

the Beaver

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Issue **627**

The newspaper of the LSESU



Battling for Burma
Freedom and oppression

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Turner Around Again

p.09

Michaelmas elections enjoy record turnout

Tanya Rajapakse and Elaine Londesborough

After two days of hard campaigning, the counting of votes cast in the Michaelmas term elections took place last Thursday evening in the Quad.

According to the LSE Students' Union (SU) Returning Officer, Doug Oliver, voter turnout "soared" by 34 percent, probably the highest ever for a Michaelmas election. In a statement to *The Beaver*, Oliver said: "Normally students look on the Michaelmas elections apathetically, but this year campaigning was conducted feverishly as candidates and their supporters sought to woo the large number of first-time voters."

"The large increase in enthusiasm was in large part due to the large numbers of candidates running and particularly first-years - nine fresher undergraduates, compared to none last year."

This sentiment was echoed by LSE SU General Secretary, Rishi Madhani, who said: "I'm incredibly pleased with the turnout which I believe is a record for Michaelmas elections."

Overall, the elections were hailed as a victory for the left, with various positions being filled by Green and Labour backed candidates. Lizzie Fison (Academic Board) and Eddy Fonyodi (Court of Governors) were the only known right-wingers elected in these elections.

The elections were deemed to be a "huge success for the union", by LSE SU Communications Officer and National Union of Students (NUS) Conference candidate

Chris Heathcote.



Photograph: Sid Kamath

secured his place in the NUS delegation, but only came in, third, causing some to question whether his popularity is waning. However, Heathcote said he is pleased to be on the delegation and praised the campaigns of the other candidates in the race.

Notable results included Jimmy Tam receiving 344 first preferences in the race for NUS delegation, leading to rumours that Tam will run for General Secretary in the Lent term elections.

Some were surprised that the high profile nomination for Honorary President, Jean Charles de Menezes, came in third place, behind the winner Simon Wiesenthal and Edward Said in second place. Joel Kenrick, LSE SU Environment and Ethics Officer, who put de Menezes forward for Honorary President, said he was not disappointed as he felt that Simon Wiesenthal would "represent us well".

Kenrick also championed Thet Win Aung for the position of Honorary vice-president, a closely fought race with Lord Nelson, but Kenrick ran a strong campaign and is pleased about this victory for human rights.

The elections also saw success for Kenrick in his race for

Court of Governors

Arthur Krebbers
Zoe Sullivan
James Caspell
Farhan Islam
Eddy Fonyodi

ULU Council

Joel Kenrick
Sam Jones
Richard Simpson

Academic Board

Fatima Manji
Lizzie Fison

NUS Conference

Jimmy Tam
Sian Errington
Chris Heathcote

Post-Grad Officer

Anna Morgan

ULU Council. He took first place, with Sam Jones, Executive Editor of *The Beaver*, taking the second position. After two recounts, Richard Simpson narrowly took the third place. All ULU council delegates are considered to be left wing and will uphold a green agenda at ULU.

Not everyone was upbeat about the elections. LSE SU Residences Officer, Simon Chignell told *The Beaver* that he was "pretty disappointed that people voted 'back in the hat' rather than for enthusiastic new people". He also said that he preferred that people on the LSE SU Executive committee did not run as they already had many responsibilities to attend to.

A prominent candidate, who wished to remain anonymous, commented that he thought the elections were so "full of shameless self-promotion that R.O.N. deserves to win every single election".

When asked about any problems that were faced during the elections Oliver mentioned that he had received complaints of "over-zealous" campaigning resulting in the due punishing of candidates Arthur Krebbers and James Caspell. He also noted that a few logistical problems relating to small margins and recounts had to be dealt with over the course of the night.

Further controversy was caused by the Finance Society who put up posters on Wednesday morning calling on voters to 'vote NO on Paul Brandenburg for Court of Governors [sic.]'. The Returning Officer ruled that the Finance Society had been acting in contravention to the Codes of Practice and the posters were taken down. However, Brandenburg later failed to get a place on the Academic Board, coming in behind Lizzie Fison and Fatima Manji.

Due to the large number of candidates running for a place on the Court of Governors a computerised system was used to conduct the count. Court of Governors candidate Alex Hochuli said that he found it "funny and ridiculous that 20 people are running >>>3



Bangladesh Society Fireshow on Houghton Street last Thursday evening
Photograph: Sid Kamath

Women's Rugby

Shit, but fit: 17 - nil down, we were holding our own whilst they sweated and panted at the end of the knock-on filled first half - they had clearly underestimated us. Second half was fruitless for us, as they revelled in breaking Mel's ankle in 3 places, bitchslapping Katy Bags, and refusing to match numbers when we were down to 12 battered girlies.



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Albaholics

Into the Blue - Jessica Alba, Scott Caan, Ashley Scott, Paul Walker. See this film if you've travelled hours to go to the cinema and missed the film you wanted to see. Give it a miss if you can think of any better way to spend your time and money, like holding your breath until you pass out. Auto erotic asphyxiation with Alba.

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SOAS Protest

Four hundred students and staff demonstrated last Wednesday against the dismissal of two specialist librarians at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). The demonstration was timed to coincide with a meeting of the SOAS governing body in an attempt to appeal for the reinstatement of the librarians.

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News

Ken calls for more power

Sarah Titterton

London Mayor Ken Livingstone demanded more power at last week's London conference hosted by the LSE.

Livingstone's speech appeared to be driven along two themes: first, the challenges facing London and what he intended to do to meet them. Interwoven with those, he articulated ambitions for a greater consolidation of power within the office of the mayor, both from top levels of government down and lower levels of government - the boroughs - up.

The audience at the conference appeared, for the most part, to support him. "I think we all want to see you have more power, Ken," Chair Simon Jenkins said.

According to Livingstone, London's direct obstacle is the NIMBY, or "not in my back yard" syndrome.

NIMBYism is the main fac-

tor undermining success in London's two greatest challenges: the successful disposal of waste and housing for all.

The mayor did not hold back from voicing his frustration with many of the city's borough councils. A situation where one borough declines just six percent of planning applications for housing and another declines 77 percent is "clearly not rational" he stated.

Currently an appeal can be made when an application is declined but the process is lengthy and costly - prompting Livingstone to declare that while he does not want the mayor's office to take over housing completely, he is calling for a right of appeal directly to the mayor in such situations.

The boroughs must also accept the fact that London is going to have to undertake a major effort to up its levels of recycling, he added-with some stepping up to the wicket and agreeing to have recycling

plants built in their areas.

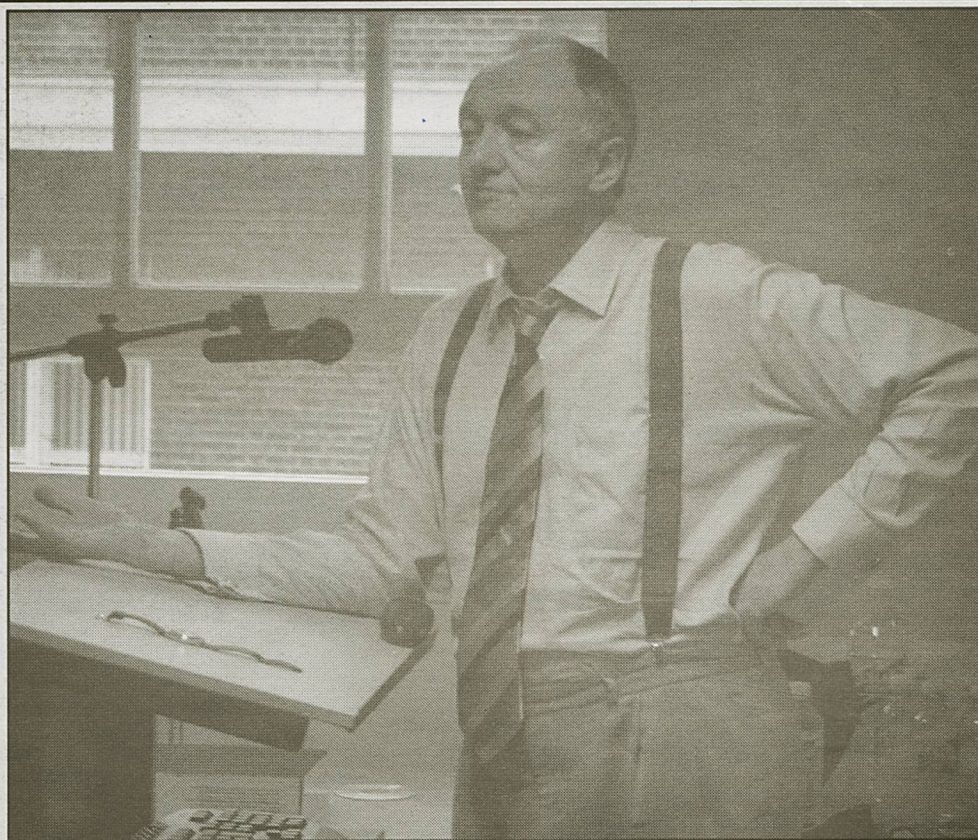
"If NIMBYism wins this city will start to contract and die, and bright young people who want to come in from all over the world will go someplace else" he said.

As for the city's workforce, there is a chasm between what London's young people are trained for and what jobs are on the London market, Livingstone declared.

"I don't want to run the schools, I think that would be an absolute nightmare," he said.

The mayor called for the learning and skills councils to be consolidated into one, with a board named by the mayor, and with the government holding the right to step in "if the mayor appears to have gone mad".

London must bridge the gap between the economy and the employment sector. If the city does not give its young the skills to compete in one of the world's greatest financial centres "we will fail".



Mayor Ken Livingstone talks at the LSE

Photograph: Sid Kamath

Travelodge adjacent to High Holborn may hurt revenue



The new Travelodge opposite High Holborn

Photograph: Dimitris Kallergis

Josephine Tay

High Holborn hall of residence might be facing some competition as a budget hotel destination when the new Travelodge on High Holborn opens in July next year.

Located right across from the hall on 178 High Holborn, the new Travelodge facility aims to grab the lion's share of

more than 30 million overseas visitors to London each year.

Shakila Ahmed, Public Relations and communications manager for Travelodge told *The Beaver*: "We opened our Central London hotel in Drury Lane 18 months ago and have received huge success there. The demand is very high, hence the choice of our new location at High Holborn."

But this move could spell bad news for the LSE hall, as

much of its income comes from letting rooms out during the summer to tourists and students.

The proliferation of low-cost Travelodge hotels around the hall could erode some of LSE's holiday takings from High Holborn Hall, especially since High Holborn Hall's popularity comes mainly from its affordable room rates and attractive location.

According to the LSE

Vacations Accommodations website, room prices at High Holborn Hall range from £31 for a single room to £80 for a triple ensuite room. The Hall is open to the public between 12 August and 1 October 2006.

Travelodge's prices, however, are comparatively lower. "Rooms from £26 only" splashed across the existing building site warn that High Holborn Hall might be in for some stiff competition next summer.

And that's not the only factor Travelodge is hoping to wow the crowds with. Boasting four-star hotel standards, the £10 million High Holborn Travelodge will offer rooms with king-sized beds and ensuite facilities.

"The crucial difference between Travelodge and the LSE Hall is the ensuite facilities," said Tim Forsyth, Warden of High Holborn. "It also looks more like a hotel than High Holborn Hall does, and is obviously newer."

"Travelodge has plans to move into more Central London locations," revealed Ahmed. "We have a new City Road hotel due to be open in 2007."

In anticipation of the potential loss of business for the LSE, the School has already taken a number of pre-emptive measures.

David Tymms, the director of residential and catering services at the LSE, told *The*

Beaver that they have been working on "increasing awareness of Holborn and other LSE residences through national bodies, such as VisitLondon, VisitBritain and Venuemasters - a national collective of university accommodation providers."

"Maximising the potential for the LSE's own brand new residence on Drury Lane gives the LSE added weight in the market place," added Tymms on the newly-opened Grosvenor House LSE residence.

But worries that the LSE's place in the market might be adversely affected could prove to be unfounded.

According to Tymms, the number of current enquiries for accommodation at Holborn for the summer 2006 vacation is up 15 percent over the same period in the previous year.

"The previous existence of alternative budget accommodation on the Drury Lane site has had no adverse impact on occupancy or enquiry levels for High Holborn," he added.

Forsyth and Tymms agree that the LSE will not be significantly affected by the opening of this new Travelodge facility.

"The strength of vacation business at High Holborn is reinforced by the business brought in by the LSE summer school, which guarantees six week's worth of maximum occupancy during the first half

of the summer vacation," said Tymms.

"Demand for summer school places is extremely high and it is not envisaged that the opening of a new Travelodge will have any impact on this whatsoever."

"High Holborn is 100 percent full during the summer school term. As long as we can get arrivals for summer school, this is not a fatal threat," added Forsyth. "Revenue from tourists is icing on the cake."

Many in the LSE community are hoping that the opening of the new Travelodge is good news, not bad. Forsyth said that the good news is that the area will look better and more aesthetically-pleasing. With more tourists in the area, he hopes that it will mean more business generated and more buzz in the neighbourhood.

Arthur Krebbers, President of the High Holborn Hall committee, said: "the competitive price for rooms at High Holborn and its extensive cooking facilities will help sustain its popularity."

"Obviously another major hotel will bring with it additional congestion - especially for the residents sleeping on the road-side of the building. Yet, having another Travelodge in the area will make it even easier for residents to accommodate their parents, or groups of friends that have come to visit them."

Wildlife

The beaver is back in Britain

The gregariously industrious mascot of the LSE, the beaver, may soon be closer to home. The semi-aquatic rodents have been reintroduced to Britain after 500 years of extinction. Six European beavers have been released in the Cotswolds. Land owner Jeremy Paxton said that it is important for us to leave the beavers alone so that they can "get on with a bit of breeding."

Azmimi Ahmad-Pharmy



Public lecture

Polish Prime Minister talks to LSE audience

The Prime Minister of Poland, Marek Belka, visited LSE last Friday. His lecture covered his views on Europe and the expansion of the EU. The Polish government was also discussed. The event was organised by the LSE Students Union Polish Society and was attended by many staff and students.

Sarah Titterton

Public lecture

Norwegian Foreign Minister visits LSE

The Norwegian Foreign Minister, Jonas Gahr Støre, gave a lecture on Norway's foreign policy priorities at the LSE on Wednesday. Speaking to students, staff and invited guests, he highlighted the longstanding close relationship of Britain and Norway and their close partnership within the NATO framework and through European trade.

Nina Pattinson



Photograph: Nigel Stead, LSE

Drinking

Banned on transport

The government is considering a ban on drinking alcohol on public transport as part of its crackdown on binge drinking in Britain. The ban was proposed to protect passengers from drunken yobs, but has been criticised by opposition parties. A paper outlining the proposals is expected to be published in December.

Magnus Aabech

News

from page 1

were running for Court of Governors”.

Some have suggested that the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system used in SU elections is not suitable for multi-member elections, such as Court of Governors. Chris Heathcote told *The Beaver* that he felt that the system is “confusing and does not genuinely reflect peoples preferences in the way intended. I will be looking into alternatives in time for the Lent term elections of C&S and F&S”.

The count lasted until 4.30am on Friday morning.

STV is “confusing and misrepresents people’s true preferences”
Chris Heathcote, LSE SU Communications Officer and newly elected NUS delegate

“I’m pretty disappointed that people voted ‘back in the hat’ rather than for enthusiastic new people”
Simon Chignell, LSE SU Residences Officer



Election frenzy at the LSE

Photographs: Magnus Aabech, Ruby Bhavra, Laleh Kazemi-Weisari Graphic: Sid Kamath

New LSE website launched

Saabira Chaudhuri

On Monday 31 October, LSE launched a new and improved version of its website, as well as a new search service that is powered

by Google. The launch is what Head of Web Services Stephen Emmott terms “an attempt to meet the information needs of users in pursuit of the School’s objectives”.

Designed with the idea of providing easy accessibility

for prospective students, professionals and the media, the new website boasts an improved template and a visual identity that strives to be consistent with LSE’s other publications and services.

Emmott told *The Beaver*:

“The new website aims to be user-focused, and to provide continuity for internal audiences, specifically (although not exclusively) students, staff, and alumni. The primary benefit to users is a website which is better focused to meeting their information needs. In part, this means having not only the right content but also making it easier to locate and use.”

The mandate for change of the website came from the university’s Director Howard Davies in January 2005. It primarily arose from the need for the website to be less insular and more customer-focused.

The process of creating the new website has been continuing since the beginning of this year, with the new template for the website and the information architecture having been signed off over the summer. Redevelopment is scheduled to continue throughout the 2005/06 academic session, with the target being a fully revised site by 31 July 2006.

The website’s decision making process has been significantly influenced by extensive consultations with stakeholders. These started with an internal survey, and went on to include user surveys on the LSE website, focus groups, ad hoc meetings, and user testing. In addition to testing the

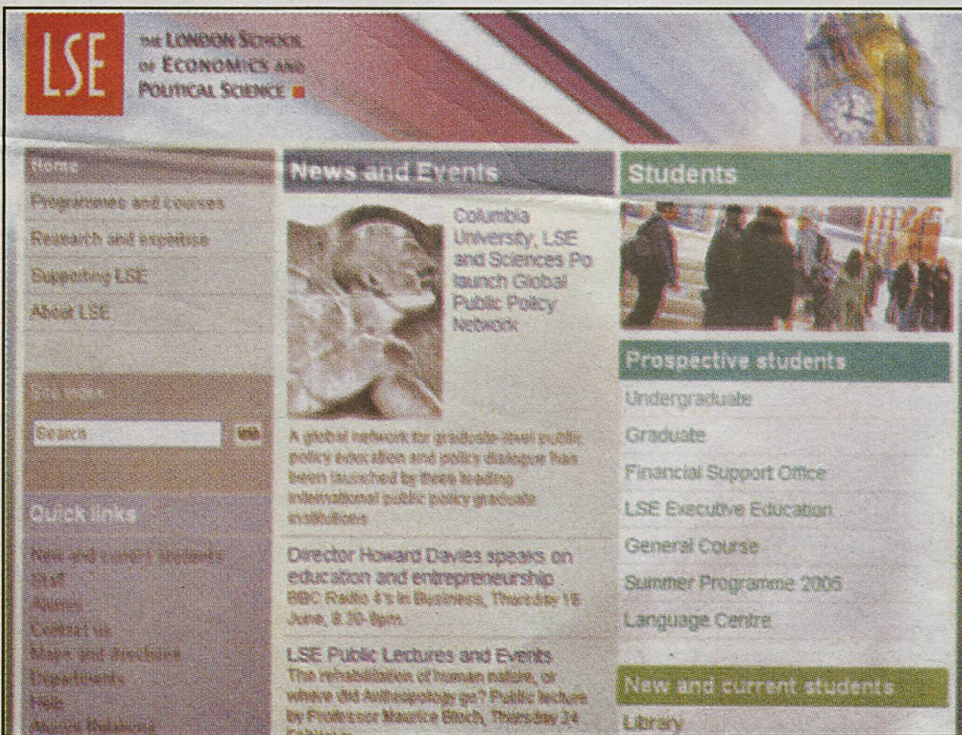
usability and accessibility of the LSE website, Web Services has also established the LSE Website User Group to identify and prioritise the information needs of the LSE website’s target users.

In keeping with their aim of improving customer service, the strategy adopted by the Web Services team was to strengthen the influence of those using the LSE website. In explaining the creation of the new website, Emmott states: “Web Services have consulted widely and in depth with senior management, internal suppliers, and customers.”

“As such, much of the credit for the LSE website should really be attributed to the School community. It is the product of a collaborative exercise. Moreover, this will continue as the new LSE website is developed further.”

“The new website aims to be user-focused, and to provide continuity for internal audiences.”

Stephen Emmott
 Head of Web Services



The new LSE Website, launched Monday



Union Jack

Another election goes by and, Jack wonders, who cares? The UGM is Jack’s consolation. A pretty good UGM it was too - for an election week.

Admirably, and for the first time in a while, the AU lads were out in force, perhaps just to admire the many layers of irony in a *Beaver* editor talking about cunts.

Speaking of which, the hacks were vote whoring on Houghton Street and did very nearly cost Jack the pleasure of a quorate UGM, without which Jack would have missed the mighty AU in action. Fortunately the numbers were found and events proceeded apace.

In the end it was all pretty tame, though enough paper was thrown to trip C&S’s eco-sensitivities and send them into convulsions. Curiosity Cole avoided getting too angry with the AU, but did see fit to remind Nick Green of his vaginal vocation.

Meanwhile, insidious Arthur Krebbers and his goggle-eyed minions were like a bad acne rash all over Houghton Street and too busy to deign to visit the OT. Jack wishes good old Queen Bess were here to put these papists in their place. Still, Jack feels gensec Fishi would make an admirable Virgin Queen and kut Krebbers down to size. Indeed, soon Fishi will need to be baptising his successor.

Widow Twanky Tam looks the likely lad, though Jack suspects Fishi is justifiably reluctant to anoint Twanky’s ample forehead. The one true hack has yet to emerge. Nominations and complaints to the usual address.

Jack’s ears were thankfully spared the protracted ethnominings of Opportunity Azan - thank God he was on the stage getting paper thrown at him, rather than off it asking questions.

But all such thoughts are dust considering Jack has found erstwhile ecto-planarian Joel Kenrick’s true leaning. Visit www.kenric.org for a little enlightenment.

All these fallacies aside, Jack was finally looking forward to a snooze in his favourite wing-back armchair in the Shaw library this week, and copy of the order paper in hand, Jack strolled to his spot. But alas the LSE had conspired against Jack’s zizz; the chairs were gone.

Jack wonders if Paul Allen has heard?

News

Turkish PM launches new academic chair

Christopher Lam

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan last week announced a new chair in Contemporary Turkish Studies at the European Institute. LSE Director Howard Davies said the appointment was a "tremendous boost to the School".

The Prime Minister gave the announcement in person, at a press conference on Thursday in the Senior Dining Room. The chair is the first of its kind in Europe, and coincides with fresh talks aimed at bringing Turkey into the European Union. The Prime Minister was accompanied by his deputy prime minister, the Turkish Minister of Economics, and the Turkish Ambassador to the UK.

Following the speech by the Prime Minister the head of the Turkish central bank, Süreyya Serdengeçti, gave a lecture in the Old Theatre.

The European Institute is a leading international centre which studies modern Europe beyond the borders of the current enlarged EU. The creation of the position is only possible now that the LSE has received a donation totaling £2.5 million to fund the chair in perpetuity. Donators included the Turkish government and its Central Bank.

The Turkish delegation is in the UK as part of talks regarding Turkey's entry into the UK. For several years Turkey has faced opposition to entering the EU from current members, most notably and until recently from Austria. At the same time Turkey has been undergoing mass economic



Recep Tayyip Erdogan unveiled a new chair of contemporary Turkish studies on Thursday
Photograph: Nigel Stead, LSE

and civil reform, and 'democratisation' in order to achieve

the EU's accession targets. Representing the LSE

were Kevin Featherstone, Director of the European Institute and Paul Johnson, deputy director of the School. Both emphasised the significance of the new chair as demonstrated by the Prime Minister's presence.

Featherstone said that there was "no greater endorsement," than having the Prime Minister at the LSE. He added that "the new chair challenges misconceptions," and that it is a "signal of maturity of Turkish society today."

Prime Minister Erdogan said that it was "a very meaningful and important" development, symbolic of "an alliance of civilisations". He was also keen to praise the LSE, whose graduates "serve as a bridge between countries all over the world". He shared his views on terrorism, and Turkey's alliance with the

west. He said that in such a climate, "we should globalise against it".

The Prime Minister took questions fielded from the audience. In response to a question about the border dispute with Cyprus, he said that there had been "no decision in the Turkish Parliament" on the issue, but progress towards a "peaceful settlement" was positive.

Asked specifically about what would happen if the chair shed new light on the historical dispute of the 1915 killing of thousands of Armenians, the prime minister said that he believed it is clear that the chair will look into "the past, present and future... brought about only by research." "History should be left to historians and academics [but] the history of Turkey is not a history of genocide."

LSE is second best social science university ... again

Mandy Lau

The annual world league table from *The Times Higher Education Supplement* (THES) came out on Thursday - no ups or downs for LSE, but a steady number 11. Imperial College London also made it into the top 20.

Cambridge and Oxford, on the other hand, had much to celebrate. Both bounced up the list, claiming third and fourth positions respectively, surpassing long-time rivals Stanford and Berkeley. In 2004, Cambridge ranked sixth and Oxford fifth.

Vice-chancellor of Oxford, John Hood, said: "Our place among the handful of truly world-class universities is testament to the quality and the

drive of the members of the university." A spokesperson for Cambridge said the University was pleased to have done well in a ranking that measures both teaching and research.

Indeed improvements were not just limited to Oxbridge. British universities in general had done better than last year, with quite impressive progress for several institutions like University College London (UCL), up from 34 to 28; Edinburgh, up from 48 to 30 and Bristol, up from 91 to 49. The UK claimed 24 places among the 200 top universities, second only to the US with 54.

