



The BEAVER

The Newspaper of the London School of Economics Students' Union

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Election crisis Greatrex quits as campaigns begin

Scott Wayne

“I resign with immediate effect from my position as Returning Officer of this Union.” Unexpected words from Tom Greatrex as he opened the LSE Students' Union (SU) hustings on Thursday to a packed Old Theatre.

Minutes of confusion ensued as members of Constitution and Steering (C&S) defended their stance under accusations of acting in a “crass, shoddy and dishonourable way” and Greatrex stormed out of the Old Theatre.

Greatrex's resignation followed disagreement between C&S and himself over a decision made by Greatrex on Monday ruling that balloons and T-shirts were not to be permitted as legitimate campaign material. The decision was taken to C&S on appeal who overruled the Returning Officer's decision; with regard to T-shirts.

Nick Sutton, Chair of Constitution and Steering defended the committee's actions stating that “C&S held a proper appeal of his decision as entitled to do so under the constitution.” He added that he thought it “a pity” that Greatrex felt it necessary to resign.

C&S came off lightly however as most of Greatrex's animosity was directed toward Martin Lewis, LSESU General Secretary who he described as acting in a “particularly authoritarian manner, prepared to pull whatever strings are necessary in order to obtain the ruling he favours.”

Lewis failed to respond to the heated accusations at the time but later commented “If Tom has such a low opinion of C&S that he believes I can control things I think he has an awful judgement of character.”



Tom Greatrex, former Returning Officer, addressing the UGM last week

Photo: Stephen Hau

Jonathan Bennett, Chair of the hustings, smoothed over the chaos as best he could, allowing candidates to present their cases for political power. The jeering audience provided adequate cover for C&S members to scour the hack community for a replacement Returning Officer.

An emergency C&S meeting was held following the hustings, electing Steve Roy

as the person to replace Greatrex. Roy commented that he hoped he could “carry on the good work Tom was doing” and that the election would proceed in a fair manner.

Kevin Keogh, Elizabeth Hummer and Simon McKeon were appointed assistant Returning Officers.

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Academic Board success

James Brown

It started life as the Professorial Council. After 1968 it became the Academic Board. Will 1995 see it become a ‘Plebs Parliament’?

The realisation of this scenario came a step closer last week after the Academic Board voted to admit students as members.

This is the first time in the history of the LSE that students have been represented on what Students' Union (SU)

General Secretary Martin Lewis described as “the central pinnacle of the Schools' power structure.”

Lewis was “extremely happy” at the decision, the pursuit of which he had made a key election manifesto commitment after repeated failure by his predecessors.

Students have long sought representation on the Academic Board. The Board formally acts as the advisory body to the Director of the School on academic matters. However, recent resolutions have had a wider impact on School life. In

particular the Board's decision to amend heavily the new smoking policy, which had previously been approved by other committees with student members, was seen as adding significant weight to the case for student representation.

Despite its importance, the Academic Board has no formal constitutional status within the School, and is not even mentioned in the Articles of Association. Ultimate authority rests with the Court of Governors, on which students are rep

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Tutors – do they satisfy?

Michael Brock
Toby Krohn

Being a student at LSE you have never experienced any problems with your work, have you? But when you have, you have known who to approach to resolve them?

No? Your tutor might not be very user-friendly and is more than likely unavailable at short notice; the odd placement of office-hours, the inevitable clash with one of your classes and trying to make an appointment by telephone will undoubtedly improve your ability to communicate with answering machines but will do little to solve the matter in hand. Your class teacher will always be rushing to his next class and the head of the department might be available, but did his degree before the war.

The staff/student committees are supposed to be a forum for any complaints that you may have. But to bring your problems to the attention of the responsible staff you have to know who your representatives are.

The *Beaver* conducted a survey in Houghton Street asking students about their knowledge of the staff/student committee and their experience with personal tutors.

The committee was not known as an institution by four fifths of the students. However, while the majority of students were quite happy

with their personal tutor ("Well, yes, he's a nice guy, but I should see him more frequently"), a significant minority (about 35%) were not at all satisfied with their performance.

Another problem was the frequency of change: "I have had four tutors in the last two and a half years, three of which were crap."

Overall, if there are any problems with academic work, most students would see their personal tutor (60%), 30% would discuss it with the professor or class teacher, and the remainder would seek advice from friends, heads of the department, or departmental tutors.

In general there seems to be a conflict between the expectation of the students and reality. Whilst students look for academic dialogue, the reality is a strictly "hands-off" pastoral relationship. Rumours go around that some tutors even denied academic references on the ground that they do not know their students well enough.

The fundamental problem is that a relationship rarely develops with your tutor – he



A busy day on Houghton Street

Photo: Library

is unlikely to have more than an hour's conversation throughout the undergraduates' three years at LSE.

Tutors either go on sabbatical leave some time in the degree, or care very little for personal attention. There seems to be a lack of motivation on the side of the tutor, the whole concept of making appointments to get forms signed does not facilitate a casual working

relationship.

For serious academic progress, dialogue without the stopwatch in the hand is needed. Secondly, a relationship should have the right environment to develop. Unfortunately you never meet your tutor for a drink in the Tuns, instead it is always the part-time class teacher who is after that piece of work you promised six weeks ago. Remember?

"Good news" from Brussels

Judith Plastow

Prior to their "Building the European Union" conference, the LSE European Society invited David Williamson to speak at the School.

As General Secretary of the European Commission he was perfect for the topic "The Commission at the heart of an (enlarged) European Union".

Williamson outlined the purpose of his visit – to bring "Good News" from Brussels – and contrary to the scaremongering of the

British press, "Don't Panic" was the message.

"The GNP of the EU is bigger than that of the US, it is solicited by nations rich and strong and has a committed respect for human values" the General Secretary clarified. "All important decisions are taken by ministers of member states, not EU bureaucrats and the role of the EU in everyday life has been grossly exaggerated."

Issues of the moment were discussed: the EU's growth pattern of 1994 was "quite good" despite the recession. The Commission is confident of the forecast of future increases. Unemployment is the number one priority to resolve. In the UK alone £2.7 billion is to be spent on training. The much maligned agricultural policy has been revised. Williamson assured that the food mountains are disappearing.

The EU is set to enlarge with the introduction of six new member states from Eastern Europe. When asked why this was pursued when it would only bring problems ("like Greece"), it was answered that "the Commission reflects the views of the member states" and that there was "much pressure, especially from Germany". An enormous number of political problems are foreseen but expansion is a question of when, not if.

Concerning European Currency Union, William-

son admitted that he was not a "prophet" but imagined that by 1999 there would be a standard currency in many European nations. Finally a comparison of coordinating European affairs with British affairs was made. The former was deemed more com-

plex "it requires mental effort . . . to adapt to the way different countries see things." Williamson has resigned from the British government twice, the EU only once before but advised the audience that perhaps "one should not resign as many times as I have!"

Duncan-Smith on Europe

Paris Kaklamanos

Iain Duncan-Smith, Conservative MP for Chingford since 1992, visited the LSE Conservative Society last Monday and addressed the disputed issue of European monetary policy.

His speech was a response to the recent discussion in the media generated by the controversial issue of a single currency in Europe.

Mr Duncan-Smith pointed out to the handful of students who attended the meeting that the timetable laid down by the Maastricht Treaty requires that members of the European Union (EU) accept the ECU as their national currency by 1999. Ignoring the traditional fears of loss of national identity and sovereignty rights raised by opponents of the single currency, the Conservative MP chose to focus his attention on the economic aspects of this event.

In his opinion, there are no substantial economic reasons for proposing monetary union in the EU. He stressed the significance of the emerging markets in eastern Asia and the rapidly increasing amount of trade conducted between Britain and non-European countries.

London, in Mr Duncan-Smith's view, remains the world's global financial center, due to its position and the great deal of expertise that has been accumulated in the City, during the passage of time. The fact that the UK remains the third greatest exporter of invisibles in the world helped to illustrate his point.

Contrary to the EU's aim of concentrating economic power amongst a dozen states, Duncan-Smith argued that the increased competition between all corners of the world reveal that "huge blocks of power" are currently of declining importance. Economic growth and progress require the decentralisation of authority and the practice of free trade between all countries. He thoroughly supported the view that "the world is a global market place."

He also expressed opposition to the "polarisation of politics in Brussels" and pointed out that complete freedom of migration would enable vast transfers of population amongst member states, thus posing a potential threat of unemployed foreigners flooding Britain. Duncan-Smith's conclusion was that the drift of the EU towards a "United States of Europe" as dictated by the Maastricht Treaty is indeed unnecessary and lacks sound economic reasoning.



David Williamson

Photo: Hania Midura

Protest or RCP stunt?

Nicola Hobday

Controversy surrounds last Wednesday's march in protest against the repatriation of Pancho Ndebele, the President of Brighton Students' Union (SU). The event was seen by some as merely a stunt by the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP).

Vini Ghatate, Welfare and Equal Opportunities Officer, received a fax from the University of Brighton SU thanking the LSE for its support. However they also requested that the picket of the Home Office be postponed to a later date. They stated that any "ill-timed protest at the moment will endanger not only Pancho's case, but that of every international student standing for sabbatical."

The demonstration only attracted the support of around twenty students.

Cyberporn discovery

Helena Mcleod

Students at the LSE have been found accessing hard core pornography on the computer network.

Steve Roy, an expert on the internet, last week revealed that pornographic text and full colour photographs can be viewed and printed from most School computers.

Text is easier to download than pictures, and once the address is known it takes less than a minute to appear. Stories such as *Perversion*, *Bestiality*, and *Paedophilia*, have all been placed by internet users.

Last week an American student, Jake Baker, from the University of Michigan, began his trial for putting accounts of how he had tortured and raped Pamela, his fellow classmate, on the internet.

Although it is illegal to distribute pornography it is not against the law to view it. Images such as a man inserting a 6 inch knife

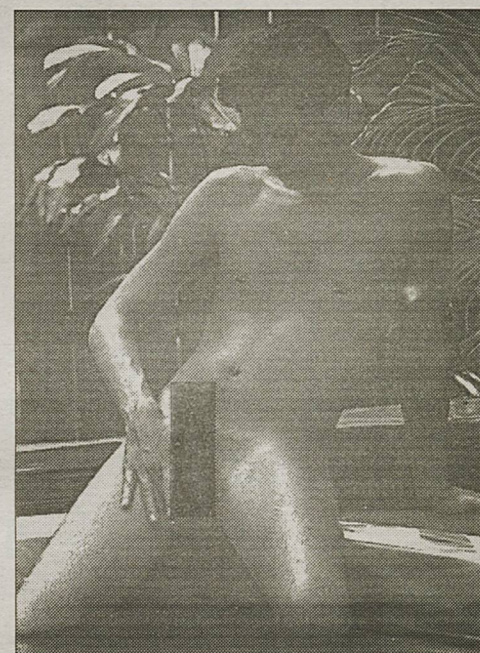
into his penis, are just the tip of the iceberg according to Roy: "More than two million internet addresses exist: we don't know how deep and depraved the porn gets."

Most of the pornography is of women aimed towards a male audience, although as Roy added, "An 8 year old child or a convicted rapist could watch. There is no restriction except self restriction."

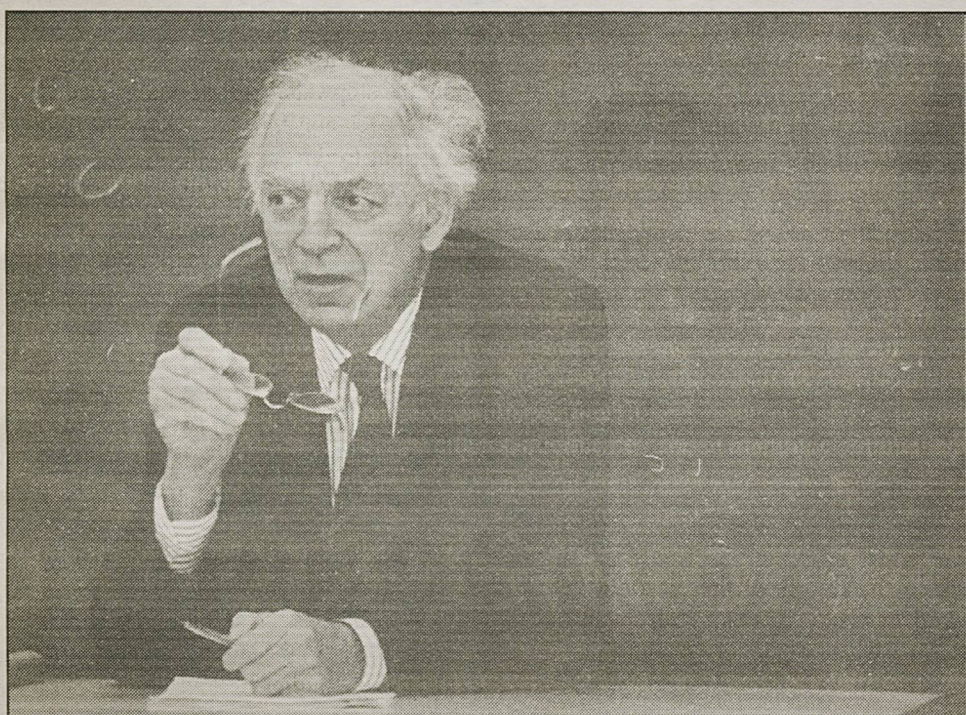
This highlights the intrinsic problem with the internet, as it crosses national boundaries, theoretically what may break the law in one country could be legal in another. No laws exist at present that cover the internet worldwide.

Inside the LSE, the School have a computer programme that checks data files for the storing of pornography, although as yet there is no check on e-mail.

