

The Beaver

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Issue number 614



Christopher Greenwood on Pinochet
blink, page 12-13

The Prodigy at Brixton Academy
B:art, page 28



Backing the bid: blink takes a look at the five candidate cities, pages 16-17

Briefing

RnB music blamed for violence

Trafalgar Square to host hall

The LSE Finance and General Purposes Committee (FGPC) has approved plans for a 25-year lease of a building in Trafalgar Square, to be transformed into new Halls of Residence for LSE students.

News page 3

ULU Council in quoracies

The University of London Union (ULU) Council was inquorate for the second consecutive time last week as both of the LSE's elected representatives on the council were absent.

News page 3

LSE academic defends remarks

An LSE academic last week controversially defended allegedly sexist remarks made by Harvard University President Lawrence H. Summers. Summers drew international criticism when he commented that biological differences may explain the disparity between men and women in the fields of science, engineering and maths.

News page 4

College Hall

Why do some women choose to live in a hall without men? blink finds out.

blink page 8

Full English

About discusses the merits of an English breakfast and where to find such a treat.

B:art page 22

Sam Jones and Prashant Rao

Students' Union Treasurer Gareth Carter has come under fire from Executive colleagues after his decision to suspend RnB music at Crush.

Carter took the decision to drop the Union's regular RnB fixture following the violent attacks that occurred at the Union's New Year's Eve party.

Six incidents of actual bodily harm and one of grievous bodily harm have occurred on Union property in the past twelve months.

Matters came to a head at the New Year's Eve party which had been billed by external promoters as an 'RnB' rave.

Westminster City Council and the Metropolitan Police's Licensing Division have since applied "informal pressure", according to SU General Secretary Will Macfarlane on the Union to better its security, at one point suggesting the SU alter its music policy.

The association of RnB music with the violent events of the New Year's Eve party however, was received with outrage by other members of the Executive Committee.

Alexandra Vincenti, the SU Women's officer said that the



Police call for witnesses / Photo: Mark Donahue

decision was "sending out a racist and discriminatory message".

"RnB is hugely popular at the LSE and it is an entirely false claim that it incites violence in groups of Asian and black men" she continued.

SU Societies Officer Angus Mulready-Jones voiced similar concerns: "I do not believe that any particular music or type of person was responsible for the violence over the New Year. The violence was caused by the over-

selling of our venue."

Nonetheless, of the eleven Crush nights held last term, eight featured RnB music in the underground.

Continued, page 2

Tuns food increasingly unlikely

Chris Heathcote and Kheng Soon Lim

Gareth Carter, the Students' Union Treasurer is coming under mounting pressure to explain himself as plans to serve food at the Three Tuns bar look increasingly unlikely to materialise.

All the equipment needed to prepare food has been installed since week nine of the Michaelmas term and stockpiles of food continue to lie unused, but so only a tiny handful of sales have been made.

Plans to serve food were included in the original blueprints for the Tuns refurbishment,

and the venue was supposed to start serving food at the start of the Michaelmas term. However, four months of delays and excuses have thrown the service into jeopardy. The problems began at the beginning of term when Carter told the week two UGM that he was "upset at the snail's pace at which some food equipment providers seem to operate". He did however cite a trial run of paninis and proudly proclaimed them to be "the taste of the future."

However, just a week later, the panini service had been suspended and Carter was branding the suppliers "inept" following the delayed arrival of the fat-free

fryer necessary to cook the food.

The troubles persisted and by week five Carter said the debacle was "doing my head in" and added that he was beginning to sound like a "stuck record" with his repeated promises of food.

"Its beyond reason why we're not doing it now, to be honest" he confessed in week six, blaming "workmen with their vacuous promises" for "leaving us high and dry." He added "it's soul destroying". But again he assured students that food would be served within five days and asked customers to "start that countdown".

In week eight, Carter prematurely declared: "It's there and it's lovely. Don't complain" after

some free samples were handed out. However, none were sold and the service was short-lived, being suspended again within days.

It was not until week nine that all the equipment was in place. However, The Beaver then learnt that a smoke detector had been placed directly over the main oven, causing it to be activated when the oven was used, thus delaying the service even further.

Finally, as the Michaelmas term drew to a close, Carter conceded defeat and said he would wait until the beginning of the new term before making any more comments.

Continued, page 2
Editorial comment, page 7

RnB blamed for New Year violence

Continued from page 1

Problems began on New Year's Eve after people in the queue outside the Union's bars, some of whom had paid up to £55 for tickets, were turned away because of overcrowding.

The issue regarding RnB was initially raised in an Executive meeting on January 13, chaired by Carter. Following a discussion, a decision was taken by Carter in consultation with members of the Entertainments staff to cancel RnB music at Crush.

Sources on the Executive, however, revealed that at the meeting Carter had been the "one exception" to the consensus that RnB had not been to blame for the violence over the New Year.

"In the context of the January 13 Executive meeting, it certainly seems that Gareth ignored the agreement in the room and was at least partially responsible for instigating a change in the Union's policy," said Vincenti.

Carter, however, says that he took the comments made at the meeting into account when making the decision in conjunction with the Bar Manager, Entertainments Manager and other Sabbatical officers.

SU Education and Welfare Officer Sian Errington said that there had been problems in the way policy was being formed and the way decisions were being taken by the Entertainments task force.

Carter and SU General Secretary Will Macfarlane, however, remained adamant that the recent absence of RnB music in the Underground bar did not reflect a change in the Union's policy.

At an Executive meeting on January 20, SU General Secretary Will Macfarlane told those attending that Westminster City Council had applied "informal pressure" on the Union. When later asked to elaborate, however, Macfarlane refused to comment.

Speaking to *The Beaver* Carter said, "the Union was told by the Metropolitan Police's Licensing Division to take steps to cease violence at Crush, one of which was to change our music policy."

Carter also added that the Metropolitan Police were present at Crush this past Friday and would be monitoring Union events for the next couple of weeks.

Several Executive officers maintained that the issue was ongoing and was yet to be completely resolved.

The Executive will be meeting with the Entertainments Taskforce today to further decide on what music will be played in the Underground Bar along with any further measures to improve security at the venue.

It's ladies' night and the feeling's wrong

Arthur Krebbers and
Adrian Li

Problems earlier last week caused by a miscommunication between the SU Entertainments Manager and SU Women's Officer Alexandra Vincenti resulted in the advertising of a "degrading" 'Ladies Night Crush' for Women's Week.

Vincenti's original intention had been to call the special Crush 'Women's Week Crush'.

However, this was misinterpreted by Meyassed, who proceeded to produce posters and fliers for a 'Ladies Night Crush'.

Besides admission discounts, the Entertainments Manager had also planned to offer women alcoholic drinks at a lower price. He had already arranged the printing of flyers advertising the event as 'Ladies Night' with 'Crazy Alcopop deals All Night!!! [sic]'.

Vincenti told *The Beaver* that "the idea of having a ladies night was not the kind of thing we wanted to promote in women's week, which is about promoting equality between the sexes. Ladies' nights are designed to attract men to clubs by advertising the fact that there are large numbers of women who are having a lot to drink. The implicit assumption is one of taking advantage of women. It is degrading."



Vincenti speaks on Women's week at last Thursdays UGM. / Photo: Mark Donahue

Realising the mistake, Vincenti and SU Education and Welfare officer Sian Errington, called an informal meeting with the Entertainments Manager.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, the Entertainments Manager was apologetic: "I didn't realise the wording was so offensive," he admitted. He added, however, that "everything is settled now."

The Entertainments Manager also confirmed that the confusion

had not led to any financial loss. "The large promotional posters have been re-edited. Only the flyers advertising the first five Crush parties of the year still have 'Ladies Night' on them" he said. The flyers, which were printed before the incident are now in circulation on campus and in the LSE Residential Halls.

Nevertheless, several female students on the campus disagree with the renaming of the night.

"Almost every party is about getting girls drunk," said one. "As long as I get discounts on alcoholic drinks, I really don't mind what the party is called," said another female LSE student.

Speaking at the UGM, Vincenti said that the revised night would offer a 25 percent discount to all women, a figure based upon the current average wage difference between men and women in the UK.

No food for the Tuns

Continued from page 1

Since then, he has avoided mentioning the issue in his UGM reports.

The matter had gone quiet until last week's announcement that Fetch, the company which was supposed to supply food had gone into receivership. When questioned about this during the last UGM, Carter, remained upbeat and told the audience that they would find another supplier.

When asked for comments by *The Beaver*, Carter was evasive. Aside from the age-old problems, he said "there are other issues, but I'm not prepared to talk about those."

Since the Tuns has already exceeded the predictions of his predecessor, Jo Kibble, Carter said he was "not worried about serving food from a monetary point of view."

Sounding more cautious than previous assertions, Carter said he hoped food would be served by the time he leaves office, in July.

With the ongoing arbitration process between the SU, Bensons, the now defunct building contractors, the architect and Fetch, the food supplier who have also ceased trading, exact details of the debacle remain unclear.

"So far, it seems Gareth Carter is the only person who has far eaten at Tuns," lamented Neshwa Boukhari.

Phone hackers target ULU

Alexa Rowe

ULU suffered a substantial security breach over the Christmas break when a hacker gained access to its internal phone system.

An individual used the internal extension numbers to make a large number of international phone calls at the Union's expense.

The illegal calls were first spotted by union staff who were monitoring the system over the holidays.

They were alerted by the fact that the number of external calls

being made was much higher than normal.

ULU President Matt Cooke said that the incident did 'not represent a gaping security breach' and that the incident was dealt with quickly once the suspicious calls were noticed.

He added that the ULU phone system was "no more vulnerable than any other phone network, the hackers were obviously trying lots of numbers and just got lucky"

As the Police are now investigating the matter Cooke refused to speculate on the amount of money the incident could have

cost the union other than to say that "the number of calls made was substantial enough so that the problem was noticed quickly by the staff."

However an inside source has suggested that the incident could be expensive for the union alleging that the cost of the calls could run into thousands of pounds.

ULU sabbatical officers were keen to stress that action was being taken to ensure that this problem could not happen again.

Finance officer Rob Park said "our phone operators Siemens have reviewed security and taken appropriate action as required."



Hackers who made international calls on ULU lines could have cost thousands.

New hall set for Trafalgar Square

Kati Krause

The School has announced plans to open a new hall of residence in Trafalgar Square.

The LSE Finance and General Purposes Committee (FGPC) has approved plans for a 25-year lease of a building in the square, to be transformed for use by LSE students.

The plan will now be passed on to the School Council, and a final decision is due to be reached at a Chairman's Group of Council meeting on January 31.

LSE Head of Residences David Tymms was unable to provide details about costs, as the Heads of Terms are still confidential at the developer's request.

He did disclose, however, that the Halls would probably open in September 2006, and would feature 140 single and 115 twin rooms.

The building, which is named Northumberland house, is located just off the historic square and was formerly used by the Ministry of Defence.

Under the current plans the property will be divided in two, with one half becoming a hotel



The new halls of residences located just off Trafalgar Square. / Photo: Mark Donahue

and the other being converted into the proposed student accommodation.

At £125 per person per week for a single en suite and £82 per person per week for a twin room, the new halls have been criticised for failing to meet the need for budgetary student accommoda-

tion at a time when universities are under increasing pressure to do so.

Rishi Madlani, SU Residences Officer, was enthusiastic about the "fantastic location" and said the plan was very promising.

However, Madlani also emphasised the need for more

inexpensive accommodation, something that has not figured prominently in recent hall development plans.

"Although this plan is likely to go through, we will keep pushing for more affordable space," he said.

Editorial, page 7

Inquorate ULU Council; LSE delegates absent

Simon Chignell

The University of London Union (ULU) Council was inquorate for the second consecutive time last week as both of the LSE's elected representatives on the council were absent.

The meeting, which requires 34 of the 52 representatives to be present for quoracy so that decisions can be taken and policy passed, was short by only two members last Monday as Chris Heathcote and LSE SU Societies Officer Angus Mulready-Jones were unable to attend.

Heathcote, who received 291 votes in the Michaelmas term elections in November to earn his place on the Council, expressed regret at his absence and promised to attend in future.

Mulready-Jones when questioned on his absence stated unforeseen problems "completely out of my control" and stressed his commitment to representing students "I have several posts on committees and taskforces of which I have attended throughout the year which prove my commitment to the students at LSE".

ULU President Matt Cooke, voiced his disappointment at the two consecutive inquoracies: "I would like to make it extremely clear how unacceptable it is that these meetings could be inquorate with virtually no formal apologies. My personal view is that such absence is a disgustingly poor representation of their own students."

Talking to *The Beaver*, Cooke also highlighted the attitude of conflict that some delegates bought to the meeting, "unfortunately some are representing their own Universities' interests instead of the joint interest of ULU. The Council is still relevant but being unable to pass policy is frustrating."

He also stressed the "historical problems" with the Union and ventured that the way it is viewed may have been partly responsible for the poor attendance at the council. He took the opportunity to promote the ULU governance review which is attempting large-scale reform of the Union. "This is not just a sticking plaster answer to the problem but a long-term solution."

Editorial, page 7



Senate House; venue for last week's inquorate ULU council meeting.

Hall constitutions to be brought under SU control?

Nastaran Tavakoli-Far

There has been confusion among the presidents of LSE Halls of Residence regarding proposed changes in Halls Constitutions.

It is understood that the SU wants all halls to follow a single constitution so that the different Halls of Residence can work together more easily and effectively. According to SU

Residences' Officer Rishi Madlani, the aim was for the constitutions of the halls to be updated and slightly standardised. At a meeting with all presidents of LSE Halls of Residence last Monday, 17th January the problems regarding changes to the constitutions of Halls of Residence were also discussed.

Uncertainties over the proposals remain present. President of Carr-Saunders Alexa Sharples

told *The Beaver*: "There does not seem to be enough reassurance that the character of each hall, which constitutions reflect, will be kept the same" and added that a homogenous constitution for all Halls of Residence would be unrealistic due to the individuality of each hall.

Simon Chignell, President of Rosebury, said "I think it's necessary to maintain independence of the halls and avoid a one-size-

fits-all constitution".

However, there was some tension at last Thursday's UGM between Madlani and Chair of Bankside Clem Broumley-Young.

He told *The Beaver* that "When Rishi turned around on Monday and said that we could write our own constitution and we could have help to get it passed we were exasperated as to why he didn't get round to telling us this a year ago."



Union Jack

You can always tell when election time is coming, Jack pondered this week. Firstly, people stop drinking so much at Crush in order to 'streamline their image', as Jack overheard one wannabe-Sabb say this week.

