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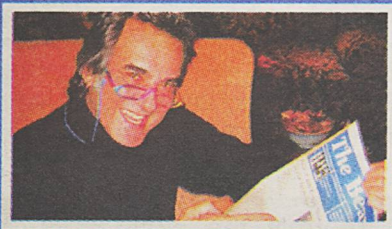
# The Beaver

The Newspaper of the LSE SU

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Issue number 559



David Dickinson is still in BeaverSports! Pages 21-24

The latest film reviews (and, er... War Games) Page 21



Your Free Weekly Guide to LSE Life - Freshers' Week Special

## University Lift-Off!

Candice MacDonald

Ahhh, Michaelmas term comes around again... lascivious third years on the prowl, slack jaws hanging open at the prospect of fresh, fecund, frisky first years (at least if you're anything like my housemates).

The time for pants and socks, unwashed for three terms, to be given a quick spin in the washing machine in the hope of them being ripped off by something else than a rather vicious rugby tackle. The time for bikini lines to be waxed, eyebrows plucked, legs shaved and other painful hair removal treatments to be implemented for the first time since that dodgy two weeks in Shagaluf where you ate something that didn't agree with you, and caught something you wished you hadn't.

No doubt meeting these miscreants will be an experience for you Freshers. Crush will no doubt be one of your first encounters with this alien species who are all too willing to ravish you, conscious or not. But fear not! The lights are low, the music's high, the drinks are cheap...and no one will be any the wiser in the morning...particularly you.

I urge you, make the most of Freshers Fortnight. For most of the year LSE is an arid desert in the middle of high summer with a hosepipe ban when it comes to

saucy shenanigans. If you should manage to create a wave (more than likely a tidal wave in the small pool that is LSE gossip) the world, his wife, his wife's mother, his illegitimate child with a Filipino love slave and her pet gerbil will know about it. But don't worry, most people do it - you just probably haven't heard about their misdemeanours yet.

Over the next few weeks you might like to discover the fabulous Lionel Ritchie building (a.k.a the library) in order to complete the tasks assigned to you by your bitch-troll-from-hell teacher, or you might prefer to discover the Tuns for a puke-fest, alcohol-fuelled, death-to-your-liver amnesiac binge in order to erase all memory of said work. This is my preferred method.

By the end of the year you will no doubt be attending rehab at the Health Centre for Pro Plus abuse and Alka Seltzer addiction, jaundiced due to your non-functioning liver and in immense, excruciating pain from the infection caused by the removal and sale of your kidneys on the black market in order to supplement your loan. On the bright side, you might have passed your exams, you're no longer a Freshers, you'll be an experienced Crush-whore ready to start preying on next year's batch of pure, playful and eminently pullable talent, ready to start the cycle of abuse to body and mind once again....



No room at the inn - High Holborn is full, and there's a rather large waiting list

## A New Year, A New Accommodation Crisis

Iain Bundred

Almost two thousand students face a homeless freshers week due to the over-subscription of halls places, according to the latest accommodation waiting lists.

Since the administration guarantees first-year undergrads places in halls, continuing students together with postgrads face a time-consuming

search for private accommodation.

And so, during a period when a student's major priority should be to find their way to the library or find their way to the Tuns, over 25% of the student body will be scouring the city simply to find their own address.

The year-on-year increase in students at LSE has led to waiting lists more than 50% higher than the last academic session, which

the Students' Union is deeply concerned about.

Education and Welfare Sabbatical, Priya Parkash, said: "Hundreds of students have come to me with accommodation problems - this is the most serious problem I have faced in office.

I've done flat-hunting myself and I found it very hard even though I've lived in London all my life!

Continued on page 2

# Passfield Stays Open, LSE Wants New Hall too

Continued from page 1

I understand the school's problem - they've got no money to provide extra places - but I worry that they might not be doing enough to help those students not accommodated. With student numbers rising across London, the usual resources are being stretched."

The accommodation office had been expecting a crisis for the start of term because of the plans to close Passfield Hall for refurbishment. That plan, however, was aborted due to a mix up by LSE Residences.

Yet, even with all halls up and running, there has been a demand for places like never before.

"This is the worst I have ever seen it," the head of the accommodation office, Paul Trivett, said. Mr Trivett, who has been at the LSE since 1990, was under siege when I visited him. "With almost 2000 students still on the waiting lists, we've got a lot to do."

The enormity of the problem will hit postgraduates hardest, with the LSE unable to accommodate 60% of them.

The lack of hall places could cause serious problems for those new to London, especially students from overseas, said Priya.

"It's a huge additional stress added to settling in to London

and LSE. That's why I think it's right that the school give priority to first years - but so many postgrads face exactly the same problems."

Some postgrads even face the daunting prospect of having to sit exams whilst flat-hunting. A MSc in Finance and Economics is just one such course - where students must make a 60% pass rate in order to be part of the new year's study.

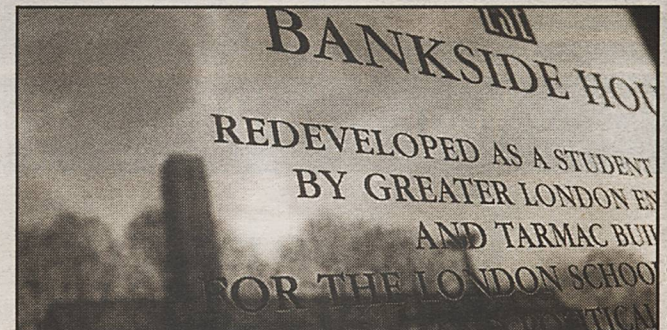
"There should be a greater support network for students, especially postgrads new to the city, who are looking for private accommodation - someone to facilitate the process," Priya said.

The one saving grace may be the recent increase in private sector properties - which has meant students are finding it easier to negotiate rents, according to a spokesperson for the SU Advice Centre.

At the same time, the school is looking to buy new residences - currently a new site at Aldgate has been identified

and plans are afoot for it to open in 2004 - which should alleviate the yearly crisis from then on.

But with the year-long refurbishment at Passfield scheduled to finally take place next year, the problem will only get worse before it gets better.



Pic: LSE

## New Library Plaza

Claire Loescher

Walking out of the library earlier this week I couldn't help but notice the grimacing faces of a couple of librarians who had exited the new library to find themselves in yet another construction site. One looked at the other and exclaimed: "More work's being done? What's all this for anyway?" The area outside the library is being transformed into what will be known as the John Watkins Plaza. So what can we all expect from this on its completion in March 2003?

John Watkins, a much-loved former professor of philosophy at the LSE proposed that this area become a "meeting point for the campus". LSE is renowned for its complex and intricate, busy campus in the centre of one of the biggest cities in the world. LSE has few places to gather and relax; everywhere is a place of transit and bustle. It is hoped that the plaza will "promote social interaction" and become a "destination in its

own right". There will be a café and seating for up to 40 within a covered area that will be heated in the winter and lighted in the evenings. It seems that considerable time and energies have gone into the planning of the aesthetic value and appeal of the plaza. There are plans for multi-coloured lights, artwork and greenery. It is hoped that the area will bring the spaces around it together- the modern library and the older very varied buildings- to create a "distinct coherent image".

Is this what LSE needs? The plaza will cost just over one million pounds and take seven months to complete. Responses from students were mixed. Many agreed however that social spaces are in short supply around the school. A number also specified that this space should be comfortable, with soft furnishings and newspapers- perhaps an alternative to Starbucks - a place to hang out where a coffee doesn't cost £2.50!



At least looking at diggers is more exciting than boring tarmac

Pic: Claire Loescher

## Student Tutoring Returns

**Laura Hales, the Student Tutoring Coordinator introduces us to the Scheme...**

October sees the return of the long standing Student Tutoring scheme. Sponsored by BP, the scheme has previously attracted around 180 motivated LSE students who give their time to primary and secondary schools in order to help teachers and pupils in the classroom. In the past students have tutored in a wide variety of subjects as well as helping out with lunch time or after school activities. In addition, many students have been able to offer their specialist skills, such as a home language, much to the appreciation of both students and teachers. But more important than specialist skills is the ability of student tutors to provide an extra pair of hands and to act as a role model, demonstrating the potential rewards of continuing education beyond 16.

### Benefits

The benefits of the scheme work both ways. Previous student tutors have reported how much they valued the opportunity to learn new skills, with a student on last year's scheme reporting that

'I learned many different things such as how to present myself and talk to a large group, how to form bonds with individuals, and how to work in such a multi-racial environment.'

In addition to such positive benefits, many students report that their experience in schools provided them with a fun and often extremely entertaining diversion from their usual LSE routine. A third year student who participated in the scheme last year said that

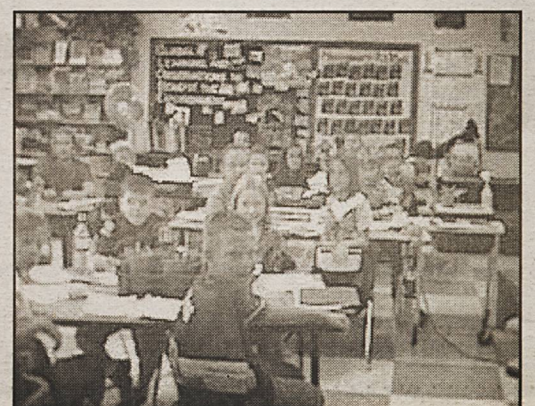
'the kids were incredibly funny - full of phrases they didn't understand, like one boy saying he wanted to be a lap dancer when he is older.'

### Who is it for?

The scheme is open to all students who are able and willing to commit to about half a day a week (you will be able to negotiate the exact times with the school) for a minimum of 10 weeks. Travel expenses will be paid and all that is needed is an open mind and a commitment to raising the educational aspirations of young people.

This year, I will be taking over the running of the scheme. As a former student at LSE I tutored during my second year and greatly valued the opportunity to actually get out and do something worthwhile in the community. I'm delighted to be back and taking responsibility for Student Tutoring and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at our introductory meetings. Meetings will take place on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th October from 1.15pm until 1.45pm in the New Theatre (E171) Attending a meeting will not commit you to taking part.

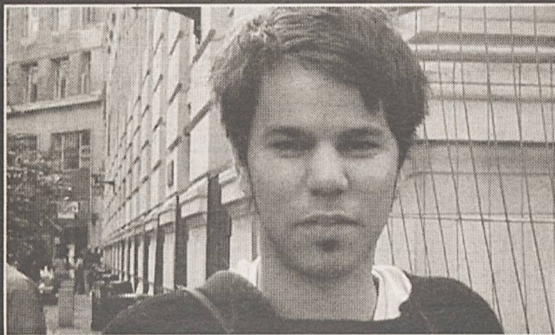
If you can't make a meeting contact me, Laura Hales by either popping round to A137, or e-mailing me at [l.hales@lse.ac.uk](mailto:l.hales@lse.ac.uk)



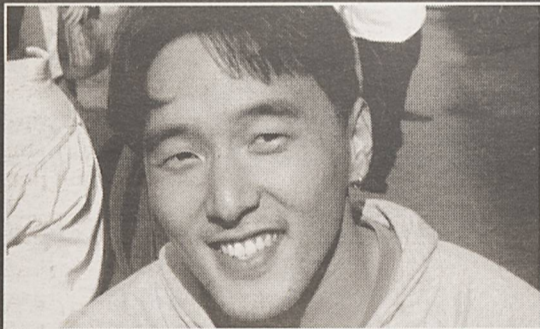
## Houghton Street's views on the Clare Market building work



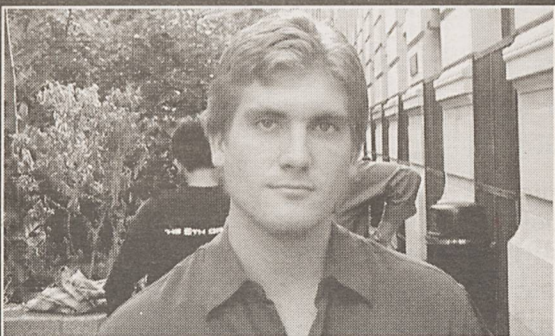
'It doesn't really matter to me - we've only just arrived. I don't know what buildings it obstructs though - I'll probably read this in a week and be really annoyed.'



'I don't mind - it doesn't really strike me as really important, and it has to be done. They are going to finish it sometime, right?'



'It has to be done sometime.'



'It hasn't been an inconvenience to me so far - they haven't blocked too much off at once. It looks like hell now, but I'm sure it'll be done soon.'

# Have You Felt Your PuLSE Yet?

Ever thought about getting involved in radio? Think you could do a better job than Chris Moyles? You may whinge that there's never anything you're into on the radio. Well here's your chance to do something about it!

Located adjacent to the Beaver office and within crawling distance of the Tuns, PuLSE is the official station of the LSE Student's Union. It is run by students for students. Our aim as a Student Union society is to give students at LSE the chance to learn how a real radio station works.

For the last four years, we have been broadcasting to the world over the internet, and to the Union in the Quad. We have also completed two prestigious FM licenses, where Greater London hears our dulcet tones. We average over half a million listeners a year, and that's just on the internet!

Renowned for the attractive management team, empty pint glasses littering the office and late night frolics on the sofa, PuLSE is a taste of real student life.

If you've come to London looking to have a laugh, or if you're more serious about a career in the media, then PuLSE is the place for you. The types of roles on offer are exactly those you would find in a professional radio station, from marketing and PR to the gobby drive time DJ. For our DJ's there are the PuLSE awards, which are new this year. The very best DJ's get a chance to enter the Radio1 awards - the pinnacle of student radio, and a great party too! We're after cutting edge music and innovative speech based shows to fill our schedule with. Think you can do better than Paxman, Westwood and Fontaine? Why not have a go?!

Being at the LSE gives great access to a number of people. If you fancy interviewing the likes of Tony Benn, Ann Widdecombe or Lloyd Grossman, we can arrange it for you.

There's a news team for sport and campus news, so the LSE keeps up to date with what's going on. If you're not a news hound, then you can get involved in drama. If presenting isn't for you, PuLSE has a large variety of behind the scenes teams. Fancy helping decide what music is played on air? Then maybe the music team is for you? A world of listening pleasure awaits you. You get to review all the CD's sent to the station (All the new release's, often months before they hit the shops). We have an ever expanding record collection and possibly the largest MP3 database on student radio. And remember we get offered loads of interviews, VIP gig and club tickets each week!

In the heart of the station there resides all sorts of computers, plugs and cables. The technical whizzkids keep our station running, and fix it when it breaks. The website is also a very important part of what PuLSE does. We're looking to completely overhaul the site, and need a HTML god to help us!

On the business side of the station, we're after marketing and promotions people. Aside from designing catchy posters, if you throw a good party, then PuLSE wants you. You get to organise events to promote the station and entertain the listeners, and organise the infamously hedonistic PuLSE parties. Sponsorship is a crucial part of the station. This buys our computer upgrades and new microphones. There's also the competitions manager. You get our free lager, computer games, CD's, tickets, and holidays (hmmm).

PuLSE is one of the largest non - academic and non sporting societies on campus, and a great way of meeting people. There's a great atmosphere within the station and you can put in as much or as little time as you want. Membership is open to anyone at LSE and unlike other societies, doesn't cost you one penny. Just come and see us at Fresher's Fair in the Quad; we'll answer any questions you've got. We'll be running competitions, giving things away, and maybe even letting you have a go with the microphone! PuLSE will satisfy all your radio desires, and more!



## Union Jack

Jack enjoys the weekly arena where Jacks and CV enthusiasts inflate their egos by arguing about weighty world issues such as whether or not the LSE should ban loiterers from Houghton Street, and where sabbs and the exec get up on stage each week to sing 'Eternal Flame' in their endless search for those all important votes. Jack does feel, however, that those new to the LSE would be better able to appreciate the UGM if they were to have some introduction to the main players, and hence has generously decided to rouse himself from his holiday torpor to attempt to do so.

