

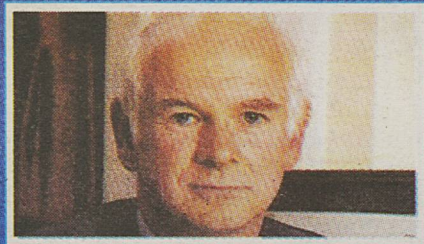
# The Beaver

The Newspaper of the LSE SU

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Issue number 581



Exclusive! Howard Davies speaks to *The Beaver*, centre pages

Wheatus interview in b:art, Page 18



How much stuff can you blag? Find out page 7

## Canvas at Crush

### Queue backs up to Aldwych

**Mark Power**  
News Editor

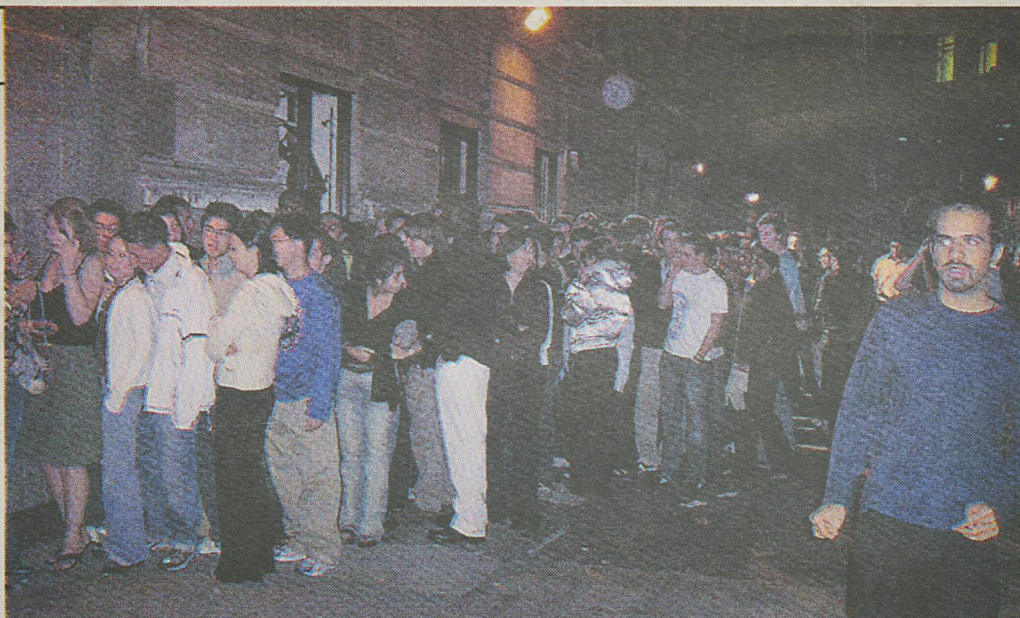
Freshers' first experience of the LSE SU's flagship entertainments night was a hectic one with Crush crushed filled to capacity and many turned away at the door in disappointment.

The crush occurred after record levels of society sign-ups at Freshers' Fayre and the highest number of student registrations for the new academic year. With the school expanding year upon year, the increased numbers of new arrivals have already put strained facilities under more intense pressure.

Inside the venue, crowds for the bar and cloakroom facilities, as well as a tepid and sweaty atmosphere, meant that crush lived up to its famed reputation as London's most popular student union night. Speaking to *The Beaver*, LSE SU Entertainments Officer Jimmy Baker was pleased with the turn out but concerned that many LSE students missed out on the magic.

Mr Baker advised dedicated crush goers to arrive early next week in order to avoid disappointment as turn-out is expected to be high for the next few weeks with large queues after 10 p.m. the norm. The keys to the crushing popularity of the night, according to the many revellers, are cheap drinks and the relaxed, fun atmosphere, in contrast to the many expensive and stressful options on the Friday and Saturday London night scene.

The SU Sabbatical team made full use of the large crowd of waiting people by promoting their opposition to the proposed top-up fees expected to be debated in the new session of parliament. LSE SU General Secretary, Elliot Simmons, SU Education



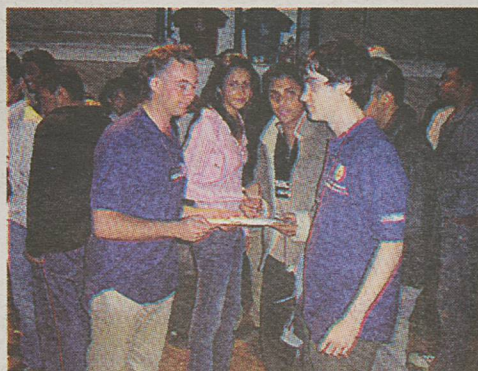
Will I ever get in? Queue for Crush fills Houghton Street

and Welfare Officer, Rowan Harvey, and SU Treasurer, Jo Kibble, were hard at work canvassing and obtaining signatures on post cards to send to government ministers voicing student opposition to the legislation.

Mr Simmons expressed his delight at the enthusiastic response the campaign received over the course of Freshers' week. Speaking to *The Beaver* he stressed the importance of raising the profile of the campaign in order to ensure a large turn out on the anti top-up fees march scheduled for October 26th.

With more campaigning planned, the Union is gearing itself up for massive opposition to the top-up fees proposals running throughout this term. With Prime Minister, Tony Blair, digging his heels in at party con-

ference last week, and a 1 back bench revolt looming on the not-so-distant horizon, the fight looks set to be messy and acrimonious.



Jo and Elliot Canvas Crush

## More Homes for Students

**Mark Power**  
News Editor

Changes to the way the accommodation office handles new arrivals have resulted in impressively improved provision for student accommodation compared with last years unexpected disaster.

The main improvement has been the opening of the new Private Housing Help Centre in the basement of High Holborn residence. The centre has been open throughout the arrival period, helping students obtain private accommodation as needed. London Accommodation office manager, Paul Trivett, estimates that by the end of the freshers' period everyone "will have had at least one option for permanent housing." He went on to say that there also very few people with problems, estimating that there were "only a handful of cases that I am seriously concerned about, and those are mostly yet to arrive."

The improvement in provision follows a determined effort by Mr Trivett and his office to be better prepared for the annual influx of students, which caught them out last year. In 2002 *The Beaver* reported in its 3rd October issue that 2,000 students were facing a homeless freshers' week. Halls applications have again increased from last year's numbers, with an estimated three applications for every

Continued Page 2

LSE Careers Showcase

Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 6.30pm, Deutsche Bank  
Visit [www.db.com/careers](http://www.db.com/careers) for details

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New Comment and Analysis Pages 8 and 9

# Fees Debate

Dave Cole

Debate over student funding has once more reared its ugly head as Charles Clarke, Secretary of State for Education and Skills, came under fire at both the Labour Party conference proper and fringe events.

In protest at current government proposals, around 700 students from Bournemouth University, dressed in black, paraded a coffin around the conference centre to a funeral drum to symbolize the death of free education.

There was no vote on the government's proposals for Higher Education funding, which would see graduates earning over £15,000, paying back part of the cost of their education. More controversially, universities would be able to charge different fees for different courses, conditioned by an Access Regulator's acceptance of the institution's efforts to increase the number of students from lower income backgrounds.

Proposals for differential fees were roundly attacked by Trade Unions, the National Union of Students (NUS) and some MPs at a series of fringes for their potential effects on students. The effects of increased debts on access, desired by the Government, criticised by Barry Sheerman MP, chair of the Education and Skills Select Committee and a governor of the LSE.

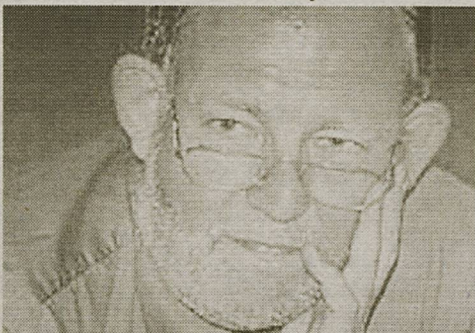
Clarke denied that Labour's manifesto pledge not to introduce top-up fees in the life of this Parliament would be broken as those measures would come into effect after the next election.

Professor Ivor Crewe, President of Universities UK, the representative body for UK universities, explained their support for the proposals by reaffirming the expansion of university education. He argued that the public purse was not deep enough to fund the investment needed to maintain universities in Britain. He also argued that students should make a contribution as they materially benefit from going to university, although they should make a substantially smaller contribution than the state.

Mandy Telford, President of the NUS, questioned Professor Crewe's support as NUS members reported that the majority of university Vice-Chancellors opposed the Government's proposals.

Another LSE Governor, who was present at the meeting, challenged Clarke to explain how incentives to attract people to socially valuable courses did not conflict with his assertion that differential fees would not cause people to choose courses for financial reasons. Mr. Clarke declined to comment.

The Conservative Party has repeatedly attacked the Labour Party's proposals as a 'tax on education' and has said it would abolish HE fees and improve vocational and skills training. This was in turn attacked as being elitist, opportunistic and not likely to promote a level playing field for access to university.



Education Secretary Charles Clarke MP

# Striking Success

El Barham  
News Editor

LSE students' reactions to on-campus industrial action have been mixed following a series of strikes designed to disrupt Freshers' Week.

The strikes held by the union for public service workers (UNISON) and the Association of University Teachers (AUT), barely affected new and continuing undergraduate students. Their registration, which is not carried out by UNISON staff, continued as planned with no noticeable delays or difficulties.

Freshers' Fayre, which coincided with the second day of strike action October 3rd, also continued without any related problems. Pickets were held outside the entrances to Clement House and the Old Building, which housed the plethora of society stalls and company representatives, but no student was denied access. Union representatives merely distributed literature to elucidate their grievances and vigorously covered willing supporters with stickers to make sure their cause was related to the interior of the buildings.

Most societies and members of the LSE Students' Union (LSESU) executive did not join UNISON and AUT members at the pickets. However, the Socialist Workers Society (SWS) supported their comrades, moving their stall outside of Clement House to reinforce the message. James Meadway, a leading figure in the SWS said: "It's important for students to support staff and if they are willing to take a stand on this important issue we will do what we can to support it."



Staff campaign for London Weighting

However, the implications of the strikes were far more serious for the LSE's new postgraduate intake. Registration scheduled for September 30th and October 3rd were postponed until the following week, which adversely affected many international students. It also prevented some students from acquiring their student cards, necessary for entry to the library, applying for a photo card for discounted travel and to access the LSE buildings at weekends.

The school only emailed postgraduates about the proposed strikes the previous Friday - too little notice to change flights should students wish to do so. Kristian Weise, MSc Political Sociology, said: "The fact that I only found out about the change by email on Friday was a bit stressful. I postponed my trip due to the cancellation of my registration, but if I had been unable to do so I would have been annoyed."

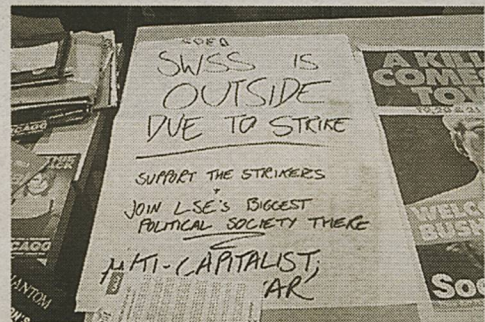
Students have also been inconvenienced by the cancellation of departmental inductions and the cessation of library services on the days of industrial action.

UNISON and AUT members are pleased with the effects of the strikes, despite the murmurs of dissent. Dr Chris Husbands, President of the AUT at the

LSE, issued a statement to *The Beaver* detailing the reasons behind the days of industrial action.

"Local AUT and UNISON are both very pleased with the level of support shown by LSE staff for the two days of strike action in pursuit of their aim for an increase in London Weighting to £4,000 per year.

"Nobody likes disrupting the activities



Solidarity - SWS support the strikers

of the school, let alone inconveniencing our students. However, after more than a year during which the London university employers in the pre-1992 sector, including LSE, have made no serious offer, we felt that there was no alternative but to strike during students' registration week. This was openly intended to disrupt the functioning of the school.

"We most sincerely hope that there will follow a serious offer on London Weighting from the School so that we do not again have to resort to such a deliberately disruptive strategy."

The school has shown signs of a desire to resolve the problem of London's high costs for their staff, with a policy of improving the salaries of their lowest paid employees rather than tackle these difficulties by increasing London Weighting.

In a statement to *The Beaver*, Adrian Hall, Secretary and Director of Administration, said: "The School recognises the concerns of staff but regrets that the two days' strike action may have caused some disruption to students. The future of the School depends on students' goodwill and financial contribution. Arrangements were made to minimise disruption and we were in close touch with the Students' Union.

"The School is firmly of the opinion that it cannot meet the unions' claim for a doubling of the London Allowance, which would cost £3.6m per year. A sum of this size would severely damage the School's finances and ability to make progress. No provision for this level of increase has been made in government funding of universities in London. The School has already made representations to government on this issue.

"We said in a circular that there was to be a London wide employers' meeting on October 2nd and that, if it did not produce a solution, the School would seek, in a fresh approach with the unions, to achieve a local resolution including mechanisms for future review of London costs. The School is actively considering options following that employers' meeting.

"The nationally proposed Framework Agreement for modernisation of pay structures gives all staff, from August 1st this year, a 3.44% increase in basic salary or £550 whichever is the greater, and also abolishes the two lowest scale points completely. We hope the trade union ballots will be completed in time for staff to receive this backdated pay award in their end of November salaries."

Continued from page 1

Most first year undergraduates have been accommodated, as the School guarantees. The accommodation office expects that number to fall because of students not turning up to register, either because they failed to meet their offers or went elsewhere. The waiting list stands at around 1,200 whilst the list of students without housing and in temporary accommodation is at around 1,000, which again should fall once private housing options are taken up.

In response to problems last year, the school has also negotiated special rates in local hotels for those waiting to obtain permanent accommodation. This has eased the pressure on those who turn up in London without a place to stay, as the hotels have all been checked by the office, are in close travelling distance to the school and are offering special week rates to LSE students.

Mr Trivett believes that the reason private accommodation has gone so well this year is because of an easier private housing market which has helped many find flats and houses much more easily. More tangible results will be available after the office has done its annual analysis of the arrivals period and reported back to the schools committee on accommodation.

Rishi Madlani, SU Residences officer was also pleased with the state of play for accommodation this year. He reports that "compared to last year, there are a lot less students with problems." He did add, however, that the 50% extra students the school continues to recruit are putting undue pressure on residences and student accommodation, despite plans for new halls. The school is currently investigating options for new halls in both Kings Cross and Drury Lane, with a view to them being available in 2005.

# Beer or Books?

How do you spend yours?

Shock horror statistics reveal that most students would rather spend their money on alcohol than textbooks according to a recent survey.

Amazon.co.uk questioned 1,900 students in a bid to find out how much money we set aside to acquire the necessary volumes, only to unsurprisingly discover that of the £300 million allocated for this purpose, 40% of it gets siphoned off for more recreational purposes each year.

The upshot of this is that £135 million of student book budgets are spent down the pub. Lauren Gildersleve, spokesperson for Idea Generation, who commissioned the survey, castigated the phenomenon, known wittily as Beer Pressure. She said: "It's a vast quantity of money considering students only have a limited amount."

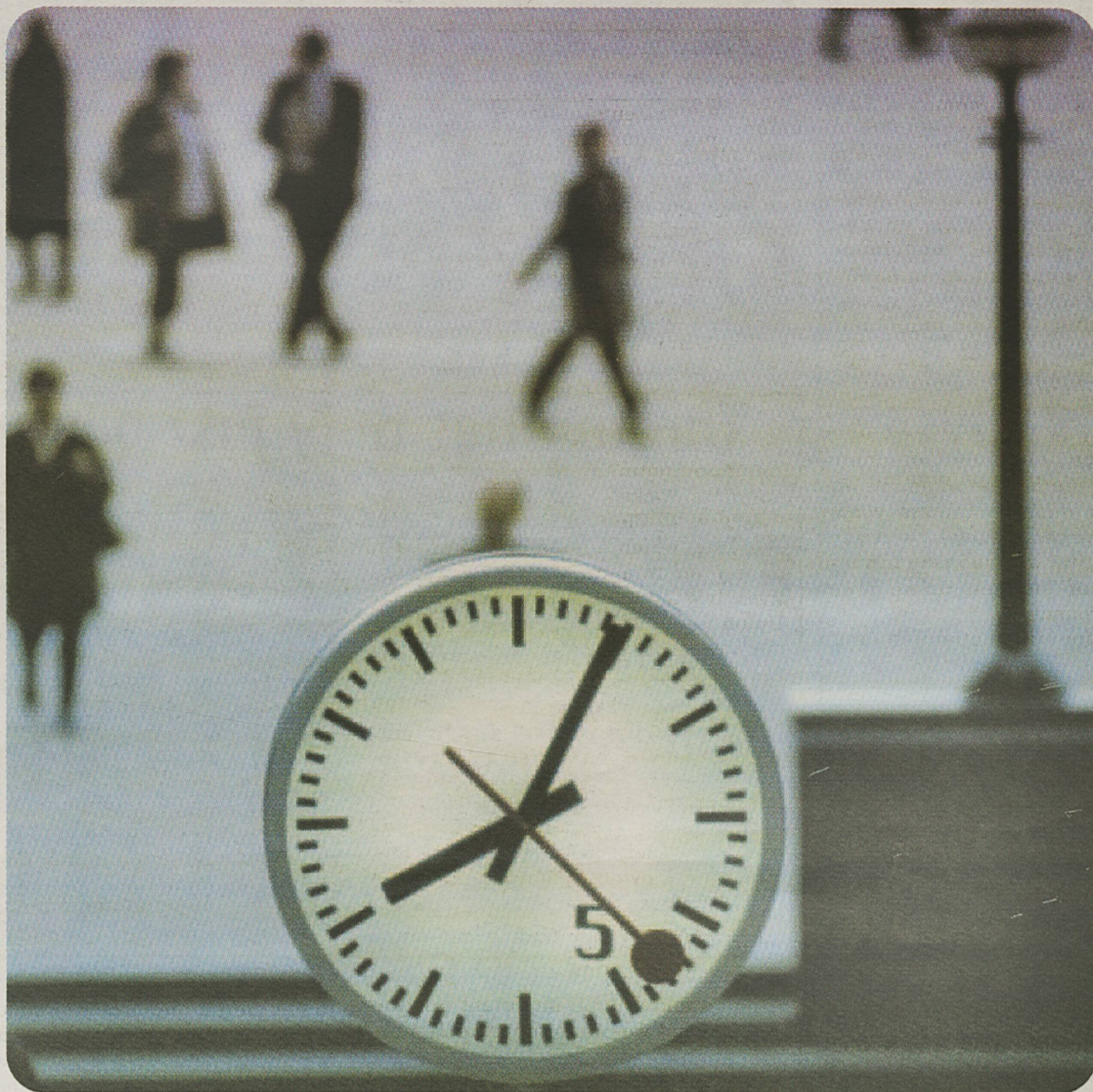
But help is at hand. Amazon estimate that using their Marketplace to buy and sell books saves each partaker about £100 - roughly the equivalent of 69 pints, 116 condoms, 34 kebabs and 358 cans of baked beans.



£300 million on this

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# The Beaver News

## Tell Tony NO!

**Jo Kibble**  
SU Treasurer

Anyone who came to Freshers Fayre or queued for Crush last Friday will know about our postcards against top-up fees. The response from students so far has been fantastic, with nearly 1,000 postcards signed and ready to be taken to Downing Street. The strength of feeling of LSE students on this subject quickly became apparent to us last week and this is hardly surprising. The proposals would allow UK and EU undergraduate students to be charged up to £3,000 per year for their courses, closing the door to Higher Education for vast swathes of society. Differential fees will lead to the ghettoisation of institutions and courses, with one level of resources and teaching quality for the rich and another for the poor. Student debt will rocket and with it levels of student poverty and hardship.

If you believe that access to Higher Education should be based on academic ability and not on ability to pay, make sure you sign a postcard. The Students' Union Executive will be distributing them at all major events in the coming weeks - signing one will take just a few seconds of your time but could make the difference between attending university or not for future generations. However, the postcard campaign is just one of many ways to campaign against top-up fees. If you would like to get involved in the Students' Union 'Don't Price Students Out' campaign, or want to be kept informed about the NUS National Demonstration on October 26th, please email the campaign convener at [su.treasurer@lse.ac.uk](mailto:su.treasurer@lse.ac.uk).

## Union General Meeting Returns - see you there

**Elliot Simmons**  
SU General Secretary

One of the things that makes LSE Students' Union famous is the high level of democratic participation amongst our members, exemplified by the Union General Meeting. The UGM is unique, as it is the only weekly students' union meeting in the Country.

But what is the UGM? The UGM is the sovereign decision making body of the Union; a weekly meeting in which all students can participate in Union life. It gives every student the chance to hold the Executive Committee of the SU to account, but more importantly it is the time when the Union debates the policies it wishes to

pursue. Debates encompass campus-level, national and international issues, and views from across the political spectrum are all represented. In this way it allows the students to choose the direction of their Union and govern Union policy in the most democratic way possible. The Director of the School traditionally makes two appearances to answer your questions during the year, as do sabbaticals from the NUS and ULU.

With great speeches, heckling, the balcony boys and paper missiles flying around on a weekly basis, the UGM is definitely worth a try. It is held every Thursday at 1pm in the Old Theatre. Union policy has ensured that no student has classes or lectures at this time, so there really is no

excuse to miss out on this truly unique event so central to student life at the LSE.

There is definitely something for everyone. Memorable UGMs have included motions on: opposing the war on Iraq, campaigning against the introduction of top-up fees, improving facilities for disabled students and asking for sheeshas in the Shaw library. Just about anything goes, as long as its approved by the Constitution and Steering Committee, so if you don't like something, try and change it - just be prepared to argue your case for two minutes.

So, in conclusion, come to the UGM, because you haven't had the full LSE experience otherwise. See you there, **Thursdays 1pm in the Old Theatre**. And remember to use your vote!

## The fun has only just begun... societies await

**Will Macfarlane**  
Societies Officer

Freshers' Fayre 2003 was a record-breaking success last week. The largest ever number of LSESU societies obtained the greatest number of membership sign-ups in the history of the Students' Union's showcase event.