It has been suggested by some students that the School should be doing more, perhaps for example, by publishing its own restrictions on internet porn.



A censored example of the pornography available on the internet via the School network



John Biffen MP - stark warnings for his own Government

Photo: Stephen Hau

Biffen biffs Tories

James Brown

Eurosceptic Tory MP John Biffen has issued a stark warning about the Conservative Party's future.

His dramatic predictions came last week in a talk at the LSE entitled 'The Conservative Party in Europe', an issue he recognises as causing "deep internal grief and dissent".

His main target was the current cabinet: "We have a profoundly disunited cabinet on the issue... it's as if they have all decided they are going to loose the next election and are posturing for a role [in a shadow cabinet]."

Warming to this theme, he said that he too would be "immensely surprised if the Conservative party won the next election, and it could be a spectacular defeat on current showing", evoking memories of the recent decimation of the Canadian Conservative Party.

After the general election, which Biffen predicted would be no later than Autumn 1996, he expected to see a "stampede to take up a more sceptical position on Europe." This, he argued, would lead to a more nationalistic stance at a time when European nationalism was growing.

Previously, Biffen had outlined the reasons for the current rise in eurosceptic feelings. Historically, the Conservative Party has sought to have closer links with Europe. This started in the early 1960's when Harold Macmillan applied to join the EC. He failed, but Edward Heath tried again with success a decade later, and in 1972 the EC Act was passed in Parliament.

At this time the EC was principally concerned with free trade, which in Biffen's words "dismantles government". But the current emphasis is on uniformity within an integrated European Union (EU), which requires greater state influence. He described the European Commission as a "powerhouse of state involvement", generating "non-parliamentary initiatives", concepts that worry right-wing Conservative MP's. He also cited the 'bicycle theory' of Jacques Delors - the idea that if forward momentum towards greater union is not maintained the EU will 'fall off' and collapse - as not only being nonsense but adding fuel to the eurosceptic fire.

If all of this has caused the current problems, he could see no way of easily solving them.

Not that this will be his concern; John Biffen is retiring at the next election.

Government cuts student grants

Graeme Pearson

The Opposition failed last week in an attempt to overturn the Government's cuts in student grants and allowances to mature students.

The Labour Party tabled a motion to annul the Government's proposed reforms to student support, but lost by a majority of 41 in the Commons vote.

As a result, full grants for students in London will be reduced by over 8% to £2,340; and the Older Students' Allowance will be phased out from the 1995/6 academic year - a loss of approximately £1,000 for those students aged 29 at the start of their course.

Loans are being increased by £320 to compensate for the grant reduction; but a new lower 'special rate' of loan will be introduced for students studying in London and living away from their parents, who in the opinion of their Local Education Authority could 'conveniently attend the course' from their parents' home.

Bryan Davies MP, Labour's Higher Edu-

cation Spokesman, speaking in the House of Commons last week damned the Government's grant cuts as "worsening student hardship."

He added that the withdrawal of the Older Students' Allowance was a "pernicious, short-sighted and indefensible measure", although he refused to be drawn on whether the Labour Party would reverse the cuts.

The reforms were defended by the Government spokesman, Tim Boswell MP who said they would "bring considerable benefits to students." Citing statistics showing that the number of students entering Higher Education is continuing to increase, Boswell claimed that his party's policies "have helped to ensure... that Higher Education is no longer the privilege of the wealthy."

Liberal Democrat Education Spokesman, Don Foster MP, said that the total support available for students was clearly insufficient, and committed his party to reinstating the Older Students' Allowance and enabling students to claim social security benefits during the summer vacation.

Student safety set to improve?

Judith Plastow

The working party on student security has submitted its report to the Student Support and Liaison Committee.

Initially set up following racial attacks on LSE students, the role of the working party was "to consider and report to the relevant committees on all aspects of LSE students' security."

The main recommendations of the report include: the installation of telephones in LSE Hall of Residence student rooms, the improvement of closed-circuit television and lighting and a reappraisal of the Students' Union (SU) self-awareness literature.

The feasibility of swipe 'personal ID'

cards for use after 6:00pm on all School premises was also re-examined, following its rejection in 1993. The report also advocated obtaining a school minibus to ensure safe transport.

The Student Support and Liaison committee will make recommendations to the relevant committees including the Standing and Inter-Halls.

Some of the more simple ideas can be put into practice immediately, others will need to get funding. Not all recommendations will necessarily be carried out.

Vini Ghatate, SU Welfare and Equal Opportunities Officer commented: "I am very happy with what was decided. Let's hope the relevant committees follow the recommendations as well."

Mass Debate

Reports of a student disturbance have just come through. It took place at a heated meeting of the DebSoc this Wednesday. Apparently things took a violent turn when Richard Hearnden the well-known Trotskyist proposed the motion "This House Would Encourage Civil Disobedience" at the same time as vigorously tossing over the audience lighted molotov cocktails that is.

He called on the members to defy unjust laws by whatever means necessary. By the end of this furious tirade his complexion was even more reminiscent of the Soviet flag than usual, while his gestures had become those of a powerful and threatening leader. The adulation greeting his closing lines would put Take That groupies to eternal shame.

Avoiding a barrage of stale veggie burgers, Tariq Lewis reluctantly rose to oppose. Unfurling a banner reading 'Peace At Any Cost' he appealed to civic duty and respect for the law. However after a number of hostile points of information he retreated at the same time as using an upturned desk as an impromptu riot shield.

The masses stood to loyal and expectant attention as another ring-leader, Benjamin Hawkin confidently stepped up to further inspire them by praising attacks on the Poll Tax, the Twyford Down development and the export of live animals to the continent. An impassioned display of rhetoric concluded, logically enough by the smashing-up of the lectern with a craft knife.

The scent of testosterone was by now palpable, so the appearance of Lisa did not seem likely to pour oil on the rising tide of machismo in fact she only managed to further incite the anarchists as she praised the current political system where the majority of the population don't support the Conservative government. Her words "Democracy - rule by the people, for the people" were greeted with derision and scorn as the meeting degenerated into a full-blown riot.

The Chairman, Adam Morris, did his best to look menacing and authoritative at the same time as calling the house to order, but few paid any attention to him, even when he banged on his rather small and inadequate rock gavel.

The rampaging hoi polloi were temporarily halted by the arrival of Baljit Mahal who handed out free samples of Brylcreem, asked them to return their accommodation questionnaires and then made the silly mistake of spouting Martin Luther King, at which a mob grabbed him, taped up his mouth with industrial adhesive and then smashed in the headlights of his taxi-cab. The damage has not yet been fully assessed but it is likely to require more than 10 minutes work by a French polisher from Yellow Pages to return A85 to its former pristine state.

Business leader critical of Europe

Toby Childs

Europe is facing major problems in its economic performance, according to Peter Agar, Deputy Director of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), and solutions are not encouraged by the current political debate.

Speaking at a meeting of the European Society he endorsed membership of the European Union (EU) but qualified his support with measured criticism, particularly with regard to the erosion of competitiveness through expensive labour markets.

Future wage increases had to be connected to productivity gains and technological advance, he stressed, as international competitors would rapidly replace traditional European markets.

Excessive labour costs were "disastrous" for Europe in the long term, and he echoed a much voiced fear that the more expensive nations, in particular Germany, would preserve their trade position within the EU by offloading their costs on the rest of Europe as domestic political pressures made reform impossible.

There was a danger that social legislation would be used to achieve the "level playing field" and this "protectionist tendency" had to be resisted, primarily by restricting EU legislation to "genuinely supra-national issues."

The "Lamont option" of withdrawal was unrealistic and the implications would pose grave economic difficulties. The advantages of membership had to be grasped, especially the single market which offered to remove unfair barriers to trade and government subsidies.

The Social Chapter was "overplayed" politically, attracting emotive frenzy rather than reasoned debate. Businesses were involved in the detail, and the "theological" rhetoric of politicians did not aid serious discussion.

Turning to the single currency he argued that underlying economic convergence was a precondition of successful monetary union. The system had to be carefully designed to withstand shocks such as oil price rises.

During questioning, Agar admitted that the CBI's support for the ERM was ill-judged and confessed entry had "sacrificed the real economy for a passing fad."

Reforms were required in the agricultural policy, "unsustainable" in its present form, and the EU bureaucracy which "goes against the principles of good management."

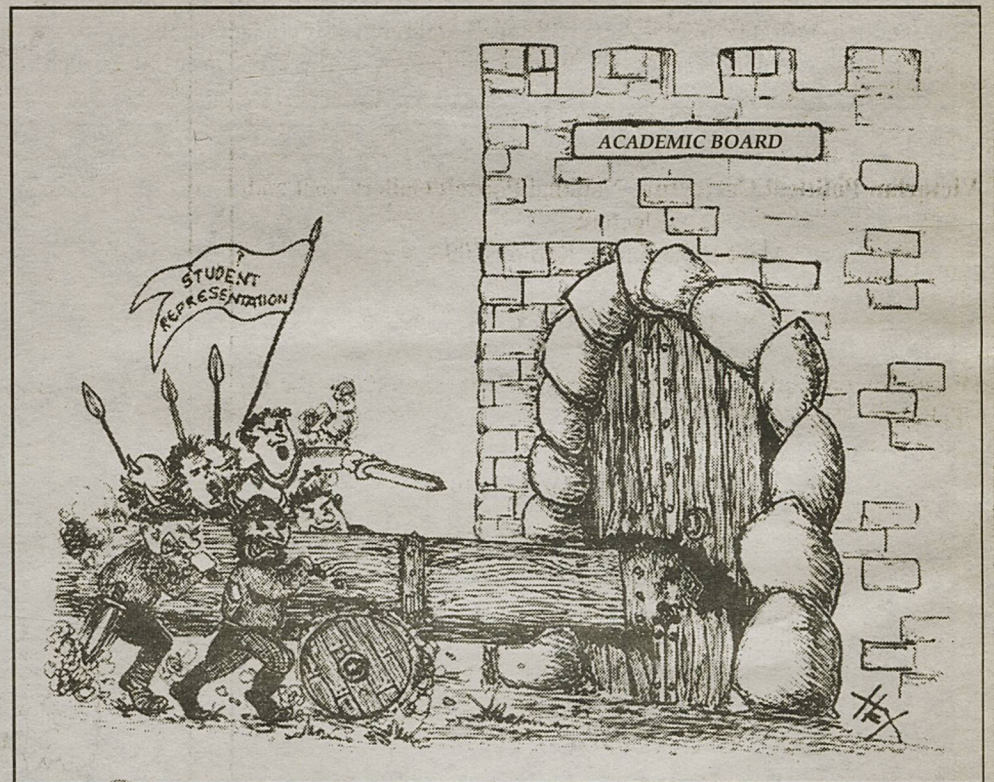
Academic Board

(Continued from page 1)

resented and which takes the final decision on all School policy.

The Director, Dr John Ashworth, said he was "very pleased with the clear result". This was despite 74 academics voting against the proposal and only 81 in favour, out of a possible 400.

This may not be the last vote on the expansion of the Board's membership, as there are increasing calls for a broader group of administrative staff to be represented. This leads some academics to fear that in view of some recent meetings with single-figure attendances, they might be left in a minority on the Academic Board. A 'Plebs Parliament' indeed!



For rent

A nice quiet room available in London House, (15 minutes to LSE), Russell Square Tube, for five weeks from March 18.

Call Anne. Tel: 071 837 8888
Ext 2212. After 10 pm

BLPES Book Availability Survey

On Tuesday, February 28 the Library will be holding its annual book availability survey in the Course Collection. The aim is to discover how many books readers find on the shelves, and to establish why some books are not found.

We hope that students will cooperate by completing a survey each time they use the Course Collection on that day. The results will be analysed and used to help the Library staff improve services for readers.

Beverly Brittan, Taught Course Support Officer

THE L.S.E. LAW SOCIETY
PRESENTS

The Law Ball



Friday 3rd March
Hotel Russell

Reception 7pm
Carriages 1am

Highlights include:

a 4 course meal accompanied by L.S.E. Centenary Wine
Sitting Quartet
Special Guest Speaker
Followed by a Disco

Ticket Prices: Members £25, Non-members £30
Dress Code: Black Tie / Formal

this week...

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

LSE DRAMA SOCIETY

In Camera – Jean Paul Sartre directed by Andreas Sears “Hell is...Other People”
at 7.30pm in the Old Theatre
Prices: £1.50 (Members) £2 (Non-members)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

LSE DRAMA SOCIETY (see Monday)

LSE JEWISH SOCIETY

Meetings every Tuesday at 1pm in H216
Bagel lunch, speakers, music and lots of fun!
All welcome!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

CHAPLAINCY

Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service
at 3.30pm in S75. All Welcome!

HISTORY SOCIETY

Victorian Political Caricature National Portrait Gallery visit and lecture
Meet at 2.30pm in Room E509

IRISH SOCIETY

Discussion on **Unionism and The Peace Process** with Mr David Trimble, MP, Ulster Unionist Party and Mr Gary McMichael, Democratic Ulster Party
at 5.30pm in the New Theatre

LAW SOCIETY

The Law Ball in the Hotel Russell at 7pm.
Dress code: Black Tie/Formal, Price: members £25, non-members £30

ITALIAN SOCIETY

Pasta Evening

Stuff yourself with as much pasta, wine & ice cream as you can!!!
at 8pm in The Quad.
Prices: £5 (members) £6.50 (Non-members)

YOGA SOCIETY

Classes now ONLY on Wednesdays, at 6pm sharp in X032.
Beginners welcome, bring loose clothing and a towel/mat

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

AMNESTY LSE

Don't forget the letter writing stall every Thursday in The Quad, all day.

