lively Cypriot and exotic belly dancing of Egypt were set along side the Afro-Caribbean Society's bootilicious contemporary dance and the breathtaking moves of the LSE break-dancers, which defied gravity in a fusion of the traditional and the modern. The dazzling Bollywood action from India, lively meringue dance from Colombia and flamboyant swing dancers and energetic Greek 'Zorbas' ensured that there was never a dull moment. The show was not only graced with dances but also included an hilarious English comedy sketch, enchanting music from Pakistan, Spain and great blues from the USA. Definitely toe tapping stuff.

With all this music, dancing and singing, not forgetting to mention the beautiful models representing the countries, there really was something for everyone. If all this has given the impression that female students dominated the show you could not be more mistaken. The LSE boys did not let the side down and showed that they are a talented bunch, unafraid to moving their booties.



Fast moving action at the Global Show

The best indication of the impact of any show is audience participation, which was certainly to be found in abundance. The performers were supported by a lively group of spectators, the most vocal of whom were the Indian and Colombian supporters.

Overall, not only was the Global Show a great night of entertainment, confirming the immense talent of the diverse student body that makes up the LSE. However, it also made a more significant statement: the importance of cultural appreciation and inclusion, so paramount in a multi-national institution such as the LSE.

The organisers have to be congratulated for their immense achievement which was a great showcase of LSE talent from all over the world. It would not be surprising if some future singers, dancers and musicians emerge as a result.

In Brief

More Protesting Glory For LSE

- Another LSE student has succeeded in making life difficult for the Prime Minister. Hot on the heels of Iain "We will not be silenced!" Wilson, Jo Kibble staged a silent protest at the Labour Party Conference in Glasgow, Kibble, a 3rd year Government student, held up a sign saying "No Blood For Oil". Speaking to the Beaver afterwards, Kibble said "I felt the Iraq debate was being stifled at Conference and with a hundred thousand people outside it was time to bring this crucial issue into the main hall."

Weighting For Giddens

- Last Monday a group of LSE staff attempted to present a petition to LSE Director Tony Giddens as part of the ongoing dispute over London Weighting. The "11 Years Group" was comprised of staff members who, appropriately enough, had all given 11 years or more service to the School. The figure is significant because it is 11 years since lecturers and support staff received any increase in the payment they get for the extra cost of living in the capital. Unfortunately, Giddens was unavailable to receive the petition in person. The Beaver learns that another petition is being planned. Attention is likely to focus on whether or not the busy Director can find the time, or irreverent sources suggest the courtesy, to meet up with the next delegation of his staff who want to meet him.

Congestion Charging

- Yesterday saw the beginning of Congestion Charging. Mayor Livingstone's plan to clear the roads and fund improvements to public transport. The scheme has been heavily opposed by motorists and the Conservatives amongst others. While student drivers will doubtless be wincing, the early reaction from their bus and tube using peers appears to be positive. One LSE student told the Beaver "It's a great idea - there were loads of buses around this morning!"



"Fair Play" Coalition Founded

LSE Political Temperature Rises Further

Ibrahim Rasheed

A new organisation has been formed at LSE in direct opposition to the strong Stop the War Coalition (STWC).

The Fair Play coalition held their first meeting on Thursday the 6th of February. The new Coalition's stated aim is "to rebalance the Students' Union to become

an inclusive organisation that does not impose policy." They will seek to organize responses to motions they see as unreasonable.

One of their main concerns is that union democracy has been hijacked by the hard left. This phenomenon, they allege, has silenced the voice of the majority. Though the new grouping has no official position on the Stop the War coalition it is clear that its formation is in large part a reaction to the success of the peace movement on campus. Ever since the STWC successfully occupied the Old Theatre last term, following the passage of a motion authorizing its actions, there have been mutterings from some quarters that all was not well with the UGM or the SU.

A source close to the Fair Play Coalition told the Beaver that many in the group were "disgusted" by the way in which the STWC operated and that the "anti-democratic activism" of certain members of the hard left inspired the creation of what is seen by some

as a necessary counterweight to its activities.

What is most contentious about the proposals of the Coalition is their opposition to the union adopting policies on issues. For example, it would be opposed to the Student Union taking a direct position on the new higher education funding review which will lead to the introduction of top-up fees. Nick Spurrell, one of the principal initiators of the project, said "The issue of student fees is not one on which there is a consensus. It is therefore felt by many that it would be unrepresentative for the SU to take a stance on the issue."

Another idea mooted within the grouping is an extension of the use of referenda within the Union. Emails sent to the Fair Play list and obtained by the Beaver discuss the possibility of using all member ballots to decide LSESU's position rather than the traditional UGM approach used for most issues. It seems that the idea is designed to tap into what some might believe are the opinions of the "average student" rather than more politicised UGM goers.

Though the group appears to be well organized it is believed that they do not have strength in numbers. A union insider expressed his scepticism to the Beaver. "I am glad that they have finally got their



Or alternatively they could go for this one? act together, but they are bound to fail as they are sorry collection of disgruntled right wingers who can't come to terms with their own irrelevance." Indeed this belief was supported by the results of the by elections for the Constitution and Steering Committee where the Fair Play coalition slate, consisting of Nick Spurrell and Jonathan Hesson, were resoundly beaten.

It remains to be seen whether this new coalition will have any real say in union politics. With the weight of public expectation upon them it can only be hoped that, whatever their level of clout, they will continue to play fair.



A new logo for the new group to consider?

STA TRAVEL

STA Travel, London School of Economics
East Building, Houghton St, London WC2
Bookings & Enquiries: 020 7831 2989

www.statravel.co.uk

City Breaks

Return Flights & 2 Nights

	From
Paris	£85 €
Dublin	£96
Amsterdam	£97
Madrid	£130
Nice	£134
Berlin	£139
Prague	£140
Barcelona	£143
Rome	£179
New York	£248

FREE -
Rough Guide to City Breaks.
Call into any branch for your
free 20 page guide

Prices are based on London departures. Flights are valid for students and those under 26. Other destinations available. © - EUROSTAR

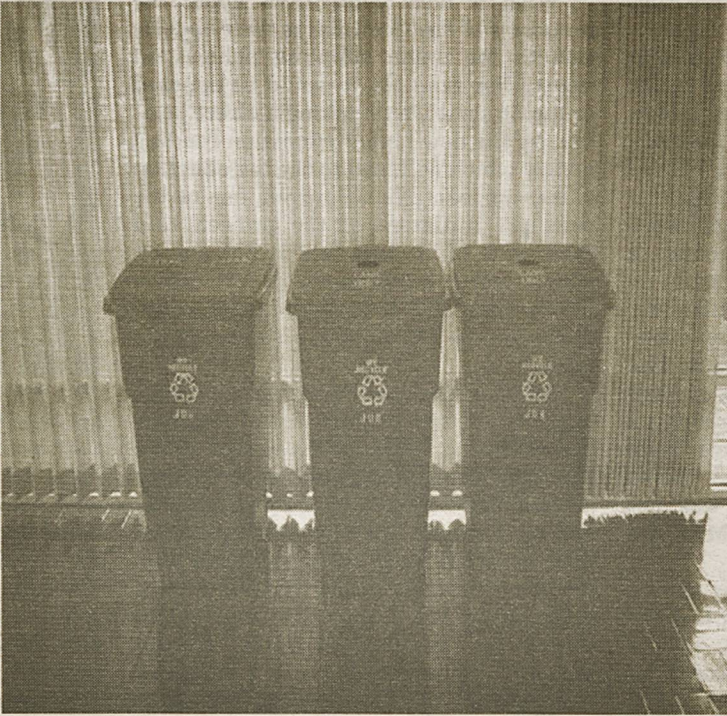
Sign up for Green Energy

Get involved in the Campaign

Ibrahim Rasheed

A campaign is under way to try and convert LSE to run on energy produced from renewable sources. The world's energy sources are scarce and being one of the leading educational institutions in the world we should not only embrace green energy but be at the forefront of promoting it. The department of Geography and Environment's website states that what it teaches has "a strong emphasis on application and on policy issues." Under the principle that charity begins at home, surely the university has a duty to adopt environmentally friendly policies with regard to its own management.

The campaign started last year when students started writing to the Director Anthony Giddens. A motion was then passed at the Union General Meeting with the aim of promoting awareness of green energy on campus and to try and get the message across to the powers that be. The People and Planet Society was properly formed and started to organize the campaign more



Coming to ruin the aesthetics of a campus near you. Did you hear that Tony?

effectively this year. A letter was drafted and sent by both SU General Secretary Tuuli Kousa and Environment and Services Officer Heather Blake to the

Director. Student response has been positive and a petition of over a thousand signatures was collected.

So far, the school's response has been one of apathy. An environmental concerns committee exists, however it has always been vague in its dealings and has not succeeded in producing effective policies. Further confusion lies as to who has the authority to make decisions in this area. The school buys energy through a consortium with the other colleges of the federal University of London. The LSE energy manager advised campaigners to write to the chair of the consortium. He replied saying it was the university's responsibility. It's a messy bureaucratic puddle.

Indications from the school are that they are looking into operating on 10% green energy.

However four universities, including Oxford, have switched to 100% green energy. If you would like to get more involved contact Heather at h.e.blake@lse.ac.uk. Alternatively write directly to a.giddens@lse.ac.uk.

HE Q&A from the man in the know: LSE's Nick Barr



Following the government's Higher Education White Paper, the Beaver decided to team up with Nick Barr, Professor of Economics at the LSE and higher education policy wonk par excellence, to answer some of your questions!



Isn't a debt of £20,000 going to scare off a lot of potential students?

If you put it that way, yes. But that is not the way to put it.

Key point 1: the government has been utterly woeful in publicising that loans now have income-contingent repayments (9% of earnings above £10,000; from 2005, 9% above £15,000). Thus loan repayments are like income tax in that (a) you pay nothing if your earnings are low and (b) any repayments are automatically related to the size of your pay packet. The only differences are that the tax (c) is paid only by people who have been to university and (d) does not go on for ever.

Thus - key point 2 - thinking of student debt like an overdraft is filing it in the wrong bit of your brain. Repayments are like a capped graduate tax, so the right place to file it is alongside payroll deductions like income tax and national insurance contributions.

Key point 3: £20,000 is not that large when compared with other expenditure.

It only seems large because people focus on the stock of debt, rather than the flow of repayments. The latter is the way we think about most things. We all moan about income tax deductions, but lose no sleep over the fact that, on plausible assumptions, someone graduating now will pay (in cash terms) about £825,000 in income tax and NI contributions over a 40-year career. Over the same time (national average from Family Expenditure Survey) you will spend £0.5 million on food. If a packet of cigarettes costs £4, work out what it will cost if you smoke 20 a day for 40 years (not the least of the reasons I quit). In present-value terms, you could pay off a £20,000 loan over 15 years through a graduate tax of 4p added to the basic rate of income tax.

Key point 4: taxpayer subsidies for tuition fees will continue (currently, teaching costs, averaged across all universities, are £4,500, of which the student pays at most £1,100). Reducing the fee subsidy frees resources for use in better-targeted ways to promote access. If the editors of Beaver don't fire me, I will return to the access issue next week.

If we didn't have to finance the coming war with Iraq could we abolish fees?

The Chancellor set aside £1 billion for war-related expenses and last Wednesday announced an additional £750 million. Planned public spending on education in 2003-4 is £25 billion, £6.9 billion if it on universities (DfES Annual Report 2002). The last figure includes nearly £900 million of student loans that the government estimates will never be repaid (largely the cost of the interest subsidy), but excludes £1.4 billion which will eventually be repaid. In short, next year's gross public outgoings on higher education will be about £8.3 billion. Suppose that the increased public spending in the White Paper increases this to £10 billion. Thus if (as we all hope) there is no war, the contingency of £1.75 billion would make it possible to postpone the higher fees from 2006 to 2008. If the money were mine, I would not spend it on the war nor on postponing the fee increase, but on really improving access.

The Beaver Team

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Ibrahim Rasheed

MANAGING EDITOR
Mike Burn

BUSINESS MANAGER
Nicholas Stoker

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Brian Choudhary

NEWS EDITORS
Michael Bourke, El Barham

B:LINK EDITORS
Ibrahim Rasheed; Ben Chapman

B:ART EDITOR
Justin Nolan

SPORTS EDITORS
Holly Featherstone; Gareth Carter

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Rowan Harvey

POLITICS EDITOR
Adam Quinn

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS EDITORS
Patrick Murdoch; Brian Kelly

B:LINK INVESTIGATIVE FEATURES
Chris Thomas

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
Ed Calow

FILM EDITORS
Eleanor Keech; Terance Li

MUSIC EDITORS
Mike Burn; Jazmin Burgess

CLUBBING EDITOR
Tom Miskin

LITERARY EDITOR
Dalia King

THEATRE EDITOR
Keith Postler

THE COLLECTIVE

Duncan 'where's my station?' Adams, Serif Alp Atakan, El Barham, Christina Beharry, Peter Bellini, Matthias Benzer, Vida Bromby-Tavener, Farzan Bilimoria, James 'Mullet' Baker, Michael Bourke, Leonard Brouwer, Hannah Bryce, Lorne Charles, Jon Clegg, Simon Cliff, Dave Cole, Ed Cook, Naomi Colvin, Peter Coupe, Dan Cumming, Nafeesa Ermes, Tristan Feunteun, Juli Gan, Ian Gascoigne, Sarah Greenberg, Rowan Harvey, Sib Hayer, Jez Healey, Lindsay Hoag, Dani Ismail, Katherine Jacob, Lyle Jackson, Tom Jenkins, Edward Jones, Paul Kirby, Tuuli Kousa, Candice MacDonald, Dan Madden, Vita Maynard, Loz Morgan, Gabrielle Menezes, Ruth Molyneux, Linda Morris, Shashwat Nanda, Robin Noble, Justin Nolan, Phillip Nielsen, Samantha Nicklin, Daniela Ott, Priya Parkash, Neel Patel, Nicholas Pauro, Sarah Peet, Alison Perine, Chelsea Phua, Kirstine Potts, Claire Pryde, Vanessa Raizberg, Jan Rattay, Zaf Rashid, Loretta Reehill, Piers Sanders, Donny Surtani, Susannah Sava, Andy Saxton, James Sharrock, Elliot Simmons, Matthew Stoate, Jamie Tehrani, Saija Vuola, Julius Walker, Laura Wheeler.

PRINTED BY WEST COUNTRY DESIGN & PRINT

Editorial Comment

Stop this Farce!

This week we see the LSE Accommodation crisis deepen as it is revealed that the Passfield privatisation project may fall through. The possible rents being quoted if the tendering process goes ahead are completely unreasonable. The charm of Passfield is that it is LSE's only budget accommodation, enabling students from poorer backgrounds to settle into life in the capital with greater ease and at a smaller financial burden. With figures as high as £150 (and this is for the best case scenario) being quoted, Passfield will be transformed into LSE's most expensive hall. The opposite effect of what is desired.

The issue is not just a split between opinions on whether halls should be managed by LSE or run by private companies for profit. The fundamental point is that there has been serious financial mismanagement and as a result 1) Passfield is still in a dilapidated state and 2) The Private Finance Initiative (PFI) may not go through and if this is the case, an entire year has been spent on a wasted effort to try and privatise the hall.

We have published a 'dossier' on the man at the centre of the controversy, Director of Residential Services David Tymms. The Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE) rules mean that universities cannot be in debt for more

than 14% of their turnover. Due to the Bankside and Holborn purchases a considerable portion of LSE's debt was taken up by the Residential Services. Tymms was hired to manage Residences more efficiently and ensure that it made money.

In the process Tymms was judged to be guilty of ignoring student welfare and succeeded in alienating a large body of students and staff. His managerial style is said to be abrasive, arbitrary and dictatorial. As if this wasn't enough he hasn't succeeded in improving efficiency. He was hired to increase efficiency and has only succeeded in losing money. The first debacle where the process had to be delayed for a year was because the rules weren't followed through properly and it fell on the wrong side of commercial law. Legal fees went down the tubes. The allegations of an out of court settlement with the cleaning company are an absolute disgrace and no one should have put the LSE in such an embarrassing position. Sources within the school tell us that Tymms was in a lot of hot water over this and it is a miracle that he is still employed by the university.

It is time someone took a hold of the situation, steered the Residences situation into the clear, and saved Passfield.

Marching Season

The march for peace on Saturday was a triumph for democracy. Over a million people voted with their feet to oppose Tony Blair's policy of war against Iraq. This clearly shows, contrary to what many may think, that those who oppose the war are a majority. The opinion polls had shown this to be the case and now the success of the demonstration should solidify this fact. The current Labour government was not elected on a mandate to support the United States's foreign policy, but to represent the voice of the British people.

The role that LSE stu-

dents fulfilled on the 15th of February was of great significance. As we said last week, this was an event that will come to shape our generation. Being at university is a fantastic experience and gives us an opportunity to learn and formulate our own unique perspective on the world. The case against war is a moral one. It is great that so many of you feel this way and turned out to make your voices heard.

It can only be hoped that this march will have forced Blair to rethink his war strategy and that he will realize the futility of war before it is too late.

War is Shit

This week Bart takes a look at the top ten shit wars of all time. It's a brilliant time to reflect upon a bit of history and to think of the consequences of the proposed attack on Iraq. The wars may sound ridiculous but remember; they are all true. Though to many of our generation the Falklands War seemed to happen an age ago, the effects still linger. Thatcherism went on way past its sell by date and managed to successfully rebrand itself as Blairism.

The first Gulf War was a just war. Iraq decided to invade Kuwait, a powerful international coalition was formed and peace was restored. But let us remember that between 16,000 and 250,000 (no one is too sure of the figures) innocent civilians died. There is no justification for the imminent war on Iraq and it will be more brutal than the first. Just try and imagine the Delta Force versions of Andy McNab and Chris Ryan. The consequences are too hideous to contemplate

Letters to the Editor

BLINDING EDITORIAL

Dear Sir,

I have found that it is the general practice of newspapers to print their editorials in the inside pages and to leave the front page for the reporting of facts. The Beaver seems to have discounted this practice with its front page 'It's Time to March For Peace' editorial. I find this to be a disturbing trend because it risks turning the Beaver into just another tabloid and cannot help but to misrepresent the views of at least some of the students at this college.

The Beaver is the London School of Economics newspaper and should represent the views of its students, not the views of the paper's editors. By being so blatantly biased the Beaver risks becoming nothing more than another tabloid and expression of whomever happens to be in command of its (unelected) editorial board. At least your average tabloid attempts to report news, even if it is biased and exaggerated toward their personal views. This is not the first time that I have noticed a pro-'Stop the War Coalition' and anti-Israel bias, and judging from the 'Point Scoring' article I am not alone, but this time it has gone a little too far.

And let's not forget that there are other views at this school. I am not sure when the vote happened but there seems to be some sort of already drawn conclusion that everyone at the LSE says "NO" to the war and believes in everything that the Stop the War Coalition, or now the Beaver, says. My political views aside, I just have to assume that there are at least a few people at this college who are not represented by this view. By you printing such an editorial on the front cover of the representative newspaper of this school you are unfairly misrepresenting the views of the student body. I find this inexcusable.

I respect people who want to 'stand up and be counted' as you call it. But maybe I don't want to stand up and be counted with you. Please try to have some respect for everyone else's views at this school and, if I may be so bold, for the traditions of unbiased news coverage.

Anthony Vinci

Dear Sir,

It's one thing to have an opinion - it's quite another to broadcast it on the front page of a so-called newspaper. Your front page editorial

comment on 11th February totally expunged any semblance of journalistic integrity the Beaver might ever have possessed. Any person with even limited experience in journalism should know that editorialising on the front page of a newspaper is a clear violation of journalistic ethics. And while you might very well feel that this "will be an event that will shape our generation," that gives you no authority to plaster your opinions onto the front page. Why not feature a major news article covering student and faculty preparations for the march, as well as coverage of groups on the other side of the ideological spectrum? You might want to remember the Beaver is, in fact, the student newspaper and not a partisan political pamphlet like the Socialist Worker. Editorial comments certainly have their place in a newspaper - it's just not on the front page.