The ranking takes into account the results of a survey of 2,375 academics from across the world, as well as a series of measures including the num-

ber of times that research papers are cited by academics, staff-to-student ratios and the number of students and staff from overseas. For the first time a measure based on the views of international employers on which universities they prefer to recruit from was also incorporated.

In the social science universities league table LSE ranked second, holding onto the same place as last year, following Harvard in first. Unlike the general league table, the social sciences table is determined solely by the 'peer score'.

Additionally, LSE was ranked fourth favourite by graduate recruiters, the only UK institution to be more popular with employers than academics.

Despite encouraging performance from British universities, it is clear that US institutions continue to dominate the global league. Seven out of the top ten are US universities, with Harvard staying at the very top and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) following immediately.

Last week Prime Minister Tony Blair warned the European Parliament that Europe's universities were lagging behind US institutions, suggesting that the European Commission report next year on the challenge facing European universities, in particular "how to compete with the US." Increasing investment in local universities will certainly be one of the major issues in upcoming education discussions.

THES 2005 Top 15 world universities (2004 in brackets)

1 (1)	Harvard University, US
2 (3)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US
3 (6)	Cambridge University, UK
4 (5)	Oxford University, UK
5 (7)	Stanford University, US
6 (2)	University of California, Berkeley, US
7 (8)	Yale University, US
8 (4)	California Institute of Technology, US
9 (9)	Princeton University, US
10 (27)	Ecole Polytechnique, France
11 (52)	Duke University, US
11 (11)	London School of Economics, UK
13 (14)	Imperial College London, UK
14 (23)	Cornell University, US
15 (17)	Beijing University, China

Henna my hand please Islamic Society raise money for charity on Houghton Street



The Islamic Society lightened the tense pre-count mood of Houghton Street's political circus last Thursday, offering henna tattoos to raise money for orphans as part of its charity week.

Photograph: Tamsin Davies

Galloway speaks at LSE

Alexa Sharples

George Galloway, the Respect Party's MP for Bethnal Green and Bow, delivered a fiery speech to students in the Old Theatre last week, saying that "Respect is an idea whose time has come".

Galloway, who labelled Tony Blair and George W Bush as "messianic fundamentalist creeps," said that "the drums are beating" for inevitable conflict with Syria.

The event, which filled the lower level of the lecture hall with the upper level interspersed with empty seats, was highlighted by the MP labelling LSE Students' Union Communications Officer Chris Heathcote a "jackass" for questioning Galloway's work in his constituency.

Another member of the audience attempted to defend Col. Moammar Ghaddafi as a reformed member of the international community and was too labelled a "jackass". At

various intervals, Galloway had to continue his speech over shouts of disapproval from the audience.

Galloway, who had previously been an MP for the Labour Party but was expelled in October 2003 because of his comments regarding the Iraq

war, railed against his former party for abandoning its principles and noted that, under a Labour Party, the gap between rich and poor in the UK was wider than when Charles Dickens wrote *Oliver Twist*, the film adaptation of which is currently showing in cinemas.



Galloway eagerly awaits his turn at the microphone

Photograph: Magnus Aabech

News

Strike looms over SOAS as librarians are sacked



Protestors descended upon SOAS in support of two sacked librarians.

Photograph: Laleh Kazemi-Veisari

Tom Kettleley

Four hundred students and staff demonstrated last Wednesday against the dismissal of two specialist librarians at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). The demonstration was timed to coincide with a meeting of the SOAS governing body in an attempt to appeal for the reinstatement of the librarians.

Two specialist librarians, one Chinese and one Japanese/Korean, were dismissed on September 30 without completing their three-month notice and a further two other specialists remain at risk of compulsory redundancy or the imposition of significant

changes to their jobs. The sacked and threatened librarians have a combined length of service of 96 years and leave the SOAS library without a Mandarin speaker.

The corridors and windows of SOAS were covered in placards on Wednesday and throughout the day lecturers were urging students to join the demonstration. Speaking to *The Beaver* during the demonstration, Steve Wharton, the President of the AUT, the Higher Education Union, said the "governing body has acted with a lack of transparency" and urged for the reinstatement of the librarians. Wharton added the specialist knowledge was at the heart of the University. This sentiment was echoed by a third year

Development and Anthropology student who explained "they call us a specialist college and then they go and take away all our specialisms. It is not on."

In response to the redundancies, 18 members of academic staff from the Chinese and Japanese/Korean departments have resigned from non-contractual obligations. Graham Dyer, the SOAS AUT chairman, was quoted in *The Guardian* as commenting "there are no heads of departments, chairs of research centres and there are no postgraduate tutors in those subjects; basically they are defunct organisationally."

One demonstrator said that there is "open rebellion in the library with it in chaos",

referring to the dissent from library staff outraged at the redundancies.

On Wednesday ballot papers were already in the post with the earliest date for striking set for 21 November. At the demonstration, AUT members were being urged to support the ballot for all out strike action. Indeed one protester said in relation to the demonstration that "if this makes no difference then there is nothing left but to strike".

On Thursday, the day after the demonstration, the Chairman of the governing body, Jonathan Taylor, announced through a statement that SOAS was planning to seek third party mediation to resolve industrial issues. The dispute continues.

Radical Yale professor sacked amidst controversy and wide student petitioning

Patrick MacLeod Cullen

David Graeber, the anarchist anthropologist, has been sacked by Yale University, in a move widely considered to be politically motivated. Yale officials, however, remain silent about their reasons.

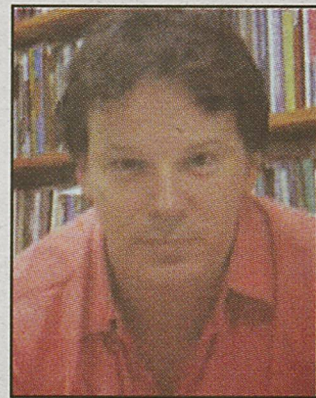
The Professor, recently asked to give a talk to LSE anthropology students, is an outspoken radical. He is a card-carrying member of the Industrial Workers of the World, has been arrested whilst on anti-globalisation demonstrations, and defended a Yale student who was attempting to unionise Yale graduate students. His popularity with students and his open association with the left, it appears, has led to Yale's decision to end his contract.

Another anthropology professor at Yale, Enrique Mayer, told *The Guardian* newspaper that he felt Graeber's politics weren't the main reason behind Yale's decision to fire him. "I have my own opinions, but I'm gagged," Mayer said. "There are people who don't like his politics ... That's true."

In protest over Graeber's sacking, over 4,000 people

have signed an online petition criticising the Ivy League institution for allowing politics to decide the selection of staff; whilst professors worldwide have begun a letter-writing campaign supporting Graeber.

One of the LSE's most eminent anthropologists, Professor Maurice Bloch, commented to Associated Press that: "It's extremely odd that one of the most brilliant anthropologists is being excluded from the department at Yale in such an extraordinary fashion." Bloch is among those who have written to Yale in protest.



Sacked anthropologist professor David Graeber



ml.com/careers/europe

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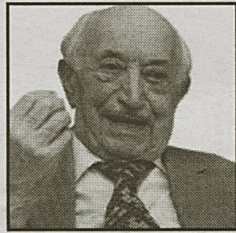
Closing date for Summer Internship opportunities: 15 January 2006.

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Honorary President
Simon Wiesenthal

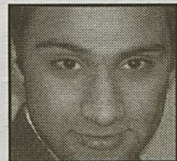
LSE SU

Honorary Vice-President
Thet Win Aung**LSE SU Executive**
Post Graduate Officer**Anna Morgan elected**Votes after redistribution:

Anna Morgan 425
Kabir Sehgal 373
Cleo Marangou 301
Tatyana Khein 176
Karanja Gacuca 119
William Tannenbaum 97
Kojo Amoo Gottfried (dropped out)
Haifa Cortbawi (dropped out)

LSE Court of Governors
Student Delegates

Arthur Krebbers elected
Zoe Sullivan elected
James Caspell elected
Farhan Islam elected
Eddy Fonyodi elected

Votes after redistribution:

Arthur Krebbers 190.5
Zoe Sullivan 190.5
James Caspell 188.82
Farhan Islam 179.94
Eddy Fonyodi 153.88
Raihan Alfaradhi 147
Richard Holden 132.82
Simon Yu 118
Alex Hochuli 89
Alex George 81
Ali Dewji 70
Keith Postler 54
Jeff Courtney 46
Paul Church 41
Hideyoshi Maeda 39
Andrew Hallett 19
Robert Cane 17
Sheharyar Malik 11

LSE Academic Board
LSE Delegates

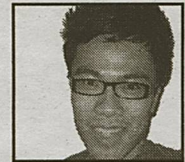
Fatima Manji elected
Lizzie Fison elected

Votes after redistribution:

Fatima Manji 371
Lizzie Fison 313
Paul Brandenburg 292
Louise Robinson 217
Eddy Fonyodi 164

National Union of Students (NUS)**LSE Delegates**

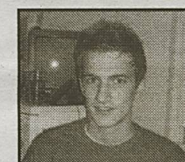
Jimmy Tam elected
Sian Errington elected
Chris Heathcote elected

Votes after redistribution:

Jimmy Tam 292.25
Sian Errington 286.67
Chris Heathcote 246.1
Aled Fisher 173.4
Yi Zhang 114.74
Usmaan Ashraf 93.28
Jonathan Saxty 70.18
Preena Suri 33.52
Ranil Jayawarde 30.9
Carsley 17.95

University of London Council (ULU)**LSE Delegates**

Joel Kenrick elected
Sam Jones elected
Richard Simpson elected

Votes after redistribution:

Joel Kenrick 260.25
Sam Jones 260.25
Richard Simpson 221.63
Sheharyar Malik 216.63
Paul Church 169
Yashvin Hassamal 113
Jonathan Saxty 90

LSE Disability Office competition

HOW WAS IT FOR YOU?**WIN £100 CASH!**

by telling us, how you found university life at the LSE: win £100 in CASH

To win this small fortune, keep a log, blog or diary of your first six weeks at LSE and enter the Disability-Office-competition. We want to hear about the daily palavers, kerfuffles and small triumphs that characterise the early life of an LSE Fresher with a disability or dyLSExia.

We want to know:

- Are people doing enough to assist or even too much?
- Do the reasonable adjustments materialise in the classroom?
- What do you think of the new pub that looks like a posh bar?
- How do you find accessing the environment -academic and social, services on offer and attitudes of the LSE community?

These are possible questions you can answer to let us know, what your first experiences have been like.

Novel solutions to problems and a humorous writing style win you brownie points, all helping you to win £100 cash.

If you need any help or assistance don't hesitate to contact Stephan C.S.Volunteer@lse.ac.uk from the Disability Office and ask for a helping hand or creative ideas.

Hand in your hard copy, illustrated journal, electronic version or a video diary to the Disability Office by the beginning week of November, in order to enter the competition. Nothing will be published without your permission!

Photos welcome.

Left triumphant (again)

Plenty left to shout about: LSE SU Environment and Ethics Officer, **Joel Kenrick**, on the left's domination of the Michaelmas slate.

Once again the student union elections have proved to be a resounding success for progressive candidates, with a clear majority of places won by left-of-centre students. Indeed, of the 16 places up for grabs only one went to a Conservative candidate.

One of the most significant aspects of the elections was the emergence of an overtly party political campaign for the first time. The SU Green Party – only formed last year and now LSE's biggest political society – ran candidates for all places with broadly positive results. SU Labour Party members ran on slogans such as 'Against racism; fee rises; hall privatisation' while the Greens chose to run as the 'Green Party.' The Greens biggest success came in the ULU elections where all three

winners are supporters.

The Honorary President election saw three worthy candidates from the left compete in a friendly and low key campaign. The election of Simon Wiesenthal – a Holocaust survivor who dedicated his life to bringing Nazi war criminals to justice – is a potent reminder of our need to take a stand against racism and fascism everywhere.

The success of virtually unknown Burmese student leader Thet Win Aung as Honorary Vice-President, helped by an imaginative campaign by the SU Amnesty International Society, is a huge boost for them and the union. Thet Win Aung is one of over 1300 political prisoners in Myanmar and is serving a 59-year sentence for taking part in peaceful student protests. His success shows that students do care about

international issues and helps to strengthen our connection with the Burmese people following

We should not forget that our lives are not isolated from the reality around us and we should not be afraid of raising issues of discrimination, the environment and social justice wherever we see it. If progressive societies continue to strengthen their cooperation on campus the future looks bright.

ing the TotalFinaElf fiasco two years ago.

Following the overwhelming decision to stay affiliated to NUS at the last election three SU Executive Officers will represent us at NUS conference. Jimmy Tam

looks set to get a little more action after the closet Lib Dem came top of the ballot. Sian Errington helps fly the red flag in her fourth successive NUS victory, and was very nearly joined by a Green Party delegate when up-and-coming first year Aled Fisher came within a single vote of third place after a very credible campaign.

Fatima Manji easily won Academic Board, although second place went to Lizzie Fison in the only Conservative win of the night. Yet even the Conservative Chair's win is to a largely non-political committee and will help to highlight the huge issue of disability access within the LSE – disgracefully our main committee room the Vera Anstey Room is still wheelchair inaccessible.

What was noticeable in an election with an

impressively high-turn out (for which returning officer Doug Oliver and his team deserve credit) was the collapse of the right-wing vote. Despite claiming to be the second largest political society on campus the core Tory vote in this election was little more than 30, compared to a core Green vote of well over 100 and an established left vote of up to 200.

The results still show that too few black, female and minority candidates are standing and winning elections and the night was not without its disappointments – in the crowded race for Court of Governor the SU Anti-Racism Officer Raihan Alfaradhi narrowly lost out by just 7 votes.

The important lesson for progressive candidates in this election is that students do care about a range of real

world issues from the environment and human rights to anti-racism and social justice. Showing this SU People and Planet society held a parallel 'Vote for Trade Justice,' collecting over 300 votes ahead of Wednesday's Mass Lobby of Parliament. Our role as elected student representatives is to serve the students we represent. Yes, we need a cheap bar, affordable accommodation, better facilities for societies and an effective advice centre. But we should not forget that our lives are not isolated from the reality around us and we should not be afraid of raising issues of discrimination, the environment and social justice wherever we see it. If progressive societies continue to strengthen their cooperation on campus the future looks bright for the union and for students.

Big names win, but welcome to the freshers

Chair of the LSE SU Conservatives, **Lizzie Fison**, cautions against a little too much left wing hubris



A good friend last year departed with some wise advice to continuing Conservatives at the LSE – Michaelmas term elections are unpredictable and winning may be considered good luck while losing may be considered bad luck. To some extent, this

seems to be true, though if recycling this advice in the future, I would add the following: name recognition plays an important role, especially when there are many candidates. Therefore, while pleased to have been elected to Academic Board and disappointed for those

friends and political allies who missed a place (in some cases narrowly) on whatever they were standing for, these feelings are not overwhelming. What, therefore, will be the memorable features of this election?

With the old players largely gone, I had won-

dered what shape student politics would take this year. Inevitably, the new big boys were out in force, especially amongst those standing for Court of Governors, which had 17 candidates! So it is no surprise that those with the most well-known names, for good or for bad, in the union won – known-everywhere Krebbers, anti-Barclays crusading Caspell, chummy Tam, softly-spoken Sian etc. (The Beaver is sure to spin these elections as a success for the left. However, consider this, when so many of the SU exec positions are dominated by the left, is it any wonder that their names reverberate about a lot more?)

With relatively

peaceful campaigns and so many predictable candidates, where was the political fodder we craved? The real interest must lie in the unusually high number of freshers that were involved, representing both the left and right-wing of SU politics. These will be the ones to watch. Were they discouraged by these elections? Or were they spurred on to get more involved and become the future stars? How too will the voice of newcomers like Louise Robinson, Paul Church and "Godzilla" develop in the banter of UGMs and in the ever-slightly higher form of political exchange via *The Beaver*? Will they stick to the students' agenda and common

sense or with the first elections gone, will some revert to the familiar, perennial political campaigns that do little to serve the actual needs of the student body?

Let the enthusiasm of those putting up posters and the surprising display of considerable Michaelmas Term Houghton Street campaigning be your guide. These are ambitious first years. Along with the big boys and the developing generation, the babies will make a difference. Watch them and note what they support and what they oppose! Because come next term, you can be sure to spot some of those previously unfamiliar names again.

Comment & Analysis Union

The Joy of STV's

LSE SU Deputy Returning-Officer Andy Yeoh on SU elections, student politics and getting your voice heard.

"That was easy!" I remarked, eyeing the bright red paper piles stacked neatly on the table. My first ever vote count was turning to be ok after all.

Dave Cole gazed at me dispassionately for a moment before producing a sheet with a large grid on it. I had spoken to soon. "Anyone got a calculator?" he asked.

Outside, Houghton Street was suspiciously quiet: the campaigning had finished, the ballot boxes were closed and, somewhere in the world, someone was missing a small forest.

This year, still something of an outsider to SU politics, I had decided I would try to curtail my ignorance and help out. Proudly taking the self-applied title of "Co-Deputy Returning Officer", I joined other volunteers behind the

ballot boxes, armed with list and pen, smile and spiel.

If you voted, you might be thinking yourself quite the socially responsible student. Then again you might be thinking: "what the hell just happened?"

The SU political system after all, has long been criticised as elitist; a gang of bitter, venerable, older members who spend their days immersed in incomprehensible political wrangling. The impression is a little unfair (I'd say they were more like a posse), but I do remember sitting in my first ever UGM wondering who on earth these characters in front of me were and what I was doing sat there instead of frolicking outside with the other freshers.

I've no doubt that many of today's new students feel the same way. Week four seems a little early to throw yourself

into a political circus, especially one that seems to be a giant clique. Marvellous it is then that eight freshers - along with several new post-grads - took the plunge, dragging with

The SU political system has long been criticised as elitist: a gang of bitter, venerable older members who spend their days immersed in incomprehensible political wrangling

them an small army of people who probably have no idea who or what Rishi Madlani is or does or what the Court of Governors is actually for.

Plastered in stickers, clutching fistfuls of leaflets they came to stand in the wrong line. Struggling to keep up

was gratifying- though had everyone eligible to vote in LSE actually done so, the system would probably have collapsed entirely.

Now I was really getting my first taste of student politics. Back at the count the crowds of pint-clutching onlookers with wild predictions were forming to watch us slave away. I went to where Co-Deputy Returning Officer Simon Douglas had just entered his thousandth vote into a laptop and was looking distinctly cross-eyed. We were in for a monotonous slog that continued until early in the morning, broken only by the occasional amusing comment scrawled on a ballot paper. Yet at the end there would be satisfaction in our tiredness.

What is the moral of this story? Partly to say that what goes on behind the ballot box

deserves recognition. Whatever you think of the system of student politics, someone has to make it happen, and the work of Returning Officer Doug Oliver, and the dozens of others behind the scenes is admirable.

Mainly though, it is to report that I have seen into the heart these elections and found them to be not so scary after all. If an a-political nobody like me can get involved then so can anyone. You shouldn't be put off helping, voting even standing because you feel the system is exclusive - it isn't. Keeping that in mind could bring a political diversity to our university that can only be applauded. Plus you might get to write in the Beaver.

Early in Lent term Houghton Street will once again become a carnival of the political and the bewildered. Don't be the latter.

Censorious consensus

Loosen up and ditch the censor's stamp, Fabian Joseph tells Sam Jones

Some younger readers of *the Beaver* with be shocked to know that the Three Tuns has not always been such a beautiful, well built establishment. In the past it was what can only be described as an old man's pub. This 'bar' did not pretend to be anything it was not, for it was a student bar and that was all it would ever be. Now we have a 'new and modern', aesthetically anyway, plywood bar that not even a Barbie doll would be seen dead in.

Well the sad reality that accompanied this transformation is that with £800,000 spent, not only do we get faulty T.V's, poor spatial design and more expensive drinks, there is still an inability to recycle. So I put forward a

motion that was duly passed at this week's UGM. The shock of this UGM however was the poor turnout that continues to persist, week in week out, even though there are decisions being made that often effect a great deal of students. Of course, I'm in no way implying that this is a forum for Union hacks to impose their views on student life, but then again, we do have that crap bar.

But one argument at the UGM did interest me. This week the word cunt was allowed to slip into the sports pages of *the Beaver*. Not only this but then in debate over the validity of censorship in the beaver at the UGM the word peeped out again. Now I agree that articles that do not adhere to general logic and reasoning

should be removed, thus justifying the role of an editor. However, the language used along with jovial anecdotes should not be so officiously policed. Should the back pages of *the Beaver* be given a guidance rating to warn people of its graphic content? How often do you see small children reading *the Beaver*? Who else at the LSE needs to be protected? Are our students so ignorant and easily influenced? I do hope not. So why the fear of unleashing the sports pages?

The same writers that joke about the ineptitude of an opposition to the inability of a president to keep his dick dry or of Iraq to keep out US troops, are the same people who actively lobby, with others, against racism and

oppression. I feel that if one cannot joke about debatable issues then it is because someone is unable to even accept the possibility of another view than their own. Last week an article was completely removed due to it's content. In the past whilst reading articles many authors have not even recognized their articles due to such interference. There must be a solution to having jovial back page articles that are not emitted due to the prudish nature of what I would consider a small amount of students.

In comparison, if an article is outrageous in view it will often be left in as people who take offence are free to write in to *the Beaver* against this, whether it be as an article or via a letter to the editor. Why then is

this not so of the articles found in the latter pages of our great student paper. The editors of *the Beaver* are easily reached and I for one would like to get this debate into the front pages of *the Beaver* so that any ideas and views could be reported back. This debate should not be passed off at the UGM due to the power of the editor to displace blame to a minority of students.

I want to bring forward the view that LSE students are not stupid, underage or ignorant, another debate in itself. For this reason therefore we should have a newspaper that is edited for grammar and spelling not for prudes and children. We have the freedom to say what we like so why not HOW we like.

the Beaver

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If you have written three or more articles for *The Beaver* and your name does not appear in the Collective, please email:

thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk

and you will be added to the list in next week's paper.

The Beaver is available in alternative formats.

Comment & Analysis Editorial

the Beaver
Editorial

Lies, damn lies

Michaelmas elections

Love 'em or loath 'em elections are a fundamental part of LSE student life. In the past, this paper, like so many other responsible publications, has urged students to see the light and make use of their vote.

The trouble is (and we suspect this may have also been said before) the political machinations of the Union have very little effect upon the life of the average student, for whom the Union comes in four innocuous and largely unnoticed guises; the Tuns, the AU, the quad and the Beaver (we hope).

The Union's politicking; the UGM; Sabb pay; environmental audits and the like don't seem to matter to most students. Turnout at elections invariably reflects the will of those that do.

Can it be changed? Well any increase in turnout is certainly a good thing, for it gives a little more credibility to a system rife with nepotism and factionalism, but ultimately, does it really affect the average student in a positive way?

After all, turnout may have been up this year, but the predictable candidates won: veterans most of them. Does it matter? We normatively seem to assume the affirmative. For once, this paper will challenge that view.

Losers in elections tend to bemoan the lack of new talent; claiming it alienates Freshers' - but time and time again, what the electorate have chosen is not the brightest, freshest faced candidate, but the one that chimes most with what they want (though lamentably, of late, the facebook friends phenomenon seems to be winning shameless votes).

This year's elections were not won by the 'new' candidates and there's nothing wrong with that. Sure, the old hands may be a bit hackneyed and passe, but no one ever said that sabb candidates had to have personalities grounded in reality.

What matters is not who you vote for, or what year they're in, but why you vote for them, and what they stand for.

Saleable morals

Finance Society election campaigns

It continues to astound the editors of this paper that the Finance Society could be so petty as to launch a deliberate attack on our staff; doing nothing less than pursuing vendettas to get their own back.

Elections have never been clean affairs, but they're only going to get dirtier if the Finance Society starts to get involved too. Peddling their own particular brand of nepotism, corruption and corporate amorality, the reprobate president of the Finance Society decided he'd try and ruin the chances of our News Editor, Paul Brandenburg, in the Academic Board election by posting the campus with 'vote no to Brandenburg' posters.

If only the membership of the Finance Society distanced themselves a bit more from the machinations of a few rotten apples in the committee, maybe they could regain some credibility and respectability in the eyes of Union Officers and students at large. We live in hope.

Letters to the Editor

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

Whitened tombs

Dear Sir,

I must thank you for dedicating so much space (and the cover) to me in *the Beaver*. I will not take the articles to bits like jigsaws because I consider them just short of journalism masterpieces. Just short because you let some petty rhetoric into an extremely informative article and start off with the wrong assumption in your editorial, which I disagree with profoundly and return all accusations to the sender.

You also forgot to quote me saying "I shouldn't have made these comments in the first place" during the phone conversation I had with your news editor.

The size of the picture on the front page slightly overestimates the size of my ego, but the main article is well written. It is somewhat spoilt by some quotations. They were supposedly meant to make me look like a dangerous and "concentrated evil" Orc, but they are as far-fetched fiction as JRR Tolkien couldn't have come up with in a lifetime [sic].