BACCHANALIAN SOCIETY

Apocalypse Now
at 1pm in the New Theatre. Free!!

LSE CHRISTIAN UNION

A Christian Response to Contemporary Arts and Music by Jumoke Fashola of London School of Creative Ministry, a singer and radio DJ
at 6pm in X002

SCHAPIRO CLUB

DRUGS: Are there any solutions to the growing crisis? a debate including Commander John Grieve, Metropolitan Police
at 5.30pm in C120

coming soon

MARCH

7 **Execution to Extermination: The Death Penalty in Nazi Germany** by Prof. Richard Evans, Birkbeck College at 5pm in X009. Presented by the History Society

8 **Nanbudo Demonstration** followed by training at 6pm in the Badmington Court

9 **False Confessions** by Dr Gisli Gudjonson at 7pm inn S318 – Presented by the Psychology Society

14 **National Law Fair** in the Telford International Centre, Telford, Shropshire at 12-6pm

15 **National Law Fair** at 10am-4pm

THE L.S.E. DRAMA SOCIETY PRESENTS

IN CAMERA

A Play by

— JEAN PAUL SARTRE —

“Hell is.....Other People”

February 27th & 28th
March 2nd

7:30 pm

OLD THEATRE



Members £ 1.50
Non-Members £ 2.00

TIRED OF BEING A FASHION-SLAVE?

You need to get out more often! Come to the friendliest place in the universe! Where? Why it's the ever lovely

CHUCKLE CLUB COMEDY

CABARET SHOW

In the LSE 3 TUNS BAR every Saturday
It costs £4 for students, £6 for others
Doors open 7.45pm. Tickets at the door.

Saturday March 4 we have from TV's SATURDAY ZOO

MARK THOMAS The much-travelled

NICK WILTY Cockney tunesmiths (NOT Chas &

Dave) **PENNER & GILBEY**

WITH Your Fat Host **EUGENE CHEESE**

and Will Smith and Keith Tilbury



PUBLIC LECTURES

Tuesday, February 14

Adult Sexual Behaviour in the United States
by Robert Michael, Visiting Centennial Professor of Demography, University of Chicago

at 5.30pm in the Old Theatre

Thursday, February 16

Vietnam and the Disillusioned Strategists
by Lawrence Freedman, Professor of War Studies, King's College, London

at 5.30pm in the Old Theatre
Chair: Professor Macgregor Knox

Tuesday, February 21

East Asian Values and the Politics of Enlargement
by Michael Leifer, Professor of International Relations and Pro-Director of the School

at 5.30pm in the Old Theatre

JAPAN SOCIETY FILM NIGHTS

Kagemusha by Akira Kurosawa

Monday, February 27 at 7pm in the New Theatre
Price: 50p (Members) £1 (Non-members)

Desu Uzala by Akira Kurosawa. Winner of the 1975 Oscar for the Best Foreign Film.

Wednesday, March 1 at 7pm in the New Theatre.
Price: 50p (Members) £1 (Non-members)

Tampopo by Jyuzo Itami

Monday, March 6 at 7pm in the New Theatre.
Price: 50p (Members) £1 (Non-members)

All events are organised especially to raise some money for the victims of the Hanshin earthquake (January 17) so please come and help the society.

Beaver

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Harry's BNP links revealed?

Dear Beaver,

I have noted with increasing concern and disgust the age old beast of racism rearing its ugly head in your pages in one particular column. The column in question is Houghton Street Harry. The writer of this column is familiar to me, despite having being described by many as "ugly", a "beast" by others and even both by some, I think should not be allowed to continue writing the racist nonsense he has tried to disguise as humour.

On your February 13 edition, you carried a letter by C Kaibano, R Bani et al entitled "Apologies all round". This letter condemned

Mr Houghton Street Harry and I would like to add my voice to theirs. I have read the column regularly for the past two years and not until the present writer took it over has it been as racist and sexist – a tone that both worries and disgusts me.

I have been one of the many unfortunate students who has had to listen – because he doesn't bother to keep his opinions to himself – to the writer's customary fascist and xenophobic rantings. Comments such as "send them all back" and references to "banana boats" in a university such as ours with a large foreign membership of its student body I find it unbe-

lievable and frankly unacceptable that the Student's Union newspaper gives this human scum a platform to propagate his vile ideas.

I object to the fact that he has been allowed to consistently get away with insulting and demeaning non-Britons without any evident reprimand from the editorial staff; I object to *The Beaver* – which is funded by the Student Union, and derives part of its budget from foreign student fees – granting Mr Houghton Street Harry a licence to promote racism within the LSE.

I happen to know that the cretin in question has close ties with fellow pond life in the form of

fascist and neo-Nazi groups in the capital – and possibly nation-wide which I am not aware of. An example of his despicable attitude was the comment he passed on the Landsdowne riots of last week. He said: "I wish I was there to rip the stadium apart."

Trash like this individual has no place on your editorial staff. I honestly and sincerely hope you remove him before he causes further distress to people like myself and he ruins the good name of our paper that your predecessor so painstakingly built up.

Yours sincerely
Mburu Kieneini

Election fever

Dear Beaver,

I note with sadness that election fever is rising again. Once again (and again and again...) people will be pestered as soon as they enter Houghton Street and see no end to it until they enter the "sanctuary" of the library (although last year, even that was smitten with leaflets for a short time). So my question is: How can I get some peace during the next few weeks? Do I have to skip my classes altogether? What is your advice?

Yours sincerely
A wary LSE student who couldn't care less about union hacks

Freedom of speech

Dear Beaver,

What are Kaibano and Bani et al going on about in their letter, printed in Issue 417? They are living in Britain now and must realise we enjoy freedom of expression here. Consequently *Beaver* journalists should be free to write whatever they wish as should I or anyone else. As long as it is not racist of course and the article they refer to was certainly not.

If foreigners of any colour do not like the content of the *Beaver* perhaps they should spend a little less time in their cliquey societies and get involved in the production of the paper. It is a service for all students and all students are encouraged to participate in it.

The Beaver is not in the habit of promoting racial slurs and any such assertion is clearly non-

sense. In such an international and multi-cultural institution as LSE, co-operation and understanding between people of different nationalities is crucial. The recent Global Festival is an exemplary example of such interaction.

There is no hatred or malicious intent held by British students at the LSE against 'foreigners'. But I, as a British student, often lament the lack of integration between all students at the LSE. We all need to make an effort, perhaps by actually talking to one another, in order to ensure we all have a great time here.

Yours sincerely
Mr Brendan Barns
BSc (ECON), 3rd Year

PS: PS's are a waste of space and quite unnecessary

The opinions expressed on this page are those of the readers, not those of *The Beaver*. Letters must reach the Letters Editor by Wednesday at noon.

Dear Beaver,

Congratulations on another fantastic issue of *The Beaver*. I do have one tiny complaint though. Is it possible to keep the contributions of the hairy music editor to a minimum? The less I have to read from Captain Caveman the better.

Yours with respectable hair length
Another frustrated letters writer

Seeking reconciliation with illegal e-mailers

Dear Beaver,

There is little more frustrating than going to use the computers, finding none available and after scanning the computers you discover – ugh!, green screens. E-MAILERS! More often than not, if you are not able to secure an open computer, it is due to those – and they are increasing in number illegal e-mailers.

Illegal e-mailers include all inconsiderate students who despite knowledge of the "courtesy law" forbidding e-mail during specified times, use the computers anyway. It is these people who – staring selfishly into their green screens – insist their personal lives take precedence over our academic demands.

Case in point! A couple of weeks ago – requiring a computer – I mustered up the courage to ask an illegal e-mailer if he would be finished soon. (I was hoping my query/request would be kind enough to be well received but sufficiently forceful to convey my

point). When he asked why, I pointed out the signs reserving computers for academic coursework and essential e-mail until 6pm. Unmoved, he looked me in the eye and replied: "I know. So what, there are people on every floor using e-mail."

I was shocked at such a response. He seemed to think that the observation, "everybody else is doing it", was a defence for his behaviour. Not surprisingly our conversation deteriorated quickly with my astonishment at his self-righteousness. We ended in an uncomfortable stalemate.

But isn't this ridiculous? Isn't there a way we can avoid such needless tension? Yes. And I write to you with this hope.

Firstly, I was wrong. Not wrong in asking the student to finish up quickly, but wrong and unfair to accuse all illegal e-mailers of selfishness and conceit. Instead, I believe illegal e-mailers have good intentions when using the computers,

whether it be to quickly check their messages or to write a short reply. But what they don't do – and this is the problem – is consider how their actions affect fellow students. I think that if the illegal e-mailers understood how they annoyed and irritated their fellow students, they would wait until 6pm before e-mailing. This seems perfectly acceptable. And if you are e-mailing and believe a student requires a computer for school-work, in a gesture of good will exit quickly and concede the computer. This type of attitude can only foster better student relations.

For those who have illegally e-mailed (probably most of us, I'm no exception) recognise that there is an implicit agreement governing computer accessibility – based solely on trust. Moreover, we can sympathise with fellow students by recalling how we felt when we could not get a computer because of others e-mailing. Understanding this, consid-

erate action follows.

I appeal to you as LSE students to mind the needs of your friends and classmates and use e-mail during agreed times. Although it is a small request only a fool would say it makes no difference.

One final thought!. The student I approached about using e-mail suggested I appeal to the librarians to sort out the situation. Such an idea gives us no credit to deal with our problems independently implying we need an outside authority for reconciliation. I disagree. Rather, I appeal to those students who are using the e-mail during off hours to consider how they may be affecting their fellow students, then act accordingly. In this small but significant way, we can act respectfully and considerately towards every LSE student. Thank you!

Yours Sincerely
Scott Hoffman

BEAVER ELECTION

PULL OUT SPECIAL

James Atkinson

Speaking for Students

Previous Positions: UGM Chair, Executive Welfare Officer, NUS National Conference

The Union's General Secretary is its principal officer and its primary voice in any dealings with the School. This requires experience, commitment, and an ability to coordinate the efforts of the union team.

As General Secretary I will focus on the issues that affect all students. This means ...

- Promoting students' academic needs (eg Access to computers, Better Library hours, Fairer exam resit procedure)
- Striving for student security (eg Rape alarm provision, Safe transport)
- Helping new students settle into London, to ensure greater convenience and safety
- Refurbishing the Three Tuns and The Café
- Easing student poverty through a fast and fair allocation of the Hardship Fund.
- Developing a better career information pool

As a union welfare officer, I've represented students on school committees, at NUS conference, and I chair the weekly UGM's. "Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself, but talent instantly recognises genius" - Arthur C Doyle

Kate Hampton

Independent

Previous Positions: LSE Executive and Welfare Committee, Constitution and Steering Committee, Court of Governors, Student Support and Liaison Committee, Working Party on Student Security, ULU Executive, NUS Conference

As General Secretary I want to work to promote the Union via sustained publicity to encourage participation from all students, and ensure effective and unbiased representation of union policy. I am determined to strengthen welfare, education and equal opportunities with high-profile and persistent campaigns. I want to work for better and safer hall accommodation and better student financial support.

I am committed to ensuring that LSESU get the most out of



From left to right: Chris Parry, Adam Morris, Tom Smith, Ron Voce & Kate Hampton

Photo: Scott Wayne

GENERAL SECRETARY

NUS and ULU. Co-operation and communication between officers and students will guarantee accountability and efficiency in the day-to-day management of the Union. A strong Union depends upon a committed, dynamic and experienced General Secretary. Having been on the Executive Committee of both LSE and ULU, on the Court of Governors, the Working Party on Student Security and having founded Green Action and been a delegate to NUS conference, I have the experience necessary to be an effective General Secretary. Please vote for me.

Angus Kinnear

Independent

Previous Positions: Rosebery Hall Social Secretary, Beaver Sports Editor 1994/95, Racing Society General Manager, LSE Football Hall Of Fame

In three years here I have sampled the delights of the multi-cultural environment that LSE has to offer, and now I feel an overwhelming desire to put something back into this institution. I feel that my three years in hall and my involvement with the Athletics Union, The Beaver and numerous societies has helped me empathize with the needs of all students. This, combined with my experience of confronting LSE

administration like when I successfully lobbied for a £10,000 rent rebate for Rosebery residents, provides me with the confidence to lead this Union effectively and purposefully into its next 100 years. Unlike other candidates, I have no masked political affiliations. I will not make shallow promises that cannot be kept. Instead, I sincerely promise to serve the Union with dedication, foresight and pride. Vote Kinnear.

Baljit Mahal

Independent

Previous Positions: Executive Welfare, ULU delegate, Site development sub-committee, society executive, Room audit committee

There are few who are unaware of the research of accommodation, or other issues I have campaigned on. Through being so involved I believe I can make a relevant and decisive impact on the Students' Union.

As General Secretary, in my thoughts would be the words of Martin Luther King - 'injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere'. When it comes to students who face;

- * inadequate study facilities,
- * high accommodation costs,
- * overcrowding,
- * erosion of student grants,

* high overseas student fees,

I would seek to strive for change. Positive change. So that the Union touches the lives of students in a way that is forward looking.

I can bring to the SU skills acquired on the SU Executive, School committees, and the British Youth Council. A vote for Baljit Mahal, is a vote for a better Union, a working Union, a trusted Union.

Adam Morris

Independent

When elected as General Secretary I plan to initiate a set of radical programmes to vastly improve the service the Students' Union provides you.