Shaun Mathew

BLOODY HACKS

Dear Sir,

I wish to make a public show of dissatisfaction with the current state of the student union, and LSE at large, and feel that the only way of adequately displaying my irritation is with the an act of self immolation, on Friday, outside Crush. No longer can I tolerate the devious intricacies of union politics, or the despair I feel whenever I see the career suicide of a fellow student who naively believes that supporting 'a cause' will further their opportunities in life- No! I say. For it is true that becoming a 'player' in the murky world of union politics may gain you infamy for a short, sweet while, but I beg of you all; remember what university is truly about. Your parents didn't lay off the maid just for you to waltz around bearing 'stop the war' stickers and clutching placards, or holding 'beliefs!' Beliefs won't get you that interview at PWC, nor will actions such as these so-called 'demonstrations'. Demonstrations of what, I ask? Mob rule and left wing diatribe is all I can see being demonstrated to the rest of London-inclusive of future employers or investors! How I hang my head when I see the good name of this institution tarnished by its association with subversive elements of our society. If the union will do nothing to change this ever spreading shadow, I can only hope that the right thinking of our current government will in the future bar this glum lot of 'lefties' and ne'er-do-wells from wasting their, and everyone else's time, and I welcome the recent measures to do just that.

Bravo, Mr Blair. We knew you'd come around.

I feel I have digressed, but perhaps necessarily so, for it is not for my own good I sacrifice my degree, and indeed my life, but for the good of those I see around me. I only pray that after my violent and bloody passing, they will realise the error of their ways, normal service will soon be resumed, and this misadventure into the underbelly of politics, which has befallen LSE, will be forgotten. Please, Mr Meadway, Mr Srouji and dear little Mr Wilgress, and those who perhaps look up to these characters (metaphorically, of course); Cease what you are doing- it may be too late for you, but for those who may be tempted into your sordid world of anarchy and socialism, there is still a chance to make something of their life.

Again, it is not for me that I act, but for the benefit of the future of the economic world at large.

Yours, in the hope for a better world,

T.L. Winchester, 19½

Dear Sir,

Sour grapes is a regrettable attitude. When compounded with blatant untruths it negates any validity in the argument. Omar Srouji alleges that UJS sent three coaches of students to hijack the anti-Israel motion in Warwick. This is factually impossible since the motion was debated by their small Union Council, and subsequently rejected, and not by their Union General Meeting. Given his article is entitled 'Misconceptions, Lies and Denial', this does seem to be an apt description of his own work.

Daniel Freedman

BLOODY COLUMNISTS

Dear Sir,

I am writing to complain about Mr. T "Opinionated Snob". He is not only opinionated, but obnoxious. His prose ooze with self-righteous tosh. He should be barred, censored, and eliminated. "Dumb and Dumber" was one of the greatest films of all time. How can it be described as a film to avoid? I find it an insult that his eyeballs are displayed on the same page as those of the lovely Eleanor Keech. Please rectify this.

Johnny Jacobs

**Collective Meeting and Election
Bonanza
Everyone Welcome!
12 pm in the Underground Bar on
Thursday 20th February**

email: thebeaver@lse.ac.uk with your comments on the paper

A Picture Says a 1000 words.



edited by:
b.choudhary
i.m.rasheed

h:Link



features

Waffling on War
The Future of
Cyprus
A Voice of the
Future
Common Cores
Peace In Perspective
A Glorious Day and a
Glorious March

WHY ARE WE STILL WAFFLING ON WAR?

ALYKHAN VELSHI ARGUES THAT THE WEST SHOULD STOP PROCASTINATING AND GO TO WAR TO RID THE WORLD OF A BRUTAL DICTATOR

I would have thought that after Colin Powell's presentation at the UN, Europe would finally come to its senses and realize the necessity of going to war against Iraq. I was wrong: Euro-scepticism continues unabated.

Continental Europe's unwillingness to participate in the war has not dissuaded the US, the UK or their allies from trying to form a broad-based coalition of support. They are still trying to go the route of the UN, and receive Security Council authorization. Why the US needs the approval of China and Syria to take out Saddam still perplexes me; but such is the folly of the UN, which recently selected Libya to head a commission on human rights, and Iraq one on disarmament.

Colin Powell ably presented the case for Iraq's non-compliance with weapons inspectors at the UN General Assembly recently (so I won't repeat his arguments), but there are a few more reasons that signal the need to go to war against Iraq, which I will discuss.

The Stop the War Coalition is ever keen to point out that a war against Iraq will spell the death of many thousands of Iraqi civilians who would perish in the crossfire. I don't doubt it. Such is the nature of war; and, if Saddam decides to fight in the streets of Baghdad (as he has suggested) then casualties will likely increase. But, let's look at this numerical figure in context.

Iraq claims that more than 50 000 people die as a direct result of UN-imposed sanctions against Iraq each year. More conservative estimates put the figure at 20 000, but let's give Saddam, as the Stop the War Coalition implores, the benefit of the doubt. Once a war against Iraq is over, and a pluralist and representative government is put in place, sanctions will end. George

Bush has said that the US will be the first to call for an end to sanctions once Saddam is toppled. That is 50 000 less people dying each year.

Another argument the Stop the War Coalition often uses is that "it's all about oil!" Indeed Iraq is sitting on a massive deposit of oil. Yet oil companies are not leading calls for war (most prefer the status-quo). They realise that instability in the Middle East causes oil markets to go berserk. One need only listen to US Chairman of the Federal Reserve Alan Greenspan's comments that uncertainty over the future of Iraq is hurting the US economy. If it were all about oil, the US would befriend Saddam (as they have the Saudis) in exchange for a steady supply of oil.

Let us also not forget that the Stop the War Coalition's poster-boy, Mr. Hussein, is a brutal dictator. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have repeatedly criticized Saddam's use of torture and fear on dissidents: torture which extends to the burning off of digits, submersion into acid, and electrocution of genitals. This will all stop when Saddam is overthrown.

The Stop the War Coalition will tell you that if Saddam is overthrown, he will be replaced by another dictator friendly to US-interests. I am not a psychic so I cannot comment on what the US will do. Suffice it to note that when the Taliban was deposed in Afghanistan, the US created a multifactional govern-

ment, representing all Afghanis. Why they would not do the same again in Iraq is incomprehensible; especially considering that the fight against terrorism involves ensuring that people feel enfranchised in their respective governments (not alienated as would be the case in a dictatorship).

A member of the Stop the War Coalition, who last week made a speech during one of my lectures (the lecturer was too surprised at the interruption to tell him to sit down), said that money used to fight Iraq is money not going to prevent firefighter strikes. As I see it, choices have to be made. Delaying a pay increase for firefighters is less important, by my estimation, than preventing the death of 50 000 Iraqi people each year, the torture of many more, and the credible threat to global security that Saddam poses. Also consider that it is not going to cost that much to wage war against Iraq: the planes have already been built, the pilots trained, the soldiers are already stationed in the Middle East, and the armaments are in a stockpile. Little infusion of money is required to prepare Britain for war. And whatever Britain cannot handle, I am sure the US will pick up. Regardless, it is perverted to use questions of cost to argue against improving the lives of millions of Iraqis.

One of Bush's favourite arguments is that there is a link between al-Qaeda and Saddam. I admit the link is tenuous. Al-Qaeda's Islamic fundamentalism is ideologically hostile to Saddam Hussein's Baathist socialism: by the way, did I mention that many Stop the



War Coalition members who oppose the war against Saddam also belong the Socialist Worker Student Society. However, the recently released tape where Osama bin Laden argues for the "socialists" of Iraq to unite with al-Qaeda against a common enemy (the West) shows that the two groups are not as opposed to one another as one might suspect.

Moreover, the link between Iraq and terrorism in general is clear. Saddam terrorises his own people for starters; but that argument does not hold sway with most Stop the War Coalition members. Moreover, Saddam has pledged to give money to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers (this, unlike the spurious links between Saddam and al-Qaeda, is very well documented). If you accept that suicide bombers are terrorists, then Saddam finances and rewards terrorism.

Let's briefly go through a checklist of why we must go to war with Iraq. 1) Saddam has been deceiving UN weapons inspectors and undermining a UN resolution 2) Saddam is responsible for the torture and death of thousands of Iraqi citizens 3) Saddam finances terror while starving his people who die under sanctions. Why are we still waffling on war? Ask Saddam's apologists in the Stop the War Coalition because I have no clue.

Alykhan Velshi is a 1st year LL.B Law with French Law student.

beaver

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS: A NEW PLAN, A NEW HOPE

BY GREGORY IOANNOU, ELENA GEORGIU, AND BEYZADE BEYZADE

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

While Cyprus was still under British colonial rule, it became the apple of discord between Greece and Turkey, the two "motherlands". Greek expansionism and Greek Cypriot nationalism, ignoring the presence of a significant Turkish Cypriot minority, which amounted to one fifth of the population, articulated its demand for 'enosis', that is, union with Greece. EOKA, a paramilitary organisation, was created in 1955 under the political leadership of Makarios, the head of the Greek Orthodox Church and the military leadership of Grivas, an ultra-conservative and ultra-nationalist ex-Colonel of the Greek army. In 1956, the British authorities sent Makarios into exile, following the failure of negotiations on self-government; in effect leaving Grivas as the sole authority in the Greek Cypriot community, thereby ensuring the total alienation of the Turkish Cypriots who felt threatened by EOKA. The latter's intransigent demand for immediate 'enosis' laid the ground for Turkish expansionism; Turkish Cypriot nationalism was expressed in the demand for immediate partition, 'taksim', and the creation of TMT, which, by 1958 had managed to assert itself as the only authority in the community. The British authorities pursued a consistent policy of divide-and-rule and played an active role in the first bi-communal clashes of 1958, which separated the two communities with lines of blood.

The formula of guaranteed independence was eventually agreed upon in 1959 by Greece, Turkey and Britain, with the latter retaining two sovereign military bases along with the right to use all sorts of installations in Cyprus, which was to be maintained as the key spy base of the West in the Cold War. With the aforementioned organisations' men and ideologies remaining dominant in each community, there was little hope for the bi-communal state created in 1960. Yielding to the ethnically maximalist viewpoint, the governing elites in both communities reinforced popular suspicions and animosities. The two opposing nationalist doctrines essentially reinforced each other, as both worked against the voices of moderation and peaceful co-existence. Whilst Greek Cypriot nationalism insisted on the subordination of the Turkish Cypriot community as the first step towards 'enosis', Turkish Cypriot nationalism looked to separation as the way to 'taksim'. The 1963-64 conflict resulted in the constitutional provisions for political and legal separation being reinforced by territorial separation,

through the enclosure of the Turkish Cypriots into ghettos, while the line of blood between the two communities became deeper. Greece, realising the impossibility of 'enosis' given the geopolitical circumstances, was prepared to reach a compromise with Turkey along the lines of double enosis or partition. President Makarios' refusal to accept anything along those lines necessitated his overthrow and the CIA-controlled military junta in Greece proceeded to achieve this. Turkey thus invaded Cyprus on 20th July 1974, five days after the junta-led coup d'etat and with its second invasion a month later, it achieved the de facto partition of Cyprus into Turkish-Cypriot North and Greek-Cypriot South.

STATUS QUO:

Since 1974, the conflict has essentially become ossified, with the southern part remaining the legal state and experiencing significant economic development through the tourist influx and the northern part experiencing severe economic malaise as a result of the embargo imposed on it due to its illegal status. The Turkish army exerts a huge influence on politics in the North, where Turkish Cypriots now constitute a minority following the influx of Turkish settlers.

Nationalism remains a strong force on both sides of the dividing line, reinforced through state propaganda, which foments animosity. History is constructed according to national interest and the general nationalist indoctrination that seeps through the educational system thwarts a critical engagement with reality in preference for the partisan "truth". The threat of war is always on the horizon - there is no peace in Cyprus, just an armistice - with young males of both communities spending two years of their lives facing each other gun-in-hand on either side of the border. In these circumstances, ignorance of 'the others' reinforces the fear and mistrust inculcated by the nationalist discourse. Social issues are absorbed by the all-encompassing national-nationalist basis, which dominates the political scene in both north and south. The huge military budgets, the compulsory military service become taboo issues whose questioning constitutes an unacceptable breach of the efficiently constructed ideology of national unity.

Nevertheless, in the last analysis, both nationalisms have been defeated in Cyprus. 'Enosis' and 'taksim' are now anachronisms. The de facto partition has failed to become de jure

and those supporting the reunification of the island now constitute the majority on both sides. Politicians now call for moderation. It is up to the people of Cyprus to grab the opportunity to build bridges of communication and common action, pre-empting a potential resurgence of chauvinism.

A PLAN IS ON THE TABLE:

In November 2002 UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, presented a plan to reunify the island before the Greek side, which constitutes the internationally recognized Republic of Cyprus, joins the European Union. The plan proposes a federal solution, with two component states of equal status along consociationalist lines; each side will grant component-state citizenship, as well as Cypriot citizenship. It also includes a suggested map for territorial adjustment and property compensation, which has sparked up a wave of controversy on both sides, as these provisions are considered insufficient and biased in favour of 'the others'. Despite the plan's request for complete disarmament on both sides, it recognizes the Treaty of Alliance, thus allowing Greece and Turkey to keep a reduced number of troops on the island, in addition to the guarantor powers' committee which is to monitor the agreement along with a UN peacekeeping operation. 28 February 2003 is the deadline set by the UN for reaching a settlement. If an agreement is reached, a referendum will be held on each side to ratify the plan and consent to EU accession. The matter is, therefore, urgent.

Ever since the plan was laid on the table there have been massive protests in favour of reunification in the North. There have also been calls for the leader of that community to resign, as he is not deemed to be representing their interests, especially since he does not seem willing to sign such a solution. In the South, on the other hand, the sense of urgency and solidarity has been lost in the past few weeks, as party politics have once again taken over, owing to the ongoing presidential elections. There is now left a narrow window of opportunity for us to reach a solution on the Cyprus Problem: this is what two young voices from each community have to say about the future of their country...

Beyz' comments:

The Annan Plan helps create some further optimism for the future of Cyprus as it shows that efforts are being made to support the bi-communal character of the beautiful island. I would

particularly applaud the plan because it provides for the rather logical incorporation of both communities into the EU, allowing vast potential economic benefits, whilst providing a sense of unity. Protection for the human rights of all citizens will prevent the disintegration of the Turkish Cypriot community into an insignificant minority. This will be reinforced by the birth of a new state to be recognised in the international community. Moreover, a solution to the Cyprus problem will promote friendly neighbourly relations between Greece and Turkey, to be further aided by the eventual accession of Turkey into the EU, as Turkish nationals benefit from the virtues of free movement of persons too, allowing for peace and stability in the region. Unfortunately, the ambitious measures on property rights and compensation, which includes evictions and exchanges of people's homes, are unlikely to resolve such a complex situation. Even if the plan is not accepted, the efforts towards a settlement should continue.

Elena's comments:

I believe the Annan Plan is very promising for Cypriots, in spite of its drawbacks. Any solution will hopefully put an end to the mistrust and animosity that divides the two communities. For this to happen, the educational system must be completely overhauled with an emphasis on unity and cooperation, rather than blame and hatred. After all, for the solution to work there needs to be an awful lot of good faith, given that for any decisions to be made under the proposed constitution both communities must give their consent. Of course, this will all be facilitated by the fact that the shadow of an army guarding your rights against 'the others' will have disappeared and neither side will have the right to arms. Thus, the constitution is what we will have to work with. It is unfortunate that the plan does not make any provisions for slowly dismantling the rigid bi-communal structure after the population has become homogeneous enough for such distinctions to be unnecessary. However, perhaps it is too early to be thinking about that; the process of reunification has already begun in the hearts of all Cypriots - one can only hope for the best!

Gregory Ioannou - 3rd year in International History

Elena Georgiou - 2nd year in Government and Economics

Beyzade Beyzade - 2nd year in Law

A VOICE OF THE FUTURE

CHRIS THOMAS SPEAKS TO SAIF AL ISLAM AL QADDAFI

Saif Al Islam Al Qaddafi's training and background distinguish him from most LSE students. When he was fourteen years old, American bombs putatively targeting his father, Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, obliterated the Qaddafi family home. His adopted baby sister was killed and the rest of his family barely survived. Many of us living through such an incident at that age might harbor rage against the foreign power that attacked our family. Al Islam, in contrast, has spent much of his professional career burnishing his nation's international reputation in what many foreign policy analysts have described as part of a long-term effort to thaw Libya's relations with its former enemies. He is currently pursuing an MSc in Philosophy, Policy, and Social Value at the LSE before embarking upon a PhD in our Government department.

Al Islam is an unusual student in other ways, as well. Most LSE students scurry off the moment the clock signals the end of class, whether or not the lecture is actually over. Al Islam is one of the very few who can be relied upon to bound up to the professor afterwards with a slew of questions needing answers. One professor told a typical story about Al Islam asking him a question and the professor recommending a chapter in an unassigned text. The next day Al Islam arrived at the professor's office hours having read not only the recommended chapter but the entire book.

At the age of 30, Al Islam already has a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering and an MBA. In between his academic training, Al Islam made a name for himself first as a businessman and then as President of the Qaddafi International Charitable Foundation. As he described his sundry duties to Time last year, "I'm head of the Foundation, I have a fishing company, and I take care of my family because my father, who is busy all the time, appointed me his deputy."

In his capacity as President of this large and well-funded humanitarian agency, Al Islam has spearheaded relief projects in some of the most troubled regions of the globe. He captured international attention in his own right when in August 2000 he brokered the release of Western hostages being held by the Filipino Muslim rebel group Abu Sayyaf. He and the Qaddafi Foundation have since played major roles in other hostage negotiations and in other international humanitarian crises such as the repatriation of Afghan refugees. Their exemplary efforts also involve less headline-grabbing work such as the building of mosques and schools.

In addition to his official work with the Qaddafi Foundation, Al Islam has emerged as one of Libya's most media-savvy ambassadors (though he always emphasizes that he has absolutely no official political role in Libya and speaks only on his own behalf as a pri-

vate individual). Libya has come under scrutiny due to the recent controversial appointment of a Libyan woman as chair of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, and Al Islam has been one of his country's most outspoken defenders in response to the barrage of U.S.-lead criticism of its suitability for this crucial role.

Muammar Qaddafi was himself the target of an Al Qaeda assassination attempt after refusing to let Bin Laden's organization settle in Libya in the mid-1990's. Since that time the Libyan government has called for Western intelligence investigation of Bin Laden's network. In accordance with this longstanding position, Libya was one of the first Arab countries to decry the events of September 11th, and it has lent considerable intelligence support to the international war on terrorism. Yet in a recent interview with the Guardian newspaper, Al Islam made high profile critiques about the serious problem of the U.S. not acting reciprocally in its intelligence-sharing. On these and other crucial issues he remains one of Libya's most notable, though unofficial, spokesmen. Though only a private individual and a student like the rest of us (perhaps a much more serious student than most of the rest of us), Al Islam offers a unique and noteworthy perspective on current events.

Beaver: Have you seen any specific signs that the recent, controversial appointment to the UN Human Rights Commission has helped the cause of human rights reform within Libya?

Al Islam: First of all, if you put a country from the third world in this position, you are giving a moral obligation to that country. You cannot be head of this commission and violate human rights.

Secondly, everything is relative in this life, especially in regard to human rights. You cannot say Libya violates human rights and America does not, because both violate those rights. There is no pure country on earth with respect to human rights, except for a very few countries with very good human rights records, such as in Scandinavia.

Beaver: I was thinking in particular of the Qaddafi Foundation's recently announced worldwide campaign to fight torture in the Middle East.