So where do we all go from here? Well, to all those of you who are new to these parts and many of you who aren't, the Fayre was just for starters. This week the LSESU holds its first weekly UGM (1pm Thursday, Old Theatre), the AU sets the ball rolling as only it can, and the LSESU societies begin their year of activities with their AGMs and, in most cases, new committee elections. Signing-up and finding out about

what's going on last week was only the beginning; the time to get involved in your Union and its societies starts now.

Every week this year, Union societies both new and old, small and large, will offer a huge range of diverse events and activities; from the purely entertaining to the campaigning and thought-provoking - LSESU societies cater for all. Every week those events will be listed here in *The Beaver* by the Societies Officer in a section devoted to showcasing forthcoming society activities and allowing societies to make any special announcements they request. Please support your SU societies by staying as actively involved as you can and keeping up to date with what they're up to in *The Beaver*.

Following on from the record-breaking beginnings of last week this should be a hugely successful and enjoyable year for all, with the SU continuing to increase its support to societies through the continuation of the annual Society Awards and the introduction by SU Treasurer Jo Kibble of a second budget round in the Lent Term for successful and active groups.

So for now, please get involved and be part of the continuing success of LSESU societies.

*Society Committees, To advertise your events each week and make special announcements in the Society Listings section of The Beaver please contact the Societies Officer at [w.d.macfarlane@lse.ac.uk](mailto:w.d.macfarlane@lse.ac.uk).*

## Your Welfare

Found your feet? We have a few handy hints to help you make the most of the year ahead.

### Study Skills

LSE offers a series of free lectures, and follow-up practical/clinic sessions on different aspects of study and learning. If you want to make sure your study techniques won't let you down check out <http://learning.lse.ac.uk/studyskills>. The sessions cover everything from effective reading and note taking to structuring essays and exam technique and could help stop you from getting snowed under later in the year.

### Language Centre

The LSE has its very own language centre on the 7th Floor of Claire Market Building. They offer a wide range of modern languages as well as running free English support classes. They also offer additional services such as proofreading, translation and document authentication. To see if they can help you visit <http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/language>.

### Lt and NUS cards

Don't forget to pick up your London Transport and NUS discount cards from the Societies Room next to the Underground Bar. The LT card gives you a third off public transport in London and the NUS card can save you

money on entertainment, fashion, food, travel and much more.

### Course Packs

SU course packs are now ready to order from the SU Copy Shop on the Mezzanine level of the Quad. 10 departments have agreed to participate in the scheme, and a full list of available packs is online at [www.lse.ac.uk/union](http://www.lse.ac.uk/union).

The packs consist of the core readings for each course and cost less than if you were to do the photocopying yourself in the library, so save yourself time and effort and see if your courses are covered.

### Course Reps

This is the time of year when departments should start thinking about electing their Course Representatives. Course Reps play a vital role in collecting students' feedback and ensuring the School uses it to make constructive changes to departments and the way they teach. Some departments are better than others at electing Course Reps and, sadly,

some courses can end up without a representative at all. Don't be shy - If you want to get involved step forward and nominate yourself. Also, don't worry about leaning on your department to make sure they elect their Reps properly as you and your fellow students may lose out if you don't. For more information about the

roles and responsibilities of Course Reps contact the Education and Welfare Sabbatical at [su.edwelfare@lse.ac.uk](mailto:su.edwelfare@lse.ac.uk).

### Societies

If you didn't manage to sign up to a society or club at Freshers Fayre it's not too late. Either look up their details at [www.lse.ac.uk/union](http://www.lse.ac.uk/union) or leave a message for them at SU reception on the ground floor of the East Building.

### The Library

With the onset of courses you may find it useful to check out the Library website for new arrivals with details of all their services and how to use them at [www.lse.ac.uk/library/induction](http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/induction)

### Your Finances

Don't forget to pay your fees! Check out [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/financeDivision](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/financeDivision) for details of paying online to cut the queues at the Student Services Centre. The Finance Office are friendly and helpful so if you are having problems let them know as soon as possible and they will help you sort it out. Their website also has details of loans and financial aid that may prove useful.

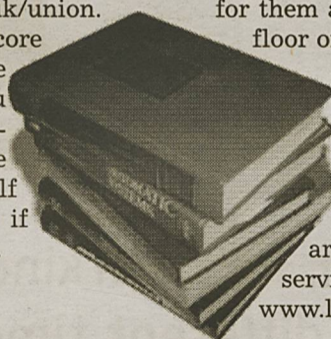
Living in London can be very expensive. We would suggest that all students draw up a budget for the year taking into account all their income and expenditure. It's the only way to spot if you are starting to overspend. It may sound dull, and to be honest it probably will be, but it is far less stressful than trying to dig yourself out of a financial hole at a later

stage. Don't succumb to tempting offers, choose your bank carefully, and be honest with them. If you do have cashflow problems, they may be willing to help in the short term: don't just ignore their attempts to contact you - the cost for doing so could be high. If you're an international student, some banks may try to place unfair restrictions on you, such as demanding a minimum balance. For a comparison of the different offers at the major banks, see [www.support4learning.org.uk](http://www.support4learning.org.uk) which is also a good source of advice on other finance-related issues.

Your bank may offer you a fee-free credit card, but the interest rates will still be sky-high. Unless you really trust yourself, steer clear from these tempting pieces of plastic, which are one of the biggest causes of student debt in the UK. The same goes for store cards and mail order catalogues (their interest rates are often higher than general credit cards). If what you're buying is absolutely essential, build repayments into your monthly budget, and keep up with them to avoid paying extra interest.

Don't "retreat". However bad things get financially, ignoring the problem will never make it go away. In the case of banks, failure to keep in contact could result in expensive charges.

Don't panic. Even if you've reached crisis point, there's probably something that can be done. Contact the Students' Union Advice Centre in E297 open 10:30-4:00 during September and term time, or e-mail [su.advice-centre@lse.ac.uk](mailto:su.advice-centre@lse.ac.uk) for advice on what to do next.



## The Beaver News

# Changes to visa extension applications

### Advice from the Students' Union on how to fight the new charges

Contrary to Tony Blair's pledge, to "make visa and entry arrangements more user friendly for students", the Home Office has introduced new charges for international students who wish to extend their visas.

International students at the LSE, along with their colleagues across the country, are subject to the new charge if they need to extend their stay in the UK to complete their studies or to attend graduation ceremonies.

The charges for this service, which was previously free, are extraordinary: £155 for an application made by post and £250 for an application made in person. Considering that students represent the single largest group of applicants for extensions of stay in the UK, the fact that these charges were announced only three weeks before their introduction on August 1st is even more worrying. The change was effected with no prior consultation about the potential impact of these charges or how they should be introduced.

The LSE Students' Union Executive believes that the level of the new charges is far too high and that, before the introduction of these fees, a period of consultation with students and education institutions should have taken place. It is an exploitation of international students.

The SU has contacted Local MPs and relevant Ministers to raise these concerns and to encourage the Home Secretary to review this new policy as a matter of urgency. The LSESU Executive firmly believes it contradicts the Prime Minister's public statements that the Government intends to make the UK a more attractive destination for international students. The Students' Union has also successfully lobbied the school to publicly oppose these new charges.

The LSESU would encourage all students to show their opposition to this ill-advised Government policy by writing to their local MPs and completing the post-cards available at SU Reception (Ground Floor, East Building) and the SU Advice Centre (E297) addressed to the Minister of State for Immigration. The Union will deliver them to the Home Office.

If you have any questions concerning the new charges, please contact UKCOSA, the SU Advice Centre or the Home Office (details follow).

If you wish to be active in the campaign against the new charges, please email Elliot Simmons, the Convenor of the LSE SU 'Campaign Against Visa Extension Charges for International Students', at [su.gensec@lse.ac.uk](mailto:su.gensec@lse.ac.uk).

**DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ABOUT THESE CHANGES TO:**

#### UKCOSA: The Council for International Education

The Advice and Training Team, 9-17 St Albans Place, London N1 0NX, UK  
Web: [www.ukcosa.org.uk](http://www.ukcosa.org.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7107 9922 (13:00 - 16:00 hours, Monday to Friday)  
Email: NOTE: They cannot respond to requests for advice by email.

#### LSE SU Advice & Counselling Centre

Room E297, East Building, LSE, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE, UK  
Opening Times: Term time: 10.30am - 4pm. During vacation: 10.30am - 2pm  
Web: [www.lse.ac.uk/union](http://www.lse.ac.uk/union)  
Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7955 7145  
E-mail: [SU.Advice-Centre@lse.ac.uk](mailto:SU.Advice-Centre@lse.ac.uk)

#### Home Office Immigration & Nationality Directorate

Lunar House, 40 Wellesley Road, Croydon, CR9 2BY, UK  
Web: [www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk)  
Tel: 0870 606 7766  
Minicom: 0800 38 98 289



### Union Jack

For the small but elite number of Jack loyalists, this column will need no introduction. But for all you green freshers out there, bewildered by the big city, dazzled like a rabbit in headlights or a leftie after a shower; do not fear - Uncle Jack is here. 'Who is this Jack' I here you cry in your barely post-pubescent voices. Well, Jack is here for all the feckless who fail to turn up to the UGM every week (although really it is for the Union hacks who scour the inches of Jack's column, desperate to see themselves praised, quaking with fear that with one derogatory word, Jack could smash their carefully cultivated hope of being Brent East's next MP.)

Jack is not afraid of a little emotion - the UGM is special to Jack. With its unique blend of madness and technocracy, passion and cynicism, the UGM is a microcosm of the LSE. The great divides, the great debates, left vs. right, earnest political opportunists vs. paper throwing infantile balcony boys. Yet all is resolved in the end by a soul-stirring rendition of Eternal Flame, belted out by whoever the caucus decides. Now that is democracy.

Jack is quivering with excitement at the thought of the first UGM in months. After a term under the (quite literally) heavy thumb of Patronising Dave Cole, the masses are restless, and desperately looking back to the days when the UGM was all about getting the Gen Sec to run around Clare Market in the buff. Come to think of it, Jack is having second thoughts about that particular one after a rather disturbing mental image of Scarecrow Elliot with his bits out.

So who will be sitting in the chair come Thursday? Having re-written the constitution and standing orders of the UGM so that it is finally to his liking, the smart money is on yet another term of Patronising Dave and his ghastly beard. Whilst on the subject of Dave's appearance, Jack is considering opening a book on just exactly how old Dave really is. Any takers?

Speculation is also mounting on a late entry by Justin 'the fringe' Nolan. Having given up on his piss-poor Beaver column, Nolan is surely in need of some ego-gratification. Word has reached Jack that former Returning Officer, Evil K, is considering a run. Do not be fooled by K's apparent bourgeois appearance. The flat cap may look stupid, but underneath it resides a devious mind with the political guile to match that of Peter Mandelson. Do not be surprised if a secret deal has been hammered out between him and his rivals allowing him to claim the mantle this time round just so long as he vows to step down after one term.

Anyway, Jack is now off to make himself a cup of hot cocoa and relax in front of the telly. See you same time next week, when Jack will bring you up to date with all the latest from the UGM. You will see who is up, who is down and who is out. Cheerio.

## Introduction to the University of London Union

**Chris Piper**  
ULU President

ULU itself is a students' union in much the same way as LSESU, but one that operates on a regional basis to represent all University of London students, not only to the University but beyond. ULU has been instrumental in bringing change to London students over the last few years, campaigning on a host of issues from the issue of London Weighting through to its biggest victory in the creation of the London Transport student discount card.

Next year also sees the second set of London Mayoral and Greater London Authority elections and ULU shall be campaigning to ensure that the student vote is key in shaping the Assembly's second term. This means that issues such as cheap transport, student safety, decent accommodation and the environment are top of the agenda. ULU already regularly meets with the Mayor and his policy advisors and with a firm mandate from students voting in the elections, we believe that the GLA can deliver further for students in these areas.

The Government's White Paper on higher education will also be making its way through Parliament in the next academic year. This is the single biggest attack that the student body has faced and it will only result in ever greater student debt and hardship. ULU is fighting alongside LSESU, to ensure that the Government's plans are defeated and we can return to system of free education and grants for those students who need them. By working with LSESU and the NUS, ULU can achieve far more by all our collective endeavours, then we could possibly achieve alone.

Whilst your LSESU looks after your needs at a local level, ULU operates a complete set of complementary services and facilities to all students of the University, as well as organising activities between and across all of the Colleges such as the inter-collegiate sports leagues and the many federal societies. ULU also operates several

bars, restaurants, shops, and a nightclub and concert venue where many bands have played over the past few years. For instance over the past year bands such as The Coral, Starsailor, The Music, The Darkness and Electric Six have graced the concert hall, Room 101, at ULU.

In 2002, the ULU building had a £2 million refit, and this was used to pay for Energy Base, the gym and swimming pool leisure complex, in the basement of the ULU building. The prices are extremely reasonable and inclusive, since they include use of the gym, swimming pool and fitness classes for one single price of £25 a month. The ULU building itself is close to the LSE in the heart of Bloomsbury, near the Senate House Library and most of the inter-collegiate halls of residences on Malet Street. LSE halls such as Passfield, Carr-Saunders, Rosebery and High Holborn are also in the vicinity.

Like LSESU, ULU is a democratic organisation run by students for students. In addition to myself, the President is backed up by a team of sabbatical Vice-Presidents and part-time Executive Officers from across the University. ULU also has a sabbatical officer to run the ULU's student newspaper 'London Student', which has the largest distribution in the world for a student newspaper. The ULU Executive Elections take place in the second term and all students are entitled to stand for, and vote in the online elections. To vote in the elections, LSE students just need to ensure that they have a ULU card.

The Executive Committee of ULU are held to account by the student body through ULU Council. ULU Council is the ruling body of ULU and sets the policies that will direct the operation of the Union. This body meets monthly and all students of the University are entitled to attend and contribute to the proceedings. ULU Council is made up of delegates from the thirty or so Colleges and Institutes that make up the University and these delegate numbers are decided due to the size of the individual



**For London's Students, one of ULU's Services**

institutions. Therefore as the largest College Union, KCLSU gets to elect eight delegates whilst Heythrop College SU as one of the smallest elects just one. LSESU is entitled to four delegate places, one of which is the General Secretary. The remainder of the positions are elected in LSESU's Michaelmas elections, therefore to stand please speak to someone from LSESU.

As stated, to vote in the elections, access most of ULU facilities and join its many clubs and societies, all students are required to get a ULU Card. This was available at both LSESU's Freshers Fairs as well as ULU's own Freshers Fairs, which took place at the beginning of October. Throughout the year, the ULU card can be picked up not only from the Malet Street building but also from LSESU's reception on Houghton Street. All that it is required is your LSE identification card and one photograph, no payment is required.

May I again welcome you to the University of London and wish you all the best of luck in the upcoming year!



### Wireless Network

Did you know that you can connect to the LSE network using the wireless access points on campus using a laptop or PDA?

The LSE wireless network is wi-fi compatible (IEEE802.11b). This service offers students a network connection to the Internet, H: space and Email. There are access points around campus - look out for these signs which are near the access points (this is where the coverage is generated from and will be strongest).

For help with configuring your laptop to use the wireless network consult the <http://www.lse.ac.uk/itservices/remote/> web pages.



### Free IT Training for students

Sessions run in the first part of Michaelmas and Lent terms only. Course information, class schedule and online booking at:

<http://ittraining.lse.ac.uk>

Book early to avoid disappointment.

### Free IT Support documentation

Over a hundred IT guides are available, on a diverse range of subjects. The "one-stop" documentation web page enables you to browse by category, or search using keywords at

<http://ittraining.lse.ac.uk/documentation>

### You said... we did...

In our annual user satisfaction survey in 2003 students made suggestions about areas of the IT Services which they thought could be improved.

#### **Why are there no wireless access points in the Library?**

We've now installed points on the first and second floors along the north wall.

#### **Please extend the opening hours of the Laptop Surgery**

This has been increased and is now open every weekday in term time from 4pm – 5.30 at the St Clements building IT Help Desk. (Monday, Wednesday and Friday only in vacations.)

#### **We can never find the computer rooms in St Clements!**

We've put up clear direction signs for the first floor and basement rooms

#### **The printers are out of order too often**

We now have trial software running which alerts the PC Support team if, for example, the paper is jammed, or the toner is low. Please remember you can help us to help you if you find a problem or fault by reporting it to the IT Help Desk by emailing [IT\\_help\\_desk](mailto:IT_help_desk) or calling extension number 6728 free on any internal phone.

#### **Even though documentation is now available online, we still like to be able to pick up printed copies.**

We have expanded the space for printed documentation at the IT Help Desk in S198, which has also been redecorated.

#### **We didn't know we could get support from the IT Help Desk by email.**

We have made efforts to publicise the IT Help Desk email support service more widely. To make use of the service please email [IT\\_help\\_desk@lse.ac.uk](mailto:IT_help_desk@lse.ac.uk).

# The Beaver News

## Freshers' Fayre Freebie Frenzy

We all know Freshers' Fayres can be excellent for commandeering free merchandise, but we at the Beaver decided to investigate just how much stuff it was possible for a fresher to get their grubby hands on at the LSE and ULU.

The answer is a lot. An awful lot: some of it funny, some more of it tacky and the rest just downright brilliant. Here follows just a tiny sample of some of the goods our intrepid reporters managed to procure. Gratis. And without signing for anything.

Taking the blagging biscuit by some considerable margin is an absolute gem of LSE society charm from the very kind people on the **Kazakhstan** stall, who bestowed upon us a rather nice furry camel, complete with sparkly trinkets and a forest green hump-warmer.

Coming a close second, the **LSE Business Society** unburdened themselves of typical corporate fare, in the shape of stress ball, wall planner, floppy disks, pens and a rather dashing t-shirt for dress-down Fridays. For those hard weekend team-building exercises, the **Territorial Army** kindly supplied a boil-in-the-bag Herb Mash and Steak meal and a couple of rock hard biscuits while the **ULU Mountaineering Club** helpfully gave us a map of southwest Wales.

The Beaver sportingly took advantage of a bad case of **NatWest** inter-branch rivalry, helping itself to a mousemat, keyrings, pens, pencils, a ruler, two icicles and a packet of Mini Cheddars



How much can you blag? Take a look at The Beaver's swag.

from the Houghton Street branch, ruthlessly countered by the Tavistock Square branch's generous offering of wallet, piggy bank and self-assembling clock.

Other LSE worthies included the ever-lovely **LGBT Society**, who gave us condoms, femidoms, lubricant and a couple of fags. Marlboro variety that is.

By contrast, for those members of the Beaver team seeking spiritual enlightenment, the

**Buddhist Society** at ULU had to be physically restrained from handing over their

entire stall. In the end, we legged it with just four books.

The **Association of Teachers and Lecturers**, who could obviously tell we were a newspaper desperately short of old-fashioned writing instruments, gave us pens. Lots of pens. In fact, a whole box of pens. Maybe they were just encouraging us not to miss lectures this year by staying at home and eating vast quantities of free noodles, as provided by **Blue Dragon**.

But a special mention must go to the very nice man on the **ULU Book Market** who actually gave us a

free book, worth £8.95, in exchange for a free plug in this week's paper. So here's the plug. Go to the ULU Book Market on a Friday. Just don't try to bribe him with a copy of the Beaver - he's wise to that now.

In addition, thanks to all those who tried hard, but alas failed to make the final cut, suppliers of sweets, pens, balloons, keyrings and, in the case of the **LSE Islamic Society**, a rather tasty nutty, sticky, confectionary-type thing. But it was good. A full list of the munificent, in no particular order, follows

Question Time; Union of Jewish Students; The Times; the Blue Man at AIESEC; Student Barclaycard; O2; Friends of Palestine; Psychedelic Trance Society; International Students' House; The Grimshaw Club; Live Music Society; STA Travel; Finance Society; Christian Union; Organic Conscious; Conservative Future; People & Planet Society; German Society; BBC Magazines; The Economist (even though they didn't give us a mousemat); Bridge Society; Karate Club; the AU in general; London Ballad; Chinese Society;

Hindu Society (thanks for the muffin); National Theatre; Eurolines; ULU Life Savers; LSE and ULU executives; National Blood Service; Muslim Public Affairs Committee; ULU Symphony Orchestra; Matrix Dial; Equinox; London Community Church; University of London Library;



The Beaver is welcomed



That's entertainment - ULU put on show

HMV; ULU Ents.

# Making a difference - student tutoring

**Laura Hales**  
LSE Student Tutoring

October sees the start of this year's LSE Student Tutoring Scheme. Sponsored by BP, it is open to all LSE students who would be able to donate half a day a week of their time to help out in a London school.

Under the scheme, willing LSE students assist classroom teachers in inner London primary and secondary schools, for either a morning or an afternoon a week for a minimum of 12 weeks. Volunteers are not paid, but receive travelling expenses.

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 main aims of the scheme are to raise academic achievement in the schools and encourage pupils to think about going on to university. The feedback that we have received from schools demonstrates how valuable an extra pair of hands in the classroom can be, with one teacher saying that the student tutors are

*"an extreme benefit to everyone at the college. If only we could adopt them full time!"*

However, the benefits work both ways. Past tutors from LSE have gained confidence, as well as improved their skills, with a student tutor from last year's scheme commenting that

*"I feel that I have developed and improved my skills of working with people. Going into an environment very different to that of LSE widens your perspective and assumptions of the schools in London."*

### Experience

The work experience is valuable even if are not considering a career working with young people, and of course the whole experience is very rewarding and enjoyable. Another of last year's participants reports that

*"I have always been impressed by the students' aptitude, sense of fun and their weekly welcome. They have provided me with many valuable memories for the future."*

For many students volunteering as a student tutor can simply offer a welcome break from their usual routine of lectures, classes and study.

Last year nearly 190 students took part in the scheme. They came from 25 different countries and worked in 37 different schools. Students tutored in all sorts of subjects, many of which do not feature in LSE degrees, as well as helping out at lunchtime and after school activities. In many cases, students were able to use their special skills, such as home languages in order to offer much needed extra help in the classroom.

### Student tutoring for 2003 - 4

This year we are looking for around 200 reliable, committed students to take part in student tutoring for 2003-4. Before beginning tutoring you will be carefully briefed at LSE and you will also attend an induction session at your school. In addition, you will also have the opportunity to have your tutoring count towards the nationally recognised Millennium Volunteer Award - a Government initiative to reward and encourage people aged 16-24 to take part in worthwhile community activity. Introductory Meetings will take place on **Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 October from 1.15pm to 1.45pm in the New Theatre (E171.)** Come along and find out how you can get involved. Attendance at a meeting does not commit you to taking part.