My personal compliments to the person who made the picture "Manfredi: trains now running on time". As a citizen of the Italian Republic, however, I must take offence at the comparison between me and Mussolini. I see the point of the well-designed picture, and had a genuine laugh at it. Italy, however, hasn't come to terms with part of its memory yet, and the tragedy of the fascist dictatorship is still an open wound in many Italians' souls. Many people in Britain fail to recognise this. Please rectify.

I do not study humanities, but if I ever write an essay on information manipulation (softly said) I will be very proud to mention your cover story.

Luca Manfredi,
Chair ULU Council

Dear Sir

I am writing about the controversies aroused by Luca Manfredi's declaration at ULU. (I let You know in advance that I do not know him and I personally disagree on what he said). As we all read in *The Beaver* (25th of October), he has been accused of being "homophobic" and to "do no less than incite violence and hate". Fair enough, if he really made that declaration. Yet, Your editorial and the picture by Sid Kamath make use of poor-quality stereotypes about Italians (You called him "The Godfather") and violence inciting images (the 1920's Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, a reference to the Mafia, etc.). The principle which stands behind your primitive and offensive humour is not [sic.] the same

principle behind Manfredi's homophobic declaration? Shouldn't I, as an Italian, feel as insulted as somebody else did, as an homosexual? Your newspaper pretended to be the defender of the sexual discriminated minorities, but you did nothing else but discriminating an ethnic one [sic.]. You will certainly gain more popularity in defending homosexuals and discriminating [sic.] Italians (we are much less [sic.], in this country), than doing the opposite (which I personally would not like neither [sic.]: why do we need to make use of discriminations?). In conclusion, dear Editor, remember that "Woe to you ... hypocrites! For you are like whitened tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but inwardly are full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness" (Matthew, 23:27).

Yours sincerely

Luigi Galimberti Faussonne

SU Elections

Dear Sir,

Exactly a year ago, 'Union Jack' proclaimed that "no one gave a shit" about Michaelmas elections and though this may have been true in the past, the outcome to last week's election, shows that this attitude is no longer the prevailing one. Elections were fought competitively, campaigning was intense and winning margins were - in some cases - minuscule. Turn-out rose by 34 % to a probable record of 1,449 votes cast, to a higher level than some Lent contests.

This great result was possible because of the hard work of a large team that I am extremely grateful to. Particular thanks are owed to my deputies, Anushya, Simon and Andy. The efforts of the following were also invaluable: Dave Cole for help with estv; Chris Heathcote for his tireless efforts to publicise the elections; Anna, Alexandra, Nat and Kanishka who helped by the ballot box; and old hands Vita and Orson who returned to help with the count.

The unprecedented use of PuLSEfm for debates; the first - ever use of the SU website for candidate manifestoes; and the extra Tuesday hustings all served to ensure increased interest in the elections.

Whilst I am sure there will be lots of valid comment in your newspaper about the success of rising stars like Zoe, Eddy and Fatima, it seems clear that last week's other big winner was student democracy.

Doug Oliver,
LSE SU Returning Officer

Dear Sir

It was good to see that some of our hardworking friends on the Sabbatical team managed to take two days out from the jobs we elected them to do to bolster their CVs this week. It's

nice to see that they're finding a use of all the time and money being a Sabb gives them.

I'd also like to take this opportunity (and no doubt the AU will join me) to congratulate both candidates on the election result, they now have another job they won't bother to do but at least they're now that much closer to Westminster. However, I feel I must give credit where credit is due, they did run an excellent campaign, they were certainly dedicated: the only people on Houghton Street for the whole of both days - I suppose other candidates did have classes to go to but that really is no excuse.

Now don't get me wrong I'm not a bitter person (or a failed NUS candidate), I just think that when you're elected to a full time job maybe you should spend your time doing it instead of using the free publicity that comes with it to improve your job prospects. After all, if you don't already represent us sufficiently as a Sabb what's the point of standing for another position?

Yours

Wil Barber

They know not what they do

Dear Sir,

I remember my encounter with the Secular Society on my first day at the LSE. Had they not made explicitly clear that the ideal initiate is one who disavows all faith dispositions, I might have been interested. Why should I have to "de-baptize" myself to support a system of government that is supposedly dedicated to protecting my right to believe, as well as not believe?

When I hear statements from so called secularists saying that it is their duty to "point out the hypocrisy, harm and hatefulness of religion", I do not gain any warm assurances that the rights of people of faith will be a priority to them.

I think people who support a secular government with equal representation should promote mutual understanding between people of faith and those not of faith rather than stereotyping on either side. It is well known that many purely Atheist governments have not been havens for individual rights. From the perspective of this religious outsider, it appeared to me that it was an atheist government rather than a secular one that the Secular Society was promoting. If anything, perhaps Krebbers' article might suggest a change in presentation.

John Dulin

Dear Sir,

It is interesting that in the letter from the LSESU Secular Society last week, the Secular Society uses the support of the

LSE Christian Union for its recent UGM motion to defend its reputation, and then finds itself unable to resist the opportunity to attempt to discredit the Christian Union by highlighting verses in the Bible which condone stoning. I would have thought that even the 'evangelising atheists' of the Secular Society knew that Jesus opposed stoning and prevented the sentence of stoning from being carried out (John 8:3-11). I would suggest that the reason the Christian Union supported the Secular Society's successful UGM motion against the proposal to outlaw 'incitement to religious hatred' is because it values freedom of speech, like the numerous Christian organisations and churches who recently held demonstrations in London against the proposed legislation, not because the CU admires the work of the Secular Society.

In a letter from another secularist, Sarah Taylor argues that "religion is inherently illiberal, disrespectful, and exclusive". I would not claim that religion has not been or is never all of these things, but to make such a generalised criticism is to only tell one side of the story. Such an argument ignores the many instances where religion has had a positive influence and has supported liberalism and progress. To give one example, evangelical Christians like William Wilberforce and the Clapham Sect led the campaign for the abolition of the slave trade and of slavery. As for the "hypocrisy, harm and hatefulness" of religion, what about the good work done by churches and religious charities, at home and abroad, which is motivated by love of other human beings? I know that there has been terrible oppression throughout history by religious institutions such as the Spanish Inquisition and the Taleban, but were the secularist regimes of the French Revolutionary Convention, Stalin and Mao Tse-Tung any better?

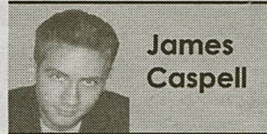
As much as some secularists might wish to deny it, religion has been one of the most influential positive forces in the creation of our culture, values, laws and civilisation. Humanism, which many secularists claim as their philosophy, was developed in Renaissance Christianity, and can be found in the Gospels (Mark 12:31, Matthew 25:34-45). The secular principle of the separation of church and state was developed by religious believers to provide for toleration of different denominations, and can also be traced back to the words of Jesus (Matthew 22:21, John 18:36). I fully support the rights of secularists to believe and say whatever they like about religion, but to dismiss all religion and religious influence as negative is simply wrong.

Yours Faithfully,

Peter John Cannon

BlinkPolitics

Eyes to the left



James Caspell

No smoke without fire

Whilst the news that the Government is introducing any form of ban on smoking in enclosed public places is indeed welcome, their abject failure to make it encompass 100 per cent of all work-places is indicative of yet another fudged policy.

Defenders of the partial ban point to New Labour's manifesto commitment to introduce only tepid sanctions that would still exempt pubs that don't serve food from banning smoking. Such vacuous advocates of New Labour's apparent respect for the boundaries of their democratic mandate seem to forget that the same Government didn't seem too bothered about keeping manifesto commitments when they introduced top-up fees, for example.

The fact remains that passive smoking kills over 10,000 people every year who have done nothing to actively inhale the 4000 chemicals that a burning cigarette emits; it is often society's poorest who are exposed to inhaling second-hand smoke in their place of work, working in low-paid bar jobs simply to make ends meet. Bar staff generally comprise a transient workforce of immigrants, students and others who simply need quick and easy cash - they chose bar work because it pays a wage, not because they have a particular thirst for cancer or heart disease. These are the very people that a Labour Government should be protecting and the abandonment of concern for those who are working in smoke-filled environments is yet another betrayal of the workers' movement by this anti-labour Government.

For former Health Secretary, smoker and communist, John Reid, to claim a complete smoking ban in public places would be an attack on one of the 'few pleasures' of the working class is to accept the defeat of positive state intervention whilst ignoring his Government's own intransigence on the economic issues that make such a nefarious habit as smoking seem (apparently) luxurious for some people

On the contrary from being an infringement upon peoples liberty, a smoking ban in all work-places is a positive and enabling step - total bans are in force or due to be enforced in the rest of the UK apart from England whilst studies in the USA have shown that banning smoking in restaurants has either a neutral or beneficial effect for business and increases tourist revenue.

It should be acknowledged that New Labour is not banning smoking outright - nor should it, or in fact could it. It is, however, making a sensible distinction between where someone's personal sovereignty begins and where it should end, where exercising one's right to smoke infringes, often gravely, on another's liberty; protecting its citizens from undue ill health seems an uncontroversial purpose of modern government. As moderate as this Government's response is, it goes some way to articulate not only consideration of the immediate and obvious threats of smoking, but also demonstrates what the 'state' is for - enabling the self-mastery of it's citizens: forcing them to be free.

Replacing Trident

Laurie Fischer discusses the value of Britain's nuclear deterrent system

According to Michael Portillo, fear of the French has been used as a serious argument in Downing Street for justifying the replacement of Trident, Britain's nuclear weapon system.

It may be nice not to be hostage to French plans for avenging their defeat at Trafalgar, but if true, the government are clearly struggling to find a real reason for spending £10 - 15 billion on a system they hope never to use. Public declarations by John Reid and Tony Blair enlighten us no further as to the actual benefits of possessing a nuclear deterrent. With the advantages so hard to find, what about the cost?

First of all, a golden opportunity

'The cost of procuring a new nuclear defence system is estimated to be as high as £15 billion, roughly two and a half times the annual military budget'

nity to clarify the notoriously contradictory nuclear policy of the Western nuclear powers will be missed. One authoritarian state that has sold nuclear secrets, Pakistan, is being offered military and political alliances.

Another country with similar credentials, Iran, is being threatened with military action. North Korea and Israel, two other states thought to possess the bomb are, to say the least, treated differently in relations with the West.

'Wasting money on nuclear weapons could well cost lives on the streets of London'

India has just signed a deal from the US to supply it with nuclear fuels and reactors, in blatant disregard of its illegal proliferation. The list of contradictions goes on.

If the UK is serious about its commitment to nuclear non-proliferation around the world, surely change begins at home. Not only will consistency be added to the message, but British diplomats in Tehran will be aided by the full force of the moral high ground. This is without even mentioning upholding international law - Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) requires all nuclear-armed states to disarm. By renewing a nuclear deterrent, Britain forgoes the opportunity both to add moral strength to one of its primary foreign policy goals, and give support to an extremely important treaty.

A second major opportunity cost is the conventional military force capability that Britain will have to sacrifice to finance such a major weapons system renewal. Estimates put the cost of procurement as high as £15 billion,

roughly two and a half times the annual total military budget. This will have to be met by cost-reductions in conventional military strength, even greater than the concessions made to develop Trident in the 1980s, when the British military budget was significantly higher.

To this, both military officers and British citizens should surely object. At a time when the greatest threat to our security is terrorism, the War on Terror surely deserves by far the greatest share of our scarce military resources. It takes no genius to see that nuclear weapons offer no help in the fight against terror. Wasting money on them could well cost lives on the streets of London or elsewhere.

Conventional British troops are among the most professional, respected and sought-after military resources in the world. Whether it be in Iraq, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, or Kosovo, reducing their strength to pay for a worthless weapon would be a tragic loss.

Finally, Blair and the Labour government will miss yet another opportunity to listen to what British people want. A MORI poll published on 25 October suggested that a majority of British citizens oppose replacing Trident. In addition, a Labour government that disarms could finally move towards freeing itself from its image as a pillion-passenger to US foreign policy. Asserting an independent British foreign policy will do no end of good to our image abroad, particularly in the fight against nuclear proliferation. Importantly, it will also be popular with British voters.



Sky-rocketing nuclear budgets

Political Digest

Political freedom begins at home

30/10/05 by Jess Brammar

On Friday, Lewis 'Scooter' Libby, one of the Dick Cheney's closest aides, was charged with perjury, after allegedly unmasking a CIA agent whose husband criticised the Iraq war.

Serious questions are being raised in the American press over the lengths to which the government has gone to justify the war in Iraq.

This weekend's *New York Times* described the loyal conservative base that proved so vital in returning Bush to the White House as "divided and demoralised." Is the good-honest-guy veneer that resounded so acutely with the Americans who voted for George W finally coming off the Bush administration?

The case itself concerns an investigation in February 2002 by former US Ambassador Joseph

Wilson into reports that Iraq had tried to buy uranium ore in Niger.

Everyone, including the British and US governments, were convinced that the intelligence was true. Everyone, that is, except Mr Wilson himself, who went public with his doubts, writing in the *New York Times* that, "a legitimate argument can be made that we went to war under false pretences."

A week later, a Washington journalist revealed that "two senior administration officials" had told him that Mr Wilson's wife was a CIA agent, who had suggested the Niger trip herself. The identity of the covert agent, whose role in the CIA has remained a mystery, was thus uncovered - an act which constitutes a federal offence.

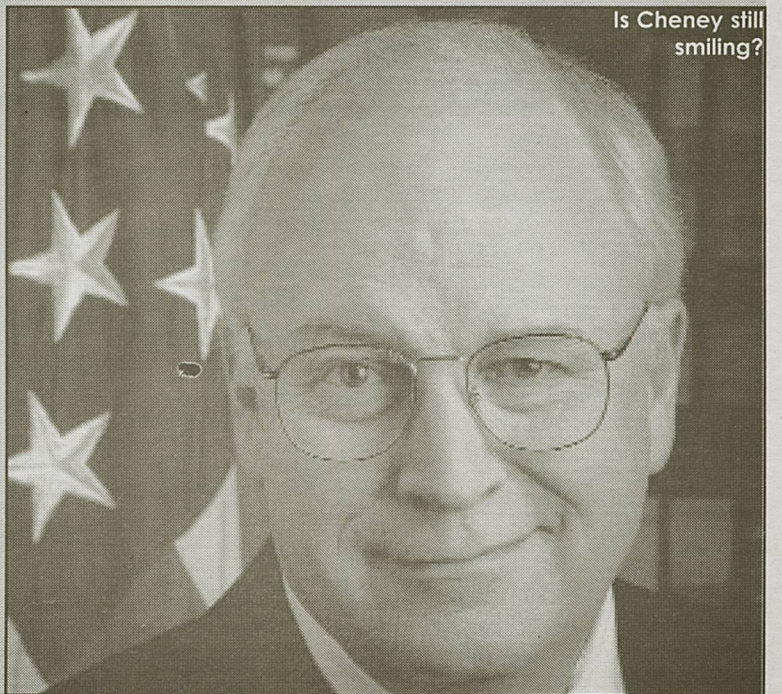
This may be the stuff of high-budget Hollywood thrillers, but Bush-haters would be wrong to 'misunderestimate' George's staying power. Not so long ago, the US president survived what can only be a leader's worst nightmare, when the images of New Orleans' dead were broadcast across the globe.

In Saturday's weekly radio address to the nation, Mr Bush

told Americans that the insurgents in Iraq "hope to establish a totalitarian state that denies all political freedom." Regardless of the legality of the war itself, can a cause they assured us was about democracy and justice be guard-

ed with such backdoor politics?

As Cheney has been quick to point out, Libby is innocent until proven guilty. However, this can't be what Bush had in mind when he promised to bring "dignity back to the White House."



Is Cheney still smiling?

BlinkPolitics

Ordinary woman's extraordinary legacy

Lisa Cunningham pays tribute to Rosa Parks

Monday 24 October saw the passing of an ordinary woman who became an iconic figure after a small act of defiance. On 1 December 1955, Rosa Parks, a 43 year-old seamstress from Montgomery, Alabama, refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger. Legend has it, she claimed, "My feet hurt."

Consequently, Ms Parks was

'The timing of Rosa Parks' death is cruelly ironic. Just days before, race riots erupted in Birmingham'

arrested, remanded in custody and fined \$14. Her arrest sparked a 380-day bus boycott by black people in her local town, lead in part by the 26 year-old Reverend Martin Luther King.

This seemingly minor protest fuelled the momentum that had been gathering around the fight against second-class citizenship for black Americans. The Civil Rights movement officially began with the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education ruling, which ruled

segregation in schools to be unconstitutional. A strategy including non-violent protest, civil disobedience and the 'freedom rides', where interracial, predominantly young, groups would board buses heading for the South, ensued.

The triumph of the Civil Rights movement came in 1964, when President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act. This made racial discrimination in public places illegal and required employers to provide equal employment opportunities. Also, black peoples' right to vote in the South was made obligatory by enforcing uniform standards.

The timing of Rosa Parks' death is cruelly ironic. Just days before, race riots erupted in the Lozells Road area of Birmingham. Asian and Afro-Caribbean communities clashed over allegations about the sexual assault of a teenage Jamaican girl. One man was killed and many more were injured.

Residents of the Lozells Road area talk of a 'them-and-us' culture, characterised by the economic success of Asian businesses and the high unemployment rates of Afro-Caribbeans. Clearly, after fifty years of progress, there are still cleavages based on race.

But the situation in Birmingham is not all bad. The city has twice the national average of mixed-race births, showing that the patchwork of communities that make up Birmingham are generally integrated.

What is more, ethnic communities are increasingly politically represented. In 2005, fifteen black and Asian MPs were elected, an increase of two since the previous election. Although this figure is still a tiny minority, considerable progress has been made. Indeed, the local MP for the Lozells area of Birmingham, Khalid Mahmood, is a member of an ethnic minority.

Similarly, in America, the decline of racial discrimination is clear. The first black woman to

become Secretary of State succeeded the first black man to hold that position. Three days before Rosa Park's death Condoleezza Rice visited her home town (ironically called Birmingham).

'Could, in the space of a lifetime, America see black people denied the right to vote, and a black president?'

Rumours circulated, despite denial, that she give the impression of a presidential candidate in the making. Could, in the space of a lifetime, America see black people denied the right to vote, and a black president?

Rosa Park's defiant actions paved the way for individuals such as Condoleezza Rice to hold such positions of power. True, her death has been mirrored with racial tensions. But every journey has setbacks. These setbacks, however, should not be allowed to eclipse the progress we have made. We have not yet reached our destination of racial equality, but I am positive we will get there. And when we do, we should remember a woman who, in the words of Jesse Jackson, "sat down so we all might stand up."



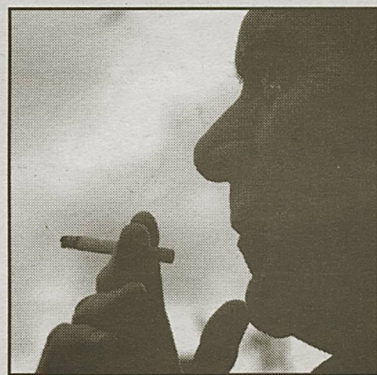
Rosa Parks' arrest in 1955

A partial ban?

Joshua Hergesheimer ponders the parallels between British and US lawmaking

Observers may have noticed striking similarities between debates in the UK and the US last week. Both countries have experienced political clashes over how far newly-introduced laws ought to reach. Though the fundamental issue in both cases seems to be whether people's rights will be violated by the new laws, there the similarity ends.

The debate in the UK has been concerned with how far any new anti-smoking legislation will



Time to kick the habit

rooms" have also been suggested, though what that implies is unclear.

Though neither side seems pleased with the result, a partial ban might be characterized somewhat charitably as an example of Labour's favourite expression: "flexibility" in Britain.

In America, a partial ban was also suggested by some high-ranking officials in the Bush administration as a compromise to proposed legislation. In this case, however, the issue was not over smoking, but over a bill introduced by Senator John McCain that would outlaw the abusive treatment of terror suspects. The bill would prohibit the "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" of anyone held by the US.

Scholars of international law might find this bill somewhat

curious (if not redundant), in that America is already a signatory to the Geneva Conventions, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, all of which already outlaw such mistreatment. The fact that such a bill is thought to be necessary might be taken to indicate the level of regard the US currently shows towards international law. Putting all this aside, on the premise that introducing more

'Enshrining the right of terror suspects to be free from mistreatment in US domestic law can only be a step in the right direction'

laws might better ensure compliance, enshrining the right of terror suspects to be free from mistreatment in US domestic law can only be a step in the right direction.

However, the legislation has encountered some criticism. Dick Cheney of the US Defense Department is said to have met with McCain to request that certain changes be made - namely that the CIA ought to be exempt from any such ban. Cheney claimed that the US government needs to preserve "maximum flexibility" when fighting terrorism. Though McCain is said to have denied such a request, he may be forced to relent. The bill

is expected to encounter strong opposition, and may have to be amended or even withdrawn if agreement cannot be reached.

Here in the UK, the more flexible partial smoking ban seems to have succeeded. In the US, it remains to be seen if critics of McCain's bill will preserve the flexibility that the Defense Department claims to require in the War on Terror. Maybe taking their cue from the UK government, critics could push for a partial ban, outlawing abuse in all places that serve food. "Sealed torture rooms" could then remain exempt.

Last week in...

Ontario, Canada

Mischa Beutling, a university student from Ontario, Canada, has used an unusual defence in pleading not guilty to charges of sexual assault.

According to the Toronto Sun, a urologist testified that his penis was in the top five percent range in comparison to the doctor's other patients - in other words, his penis was too big. Beutling has a penis which measures 8 1/2 inches in length and 6 1/2 inches in girth.

The urologist said that a woman who had not given birth might have had discomfort or tearing if she had intercourse with a man that well-endowed.

The right approach

Charles Laurence



Not-so-gorgeous George

Last week, in the Old Theatre, we were treated to a vintage George Galloway onslaught. His characteristic wit and charm were present, coupled, as they always are, by his vicious treatment of dissent. Not surprising for a man who said that the "disappearance of the Soviet Union is the biggest catastrophe of my life." Again and again his only defence is attack, and his only tactic violent character assassination of those who dare to challenge him.

Christopher Hitchens made Galloway look a fool in New York. He has no chance of credibility in an open debate against those with the facts and oratory to match his. And so, when he addressed us in the Old Theatre there was only one microphone: his. But why does a man with such charm, skill and conviction, when offered a debate, feel the need to shout abuse down a microphone?

There is probably some scarring childhood moment that set off wee George's obsession with the power and status of dictators. But that notwithstanding, the facts speak for themselves. From the moment he was kicked out of the charity "War on Want", leaving it bankrupt, his life has been a web of contradictions.

He fawned over Saddam ("Sir, I salute your courage") and fawned over Assad ("the Syrian people are very fortunate"), whilst railing against America for its support of the House of Saud. His "principled" opposition to the war in Iraq seems like a sick joke, as now it seems that he was being paid handsomely to be the poster boy for one of the most murderous and corrupt regimes of all time. From this base, Mr Galloway could not have a reasoned and intelligible debate even if he wanted to.

None of this mattered to Mr Galloway before last week, surrounded as he is by the kind of detritus that cheered him in the Old Theatre: people who are in such need of a "cause" to validate their lives, that lies, corruption and even Galloway won't deter them. In fact, sadly, he is their focal point, their very own Stalin, moustache included.

Flawed rhetoric and a totally disingenuous use of history may impress the wannabe radicals of the LSE and the underprivileged of Bethnal Green, but in the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations he may have met his match. We all remember their first showdown, how Galloway gloated after his disgraceful performance on Capitol Hill, and yet at the time Senator Norm Coleman seemed strangely unfazed. "I was not offended by what he had to say, it was not relevant," he said, before reminding us that it is a serious offence to lie under oath to a Senate committee.

Now that the Committee has returned, with comprehensive evidence backed up by the UN's own investigation, we shall wait to see if someone will have the nerve to prosecute Mr Galloway. They should not hesitate; the net is closing and neither Galloway's bluster nor his expensive libel lawyers can save him.

BlinkPolitics

Tribal justice

Esmat Azzizi argues that, despite democratic reforms, warlords still rule Afghanistan

Warlordism seems to be compatible with democracy, at least in Afghanistan. The poll results show former warlords and Mujahidin as front runners in the Afghan parliamentary elections held on September 18.

These elections are the final stage in the Bonn Peace Accord, that was signed in 2001 after the American-led coalition defeated the Taliban regime. This follows last year's presidential elections, in which Hamid Karzai, the American favourite, won with just 55 percent of the votes.

However, despite these events, the government has not impressed people, because life for the ordinary Afghan remains largely unchanged. This is one of the reasons that most people stayed at home during the elec-

tions - the turnout was less than 50 percent. Those who did vote, voted for the former warlords and Mujahidin. Their message of, 'we do not hold foreign passports, we will not leave you,' seems to have worked.