Secondly, people throw house parties which make the Nuremburg Rally look as amateur as Mad Vlad's cage on Houghton Street - clearly designed gain those vital votes that can decide the destination of that sweet £25k per annum. Thirdly, when it's time at the UGM for the part-time Sabbs to give their reports, the queue is a mile long.

Recent weeks have seen regular appearances from Scruffy Angus, little pixie Willgress and the ever-green (as that's the only colour he ever wears) camp Asian one. Jack has noticed with interest that Rishi always comes last (no giggling at the back).

Is the Passfield Peacock ensuring that his fantastic stories of Herculean battles with the big bad ULU Accommodation office live longer in the memory of potential voters?

Jack is overjoyed that Nat Black is back in the Chair, and particular enjoyed her admonishing the naughty balcony boys this week. Jack has always been a great fan of the balcony boys, having witnessed the considerable bulk of figures such as Charterhouse and F.C. gracing the seats in the front row.

The current crop of balcony boys spent the last UGM throwing a constant stream of paper, a lot of it landing on the audience.

Jack feels he needs to point something out to them. Much like a healthy appreciation for a fine Bordeaux, paper throwing is an art. Mrs Jack would be much perturbed if Jack was constantly glugging the Chateau Neuf de Pape 24 hours a day (Jack spends too much time in the Tuns as it is) - it is far better to enjoy it in moderation.

Paper throwing is the same. There's no point having a constant barrage of Beaver missiles hitting people in the audience.

Anyway, the people most likely to be hit are the right, who sit below the Balcony boys, and Matt Sinclair looks bad enough as it is. Instead, Pete Davies et al need to refine their paper throwing to hit the various miscreants on stage - the well-timed response to Alexandra Vincenti's claim that "a Ladies' Night is sexist" being a prime example.

A ridiculous motion about Iraq followed, which even Comrade Willgress found preposterous.

By this stage, Jack wanted that glass of Chateau Neuf de Pape.

RAG taskforce chooses charities for week of action

Dharini Nagarajan

The charities who will benefit from this year's Raising and Giving (RAG) week have been decided by the taskforce who organise the week.

Following the established tradition, the taskforce has chosen to support three charities representing a local, national and international cause.

The money raised throughout the week will be distributed equally between them.

This year's local charity is to be the Westminster Women's Refuge that was proposed by Students' Union Education and Welfare Officer, Sian Errington.

The taskforce has decided to support the Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases

proposed by Will Macfarlane, the SU General Secretary as the national charity with the international charity to be Afrikids, a group that works for children in Ghana.

RAG week is scheduled to be held during week seven of the Lent term between February 21 and 25.

The taskforce which is made up of twenty students as well as Executive Officers from the Students' Union has met weekly so far this term and decided on the charities after considering a number of options at the meetings.

This year's charities mark a departure from previous one as Cancer Research has been replaced as the national charity and a smaller, more specific cause

chosen.

Macfarlane proposed the Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases after his nephew was diagnosed with the condition.

The question on whether the Tsunami appeal should be supported as part of the week.

The taskforce did consider this at their meetings but decided that given the considerable effort already undertaken to raise money for the disaster relief, it should dedicate the week to other good causes.

"A lot of people have expressed their opinions on this topic but the majority of the taskforce has preferred to support other charities.

The Union and its many societies have been raising money for DEC and their efforts will not be

affected by the decision of the RAG taskforce," said Khurshid 'K' Faizullaev, the SU Communications Officer, who chaired the meetings.

RAG week has traditionally been a lively week of activities around the campus. Last year, scores of students abseiled down the side of the Old Building.

So far this year's schedule will repeat the successes of previous years with an International food fair, Modern Dance Society Show, Pub Crawl, Three Tuns Quiz and themed Crush. Other society events are taking shape, but have not yet been confirmed.

A variety of individual efforts being put into raising money include, General Secretary, Will Macfarlane, participating in half-marathon and the Women's

Rugby Team promising to forward all the proceeds raised from their upcoming semi-nude calendar to go to RAG week.

SU Treasurer Gareth Carter has already agreed to pay for the calendar's production.

Aside from events, there will be stalls throughout the week trying to raise money by selling branded t-shirts, mugs, pint glasses amongst other things.

In previous years t-shirt reading 'London School of Alcoholics' have been particularly popular and look set to return, although some on the taskforce are keen to explore non-alcoholic paraphernalia to appeal to a larger audience.

Planning for the week will continue as the taskforce will meet regularly until the week.

Women growing at University

Tanya Rajapakse

The number of young women entering university outnumbers young men according to an article published on Times Online.

The article written on the findings of a report released by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (Hefce) also said that women were more likely to finish their degree than men.

According to the report, in 1994 girls were only six percent more likely to go to university than boys.

However by 2000 there had been a sharp rise in this number with the difference rising to 18 percent.

Also women seemed to fare better whilst at university.

After considering university drop out rates it was shown that women were 27 percent more likely to obtain their degree.

The study was conducted by taking into account university entry rates from 1994 to 2000.

It was the first report to consider university entrance rates in extremely close detail, examining entry rates in individual councils and parliamentary constituencies.

In addition to the divide between men and women at university, the report also found that students from wealthier backgrounds were more likely to go to university than those students

who were underprivileged.

However in contrast to the findings of the report, at the LSE men continue to outnumber women, but only just. The current male-female ratio being 51 percent men and 49 percent women.

In terms of academic staff, 17 percent are female, a figure that has steadily risen in recent years.

In response to the report's findings the School's press office commented that it "reveals important findings."

It added that the report showed "how important it is that universities keep encouraging wider participation - to ensure that those with academic ability have the opportunity to go to university."

Shop forced to PuLSE

Alexander George

Pulse FM, the radio station of the Students' Union, will begin full-time broadcasting in the Union shop, after a motion mandating the playing of the radio station during opening hours was passed in last Thursday's UGM.

The motion was proposed by Philip Bahoshy, Pulse FM's station manager who argued that the extension of Pulse into the SU shop would be "to the benefit of everyone."

He said, Pulse now had the technical capabilities to be able to extend their broadcasting into the Quad and into the adjacent SU shop.

He told the UGM that the motion was part of Pulse's aim to extend its broadcasting around the LSE campus.

But, the idea was not accepted by all the audience at the UGM.

Oliver Ranson and a staff member from the SU shop voiced opposition to the motion.

Ranson said that it was unfair to expect the staff there to have to listen to Pulse all day and that they should have the choice, as at present.

However, Alex Hochuli, Pulse's programme manager, who seconded Bahoshy at the UGM stressed that Pulse broadcasts a range of programmes, so the staff would not have to listen to the same thing repeatedly.

Ticket to ride for charity knitting on underground

Dorothy Lovell

A sponsored knit on the London Underground by LSE students has raised over £300 pounds for charity.

The event, which was organised by the LSE SU Knitting Society was in aid of Help the Aged.

Ten students took part and spent three and a half hours travelling around the Circle line, knitting all the while.

Projects worked on during the trip included items of all descriptions and colours, including hats, scarves, and even a green woolen lizard.

Society chair Ed Cowdrill commented "One of the highlights of the day was knitting with a real-life grandma."

Now a veteran in the art, Cowdrill founded the SU Knitting Society early last year.

"In the first year I was doing a spot of knitting and I met some friends who had made some high-class scarves."

We were joking that we should have a society and, mentioning it to a few people, I suddenly realised quite how many people were closet-knitters, and from this discovery sprung the society you see today."



Hazel Roberts, Sian Beynon and Ed Cowdrill take part in the sponsored knit on the circle line to raise money for Help the Aged.

Cambridge officially favours the poor

Alexander George

Cambridge University announced last week that it is now their official policy to favour good students from poor schools over peers from the private sector.

Under new guidance for Cambridge admission tutors, pupils who attained seven A grade GCSEs from low performing state schools are considered equal to those with eight A* grades from top independent schools.

Oxbridge admissions have come under scrutiny since Laura Spence, a top state school student, was rejected by Oxford in 2000. Geoff Parks, director of admissions for the Cambridge colleges, said that Cambridge has used school quality as a factor when making offers for two or three years now. He added that Cambridge was 'not embarrassed to admit that we do it' but said the university did not make its policy public until now because 'people will pick over the details.'

A spokesman for the university concurred with Parks's comments, telling the EducationGuardian, 'This is a

better and more accurate guide of intellectual ability.'

However, Catherine Baldwin, head of recruitment and admissions at the LSE, said that it was Cambridge's choice how they conducted their admissions policy.

With regard to the LSE's own admissions policy on students from poorer schools, Baldwin said that the school makes a 'fair and equitable assessment', in which the individual circumstances of each applicant are considered along with their academic achievements.

Baldwin added that since 1998, the LSE has been involved in widening participation schemes which encourage young people from poorer backgrounds to consider applying to university.

Cambridge's decision, has, however, provoked widespread criticism from the independent sector.

Dick Davison, a spokesman for the Independent Schools Council, described Cambridge's announcement as 'a disturbing report'. He added that in making arbitrary equivalences between schools it 'could be very discriminatory.'



Posh, but the poor are now officially welcomed to Cambridge.

Brief News

Room for GCs

General Course students are to be guaranteed a room in a hall of residence under plans unveiled by the School last week. Currently the students who typically spend just a year at studying in the UK whilst on exchange from foreign universities, are often forced to seek their own accommodation, with only some students currently found a hall room. The School has promised, however, that the new arrangement will not affect the promise they make to all first-year undergraduate students, who are also assured of a room for at least their first year of study. The announcement has been made possible due to the projected growth in the number of rooms that will be available in halls once new residences are opened in the near future.

Prashant Rao

Holocaust day

This Thursday is 2005's Holocaust Memorial Day, this year organised around the theme "Survivors, Liberation and Rebuilding Lives." Student Union General Secretary Will McFarlane will move a motion calling for a minute's silence to mark the day at Thursday's Union General Meeting. Elsewhere, the University of London Union has organised two events. Yesterday an exhibition was hosted, and tomorrow a plaque commemorating the Holocaust will be unveiled by Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks on the ULU Building. The leading quote of the plaque is 'Precisely because we are all different, we each have something unique to contribute'.

Matthew Willgress

Tsunami jingle

An appeal by PuLSE FM to raise money for the Tsunami appeal has raised around £150. PuLSE FM dj's were on Houghton Street all last week recording new 'jingles' for the radio station. LSE Students were invited to speak their very own message for a suggested donation of £1 to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). In all more than a hundred students took part in the appeal. PuLSE FM will now be turning these messages into the official new jingles of the radio station.

Arthur Krebbers

A clean break

One of the Library's front doors was left smashed and needed covering after a sweeping machine reversed into it. Chris Kudlicki, Estates Director (Operations) confirmed to *The Beaver* that the machine, which cleans the Plaza outside the library every day, was responsible for the damage.

Chris Heathcote

Samba band party ends Environment week

Sophia Hatley

Environment Week, organised by the Student's Union had finished for another year.

Events that focused on raising support and awareness for environmental concerns at the LSE drew a wide range of speakers to a number of themed events.

Over 200 signatures were collected in an environmental petition lobbying the LSE on its green policies whilst Thursday's Tsunami Fundraising Party, which included a performance from a live Samba band, raised approximately £325.

The week began with a debate on Corporate Social Responsibility, where prominent speakers from corporations and NGOs drew a large turnout.

Two of the speakers, Roger Higman from Friends of the Earth and Andrew Pendleton of Christian Aid argued that voluntary moves by some corporations was not enough, emphasising that government regulation was the way forward, a comment that provoked a reaction from a member of the Hayek Society in the audience.

Later, Nick Spurrel, chair of the society criticised the debate for having a left-wing bias and pressurising companies to "apologise for doing business."

On Tuesday Fayyaz Malik, the LSE's own Energy Manager, answered questions in the Quad, which could lead to the introduction of Berlin-style recycling litter bins around campus.

Later that day Andrew Simms, Policy Director of the

New Economics Foundation, discussed climate change after Kyoto. He quoted the World Disasters Report, revealing that current climate change and the resulting increase in related natural disasters will potentially reverse any progress made by movements such as the UN Millennium Development Goals in the fight to eradicate poverty.

He also argued that economic sanctions would be the only effective method in persuading developed nations to reduce fossil fuel consumption and carbon emissions before we reach the point of "runaway climate change".

On Thursday Jean Lambert, a Green Party MEP for London and Vice President of the Green/EFA Group in the European Parliament, discussed the relationship between the environ-

ment and refugees.

She told of her push in Parliament for a burden sharing of refugees which were sure to arise through future climate change, complying countries to take a share of displaced peoples corresponding to their carbon emissions.

Other events included a talk by BTCV's (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) Robin Hanson on environmental and conservation volunteering and a student trip to Camley Street Natural Park.

Joel Kenrick, LSE Student Union's Environment and Ethics Officer and coordinator of the week, told *The Beaver* that he hopes to push campaigns for the employment of an Environment Manager and more ambitious waste reduction targets.

Harvard Summers dampens gender relations

Adam Tomczik

An LSE academic last week controversially defended allegedly sexist remarks made by Harvard University President Lawrence H. Summers.

Summers drew international criticism when he commented that biological differences may explain the disparity between men and women in the fields of science, engineering and maths.

Summers was speaking at a private National Bureau of Economic Research luncheon organized by LSE economist Richard Freeman. No media were present, and Summers did not speak from a prepared text.

He proposed three reasons for the shortage of women in top

engineering and science posts.

These included women's reluctance to work long hours due to child-rearing duties; boys outperforming girls in science and maths because of genetic differences; and that reports of discrimination in hiring female faculty are overstated, that "the real issue is the overall size of the pool."

Some of the academics present were offended, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology biology professor Nancy Hopkins walked out.

"I just couldn't breathe because this kind of bias makes me physically ill," Hopkins told the *New York Times*. "Let's not forget that people used to say that women couldn't drive an automo-

bile."

Defending Dr Summers, Freeman told *The Beaver* that "Science advances by people offering hypotheses about issues and then testing them. We should all defend the right to offer scientific ideas, even when we disagree with them."

The Guardian reported the number of tenured jobs offered to women at Harvard has fallen from 36 percent to 13 percent during Dr Summers' tenure. Last year, only 4 of the 32 tenured positions were offered to women.

The student gender balance at the LSE is 49 percent female, 51 percent male. "Students are accepted on their academic ability and individual potential," a School spokesperson told *The*

Beaver. "in total, 17 percent of our professional staff are women - twice as many as there were seven years ago."