Al Islam: Actually, we planned that many months ago with other international NGO's and with some regional governments. It will

start in Libya and move to other countries. But no, there is no correlation between the commission and our campaign. They are happening at the same time by accident.

Beaver: At a recent seminar in Rome, you expressed frustration about intelligence sharing with the US in the war against terrorism, saying that America wants help but is reluctant to give it. Can you comment on the policy implications of this statement?

Al Islam: At the beginning we admitted that Both Libya and the US have a mutual enemy. We agreed to cooperate for our mutual benefit to fight a mutual enemy, but we found later that we were only pursuing the American agenda and following their list [of terror suspects]. It should be a process of mutual cooperation, or else we are not cooperating, we are just U.S. agents. That is why we are not happy, but we are hoping America will take the hint and reciprocate.

Beaver: Regarding the imminent war in Iraq, you recently said in an interview that "you will see many volunteers from Libya, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia . . . All people who feel humiliated by the present international system will defend Iraq." Can you elaborate?

Al Islam: Regarding this, even the Americans are looking for volunteers. At the same time our people have the right to gather themselves and fight for their brothers in Iraq. The Americans are gathering their people, are bringing allies with them: Poland, Spain, the U.K., Italy, etc. At the same time, the people of Iraq have the right to ask their brothers to come to defend their country together. People all over the world are very angry and upset.

Beaver: Have you been active in helping to move toward a peaceful resolution?

Al Islam: The only thing we can do is to help Iraq. This is a problem that no one else can solve because it is in the hands of the American administration. The only thing we can do is to help our brothers.

Beaver: In an interview with Time, you said that "if America really wants to fight terrorism it should exert all efforts to rebuke its allies who harbour terrorists. On top of this list comes Britain, which protects and gives shelter to fundamentalist groups that direct their activities from its territories." In light of this statement, can you comment on the recent raid on the Finsbury Park Mosque?



©1992 MAGELLAN Geographix™ Santa Barbara CA (800) 929-4627

COMMON CORES

Al Islam: First of all, I was very moved personally by that attack because it was a very brutal, stupid, [...] and unacceptable action. Really I was very upset and sad. But it shows there are lots of terrorists here in the UK and it's a good example for the British government to show them, look, you are harbouring people, hunted and dangerous people. That is why we were right when we said the U.K. is a safe haven for those people. And there are more and more and more in the U.K. We know about this, we have a list [of these suspected terrorists]. That is why we urged the U.K. to take care of this, because those people are a mutual enemy of all of us.

Beaver: Have you shared that list with U.K. officials?

Al Islam: Yes, we have. But at the same time we have to consider that the U.K. has its own laws . . . That is why it is not easy even after we sent them the list. But [ultimately] it's not our business.

Beaver: In that same interview, you expressed hope that there will be democratic elections in Libya in the near future. Under Libya's unique system of Jamahiriya there have already been democratic elections at local and national levels for a long time. Can you explain how you foresee this system evolving in the future?

Al Islam: We are just upgrading our system. We are not deviating from it, just upgrading and enhancing it. It's a kind of evolution. A long time ago we adopted the ideology of self-government, the power of the masses. The third theory, the green book.

Beaver: I don't know too much about the third theory. Can you explain what it involves?

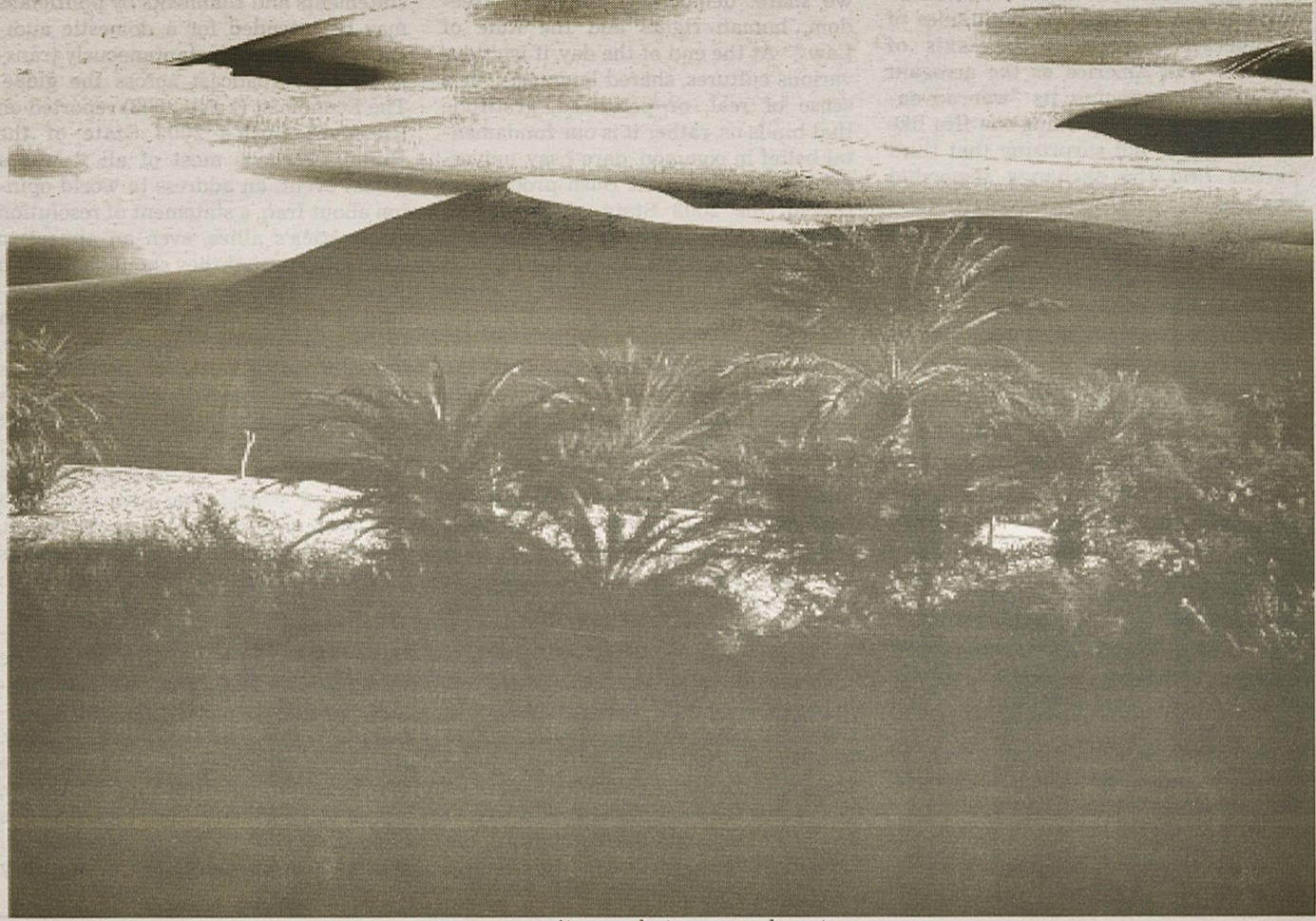
Al Islam: It's something between capitalism and communism. And we invented this twenty years ago, before Anthony Giddens. [laughs]

Beaver: Your PhD will be in the government department. Are you taking any comparative politics classes?

Al Islam: I took already a course about legitimation and government, and now I'm taking a course in development studies about global civil society.

Beaver: Have your studies changed or enriched your understanding of the Jamahiriya system?

Al Islam: Of course, that's why



I'm happy with them.

Beaver: You recently said that the atmosphere is now favourable for taking positive steps in relations between Libya and the U.S. Are you still hopeful about the prospects of normalization of relations between the two nations?

Al Islam: Yes, I think so, because negotiation is still going on. As soon as we settle the remaining issues of Lockerbie, by the end of the year maybe we can achieve something.

Beaver: The monetary settlement for Lockerbie is on the table now, right? [n.b.: before it will even begin to normalize relations with Libya, the U.S. administration demands that Libya compensate victims of the Lockerbie bombing as well as admit official culpability for this terrorist action, which Libya has always denied had any official governmental imprimatur]

Al Islam: Yes.

Beaver: You have repeatedly denied rumours that you are being prepared for succession of Libyan leadership. Yet over the past few years you have taken a very public role in international politics. Are you interested in a career in politics in

any capacity, or what are your long term plans for the future?

Al Islam: No, this is totally wrong. Talk of succession is completely wrong, because we are not a hereditary regime. We want to evolve our system and to develop it and to enhance it and update it, and to move forward, not to go backward. To talk of succession is to move backward, which is against our trend.

Beaver: But are you interested in any kind of politically related work, for instance international humanitarian work?

Al Islam: Yes, I can do this work through civil society or through the press as an individual, but not as the "crown prince."

Beaver: Why did you choose to study at LSE?

Al Islam: I wanted to study in English and that means the US, the UK, Australia, or Canada. The States are not quite convenient right now for me because of political considerations. I have also had some bad experiences with Canada, and Australia is just too far away. That means the only option left was the UK. I scanned the options in the UK, and the best option seemed to be LSE. So far I have been pleased with it.

Beaver: How does your study of

Philosophy fit into your long-term plans?

Al Islam: Philosophy is very important because the most strategic problems for countries involve how to choose public policy. You have to compare free market capitalism to socialism to the third way, for example. It is good for me to have a better understanding of those issues, and I like to write and research on these topics.

Beaver: You recently showed your paintings in London in the travelling exhibition "The Desert is Not Silent." With all your other activities, do you still have time to paint? Any upcoming exhibitions?

Al Islam: Unfortunately, no. Maybe in three years, after the PhD. [laughs]

Chris Thomas is B:link Investigative Features Editor. He is pursuing an MSc in Philosophy

COMMON CORES

MATTHEW ASADA EXAMINES THE
SIMILARITIES BETWEEN EUROPE AND
AMERICA

If one were to use recent transatlantic rhetoric as a proxy for relations between the United States and Europe, one would receive a very disturbing picture. Provocative characterizations can be heard on both sides of the ocean: Europe as the "axis of weasels" and America as the arrogant hyperpower pursuing its "war adventure." With words feeding the fire like kindling, it is not surprising that third parties find the exchange somewhat kindisch.

During the Cold War, America and Europe had its share of differences, but they were able to unite against a common threat: the Soviet Union. Today, our societies are threatened by evil men, empowered by awesome technology, who would like nothing less than to destroy our civilization. It is imperative that we work together to address this challenge.

While I do not wish to understate the differences that do exist between Americans and Europeans - especially as they relate to their view on the legitimate uses of power - I think it would be foolish not to simultaneously admit the existence of certain non-trivial similarities: shared fundamental values, concern for both process and outcome, simultaneous broadcasting to domestic and international audiences, and a joint-stake in collective security.

First, the "Declaration of Eight"

submitted by eight European Heads of Government begins with a powerful affirmation: "The real bond between the United States and Europe is the values we share: democracy, individual freedom, human rights and the Rule of Law." At the end of the day, it isn't our various cultures, shared languages, or a sense of real, or perceived, gratitude that binds us, rather it is our fundamental belief in common, dare I say, universal values. President Bush proclaimed this in his 2003 State of the Union Address, "Americans are a free people, who know that freedom is the right of every person and the future of every nation."

Second, the Americans and the Europeans, despite the rhetoric, are concerned with both process and outcome. The American right-wing may like to believe that they are pure consequentialists; however, to them the process does ultimately matter. To illustrate: it wasn't Schröder's stance on Iraq that angered the conservatives, though this is in its own way understandable. No, it was rather the delivery of the message, in particular the lack of consultation with its allies that was found to be so infuriating. As we see in the current Iraq debate, both a majority of Americans and Europeans approve of physically disarming Saddam - the end goal - but the Europeans would like to see it go through the conduit of the United Nations. Process matters and we

should keep this in mind as we design foreign policy.

Third, official government statements and comments by politicians may be intended for a domestic audience but they are instantaneously translated and broadcast across the globe. The Economist (1 Feb 2003) reported on President Bush's 2003 State of the Union: "Perhaps most of all it was a global event: an address to world opinion about Iraq, a statement of resolution to America's allies, even an appeal to Iraqi citizens that they should believe in America's good intentions." This presents us with a simple 'problem': when politicians provide consolation at home, it might quite easily be perceived as provocation abroad. To which God does President Bush refer when he speaks of "liberty" as "God's gift to humanity"? Politicians need to habitualize the process of considering how a foreign audience will receive their messages, before statements such as an "old versus new Europe" or Bush-Hitler comparison are uttered.

Finally, it is of utmost importance that the United States and Europe recognize that they both have a commitment to collective security and maintaining the international order. America's overwhelming military force may be useful in destroying one's enemy, but as Mary Kaldor illustrates, it is less effective in methods of compulsion. While Europe may be a military

'pygmy', it does contribute substantially to international organizations and development projects that buttress the foundation of collective security. The United States needs cooperation from its allies in collecting intelligence; monitoring financial transactions; combating international crime; and defeating international terrorism. These 'collective' action problems must be addressed collectively.

Some say that the problems between Americans and Europeans result from a simple clash of egos, as neither side wants to appear weak. And while there are those that derive a limited sense of satisfaction in seeing the German-French power play squashed, it is unproductive, in fact, dangerous to further inflame this situation. In the end, it is our common livelihoods, values and institutions that are at stake. To win this war, we have to empower people to work within their political systems for economic, political and social development. We have to cultivate a sense of ownership among these people in their local, national, regional and intergovernmental associations. We have to provide them with faith in our system of government. The attraction power of a united Europe and America jointly advocating this strategy is a difficult force to resist, and, more importantly, a powerful voice for freedom.

PEACE IN PERSPECTIVE

BY ILAN ZVI BARON

As anyone who has been reading "the Beaver" and other papers will have noticed, there seem to be only two ways to speak about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The world has become Manichean, and the narratives spoken by or on behalf of Israelis and Palestinians are all subsumed into an either/or rhetoric of anger, fear, and distrust. This dualism where everything can be explained as either black or white, good or evil, for-us or against-us, is not only obfuscating constructive narratives presented, but also hinders our ability to engage important political, social, religious, and historical issues on a productive level. This dualism is not new, and it is an incredible hurdle to deal with.

For some reason too many people think that one can only speak on behalf of Israel, or against Israel on behalf of the Palestinians. Rubbish. To believe this is to ignore greater contexts and succumb to the ridiculous manner that the news portrays the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. One can be a Zionist and believe in the rights of the Palestinians. One can be a Zionist and think that the Israeli government does horrible things. One can be a Zionist and have a social conscience; and one

can be a Zionist and not be a racist.

There are groups in Israel and elsewhere that believe in the right of the Jewish State to exist, and at the same time argue that Israel needs to withdraw from the Occupied Territories. Israel is doing nasty and horrible things there, and in the process of occupying a people we are committing human rights abuses and are destroying the souls of Israelis as well as Palestinians.

However, too many refuse to listen to this voice. Too many people think that the idea of a Jewish State is racist, and that Israel has no right to be where it is. Moreover, too many people argue that the conflict is all Israel's fault. Two peoples have nurtured the conflict. The Israelis have contributed and so have the Palestinians. I suggest

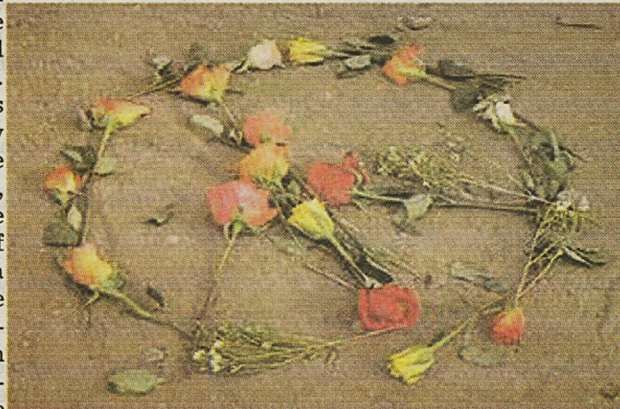
that the insecurity that many people in North America have felt since September 11th is the same sense of nerve-racking uncertainty that both Israelis and Palestinians have felt on a daily basis since 1949.

An Israeli friend of mine said something to me once, something that I hear a lot in Israel. He said that he would give up his right hand if he knew that there would be peace. However, Israelis and many others are not convinced that if Israel withdraws there will be peace, and it is not something one can test. Consequently, we need to think of confidence building measures that will lead to a more positive framework. Thinking in polarized terms is not helpful. We need to understand how to love and be critical at the same time. Opening up our ears and our hearts to all people,

irrelevant of religion, locality, or ethnicity, and dismissing our dualistic simplifications is the place to start.

I believe that Israel should withdraw from the Territories. Occupying the Palestinian people is a horrible thing to do, and if we do not do something about it soon things will only get worse. However, I realize that a simple withdrawal will not solve the problem. Removing the tanks will not remove the suicide bombers, there is more to it than the eye for an eye approach that operates within a dualistic discourse. On a policy level I suggest that we think on a personal level. Forget the Realpolitik for minute, and think about the personal. Only after we have thought about the personal can we think about the political. If there is ever to be any hope for understanding, we need to remember that there are people involved in face-to-face relationships. The next time you think about Israelis and Palestinians and the war they are fighting, think about the Israeli children that grow up in bomb shelters, and the Palestinian kids who grow up in refugee camps.

Ilan Zvi Baron is a former Israeli peace activist and current International Relations MSc student at LSE



A GLORIOUS MARCH AND A DAY TO REMEMBER

LAST SATURDAY SAW THE LARGEST DEMONSTRATION IN BRITISH HISTORY. MICHAEL BOURKE WAS THERE AND REPORTS BACK TO US

Pride is seldom a positive word. It has nasty, chauvinistic implications. It speaks of hubris and prejudice. As national pride and personal pride it's been the inspiration for many a bloody war and inhumane misadventure.

So perhaps it's a strange word to choose to describe my reaction to the biggest demonstration in British history. 2 million people joining a peace march is in many ways the perfect contrast to pride. It's an example of the insignificance of the individual and a cry against the boastful, nationalistic pride that inevitably characterises armed conflict.

But pride I most certainly felt as the LSE delegation rallied on Houghton Street. In all its polyglot, divided glory the assorted SWSSers, anarchists, activists and most importantly regular people represented a moment of hope, a glimmer of the brighter side of humanity.

Nobody will get rich from marching last Saturday. Nobody will land a better job or own a bigger house from being cold and muddy in Hyde Park on the 15th February. But for the old and the young who marched, for the Christians, Muslims, Atheists and Agnostics who plodded from Gower Street or Embankment there was something better and different going on.

In its sheer diversity the march showed that people still give a toss and are still prepared to put themselves out for others. 2 million people in this country and millions more across the globe were willing to take a stand. While pundits and commentators scratch their heads and try to rework their tedious, repetitious copy on "apathy" to make sense of last Saturday, those of us who were there can recline in the pride of having been a part of something. And it's a something that makes a little bit of a mockery of all those trite lines about the powerlessness of the individual and the futility of political participation.

One in thirty of the individuals in Britain made it to Hyde Park last Saturday. Any given one might well be powerless or even futile. But, as individuals or small groups of friends, they still had to make the effort to try. They had to make the decision, often hard and unprecedented, to step outside the view that "politics" was something

other, strange, grungy people did.

Seasoned demonstrators could see it all around them on the day itself. People struggling with that bashful, virginal, first-time protestor mindset. The middle aged men who'd given up their golf to come along and suddenly found themselves in a world where they didn't know the rules or the chants and they didn't own the requisite kit (stickers, megaphone, cell of like minded activists).

People who would normally summon the police if confronted by pikey left wingers instead summoned polite smiles and an emotion they might privately call solidarity. Sections of middle England that would probably prefer to pass by on the other side if they were to meet members of Britain's Muslim community en masse instead deliberately took the same roads. Shaftesbury Avenue and Whitehall to be precise.