I will lobby to increase the computer services at LSE, both school supplied & implement SU supplied computer services. I shall lobby to open the library every Sunday throughout the academic year and look at ways of reducing overcrowding. I plan to refurbish The Tuns. I will substantially overhaul the food quality and range of the cafe (with it remaining vegetarian), and install more comfortable surroundings in the top floor to make it more socially conducive. I will address the under-representation of the masters student who tend to get a bad deal because they are here for a short time. I will lobby for cen-

tenary celebrations for the students! I will review the hardship fund so that the money gets to the students who really need it.

Chris Parry

Independent

Previous Positions: Governor, Rosebery President, Postgraduate/Mature Students Officer, LSE Review Editor

I am 23 and a 2nd year International Relations student.

Politically, I aim to revitalise a depoliticised and British centric UGM, introduce an international agenda, strengthen postgraduate representation, evaluate NUS, and debate a direction for LSE on education funding. I will not pursue a private agenda but represent you as mandated.

Furthermore, the Tuns and other parts of the Union are in dire need of refurbishment. Investigation into outside investment for new projects is required. Consolidation is needed on last years polices like the new constitution and academic committee.

My commitments illustrates my knowledge of our Union:

- LSE Governor
- PostGraduate and Mature student officer
- President of Rosebery Hall
- Vice President of the 1895 committee
- Editor of the LSE Review

I sincerely believe our Union can offer students a great deal more in a year from now and shall do so under my direction.

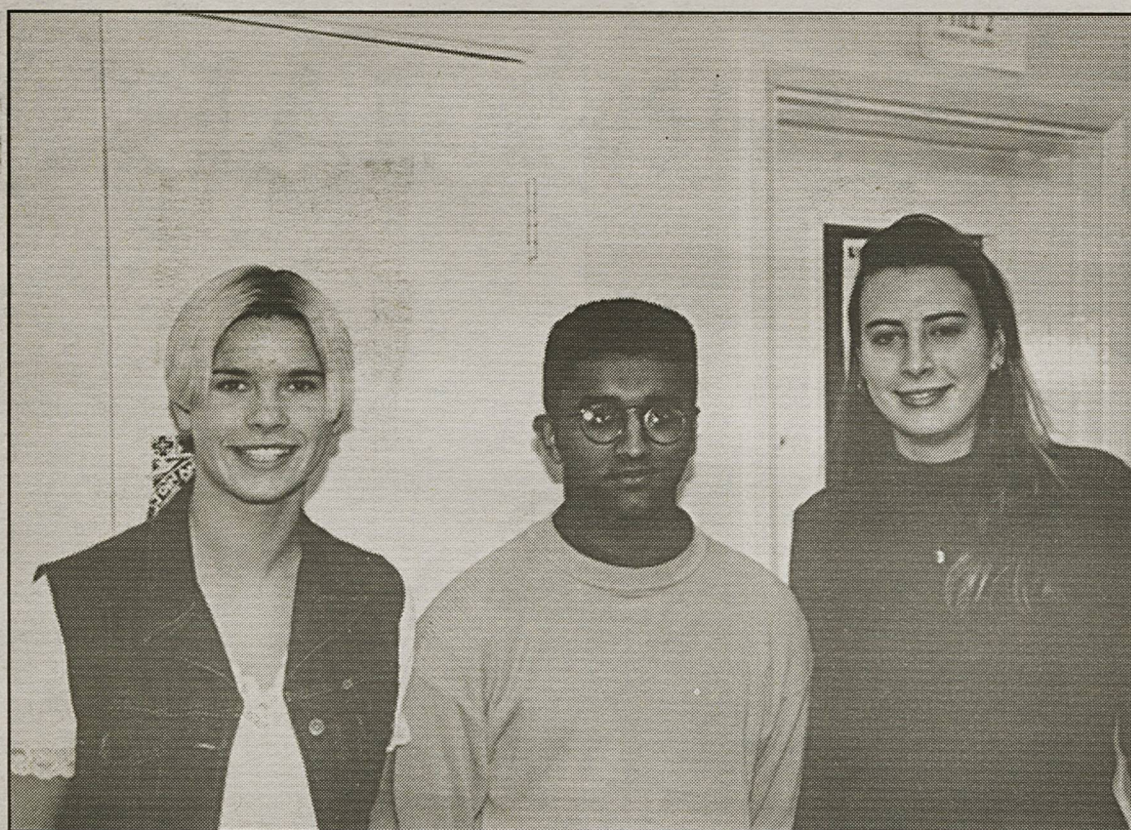
Godfrey the Pie

Savoury

Hello, I'm Godfrey the pie, and I'm standing for General Secretary. Some people accuse my campaign of being pie in the sky. Not true. They said I was full of hot air, but this is not true either. There's some gristle in there too. I'm the candidate with balls. And lips. And eyebrows. No bull. Where's the beef they said. Buggered if I know. I don't mince my words. You'll get no stale ideas from me. I've got policies so good they'll make you puke. You know, I have a consuming interest in this election. When I said I was running they said "inedible",

(Candidates continued on page 10)

TREASURER



From left to right: Claire Lawrie, Shaibal Dutta & Marie Darvill

Photo: Scott Wayne

Marina the Cake

Light and Fluffy

Previous Positions: Middle shelf, half an hour, gas mark four

You should vote cake because:

- * I intend to raise more money through external sponsorship of the Students' Union
- * Through better management of Student Union services, I will raise more money to spend on student welfare
- * I will listen to the true needs of students and be their voice in financial matters
- * I have a light raspberry filling
- * And a nice creamy bit on top
- * And a flake

So vote cake

Marie Darvill

Independent

Previous Positions: Finance and Services Committee, NUS Conference, NUS Trade Fair, Rosebery Hall Committee Member, Beaver Section Editor

I am an independent candidate, with a positive outlook, who has been actively involved in college life for the past two and a half years. Whilst appreciating the constraints governing the role of Treasurer, I would hope to implement constructive policies improving Union services and increasing efficiency. My aims include:

1. Maximising the support that the Union offers societies. This entails helping them to obtain more funding, and promoting

intersociety and multicultural events.

2. Improving Union services - looking at ways of lowering prices in the Shop/Print Room, raising catering standards, and fully refurbishing The Tuns.

3. Working to attract revenue from alternative sources, including company sponsorship and promoting the use of Union services for external functions.

4. Operating an 'open door' policy and improving accountability by increasing student awareness of Union finances.

Whatever you do, use your vote to ensure a representative Union for all.

Shaibal Dutta

LSE Labour Club

Previous Positions: Union Coun-

cil, Safety Committee, Chair of Constitution and Steering Committee

Due to school cutbacks the Union is having to become more self-sufficient. I will fight further cuts as well as obtaining sponsorship for Union activities eg advertising revenue for publications like the SU Handbook. Working with other Sabbaticals, I'll try to locate areas for investment eg buying a PA for the Ents, instead of constantly hiring one and creating a games room (pool table, video machines etc). The School has a new site, Clement House: Union facilities need urgently to expand - I will push for more space. Financing of the Hardship Fund needs reviewing so that it's more readily accessible to those who need it. I'll allocate societies' budgets impartially and help them find sponsorship to subsidise events.

As chair of a Union committee, I know how the Union works: if elected I will develop and add to the Union's services and societies.

Claire Lawrie

Independent

Previous Positions: Executive Officer, Finance and Services, Court of Governors

Experience

- * Interviewed Societies and determined budget allocation.

- * Introducing Thesis printing/binding service.

- * Participated in campaigns (Student hardship; Against 30% grant cuts, Criminal Justice Bill; World AIDS day and anti-BNP march.)

Policies:

Student Hardship. 1991-2: The School gave £30,000 to Union, earmarked for a Hardship fund. This arrangement lasted only 1 year, despite worsening student hardship. I will campaign and negotiate to get ear-

marked money returned.

Societies Budget.

Societies number and membership has increased, but society funding hasn't. A real terms cut! I will increase societies budget. Union Services.

Cafe - Complete Redecoration. Revision of high prices.

Tuns - Help fight for the licence, to allow lpm's every Friday.

Printroom - Overcrowded and wasteful. Must increase efficiency.

Overall Aims:

Union has just accepted School's standard block grant. It's time to campaign for an increase and supplement this by looking for ways to generate our own revenue. Extra money will provide better welfare, services, campaigns and lower costs."

Arun Velusami

Conservative

Previous Positions: Finance and Services Committee

For far too long, the LSE Students' Union has served the purposes of just a few well-placed students. If elected, I will make sure it serves and benefits you directly. I will take a £5000 pay cut and donate it to the Bar Subsidy. Students' Union catering facilities will be subsidised in line with other universities and the quality of food served will be improved. The hardship fund, which fosters a mentality of welfare state scrounging, will be replaced with a scholarship scheme so that the most needy, hardworking pupils will benefit. Some societies at present are unconstitutional and/or receive far too much money. If the Women's Group fails to give male members an equal vote, I will have it thrown out of the Union. The LGB society will also have to prove to me that they really do deserve the large sums which they are currently awarded.

Other positions

Executive Officers (5 places)

- Sayjad Khalid
- Katryn Benhold
- Syed Ali Iman
- Henrik Rommen
- Simon Chen
- Jatneel Venjee
- Adam Morrow
- Baljit Mahal
- Christine Wright
- Katie Fisher
- Dana Johnson
- Yuan Potts
- Nick Dearden
- Tom Scott

- Independent
- Independent Green
- Independent
- Non-affiliated Independent
- Independent/Student Issues First
- Indepen-dance
- Cheap Beer equals More Beer
- Independent
- Independent
- LSE Labour Club
- Independent
- LSE Liberal Democrat
- Campaigning for Equality
- Conservative Students

Equal Opportunities (Mature Students Issues)

Alexander Murinson

Conservative Students

Equal Opportunities (Women's Student's Issues)

- Sarah Davis
- Teresa Delaney
- Samantha Means

- Liberal Democrat
- LSE Labour Club
- Conservative Students

Equal Opportunities (Overseas and EU Student's Issues)

- Mia Gilje
- Dana Johnson
- Martin Benedek
- Amina Menza
- Florian Hoffman
- Gareth Loggenberg

- Independent
- Independent
- To Save Overseas Students
- A Students' Union For All
- LSE Labour Club
- Conservative Students

EDUCATION AND WELFARE

Paul Bates

LSE Labour Club

Previous Positions: Finance and Services Committee, South African Scholarship, Ad Hoc Committee

I believe this post to be the most important in the Students' Union. Every student at LSE has the right to equality; regardless of sex, race, sexuality, disability or any other consideration. If elected, that will be my immediate priority: equality of opportunity and representation of all students - and that means representation on the schools' Academic Committees. Students at this school deserve the best facilities possible; only by increasing our representation can campaigns for more funding from the school for our Welfare and Housing Office, making all school buildings accessible to disabled students, 24 hour opening of the library, better safe transport facilities for women students and a rent freeze in all LSE Halls be successful. "These campaigns are my priorities. "I am standing for this post with my politics declared for students to see. I believe they are the right politics for this Students' Union."

Sinéad Logue

Independent

Previous Positions: Constitution and Steering Committee

Students are a particularly vulnerable group who should be guaranteed a safe and comfortable environment in which to live and work.

I understand how important the welfare facilities are for individuals encountering difficulties. It is the Unions responsibility to liaise with the School to continue to improve the student support system and make the LSESU's Welfare services more accessible, whilst maintaining total confidentiality and anonymity.

The new Welfare and Education remit includes academic affairs which affects all students. The current General Secretary has already secured provisional Sunday opening for the library., but other recommendations of the Academic Report such as resits, remarks and student representation on school committees will still have to be pushed for by the incoming sabbatical.

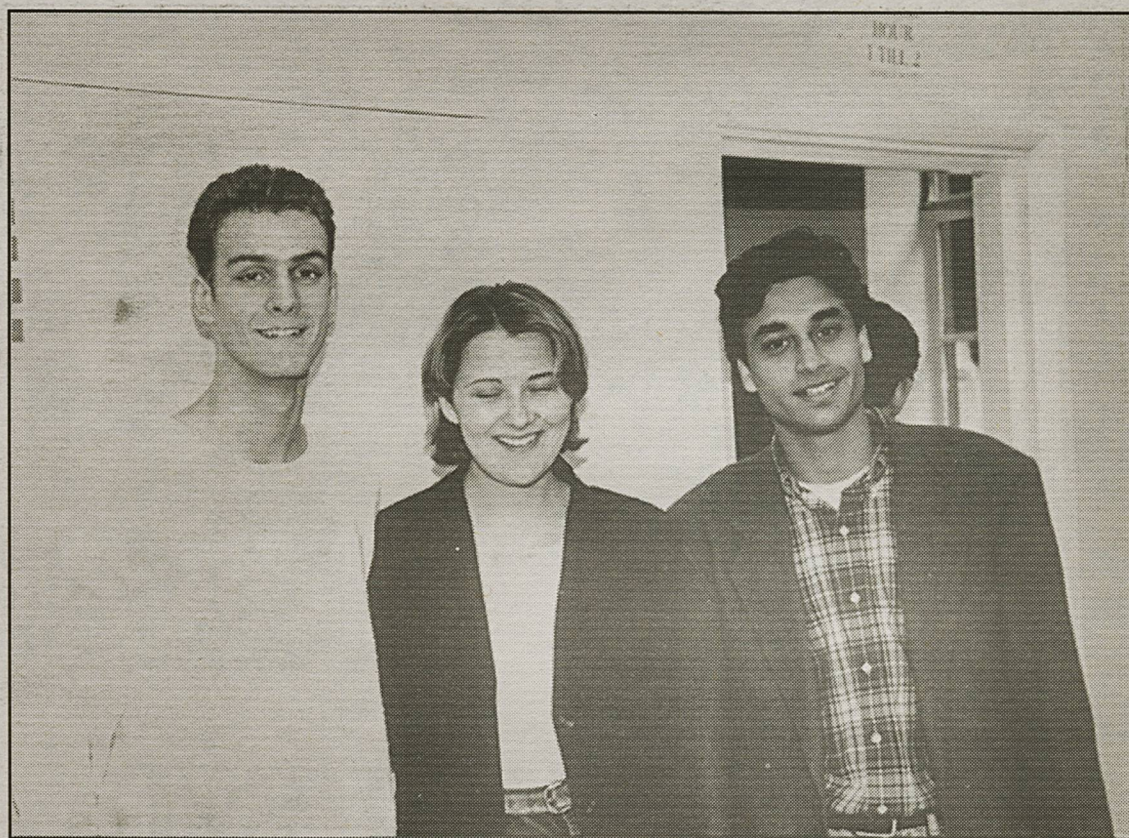
This is not a position from which to launch a political career. It is one which requires a large degree of understanding and sensitivity to the many obstacles facing students today.