Summers offended some women.

End the UGM

Daniel Freedman, among others, thinks the UGM should be a monthly meeting.

Our SU's Communications sabbatical, K, has come under sustained criticism for the low UGM attendance. This is unfair. Even Alistair Campbell would struggle to make quoracy. Gigantic billboards featuring Jessica Simpson and Brad Pitt might entice students to attend one UGM, but they'll never return. There is no product to sell.

Watching left-wing hacks pass pointless motion after pointless motion makes even an econometrics lecture look enticing.

Criticising K for the low attendance is like criticising Luxembourg's UN ambassador for his country's weak diplomatic punch.

It is true in past years there were fuller UGMs, but that was before the "students not politics" era. UGMs are only ever packed when there are controversial motions on world politics that anger otherwise apathetic students enough to attend.

"Students not politics" killed this type of a UGM. And that's a good thing. Last year was a very vicious and divisive year on campus.

The far-left regularly put forward controversial motions to try and polarise campus.

And they succeeded.

But then there was the counter-revolution.

The Sabb race was fought over the "students not politics" question, turning the election into a referendum on what type of Union students want.

A loud, campaigning union with fractious UGMs, and a polarised, unpleasant campus?

Or a quieter union, working for students, leaving world poli-



Is the UGM on its last legs?

tics to the professionals, and a harmonious campus?

Three of the current Sabbs, (Will, Gareth and K), ran against far-left opponents (Omar, Kibble and Willgress) on this platform, and won. Students voted for "students not politics," voting to end the old-style UGMs.

Students realised the UGM is largely pointless, full or not.

Despite all the letters, U.S. President George W. Bush still deposed Saddam, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon built his security fence, and British Prime Minister Tony Blair still introduced tuition fees.

That the UGM was ignored only came as a surprise to those hacks whose entire week is based around that one hour on Thursdays.

But although the motions have no effect internationally, they do have an unpleasant effect on campus life.

Those hacks always defend the UGM but waxing how it is the "sovereign body" of the Union and holds Sabbs to account.

That's laughable. Anyone who believes this claim has either never attended a UGM, or is under some grandiose illusion about the power of their questioning. Wake up.

All but the far-left have been enjoying the more peaceful campus.

Students want to have fun at university. Sure world issues should be debated, but an adversarial format with only four minutes to speak doesn't do any question justice.

Even the far-left have realised this new spirit on campus, which is why thus far Willgress and co. haven't put forward motions expressing solidarity with their fellow communists Castro and Kim Jong Il.

It would ruin their Sabb chances.

This then is the reason for the low attendance - and the choice for students.

If you want a return to a divided campus, put forward controversial motions.

But if you prefer the peaceful campus, accept the death of the old-style UGM and support moves for it to be replaced by a monthly meeting.

More than enough time to discuss the few motions actually relevant to students.

The Beaver's failings

Dave Cole hasn't been happy with *The Beaver's* reporting so far this year.

There has been talk of late in the Students' Union of elections and, for a change, not just about whose going to be running for what.

It is, within the hacks, a fairly open secret who will nominate themselves and for what position.

There has been discussion, though, of there being more commentary about the elections in the Media Group, particularly *The Beaver*.

I have no doubt that this piece is going to raise accusations of my being a sad, degenerate hack and that is entirely true.

I would like to add a disclaimer here: I am not having a go at any individuals, group or anyone else.

This is my take on things, nothing more.

The Beaver gave a lot of commentary last year to the Tuns refurb and specifically to then-Treasurer's role therein - rightly so.

There has been, to use the vernacular, not a dickie bird about

the fact that the long-promised food has still not appeared.

I don't mean to attack Gareth Carter, the Treasurer - the food is not there because the company meant to be providing it has gone bust - but that does not explain why there has been no mention of it or, even better, questions as to when it will be available.

The Communications Sabbatical, K, has also come in for a lot of criticism.

Whether or not this criticism is valid is not my place to say, there has been no mention, beyond snide remarks in UGMs, about the effects of last year's constitutional changes and how they could be improved.

In short, there has been concern about the Union's financial situation, no commentary about the creation of a job with a salary of £24,000 and criticism of the person occupying that job.

It would be easy to impugn malign intentions on a paper where a previous and supposed candidate for Comms Sabb holds

influence criticising someone who people believe will be restanding.

A member of the Executive who has been mentioned in connections with a Sabbatical position has also been attacked in the *Beaver*.

It may be that it is entirely justified; why not a mention of other members, including those who don't even turn up to UGMs.

Again, you could intimate connections, between a former member of *The Beaver* and the fact that the aforementioned member of the Executive have been mentioned as potential opponents in the forthcoming trip to the ballot box.

The Beaver absolutely needs to remain independent from the Executive.

The Beaver also needs to remember that it is not operating in a system that can be compared to the outside world and cannot make the same appeals to freedom of the press as it is the only source of information for most

people at the LSE about the workings of the SU.

The standard of impartiality must be maintained very high and it must be seen to be maintained at that high level.

There are times, though, when I think that *The Beaver* should remember the words of Theodore Roosevelt (someone I am loath to quote): "it is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out where the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who knows the great devotion; who errs and comes short again and again because he knows there is no effort without error and shortcoming; who in the end knows the high triumph of victory and who, if he fails while daring greatly, knows his place shall never be with those timid and cold souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

The Beaver

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If you have written three or more articles for *The Beaver* and your name does not appear in the Collective, please email thebeaver@lse.ac.uk and you will be added to the list in next week's paper.

The Beaver is available in alternative formats.

The Beaver Comment

For richer and poorer

News of a soon-to-be opened residence would usually be met by cheers from most students, but we will be tempering our enthusiasm because of one fact: it is on Trafalgar Square.

The Beaver has no problem with the Square itself, only that property on that particular part of London is exorbitantly-priced, and this cost is passed on to the students who will live in the hall. Rents will range between £125-£164 per person per week. Two years ago, a double room at Carr-Saunders cost residents around £50 per person per week.

That is not to say those rooms at Carr-Saunders are not still available, but with Passfield going off-line for a year, and rents there set to rise soon after, budget accommodation at the LSE is becoming harder and harder to come by.

Only Rosebery, with its 320 beds, and Carr-Saunders, with 156, will survive in the next academic year as affordable accommodation. That means, of the 2,500 available places in halls of residence, less than one-fifth will be available to students on a student's budget.

That half of the hall will be dedicated to a hotel should only be setting off further alarms: does it not seem even slightly odd that university students, purportedly drowning in an ever greater stream of debt, will be sharing a building with a hotel? Students, in case you haven't noticed, are not best suited for hotels, either: we are loud, rowdy and often drunk. What kind of hotel would want us around?

Along with the new halls on Drury Lane and Crispin Street, the LSE is, no doubt, making a concerted effort to guarantee accommodation to more and more students. It seems, however, that the School's efforts are becoming misguided.

LSE officials have commented that in two years, the bracket that defines budget accommodation will move up to between £90-£100. Despite them raising the bracket, in two years, fewer halls will fall into it than right now.

Increasingly, the LSE is becoming a less-accessible university in the simplest of terms. Students at the School like to think that we are attending a meritocratic university but, in reality, several prospective students here in the United Kingdom and abroad do not even bother applying because of how expensive accommodation is.

It seems as though the much-trumpeted inclusivity of the LSE now comes with a disclaimer: only if you can afford it.

No food for thought

Last week, SU Treasurer Gareth Carter declared yet again to the UGM that the Three Tuns bar would not be serving food.

The latest excuse we are being fed? Fetch, the company that provides the frozen food, has gone bankrupt, much like Bensons, the building contractors for the Tuns.

Frankly, this is only the most recent in a series of delays and near-misses involving the Tuns. Carter has gotten up at the UGM time and again to tell us that we will be able to buy food in the Union's bar, once even commenting that the Tuns would serve food before the School-run LSE Garrick.

In fact, the LSE Garrick has been serving a wide variety of food, if slightly pricey, while the Tuns has yet to serve us the chicken goujons, chocolate and orange torte, or wild mushroom tortellini that were supposed to tickle our tastebuds.

Carter has also been evasive as to when he believes the Tuns will eventually serve food - perhaps he is wary of making further promises. After all, he has not been very successful at keeping the ones he made in his election campaign.

The countless promises we have heard regarding food being served in the Tuns have never before rung so hollow. Indeed, Carter is beginning to sound like the boy who cried wolf. It's just that we've finally stopped listening.

Delegate dilemma

It would be far too easy to lay the blame for consecutive inoperative University of London Union (ULU) Council meeting at the feet of ULU.

The fact is however, as much as many, and we are included in this group, have lambasted ULU, the fault actually lies with the Council delegates this time.

There is no greater opportunity to improve ULU than through ULU Council, the sovereign body of UL's Union. It is easy to complain about ULU's in adequacies, but Council is the one place where people can make a difference.

That the delegates were subjected to what one described as "verbal masturbation" due to the fact that they could not make any decisions was an unfortunate by-product of a poorly attended meeting where changes could theoretically have made ULU a better entity for all.

You only get out of a project what you put in, and thus far, delegates of constituent University of London colleges have put little, if anything, into ULU. How, then, can we expect anything in return?

Letters to the Editor

The Beaver offers all readers the right to reply to anything that appears in the paper. Letters should be sent to thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk, and should be no longer than 250 words. Letters may be edited prior to publication. The deadline for submission is 3pm on the Sunday prior to publication.

Dear Sir,

We were not surprised to see complaints about and arguments against Daniel Freeman's column two weeks ago in the latest edition of *The Beaver*. However, we felt that a different claim of the column still had to be responded to, leaving aside the debate surrounding Palestine.

In his column, Daniel implied that the supposedly 'far-left' Mayor of London (Daniel must be upset the majority of Londoners are apparently communist stooges!) Labour's Ken Livingstone had stopped supporting LGBT and women's rights in order to win himself the support of sections of the Muslim community. The reality is somewhat different. In his first term, the Mayor enabled same-sex couples to register their partnerships officially - a precursor to the national government introducing similar legislation. On women's issues, the Mayor also has an impressive record. Following a commissioned report authored by Polly Toynbee, the GLA adopted a radical position on providing childcare. Further, the Mayor has organised well-attended annual 'Capital Women' Conferences and supported trade unions in demanding action on the pay gap.

This is a very different record on such issues to Daniel's beloved George Bush who was elected on the basis of his opposition to official recognition of same-sex partnerships, and who has introduced the Global Gag rule effecting women's right to choose across the developing world. Other people Daniel has expressed his utmost admiration for such as Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher (who introduced the notorious and discriminatory Section 28) don't have much better records. Perhaps we can expect him to denounce this next week?

LSE Labour Committee

Dear Sir,

As I expect everyone on site last Friday knows, Tom Ridge the US Secretary of Homeland Security paid a visit to our illustrious institution last week.

Whilst I was not surprised that he was greeted with a (somewhat small) demonstration against the war in Iraq, I was greatly surprised to see the secretary of the LSESU Stop the War Coalition Narzanin Massoumi dressed as what appeared to be a prisoner at Guantanamo Bay.

Given the reaction to the now infamous exploits of the Rugby Club in imitating the treatment of prisoners at the hands of the U.S., perhaps Narzanin Massoumi could explain why it was necessary to have a similar display, especially when one considers that the Stop the War Coalition was one of the six societies which signed the petition against the Rugby Club.

William Dove

Dear Sir,

I read with bemusement Cagdas Canbolat's article in last week's edition of *The Beaver* claiming that 'the Left' stood up for the oppressed while 'the Right' supported the oppressors. To me, the article demonstrated the Far Left's blinkered and selective view of world affairs, oppression and human rights. The Far Left seems only to express concern about human rights when it gives them the opportuni-

ty to criticise Western capitalist governments, hence the obsession with present-day Iraq and Israel and the ignoring of other places.

Canbolat claims that Respect is a party for "the people whose views are unheard". Yet Respect's leader, George Galloway, has not only praised Saddam Hussein in person, but has also given his public support to the insurgents and terrorists in Iraq who are trying to stop the elections and therefore prevent the Iraqi people's views from being heard.

Canbolat writes enthusiastically about the various causes the Left have been "on the streets" protesting about over the years, but neglects to mention what the Left have actually achieved. Unanswered is the question of which socialist country treats citizens better than the Western capitalist countries? What anti-government protests are allowed in socialist countries? Canbolat also chooses to ignore the result when the Far Left governed over a quarter of the world. 90 million people were killed by Communist regimes, and in many places the killing continues, which makes the mistakes of capitalist governments in supporting tyrannical regimes seem rather small by comparison. Who then were the on the side of the oppressed, and who then were the oppressors?

Peter John Cannon

Dear Sir,

I am writing to object to the inaccurate content of an article published in last week's edition of *The Beaver* by Cagdas Canbolat, which critiqued a recent column by Daniel Freedman. While I would be one of those who would least like to make Daniel Freedman's arguments for him, I do object to fabricating evidence and storytelling in an attempt to prove a point. It was the errors at the end of the article, which annoyed me. I'll leave the rest of the article for Daniel to untangle in another column.

In the article it is claimed that Palestinians are too busy being persecuted and avoiding being killed to worry about their fellow Palestinians sexuality. While I agree that Palestinians in the occupied territories have a very difficult time in doing the most day to day of activities, the argument that they are too busy to persecute their own is wrong. A simple search on Google will bring up thousands of results highlighting the appalling treatment of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered individuals within the territories. They detail accounts of honour killings, torture at the hands of police, family, being blackmailed into becoming suicide bombers and frequent murders or executions. The Agudah-Association says that persecution is not just from families and religious organisations, but from the P.A. as well. Palestine comes out as one of the worst places in the world to live as a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered individual.

The treatment of LGBT Palestinians is not something that should be swept under the carpet as Canbolat attempts to do. The anti-apartheid movement in South Africa drew on support from a diverse group of people including LGBT individuals and when white rule ended a 'rainbow nation' was born. I see no reason why the Palestinians should not consider such a successful tactic.

Simon Bottomley

Dear Sir,

In a letter to *The Beaver*, the LSE Islamic Society claimed that Yusuf al-Qaradawi was a mainstream and moderate imam. Let's put their claim to the test, shall we?

Advocating female genital mutilation, al-Qaradawi said: "Anyone who thinks that female circumcision is the best way to protect his daughters should do it. I support this, particularly in the period in which we live." Advocating the murder of homosexuals, al-Qaradawi said: "While such punishments may seem cruel, they have been suggested to maintain the purity of the Islamic society and to keep it clean of perverted elements." Advocating domestic violence, al-Qaradawi said: "it is permissible for him to beat her lightly with his hands, avoiding her face and other sensitive parts."