The LSE's four Sabbatical Officers this year come in the shape of Jimmy 'Mullet' Baker (Entertainments), who is infamous for his taste in socks and love of all things cheesy; Peachy Peter Bellendi, a tried and tested hack who has worked his way up the ranks, taking the safe option of running for Treasurer last year (Jack thinks it had something to do with the couch and fridge in the Treasurer's Office); Priya Parkesh is the nice, friendly Ed and Welfare Officer; and finally Tuuli Koussa is the staid and serious General Secretary (Jack doesn't expect this sobriety to last much beyond Freshers' Fortnight though).

The rest of the Executive Committee comes in varying sizes. Elfin Rowan Harvey is Women's Officer, and Jack is sure she will continue her fight for equal opportunities for all with as much determination and success as last year, and wishes her luck with both this and her quest to restore the c-word to its rightful owners. Men's Officer is Tall Paul Benjamin, well known for his sparkling wit and ladykilling charm. Heather Blake is the tree-hugging tie-dyeing flare-wearing Environment and Services Officer. Elliot Simmons continues his stellar career in the Union by taking on the duties of Societies Officer - Jack remains hopeful that he will not remain as invisible as last year, though is somewhat pessimistic. Poster Girl (aka Communications Officer) is Vita Maynard, and Residences Officer is Justin Northerner. Mark (who's he?) Reynolds is Mature and Part-Time Students Officer, and the final member of the exec. The other posts will be elected in Michaelmas Term.

Jack is eagerly anticipating the first UGM, to be held on Thursday of Week 1 at 1pm in the Old Theatre, as he is keen to see the newer members of the Sabbs and the Exec take on the might of the Balcony Boys, and the traditional wheedling and dealing that marks the struggle for the positions of Chair and Vice-chair of the UGM.

# WHAT TO DO IF...

**You've arrived in a new place, miles away from home and something starts to go wrong. You don't feel well, hate your course, hate uni. You're lost, alone, need money... DON'T WORRY! There's always someone there to help and someone else will be feeling exactly the same. Take a deep breath, smile bravely and read on...**

**Nightline: 020 7 631 0101**  
<http://www.nightline.org.uk/>

Nightline is a confidential listening support service run by students for students in London.

Calls cover all areas of student life, including relationship and course difficulties, debt and family problems, as well as information on cinema and club listings. The lines are open from 6pm to 8am every night of term.

For the new e-mail listening service, see the website at [www.nightline.org.uk](http://www.nightline.org.uk)

**"The LSE Students' Union exists exclusively to advance the interests, welfare and corporate life of its membership. As a facilitator of student life, the Union ensures and maintains the provision of commercial, social, educational and sporting services across campus. It is solidly committed to the effective promotion of equal opportunities and diversity in representing and safeguarding the interests of all LSE students."**



## Study Skills Courses

LSE offers a series of lectures on study skills in the first term of the year. Later on, it also offers a course on revising for examinations - another skill you may need to brush up on!

## Study Skills Open Sessions

LSE offers a series of lectures, and follow-up practical/clinic sessions on different aspects of study and learning. Watch out for posters around the School, and schedule sessions into your timetable. If you have other problems you need to discuss, or issues that concern you, please talk to your personal tutor.

Further help is also available from the Teaching and Learning Development Officer, Liz Barnett (email [L.Barnett@lse.ac.uk](mailto:L.Barnett@lse.ac.uk) or ext 6623).

## USEFUL WEBSITES:

<a href="http://www.studentuk.co.uk">www.studentuk.co.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.nus.org.uk">www.nus.org.uk</a>
<a href="http://www.push.co.uk">www.push.co.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.ucas.ac.uk">www.ucas.ac.uk</a>
<a href="http://www.virginstudent.com">www.virginstudent.com</a>	<a href="http://www.excuses.co.uk">www.excuses.co.uk</a>
<a href="http://www.examaid.co.uk">www.examaid.co.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.slc.co.uk">www.slc.co.uk</a>
<a href="http://www.infoyouth.co.uk">www.infoyouth.co.uk</a>	

## Democracy

The Union is fully democratic and committed to equal opportunities in everything it does. The student voice is also recognised internally, within the Union. You are the Union after all. You have the right to express your grievances or beliefs each week at the Union General Meeting (UGM) or alternatively you could channel your ideas into Union Council. This is your opportunity to hold your democratically elected student officers accountable for their actions.

All students also have the right to vote in both the Michaelmas and Lent term elections. If we look at student participation in elections across the country, LSE undoubtedly leads the way, and the carnival atmosphere, which is annually generated during election week, should not to be missed. You'd be amazed at the lengths some students go to in order to get elected!

Everyone is an automatic member of the union.

## Union Advice Centre

**Staff at the Advice Centre are employed by the Union to provide a professional advice and counselling service to students.**

**The Advice Centre has a very broad information system and all the staff have several years of general advice experience.**

**If you have a problem of any kind, or just want information on a particular topic, such as practical and legal advice on immigration, employment, disability, consumer, and housing rights, then they will be able to assist you.**

**The Advice Centre service is free, confidential, impartial, and independent. It also runs an accommodation list that advertises private, rented flats and houses.**

**So, pop along and see them. You can arrange a private appointment to discuss your situation with an adviser, or there are afternoon drop-in sessions for quicker queries.**

**The Advice Centre also has a free counselling service that is operated on an appointments basis Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Centre is located on the second floor of the East Building (E297), and reception is open Monday to Friday, 10.30am-4.00pm. You can also phone them on 020 7955 7145 or email [Su.Advice-Centre@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Su.Advice-Centre@lse.ac.uk).**

**For more information on your housing, employment and consumer rights, the Advice Centre recommends that you look at the Citizens Advice Bureau's website which has tons of information: [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk).**

**Debt Problems:**

*We recommend that you seek professional advice for this.*

**USEFUL CONTACTS:**

Credit Action Student Freephone Helpline

Tel: 0800 591 084

Consumer Credit Counselling Service

Freephone: 0800 1381111 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

National Debtline

Tel: 0121 359 8501 (Mon & Thurs 10am-10pm, Tues & Weds 10am-7pm and Fri 10am-12noon)

Citizens Advice Bureau

Website: [www.nacab.org.uk](http://www.nacab.org.uk)

TUC "Know Your Rights" Line (for employment issues)

Tel: 0870 600 4 882

Office of Fair Trading Consumer Info Line

For guidance on the purchase of goods and services

Tel: 0345 22 44 99

**London Transport Student Photocard Scheme**

The London Transport Student Photocard Scheme costs £5 and offers a 30% discount on bus and tube travel in London and will be valid until 30 September 2002.

Full-time LSE students are eligible to apply for a Photocard.

Applications are available from the Students' Union reception on the ground floor of the East Building, and will also be available at the Freshers' Fair. Applications must be validated either at the SU Reception or at the appropriate stall at the Freshers' Fair.

Once the application form has been validated, it should be sent off with a cheque/postal order for £5 and one passport-size photograph. On the back of the photograph should be the student's name and the LSE stamp. This can be done when the form is validated.

The form and photograph cannot be validated by any other department. Forms will not be available at tube stations or other ticket outlets, so make sure you stop by the Quad during Freshers' Fair!

**The Bookshop**

*(The unfortunate side of being at uni)*

Waterstone's Economists' Bookshop, situated in St. Clements Building in Clare Market, stocks a wide range of publications related to disciplines studied at LSE. It has strong ranges in social sciences, management, law and finance and an outstanding range in economics. There is an extensive second hand book department which buys and sells current textbooks as well as publishers' review copies and older collections. From personal experience - DON'T rush out and buy ALL the books in the first few weeks, wait and see what you might want to do in the exams and then buy these books! (You only answer questions on 4 topics in the exam - you study 20 throughout the year!)

Telephone +44 (0)20 7405 5531

Email [enquiries@economists.waterstones.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@economists.waterstones.co.uk)

**Postal Arrangements**

Letters to destinations within the UK can be sent first or second class; first class usually arrive the next day, second class take two or three days. Post boxes are bright red and most have regular collections throughout the day. Stamps can be bought at post offices, but also at many shops such as newsagents, and also at the Students' Union shop on campus. Post offices can also give you details on overseas postal rates and parcels.

You are not normally allowed to use the School's address for private correspondence, and the School accepts no responsibility for personal mail addressed to you at the School.

The Post Office nearest to the School offers a

poste restante/holding service. This service is available for a maximum of three months, for visitors to the UK who do not have a permanent mailing address. It is particularly useful if you are in temporary accommodation when you first arrive in the UK. Any correspondence to you should be addressed: Poste Restante, [your name], c/o Aldwych PO, 95 Aldwych, London, England, WC2B 4JN.

You will need to take your LSE ID card (or other form of ID) with you to collect your mail. There is no charge for this service. Please bear in mind that the post office has no storage space for poste restante mail so you should collect your letters regularly, and as soon as you have a permanent address you should let the post office know

# Registration at Medical Centre

All new students should register with the Medical Centre as soon as possible after arrival to ensure eligibility for NHS treatment and information on all the services available. These include medical, nursing and counselling services. Private services offered at the Medical Centre are osteopathy, physiotherapy and therapeutic massage. There is also a dental service where you register when you book an appointment. There is a fee to be paid for dental services.

Please go to the St Philips Medical Centre in Building X, Sheffield Street, to register. Returning students who have not yet registered, or who have changed address, should register as soon as possible. Do not wait until you are ill before registering.

# IT Services Announces Summer Developments

## New 24/7 Public Computer Room in Old Building

Last year, students were without a computer room in the Old Building due to the building works for the Student Services Centre. After many months of design and preparation, IT Services is very pleased to open a new computer suite for open access use in the basement of the Old Building. The room is directly under the Student Services Centre and can be reached via the lift or stairs next to the entrance opposite Waterstones. (While the pavement is being resurfaced, you can only gain access via the main entrance)



(above) It started life as a dingy mess...

36 Pentium 4 PCs with housed 15" flat screen monitors are available for students, along with a new heavy duty printer, bespoke workstation desks with book holders and two adjustable PCs desks for students who make use of a wheelchair. There are also 4 new air-conditioning units in the room.

As this area is in the Old Building this will become the 24 hour computer facility for the campus from October 2002.

(below) ... and now it's a posh easyInternetcafe



## News In Brief

### IT Training

Don't forget that IT Training courses are FREE for all LSE students - for course and booking details see the team's website: <http://ittraining.lse.ac.uk>

### Wondering how to get your bearings in the Library?

The new audio tour is an ideal introduction to the Library layout and facilities; handy as a refresher too. Pick up an audio "wand" from the Service Counter and take the tour at a time (and pace) to suit you. The basic tour lasts about 20 minutes, but you can opt to hear more about particular collections and services if you wish.

### Library opening hours

After a successful trial last year, 8am Library access is now part of Library regular opening hours. As before, the 8 - 9am period is staffed by Security only and applies to weekdays in term time / Easter vacation. Making the shift to earlier opening, the Library has also identified that the last hour of each day is mainly used by students working in the Library, rather than using services. So, while the Library's opening times of 95 hours a week remain unchanged, the final hour of every day (in term time / Easter vacation) will equally be staffed by Security only - with the Service Counter closing an hour before the building does each day. To support this change, a self-issue machine (by the first floor Information Desk) will enable you to issue Main Collection items yourself, as well as the existing self-service facility in the Course Collection. Not every item in the Main Collection can be self-issued, but it's well worth exploring this facility, next time there's a queue at the Service Counter.

For full details of Library services, pick up a free Library Guide - there's one specially for LSE students - and check out the website at [library.lse.ac.uk](http://library.lse.ac.uk)

## 'You Say, We Pay', LSE IT Services style (but without Richard & Judy)

Following comments from students in the annual user satisfaction survey, IT Services has worked over the summer to implement changes and improvements to our services:

### You said: The PCs in some PC classrooms are slow compared with the Library and C120

Our response: ITS replaced 160 PCs in the St Clement's PC classrooms and the open access room in 20 Kingsway basement. We replaced the printers in S169, S177 and C120. An additional new colour printer has also been purchased for the Library area, following requests made at the IT Help Desk.

### You said: The paper in C120 printers always runs out

Our response: One of the new printers in C120 has a 2000 sheet paper tray which is kept stocked.

### You said: Too many PCs are out of order or not fixed quickly enough

Our response: New PC fault reporting procedures and monitoring systems have been developed and are now in place to help us to fix faulty equipment as quickly as possible. You may have noticed stickers on the monitors stating the IT Help Desk telephone number - ext 6728. If you find a faulty printer or PC please don't hesitate to call the IT Help Desk with the relevant details to help us fix faults more quickly.

### You said: The queues for PCs are too long especially in the Library and C120

Our response: In addition to the existing plasma screens and kiosks which show you where the free computers are, a new screen has now been installed in C120. Check it out if there is a queue for PCs in this room, as there are always computers available elsewhere.

### You said: The computer classrooms are too stuffy/too cold

Our response: With the help of the Estates Division, all of the air conditioning units in the basement classrooms in St Clement's have been replaced over the summer period.

### You said: It's hard to find the documentation you need on the website

Our response: We have reorganised and updated many sections of our website to make it easier to find information, including a completely new documentation search and listing facility - see <http://ittraining.lse.ac.uk/documentation>.

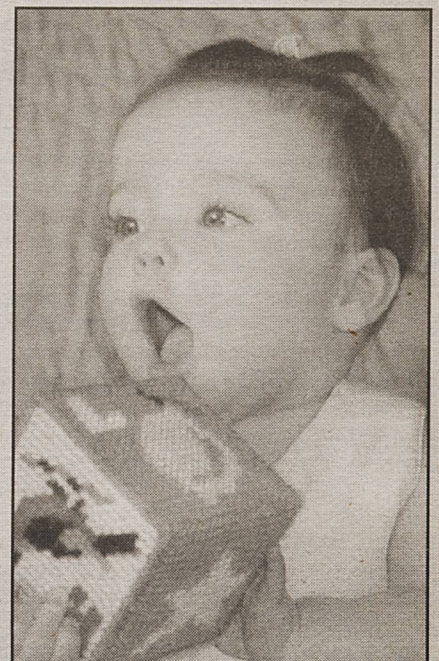
### You said: People log in and occupy a PC and then wander off for long periods making the PC unavailable to others

Our response: We developed an automatic log-off procedure for anyone who hasn't used their PC for 15 minutes. A count is started and a warning displayed, and after 15 minutes the computer is re-started for someone else to use. Be warned! Your work will not be saved if you are automatically logged out.

### You said: Halls PCs are slowed down by people downloading MP3s and other such files

Our response: We have restricted the access to many of these sites to speed up the connection of those using these PCs for academic work.

The IT Help Desk on the lower ground floor of the Library has a new look following complete refurbishment in September 2002. IT Services has been working with the Library to turn the satellite IT Help Desk into one providing a full service, similar to that available at the main IT Help Desk in St Clement's Building. Students can now look forward to a more spacious and comfortable environment, and a greater range of support services and facilities.



Chloe is 10 and a half months old, so doesn't need to take advantage of the snazzy new 24 hour computer room.

She has put her name down on the hall waiting list, though.

## Editorial Comment

No consolation for those seeking accommodation

Most across LSE will be settling into new abodes - whether it be one of the university's halls of residence of private flats and houses. But for those who are still searching for a home to call their own, the latest accommodation waiting list figures will cause much distress.

These numbers are both a testament to the popularity of London and LSE and a sign of a disgraceful tendency of the school's administration to put student figures before student welfare.

Cashing in on the international popularity and esteem of the LSE brand is all well and good whilst we have the facilities to support an annual influx of more and more new people, but the fate of 2000 students waiting for a place in halls shows that the facilities are not yet there.