It was amidst the sea of shivering, bemused and elated people in the park itself that this phenomenon reached its zenith. As more and more and yet more people arrived it began to dawn on those assembled what they had done and what they had achieved. The cheers grew louder as time passed not because the number of cheer-ers grew but because the shy and the quiet realised that it was OK to speak out.

Politics became respectable again in those few short hours as swathes of the population who'd bought the idea that it respectable to be disengaged sold it on again for the trash it truthfully always was. And today and tomorrow those people are back in their homes, going to work, going to the Women's Institute or the Masonic Lodge, going about their business, bumping into their family, friends and colleagues and spreading the word, literally and by their very sameness with their previous selves, that democracy is something you can do without being weird.

Of course, there was nothing approaching unanimity on the prospect of war itself, still less the issue controversially linked to it by the organisers (and many commentators) of "Freedom for Palestine". There were people there from the "No, never" camp, the "Second

Resolution" alliance and the "Make it all go away" coalition. But that's not the point. The linking issue for everyone was a profound disquiet that we simply don't have the moral legitimacy to go to war with Iraq.

Fighting off hypothermia the crowd stood and listened to the speakers from the platform until dusk began to fall. When things wrapped up they began to melt away, leaving behind a warm glow of shared endeavour and the narcotic thought that perhaps, just perhaps by turning up in such numbers they'd given peace a chance.

It was a day not to be missed and a day to be truly, rightly proud of. And to be honest it was a day that brought a lump to the throat and a tear to the eye. For those of who weren't there, on the next page the Beaver brings a photomontage to give you a hint of what you missed. For those of you were there, overleaf are a few nostalgic images to remind you of the experience. If you like, file them away somewhere safe so that whenever you need to fill up your soul with the heady atmosphere of the 15th you can.

The final thing to say about pride is that, aside from all its other negative connotations, it can often suggest smugness or complacency. The challenge to all of us who feel pride in last Saturday is to avoid this trap. It is sad to say but the prospect of war still looms large. Despite the unprecedented numbers who marched for peace the conventional wisdom remains that an attack on Iraq will take place within the next 6 weeks. As someone else once said about something else, it may well be that last Saturday was not the end, not even the beginning of the end but rather the end of the beginning.

Last week the Beaver's editorial said "See you there." This week, however proud and elated those of us who want to stop the war may be, the most important message must be "See you next time."

Michael Bourke is the Beaver Senior News Editor. He is a postgraduate student and has been involved in student activism since his undergraduate days at one of Britain's more obnoxious universities. This is his millionth article for the Beaver



The Beaver commemorative photomontage is brought to you with extra special thanks to Rown Harvey, our Photography Editor.



The banner says it all really



Kazoos for peace man!



The Beaver News Team, always on the case.



Left and Right Unite & Fight! For peace, obviously.

LSE Students March For Peace - Saturday 15th February 2003



From the mouths of babes and sucklings...



LSE students chat with police on Holborn



A sign of peace and a sign of the times



Come join us!

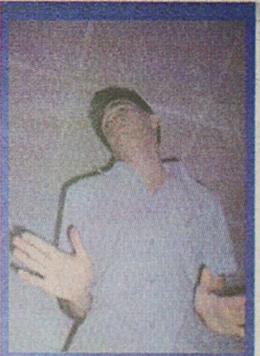
nolan's arty fringe

Sorry I've been ill this week. Not only did I get a bout of the flu, but I was shown a video of my drunken antics at a certain house party last weekend. A tip for you, don't tape yourself when you are drunk. It presents a truly harrowing experience, though a certain sports editor was taped kicking me when I was lying prostrate on the floor. For once it wasn't Holly as well.

I managed to make it out to Big Jon's 21st, which was a storming success, with Lorraine the stripper giving a stirring performance, one that was worthy of an Oscar. Disappointingly though, when she showed her breakfast, I was stood across the other side of the room. It was like

being in the room next door to history. Terrible stuff. I decided to make up for it by doing my own impromptu striptease several times on the stage of the underground bar. Though this time I was given money to keep my clothes on, rather than off.

This week in b:art we have daredevil in film, the polyphonic spree in music, fabric profiled in clubbing, food and drink with a full page spread (fnar, fnar), literature and theater. So enjoy the section, send your top tens in, and keep cool. And in this weather that's far harder than it sounds.



Get in touch with b:art at
beaverart@hotmail.com.

b:art top ten

This week's top ten may not seem very arty to you. But surely satire and black humour are comedy, which is a form of art? Anyway Ian 'Bombshell' Bundred brings you his top ten shit wars of all time. By shit we mean, well, shit. Keep mailing in your top tens please you big sacks of shite!

17

1

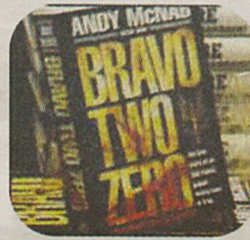


The 38 Minute War
1896

Great Britain and Zanzibar

No matter how much of a hawk you are, 38 minutes doesn't amount to a scuffle never mind a war. Zanzibar 'offered' out Great Britain. So Britain bravely bombed the shit out of them for almost (almost) 40 minutes. Then they surrendered. End of. Christ I've had longer shits than that. Though it would pushing it to say I have had longer sessions in the sack.

2



The Gulf War
1991
Iraq vs the rest.

It didn't even get rid of Saddam Hussein and launched Andy McNab on the world - whose book, incidentally, "actually improves with every read".

3



The Falklands War
1982

Great Britain vs Argentina

The war that saved hundreds of thousands of sheep and ensured a long and terrorizing term of office for Margaret Thatcher.

4



Crimean War
1854-6
Russia vs the rest.

A totally pointless conflict between an assortment of 'great powers', including Russia, Turkey and Great Britain. Its legacy seems to have only been inflicting the losers of the Charge of the Light Brigade and Florence Nightingale on the British psyche.

5



Morocco's Isla del Perejil Invasion
2002

Morocco vs Spain

The most recent skirmish to make the list, this saw those cheeky Moroccan scamps seize a Spanish island populated solely by Lizards, insects and sprigs of wild parsley. Wow.

6

The Anglo-Icelandic Fishing War
1974

Britain (again) vs Iceland

Never more just a cause to fight than for the right to capture cod

7

The Mongolian Horde's European Assault
Middle Ages

Mongols vs the world

They came, they saw, they conquered Paris, they fucked off home. Still, it meant Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure could feature a Mongol running around a Californian Mall with a wooden baseball bat.

8

The Cold War featuring the Korean Crisis
1945-1990

USA vs USSR

So we fight a war for forty years without ever bothering to get stuck in. With the collapse of the Soviet bloc in 89-90, the USA claimed victory on away goals.

9

The Soccer War
1969

El Salvador vs Honduras

El Salvador versus Honduras turned into a real pitch battle in 1969 when 'His Saviour' invaded the poor Hondurans, killing 5,000 in a five-day conflict following a football match. TV evidence has now categorically proven he was offside.

10

The War on Terror

9/11/2001 - Present

USA vs Anyone it doesn't like.

What the fuck ever happened to that?

b:art edited by justin 'the fringe' nolan



LONDUMB

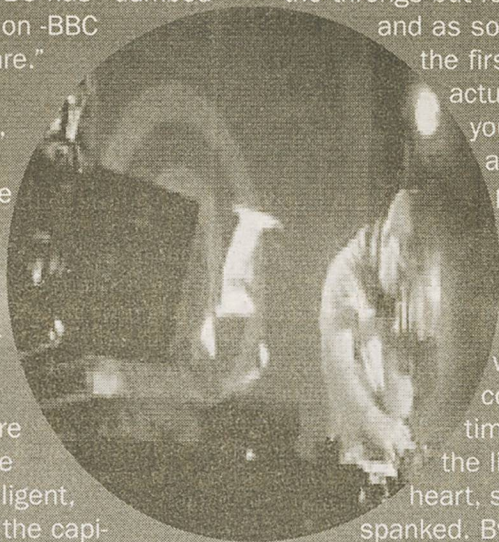
FIGHTING FOR THE RETURN OF QUALITY LONDON BBC RADIO

For the very first time and for one week only the BeaverTeam behind the clubbing page bring you a serious issue. No, really. LondUMB is a campaign for the many people who have complained that the BBC has "dumbed down (d'yageddit) its London radio station -BBC LDN - in a bid to increase audience share."

This is important for anyone who takes more than a passing interest in current, exciting, and innovative music. Put another way, this is important for people who have had enough of the usual dirge of shite that passes itself off as music but is presented in such a pretty package that the 12 year olds flock out en-masse to beat down the doors of HMV.(all together now, "I fancy Duncan bestest, he is fit, innit.") "Londoners are calling for BBC LDN - as a public service broadcaster - to return to being an intelligent, witty and informed station, focusing on the capital's rich cultural and musical life." This is worth getting involved in and although you've missed the support party

at 93 Feet East, which was wicked by the way- featuring Coldcut (see left), Fred Deakin of Lemon Jelly and Ross Allen among others laying down some fine party tunes for the throngs but fear not. Another party is in the pipelines and as soon as word reaches us you lot will be

the first to know. In the meantime, if you'd actually like to hear some decent music on your radio for a change then you can: send an E-mail to info@bbc.co.uk, CC-ing, campaign@londumb.co.uk. State that you have a serious complaint to make, you would like it thoroughly investigated and you would like a reply. Leave your name and email address. This is not hard and will only take a couple of minutes and could actually make a difference. In these times of direct action it could even leave the little activist inside you with a warm heart, so don't be apathetic or you'll be spanked. By someone who likes that kind of thing.



Location: Farringdon

Event: FabricLive

Date: 14.2.03

Damage: 3 bruises, 2 on one arm and the other on the arse.

Line-up: RAHZEL, ADAM FREELAND.

Well another friday night rolled around and love was in the air for tonight was Fabric night. The line-up promised some lyrical sweetness from possibly the tubbiest MC I've ever seen - RAHZEL, he of the legendary Roots crew. Followed by a swift shuffle into room three to be treated to some of the slinkiest breaks and jackin beats seen this side of Brixton. Just for interest, here's what the Fabric people think of their club: "It is renowned as a Friday night point of focus for the musically-minded and street-smart of London and beyond. Founded on the residencies of Ali B and James Lavelle, all three rooms combine to establish an ever-fresh environment, consistently bigger than the sum of its parts." Well, I'm afraid I have to disagree. True the club is consistently bigger than the sum of its parts but thats only because you get completely fucking lost from everyone you thought you knew the moment you walk in the place.



Upon arrival, you're instantly placed into a militant conveyer belt system where your money is ripped out of your hand before you can say "but monsieur, I need that money to pay for your overpriced drinks." Drop down the stairs into the bowls of the place and, "oh fuck, I've lost everyone." This wouldn't normally be a problem but the entire place looks exactly the fucking same and seems to have been designed by someone who spent their youth watching labyrinth and snorting ketamine whilst dreaming about the clubs they would design when older. This is not helpful for people who are slightly worse for wear. Anyway, RAHZEL, true to experience was quality but on dissapointingly early- somewhere better to be Mr Rahzel? ADAM FREELAND who is, in this scribes opinion probably one of the most gifted Dj's in the world was dissapointing. Somehow the heart didn't seem to be in the night- he probably got lost between the booth and the toilets and they put on back-up monkey, who knows. Maybe I'm jaded, or just unlucky on the night but for me, the fabled Fabric vibe was definitely absent without leave. Next time Im taking a map. **GOLDENSHOWER**



Who will win this time round?

Oscar time typically signifies the end of the film year, and Hollywood's buzzing at the moment after the recent announcements for the Oscar nominations. Once *The Beaver* gains a well-deserved rise in funding maybe just maybe I'll get sent to the US to report from the ceremony. I might even get a nice Valentino dress especially for the occasion (vintage darling, NOT second hand). As things stand, it seems that *Chicago* is being tipped to coup the most awards after being nominated for 13 categories. Not that I approve - I wasn't too keen on it. Not far behind are *Gangs of New York* [10] and *The Hours* [9]. The smaller films are the interesting ones as far as I'm concerned. I'd like to see *About Schmidt* do well

although it's only clocked up 2 nominations, and *Catch Me If You Can* has only received 2 as well, unfortunately none being particularly substantial. Christopher Walken is up for Best Supporting Actor for his role as

Leo's dad, he won that Oscar in 1979 for *The Deer Hunter*. He's a brilliant actor and doesn't receive his well deserved acclaim so I've got my fingers crossed for him.

Bookies are also expecting Nicole Kidman to take home the award for best actress - she's got tough competition from Salma Hayek and Julianne Moore - and Daniel Day Lewis's stunning performance in *Gangs* places him in pole position for best actor (that's what you get for one amazing method actor). The whole Best Actor line-up is pretty stiff competition for him, including Jack Nicholson and Michael Caine (yay Caine! I love you!). With the number of quality films released last year in the US, the winner for best motion picture is anyone's guess... take your pick from, amongst others, *Gangs*, *The Two Towers* (c'mon Peter Jackson and Orlando Bloom!) and *The Pianist*.

Daredevil

ELEANORKEECH: likes a man in red leather

Director: Mark Steven Johnson
 Starring: Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner, Michael Clarke Duncan, Colin Farrell, Kevin Smith
 Running Time: 103 mins
 Certificate: 15
 Release Date: OUT NOW!

Fantasy action heroes really are where the money is these days, and what with the range of them (it started off with the *Superman* films, then *Batman*, then along came things like *X Men*, *Spiderman*, *The Matrix*, *Blade* and soon we'll have *The Hulk* to add to the fun) we can only expect the films to get bigger and better as they compete for audience figures and box office takings. *Daredevil* went quite some way in convincing me that it was a decent fantasy action film. Good storyline with a good introduction of how *Daredevil* came to be - a toxic waste accident as a boy following a nasty revelation about his father who he worships (as per most Stan Lee inventions). His blindness is compensated by his four other super senses - he can even form visual images in his head by a kind of sonar detection. He also has amazing physical fitness - this wasn't explained so well but without it he'd be a bit of a dull hero.

Of course, *Daredevil* (lawyer Matt Murdock by day) leads a somewhat tragic existence à la Bruce Wayne, witnessing the death of his prize-

fighter father (at that point I was waiting for Jack Nicholson to say "have you ever danced with the devil in the pale moonlight?"), growing up to live a life of solitude in a swish bachelor pad befitting a superhero, with all the gadgets he ever needs to fight crime. His enemy in general is injustice and being a lawyer he dishes out the justice when the courts fail him. When things don't go too well for him he begins to doubt his role as the bringer of justice as it makes him seem like the "bad guy". However, as he uncovers the web of crime of Kingpin (Michael Clarke Duncan) his self-confidence is restored and he carries on kicking ass.

Daredevil's introduction to Elektra (Jennifer Garner) as his romantic interest (he's attracted to her scent) is as tacky as they come, with him asking for her name then a playfight ensues as she won't let him know her name - always the best way to impress a girl! Cliché isn't a word I use often, but she reeks of it. She's fragile but defensive, vulnerable but also forceful. However she's not as impressive as Trinity in *The Matrix*

or Catwoman - she doesn't seem much more able than being able to slash sandbags with that pair of shiny sal. Funnily enough, she's exceptionally beautiful which is what every blind man wants, I'm sure! As my mate Andy Gamwell said, she certainly wasn't shoddy. Bullseye (Colin Farrell) was a bit of a let-down, his deadly penchant for always hitting the spot wasn't that impressive and I cringed whenever he said "Bullseye!" Not a fearful opponent, really.

So if you need your adrenaline Marvel comic kicks, *Daredevil* satisfies. The interesting choice of Ben Affleck as *Daredevil* may put you off - you either love or hate Affleck in general, I'm in the former category so I was quite excited by seeing him in red leather! He pulls off the hard man stuff and injects enough humour into the role to prevent *Daredevil* from becoming too tragic and depressing. If you hate him, well, there's not much I can do to convince you otherwise.

★★★★☆

edited by eleanor keech

bofilm

The Ring

TERANCELI & ELEANORKEECH: aren't taking any phone calls

Director: Gore Verbinski
 Starring: Naomi Watts, David Dorfman, Martin Henderson, Brian Cox
 Running Time: 115 mins
 Certificate: 15
 Release Date: 21st February

Urban legend writ large. Horror in the style of *The Blair Witch Project*. Many of you will know that this is a remake of the Japanese classic of the same name. For once Hollywood seems to have gotten it right. The remake excels - it's on par with (if not even slightly better than) the original. Naomi Watts of recent *Mulholland Drive* fame, still as beautiful as ever, plays the part of Rachel Keller, a journalist single mother who has devoted her life to her work rather than to her only son Aidan (David Dorfman). The kid has a rather other-worldly tone about him, he's probably second choice for Director Gore Verbinski to Haley Joel "I see dead people" Osmond. This kid is perceptive, and spookily so. Let's just say that his drawings show a lot more than the typical family-and-rainbows fare. And his ability to outwit his mother

reflects that she really cannot handle parenthood. The secondary character of Noah (Martin Henderson) has been brought over from the original, and his position in relation to Rachel is left obscured until rather late. This is a shame as, despite chiseled good looks, his presence is weak and a bit vague in this film (and the original). Perhaps someone should have thought to rewrite this particular back story.

Having said that, the story is complex but this version does it justice. The premise: a strange video tape seems to be killing students at a Seattle High School. After viewing the tape the phone rings and an eerie voice proclaims "seven days". The film opens, as in the original, with a couple of high school girls gossiping about boyfriends etc etc.

Soon the topic of this tape comes up and we realise that one of the girls has seen it. This scene sets the mood for the rest



of the film. The girl wanders downstairs and finds the TV on. She turns it off and walks back upstairs. With killer charm the director racks up the suspense and when it finally comes it is not a disappointment. With the police failing to see any link between the deaths of a group of teenagers each connected by a video tape it's left to your intrepid reporter to get to the bottom of things. And so she does, determined to make sense of the bizarre happenings. Her investigations take her to an island where the life-stories

together of the mystery is hopeful, it seems that all will be well. But Samara's malevolence is relentless...