Rather than being mainstream and moderate, al-Qaradawi is an intolerant bigot; likewise his apologetics. I hope the LSE Islamic Society isn't returning to its old ways.

Alykhan Velshi

Dear Sir,

I was delighted to read that the Great Dover Street bar has been saved from the axe and that residents will continue to have a vital place to socialise in. I was somewhat concerned however to read that the Atlas Bar would be serving 'Tuns-style food'. Does this mean the food facilities will be delayed for over 3 months, and then only be served when Gareth Carter turns up with the rowing team?

Joel Kenrick
SU Environment & Ethics Officer

Dear Sir,

It's not bunnies, or bombers, or even the US, But your portrayal of stormtroopers I find most grotesque.

I knew one once and he seemed all right,

Sure he killed for the dark side and enjoyed a good fight,

But other than that he was no different than I,

Good fun at parties and a likeable guy.

A curse on *The Beaver* for pushing this view

Prashant should resign and James Upsher too,

The guns were explicit: the bunnies too mean

Is our paper now prejudiced against all machines?

You should not cross the line, you really should know

To tell a joke, or express is a place not to go,

I'm sick of your lies: can't take any more

To scroll through the paper is 'Oh such a bore'

To take needless offence ain't as it seems

It's tough to scour the pages and make countless screams.

So here's to the moaner, three cheers one and all

No longer just hurt but 'aghost' and 'appalled'.

I know it's hard to accept we're not all PC drones

But no more I protest, in defence of the clones.

Steve Gummer

Features

Features Correspondent: Steve Gummer

blink

Editors: Tracy Alloway &
James Upsher

Features

College Hall confidential

"College Hall was the first and will probably be the last hall of residence for women in the University of London."

pg. 8

Inequality, women and the workplace

"Women are often paid less than their male counterparts..."

pg. 9

Fighting for the right to party

"It is because the LSE is so academically-oriented, so crushingly intellectual, that the existence of the AU is an absolute necessity..."

pg. 10

What is the point of the UGM?

"...They get distracted by motions, quorums and constitutions."

pg. 11

Law

Pinochet Revisited

An interview with Professor Christopher Greenwood on his role in the Pinochet extradition hearings.

pg. 12-13

Politics

The clothing revolution

"Stalin and Guevara are not the only dictators to appear on popular apparel."

pg. 15

Olympic Special

blink asks representatives from London, Madrid, Moscow, New York and Paris why they should host the 2012 Olympic games.

pg. 16-17

International

Not everything is 'Irie Mon'

"...there is more to being an 'islander' than palm trees and rum punch..."

pg. 18

Country fact file: Ireland

pg. 19

Tsunami: making our charity as effective as possible

"Natural disasters often bring about a sense of universality and love."

pg. 20

Public health in post-tsunami Asia

"Access to clean drinking water is now the biggest single factor in determining whether the Asian tsunami will claim yet more victims."

pg. 21

College Hall confidential

In light of the UGM debate of Week 12, Sarah Taylor visits College Hall to discover the rationale for women-only residences.

College Hall was the first and will probably be the last hall of residence for women in the University of London. It has stood in Malet Street since 1932, but will close for a two-year, £20 million refurbishment in July, to re-open for 270 male and female students in 2007. LSEU opinion is divided on the issue of all-women accommodation, and a motion titled 'Women Only Halls' to support its provision within the University of London, narrowly fell at the Union General Meeting of January 13th. Despite heated debate I would hazard a guess that few of those voting have had any contact with the hall; this article aims to shed some light on the residence and its residents.

Individual reasons for living in the hall differ, but a clear consensus of residents favours the status quo. Two student vice-wards have begun a petition in protest, and I encountered many strong opinions in the hall last week. Almost everyone saw the absence of men in positive terms, whether they had applied specifically to the hall or been placed there. The friendly, comfortable atmosphere and absence of cliques compared to other halls was mentioned by many. One anonymous student called it homely and worried that an extensive refurbishment would kill the atmosphere in part created by the hall's original features.

Elizabeth Hershman, an American studying at King's, said the atmosphere had made it much easier to be away from home, and called her placement in the hall a nice surprise. Her happiness with her living arrangements gave way to anger when we talked about the changes. She was "mad at the idea" and repeated how unfair and unnecessary the refurbishment was, a point raised by several others. "We live in London," she pointed out, "and are surrounded by men every day," making male friends was "not an issue," but she had no desire to live with them, and worried about having to share (especially bathroom) facilities with them next year. She added that living on an all-female floor "just wouldn't be the same."

Another King's undergraduate rang to complain when she was placed in the hall, but said she now loved it, in part due to the

central location, but also because of the lack of bravado. A Birkbeck MSc student, Saima Hamid, enjoyed living at College Hall so much she had been there for four years, though complained of problems with electricity and heating, which she insisted needed repair, not renovation. "There are problems in every hall," she said, "but the provision here is good," and not impersonal as in some intercollegial halls she had visited.

Religion was raised in the UGM debate, so I decided to probe this issue. The on-duty receptionist I spoke to estimated that around half the residents are Muslim, with a broad spectrum between the most and least devout. No students spontaneously mentioned religious or family reasons for living in the hall. Two friends, when pressed on the question, agreed that the parents of some of their co-residents and fellow Muslims had influenced their halls applications, and that some girls "felt more free" without men, in part for religious reasons.

"What is lost in male company over breakfast ... is made up for by living the rest of their lives in a mixed-sex environment."

There were two exceptions to this general sentiment. A staff member, who had worked in Connaught Hall before it began admitting women residents in the academic year 2001/2, supported the development. He said Connaught had come alive when women were admitted, that it was dismal before, and thus welcomed the change at College Hall. He called the present situation old-fashioned.

A UCL student remarked that change was good, and called the lack of men unrealistic. She went on to reflect nostalgically about feeling comfortable in the hall in nightclothes, without make-up, at meal-

times, which she felt unable to do in her new accommodation. However, when I asked whether an all female hall should be available, she said it was only fair that the option exist.

I asked Gillian Almond, Deputy Director of Residential Services at the University of London, whether the option of single-sex accommodation should exist. Somewhat paradoxically, she wrote "I think it is important that the Intercollegiate Halls offer a variety of accommodation that reflects the needs of students." By implication, women who prefer single-sex accommodation do not need this option, but have made a conscious choice. In contrast, the couples who will move into some of the refurbished rooms were presumably born that way. "Given the nature of the development I think it would be inappropriate to keep College Hall as a single sex Hall," she continued. The development in part extends provision for students with disabilities, whose particular residential needs might have instead been met by refurbishing another hall or halls.

College Hall might be old-fashioned, may well deprive its residents of some of the benefits of co-ed university life, and certainly attracts bad jokes. But its shortcomings are more than made up for by its community spirit. What is lost in male company over breakfast, (similarly appreciated or resented by pupils at the single-sex schools many readers will have attended) is made up for by living the rest of their lives in a mixed-sex environment.

In a perfect world perhaps students would live together without reference to sex, gender, work habits, cleanliness or preferred stereo volume. As it happens most are allowed to choose the members of their household according to the above and other criteria, but not the residents of College Hall. I'm glad so few women, from a University of London student body of some 115,000, choose to live separately from men, but equally happy that those who do, have the choice of a low-cost halls environment, at least until the end of this academic year. If you don't like the idea of single-sex accommodation, be glad you don't live in it, but leave these women alone in their harmless anachronism.



blink management

Thinking about writing for blink? blink welcomes articles from all LSE students. Articles should be around 900-1000 words in length. Please include your name, department and year. Send articles to:

thebeaver.blink@lse.ac.uk

A recent conference 'Women in London's Economy' just added more depressing statistics to the ones already well established regarding the differences between the sexes in the workplace. The problems with regards to the gender 'pay gap' are particularly acute in London; female graduates will earn an average of 15 percent less than male graduates, and across all groups of women in London the gap is 25 percent less than men, compared to a national average of 18 percent. This inequality still does exist, and many LSE students are going to be hit with this harsh reality when they graduate.

The Equal Pay Act of 1970 finally

"...in London... female graduates will earn an average of 15 percent less than male graduates."

ensured women had to receive the same rights, in terms of pay and benefits as their male counterparts. Since this piece of legislation, things have been improving but at a snail's pace, meaning that women will have to wait decades for parity. It was acceptable for men at the turn of the last century to spurt off ridiculous statements about inadequate brain power, used at that time to justify women's 'inability' to vote, hold a licence, gain full employment and graduate from university; women were considered both unreliable and unable to perform anything else other than their honoured duty - changing nappies and serving dinner loyally to their husbands. Whilst it would be untrue to say such opinions no longer exist (and it is a disgrace that they do), many real and significant gains have been made in the drive for equality. Yet problems still exist and many governments and employers recognise in words that problems do exist, but are prepared to take little meaningful action about it.

Women are often paid less than their male counterparts despite performing jobs of equal responsibility and value to their employers. Furthermore, gender stereotyping leads to women being concentrated in sectors of the economy that are traditionally considered to be 'women's work,' such as carers, childcare, secretarial work, cleaning and so on. These are, on the whole, held in lower regard and are lower paid. Whilst important changes have occurred, such as an increase in the number of women scientists, managers, entrepreneurs and academics, women are still concentrated in employment sectors which are more administrative, secretarial and health and social care oriented. The report produced at the conference in London stated that despite being under-represented in managerial and senior occupations by 25 percent, women are over-represented in administrative and secretarial posts by 62 percent. At times, arguments about genetic make up have been used to excuse this, but in reality these arguments were discredited decades ago. People's attitudes and structural problems in society and the economy are to blame.

As well as being concentrated in particular types of work, across all sectors of the economy women are concentrated at the bottom of the career ladder, kept down by what is commonly referred to as the 'glass ceiling.' Women are not put on the same fast-track career paths, and are not offered the lucrative higher posts, because

of old-fashioned fears that they will not stay with the business due to children or other caring responsibilities; women are still expected to shoulder most of the burden of looking after a child. New employment rights brought in by the government in April 2003, included the right to more flexible hours if you have young children. Trade unions pointed out that whilst very much welcome, it was simply not enough. Firstly restricting this to only young children is grossly inadequate, and secondly, this does not tackle the prejudices that prevent companies employing women in more responsible positions in the first place. A number of other measures are needed. Greater legislation is required on the part of the government to tackle discrimination by the employers, and to provide greater protection for women in whatever career path they choose. Women should not be perpetually forced into using the courts and tribunals to protect basic rights that in theory were earned by the women's movement and others decades ago.

Childcare provision is crucial here and it is right that it is increasingly becoming a mainstream view in Britain that something needs to be done on this front. Its high cost, especially in London, has meant that women have not been able to contribute what they could to the economy. Examples from other EU states, such as Sweden, show that not only is government action on childcare affordable but it also contributes greatly to economic efficiency and productivity.

"[women are] under-represented in managerial and senior occupations by 25 percent."

A report from international accounting firm, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, in 2003 found that government support for universal childcare would pay off within 20 years due to the benefits that it would provide to the economy. The Trades Union Congress has also called for statutory pay reviews to identify firms which pay women lower rates than men. Employers should be required to carry out periodic reviews of the composition of their workforce and their employment and equal pay policies and practices, with proper public monitoring by the Equal Opportunities Commission, its successor, or another appropriate independent body. Such measures will improve pay transparency, and move beyond a voluntary approach to closing the pay gap which has so far failed to succeed.

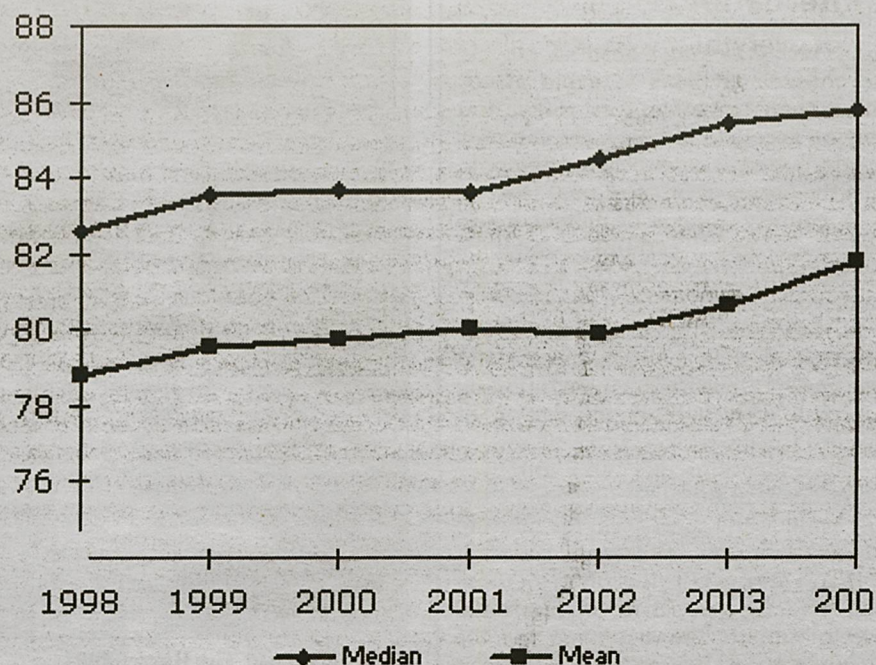
The government has set up a Women and Work commission, which is due to report in Autumn 2005 and has been widely welcomed by trade unions and women's organisations. But for many it is difficult to see what they could report that is not already obvious to, and experienced by, many women all over Britain. Purely restating the facts will not solve the problem, appropriate and immediate action is required. As well as legislation, there needs to be a shift in culture amongst employers with regards to both pay and workplace flexibility. All parties should make this election year the one where they finally commit to reaching equal pay and the students of the LSE should play our part in making that happen.

Inequality, women and the workplace

Alexandra Vincenti explores the persistence of gender inequality in the workplace, and discusses the necessary steps to correct it.



The Gender Pay Gap (courtesy of UK National Statistics)
Per cent



Ratio of women's hourly pay to men's pay, excluding overtime; April 1998 to April 2004

Eyes to the Left



Capitalism is unsustainable

James Caspell

In the wake of revelations of yet more prisoner abuse by the occupying forces in Iraq, it is all the more vital for the imperialist troops to leave the oil-rich state.

Their presence serves not only to undermine international law and kill civilians, but exacerbates the increased alienation between the West and the Arab world.