The Beaver welcomes the new

property that is due in 2004 and the possibility of more from 2005, but that will help students little for the next two years - especially in the next academic session, when Passfield will be shut for long-overdue refurbishment.

Reports that the private housing market is more flexible than it has been for some time is hoped to allay fears that continuing undergrads and postgrads might go homeless, but with such a huge number of students still hoping for LSE or ULU residences there can be scant reassurance in them.

This accommodation crisis is a situation that must be a priority for the LSE administration at the start of every academic year. Sadly, even if it were now to be prioritised, it would all be too late for this year's intake.

### Do Drink, Do Drunk

As continuing students settle back into the groove of life and newcomers escape parental pressures for the first time, the temptation is to launch into a sustained period of bacchanalian debauchery.

The Beaver sees no real problem with this and actively supports the Students' Union entertainments programme. Go along, have fun and - if you do enjoy a drink or two - do drink to your heart's content.

However, there are very serious concerns about drinking to excess - especially for those students who have not been heavy drinkers before.

The NUS 'If You Do Do Drink, Don't Do Drunk' Campaign -

that our Education and Welfare sabbatical is endorsing (see page 10) - has received much criticism and scorn. But at the heart of it is an important issue.

The Beaver has been fortunate enough not to cover a drunken rape or accidental death story but has been able to revel in tales of drunkenness throughout its sports pages and numerous articles recounting the exploits of Jimmy Baker.

And that's why it would be hypocritical for us to fully endorse the campaign and urge students to curtail their drinking exploits.

So do enjoy yourselves and drink whatever you please, but remember the dangers and please, keep out of trouble!

### An Apology from The Beaver

Dear Freshers,

Although LSE has never been an architectural masterpiece it is looking particularly bad for your arrival. We would like to apologise on the behalf of Westminster council and the LSE. We would also like to reassure you that big people in important places are thinking about how to make LSE more aesthetically pleasing. Tony Giddens made this clear in his graduation speech in the summer. Indeed this is why Clare Market has had to be dug up and relayed not once but twice now, because it just wasn't quite perfect; nothing but the best is good enough for you! The work currently being carried out on the John Watkins Plaza (the new name for the area outside the

library) and Clare Market are both part of this revamp.

LSE is a complicated and confusing environment at first. It is in the centre of London and has been described as like a rabbit warren with passages and bridges connecting the buildings on Houghton Street. LSE is also thought of as generally grey and unattractive visually - made dirty and cramped by the city environment surrounding it. But it is also known for its academic excellence and its situation in the hub of London makes it a very exciting and varied place. Enjoy exploring the diverse habitat of the LSE and its surroundings and take solace in the knowledge that it will look better very soon!

# Welcome to The Beaver

The Beaver truly is the voice of the LSE. And this year it is my intention to ensure that anyone who wants to become involved, can become involved and more importantly will do so.

First of all I will try and explain a little about the newspaper. The paper has been in continual existence, bar technological mishaps, since 1947. This longevity is one of the main reasons behind The Beaver's status as one of the main fixtures of the LSE Students' Union. The other main reason is the simple fact that so many people get involved. The paper embraces every culture, every interest and every opinion. Undergrads, Postgrads, General Coursers and the rest are all encouraged to contribute - everyone at LSE can make a difference to The Beaver.

For those interested in the School and student affairs, the News section provides the current stories and the occasional scoops. For those interested in the broader world, our b:link section provides thought-provoking articles which you are more than welcome to comment on in the letters page!

The snazzy b:art section should embrace those of more artistic temperament, with sections for films, theatre, the fine arts, literature, clubbing, music and pretty much anything else that grabs attention. Free review copies, free tickets and the chance to meet celebrities are all incentives that help explain the popularity of writing for b:art.

Finally those interested in sports have their forum in the indomitable BeaverSports. Often talked about, often copied but never equalled, BeaverSports has been the home of the AU and its unique brand of humour for years. For light relief from the rest of the paper, and to here of the strange and bizarre stories that inevitably surround the members

of the AU, there is no better place than the sports pages. Or better still, why not become involved in creating these works of comedic excellence, and ensuring that the BeaverSports legend continues.

The Beaver is not a cliquy office, with new writers feeling intimidated and left out. Quite the opposite. We thrive on new ideas, and quite literally need the infusion of new blood. If you want to take on more responsibility, and want to become more involved then opportunities are there for you. You never know, in a years time it could even be you sat in a gloomy office writing advice for next year's new arrivals.

Even if you just want to contribute the odd story or a one-off masterpiece of journalistic flair, you are more than welcome. We can't produce the paper without the input from our valued writers, and we are always on the look out for new styles, new points of view and new contributors. If you don't like something about the paper, contribute and make it better.

To become involved feel free to contact us at thebeaver@lse.ac.uk. Alternatively visit us on our Freshers' Fair stand in the Quad. If you don't get to the Freshers' Fair, you can still become involved by attending one of our welcome 'gatherings' with good music, cheap drink, and an opportunity to meet everyone who makes the paper. If you want to come along, drop us an e-mail at the above address. If you just want to continue reading the paper, you can pick one up for free every Tuesday from locations around the school - the Library, East Building, St Clement's, Old Building and Clement House.

thanks for reading, Nicholas

## A Message from LSE

Security and Reception staff extend a warm welcome to new (and old) students to The London School of Economics. We wish you a happy, enjoyable and fruitful time here. Our campus comprises twenty large buildings right in the centre of one of the largest cities in Europe. In common with all other British universities we operate an open campus between 8am and 6.30pm Monday to Friday. Because we are so open we naturally attract, 'walk-in' thieves. Our neighbours suffer with the same problems. 'Walk-in' thieves are not dangerous but they are persistent and brazen. They also always have a plausible excuse for being where they should not be.

We record between 180 and 200 crimes here each year. That is not a large number of crimes considering that we are like a small town with upwards of ten thousand people. Even counting the fact that there is always an unreported element to crime statistics, possibly of the order of 20%, nevertheless our crime rate is low. Over the last seven years, when current crime records began, violent crime has been almost unknown.

The atmosphere within the School is generally happy and relaxed but that in itself HELPS create an environment where 'walk-in' thieves thrive. Sneak thieves like this operate both within the School and in the bars and watering holes all around us. Please make your mind up not to become a victim.

The most common items stolen on the campus are handbags, wallets and bicycles. Following hard on the heels of those items is the ubiqui-

tous LAPTOP computer, so easy to steal, so easy to dispose of, and often carrying that vital academic work. Leave it - even for a second - and you will lose it - get a laptop security strap.

Last year we lost 14 laptops - I hope next year will be better - but I am not holding my breath !!

There are twenty-six security staff on duty here but they are not all here together. They work shifts - 24 hours of the day and 365 days a year. At any one time there are about 5 or 6 security on duty and it is obvious that they cannot be everywhere so watch out for them and help them by being their eyes and ears. If you see anything suspicious dial 666 which is the emergency in house telephone number into the control room

If you decide to work in the School outside normal office hours you must appreciate that during the evenings and at weekends conditions change. Some exits that are open during the day are shut at night. So BEFORE settling down to work check out two separate routes to ground and safety that are open in case of a fire.

We wish you well and hope you enjoy being here as much as we like having you here - have a great year! If you have any problems, complaints, suggestions or compliments please feel free to talk to me or my Deputy Graham Shillabeer in Room A101, telephone 020 7955 6055

Bernie Taffs  
House Manager

## Nolan's Fringe

Straight from the projects of North Manchester to the streets of LSE

Well hello there Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, and welcome to my column. Taking over from the inimitable Baker's Mullet is both a challenge and an honour and I hope I will be equal to the task. Make no mistake however this will be my own unique dissection of not just LSE life, but life in general. Over the course of the next few weeks I will discuss Life, Love, Death, Politics, Teachers, Students, Drinking, Drugs, the North, the South, War, Peace, Football, Music, Films, London and Manchester. You will learn about the socio-political significance of the words "Dickhead" and "Crotch". You will learn that the Mexican stand-off doesn't only exist in films where the cowboys and indians are all Italian. Quite frankly if through the course of this year, this column causes just one person to suddenly stop and think "Hmmm, yes" then it will be mission accomplished for me. (Though quite frankly if you manage to wade through this waffle without the words "manc" "a" "what" "twat" "off" "fuck" "die" "and", in close proximity, then that will be enough.)

So I will start off this year by welcoming our new arrivals, the freshers. The next few weeks are going to be the most stressful of your entire lives. In the same way that you can't win a golf championship in the first round but you can sure as hell lose it, you can't become king of LSE in the first term of university but you can sure as hell make sure you become a social outcast. If you come through these following months with your reputation intact then well...you're a man my son. But to give a little nudge in the right direction I've listed a few rules of engagement for these coming weeks.

Firstly and most importantly be yourself. I know it sounds clichéd but if you try and act like you're Don Johnson then you will be found out extremely quickly. Don't be intimidated by freshers who have been around the world twice already and can tell you amazing stories about making love in the forests of Vietnam. The chances are they will find your stories of shitting and spewing at the same time, after a night of drinking almost toxic amounts of Guinness in your local pub, equally interesting. They may even think you're talented.

Don't fall for the idea that the first few months of university will be shagging central. They won't. The only action you're likely to get will be when you knock a sly one off the wrist when you're roommate is asleep. And that includes girls as well.

Following on from this, chat-up lines that have worked going out in your local town on girls/boys who are barely old enough to get in to a 15 rated film won't work. So lines such as "c'mon lets have a look at you" and "can I shag your brains out on the pool table" will sadly fail miserably. And I know cos I've tried.

Special advice for Northerners here. Don't be offended by ignorant people from the wrong side of Watford Gap Service Station, who say to you "I didn't know people in the North could read" or "Do they have running water up there". It may cause an enormous amount of satisfaction to thrust a pint pot extremely hard into their face, but the recipient will probably take offence. Just smile and inwardly realise that this guy isn't worth the steam off your shite. Cos he's not. The dick.

Advice for living in halls. Never shit in the toilet nearest your room. Especially after a night out.

The landlords in the tuns, Jim and Paul, have a peculiar sense of humour. Don't take offence when they say to you "Feck off you scrawny piece of feckin shooiite". They're just being nice.

Finally, just fuckin enjoy yourself. We live in a time when even NUS are getting worried about the amount we drink. Fuck em all, we've earned this right to blow all our money on booze, it would be criminal not to. Go forth and prosper brothers and sisters.

# SOCIETIES PAGE

Well a quarter of a page at any rate. Every week the Beaver makes space available free of charge for societies to advertise any forthcoming events they are holding or to make any important announcements.

You can email me at [e.c.simmons@lse.ac.uk](mailto:e.c.simmons@lse.ac.uk) if you wish to contribute something to this page. Please note, however, that you should try and email your contribution at least a week in advance of the publication of the edition you wish to advertise in.

C'ya all at Freshers Fayre. Elliot

## Tuuli's Gen Sec Diary



It is difficult to determine where to start, for much has happened since I took over from Clare. Having rushed back from rainy Finland at midnight, following modest 4 hours' sleep, the morning of the 1st July proved a short lived culture shock. I officially joined the ranks of the working. While still being classed a student, I entered full time employment representing the voice of over 7000 others. The perfect equation of mixing work with student life became my reality. The year looming ahead had arrived, the elections were long gone and the result had until this been dubious.

The handover period, as they call it, was the chance for us four sabbs were given to meet and mingle with those previously seen as "them", namely LSE staff, from administration to the director. Two weeks went by faster than one could imagine. What I gained was an idea of names and job descriptions, possibly linked to a few faces. The handover party, hosted in week two, was an emotional night for some. Union hacks from the whole of London accompanied by a posse of former LSE sabbs made their way to what was supposed to be a "private party" in the Tuns. I witnessed tears, exchanges of phone numbers and many assurances for eternal friendships. George, the Ents sabb from last year, was to leave the country for good.

During the handover, the training events commenced. For these conferences, Sabbs from around the country, or sometimes from around London, get together for lectures, workshops and social events. Emphasis can seem to lie on the social side and in an attempt to avoid alcoholism directly following the whole drinking side of the job, I made my decision to give up alcohol for the year. I switched my white wine for Diet Coke and soon I became a Coke addict. Since then I have extended my "not to do" list to include caffeine. I could now call myself straight edge.

The training events have been varied. Some were quite useless, while others made us put in the work in the form of role plays covering all major problems any Students' Union has come across during the history of NUS. Birmingham and Warwick soon became my second homes; being a non Brit this has all been quite exciting for me.

In August, my big project was to compile the annual Handbook. I had been confident that this should not be too extensive a project. After all, I had the copy of the previous year's one to go by. In my reasoning I somehow neglected the main obstacle, namely the lack of time spent in London, or better yet in the office. The training events were pressing ahead, while in London awaited the meetings that are fewer during the months of the summer, but nevertheless they do not stop altogether.

Frequently my job description gets mixed in the minds of students in need of help. Regularly being referred to as the 'secretary', I have been the recipient of a host of strange requests ranging from demands for airport pickup to queries regarding me finding individual students part-time employment. Many fail to realise that my role is primarily that of representation, planning and co-ordination. While it is vital for me to have contact with students for I could not represent their needs without knowing their desires, I physically lack the time required to run errands for each of the 7000 students.

All in all the summer has been filled with excitement. I have made new friends from other colleges and gained a new family (that of Peter, Priya and Jimmy!). Many outstanding issues have been solved at the LSE, the SU website has been relaunched, and campaigns have been planned. I have learned an awful lot about student politics and Students' Union practice. Instead of attempting a career in the world of investment banking, I have put in my good 80 hours a week at the LSE. I now have the knowledge, all I need to do is to apply it wisely to make the difference.



# Beginner's Guide To Your Sabbatical Officers



**Tuuli Kousa**  
 General Secretary  
 su.gensec@lse.ac.uk  
 020 7955 7147  
 Room E208

As General Secretary, I am responsible for the overall co-ordination of Union activities, campaigns and committees. I represent the voice of the student body, both internally and externally. I sit on all the major school committees, I liaise with our affiliated organisations and I deal with the media.

In order for me to make the most of my position at the heart of where decisions are made, your input is crucial. I am here to recognise your needs, to represent your views and to help you reach your aspirations. Get in touch with me and I will either help you personally or put you in contact with someone else who can.



**Priya Parkash**  
 Education & Welfare Officer  
 su.edwelfare@lse.ac.uk  
 020 7955 6709  
 Room E299

There are two aspects to my job. On the education side, I sit on various committees in order to represent you, and deal with key areas like teaching quality (e.g. class teachers, class sizes) and student support; I am your first point of contact if you

want to appeal against your examination results or if you want to complain against the school. On the welfare side, I can advise on issues such as accommodation problems and financial hardship. I have an open-door policy - you can pop by anytime.



**Peter Bellini**  
 Treasurer  
 su.treasurer@lse.ac.uk  
 020 7955 7471  
 Room E206

I'm responsible for the Union's finances and its services, which means that throughout the year I ensure accounts are produced, and money is allocated appropriately. I am helped in this task by elected students on the Finance and Services committee, which you have a chance to run for. Decisions are made on

issues such as whether to build a new bar, refurbish a service, and more regularly, how much money should each of our many societies get.

Our services are fantastic and I urge everyone to take advantage of our gym, bars, shop, and café.



**Jimmy Baker**  
 Entertainments Officer  
 su.ents@lse.ac.uk  
 020 7955 7136  
 Room E38

At first glance it may seem that I have the tackiest job of all and it may make you think that I'll be running knobbly knees competitions and shouting Hi-De-Hi. Far from it! I'm here to make sure that you have a great time while you are at LSE through quality events and entertainment. My programme starts this year with the

nonsense that is Freshers' Fortnight, offering you fantastic club nights (at Turnmills, Propaganda etc), superb comedy, quizzes, karaoke, parties... the lot! I also organise our RAG week, where we all do stupid things in order to raise money for charity, and I co-ordinate Global week in the Lent term.