In Kabul, former Mujahidin and warlords, Mohammad Mohaqiq and Yonus Qanuni, received the highest number of votes. The former Mujahidin leader and president, Rabani, leads the poll in the remote

'During the elections, turnout was less than 50 percent. Those that did vote, voted for the former warlords and Mujahidin'

province of Badakhshan.

The only candidate so far to have successfully crossed the

boundary of ethno-religious divide has been Bashardost, a former Minister of Plan and a fierce critic of fundamentalists, warlords and the government. He received the third largest number of votes in Kabul after the two big warlords.

With 249 members, the Afghanistan Parliament (Wolesi Jerga) will be dominated by warlords, ethnic elites and former Mujahidin, who could hinder the transition to democracy, or else

A vote for the warlords?

shatter the dreams of many Afghans to have a democratic system based on respect and diversity. As most of the elected members of parliament are independent, and therefore compro-

mises will be difficult, if not impossible, to reach, it may be hard to have an effective parliament.

Hamid Karzai has also shifted towards certain ethnic and religious elites, who in most cases do not support modernisation.

Since it is 'constitutionally' the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, freedom of speech is still not tolerated even by the 'Westernised' president.

Last week a journalist and independent candidate for parliament was arrested for writing about political Islamism in his monthly magazine, Payame Zan (women's message), and was sentenced to two years imprisonment.

Warlords have adapted democracy, and they use the election system as a means to extend their grip on the people of Afghanistan. The government seems to live in a state of optimistic ignorance.

The donor countries also have lost interest for modernisation in Afghanistan and the UN body which supervised the elections process turned a blind eye to the complaints received about the intimidations by the warlords and atrocities they committed in Afghanistan in the past two decades.

Western leaders might call Afghanistan 'liberated' and 'democratic', but the reality on the ground is one of intimidation and violation of human rights. Unfortunately, the Western media is no longer interested in Afghanistan, as it is does not make very 'sexy' reporting.



Emotional exploitation

Laura Sahramaa discusses the use of September 11 by the Bush Administration

You are the leader of the free world and you have just had what easily qualifies as the worst week ever; failed Supreme Court nominations, leak indictments, and the American death toll just hit 2,000 in the bloody and expensive war you started. Given the fix you're in, you:

a. Have a 'Howard Baker moment,' like Ronald Reagan after the Iran-Contra scandal, and change course by hiring someone wise and widely respected to shake up the White House staff - by replacing the more rabid neocons with people who are sane - and help you salvage the situation in Iraq.

Or b. Do exactly the same thing you were doing before, only make more speeches in which you use September 11 to justify your stupidity.

If you're George W. 'Stay-the-Course' Bush, the choice is clear; when in trouble, milk tragedy for

all it's worth.

Because apparently nothing is sacred, the Bush team is using 9/11 in a cheap, reprehensible and desperate political strategy to shore up support for the war in Iraq and the President's job performance, at a time when both are rapidly declining.

In just the last week, Bush spoke at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington D.C. and in Norfolk, Virginia, on the topic of the war in Iraq. He managed to mention 11 September six times in each address.

Bush himself admitted in September 2003 that, "there is no evidence that Saddam Hussein was involved with the September 11 attacks." If Bush knows that Hussein and the Al-Qaeda operatives who attacked the US were not connected, why does he continue to bring up September 11 in speeches about Iraq?

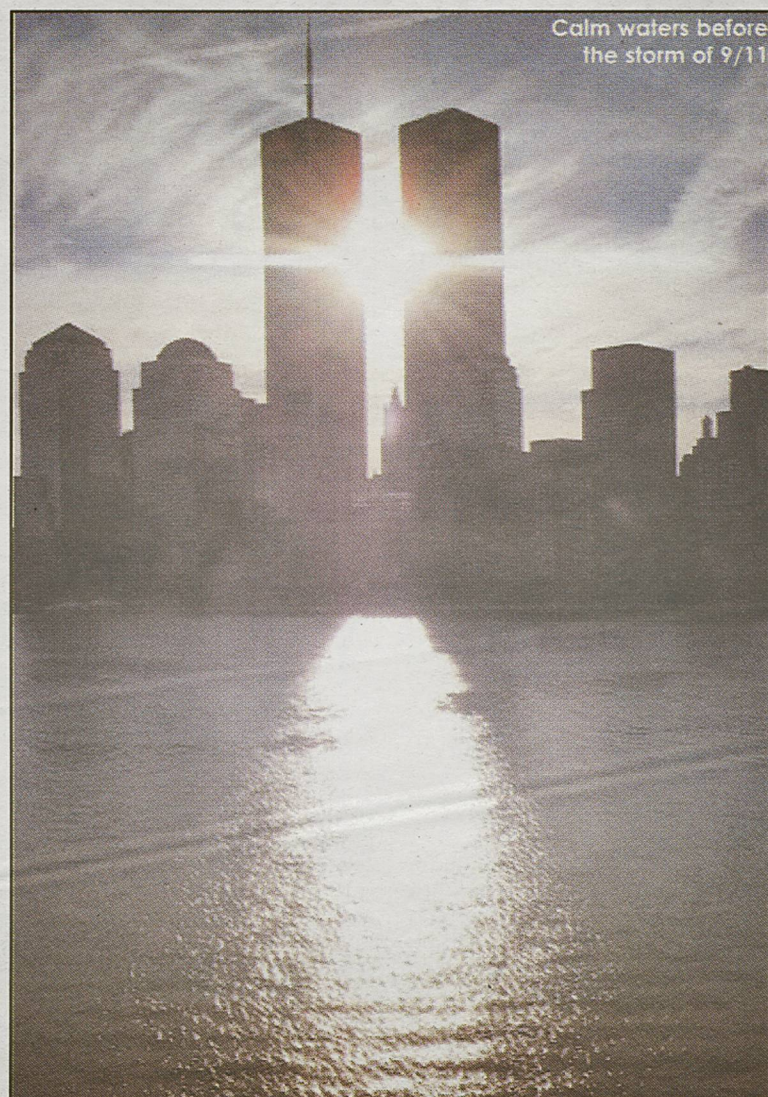
The same reason he brought them up during his re-election campaign, even going so far as to hold the GOP convention in New York City so as to make it a September 11 remembrance orgy.

For Republicans, September 11 has long ceased to be a day of national tragedy and has become the political equivalent of bringing in 'the big guns.' Need to get re-elected? Talk about September 11 and the inevitability of another terrorist attack, so that people are frightened into voting for you. All your previous justifications for starting a war been proven false? Just say, 'September 11 made me do it.'

And now that your second term is rapidly going down the toilet? Seize every opportunity possible to repeat six syllables that act as a sure-fire emotional cudgel for most Americans.

Mentioning September 11 brings up memories of one's personal experience of the day, as well as the larger emotional wallop of how it changed all Americans' lives by ushering in a new era of fear and uncertainty. The Bush team cynically exploits that strong emotional response for their own ends; if people are afraid, they'll be less likely to question you and your crappy policy decisions.

Bush and the like might want to take care, however. Their use of September 11 as political 'big guns' may backfire. Repeat something often enough and it loses its emotional impact, even something as emotional as September 11. At the rate the administration is going, they'll have flogged September 11 into a dead horse by Christmas.



Blink Interview

Freedom fighter

British protester jailed for 17 years in Burma



One man's battle for Burma

Blink Editor Alexa Sharples discusses Burma with human rights activist James Mawdsley

Stuave and sophisticated, James Mawdsley appears to belie the passionate political and human rights lobbyist that he is. Mawdsley spent 415 days in solitary confinement in a Burmese jail when the military dictatorship unduly condemned him to 17 years in prison for distributing pro-democracy material in 1999. Beaten and tortured, his detention drew extensive international coverage to the plight of this enigmatic, often romanticized and unfortunately little-known country.

Welcome to a land where rice paddies skirt golden pagodas and horse-drawn rickshaws clatter past former colonial buildings. There's an inescapable sense of a country quaintly caught in a time warp. However, scratch the surface and you'll discover a dark past and a heartbreaking present.

Burma, renamed 'Myanmar' by the ruling junta now known as The State Peace and Development Council, first hit the international headlines in 1988, when after 40 years of military rule pro-democracy demonstrations were brutally repressed. Thousands were killed and tens of thousands were beaten, tortured and imprisoned.

In 1990, the National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, won 82 percent of the seats in national elections. The junta never recognized the results, Suu Kyi has been in and out of house arrest since, and over 1,300 political prisoners remain.

Some eight years ago, Mawdsley taught in a school on the Thai-Burmese border, and fled when it was attacked and burnt down by the Burmese military. As many as two million people have fled Burma and there are over 150,000 Burmese refugees in neighbouring Thailand. In 2001, Mawdsley founded the Metta Trust for Children's Education (MTCE), which supports border area and refugee camp schools.

Education, Mawdsley believes, is the what will eventually bring about change in Burma. "Anyone at LSE, please, please, please, go to the developing world and offer your skills." He continues, "international aid and development, I don't think, should be about infrastructure projects, dams and roads. It's useless. Everything is useless unless

you have at the bottom of it skills and training, which help people hold the authorities to account".

The junta's realisation of this is reflected in the fact that in 2000 less than 0.5 percent of GDP was spent on education. Until recently, universities were mostly closed and today, two-thirds of courses are offered only through correspondence and one year of a degree is condensed into three months. All to minimise the possibility of students organising opposition demonstrations in their time spent together.

Furthermore, in 2000 health expenditure was 0.17 percent of GDP and the World Health Organisation has ranked Burmese healthcare the second worst in the world. Burma has the highest adult HIV rate in Asia - 90 percent in some villages - and the UN's World Food Programme

'TOTAL are not upholding labour law and environmental standards. I think they're knocking down the rainforest, clearing out villages, giving jobs to the nephews of the generals, a waste of space'

recently announced that a third of children under five are chronically malnourished.

Given the situation in Burma, it seems rather perverse that tourism has been on the increase, with the junta citing a 27 percent increase in 2003. However, despite the controversy surrounding tourism in Burma, Mawdsley believes that tourism has huge scope to be positive: "No one should go to Burma without challenging the regime on it's human rights record. You don't need to get deported, you don't need to get arrested. But you do need to make some kind of protest or you shouldn't go there... We must have engagement and sol-

idarity, which can't be done at a distance. We need to be there, we need a presence on the ground".

This is something that is also reflected in his views on the potential for multinational companies to foster change. "I don't think the question anymore is whether we should be there anymore," he says, "I think it's if we're there, how do we behave? So any multinational in Burma, if they insisted on international norms of labour standards, of anticorruption measures and environmental protection, they'd do a fantastic job in Burma. I'd love to see them there if they're insisting on these norms. They will give more benefits to the people than to the regime... The challenge is for us to get the multinationals to get on to this. But I think we can. They're really taking CSR more seriously".

However optimistic his views may seem, Mawdsley sees the presence of TOTAL, who offered LSE Director Howard Davies a non-executive directorship, as an example of the drawbacks of multinationals' involvement. "I think they should get out," he declares, "I don't believe they're out there upholding labour law and environmental standards. I think they're knocking down the rainforest, clearing out villages, giving jobs to the nephews of the generals, a waste of space".

Multinationals like TOTAL highlight the frustrating reality of the Burmese plight, but not more so than the inaction of the international community. "I've given hundreds of talks on five different continents, trying to get people's awareness up and involved. I've been lobbying in Brussels, Westminster and Washington D. C. I've quietly been trying to support these schools because I believe that education is the best defence

against exploitation. I know it's not a waste of time, but it feels like a waste time". Mawdsley continues, "I would put no hope in the UN."

But pressure, international and Burmese, is slowly being felt, not least with Suu Kyi's house-arrest. Mawdsley believes she will be released soon, "but it will always be an in and out detention... Every time they release her, or every time they detain her, it's

'There are over 1,400 political prisoners. Incredible people, sacrificed everything for the sake of the freedom of their country. It's incredible. But we hear bugger all'

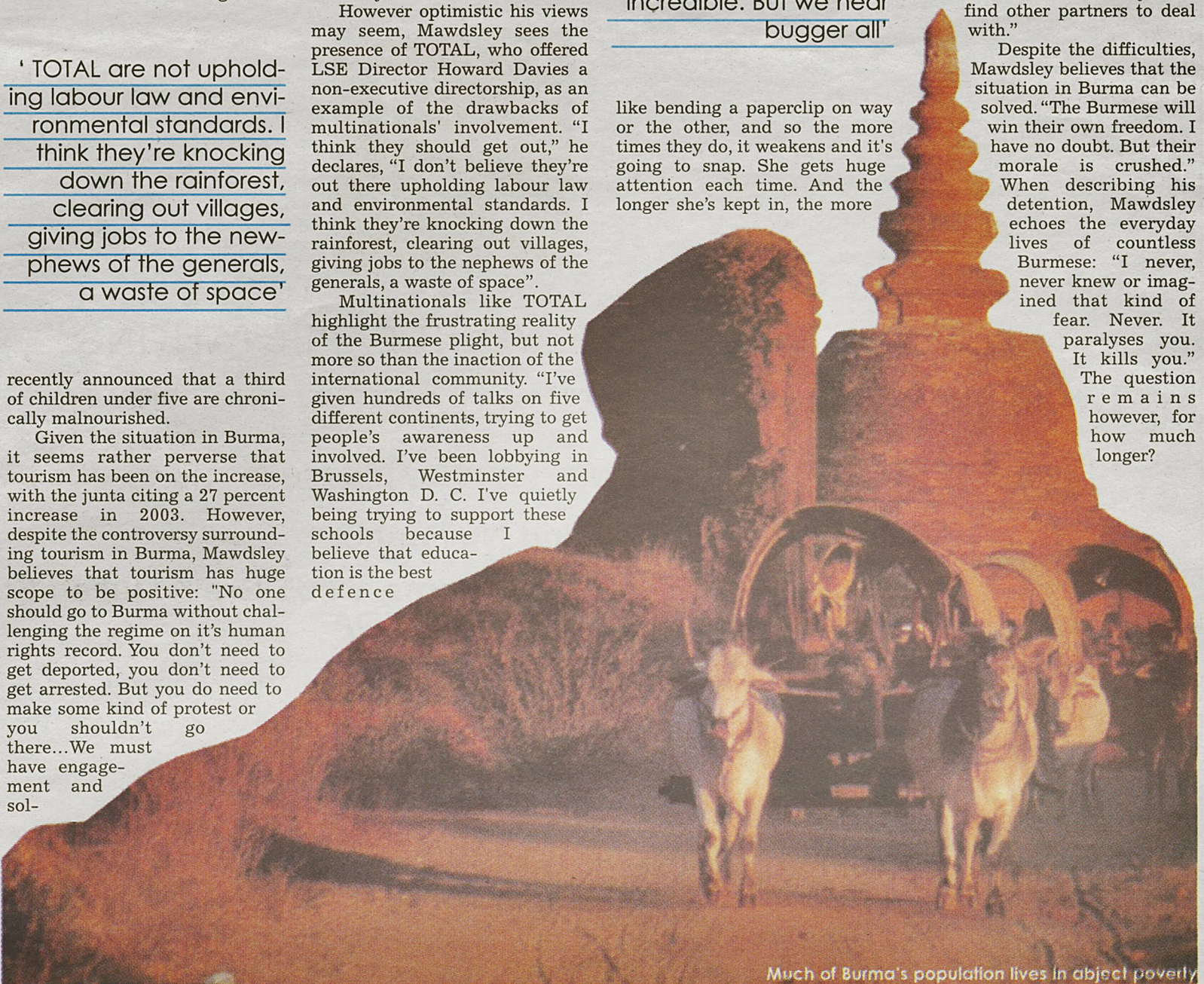
like bending a paperclip on way or the other, and so the more times they do, it weakens and it's going to snap. She gets huge attention each time. And the longer she's kept in, the more

the external pressure grows and the longer she's out, the greater the internal pressure grows."

However, beyond Suu Kyi, the international media lack sustained interest. "There are over 1,400 political prisoners. Incredible people, sacrificed everything for the sake of the freedom of their country. It's incredible. But we hear bugger all."

With the increased speculation about Burma's growing relations with North Korea, the media and international community are going to have to start paying attention. Mawdsley described the exchange of Burmese heroine for North Korean weapons technology - seemingly inevitable given that, "these are two of the nastiest regimes out there. They'll deal with each other when they can't find other partners to deal with."

Despite the difficulties, Mawdsley believes that the situation in Burma can be solved. "The Burmese will win their own freedom. I have no doubt. But their morale is crushed." When describing his detention, Mawdsley echoes the everyday lives of countless Burmese: "I never, never knew or imagined that kind of fear. Never. It paralyzes you. It kills you." The question remains however, for how much longer?



Much of Burma's population lives in abject poverty

Blink Business

How the Walkman tripped up

Stefanie Khaw explains the decline of Sony and the rise of Apple

Along, long time ago, before many of us were born, Sony's Walkman became the sole provider of portable music to the masses. It was The original portable music player. Not only did Sony invent the gadget, it created a market for portable media when there was none.

But how the mighty have fallen. If you still think your Walkman is the coolest thing on earth, you probably live very, very deep in the woods. Apple's iPod is currently reigning gadget of the day. Everywhere you look, you're bound to spot someone sporting those iconic white ear plugs.

In October 2004, iPod sales accounted for over 70 percent of the digital music player market. Last month, Apple CEO Steve Jobs proudly announced that as of the end of June 2005, Apple had sold almost 22 million iPods.

Having said that, its not really much to shout about. Walkman sales have breached the 200 million mark since being introduced in 1979. That's 140 percent more per year compared to that of the iPod.

But Apple have undeniably succeeded in de-throning Sony.

First, because it rapidly embraced technological advances. It took advantage of the widespread use of the World Wide Web long before many other companies did.

The company had enough

'In October 2004, iPod sales accounted for over 70 percent of the digital music player market'

foresight to spot the potential in financial gains from downloadable music, which were mostly free and also illegal during the '90s. Capitalising on this resulted in the birth of the iPod and iTunes, the former giving users the ability to carry their favourite songs and most recently, movies, in their pockets while the latter being the avenue in which these were obtained.

Sony, however, lost out in terms of sales. Illegal music downloads were becoming increasingly popular. With the lack of legal and technological

barriers to prevent this, record companies found profit margins dropping as sales of 'physical' music (cassettes and CDs) spiraled downwards.

To make matters worse, Sony had acquired CBS Records (artists include Aerosmith, Savage Garden and Frank Sinatra) for a whopping US\$2 billion in 1998. A year later, Napster (the first widely-used music sharing service) launched.

Apple also realised that the iPod would not go far if it was limited to Mac users alone so they released a version of iTunes which was compatible for Windows users.

Ironically, this caused a sort of 'halo effect': some iPod users were so impressed by its ease of use that they soon converted to the Mac cult.

Sony on the other hand, took ages to realize that MP3s were the way to go. For many years, it stubbornly produced players which only supported the ATRAC format which it owned exclusively. Some more recent players did support MP3s but they had to be converted via a computer beforehand, which was a hassle.

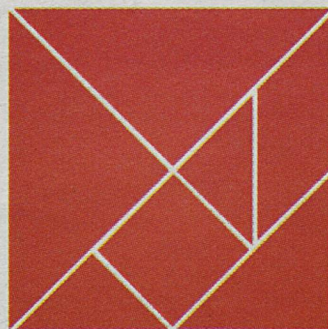
The Japanese manufacturer

only recently admitted defeat last summer. Its white flags? The NW-HD5 and the Sony Ericsson W800i. The former, a network walkman and the latter a walkman-cum-phone; both boasting fuss-free MP3 playability. This was more than 3 and a half years after the iPod's birth and amidst fierce competition from other manufacturers such as Creative Labs and iRiver.

In terms of true entrepreneur-

ship, Sony definitely takes the cake for revolutionising the way people listened to music. Apple simply capitalised on a market which already existed by taking music lovers to a higher plane.

But despite Sony's efforts to revive its Walkman label, it may be too late now. Apple seems to have the world under an unbreakable love spell. Let's face it. The sun has set on the Walkman.



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BlinkLaw

From Saddam to speed cameras...

Does legality really exist?

Tara Moore discusses the wider implications of Saddam's trial

The issue of how a system of law becomes legal or legitimate is an important one. The trial of Saddam Hussein highlights some of the key issues. Saddam is being tried by a tribunal of twenty Iraqi judges who secretly trained in Britain along with twenty-three prosecutors. However, he has refused to recognise the legitimacy of the Tribunal, stating that, "I preserve my constitutional rights as the

crime against humanity tribunals because, unlike many other such tribunals, he will be tried within his own country and could face the death penalty.

Lawyer Abdel Haq Alone has also argued that since the tribunal was, "drafted by an occupying power, it has no power to change the law of the occupied land". On the other hand, others have argued that Saddam is getting what he did not give his victims: a fair trial.

The fairness of the trial has come under further criticism after the murder of one of the defence lawyers, Saadoun Janabi. Human rights experts have said that this will deter other lawyers from taking part in the defence and the trial can have no meaning if Saddam and the former Ba'athist leaders are not defended properly.

As people living in a democracy, the idea of legitimacy is not something that we as individuals question regularly. To use an obscure example, consider speed cameras: many people feel they are unnecessary and are just used as a revenue generator, but not many people would question the government's right to introduce this law.

This issue of legality is also closely bound up with morality.

Those who have questioned the legality of speed cameras have argued that the government's intention is to raise money, rather than save lives.

From this we can arguably infer that legitimacy comes from democracy. Saddam's defence is based on this idea. In the 2002 referendum Saddam received 100 percent approval rating. His defence team have argued this means he is still the legitimate ruler, therefore has state impunity from prosecution.

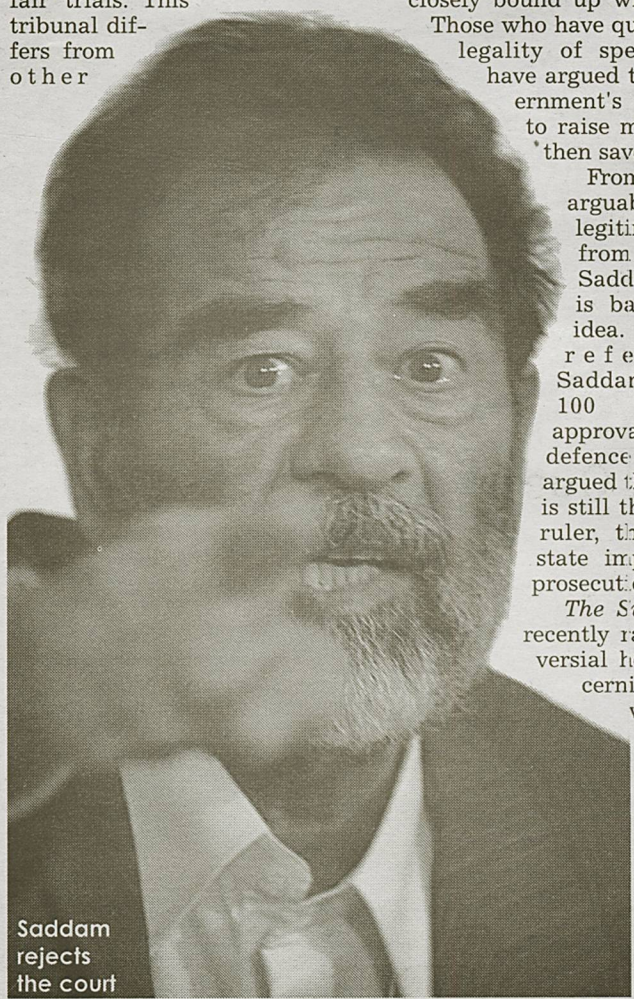
The Sunday Times recently ran a controversial headline concerning the Iraq war: 'RAF

officer faces jail over 'illegal war'. Flight-Lieutenant Malcolm Kendall-Smith is to be court marshalled

'The Saddam trial differs from other crimes against humanity tribunals because he will be tried within his own country and could face the death penalty'

President of Iraq. I do not recognise the body that has authorised you and I don't recognise this aggression."

Human rights experts are divided over this issue. Some have warned that the tribunal could violate international standards of fair trials. This tribunal differs from other



Saddam rejects the court



The Nuremburg Trials

over his refusal to serve in Iraq because he believes that the war in Iraq is illegal.

International lawyers have been vociferous in criticising the war in Iraq, saying that it is ille-

'Legality is tied up in our understanding of what law is. Why do we obey law? What is the difference between law and rules? When a government has been elected, where do we draw the line over control?'

gal because Britain and America did not wait for the UN sanction. Iraq has been a member of the UN since 1945 and it is clear that as a member they should act within the Charter, but where Britain or America's authority comes from is unclear.

Legality is tied up in our understanding of what law is. For example, why do we obey law and what is the difference between law and rules? Also, when a government has been elected, where do we draw the line over control?

Obviously we do not believe that Tony Blair or his position should have the power to kill his opponents, but where do we draw

the line and who should be allowed to draw that line? Is power now synonymous with morality?

There are very few people who would argue that Saddam Hussein acted rightly or morally in his massacre of 150 Shiites, but he was acting within the legal system of the time, so in that sense he could be said to be acting legally. The argument that the prosecutors will be using will be that he was acting contrary to international law. However, it was not the UN who chose to get involved, but Britain and America.