Further information can also be found on our website [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/studentRecruitment](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/studentRecruitment) or by contacting Laura Hales on 0207 955 7379; email: [L.Hales@lse.ac.uk](mailto:L.Hales@lse.ac.uk)

# The Beaver Comment and Analysis



# Power Play

**Mark Power**  
News Editor

Well what a week it's been. The madness that was freshers' week has finally passed and we can all look forward to a week of lectures and other associated academic excitement. Freshers' Fayre was a runaway success with record numbers of new students signing up to societies.

I have a rather interesting email in my inbox from a certain Councillor Peter Bellini, last year's Student Union Treasurer, who was gravely concerned with SU policy regarding last week's strike. He claims, no doubt in a Tory dig against his socialist successor, Jo Kibble, that the Union's "advertising" of the strike meant that students were under the impression that the Freshers Fayre would not go ahead. Being responsible, at The Beaver for much of what Cllr Bellini terms advertising, I scoured last weeks reports for any hint that this would be the case. Whilst we highlighted that the picket would cause confusion, we were clear that it would not disrupt the Fayre's proceedings and furthermore, our coverage of the fayre in both the paper and the Freshers'

Guide supplement has been extensive. It was important that we supported the strikes for several good reasons, outlined in last week's editorial. Cllr Bellini's comments are simply opportunistic jibing particularly when the stats show him to be wrong. The fayre was a success and a credit to the sabbatical team, particularly considering the difficulties the strikes did cause.

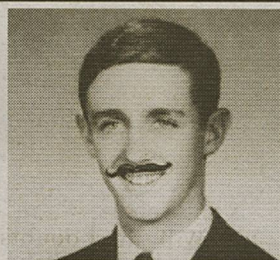
With Sabbatical officers canvassing in the queue at Crush, the Students' Union is this month gearing up its opposition to the government white paper's proposals on higher education funding. The Union is rightly keen to bring the debate down to the grass roots student level with their 'sign a post card' campaign. If you haven't done so already, then sign one. We need to send a clear and united message to Westminster that top-up fees are an unacceptable way to fund higher education. Having record numbers of students turn out on October 26th to voice their opposition to the government's plans would be a fantastic message for Blair. Placing a price tag on education is unacceptable; students of all ages and walks of life need to be encouraged into higher education without the deterrent of debts and fees. The system

should be clear and uncomplicated, free education for all paid for out of taxation. As we've repeatedly said, if this government can find the money to pay for an illegal war in Iraq, and trees costing £160,000 inside parliamentary buildings, then it can front up the cash to fund universities properly, so that students aren't priced out and higher education staff earn decent salaries. Working in Westminster this summer, I was consistently disgusted by the wanton waste and the pots of money that are available for all sorts of projects and frivolities when the schools and universities of this country are so poorly funded.

Its not all bad news though. Eager prospective hacks should be looking forward to the year's first UGM this week. On Thursday's at 1pm the Old Theatre promises excitement, brilliant, and not so brilliant oratory and other associated excitement. Its not just an onerous meeting you should drop into to make sure you have your voice heard, its actually a lot of fun for any amateurs to the brilliant tradition of British rhetoric. And finally for all you tired, hungover, and dazed Freshers, keep going out and meeting meeting meeting.

## Delaney's Diary

### A sidelong look at headline issues



Good morning! Tom 'the Torch Shiner' Delaney here again with another round up of the bizarre and the scandalous.

Word of a number of exiting events has reached my bat like ears in the last 7 days and, as President Clinton might have put it, I want to share. With you. So here goes.

Brockley? No not an unpleasant vegetable that Matron made us all eat at school but, apparently one of the 'up and coming' suburbs of London. And, it pains me to relate, also the scene of hideous debauchery last Saturday. . . The word 'party' hardly does justice to the stories that have reached my ears. Stories of wanton abandon and salacious approaches to young students with long term partners. Tut tut indeed. And worst of all, all these shenanigans planned and executed by one of the LSE's brightest young media moguls. Poor show. Fashionable Brockley? I think not.

Following on from the Socialist love-fest that was last week's Labour Party conference (All together now 'The People's flag is deepest. . .) I've been casting my roving eye over the student wing of the party of



Fashionable Brockley? I think not.

the martyred dead. Eager to learn some more left leaning lines of pain and hope, I pointed my search engine at 'Labour Students'. What did I find but a short message telling me that their site 'is currently being redesigned'. And there was I hoping that the age of spin was over. Oh well, I reckon that it'll take quite a while for them to find something that will eclipse top-up fees in the mind of the average LSE student's. Happy redesigning comrades!

New Director Howard Davies emails me with news of his grand plans. Good to see that Howie has used his incisive mind to cut to where the chase is at in the student media world. He tells me that he's 'proud' to have got the job and in the past few months has had 'countless conversations' about LSE. Passing swiftly over the numeracy of the man who used to be the No.2 at the Bank of England, it turns out that the thrust of HD's missive is the announcement of a 5 year plan for the strategic development of the School. Hmm. I'm not sure if the resonance with Josef the Georgian is intentional but it certainly doesn't seem wholly positive. On a more positive note, the Big H tells me that he's a laid back kind of guy who favours a chilled out, informal style of management. The laid back approach goes even further with the knight of the realm making it plain that he wants to be called just 'Howard' nothing more formal or chivalrous. He goes on 'Behind my back you may call me other things, but that is your affair.' Affair Howard? This is all so sudden! There are limits to informality you know!

On the facing page you'll see a letter from the Badger apologists, peddling their creed of plague-liberalism once again. Appropriately enough, a mole (a wholesome, cheery animal free of pathogens) has leaked a copy of the latest Badger lovers communiqué to me. I've edited its contents to save those of a sensitive disposition. But even the censored truth is vile enough. Self-confessedly, the group professes that its structure 'is designed to be Byzantine and impenetrable.' Despite this, several senior members of the SU are involved in what, unironically, one could call this monkey business. And plans are a foot for costume wearing badger look-alikes to attend the font of democracy that is the UGM, supported by allegedly comedique motions on the subject of the UK's 'largest carnivore'. I'm truly worried that if these high jinks continue, the reputation of the School will be tarnished, the opinions of graduate recruiters irreparably damaged and our future salaries painfully reduced to only small multiples of the national average. Something should be done before the money our parents spent is wasted all together. I'm set against this sort of self-centred, careerist student activism.

Would the young lady who emailed last week about love amongst the library books please get back in touch? I feel you've got so much more to tell me. . .

Any gossip, rumour or scandal that you want my laser gaze to focus on then email it to: [DelaneysDiary@hotmail.com](mailto:DelaneysDiary@hotmail.com)

## The Beaver Team

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If you have written three or more articles for the Beaver and your name does not appear in the above list please email [thebeaver@lse.ac.uk](mailto:thebeaver@lse.ac.uk) and we will add your name on for next week



# The Beaver Comment and Analysis

## Editorial Comment

### Campaigning Union

The first Crush of the term appears to be a huge success. With queues leading all the way up to the Aldwych, many punters out for the night who decided to take a short cut through the winding roads of London were quite startled by the immense popularity of the venue. This is surely a tribute to the hard work put in by the Entertainments staff to make sure both freshers and returning students alike could enjoy a quality, affordable night out.

Yet it is not just fun and games at the Students' Union (SU). Though organising events such as the regular Friday night Crush and all the extra Freshers' fortnight activities are a large part of what the SU does, and is probably the aspect which most new students would have the closest contact with, this is just part of the story. The Union is in charge of a variety of services such as counselling, academic representations, cheaper food, drink and photocopying. It is possible that students may pass their time at the LSE making hardly any use of the facilities the SU has to offer, but this is highly unlikely. It is an integral part of life here, as should be the case at any university. Students involved in decisions and providing services at university may be quite different to what happened at school and could thus be quite an alien concept to some. Back at school, whoever heard of students being able to appeal if a colleague was expelled? The Beaver hopes you will embrace the support provided with open arms.

This year sees a Union placing a large focus on campaigns. Those of you queuing up for

Crush will remember being approached by SU officials promoting their opposition to top-up fees and getting signatures for petitions to be sent to the government on the matter. The introduction of fees ranging up to £3000 will have huge consequences for home undergraduates. Yet it is not just them who will be affected. It is highly likely that overseas and post-graduates will have to pay more in the near future as well. The government's plan shows a radical shift in their belief that the cost of higher education should be transferred from the state and onto the hands of those receiving the education.

In an exclusive interview with the Beaver, new LSE Director Howard Davies confirmed that he was, in principle, in agreement with those who favoured introducing higher top-up fees as well as allowing different courses to be able to charge different fees. If this were to come true, then high demand degrees such as economics and law could cost up to three times as much as less popular courses such as anthropology and sociology. Will this deter students from doing degrees that are more expensive and enrol for courses which they may be able to afford but do not really want to do? Quite possibly. Thus, the danger of the new market based approach to education rearing its ugly head on campus is clear and present.

Whether you agree with this or not is an ideological matter. However, everyone who agrees with the SU's position should seek to get actively involved and help with the fight against top-up fees.

### Freshers' Freebies

Free stuff. You all know it, you all love it. In the interests of gross self promotion, the Beaver was treated to lots of it by various societies at Freshers' Fayre. The Fayre itself was a good-humoured affair where all societies showed off their wares and intermingled with each other. Everyone is probably sick of hearing this, but a short stroll through the stalls showed just what a diverse community we live in. And we should be proud of it.

Anyway, back to free stuff. The Editor's prize for swankiest

gadget goes to Nat West. Their self-assembling digital clock is superb. Watching it transform from a discreet looking lump of plastic into a all-seeing, all dancing alarm clock is poetry in motion. Not only does it tell you the local time, but at a flip of a button, the time at places as diverse as Cairo and Honolulu pop up.

But the Beaver has one complaint. There was not enough free stuff. The blue bags that were given out at the door with sweets inside ran out far too quickly. Hope the societies get this sorted out for next year.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear sir,

Colleagues in the University of London have just pointed out an article in the last issue of The Beaver looking at King's position on Liberation Officers. The quote, "there's nothing left to liberate," is clearly nonsense.

Any student can bring a motion before the Student Council, students at King's have so far voted against proposals for liberation officers.

In my view, liberation campaigns have two roles - awareness and change. As many people as possible should be involved in liberation, and anyone can spearhead a campaign. Part-time positions would duplicate work already being done. Representatives represent ideas not the physical manifestations of those who may or may not vote for them.

LSE and King's divided ULU Council last year with a vote of No Confidence in the then ULU President, Charlotte Dawkins. Imperial's "Live!" reported, "students of all descriptions will no longer tolerate incompetence or misrepresentation from those they elect and pay for." I have no doubts it was the right thing to do something about our concerns. Unfortunately, it is all too easy for a secret 'King's Insider' to make personal attacks and undermine a legitimate argument because they haven't got their own way. Students should not be intimidated into keeping quiet with the fear of being branded names like 'bully'. Students on Council voted by secret ballot.

Action we took at King's last

year to combat racism and homophobia, and raise awareness of men's and women's sexual health, is available in our campaigns archive and Annual Report at [www.kclsu.org](http://www.kclsu.org). If anyone has any further ideas, questions, or concerns regarding welfare or representation at King's, please contact the VP [Education & Representation], or our Equal Opportunities Officer.

I set up a discussion forum on our website last year to give all students at King's the opportunity to debate this issue and others. I look forward to hearing how students want their Union to be a catalyst for change this year.

Yours,

David Utting  
KCLSU President 02/03

Guy's, King's, & St. Thomas'  
School of Medicine,  
King's College London

Dear sir,

I read last week's column by Tom Delaney with some alarm. Our group has always attempted to maintain a cordial relationship between our two, mammal flavoured, organizations but it appears the Beaver has declared some sort of war on the Badger without any due cause or provocation. Do not make enemies of the Badger Group lightly. We may appear all fun and games but you will find out that this badger has teeth.

I hope that the Beaver can show

a rapid improvement and return to its previous, more balanced, stance on Britain's largest land carnivore.

Hope all is well,

Matthew Sinclair  
LSESU Badger Group Consul - Incumbent

Dear sir,

Whilst most of your paper (though informative, useful and strangely arousing in equal measures) seems to be written and edited by average looking members of our generally unpretty SU, the B:art editor's picture did catch my eye. The smoldering sexuality, provocative gaze, and erotically oversized nose just stopped me dead in my tracks. I am certain you must receive millions of these loved-up romantic requests. I would appreciate it tremendously if you could at least pass on my number to Justin and an invitation to a Sunday roast some friends and I are having.

Mr. Nolan will be more than very welcome. I am a sensitive guy with a great sense of humour and I am very sociable. Thanking you in advance.

Reggie Dwight

**Are you amused, angered or even aroused by an item that has appeared in the Beaver? Letters to the editor are welcome at: [thebeaver@lse.ac.uk](mailto:thebeaver@lse.ac.uk)**

**YOUR UNION NEEDS YOU!**

**UNION GENERAL MEETING**

**1-2 PM AT THE OLD THEATRE, OLD BUILDING**

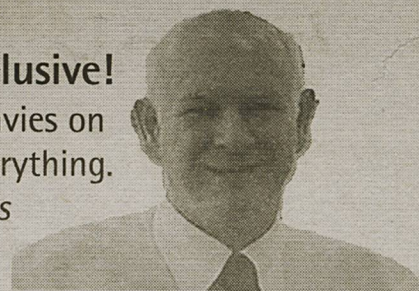
# blink

Features and Politics

Edited by Ben Chapman (b.chapman@lse.ac.uk)

Beaver Exclusive!

New director Howard Davies on life, the LSE and everything. centre pages



## Musings

The three Stevenagens

Matthew Sinclair

**B**rown and Blair have very complimentary names. A political split between a pair of Labour politicians with alliterative names seems terribly unfair to the weak of memory.

In the middle of the current spat is poor Johnny Prescott. This week he launched his own little attempt to meld the wounds. He was doing just fine as the deputy prime minister no one could sack. Any rocking of that particular boat has to be steadied with an "unprecedented plea" for the two to get along. What a nice guy.

Despite this I will never trust John Prescott. As far as I am concerned he is history's greatest monster. The reason?

Stevenage - the worst place in the world. I do not say this lightly.

Everything looks horrible. Who knows what you could catch if you fell over and picked up a graze?

Kabul can't be much fun to live in at the minute, you could have a fairly hard time in North Korea, but through it all everyone writes that the people are hard working and decent folks. The people in Stevenage are awful.

I lived in Letchworth, a small but perfectly formed little town near Stevenage, through my school years and still find my way back there in the holidays. Letchworth is great but it is also so boring that every time I'm back from university I make the stupid mistake, at least once, of going to Stevenage for the evening.

Despite living my entire school years with the accent constantly at my ears it still makes me want to scream. A sort of dippy drawl with occasional high-pitched bursts designed to make you wince while trying to mind your own business on the train. The Stevenage accent is why I buy headphones.

They all wander around, night and day, in a uniform of Adidas sportswear that makes it look like a town of out of shape fitness instructors.

John Prescott is adding tens of thousands of homes to Stevenage. Beautiful little towns like Hitchin can't be far from being swallowed in Stevenage's awful maw. The fear in all of Hertfordshire is palpable.

Soon the entire country will be swallowed. Any of us too stubborn to emigrate will live in districts of Stevenage formerly known as "Scotland" or "London".

If you find your way to Stevenage in the day then you make another observation. All of the awful people who were populating the town the night before are now pushing prams. The people of Stevenage are breeding at an awesome rate, often from a very early age; with everyone else having discovered contraception they are the growth area of our population. How long before no one else is left?

Stop John Prescott before its too late. Greece is already being colonized. Do we want Homo Stevenagens?

Matthew Sinclair is a regular blink columnist.

# BRENT FOCUS



Sarah Teather: winning for the Lib Dems in Brent East

Memories, recollections and reminiscences from the recent Brent East by-election.

Mark Power  
News Editor

**R**esidents of Brent East must have felt decidedly strange over the past two weeks. Now the hoards of party activists who descended on that small corner of North London have disappeared, leaving them, and us, to wonder what the feverishly fought by-election really meant.

As befits the country's premier political institution, the LSE had a number of activists campaigning on the ground. Despite representing all three of the main political parties, they recount surprisingly similar stories.

Their mixed bags of emotions, memories, and experiences centre on Willesden Green of all places. This less than famous part of the capital was the centre of activity for the three major campaigns, which had located their offices within a two-minute stroll of one another around the tube station on Walm Lane. Tellingly the Conservatives ran their campaign from the local Conservative Association's premises whereas both Labour and the Lib Dems rented shops and offices in vacant buildings nearby.

Brent East itself is home to a typically mixed London electorate, so the campaigns had to focus both on the problems of established middle class areas, as well as towering council estates and everything in between. Campaigning for the Lib Dems on polling day itself, I saw this phenomenon firsthand. The local nerve centre of the campaign was in Kensal Rise, towards the southern boundaries of the constituency. The committee room was run from the plush surroundings of a local party member's home bordering on well-to-do Queen's Park. Yet just a short drive and perhaps twenty minutes walk from that house, I was knocking on doors in 16-storey council estates with no working lifts and all of the accompanying problems of social deprivation.



Working on the Labour Campaign, LSE activist Dave Cole records similar experiences. He noted how difficult it was trying to run a campaign based on national issues, trying to communicate with voters whose immediate poverty and problems marginalised the importance of such issues. Cole told the Beaver, 'I noticed that many of the voters were disillusioned with over 10 years of a Labour-run local council and 6 years of Labour in national government, and little significant improvement for those residents in the greatest need. Voter apathy was significant throughout the electorate, despite the noticeable buzz created by hundreds of activists and party supporters running all over the place. It seemed that everyone was jaded by the campaigners' enthusiasm: a paradoxical effect.'

The significance of the by-election was demonstrated by the presence of national campaigning and strategy teams running the election campaigns for each candidate. Both Labour and the Lib Dems wrested responsibility and control of the election from the local parties and took over the co-ordination and organisation of the countless leafleting, canvassing, and door knocking activists that criss-crossed the constituency for the month in the run-up to the election. Most activists in all camps remarked on the failure of these national campaigning teams to effectively utilise local members. This was particularly true in canvassing where many of them have the advantage of knowing the local area, and often the communities, and particularly those who could speak Hindi or Urdu and could thus have very effectively campaigned in the significant ethnic minority groups in the constituency.

The deluge of Lib Dem leaflets that were pushed through the doors of the residents of Brent East precipitated an

increase in leafleting from all of the 15 other candidates in the by-election. I was forever running into residents wearied by the constant clanking of their letterboxes and to be honest, I agreed them. Although campaign organisers were convinced that it was succeeding in raising awareness of issues, I felt that after a while, most of the leaflets were going straight into recycling bins. It was a drain on party finances that, in the end, probably didn't win the vote. It verged on madness when I ran into someone sent out to leaflet at 9pm, a scant hour before polls closed.

During the count the mood was tense in both Labour and Liberal camps. In a bizarre twist, the Labour camp retired to the pub next to Lib Dem HQ and the Lib Dems retired to the pub outside the Conservative Association. The Tories themselves just seemed to go home. As the evening wore on the Lib Dem camp moved through the emotions of elation, camaraderie and a real sense of groundbreaking achievement. I hear from the Labour camp that despite denials the next day that they were rattled, the mood was depressively sombre inside their campaign after-party.

Mark Power is a second year undergraduate studying International Relations and History.

If you're interested in writing for blink or have an article that you would like to get published, simply email b.chapman@lse.ac.uk

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# Still More To Do

Ten years after the death of Stephen Lawrence, institutional racism is still with us in numerous sections of society. But with effort from all sides, there are simple but effective ways to tackle the problem.

**Matthew Willgress**

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the racially-motivated murder of London student Stephen Lawrence. In the years following his death the police did not prioritise the case as they should have done, did not investigate properly and did not treat Stephen's family with due respect. The MacPherson Report into the case concluded that this was down to the institutional racism at the very heart of a police service which has traditionally been very white-dominated, and continues to be. The lessons of that report, which showed the roots of why black people are so often denied justice, were also applicable to other public institutions - from the education system to the health system to the civil service.

The recommendations of the Macpherson Report to tackle institutional racism have not been fully implemented, and the problem of institutional racism is very much still with us. Institutional racism in the police was again brought to the fore recently by the treatment of Superintendent Ali Dizaei, who was eventually exonerated after several accusations made against him were found to be false, with no evidence at all presented by the CPS to support them. In addition, there was a story covered by the Daily Mirror about a black woman who was told that the NHS could only perform white limb replacement operations, although they backed down on this in light of the publicity. Finally, in terms of the education system, a recent study published in September by Mike Coles of Brighton University revealed that Britain's education system remains institutionally racist with black pupils and teachers vulnerable to abuse and mistreatment. The author adds that the government has failed to fully tackle xenophobia in education, confirming the results of many sociological studies over the years. The case of Jevan Richardson - a young boy who committed suicide after being a victim of racism at school which was left unchallenged - is an example of what the very real results of this institutional racism can be.



Anti-racism campaigns are unfortunately still commonplace

With this in mind, it is particularly worrying how sections of the government have tried to roll back what gains have been made on this issue, especially since this is within the context of a rise in racism, fuelled by press attacks on Muslims and asylum seekers, alongside the BNP gaining a base and a platform in places such as Burnley. In January David Blunkett caused anger amongst anti-racist campaigners when he stated his belief that the idea of institutional racism was just a slogan, rather than a problem that needs to be challenged. Yet months later in September, the London inquest into the death of Roger Sylvester finally opened, almost five years since his death at the hands of eight officers from the Metropolitan police. The fact that for so long his friends and family were denied the opportunity to learn about the circumstances of his death shows just how far we still have to go.

That inquest has now found that Roger Sylvester was unlawfully killed. But this is just one example. Hundreds of black people have died in police custody since 1969, yet not one of the police officers involved have ever been convicted. Too often in public bodies these kinds of incidents, along with racism more generally, are covered up rather than acted upon. The struggle for justice for these families, for the police to admit past mistakes and to act to ensure these tragedies do not occur, is an ongoing campaign.