What separates this film from the original is the explanation of the back story. It's a lot easier to understand and it certainly seems better produced but it ties things up too neatly for the audience. It's almost as though someone decided that they needed to hammer in the obvious and leave nothing ambiguous, this is a shame and demonstrates Hollywood's contempt for the public. They should all be destroyed. Well maybe that's a bit harsh. The film may have been dumbed down for western audiences slightly but it makes little difference. If you have seen the original it's still worth watching the remake. If you have never seen *The Ring* then go out and watch this, but don't go alone and take a big blanket with you so you can hide under it.

of Anna Morgan and her daughter Samara (as pictured, undergoing psychological assessment) are revealed. The piecing

★★★★★

The Magdalene Sisters

REBECCAMICHAEL: Nuns are officially mean and nasty

Director: Peter Mullan
 Starring: Geraldine McEwan, Nora-Jane Noone, Ann-Marie Duff, Eileen Walsh, Dorothy Duff
 Running Time: 119 mins
 Certificate: 15
 Release Date: 21st February

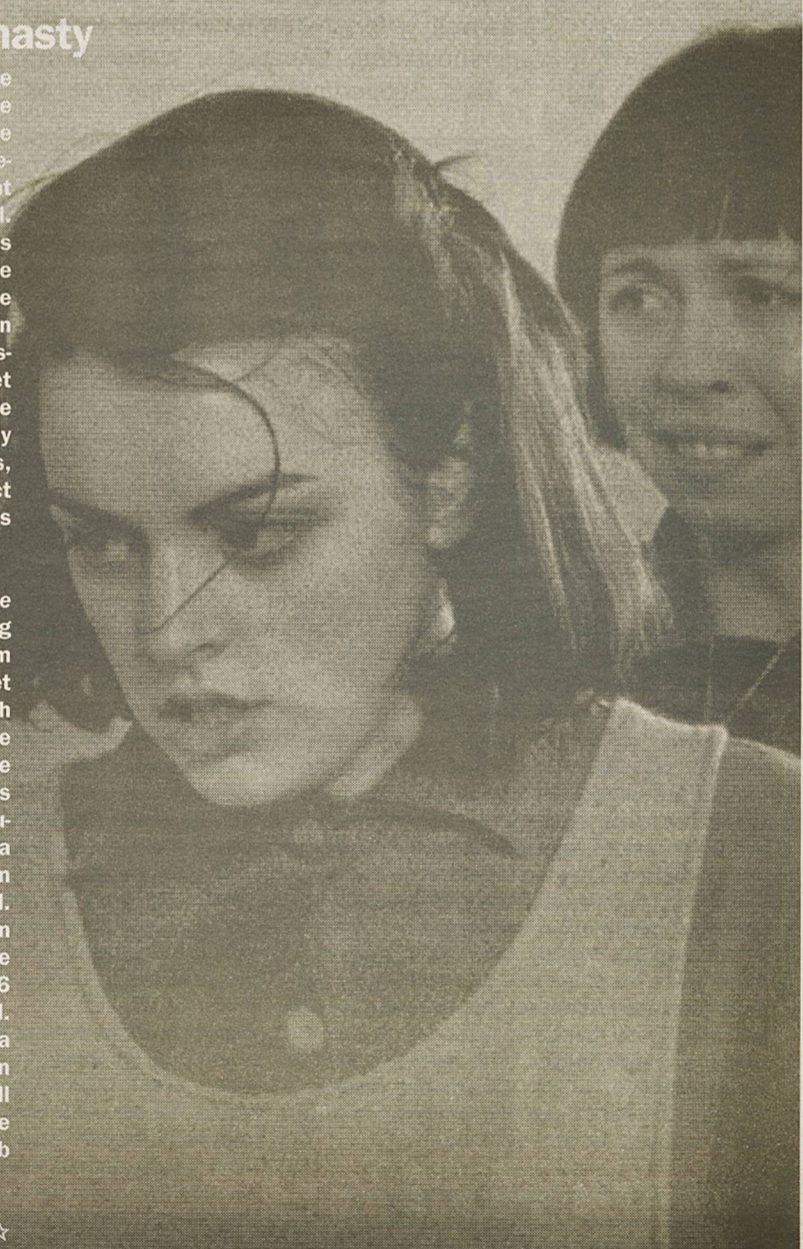
We knew there was a good reason to view *The Magdalene Sisters* when it was condemned by the Catholic Church and so of course received a windfall of publicity, and prizes at both the Venice and Toronto film festivals. The script follows the harrowing ordeals of three young women who arrive on the same day at a Magdalene Convent in 1960's Dublin. Sent there by their families to atone for their sins, the girls are sentenced to a life of slave labour, humiliation and abuse inflicted by the "Sisters of Mercy" who run the homes. Their sins? Rose bore a child out of wedlock, Bridget was far too pretty and thus a temptress to the boys of her orphanage and Margaret, well she had the audacity to be raped by her cousin at a family wedding. The film is Peter Mullan's second outing as director-writer, though he is probably better known to us in his highly acclaimed acting role as Joe, in Ken Loach's *My Name is Joe*.

women are tortured, innocent victims, the nuns are the twisted perpetrators and lest we were unsure about quite how wicked the Mother Superior is, Mullan's shows her on frequent occasions, counting piles of money that has been made from the girls sweat and toil. The Magdalene houses are depicted as Dickensian style workhouses in more than one respect. While the girls sit along hard stone tables slurping their gruel, the nuns feast on three course breakfasts and we are almost disappointed when our little Bridget doesn't get up and ask for 'mo-ore?'. Likewise when we first enter the asylum and see the girls avidly scrubbing down floors and polishing windows, Annie springs to mind and we half expect someone to break into a full rendition of "It's a hard-knock life."

Emotional-predictability aside though, *The Magdalene Sisters* is to be praised. The acting is magnificent, with a debut performance from the young Nora-Jane Noone who plays Bridget (think Angelina Jolie meets young Elizabeth Taylor) and even a short appearance from the multi-tasking Mullan himself who plays the abusive father of one Magdalene runaway. As a director, he triumphs in some powerful visual-story telling, and if you're like me and a sucker for the occasional Irish folk song, green landscape moment you'll be quite satisfied. The film does have a noble cause, and is an important exposure of the injustice that the Magdalene women suffered up until 1996 when the last of these convents was closed. Mullan clearly wanted to bring their story to a wider audience and evidently, by the attention that has been received, it has been a job well done. Perhaps if he'd held on to a few more subtleties though, it would have been a job done better.

The result? Well emerging after two hours of viewing I want to use all the right adjectives and call it hard-hitting, thought provoking, heart-breaking even, but I am a little hesitant to do so. The problem is I couldn't help but feel that my heartstrings were being manipulated just a little too much. All those close ups of big Irish-blue eyes welling with tears, as hard-faced nuns hand out beatings, stripping and whippings leave us in no doubt as to where our sympathies should lie, and where indeed we are asked to place our outrage. The young

★★★★☆



Treasure Planet

RAYHANSAWAR: Has a wooden leg

Directors: Ron Clements, John Musker
 With the voices of: Brian Murray, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Emma Thompson, David Hyde Pierce, Martin Short
 Running Time: 95 mins
 Certificate: U
 Release Date: OUT NOW!

Recent years have seen a great and rapid decline in the quality of the animated films coming out of this gigantic company, *Lilo & Stitch* presenting itself for some degree of face saving. This particular movie, as any who have followed its long road to completion will know, is based on the R.L. Stevenson classic *Treasure Island*. It follows the main plot rather closely, with no new surprises. Oh wait, how could I forget the fact that the whole movie is set in the future... probably because it's really far from remarkable. For anyone who likes seeing ships in space this will be a mild treat as the story is lifted off the constraints of Planet Earth and adventures take place not on the high seas but in space with exploding stars, black holes and the like.

Jim Hawkins (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) does justice to his part, but it is in no way something we haven't seen before. The wild disgruntled spirited teenager who constantly falls short

of his mother's expectations. When the 'Treasure Map' shows itself, he leaps on the opportunity to save it from... the rather aptly named "Cyborg", and make everyone proud of him. The pirates coincidentally also want the map showing the location of "TREASURE PLANET". Jim gets the aid of close family friend Doctor Doppler (David Hyde Pierce - Niles from *Frasier*) - the comic relief character. He manages the hiring of a crew and their ship the RSC Legacy. But as fate would have it the entire crew is actually the pirates themselves who have disguised themselves. So they set sail, Jim is assigned as a helper to the ship cook John Silver (Brian Murray). And here we have the most interesting character of the movie, making it actually worth watching. Portrayed as a cyborg, his animation is part drawing, part CGI, and his character has been done really well. His robotic arm smoothly shifts into many different forms without looking unrealistic which is no mean feat, and his mood swings are handled wonderfully. Over the course of their voyage they get close, and when Jim learns of his true intentions, he tries to make off with the map that only he can open. Silver must make the choice of standing up against his crew for Jim or chasing after Flint's treasure.

Anyone who has read the book shall pretty much know what is about to happen. Silver's parrot is replaced by a very interesting Jelly like alien called Morph that can shape-shift into anything it wants and is a generally mischievous character (sort of like Abu the monkey from *Aladdin*). The wonderful song sequences that used to be a part of all Disney movies are sadly no longer present, heavily detracting from the experience as a whole.

Treasure Planet is an idea that was put forward 17 years ago but was continuously shelved. Personally I feel it is only because they had better material then and now that they have exhausted other sources they finally decided to go ahead with this project. The end result is not really as bad as it is disappointing. There is plenty of adventure and a decent dose of comedy. There are high speed stunts carried out on solar powered hovercraft which do however add nothing to the story. Watch it if you were ever a fan of *Treasure Island* since it is rather good for any fans of the book, or make it a point to watch Disney movies. Now if only they had the true essence of *Treasure Island* in this.... "Yo ho ho, and a bottle of Rum!"

★★★★☆

FILM NEWS

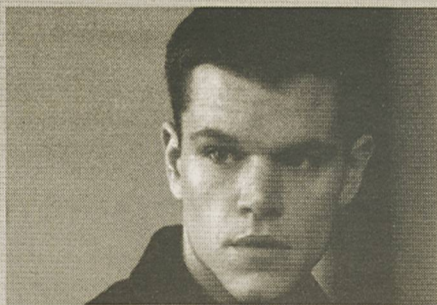
SHOHELLUNAT & TERANCELI double up to bring you the news this week

A big "A-HA" for our home grown Steve Coogan who will make his Hollywood debut alongside Jackie Chan in a new version of ***Around The World In Eighty Days***. Coogan will play Phileas Fogg, with Chan as sidekick Passepartout. Isn't it time for this once great kung fu star to hang up his pumps and stop starring in these god awful western shite actioners? Please someone tell him to calm down and retire with dignity.

George Clooney and Steven Soderbergh are to team up for the American remake of the Argentinean thriller ***9 Queens*** (hmmm, sounds familiar to that Ocean film-thingy they made together...). Soderbergh is expected to co-script, which he will then produce with Clooney...

Soderbergh (again? This man is unstoppable!) will also collaborate with Matt Damon for ***The Informant***, a film based on the book by

Kurt Eichenwald. Damon will play Matt Whicare an undercover FBI agent who wore a wire to work for 2 years aiming to reveal a price-fixing scandal at Archers Daniels Midland...



The Last Samurai - Production is moving ahead with speed on this Tom Cruise actioner. I'm looking forward to it simply because there are going to be lots of people killing each other with samurai swords...

Lara Flynn Boyle has been rumoured to be appearing in the "is it on/is it off" production of ***Superman***. Which is great. But without a director, star or script doesn't someone think they are



jumping the gun a little bit? I mean called old fashioned but a film should at least have a story before we start casting the part of Hooker No. 2 in the Metropolis crowd scene.

The Chronicles of Riddick - Erm... Not too sure why they are making a sequel to this very average sci-fi Diesel vehicle but the powers that be decided Vin is the flavour of the month. The sequel will concentrate on two opposing forces fighting an intergalactic battle. Yes... someone actually thought people like this shite. What I wouldn't give to murder and defile the bastard who green lit this project. Judi Dench is in talks to star as probably the leader of one of the galactic empires.

Problems are on the horizon for Warner Bros, as Russian Lawyers are apparently planning a lawsuit against the production company after suggesting ***Chamber of Secrets*** star Dobby the elf has similarities to their president, Vladimir Putin. (Whether Bush bears any resemblance to Gollum in ***The Two Towers*** is yet to be confirmed).

edited by mike burn,
jazmin burgess and neil garrett

b:music

The Polyphonic Spree

CHRISTHOMAS interviews Texas' 26 member musical phenomenon



Mere hours before their sold-out gig at the Astoria last Sunday, the Beaver chatted with James Reimer, trombone player for Texas-based 25-piece band The Polyphonic Spree. Rumours have abounded that the band (all of whom wear identical floor-length white robes) are something of a cult, that Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker was once a member of their cult, and that during sets by headliners the Datsuns, Spree members roam the audience trying to indoctrinate wayward teenagers. The Beaver got to the bottom of these and other completely spurious speculations.

Beaver: Do the cult rumours bother you?

Reimer: No, because I understand. We're a bunch of Texans in flashy outfits and the press needs a story. The only thing that kind of bothers me are the comparisons to David Koresh [leader of Texas suicide cult the Branch Davidians], because he was just so terrible. I can't understand how anyone who has seen us could make that connection. Hopefully it's not serious, but it's one of those things that if anybody took it seriously then we'd feel just terrible.

Beaver: Do you ever play up the cult shtick, such as your recent promenade through Brooklyn in full regalia?

Reimer: That story goes that we were in Williamsburg, Brooklyn to play at a show by this artist Bill Finney. We had to walk a ways from one gallery to another so we just kind of Hare Krishna-like marched up the street clapping our hands and playing one of our songs. I think it scared some hipsters in the neighbourhood. We were definitely getting some stares. When we got to the gallery, though, people thought it was pretty cool.

Beaver: How did Jarvis Cocker compare as a band member versus as director of one of your music videos?

Reimer: He spoke a lot more onstage. When he was a video director, he didn't talk a whole lot. His partner, Robin Wallace, did a lot of the nuts and bolts type things. He would stand back and do conceptual stuff, formulated ideas but didn't talk a whole lot. With the band, he sang in the choir one night. He had DJed a set for us before that show. We probably only talked about it five minutes before he went onstage. He really got into it, though.

Beaver: Do any of you mosh when the Datsuns play?

Reimer: I have. Tim [the lead singer, formerly lead singer of indie rock mainstays Tripping Daisy] certainly has. We've gone out into the pit. It's just a good time, rock n' roll. It's not something I listen to on a daily basis, but when they do it they do it for real. How can you not have fun listening to that?

Beaver: The band has often described its music as "celebratory." What exactly are you celebrating? And could celebratory music sound harsh and dissonant?

Reimer: We can sometimes sound pretty harsh and dissonant. There are dissonant moments that when spliced properly with consonance are just as crucial to harmony as anything else. In terms of celebration, we celebrate playing our music together. A lot is made of the fact that people see us onstage and assume we're that happy all the time, but that's really not the case. We are normal people and we have our normal personal ordeals, especially when you're in a group of this size. But when we're up there on stage, that's really what we want to be doing, so, yeah, we're going to have a good time regardless. Hopefully people who are watching can help participate in that. When that happens is when the magic happens. We start going crazy and they start going crazy and it's this big frenzy of positive energy.

Beaver: Do you have a new album coming out this year?

Reimer: Actually, we just finished laying down tracks for that literally the day before we flew over here, and when we go home we're going to mix it. I'm guessing it's going to come out in the summer.

Beaver: What's the sound like?

Reimer: It's incredibly different. You'll be shocked. The first record was really a demo that we made in three days and then started selling due to popular demand. This time around, we tracked [i.e., recorded music for] the album for two solid months. It's just a lot more mature, less childlike and more adolescent.

Beaver: More angsty?

Reimer: Well, not angsty. Just a little more developed. Some songs are pretty long and have different parts, so it's kind of symphonic in its structure. There are happy sunshine parts, but I think there's more raw feeling to it. I wouldn't say angst, though, maybe just more real emotion.

Beaver: You're not such an angsty band.

Reimer: No, there are enough bands out there doing that.

Supermen

**SAVES THE DAY
ASTORIA**

In the last year, New Jersey's Saves the Day have enjoyed phenomenal success in the US, moving from releasing critically acclaimed second album 'Through Being Cool' on underground punk label Equal Vision, to having their third album 'Stay What You Are' selling around a quarter of a million copies worldwide. Moreover, they've also had moderate success in the UK, headlining a stage at Reading and Leeds, and receiving good press from both the NME and Kerrang. And so with the NME's support, the band played their biggest UK gig to date at the Astoria in one of the final NME Award Show gigs.

By managing to make material off both 'Stay What You Are' and 'Through Being Cool' sound both fresh and exciting, Saves the Day proved that quite simply, over the past five years they have gradually become one of the most complete and accomplished post-punk bands around. Despite having no recorded material to promote, their set was still endearingly hyperactive and energetic, resulting from the combination of crowd pleasers such as recent single 'At Your Funeral', older tracks such as the riff-tastic 'All Star Me' and a wide range of new tracks such as the unspeakably beautiful and noticeable more mellow 'Wednesday the 3rd'. Although there were some noticeable omissions such as 'Through Being Cool's stand out track 'Holly Hox, Forget Me Nots', Saves the Day still managed to put on a live show that was both exceptional and of a caliber way higher than most of the other NME headliners.

Although the band have a lot to live up to following the success of 'Stay What You Are', this gig showed that they are more than prepared to take on the challenge. Specifically in fact, the newer material that they previewed demonstrated that the band are by no means past their 'prime', and are still capable of producing refreshingly different yet reassuringly familiar material that is likely to continue winning over punk and emo fans alike. Despite the fact that they seemed a surprise choice on the NME's list, the Astoria show proved them to be one of the most talented and 'cutting edge' bands around. And hopefully, with this new found respect from the NME, Saves the Day will have some of their massive success in the USA translate to Europe. Because, on the basis of this show, they most certainly deserve it.

JAZMINBURGESS



Joy Divided

**THE DATSUNS, POLYPHONIC SPREE, INTERPOL,
THE THRILLS
ASTORIA, CHARING CROSS ROAD**

The tightest performance of the night was Interpol, a fun, impeccably-coiffed band from New York whose debut album, "Turn On the Bright Lights", was prominent in many rock critics' best of 2002 lists. They have drawn comparisons to moody, intellectual rock/pop outfits like Joy Division and Long Hind Legs, yet they were able to get a crowd of young, t-shirted Datsuns fans pogoing and singing along to lyrics such as "yours is the only version of my desertion that I could ever subscribe to." The band was more raw live than on the album, while lead singer Paul sporting a mod outfit and cherubic shag haircut, launched a thousand ships that night with his careful, aching warble.

The Polyphonic Spree are a band with a gimmick. They have 25 members decked out in white cassocks playing instruments ranging from the trumpet to the harp. They sound like a bunch of hippies banging on cowbells and singing about sunshine and love because, well, they are. Their live shows are reputed to be life-changing, but I can only suppose that rumor originated with some of their more drug-addled fans. They left me and most of the audience a bit cold. Opening act The Thrills complemented the Spree in that they also invoked the spirit of the 70's, though in the Thrills' case the spirit of 70's arena rock.

While Interpol was by far the best band of the night, the giddiest fun was had during the set by the Datsuns. They raged and pranced through their danceable rock hits, and the mosh pit that immediately started never stopped. The highlight was when some of the members of the Polyphonic Spree rushed the stage during the Datsuns' slightly self-important encore song and started wrestling with them. So that's what hippies are good for.

CHRISTHOMAS



Ring Tones

**POLYPHONIC SPREE
THE FORUM, KENTISH TOWN**

A twenty-five-piece band, including a harp and xylophone player, was always going to be a little odd to say the least. Hell when was the last time you saw an oboe player go crowd surfing. But without a doubt this eclectic bunch put on a legendary performance, the likes of which would be difficult to match by any other band. For those unfamiliar with The Polyphonic Spree's sound, it is essentially the sound of the Mormon tabernacle Choir on a particularly strong batch of acid. Or as some put it, if the Beach Boys all died and played music up in heaven they'd probably sound like this. Not to mention their slightly worrying stage dress of matching white robes and beaming grins. After a most unimpressive set by the Mull Historical Society, roadies proceeded to dish out white robes to fans in the crowd, followed bizarrely by Frank Skinner introducing the band; his only connection with them that I can figure out is being a big fan. Now I'm a massive fan as well of the Polyphonic Spree (and you just might catch me wandering around campus singing about the sun making me shine, and what not) but no way was I prepared for what ensued. A 90-minute set of searing harmonies, roaring choruses and a crowd who you'd have thought had just seen the return of Christ. Front man Tim Delarney, of mid 90's Tripping Daisy fame leading the whole affair like some mad prophet of doom, while the rest of the band jumped climbed and fell all over the place incited the crowd into a bouncing giggling fury this trusty reporter hasn't seen since Primal Scream at the Brixton Academy Who'd have thought a group of clap happy Texans in white robes could produce such an astoundingly emotionally uplifting and moving experience, (if your expecting a David Koresh joke at this point your sadly mistaken). With the bands first album "The Beginning stages of..." providing only about 40 minutes worth of material, not including the half hour of undulating tones, I am very pleased to announce to any other fans out there, there new stuff, which compromised half the gig, was astounding. On top of that I think my voice must have cracked again shrieking with glee when the ensemble did a cover of Bowie's "Five years". All in all a joyous encounter of the happy kind, which was clearly evident on the faces of the crowd filing out of the Forum, (I've never seen the bootleg t-shirts sell so fast). So fellow brothers and sisters, follow the day reach for the sun, and do what ever is necessary to get tickets for the next gig, and keep your eyes peeled for me, I'll be the one in the front in white robes, grinning like someone from an old school ecstatic cult (ask any Anthropology student). Pure musical mushrooms, dynamite aural Prozac, guaranteed to make you smile.