Iraq never chose to voluntarily give up legal freedom and therefore why should they be bound by those legal rules? Also, consider the number of other countries' accused of human rights atrocities which neither Britain, America nor the UN have chosen to become involved in.

We should also bear in mind that morality is not totally a universal concept. Societies throughout the world have concepts and ideas which can be identified as morals, but these can deviate extensively. For example, some religions allow for men or women to have more than one wife or husband, but Christians do not agree with this, believing that there should only be two people in a marriage. Does this mean the latter or former are acting wrongly?



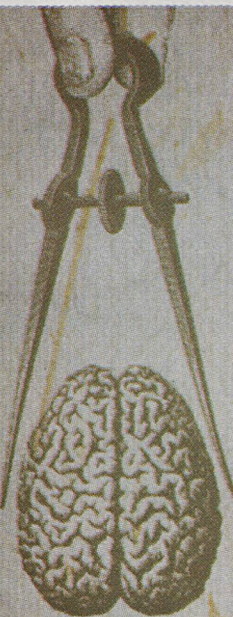
We are today living in a world which is getting smaller. It is frightening to think that one day those countries with the most

power will dictate what is correct behaviour, thinking that they are enlightening people. If Britain and America can dictate what is legal within Iraq, will this mean that they can go on to do this in other countries?

'Where Britain or America's authority in Iraq comes from is unclear'

This harks back to the Nuremberg trials in which one defendant said, "of course you are going to say that I acted wrongly and illegally - you won". This is not to say that Saddam's crimes were not wrong, but there are serious concerns with the ideas of law and legality, which stem from universal concepts of 'morality' and 'legality,' which in fact are quite changeable.

It is sad that this trial, which is important for Iraq's independence, has diverted attention from the referendum that took place recently and the results which may not legally be enough in all regions to get the constitution passed. The Guardian claims that the constitution will be passed because the British government wants it to be passed. If this is true it means that the new constitution, which is to replace Saddam's regime, is just as illegitimate as the regime it replaces. Where does this leave Iraq?



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Tavakoli jumps ship



Bart Editor Nastaran Tavakoli-Far bids farewell to all and encourages elegant violence in the forms of Zatoichi, Dante and Caravaggio

As with every year, the opening of The Turner Prize sparks furious questions on exactly what constitutes good art. We sent Veronica Lee and Eleonora Schinella to stroke chins over this year's shortlist. Be it Gillian Carnegie's paintings layered with thick strokes of paint or Jim Lambie's crazy owl and mint-humbog style floor, they both seem to agree that the question 'is this art?' should be left at the Tate Britain's door.

Camden market is apparently London's second most visited tourist attraction. Why most of you will ask? B>About is on hand to actually show us the real parts of Camden market we all seem to have missed amongst the teen goth shops and Punky Fish.

LSE's secret poets are revealed in B:Literature as the winning entries to our Allen Ginsberg DVD competition are printed. You will also find the autobiography of Alison Lapper (also known as the lady on the forth plinth at Trafalgar Square).

It's not only B:Literature

which is showing us LSE's hidden artists, B:Theatre features a piece by LSE masters student Ali Muriel on his play *Hen and Chickens*, and why he locked himself into his house for three weeks with junk food.

B:Film is disappointed with Johnny Depp whereas B:Music is ever impressed with the all-round genius of Eels.

For those still reading, this is the final edition of B:Art, and my last stint as B:Art editor. Before I sign off, make sure you do the following over the next few weeks: see the McCoy Tyner trio at the London Jazz Festival and trot down to the Almeida Theatre for *The Hypochondriac* by France's father of satire, Moliere. As for the rest of your lives: always take your daily medication of Federico Garcia Lorca, dress up in stripes and don bad eye make-up to Tim Burton, learn to twist to Eddie Cochran and lightening jam along to Dick Dale, plaster you walls with the fury and intimacy of Delacroix and Caravaggio, watch Kitano Takeshi's *Zatoichi* way too much and always, always remember your Dante.

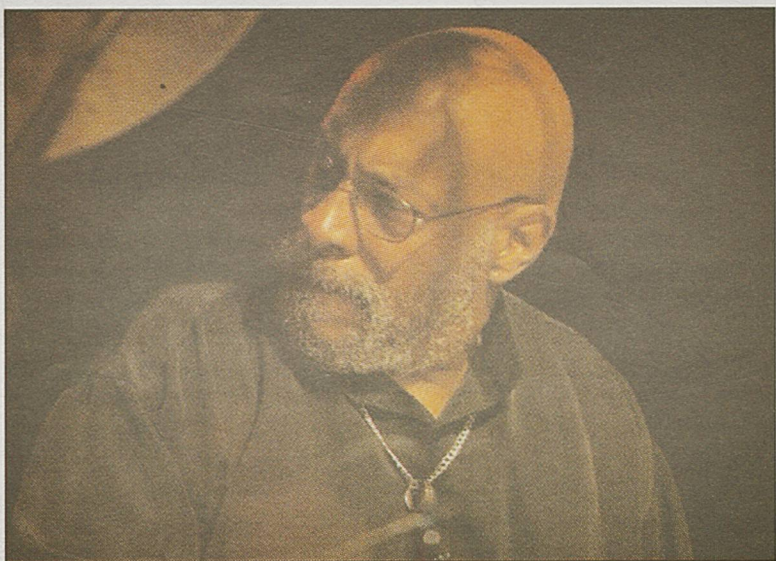


Zatoichi in full glory

Bart

The cool bits of Camden Market in B>About page 18 » Depp disappoints in B:Film page 19 » Turner Prize special in B:Visual Arts pages 20 and 21 » An ode to Eels in B:Music pages 22 and 23 » Autobiography of Alison Lapper in B:Literature page 24 and B:Theatre on student drama page 25

The Editor's Week



McCoy Tyner will be bringing his trio to London

Wednesday 2 November

Mariza
Portugal's most famous export, fado singer Mariza (also known as the lady with the very unusual hair) will be bringing her world famous live shows to London.

At: The Barbican

Price: from £15
Tube: Barbican

Sunday 6 November

Sufi Soul - Rahat Fateh Ali Khan and musicians
Nephew of Pakisatn's most famous Sufi singer, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, is jopined by street

singers and drummers as part of the Barbican's 'Sufi soul' performances. Expect much whirling indeed.

At: The Barbican
Price: from £10
Tube: Barbican

Monday 7 November

DIG! And Rock School double bill

The long, acerbic feud between the Brian Jonestown Massacre and The Dandy Warhols is caught in DIG! Stay around afterwards and catch Rock School, the real life 'school of rock' which 'headmaster' Paul Green claims Jack Black stole. Here are real kids playing scarily tough Frank Zappa licks. Check for sure.

At: Riverside Studios, DIG! At 6.30pm and Rock School at 8.45pm
Price: £5.50 with NUS for the double bill
Tube: Hammersmith

Now Showing

Albert Einstein: Man of the Century

This exhibition focuses on the various aspects of Einstein's life, from his views about Judaism and his own status as a refugee to his political opinions revealed and analysed.

At: Jewish Museum Camden, 129-131 Albert Street
Price: £1.50 with NUS
Tube: Camden Town

Last Chance

Nelson and Napoleon

Whether you want to see the actual sword with which Nelson was declared emperor after the battle of Trafalgar to the uniform in which he lost his life, the National Maritime Museum has collected it all. A chance to see some really personal aspects of the LSE's nominee for honorary president up close.

Ends November 13

At: National Maritime Museum
Price: £6 with NUS
Tube: Cutty Sark

Book Now

McCoy Tyner Trio

The London Jazz Festival kicks off on the 11th November. As John Coltrane's pianist in the 1960s and one of the hottest names in jazz piano, McCoy Tyner promises to be special. Catch him jammin' with his trio.

At: Monday 14 November, The Barbican
Price: from £17.50
Tube: Barbican

50/11/05 - 07/11/05 - 50/11/10

About
at
Market

From Freak to Chic

dorianpanchyson throws light on the often misunderstood Camden market

I know this is a grade-school essay no-no, but I think I'm an adult now, so here it goes. Let me begin by telling you what the famous Camden Market is NOT about.

Camden market is not some ultra secret London fashion lair hiding this year's must-have alternative fashion at 'fell-off-a-truck' prices. It certainly isn't a quaint little neighbourhood where you would bring your mum for a taste of real-London, uninfected by the hustle of the tourist masses. And Camden is defiantly NOT an enclave that has somehow managed to escape the icy green claws of Starbucks, the Colonel's greasy grin, or Ronald's rotund red arse. Despite these warnings, if you continue to read on, Camden is about as rewarding an experience as one can get out of a Zone 2 return Tube ticket - even if you only bring your eyes and leave the wallet at home.

Just a short jaunt up the Northern Line will submerge you into a culture of subcultures (emphasis on the pluralized here). Sure, you may feel a student of Bovine University, slowly being herded towards the grinding machine, but much like any of London's large market neighbourhoods, patience is vital. With that, there is little doubt that every fashion inclination, desire, vice, fetish or taste could be satisfied here. From Goth to crass-punk, weekend Raver to 'you're going to hurt yourself' Raver, French maid to graffiti junkie, Camden will have a shop, stall or merchant that will cater to your demands. I even bought a shiny new pair of Nike's for only £30, so it also retains just a dash of mainstream comfort for those of us who couldn't really envision ourselves wearing seat-less chaps, union-jack thongs or shirts that read 'dip me in chocolate, and throw me to the lesbians'. Well, maybe that last one.

Exiting at the Camden Town stop will bring you just outside the heart of the market centre - although the sudden rush of people alludes to arriving in the centre, the maze-like streets continually present the exploring type with new, and (seemingly) uncharted lanes of stalls, food merchants, and clothiers hocking everything from the latest trends to vintage Ts (e.g. an authentic 1991 MC Hammer shirt, faded and all; only £30 of course).

So don't be shy, jump right in and follow every side alley way



One of the many International food stalls that you can find in multi-cultural Camden Market

you happen to stumble across. Just be sure to ignore the constant offers for hashish or mushrooms and not to be too liberal with your camera - a lesson taught to me by a woman dressed like Dee Snyder from Twisted Sister.

Alright, a little snip of history. The story of the Camden Town market is as clichédly rags-to-riches as the latest article on JK Rowling: it was originally established in 1974 as an open-air craft market for local residents, but soon spread its wings to include a plethora of goods, products and licensed establishments to satisfy all sorts of indulgences.

The recent boom of tourist interest has witnessed the explosion of a once niche market into a sprawling London landmark, attracting thousands of visitors from home and abroad every weekend. Depending on your worldview, this expansion could assist in the diversification, novelty and character of Camden, or could be characterized as another overly pretentious, tourist-attracting stool. I would be inclined to say the former. Variety is the spice of life, after all.

The recent expansion of the market has certainly brought a wave of international food stalls that, much like the fashion end, are likely to whet even the most fickle of palettes. The economically inclined can find an authentic foreign gorging for as low as £2 (note: vendors tend to sell larger dishes for cheaper as the

day progresses; surely a gross little fact to some, but at least it says something about the freshness. No day-olds here friends.) Skip the shops on the main roads - the real treats are found the farther you venture into the market core. Follow your nose. Ye shall find.

For those willing to shell out a few more quid, the experience can be extremely rewarding on your taste buds. Authentic Moroccan, Indian, Thai or Mexican cuisine line the crowded food mazes - strangely reminiscent of the eastern markets familiar to any seasoned backpacker.

Vendors may try to lure you in by shoving little samples on toothpicks in your face - again, not necessarily a negative for the ravenous individual strapped for cash. I recommend trying every little scrap offered to you, no matter how grotesque or dog-food-like it may appear. A large portion of fried squid balls were willingly purchased after reluctantly sampling a portion. I am sure most will wish that binging and purging didn't carry such a social stigma, because the food at Camden is worth a double stomach. Also, it would be utterly heartbreaking if you were to leave without sampling the fresh fried and battered doughnuts.

However, if the most exotic dish you've eaten is a Filet-O-Fish and you only shop at Top-Shop, Camden should be visited solely on the basis of its almost dizzying amount of antique

shops. Amongst the faint scent of Shisha smoke, the underground stalls boast a veritable treasure chest of hand carved African artwork, woven Afghan rugs and antique furniture. Although the extent of my antique knowledge is based upon countless hours of Antique Road Show, I am sure that there are some real gems hidden amongst the piles of plastic snakes and wooden "tobacco pipes". One of the African art stalls on the lower level of the Horse Market even offers authentic Western African drumming lessons, levels ranging from beginner to advanced.

On the surface level, the Camden Town Market conveys a certain degree of faux-alternative, scare-your-parents-with-eye-shadow type of character. Although it boasts a wide-range of personal oddities, a grimy charm, and a seemingly endless supply of scarily-dressed residents, Camden can only be enjoyed by those who want to enjoy it. Take it for what it is really; a bastard love child of underground culture, foreign eateries and high street level corporatism. Go for the sights alone, stick around for the food, and enjoy yourself. Remember, you are worth it.

Open 10AM till 6PM, 7 days a week, but the weekends are definitely the time to visit Camden Town. Northern line to Camden Town tube stop. And remember the doughnuts!

"It also retains just a dash of mainstream comfort"

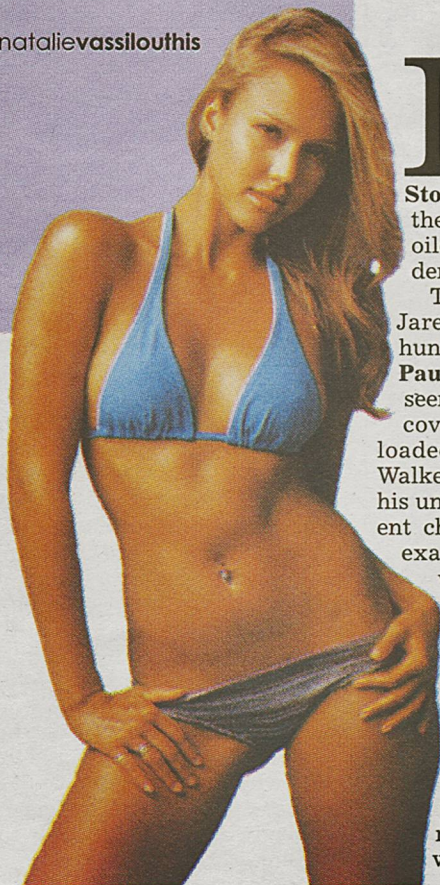
B:ABOUT

Heads up!

It appears the spirit of filmmaking seems to have (thankfully) wrenched itself from the hands of supernatural thrillers and teen comedies and inhabited the more difficult spirit of the biopic. Alas, the trend is doubtless temporary. While we still have the chance, however, we can take a moment to *Walk the Line* with Johnny Cash. **Joaquin Phoenix** plays the troubled musician in a film about his earlier years, which debuted at the ongoing London Film Festival. It chronicles what some would call the making of a legend. Its red-carpet Gala Screening was studded with stars of the brightest order, **Terry Gilliam** and **Gael Garcia Bernal** to name a few. Cash's undeniable influence on music aside, folksy rock n' roll may not be your cup of tea. It is no credit to us (ok maybe a little) that we so kindly make every effort to provide for you, the reader, with an alternative. Either that or this has come as particularly exciting news. Only you and I both, will have to wait.

Justin Berfield, who you may or may not know (relative to your level of engagement to your television) as Reese from *Malcolm in the Middle*, along with business partner **Jason Felts**, has expressed more than a passing interest in giving the exalted **Jerry Garcia** the silver screen treatment. While two biographies are being surveyed, the film is to focus on Garcia's recovery from a drug-induced coma. It is not expected to include any references to Ben and Jerry's ice cream.

natalievassilouthis



The Libertine

jennjascoll thinks a womanising Depp lacks depth

Set during The Restoration, *The Libertine* follows the sexual escapades of John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, whose works, quoted in the film, sound like the precursor to rugby ballads. Wilmot (**Johnny Depp**) and his wife Elizabeth (**Rosamund Pike**) move from the countryside to London so that he can partake in the court of King Charles II (**John Malkovich**) as well as the sensual entertainment of 1660s city life. Upon arrival, Wilmot acquires a servant named Alcock (**Richard Coyle**), whose name perfectly describes the lifestyle of his master and thus produces considerable laughter from the audience.

In London, Wilmot and his literary friends hang around their two sources of pleasure: brothels and the theatre. Elizabeth soon realises her presence is undesirable in such company and she reappears in the film only to fulfill the role of long-suffering wife. Wilmot attends a theatrical performance where an actress named Elizabeth Barry (**Samantha Morton**) is booed off the stage. Offering to improve her acting abilities, Wilmot takes Barry under his directorial wing but the relationship turns into something more. Through the combination of their affair and a sexually-charged stage play written to criticise the King, Wilmot falls from social grace and spirals downward into a fatal bout of drunkenness and syphilis.



in theatres 18 November

The Libertine is the feature film debut of British music video director **Laurence Dunmore**. The screenplay is by **Stephen Jeffreys**, who adapted it from his stage play of the same name. The gritty and dim quality of the image combines well with the make-up and costumes to create a raw feel for the 1660s, visually setting this film apart from other period pieces. Hand-held camera work represents a welcome change from the industry standard of tripod or dolly, but sometimes the cinematographer is too clever. The annoying use of rack focus (shift between background and foreground) to emphasise a conversation between two characters loses its effect after the fifth transition. The 360-degree camera rotations employed in two other scenes are visually striking but are nothing more than eye candy.

The film strives to depict its

protagonist as an intriguing individual whose reputation for satirical playwriting, sexually explicit poetry and a lascivious lifestyle placed him on the very edge of late seventeenth-century British mores. Yet for all this remarkable-ness, the script seems disappointingly uninspired, formulaic and drawn-out. After an hour, the dialogue and storyline simply cannot hold the audience's attention any longer, nor can it provide anything more for Wilmot to stand out as a wily rogue. Not even stars like Depp and Malkovich can save the film, which runs out of steam and, like its protagonist, wastes away in filth and gloom.

Early in *The Libertine*, a character tells Wilmot, 'Johnny, Johnny, we were pining for you.' So too must the audience yearn for any film that will offer Depp a better script to demonstrate his fine craft.

Into the Blue

sunny beaches and skimpy bikinis failed to win over djbarron

Let me start by saying that I wanted to like this film, I really did. However, when director **John Stockwell** (*Blue Crush*) is at the helm, one should expect oiled-up flesh to take precedence over acting and content.

The film revolves around Jared, a wannabe treasure hunter (played by rubbish actor **Paul Walker**) whose dream seems threatened by the discovery of a sunken plane loaded with cocaine. Fans of Walker should be familiar with his uncanny ability to play different characters in different films exactly the same way. If it weren't for *Into the Blue's* lack of fast cars, audiences might have guessed that Walker's scenes were taken straight out of his 2003 film *2 Fast 2 Furious*. His role seems utterly unconvincing, especially when he holds his breath underwater for five minutes surrounded by sharks, shot at with machine guns and

passing through clouds of cocaine, all whilst swimming behind **Jessica Alba** (*Fantastic Four*, *Sin City*).

Alba plays his love interest. Unfortunately, the role has nothing to do with her genuine acting ability and everything to do with the fact that she looks seriously hot in tiny bikinis. The romance between the two also seems unconvincing. Both try too hard to pull off gut-wrenchingly bad lines like 'I believe in you more than the prospect of any treasure.' Newcomer **Ashley Scott** plays to perfection an evil blonde bitch who meets a fairly nasty end in one of the film's few decent scenes. But she wears different skimpy outfits in every scene despite getting off the plane with no luggage at all!

Scott Caan (*Ocean's Eleven*, *Gone in Sixty Seconds*) plays Jared's cheeky brother, who is great fun to watch and steals every scene he's in. Sadly, the laughs he deservedly gets are matched by the audience's laughter at the story's total implausibility. The characters take on

scary club owners, corrupt customs officers, an angry former boss, frequent arrivals of bad-guy-only-eating sharks, and even an East End gangster. In the middle of the Caribbean. Please!

The film tries to do too much and consequently suffers for it. I'm all for going to cinemas and escaping reality but *Into the Blue* is just silly. People will undoubtedly find it annoying that the camera spends most of its time either searching for or following Alba's barely-covered ass. As nice as her ass is, I will admit that the frequency of its appearance becomes somewhat gratuitous, perhaps even comical. These scenes do have one redeeming factor though: actors can't talk underwater! Which, after hearing Walker drone on for an hour, you will be thankful for.

In short, see this film if you've travelled hours to go to the cinema and missed the film you wanted to see. Give it a miss if you can think of any better way to spend your time and money, like holding your breath until you pass out.

out now in theatres

Into the blue

B: Film

The
Turner
Prize

Turner Round Again

eleonoraschinella gently eases us into the weird world of the Turner Prize



Installation by Darren Almond

Darren Almond

BORN Wigan in 1971.
EDUCATION Graduated from
Winchester School of Art in 1993.
LIVES Currently living and work-
ing in London.

Many works by Darren Almond touch the themes of memory and time through a variety of means and techniques: apparently empty or detached from human presence, his subjects lead instead to contemplative and evocative meditation. As 'If I had you' (2005), exhibited at Tate Britain's Turner Prize, is ultimately an invitation to cultivate personal memory, so his previous piece 'Oswieçim March' 1997 (1997) is a reminder of the importance of epic, collective memory. By simply filming two bus shelters in Oswieçim, once called Auschwitz, Almond builds a symbolic connection between present and history, today and memory.

Another theme dear to the artist is the haunting of places and landscapes. Blackpool's magic gently emerges from 'If I had you', and a similar magic is even more evident in the on-going series 'Full-moon'. The fifteen-minute-long exposition pictures reveal places and colours of moving intensity, made even more precious by the fact that these landscapes are otherwise invisible to the human eye.

It is exactly for this almost melancholic attention to time and space in relation to the individual that Darren Almond received a nomination, as well as his large range of experimented techniques, which vary from video to photographs, to sculptures and paintings.

Simon Starling

BORN Epsom in 1967.
EDUCATION Graduated from
Trent Polytechnic in Nottingham
in 1990 and then from Glasgow
School of Art in 1992.
LIVES Currently living and work-
ing in Glasgow and in Berlin.

'Shedboatshed' (2005), 'Tabernas desert run' (2004) and 'One ton, II' (2005), now exhibited in Tate for the Turner Prize, are emblematic of the "circularity" that is characteristic of Starling's art. His work 'Flaga 1974-2000' (2002), for example, involved a red car produced by FIAT in Turin in 1974 that was driven to a FIAT factory in Poland where the doors were replaced with white ones. The car was then driven back to Turin, completing the circle though changing at the same time: the new colours echoed the ones of the Polish flag, suggesting how this apparent symbol of Italian trademark is in reality the result of a multi-national production.

All of Starling's pieces seem to share this concept of art that goes beyond what is generally intended as conceptual art. In fact, the rhetorical questions that they make us ask are not born from the objects in themselves but from the transformation they went through and of which the artist is the direct maker.

Action therefore becomes the necessary condition to art, sculpture is not just the forming of a shape but the transforming of one object into another. This rather peculiar concept of art is what is most appealing about his work and brought him the nomination.

Jim Lambie

BORN Glasgow in 1964.
EDUCATION Graduated from
Glasgow School of Art in 1994.
LIVES Currently living and work-
ing in Glasgow.

Jim's favourite toys: buttons, pieces of mirrors, coloured and plastic objects, glitter, junk stuff. Jim's favourite game: covering floors with parallel stripes of coloured vinyl tape. The psychedelic base of 'The Kinks' (2005), which sees one whole room of the Tate Museum covered with tape, is not a new practice to the artist: he had already transformed another room in 2003 in occasion of 'Days Like These: Tate Triennial', as well as floors of Tate St. Ives and Oxford's Museum of Modern Art.

His art celebrates the ephemeral nature of ordinary objects, giving them new dignity by making them the object of immediate and to-hand sensory pleasure for the viewer. He is not afraid of exaggerating, of overloading, and often creates his pieces on the spot, reacting directly to the exhibition space. It is a relaxed and often teasing approach to the making of art, which is reflected often from the titles of his works. For example, an installation of pieces of broken mirror hung on the wall with attached colourful ribbons is what makes his Rainbow Straightener (2002).

Therefore Lambie's strongest point is, to use writer Will Bradley's words, his "personal vocabulary of materials and techniques combined with an astute but heretical awareness of the past".

Gillian Carnegie

BORN Suffolk in 1971,
EDUCATION Graduated from
Camberwell School of Art
London, in 1992, then from Royal
College of Art, London, in 1998.
LIVES Currently living and work-
ing in London.

Along with solo exhibitions at the Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York in 2000 and in 2003, and Cabinet Gallery, London, in 1999 and 2000, Carnegie has had her work displayed in many exhibitions of new contemporaries. In a way, however, she distinctively differs from the common idea of "contemporary". In fact, her subjects are mostly traditional: still-life, landscape, nude, portrait. But the medium often betrays this with a disquieting physicality, in the loaded brushstrokes, in the intensity of the tone, definitely distancing it from anything that could be considered "traditional".