It is up to the public to pressure the Government, and punish it in the likely general election in May, if it is to be made clear that such unaccountable and violent occupation will no longer be tolerated.

Firstly, our 'representative parliament,' an oxymoron in itself, was duped into backing a war based on the allegations that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction. Britain and the USA already knew that he had purchased chemical and biological weapons - they sold them to him.

When this was found to be false, the invasion was justified as a crusade of 'humanitarian' intervention.

This week's photos show prisoners tied to fork-lift trucks and forced to simulate homosexual sex, in clear violation of the Geneva Convention, presumably not what devout Christian Blair had in mind.

Meanwhile, Bush's Evangelical supporters appear to be pro-life in regards to abortion but not when it comes to killing Iraqis.

It is also argued that without occupying troops there would be a 'bloodbath.' At present, over 1,000 soldiers have died and up to 100,000 Iraqi civilians lie dead.

In the wake of this enduring hypocrisy, it should be admitted that Iraq is potentially an ethnically volatile state owing to the fact that its national borders are themselves a consequence of imperialism; this particular powder-keg of post-colonialism may well explode but is the role of the UN to uphold international law and not for the Americans and British to undermine it.

The assault on Fallujah exemplifies their complete disregard for the Geneva Conventions and International Human Rights law; attacking a hospital, placing the onus on civilians to avoid attack rather than the other way round and denying access to aid agencies can only be interpreted as a deliberate attempt to shift the norms of international law.

A country cannot be bombed into democracy, and it certainly cannot be created by undermining the very legal frameworks which make it possible.

It is essential that Iraqis decide the direction of their political future and that the UN alone assists in maintaining this path after a total withdrawal of Western troops.

The election of an anti-war Government in Britain is likely to be the only hope in the short-term for limiting the bloodshed of even more innocent civilians. Meanwhile, it is up to all those who have any respect for international law to support the campaign for the withdrawal of British and American troops with immediate effect.

Features



The AU brightens up another tedious lecture...

Fighting for the right to party

Gareth Carter takes a break from his rigorous duties as Students' Union Treasurer to justify the existence of the LSE Athletic Union.



Debauchery at The Barrel 2004

Last week's edition of *The Beaver* contained in its letters page a letter from an angry man. Whilst this is nothing new, Roger Lee Huang's distaste for the "conduct of several of our undergraduate colleagues" perhaps finally brought out into the open the sentiments of maybe a fair number of non-AU students at the LSE. It is perhaps understandable, but unfortunate, that there may well be many more Roger Lee Huangs out there - students who feel that the AU's attitude, behaviour and appearance are detrimental to the LSE's position as a top-ranking, intellectually rigorous academic institution. It is understandable that some students may feel that, having paid their overseas fees, the sight of the Football Club Captain throwing up behind the sofas in the Tuns on a Wednesday night is not the kind of thing they expect for their expensively-bought education. However, these people are missing the point entirely.

It is because the LSE is so academically-oriented, so crushingly intellectual, that the existence of the AU is an absolute necessity for those who wish to escape from the numbing repetition of class, lecture, class, lecture. For those who wish not to lose their spirit of enjoyment under the terrible burden of coursework, essays and exam studying, the escape from this that the AU provides is essential.

There is undoubtedly a virtue in behaving in a mature and focused way whilst at the LSE. The School provides entirely for those who wish for nothing more than to immerse themselves in political debate, but it would be a massive loss if there was not also space for those who chose not to do so.

The behaviour of the sports teams is boisterous and sometimes extreme, but it is no one's place to denigrate the actions of the AU when those actions serve to hurt nobody and no one thing, except maybe some people's cloistered perceptions of the 'Average LSE Student.' To look down on the AU and its members for "chanting against one another... [like] football hooligans" is unwarranted, uncalled for and nigh-on-insulting. That there is a group of people within this institution who like to sing in the Tuns is surely something that adds to the LSE's desire to provide an education to a broad spectrum of students. The sole thing that establishes a student's right to be at the LSE is their intellect and their academic ability, not their race, their gender, their sexuality and certainly not their interest in playing sports and in indulging in raucous post-match celebrations. Is Roger Lee Huang suggesting that we remove such 'hooligans' from the LSE, or

Features Correspondent: Steve Gummer



perhaps that we follow his argument to its logical conclusion and remove the AU, and maybe even ban alcohol from our venues?

It is extremely easy to find the LSE a desolate place of academic excellence and social isolation, and the potential to fall into three years of lonely study is massive. If an LSE education is ever to be more than several hours of classes with teachers who can't speak English, or lectures with bored academics every week then provision for those who wish to indulge in extra-curricular activities must exist. Societies for those who wish to meet like-minded students and become involved with events and projects. Student media outlets for those who wish to become involved in the Union and its business. And the AU, for those of us who want, more than anything, to escape the concrete constraints of Houghton Street, play sport every week and also to celebrate endlessly, noisily, the fact that we have escaped the library, if only for one day.

If Roger Lee Huang is offended by the chanting of "derogatory and disrespectful language" then he can leave the Tuns if he wishes. He is perfectly entitled to shield his ears from foul words that you sometimes hear on television, and he is more than welcome to never expand his reading material beyond bland, timid and inoffensive books. If it is of some comfort to him he should know that, from experience, the chanting one hears from the LSEAU is of a high-quality and exhibits an unparalleled wit when one compares it to the standard fare you hear from other Universities. Besides, one team telling another that their captain's Dad is his milkman is hardly worthy of the disgust Mr. Huang seems to feel.

The simple truth is that the AU is here to stay. The lackadaisical attitude to personal health and the unswerving certainty that we are the only ones who prevent the LSE from becoming solely a production line for City bankers - the last hope for avoiding a staid, joyless institution. The simple desire to play sport, drink beer and sing. The self-confident belief that deep down most students guiltily love the presence of the AU. Some may find it upsetting but all this is here to stay as well, and regardless of the frowns of the few it will continue as it always has because, if the AU did not exist, someone would have to invent it.

I cordially invite Mr. Huang to the Tuns next Wednesday and, to show there are no hard feelings, we'll neck a Gin and Tonic and sing 'Just The Two Of Us' on Karaoke.

Features

Features Correspondent: Steve Gummer

The Right Approach

What is the point of the UGM?

Alex Finnegan maintains that the weekly Union General Meeting has failed the students of the LSE and claims that changes need to be made.

One of the things I was most looking forward to when I came to the LSE last September, was its reputation for student politics. Although, I know that it's not everybody's cup of tea, it was something which I wanted to be involved in and something which, I hoped would be exciting and stimulating.

At the start of my second term, I am more disillusioned with our weekly UGMs than ever before. Sometimes they are great and debate issues which students care about such as the library opening hours, the food, or lack of it served in The Tuns and campus. More often than not however, the UGM feels like a circus where the same people get up on their soapbox and harp on about Iraq or renaming oceans. It's great that we should want to discuss and debate national and international issues. But not at the expense of issues which students really care about and which really affect them day-to-day.

I could count on one hand the number of first-year students who attend the UGM. This is a big problem. For the Students' Union to be truly effective and for the UGM to really become a place where students feel that their views are heard, the SU and the UGM need to reach out to first-year students. The UGM, in particular, needs to become more representative than it is now. Perhaps, one way of doing this would be to appoint a first-year student to liaise between the UGM/SU and undergraduates.

Many first-years who would otherwise love to be involved and become a real part of the student community, are disillusioned with how the UGM operates, its focus and what can be achieved there. When most politicians and commentators in the media write off the under-30 crowd as apathetic,

its brilliant that the UGM is full of committed people, right or left, who are passionate about student politics and how it affects them. But, all too often, they channel their energies into the wrong cause. They get distracted by motions, quorums and constitutions, which are completely alien to and misunderstood by the vast majority of students.

I am sure that this is not the first time that someone has complained about how

"The LSE is the only higher education institution in the country that has weekly UGMs. Maybe, this needs to change."

the UGM operates and I'm sure that it will not be the last, but if no one is listening then the UGM - and the SU for that matter, will look increasingly silly and out of touch with the people that it hopes and seeks to represent.

Fair enough that the Athletics Union and its members are the most disruptive force at the meetings. They treat it exactly with the sort of contempt it occasionally deserves and, to be honest, without their presence it would be full of the same old, tired faces making the same old speeches. I don't want a UGM that is quiet, tedious and boring. It helps that people are boisterous and make their views known. But

sometimes the ways in which it operates and the lack of respect and courtesy shown towards people who are going there for the first time, puts people off and discourages greater participation. No one, I am sure, thinks they should be given an easy ride, but they should at least be given the opportunity to speak.

The LSE is the only higher education institution in the country that has weekly UGMs. Maybe, this needs to change. Maybe the problem is the number of meetings we have a term. Perhaps, it would be taken more seriously if there were less of them and changes in the way they were run were enacted. Our present General Secretary of the SU won his position on a platform of "Students, not politics." Maybe it is time also, that we were reviewing whether he kept his side of the bargain or not. Personally, I'm not so sure.

In the letters section of The Beaver last week Oliver Ranson talked about the high attendances at the UGM, and it's true, a lot of people still go and a lot of people look forward to them. I'm one of those people - for no other reason than they can be a great laugh. But high attendances don't mean anything, especially when little is being achieved with them. The Chair of our UGM does a valiant job, but she is fighting a losing battle and until the UGM changes the way in which it operates she is going to continue to fight a losing battle.

Until more first-years become involved in the UGM, until they see it as an attractive way of expressing their concerns and ideas about the way the LSE operates, until the SU realises that it has to do more to change the nature of the meetings, and until we really begin to concentrate on students not politics, then the UGM is not a dying institution - it's dead already.



One More Thing Mr. President Daniel Freedman

US President George W. Bush gave an impressive inauguration speech last week. Promising to further the cause of freedom, he warned dictators: "America will not pretend that jailed dissidents prefer their chains, or that women welcome humiliation and servitude or that any human being aspires to live at the mercy of bullies."

And brilliantly to critics: "Some, I know, have questioned the global appeal of liberty - though this time in history, four decades defined by the swiftest advance of freedom ever seen, is an odd time for doubt." Promises to be an exciting four years.

Given this paper's global importance, here's a reminder for the president of one item he needs to add to his agenda: Reforming, or even scrapping, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The normally reliable leader column at *The Times* (London) erroneously referred to this treaty as the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty a few months ago. An understandable mistake as that's what it seems to do.

The NPT is an international treaty designed to stop nuclear proliferation. States that join promise not to develop weapons and sign a "Safeguards Agreement" allowing the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to monitor compliance.

The first flaw in the treaty is that unless a country signs a voluntary "Additional Protocol," the IAEA can only investigate sites which the country declares to be nuclear. Obviously a rogue state will try to avoid signing, thereby fully controlling where inspectors search. Unsurprisingly Iran still hasn't signed, despite promising to do so over a year ago.

Next, even if a country is found in violation of the NPT nothing is guaranteed to happen. The IAEA's board can refer the matter to the UN Security Council (UNSC) - but it rarely does. Iran, for example, was caught lying about its program for 18 years and wasn't referred. Nor does the UNSC have to do anything. And with all due disrespect to that ignoble body, it is unlikely to. North Korea's violations were deferred to it, and it did nothing.

Worse still, the NPT actually makes it easier for states to acquire nuclear weapons. Once a state signs up, other countries are obliged to help it develop a civilian nuclear program. The problem is that a civilian nuclear program is very similar to a military one.

Helping a state develop a civilian program sets it far down the track towards a weapons program. For example, the most difficult part in creating a nuclear weapon is the plutonium extraction and uranium enrichment - both of which can be developed 'legally' as part of a civilian project.

A few months ago I outlined these flaws to US Under-Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, John Bolton. He told me he completely agreed. Since then, however, no word has come from the administration on a plan to curb these problems. Now would be a good time.

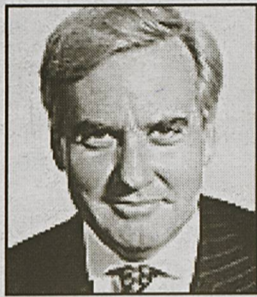


Pinochet Revisited

Professor of International Law at the LSE and occasional effigy at anti-war marches, Christopher Greenwood QC is, to be blunt, a controversial figure. The war in Iraq, in whose execution he served as a legal advisor, earned him denunciations in the press and the (presumably unwelcome) moniker, 'War QC.' Professor Greenwood is, needless to say, a remarkably pleasant man. He speaks crisply, with economy and restraint: the rabbinical itch typical of the English Bar.

In 1998, Professor Greenwood acted for the Crown Prosecution Service in its attempt to extradite former Chilean president Augusto Pinochet to Spain on allegations of torture. Pinochet assumed power in 1973 after ousting the Soviet-client regime of Salvador Allende. During his presidency, Chile developed a state of the art infrastructure, an economy that was the envy of its neighbours and a remarkably pro-British foreign policy. When he left office, Chile was a functioning democracy, a regional powerhouse and an economic force.

Pinochet's regime, needless to say, was far from perfect; there were allegations of extrajudicial executions and the flagrant torture of dissidents, which included, to his ultimate woe, several Spanish citizens. In 1998, when Senator Pinochet flew to London seeking medical treatment, he was arrested, imprisoned, and eventually ordered deported to Spain. The implications of the Pinochet extradition hearings, which drew worldwide attention, praise and condemnation, are the subject of this interview with one of the episode's leading protagonists.



Professor
Christopher
Greenwood



Law
Correspondent
Alykhan
Velshi

And that happens quite often. There might be a case to say that Senator Pinochet was entitled to compensation for the six days in which he was in detention prior to the grant of the warrant which was valid. But the idea that if you make a mess of the first warrant for whatever reason, you can never then re-arrest the person concerned has never been a part of criminal law, and quite rightly.

AV: The Pinochet case was heard by a High Court judge and two separate Appellate Committees of the House of Lords, each of whom reached three remarkably different conclusions. Is it the case that the law is unclear?

CG: No, it is not the case that the law is unclear; at least it isn't now. It was difficult because it was the first case of its kind, compounded because the initial round of hearings was done enormously quickly. Normally with an extradition case you would have a hearing at Bow Street Magistrate Court, which would get out all the evidence, then you would have either an appeal or a judicial review in the Divisional Court, then, if there's a suitable point of law an appeal to the House of Lords, which would likely be heard a year to eighteen months after the Divisional Court. In this case, the magistrate's court was not involved in the initial hearing because, as soon as he was arrested, Pinochet applied for habeas corpus. It took only three weeks from the arrest to the hearing opening in the House of Lords for the first time, and only a week between the hearing in the Divisional Court and the hearing in the House of Lords. In my own case, I was telephoned at 10 o'clock on a

"...the Pinochet case ... established the principle that however high ranking someone is, the principles of international criminal law of torture are still applicable to them."