Jimmy Baker brings us the latest entertainment news...

# Entertainments Я Us

**SWIM**  
 at  
 CLUB aquarium

**TUESDAY 8th  
 OCTOBER 2002**

Tickets £6/ £5 With Ents Card  
**FREE with LSESU Gold Card**  
 Tickets available on the door or from SU reception

Nearest Tube - Old Street (Exit 3 on left)

**With Swimming Pool and Jacuzzi!**  
 10pm - 3am

Oh yes people, after much fanning about and trying to sort out a decent club night for Tuesday the 8th, SWIM @ Club Aquarium has landed.

Club Aquarium boasts three bars, cheap drinks and a great night out. What is more Club Aquarium features a swimming pool and a Jacuzzi! I asked the management whether I should tell you lot to bring your swimming trunks and bikinis but apparently we just all dive in!

Our beloved Pleasurer, sorry, Treasurer, Peter Bellini had the bright idea to call this night Strike It Lucky in honour of Michael Barrymore, but as I'm sure you would agree that would be in bad taste, so SWIM it is.

SWIM tickets are available from SU reception and on the door on the night but it would be wise to get your tickets early as it is a fairly small venue and will sell out!

Have a great Freshers' Fortnight, Love,

Your Entertainments Officer Jimmy 'Mullet' Baker.



# Priya's Welfare Watch

Hello and welcome to all students! I am your new Education & Welfare Officer and am here to provide help and advice for literally any problems you encounter relating to academic issues and to your welfare at the LSE. Don't be afraid to get in touch! This year, the LSE Students' Union would like to do more in terms of creating awareness of specific student welfare-related problems that you may find yourselves facing. So watch out for SU awareness campaigns and contact me if you want to get involved!

I hope that you are enjoying LSE so far. And I hope that in the midst of all your fun and frolic that you take a few sober moments to give this a read as it does contain some important bits of information and advice. While you're getting used to the (at times) overwhelming city of London in your first few weeks here, it can be easy to forget some basic things, especially when it comes to looking after yourself. So here are a few tips to help you settle in more smoothly...

## Sex In The City

### Feeling Sexy?

In your first few weeks at LSE you may find yourself quickly in a relationship or perhaps floating from partner to partner. You may have already had sex or you may be ready to do it for the first time. Whatever state your sex life is in, some basic advice will help to ensure that you are safe and sound when you are feeling sexy!

### That Sounds Catchy!

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are something people often feel embarrassed about because it's thought that only people who sleep around catch them. However, everyone is vulnerable, so it's important that you know the basics.

There are a number of infections that can be transmitted by sexual contact. The most serious STI is the HIV virus. Other well-known ones include Candida (thrush), Gonorrhoea, Chlamydia, Genital Herpes, Genital Warts, Hepatitis A, B and C, Scabies, Pubic Lice. Some cause relatively minor symptoms whilst others can give rise to serious medical consequences, e.g. Chlamydia (sub fertility), HIV and Hepatitis B (serious physical illness and death). STI's may not always give rise to symptoms or signs of infection, so a person can carry a sexually transmissible infection without realising it for many years and this can make it hard to control the spread of infections to their partners. So it's important to take certain precautions when embarking on sexual activity (which if done right is normal and healthy)....

### Be Safe When You're Feeling Sexy

Inevitably, much pulling goes on during Freshers. Of course, I would encourage you to get to know people before you jump into bed with them, but if you do make that choice, then my message to you is a very basic one - be safe. Sex is normal and healthy but to avoid potential problems take appropriate action. The simplest way to avoid transmission of most STIs (including HIV) is to practice safer sex. I'd like to remind you of some important things to remember if you are having sex or are planning to.

#### Rule No. 1: USE A CONDOM

The simplest way to practice safer sex is for a male partner to use a condom or to avoid penetrative intercourse (vaginal or anal). Get into the habit of using a condom to protect your health and keep those precious bits happy, healthy and spot-free. Carry condoms with you - don't rely on your partner to be prepared! These are available free from my office E299.

#### Rule No. 2: BE AWARE

Don't get carried away and be tempted not to put a condom on. Drinking might dampen the will to protect yourself; so if you know you're likely to get a bit merry, think about the evening beforehand.

#### Rule No. 3: HAVE REGULAR CHECK-UPS

Get a check-up if you are worried you may have been exposed to an STI or if you just want more information about contraception. The best way to do this is to attend the Contraceptive clinics that

are held daily the medical centre at 13.30 - there is no need to have an appointment. All advice about contraception is free and confidential. All prescriptions of contraceptives are FREE. Any student (female or male) can attend the contraceptive clinic - if you are not a registered patient you will have to fill in a form each time you come. If you cannot come to the contraceptive clinics you can make an appointment to see a nurse or doctor in order to discuss any issues regarding contraception.

### Think You Might Be Pregnant?

If you feel there's a chance you may be pregnant, come and see a doctor or nurse at the medical centre. You can also visit the Student Union Advice & Counselling Centre in order to get further help and advice, where a Women's Right to Choose Fund can be claimed. Termination of pregnancy is available in the UK - it is free and confidential. You have to speak to a doctor or nurse if you wish to have a termination of pregnancy. Medically it is best if a termination is carried out within 12 weeks. Under UK law it is legal (under certain, exceptional circumstances) to terminate a pregnancy up to 24 weeks. Further advice is also available from Family Planning Clinics.

### Need More Info?

Advice about STI's avoiding them, diagnosing them and treating them is available from the medical centre or via the website.

There are also specialist clinics running at local hospitals where testing advice and treatment is available - this is a free and confidential service. The NHS has a very useful website, <http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk>.

Contraception is also available through a network of clinics called "Family Planning Centres". You can phone 020 7837 4044 to find out where your nearest Clinic is and when it is open. All services are free and confidential.

### Finally...

Remember that it is HIGHLY ADVISABLE to be registered with a GP (either at the medical centre or locally to where you live). If students who are not registered have an acute medical problem or concern, then they can always come and speak to someone at the medical centre, having registered as a "temporary patient".

## If you do do drink, don't do drunk

Ever found yourself waking up in a strange place



(or with a stranger) after a night on the booze? Well, it's all part of the fun isn't it?

How about throwing up and suffering a blinding hangover? Still funny?

Ever heard footsteps following you and realised that you are too drunk to run or defend yourself? Not really much fun there, is there?

What about a night in casualty, or even a police cell?

This year the SU is giving its support to this NUS Campaign. It is all part of the message reminding you of the dangers of excessive drinking. Of course, getting hammered could well be your idea of a top night out; all we're saying is to be sensible about it - London can be a dangerous and unpleasant place at times. Make sure that you're with a good group of friends when you do go drinking, but at the end of the day you should always be able to look after yourself. Of course many of you have drunk before, some from quite an early age. But I, personally, didn't start drinking until I came to university, and some basic advice like this would have avoided many an embarrassing incident (such as throwing up at philosophy parties...!)

### If You Do Do Drink, How When Where Why and How Much Do You Drink?

Alcohol can be beneficial for you socially and health-wise. Alcohol can also be harmful to you socially and health-wise. So what's the difference between normal or healthy consumption of alcohol and abnormal or unhealthy consumption of alcohol? Essentially there is no simple, single answer to this question.

There is probably justification for considering some patterns of drinking as being less likely to cause problems than others. For example, drinking in moderation during Freshers events can make it easier for you to make friends and enjoy positive experiences in the company of others.

The body metabolises alcohol at a steady rate - so don't drink too much too quickly. Also, the rate of absorption of alcohol is affected by whether or not you have eaten. Don't drink on an empty stomach - any alcohol that you drink will be absorbed very quickly and you will feel the effects of having too much too soon!!

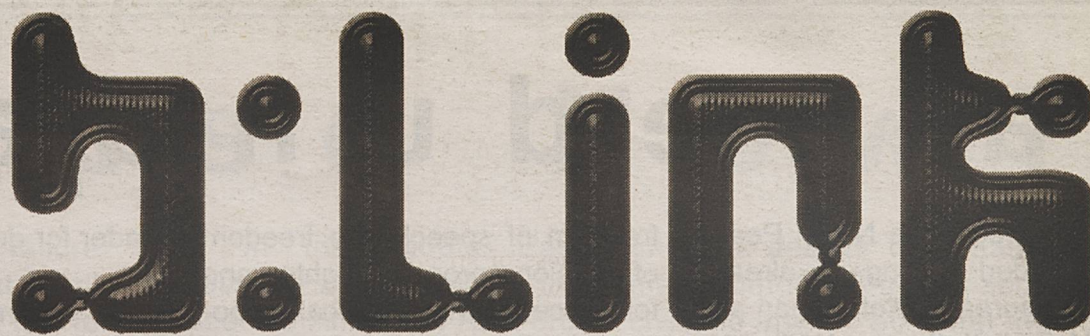
### If You Do Drink What Should You Do?

If you are drinking, eat first, control the rate of your alcohol intake, alternate alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Don't drink beyond the level of being in control of your body and mind. Look out for those around you - make sure they are not losing control.

Priya Parkash  
Email: [su.edwelfare@lse.ac.uk](mailto:su.edwelfare@lse.ac.uk)

Student Union Advice and Counselling Centre  
Room E297  
East Building,  
Tel: 020 7955 7145  
Many thanks to Dr Naidoo at the SPMC.

# BEST OF



Edited By:

Ibrahim Rasheed (i.m.rasheed@lse.ac.uk)

Brian Choudhary (b.choudhary@lse.ac.uk)

## unions resist hard Labour

What keeps Tony up at night, other than baby Leo? A Prime Minister in the midst of his second term might be expected to be preoccupied with the fear of an economic downturn or perhaps the possibility of a resurgent opposition. Yet while die hard Tories might desperately want to believe Iain Duncan Smith is leading a government in waiting there seems little evidence of a Conservative revival sweeping the nation and the Chancellor is managing a relatively buoyant economy.

It appears that Blair believes the greatest danger exists rather closer to home. At the Labour Spring Conference at the beginning of February, Blair made a highly controversial speech in which he was perceived to be attacking the unions, the backbone of the Labour Party, for their role in "wrecking" his government's programme of public sector reform.

Union activism certainly is on the increase. 354,000 worker days were lost to strike action in the first ten months of 2001, an increase of 25 per cent on the days lost in 1998. Key marginal voters in the commuter belt of the southeast suffered days of disruption earlier this year with industrial action taken by South West Trains. The disruption looks like it will continue. The RMT and Aslef unions have voted in favour of 48-hour stoppages on the Tube after failure to resolve a pay dispute. Similarly the Communication Workers Union (CWU) look set to strike over postal workers pay and the government policy of privatisation by the back door - as they perceive the opening up of the postal delivery to competition.

Disruption, especially to key voters, is understandably irritating Blair. But the Labour Party was

established out of the trade union movement and industrial action is seen by trade unionists as a key right. And while days lost to union activity might have increased over the past few years, the total number of days lost is miniscule compared to the 29 million lost in 1979, the year of the first Thatcher government.

So Blair's use of Thatcher's phrase, "wreckers", to describe those who oppose his investment and reforming agenda is especially antagonistic to the unions. For Blair the increase in industrial action represents a chasm which is opening between those inflexible representatives of the workers and his pragmatic government..

In attacking on so-called small "c" conservatives Blair asked, "are we going to make patients wait in pain for operations because of some dogma about not using private hospitals, even though they may have spare capacity to do NHS operations?"

Central to the dispute between Labour and the unions is the privatisation of public services. The unions fiercely opposed rail privatisation and the creeping marketisation of education and health under John Major. They did not expect to face a similar battle with a Labour government they bankrolled.

Yet private sector involvement in the public sector - note not the privatisation of public services - is a major theme of New Labour's reforming agenda. To increase standards of public service provision requires a huge increase in investment, which the government believes the public is simply unwilling to finance through an increase in taxation. So New Labour has turned



to the private sector to provide the financing of investment public services through Public Private Partnerships (PPP's).

So while recent trade union disputes may on the surface be based on short-term issues of pay and conditions perhaps it is actually an ideological difference between unions and the government which underlies the undeniable tension between New Labour and its financial backers. Certainly the emergence of the new "awkward squad" of union leaders who are not linked to the Labour party and in many cases are advocating cutting union donations to the Labour party supports the idea of an ideological divide.

Most vocal among the awkward squad are the gruffly named Mick Rix of Aslef, the train drivers' union, and Bob Crow of the RMT. They are unapologetic in their commitment to retaining the state control of financing public services and are

distinctively anti New Labour in their beliefs. Bob Crow has been often quoted as saying that the Labour Party is not socialist enough for him. Apparently his favourite motto is: "You pay tax and you buy civilisation"...sentiments probably unlikely to be echoed by any card carrying New Labour Party member.

The gulf between the government and their natural supporters might be limited to a select band of radical union leaders. However, if the leaders are accurately reflecting their membership then Blair has a problem. If the workers are not behind the government's reforming agenda it will be an uphill battle to demonstrably improve public services before Blair asks to be elected for an historic third term.

ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN BLINK 555.

WORDS BY CATH WARREN.

# a r e d u n d a n t U N

In 2001, the Nobel Peace Prize added among its already notable laureates Kofi Annan and the United Nations. While the claim that an institution may receive this prestigious award is dubious, the fact that the UN received it at all reflects a growing trend in world politics. Western leaders increasingly believe that only the United Nations has the moral and legal authority to wage war and impose peace. Indeed, one major criticism of the United States' war in Afghanistan was its refusal to approach the United Nations and receive its blessing in the endeavour. Governments throughout Europe are putting greater faith in the United Nation's abilities and are willing to accept greater losses of sovereignty. Eventually, these nations believe that the UN may serve as the ultimate guarantor of peace, freedom, and human rights.

However, there is a serious problem with this trend: it doesn't reflect reality. The increasing belief in the United Nations is not mirrored by an increasing ability to perform. The United Nations is a non-democratic, ineffectual, and ultimately ailing institution. The Western nations should not sacrifice their sovereignty nor their wealth to the institution. Rather they should bear the brunt of the world and lead, as it has in the past.

With a few exceptions, the UN composes all of the countries on the planet. However, it does not differentiate between regimes. Consequently, autocratic and ruthless North Korea receives equal representation and weight as democratic and peace loving Switzerland. This represents a terrible imbalance. Freedom House, an independent policy organization, finds that of the 180 some odd independent nations, only 120 are democracies and only 60 may be considered truly free. Thus, a full two-thirds of the voting nations in the General Assembly do not respect traditional western values like: the

freedom of speech, the freedom of religion, property rights, and tolerance toward political opponents. One-third of the voting bloc represent tyrannical regimes actively hostile to such ideals and freedoms. Trusting nations like slave-trading Sudan, Christian-killing China, and farm-stealing Zimbabwe to safeguard the rights and liberties of France or Germany is pure idiocy. Yet that is what their leaders do today, by surrendering their sovereignty to the United Nations.

Many supporters of the United Nations refute this claim by referring to the UN Security Council. Surely the permanent democracies on the Security Council (the US, Great Britain and France) can prevent corruption of the UN. This may well be true, but the despotic regimes have a permanent advocate as well: China. China is unlikely to support any pro-democracy, pro-West leadership, given its government lack d e m o - cratic order,

refusal to recognize basic human rights, and use of death, torture, and intimidation as tools of the state. Moreover, several despotic regimes receive temporary seats on the Security Council. The thug-like leadership of Syria regularly executes political opponents, preaches genocide, harasses religious minorities, and happily supports terrorism. Today, it has a seat on the Security Council. Whereas the tyrannies may not be able to pass the "Enslave all White Men" Resolution, the democracies will be unable to pass the "Prevent Christian Monks from Being Executed For Their Religion" Resolution. In such a case, the United Nations cannot act as a

leader for democracy or justice.