Contrary to what David Blunkett might think, now more than ever it is necessary to remember the death of Stephen Lawrence and ensure that every manifestation of racism is tackled head on. Taking institutional racism seriously is central to this. The structures, cultures and traditional practices of public bodies and all institutions must be scrutinised, and all recommendations of the Lawrence Inquiry and Macpherson Report must be fully implemented. These changes stretch from the high-level changes needed in the police following recent serious allegations of more racism in the force, to what may seem to some quite minor, but nevertheless important changes. For example, what is stocked in different shops and cafes in Student Union's across the country can often expose a culture of not considering the needs of different groups. A lack of halal and kosher food choices, or not stocking black hair products, are just two examples.

These things can be easily changed, yet would make a real difference to people's lives and represent an inclusive, multi-cultural society and university campus. The LSE has recently drawn up a Race Equalities Action Plan in response to the Race Relations Amendment Act. It should be ensured that the LSE takes this Action Plan seriously and fully investigates and



Stephen Lawrence

scrutinises the structures that operate here at the LSE, and into any subsequent problems.

Additionally, the Students' Union must always examine itself critically and work to make itself a place for all students. Crucial to this will be the "Respect Not Racism" week, in week 8 of Michaelmas Term. The Students' Union should always aim to represent all sections of the student body, and part of this is to ensure the diversity of the platforms of SU events by having more African-Caribbean, Asian and Jewish speakers. It is crucial that we are all educated on this issue and get involved with campaigns against institutional racism, as part of making active anti-racism a priority. The LSE Student Assembly Against Racism will discuss how we can best do this at its AGM on Tuesday at 3pm in Room S221.

To get involved with anti-racist campaigns contact [lseaar@hotmail.com](mailto:lseaar@hotmail.com)

Matthew Willgress is an active member of the Student Assembly Against Racism and a third year Social Policy and Government student.



## OneEyeOpen

Every now and again whilst treading the pavements of this fair city, one comes across the odd fascinating statistic, usually courtesy of an Evening Standard billboard, that almost makes you stop in your tracks and gawp in utter amazement.

Recently I stumbled across one such statistic. The billboard on this occasion proclaimed to the world that binge drinking was costing the UK £20 billion every year.

£20 billion. One rather large chunk of this cost is to the NHS for dealing with accidental injuries sustained whilst under the influence of alcohol and injuries to victims of assaults that so often occur as a result of heavy drinking. It also covers the cost of treating alcohol-related diseases in later life.

Now of course we had the argument about licensing laws, opening times, happy hours and the like, all supposedly options to solve Britain's growing alcohol problem. Just how much these solutions are complete bunk is perhaps the topic for a different debate, but there is one potential solution to the problems associated with alcohol, and this goes for drugs, junk food and cigarettes as well by the way: don't incur the health costs. Or at least, don't make cases of self-inflicted illness a priority.

We all know the problems with the health service in this country. Overcrowded, under-staffed, under-resourced, over-bureaucratised, etc. The consequences of all of this are that people who are unwell, mostly through no fault of their own, do not always get the treatment they so desperately need, or they have to wait so long for it that by the time it eventually comes, it is of little use to them anyway. The question then is why the NHS is using so much of its resources on patients who, quite frankly, have only got themselves to blame, through being deliberately irresponsible with their health.

If we're going to have a health service that's free for all to use, then those who have been unlucky enough to develop serious illness should come before those who have been reckless enough to bring it on themselves. NHS treatment should of course be based on need, but it should also be based on cause. If we live in a society where we believe we are mature, responsible and informed (which, nowadays, we are) enough to be left to make a conscious decision for ourselves as adults to engage in activities which we know may damage our health, we should be mature and responsible enough to live with the consequences of that decision.

We cannot have it both ways. If we cannot accept responsibility for our actions, then there must be tighter regulation to ensure that people cannot abuse the system at the expense of the genuinely needy. Nobody wants a nanny state, but I'm sure there are plenty of people on waiting lists who would tell you they wouldn't mind.

OneEyeOpen is a new regular, anonymous column for blink designed to provoke a response and spark debate. If you wish to respond to this week's article, simply email [b.chapman@lse.ac.uk](mailto:b.chapman@lse.ac.uk).

# blink Politics

Every year, thousands of offenders complete their sentences and return to relatively normal lives. But for the most serious offenders, should the public have a right to know their whereabouts?

# TRUTH or DARE



Cartoon reproduced with the kind permission of Steve Bell.

## Olivia Mantle

The horrific abduction and murder of the young schoolgirl Sarah Payne in July 2000 shocked the British nation in a way scarcely seen in recent years. The anger and frustration felt by a vulnerable public, egged on by frantic coverage and targeted anti-paedophile campaigns by certain sections of the tabloid press, led to unprecedented violence and vigilante-style attacks against previously-convicted and freed sex offenders. Their names and addresses had been revealed by a Sunday newspaper.

This anger was heightened further still when it transpired that the man found guilty of Sarah's murder, Roy Whiting, was himself a convicted paedophile, having previously served a prison sentence for a similar offence. His name was on the Sex Offenders' Register, as is common practice for criminals found guilty of such crimes.

The Sarah Payne case prompted widespread clamour for the Register, and other similar lists, to be made public. This would mean that anyone could check the address and record of any person convicted of such crimes, which for the moment are at the exclusive disposal of the police and government workers, and only to those above a certain grade of authority.

Registered paedophiles and sex offenders in the USA, however, are put onto a database that any member of the public can consult, and frequently do so to verify their area and the supposed safety of their families. This became law in 1997 after the death of Megan Kanka in circumstances very similar to those of the death of Sarah Payne. On the one hand, it has meant that families feel they are more able to protect their loved ones from known criminals. On the other, it signifies a breakdown in society's belief of reform and the faith it has in its criminal institutions; if a certain type of criminal is forever tarnished with a black mark, it reveals an underlying sentiment that the prison and reform institutions do not fulfil their purpose. More importantly though, it begs the question as to whether the public should have a right to know at all.

This debate also affects ministries and the government. Consider for instance the Hutton enquiry. A great volume of the evidence questioned had origins in MI6 intelligence, which was passed from ministry to government without the knowledge of the public. This is the way information has always been dealt with, and a situation which is seldom thought to be at fault. The reality is that there exists information that the public does not need to know, either because of the possible consequences or its inability to deal with such information. It is safer to pass it through specialist professionals to the relevant government body that then in turn consults professionals in each field in order to make an informed decision and act as necessary. Without these expert resources on which to make a judgement or form an opinion the ministers would be lost, and this is the situation the rest of the population invariably finds itself in with regard to convicted criminals.

Lists such as the Sex Offenders' Register exist and are used by the police and the intelligence services. These bodies, like government departments, have the necessary tools to be able to use the information effectively when they believe an individual may be a risk to the community or an incident has taken place. But they are also able to look at the person objectively and assess each situation in its own distinct context. Others, who are not trained to do so, are less likely to be able to do so.

The example of the killers of Jamie Bulger is a case in point. They were released from juvenile detention centres in 2002 amidst general hysteria and indignation about their being given new identities and, essentially, new lives; the argument being that the toddler that had so brutally killed had not been given the same opportunity that they were now being offered. But in a society which does not believe in capital punishment, and therefore accepts that "an eye for an eye" is not always the best course of action, such arguments are empty. Surely it would be more worthwhile to consider the success our institutions achieve in a great number of cases in reforming criminals, rather than letting tribal laws dictate the

level of retribution society should wreak upon the criminal. Had the Bulger killers' whereabouts been made public, they would have been killed by an angry mob of have-a-go heroes within days of their release. As it is, they are able to start afresh, after having spent most of their childhoods and all of their adolescence in institutions which have educated them and aimed to ensure that they will not offend again.

We live in a society where, at the moment, there is a culture of knowledge, and ministers, celebrities and newspapers alike all feel the need to expose the whole truth as often as possible. Of course, all too often these "truth" takes on the spin that politicians, PR gurus and tabloid editors wish to put on it. It is a false sense of the truth, glossed over so that the public will see what is desired of them to see. This is not a luxury that the common criminal can afford. Sex registers do not carry an appendix saying: "Bill Rogers, one case of sexual harassment, but has now seen the error of his ways and wouldn't dream of doing it again." The image that the public would get if these registers were available would be that all criminals that have served their time are just waiting to be released in order to re-offend, probably in worse circumstances. Past experiences show that most often, this is simply not the case.

Surely after all the games of truth and its many variants that governments of the past decades have played, the public would realise that the "truth" is never what you would expect it to be, and more importantly, that at times it is best simply not to know at all. It is better for all involved - criminals, victims and bystanders alike - to leave the professionals to consider the consequences of such types of information. They need to do so without the reactions and often misplaced passion of Mr Joe Public, who on his own may be of no threat, but in a crowd can be a dangerous force indeed.

*Olivia Mantle is a second year International Relations student.*



'The man found guilty of Sarah Payne's murder, Roy Whiting, was himself a convicted paedophile on the Sex Offenders' Register. The case prompted widespread clamour for it and other similar lists to be made public'

## Masonry

Matthew Sinclair

Blue signs in Philadelphia usually feature tourist directions to lots of places with the word "Independence" in their title. Independence Hall, National Historical Park and various other sites contain few surprises but plenty of history.

"Masonic Temple" shocked me a little.

With my usual lack of planning I had no more pressing engagements than tracking this temple down. It was not hard to find. A cathedral-like building opposite City Hall that I had passed on my way from the train station to the hotel seemed like a strange site for a 'secret' society.

Luck substituted itself for planning and I arrived shortly before a tour was due to begin. Within minutes I was being guided around the tour by a moustached stereotype of respectable Middle America along with bemused Russians and a German who looked like a bible salesman with satanical hair: shoulder length and slick.

I knew very little about the Masons before my tour; somewhere between the Simpsons' Stonecutters and a character whose name I can't remember from War and Peace. I was rapidly educated.

Fourteen presidents were Masons, they seem to see King Solomon as their spiritual father, have more rules and intricate little traditions than the most anal of parliaments and describe themselves as being chiefly focussed on charitable work.

The tour progressed. I learned that the German bible salesman was actually a Mason.

The interior of the temple was stunning. Seven giant meeting rooms, each decorated like a palace, formed the impressive core of a labyrinthine building that we were told was filled with passages, moving walls and the like. If you were looking to hide something away the building would suit your needs well.

I noticed a banner in the antechamber to one of the meeting rooms that thickened the plot agreeably. With some knowledge of the history of the Knights Templar, to see a banner proclaiming their Pennsylvania branch made no sense.

Shortly after the destruction of the Crusader presence in the Holy Land, back in medieval days, the Knights Templar were purged; under torture they confessed to buggery, treason and even atheism. The organization was completely destroyed and it seemed unlike the Masons to sanction a body not based on centuries of arcane tradition.

When I asked about this I was told that the new Templars were a "continuation of the story". No more details could be extracted from my guide who pleaded that he was "just a card carrying member".

This was quite a story to continue. The Knights Templar was not just any order of knights but had the specific task of hurting infidels. They were created to "defend the Holy Land".

To be honest I'm a little disappointed in the Israel-Palestine conspiracy theorists. They all shout and scream about the Jewish lobby, campaign donations and other political influences while remaining silent on a body resurrecting the "story" of wandering down to Palestine, killing as many Muslims as you can find then building a bloody great castle.

It's entirely possible that my rampant speculation is building a house of cards but I think my explanation of the Masons makes a little more sense than their own description of "the world's largest fraternal organization" that does charitable work.

I fail to see why charitable, elderly frat boys need a fancier base than the Pope. They can donate to Greenpeace and spank each other in the comfort of their own homes.

An international conspiracy on the other hand...that needs a headquarters...

*Matthew Sinclair is a second year undergraduate studying Economics and Economic History.*



The Masonic Temple in Philadelphia - the headquarters of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania

P.S. They could also have kidnapped Elvis. All of the tunnels and moving walls in the Temple have to hide something. Clearly the Masons became jealous of others also hearing the King. Therefore they have him locked up in a tunnel somewhere under Philadelphia.

Elvis isn't dead. The Masons hid him.

Advertisement

## Central Catering Services

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### Brunch Bowl: Old Building 4th Floor

**Term:** Monday-Friday 9am-7.30pm; Vacation: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

Huge selection of hot and cold foods and drinks available all day long in a buzzy atmosphere.

Breakfasts: excellent value hot breakfast and healthy options. Lunch: International dishes; pizzas; filled jacket potatoes; pasta; stir-fry cooked to order; fish and chips; self-help salad bar; lots of vegetarian choices - stir-fry, fish and chips and salad bar available all afternoon during term. Supper in Term: an ever-changing choice of hot dishes and snacks, salad bar. All day: Hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, salads, snacks, yoghurts etc. All food and drinks available for eat-in or take-away.

### Robinson Room: Old Building 3rd Floor

**Term:** Monday-Friday 12noon-2.30pm

Relaxed atmosphere with an emphasis on quality home cooked dishes, soups, fresh vegetables and salads. The menu changes daily and includes organic and vegetarian choices. The desserts are to die for.

### Café Pepe: Clement House 3rd Floor

**Term:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9.30am-6pm; Wednesday, Friday 9.30-5pm.

Coffee Bar where pastries are freshly baked and panninis are toasted especially for you. There's also sandwiches, hot soup, fresh juices, soft drinks, cappuccino, espresso and regular coffee with a choice of coffee beans.

### Plaza Café: John Watkins Plaza

**Term:** Monday-Friday 9am to 9pm; Saturday-Sunday 11am to 5pm. Vacation: 9am to 6pm Monday-Friday.

Ideally located for the Library, this new café features high quality Fair Trade coffees, teas and snacks. There's a selection of sandwiches and baguettes, hot soup, cookies, muffins, cold drinks and mineral water.

### Beavers Retreat Bar: Old Building 4th Floor

**Term time:** Monday-Friday 12noon-2.30pm; 5pm-9pm. **Vacation:** Monday-Friday 12noon-2pm; 5pm-7pm

A traditional pub with a modern touch. There's a great selection of cask conditioned, keg and bottled beers as well as spirits, wines and soft drinks. There's an open fire for chilly winter evenings and a sun terrace for warm summer days. A great place to socialise.

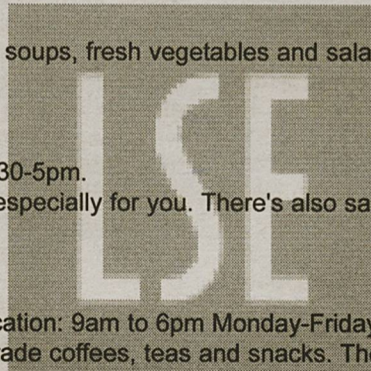
### Staff Dining Room (SCR members only): 5th Floor Old Building

The Staff Dining Room and Coffee Bar is open to all members of staff who choose to become members of the Senior Common Room.

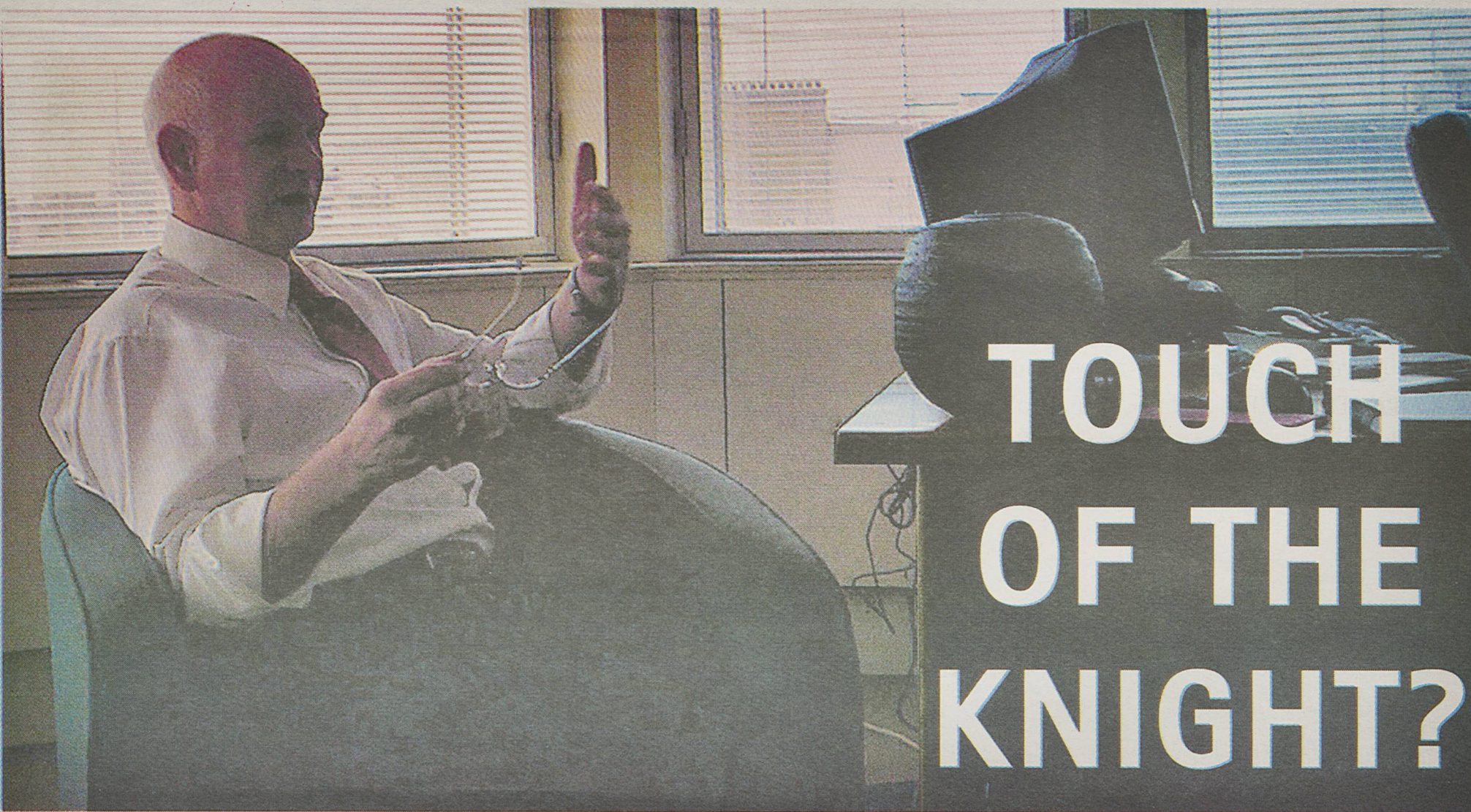
**Coffee Bar:** Monday to Friday 10am - 4.30pm. Speciality coffees include cafetiere, cappuccino, espresso, latte plus traditional, speciality and herbal teas. A selection of alcoholic and soft drinks is also available.

**Dining Room:** Monday to Friday 12.30 - 2pm. Daily changing menu includes a choice of high quality meat, fish and vegetarian dishes, fresh vegetables and soup, salads and desserts.

**Special Event Catering:** A variety of special catering services are available for conferences, business meetings, parties and private dining. Please contact the Catering Services Office ext 7222 or visit the catering section of the LSE website.



# blink Features



## TOUCH OF THE KNIGHT?

So just who is this former securities regulator who now sits in the LSE Director's office, and what are his plans for the school? Our editor climbed the stairs of Tower One to find out.

**Ibrahim Rasheed**  
Executive Editor

**Most of your predecessors got into the job coming straight from the world of academia, whereas you have done so after a long stint in the City of London. How do you think this will affect the approach you take to the job?**

Of course, not all of my predecessors have done that. I mean Lord Dahrendorf came here from the European Commission, which is in some ways not that dissimilar a job. I think it was possibly a brave decision by the school to go for someone outside as most of the universities in this country have academic heads. However, I regard myself as someone who is, one, a fairly experienced chief executive, and I have been a chief executive now for sixteen years in different organizations. This is my fifth organization. Also, I have retained an interest in most of the subjects that the LSE is offering. Not absolutely all, because I cannot claim to be a mathematician or statistician, but in all the areas of public policy, I have been engaged in those throughout my career one way or another. Usually in government, in the applied side if you like. I am a historian by training. I worked in the Foreign Office and I have retained an interest in international relations. Then in the City dealing with accounting and finance. Management and finance are things which interest me. So although I clearly do not come from the academic world I have always been someone who

has retained an engagement with the academic world as in evidence by the fact that I continue to review books, often academic books. In fact, I reviewed Nick Barr's book about eighteen months ago, (laughs) quite favourably fortunately! So, I don't regard myself as someone who has come from completely outside, although I have been engaged in academic thinking

**So there was no real intimidation in succeeding someone who is, and I am quoting the LSE website here, "the most widely cited contemporary sociologist in the world"?**

Well, I think that I have a lot to prove because I don't come with that type of academic record but I think that is a different point from saying I feel intimidated by it. I don't feel intimidated. I am not easily intimidated actually. I think I have different kinds of strengths, and I think the job of director will be done in a different type of way. I won't be making sociology lectures while I am here, but I think I have a lot of experience in management, which is part of the school. I admire Tony quite a lot and I have read quite a lot of his stuff, but when the school hired me, I presume that they didn't think they were hiring an academic sociologist. If they did think that they have got a bit of a problem. (Laughs) I assume that what they wanted was a professional manager.

**Freshers and returning students were greeted at the start of the year with industrial action. The school's administration has been criticized by the unions on strike**

**for being a bit condescending and refusing to have negotiated. I understand that you have met with the unions. Do you plan to continue negotiations until you have reached a settlement for the pay dispute?**

Yes, I have met with the unions and have had a useful meeting, at least from my point of view and I hope they find it useful as well. It allowed me to understand what their real concerns were. I find it rather unfortunate actually, because it has been a very long running dispute, and in the sense that London weighting has not been adjusted for a very long time, government has stopped giving universities an allocation for London weighting and different universities in London have adopted lots of different policies to deal with that. Some have agreed to a small increase in London weighting and others, such as the LSE, have focused on particular low pay problems. What is happening now is that there is a meeting of the University of London as a whole on Thursday 2nd October to decide whether there should be a collective negotiation on behalf of all the London universities or not. If there is, then we will take part in a collective negotiation and there will be a London wide resolution of this one way or another. If not, then we will have to deal with the issue ourselves.

I don't think the director should be involved in the details of day to day pay negotiations. I think the director should have direct negotiations with the unions from time to time. That has not happened

in the past but it will happen in the future. I have made that clear to the unions last week, and there will be a forum for the director to meet the unions to discuss general issues of concern to the school, recognizing that individual negotiations on particular parts of the pay scale will be dealt with via the staff.