Monday morning and asked if I'd prepare for the Crown Prosecution Service and I said, "I would be delighted, when was the hearing?" and they said Wednesday: so 48 hours notice to prepare for a case in the House of Lords when you'd normally have a year and a half. So it's not at all surprising that the issues weren't as well-developed at the first hearing as they were at the second. I think that's the most important reason for the difference of emphasis, plus the fact that unfortunately we weren't as

convincing to the second committee as we were to the first.

AV: Given the heightened emotions and sense of feeling that existed in Spain, do you think Senator Pinochet could ever have received a fair trial there?

CG: The particular issue of whether he would receive a fair trial in Spain didn't

"Don't think there's any basis for distinguishing between right-wing or left-wing, liberal or fascist torturers."

arise. It's simply because of the stage at which the proceedings were brought, the question before the court was one of immunity and jurisdiction only. Now, Pinochet having failed in part of that, he did then raise the question of a fair trial if memory serves me right in the Divisional Court. That issue could have been continued thereafter but for the fact that the Home Secretary, as you know, ordered his release on medical grounds instead. Personally, I don't believe that there's any reason to doubt that he could have gotten a fair trial.

AV: As regards your latter point, with respect, I can think of at least two: first, he would be tried in a foreign legal jurisdiction with which he wasn't familiar, and ...

CG: I don't think that that's a serious consideration because the Chilean and Spanish legal systems are very, very similar. If I were to be extradited to Canada, the detail of Canadian law differs from English law but the system is essentially the same. In a way, it was the English legal system he wasn't familiar with rather than the Spanish.

AV: And second, were there not, for instance, many witnesses in Chile willing to testify on Senator Pinochet's behalf who feared doing so because they too would face arrest in Spain?

CG: I'm afraid the short answer is, I don't know. But, that is often a problem with organised crime cases, and serious crimes generally. It is frequently the case that the defendant would say, "well, I'd have difficulty because there are people who could testify on my behalf but they won't come forward." It's a feature of terrorism cases, for example.

AV: And that's unimportant, you are telling me, in deciding whether to extradite someone.

CG: It may be important but I don't think you can say the system of justice should stop because of it.

AV: There is a subtle, but crucial distinction between criminal and political responsibility. If, say, a prisoner dies in his jail cell because of police brutality, government ministers are politically, but not necessarily criminally responsible. Was this distinction satisfactorily addressed during Senator Pinochet's extradition hearings?

CG: No and nor should it have been. That would be a matter of evidence at the trial. Now in extraditions between Britain and Spain, there is no requirement for the requesting state to disclose a prima facie case. You don't have to show that there was good reason for believing that General Pinochet bore personal criminal responsibility. Likewise if Britain seeks to extradite somebody from Spain. You would between some countries and the United Kingdom, but not between Britain and Spain because of the European Convention on Extradition.

AV: The majority in the House of Lords held that prior to the Torture Convention's incorporation into English law in 1988, former heads of state were immune from prosecution for torture. After the Torture Convention's incorporation, the court reasoned, state immunity was no longer available as a defence. Which specific section of the Torture Convention did their Lordships believe removed state immunity as a defence?

CG: The provisions on universal jurisdiction, I think it's Article five. It doesn't expressly deal with immunity but the point about the Torture Convention is that it provides a duty of states to prosecute crimes of torture even though those crimes of torture were committed in other countries. Torture is so unusual as a crime in international law it can only be committed by state officials. Torture by a Mafioso, for example, would not be within the scope of the Torture Convention. To say that every state has a duty to prosecute for crimes of torture committed abroad when the only people covered by that are people who would be entitled to invoke principles of state immunity is incompatible with the idea of state immunity continuing to exist for crimes of torture.

AV: If the signature parties to the Torture Convention wanted to exclude the availability of state immunity for crimes of torture, wouldn't they have explicitly done so? That is, how did Chile waive its immunity when signing an international agreement

Alykhan Velshi (AV): The Independent newspaper published a series of articles not too long ago where they summarised great literary works in 25 words or less. With that in mind, could you briefly summarise the legal basis for extraditing Senator Pinochet adopted by the House of Lords?

Christopher Greenwood (CG): It's not quite as easy to simplify a judgment of 180 pages into 25 words as it is to do it with a work of fiction. The important thing about the Pinochet case is that it established the principle that however high-ranking someone is, the principles of international criminal law of torture are still applicable to them and once they leave office they are liable to prosecution.

AV: The warrant which was originally used to arrest Senator Pinochet was later held to be invalid by the Divisional Court, meaning that a foreign dignitary was unlawfully detained for six days by the British government. Under English criminal law, wouldn't, or rather shouldn't this be sufficient to justify vacating his arrest?

CG: No. Suppose for the sake of argument that Osama bin Laden were to turn up in London, were to be arrested, held for six days, and it then turns out that the warrant on which he was arrested was defective. He is immediately re-arrested with a fresh warrant. Would you be in favour of letting him go?

AV: Of course not, but there are questions of civil liberties law that trump my own personal opinions: a travesty, I know. As a matter of law, however, wouldn't an ordinary criminal suspect be released?

CG: No. It might mean that they were released and then immediately re-arrested.

Alykhan Velshi, in an exclusive for *The Beaver*, interviews Professor Christopher Greenwood on his role in the Pinochet extradition hearings, its consequences and implications

containing no mention of the waiving of immunity?

CG: Well, that was the argument that appealed to Lord Goff, but it didn't appeal to any of the other 11 Law Lords who heard the matter, and nor was it the basis for the decision in the Divisional Court. Of the 14 judges who considered the matter, only one of them analysed the case on this basis. I don't think it's a matter of waiver. Waiver of immunity assumes that you have immunity and you choose to forgo it. The point here is that the very idea of there

of crimes under its national law. It doesn't have the power to grant amnesty in respect of crimes under international law because they're a matter of concern to other states as well. The second point is that even if you disregard that consideration, it's one thing if you have a situation like that in South Africa where, following a period of oppressive government and turmoil, all the various parties agreed on amnesty or a truth and reconciliation system. But that isn't what had happened in Chile. Pinochet's government granted immunity to themselves before they left office.

AV: The fact, though, that subsequent Chilean governments maintained that Pinochet had immunity is indicative of the continuity flowing from the moment Pinochet left office, through the next few years, up to and including his arrest in London. That is, he may have granted himself immunity, but subsequent governments chose to respect, and thereby endorse it. Isn't that worth anything?

CG: You are failing to distinguish between immunity and amnesty. Immunity means that, possibly for a specified period of time, possibly for longer, the person concerned is not subject to the jurisdiction of the court. Amnesty means that the crime is forgiven.

AV: In 1999, the British government released several IRA convicts, presumably to win enough goodwill to create a political settlement in Northern Ireland. Yet at the same time, the Law Lords were overturning a similar political settlement reached in Chile. Wasn't the British government being a bit hypocritical and doesn't this behaviour violate the spirit, if not the letter, of the double criminality principle?

CG: Double criminality has nothing to do with it. Double criminality is about an offence needing to be an offence under the criminal law of both the requestant state and the requesting state. With respect to double standards, the release of prisoners in Northern Ireland was not a decision that people would not stand trial, it was a decision to commute sentences. It may well have been that General Pinochet's sentence would have been commuted. Indeed under Spanish law he couldn't have gone to jail anyway because of his age. Secondly, the deal in Northern Ireland was part of a peace deal between all the various parties in Northern Ireland and the British government. It wasn't a self-serving amnesty, far from it. And thirdly, it wasn't a complete grant of amnesty because prisoners who misbehaved in the event of a breakdown of the peace settlement can be brought back to jail.

AV: Chile spent many years freeing herself from the control of the Spanish empire, and, with a stroke of pen and show of hands, the House of Lords restored Spain's writ over Chile. I don't want to engage in hyperbole, but isn't this a setback for decolonisation?

CG: No, no, no, no of course not. Come on. First of all, the Chilean war of independence against Spain was 170 years before the events we are talking about, before the grandparents of the grandparents of the people concerned had been born. I don't

think one needs to trouble oneself terribly much about that. Secondly, the point about international criminal law is that certain crimes are considered to be a matter of concern to the whole of the international society and it's a duty that every state must exercise jurisdiction over them.

AV: If and when Prime Minister Blair is no longer in office, how would you react if Britain's jurisdictional exclusivity is overruled by a foreign magistrate, noblesse oblige, and he, like Senator Pinochet, is arrested on allegations of torture committed while in office but without proof of his explicit sanction?

CG: Insofar as I am aware, no one has accused Tony Blair of being engaged in the torture of over half a million people, which was what lay at the heart of the Pinochet matter, which is about as serious a case as one can imagine. I hold exactly the same view if one was talking about Fidel Castro, or anybody else. Don't think there's any basis for distinguishing between right-wing or left-wing, liberal or fascist torturers. They're all exactly the same. Have a



Augusto Pinochet during his days as dictator of Chile.

look at the passage in Lord Steyn's judgment which summarises what some of the torture amounted to, but don't do it late at night. The principal that somebody who commits acts of that kind should face justice for it, both because of the inherent value of that person facing justice, and as a deterrent for the future, is in my view far more important than ensuring safe holiday travel after retirement for former members of government.

AV: What is your opinion of universal jurisdiction, its desirability from a public policy standpoint, how it was expanded in Lord Millet's judgment, and the likelihood that this Ibero-Belgian import will eventually be fully incorporated in English law?

CG: Rather to my regret, Lord Millet was in the minority on this. First of all it's not an Ibero-Belgian import, it's a principle of international law which states have signed

up to for ages. For example, in the grave breaches provisions of the Geneva Conventions, every state in the world is a party. Most conventions provide for universal jurisdiction.

AV: The expansion of universal jurisdiction is nevertheless most enthusiastically supported by Spain, Belgium and Lord Millet, an axis of something or another...

CG: Well it's not really an expansion at all, with respect. All Lord Millet was talking about was the notion that jurisdiction was universal in respect of crimes against humanity. And that's something that's been around as a concept for a generation plus.

AV: You use the phrase "crimes against humanity", which, I think, is an amorphous concept floating around at the time of the Pinochet affair that referred to torture not being a valid act of state. Doubtless, this thought does make me warm and fuzzy inside and lets me sleep more comfortably at night. It is, however, the case that most regimes in the world practice some form of torture as an act of state. And as abhorrent as that is, isn't it a bit rich and high-falutin to say that torture is never an act of state?

CG: It's clearly a prohibited act, and no government in the world claims otherwise. And there are times that governments have to be judged by what they say, not what they do. I won't say it's "most governments" by any means - a goodly number, certainly - but even that goodly number stand up and say, "of course we accept that torture is illegal in all circumstances." And they've signed treaties to that effect.

AV: In the first of his Four Quartets, T.S. Eliot explains that "the end is our beginning." Isn't this precisely where current developments in international law, such as the Pinochet judgment, are taking us? That is, by supplanting traditional rules of law with newfangled and politically-charged ones, by undermining the respect states afford to the internal arrangements of each other, aren't we merely destroying the warp and woof of international law?

CG: You accuse me of being high-falutin and then quote T.S. Eliot to me, although I have quoted Humpty Dumpty in the past. It does not, in any sense, undermine the warp and woof of international law, rather the opposite. What I think undermines international law is to conclude a series of agreements providing for universal jurisdiction over conduct which everybody agrees is unacceptable in any circumstances and then say that it can't be enforced. You have to think, for a moment, about what would have been the effect had the Pinochet case gone the other way. Because on the basis on which it was argued, the manner in which the immunity question was considered, the alternative to the decision that the Lords did take would be to say that every official and former official enjoys immunity from the jurisdiction of courts from other countries in respect of torture. At the same time as the Torture Convention says every other country has an obligation to exercise jurisdiction over such people. If you can reconcile that, you'll do very well in your exams.

"...no one has accused Tony Blair of being engaged in the torture of over half a million people, which was what lay at the heart of the Pinochet matter."

being an immunity is incompatible with the nature of that crime. But I accept that it wasn't discussed when the Torture Convention was drafted. I went through the travaux préparatoires of the Torture Convention with a toothcomb and it appears that the question of immunity was never discussed at all.

AV: Isn't it implicit in the desire to try Senator Pinochet in Spain the assumption that Chileans are incapable of doing it themselves?

CG: I don't think so. And indeed they are now trying Senator Pinochet, although one hesitates to be confident that it will go

"...there are times that governments have to be judged by what they say, not what they do."

ahead given his age. All I can say is that at the time he was arrested here in 1998, Chile had shown no sign of taking criminal action against him.

AV: States have often granted general amnesties and immunity to rebels and government officials who have committed criminal acts during periods of political unrest. Does the Pinochet judgment allow British courts to undo or otherwise overrule these agreements?

CG: There are two points about that. First of all, a general point: the United Nations Secretary General and the Special Court for Sierra Leone have said that a state only has the power to grant amnesty in respect

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The clothing revolucion

Evan Sparks debates the cult culture of political apparel, from Che t-shirts to Stalin buttons to Prince Harry's recent choice of fancy dress costume.

My first reaction upon seeing Prince Harry dressed as a Nazi soldier for a recent fancy dress party was one of bemused disapproval; he is just not a very well-behaved royal, is he?

But then bad behaviour doesn't even begin to countenance the nature of the uniform he was wearing. At that party, Prince Harry bore the insignia of a regime which killed two-thirds of Europe's Jews simply because of their ethnicity, targeted the disabled, Slavs, Roma, homosexuals, and devout Christians and whose military aggression set off World War II. The Nazi regime well deserves its place in the calumnies of those who value human rights.

"But then again – perhaps we need not be too hard on jolly Prince Hal. After all, he might have gotten the idea from seeing an LSE student wearing a Lenin button."

But then again – perhaps we need not be too hard on jolly Prince Hal. After all, he might have gotten the idea from seeing an LSE student wearing a Lenin button or a Che t-shirt and decided: "Wearing the apparel of a thug or a mass murderer? Smashing!" It is just this proliferation of mass-murderer chic which concerns me.