Furthermore, the United Nations is an impotent organization. Throughout its history, it has never acted as an impetus for a just action. Rather, it always serves as a tool for the United States or Europe to implement a just action. When North Korea invaded South Korea in 1946, President Harry Truman led the United States into battle and THEN got the United Nations on board. During the Suez Canal Crisis, it was President Dwight Eisenhower's, not the United Nation's, pressure on Great Britain, France, and Israel that forced them to withdrawal from Egypt. Because of Russia's permanent posi-

tion on the U N Security



Council, the United Nations could not stand up for the democratic rights of those ruthlessly oppressed by Soviet domination. Only the United States and Western Europe could defeat the tyrannical Soviet Union and free eastern Europe. Without

President Bush, the UN would have left the Kuwaitis to suffer under the heel of Iraqi military conquest and let Saddam Hussein grow even more dangerous. Apartheid in Southern Africa ended when Western Europe and the US Congress organized an economic blockade - the UN remained on the sidelines. In Bosnia, the former Yugoslavia, and other parts of southern Europe, the United Nations passed resolution after resolution while Muslim minorities were massacred. Only the power and moral leadership of the democratic West could bring the slaughter to an end.

The United Nations serves a vital role in the world and deserves support. No government, even the United States, advocates its abandonment. However, the United Nations is simply not the instrument to fight for freedom, justice, or human rights. It cannot fight for democracy, when the majority of its members are not true democracies. It cannot stand for human rights, whilst the slave-trading Sudan is a member on the UN Commission of Human Rights. It cannot execute justice, while the murderous and oppressive China sits on the UN Security Council. Only the US and Western Europe have the courage and moral fortitude to fight for these ideals. Time and time again, evil ensues and the only option available to UN bureaucrats is to pass a resolution condemning the activity. It falls upon the Western nations to fight for freedom, justice, and the dignity of humanity.

# Apocalypse Now?

The end of the world is nigh. Blair and Bush have begun the propaganda war that must be won to ensure support for their attack on Iraq. Though it is doubtful that anyone in the West thinks of Saddam Hussain

to make predictions of failure and long campaigns, but in all the talk of how important it is to stop Saddam's desire to attain Weapons of Mass Destruction (because only sane and non-judgemental people like Bush,

ment in the Middle East. Witness the drama student that caused the American Air Force to escort a passenger jet into land and got asked what his relatives thought of September 11th. Watch as Britain and

and this despite the treatment meted out to US troops and UK civilians there! So what motivates the Bush administration to want to sort Iraq out? It couldn't be that unfinished business of Bush's pappa? The man who by stopping the Iraq war, leaving the opposition forces high and dry which will make them think twice before helping this time, when he did, condemned a country to sanctions and thousands of its citizens to death as a result of that or their leader's egotistical greed.

America allow Afghanistan to slide back into tribal warfare because they haven't got the staying power, despite Karzai's begging. Despair as Muslim countries beg for international observers to monitor the cycle of neverending violence between the Palestinians and Israelis, but are refused for fear they might see the use to which superior American weaponry is put.

So, as we gear up for another war, and the gap between the US and Europe widens, and politicians and the media start to frighten you into accepting that this is a necessary evil, that we 'good men' must not appease Hussain and 'do nothing', just remember, this is a world of hypocrisy and broken promises. You are not the ones likely to be killed by Hussain or the allied forces. And Saddam Hussain is not the only narrow minded vicious uncaring leader using the threat of global armageddon to try and intimidate his critics.

Dictators that cause trouble for their own people and foster a hatred for the United States are acceptable as long as they give the US the oil it needs to burn to ensure that Kyoto does mean nothing. Saudi Arabia, country of origin of large numbers of the Camp X-Ray inmates and producer of over half the 9-11 hijackers, is not on the hit list,

APPEARED ORIGINALLY IN BLINK 557

WORDS BY NICK POSFORD



THE FOUR HORSEMEN WERE UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT

as anything but a vicious tyrant, what they need to prepare us for is not his demise, at which none would weep, but the potential collateral damage to the Iraqi people, and perhaps more importantly (within their own countries, because of the difficult nature of such an attack) the casualties that may occur to Western troops. Unless they actually do nuke Baghdad (and the way the rhetoric is ratcheted up at every available opportunity, I wouldn't put it past them), soldiers, certainly special forces, will have to go deep into enemy territory to rouse and command the rag-tag opposition to Saddam Hussain.

Blair, Putin, Sharon et al should be in charge of those), little is mentioned of what replaces him. Iraq's civilian population may be desperate to get rid of their evil overlord (not least because he has a nasty habit of gassing them), but are they going to want him replaced by an American stooge?

A country that insists it is not at war with Muslims and yet evidence at home and abroad makes that assertion ever more doubtful, is not going to be looked on kindly if it inserts a puppet govern-

It would be foolhardy after the rapid success of the Afghanistan war (because, of course, that is finished...no?),



# ww3 over israel? ... absolutely

Last December, French Ambassador Daniel Bernard, in a discussion of Mideast policies, remarked that Israel was a "shitty little country," no larger in area than two French departments, causing him to wonder "why should the world be in danger of World War III because of those people?"

Now despite the fact this remark suggests certain prejudices in the French government, the question merits due consideration. Is Israel worth fighting a world war over? Should France, or any nation, sacrifice their treasure and children to save a tiny nation? Defending Israel against the Arab world would undoubtedly result in oil price shocks, political turmoil, and further hostility toward the West. Isn't it worth sacrificing Israel, a nation of only 6 million, to prevent these calamities?

The answer is an adamant no. The West must defend Israel. World War III over Israel would be a worthy confrontation: pitting the proponents of freedom against the enemies of democracy.

Israel is an island of democracy awash in a sea of despotism. Unlike her neighbors, Israel is not a Republic where no one votes, but a genuine democracy. Citizens vote with regularity and everyone, including minorities, is assured essential freedoms and liberties. The Israeli media is entirely independent, regularly criticizing government officials, much to their chagrin. Their parliament serves the public interest with reasonable success, and the army has remained subordinate to the government, not vice versa. With the rise of faux democratic regimes during the course of the past century, bona fide democracies are a rarity that the West must guard with zeal.

The repressive neighbors of Israel stand as a stark contrast. Freedom is non-existent and rule is by decree. Lacking the most basic of political rights, ethnic and religious minorities live in a world of fear and desperation. The military is not a defender of sovereignty, but an enforcer of tyranny. His oppression of political opponents allows Egyptian President Mubarak to run

unopposed every election and receive nearly 100% of the vote. Besides actively supporting terrorism, Syria's ruling Ba'ath Party forbids any written or oral criticism of their hereditary President Assad. Jordan is little better, while Lebanon is the marionette of Syria.

Saddam Hussein governs Iraq and that is indictment enough. His genocidal actions against the Kurds alone warrant his destruction. Despite recent progress, neighboring Iran likewise sits as an oligarchy of hardliner clerics. From 1979 to



the present day, Iran has financed groups dedicated exclusively to barbarism and terror. As recently as this January, Iran sent 50 tons of weapons, including tools for suicide bombers, to assist the Intifada in the West Bank.

Serving neither the cause of peace, nor the interests of the Palestinian people, the Palestinian Liberation Organization has yet to honor any peace agreement, regularly supports terrorism, and brutally suppresses any sort of political decent. In 2000, Yasser Arafat unilaterally rejected a peace plan returning 95% of the West Bank and east Jerusalem. Instead, he encouraged the recent Intifada that results

in nothing but misery and death for the Palestinians.

Even more disturbing than their tyranny is the propaganda of their state run press agencies. The Egyptian Al Ahram paints Jews as subhuman monsters: "The bestial drive to knead Passover matzahs with the blood of non-Jews is [confirmed] in the records of the Palestinian police." Lord George Weidenfeld, in an appearance before Parliament, testified that Syrian education advocates for the "ultimate extermination of the whole

Jewish people." Televised Palestinian sermons grant Allah's blessings "to whoever put a belt of explosives on his body or on his sons' and plunged into the midst of the Jews." The Egyptian newspaper Al-Akhbar, gives "thanks to Hitler" for slaughtering "the most vile criminals on the face of the earth [Jews]."

Nor is the West free from such mendacities. According to the Saudi Arabian press, "the American press demanded that the Koran be barred from mosques," - an obvious lie. Egypt's Al Ahram plays the infamous Zionist conspiracy: "A compilation of the 'investigative' work of four reporters on Jewish control of the world states that Jews have become

the political decision-makers and control the media in most capitals of the world." The London based Palestinian Times actively ignores reality by blaming America for the lack of democracy in the Middle East, claiming, "America...robs hundreds of millions of Arabs and Muslims of their right to freely elect their governments."

Many claim that Arab hatred of the West would cease if Israel simply granted the Palestinians a state. This is simply not true. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered the Palestinians their own state and the answer was the Intifada. The Palestinian situation must be resolved, but NOT with regimes that advocate genocide (Syria), promote suicide bombings (Arafat), or paint Jews as subhuman monsters (Egypt). Surrendering the West Bank to such arrogant oligarchs is analogous to the West surrendering the Sudetenland to Adolf Hitler. It did not create peace in the 20th century and will not create peace in the 21st.

Defending Israel against the Arab world would indeed be worth World War III, for while Israel stands as a beacon of democracy, her enemies lurk as corrupt pretenders. To surrender an authentic democracy to these repressive, corrupt, and genocidal regimes would be tantamount to appeasing evil - a strategy with disastrous conclusions. If saving France, a shitty little country barely the size of two American states, from German tyrants was worth World War II, saving Israel from Arab tyrants is worth fighting World War III.

ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN ISSUE 551 AND PROVOKED MUCH OUTRAGE.

WORDS BY BLAKE BAILEY

# European superstate, not superpower

With the successful introduction of the euro, the European Union took a great stride toward achieving its goals. If you're foolish enough to make the request, Eurocrats will gleefully list the arguments in favor of a united Europe. However, the actual (and far less romanticised) basis for the EU's existence is to stand as a direct competitor to the United States: ideologically, economically, and militarily.

Of course, this was always the intention. The premier European advocate, Charles de Gaulle, wrote in his memoirs of a Europe in which 'France would sit in a position of authority on the old Continent, while America would find herself back in her hemisphere.' During the French referendum on the Maastricht Treaty in 1992, the government's primary poster, pushing for a 'Yes' vote, carried the slogan 'Faire l'Europe c'est faire le poids' (Building Europe gives us weight). The former EU president and Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson, contends that the EU is 'one of the few institutions we can develop as a balance to U.S. world domination.'

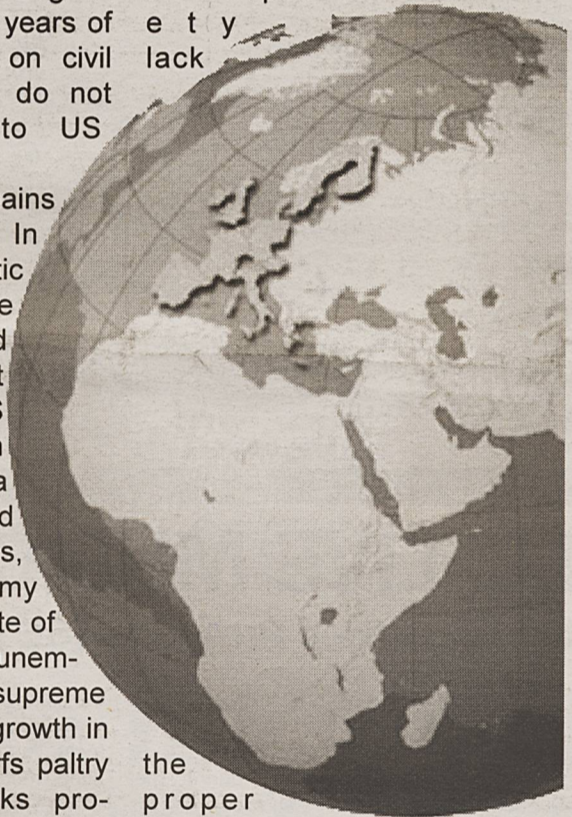
However, the European Union has far to go to achieve parity with the United States. The ideals of America are legendary. The Declaration of Independence states clearly Americans' convictions: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.' The American Constitution and its Bill of Rights are renowned for shielding citizens from the tyranny of both government and the mob. Freedom, liberty, and limited government: these are the American ideals that millions every year risk their lives to

attain. In contrast, the European Union's ideals are somewhat fuzzy. Its sole objective is to bring about an 'ever closer union' between the European nations - not exactly an inspiring ethos. One thing is certain; the EU does not stand for democracy. None of its key power players faces a plebiscite. Referendums repeatedly fail, but are summarily ignored. Meetings remain secretive, sans any actual public input. As for civil liberties, the EU government 'can lawfully suppress political criticism of its institutions and of leading figures, sweeping aside English Common Law and fifty years of European precedents on civil liberties.' EU ideals do not favorably compare to US ideals.

Financially, the EU remains far weaker than the US. In 1996, the gross domestic products (GDP) of the United States and Europe were about equal. Today, the US GDP is nearly \$1 trillion greater. Despite a smaller population and higher immigration rates, the American economy expands at twice the rate of Europe's, has half the unemployment, and reigns supreme in world markets. Job growth in the United States dwarfs paltry European public works programmes, while the American entrepreneurial spirit remains the leading force in innovation and business today. Excessive bureaucratic regulations and burdensome labour restrictions prevent Europe from effectively challenging American supremacy.

Neither is the euro threatening the United States. Since its grand arrival in 1999, the euro has lost over 25% of its value compared to the dollar. The European Central Bank

now fears inflation. Furthermore, Eurozone governments have relinquished control over their economies, an action with unforeseen results. Leaders cannot violate deficit limits, even if World War III breaks out or a severe depression threatened society. Germany is approaching this limit and may break it - weakening the euro's credibility. In contrast, the United States is free to pursue any policy crucial to fostering economic growth. Militarily, the balance of power is even more lopsided. In sheer numbers, the American and European militaries may have an equal number of troops, but the European variety lack



the proper military hardware to be formidable. The US spends over \$100 billion more on their military, a gap that will only increase as the War on Terrorism progresses. Moreover, most European troops are based on the European continent, far away from any genuine military threat. The remaining troops follow American forces only AFTER they victory is achieved. In contrast, American troops serve all over the globe, in some of the hottest spots in the world, including South Korea, Saudi

Arabia, and South East Asia. The United States does this and STILL serves in Europe today. Nato General Secretary George Robertson did not exaggerate when saying, 'Europe remains a military pygmy.'

Eurocrats in Brussels gleefully prattle on about a Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) that will be able to exert force anywhere on the globe. Yet how would they get anywhere? Theoretically, the US Navy could transport them, as the EU has no capability to do so. Upon their arrival, the RRF would be under heavy fire, as Europe has neither precision aerial bombing nor sufficient naval support to assist it. Even assuming the RRF actually reached an enemy position, the engagement would be catastrophic. If history is any measure: the Italian troops would invade the wrong nation, Swedish troops would be captured with minimal effort, and the Spanish would retreat, while the French soldiers would shoot the Germans in the back for interfering with their surrender operation.

The European Union has a far way to go to compete with the United States. As the EU exists today, its military is lamentable, its democratic devotion lacking, and its economy shackled. Of course, the EU can change and improve itself. But for right now, the European Union does not have what it takes to challenge the land of the free and home of the brave.

ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN BLINK 553 AND PROVOKED MUCH INDIGNATION.

WORDS BY BLAKE BAILEY.

## singles

**BEN KWELLER**  
**WASTED AND READY**

Youthful exuberance from the 'new evan dando'. This is indie pop at it's best. A smattering of distortion over gentleness. Towards the end of the track I'm having elusions of Pearl Jam. I'll ignore this.