Hugh O'Leary

Conservative

Previous Positions: ULU General Council, Health Service Committee, NUS Conference Delegate

I want to represent all students, to ensure everyone is treated as an individual, not as



From left to right: Paul Bates, Sinéad Logue & Omer Soomro

Photo: Scott Wayne

members of "groups", to remove all forms of discrimination, negative and so-called positive.

I don't want to waste your money on demos, marches and campaigns. I want the welfare services to concentrate on practical help, advice on accommodation, on student loans, on legal matters and so on.

Only the Conservatives can ensure that the Students' Union concentrates on providing services to its members, rather than engaging in political battles with the Government and the School authorities. Lets make a start by taking back the thousands of pounds we pay the National Union of Students every year and

instead spend it on the welfare of LSE students.

Omer Soomro

Independent

Previous Positions: Global Festival Committee (Founder Events Officer), Social Secretary Pakistan Society (91-92), President Pakistan Society (93-94), Court Of Governors (94-95), ULU Cultural Campaign Co-ordinator.

On coming to the LSE I was pleased to see the diversity of cultures, and nationalities rep-

resented here. The host of societies provide an ample opportunity to integrate people and cultures. My vision of the school is one in which this integration can take place with the purpose of bringing people closer together. The Global Festival this year was a marvellous success, it achieved just that and more.

If elected as Education and Welfare Officer, I will put equal opportunity at the top of my agenda, and spearhead Educational campaigns for racial awareness, and postgraduate and undergraduate issues. I will be accessible to students and suggestions at all times.

Please give me your support.

NUS Women's Conference (1 delegate, 1 observer)

Karen Lie	Independent
Teresa Delaney	LSE Labour Club
Sorrel Osborne	Independent

Academic Affairs Committee (3 places)

Simon Chen	Independent/Student Issues First
Conrad Bailey	Liberal Democrat
Yuan Potts	Liberal Democrat
Sorrel Osborne	Independent
Amina Menza	A Students' Union For All
Simon Caudey	Conservative Students

Returning Officer

Damian Thwaites	Liberal Democrat
Alexander Ellis	Conservative Students

Constitution and Steering Committee (7 places)

Tony Armstrong	Liberal Democrat
Silvia Santoro	Independent
Kerrie Henderson	LSE Labour Club
Mohammed Ali Miraj	Independent
Aboudi Al-Hababi	Conservative Students
Alexander Ellis	Conservative Students

Finance Committee (3 places)

Jason Waddle	Speaking for Students
Benjamin Hawkin	Independent
Simon Chen	Independent/Student Issues First
Nick Sutton	Liberal Democrat
Christopher Ingoldby	Conservative Students
Aboudi Al-Halabi	Conservative Students

NUS Conference (5 delegates, 1 observer)

Kate Hampton	Independent
Jeffrey Bannister	Secret Ballot
James Atkinson	Independent UGM Chair
Eric Steeves	Speaking for Students
Duncan Bryson	Independent New Left
Ron Voce	Independent
Baljit Mahal	Independent
Sorrel Osborne	Independent
Raj Jethwa	LSE Labour Club
Kerrie Henderson	LSE Labour Club
Richard Skelding	LSE Liberal Democrat
Ola Budzinska	Totally Independent
Martin Lewis	To Best Represent LSE Students
Naomi Hill	Independent
Nick Dearden	Campaigning for Equality
Aboudi Al-Hababi	Conservative Students
Christopher Ingoldby	Conservative Students



From left to right: Darrell Hare, Nick Fletcher, Hector Birchwood & Gerard Harris

Photo: Scott Wayne

ENTERTAINMENTS

Hector Birchwood

Conservative

Previous Positions: Cartoonist, Catering Services Committee, Pi Kappa Alpha Chair at USC

I intend to run a filthy campaign, devoid of all standards of moral conduct. No act of mindless debauchery is too low for me to stoop.

My qualification for Entertainments Officer are as ample as they are decadent. I was my fra-

ternity's Social Pledge Chair back in California and helped organise some of the wildest parties in my school's history. Orgiastic annual events like our Tropical Jungle Party and our Bacchant Roga Fling made the letters P Kappa Alpha stand above the rest of Animal House fraternities. John Belushi would have been proud. Our results were the lowest in years, but who cares when you're having a good time?

I also worked for IT Models Inc and helped arrange fashion shows at clubs like Tatoo's of Beverly Hills.

If elected, I promise to act like a deranged lunatic every

weekend and make a regular appearance on Busy Beaver with my drunken antics.

Darrell Hare

Independence

Previous Positions: Rag Chairman

As Ents Sabbatical improving your social lives will be my top priority. How? Well I will try to expand on the success of the Global Festival week where all the societies will be involved not just for one week but for the

whole of the school year. My key will be to get more people involved and not just the regular six or seven hundred who come to the Three Tuns Bar every Friday. Hopefully next year the licence will be an open one so I will be able to attract big names to perform at the school. With the possibility of having the Royalty Theatre as well it will be an exciting time for LSE entertainment. Having organised the Rag Charity Week and helped with a lot more I have the experience for the job. So please, DONT GO BALD, VOTE FOR HARE, for Entertainments Sabbatical.

Nick Fletcher

Independent

Previous Positions: Global Festival Committee (Founder Treasurer), SU Executive (94-95), Entertainments Committee (94-95), Bar Committee (94-95), Rag Press And Publicity Officer (94-95), Beaver Section Editor (92-94), Beaver Collective (91-95).

Next year I hope to build an entertainments programme with active support and participation of societies at its core. Having gained experience by working with SU Ents throughout the year and directly helping many societies in the successful Global Festival Week, I have the right qualifications for the job.

Societies are the backbone of the LSE, yet they have little support from the Students' Union. I would change this by introducing a societies handbook, an extra office hour especially for advice and use of the Students' Union facilities given to me.

The Tuns and Underground need refurbishment. I will have more lam extensions, all day bars and entertainments throughout the week. I will continue The Chuckle Club, which I helped to organise last year. Saturday night will be party night, promoting cheap events in London with other colleges.

The ideas, the experience, the commitment. Vote Nick Fletcher, the best candidate.

Gerard Harris

Renaissance Man

Vice Chair, Arch Deacon for the Church of Jane Mansfield Unification

As many of you already know, I have essentially no life to speak of and hence will be able to dedicate myself entirely to the job in hand. I am totally committed to working my bollocks off to get LSE back on the cultural map. How am I going to do this?

I am utterly apolitical and thus able to unify absolutely bloody everything and everyone ever. I want to co-ordinate and encourage societies because they are the cultural heart of LSE blah blah produce societies booklet blah blah best indication of what students here actually want as entertainment etc etc. I'm a non clique, non-hack, everyday renaissance man who loves sex on rugs and rock and roll and I know I can do the job better than anyone else. This is the first and only time I have ever blown my trumpet in public and its left me quite exhausted. Who the hell wrote this?

GENERAL SECRETARY CANDIDATES CONTINUED

sorry "incredible". I say this, a pie can run the Student's Union. This is no gravy train. Vote pie. Nice as pie. In fact a nice pie.

As Don Maclean sang in that immortal song.

Bye Bye Godfrey the pie

Tom Smith

LSE Labour Club

Previous Positions: Chair, LSE Labour Club

To effectively defend students rights we must have our views reflected in wider society. Other candidates may tell you that national politics have no place in a student union yet I firmly believe that full employment, homes for all and the fight against all forms of bigotry are real issues for students. Those who claim that national politics have no place at the LSE are denying us a voice.

Many students at the LSE do not consider the union relevant to their lives. To be a strong union we must break down barriers that divide us nationally or culturally all students must participate -ror the union to be representative and democratic. We must remove the 'hack' culture from the LSESU.

To make the union relevant we must consider the issues which can unify us, I will resist all attempts to increase overseas and postgraduate fees. The library should be directing its funds to books not bricks.

Ron Voce

Independent

Previous Positions: Court of Governors, Executive Editor of Beaver, Union General Meeting Vice Chair, General Purposes Committee, External Communications Committee, Housing Students

Being at LSE since 1990, I bring acquired knowledge to this post which should serve and represent all students. LSE is an international institution based in London, but as a British college we must be aware of British politics as they affect LSE and therefore all its students whether British or overseas.

As primary representative of all students I will keep in touch with the grass roots via the Hall Presidents by attending Hall committee meetings. I will push for more student representation on School committees as recommended by the Academic Report.

As the longest serving Beaver Executive Editor the publicity / media contacts role will be second nature, as will producing the Student Handbook, something I did last year at short notice.

I will be as active as students want, you will set the agenda not me. I wish to serve this Union as well as it has served me.

Hustings

Sunday, February 26, Carr-Saunders Hall
Monday, February 27, Rosebery Avenue Hall
Tuesday, February 28, Passfield Hall
7.30 pm on each night

Voting

Wednesday, March 1, 1995

Outside Old Theatre: 11.45 am to 1.45 pm
Rosebery Hall: 5.00 pm to 5.45 pm
Carr-Saunders Hall: 6.30 pm to 7.15 pm
Butlers Wharf: 9.30 pm to 10.15 pm

Thursday, March 2, 1995

Outside Old Theatre: 9.30 pm to 7.00 pm

COUNT (any help anybody can offer with the counting of vote will be hugely appreciated)

Thursday, March 2, 1995 in A85 7pm to 11pm
Friday, 3 March 1995 (if required) 10am to finish

Clear and present danger

Emma Justice searches for inspiration

The Present

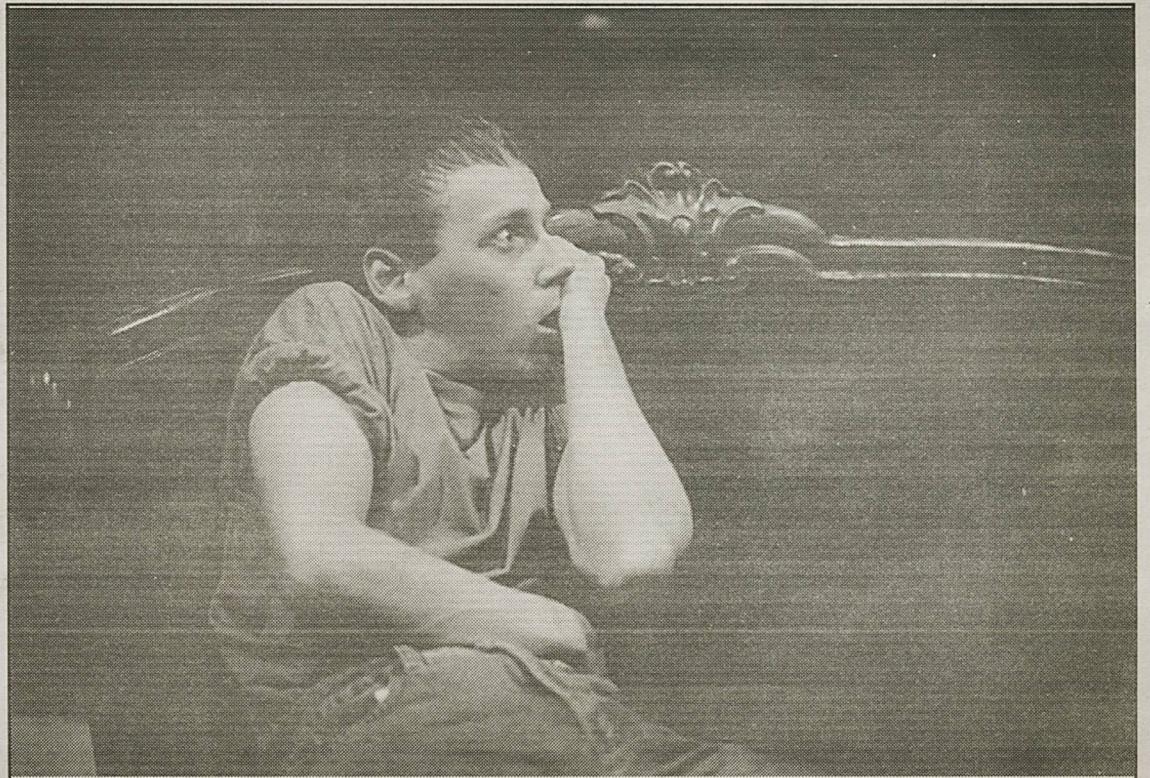
Bush Theatre

The *Present* by Nick Ward is set in Australia just after John Lennon's death in 1980. Lennon's music punctuates the action throughout and the set is evocative of the Aussie outback, even to the extent that sand is strewn across the stage at the end! Nietzsche's theory of eternal returns also features which for all non-philosophers is the idea that the most important moments of your life return to you an infinite number of times.