**Another concern of students is the plan to introduce top-up fees. It is felt that this may discourage students from low income backgrounds from going to university. Do you share their concerns?**

I share their concerns, but I think I reach a somewhat different conclusion. First of all, I think that some means of getting extra finance for higher education is crucial. Academic salaries have been reduced year after year. London weighting is a sub-set of a more general problem of more pay in higher education. The only current offer on the table from the government is to put in more money by charging higher fees. I think it would be very curious if the school would not want to get that extra money. Another question is: are the government producing a scheme which will have damaging effects on access? I think the way it is currently devised is faulty in some respects. Some students who will be getting less support than they will now at the poorer end of income distribution, if an additional £3000 pounds is charged, they will get partial revision, they will get maintenance grants reinstated but they will still be about £875 worse off than they are now. I

# blink

## Features

'Taking into account that I think the government has got it wrong on support for poorer students, I personally would be prepared to go forward with loans and fees.'

'You don't sit down and say that over the course of your lifetime you will pay £850,000 in tax. You don't go throw yourself off Blackfriars Bridge at that prospect.'

'The government are not taking into account the additional cost of living in London in the maintenance loans, so that should go up.'



think that gap should be bridged and I think that that should be bridged by additional maintenance support, but that could be generated by additional income universities could generate by charging higher fees. So, if that is done, then I think that this is an acceptable way forward.

Now, there are some people who say that it will put people off. I respect that argument. It is actually very difficult to resolve it because it is based on behavioural assumptions. It is based on some people saying "I think people will be put off by the prospect of higher debt." Other people say that that shouldn't be a problem because people will be paying nothing up-front. They will only pay that debt back if they get paid a higher salary. You don't sit down and say that over the course of your lifetime you will pay £850,000 in tax. Now that is a debt, I tell you. You don't go throw yourself off Blackfriars Bridge at that prospect because you know that somehow you will earn the money to pay that. So the question is how you can communicate this to people in such a way that it is not off-putting. The new vice-chancellor of Cambridge made an interesting point, because she comes from Yale or Princeton... well, whichever it is, I think it is Yale. She said that Yale had what is described in America as a needs blind admission policy. You admit them on academic basis and then open the book and find out how much additional support they need and then take that into account. Yet they still found it difficult to attract applicants from lower income background. She says that the problem was nothing to do with finance but to do with communities where people say, "Oh we don't go to university from round here" or "Yale is not a place for us" which is a much more cultural factor rather than simply a

financial factor. If they don't have the money then they will get paid, but still they don't apply. So, I am not sure that the participation agenda, and the fees agenda are quite so intimately linked as some people argue, but I think we need different types of policies to develop access which can run alongside a policy of 'those who can, pay more'. So, taking into account the fact that I think the government has got it wrong on support for poorer students, I personally would be prepared to go forward with loans and fees. But I do think people need to look very carefully at the impact, so I do not share the views of those who say we need to go straight to £10,000 or whatever, because you need to monitor the behavioural impact very carefully. Other arguments are based on assumptions of what people will do, and I think you need to monitor that very carefully.

**Do you think the reason why people are put off from going to universities like Yale is because they feel it's not a place for them? Do you think LSE needs to do something about its marketing strategy to improve access?**

Well, the school has been doing things like a Saturday school programme for schools in east London. The Schwartz Review is opening up a series of questions about how access should be broadened and how universities' admissions policies should be developed and we are participating actively in that debate. We have been sent a series of questions from Schwartz. We are looking into that and the academic registrar is consulting people in the school. There are quite a few academics here who worked on the stuff. So, it may well be that we need to change our approach. I would say that the LSE have already been quite innovative in finding out ways of trying to reach out to

schools from whom they do not get applications at the moment.

**Will the LSE seek to charge the full three thousand pounds and will differential fees be introduced?**

Don't know on the first question. On the second question, in principle, I think it is right to give universities the ability to charge differential fees. But where we are at the moment on this, as far as the whole school is concerned, is that there is certainly a wide range of views on this. The Students' Union has declared itself to be against this. Some of the unions have declared themselves against. On the faculty you will find as many opinions as there are people, and possibly more. There are some people, like Nick Barr, who has been one of the intellectual originators of this idea, and a lot of people who don't like it. So, I am not pretending that there is one School view on this. Furthermore, I do not think that it is likely that there will be one school view on this. Eventually Parliament will have to make up its mind and I believe they should be able to hear a diverse range of views. I am not going to pretend that the fact that I am generally in favour of the qualifications I have given commits the LSE. I do not think it should. Now, if the policy goes through, then of course the school will have to reach a collective view on whether it takes advantage of it or not. That will be a tricky set of decisions. We certainly haven't reached that decision yet. We have certainly not decided. I am surprised that some universities appear to have done that. We have not decided what we will charge if we were given the freedom to do so because, one, we will need to see the final terms of it and two, we will need to do some work on how we will use that money best in terms of access. We will look at that on a case by case basis. There are some cours-

es here where the demand is so strong and they do not seem to be particularly price sensitive, where the case for moving onto a higher fee will be very strong. There are others where the case will be less strong and the market will not be able to bare that. But we have not decided yet.

**Of equal concern to students is accommodation. As it stands, living in London is a lot more expensive than it is anywhere else in the country. One of the budget halls here is going to be closed down next year, be refurbished and run thereafter as a private finance initiative. It is inevitable that the rents will rise. Do you think this is justified?**

Well, I haven't actually been involved in this decision. This is, after all, my first official day. (Laughs) The school has a balancing act of sorts between the amounts of accommodation that it can get hold of and the price. If we wanted to keep the price down to £75 or £80 per week, then we would not have very much accommodation. The question you have to look at is: what would people's alternative be? Would people be able to find accommodation of a similar quality and similar distance at a lower price? Elliot Simmons has talked to me about this. What he says is one of the big concerns is, some people get put into accommodation that is more expensive than they want. We need to look into the allocation policy because if people do not want the higher quality accommodation and there are other people who would, then we must make sure that we get the allocation right. But over all, the economics... you are not allowed to cross-subsidise student accommodation from other parts of the school budget. We try to do the toughest deals we can, but the outcome is what the outcome is, really. Is it better to have additional

# blink Features

## Howard Davies discusses his career, his plans for the LSE and his love affair with Manchester City

continued from page 15

accommodation that costs up to £100 per week or is it just better not to do it? So far the school has made the right decision which is to try and expand the number of places that are available. Of course the other side of the coin is whether the maintenance support, either grants or loan in London is high enough. There we have made representations to the government to say that they are not taking into account the additional cost of living in London in maintenance loans and that that should go up.

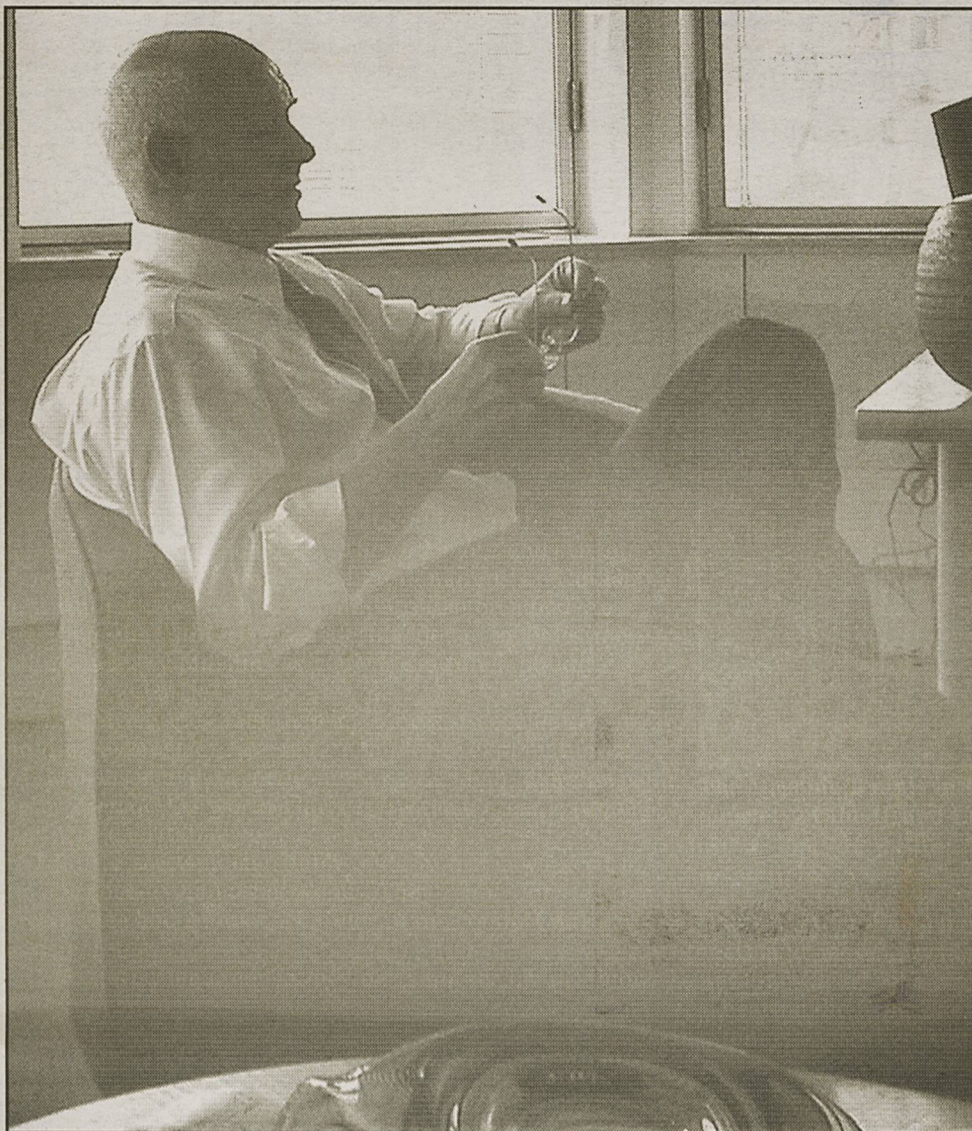
**The LSE is a constituent college of the University of London. LSE students are increasingly having little or no contact with the federal university. Do you feel that there is any merit in this arrangement? Also, is there any chance that we may try and go it alone by applying for LSE degree awarding powers?**

At the moment, as I understand it, we do get some benefits from membership of the University of London. We have access to some University of London accommodation. There is also an external programme which generates some money for the LSE. However, I agree that it is not a particularly close link for most LSE students. We are looking at the external programme to see whether that makes sense. At the moment we do not have any plans to disengage, which would be quite a major step. It is not a huge part of the school's life and we feel that what we should be doing is negotiating the original components of the relationship to ensure that the LSE gets the best deal, but not throwing the whole thing in the air.

**You have served at a variety of public institutions in your career. Almost all the jobs have been quite short, so consequently you have gained a reputation for taking up a challenge, achieving your aims, and then moving on. The LSE appointment is also relatively short term. Do you plan to instil any radical changes in the time you are here as you have done in some of your previous jobs?**

Well, I feel that it is slightly unfair...at the Audit Commission I had a three year contract which I extended and did five years. The CBI, I did have a five year contract but the government pulled me out of it to be deputy governor of the Bank of England, because my predecessor misbehaved on the carpet of his office with a journalist, which gained the reputation of being the 'bonk of England', which the Daily Mirror...the Sunday Mirror...used as a headline. Then at the Bank, the job just changed under me because the government decided to create the FSA. In fact I was the longest serving securities regulator in the world, by a long way, actually (laughs). These are high turnover occupations. Very risky occupations I have to say. You have seen what has happened at the SEC. They had three chairmen in a year. I personally feel that the reputation I have for changing jobs is a bit erroneous actually. In fact, I have not been particularly restless. As far as the LSE is concerned, it is a five year contract which could be extended.

My instinct is that the LSE is the kind of community which places a high value on democracy and consultation and consensus. Therefore it is not the type of place which expects to appoint a director



who is going to say 'Well, we have been going this way, but actually we are going to go that way and we are going to become a medical school'. It is not that sort of place. Indeed, the overall strategy that was worked on last year was a good strategy. But, I think it could be sharpened up in some places. I think the school has a long wish list of things it would like to do. Maybe there should be a clearer prioritisation of what we want to do. I think that the school could increase its engagement with the business community. At the moment the school is seen as being the preferred supplier by the government. Anything the government wants to look into in the public policy area... the LSE is always on the list of advisors on research projects. In business that is not the case. In the city, some people think of the LSE as a place which is a source of good ideas and a good place of training, but a lot of people have no image of it at all. Indeed when I announced that I was moving to

the LSE, a lot of people thought I was going to the stock exchange.

And so I think the school could benefit from raising its profile in the business community. When you take a look at what we do, a lot of it is quite relevant to the business community. I am not just talking about the management courses. I am talking about the work the school does on globalisation, of social trends, etc. is relevant to business. Some businesses understand that. BP funded the globalisation programme for several years because they wanted their managers, who were operating internationally, to understand the way the world worked and they thought the LSE was a great place to come to. They were not coming here for expertise on oil exploration or anything like that. They were coming here to understand geopolitical trends. But if you look, there are not many businesses that think that and I think that we could raise our profile. So, I have a number of particular ambitions

in things that I think the school could do better in. But, overall I recognise that this is not a 'turnaround' appointment where the school is in trouble and needs someone to rescue it. It is doing well: second in the league for research, it is hugely popular on applicants. There are fourteen applicants per place. A completely different kind of problem with regard to access from Oxbridge which get 3.5 applicants per place. We have not got that same obstacle here. So, there are a lot of great things about it. I think it is a question of sharpening things up, raising our profile in certain areas, making some difficult prioritisation decisions rather than a radical new strategy.

**Your predecessor made an annual visit to the Union General Meeting. Do you plan on doing so yourself?**

No. I think I am doing two this year (laughs). I certainly am coming, but I have a feeling that there are two booked in the diary. Elliot didn't tell me, but he implied that Tony Giddens did two. Perhaps I have been conned here.

**Just to look at the future now. You are known to be an avid Manchester City fan. One commentator said that if you were to cut yourself, blue blood would gush from the wound. You were recently linked with a possible move there as chairman. Do you see any involvement with the club in the future?**

No. This is always coming up. Whenever City lose a chairman, there are stories to the effect that I should be chairman. Indeed there was a fanzine campaign this time. The reason for that is, one, there aren't many famous Manchester City fans but also because I know the fanzine people. I go with them to the games. But I am just a fan. One of the reasons they say they would like to see me in the chair is because I do not go and sit in the Director's Box. I go and sit at the City end of Maine Road. But I have no interest in terms of managing. Supporting football is the irrational part of my life. The point is, I have no responsibility for this. I can go and cheer and shout abuse as I see fit. So I am quite uninterested in football finances and management. I just like to watch the game. It's a tribal thing as far as I am concerned. There is absolutely no chance that I should be the chairman of Manchester City. Absolutely none. Even if it is offered to me, which it will not be. Also, these days you need to have several million pounds to be chairman.

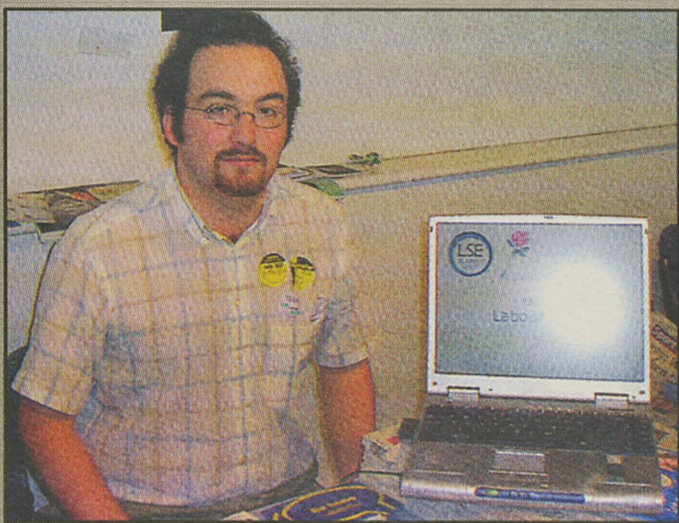
**What does the future hold for Howard Davies?**

I do not know. I cannot see being beyond here for quite a few years yet. I am really looking forward to it. It is a very exciting, intellectual future at the LSE. Every possible thing that I am interested in is going on in this school. Financial regulation is interesting in a certain sort of way, though my wife goes crazy whenever I talk about it. But its not the same as the range of subjects which the school has to offer.

*Howard Davies took over as Director of LSE on 1st October. Ibrahim Rasheed is a third year undergraduate studying Economic History.*



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# PARTY IN THE UNION

That's the political kind, by the way. In an era of unprecedented apathy, how well did the LSE's political societies get on during Freshers' Fayre?

parties as well as for two socialist ones. Is political interest just limited to those freakish anoraks already involved? Or were many freshers persuaded to join the world of hackdom?

Scurrying up and down the stairs of Clement House trying to evenly divide my time between the different party stalls was a frustrating experience. This was mainly because they hardly attracted much attention, making it extremely difficult to nab someone to interview who had just signed up at one of the stalls. Trying to understand the cause of this is not that difficult. Maybe people figured that an 'Ace' card was more useful than a Lib Dem membership card. Maybe freshers thought it more important to get E-'d up with the 'Psy Trance' crew than to spend an afternoon listening to Anne Widdecombe bang on about asylum seekers.

In order to pass the time I thought it might be an idea to have a chat with the dedicated souls manning the stalls. To Labour Students first. Dave Cole is very proud of the funky PowerPoint presentation displayed on his laptop. In this age of spin even the amateurs have got their presentation skills finely honed. So what do the Labour Students stand for?

"We are affiliated to the Labour party just like trade unions. We campaign for things that are important for students. We are heavily involved in campaigns for equality and social justice", says Cole. How does the Labour party essentially differ from the others? "Labour is the party that is most connected to public services. Obviously this is backed up by the link to trade unions."

If the Labour party feels so close to trade unions why have you set up stall here by entering a building that is being picketed by UNISON and the AUT? "I did not cross a picket line". Huh? "In the interests of students who wanted to join the Labour Club I came in through an alternative entrance that was not being picketed." Who says the Labour party doesn't know the meaning of compromise?

Soon my patience is rewarded. A student signs up for the Labour club. Roberto is a postgraduate from Switzerland. I ask him why he joins the

club and he replies that the primary reason was to get involved in forums to debate ideas. Fair enough, but what of the war? Was he against it? "I think the war was bad", he replies. "But that is only one aspect of the party. They seek to combine social values with a market economy." This is exactly the type of image that Tony Blair has built and it not only has the British electorate hooked, but left-wingers in continental Europe seem to see something they identify with as well.

Next stop, the Lib Dems. Their stall is perhaps the most colourfully decorated of the lot. Party headquarters had clearly forked out big time in order to capitalise on the Brent East win. In addition to literature on issues of immediate importance like top-up fees and housing, the Liberal Democrats have curiously focused a lot of attention on drugs. Postcards with "Prohibition isn't working" and "Weed, legalise it" are prominently displayed. The party was accused of fighting a cynical campaign in Brent East. Is this a cunning attempt to divert attention from the fact that the Liberal Democrats tend to sit on the fence on most issues? A Masters student I spoke to did not seem to think so.

"I like the Lib Dems' environmental and anti-discrimination policies. I also like their drug policy", she says. The Liberal Democrats clearly have gone for a more leftist approach than Labour nationally and this is represented on campus quite effectively. An American General Course student studying the literature tells me that they appear to be far to the left of the Democrats. It remains to be seen whether the Liberal Democrats will survive, or even profit from, this leftward swing.

The Conservative stall is hard to miss. And it's not just to do with the massive blue poster behind it. "You can spot them a mile away", says Paul Beaumont, a first year student. "It's the v-neck jumpers and the stench of Old Spice." A bit harsh perhaps. I ask Jordan Howells, who is handing out Conservative leaflets, whether there is any real difference between his party and Labour any more. "The Tories champion the individual. Labour interferes much more with individual rights." The Tory faithful seem to be sticking to the good old values. But are they pleased with how they are doing nationally? One student, now in her fourth year at the LSE, confessed that she was disappointed with the direction the party is heading towards. "They are getting worse. They do not seem to be going anywhere." She also rails against her local constituency party. "They are not really concerned with ideology. They are cynically exploiting votes, especially with regard to councils." It is definitely refreshing to talk to someone so principled, but maybe her view of politics is a bit too idealistic.

It is not only in local constituencies that dirty tricks are rife. I notice a student surrounded by Conservative Future activists as she registers with them. She wanders off in a hurry while the hacks look rather pleased with themselves. Curiosity aroused, I run after her and inquire as to her reasons for joining. A clearly exasperated Cherena said, "The guy kept bugging me. I didn't have any money but he kept bugging me so I joined without paying the fee. I am not going to go to the meetings or anything. I'm more Labour really." Is this the way forward in politics? Perhaps Iain Duncan Smith ought to visit the next LSE Conservative Future meeting and pick up a few hints.

Ibrahim Rasheed Executive Editor

Never underestimate the determination of a quiet man", Iain Duncan Smith told his colleagues in the Conservative Party. Determined he may be, but what is certain is that the party stays as quiet as ever. Ever since being obliterated and cast into the electoral abyss in May 1997, the Conservatives have not looked like a serious opposition, never mind a potential party of government. Yet slog away they do, trying to build up their profile and restore any semblance of trust they once had amongst the electorate. Having come third in the Brent East by-election, it is inevitable that there will be calls for a change in strategy to raise their prospects at the next general election.

But it is not just the Tory party that has suffered. The turnout in Brent East was abysmally low. One explanation as to why Labour was defeated by the Liberal

Democrats rests on the belief that many Labour voters, disillusioned by war in Iraq, stayed at home on election day. Others claim that those who switched to voting for the Lib Dems from Labour did so as a protest and not because of any belief in core Liberal Democrat values.

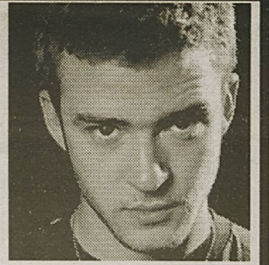
Disillusion exists not just because of the Iraq war. The problem has existed for a very long time and people are getting increasingly switched off in terms of political activity. This is especially the case with young people. Many believe that it is no longer necessary to be involved in a party political system which is quite alien to them. They believe it has little or no effect on their daily lives.