4/5  
MIKEBURN

**2 HEADS**  
**OUT OF THE CITY**

Standard dum-dum-dum fayre with four mixes. Mix 1: 'Extended Mix', predictable prog predictability. Mix 2: 'Thick Dick Mix', splodgy spaced out, not too unlike the previous. Mix 3: 'Touche Mix', paired down to strings 'n' beat. Mix 4: 'Thick Dick Dark Dub', exactly what it says on the tin.

3/5  
MIKEBURN

**MARTIN GRECH**  
**OPEN HEART ZOO**

Seemingly pretentious music for selling cars. Could be mistaken for thinking this is beautiful and heart-rending. It isn't. It borders on the insipid. Like a version of Jeff Buckley with prog operatics.

2/5  
SPIKEFERN

**JAMES YORKSON AND THE ATHLETES**  
**TENDER TO THE BLUES**

Gentleness on Domino records. Acoustic balladeering from James Yorkson.. Majestic, subtle, melancholic, James Yorkson is an artist of understated genius.

4/5  
MIKEBURN

**THE DELGADOS**  
**COMING IN FROM THE COLD**

Harping back to the sound of Peloton the Delgados new single is trademark stuff. Strumming loveliness, lyrical intelligence. It is hard to find fault in this stunning single. An excellent taster to the forthcoming album.

4/5  
SPIKEFERN

**WHITE STRIPES**  
**DEAD LEAVES AND THE DIRTY GROUND**

The Stripes o' White are truly permeating the nations consciousness with their distinctive brand of wailing vocal and guitar driven blues. Their domination looks set to continue with an unbelievable high profit margin and great songs to boot.. No complaints. Get the blues.

4/5  
MIKEBURN

**LUPINE HOWL**  
**DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD**

Not impressed. Why is everything so fucking prog this week? Maybe it's just me. Pseudo ethereal whining. I can't stomach it. It's been turned off.

1/5  
SPIKEFERN

**THE COGNITION**  
**GETTIN' MESSY**

This is Pub Rock!. Badly produced and amateurish but taking this into account I'm sure there is a place for this record somewhere. And it's most likely to be proudly placed in the record collections of the bands and immediate family and close friends. It just lacks anything special. Argh switch it off.

1/5  
MIKEBURN

**THE BREEDERS**  
**SON OF THREE**

The Breeders are indie legends. Lo-fi tunage with massive pop sensibilities; a delightful combination. 'Son of Three' pounds along, an altogether pleasant experiment. The single comes backed with an interpretation of Nerf Herder's Buffy theme. Which is jovial but perhaps a little self indulgent and pointless. The kids, however, will probably love it.

4/5  
MIKEBURN

## Single of the Week



**LUKE SLATER**  
**I CAN COMPLETE YOU**

Luke Slater purveyor of fine hard techno and now, electro pop. Not so much a bandwagon jump as a logical progression.

*I Can Complete You*, with Slater's trademark vocoded vocals is a pulsating dance anthem which will doubtlessly be filling floors nationwide.

And while any notions of Electroclash are slowly turning into Electroca\$h it is pleasing to know that a genuinely talented artist may get his just rewards.

If you ever get the chance to catch Mr Slater live, or one of his awesome DJ sets, then take it up.

4/5  
MIKEBURN

## CARROSSELL: LIVE MUSIC REVIVED @ LSE

Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press: As LSE prepares to be rocked Elliot tells us more

Breathe. Feel the oxygen in your lungs. And then waste it. Think of a rock 'n' roll Scream -raw and primal- or the seductive tones of pop temptress. How your breath could have silenced a room or made it roar with approval. Live Music is something you need. Something that can change you. Not a mere soundtrack to a life. If you understand, prepare to fall...

Movement. Engagement. Wonder. Carrossell is all. Carrossell signals the start of the affair. Diverse evenings devoted to New and Independent Artists. Showcasing music that matters. A direction not a backdrop. Founded by LSE students to revive London's lost venue -the Quad. Breathe. Scream. Form an audience. Fall.

**Notice to the Public:**  
**Live Music @ The Quad (LSE SU)**  
**Houghton Street, Aldwych, London**  
**Every Thursday. Doors 7.30pm**  
**£5 / 4 Flier or NUS / 3 Ents Card**  
**www.carrossell.co.uk**

**CARROSSELL: OFFICIAL OPENING NIGHT - THURSDAY 03/10/02**

Ok. We opened our doors during the Summer. But we don't need an excuse to celebrate. Do we? No distant relations of the Queen, no speeches, no "real music for real people" (yawn); just three excellent bands from our friends at Truck Records and their sister label Juggernaut:

**The Rock of Travolta**

Adored by Radiohead -who handpicked them to play their homecoming show in Oxford's South Park- TROT's powerful instrumentals have seen them showered in plaudits from the Broadsheets to Kerrang! Recording their debut Lp in the time it took Elastica to order pizza. This is a band whose energy and ideas correspond to the unwritten Carrossell manifesto. Their album title -"My Band's Better Than Yours"- is a threat you cannot afford to ignore.  
www.therockoftravolta.com

**Meanwhile Back in Communist Russia**

Confessions of bad sex, physical disgust and sadness may sell tabloid newspapers. But

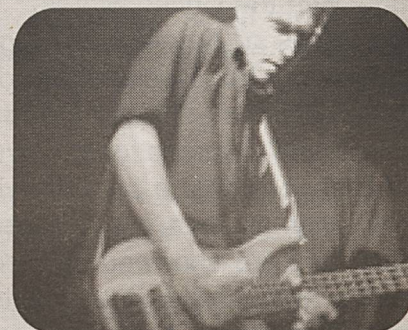
the bleak poetry of Emily Gray is more akin to the product of contemporary writers like Irvine Welsh than that of the Redtops. The band, meanwhile, paints dense, dark backdrops, which take Emily's monologues to the next level. Uncomfortable. Bewitching. Performed Live on Radio1. Art Rock. One to watch.  
www.meanwhilebackincommunistrussia.com

**Dustball**

Frantic. Energetic. Catchy. Dustball first emerged back in 1997 before embarking on an indefinite hiatus to become educated young men. Championed by Radio1 legend John Peel they now return with a new line-up; armed with an arsenal of punk pop songs, ready to assault alternative radio. What marks the band apart is the unexpected directions the songs veer into when you least expect it...  
www.dustball.co.uk

C'ya all Thursday!

e.c.simmons@lse.ac.uk



**Top: The Rock of Travolta**  
**Bottom: MBICR**







**My Computer**  
**Vulnerabilia**

David Holmes burgeoning 13amp record label with another offering. Despite opening with a overly progressive near 10 minute track, this is a thoroughly pleasurable marriage of electronics and traditional song writing. There is, however, a omnipresent propensity for the tracks on this album to crawl up their own arse. Many of the songs have multiple parts which could really be whole new songs.

This album goes from the sublime to the ridiculous on several occasions and a good few of the tracks are instantly forgettable but other tracks ingrain themselves on you. The title track with it's arpeggio guitar and head shakingly good beat is one of the highlights here. And the pounding disco of 'Majic Flat' is a dancefloor filler. That is until the song dies half way through after 3 minutes.

An album of proggyish folktronica, at times fantastic, at other times sickeningly self-indulgent. (6)

MIKEBURN



**His Name is Alive**  
**Last Night**

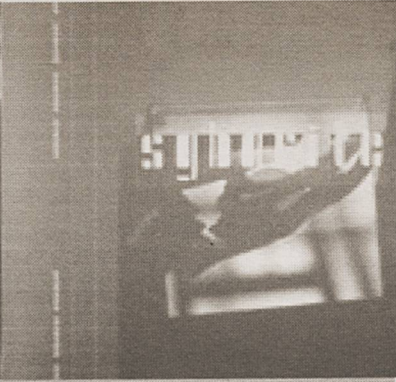
An album of outstanding musicianship and technical accomplishment. His Name is Alive have produced songs of varying style but with all possessing equal substance. The title track is a blissed out jazzy cut with a smouldering female vocal. 'Last Night' seems miles away from the band's rockier past.

There is an over-riding simplicity present here, not underappreciating the musicianship but in terms of production. The sleeve notes state: '...recorded in a basement, a bedroom, and at rehearsal' and this should give indication of the attitude which has gone into making this record.

In terms of style the tracks range from the tribal jazz party jam of 'Someday My Prince Will Come' to the plodding mellow dub of 'Crawlin'' and the acoustic simplicities and niceness of 'Teardrops'.

To reiterate: an album of outstanding musicianship and technical accomplishment; if only at times a tad self indulgent and occasionally meanderingly dull. (7)

MIKEBURN



**Sybarite**  
**Nonument**

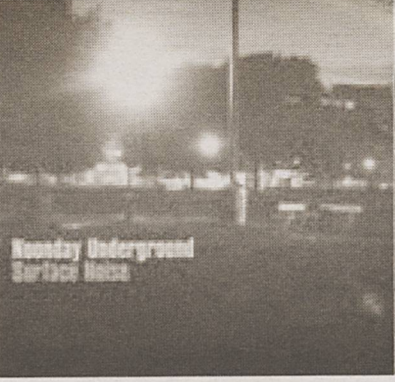
Spell binding and thoughtful, chilled out and with resounding depth. Subtle micro-noises run around playfully in the background. Sweet melody chimes in the foreground. Like Plaid but with less effervescence. Intelligent experimentations of sound.

Xian Hawkins has to be a modern genius. The music here is so emotive, so very lovely it's hard to find words to describe it.

Sybarite is technical, modern, yet beautiful and dreamy. This is electronic music which doesn't sound sterile. The acoustic guitars compliment everything.

Sybarite is playing London October 10th at the ICA if you could catch it I doubt you'd regret it. (9)

MIKEBURN



**Noonday Underground**  
**Surface Noise**

Orchestral jazzness. Nice. Understated funk atmospherics. Mmmm. This is an album of various lush sounding songs. Some upbeat, some downbeat; always mellow, always chilled. 'Surface Noise' has a vintage sound to it; occasionally reminiscent of David Axelrod productions. In a horrible vague sense this is a 'chill out' album but crowning Noonday Underground with a disposable yuppie non-genre wouldn't do them complete justice. This album possess a certain sophistication that defines the sound. More music for thinking than music for drinking. Cocktails wouldn't be a bad accompaniment, however.

Paul Weller (Whore Weller) guests on two of the tracks, the album's low points. He's not fooling anyone. The other guests, however add vocal depth to the music. Many of the tracks achieve a cinematic feel and this is only a good thing. (7)

KIMBENUR



**Lo/Hi**  
**Say it More**

'Turn it Up!' What the current garage rock scene needs is a female fronted full on assault and here, with lo/hi, we have it. Very PJ Harvey but that ain't no bad thing. Like the Detroit Cobras but with a less retro sound. "Feeling angular / Changin' chemically. I'm spinning circular / 600 degrees!" is walled on 'Three Fish': the directions on a bottle of 'aGreatRockin'NightOut' juice. This is the sort of rock album which holds a direct correlation between volume played at and how good it appears to sound. Louder the better, obviously. So, cranking it up to 11 I'll carry on.

There is of course one or two tracks that aren't quite brilliant but the rest make up for it. But if you want some bluesy rock 'n roll of the Jon Spencer variety then look here. (7)

KIMBENUR

# Win A Complete Back Catalogue!!!!

To celebrate the start of the new term, Beaver Music In conjunction with Sony Music UK are offering you the chance to win a complete back catalogue of your choice (from the list below). Just complete the form opposite and cross your fingers!

Celine Dion, Toploader, Suede, Manic Street Preachers, Korn, System of a Down, Destiny's Child, Hundred Reasons, B\*Witched, Jeff Buckley, Jamiroquai, Reef, Rage Against the Machine, Travis.

Winners will be notified via email by October 15th. E-Mail for T&Cs.

To enter just email the following details to:  
mikeburn@ithica27.fsnet.co.uk or cut it out a drop it off at the Beaver office

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Network: \_\_\_\_\_

Favourite Genre: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sony Music UK**

# Northern

**This year's Leeds festival proved to be an incendiary affair, with controversy aplenty. Armed with VIP passes, the Beaver's PETERDAVIES made sense of the fires, riots and superb live music that contributed to a memorable weekend.**

## Friday

First thing on Friday, we ambled over to the Main stage to see promising British rock upstarts Hundred Reasons. Having released debut 'Ideas Above Our Station' to considerable critical acclaim, the band reel off their heady fusion of rock, metal and emo to the gentle applause of the gathered masses. Although there is little to particularly distinguish them from their Britrock peers, the anthemic 'Silver' does highlight their potential. Puddle of Mudd follow, with their brand of Fred Durst endorsed grunge translating into multi-platinum sales for their 2001 debut 'Come Clean'. Despite their overwhelming commercial success, however, today songs such as 'Blurry' pale in comparison with those honed and perfected by Seattle's finest Soundgarden, Pearl Jam and Mudhoney. A disappointment. Next up are punk stalwarts NOFX. Having made a telling contribution to the US punk scene through lead singer Fat Mike's legendary Fat Wreck Chords label, the band have continually shunned the limelight and the MTV corporate scum generation by avoiding publicity and remaining independent; concentrating solely on making good humoured hardcore punk. Opening with the blistering pop-punk of 'the Brews' from 'Punk in Drublic' the band get off to a superb start, and they continue to thrill the crowd with songs such as the paean to George W. Bush - 'Son of an Asshole'. All in all, a fine set that puts to shame diluted pretenders such as Sum 41 and Bowling for Soup. Over on the Carling Stage are Scottish rock newcomers Biffy Clyro. Their melodic emo-rock that incorporates influences such as Fugazi, Jimmy Eat World and the Foo Fighters drives the small but partisan crowd wild, in particular the bruising singles 'Joy.Discovery.Invention.' and '27'. Nottingham's favourite sons Six By Seven are also on form with their pop-tinged sonic assaults. Drawing material from this year's fine effort 'The Way I Feel Today', the haunting pop of 'I O U Love', the ferocious guitar of 'Flypaper for Freaks' and album opener 'So Close' all stand up well to older material such as the brooding 'Ten Place To Die' from their opus 'The Closer I Get'. Again, proof that British guitar music can still be as exhilarating as ever. The Offspring set is somewhat a mixed affair. The Orange County punks released a bona fide masterpiece in 1995 with 'Smash', yet they have consistently failed since to come close to replicating it's brilliance. Dexter Holland and co. hence sound superb on classics such as Bad Habit, Come Out and Play and set closer Self esteem, whilst coming across as blatantly plagiaristic and tired on Pretty Fly For a White Guy, Million Miles Away and the appalling Original Prankster. Undoubtedly a band that's living in the past (See also; Oasis, the Stereophonics, Therapy?). Headlining tonight are Los Angeles rock legends Guns 'N' Roses. Although little remains of their original line-up, (Buckethead fails miserably to live up to Slash on lead), Axl Roses' outfit do delight the hordes despite their late showing (over an hour late on stage). After nearly a 10 year hiatus from these shores, the band begin on Appetite for Destruction's Welcome to the Jungle', and songs such as Knockin' on Heaven's Door and Sweet Child O' Mine are delivered with aplomb; Axl's screech as effervescent as it ever was. Ending on Paradise City, this represents a welcome return for the band, and the spectacular fireworks prove to be a fitting close to the performance.