GILLESUBAHGS





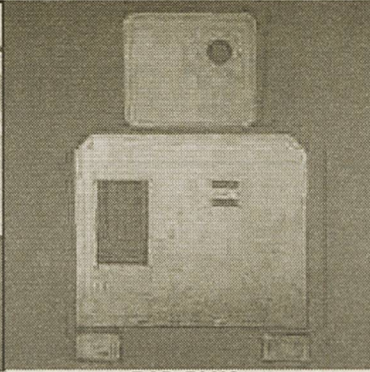
HOT ROD CIRCUIT
BEEN THERE, SMOKED THAT

Having recently moved to the uber emo, uber cool Vagrant Records and made serious waves in the emo/punk/hardcore scene, Long Island's Hot Rod Circuit have collaborated with their former label Triple Crown, to release 'Been There, Smoked That', a retrospective collection of b-sides, rarities and live tracks.

Consisting of fifteen tracks both live and recorded, ranging from their slightly ironic cover of the AC/DC classic Sin City and tracks from their earlier more hardcore orientated releases, overall Been There, Smoked That proves the very simple point that Hot Rod Circuit are one of the best up and coming bands in the USA. Because, when bands' b-sides are so good that they rival their main material and exceed many new bands around, that band is worthy of serious respect. And with this cd, Hot Rod Circuit demonstrate that they are rightfully deserving of a place in that elite category. Although the stand out track is undoubtedly the kick-ass guitar heavy 'Hi-Tech Lipgloss', (originally featured on the band's debut EP) possibly the most impressive attribute of the album is that in a mere fifteen tracks, it manages to encapsulate the variation, originality and energy that makes Hot Rod Circuit such an individual and first-class band.

For those who haven't heard of Hot Rod Circuit, it would be more rewarding to discover the band through one of their three albums - such as 2002's fantastic 'Sorry About Tomorrow'. However, despite being a compilation, 'Been There, Smoked That' is still an excellent collection of songs. Moreover it proves that throughout their career (even in their b-sides!) Hot Rod Circuit have always been and will hopefully continue to be miles ahead of any of their nearest competitors. (9)

JAZMINBURGESS

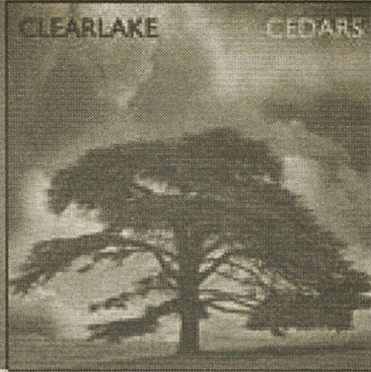


BAD PLUS
THESE ARE VISTAS

The Bad Plus are an American jazz trio hailing from Minnesota featuring Reid Anderson (Bass), Ethan Iverson (piano) and David King (Drums). Although oft touted as "jazz rock" fusion, These are the Vistas leans heavily on the jazz side; Ben Folds Five this is not. The tracks here are individual members compositions with the exception of three cover versions. It is refreshing - with such an abundance of jazz trios, particularly in America - to see an attempt made to do something a little alternative. However, the interpretations here are disappointing. Grunge anthem "Smells Like Teen Spirit" is stuttered and lacks any sense of coherency. Blondie classic "Heart of Glass" sounds like the group are desperately caught between interpreting the song entirely their own way whilst trying to rigidly maintain the originals main melodic themes. The result is a cacophonous mess. "Film" by the mighty Aphex Twin is a more accomplished version. King responds to the challenge of conveying AFX's warped complex rhythmic patterns fantastically well but even this track is let down by a lack of creativity in the other parts.

Certainly the strengths on this album lie in the individual members compositions. Particularly sublime is the bands fantastic use of dynamics and texture. Sparse, lyrical passages are juxtaposed dramatically with bustling raucous sections to great effect. This is epitomised on opening track "Big Eater" in which syncopated rhythms and busy bass lines combine captivatingly. "Boo Wah" stands out also as a rhythmic wonder; the piano and drum accents continually converging and diverging with one another. The Bad Plus demonstrate with some excellent compositions that they don't need to draw on other sources for inspiration nor should they - left to their own devices it is clear there is a lot of talent here. (7)

NEILGARRETT



GRAND MAL
BAD TIMING

Unlike the majority of the Domino records roster, Clearlake do not possess any clear bias towards the lo-fi or the experimental. They do instead seem to have a tendency towards meandering mediocrity.

Domino records is one of those labels who fans learn to trust but with Clearlake there is a distinct possibility of disappointment. A band who have been critically acclaimed for their previous releases, fail to present here, on their second album, why such claims of adoration are justified.

So unbelievably maudlin and whiny it almost physically hurts ones ears. If you are of the persuasion that maudlin is reducible to introspection and emotion and this is a good thing then you may be pleased, otherwise avert your ears.

The more upbeat numbers are slightly more redeeming and musically gripping. They don't quite blend into background noise and make silence preferential. Jason Pegg's voice is possibly where the majority of my gripes lie. His Morrissey impersonation would even disgust Matthew Kelly on Stars in Their Eyes.

All this said, it is not to say the album doesn't have its moments. 'Wonder of the Snow Will Settle' is in negotiations with average. Possibly I just don't understand the appeal but Clearlake, sorry if you do.

They do not sit comfortably on the Domino roster and in my mind do not deserve to be associated with the label and its greatness. (3)

MIKEBURN



KELLY ROWLAND
SIMPLY DEEP

Top 10 single "Dilemma" is a song that has haunted me ever since it was released 6 months ago. After giving it the condescending "don't touch this with an extended barge pole" review it deserved I have not been able to escape the irritating thing. Like a persistent scab, everywhere I turn plaster man Nelly and his chum Kelly Rowland pop up, whining away like spoilt little rich kids. I've even heard the thing in bleep form on peoples mobile ring tones.

Along with this top 10 (how on this earth?) single are a few other familiar numbers here which infest our charts and radio play lists like an ugly rancid shrew with manky toe nails. This includes recently released "Stole", another song that no doubt will have cunningly seeped into your brain without you even registering its existence.

It's unsurprising that the "I wear the trousers round here and don't you forget it mr" sentiment saturates "Simply Deep"; these R&B divas are such independent women you know, real contemporary feminists. "Don't take no crap from you", "Don't need you in my life", blah blah blah. Tell me something new. Or just something interesting, especially when the accompaniment to your muse is as squeaky clean as it is here.

The upbeat tracks here - "Can't Nobody", "Love/Hate", and "Past 12" - do work well so it's a shame that there's only 3 of them. "Can't Nobody" is particularly strong, strutting its stuff with a funky swagger rather like a Bootylicious mark 2. The remainder of the album though fails to distinguish Kelly from the hefty crowd of R&B chart toppers already established. "Simply Deep" unfortunately fails to add anything new to an already quite unremarkable genre. (5)

NEILGARRETT



ZWAN
MARY STAR AOF THE SEA

Billy Corgan's genius over the past few years has been confused with a certain level of pretentiousness. This possibly went somewhat towards alienating the mainstream fan base which was established with the singles taken from 'Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness'.

Joining Billy Corgan and former Pumpkins drummer, Jimmy Chamberlain, are a veritable cast of senior musicians from diverse backgrounds. Perhaps most interestingly Dave Pajo on guitar. Pajo of post-rock god fame for his work with Slint and Tortoise adds a certain texture to Zwan's songs, which may have not been there otherwise. The other musicians each adding something with the consummate skill.

Corgan's tendency towards morbidity which was developed on the last two Smashing Pumpkins albums 'Machina: Machines Of God' (2000) and Adore (1998) was a obvious departure from the sophisticated guitar pop of the bands earlier work. Zwan, is it seems, a conscious effort to return to this approach.

The first single from Zwan, 'Honestly,' is to be frank, one of the most, well constructed and enjoyable songs Corgan has written for a very long time. An entirely enjoyable moment.

Corgan has said: "I have no mission now other than to make music I feel really close to... I feel like I've done the warrior part. Now I want to keep it really simple, and just enjoy being around great musicians and people". With Zwan he certainly succeeded in this. 'Mary Star of the Sea' is a majestic album of refined but subtle pop. Billy Corgan's craftsmanship can again once more be noticed after a particularly ill-advised foray into more gothic realms. (8)

MIKEBURN

Naiiki LSE's very own play the Quad

Fresh from the studio, intelligent rock five piece, Naiiki will be hitting the LSE's premier music venue The Quad on Wednesday February 19th. Formed a year and a half ago through the exchanging of random emails and chance meetings, the band are relishing the opportunity of entertaining the discerning LSE crowd.

Since their formation the band have gone through a variety of changes; the line up has been refined as has their music and on Wednesday the band will be ready to give the performance of their life.

Musically their influences are eclectic to say the least. Vocally the band can be compared to the likes of Bjork and Tori Amos. Singer Ida's talents are unquestionable, adding to the band's dynamic and texture. The music is a well fought compromise

between the heavy and the melodic; with neither being particularly dominant but each contributing to Naiiki's distinctive sound.

With everything in place Naiiki are ready to take their show on the road and impress gig goers all over London. Wednesday should see the band clearly establishing themselves as one of the most important independent bands on the circuit.

The Quad gig promises to be one of the most memorable the venue has seen and with support coming from Revcounter and Twenty Seven it promises to be an evening to remember.

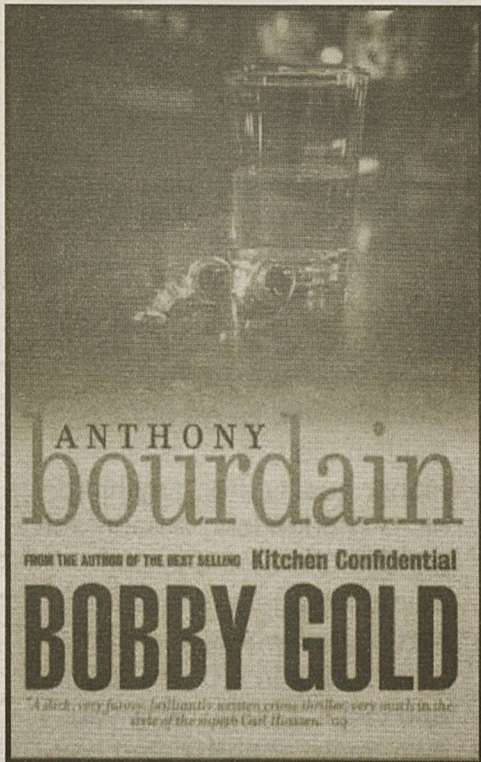
Naiiki + Support. Wednesday February 19th 2003. £4 students. Doors 7.30pm.

BOBBY GOLD

There comes a time in a man's life when he needs to muscle himself up and learn the right way to break an arm...

Just The Facts...

Author: Anthony Bourdain
Publisher: Canongate
Date: 2002
Price: £6.99



If I had seen Bobby Gold in 'work clothes; black sport jacket, black button-down dress shirt, skinny black tie, black chinos, and comfortable black shoes', I would have immediately thought 'bouncer' even without a pair of those ubiquitous snazzy black shades - and I would have been right.

Anthony Bourdain has been a professional chef for over two years - he's the bestselling author of two non-fiction titles 'Kitchen Confidential' and 'A Cook's Tour'. He decided to try his hand at fiction and just as with his day job, he's succeeded. The book isn't long at all at 120 pages but the entertainment value, if judged by book length, is well over that of a 'full-size' 400 plus page novel. Bourdain divides Bobby's story into twelve chapters; 'twelve' slices of Bobby's life, and they all begin with a two or three line description of Bobby's appearance.

Bobby Gold, né Goldstein is a bouncer for a New York City night club owned by his old college friend Eddie Fish who has mobster aspirations. When he's not throwing out under-aged drugged-up children out of the premises and teaching stupid promoters a lesson in brute force, he's a thug and enforcer for Eddie by day, breaking arms and noses when debts are overdue - albeit very reluctantly.

Bobby used to be a skinny Jewish kid but when he spent eight years in an upstate prison, he muscled himself up and read about anatomy,

nerve clusters, bones, pressure points and the like (he had been pre-med in school) to arm himself with the physical and intellectual strength to become a skilled brute. Out of prison, huge, and missing a 'stein' Bobby goes to work for Eddie and finds himself breaking his uncle's arm as part of the job and having to come up with an ingenious plan when another of his victims is a old prison buddy. We also see Bobby fall in love with cook and femme fatale Nikki, a happy occasion seeing as he hadn't had a woman in years. Because of its structure, 'Bobby Gold' seems less of a traditional novel and more of a collection of twelve vignettes of Bobby at different times in his life. It's spare in length but you don't get the feeling that you've been cheated out of any character development or background description - if anything, these are more intense and vivid for being fit into 120 pages. Little book, a lot of fun.

If your excuse for not reading more often is because you 'just don't have the time' - this book won't take more than a few hours of your time; you can finish it in one day, and even if you don't - it will all be time well spent.

25

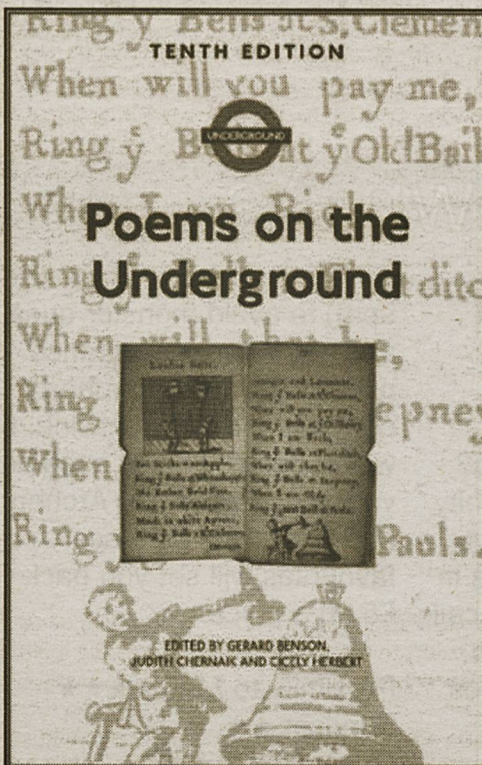
If you like Anthony Bourdain (as chef and as fiction writer) and crime fiction of this type, you may be interested in buying:

Michael Ruhlman
Marco Pierre White
Carl Hiaasen

Other books by Bourdain:

Bone in the Throat
Gone Bamboo
Kitchen Confidential
A Cook's Tour: In Search of the Perfect Meal

Poems on the Underground



You've seen them; sandwiched between the weekend getaway offers and the insurance company adverts and right above the head of the guy leering at page 3 models in the Sun - poems on the Underground.

In this its 17th Anniversary Year, these poems continue to be displayed on London tube trains and to mark the UK's 30th anniversary since accession to the European Union, this selection of European poems has been published. Denis MacShane, Minister for Europe says in the foreword, that 'poems do not need passports. Poets belong to nations but a great poem does not recognise frontiers.'

So if you enjoyed reading an excerpt from Inferno by Dante Alighieri while stuck between Kings Cross and Euston, pick up this collection of 25 poems (both in the original language and with English translations) to take home and relive the memories.

Nice little fact: Apparently the London Underground was the first to launch such an endeavour as Poems on the Underground in

1986 with the hopes of enlivening the daily journeys of the commuters. Their dream of scattering poetry about in public places were quickly adopted by mass transport systems in New York, Paris, Dublin, Stuttgart, Barcelona, Athens, Shanghai, Moscow and St Petersburg. Poems on the Underground is edited by Gerard Benson, Judith Chernak and Cicely Herbert

Interested in writing for the Lit section of ther Beaver? Free books - what more could you possibly need - or want?! Email Dalia at beaverlit@yahoo.co.uk

beaverlit edited by dalia king



Spitting....

By James Rilett

VERTIGO 42 Tower 42
Old Broad St EC2
Moorgate
020 787 7842

Spitting. That's what you're supposed to do off tall buildings isn't it? Well, not according to the management of Vertigo 42, London's highest champagne bar. They'd have you come, enjoy the view, and quaff Bollinger whilst observing the urbanity that they both deserve.

Now, obviously I'm not recommending that your average LSE student should want to shift their gallant patronage from the Tuns to wanky city bars. However if you plan on selling your soul to work in The City, have a cause to celebrate or a guest/date to impress, you could be forgiven for making a reservation (which incidentally is essential) at this "breathtaking" venue. You'd be forgiven, but you'd also be mistaken.

I suppose it started off fairly exciting, having to check in by presenting photo ID and passing through a metal detector just to go for a swift half is one of the less obvious and less tedious consequences of 9/11. The lift up to the 42nd floor is quick, as was my disappointment when I saw the decor. Now, I'm sorry if I sound like Lawrence Llywellyn Arseface for a minute but really, the "1960s airport chic" look is just tired and cheap, the chairs seemed to be from a doctor's surgery.

If the ambience got off to a bad start with the soft furnishings it got worse with the service. Our waitress was vague about seating us, brisk in

taking our drinks orders and then, immediately and awkwardly demanded how we pay. Now, call me fussy but if I'm paying £9 (+13.5%) for a drink I want a little discretion from the service.

The bill was slapped down before the drinks, which were fine if from a narrow and unoriginal selection. My Classic was excellent; the perfect juxtaposition of sweet sugarcube and the sour whiskey and biters, my date's Bellini was "just peachy".

They do serve food, seafood mostly, though oddly no oysters were available. We shared smoked salmon, which was generous and delicious though slightly cumbersome to eat. It's odd that they choose a cut down restaurant menu rather than simply offering canapés, perhaps this is why I didn't see anyone else eating when I was there.

So, the atmosphere and service are crap, the food's ok and the drinks are fine, what have I missed out... ah yes, the view. And it is fantastic, the river snaking through world's most famous landmarks as the sun sets on the capital. And, for that 597 foot high vista alone it was worth it. Though you might be better off slipping your £20 to the security guard for the keys to the roof. At least that way you can spit off the top, if you're lucky you might even hit a stockbroker.

Proximity to LSE ★★
Service ★
Originality ★★★★★
Value ★★★
Taste ★★★

Grandma's Chelsea Bun

By Natalie Marlow and Elizabeth Humphreys



The Chelsea Kitchen 98 Kings Road Chelsea London SW3
020 7589 1330

After a busy afternoon spent sampling the sophisticated delights of the King's Road we stumbled across this charming café - untouched by inflation since 1967. Main courses range from £3.00 to £4.80 and, though wine is limited to acidic, very acidic and downright nasty, at £6.00 a bottle we had several! Natalie tucked into a creamy chicken and mushroom pie - which screamed "homemade chic" like only Mumma can prepare. Meanwhile Lizzie indulged in a plate of salad that any rabbit would be happy to nibble - fresh, crunchy and more importantly cheaper than Dickenson's chips. Good nursery fare is clearly the overarching theme of the puds. We spotted Grandma preparing the custard 'out

back' for Natalie's Apple Crumble and Elizabeth's Belgian Ice Cream was of a higher quality than anything else. Though long a haunt for shabby Old Etonians and aging dowagers, this is the sort of joint where you can wrap a chip in a bread roll and call it a butty, drink your own, more sophisticated beverage, for just £2 corkage, and enjoy their three course set menu for just £5.60. In the heart of Chelsea this place is a remarkable find - and worth paying the extra pound on the number 11 bus to fly down the Strand for the cheapest meal this side of Croydon.

Proximity to LSE: ★
Service: ★★ (Without a smile)
Originality: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Taste: ★★★

Also Known As....