The play had me glued to my seat yet totally confused, a paradox which can only be explained by Nick Ward's skill at creating strange and intriguing characters. There are four of them – Danny, a

naive and nervous eighteen year old who has dreams of rape and murder, Michael, a charlatan who runs a scam selling fake paintings to unsuspecting tourists; Becky, the woman who introduced Danny to sex at the tender age of fourteen and who is now an artist producing works such as "Unconnected telephone with leaves"; and finally Libby, Becky's bisexual flatmate who constantly suffers from PMT and is more unpredictable than the British weather. She swings from being openly confrontational to reshaping Danny's ear with a carving knife.

The interaction of these four is gripping and the credit for this lies with the acting which is first rate throughout. Most fascinating was Michael's love of nude yoga and in a scene which I thoroughly enjoyed he demonstrated this and walked around the stage starkers for at least ten minutes – excellent! So far most



Ewen Bremner

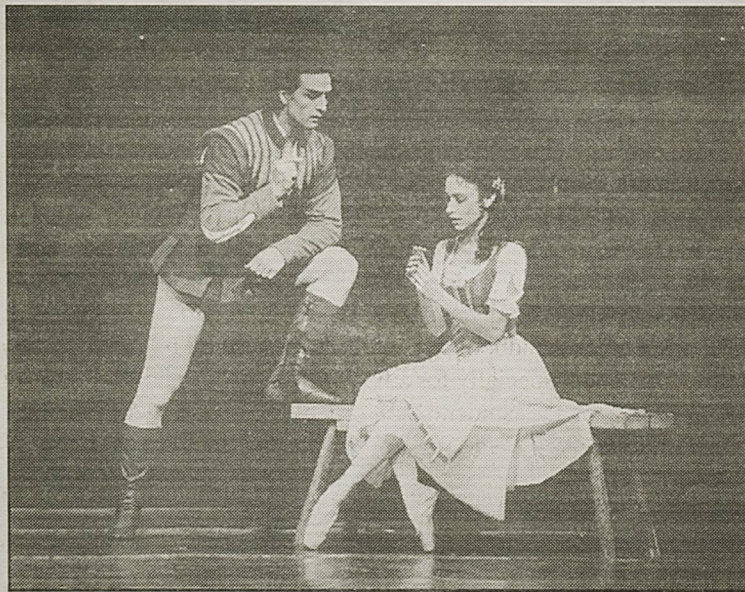
Photo: Mark Douet

of the plays I have seen have had nude scenes and my boyfriend is now rather suspicious of my journalistic intentions.

The main difficulty I had with this play was its lack of clarity –

at the end you have no better understanding of Nietzsche, Lennon, love, life or the universe than you did at the beginning. At first I felt stupid for having missed the whole point of the play but

then looking around at the rest of the audience, I realised I was not alone. I do recommend this play but with the warning that its more confusing than an economics textbook.



Irek Mukhamedov and Viviana Durante

Ballet shoes

Love on a different plane.

Wai Piu Wong reviews

Giselle

The Royal Opera House

Given the choice between a night out at the ballet, or a few pints of lager and a bag of salt and vinegar crisps, I have to admit that I'd rarely opt to watch dance. However, a pair of free tickets proved hard to resist, so last Tuesday night was spent at the Royal Opera House watching *Giselle*, the Royal Ballet's latest production.

Set in medieval Germany, the dance is a moralistic tale about how emotions such as love can transcend death. *Giselle* is a

young peasant girl who is forced to kill herself upon realising that she has been deceived by her lover Albrecht. Although remorseful, he is condemned to death by ghostly spirits, and only *Giselle*'s everlasting love for him can save him from this fate.

The fairy tale storyline is accompanied by dancing that cannot be described as anything short of excellent. Both lead dancers give emotional performances and indulge in pirouettes, leaps and – excruciatingly painful – balances that are beautiful to watch. Add a competent accompanying cast, well designed sets and costumes, enchanting music and the result is a performance that is both technically brilliant, and a pleasure to watch.

Three's company

Jessica Chaffin on a love triangle

Design For Living

Design *For Living* is Noel Coward's unconventional comedy of love and manners, sexuality, instinct and rationale. Director Sean Mathias' vision of this play, which centres on a menage-a-trois between old friends, is one that brings the bisexual subtext to the forefront.

The production, which played to great acclaim at the Donmar Warehouse last fall, has undergone major re-casting in its transfer to the West End. Rupert Graves, Merchant-Ivory golden boy extraordinaire, replaces Clive Owen as the impulsive and passionate Otto who simmers with humour, irreverence, and sexuality. Marcus D'Amico seems slightly less confident as the cool and waspish Leo, a role which Paul Rhys seemed to have perfected, though he shines in comic moments. The setting of the production is one which brilliantly spans 20th century chic – from

Bohemian Beat Paris of the early 60s, to trendy London of the late 60s, and finally the excessive decadence of 70s New York. Although the set remains the same, the space has clearly changed, and at times the play seems too yearn for the intimacy of the Donmar.

Mathias' decision to underscore the subtext, creates a necessary imbalance in plot. Conventionally, the relationship of the three main characters, Otto, Leo, and Gilda, would seem to regard Gilda as common territory. However, this production gives much greater weight to the ability of the male leads to live quite contentedly – and completely – on their own. Gilda is a necessary complement to the triangle, but by no means the focal point of sexual drive and desire. Indeed, Mathias eschews the subtlety of the homosexual subtext, and the drunken antics of the second act end in all-out male carnal embrace. Indeed, this production hinges most strongly on the chemistry and relationship between the two men, and the seeming imbalance of the triangle is a welcome

one, as Rachel Weisz's Gilda, though she looks the part, is only slightly less annoying than in the original production.

Mathias' production does not limit itself to the sexual content of the text. The play is as much about following one's instincts, no matter how contrary to social norm, as it is about sexuality. Mathias brilliantly shows each character as society would have them, through setting and dress, and then quite literally strips them down to their essentials in order to reveal their true natures. This culminates in a final scene which is at once primal and predatory as all three give in to their needs and urges. Though the production drags a bit at first, it builds momentum, culminating in a hilariously funny third act. The most satisfying moments are invariably between Otto and Leo, though supporting character's such as Johanna Kirby's Cockney housekeeper Miss Hodge, as well as other original cast members deliver memorable comic performances. In all, an enjoyable and amusing production saturated with sexuality.

Next Week

Reviews of *Cell Mates* at the Albery, *Broken Glass* at the Duke of York's and *Indian Ink* at the Aldwych

Killing two demons with one Stone



Police brutality or what?

Photo: Warner



Hands up!

Photo: Warner

Overdue, over-hyped, and over here: NBK finally makes it to Britain after a lengthy delay. Danny Silverstone thinks it was worth waiting for

NATURAL BORN KILLERS

Director: Oliver Stone

Odeon West End, Clapham Picture House, UCI Whiteleys

N*natural Born Killers* is an extraordinary film. It's guilty of excess on all accounts and has ironically become the media event that Oliver Stone set out to satirize. It's been subjected to so much unprecedented attention including official censure and authorial disputes it is difficult to decide whether the on or off screen spectacle is of more significance. Either way *NBK* is a seminal film, which contains both grandiose successes and failures.

What distinguishes *NBK* is its visual inventiveness and po-

lemical daring in tackling the two modern demons – the media and violence. As a piece of cinema it is an unoriginal screenplay, (see *Badlands*, *True Romance*, *Kalifornia* et al) of two psycho lovers on the road but here it is transformed into a multimedia extravaganza. Stone does everything possible to hold your attention, switching constantly from cartoon to black and white to 35mm, then to projections, or super 8. Like Tarantino, Stone is a multi-media man, distracting us with clips from films (*Scarface*, *Midnight Express*, *The Wild Bunch*) and blasting us with a searing, diverse soundtrack. Immediately the tautness of Tarantino is lost but what is gained is a glimpse into the future. This media collage is the way forward and Stone's exaggerated cartoons of killers Micky

and Mallory are the most effective instance of mixed media so far.

The visual inventiveness helps disguise the obvious discrepancies between Tarantino's blase script and Stone's desire to preach. The result is that most of Tarantino's humour is lost, along with some of his direction. Stone adds successfully Mallory's nightmarish sitcom memories, but inserts embarrassingly a spiritual confrontation with an Indian (see *The Doors*) and numerous fiery explosions (see *Platoon*, Vietnam and Stone's demented psyche). As a whole the film is coherent until it runs riot along with the prisoners in the penultimate scene. However, the confusion is vindicated in an outrageous newsreel ending.

Sophisticated satire it is not, and like all Stone films only ab-

solute good versus absolute evil is on offer. The evil in *NBK* is the media, represented by hysterical tabloid talk show journalist Wayne Gale. The media, which is "capitalism run rampant" according to Stone, is run by irresponsible exploitative cynics who can convince the brain-dead youth of anything. As a description of the Daily Mail's pre-film scare stories this is pretty accurate, but original or subtle it ain't. Stone is capable of a more sustained analysis of violence, but instead opts for lame parody rather than genuine explanation. Sure the media values its ratings above its quality of content, but isn't the puzzling question, why the audience do to. In his effort to demonise the media, Stone has forgotten to include his quota of absolute good which leaves the audience identifying with the

next best thing, Mickey and Mallory. Inadvertently Stone has fallen foul of his own rhetoric. Once again serial killing has been portrayed as a valid lifestyle choice for the dispossessed. There's no mention of real victims, nor real horror. As a polemic about violence *NBK* is more confused but also much more compelling. Stone is conceited enough to throw in all his pet theories (Jung, Freud, Nietzsche) with no regard to their compatibility. Mickey opts for the survival of the fittest; Wayne Gale, the transcendence available the act of violence; the media the gun as phallus, and Stone ends the picture with a hit at us all. The overall effect is powerful. *NBK* is an unsettling indictment of the violence endemic in our society. It should escape the censor but not your viewing.

Hanging up

Gulshan Verma on a re-release

LIFT TO THE SCAFFOLD

Director: Louis Malle
Everyman

Maurice Ronet plays Julien Tavernier, a former war hero now working for an armaments manufacturer and carrying on a torrid affair with Florence Carala (Jeanne Moreau) – the wife of his employer. Urged on by her exorbitant passion, Julien carries out the "perfect" murder of Mr Carala. But he makes one single slip, has to return to the building and while in there is stuck in a lift for the night when the current is turned off.

Meanwhile two teenagers, Louis (Georges Poujouly) and Veronique (Yori Bertin) steal Julien's car and during a night stop at a motel to steal another car. They are interrupted by the

car's owners, and Louis in a blind state of panic kills them both with Julien's revolver. In the morning the clues of the gun and the car lead the police to Julien who cannot produce his alibi without admitting he also killed Carala.

Louis Malle excels in drawing great performances out of his actors (see Burt Lancaster in *Atlantic City* and Miranda Richardson in *Damage*) and this his first solo output is no different. Maurice Ronet is in superb form as the maddened lover and Jeanne Moreau gives a very creditable performance.

Technical brilliance comes in the form of cameraman Henri Decore, now identified as the chosen cameraman of the nouvelle vague with his breathtaking shots of a night-time car race along the autoroute and a first class musical accompaniment by Miles Davis.



What are you in for?

Photo: BFI

Where this film slumps is in Louis Malle's feeling that he has to give this film more significance than the simple thriller it is. This comes in the form of endless, undeveloped and incredibly annoying references to the French

colonial wars, Algeria and armament deals which I felt were both tiresome and pretentious. As was the long camera pursuit of Florence as she spends the entire night wandering about in the rain searching for her lover. Not a

good thing to do after you've just helped to murder your husband.

Lift to the Scaffold is a clever, elegant film and although the ending has an irritating Agatha Christie type neatness, it is well worth watching.

The 64,000 dollar question

Quiz Show

Director: Robert Redford

Odeon Haymarket, MGM
Chelsea, UCI Whiteleys

"Why would a guy like that want to be in a quiz show?" Good question. Charles Van Doren (Ralph Fiennes) is an intelligent, attractive university lecturer with a Masters Degree in astrophysics. He comes from one of America's most intellectual families - his father is an esteemed poet and his mother is a novelist and a magazine editor. Exactly why this man who has everything does decide to enter a quiz show is not actually explained, except for the fact that as a result of his success he becomes rich and famous.

The absence of Van Doren's original motives is the only weak point of this absolutely brilliant film and since it's based on a true story we can't quibble about these facts. *Quiz Show* is fantastic. The acting, the directing, the cinematography, the scenery were all quite wonderful.

Briefly, *Quiz Show* is about a quiz show (surprise!) and how



Flight 201, you're cleared to land

the questions are rigged in order to keep one popular contestant on and therefore raise the viewing figures as the suspense mounts. The film examines the phenomena of television and its control over an entire nation and the shattering effects of the discovery of the fraud. Attorney, Dick Goodwyn (Rob Morrow) attempted to "put television on trial" which inevitably was an impossible task as the power of the media

Nicola Hobday

was too vast. The trial becomes a media event that concentrates on names rather than issues. This theme of frustrated ambition is central to *Quiz Show*.

Herbert Steeple (John Turturro) is the geeky Jew who took a dive, allowing Van Doren to win. His dreams of stardom were dashed by the producers of

This reflected in the first scene that is interrupted with the news that the Russians have beaten the Americans in being the first into space, "something very wrong in the state of America". In this pre-Nixon era the scandal of the rigging of a quiz show was the first sign that the post-war euphoria and the American dream was hollow.