Anyone with even a vague understanding of British politics will know that it is next to impossible to work in it outside the party political system. Taking a look at the Freshers' Fayre at LSE last week, it is clear that party politics is not entirely dead, at least for a small hardcore. Stalls were set out for all three major political

# b:art

edited by Justin Nolan

lundun stoodent nick all our ideas.



## EDITORIAL

By the time you read this, many of you avid **b:art** readers will have taken the plunge, signed up at freshers fair, and gone to our first collective meeting to meet and greet our lovely editorial staff. To those who are about to write I salute you. For those who didn't sign up, but still want to contribute, merely mail me at [J.J.Nolan@lse.ac.uk](mailto:J.J.Nolan@lse.ac.uk) or one of the editors. You'll find our section is of a broad enough scope to accomodate anyone. Though if nob jokes and puerile humour is more to your taste, **Beaver Sports** can be contacted on [G.H.Carter@lse.ac.uk](mailto:G.H.Carter@lse.ac.uk) or [Vyras@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Vyras@lse.ac.uk).

Freshers week was of course very interesting, and I managed to go to most events. Indeed if you didn't see me hassling freshers at Blast Off on Tuesday, or dancing maniacally at Yacht Club on Wednesday, you probably saw me at Freshers fair on Thursday morning where I must con-

fess to being extremely hungover. Its a good job all my people did an admirable job of getting hungry young freshers to sign up. Simon, Dani, Dalia, Neil and Jasmin I salute you.

Next week we should have new Fine Arts and Theatre people installed and we will be also be looking for Food and Drink, and Clubbing contributors. So if like eating, drinking, and raving (thats 90 % of us) then get in touch with me at the usual address.

By the way, I was the one dancing round the cheese room at Yacht Club with two straws up my nose. It may have looked silly, but I'm sure you'll agree it had a certain artistic merit to it.

**Take it Easy.**

## Wheatus mania

Neil goes Wheatus mental! He bags a copy of their latest album, meets up with them and catches the live show, all in the space of a day. Quite the overload...

It's an odd place Kings Cross Scala at 3 in the afternoon. It resembles an empty school hall rather than an established concert venue. It's particularly odd on this day as it's here I meet "geek rock" group Wheatus, currently in the midst of a two week tour of England and here for the London show. I meet up with lead singer Brendan, sister Liz who provides backing vocals, and recently recruited keyboard player Shannon Harris.

Brendan's manner surprises me a little from the outset. Going on the content of the songs I'd heard, and his dorky cartoon vocal style, I had envisaged a voluble joker of a fellow. In actual fact, he and his sister turn out to be quite the opposite. Brendan thinks pensively about each question put to him, and, after sufficient reflective pauses, returns succinct and thorough answers.

I'm surprised to learn that they produced their new album "Hand Over Your Loved Ones" by themselves, in Brendan's Long Island apartment. Their view on people downloading the new album for free is passive; they are, apparently, "cool with it". They resent a lot of Britain's music journalism for its need to be sensationalist. NME in particular is cited for hyping groups up, shortly before knocking them down the minute they become popular. "They expose up and coming bands too quickly", Brendan explains, a tad bitter perhaps that Wheatus have turned out to be one of them. Maybe it's a reflection of the current music scene, offers Shannon; People aren't as passionate about music as they once were - the press have to stir up interest to support the industry. It's clear after this relaxed opening to the interview that Wheatus have views and astute ones at that.

I begin therefore to believe that Wheatus are a band that are very aware. Aware of themselves as people and aware of what they, as a band, are all about. They make music that people find fun. And they enjoy making and playing it. They don't care how "pop" it gets labelled. All that word means, after all, is just that - popular. I discover that they are in fact immensely proud of their big hit "Teenage Dirt Bag", something I'm initially tentative to ask about. At the gig later that evening, they drag at least 30 people up on stage and perform an extended version of it. They are happy to have composed music which is accessible on such a large scale. And why indeed shouldn't they be, I ponder?

Yes. Wheatus are fun fun fun I decide. They're serious people, quite the dry little lot in fact, but the music they want to seriously make is fun. Brendan's singing voice you realise is entirely put on. This is confirmed when, at the gig, the group cover an AC/DC song. Brendan's manages to imitate AC/DC vocalist Dave Evans down to a T. In concert they have dancing girls on stage, wiggling about in an attempt to spread the spirit of string free pleasure. They love the Darkness it emerges, a band who I start to think are a bit like them. And in the album's sleeve notes they give thanks to Robbie Williams, Kylie, and the Sugar Babes amongst more predictable mentions (QOTSA, JJ72 and the like).

They never drink before going on stage. Even during the gig itself, the most alcohol that gets supped is a sly swig of whiskey. When a member of the audience attempts a stage dive, Brendan snarls: "That's a great way to

hurt somebody. You try that again and I'll wrap my guitar around your neck". Coming from such an undernourished little chappy, such a remark is a little comical. But there's no doubt that he means it; Music's just about fun, no one should spill blood over it.

This sense of fun is reflected in their music as well. They come on to a crazy big band record and leave to the theme tune from Dallas. Deep into second single "Little Respect" they succinctly switch into a jazz number for 20 seconds before returning to the main song. Everyone breaks into a little grin. Clever stuff. And fun of course too. On top of songs from their first album, Shannon plays lively keyboard riffs which adds a cheeky edge to them. This group, I reflect, have the energy of abundant punk pop groups like Blink 182, but decide to take themselves with a refreshing pinch of salt. They are carefree.

I begin, contrary to expectations earlier in the day, to warm to the group. Carefree. Yum yum. I could do with a bit of that. But a sense of foreboding begins to dawn on me as I put the CD on and prepare to forget all things bad and bounce around for a bit; I start to become disillusioned. It slowly hits me that Wheatus aren't actually the light-hearted song writers I'd made them out to be. In fact, their songs verge on the dark and brooding side. The new album, for all its ironic anecdotes and brash lyrics - the repeated line: "My balls are bigger than a dynamite satchel of pain" a deft example - contains a lot of emotional stuff. It's at this point that I struggle to grasp what this band really is about. What are they trying to do here? Are they, despite seeming such an introspective group, even sure themselves? It would be a far cry from the truth to claim that any of their songs sound dark on the surface. Yet delve a little deeper and you find some shocking content. Amongst other dismal jolts life has to offer, we are presented here with: loss of love ("I'm better off alone and free cos no one can put up with me, And your mom don't like me either, Now I don't have to meet her"), adultery ("Just tell me his name, Just tell me you didn't get laid in our bedroom, And was it the same?"), insecurity ("OK so I'm a jerk and I'm a weirdo and even if I'm lucky I'll amount to zero") and violence (an account of the time Brendan, on mushrooms in Amsterdam, got chased out of a bar by "pissed drunk and raging" English hooligans).

Brendan admits that the album is very personal. The songs for it were written while the group were on tour in Autumn last year, a time when he split up with his fiancé. It was this event which spawned ideas for the new songs and their subject matter. I admittedly didn't, in our chat, quite realise what an impact this had made to a band known for its exuberant music.

As I leave the Scala, there's a group of girlys in their early teens, hoping for a glimpse of the band they idolise. During the gig, everyone smiles and dances to the songs which are seemingly cheery numbers, a simple bit of merriment. I'm a confused man. They seemed so clued. They didn't seem to be hedonists, true, but they seemed to make music for them at least. The gig seems to confirm this. But then you examine the lyric booklet just to be able to sing along, you listen a little closer, and you expose the truth; This is a band who not only have serious issues but attempt to sing about them as well. Strange stuff.

**NEILGARRETT**



b:artro

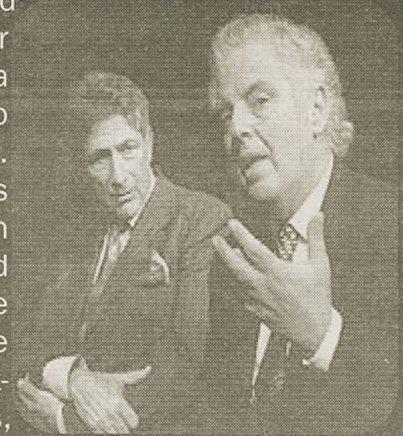
# EAST WEST DIVAN ORCHESTRA

**PAUL KIRBY** checks out one of the more interesting musical projects to emerge from the Middle East.

I was drawn to see the East-West Divan Orchestra not out of a deep love for classical music [a love I cannot say that I feel] but out of curiosity. The Orchestra was the project of two remarkable men - classical maestro and Israeli Daniel Barenboim and his close friend, the late cultural philosopher and Palestinian, Edward Said. The Orchestra is special because it is made of Arabs from Syria, Egypt, the Palestinian territories, Lebanon and Jordan who play together with musicians from Israel.



ly moved me with its sweeping emotions and rhythmic shifts. I was surprised to find myself holding my breath for fear of disturbing the Orchestra who somehow managed to sound both forceful and fragile. A cough from the audience was audible even when everyone on stage was playing at once and yet there they were, holding the attention of thousands. To see a Palestinian and an Israeli sitting side by side at their pianos, weaving notes together, each complimenting the other, adding something to the music by their relationship - it gave the experience a sense of hope.



While the project is not overtly political [it is about the music which transcends such divides] it has political implications - and for once in the great slugging-match over all things Middle-Eastern the implications are constructive. And watching the Orchestra I found it impossible to tell who was Israeli and who was Arab - and why should I have been? There were none of those barriers here tonight, just great musicians powering their way through Beethoven's Eroica and Mozart's Concerto for Three Pianos. But for me, hearing all these pieces for the first time, it was Schubert's Unfinished Symphony that real-

The Orchestra is still new, still young but Barenboim has already said that it 'will only attain its full dimension when it is able to play in all the countries that are represented in its orchestra, which is not the case at present. We cannot go to Israel, to Syria'. Here's to that dream.

**PAUL KIRBY**

# HOT WATER MUSIC

**JAZMIN BURGESS** catches up with godfathers of all things emo and hardcore..

With the release of 2002's 'Caution', Hot Water Music showed themselves to be one of the few bands who are talented enough to be able to adapt and change their sound into something new, different and exciting whilst still remaining reassuringly familiar. On their recent tour of the UK to promote the album, The Beaver was able to catch up with drummer George Rebelo and quiz him on such pressing issues like the band's plans for the future, their move to Epitaph and Hot Water Music tattoos. Oh and N\*Sync and The Backstreet Boys and exactly how they effect the Florida 'scene'...

**The Beaver (T.B): So, are you enjoying being back in England again?**

**George Rebelo (G.R):** Oh yeah. and our bus is so great - we've been sleeping a lot (laughs). No seriously, the shows have been going really well, we got to go to Ireland for the first time which was pretty intense. Everybody's been treating us really well, I'm just really excited to be back in Europe again!

**T.B: A lot of bands who tour over here often say that the crowds in Europe are pretty different to the US...**

**G.R:** Oh for sure - well it differs dramatically sometimes. I mean some cities in America they think they're too cool for school and they don't want to dance and have a good time. But I mean generally, for the most part, you have your good scenes and bad scenes everywhere.

**T.B: How've you found the average Hot Water Music fan's reaction to 'Caution'? Has it been negative or are they all loving it as much as your older material?**

**G.R:** Honestly, its been mixed. I've had people come up to me and tell me it was their favourite record of last year and other people telling me it's shit compared to the other stuff we did. Some people find it boring, but people who get really into the song writing parts of it really dig it. I personally think its our best record, so I don't really care what other people think! (laughs) I mean it's sold more, so it's getting to more people, but some of our hardcore bands don't appreciate it as much - because it's a little more catchy, there's a little more harmonies on it and it's a little more together you know.

**T.B: A lot of bands regularly cite Hot Water Music as influences - don't you feel any pressure to always produce music that's critically acclaimed or do you just rise above it all?**

**G.R:** Hmm, I think honestly the only pressure that we feel is the pressure we put upon ourselves to write the best music we possibly can. We try not to think about outside influences or meet expectations of 'Hot Water Music are a certain type of band'. The only pressure that affects us is the pressure of not trying to put out the same record over and over again. You know, we're always trying to change and do something different.

**T.B: So, being so esteemed as 'influences' do you guys still draw from influences yourselves?**

**G.R:** Oh yeah. everything influences us. We toured with Leatherface a while back and they influenced us a great deal. But yeah, for the most part we do have

our own formula and have our own way of doing things. We kinda trust our own tastes and what comes from inside rather than what comes from outside.

**T.B: Having toured with so many bands, what's the best thing you've learned from another band?**

**G.R:** Wow. Um, well when we first started Avail took us out and showed us the ropes. Before then we were kinda naive to touring and they took us in and showed us how people rip you off and what to look for - you know who to trust and who not to. Yeah, I think Avail were our biggest influence as far as us being a band.

**T.B: People often say there's a distinctive West Coast Sound and a distinctive East Coast Sound, so do you think there's a distinctive Florida sound?**

**G.R:** (laughs) I don't know! I don't think so! Gainseville has a kind of distinctive sound i guess. But i mean we have Dashboard Confessional and NSYNC and The Backstreet Boys all coming from Florida too! So i don't know! (laughs)

**T.B: (laughing) Okay, so what records are you/the band listening to at the moment?**

**G.R:** What's been consuming me is The Beatles' 'White Album', Hot Hot Heat and Spoon 'Girls Can Tell'. Those are like the three things that are constantly spinning in my CD player. I can't wait to see Hot Hot Heat live in fact, that album completely blew my mind.

**T.B: And finally, what are the band's plans for the rest of the year?**

**G.R:** Well, once we get back home we're gonna take six weeks off. We're then touring the US in two week stints, just so its easier for us, because we spend so much time away from home. And then we're off to Canada with the bouncing souls. We probably won't break again til the end of November and after that...who knows?

**JAZMIN BURGESS**



edited by jazmin burgess and neil garrett  
b:music



albums



**BELLE AND SEBASTIAN**  
DEAR CATASTROPHE WAITRESS  
RELEASED: 6/10/03  
LABEL: ROUGH TRADE

So, at long long LAST everyone's favourite Scots Belle and Sebastian have returned with 'Dear Catastrophe Waitress'. Although their last proper full length release 'Fold Your Hands Child, You Walk Like A Peasant' did contain some beyond-beautiful songs, to be painfully truthful, as a whole it was also slightly disappointing merely because it didn't quite reach the sheer brilliance of any of their other three albums. BUT! By contrast 'Dear Catastrophe Waitress' suffers no such plight easily touches the originality and greatness of the band's second (and best) album 'If You're Feeling Sinister'.

What's more, is that 'Dear Catastrophe Waitress' is still unmistakably so very Belle and Sebastian, be it because of its ridiculously catchy melodies or the endearing split vocals of Stuart Murdoch and Stevie Jackson. Easily the highlight of the whole album is the cheerfully energetic 'I'm A Cuckoo'. Which is also complemented perfectly by opening track 'Step Into My Office Baby' which is so quirky 50s-esque that its almost enchanting and the wonderfully upbeat 'Wrapped Up in Books'.

The only one problem with Belle and Sebastian is that there is way too much stigma attached to them not enough recognition of the fact that they are some of the best musicians around today. In fact only a few such as the god-like Bright Eyes can truly match their talent. And, even then Conor Oberst still can't produce records that put a smile on your face the minute you put them on. So, go out AND BUY 'Dear Catastrophe Waitress' and go see Belle and Sebastian on their tour in December-it's likely to be one of the best gigs and records you'll hear this year. Because, at the end of the day, 'Dear catastrophe Waitress' may have been the long overdue follow up to 'Fold Your Hands Child..', but quite honestly it was more than definitely worth the wait.

JAZMIN BURGESS



**BASEMENT JAXX**  
KISH KASH  
RELEASED: 20/10/03  
LABEL: XL

This 3rd album from Brixton dancehall favourites Basement Jaxx is as mixed up as anything they've produced since releasing first album "Remedy" in 1999. "Kish Kash" fluctuates between early 90's house, hip hop, funk, rock, R&B and a bit of everything else. The inspired collaborations tell the story - Dizzee Rascal, Lisa Kekula from the Bellrays, Siouxsie Sioux from the Banshees amongst other oddities.

In places this album branches out too much, especially when the Jaxx enter the genre known as downbeat or, bizarrely, go 80's romantic. But when they stick to what they're good at, they make typically stylish records. The great talent Basement Jaxx display time and time again is the ability to make records which have mass appeal but are unusual at the same time. You can spot an abundance of potential chart hits on this album. Yet there is a lot of quirky stuff here as well - strange rock guitar solos are imposed over driving house beats, Dizzee (me from the streets) Rascal raps over an Indian Belly dancing record - but it somehow doesn't sound that odd. It comes onto commercial radio and the everyday pop lover smells something a bit different. But they like it.

NEIL GARRETT



**BRAND NEW**  
DEJA ENTENDU  
RELEASED: OUT NOW  
LABEL: TRIPLE CROWN/EAT SLEEP

First up, if you're expecting Brand New'eagerly awaited second album 'Deja Entendu' to be a carbon clone of their exuberantly energetic and beyond brilliant debut 'Your Favourite Weapon', then you're more than just a little bit misguided. However, although the band have almost to abandoned their endearing melodic hardcore for a sound that's a little more post-rock, a little bit mellow and a lot more introspective, what you're left with in Deja Entendu is one of the most complete and musically accomplished albums to be released this year. Because, Brand New have succeeded into doing what few bands ever can - adapting and changing their sound into something totally different yet still equally as exciting and loveable. What ultimately makes this album so loveable are songs like the majestic 'Guernica' and 'Good to Know If I Ever Need Attention..' which somehow combine the hyperactivity of the Brand New on 'Your Favourite Weapon' with a more melancholic (yet just as energetic) sound they've come to execute perfectly.

So, if you think I'm being far too overenthusiastic about this album, a word of advice: go listen to track 5, 'The Quiet Things That No-One Ever Knows', because if that doesn't put you into heartfelt agreement, then I suggest a hearing test is long overdue. So it may not be the Brand New you fell in love with when you picked up 'Your Favourite Weapon', but its a better, more substantial Brand New that you can go and fall in love with all over again. In fact, with these 12 songs, Brand New have proved themselves to be a band worthy of serious admiration and major respect. Because not only have they managed to change their sound into something better and more diverse, but they have also produced the most enigmatic and accomplished record likely to be released in 2003.

JAZMIN BURGESS



**ALFIE**  
DO YOU IMAGINE THINGS?  
RELEASED: OUT NOW  
LABEL: REGAL

Despite being bullied at school (and at university) for my love of this "indie schmindy" band. Despite sticking my skinny little neck out when their previous album, "Walking with Thee", was hounded by the cruel critical world, telling those prepared to listen that this is a terrific little band of great quality. Despite dancing to myself to the disgust and scorn of the surrounding crowd when they supported Ed Harcourt at Shepherds Bush last year. Despite such stoicism on my part, nothing prepared me for what a shiny little bundle of joy this album was to be. I had faith. But not, I concede, this much.

From the playful bass line which opens the album it is apparent that this is a band who have developed immensely. And it just gets better. Alfie are very much crafting music here in the true sense of the word. It strikes the perfect balance of being packed full of an array of instrumentation - lush strings, overdubbed percussion, choral arrangements - but never sounding overcrowded or clogged. Each track is a concoction of intricate melodic lines, woven together to make a brilliant tasting herbal brew. It's experimental without being inaccessible or radical. It's a lighthearted but sincere at times too.

Alfie have been around, they've weathered the storm, and they're evidently stronger for it.

NEIL GARRETT

SINGLE REVIEWS

**NICK CAVE**  
HE WANTS YOU

Nick Cave's latest offers romance, pain, anger and venomous black humour - sometimes all at once. He Wants You is full of great piano and gently sung verses but there is a quality to Cave's voice - that gravel-throated sneer - which belies the soft desire of the title, as if there is some darker perspective left unsung. Babe, I'm On Fire [pared down from its 15-minute album length] is the stand-out track here, all disjointed rhythm and guitar feedback leading to Cave's manic, intense Hammond organ solo. The unreleased b-sides are also far more than filler material. Compelling.

PAUL KIRBY

**THE SIGHTS**  
BE LIKE NORMAL

Detroit "garage rock" group The Sights have an ear for a tune this it would seem. Quite the punchy attitude laden fest this one. It's not original and it won't change your life. But it is quite good.

NEIL GARRETT

**STARSAILOR**  
SILENCE IS EASY

Just as everyone bar Starsailor start to jump on the bands back for delving into territory duller we ever new existed, how do they choose to respond? Do they give us a rip roaring anthem? A beautiful ballad full of tragic sorrow? No we get this, naff, sluggish awful thing, probably the worst track they've ever made. "Silence is easy, It just becomes me" groans Walsh. If only it were.

NEIL GARRETT

**THE MARS VOLTA**  
INTERTIATIC ESP

Having cut their teeth on the San Francisco rock circuit, The Mars Volta have produced an outstanding single. The wailing vocals, the high pitch lead guitar stick onto the brain like super glue. This track really grows on you. The album is already out and, on the evidence of this single, proves to be a classic.

IB RASHEED

# Finding Nemo

A cartoon about sealife is the best film so far this year? Sounds fishy. b:film editor SIMONCLIFF casts his verdict on this week's pick of the catch...

**Director:** Andrew Stanton  
**Starring Voices of:** Albert Brooks, Ellen Degeneres, Willem Dafoe, Alexander Gould.  
**Running Time:** 100 mins  
**Certificate:** U  
**Release Date:** October 10th

As Ray Harryhausen, Nick Park and Matt Groening proved during the last century, animation has the ability to appeal to a wider audience than bleary-eyed ankle-biters gawping at a television on a Saturday morning. Cartoons can be cool and compelling, intelligent even, as well as being jolly good fun. Then came the CGI revolution, and of course, the landmark of filmmaking that was Toy Story. But, far from sitting smug on their laurels, John Lasseter and the virtuoso Pixar team have quite literally gone from strength (Toy Story 2) to jaw-dropping strength (Monsters Inc.), turning their attention to toys, bugs, beasts, and now fish.

Opening with a mood-setting exposition of tragedy, Finding Nemo starts as it means to go on; purposeful and action-packed cinema. It follows the journey of a clownfish (who isn't funny) named Marlin (Albert Brooks), and his knockabout sidekick Dory (Ellen Degeneres), the typically mismatched road-movie pairing established early on in double-quick time. And, though the plot does suffer slightly from character underdevelopment in the first act, the story soon gains pace with such flair and momentum that you'll soon get swept away with it, and have plenty of belly-trembling laughs in the process.