AKA 28 West Central Street
London WC2
02078360110

What can we say about Aka? - sophisticated, sexy, but slightly heaving with merry buisness-types - glasses of champers in one hand and scantily clad call girls in the other (naming no names). If you fancy delicious cocktails and comfy sofas head down to this bar (five minutes from High Holborn Halls) but make sure you get in early (preferably before

9pm) to avoid monster ques and astronomical entrance prices. The fresh raspberry cocktails are simply divine, but watch out for tipples such as vodka and coke and Archers and lemonade as these favourites will set you back £5.00 a piece.

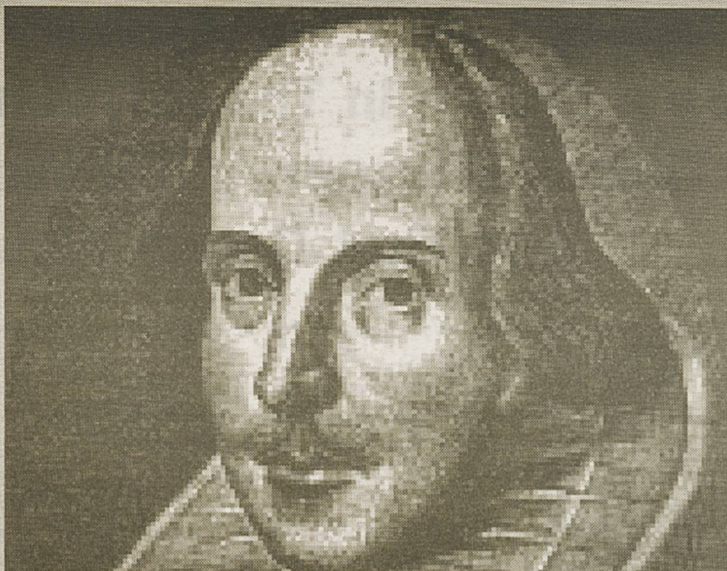
Proximity to LSE:★★★★
Service: ★★
Originality: ★★★
Value: ★★
Taste: ★★★★★

Eastwards Ho Ho Ho!

It is fashionable now to appear ignorant of the arts although admitting to attending and enjoying performances in any genre. It's OK to be ignorant: it's so much easier. I shall not disappoint readers in this. Ben Jonson's (1572-1637) City Comedy Eastward Ho (1605, put on at Blackfriars Theatre) deals with the scam of an apostate London apprentice (Quicksilver), his knight-pretender accomplice (Sir Flash), and their get-rich-quick lunatic voyage to Virginia that shipwrecks at the Isle of Dogs (Look at, or surf to, your map of London). From the City of London to the Dogs-that's Eastwards. From London City to Virginia is-Westwards. Oh dear. No lack of confusion here.

1604 saw Dekker's Westward Ho, 1605 his Northward Ho, both City Comedies. City Comedies? Yes, plays with a London City setting addressing comically issues of capitalism, colonialism, overseas trade, gender relations, social aspiration and the complexity of urban experience. Sound contemporary? A play in more than one sense on one of the 7 deadly sins-avarice (greed, usury) and social pretention. Themes all especially relevant at an institution of higher learning called The London School of Economics. Recognise anyone at LSE?

In 1605 Ben, a former East End bricklayer, then living in a house in Blackfriars, had 10 plays-of the 57 or so he wrote-behind him. He helped establish the new genre of theatre, the City Comedy, which interpreted for the first time the new experience of mass urban living and mass urban culture. London then had grown to a population of 250,000, offering the first mass urban audience and so the opportunity to appeal to a mass market. Ben was one of the first creators of pop-



ular culture. His plays found favour with the high and low. At the same time Ben sends up this new genre, as the ambiguous title of Eastward Ho signals. After it no one ever wrote a Southward Ho. However, by 1617 playwrights had written at least 30 City Comedies.

The RSC puts on an enjoyable, competent, exuberant and accessible performance at the Gielgud, Shaftsbury. Six performances left until last performance 19 March. One needn't know the play beforehand; its plot is transparent. Does the play stand up to a modern audience, does the happy ending hold? Critics have faulted the sudden conversion to virtue at the end of the play. But Ben has out-witted them: it's a naughty send-up of that sudden conversion cherished by conventional playwrights. See the play and then trot down to Westminster Abbey, there where Bard Ben rests in his grave.

BY KEITH POSTLER



edited by 'crazy' keith postler and dani ismail

b:theatre

Societies Page

with Elliot Simmons

e.c.simmons@lse.ac.uk



RAG WEEK SOCIETIES PARTY

DATE: Monday, 24th February
LOCATION: The Quad
TIME: 19:30
COST: £1 Donation to Rag Week Charities

This event is being held to help raise money for the charities chosen by the SU. Last year's event was a tremendous success and hopefully this one will be even better. The object of the Societies Party is to highlight the talents of various SU Societies. This years show will feature Alt.Ents, live music and many more LSE Societies. Please contact Elliot at E.C.Simmons@lse.ac.uk for more information.

POSTGRAD PARTY

DATE: Monday, 17th February
LOCATION: The Quad
TIME: 19:00 - 23:00
COST: Free

Entry is free, but early on will be restricted to those carrying LSE Post grad cards. After last term's successful party, come down to a (mostly) exclusively post grad party, and relax before those end of term essays start to loom... Meet-up again with those 'friends' you made at the beginning of term - and haven't seen out of the library since. As an incentive to get there early, food will be on offer, with live music from a local jazz group, after that, we'll keep the music low, followed by DJs to take us to the end.

HISTORY - INFORMAL LECTURE SERIES Dr. JANET HARTLEY ON "WHY STUDY MINOR HISTORICAL FIGURES?"

DATE: Tuesday, 18th of February 2003
LOCATION: History Common Room, E509
TIME: 16:00
COST: Free

LIVE MUSIC - PRESENTS OPEN MIC

DATE: Wednesday, 19th February
LOCATION: Underground Bar
TIME: 20:00
COST: Members Free / Non-members £1

Come watch and support random LSE musicians show off their hidden talent, performing various cover and original songs- ranging from acoustic sets, to Lionel Richie, to full on band performances

LIFE DRAWING & PHOTOGRAPHY - ARTS EXHIBITION

DATE: Thursday, 20th February
LOCATION: TBC (Exhibition - Student Services Atrium / Concert - Shaw Library)
TIME: All Day (Jazz Concert & Free Food & Wine in the evening)
COST: Free

The Life Drawing Society, in conjunction with the Photography Society, will be holding an Arts Exhibition on this day, and would like to invite you to take this opportunity to display your work. Over the past 2 terms, we have been privileged to see just how very talented you really are, and we believe the whole world should share the privilege! If you don't want to submit anything, then indulge in the hard work of others, and come and support this event on Thursday. In the evening there will be a jazz concert, with free wine and food, and the opportunity to speak to the artists about their work. To take part or if you have any ideas, enquiries, or comments please email h.j.dawson@lse.ac.uk.

BUSINESS & TEACH FIRST - Present Cracking the Case Study: Key insights into top employer cases

DATE: Thursday, 20th February
LOCATION: G1
TIME: 17:00 (Reception to follow the session)
COST: Free
To register, please email

Business_society@lse.ac.uk

Teach First has prepared a unique overview of the entire UK case study landscape for the benefit of top graduates and invites you to a practice and role-playing session, designed to help you ace the case. During the session, different types of employer cases will be explored and strategies to solve them outlined by Paul Davies, ex McKinsey consultant. Teach First is a unique business-led programme for top graduates combining two years of fully paid teaching in challenging London schools with cutting-edge education and management training from the most highly regarded institutions in the UK. Successful applicants will receive structured networking and mentoring opportunities with executives from the world's most prestigious organisations - Allen & Overy, Barclays, Cap Gemini Ernst & Young, Capital One, Citigroup, Clifford Chance, Deloitte & Touche, Deutsche Telekom Ltd, KPMG, Freshfields, McKinsey & Company, Morgan Stanley, UBS Warburg and dozens more.

MEMORIAL FOR DANIEL PEARL

On Thursday 20th February a memorial will be held for Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter killed one year ago in Pakistan. The memorial will be in room S221 at 6pm. Friends of Daniel Pearl will reminisce about Daniel and, in association with the Three Faiths Forum, prayers will be recited from different religions. Contact G.Gregg@lse.ac.uk for more information.

SOUR APPLES - HIP HOP SHOWCASE

DATE: Thursday, 20th February
LOCATION: Underground Bar, SU
TIME: 20:00
COST: £4

Live breakdancing, MCs & DJs to raise money for London Anarchist Youth. Contact John at J.Coogan@lse.ac.uk for more information.

DATE: Saturday, 22nd February
LOCATION: TUC Congress House, Great Russell St, London WC1 (nearest tube Tottenham Court Road)
TIME: 09:30 - 17:00
COST: Free

The Student Assembly Against Racism and the National Black Students Alliance have secured a number of FREE places for the forthcoming Unite Against Racism Conference - which marks the anniversary of the Lawrence Inquiry Report. This year the conference marks the tenth anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence and speakers will include Doreen Lawrence - mother of Stephen - along with Ken Livingstone - Mayor of London, Bill Morris, General Secretary of the TGWU and other leading anti-racists. There will be a student fringe meeting at lunchtime. For further information contact the Student Assembly Against Racism tel: 020 7247 9907.

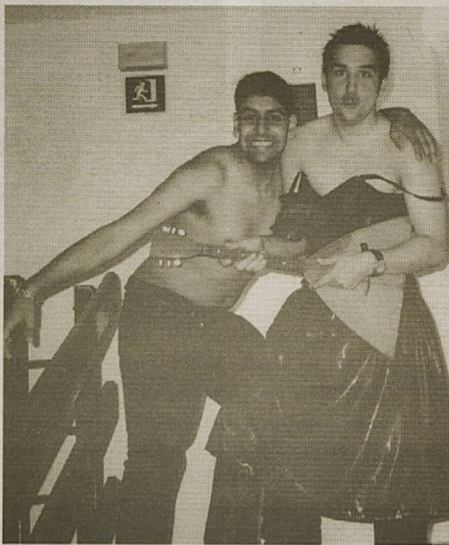
HISTORY - PROFESSOR DAVID STEVENSON "THE IMPACT OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR ON WESTERN CULTURE"

DATE: Tuesday, 25th of February 2003,
LOCATION: D202, Clement House
TIME: 18:00
COST: Free

To advertise your Society in the 'Societies Page' in The Beaver, the 'Global Email' or the News Section of the SU Website please email Elliot Simmons - the SU Societies Officer - at E.C.Simmons@lse.ac.uk by the Thursday before the paper / global email you wish to advertise in is published. Please send adverts in the format of those above.

UNITE AGAINST RACISM CONFERENCE

'There Was A Dream In The AU, You Could Only Whisper It. Anything More Than A Whisper And It Would Vanish It Was So Fragile' And That Dream Was: Calellafest 2003



ITINERY:

The CalellaFest itinerary has been enhanced in response to the students' feedback from the 2002 festival. Here is a brief overview of how CalellaFest 2003 will run:

CalellaFest : 5th April 2003

Depart from your students union 'THE THREE TUNS' - don't forget the travel essentials. Teamlink recommend spare socks, deodorant, magazines and a personal stereo. Little things that will make the journey so much easier!

Dave's version: We take shit loads of beer - some of the money will go towards mucho crates, spirits etc and we get fucked. We then rip everyone apart on the ferry and then continue all the way to Spain. Normally one of the tour, G, dies and comes back to life after 10hours puking and bleeding. We also drink/play frisbee in Dover and get pictures with policeman telling us off in an action poses

CalellaFest : 6th April 2003

Whether you choose to fly or take the coach you will land in Calella during the morning of Arrival Day. Check into your hotel and head for the beach where the sun, sand and 2000 other students lie in wait! Hopefully April will offer temperatures in the early 20's° so take this opportunity to relax ...



recover and prepare for the best week of your lives!

Dave's versions: We play footy on the beach, stub our toes, chuck someone in the sea and then have eet in a pub. Annoy everyone. LSEFC have arrived.

Night One - Make your way to the official CalellaFest bars - Kauai Bar, Hollywood Café, Rollers Diner and Tunnel. Get involved in drinking games and madness before the Opening Parties begin in Avenue and Turisme 35 Nightclubs. Don't forget the 'Hawaiian Beach Party' theme and remember prizes are on offer for the best-dressed students - Bikinis, loud shirts, hula dancing and grass skirts. The awesome DJ outfit, 'Section 77' will run the show until around 5am.

Dave's version: Nobody has a fucking clue what is going on. We go to a club and piss all over the dancefloor while some of us jump down stairs and others dont let the bouncers give them their wallets back. Some of us get laid on the beach afterwards. At least a few people fall asleep and we stick fag ends in the bellies. One of us pulls a really fit bird - the only one on tour I think.

CalellaFest : 7th April 2003

Tournament Day One - depart with your team to your respective sporting venue and begin the first day of sporting competition. Sport at CalellaFest is 'socially serious'. We expect all teams to 'get involved' in the spirit of the festival through mass participation in their chosen sport.

Dave's version: We realisos pretty quickly that we are shit at football and playing 45 people in a 8-a-side doesnt help. Some of us realise we are going to have 'Bambi' on their tour kit next year by proving they not only can't play football but have trouble walking! We give up ealry doors and annoy the ref by nicking the goals

Night Two - 10 Section 77 DJ's will perform their 'Trolled' set in 'Turisme 35' and 'Avenue' night clubs with a 'foam party' in

the 'Western Saloon' nightclub.

Dave's versions: Rossi's nite - we get fucked, try to ride on bulls, chuck sewage all over eachother and then try to escape from Rossi trying to smother us all in foam. one of us meets a girl who likes to get cum on their glasses while another meets someone who is adept at giving under-foam blowjobs

CalellaFest : 8th April 2003

Tournament Day Two - The day to decide who are the 'Kings' and 'Queens' from the festivals sporting contests. Depart with your team to your respective sporting venue for the second day's competition. Today's action will decide who walks away with the silverware!

Dave's version: It all goes even more mental. Voices dissapear and reappear at regular interval proving we are still the largest and loudest group on tour. Our virgin gets raped by Jesus and we break glass and molest drunk women. One of us snogs 11 mingers in 2 minutes - legendary



Night Three - The unprecedented success of the 2002 Medieval Banquet has

forced us to hire the Castle once more! See the highly trained knights battle it out for honours in a three-hour show while you wine and dine yourselves on free wine and a regal banquet (Hands only please). Sounds messy? It is! (Note: This will sell out well in advance and we advise teams to make arrangements at time of booking). 'Turisme 35' and 'Avenue' nightclubs will continue the party back in resort ensuring nobody is asleep before 5am!

Dave's version: God knows what is happening!! Many girls suddenly become lesbians - we like!! More filth from what I can remember and we don't go to the banquet.

CalellaFest : 9th April 2003

Free Day - Take this opportunity to visit some of the many attractions in the surrounding area. Highlights include the city of 'Barcelona' and ... 'Universal Studios' theme park at Porto Ventura.

Night Four - The 'Grande Finale'. The last night on tour before the return journey back to the UK. To get you prepared for the return to University we are going 'Back to Skool' with the largest school disco of its kind! Short skirts and school ties are compulsory and disobedient pupils will be punished!

Dave's version: Cannot remember anything of this day last year - God knows what happend.

CalellaFest : 10th April 2003

Time to go! It's a guarantee that nobody will want to leave what has been 'probably the best student party in the world' but lectures and reality await! Board your flight or coach... reflect on the excellent tour and contemplate your recovery over

the coming weeks.

CalellaFest : 11th April 2003

Arrive back to the UK full of memories of an excellent week on tour, safe in the knowledge that it is only 52 weeks until CalellaFest 2004!

Dave's version: We get drunk one last time and then watch 10 DVD's on the trip home...WE THEN GO TO THE TUNS AND DRINK BEFORE TELLING EVERYONE WHAT LEGENDS WE ARE...what goes on tour - stays on tour

And What The Students Thought...

Dave Bains, London School of Economics - "were so pissed were gonna vomit" "The tour was kevin waleety. I cant remember much as I was pretty simon lopyy for most of eet. One night, I ended up in a full ball gown, with a banjo, no voice and a minger that I had to hide from the rest of the footy club. I think I drowned her in the foam hiding her face. I was loving eet all.

Gav Russell, ex-LSE legend

"I talked to a rabbit. They are very interesting"

Nick 'Ugly' Hill - 1st team

"In order to pull I traded off the good name of LSEFC in order to get a bird back to my room and shagged the fuck out of her while Davda and Healy were asleep..or so I thought"

Tom 'Boz' Winstone - 2nd team

"So, after a valiant effort, I took one fit bird and one fat bird back to their apartmet to get a threesome. I thought I was in. I was. Then the fucking security man wouldn't let me in the hotel and the girls went inside to have lesbian sex and I missed out. I am taking the securtiy man to court.

Jez 'Disturbed' healy - 3rd team

"I lost everything on tour...u name eet, I lost eet. people kept telling me I wasn't the man I used to be"

Victor 'Pikey' fleurot - 4th team

"As a sign of affection and to get rid of my pikey nickname, I decided to give my waleet to some local. They didnt give it back"

Justin 'Ugly girlfriend' Davda

"There was this one time when we went to Barcelona, at band camp, and we saw the quarter-final of the Champions League and then went to these william icked clubs that had loads of fit birds in. None of them liked me but it was kwaleety all the same"

Manni 'Chef-in-leather' Pattar

"I spent the entire time with a bunch of muppets who dressed up as chefs and pissed on bread rolls before giving them to women to eat"

Steve 'Caustic' Simpson

"I cant remember a time when I have gained so many STD's in such a short space of time"

How Calella Was Won: A Geo-Tactical Dissection Of The Campaign

A Graphical Run-Through Of The Carnage



Dave's version: we went to clubs every nite and the only thing I can remember is that you didn't need to talk to bird to pull them and there was no way of finding the toilets. We also danced the monkey dance a bit.



V
I
C
T
O
R
F

As I was teaching local boys some garlic football skills, a pikey took my unattended wallet with all my cash, which made me look even more of a pikey than I really am for the rest of the trip. I got compensation though by pretending I was attacked, so the insurance is reliable too.



'The fixtures being thrown out of the window looked like rainy furniture'
-Caustic Steve Simpson

Here was a club that held a foam party where Dave ended the night with ball gown and mandolin. Healy pissed all over a bull and Rossi tried it on with all of the LSEFC

Here was 'the Avenue' - it was a maze of a club so everyone pissed on the walls so they could make sure they didn't lose everyone else.

The east end - nobody went anywhere near here apart from Pikey cos he gave his wallet to some tourists to lose the reputation of being pikey...

We played footy here and got pissed on by all the other uni's. We gave up but they kept beating us. We never went back

Here was the bank and there was somewhere you could eat but the 6ths pissed all over that too...

Last year the FC stayed in a hotel here. It was here that Harry & Gremlin threw everything out of their room. A toilet disappeared in another room and we found out that Bedford uni's hockey team were a bunch of lesbians.



Calella is about 17hrs drive from LSE. G was sick the entire way there after trying to push over the bus. On the way back we watched 10 DVD's highlights being Rush Hour 1 followed by Rush Hour 2

The train station where we went on a bender to Barcelona. There are much fitter birds in Barca than Calella

We had a game of football here and everyone lost all their toes. It turns out the first team were better than the rest of us at football. N.B. Shiva - it is at this point in the holiday that everyone will try to kick you

Beaver shagged a bird and came in her glasses at this exact point. Caustic also gained a few extra STD's on this beach.

There were lots of bars here and we sang our hearts out in each of them. One bar asked us for £1000 in damages...

There were loads of other uni's staying in these hotels but don't worry, we didn't speak to any of them.