Around the world, today's universities, left-wing cities and tourist zones are full of

people glorifying dictators and thugs in their dress. T-shirts bearing the upturned and heroic visage of Ernesto 'Che' Guevara are especially in vogue. Do people who wear those shirts know what he did? He was the chief henchman of Fidel Castro (himself an icon), who established the Cuban labour camps, in which he imprisoned 'state enemies,' which included librarians, artists, gays, and Blacks. He was a revolutionary indeed, but once his revolution had succeeded he assisted in setting up one of the most repressive regimes in the Western Hemisphere. Once he had helped Castro set up the new Cuban regime, he became rather anti-revolutionary. Freedom fighter, my eye. Next time you see someone sporting Guevara's image, ask him if he supports summary firing squad executions of political dissidents.

Another popular figure is Josef Stalin, who appears on posters, t-shirts and other memorabilia. Stalin items are a hot seller at, of all places, Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin. Stalin's legacy includes the revitalisation of the Soviet *gulag* as a 'camp-industrial complex.' Anne Applebaum, the noted historian of the *gulag*, estimates that some 18 million Soviet citizens served time in the camp system and that 15 million more experienced forced labour for the state. Many of these unfortunates were political dissidents, but far more were common criminals or people sentenced for odd crimes like arriving late for work. Stalin ordered purges of the Communist party, initiating the 'Great Terror' of the late 1930s - convicting at least four million people of 'crimes against the state' in show trials and executing over 700,000.

Stalin and Guevara are not the only dictators to appear on popular apparel. One can find the images of Vladimir Ilich Lenin, Fidel Castro and Saddam Hussein emblazoned on various clothing items. Mao Tse-Tung is popular too, feted despite (or because of) the ill-conceived Great Leap Forward and the active persecution of the Cultural Revolution. A low estimate of Mao's death toll is 40 million. With precedents like this, it surely won't be long



An alternative costume: Harry at a "commies and lefties" party. Graphic: James Upsher

before the late dictator Kim Il Sung is revered on the clothes of Westerners and not just by unwilling North Koreans.

ought not glorify them. Full stop. It will not do to gloss over the crimes of dictators just because we agree with their political agenda. Although I generally approve of Chilean strongman Augusto Pinochet's economic policies, I can neither condone nor justify his rule because of his repressive tactics, use of torture and violent power grab. I shall not be seen sporting a Pinochet t-shirt.

I know a man who lives in Seattle, one of America's most leftist cities. Growing tired of seeing people sport 'dictator chic' unchallenged, he approached a lady wearing a Stalin pin one day. With a big smile, he congratulated her on her choice of pin: "I see you're wearing a Stalin pin! That's great. You know, that Stalin was a terrific guy." The woman started to nod as my still-smiling acquaintance continued, "You gotta love a man who sends people to die in Arctic camps for no reason, executes his political opponents and exports world Communism. Keep up the good work!" Still grinning, he went on his way. Like my friend, we must find effective ways to relay the truth about our political icons. We must be honest about history and face facts. Most of all, we must not be hypocritical in condemning people like Prince Harry while wearing our Lenin buttons.

Prince Harry deserves criticism for his costume decision. However many of those who would denounce him for his choice in apparel need to remove the beams from their own eyes first.

"It will not do to gloss over the crimes of dictators just because we agree with their political agenda."

So when will we get a bit of historical perspective? Hitler was evil, absolutely. His ideology and methods were heinous and still are when they surface today. But it does not diminish our horror at the Nazi regime to be equally harsh about other villains, dictators, and thugs of the 20th century who have been lionised in the eyes of many Westerners. Let's not be hypocrites about dictators and thugs – if they oppose human rights and political dissent, lock up the innocent, execute their political opponents and are enslaved to a rigid ideology of state glorification or racial purity, we



Would Che have risked this social faux-pas? Graphic: James Upsher

Olympics 2012:

Why should we back your bid?

Jimmy Tam, who will be chairing a debate on the bid next Tuesday, speaks to five LSE students from the candidate cities to find out why we should back their bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games.

New York:

The facts: The Games have never come to New York, but the USA has hosted more Olympics (four) and won more medals (2,380) than any other country. The American Olympics were in 1904 in St. Louis, then Los Angeles in 1932 and 1984, and most recently Atlanta in 1996. The odds of New York 2012 are 14-1.

The backer: *Ali Oveissi* is doing his masters in Comparative Politics (Empire Studies) and is chair of the American Society.

Why should we back New York's bid?

To host one of the world's greatest events, certainly merits a good reason. Even though we're all familiar with the manifest - physical achievement - side of the Games, there are deeper reasons for why the Games hold such a sacred place in our collective history. When the games first began, there was an element of peace involved. Truce was agreed upon, hostilities were set aside and a love for human achievement was celebrated. This would be an honour to any of the competing cities. But why New York? Because it's one metropolis that rules them all! Seriously though, if you want to get detailed information why New York is ready from an operations standpoint just check out www.nyc2012.com, and read the organisation's 600-page candidature bid.

How would New York benefit from hosting the Olympics?

Off the top of my head, a tourism boost, investment opportunities for businesses in construction and transportation, a chance to showcase the city for the world to see, etc. The same benefits any other host would enjoy. Which of the cities has the greatest need for investment? That's another question...

Tell us something interesting about your country.
American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987

by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first-class. Imagine how efficiently the Olympics would be managed.

What does New York have that the other four cities don't?

I don't know, seven letters.

Any negative impacts or weaknesses to New York's bid?

I'm afraid I'm forbidden to answer such a question.

If you had to vote for one of the other four cities, which one would it be and why?

London! London, just like NYC, is one of the most diverse and influential culture capitals of the world. In my opinion, London and Londoners deserve all the far reaching benefits that hosting the Olympic Games would bring.

There is no doubt that London would stage exceptional Olympic games. The diversity which characterises the capital has always been celebrated, 2012 would be no exception. Every competing nation in the Games would find enthusiastic local supporters across the whole of London just as they would back home. There isn't much you won't find, feel, see, experience in London and sport is one area where the city has a lot to offer.

Such an opportunity would not only be culturally exciting, it would also create the perfect climate for change that London desperately needs. Many areas of the East End depict a derelict picture of neglected industrial terrain, poor housing and high unemployment. Hosting the games would provide these neighbourhoods with the regeneration that Olympic cities like Barcelona and Athens already witnessed. In 2012, the East End could be home to a state of the art stadium and a new Olympic village of thousands of new homes. The social benefits these parts of London could reap are priceless.

What do you think New York's chances are?

I figure events of this magnitude involve a lot of politics, and New York - for better or worse - has a strong hand in such phenomena.

London:

The facts: London, the British capital and home to 7.2million people, has hosted the Olympics twice before - first in 1908 and then again in 1948, bringing the games back after World War II. London's currently the 3-1 second favourite (according to bookmakers Ladbrokes).

The backers: *Natalie Black*, our esteemed UGM chair, is in her third year of International Relations. *John Cox* is in his second year of Economic History and a member of 1st XV Rugby. They are student ambassadors for the London 2012 bid.

Why should we back London's bid?

London and the UK as a whole, has a lot to offer. Although we haven't hosted the games since 1948 we have shown we can put on large sporting events like the Commonwealth Games in Manchester and Euro '96 and make them a success. Bringing the Olympics here would be a great opportunity to show off what we can do and give sport across the country an extra boost, particularly in schools and local communities. Some people are worried about the cost of hosting it but no Olympics has run up a deficit since Montreal.

How would London benefit from the Olympics?

London would benefit massively. Everyone agrees East London, in particular, needs regeneration and the bid will speed it along bringing resources that would not usually be available. We will see the regeneration of the Lower Lea Valley, an

improved transport system and world class sporting facilities. Barcelona is a great example of how an Olympic can transform a city for the better. But the benefits would not be limited to London. Many of the events will happen outside the capital and companies and people from across the country will be involved.

Tell me something interesting about London.

London is probably the most cosmopolitan place in the world - more than 300 different languages are spoken here.

What's London got that the other four cities don't?

London is a tourist destination in its own right. There is so much to see and do, whether it's tea with the Queen, a bit of tennis at Wimbledon or some protesting on Parliament Square. The Olympics would be an added bonus.

What are London's weaknesses?

Probably the weather.

If you had to go for one of the other four cities, which one and why?

New York, for the shopping shopping!

What do you think are London's chances?

At the moment we are the second favourite. We have a good chance because we really want it - nearly two-thirds of Londoners are currently backing the bid (according to an ICM poll). This is because our proposal takes account of the factors affecting the people who have to live in London when the Olympics have gone, making sure it would be the most community and environmentally friendly Olympics ever!

Moscow:

The facts: Moscow has hosted the Olympics once - in 1980, when Aleksandr Dityatin won a record eight medals and US president Jimmy Carter led an American boycott of the games. The Russian capital, home to 11.2million, is 33-1 outsiders to be chosen by the IOC for 2012.

The backer: Former High Holborn president *Anna Sourina* hails from Moscow and is a second year student of Management.

Why should we back Moscow's bid?

Having hosted the 1980 Olympic Games and over a hundred World and European Championships, Moscow has unparalleled experience in hosting international sports events. In addition, Russia has always been seriously and passionately involved in sports: Moscow alone is home to over 500 Olympic gold medalists.

Setting up the Games along the Moscow River (with sporting venues on each side) will not only provide a spectacular backdrop for the Games but will also facilitate fast and efficient travel for athletes, press and spectators. In addition, Moscow has one of the best metro systems in the world.

How would Moscow benefit from hosting

the Olympics?

It would benefit the economy, improve infrastructure, increase tourism and provide positive international exposure.

Tell us something interesting about Moscow.

Contrary to popular belief it is not freezing cold in Moscow all year round. In summer it can be as warm as 30°C!

What does Moscow have that the other four cities don't?

More than 90 per cent of Russians supported the bid in a recent opinion poll, making it the candidate city that is best supported by its own people.

Any weaknesses to Moscow's bid?

It will be very costly as a lot of the facilities will need to be upgraded and new ones built.

If you had to vote for one of the other four cities, which one would it be and why?

London, because it is working so hard to promote the bid.

What do you think of Moscow's chances?

I think that because of the fact that Moscow has hosted the Olympic Games relatively recently (compared to the other candidate cities), the city's chances of winning may be less than that of its competitors.

Paris:

The facts: 1900 and 1924 saw the Olympics come to Paris. The 1900 Games were the first to include female competitors, whilst 1924 saw American swimmer Johnny Weissmuller win four medals, before going on to play Tarzan in twelve Hollywood movies. The French capital is the 2-5 odds-on favourite to host 2012.

The backer: Parisian *Jacques Lebel* is a second year International Relations and History student. He's sub-editor for *The Script* (latest issue out now!) and head of marketing for China Development Society; China is, of course, hosting the 2008 Olympics.

Why should we back Paris's bid?

All would agree that Paris is a world level capital, if not the world capital, for all aspects of culture. As well as its well known aesthetic qualities and fantastic atmosphere, Paris benefits from one of the best and cheapest transport systems, food and overall cost of life. Furthermore Paris is only two and a half hours away from London by Eurostar. All of this means that going to the Games would be a convenient and affordable option for all LSE students.

How would Paris benefit from hosting the games?

Paris already enjoys such a widespread high profile as a centre of culture and tourism, it would be good if it could diversify its image, show that it has also always been a home to all kinds of sports.

What does Paris have that the other four cities don't?

Paris's main advantage is that most of the

key Olympic facilities are already in place. These include such prestigious venues as the Stade de France (built for the 1998 Football World Cup) and Roland-Garros. I think Paris has also made the most of its architectural wonders. Whether it be beach volley beneath the Eiffel Tower, or cycling and shooting near the Royal Palace of Versailles, all are sure to be once in a lifetime experiences for both athletes and spectators.

Tell us something interesting about Paris.

What amazes me the most about Paris is that it's the perfect city in so many ways, that all the world admires it and visitors adore it; and yet the French still find reasons to complain about it all the time!! You can call that the luxury of being French, I guess...

Any weaknesses to Paris's bid?

I'm sure the people in charge of defending other cities' bids can think of some!

If you had to vote for one of the other four cities, which one would it be and why?

London of course! You just need to look at an LSE brochure to know what a great place London is!! Haha.

What do you think of Paris's chances?

The general feeling is that Paris is the current favourite, after scoring highly when the Olympic Committee evaluated the bids in May. I think we've learned the lessons from our 2008 failure and concentrated on what Paris can bring to the Games, not the opposite. Though we have reasons to remain confident, we should also bear in mind that our competitors include other prestigious and cosmopolitan cities, and that in the end what really matters is that the most suitable city is chosen. In my personal opinion, however, that city is undeniably Paris.

Madrid:

your car into the Olympic village. Madrid's never hosted the Olympics before. We were up for it in '72 but we lost it to Munich.

Tell me something interesting about Spain.

One of the biggest misconceptions about Spain is the siesta. In practice, only 2% of the population take it!

What's Madrid got that other four cities don't?

Compared to London at least, everything in Madrid is central and close by. It's easy to get to places and it's not complicated. In London you've got six different transport zones and all sports centres are outside zone 1.

All Madrid's sports centres are in the city centre. The Bernabeu Stadium is right in the centre of the city and that's where they're planning to hold the football games.

What are Madrid's weaknesses?

If it all goes according to plan, I think it should be great. The only thing about Spain is that nothing ever goes to plan - things always take longer than they're supposed to!

If you had to go for one of the other four cities, which one and why?

Paris. Because they have most of the venues in place already. They hosted the World Cup in '98 successfully. I read on the website that they plan on having beach volleyball under the Eiffel Tower and I'd like to see that!

What are Madrid's chances?

I saw on the BBC website that we're second favourite so I think we have a good chance of getting it.

The facts: A city made up of 5.6million people, the Spanish capital has never hosted the Olympics, although Barcelona hosted the Games in 1992. Current odds: 6-1 (third favourite).

The backer: Third year lawyer *Natasha Sharoff* was born and raised in Madrid and is chair of the Spanish Society.

Why should we back Madrid's bid?

Madrid's one of the most amazing cities in Spain and it's really cosmopolitan - one of the most cosmopolitan cities in Spain. Everyone focuses on Barcelona in '92; Barcelona's known as one of the most cultural cities in Spain but Madrid's not far behind.

We have 70% of the sporting facilities already built. Madrid's got all of its sports centres in the centre of the city. Our transport system is a great way to get around. Nothing's too far away. Airport's 12 minutes from the city and they've got tonnes of accommodation and we would be able to find space for the amount of people who would visit for the Olympics.

How would Madrid benefit from the Olympics?

Ever since they proposed the candidacy they've created more green space, improved transport and infrastructure and built new sports facilities. They've invested 800-900million euros in new sports venues and hotels to accommodate 30,000 more rooms.