Sure, there are the same moral-hugging, feel-good themes that the Disney machine has stuffed down our throats over the years, but with the Pixar crew at the helm, their CG-wizardry and comic flair put the ethics lecture on the back-burner and let you effortlessly marvel at the sub-marine world and its thousands of colourful inhabitants they have so lovingly created.

And what a world.  
 Overlaid by a

trademark Thomas Newman score, everything from fields of coral waiting gently in an undersea current to a seabed minefield exploding in unison is truly breathtaking. The characters themselves are superbly caricatured, the lead two voices played by lesser-known performers than have been enlisted before, whilst the bigger-name actors take supporting roles which truly add something extra to the picture and never simply make up the numbers (Willem Dafoe, Eric Bana and Geoffrey Rush are all epitomised to perfection by their fishy and feathered alter-egos).

As we have come to expect, the Pixar crew keep the big kids more than entertained with the usual mix of caricature-based in jokes (three sharks attending an anger-management self-help group is quite simply genius), movie homages (look out for a brilliantly overt reference to The Shining, Hitchcock's The Birds and Psycho, The Terminator gets a nod, and yes, there is a requisite if fleeting reference to Jaws), as well as plenty of unashamed slapstick.

In Finding Nemo, John Lasseter and his team have yet again cemented the Pixar label as a leading force in Hollywood of cinematic quality and awe-inspiring design of the highest order, not only in the field of animation, but in the film industry as a whole. Some may be waiting for the scripts to wane, the computer-based gimmick to fade and the animation to get sloppy, but on the merits of this effort, they are only getting stronger with each movie they craft.

The initial awe at their style may have worn off, and more mature types may scoff at its sentimental asides which do hark back to the Disney trademark of wholesome, all-American values. But face it: In terms of entertainment for all and animated virtuosity, Pixar can do no wrong. Finally, we have a film this year which lives up to the hype it has generated across the pond. Aesthetically and cinematically, this is simply sublime.

5/5



b:film edited by dani and si

## Classic Review: Rebecca (1940)

b:about's SARAHWARWICK reflects on Hitchcock's schizophrenic adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's masterpiece.

**Director:** Alfred Hitchcock  
**Starring:** Laurence Olivier, Jane Fontaine, George Sanders, Judith Anderson.  
**Running Time:** 130 mins  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Release Date:** 28th March 1940

Mist in a moonlight sky; rusty iron gates, locked; a path through dark woods at night; the blackened ruin of a great house partially obscured by dead trees. These are the first images of arguably Hitchcock's greatest film and his only Oscar winner. Accompanied by the melancholic wailings of a lone oboe and the voice of Joan Fontaine as the second Mrs. de Winter, they set the scene for a dark, sinister film. But instead of continuing with the somber, almost gothic imagery, the tone suddenly changes and we find ourselves in Monte Carlo, witness to the courtship of the enigmatic and jovial Max de Winter (Laurence Olivier) and the young and innocent girl who is our nameless heroine and narrator (Joan Fontaine). The lighting becomes brighter, music more cheerful - a total transformation of atmosphere that is mirrored continuously in this film of contrasting characters and their conflicting lives.

The love story of Maxim and his child bride is constantly undermined by the ghost story of his first wife: Rebecca. The lighter colours used to represent the second wife can be easily compared with the darkness of Rebecca, most easily through her most faithful servant Mrs. Danvers (Judith Anderson) and later through stories of Rebecca herself. Mrs. Danvers is a singularly disturbing woman and is an overpowering and destructive force for the young mistress. Hitchcock gives us the suggestion of the woman's 'unhealthy passion' for her former mistress as she brushes Rebecca's underwear against her face and strokes her furs. She gives a remarkable portrayal of obsession and becomes a caricature of evil next to Joan Fontaine's sweetly wholesome girl-bride.

The discovery of Rebecca's body destroys the power of Mrs. Danvers who has controlled others through being the keeper of her memory (or ghost). Husband and wife have no secrets and the wife is no longer innocent and so is no longer at risk of corruption. Although it is possible to see this as a morality tale for monogamy and marriage above homosexuality and adultery, I prefer to see the moral of the story as one of openness.

In Rebecca, fear and insecurity are bred by secrecy and monsters rule the barriers between belief and reality. Maxim pays dearly for the decision to protect his honour by not telling the truth about Rebecca, and his new wife only gains identity through knowledge: 'I am Mrs de Winter now!' At the end, the ghost is exorcised, its keeper defunct; the lovers have won but lost the most important things through not being honest: her innocence, and his beloved Mandaley. We return to the words of the start and understand the bitter-sweetness of 'We can never go back to Mandaley again.'

Rebecca must be watched for a faultless combination of writing and direction, quality acting from powerful characters and most of all for the unsettling dynamic between Modern ghost story and Gothic love story.



# Spellbound

Can't even pronounce, let alone spell, the latest theoretical concept your lecturer is banging on about? You illiterate philistine! Behold, writes b:film editor DANIISSMAIL, the sprogs gifted in spelling!

**Director:** Jeffrey Blitz  
**Starring:** Harry Altman, Angela Arenivar, Ted Brigham (as themselves)  
**Running Time:** 97 minutes  
**Certificate:** U  
**Release Date:** 10th October

**Right** - so you're just starting the academic year and having a barrel of laughs all at once, but do you really want to go and watch a docu-film about some brainy and hard-working kids whose greatest ambition is to win the US 1999 National Spelling Bee? It's my job to convince you: Spellbound is at once touching, enlightening and at times hilarious - particularly when we are introduced to their oddball parents.

The film follows the paths of eight youngsters from varied backgrounds and parts of the US, some of them cute, some comical and some far too serious for their age (members of the AU would be ashamed). Often branded as geeks and nerds in their hometowns, they meet up in Washington DC for the competition and discover they've found their own intellectual kind, without fearing the bigotry they face at home (I know exactly how they feel). It's another one of those "quirky Americana" films that's won a clutch of awards and matches up to Bowling for Columbine in terms of realism and entertainment in a cinematic melting plot.

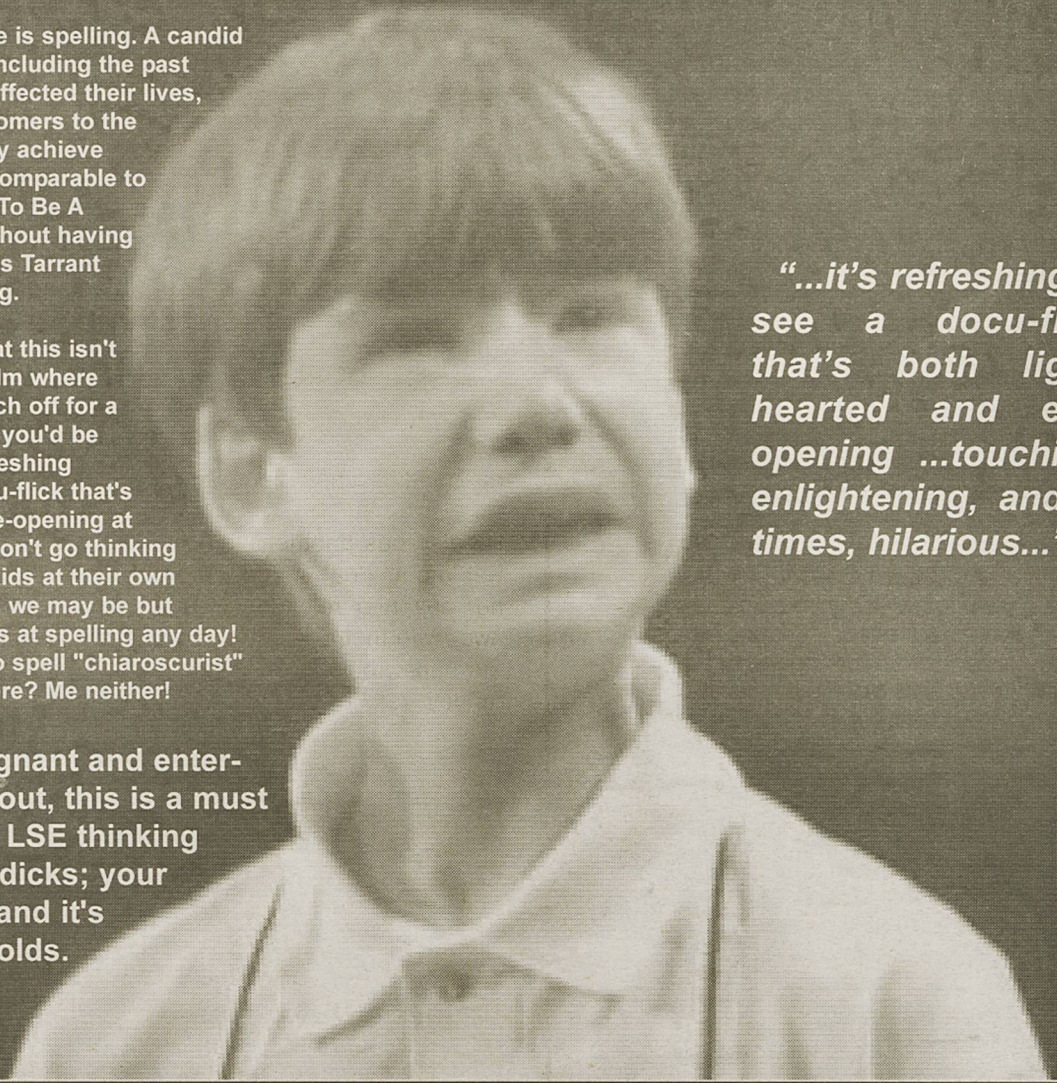
Some kids compete in ball games, others in music, dance or drinking (members of the AU would be proud), but the weird reality for these

kids is that their forte is spelling. A candid history of the NSB, including the past winners and how it affected their lives, is included for newcomers to the 'sport'. The fame they achieve through winning is comparable to winning Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?, only without having to grin and bare Chris Tarrant giving you a bear-hug.

You might expect that this isn't exactly the kind of film where you can go and switch off for a couple of hours, but you'd be surprised - it's a refreshing change to see a docu-flick that's light-hearted and eye-opening at the same time. But don't go thinking you can beat these kids at their own game - LSE students we may be but they'd whip our hides at spelling any day! Did you know how to spell "chiaroscurist" before you read it here? Me neither!

**Interesting, poignant and entertaining throughout, this is a must for those at the LSE thinking they are clever dicks; your bus is leaving, and it's full of ten-year-olds.**

4/5



*"...it's refreshing to see a docu-flick that's both light-hearted and eye-opening ...touching, enlightening, and at times, hilarious..."*

## Hit the Road Jack... from your lovely film editor Dani

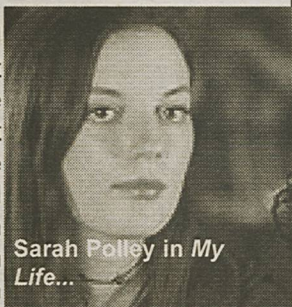
Remember back in the day, when you fell in love with Bill Murray in *Ghostbusters*, as being possibly the funniest man ever? His flawless poker-face comedy is an art that fell awry somewhere between the offspring of yesteryear and our present day stale a dime a dozen cheap bubble gum whores that are honoured with the title of 'actor'; those whose professions rank alongside Al Pacino and Jack Nicholson. It's depressing.

But I digress. His new film, *Lost in Translation*, is an introspective look at the comforting truth that nothing we feel is felt only by us. We are all guilty of thinking that our troubles are utterly unique. This film takes that ridiculous notion and sets it straight. The two main characters, Murray and budding starlet Scarlett Johansson, different in so many ways apart from their loneliness, find solace in the fact that they are not alone in their weary day-to-day tired lives. This movie runs along the lines of *Punch Drunk Love* and *About Schmidt* - depressing yet uplifting in a strange sense - usually a combination worth your money, and it should also be interesting to see Murray play out of character.

Seeing as I've mentioned him twice already, let's make this a Jack Nicholson special. Charles Kiselyak directs *Completely Cuckoo*, a documentary on the making of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. As well as no doubt giving you interesting movie trivia to amaze your friends with, this will be worth the watch the same way a great Eddie Vedder cover of your favourite song makes you want to grovel at his feet. Yet more reasons (and different angles from which) to deify this film? Yes please.

Sexy-ugly Sean Penn's next flick is the Clint Eastwood directed *Mystic River*, a story of three friends brought together by the murder of one of the trio's daughter. While the plot doesn't really tug at our delicate cranial nerves, it is Eastwood's direction that really deserves the applause here, as he throws his weight around just as well behind the camera as he did before it. How does this flow from the Nicholson theme? The three friends are Penn, Tim Robbins and Kevin Bacon. The latter having starred in 1992's *A Few Good Men*. Also starring Nicholson.

To end on a light note is the story of the woman who finds out a 'secret' about herself that makes her decide to live up her currently life-draining 'life' (hard working mother of two by day, janitor by night, useless husband, calls a trailer her home...) and do everything she's always wanted to do but never did. Obviously the glitch is that she's about to die. *My Life Without Me* is not however about death but about life, and with the abundance of killing and blood spilling going on in the cinema these days, this movie should be a breath of fresh air. One of the protagonist's last, but it is important to bear in mind that that's not the point. By the way - if anyone can connect any of the actors in this to Nicholson, I'll buy you a drink.



Sarah Polley in *My Life...*

## the editor's cut

*The busted Blockbuster, the boredom of Bloom and our last real hope after a year of film flops...*

If Stephen Spielberg, love or loathe him, conceived the Hollywood Blockbuster as we know it back in the Seventies, with such crowd pullers-and-pleasers as *Jaws* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, then I do believe that this summer saw its death-by-mediocrity. Whether it was action burdened by tacky philosophy (*The Hulk*, *T3*, *The Matrix Reloaded*), comedies lacking in laughs (*Bruce Almighty*, *Anger Management*) or sequels lacking in substance (*Legally Blonde 2*, *The Jungle Book 2*, *X2*, and several dozen others) the vacation period was literally littered with a surplus of super-marketed and over-hyped crap. Even the 'not-mainstream-at-all' Wachowski brothers let us down; I really couldn't care less if Zion, Neo and chums all go to rat-shit in the final instalment, to be quite honest. Hollywood really does need a banal enema and an originality injection to boot.

As for *Pirates of the Caribbean*, face the fact that without Johnny Depp it would have been little more than an eye-candy vehicle for the ever-annoying Orlando Bloom; when will the tit get himself a role that requires an accent other than one that makes him sound like a pre-pubescent Kenneth Branagh? Muppet.

Last week I saw *Matchstick Men* at the local multiplex which, as is so often the case now with films of this particular ethic, attempted to justify a torturously slow and uninspiring script by giving us a 'jaw-dropping-plot-twist' in the final act (writers need to learn that *The Usual Suspects* is an unassailable classic) before attaching an unnecessary and sickly-sweet fairytale ending. Sam Rockwell was, as ever, criminally underwritten, and the vast majority of laughs resulted from Nick Cage suffering from a mental disorder. Bloody shameful.

It seems, therefore, that our last hope for the big releases this year (apart from the wonderful *Finding Nemo*, reviewed this week by yours truly) rests on the shoulders of a vertically-challenged yokel attempting to rid himself and the world of some dodgy jewellery. No, surprisingly it isn't *Lock, Stock and Four Knocked-Off Necklaces* by Guy "The-Hollywood-Mercenary-Cum-Mrs.-Madge" Ritchie or another piss-poor sequel for that matter, but the long-awaited final act of the *Lord of the Rings* Trilogy. Look out later this term for all the LOTR coverage you'll ever need. In the meantime, visit this link (thanks to Rayhan "Rings-Fan" Sawar) for a preview - [http://ftp.valinor.com.br/ROTK\\_Trailer.mpeg](http://ftp.valinor.com.br/ROTK_Trailer.mpeg) - I suggest you sit down before viewing; it's that good.

Next week, we've got *Kill Bill* (it's the shit), *Intolerable Cruelty* (surprisingly un-shit) and more of this space-filling schtick from myself (full-a-shit). In the meantime, behave yourselves...

## Si, b:film editor

get in touch with comments, ideas or good, old fashioned death-threats: [s.e.cliff@lse.ac.uk](mailto:s.e.cliff@lse.ac.uk)

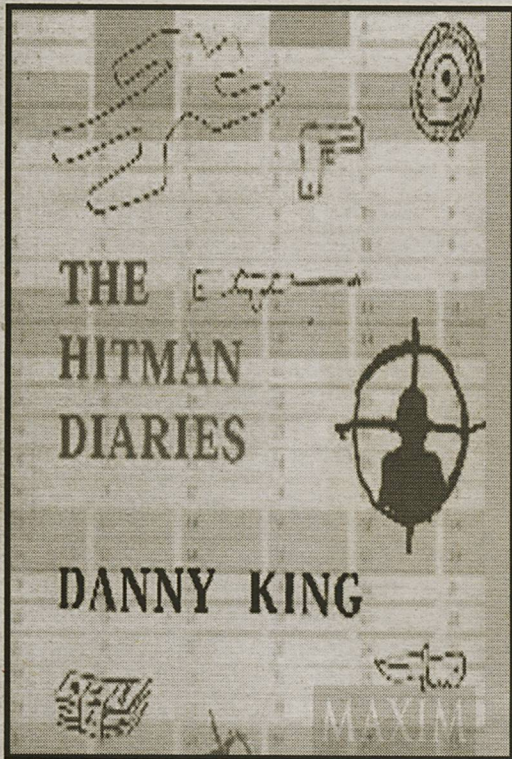


# THE HITMAN DIARIES

Ian Bridges puts The Sopranos to shame!

### Just The Facts...

**Author:** Danny King  
**Publisher:** Serpent's Tail  
**Date:** May 2003  
**Price:** £7.99



This book is about a professional hit man, Ian Bridges, who is one of the best in his field. He has all the money he will ever need. He works for an organisation that has utmost faith in his ability to get the job done.

There is only one thing missing from his life - somebody to love. He literally pines to find that perfect mate. The only problem is he ends up killing all his prospects for one paranoid and psychotic reason or another.

He also has another problem. His victims as well as his dead mother come back to haunt - no, nag him relentlessly after he has done away with them. A hit man with a conscience? Mayhaps...but it's more like a hit man with a running relationship with the nearest psychologist.

This book is chockfull with so many laugh out loud jokes and giggles that we forget it is

about a cold blooded killer and actually begin to feel sorry for Ian Bridges and his pathetic attempts at finding Ms. Right.

Danny King takes you through several of Ian's 'jobs' in gruesome detail as well as the hilarious training of another hit man. It's not the blind leading the blind in this case, because Ian could teach The Sopranos a thing or two - or three, but it's still almost painful reading what the teacher has to tell the student.

The book is written in such a non threatening and funny way that you can't help but being thoroughly entertained and grossed out all at the same time.

Danny King is able to take the most horrific subject and turn it into comic relief. A real master of his craft.

Marcia Wellington

Two more works of art by Danny King:  
**The Bank Robber Diaries**  
**The Burglar Diaries**

To look forward to: The Pornographer Diaries. Wahey!

# NIRVANA BITES

A group of fringe society misfits tackle a blackmailer and give Miss Marple a run for her money...

### Just The Facts...

**Author:** Debi Alper  
**Publisher:** Weidenfeld & Nicholson  
**Date:** June 2003  
**Price:** £9.99



A hilarious whodunit set in the backdrop of a netherworld.

This novel held my interests on many levels. It showed me a side to humankind that was dark and sinister yet in spite of the negative environment love and a true sense of family prevailed. Woven into all of this is a mystery to die for (some did) that kept me guessing to the end.

It allowed me a peek into the dark, disturbing world of s&m, junkies and the otherwise fringe elements of the society. The existence of this world, the author intimates, is a sad result of the abuse and neglect of our children and an intolerance for each others differences.

Nirvana is actually the home of an eclectic group of social misfits and the focal point of this interesting tale. They all band together to help Jen, the main character, uncover the iden-

tity of her new boss's blackmailer.

Jen's boss is Stanley Highshore - a high profile executive and husband of a Tory MP. An upstanding member of society, right? .....wrong!!! Good ole Stanley is also known in the underworld as Staple Stan - a man who has a penchant for having his private parts stapled.

In a series of comical twists and turns, Jen and her band of misfits were able to reveal the blackmailer's identity, while making other shocking discoveries in the process.

Debi Alper's Nirvana Bites is a definite must read for all mystery buffs. Otherwise it's just a good funny/sad/whimsical book for those of us who just like a good read.