The acting was first class with Ralph Fiennes taking the lead. Although he played an evil Nazi war criminal in *Schindler's List* he adapts very well to playing the likeable (and quite fanciable) Charles. Rob Morrow is also good as a man torn between pursuing his case and wanting to protect a friend; he finds himself not knowing whether to admire Charles or whether to hold him in contempt. John Turturro played the brilliant Herbert Steeple who you found yourself both liking and hating at the same time. The funniest characters were Dan Enright and Albert Freedman, the manipulative programme producers and Jack Barry (Christopher McDonald), the egotistical presenter.

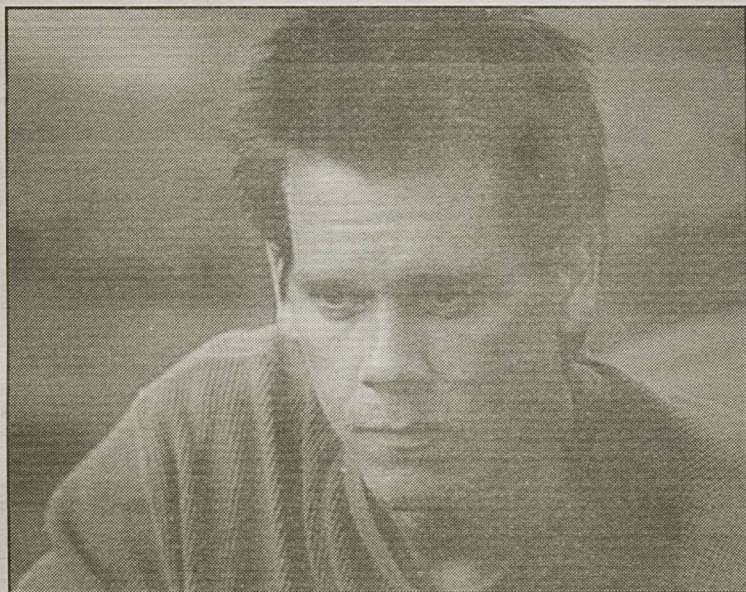
All in all the film is very funny, very well made, very thought provoking and definitely recommended.

Photo: Hollywood

the quiz show. Goodwyn was struggling to make his name as a young attorney and felt that his potential was not being fulfilled. When he got his break he only succeeded in bringing down Van Doren, whom he had befriended.

The sumptuous settings of classy fifties decor in New York provide the perfect backdrop for a tale set in an age of new technology and hope. Alongside this there is the onset of cynicism and doubt.

Wild at heart



Don't be fooled, he's a mad psychotic bank robber

Photo: UIP

Sheila Patel on the latest action movie

THE RIVER WILD

Director: Curtis Hanson

Empire, Clapham Picture House

The River Wild is set in the heart of the gushing waters. Gail (Meryl Streep) and Tom (David Strathairn) decide to take a white-water rafting vacation with their son Roarke in a final

attempt to save their deteriorating marriage. There they meet two mysterious strangers, Wade and Terry who claim to have been stranded on the river. The amicable couple decide to help them out, but this turns out to be the worse decision they have ever made.

In his earlier film *The Hand That Rocks The Cradle*, director Curtis Hanson focused on the nanny's reasons for seeking revenge on an innocent family who do not discover her web of evil

lies until the final climatic scenes. *The River Wild* does not employ this same manipulative technique. Wade's true character is immediately revealed to the family and audience when he attempts to drown Tom. Having no strong motive for selecting them to be his victims, the rest of the film is dedicated to the family's struggle for survival. Accordingly it becomes more of an action-adventure film than a typical psychotic-thriller.

The River Wild is definitely worth watching. The acting is well played, conveying the tension well. Meryl Streep plays Gail with energy, drive and confidence while David Strathairn gives a strong supporting role as her husband. Hanson used similar themes to his previous movie: the psychopathic disturbed killer with no consideration for humanity and will do anything to get what he wants, an innocent suburban family who become his victims and through suffering, come out wiser. The film is about individual power and control, and the typical battle of good over evil. Hanson knows how to capture his audience by preying on people's fear. But all in all it's predictably unpredictable and keeps you glued to your seat.

COMPETITION

The Beaver, in conjunction with Beatwax Promotions, is running another great film competition. Prizes are CD soundtracks of *Shallow Grave* and *Natural Born Killers* and a Star Trek CD single. All you have to do is answer the following question:

Which British actor was nominated for Best Actor in this year's Oscars?

Answers to the Beaver Officer (E197) by Wednesday, March 1. Please mark your entry with which prize you would prefer.



You can't win a Klingon, but enter anyway

Photo: UIP

Guilty or not guilty?

Today is the day of reckoning – or at least a good angle for an article – for the record companies. Today I put them on trial, charged with misuse of the public's money. Yes, that's right.

The story is that you give them the money they spend on finding / promoting new acts and / or old ones – so are they spending it wisely? Are you getting value for money? Let's take a look at some of the evidence put forward for both the defence and the prosecution in the form of singles that I've received over the past few weeks...

Radiohead – "High & Dry": These guys have had a lot of money – your money – pumped into their extensive press coverage, and I have to admit that it's sweet without being sickly and quite haunting of melody. The production is good, real dynamics in the song and there's a real feeling that it's going somewhere at any time. The B-side is good too but I preferred the acoustic "unplugged" version. One for the defence...

Apache Indian & Tim Dog – "Make way for the Indian": Oh dear, oh dear. I played this on "skip search" so that I wouldn't have to actually hear too much of



Some of the good guys, Radiohead

Photo: EMI

it. This is truly a crime against the State. 1-1...

deUs – "Hotel lounge (be the death of me)": The first note I have on this is "feeble"; it's non-descript to start, but once the band comes in it quickly turns to shite, which pushes the overall sound over the racket threshold. Track 2 is just weird. It's kind of interesting but that may be due to it's being recorded live and so has something of an atmosphere. It's OK here but must have been crap live: 2-1 to the prosecution...

Moist – "Silver": This shows promising signs, and has an accomplished sound to it. It's a nice song and the band parts are well

arranged. The second track is not as good but I think it could be down to a crap mix. 2 all – neck and neck stuff!...

Dead Eye Dick – "New age girl (Mary Moon)": It says in the blurb that this is featured in the film *Dumb & Dumber* and so should get some serious airplay soon – and not without justification. It's a funny single without losing purpose (or taste) and the chorus is really catchy in a Beatles/Monkees kind of way. 3-2 for the defence. Bollocks...

James Taylor Quartet – "Love will keep us together": This is what I've been waiting for. A truly excellent single but then fans



Cows, shades, but which one's Richard?

Photo: Chrysalis

of JTQ would expect nothing but their consistently good material. Slick and effortless. If you like them you'll love this! 4-2 come on guys!...

The Figgs – "Stood up": It starts like The Shadows on speed but then settles to a brilliant song in the Elvis Costello meets Squeeze mode. I'm eagerly trying to get hold of the album, so I guess that makes it 5-2. Fuck...

Solar Race (I didn't write down the title of this one): Thank heavens for a pile of shite to even up the score a bit! This really is bollocks – these people must have made it through A&R men getting pissed at their gigs and then

not playing it to anyone until it was too late for their boss to sack them. 5-3 by my count...

Orang – "Spoor" EP: I found this while searching for something else (a sick bag after the last single) and boy, do I regret it. It's sold as being "post rock", and now you know what comes post rock – puke. This EP is a selection of noises all kind of mashed together to create something like low-budget incidental music...

So there you have it. With the score at 5-4 to the shitbags at the music companies I guess they got off with it this time...but how long can it last?

MG

Simple

– but very effective.

MG

Well I guess that's why it went straight in at number one – because it's bloody good. "She's a River" is the big single that preceded the album's release and as a first track it does it's job well, as after that you're well in the mood for some good loud music. I listened to this on the tube in and I have to confess that I ignored all the dirty looks the other passengers gave me because it's just impossible to have this music on quietly.

Yeah, that's the overriding factor of this one...loud getting louder. The production is fuckin' mint, it sounds like Simple Minds only it doesn't sound like the eighties and it's well aggressive with big being the only word to describe all of the individual sounds, especially the drums which power on through every track like the guy's got a point to prove.

Everyone is saying it sounds like U2, which it does, but that doesn't do justice to the breadth of the influences that the discerning listener can, er, discern. There's allsorts (to name but one) like Billy Idol, ZZ Top, Don

Henley and lots, lots more going on – but then I guess that's because the songwriting is quite direct and the style is fuck off guitar and rock 'n' roll vocals – which – by the way, are also excellent-sounding, very fresh and one take-like. The overall sound is also not without it's familiarity, the drums in particular having a Yes-ish, Trevor Horn quality to them in their crispness and lovely clean attack.

It's fair to say that there are moments when perhaps more than the two writers inspiration is needed as cul-de-sacs crop up from time to time but the sheer power of the arrangements more than make up for this and give the whole thing a consistency to be admired.

I was beginning to worry about my taste in music. It's been so long since I heard something that took me somewhere else that I want to go that I was starting to think, well, maybe I am getting too old for it all and should give it up. But this album has been and gone and done it: darn, if I'd heard some of this I might even have paid money for it. Shocked? Not as much as me.

Go for your gun!

Nothing of the sort. MG

I've been a while getting round to review this, since I wanted to make sure I knew it well enough and had given it a enough of a chance to grow on me. Which it did.

It all started with a mailout concerning a big promo tour that was being sponsored by Vauxhall Motors (that's big), the performers being stars already in America of one of the most popular and lucrative styles of music both here and there: Country and Western. Yes, that's right, rootin' tootin' shootin' bootin' C 'n' W. Unfortunately whenever I think of it I hear the lyrics of a particularly cutting Frank Zappa track called "Truck Driver Divorce" and from that point on I just can't take it seriously (if you know it you'll know why).

This CD in particular is an offering from a young lady by the name of Trisha Yearwood, who apparently is as big as Emmylou Harris in the States – who is so big even I've heard of her. Our Trisha's a singer, and I guess it's obvious that she's going to have a lovely voice when you think that she's famous despite the fact that she doesn't write songs, and so



Cindy-esque Trisha sings too

Photo: Library

has only her voice to offer.

It's good stuff. The sound is crystal clear, her voice is beautiful and the songs are all good, although I have to admit my fave is a classic Eagles cover, "New kid in town." The other – dare I say it – original material is very nice to listen to, especially as bubblegum when you're tired and shagged out. The big nobs who decide such things are not just flogging a re-packaged product here; instead they've cleverly narrowed the scope of the material down so that each particular artist has their own style and if you like it then you like them. In this case that style is the ballad, and this could just as well be a themed compilation album as the serious

effort that it is.

But there is a problem in that it's all so relaxed that the songs just don't feel like they've gone anywhere. There's no tension and thus no release when the tracks finish and so you feel like, where did it go? Kind of like a bath really. You feel better afterwards, but you can't put your finger on when or why it happened.

My mum and dad liked this CD much more than I but I guess that was going to be the case from the start. For those into country or easy listening I thoroughly recommend this and I should imagine it won't be long at all until you start checking out the New American Music section at the record shops.

Seconds win the double

- Header

It was crunch time last Wednesday for the Seconds as they faced judgment day to pay the price for the indifferent league form that has taken the shine off two glorious cup runs. With the dark shadow of relegation looming precariously, a crucial double-header against the under-rated bottom side Kings College Hospital gave a glimmer of hope of survival to the darlings of LSE.

The initial omens, however, were not looking good as star centre-backs Nic Jones and Graham Walker were absent once again abducted by aliens from the planet bed. Fortunately Goals Cooper had scoured the lower teams for more than capable replacements in the shape of Angus Kinnear, Henrik Goebbels and Dierk Pagenstert, and so the lads were quietly confident of picking up the four points. Both games were marred by the blustery conditions to the extent that even our fluid "total football" was marred by the gale-force winds. In game one the first half was goalless but the initial breakthrough came soon after when a beautiful move culminated in Stevie Quick converting Kinnear's low cross. Unfortunately, they equalized straight away after a defensive

mix-up at a corner (it wasn't my fault much) and the pressure was on. When the chips are down, Rainbow Nelson is usually the first to feel it and once again he limped off with a backbone injury. The loss of the inspirational and always-complimentary midfielder seemed to inspire those braver souls onto a new level, and an unlikely victory was sealed minutes from time when Henrik's long range effort exploded into the top corner. Well that's what he said, even though eye-witnesses claimed it went through the keeper's hands and into the middle of the net.

With the first game won, the weary ten were joined by our errant substitute who had gone off to referee a game of hockey. The man in question was rugby player Nick Stanjevic, whose previous claim to fame was to continue getting off with a girl on Friday night while she was chucking up on him. This kind of class fits well into the Seconds so he joined Kinnear in attack, while Ludford-Thomas reverted to midfield. We took an early lead when Cooper's delightful through ball was put away in style by Kinnear, but more adversity was to follow when Paul Drew went down injured.

Barely able to walk, he was defeated by a long-range shot the sort which never used to beat him when he was fully fit. Once again the outlook was bleak, but a gritty performance with the wind in our faces turned the game back our way.

On a rapid counter-attack, Steve Quick burst through and tangled with the keeper. The ball rolled out to Kinnear who slotted home calmly. Soon after he completed his tenth hat-trick of a remarkable LSE career when once again he slotted home a cross from Chris Cooper. 3-1 at half-time, the second half was a stroll. They tried hard but the defence, with Danny Fielding outstanding at centre-back, stood firm. The scoring was completed when Big Dierk's shit shot dribbled past their keeper, apologising on the way in. Stanjevic almost scored on his debut but could only hit the post from four yards out with no-one near him.