At times the reference to the tradition is intentionally provocative. It is the case not only with 'Black square' (2002 and 2004), exhibited for the Turner prize, but also of 'Green Mountain' (2002). The subject of this painting is similar, even in its actual shape, to Cezanne's 'Mont Sainte Victoire'; but Gillian's mount is besieged by a hedgerow painted in a thick, sticky layer of chaotic black strokes, which neutralises the mountain's magnificence completely.

What makes Carnegie's work particularly valuable is her determination in moving away from what's predictable and in experimenting with the tension between the subject and the medium.

B: Visual Arts

The Shortlisted Artists

The Spin on the Turner

The
Turner
Prize

veronica lee
keeps her eyes on
the prize

The Turner Prize 2005
At: Tate Britain
Price: £10 with NUS
Tube: Pimlico

The Turner Prize is back. This year's shortlisted artists do not merely shock, provoke or inspire but, most importantly, they celebrate the rich diversity of contemporary art in all its eccentricity.

The opening of this well acclaimed exhibition has been established as the unique time of the year in which people from all backgrounds and contrasting social classes are given a platform to discuss, criticize and reflect on issues regarding contemporary British art. With Darren Almond, Gillian Carnegie, Jim Lambie and Simon Starling as the 2005 nominated artists, this year is no exception.

As soon as I entered the first room, I immediately found myself overwhelmed by **Simon Starling's** shed; or as he likes to name it: 'Shedboatshed' ('Mobile Architecture No 2'). The narrative of this installation consists of a shed which was dismantled by the artist on the shores of the Rhine to convert into a boat. Once loaded with the remainders of the shed, the boat was paddled down the river, dismantled and re-made into a shed for display at a museum in Basel. Here, Starling's work is distinctive and peculiar in its concern with the making of objects and the physical manifestation throughout the process. From a simple point of view, the pilgrimage involved in 'Shedboatshed' seems futile and almost absurd but if the piece is understood as "a reinterpretation of the idea of mobile architecture", the viewer is led to discover the poetic circularity reflected in the transformation.

When I walked into the next room, the soft piano melody slowly attracted my attention and in a darkened side of the gallery I came across four video installations connected by the same unifying theme: memory explained through time and space. **Darren Almond's** 'If I had you' primarily consists of a slow moving projection of the artist's grandmother watching a second projection of a dancing couple's feet gliding across the floor. The piece portrays a melancholic widow caught up in between the present and the past on her first trip back to the Tower Ballroom since her husband's death twenty years ago. Almond's video installations poignantly explore romance, longing and decay by evoking feelings of nostalgia.

Conceptualization through symbolism plays an essential role here. The turning sails of a luminous windmill represent time passing by and the inevitability of death, and the colourful fountain symbolizes the elixir of life. In this way, the piece as a whole



Jim Lambie's 'The Kinks'

becomes even more meaningful to the observer, as it ceases to merely reflect Almond's personal encounter with his family history but encompasses a wider theme: "the vulnerability of yourself against time". 'If I had you' certainly conveys a strong and powerful message but the sceptical viewer can easily interpret it simply as a strategic way of emotionally manipulating the viewer. Being the first artist to use oil paint to be nominated for the prize in five years; no one can deny that **Gillian Carnegie** is the critics' favourite candidate. Taking a quick glance at her work, at first her paintings seem to plainly portray traditional themes of still life and landscape, leaving us with the image of Carnegie as the typical academic figurative painter. Nevertheless, what characterizes her originality, is the paradoxical fact that Carnegie refuses to conform herself to the established conventions of figurative painting. There is no narrative, no stylistic coherence and yet everything is explained through her exploration of the properties in the

Through the strong influence of music the artist evokes the sense of glamour and seductive spirit of pop culture."

medium she uses. For instance, the materiality and physicality of her densely applied impasto in 'Black square' is certainly in contrast to the textures of 'Waltz I'. Superficially, Carnegie will seem like a conventional figurative painter but if a closer look is taken, the viewer will discover her ambiguous side: an obscurely existential element in her pieces. Let's hope that if she happens to win it will be because of her exceptional talent and not because of an attempt of the jury to reaffirm the status of the prize as a serious one.

Finally, **Jim Lambie's** 'The Kinks' is the final work in this year's Turner Prize. His crazy installation consists of a black and silver zigzagged psychedelic floor combined with enormous mantelpiece bird ornaments with paint drooled over them. Lambie has the ability to engage the observer through a direct and overwhelming experience and the floor is undoubtedly the central aspect which makes his installation transcend its physical environment.

It does not only provide a plat-

form for his sculptural pieces but also the optical illusions of the floor merged with glitter and gloss paint make the viewer feel as if trapped in a surreal dream or in another dimension. Through the strong influence of music the artist evokes the sense of glamour and seductive spirit of pop culture.

Although there is no high intellectual content in the pieces, his wild energy and spontaneity is what matters here. Lizzie Carey-Thomas, a Tate curator, said: "Lambie moves towards an art of pure pleasure which, he proposes, can elicit sensations analogous to the out-of-body, out-of-mind effects produced by listening to music."

On the other hand, for those who are not particularly interested in art it would certainly be an advantage to visit the exhibition having read a book on modern art or at least vaguely knowing what to expect.

However, the one vital prerequisite before stepping into Tate Britain is to open our minds and finally leave aside the tired, over-debated question: 'Is this art?'

B: Visual Arts

Eels
with
stings

E: Not Just For The Good Times

'beautiful freak' jamescross tells us how he got his 'soul jacked' by eels at the royal albert hall

E, Mr. E, Uncle E, Eels...just some of the many names by which the creator of 'Beautiful Freak' can be called. Eels have been around for over a decade and are strangely yet to break the mainstream.

In a career littered with wide critical acclaim, E has produced songs that everyone would recognize but very few people could name the artist. This anonymity adds a certain air of mystery to a man who essentially rewrites genres for a living.

The son of a quantum physicist (Dr. Hugh Everett III) who was dubbed by 'Scientist America' magazine as "one of the most important scientists of the 20th century"(Who?), while his son, Mark Oliver Everett, is arguably one of the most innovative musical minds of our time.

He cites his main influence from childhood to be Neil Young, and actually used the same piano used by Young when he recorded *Daisies of the Galaxy*. So, how did E go about the transition of listening to After the Gold Rush everyday after school to becoming Eels?

He began his musical career playing a toy drum set acquired at a neighbour's garage sale. Incidentally, the title 'E' was adopted to avoid confusion between him and several of his friends with the same name. Anyone who has listened to Eels though knows there's much more to their sound than a plastic drum set and even those who



"This anonymity adds a certain air of mystery to a man who essentially rewrites genres for a living."

haven't listened to Eels will know that it is impossible to play the guitar, piano, drums, xylophone, violin and oboe simultaneously. So, where does the sound come from?

It turns out that Eels is actually just E and a cohort of his closest friends, most notably Peter Buck of R.E.M. Upon hearing that you may worry that Eels possess a depressing tone and in most ways they do. The atmosphere at the Royal Albert Hall was far from depressing; in fact,

the place was packed with well-dressed 'thirtysomethings'. The support came in the form of a short video clip rather than the usual indie band. It was strangely refreshing to see an introduction in which E mockingly compares the death of R'n'B singer Aaliyah to those of Kurt Cobain and Elvis in terms of importance to the musical world. The groans from the crowd didn't really do justice to what was one of the funniest remarks I've heard in a long time.

E, complete with top hat and cane, was accompanied by a string quartet. Something which could seem quite pretentious were it not for the setting being a packed Royal Albert Hall.

For such a big arena, the acoustics were surprisingly good at such a distance from the stage. The importance of this can't be underestimated as the intricacies of Eels music are essential to the sound. Rattling through some of the songs from his

new album, with 'Son of a Bitch', 'Railroad Man' and 'Hey Man (now you're really livin')' being amongst the highlights, there was a noticeable air of anticipation as people awaited the classics.

It came as a disappointment when, after dragging out the build up to epic length, 'Novocaine for the soul' was played in a distorted style that didn't really do the song justice. This was to set the tone for the rest of the evening as E's desire not to conform to expectations became clear, hence the absence of 'Beautiful Freak' and 'Mr E's Beautiful Blues' in the set list.

When he did play some of the more popular songs though, they were greeted with cheers that I wouldn't have even expected to hear at the Proms. 'It's a Motherfucker' was acoustically balanced to perfection and was probably the highlight of the evening, followed closely by 'I like Birds'.

Essentially, the majority seemed satisfied but it did seem at times as though we were there for Mr E's entertainment rather than our own, this feeling was highlighted by the 'cat and mouse' act that was to be the fiasco of three encores. People can only stamp their feet for so long. Despite all the criticisms I have, I can't actually bring myself to say it was a bad gig. It can't even be called mediocre because, at the end of the day, it was Eels at the Royal Albert Hall and it was an experience that no-one who was there will ever be able to forget.

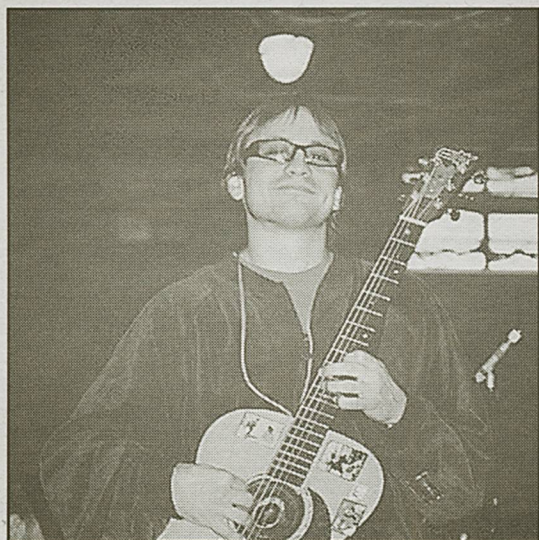
In this respect, E must be congratulated. His mere presence there was enough for most of the crowd, if not for the bloke on the balcony who seemed to think he was at a West Ham game. My recommendation to see Eels live would extend to anyone if it wasn't for the fact that these will probably be his last shows in the UK for some time.

Never mind, you could always pay a visit to Upton Park.

B:Music

The Review Section

Wheatus: Too Soon Monsoon



Hadn't nerd-chic been killed off to be replaced by indie-pop proper and it's now innumerable derivatives? Apparently Sony thought so. **Wheatus'** second album, *Hand Over Your Loved Ones*, was, in Wheatus' words, given a "woeful, abortive release". Following was a less than amiable split, the re-release of the album under Wheatus' own label (under the non too subtle title of Suck Fony), and, finally, the creation of *Too Soon Monsoon* in lead singer Brendan Brown's apartment studio, mixed, engineered, and produced by Brown.

The result is a much more per-

sonal, eclectic album. Many songs (like 'The London Sun' and 'The Island') sound more like a cross between **The Rentals** and **Joy Zipper** than Wheatus' 'Teenage Dirtbag' days. If you don't recognise the Rentals or Joy Zipper, however, there are still plenty of more traditionally styled songs like 'BMX Bandits' or 'Hometown'. As a whole, the album maintains a quirky, self-deprecating adolescence, often in disdain of the treacherous modern music industry. Bottom line: it's a bit out there and certainly not for everyone, but if you're a fan of the band or old school **Matt Sharp** tunes, it's definitely worth a listen.

willglass

Vashti Bunyan: Lookaftering



30 years ago a destitute 19 year old **Vashti Bunyan** embarked upon the life of a pony-and-trap-

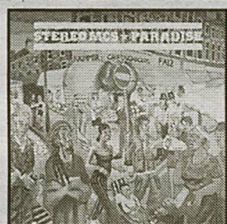
nomad, opting to chase 60's dreams into a life of obscurity set in the Spartan squalor of impecuniosity and exile. This was an attempt to escape the inevitability of a scabby life footed by the 60's record industry which then had her touted as "the next Marianne Faithful" in a world which hankered for the supply and demand of glutinous pop-songs and scandalous hedonism. This waiflike itinerancy saw her settle after a two year pilgrimage to the Isle of Skye, on a small parochial island in the Hebrides. This trail came to be what was beautifully documented in her only other album to date, *Just Another Diamond Day*, which was subject to abject critical acclaim (or lack of) to which the Brit folk matriarch entails to a dearth of misunderstanding, and consequently saw her resolve to "abandon it, and music forever". *Lookaftering* plays as a tenderly intimate recount darned from the warp and wefts of the rich tapestry that make up Bunyan's last 30 years. Bunyan's emergence from out of the well cured woodwork is reportedly thanks to two things: the internet, and a letter of encouragement received from neo-folk's very own pied piper, Devendra Banhart (another strolling minstrel whose name sounds like some kind of "Californian religious cult"). Staying on the subject of strolling minstrels, *Lookaftering* enlists the talents of a troupe of those who've been equally inspired and influenced by her craft, the likes of which include among them **Adem, Banhart, and Joanna Newsom** to name but three, with Bunyan successfully showing the neo-folk disciples exactly how it's done. Where *Just Another Diamond Day* bares a mellifluous clarity casting her fragile crystalline vocals delicately abreast hushed guitar and genteel folk arrangement, *Lookaftering* takes on something of a new direction

"...you'd be forgiven for thinking that the early nineties were back and you should start buying shares in stonewashed denim."

where the willowy chugging of three part recorder harmonies seem to have been mainly swapped for the reedy oafishness of the oboe, and wispy string sections succeed the beloved meandering of the folk fiddle so prevalent in *Just Another Diamond Day*. Thankfully, however these contrasts do nothing to detract from the fact that *Lookaftering* is a true modern day treasure.

neshyboukhari

Stereo MCs: Paradise



"Their best work in years" raves NME on the hastily applied snippet sticker vulgarly obscuring

the cover art to the **Stereo MCs** fifth studio album. What they fail to mention is that it's the Stereo's only work in years. Since their Brit award-winning smash *Connected* was released in 1992, the Stereo have laid down just one other studio album, the disappointing *Deep Down and Dirty*. Britain's best selling hip-hop act certainly don't have momentum on their side with their latest effort to come out of Brixton, *Paradise*.

So, just how has age changed the Stereo's distinctive funk-rap sound? If you were to judge the album by the police sirens and movie quotes in opening track 'Warhead' ("Come on, Come on!" moans last surviving white boy rapper **Rob Birch** as the horn blasts kick in), you'd be forgiven for thinking that the early nineties were back and you should start buying shares in stonewashed denim. But *Paradise* is a much darker record than the infectiously jumping *Connected*. Opener 'Warhead' sizzles with foreboding, the haunting keyboards of 'Breathe Out's are distinctively dangerous, and soulful number 'The Fear' rumbles with the heavy bass and languid vocals it's title suggests.

The Stereo have played with new moves and grooves; in 'First Love' Rob Birch duets with himself using the speeded up vocals so beloved of modern Hip-Hop artists. Despite such new moods and innovations, there is little of

the irresistibly funky up horn grooves and retro rhymes that wouldn't be instantly recognisable a decade ago. Reliving the glory days of peace, love, unity and having fun is hugely infectious fun, just don't approach this record expecting the cutting edge British Hip-Hop the Stereo once made.

petercurrie

Bakini: Re:Creation



Hangovers are widely considered to be one of the evils of student life, albeit a necessary one. This is in fact

a misconception. Working, communicating or indeed functioning as a human being may all be impossible whilst hungover, but lying comatose in bed and listening to the sultry vocals and lush beats of **Backini's Re:Creation** is in fact one of the tiny pleasures in life's otherwise futile downward spiral. Backini, real name **Rob Quickenden**, makes perfect Sunday Morning music. From the haunting 'Little Big Horn' until the moment, at the end of album closer 'Rockall Bailey' when he finally announces "That's roughly it", he has woven an album of stunning sonic diversity, whose highlights include the hip-hop flavoured 'Radio' and the dream-like 'Wake Up'. His samples are equally multifarious, taking us from German townships to name check the great Stephen Hawking, who incidentally is pictured on the inner sleeve wearing a pimp hat and surrounded by kittens - surely reason in itself to get your hands on this. Even that annoying staple of the modern album - the "hidden" track at the end of ten minutes silence on the closing track - is worth sticking around for as Backini discovers funk and ups the tempo. *Re:Creation* is the perfect come down for when you've just spent Saturday night blowing that precious student loan on drinking like you're George Best with a liver to spare. Hangovers never sounded so good.

kevinperry

Singles

The Review Section

Single of the Week

The Arcade Fire: Wake Up



The **Arcade Fire's** brand new single is yet another elegiac monument in the darkly intricate landscape of their bittersweet album *Funeral*. 'Wake Up' is a call to arms against time, bidding all the little children of the world to raise one defiant middle finger to the twin demons of death and maturity. The song shimmers with the delicate sigh of violins and peaking with cathartic and skin-tingling vocal harmony before dipping into a beguiling accordion, piano and glockenspiel finale. This song is a moment of post-rock brilliance.

lauratoh

Skindred: Nobody

Valleys favourites **Skindred** have been making a name for themselves with their original welding of diverse musical styles into the monster truck chassis of Heavy Metal, escaping the usual conventionalist clichés (such as this review). Moving further from their trademark rock-and-reggae fusion, Skindred fuse in this song distinctive country hooks with vocalist Benje Webbers fresh and funky metal inspiration. An impressive track which appeals to Metal Heads' inner aesthete and folkies' hidden rebel.

petercurrie

White Rose Movement: Alsatian

Sixty Years Ago members of the Student resistance movement the **White Rose** were executed for standing up against Germans' slavish obedience to Nazi tyranny. If only White Rose Movement had had the courage to go against the Indie diktat for pounding gang of four basslines, chintzy cymbal heavy beats and wannabe Markie Smith vocals, what starts as an interesting song would not have become an exercise in futility comparable to that of the Dieppe raid.

petercurrie

Paul Weller: Here's The Good News

This latest offering from **The Modfather** begins sounding like a children's television theme tune and doesn't get much better. The lyrics are pedestrian at best, it's musically stale and when he sings "sound of bells" - wait for it - we hear the *sound of bells*. It's a hackneyed conceit from a man who used to produce inspired pop music. Only for Weller's cult fans, **The Jam** this ain't.

kevinperry

B:Music

Beaver
Poetry
Winners

Alison Lapper

oliviarusso claims that Alison Lapper is an inspiration to us all but her Autobiography 'My Life in My Hands' can feel a bit dispirited

A satisfying read that provokes the theme of difference rather than disability. Alison Lapper, need I explain, is a woman born with no arms and short legs whose statue was placed on the fourth plinth at Trafalgar Square less than a month ago. She tells her autobiography as a literal stumble through life. Forever enthusiastic about her situation, Lapper rarely dwells on what fate dealt her.

She describes mischievous fun at times and shocking abuse at others. Indeed Lapper has experienced: being hurled from one side of the room to the other; prosthetic legs that did more to hinder rather than help her; and nearly being adopted by a devoted family until one day her own mother turns up, is handed Alison and off she goes.

As an inspiration to us all, we learn of Lapper's institutionalised life in a home for disabled children, to her life as an art student and then professional artist.

Oddly, able-bodied people seem to think a disabled person wouldn't be interested in sexual relationships. Lapper puts them straight by describing a marriage, divorce and then a future relationship that changes her life. Her son, Parys, was born in 2000.

She describes not only her joy but also her struggle with motherhood. Social Services threatened to take away her child and half-hearted helpers caused more trouble than anything else.

Alison Lapper's 'My Life in My Hands'



Coincidentally Parys is also abused to the horror of his mother, who can do little until she catches the helper in the act.

Heartbreaking in parts, extraordinarily blunt in others. The result is a book that can feel a bit disjointed. One can think why is she telling me that and then telling me this? In her enthusiasm to tell us of her experiences I feel the editing stage of this book was slightly rushed, perhaps in order to be released the day the statue was

placed down the road.

Nonetheless I recommend the book. It's an opportunity to not only empathise with Lapper's situation but to also consider the societal reactions to a woman whose body was not designed for our social set up.

Read the book and then have a wander to Trafalgar Square. If the pigeons allow you a chance to see her feet, you'll notice how her big toe looks distinctly like a hand's thumb.

Beaver Poetry Winners

mansinarang for 'Secrets' and taranehghajar for 'swallowtail girl'

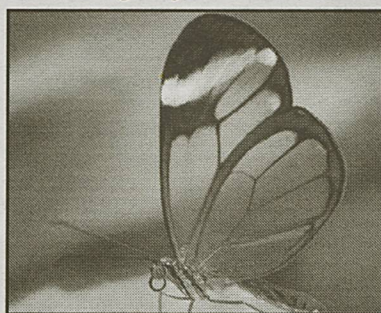
This year's Beaver Poetry Competition was awarded to Mansi Narang for 'Secrets' and Taraneh Ghajar for 'swallowtail girl'. The competition was very difficult to judge with such a high quality set of poems submitted. Both myself and Angus Wrenn, the Course Convenor of the Literature Course at the LSE, found ourselves in a very tough situation. We enjoyed all the poems for different reasons. Nevertheless, we managed to reach a decision to the ones we felt to be the best out of the batch.

Angus Wrenn particularly stated that 'Secrets' was 'impressively concise, clear and thought-provoking.'

Congratulations to both winners who each received a DVD copy of Allen Ginsberg's last UK performance.

rothnabegum

Beaver Poetry Winners



Winning Poem 1

Secrets

In Amma's* cupboard behind the neatly stacked petticoats your curious fingers will find a bundle of crinkly notes

Not the currency kinds; she does not care to stash money, for in our family we hide feelings, not cash

Therefore, good sense abiding, you'll put them back unread. For you too have notes hiding under your unmade bed.

*Amma = Mother (in Hindi)

mansinarang

Winning Poem 2

swallowtail girl

I think she was a butterfly:
A real butterfly,
is incompletely graceful.

Her flight moved forward in a jerk,
followed by a delicate surge.
Oh young beauty!
Always new
and one flap fresh from transformation
was her only flap-
then the grave.

She came prepared for life and death,
in festive hues
of yellow joy
trimmed in self mourning black.
Anticipatory,
she fluttered forward,
she could not go back-

and the cycle was graceful.

taranehghajar

Creative Writing

The Wanderer

by serenatang

From the window, Megan watched the two figures under the tree. The one in black was evidently Emily, but who was that stranger standing so close to her? Perhaps just another gossip-loving vulture quite a few were in the room, pawing over the furniture, pawing for a bit of Zaldo history, offering their condolences.

It was perhaps this that puzzled Megan so much. No one had particularly liked Emily's father. Megan had been Emily's friend and confidante for nearly ten years, yet she had never known Zaldo senior well. She had never understood why he liked surrounding himself with (Famille rose? Verte? Who cares?) porcelain rather than people, including his own daughter. It was probably to remind himself of his fragility. Or perhaps antiquity. Anyway, like everyone else, she was slightly relieved that he was gone. Like everyone else-well, almost everyone else.

Emily had been devastated. Seeing the family collection sold off was nothing after her father's suicide. And nothing Megan said could have allayed her friend's feelings.

Megan looked over at the tree again. By this time, Emily had left, and only the stranger was standing there, looking towards the building, watching Emily's retreating form. She realized he was no stranger. Her gaze caught that familiar face meeting hers and then turning away, as if he did not recognize her, as if he were ashamed.

Well, he should be. As Megan stormed outside, she could not help thinking, what on earth is Marcus doing here? Not to see her, or Emily, especially after their last disastrous meeting. And she presumed he wasn't here to see the furniture either. Could he possibly be still looking for ...?

He should be ashamed. Walking swiftly through the crowded room towards the door, she remembered that last, awkward meeting she had with Marcus. Not so awkward as embarrassing, really. She had asked him, again and again to reconsider for Emily's sake. She had ordered him, begged him to reconsider. When that didn't work, she swore he would never expect any help from her.

Out of the room now, she took a deep breath; she needed the air. Protecting Emily was her job now-protecting her from the vultures in the room, hungry for their next unhappy carcass. Protecting her from the truth about her father's death, which the reappearance of Marcus would stir up. And, protecting her from the loneliness.

It was then Megan realized she was not alone. She turned around, and looked him in the eyes.

"Why are you following me, Arthur?"

If you wish to continue this story please submit it to r.begum@lse.ac.uk.

La Sylphide

jaenetguggenheim springs into action at the Royal Opera House

Where: Royal Opera House (Nearest tube: Covent Garden)
When: Mon 24th October, 7.30pm
Prices: £10 - £75. Quote Travelex Student Offer.
Choreographer: August Bournoville



Photo: Johann Persson

How many LSE students had to recently choose between pursuing a life in the arts, nobly enduring crushing poverty, or coming to a world renowned school to study for a career in something a little more reliable than the papier maché on the tips of old fashioned Freedys? Well, for all you performers at heart, here's a chance to see how you would have turned out: complete in tights and skirt.