## Saturday

Mercury Rev are the first band of note to entertain on the Main Stage, and in the sun-drenched setting, the band can do no wrong. Their lush melodic soundscapes go down a treat, with Jonathan Donahue's high pitched vocals complementing the varied instrumentation on songs mostly drawn from the outstanding 'Deserter's Songs' and the more recent 'All is Dream'. 'Holes' and the piano led 'Goddess on a Highway' are the highlights of a masterful set. Over on the Evening session Stage are US outfit Guided By Voices, led by the eccentric former teacher Robert Pollard. Possessing a work-ethic surely unmatched by any contemporary (he has written 19 albums in the last 15 years), Pollard has fused elements of lo-fi, prog and rock to great effect, especially on this year's 'Universal Truths and Cycles'. Today, the band reel off the best of their latest release, and the atmospheric prog rock of 'Christian Animation Torch Carriers', the power-pop of 'The Lake' and current single 'Everywhere with Helicopter' are as great as the song titles are bizarre. Weezer soon take to the main stage, and the kings of Geek rock transport us to their lovelorn world of garages, surfboards, hash pipes and above all, rocking guitars. Their set comprises mainly of favourites from their classic eponymous debut, and their latest brace of records the Green Album and Maladroit. The shambolic yet somehow marvellous Dope Nose and new single Keep Fishin are sparkling slabs of melodic rock, whilst older material 'My Name is Jonas' 'Surf Wax America' and Say It Aint So send the crowd into raptures. Rivers Cuomo is a genius. Period. Tonight, the Evening Stage heralds the emotional but welcome return of Feeder. Their first high-profile slot since the tragic death of their drummer and childhood friend Jon Lee, the Welsh rockers are tonight triumphant in the face of adversity (indeed, frontman Grant Nicholas dedicates a song to 'absent friends'). Feeder live favourites 'Insomnia' 'My Perfect Day', and 'Buck Rogers' are all present, and ex-Skunk Anansie drummer Mark Richardson fills in admirably, especially on 'Waiting for Changes'. Headlining on the Main Stage tonight are the Strokes. The New York rock'n'roll quintet have hogged the spotlight since the release of their debut 'Is This It?'. Since then, blanket media coverage has ensured that the band are now established at the forefront of the rock scene on both sides of the Atlantic. The band dish out 'Last Nite', 'Someday' and 'New York City Cops' competently, but the question really needs to be answered- 'Is That It?' Pardon me, but for all the lavish praise, hit singles and album of the year awards, despite being a good band, they're not the exceptional saviours of rock that many purport them to be. A tad overrated for my liking.

Right: Axel Rose, Guns 'n' Roses. Yorkshire Rose???



# Uproar!



## Sunday

Today, the Concrete Jungle stage is in town, and the roster comprises a who's who of the current US emo-core scene. Kansas wizards the Anniversary are our first port of call, and they deliver an astounding performance. Having burst onto the emo scene with the Rentals-meets-Get Up Kids style 'Designing a Nervous Breakdown', all boy/girl vocals and emotive lyrics, this year's sophomore effort 'Your Majesty', has eschewed the direction of the former, proving to be an expansive opus recalling the Cars and the Beatles. Opener 'Sweet Marie' is retro-pop of the finest order, whilst Peace, Pain and Regret contains glorious hooks, in particular it's 'we are the ones' refrain. The band finish on the pompous, pretentious yet sublime 'Death of the King' with it's three part vocal harmony.

On the main stage are A, and their pop-punk goes down well in the early afternoon slot. Melodic and effortlessly hummable A unleash a number of songs from their finest release 'Hi-Fi Serious' including 'Starbucks' and 'Something's Going On'. Early material such as Foghorn and Monkey Kong also goes down well, and they finish on the superb nu-metal riffage of Nothing.

Former Radish frontman and child-prodigy Ben Kweller then enters the Carling Stage, and thankfully he has traded in his former band's self styled 'sugar metal' in favour of power-pop that encapsulates Evan Dando at his best. Playing songs from his charming solo outing 'Sha-Sha', Ben Kweller more than proves that the ill fated major label deal (which he gained aged 15) hasn't stifled his considerable talent, and Ready and Waiting, the slow burning No Reason and piano ballad In Other Words go down a storm.

The Get Up Kids are next up on the Concrete Jungle Stage, and the Kansas emo-core outfit are surely the most eagerly anticipated of the bands on this stage today. Their sophomore release 'Something To Write Home About' is possibly the sub-genre's finest album to date, with its heart wrenching and ultra-melodic choruses, and although their latest album 'On Wire' has seen the band veer towards rootsy Midwest rock that also has trappings of Wilco and Grandaddy, the sheer quality of their output has remained intact. Starting on 'Let the Reigns go Loose' with its ethereal backing vocals and lead, the band are on fire, and earlier favourites Holiday, Ten Minutes and Action and Action are dished out with style and panache. They finish on the epic title track 'On a Wire'.

On the main stage are Ash, and whilst their commercial pretty boy rock is tuneful, and plods along nicely on the radio, it doesn't even compare with a number of their Brit-rock peers (the Wildhearts, My Vitriol, the Catherine Wheel, SilverGinger V....I could go on). Don't get me wrong, songs such as 'A Life Less Ordinary' and 'Girl From Mars' are fine slabs of harmonious rock, yet these tend to be the exception, especially given the inconsistent nature of their first two albums. Tonight, songs such as Shining Light and Burn Baby Burn sound even blander than David Gray.

Teignemouth rock trio Muse entertain the main stage tonight, and their grandiose style that has seen albums Showbiz and Origin of Symmetry shift by the bucketload shows no signs of abating in front of the massive audience. Muse positively revel in the expansive setting, and Matt Bellamy's Thom Yorke-esque falsetto is in top-form tonight, especially on the sprawling 'Citizen Erased', the roller coaster ride of Muscle Museum and the marvellous Showbiz.

Jimmy Eat World, like the Get Up Kids and the Promise Ring, have taken pop influenced emo-rock to new heights, and their boundary stretching 'Clarity' release and the brilliance of 'Bleed American' has seen them make well deserved strides commercially. Tonight they are simply exceptional, especially Lucky Denver Mint, Goodbye Sky Harbour and the catchier than herpes A Praise Chorus. The perfect pop of Authority Song is also as infectious as ever, and the band duly finish on their hit 'Sweetness'.

To round off a great weekend of music are the Foo Fighters, headlining the main stage, and Dave Grohl and his merry men do not disappoint. The former Nirvana drummer continues to excel as a songwriter, and fresh material from their forthcoming album hints that it will continue in the same vein as its predecessors; vintage riffs with tunes to boot. Monkey Wrench, Hey Johnny Park, Aurora, Generator, For All the Cows; tonight the Foo Fighters just can't lose. Rock and Grohl!

Top: Ash Duller than David "I'm So Grey" Gray  
Middle: Down with the Kids  
Bottom: Fires blaze. Leeds Festival: a complete riot!

# Road to Perdition

ELEANORKEECH: it means 'eternal damnation', you know

**Director:** Sam Mendes  
**Starring:** Tom Hanks, Paul Newman, Jude Law, Tyler Hoechlin  
**Running Time:** 117 mins  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Release Date:** OUT NOW

It's great to see a British director do so well. Sam Mendes, better known for "American Beauty" which won 5 Oscars and was nominated for a further 3, has brought to the big screen a beautiful and painstakingly made gangster film based in 1930s Depression-era Chicago. Tom Hanks and Paul Newman star in this intense melodrama based around filial father-son relationships, whether figurative or real.

It's intense and dark. You have to bear with this film, it's slow-paced but this allows you a deeper understanding of the characters and their motives, and then there is the deciding question: is Michael Sullivan - deftly played but Tom Hanks - a good man or a bad man? Fast action addicts will have to wait until further into the film for the blood-ripened gunfight scenes. Sullivan works for John Rooney (Newman), the big boss of his division of Chicago's gangsters (it all comes back to Al Capone, although Capone isn't a character in this film). Sullivan is one of Rooney's main assets since he's a precise and trustworthy killer, and their close bond becomes the subject of jealousy from Rooney's son, Connor (Daniel Craig - remember "Our Friends from the North"?). Thus Connor sets out to destroy Sullivan's world and make himself top dog, since John Rooney is an old man and

Connor is desperate to inherit his father's status. Sullivan and his son, Michael Sullivan Junior (played by Tyler Hoechlin, an excellent actor for his age, I hope he goes on to big things) have to hit the road to stay alive and Sullivan Senior has only one idea in mind, to deliver his son from the evil gangster livelihood.

Sullivan Senior comes to see the true value of his lifestyle, how easily strong bonds can be broken, the mistrust between gangsters, the violent loss of those he cares deeply about (his family), and this makes him focused to give his son the law-abiding life that he deserves. They are followed by Maguire who has been hired to kill them, eerily played by Jude Law. The eerie thing is that Maguire is a grotesque, cunning and heartless character, in a grotesque and heartless profession which he loves (he plays a photographer whose specialty is snapping the violently murdered sometimes helping out with the deaths) and he has a pallid and ugly face. This is hard to believe having seen him play the pretty boy role in such films as "The Talented Mr Ripley", but it is amazing how a few simple changes to his face are used to the greatest effect.

All in all a superb film and Mendes proves he's no one-hit wonder, and it's refreshing to see a gangster film without the Italian-American connections, i.e. no Al Pacino no Robert De Niro. Tom Hanks proves he can do the complicated hard-man act as well as they can.

5/5

# Sweet Sixteen

LAURAWHEELER: She's not Scottish but she likes it

**Director:** Ken Loach  
**Screenwriter:** Paul Laverty  
**Released:** 4th October

The word "Gritty" has become such a cliché, especially when associated with a Ken Loach/ Paul Laverty collaboration ('My Name Is Joe', 'Carla's Song', 'Bread and Roses'). Sweet Sixteen, shot in six weeks, appears to be

no different.

Liam (Martin Compston), 15, lives on a rough Glasgow estate with his mother's abusive drug-dealing boyfriend Stan (Gary McCormack) and maternal grandfather (Tommy McKee - probably the meanest grandfather you'll ever see!). His mother (Michelle Coulter) is in prison, due for release on Liam's sixteenth birthday.

Hence the ironic title.

Liam hates Stan - the feeling is more than mutual - and he is determined never to let his "mam" go back to Stan and consequently end up going back inside. He finds a caravan overlooking the Clyde estuary that is the perfect home for them both, plus his single-parent sister Chantelle (Annmarie Fulton) and her son.

'Sweet Sixteen' follows Liam and his best mate Pinball (William Ruane) as they try to raise the money to buy the caravan. There are elements of pure comedy, such as when they steal a stash of heroin from Stan, which has been hidden in the chicken run. And not so nice stuff, such as when Stan tries to force Liam to kiss his mum in prison, passing cocaine to her in his mouth.

This film is subtle in its message, especially as a lot of the dialogue is in a very thick Glaswegian accent (the film will be released with subtitles). But the accent doesn't hinder your understanding of the

film - you feel what the characters mean, even if you can't understand every word. The cast, most of who were previously non-actors, are outstanding. In particular, the sibling relationship between Chantelle and Liam is incredibly touching, reminding me of my own relationship with my younger brother.

Nominated for the Palm D'Or in Cannes 2002, with Laverty winning Best Script, this film has been causing quite a stir. Unusually for me, I'd heard about it before I even got the preview invitation. As it's full of unknowns, it's been marketed on the strength of Loach's name alone. I hope this is enough, as "Sweet Sixteen" is a moving, charming story of the savagery and innocence of youth - not simply "gritty".

4/5

# One Hour Photo

**ELEANORKEECH: the dark side of Robin Williams**

**Director:** Mark Romanek  
**Starring:** Robin Williams, Connie Nielson, Eriq La Salle  
**Running Time:** 95 mins  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Release Date:** 04/10/2002

Music video director Mark Romanek has achieved many a feat. He put No Doubt on Jet-skis this summer, dropped Lenny Kravitz into a light-drenched amphitheatre for Are You Gonna Go My Way? and even got Michael and Janet together for Scream. But this time, with his feature film debut (ignoring a little-seen movie 17 years ago), he's put Robin Williams in a good film, maybe even a great one, and single-handedly erased the memory of countless pieces of trash he's graced of late. Patch Adams, What Dreams May Come, Bicentennial Man... all gone.

Williams plays Seymour 'Sy' Parrish, the man in charge at a shopping mall's One Hour Photo desk. He goes about his days diligently, obsessively devoting his attention to perfectly developing print after print to the highest possible standard. But his obsession goes far further than anal-retentive attention to detail. Compared to his lonely existence, the happy snaps he spends his life with portray happy families and loving couples. Drowning in a sea of Kodak Moments, he finds hope in one family - The Yorkins. Mother Nina (Connie Nielsen - who you may recognise from Gladiator) father Will and nine-year old son Jakob, who Sy has watched grow from day one through their family album.

The trailer will try and fool you into thinking that this is a stock thriller, another Fatal Attraction with boiled bunnies swapped for dark room and disposable cameras. It's understandable that the studio would attempt to pull the wool over your eyes in this manner, with a big star name and a high concept to sell the thrills on. Instead, writer/director Romanek has crafted a

much deeper experience. One Hour Photo is an excellently played, elegantly designed, uniquely atmospheric and deeply unnerving character study, which provides the thrills and scares at times, but is much more interested in getting under your skin and into the mind of the lead character. The result, partially thanks to a convincing and deeply sympathetic performance from Williams, is a film that goes deep and lingers with the viewer long after the credits roll. What's more, Romanek acquits himself very well, and is clearly a name to watch for in the future. Swaying far from the Michael Bay (Armageddon) style of hyperactive editing and overpowering action that often plagues ex-music and ad directors' work, Romanek is far more akin to David Fincher (Se7en, Fight Club), bringing elegant, intruding visual skills from the world of ads and pop promos and marrying it to true feature-film making skills. This isn't flashy, popcorn-friendly fodder - it's one of the most satisfying, original, artistically accomplished films to come out of Hollywood in the past few years.

Go in to One Hour Photo expecting Hollywood thrills and big scares and you'll come out disappointed. Go in with your thinking cap on and you'll come out not just entertained, but thoroughly satisfied.

4/5



## Mr t's Column

Everybody Dance Now! Welcome to a column that I hope shall educate, inform and entertain you. Technically it's meant to be a film column but you can expect anything and everything from a mind as warped as mine. Too much TV and no morality makes for interesting reading I guess. So how do we start? Perhaps a round up of the summer block busters? Not bloody likely, I've been out of the country for a couple of months and hence missed the drivel that the studios feed to the usual consumers of shite. In case you don't realise you can expect a lot of film references in my rantings. Also, if you are easily offended then I would advise you to piss off.

So instead I thought I would talk about some of the films that have warped my mind in the past. The obvious ones are Fight Club, American Psycho and of course The Big Lebowski. Quite frankly if you are a student and haven't seen The Big Lebowski then you may as well pack your bags and go home. Come to think of it you can count Evil Dead and Evil Dead 2 along with The DudeTM hmm, this is an interesting topic, films that define our generation of students. In the eighties you had the obvious brat pack films, St Elmos Fire, The Breakfast Club along with Withnail & I and Quadrophenia. But what about us? We the generation that spanned the eighties, nineties and now the pathetically named naughties. We have no great war, no great depression, our great depression is our lives. One point for spotting the first.

When it comes to my taste in films I am no snob nor elitist but I do not tolerate ignorance. I hate it with a vengeance, people for example who think Titanic was a good film or even deserving of the Oscars that were bestowed upon it. These people can rot and die in a pool of their own filth. (Small note, I knew the Captain on Red Dwarf looked familiar he's in Aliens). Or people who think Shawshank Redemption is a classic, that sort of blatant ignorance fills me with the fury that makes me want to scoop out their eyes with a rusty spoon. And on that note I'll call it a night.

# Classic Film Reviews

We thought we'd bring something new to the Beaver film section, and we came up with the idea of classic film reviews to pay tribute to your favourite films. Want to write one yourself? Sign up at the Beaver stall at the Fresher's Fayre...