So the Seconds took all four points which now puts them safe for the moment from relegation. It's Brighton away next Monday in the regional semi-finals and then UC Seconds on the 5th in the ULU semi-finals. Can the cup double be done? Wait and see.

Busy Beaver

Salve Caecilius, meus bonus amicus. Metella in hortum sedet. Well, well, well. What a week it's been in the corridors of power in Houghton Street. Following on from last week, it appears that our girl guide has earned her badge in man-eating, as well as supergrassing, so her partner in crime Sausage Snogbone says. After many good performances for the seconds, she has finally gained a worthy promotion to the firsts in the shape of Arne. Obviously, it was a poor showing, because by Friday at the Rag Ball, she was back in the seconds with Cheesey Prick, as well as taking a spin on DJ Jules' turntable. While some men were fighting over her affections, others chose to fight with each other, as Porno and Galliwank demonstrated a new form of head-banging on the dance floor. There were certainly some delightful dresses on show, particularly the tartan skirts worn by Chris Garry Glitter and Jim McBungalow. Garry Glitter was offering all a chance to check what he had on underneath, but there were no female takers. Don't suppose that worries him too much though.

For those unable to stump up with the money for the ball, it was a quiet night in The Tuns. There was the usual bouts of chundering and snogging, but it's very rare to see the two happening at the same time. Obviously not for popular fresher Sick Stillsnoggedhervic, who shared some already digested juices with a very pissed girl. She must have been.

Onto the weekend it was time for the Passfield Posse to take a trip down to Amsterdam. With plenty of pissed and stoned people, it was inevitable that someone would leave something behind, and it was birthday boy Prosnoi who did, losing his cherry to a very pretty girl for the bargain price of £20 whipround from his "friends". This noble gift presented ethical problems for many, with most saying that they could never do it. Shag Pron that is. Ever-popular fresher Ian Vollbracht was able to take the most hash apparently, and can probably drink anyone under the table as well. No doubt he's got a stunning bird back home too, but the evidence presented in his time here indicates otherwise. What a bell-end.

Another Saturday birthday boy was Rimmer Sleaze, who celebrated his 21st in style with a trip down to Hollywoods in Romford, Essex, where he seems to come from. He doesn't need to go to prostitutes though for his kicks, preferring to get them from size tens to his head outside pubs.

Hot news is also breaking concerning the latest student to accept the "Rosebery Challenge". The man in question is Gerard Hairshit, who has been seen by my spies in the morning leaving the room of President Pristine Lover. Obviously another one of her votes. Wednesday night saw a trip to Ronnie Scott's for a bit of Starsky and Hutch. One man to get his Starsky into a Hutch was Andreja Popov, who pulled a sixteen year-old with the Serbian charm that he's renowned for. He could have got himself some "twot" but instead chose to follow his instincts and have a fight with a bouncer. The premature ejection (that's not a reference to Pron by the way) put a stop to some blossoming relationships, including Julie Hacksaw, who discovered that the price was right and is making plans for Nigel, and Ceri Hopes-so, who wouldn't mind giving a soapy tit-wank to Cory's horse, apparently.

LSE raise the Titanic

Think of sailing and the LSE is probably the last place which comes to your mind. This is soon going to change. The LSE will be taking part in an international university sailing regatta to be held in Martinique, French West Indies (no sacrifice is big enough for these intrepid economists). The challenge, called the Trophee des Caraibes ESC Rouen, runs



from the 3-12 March 95 and consists of a series of races around the island of Martinique. The team has entered into a partnership with UC Consult Inc., a Monaco based multi-functional consulting group, in order to raise the necessary funding. A company representative who will be present to oversee the promotional campaign commented: "We were attracted to sponsor the LSE Yacht Club because of the international and professional nature of the School and the Club."

It has not been all plain sailing for the club. The LSE Yacht Club was formed last year and immediately hit rough water when funding was refused by the Athletics Union. The club's original ambition had been to train and enable a large number of students to participate in what is wrongly regarded as an elitist sport in the UK. French students, by contrast, have for a long time enjoyed the interest in and fund-

ing of facilities by their universities and the French business community. Denied the funds for a broad base, the club instead had to target a smaller number of interested individuals to keep it's head above water. Thus it is that the LSE, lone defender of Her Majesty's power at sea, is taking on 9 teams of republican Frenchmen. Even Nelson would have hesitated at such daunting odds.

Maybe this is also the reason why the club had to look for support abroad to find a kindred spirit in projecting a young and dynamic image in UCC Inc, who will be supporting the whole series of races in Martinique.

The club is currently negotiating with Essex University to share some of their facilities. With this potential alliance it is hoped that the original goal of training interested students can finally be pursued.

The crew - six of LSE's finest - have already gone for a practice day to Port Solent near the Isle of Wight, forming team spirit, bonding and developing tactics. Owen Jennings, one of the founder members, is confident: "We will continue the long British tradition of beating the French at sea..."

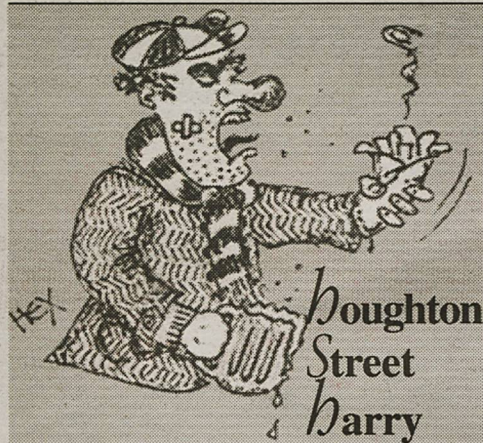
Watch this space for the biggest naval victory since Admiral Drake.

Trees scores own goal Fat Shields is fat for Fifths

The Firsts grinded out a draw at that major sporting institution of Royal Free. Jimmy 'Let Loose' Trees scored his first goal in open play but unfortunately it was an own goal, just like all his birds. The goal scoring machine Angus Kinnear scored another top-draw goal for his video collection, the second coming from the regular linesman with a simple tap in.

The Fourths continued their push for the title with yet another victory, this time against Andre's thikko mates from QMW, 3-0. The highlight of the game came in the dying seconds when Captain Scouse hit a dipping, curling free-kick, with power, from fully 25 yards which left the keeper motionless but crashed against the bar. The onlooking scout from Liverpool Football Club left with a star dossier on the Alan Hansen-like star centre-half and one of the shittiest, fat, no teeth keepers he had ever seen, Alex 'The Sweat' Macleisch.

Just to fill in a few lines I'll tell you that the Fifths won even though they had a fat long-haired Chelsea wanker (who actually comes from Scarborough where his Mum and Dad run a warehouse) trying to play for them. Chris Tattersall said, "He was shit beyond belief and he stunk."



So Eastenders is ten years old. Eastenders, the show which provides a deep insight into gritty urban life, grasping important issues by the throat and tackling them with harsh realism. My arse. If Eastenders is real, then the moon's made of cheese. Now I live in quite a busy area of a big town, yet I never see murders, suicides or affairs every week. Maybe someone might kick our bin over, or an errant motorist may knock a "keep left" bollard over, but that's about it. My local launderette is not the local meeting place for gossip, staffed by cheery women who have seen it all. Instead it's a place for taking dirty washing to get it cleaned by a mardy old hags.

Looking at it now, it's even more unbelievable than ever. Just look at the Ricky-Bianca-Natalie shag triangle. I know Natalie's no oil painting, but she's a supermodel when compared to that lanky, freckled, ginger slag. It must be really unlucky not only do you get ginger hair, but freckles as well, not one or the other. And you can't go out in the sun.

The thing about Bianca is that whenever she appears in a magazine or paper, she always gets described as "stunning". I'm sorry, but she's not stunning; she is a pig.

Another real-life issue that captivated the nation was the Grant-Sharon-Phil affair. Once again, I'd be surprised if there was one man anywhere who wanted to do Sharon, let alone two brothers. It certainly is an interesting situation to put yourself in. I for one would never shag my brother's girlfriend, but I suppose that's only because she mings beyond belief.

That definitely is the most noticeable characteristic about Eastenders, that there have never been any nice women in it. Look at other soaps and there's plenty to choose from, even one in Brookside, but in Albert Square they're all very grim. Some people think Daniella Westbrook is nice but I wouldn't touch her with mine after that wanker from East 17 has been near her. Kathy might give good blow-jobs on slip-roads but she'd be too much like your mum (I wish she was). I used to fancy Pauline when she was in "Are You Being Served" but we all make mistakes.

Eastenders is also really good in the way it portrays higher education. When I got accepted to the LSE I felt quite proud at my achievement, but now I know that it is nothing to boast about. Instead I should have got up the duff from the local publican, married some geeky bloke with glasses, such as Scouse, and then gone onto college at East London Poly to get a third-class degree. Pauline and Arfur might have been delighted, but I wonder what my Mum would say if I came home with that. And she shags her lecturer. That just wouldn't happen here because most LSE lecturers look disgusting, have trouble with speech and drink heavily, especially in the Economics department, but if they did want to sleep with one of their students, it would be the rich and attractive Euro-sloane, or the rugby team shag, rather than some spotty, dog-faced moose. Dirty Den had a bit of style about him, and I don't know why he went with her. And if Eastenders is realistic, why didn't Den shoot some taxi-driver dead then? Sorted.

Wilkinson scores

Saturday February 18. This day will live in the memory of all those who witnessed it. In years to come, just like the day Kennedy was assassinated, or the day Alex Lowen got his first shag (at Hombres at the start of this term), everyone will remember what they were doing at the time. No, Dave Whippe hasn't pulled, but something just as far-fetched and incredible occurred on the leafy fields of New Malden. **HOWARD WILKINSON SCORED A GOAL.** Everything else that happened on this amazing day seems distant in comparison, but I'll start from the beginning anyway.

This match against QMW was a double-header - that's two one-hour games for all

turned up at 3.15pm. Therefore Captain Lowen sportingly claimed the points from the first game and we lined up for the second hour, not knowing the crazy events that were to follow. Within the opening minutes, after two goal-line clearances from Goals Cooper, Howard's inch-perfect through ball was met by Francis Matthews who slotted home from twelve yards. It was lucky for Matthews that the game did start late because one hour earlier the sun was out and he wouldn't have been able to play because, as a ginger, he will go all red and blotchy.

One-nil at half-time, then it happened.

Howard burst down the right flank, just as he bursts out of his £9.99 jeans and shit T-shirts because he's so fat. He didn't look up, he didn't mean to shoot. It was a cross but their keeper was fatter and shitter than ours, and so it went in. Howard celebrated with a run across the length of the pitch, shouting "Go on you fucker."

He wasn't referring to Andreja though. QMW pulled one back quickly after another Lowen blunder, but LSE regained the two-goal advantage when supersub Takis LargeDonerNoChillikis scored with his first touch, after another fine pass from Wilkinson. Once again, however, QMW got back into the game when Dave Whippe sliced hopelessly into his own net. He really is very, very shit.

With minutes to go, the pressure was on and the Thirds looked like crumbling under the pressure, but fortunately Second Team star Chris Cooper remained calm, robbing their centre-back and then chipping their



Wilkinson, back row, third from left, is shit

ex-schoolboy international keeper with consummate ease. What a goal. They took the 4-2 defeat really well, especially when we rubbed it in a bit. It looks like the Thirds have the title in the bag now, but it wasn't all smiles in the changing room as we got robbed. One of their players had a leather jacket stolen (what a fucking shame), Cooper lost £20, Popov had his cigarettes taken. It wasn't all bad news though. Scouse had his jeans stolen and I'd have paid £20 for that to happen.

The police came and said it was a terrible thing to happen. We thought they meant the burglary, but apparently they were talking about Howard's goal. At the end of the day, Miguel summed up everyone's feelings and emotions, saying, "What a jammy, fat, Geordie, permhead bifta." And so say all of us.



"Safe Hands" Lowen lets nothing go through you girls. This meant kick-off had to be at 1.45pm. Unfortunately, QMW is not renowned for its academic excellence, instead choosing to specialise in domestic science (cooking). They even gave Andre Granditsch the "deacon scoper" scholarship which he turned down to come here because he couldn't get the letter open. Even allowing for them being thick as pigshit, this did not fully explain why they

Ping-pong ding-dong sing-song

The LSE finally proved that they're not shite at every sport. In the BUSA singles tournament the LSE's mens team all performed well. Paras Dodhia was unlucky to lose in the group stage. Stephen Groves reached the last 32, Eiko Thieleman the last 16 and Tzahi Frum, improving as the tournament progressed, finished with Bronze for the Mens Singles. The womens team fought admirably, but Joy Wangoli and Alimut Groaver lost to strong players in their group. Irene Wong was the best performer, reaching the third round.

The Mens doubles proved to be the best event for the LSE. Groves and Frum lost in round two, but Thieleman and Hua played superbly to win the entire event and take home the Gold Medal. They came back from one set down to win 27-25 in the final set. The mixed doubles were less successful and in spite of several fine performances, particularly Frum and Groaver taking the eventual champions to deuce, no medals were won. The tournament confirmed LSE are as strong as any University and the Men's team in particular must have a real chance of winning the team event this year.

AU ELECTIONS

With the closing of nominations for the AU Executive, three positions have been elected unopposed.

They are:

- President - Chris Cooper
- Treasurer - Simon Gardiner
- General Secretary - Femi Adewale

The other three positions are to be decided in the elections on Wednesday, March 8 in the top floor of the Cafe from 9 am until 5 pm.

The runners and riders are as follows:

Vice-President

- Alison Summerfield
- Nick Stanjevic

Assistant Treasurer

- Karen Lie
- Nick Hindle
- Nick Harper

Assistant General Secretary

- Alex Lowen
- James Verdier