This is a show you can actually kick back and enjoy; it's both light-hearted and touching. The men all wear kilts, the women all wear kilts, and they do a lot of bubbly Celtic dancing, twirls and exciting full-company numbers. Choreographed by the Dane, **August Bournoville**, whose great contribution to ballet is his precise and clean petit allegro has been complimented here by newer steps by **Johan Kobborg**.

"It's both light-hearted and touching"

Federico Bonelli, as James, captures hearts with his elegant lines and elegant pantomime. **Brian Maloney**, as Gurn, is more of a Nureyev - with that quality that means all eyes are on him, when he's in motion. **Laura Morera** (Effie) does a good job of holding her own as the jilted lover in this male dominated world of Scots; that is to say,

after the aetheric **Sarah Lamb** has appeared in her wispy white long tutu, mesmerizing the young hero, and the audience. In overall a solid performance by all that can be appreciated by all.

Perhaps best of all though, every Monday the Royal Opera House offers students 100 seats for £10: a truly bargain price for high art.

Student-writers: Parasites

alimuriel talks about the (painful) experience of writing and producing a play as a student

Where: Hen & Chickens Theatre (Nearest tube: Highbury and Islington)
When: Tue-Sat 7.30pm Mats Sat 3.30pm
Opens: 1 November 2005
Closes: 19 November 2005
Prices: £12 (£8-student)

Theatre is a dangerous thing - it's like heroin, in many ways. Alright, perhaps not many ways, but I can think of at least two: (i) both theatre and heroin can cost you a great deal of money, forcing you to beg your family and friends for cash; and (ii) neither heroin nor theatre are things you want to get involved with in your first few weeks at LSE. So, like a shamed junkie, I stand before you to say - "Hello, my name is Ali, and I'm a recovering playwright".

Like all addicts, I wish I'd just said "No", right at the start. Three weeks before I was due to begin here at the LSE, I met up with a young director named **Frances Burge** at a pub in Piccadilly. Frances is a sad example of what theatre addiction can do to a person - bright eyes, bubbly enthusiasm and an empty bank account. With the vigorous hand-waving common in drama junkies, she

"So I locked myself in the house for three weeks of junk food"

explained that she'd booked Islington's *Hen & Chickens* theatre for a three week run in November, and wanted me to write her a play. So I told her, straight out - "Are you insane? I'm about to start one of the toughest masters degrees in Europe! Writing a play would be academic suicide". OK, that's lies. What I actually said was - "Yes! Please! Definitely!" (Theatre, as I said, is dangerous and addictive stuff.)

So I locked myself in the house for three weeks of junk-food, late nights and minimal personal hygiene (all things which writers share with heroin addicts - except for the bit about living in a house). I wrote, rewrote, received kind criticism from friends, wept quietly about the kind criticism, and then rewrote some more. The play's called *Parasites*. It's a dark, knockabout comedy set in a failing university department on the day of its government inspection. The lecturers are alcoholic incompetents, on their best behaviour for the government assessor. But the assessor has a dark secret and, it soon emerges, a tendency to try to eat people's body parts. With a bit of luck, hilarity might ensue.

Unfortunately it requires a cast with great comedy timing,

and comedy timing is like syphilis - some actors have it, but not nearly all of them. Frances and I spent two long days in a chilly Brixton audition room, seeing over 60 actors and (thank god) finding four people with outstanding comic ability (though not, I should add, syphilis).

We've begged everyone we know for money to fund the production, scrounged props - thanks to our designer, Francesca 'The Artful Dodger' Walford - and slept less than we would have liked. The poor cast have spent every evening in long, exhausting rehearsals - learning to growl like wolves, fight with brooms, and fornicate quietly behind desks.

Parasites opens next Tuesday. I'm terrified, naturally. What if nobody comes? What if reviewers hate it? The none-too-subtle secret agenda of this article, of course, is to beg you to come see it. You never know, you might enjoy it.

And if you don't, well you can always find me on Houghton Street, punch me in the mouth and demand your money back. You can't do that with Shakespeare.

If enough people punch me enough times - well, I might turn to heroin instead...

LAST CHANCE!

To see...A Clockwork Orange

It is well known that Anthony Burgess hated Kubricks ultra-violent, unredemptive version of his classic dystopia. So he reworked it for the stage himself: and brilliant it is. Whilst some of the scenarios are outdated, the play's energy is undoubtable, and this does not seem to matter as Burgess over-arching concerns remain plain to see: the balance between individual freedom and general security. The redemptive ending surprises many people and is tenderly worked by director **Cameron Jack** to beautiful effect.

A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess is showing at the Broadway Theatre, Catford Broadway (nearest rail: Catford Bridge) until **Sat Nov 5th**. Tue-sat 8pm. £7-£10.

PREVIEW!

10 POUND MONDAY AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

- 24 October, The Lesson/La Sylphide
- 31 October, Opera, The Midsummer Marriage
- 14 November, Ballet, Manon

Pillars of the Community

gladysng on Ibsen

Pillars of the Community is not one of **Henrik Ibsen's** major works, but it's masterful. The National Theatre marks the centenary of the Norwegian's playwright's death; a playwright often held responsible for the rise of the modern realistic drama. It essentially concerns the 'skeletons in the closet' that are exposed in a certain Norwegian town, which threaten the pristine reputation of a capitalist: also a man seen to be the linchpin of the community. "It's like Days of Our Lives," my companion whispered excitedly. Ibsen, scathingly critical of his society, chose to write his plays in an accessible form, hoping that his message would be more easily accepted by his audience. Even so the production itself is commendable. Most of the actors portray the complexity that Ibsen intended. The stage gets barer and the lead character wears less clothes as the play goes on; the symbolism of the stripping away of artifice is a nice touch. Yet as we are brought nearer to bare truth through the psychological conflict of the characters, the lack of retribution and proper conclusion is Ibsen's challenge to us to deal with the ambivalence of what is truth and freedom.

Pillars of the Community opens at the National Theatre, Lyttelton on Tuesday 2nd November

Student writers

B: Theatre

the Beaver Listings

To include your society event here, email your Societies Officer Jimmy Tam at su.societies@lse.ac.uk by Friday. For the most up-to-date listings, check out the What's On page on the LSE SU website: www.lsesu.com/main/societies/whatson.

TUESDAY

Diwali

11:30-12:30
THE SOCIETIES SHOW
 Info: Join your Societies Officer Jimmy Tam for the latest society news, some top pop tunes and this week's special guests - the Brazilian Society.
 Listen live in the Quad or online at www.pulsefm.co.uk.

12:00-14:00
KNITTING SOCIETY
 Event: Knitting Session
 Venue: Quad

18:15
GERMAN SOCIETY
 Event: Ernst & Young Germany Company Presentation: 'Employer of Choice' and advice on the recruitment process
 Venue: G108 (opposite the Peacock Theatre)
 Info: The event will focus on the German offices of Ernst & Young as well as the Transaction Services Department.

18:30-20:30
VISUAL ARTS SOCIETY
 Event: Life Drawing Classes (weekly)
 Venue: Y002

19:00-23:00
INDIAN and SPICE Societies
 Event: Diwali Celebrations
 Venue: Quad
 Cost: Indian and SPICE members £1; non-members £2
 Info: Be prepared for a truly festive night with snacks, drinks, Indian music and of course... fire-crackers!
 Contact: su.soc.indian@lse.ac.uk; su.soc.spice@lse.ac.uk

19:30
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
 Event: Celebration of Central and Eastern European Drinks and Music
 Venue: Underground Bar
 Cost: £2 members; £3 non-members
 Info: A huge variety of Eastern-European drinks, including vodka, shlivovitz and other hard liquor (of course we are giving it away for free!). But it's not only about drinking, we will have some amazing Eastern-European music to make things even better.

WEDNESDAY

11:30-13:00
CATHOLIC SOCIETY
 Event: Open Session with Fr Ian
 Venue: LSE Chaplaincy, opposite the Peacock Theatre

12:00-13:00
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
 Event: Letter Writing (weekly)
 Venue: Upstairs in the Quad
 Cost: FREE (and we pay for postage)
 Info: Come along to sign a few letters demanding the release of prisoners of conscience - it only takes a minute and you might just help save a life!
 Contact: su.soc.amnesty-international@lse.ac.uk

12:30-14:00
ARTS SOCIETY
 Event: Discount Theatre Ticket Sale
 Venue: S75 (St. Clement's Building)
 Info: We are selling tickets at half price or less for...
SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER (7.30pm, 10/11/05, now £22.50)
'CHICAGO' (7.30pm, 14/11/05, now £25)
L.E.S. MISERABLES (7.30pm, 22/11/05, now £22.50 and £17.50)
 Non-members can sign up on the day to take advantage of these and future amazing deals!

13:00
LSE SU Executive Meeting
 Venue: TBA

13:00
CONSERVATIVE SOCIETY
 Event: The Times for Lunch and the Daily Telegraph for Dinner: Tim Hames of the Times - 'Dave or David?': the Leadership Contest' then drinks/lunch in Pitcher & Piano, Kingsway
 Venue: S78

13:15
CATHOLIC SOCIETY
 Event: Catholic Mass
 Venue: LSE Chaplaincy, opposite the Peacock Theatre
 Info: Followed by a free lunch!!!
ALL ARE WELCOME.

16:30
HINDU SOCIETY
 Event: Diwali Puja
 Venue: D211 (Clement House)

20:00
CONSERVATIVE SOCIETY
 Event: The Times for Lunch and the Daily Telegraph for Dinner: Jonathan Isaby of the Daily Telegraph - 'Tales & Impressions from the Deputy Editor of the

THURSDAY

13:00
 UGM with Howard Davis

18:00
FILM, STAR and UNICEF Societies
 Event: Refugee Film Week: 'Hotel Rwanda' screening
 Venue: D502
 Cost: FREE
18:00-20:00
KNITTING SOCIETY
 Event: Knitting Session
 Venue: Student Salon

18:30
KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS SOCIETY
 Event: 'My Sweet Lord'
 Venue: G101
 Info: Is there a God? What are His/Her attributes? What is our relationship with Him/Her? Join us for discussion, live music and vegetarian snacks. Guest speaker from the College of Vedic Studies: Bhuta Bhavana dasa' (Eddie Anobah - LSE alumni; Philosophy and Economics graduate).

19:00
BRAZILIAN SOCIETY
 Event: Brazilian Society Welcome Party
 Venue: Underground Bar
 Cost: £2 for members; £3 for non-members
 Info: The Brazilian Society will be throwing its most amazing Welcome Party! We'll have: a DJ spinning Samba, Forro, Axe, Funk, Chorinho and MPB, as well as all our other rhythms; caipirinhas at the bar; dancing and laughing... great fun! Come celebrate with us!
 Tickets will be available for sale on Houghton Street all this week

19:25-21:00
CHRISTIAN UNION SOCIETY
 Event: CU Central (weekly) during Michaelmas Term
 Venue: D202
 Info: Come along to CU Central - LSE SU CU united on campus - for dynamic praise and worship and practical teaching. Open to all, bring your friends! Visit www.lseu.com for further information.

FRIDAY

City Group Graduate Deadline

19:00
FILM, STAR and UNICEF Societies
 Event: Refugee Film Week: 'In This World' screening
 Venue: E171
 Cost: FREE

20:00
 Crush
 Venue: The Tuns, Underground and quad
 Info: 3 Rooms, over a thousands people, one massive party. Arrive and leave early to avoid disappointment.

WEEKEND

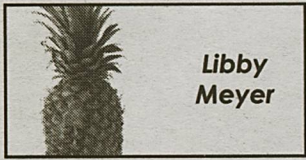
Merrill Lynch Graduate Deadline

No Events

MONDAY

19:00-21:30
SWING DANCE SOCIETY
 Event: Swing Dance Class (weekly - same time and place, but possible variations for workshops)
 Venue: G108
 Cost: £2 for members; £4 for non-members (but annual membership only costs £2!)
 Info: A friendly, beginners' swing dance class with experienced teachers. Learn to swing to some good, old jazz... it doesn't matter if you don't even know what swing is, everyone is welcome to come along and find out! We'll have two hours of taught class, followed by half an hour of practice time (optional). Please wear flat shoes, the smoother the better.

Netball 5ths just can't stop scoring



Libby Meyer

LSE Undefeated 5ths.....	26
Queen Mary 4ths.....	13

Last Tuesday night, the legendary 5th team set off high spirited from the Tuns ready for victory against Queen Mary's.

But first, we had to suffer a treacherous journey. After being vacuum packed on the tube during rush hour, we followed Queen Mary's dodgy directions to the netball courts that culminated in walking down a scary, pitch black path next to a canal.

The match was tough, literally. Queen Mary's were a vicious bunch. But they didn't seem to mind if they hurt us, or themselves.

In one incident, two of the Queen Mary's team collided with such force in their chins that one girl was so injured she had to be sent off court.

The umpire's version of netball rules never ceased to amaze us.

We learnt that being rammed by the opposition isn't contact, but merely 'contesting' and therefore allowable.

The umpire's total incompetency was proved when Nikki Nails and Pui received a penalty from "sandwiching".

Your guess is as good as ours!

Our enthusiasm and determination were not hindered by such terrible umpiring and violet tactics.

Harry, Mel and Becky continued to effortlessly score goal after goal. While Nikki Nails and Pui denied Queen Mary's shooters any chance of getting close to the goal post.

We also dominated the centre court with Siana and Claudia demonstrating their fantastic defending. Laura and Jenny were amazing wing attacks. Libby managed to persevere as centre even though she was hungover and bruised from the night before.

Queen Mary's frustration intensified as they watched the legendary 5th team's goal score sore while theirs remained stagnant.

The final result was 26 - 13, a result that reduced the Queen Mary's captain to tears!

Victory drinks were required. Laura was like a homing pigeon with an inbuilt radar leading us on the fastest route to the seediest side street with a pub. Once inside the pub, we naturally befriended the locals.

Our affability paid off as they offered us trays of sandwiches. Some of the team were worried that the locals had discovered our brilliant win and thus laced our sandwiches with poison.

Libby selflessly stepped up to the challenge and ate the first sandwich.

Since she didn't keel over and die, the rest of the team helped her finish off the rest of the 2 trays. We did turn down the offer of free chilli con carne though!

By the way rugby boys, we still have our mascot, the fantastic pineapple sitting proudly in my kitchen!

Golf blob out on the back nine



James Hackett

LSE Golf Greats.....	2
Royal Holloway Rejects.....	4

The lads kicked off their season with a solid but unrewarding performance against a Holloway side around a second rate track in some seriously adverse weather conditions.

After a long trip, which involved a painfully long walk to the course, it was Joel Shamash who led the team out first.

The super kid of Scottish golf was paired up against some little douchebag from France, and after seeing through his opponent's whining and bitching, "El Shammy" pulled off a resounding 4 and 3 victory to get the team off to a cracking start.

Mooney then took some time out of his busy schedule of getting ill/pussy-

whipped to help the lads out, and after being way back at the turn, played some marvellous golf and fought back to unluckily lose only 1 down, hitting some form on the back 9.

After the good start however, things began to deteriorate.

The engine room of the team headed out, consisting of Emil, myself, John and Scotty Hall.

Emil and John both gave great accounts of themselves after both facing very tough opponents, with Emil displaying some "Sergio"-style fist pumping though much of the front 9, but both had nonetheless lost by the 15th hole.

I on the other hand had my pants well and truly pulled down and was royal-

ly battered by some complete and utter belt who claimed to be a Swiss international, though none of us could really see it.

Now I thought I had heard of all the AU celebrities; Simbah, Jim Davies, that Welsh guy who scores a lot of goals for the first team.

Enter Scott Hall. A Scot along with Shamash, the rosy cheeked little prodigy absolutely decimated a young Holloway lass off 3, showing absolutely no mercy on the way round to help the team claim a final point.

So for once it was guys from the North of the border that shone, leading the way to what will be a great season.

Game on...

Jitsu explored

Laura Duggan asks if the Samurai can teach the Economist ...anything?

The last of the "Samurai" (and no, I'm not talking Tom Cruise here!) teach, through Jiu Jitsu, nuns and nurses (yes really), police, the armed forces, and even one of LSE's own lecturers...something...but what is this mysterious, and seemingly widely applicable 'something' and what, if anything, can they really teach 'Tomorrow's leaders'?

If I were to say that we all live in a "dangerous city, in a dangerous world", (yawn), this would come as no surprise and this fact, not lost on my Mum for one, who has been bugging me for ages about self-defence, prompted me to start looking around Freshers' Fayre for a martial arts club to join.

I had previously been to one Jitsu session at King's, so when I heard the cry of, 'I know you!' across the gym at Freshers' Fayre and turned around to see a well-built black man holding a Jitsu leaflet behind me, I thought I'd better capitulate.

This man turned out to be Alexander, the Sensei (as far as I can work out, this roughly translates as teacher, leader, master, general god) at the brand new LSE Jitsu club and the guy who'd taught me at my one previous session at King's. Good memory, I thought, and as the sign-up and first session were free, I gave it a go.

Now, I'm a philosophy student, but this doesn't mean that I have any great desire to spend two hours finding my "spiritual centre"; so imagine my delight when I found myself on a mat in the gym (at the Waldorf Hilton Hotel, no less!) with about 30 other people looking just as new as I am, and for a whole 2 hours not one single word about Zen, or inner peace.

Instead we spent 2 hours getting out of the way of a vast array of punches whilst placing

each other into various arm and wrist locks.

All this, taught in an encouraging way with a great sense of fun, and with the knowledge that, "If you get hit, *you* buy the person that hit you a pint!"

I walked out of the first session feeling like I could take on the world and its two uglier, harder brothers if I had to!

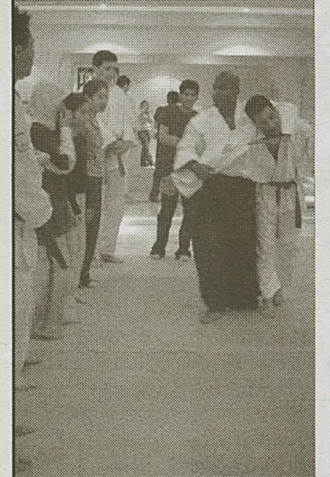
Four sessions on from that, I realised that this wasn't to be the case. As the Samurai of a higher level demonstrate progressively more difficult (and painful looking) techniques, you begin to see just how complex this martial art is, and just how much there is to learn before you can walk away smiling, from any attack.

Whilst in my first session I'd learned a lot, I still have everything to learn and everything is taught well, with infinite patience. While I may not yet resemble Jackie Chan or indeed the Samurai (as a girl I imagine I'd find this a struggle anyway!) I come away from every session with more practical knowledge - not to mention aching muscles - and the more I learn, the more I want to learn.

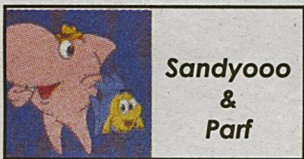
So all you economists who think you know the way the world works, all you burly men who think that you're invincible and all you women who think that martial arts are about having a large amount of testosterone and an even larger ego, I urge you to come along to one of the Jitsu sessions.

There, you'll discover that these modern day Samurai do indeed have something to teach not only economists, but everyone else too.

Not only that, they can teach you a little something more than this rather serious business of defending yourself, in a fun, intelligent and ultimately, very engaging way.



Women's Rugby face the challenge



Sandyooo & Parf

LSE Rugby Lovelies.....17

Beastly Brunel.....30

It was recruitment time again and we were understandably worried about the potential size of our beautiful team. After approaching numerous 'chunky' ladies at Crush and telling them they looked like they could play rugby and consequently getting shunned, things were looking dismal. We signed up a promising 40 lovelies, but lost many to terrible afflictions such as netball, hockey and lacrosse, and can only assume they took bribes from desperate captains.

Fresher Training

We began the season in true womens' rugger style by braving the Church with a couple of eager freshers

in tow. We didn't realise how eager. Seven hours and copious amounts of vodka cranberry later, Sandy, Scouse and Jen were chasing a certain suicidal fresher down to Kings Cross and after rugby tackling her to the ground we managed to stuff her into a cab. After that feat of great rugby prowess, she definitely had "made the team", much to her delight/relief.

Some barren training sessions with Sexy Remy passed and we were as ready as we ever would be for our first friendly against chavtastic Essex. Unfortunately they were all pregnant and cancelled the match - congratulations girls on your inbred rugrats, your mothers must be very proud.

The first challenge

And so ensued the long trek to Uxbridge, home of moronic, grunting, polyscum for our first BUSA league match versus Brunel. The 14 of us were faced with 17 beasts; a few England players, a handful of Wasps, Army players and general nastiness - not that we're bitter or anything. The only thing remotely human out there was their extremely shaggy coach. The match began and we were, frankly, amazing. With Alexis, Leslie and Josie in front row, Caroline and Batgirl in Second Row, Katy as flanker and Sandy as 8, our forwards were significantly smaller, prettier and better smelling than theirs.



Women's Rugby are lovely in Lavender

Special mention must be given to Luisa "Dame of the Game" Miriarchi, who was taking out hefty cattle left, right and centre but unfortunately their Linford-esque number 12 broke through to score a couple of cheeky tries.

17 - nil down, we were holding our own whilst they sweated and panted at the end of the knock-on filled first half - they had clearly underestimated us. Second half was fruitless for us, as they revelled in breaking Mel's ankle in 3 places, bitchslapping Katy Bags, and refusing to match numbers when we were down to 12 battered gurlies.

Despite this, we fought on with Yvette, Jen and Laura popping the ball out of the scrums and down

the line to Bre and Fern, but it was to no avail. Losing 46-0 was, in our eyes, a great improvement on last year and thus we were the real winners.

Home and Dry

A very very very special mention needs to go out to the absolute living legend that is Mel. Anyone who suffers injury like hers in their stunning debut without so much as a whimper

deserves gun-club status. Not only did she stay and watch the rest of the game but quizzed the doctor and nurse as to whether she would have healed in time to play in the ULU cup.

We celebrated by getting lashed on the tube, playing an abysmal game of taps in the Tuns, "singing" on karaoke and taking photos of the team mascot, Aardvark. Then on to Crispy Duck. Fun was had by all!

Women's Rugby Tally

- 1 Broken Leg
- 1 Concussion
- 2 Injuries caused to International players
- 13 Facial Injuries (unsportsmanlike)
- 38 Hangovers

the sports column

jen bush



It has increasingly appeared to me this term that the LSE and the AU appear to be oxymoronic. Fitting them together and making it work seems as easy as getting certain rugby infants to keep their negligible cocks to themselves. For an institution which strives so hard to be both diverse

and meritocratic we seem as proud of our sports teams as George Galloway is of his cash on the side.

Whilst I by no means support a blanket acceptance of the AU, it being as multifarious as the number of ways we can find to replace swear words, I find it strange that it can be pigeon holed in such an

effective manner. Is the AU really personified by Kilroy Silk? How can you simultaneously categorise a women's footballer with a men lax player.

Whilst the Brave Edwardo and I try our best to showcase the breadth, and yes, depth, of the AU it remains to be thought of as a collective of hoodie-wearing, foul-mouthed, gin-drinking chavs. Despite it being a prerequisite of being in the AU that you study at the LSE, and are therefore of average intelligence, it apparently turns out that by paying £10 to join the AU you are unwittingly reducing yourself to a poly-student.

As much as I attempt to

dispel the LSE's unfortunate reputation as production line for identikit city slickers it becomes increasingly tiresome in the face of events such as the refusal to have a "Ladies Night" in women's week because of its derogatory connotations. This week I have come face to face with another such marvel, which Sam says I am unable to talk about for legal (i.e. Student Union politics) reasons. Rowan Atkinson would shudder, albeit in a slightly effeminate way, should he see the fervour of the few to eradicate any mention of race or ethnicity.

I look forward to the Barrel like a nun with a flashing habit; a bit

naughty but increasingly exciting. It is an inevitable fact of life that people forced underground rebel with vehemence, and since attack is the best defence I can only speculate as to the lengths the costumes will go to this year. I have always taken AU humour in the manner in which I believe it is intended; in a harmonious spirit of mutual love and respect for one's brethren. Humour is an essential tool in the fight against bigotry, one that is frequently deployed in the UGM, but which, when put into print by the Sports pages, suddenly becomes abhorrent. Is the suppression of the AU really such a golden scalp when it comes to election time?

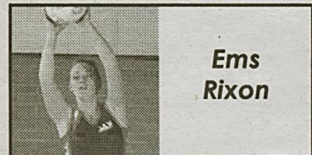
Whilst the truth is that the new editorial team has increasingly slackened the censorship of swear words, this appears primarily due to bafflement and misunderstanding of all things with a heterosexual foundation. Cunt holds no interest for them. Jokes about sexuality and sexual profligacy raise no eyebrows here, in fact it seems to be the only practice indulged in by the AU that we celebrate.

So all our sincerest apologies about censorship, and equally about any offence that we inadvertently cause. Laugh and the world laughs with you, cry and risk exposing yourself to feminist stereotypes.

Bye.

C
M
Y
K

Netball take defeat predictably badly



Ems Rixon

LSE Netball Fab Fourths.....Some

GKTMore

LSE Netball Fab Fourths.....17

Royal Holloway.....22



On a dark and stormy Monday night, seven brave, fearless, and seriously sexy girls gathered together to fight the forces of evil, risking everything they held dear to ensure the safety of the world...or just to seriously kick GKT's arse.