Marcia Wellington

Next up for Debi Alper?  
**Trading Tatiana**

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

ba:lit edited by dalia king

# b:scene

Need some good ideas on what to do: where to eat and go out this week? SARAHWARWICK keeps an eye (and ear) out for hot spots. This week: the best of the scummy student nights, a great london band and a gastropub in Tuffnell Park.



edited by sarah warwick and katie davies

b:about

They've taught you orientation in your first week and now we'll teach you disorientation! Read on for the **Top Ten Scummy Student nights:**

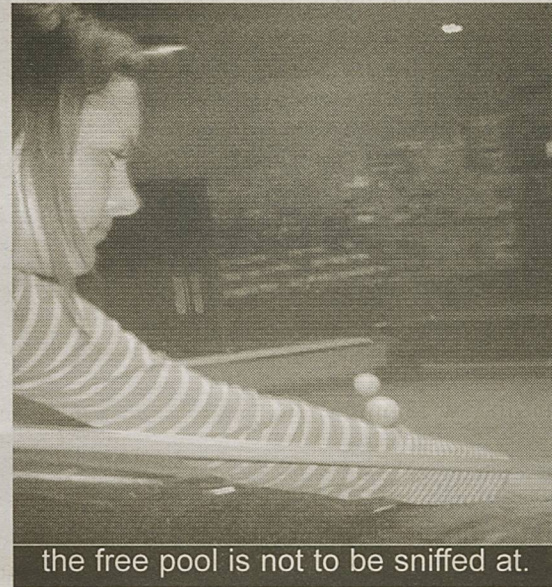
- 1. Elbow Rooms (Tuesdays) Chapel St, Angel tube**  
My personal fave: free to get in, 2 for 1 drinks on beer and cocktails, funky music (with occasional break dancing shows - don't try it yourselves!) pool tables and mad video montages on screens everywhere. This place makes anyone look cool!
- 2. Rock Garden/Gardening Club (Tuesdays) The Piazza, Covent Garden tube**  
A great place to dance the night away... The music's great and drinks are cheap. The entry's a bit steep though.
- 3. Extra time (Wednesdays) Long Lane, Barbican Tube**  
Free entry and cheap drinks. There are 3 floors of floor fillers so you might lose everyone and end up a lost and drunken mess. Mission accomplished!
- 4. Swerve at the End (Wednesdays) West Central St, Covent Garden tube**  
This is a new one but if you like Garage, RnB, and slightly cooler cheese then I think it'll be worth a look. It won't be the cheapest night (#5 entry and mid price drinks) so save it for a special occasion
- 5. Club Tropicana (Fridays) ULU, Malet St, Goodge St tube**  
The University of London's very own 80's tribute night. A friend told me it was a really good one and even if she's wrong the vodka's only 80p!
- 6. Cheapskates at Moonlighting (Wednesdays) Greek St, Soho, Tottenham Court Road tube**  
Yes it's dingy and a bit grim and full of 16 year-olds (but you may like that?) but the drinks are SO cheap (60p) and the music is the kind of quality cheese that will turn dunces into divas and bores into boogiers! Unfortunately it also makes nerds into nymphomaniacs...but that's another story!
- 7. Crush (Fridays) LSE**  
I always try to have something better to do but you have to go at least once.
- 8. Propaganda (Thursdays) Wardour St, Tottenham Court Road tube**  
I haven't been to the new student night but the renovation seems to have just made the club more crowded and more expensive.
- 9. Walkabout (Wednesdays) Shaftsbury Avenue, Tottenham Court Road tube**  
If you're on a sports team then there'll be no way you can avoid coming to this place. Otherwise unless you really like having beer and alchopops spilt on you by rugby boys or netball girls, or have a penchant for small mid european men with long hair and many hands, stay away.
- 10. Hombres (Mondays) Wells St, Oxford Circus tube**  
The crap de la crap and the biggest hole in London. Its cheap but if you like your body don't put it through the experience. I have no idea what's in that vodka!



disorientated?

## in and around: losing a day in the Progress Bar, Tufnell Park

**The Progress Pub** in Holloway (162 Tufnell Park South) is the perfect pub for an all day session. Start with a delicious lunch and a glass of wine, then play free pool on one of their 4 tables all afternoon, or sit in the beer garden under mini-marquees to keep the inevitable rain off. Dinner could consist of a delicious snack washed down with a good pint of decent beer and a recline on their squishy leather sofas before having a little boogie on the nights they roll the decks in. You could very easily lose a day in this place!



the free pool is not to be sniffed at.

Apart from the pool everything is a bit pricey, but no more so than in central London. The place has a good atmosphere with quite a cool crowd (once the pikies from Acland Burghley go home for their dinners). The food is delicious: we tried chicken with little roast potatoes and cheesy sauce. It was cooked to perfection and the portion helped two of us take the edge off our hunger. The pinot grigio was soft and fruity and at £11.50 a bottle not completely bankrupting. They

have a lot of decent beers on tap (Kronie etc) and have pleasant and friendly staff. All in all it's a good place to lose some time and forget all about nasty essays and tutorials: perfect for a guilty work free afternoon!

## out and about: listening to the music of:



I'm in a darkened union bar filled with pissed up freshers recovering from a freshers speed dating night! It looks like the night won't get any better either and I curse agreeing to come to see some virtually unknown Rock/Rap band. I consider going home but my friend who has seen the band before tells me again that they'll be worth the wait. She grabs my arm and drags me to the front as the boys take the stage. There seem to be about 15 of them, all in their early twenties: I fear the worst! Suddenly, a voice comes from the decks: a soundbite used many times before: Let's get ready to Rumble! And Rumble they do!

Despite having to deal with broken microphones and a dodgy sound system they bound about the stage, casually spinning lyrics and melodies in an innovative and exciting way. They are amusing with lyrics such as: I soap tits, I'm the dopest bloke bitch, I'm the one you tried to elope with. The rappers, Dennis and Ben (aka Special Delivery and Bushy B - Ben's the one who looks just like Dexter Fletcher!) are the main attraction and spark off each other with lively repartee and smooth pass over. The occasional singer, Jel, adds contrast and melody with the full back up of decks, guitars, trumpet, drums, and keyboard. The composition as a whole fits together beautifully, the mixing of traditional rock riffs with up to the minute funky mixing and rapping feels like two quality bands moulded into a unique music experience.

My friend just looked at me halfway through the set and said 'see?' - looking very smug! But I happily ate my humble pie: if this is the future of music then its bitter taste won't bother me so much. In fact, I'd like to be proved wrong more often. I liked them so much I'll be going to their next gig at the Underworld in Camden (date tbc). Tickets available on the door if anyone else fancies it.



# walk:about

SARAHWARWICK comes out of the closet and out onto the streets of ISLINGTON



It's hard telling people you are an Islingtonian. I love the look of blank incomprehension on the faces of those that have never heard of Islington, I want to throw my arms around them and kiss them because I'm so glad to have avoided the looks I get when they have. The first: a combination of raised eyebrows and approving whistle always makes me feel unworthy; the second: a combination of raised eyebrows, a quick glance up and down and often a sneer makes me feel more unworthy. The overwhelmingly trendy, posh reputation of the place precedes me and is ruthlessly unforgiving. From the time I reveal my terrible 'secret' most people seem to expect me to act like I'm on 'Young Posh and Loaded!' Its very tempting to tell people I'm from Bognor!

The truth of the matter is that, like many others, my parents moved into the area in the late 1970's when it was a down-at-hell inner suburb, away from the affluence of the Northwest and too close to the dingy urban sprawl of Goswell Road and the city. Now of course the young professionals who moved in when it was all they could afford have grown up and invested time and money into making it one of the trendiest places in London. But there is another Islington under the wrapping of cafes and cocktails that gives substance to its shallow image. This walkabout is one I could do in my sleep and I hope to show you that Islington is still a warm and interesting place to live and hang out.

Starting at Highbury and Islington Tube turn down into Highbury Fields and go for a walk around the park. It's a good space to have a kickabout or just for sitting and watching the dog walkers and pikies who are its chief visitors. The pool is decent if you want to do lengths and has a mini gym. If you're going to be living around Islington it's also worth investing in an Izz card (£21 students) which gives you discounted swim, gym and classes at all sports centres including the big one in Finsbury Park. When you're dry check out the Hen and Chicken on the roundabout to see who's playing at the comedy club in the evening. The nights there are good and cheap-ish and they've had many famous names performing. Then start to wander up Upper Street toward the Angel. The Church on the left side is the Union Chapel which is a pretty good venue for a mostly indie scene, as is the Hope and Anchor: a pub on the right side on the corner which has a decent pub (often filled with weirdly dressed people) on the ground floor and a small dingy stage in the basement. Avoid the pretentious Canonbury Lane and even Ken Homs' Yellow River café (overrated) and duck into 'Preposterous Presents' a mainly inflatable and rubber gift shop with spitting image overtones, provider of laughs aplenty for themed parties and practical jokes.

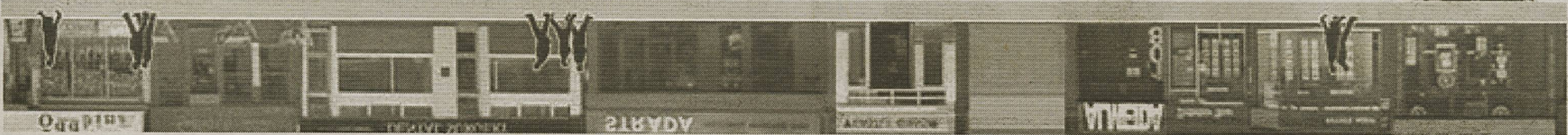
For a nice big lunch that won't break the bank I would suggest one of three places. Further up on the right hand side you'll find La Porchetta. An Italian worthy of its name, the portions are huge and the staff are friendly. The place can be very loud but at least it has atmosphere and the food is delicious! If you need a calmer lunching experience walk further up the road. You'll pass the varied delights of The Mitre: a decent scream pub with big garden; Secondo Mano which is worth a look for second hand designer bargains, and the Kings Head: the oldest theatre pub in London and famous for early performances of the Vagina Monologues and host to many famous names.

Second on my advice list to ladies (and men) who lunch is Gallipoli. This snug Turkish café delivers beautiful, affordable kebabs, breads and mezes out on the street on sunny days and on cold days Turkish coffee that would wake or warm the dead! The third option is for real piggies like me: a newly opened diner by Islington Green called S&M. Don't get too excited, the only thing indecent about it is the size of the portions...the letters stand for Sausage and Mash. The concept is that you choose the type of sausages (3 or 2), the type of mash and the type of gravy: easy cooking for them and a customised meal for you. The puddings are not to be missed.

After lunch catch a film at the vintage arts cinema (cool but no popcorn which always seems wrong to me!) Screen on the Green, or wander around the antiques shops and stalls between Camden Passage and Angel Station. If you feel the need you can check out the N1 centre which is new but hardly innovative, and composes a multiplex cinema, the reconstituted Marquee Club/Carling Academy, and a handful of shops, restaurants and bars that can be found pretty much anywhere...ah, such is life I guess! There are some good second hand shops on the high street (I got Tania from 'Footballer's Wives' shoes in one recently. What thrills.) Reckless records is a must for musos, and the nicest thing to do in summer is to head to the canal (just behind Camden passage) and walk along by the locks to the Narrow Boat pub which has tables out on the side and good country cider. If you want to be really cultured the Estorick gallery in Canonbury Square (2 minutes from H&I) is worth a look as they often have good exhibitions.

Islington at night is overflowing with choice and most people have particular favourites for dinner and drinks. I like happy hour at the Cuba Libre (weekdays 5-7 by Pitcher and Piano) for cocktails and tapas, The Alwyne Castle on St Paul's Road is newly and beautifully refurbished for a really homely yet interesting feel. Other favourites are BRB by the Angel which does gorgeous 2 for 1 pizzas on Tuesdays and has a wide selection of beautiful cocktails and Beeradrome which, as part of the Belgo group, does fantastic mussels and sausages accompanied by a huge selection of fun and fruity beers. Late bars and clubs include the Elbow Rooms on Chapel Street especially on Tuesday for student night (don't be put off by the smell outside, there are fish stalls in the market there during the day!) and the garage down by Highbury and Islington which is a typical indie dive but is often a lot of fun. Right by the station (under the famous cock) is Downunder, an Aussie theme club but I have been reliably informed it's not as cheesy as Walkabout and has a funky atmosphere and interesting drinks. Further afield there is obviously Shoreditch/Old Street which have wonderful clubs and even Kings Cross is cleaning up its act!

So I hope on this journey I've managed to convince you that Islington is more than a string of pretentious yuppie bars. If I haven't then it might really be time to move to Bognor! But if I have then maybe it might be time I came out of denial and admitted my problem. So here goes: my name is Sarah and I'm an Islingtonian.....or should that be Islingtonite?



**STA TRAVEL**

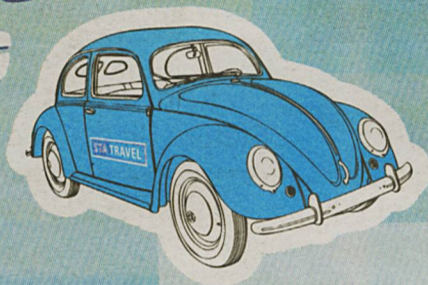
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**Mens & Womens Hockey**

Captain Mens: James Jackson  
Captain Womens: Zahra Nawaz  
Aim: Win more! drink more!  
Email: j.d.jackson@lse.ac.uk  
z.nawaz@lse.ac.uk



**Mens Rugby**

Captain: As Previous  
Status: As Previous  
Aim: For the 1st and 2nd teams to win their leagues  
Email: As Previous



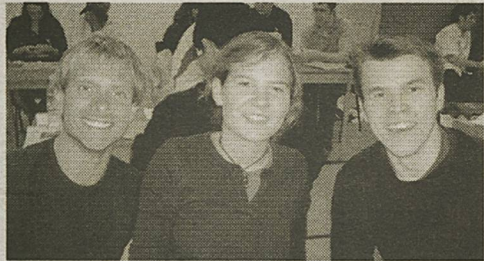
**Muay Thai Boxing**

Vice Captain: Christian Madden  
Status: Single  
Aim: Discover the next tito ortiz  
Email: c.madden@lse.ac.uk



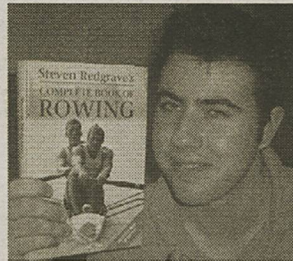
**Netball**

Club Capt: Natalie Bartholomew  
Status: Forget it!  
Aim: Win Win Win  
Email: n.m.bartholomew@lse.....



**Rock Climbing**

Captain: Oliver Ray  
Status: Absolutely no idea!  
Aim: For members to enjoy the sport & learn how to climb safely  
Email: o.ray@lse.ac.uk



**Rowing**

Captain: James Eyton  
Status: Single and looking  
Aim: Increase the number of attractive rowing females  
Email: j.g.eyton@lse.ac.uk



**Running**

Captain: John Charles  
Status: Single, but shouldn't be - a nicer guy could not be found!  
Aim: Win division  
Email: j.charles@lse.ac.uk



**Squash**

Captain: Stirling Cox  
Status: Attached  
Aim: To increase Wednesday night attendance  
Email: s.a.cox@lse.ac.uk



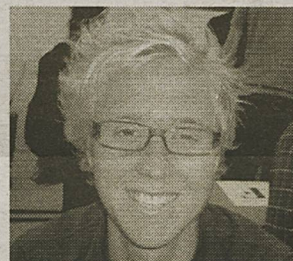
**Table Tennis**

Captain: Kee Eng Khor  
Status: Attached  
Aim: Have fun, fun, fun, fun and a bit more fun!  
Email: k.e.khor@lse.ac.uk



**Tae Kwon Do**

Captain: Phillip Souta  
Status: Attached  
Aim: Kick hard you must, pain is weakness leaving the body  
Email: p.e.souta@lse.ac.uk



**Tennis**

Captain: Erik Petersson  
Status: Attached  
Aim: Have remained undefeated for 2 years - We salute you!!!!  
Email: j.e.petersson@lse.ac.uk



**Volleyball**

Captain: Cherry Lo  
Status: Single  
Aim: To go up a division  
Email: c.y.lo@lse.ac.uk



**Women's Rugby**

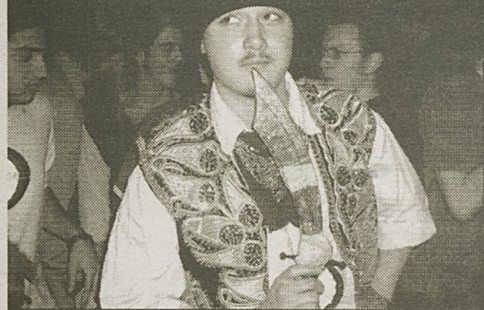
Captain: Hannah Kinch  
Status: Has an inbuilt male radar, but her heart belongs to one  
Aim: For WRFC to be more mainstream and to build on the achievements of last year  
Email: h.kinch@lse.ac.uk

**Sorry no picture available (STUPID CAMERA BROKE!!!)**

**Yoga**

Captain: German Puentes  
Status: Attached  
Aim: To provide a space for students to flex, relax and balance their mind and body system.  
Email: g.a.puentes@lse.ac.uk

**The Pirates Piece**



**7 footballers, drunk and high, kissed a girl and made her cry, when the boys came out to play...**

...well, I dunno what'll happen, but it'll be interesting to watch. (At this point Gareth started to write in great detail about the allegations against certain unnamed Premiership Players. For some reason we decided to omit this. -Ed.) But let's leave that to the muck-

raking tabloids, and instead talk of something far closer to LSE hearts. Let's talk about sex baby. Or the appalling lack of it, experienced on a personal level at least, during Freshers. After a couple of days of cringe-worthy chat-up lines to criminally under-alcoholised Fresher girls, I'm fed up of the inevitable 'go fuck yourself' riposte. Three days in, and at least two steps ahead of the expected reply, a change of strategy was called for. Calling to mind advice from a nameless drunken source, a re-invention as a 'dark and mysterious loner in the corner' was attempted, to much personal fanfare. Twenty minutes afterwards, the reality was more of 'rubbish, lonely wanker in the corner' much to obvious mental anguish. A further change of tack (becoming 'drunken knobhead in the corner') was a much easier transformation. Mission accom-

plished, a newly belligerent self was joined by an equally twatted Jez Healey -LSE's 'Paul Gascoigne without the talent'- to become one half of the 'shambling pissed twats in the corner' (all descriptions are registered trademarks of Freshergirls Plc). The night could only get worse, and waking up in Beckton seemed like the obvious start. Am already pissed off with new school year. Faring much better it seems are people who aren't me. The AU was out in force on Wednesday, abusing ear drums on the karaoke, and abusing other drinkers in various ways. Pisstake of the night belongs to the SU Exec's very own International Homo Andy Schwartz. Sat on a table of four, and commanding about fifteen chairs (11 for 'bait'), anyone attempting to take one of the so-called-unused seats was given a tirade of unintelligible Canadian-speak. 'What the FUCK were you THINKING?'

screamed this defender of empty chairs. 'There is NO NEED for this SHIT! Are you a FRESHER? That explains EVERYTHING, FUCK MAN!' This person is responsible for the welfare of every single foreign student at LSE. Right, well, finally, BeaverSports is one literary probation this month, and only YOU can help! We need reports and submissions and we need them now. Write some rubbish about trials, an introduction to your team -be it football or frisbee or anything- and send it in. Obviously, the style and tone of this report should be something that would stand up to the close scrutiny of people who'd get self-righteously and apoplectically offended at people who talk with their mouth full. When I say 'should be'... use your imagination.

Bye.



**"Sure there have been injuries and deaths in boxing - but none of them serious"**

**-Alan Minter (Boxer)**

**BeaverSports: Not taking things too seriously since day 1...**

## Balls, Balls, Balls: Different Shapes And Sizes



**Ellie Vyras checks out the talent available at the AU Freshers fair. She also meets the different sports teams.**

It's that time of year again fellow Sports Followers where we poach as many Freshers as we can to join our club and most importantly screw them over for their five pounds (joke). I think we can

all understand it's needed for insurance purposes, but what about the money of those people who rugby and football push to the side as they are quite simply shit? Well the teams get richer and those extradited gain a Wednesday afternoon off and an exclusive AU Card.

The AU Freshers fair had its usual success with every second person joining the Men's football and rugby teams, but

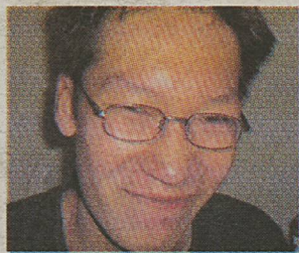
the major successes were the women's teams of Hockey, Netball and Rugby signing more than 70 recruits each. I have a feeling the female sports teams will be dominating the pages this year (sorry Gareth). To those who were unable to reach the AU fair and could only admire it from a distance, then welcome to LSE; the AU Exec and Beaver Sports can only apologise for being given a location which was not wheel-

chair user friendly. I digress slightly and would like to thank you all for the overwhelming number of articles turned in to this weeks Beaver Sports, however they were all rubbish and instead I'm giving you a run down on who to be friends with to move up the AU hierarchy.



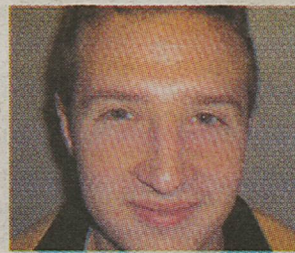
**Aerobics**

Captain: Lidia Tomova  
Status: Single  
Aim: Increase male membership  
Email: l.a.tomova@lse.ac.uk



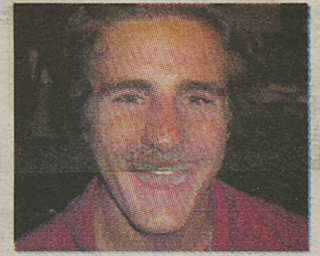
**Badminton**

Captain: Mun Hueng Liu  
Status: Single  
Aim: Beat down the segregation between the team and members  
Email: m.h.liu@lse.ac.uk



**Boxing**

Captain: Chris Emmerson  
Status: Single  
Aim: To move like a butterfly and sting like a bee  
Email: c.j.emmerson@lse.ac.uk



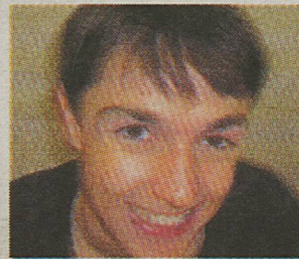
**Cricket**

Captain: Graeme Hawinkels  
Status: Single  
Aim: The bowler's Holding, the batsmen's Willey  
Email: g.p.hawinkels@lse.ac.uk



**Golf**

Captain: Lee Mellor  
Status: Single  
Aim: Put a team together and win the league.  
Email: l.s.mellor@lse.ac.uk



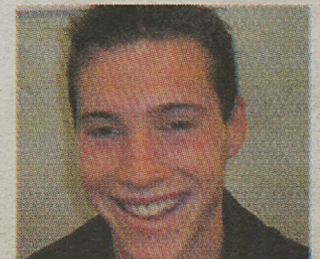
**Karate - Shotokan**

Captain: Adam Swinburn  
Status: Attached  
Aim: Expand the club and compete internationally.  
Email: a.t.swinburn@lse.ac.uk



**Mens & Womens Basketball**

Captain: Wissam Charbel  
Status: Single for the moment  
Aim: Go out and have fun, more trips to Italy and Spain.  
Email: w.charbel@lse.ac.uk



**Mens & Womens Football**

Club Captain: Michael Griffith  
Status: At last SINGLE, Beaver Sports is accepting applicants  
Aim: Dominate the Beaver, Tuns and ULU (whatever!)  
Email: m.griffith@lse.ac.uk

**Calling All Teams and Individual Sport Members  
Beaver Sports Would Like To Hear Your Story...  
Please Email Good Clean Fun Articles to  
g.h.carter@lse.ac.uk  
vyras@lse.ac.uk  
We Look Forward To Hearing From You**