HARRYS TOAKES
Having arrived into the room with Baresi and the Gremlin, we chucked the bags on the floor, stuck on 'Be Here Now' Track 04, and I unleashed the Vodka that I had been refraining to open the whole journey down. After watching Keith Richards throw a TV out of his Hotel window in the video 25X5, I had promised myself I would conquer similar pillars of genius, only, there weren't any TVs in the fucking room. After a 1 hour drinking sprint (before we met the rest of the lads dans le premeir etage) Chairs, Tables, Bed-side Tables, Mirrors, Bed Planks, Vases were all cascaded off the Balcony. Caustic Steve witnessed the whole thing and described it as 'rainy furniture'. A Calella rep witnessed everything, and when he shouted up at us, Gremlin grabbed the paintings from the wall (being a lover of fine art I had planned to save these beauties until the last night) and launched them off the balcony. All that was left in the hotel room was 3 bare beads and three retarded males.



G drank a lake of Red-Stripe lager, and some Sambucca too, I think. This was before we'd even got to Dover. He just sat on the bus throwing up. That set some other people off too. During all this -when we came to a stop- he tried to push the bus over. This wouldn't really be a worry, but G probably could. The driver wasn't happy.

BLONDE NETBALLERS PLAYING WITH TANNED BALLS (+ LESBIANS) WEARING RED LINGERIE!!

The mighty mighty 1st team...

LSE's brilliant first netball team have had a hilarious season of frolicking with large tanned balls, GKT lesbians, Gimperial moody gingers and, of course, frolicking amongst ourselves. However, since our match write-ups have been extremely few (maybe 1 last term!) questions have arisen over whether the mythical 1st team really does exist, so it's time to fill you all in...

Firstly to dispel a rumour - not everyone in the team is blonde (this can be easily calculated by looking at the amount of hair-dye owned between us - I think only our Welsh Captain Nerys is truly golden). Plus 5 out of 9 players being blonde isn't a majority - or is it? Sorry, blonde moment.

Our team consists of a highly specialised fighting force - Nerys and Olivia play up front (GS and GA for those in the know!) They have had a fantastic season and been rampant with their scoring (both on and off the pitch...). Ley-K, Siobhan, Barbie and Michelle are in mid-field (WA, C and WD). We are all very proud of them since these are by far the toughest positions, requiring a lot of stamina. Finally Jade, Rachel and PHOEBE (must shout this name) keep up the rear (GD and GK). They have done a great job of keeping the humour up on the pitch - Jade sticks out her arse, Rachel does a brilliant aeroplane impression, and well, PHOEBE, is simply a feisty, loud, and generally gobby red-head!

The season got off to a shaky start with three successive losses, it took the team a while to figure out new tactics and integrate the freshers. One of those losses was against the fucking ugly lesbians at GKT. Their tactics involved touching up our innocent (?) fresher Olivia to prevent her from shooting, attempt-



ing the same antics on Jade in defence, and generally being lesbians who squealed like pigs after they scored a goal. Their umpire was about the size of our whole team put together and so it made umpiring difficult for her when she couldn't keep up with play (it all became clear when they fed us burger and chips after the game) - and who said netballers are bitchy. Our losing streak was only a temporary one and since then we haven't looked back (well sort of).

Our most impressive results have been against Imperial. For people who are supposedly intelligent, these scientists they are bloody thick. If your arses have been whipped three times (and then a small reprieve with a dodgy 14-14 draw), would you want to play the LSE again? They are obviously shocking at statistics because they chose to ask for a re-match. It was the most exciting game of the



season, the crowd was cheering (even if it only consisted of 1 boyfriend, 2 friends, 1 of Barbie's fan-club and Pete Davies) and the starting whistle blew. After the usual illegal pushes and contact, tensions and general hatred between the two teams started to rise. With LSE leading after the first quarter it put us in the right frame of mind to continue the way we started.

For a non-contact sport it was exceptionally rough and our brave Centre Barbie took most of the blows - although she was given relief when the moody Imperial ginger captain substituted herself off because she had "issues". We eventually put them in their place once and for all with a 28-15 win. This means we are still in the Cup and play Queen Mary's next week in the quarter-final.

First team fun does not end on the pitch. Our turnout on Wednesday nights is quite shock-

ing but we have some representation with Rachel, Phoebe and Olivia who always make an appearance. Our karaoke talents are crap too, but -with the support of fellow netballers such as Emma Walsh- we always manage to blurt out something bearable. However, it is hardly surprising netballers don't get noticed on Wednesdays, due to the fucking awful noise coming out of the boys - although it has to be said that footballs new chant "I'd rather go to Kings than play rugby" deserves a bit of credit. Maybe the netballers should chant that to women's rugby...

Outside of the Tuns we also have a bit of a name for ourselves. The staff in Old Orleans in Covent Garden are pretty terrified of us after we harassed the waiters and were generally being rampant females on our team dinner. 40 something cocktails later when it was only 9.30pm, the 1st's -in style- returned to the Tuns to grace the A.U. crowd with the netball song to the tune of Gloria Gaynor - pure class.

For those of you who are still not convinced of the existence of the 1st team netballers cast your minds back to December - the A.U. Barrel (a little be hazy we know). A portion of those stunning girls wondering around in red lingerie belonged to us! And who can forget our very own PHOEBE snogging F.C. - and there's photographic evidence to prove it...

After a hard season, which is not yet over, we are in heavy training for Caella. Our alcohol tolerance levels are slowly being toughened up and our boat racing skills are perfected. We have Jade as a team asset who has been nominated for sexiest female by the Caellafest organisers (must be her arse). All in all we are pretty much ready for it, the question is, whether Caella is ready for us...

Women's Rugby: The Dream That Was...

We made history this year to be the first team not to finish last in the BUSA league in their first season. Quite an achievement for a team who, at the start of the season, barely knew the rules. I remember the first practise, Helena made us do sit ups (hideous on a wet Sunday afternoon), and last year's girls (Jojo, Ellie, Sarah, Sexy Kate and Lauren) oozed enthusiasm about how much fun it was and how you never got injured (I don't think they had played a full game). Those words came back to haunt us a few weeks ago when half our team went off injured and Annie and Lizzie were sent to hospital, third ambulance waiting on. At the start of the season we also stole two netball girls Kate and Jane (yeah!! The team wouldn't be the same without you girls).

I'm sure we all remember the first game we played against UCL in Regent's Park. Probably the scariest experience of my life realising that yes, that was the

women's rugby team not the men's, and yes, I was about to subject myself to a huge amount of pain and suffering. (The bruises have only got less painful since, although my poor room mates still have to listen to repeated moans about how I actually can't move my neck thus rendering me unable to get out of bed on a Thursday morning for my 9am. No, it is absolutely nothing to do with the hang-over!!). We got our arses kicked that day but we put up a fight, with Hannah developing a trademark early on of picking the largest, ugliest member of the opposition and flooring them when they were through for a try.

The first time we played a game at Berrylands, (a friendly against the Strand), and we met our lovely referee, who is still awaiting his cucumber sandwiches from a certain member of the front row with an obsession for feeding people (no, not me. I do not want give the poor guy food poisoning!) Little did I realise

that The Strand would be the smallest team we would play. That first try scored by Kay against UKC was a sweet moment, particularly since their coach was refereeing the game and his ugly ho, sorry girlfriend, got a nosebleed. (Also the game where Jane played in 7 different positions!). The First win came shortly after against Christchurch College Canterbury, tries galore from Lizzie, Kay, Helena and Hannah. A lotta alcohol was consumed that night, the victory was a gorgeous experience, and we wanted more (alcohol that is - Vanessa and Tanith has spent every week getting wasted since!!).

There are gonna be loads of people we miss next season, Meghan, Kristie, Annie and Lauren all leave us to return to the States, while Becks and, recently found star, Emma, complete their Masters (Don't go girls, we'll miss you all!!). But a large majority of the team remain into next year (including the Bristol connection Louise,

Lauren C, Kate, am sure half the team lives there so can't mention them all!) meaning that hopeful we can look forward to a really good season next year. A few people deserve thanks, and without them we couldn't have done. Cookie, Morgan, Darius, Ross and Rex all deserve a special mention for the time they have given up to coach us on Sundays in Regents Park, but all the guys have been really supportive so thanks!! Lastly our captain Helena leaves us at the end of the year to pastures new, her faith in us has been great and, even though we have repeatedly pissed her off by not turning up for practise, she has stuck by us. Cheers. Finishing note, we play the Gimps on Wednesday 19th at Berrylands in the newly created Science Trophy (wait til you see the cup!!), it would be great if some of you would come and cheer us on at Berrylands.. It's also a your last chance to see the leavers play.. Piss up afterwards is also guaranteed....

Queen Mary Heavyweights Crush LSE Winning Streak and Hopes of Cup Glory!

Michi explains...

Need I repeat, following a rain free Saturday, Sunday rolled along storm clouds in hand, yet again. Fourteen awoke with intentions of playing football. Four saw the rain and went back to sleep. Three were on platform 4 at London Bridge. Three were on platform 5. At some point later, the grand total of ten and an unhappy fan made coach of the day were all on platform 4.

At first site, Queen Mary were big as ever, kitted out and engrossed in regimented warm up routines. After numerous grunts and strange war dances, reminiscent of both Lord of the Flies and drill team, we kicked off hoping to replicate our quick success last Sunday.

Unfortunately, the author, turning to pass to Laurel to boot the ball to Claire for Claire to score with, passed the ball to Anna who with a profound look of fear found herself clearing the ball to send the savage blues back into their half. I believe the ball found Antonia, as Claire was in Liverpool, and we had the first attack.

Our ten men trekked back into our half soon to realize QM were stronger than ever and stocked with new recruits from the other side of the Atlantic. Ten minutes of marvellous defending began. Anna as stopper and Jill in right back served both as stalwarts in front of the last man and pushed the play forward. Margo in left mid and Vanessa held the left



side and Laurel took up the rear. Play continued with close to equal possession, surprising even QM. But the biggest surprise came with the ref. The referee, a very fine specimen, every badge earned proudly stitched to his prized black shirt, blew his whistle, with notable lung strength, and called for a free kick. Against us.

Powerhouse Charlotte Dawkins, in terms of ULU power and kilo power, slowly made her way into our half to the spot of a typical David Beckham free kick. Some of you may remember her presence in the 2001 Cup Final, yet another case of us verse them. She didn't bend it like Beckham but she sure sent the ball into the back of our net. Arisa, our star keeper, praised as the best in the league even by 'short shorts' the QM coach/drill sergeant, had little view of the ball thanks to QMs six foot high wall. Why they formed a wall I do not know but as a tactic it definitely worked!

Slightly disheartened, but not terribly, Lucilla and Michi kicked off, attempting yet again to send the ball towards Antonia up front. I think the strategy worked on this occasion, less so on others. Hannah in right mid and Jill in right back followed up with assistance. Something probably almost happened but the ball ended up in QM Keeper's hands who promptly returned the ball to our half. Somehow the shrill whistle sounded again and it emerged that some kind of foul had occurred in the box. Many astounded LSE players questioned its illegitimacy but the ref angrily spit out 'foul in the box - penalty'. Maybe we should have asked the what the rule was instead. One of the three # 12s took the PK. Arisa dove in the right direction and was denied from a block by inches.

What happened next? QM got a couple more free kicks and a couple more goals. Chances for us included shots and runs from Antonia and Hannah, a short corner that fizzled, a run by Michi on the left which died as she

slipped in the mud attempting to cross, a couple great spots by Lucilla who found many gaps and a couple shots from midfield playing scrap. The first half ended four nil.

With the rain dying down we were determined to get stuck in and get some feeling back into our hands and feet. Subs in the second half, none. But Margo swapped with Michi from left mid into center midfield. We were defending a bit too deep in the start but two calls in our favour, one for an advantage that failed to develop and another on the left just outside the box lifted our spirits. The latter involved a roll back to Margo who almost booted the ball into the left corner but a block by the keeper led to a muddy skirmish on the line. Finally the ball was tapped in by Antonia, I think. Other opportunities arose and the change in pace and the coach's prompting moved us to start playing the offside trap. We happily caught a couple QMers on the half way line and kept up good pressure. However QM managed to break thru occasionally forcing Arisa to make some fantastic saves. I spent much of the second half's end simply joyously congratulating Arisa on one great save after another. Unfortunately a corner which must have attracted all 20 players on the pitch led to a QM header and a goal. Final score 5-1. The pitch was a bitch but we got free food and we could eat it without fear of counting calories, a plus that QM were denied even after 90 minutes of football.

You've Read The Hype, Now Meet The Stars Of The 5th Team!!!

Rob: Big. Gives away penalties just to prove he can save them. Has been known to cause instant trouser-filling with his forward runs.

Drew: Imagine being hit by a bus at 400mph... being driven by Lennox Lewis. Now ask Davda what it was like to be mowed down by this new American on the side. Legendary for hard-tackling, drinking 7 times as fast as anyone else, and having American women positioned all round the capital (including on trains) whom he can chat to whenever he wants.

Luther: Provides the team with another solid-tackling full-back. Has been known to worry the opposition and attract the attention of the ref with on-pitch threats of violence.

Alex G: Loves two things in life: Bob Dylan (K Walitee) and Southampton FC (Shite). Cheer up Gordon Strachan, Oh what can it mean to a sad ginger bastard and a shit football team. If Wayne Bridge offered, he wouldn't say no.

Ben: Attracted the attention of Francis at trials. Totally dependable centre back, who says little but you know could hurt you.

Davda: Cripple. Has an ugly bird. Having taken half of last year off, seems to have come back twice the player he was. Rumours abound that the time off was taken at the FA academy, practising his shooting from a yard and working out how to get 70% more curl from his Predators.

Dave: Was supposed to meet his girlfriend at 7:00. At 10:30 was still polishing off pints in the Tuns. Needless to say, his commitment to the team is probably costing him all other personal relationships. Has possibly overtaken Davda as most crippled fifth team player, taking almost all the term off.

Alex A: During one match won around 95% of all headers that game. Not 95% against his own man, but 95% of the total headers occurring in the game. Only member of the fifths so

far to lack the discipline of the others and find himself booked for a thoroughly malicious challenge which he claims wasn't even a foul at all.

Frasier: Possibly the angriest man on the team, a hard-tackling midfield god who couldn't score from a yard away. If militant guerillas were holding all his friends and family, threatening to remove their back teeth via rectal surgery unless Francis could avoid hitting

the bar from two yards away, he'd still hit the bar...or the post. Will probably never score for LSE.

Babak: Another midfield headcase who simply loves the stark emotions brought out in him when he hears the collision of stud and

leg. Has possibly found his spiritual home in the fifths after a year of nomadic wandering from team to team.

Saif: The only man alive who can handle the rest of us totally hammered while he is sober. Extraordinary translating ability from English to

I am Wednesday

Dribble and vice versa.

Michael: Arriving at the Tuns with his Harem of Hughes Parry Whores (if you're reading this isn't meant to be offensive, it just makes a nice alliteration), and knowing more drinking games than anyone I've ever met, Michael whiles away the hours throwing stuff into pint glasses and periodically downing them.

Lars: Bright-haired Norwegian who could take on anyone at karaoke and win hands down.



Due to the LSE doing Masters students straight up the shitter and giving them Wednesday classes, he hasn't played as much as would have been nice, but provides solid Saturday cover.

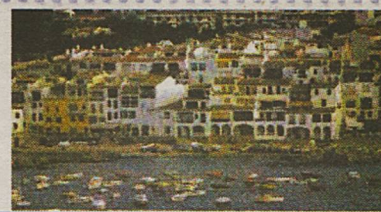
Ali: The elder statesman of the team, another solid midfielder who has Wednesday afternoons pleasantly disrupted by LSE's teaching. The beard only lasted about a month, despite not receiving the abuse usually given to anyone who tries to grow facial hair.

Adam: Turned up one Wednesday evening with a John Leslie T-Shirt on, which should indicate the level at which this man works. Probably the only person at LSE whose standard pint is cider, his brain is still sufficiently functional to lob the keeper from 45 yards.

Yaz: Camel. I still don't get this, but apparently Yaz looks like a camel when he drinks. I remember the good old days when he was simply 'fatty'. Now, with his rigorous diet of Wright's Bar salad sandwiches and 10 minutes in the gym shower every other day, he's managed to lose 18 stone and is currently joint top scorer with Adam

Nima: Got absolutely nailed at trials, and so couldn't play for the first few games, but has come back to worry defences with his pace. Worryingly hasn't scored yet, but this will soon change.

Dan: (Please see Teddy Sheringham player profile Pannini sticker book 1996.)



An intelligent man is sometimes forced to be drunk to spend time with his fools."
- Ernest Hemingway (For Whom the Bell Tolls)

Dirty Essex Virgins Overcome By Purple Monsters!!!

Let Emmo explain...

LSE 2nd XV Legends	25
Essex Poly	12

Revenge was on the cards as we all warmed up for our final match of the year, and for some their final match in the famous LSE 2nd XV shirt. When we made our long trip out to the Essex poly they were so overwhelmed by our epic reputation, that they fielded half their first team in their farce of a victory. Today was going to be different. From the very first hit of Foreman, which left the poly cunt lying on the floor crying out for his mother, we played some of our finest rugby. Camped on their try line, Adrian, in his new role at 10, decided the only way to get the ball to the wing was to pass it directly. His four man miss pass culminated in Tristan scoring our opening try after good work from Weasel.

The Essex poly then attempted to produce a spark of inspiration from their collection of inbred retards, and attacked solidly for 15 minutes. A great team would have capitulated, but today we were more than a great team, even

the Commander would have been proud of the unbreakable line that was our defence. In the pack Dave Abel shattered bones, the Pikeys sent the poly backwards, and Kiwi Nick put the million-dollar face on the line as we held out with our ferocious defence. Then like all great teams we counter-attacked so rapidly and purposefully that even the cheating cunts could not stop my mazy dummy fuelled run. Finally I remembered how to pass, and JP forced his way over the line, showing Psycho John what to do when you get there in putting the ball down for another try. Essex were then reduced to 14 cunts for an appallingly unsporting challenge on Pete, and the time had come to really push the boat out. What followed was ten minutes of champagne rugby, from Piers in the pack to Weasel on the wing we threw the ball to all corners of the ground. Eventually it was Pikey Aaron who scored, taking the lead after a smashing run from Craig, making it 15-0 at half time.



The second half was a slightly different story as the referee tried to even this one side bout. He awarded a penalty no more than half a yard from our try line, and one of their fat "McDonald's job for life" twats flopped over the line for a completely illegal and undeserved try. Whilst we were still reeling from this far-moca-sham they managed to pinch another score despite the fine efforts of JP.

Undeterred we fought back, and with Adrian throwing more dummies than me and Rich's straight running, we once again took control. Pete with his usual "dummy and go" from the base of the ruck, scored a fine individual try to cap some beautiful team rugby. As the game headed towards its victorious end, with the great support of the first team, we finished off with a try from Ben Foreman crashing over unopposed from 5 yards, as the poly cunts outlining their stupidity, decided that it was better to mark our backs than our epic prop forward.

With a successfully season completed we headed for a relaxing lavender bath and a quiet night in rehydrating our weary bodies like all good rugby player should.....did we fuck, a

rendition of our great rugby song, then straight for a Wright's Bar MG and to the Tuns with our bags in one hand and a can of Skol Super in the other. Except the two pikeys who decided to stay at the Fortress and mine sweep ALL the Skol Super, before heading via their caravan parked on the Aldywch to the Tuns, arriving just as lateness was called.....how schoolboy!

Once in the tuns the debauchery began. After countless rounds of the number after 20, in which almost everyone was lucky enough to be shafted, there was another good sing song where we put football in their proper place. To thank them for their loyal service to second team rugby, we decided to give everyone who was leaving a monster. In total eight monsters were shipped with the speed and authority that you would expect after three years at LSE, and culminated in Tristan vomiting all over the Tuns much to Paul's obvious enjoyment. From then on there was much singing and drinking all the way through to Limelight for all, well except Rex who was not allowed in as he was (a) wearing a hat, and (b) queuing to enter!!!! What went on in limelight will stay a mystery as usual, as no one really remembers being there.



Collectors Edition: Calella Double Page Spread Inside!!!