However, we were foiled in our plan by a downpour of Biblical proportions, and so had to settle for minor rapage instead. A flooded court and a sopping ball meant that running, catching or throwing were almost impossible, thereby seriously hampering all of the Fab Fourths awesome moves.

Despite such soul-destroying conditions, the team, playing together for the first time, were upbeat, and went down fighting, kicking and screaming, like true net-

ballers. The new girls, Asha, Sara, Sara and Amy were all over the court like pros, and Asha's nippy moves around the court saved us more than once.

Robbed of a goal in the first quarter by the most biased umpire in history, most shooters would have crumbled, but not Philippa, she rose to the challenge with some blinding goals, and great aggressive action in the circle.

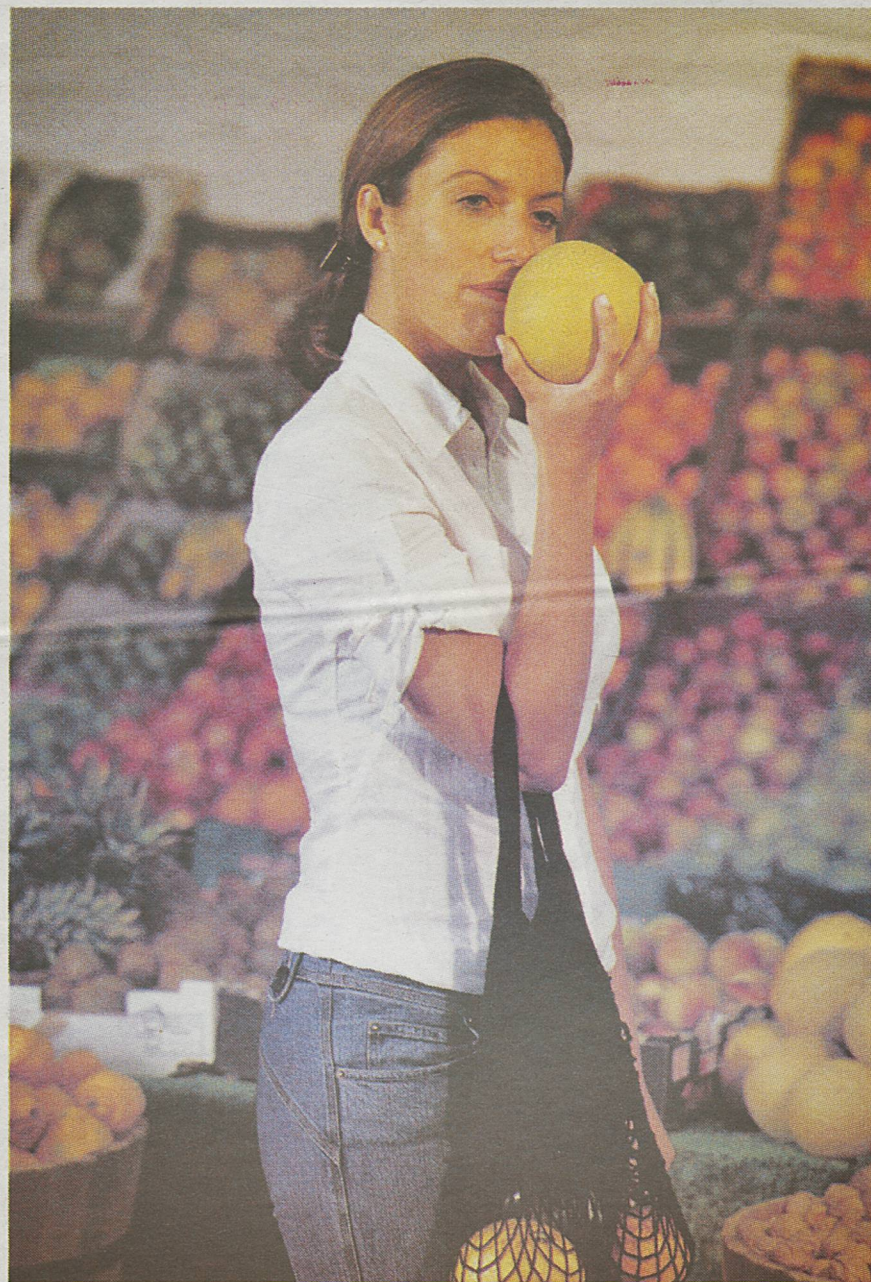
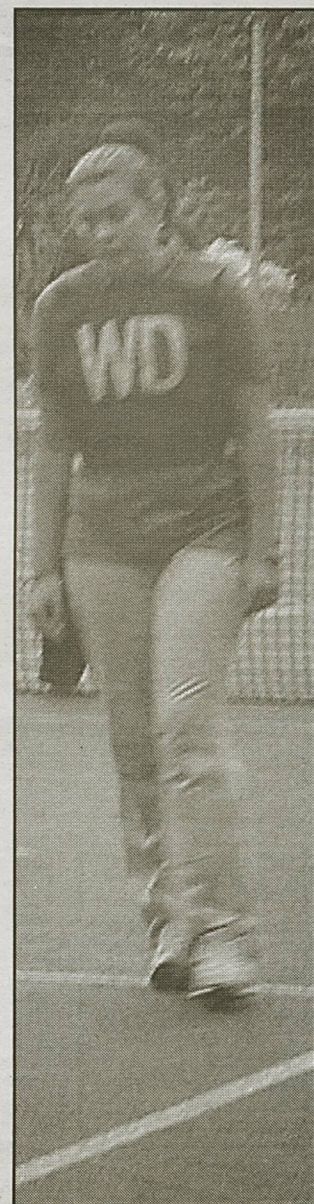
Despite the fact that GKT had rudely kept us waiting for over 20 minutes to start, they ran off before they could award a Man of the Match (obviously they were too intimidated by our ravishing good looks...hey, Drowned Rat doesn't suit everybody, what can we say?) and so we nominated Philippa ourselves. And the cheeky bitches tried to get us to pay their umpire...

The fun doesn't stop there, though. After weeks of trying to reorganise a home match around the demands of Royal Holloway, we eventually managed to persuade them to come all the way to Lincoln's Inn to show them how a real team behaves. Obviously they turned up late.

The match was fast paced and seemed pretty even right from the start, but with some sloppy passing and generally getting carried away, the score was 8-1 to Holloway by the end of the first quarter. Luckily this time we had scraped together a few more than 7 players, and the fresh blood in the sexy forms of Georgie and Sara revitalised the team, allowing us to finally get a look-in, with Yelena scoring some fantastic goals, and our shooters getting every rebound.

By the end of the third quarter, with only 8 minutes left, the score was 17-12 to Holloway, and we needed 6 goals to win. With our awesome centre court players, Catherine, Sara, Vanessa and Amy, and our score-happy shooters, how could we fail? Unfortunately, the Team of Chunky Thighs and Serious Cellulite (Holloway) chose this moment to bring out the big guns, in the form of the most solid shooter we've come across. She shoved, pushed, and trampled yours truly to score 5 goals, and we were powerless to stop her.

Although we also scored 5, the damage was done, and Holloway were the undeserving winners. Sara (WA) was Man of the Match, and we had to settle for a skinny-thighed, cellulite-free moral victory.



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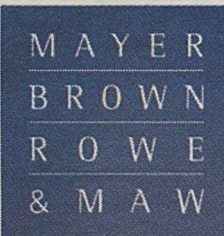
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Slopper 2nds murdered by chavs



Check out the firm Liverpooldian butt cheeks on number 9!



Oh yeah, I like those butts and I cannot lie!

LSE Rugby 2nds.....	3
Portsmouth Pikeys.....	38



Murderer

Another Wednesday arrived and another opportunity for this select band of individuals to win a game of rugby came with it. The first game of the season at the Fortress meant that for once there was time for some pre match warm up and when it had finally been worked out which pitch, opposition, kit and referee we would have, it was time for kick off.

In no time at all LSE took the lead with a penalty won soon after the AU Wheel Barrow had kicked off the game. It was calmly slotted by my fellow Casa del Slop resident Sameer. Optimism was bounding through the team but it appeared that the ringers in the Poly ranks were proving harder to bring down than the tackle bags at training. A try was conceded but heads did not drop and for the first time so far this season we managed to pass the ball all the way down the back line without dropping it. Unfortunately Dan was bundled into touch and the chance to restore the lead was missed.

An unfortunate hand injury to Gay Hair's pro-

tégé, Busted, led to the introduction of Mert who added some pace to the pack. This was not enough to prevent another try being leaked and it appeared that the walk from New Malden combined with the warm up and one too many visits from Dr Gin last week was beginning to take its toll on me. I decided to retire to the sidelines and concentrate on taking notes for this report, allowing a guest appearance from Kevin.

At half time we were still in the game but an injury to captain Slopper caused further depletions to the forwards and meant Reesy, who had been clearly enjoying his new role at second five-eighth, moving back into the forwards.

The Poly full back was proving to be extremely elusive and helped himself to a couple of tries in the second half and he was ably assisted by Grant Mitchell who seemed to be making a guest appearance at 8 for the Poly. Committed defence prevented a rout and towards the end of the game a series of sustained attacks led to a try for Jimmy Son which was disallowed for reasons unknown.

After two tough games it seems it will need something special, like a whole team turning up to training, in order to turn things around and recreate the glory days of 2s rugby.

Women's Football polish off the poly



Sarah Johnson

LSE Diamonds.....	9
Kings Roughage.....	1

That's a score line that any of the men's teams would be proud of, but this time it was up to the mighty WFC to remind Strand Poly why we are so superior! What should have been an away game soon turned to home advantage as the LSE girls demanded better changing conditions

than the portacabin and bushes for toilets that Kings had to offer. Luckily Steve was on hand at Berrylands and had the pitch ready by the time we had made the long walk next door! We may have had a three player advantage, but still had to work hard for the first goal, which came midway through the

first half. By half time we were two goals up, and were looking forward to adding a few more in the second Kings then got an early goal in the second half and thought that they might actually have a chance of getting a point, but the LSE girls stepped it up a gear and played some great football to secure the win. A sneaky hat-trick by Stefania and amazing goals from Tatiana, Sophie and Laura made sure the points

were ours. With Emily, RJ and a sleep deprived Jade defending ruthlessly it was a quiet afternoon for new goalie Asha. Cristina, Francesca and Liz were solid in midfield and would have got on the score sheet if the final whistle hadn't interrupted our goal flurry. After match refreshments provided by Kings con-

was on hand to provide proper after match refreshments that we munched on our the journey to the train station whilst trying to remember who scored which goals!!! A win against the old rivals and a draw in our first match against dirty Holloway have made it a great start to the season. The girls are looking forward to more great wins to come and plenty of nights out to go with it! Be prepared for the WFC; looking to score on (and off) the pitch this season!



Derby Day at Berrylands

Last Wednesday saw two crucial matches showcasing the intense rivalry between the teams of the LSE FC. Below, Chris 'Barbie' Naylor reports on the 4th team's triumph over the 5ths and Nathan 'Brownie' Muruganandan revels the 6ths' first victory over the 7ths in two years



Barbie

Galactico 4ths.....	3
Unlucky 5ths.....	1

Resurgent 6ths.....	1
Champagne 7ths.....	0



Brownie and Daniel Kheng

Many people may have wondered where the 4th team have been since the start of term. Well, despite spending the majority of our time pulling filth in classy establishments such as Hombres and Walkabout, on the pitch we've been trying to get our brand new team working as efficiently as the typical LSE non-AUer. This year we've gelled quicker than Twistas' rapping. This year's back four is a solid combination. Firstly we have Joey 'sorry I cant play tomorrow' Chris, im having a spit roast with Nils tonight' Mellows...that can wait till Calella my friend. Then there's the cheating luvved up welsh git Matt, an over-enthusiast Mugz and El Captaino himself. The centre of midfield consists of a sweat-dripping Gilberto and a self-proclaimed horny bastard in Josh. The wingers are Ed, the apparent alcoholic, and team mascot Aaron Dobberstein, the 29 year old American who's bringing his wife of 5 years to the Barrel (hmm the things I could write here....) To finish, we have a front two involving the fake Italian, Ramsay, and Gavin 'Crouchy' Punia, still trying to find his way to Amarillo. And don't forget our token American goalkeeper Brett, always playing the easy ball (not so easy in his case).

Anyway, onto the point of this article...the destruction of the 5th Team's unbeaten run and the start of the 4ths title challenge. Though the 5ths were confident and cocky before the game, we soon shut them up with a few Razor-ruddock style crunching tackles. Our determination paid off when their defender got his first assist of the season, flicking it over his own goalkeeper and onto the head of the fake Italian Ramsay...thank God he cut his bloody hair! Then, with the 4ths

dominating, the 5ths had their first 'chance' with an attacking throw-in. Obviously unable to cope with our physical presence, their striker claimed a push in the back and the ref, who should have gone to Specsavers, gave a penalty. Despite the best efforts of our token American goal-

penalty claims after El Captaino took more of the player than the ball, but that £20 I paid the ref before the game paid off and the penalty claim was waved away. The 5ths heads dropped and the 4ths brought on the chav Maximus and switched to the long-ball technique,

The build up had been at boiling point during the week, the 6ths languishing rock bottom of the league after a couple of dismal "Evertonian" performances. The players needed to regain spirit and perhaps a bit of humility, after optimistic predictions of chal-

engage in any sort of sexual banter with the female ref! The 7ths started the better and dominated the half, forcing consecutive corners and having the best chance of the half with Calow heading just over from another superb delivery from wingman Nick Green. Forays into the

tackles flying in and both sides not giving much away. A strategic triple substitution from Fynn gave the 6ths more emphasis going forward and suddenly, they started to worry the 7ths. Indeed calls from JR on the touchline of "let's rattle their cages" were heeded especially from Toby who decided the best option in order to make a pass on the ground was to use his head. Another unique sight was that of Danny-Boi's attempt to throw the ball into the trees to kick-start another attack (accidental wasting of time!) If the first half belonged to the 7ths, the second was dominated by the 6ths, but still the defences remained on top. The 6ths were stamping their authority as the game slowly moved into the 7ths half. However, chances were scarce and the game looked to be heading for a stalemate. Then with 5 minutes left on the clock, a break from defence saw Andre pick up the ball on the half-way line with limited options. His deft through ball saw Brownie burst away from the defence and he was presented with a clear-cut opening. The striker made no mistake and his half volley from the edge of the area flew across beleaguered 7th's keeper Nick and nestled into the net. An arrow into the heart of the 7ths, but despite their desperate final efforts in the dying minutes, they were repelled again and again, although a lob from Iqbal flew marginally over. As the clock ticked, the Sublime 6ths stood their ground and held on for their first victory of the season (with many more no doubt to come). As the woman in black blew the final whistle, the 6ths were the ones celebrating joyously. This time, the champagne was definitely kept on ice!

[Editor's note: as Captain of the Champagne 7ths, I'd like to point out that the game wasn't like this at all, the 6ths are just lucky, lucky fuckers]



The 4ths: At last the Galacticos are back on form...

keeper, the 5ths equalised with a penalty Stuart Pearce would have been proud of.

Half-time came and Waterboy Nils provided the team with cans of Stella and Aaron's wife gave out free massages. Nicely relaxed, the 4ths took the field feeling confident and soon regained the lead after Adam, now known as Mr Back-Chat, swung a ball across goal and the goal-poacher Ramsay was there for his second of the game. We were on top, but the 5ths somehow managed to break away to create their second attack of the game and there were strong

with the chav attempting the vandalise the crossbar with his first header of the game. Then came our third goal as the married man went on a steaming run and scored a screamer, followed by a celebration Lua-Lua would have been jealous of. Then it was onto Wednesday night, with Crouchy stealing the show with his solo version of a Righteous Brothers classic. The 4ths headed on to their second home of Cheapskates, no doubt pulling filth along the way...but don't ask me about it, I was passed out with my face in a chicken burger!

lenging for the title. Meanwhile, the 7ths had a game in hand on their-so-called superiors, and went into the game as favourites.

Without Captain Marvel Fynn due to soreness of the back (arse really!) and five other regulars, the 6ths were looking vulnerable. The 7ths also had a depleted side which saw Captain Ed Calow starting the match at centre-back.

As with any derby, the match started at a frantic pace, composure being thrown out the window as each team desperately tried to gain the initiative. Both teams even forgot to

other half by the 6ths were too hesitant, even when darting runs forward from their own winger Nick on the right seemed to cause trouble. Too often lone striker Brownie was left alone as support was sporadic. However, the central defensive partnership of Toby and Chris was containing the feverish 7ths attack. Richard Morrow was again giving a great account of himself, holding the midfield on his own at times.

Half-time came and went, with chances few and fair between; the match was typical of a classic LSE derby, with the hard-



28 Girl's Rugby
Fit but shit

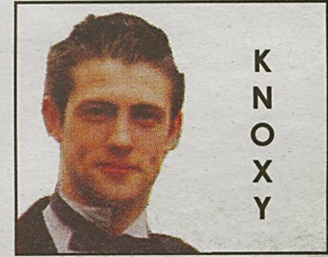


31 Footy
Wednesday was Derby Day: 4ths vs 5ths and 6ths vs 7ths



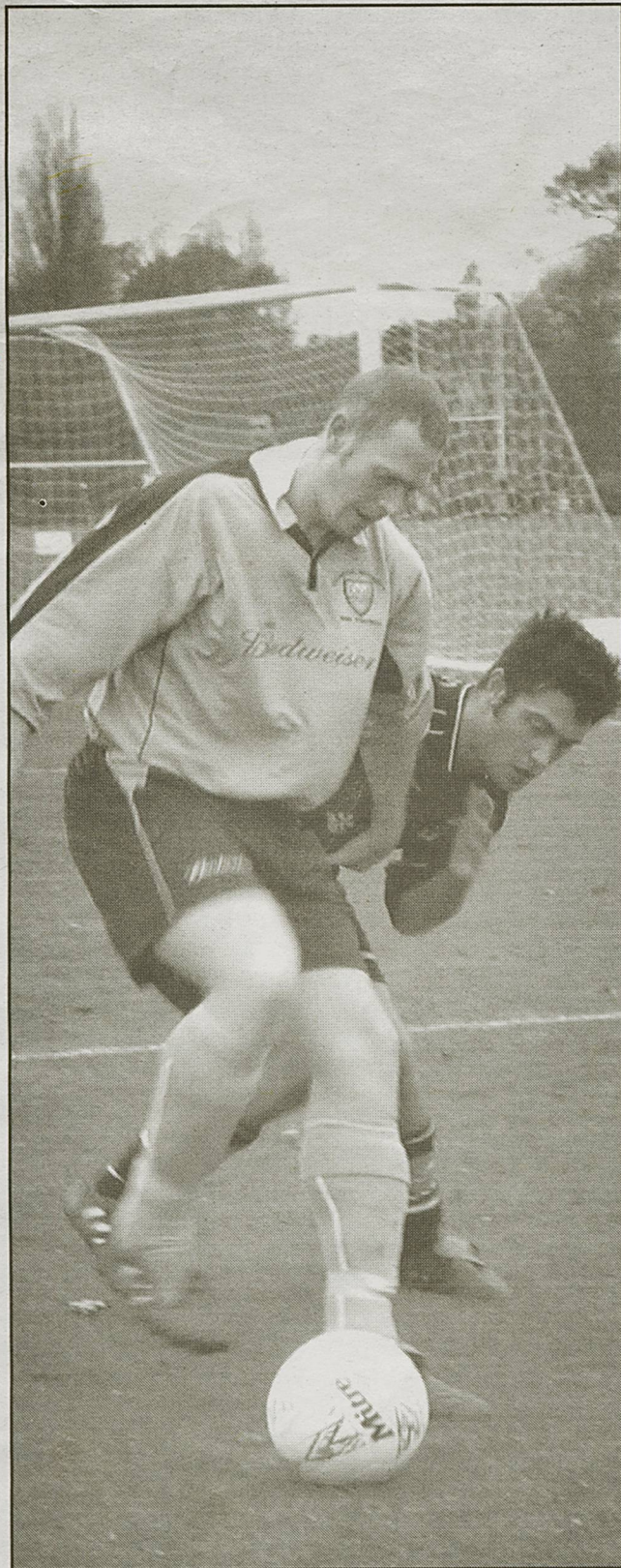
27 Jitsu
That's Jitsu, NOT Jiu Jitsu. Find out why

REGICIDE



KNOXY

The footy 1sts depose the illegitimate autocrats of the Strand Poly and proclaim themselves heirs to the ULU throne



LSE	The Mighty 1sts	6	2	'Kings' 'College' 1sts	<small>KINGS College LONDON University of London</small>
ULU Premier 1		Wednesday 26/10		The good Berrylands	

Oliver Cromwell had his New Model Army; Maximilien Robespierre his Jacobins; Amin al-Husayni his Arab Dynamite Squad. None though had the ruthlessness of Matt Joy's Mighty Firsts. Like the Stuarts, Bourbons and Hashemites before them, the Poly dynasty was to fall at the bloody hands of their regicidal assassins. Bring on the revolution.

Amidst the slaughter though, a star was born. Chris Paterson, as bright as liberty in a Delacroix painting, jinked and shimmed his way to a truly seraphic [Editor's note: this means relating to a celestial being with three pairs of wings, and thus also kinda awesome] performance. A beautifully taken hat-trick from the malnourished Scot should have been rewarded with the match ball. Instead, it was a five o'clock class (when will the SU fucking act on this?) and a dirty pint that came our young comrade's way.

Despite what [German political philosopher] Hannah Arendt said, the early stages of revolutions are not simple. Especially when you have a defence which seeps goals like Dom's scrotum seeps blood. Displaying traitorous imperial sentiment, the back line decided, as is their ceremonial custom, to grant the opposition a headstart. But we had destiny on our side, and we were not going to fall down

to the monarchical scum. We manned up, revved up, and unleashed the dogs of war. Woof woof.

A set-piece offensive from our Nestor["A hero celebrated as an elderly and wise counselor to the Greeks at Troy" - Wikipedia], Dom Rustam, was headed home by John McDermott, for what will surely be the first of many goals from him this season. Rumours that he was so ecstatic he later punched a hole in the roof of the Tuns tavern have been categorically denied. Next came the tipping point, that split-second when the revolutionary tide turns for you, when victory becomes more than just quixotic fantasy. The magnificent Judas San whipped the ball in from the left, and that most unlikely of republican revolutionaries, Fred 'Coutts' Salt, rose like Icarus [to get his privileged head to the ball. Sideshow Bob was defeated and the bloodshed began.

Casualties are commonplace in revolutions and Dom's nether regions were suffering. Cavorting with some fairy on Monday night had left the Alf Waddington scholar with, in keeper Rich Gull's words, a sac that looked liked it had been given the twice over with a cheese grater. The now infertile Rustam was not to be denied his legacy though. After Coutts Salt was savagely wounded by anti-insurrectionary forces in the King's penalty area, the

ref, as pernicious and perspicacious as *the Beaver* censors, awarded the Revolution a penalty. Red raw Dom stepped up, stemmed the bleeding temporarily and slotted the ball past Sideshow to put us a goal ahead as the dust settled on the first half.

The second-half battle was all about comrade Paterson. His armoury was loaded. With his very own Giuseppe Garibaldi on the right, Paolo Azzola-Bindschedle and his trusty sidekick Rich Nicholls beside him, Paterson was unstoppable. Like a Venezuelan street kid, Nicholls harried and cajoled, stole and plundered. Up front Jimmy Little was the martyr for the revolution, tirelessly working for the cause. The WD40 of our team, Little allows things to run smoothly, providing the key link in our impressive chain. And by now the walls of the Bastille were coming down.

With Paterson's second-half hat-trick putting the game beyond the reach of our opponents General Joy felt safe enough to introduce the potential fifth column, Barney Singer, into the game. Displaying more

fake tan than a Essex whore house, Barney was lubed and ready to go. Where he was going he had no idea. And he never actually got there. Or anywhere near.

With the sun upon the sanguine field beginning to set, as so often happens, revolutionary jubilation turned to delusion. Chief of the Birmingham Soviet, Brummie, decided that the time for heroes had not yet departed and like a flu-ridden headless Vietnamese chicken, launched into a deranged venture forward in vain. It took this moment of madness for us to realise that we had done it. The Mighty Mighty Firsts were victorious. Vive le revolution, Brummie said. Regicide had occurred at the Battle of Berrylands.

An LSE old boy, George Bernard Shaw, wrote in *Androcles and the Lion* that 'revolutionary moments attract those who are not good enough for established institutions as well as those who are too good for them'. Personifying the latter, the Mighty Mighty Firsts and our Revolution march on. God have mercy on the poly souls when the Terror begins.

Men's ULU Premier One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 LSE 1sts	2	2	0	0	8	0	+8	6
2 Holloway 1sts	2	1	1	0	9	3	+3	4
3 Royal Free	1	1	1	0	4	1	+3	3