## War Games (1983): Terance Li's favourite nerd film

The Eighties, a time of innocent youth, and a time when Mathew Broderick starred in every film released. With war looming and my impending adult life beginning I seek solace in a film from my youth brings comfort and light to this time of darkness. When a kid who breaks into an anonymous computer looking for games inadvertently starts the ball rolling on WW3 a journey starts to avert the end of mankind. It's that sort of movie, we learn how easy it is to crack into top secret government computers, how to get free phone calls, break out of electronic doors and also that girls really dig guys who can get them out of summer school. Of course I could go into how the film is an exploration of the human character when confronted by its own mortality, but I'll leave the pretentious stuff out for now. Directed by John Badham (me neither!), and starring Matthew Broderick along with the rather delicious Ally Sheedy the film is a geeks wildest dream come true. An under achieving social outcast whose a wiz at computers saves the world from the brink of nuclear war. It's all pretty silly stuff, but I like it. Oh and did I mention he also gets the girl...



With lines like "Maybe you can tell us who first suggested the idea of reproduction without sex." "Umm your wife?" how could you not like this film? It's a classic eighties affair, computers with 5 1/4 inch disk drives, electronic voices as state of the art technology and flashing LED lights. Computers were the size of small buildings. Unfortunately today Microsoft dominates all and geeks are ridiculed for their poor dress sense and quirky manners. This film launched Ally Sheedy into the Brat Pack, subsequently starring in St Elmo's Fire. War Games also kicked off Mathew Broderick career as a teen icon. Most of you should remember Ferris Buellers Day Off and if you don't then SHAME! But he also uses a computer in that film to change his grades. The film is also written by the same people who wrote Sneakers - another favourite of mine, this time a Nineties film about hackers with Robert Redford. Oh, look out for Chief of Staff Leo McGarry who makes an appearance at the start of the film. Until next time remember these words "I'd piss on a spark plug if I thought it would help".



## LSE AU FOR DUMMIES

Become an expert in LSE sports slang in just 30 seconds with our exclusive guide!

### The Barrel:-

One cold day in December sees the Mighty LSE AU dress up like fools and drink vast quantities of Beer. The legendary Streaker is picked and this lucky individual will bear all to London and particularly the students of Strand Poly. Fines and forfeits are dished out for misdemeanors during the year, including downing a blended mixed grill and a pint of Sambuca. It is the day we stand up and say, look at us, we

are dressed like tube drivers / nuns / devils and we don't even care!

### Strand Poly:-

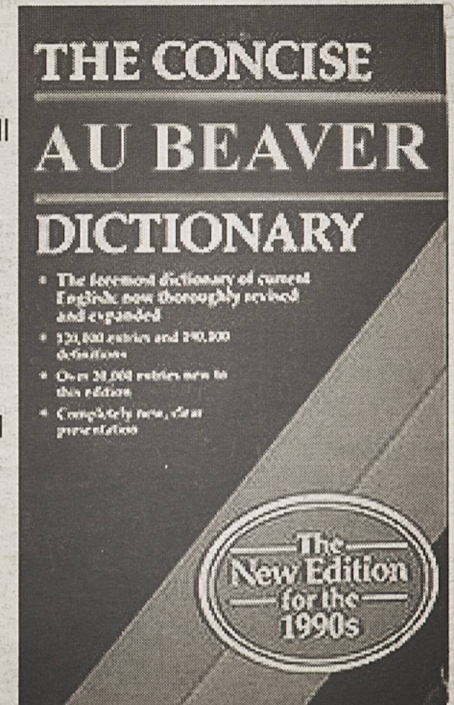
We all realise the inferiority of Kings and therefore like to refer to them by their nickname of Stand Poly. We beat them at sport, exam performance, league tables and general ability to be the best. Although at the moment you Freshers may not realise the enormity of the rivalry, you will, oh yes, you will.

### Euston Tech:-

In above section replace Kings with UCL and you get the idea.

### Kensington Tech / Gimperial:-

Two crude synonyms for the polytechnic everyone loves to hate: Imperial School of... Science Geeks.



### QMWank:-

Speaks for itself really. Another one of our lesser rivals, Queen Mary Whatshername...

### Bisexual Billy Muppet:-

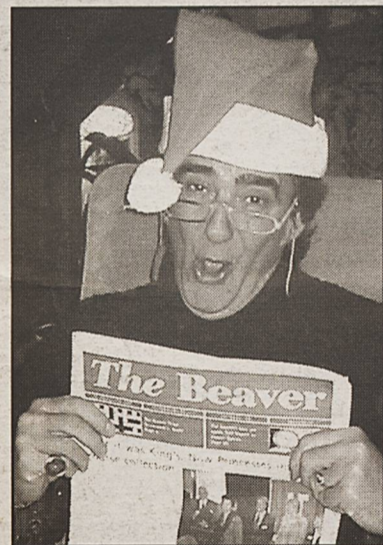
Despite Crimewatch pleas to not let this man into your home, the AU controversially gave him a blank cheque book and the keys to the treasury, promising to spend every last penny on the Barrel. Also known as Billy... just... Billy.

### David Dickinson (left):-

By day, he is the tanned love god that presents, nay, lures one into watching Bargain Hunt, but by night, and the weekend, the Adonis of daytime telly becomes the only LSE pin-up sexier than Rex 'Supertramp' Walker

### Rex Walker (right):-

Not David Dickinson. This man is a tramp. And president of the AU. The two things are not unrelated.



### Andy Gold:-

A legend in the AU, a man who has attended more Wednesday night events than any other, he is the man who provides us with the music to sing to on a Wednesday night - oh yes he is the Karaoke man. So if you fancy singing ( though singing in tune is not allowed! ) Suspicious Minds, My Old Man's a Dustman, or S Club 7, then Andy is the man for you.

### Netball girl:-

She has been around for many years but it is wrong to believe that she is from LSE. Who knows who she is or where she comes from? Join in the Beaver Campaign to find the new netball girl of 2002 - there has never been a better reason to join the netball team!



### Jarlath O'Hara:-

Will this man ever leave? Jarlath can always be found in the Tuns. After a strong AU career, which hit its pinnacle as Football club captain, Jarlath aspired to be in the first team so stood for Sabb election and made his dreams come true. He now dreams of dictatorship and so is sports and recreational officer in an attempt to begin taking over the AU as a whole. And remember, he may sound like he is from Leeds, but really he's Irish!

### Limelight:-

It may have been over priced and basically shit but we will all miss our dearly departed limelight. Situated on the corner of Shaftsbury Avenue it has been taken over by yet another Walkabout. Many a drunken night after club dinners was spent there. It was a symbol of commitment to the AU - The award must go to Miss Emma Walsh who attended every week or to Miss Emma Brunjes, the only person in history to be forcibly removed from this endearing shit hole.

## "How I Beat my Lager and Lime Shame" Beaver Exclusive - Loz Reveals All!

*Iain Bundred scoops the tabloids with this exclusive tale*

As the new football season approaches, first team captain Loz Morgan has hit out at reports that his chequered history is back to haunt him.

Morgan - a regular as left-back for the first XI since 2000 - has spent almost six months tackling a drinking problem that at one stage threatened to scupper his promising career.

The self-confessed lightweight had reached a new low at Christmas last year when pressures on and off the pitch saw him turn to 'Lager and Lime' as a new favourite tippie.

And, during the build-up to the season's kick-off, rumours have been circulating the Athletic Union that he was still indulging in the humiliating drink.

But, in an exclusive interview with the Beaver, Morgan has said that's all behind him now.

"There was a long while when I just couldn't drink anything else. I know it sounds ridiculous, but it was just so refreshing," Morgan explained.

"That dash of lime really takes the edge off!"

What proved the turning point in his battle with the booze was the new appointment as team captain at the end of last season.

"For any AU member to drink lager and lime - of course it's embarrassing. But for a team captain ...well, it's just not on.

To be the gaffer is a big responsibility - a lot of people have put their faith in me to lead the top football team at LSE. I just couldn't keep drinking the lime once I was in that position.

It was hard to beat at first. But I just kept thinking of leading the boys out onto the field for the first match of the season and knew that I could conquer this problem."

Since then, Morgan has stayed true to - what he calls - a "winning formula". He said:

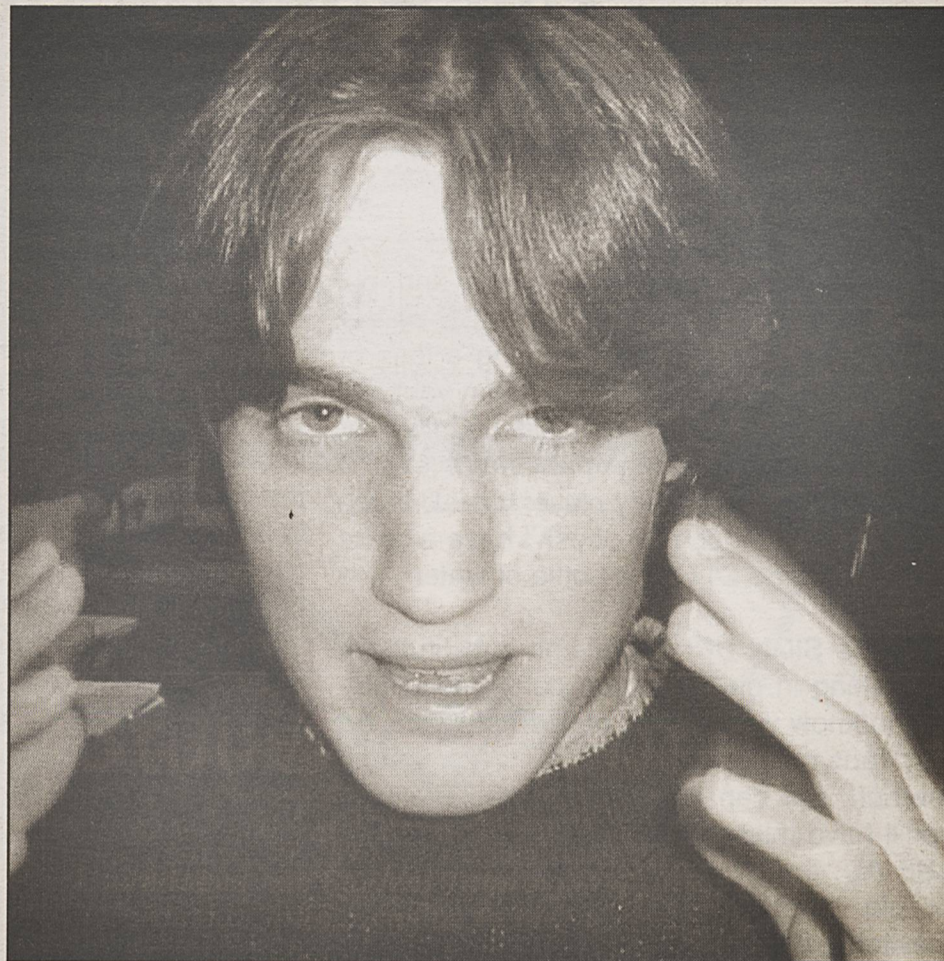
"If you just drink Guinness, lime-less lager and the odd shot of vodka, no-one's gonna question you're ability as a captain. Not till you get on the pitch at least!"

And that's where Morgan wants to be judged.

Lozza - as his team mates call him - has always been a consistent performer in his unglamorous wing-back role for the firsts, playing with a desire to win no matter what the occasion. And he hopes that his competitive attitude will rub off on his players.

"We want to be able to play beautiful football but also we need to be prepared to grind out results when we come up against nasty teams like Royal Holloway."

Holloway were the opponents in last season's ULU Cup final, a game marred by violence and a spate of sendings-off - including Morgan himself, who collected the first red card of his career after lashing out following a fierce challenge by an opponent.



"I've already apologised for that incident," Morgan said, defensively.

As it turned out that dismissal mattered little as LSE held onto a 2-1 lead to win the Cup - adding it to the ULU League Championship they won the week previous.

Whether such success will grace Morgan's captaincy remains to be seen. He inherits the double-winning squad, but it has been ravaged by graduation.

Of the Cup winning first eleven, six have left for pastures new - including the talismanic figures of Mark Buttery, Pete 'Gobshite' Callas and last year's captain 'Ickle' Dean Taylor.

That does not mean his team lacks experience though. In Dean 'Big Face' Lochrie and Billy 'Muppet' Dosanjh, they have players entering their fourth year at the top level. Add to that the mercurial skills of 'Sexual' Andy Saxton, Mike "Peter Pan" Turner and The Beaver's own Gareth Carter and there is a spine to the side that can give any of London's finest a good ninety minutes.

"We've lost a lot of good players," Morgan said, "and we're gonna miss them - although I won't miss Callas' gob!"

"To be serious for a moment, a lot depends on the new crop of players we get at training next week. If there's four or five players good enough to make the squad then we'll be in a good position."

So does he think he can emulate Taylor and lift both the league and cup trophies? "Well, I wouldn't want to get too carried away - especially since we haven't seen what the new players on offer are like. But I think we should be up among the contenders for both," he said.

Whatever happens to his side, Morgan feels the captaincy has been of great benefit to him - if only in beating the demon lime drink. Now he wakes up to a brave new world each morning and is able to face the daily challenges of a ULU league captain. For those in the AU, if the firsts win just one of the trophies they did last year, Morgan is likely to be raised in profile from relative obscurity to the status of demigod.

Until that happens, however, he has a lot to prove. Not least, whether he can stay away from the dashes of lime.



Drinking as it should be done.



## The Athletic Union Wants You (No, Not You - The Pretty One Behind You...)!

*Gareth "The Pirate" Carter wants you to join his band of merry men*

Ladies and gentlemen, freshers and old hands, the only part of your LSE career that makes no apologies for being a load of fun and games is here. Whether you're a budding Milan Barros, Christian Cullen or some famous netballer, martial-arts expert, squash player, or hockey player the AU is the only club in London that doesn't have a dress code or charge £17 for a bottle of water.

Firstly, SIGN UP! There's no substitute for getting in on the action early doors, getting to know you're team mates right from the first Tuns outing, and of course, the more the merrier! You can always join later, but then you'll have missed your inauguration into the LSE AU, the blurred memories of Sambuca, purple headed love warriors and that inevitable drunken kebab on the way home. Yes, that famous drunken kebab... we've all been there.

Without wishing to sound too much like a clichéd tourist brochure, 'there's some-

thing for everyone here!' The social life of the Freemason-esque brother/sister-hood of the AU is beyond comparison with any other. Every night's a big one for most teams, but Wednesdays at the Tuns are mythic in their debauchery; truly the stuff of legend. You can't go wrong with a Tuns-load of willing and able athletes, finely honed and tanned bodies pushing through the masses of unfit people at the bar and stepping lithely back with a round balanced oh so professionally in their highly trained hands. The very same examples of human sporting excellence can later be found lying face down on the carpet, dribbling, as the wonderment of AU membership, and the alcohol, overwhelm them.

The camaraderie, the 'esprit de corps', of being in a team is second to none. Closer than blood relations, the AU is the Sicilian Mafia of societies. The head honchos will have been introduced to you somewhere else in this Beaver (and if they haven't, they will be in the next one) so you can think of Rex as being Don Corleone, Billy Muppet as Sonny and Psycho John as young Micky Corleone.

You are the made-men and made-women of the LSE. Punishing the disrespect shown by the Strand Poly, Kensington Tech and the Euston Institute, and earning the adoration of those whose honour you strive to maintain. One big family we are, friends

for  
for



life and so on. Big up yourself.

Looking back, the attempt at treading that thin line between holiday brochure and a case study of teenage alcohol abuse was most likely doomed to failure from the off, and hence, has failed. At the end of the day, you've just to look at the facts and then give it a try yourself. The AU is the largest society at LSE, full to bursting with like-minded sportsmen and women, all up for a good-time and a bit of a laugh. At the end of the day, if it's Tuns notoriety you're after, or simply want to get fit with some good lads and lasses, then... you've guessed it, 'there's something for everyone'. So sign up at Freshers' Fair and join us!

See you all in the Tuns...



Fearless LSE conquistadores pillage Strand Poly, and spread literacy and numeracy to those less fortunate. (Right) The Playboy Bunnies were less attractive in real life.