They're also proposing a car-friendly Games because there'll be special Olympic transport lanes, so you don't have to bring

Not everything is "Irie Mon"



Graphics Editor, *Stacy-Marie Ishmael*, takes issue with the stereotyping of the Caribbean islands.

Deadlocks do not a Rasta, nor even a Jamaican, make. Indeed, not even the combination of sporting dreads, owning every Bob Marley album ever released on the Island label and supporting the campaign to decriminalise cannabis would qualify one for membership of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. In the same vein, the mere fact of being naturally tanned even in the depths of winter, possessing a vaguely 'Caribbean' accent and never being embarrassed to be seen on the dance floor does not justify being hailed with "Jamaica Mon!" at every turn.

The 'ideal' LSE student - leaving aside for a moment the usual investment banker barbs - is supposed to be a multilingual, multicultural, well travelled, socially and politically aware individual. At least 60 percent of the students here ought to fit that description, if the propaganda about the LSE being such a 'wonderfully international' place is to be believed. However, the ridiculous number of times I have been forced to contend with woeful levels of ignorance about the world outside of Houghton Street suggests that these supposed movers and shakers of the future need to spend less time in the Tuns or the library and more time in the real world.

Snippets of conversation unfortunately overheard have included, "St. Lucia? Huh?" and "Trinidad? Isn't that in Spain?"

Well, no, actually. The irritation experienced by a national of a 'tiny insignificant island nation' or a 'backward banana economy' upon being forced to endure yet another instance of appalling geographical or historical blindness might be difficult for someone from a so-called First World country to understand. Unless, of course, some poor under-informed soul blithely opines that "All Germans are Nazis" or makes a disparaging remark about the bathing habits of those dastardly Froggies. Extra points should be awarded if either of those is expressed by a General Course student wearing flip-flops in February.

"The suggestion that someone from Barbados is unlikely to be stressed during an essay week because 'you people are always so chilled out man!' is accepted as gospel truth."

To say that certain ethnic groups at the LSE are spectacularly unsociable and generally prone to stellar marks in Econometrics would be roundly con-

demned as un-PC. On the other hand, the suggestion that someone from Barbados is unlikely to be stressed during an essay week because 'you people are always so chilled out man!' is accepted as gospel truth.

In 2002, Abercrombie & Fitch released a line of t-shirts depicting slant-eyed Asian laundromat owners - the Brothers Wong, complete with rice-picker hats - and bearing the slogan "Two Wongs Can Make It White." The furor that erupted nationwide forced the company to pull the offending shirts off the shelves, and did permanent damage to the brand. On the other hand, the recent Malibu rum commercials depicting easy-going islanders spoofing 'uptight Western behaviour' - experiencing road rage while stuck in donkey-cart traffic jams for example, are being hailed as witty and creative. To many people from the Caribbean, however, these ads are 'seriously offensive' rather than 'seriously easy going.' Such commercials, with their depiction of mirthful 'natives' in floral shirts lolling on white-sand beaches reinforce the view that the Caribbean is nothing more than a tourist destination. Yes, of course, and London is all tea and fog.

There is an even more prevalent and equally egregious notion that 'there are only black people in the Caribbean,' and annoyingly, that we all speak with a Jamaican accent. The Caribbean is a diverse region - culturally, ethnically and historically. Equating a Trinidadian with a Bajan (or even a Tobagonian) is like assimilating the Italians with the French, or the Hungarians with the Poles. Equally widespread is the belief that Reggae is 'our'

national music, that Kevin Lyttle is a 'dancehall artiste' and that 'Sean Paul is the greatest thing out of Jamaica since Bob Marley.'

These may seem like minor quibbles, but they must be viewed as contributing to a dismissal of the region and its people as 24-hour party animals or as lazy, backward weed-smokers basking in tropical paradise. Hurricanes aside, the weather is generally stellar, but for most Caribbean nationals, 'home' is no untroubled paradise. Violent crime, AIDS and economic hardship exist alongside athletic, artistic and musical triumph.

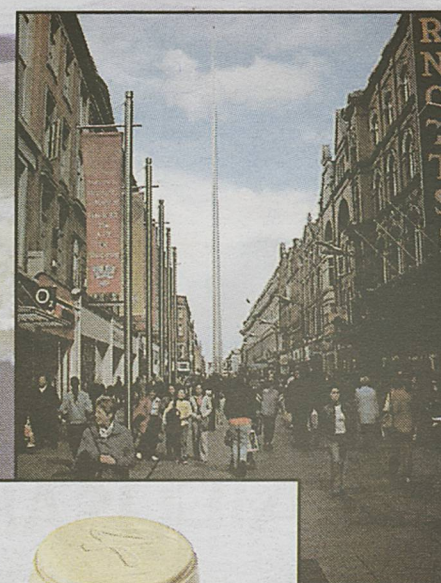
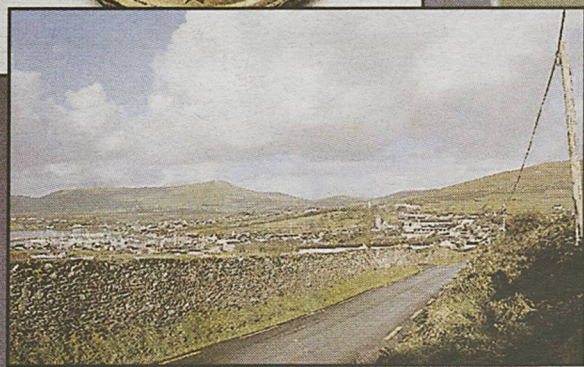
Trinidad may have given the world the steel pan, the only musical instrument invented in the 20th century, and Carnival, 'the Greatest Show on Earth,' but it is also plagued with a kidnapping rate that is second only to Colombia. Haiti, the second independent nation in the Western hemisphere (after America) and the first 'Free Black Republic,' has the highest incidence of AIDS outside of sub-Saharan Africa and is crippling impoverished. Jamaican accessories - witness Puma, or the Dior 'Rasta' collection - are adored by urban style gurus everywhere, but the 'metrosexuals' amongst them would never be accepted by a culture that is violently homophobic.

It is this duality, this Caribbean dialectic, with which the world must come to terms. One-dimensional perspectives of the region, whether as islands exotic or underdeveloped ghettos, are neither accurate nor beneficial. It is time for the world to recognize that there is more to being an 'islander' than palm trees and rum punch.

International

International Correspondents: Stefanie Khaw and Kristin Solberg

Focus on: Ireland



The Starting Point:

Our two subjects share some of their initial knowledge of Ireland

Alan's Ireland Facts:

It's the most globalised country in the world. The journal Foreign Affairs has an index every year, and I was surprised to see that Ireland's been on top for the last three years.

Apparently we drink more tea than anywhere else in the world.

There are four million people living in Ireland. Yet there are 70 million Irish passports circulating around the world.

The Economist rated Ireland the best country in the world to live in.

I can drive from the west coast to the east coast in three hours.

On our road signs the distances are given in kilometres, but the speed limits are in miles per hour. Just to confuse tourists.

The last two presidents were women. Mary Robinson was the first one.



Medical students, Riverdance and Angela's Ashes. Irishman Alan Brouder talks to Vivien Lim about his home country.

What's the country's main import?

Vivien: Don't know.

Alan: People at the moment.

Vivien: How about beef?

Alan: We're actually the world's greatest exporter of beef. I guess we import foreign capital.

Vivien: And medical students. I know so many international students that study medicine in Ireland.

And the main export?

Vivien: Whiskey. Definitely.

Alan: It's software actually.

Vivien: Software? You're joking?

Alan: It's actually American, but they produce it in Ireland.

Vivien: So you take all the credit?

Alan: Yes, and all the cash.

How many alcohol units do the average Irish person drink a week?

Vivien: Ten pints a day or something.

Alan: Hehe, God, it must be hundreds.

And how many Irish people per pub?

Vivien: There are loads of pubs. Probably one pub per five people. And there are locals staring you down when you're a newcomer.

Alan: They say that the average Irish town has one church, two schools and 55 pubs.

What's the entertainment scene like?

Vivien: There's that Irish dance, that jiggle one with a lot of kicking - Riverdance.

Alan: Yes, there's a lot of footwork in Riverdance, but the upper body is pretty stiff. Riverdance actually started as interval entertainment during the Eurovision song contest.

Vivien: Can you do it?

Alan: Everybody can when they're drunk.

What's Ireland's history with England?

Vivien: Fighting. They were fighting and

they're still fighting.

Alan: There's 800 years of history there. They tried to colonise us for 400 years. In the late 16th, early 17th century they finally managed it. 26 out of 32 counties got their independence in 1920.

Vivien: All I know of Irish history is from the book Angela's Ashes. It's pretty bleak.

How liberal are the Irish? What do they think about gay rights, abortion and pornography for example?

Vivien: They're loads more conservative than here - they don't have a Soho area. I guess they're anti-abortion. Pornography - that's everywhere, but they probably have less sex shops.

Alan: Well, Ireland was very conservative until 10-15 years ago. The rural areas are still pretty conservative, but one third of the population live in Dublin. There's been a huge change in the last 10-15 years. Abortion is illegal, but people go to England to do it. There were 177,000 abortions in England last year, and thousands of them must be Irish. Divorce was legalised in 1995.

What can you tell us about Boyzone?

Vivien: Not Ireland's greatest export, but pioneers of the boy bands.

Alan: They're English, aren't they, hehe. Well, Westlife's Irish as well, together they're our national embarrassments.

What's the Irish national sport?

Vivien: Football?

Alan: Drinking, hehe. No, we have three national sports. The first is Gaelic football, where you can use your hands as well as feet. The second is hurling, that to an American means vomiting.

Vivien: Is that where you turn wood?

Alan: No, that's Scottish. Hurling's like football, but you use a stick to pick up the ball with. They say it's the fastest field sport in the world. The third sport is handball. It's not like Scandinavian handball; it's like squash, but without racquets.

Vivien's Ireland 'Facts':

Funny names. Places have funny, long names.

Don't they have those little weird monster creatures? Leprechauns. They made a movie out of it.

Fighting. The IRA bombings.

Shit weather.





Making our charity as effective as possible

Prashant Joshi examines the motivations which drive us to donate in the wake of the Asian tsunami.

In the wake of the catastrophe caused by the Asian tsunami, the whole world responded by giving aid to the devastated regions. The huge amount raised through charity by the UK public was outstanding, even on the international scale. People are suffering severely whilst others in the Western world are experiencing severe disappointment because they could not find a suitable coloured scarf to go with their new designer coat for this season. Natural disasters have occurred since time immemorial and are inevitabilities which as we have seen are far beyond any sort of human precedence. Humans have often helped each other in such times to rebuild civilisations. It is the same principle of charity and compassion which is being called for and shown today. This article will look at charity from a deeper perspective and how we can adapt the motives which drive us to donate in order to maximise the effectiveness of our charity.

The scale of the disaster was so big that it left many pondering philosophical questions about life. Negative events often cause people to re-assess their priorities which is productive in the sense that it unveils a better direction. Who could have the immense power to preside over such an event? Why did this happen? Swami Krishnapada, in *Leadership for an Age of*

Higher Consciousness once said "everything has a purpose - There are no coincidences. We are subject to spiritual law similar to the law of physics: every action produces a corresponding reaction. Therefore we can try to discover the lesson in every occurrence." The loss of life has been unimaginable, but the amount of love which has come about through peoples' views, their charity and their feelings has also been tremendous. There is much suffering and misery in this material world. In the ancient Indian text, the Bhagawad-Gita, the Supreme Lord Krishna says "I am all-devouring death and I am the generating principle of all that is yet to be." This may not sound too nice, but the reality of this material world often is not nice. The media in the West often cleans up the footage we see and we still think its bad.

Charity means to help, to give, or donate. When people with excessive mate-

"The scale of the disaster was so big that it left many pondering philosophical questions about life."

rial see those who do not have the 'necessities' needed to ensure survival, it is an instinctive characteristic for us to feel compassion towards them. If we have the ability to help others, especially if it does not cause us much harm, then why shouldn't we do it? The public has taken to this principle very well and it is very fortunate this is so. We live in a world where governments exercise almost exclusive power in handling global issues. It is arguable as to what extent the public influences decisions the government makes on global issues. The mood of compassion and hence charity was the instinctive reaction to the tsunami and the governments slowly but surely caught onto this and offered much help. After collecting outside Houghton Street, the responses that I have seen from people are to be praised and although the suffering regions will have to endure a long rebuilding process, there lies an opportunity for the West to realise that compassionate charity is an act of the highest level.

Love, compassion, forgiveness, selflessness and truthfulness are credentials that exhibit positive energy. Charity is an act which encapsulates these credentials and this is why charity is important in all religion. Islam has the concept of *zakat* (charity), which is emphasised in the Holy Qur'an. In the ancient Indian text, the Bhagawad-Gita, the Supreme Lord says "Acts of sacrifice, charity and penance are not to be given up; They must be performed. Indeed, sacrifice, charity and penance purify even the great souls. All these activities should be performed without attachment or any expectation of

result. They should be performed as a matter of duty." After such a huge disaster, people can see that it isn't humans calling the shots. There is a greater force. The Supreme Lord says "I am the cause of all causes." Ultimately, if we want help we need the mercy of God. God resides inside the heart of every living entity and he knows your real intent. He knows about every act and also every thought - the Holy Qur'an refers to Allah as the All-hearer, All-knower, All-Mighty and Most Merciful. If charity is given in order to please the Lord, it is likely He will be more merciful upon us and the aid work will be more successful.

Disasters can be seen as calls for compassion and help. Charity is a class act by any standard, and is therefore strongly encouraged by God in religious messages of all faiths. Charity is something which is most effective when it invokes the mercy of the Lord, who we have seen to be all-powerful. The most effective motive for our charity is to help the other children of God who are in need of necessities, not because five other people have put their change into the bucket and it is embarrassing if we don't. Natural disasters often bring about a sense of universality and love. Nations will help each other and differences will be put aside as priorities change. We are all here on earth together as part of the human race and this disaster gives the world a lasting opportunity to express love for all. Although recovery is hard and the event is difficult to come to terms with, it has already exposed some of the divine qualities which still shine amongst humanity.



Public health in the post-tsunami Asia



Dimitrios Rovithis maintains that after the tsunami, conditions such as cholera, diarrhoea and malaria remain a major threat which can claim even more victims.

The number of people who have died in the Asian tsunami is incomprehensible to most of us. The worst may be yet to come however, because of the serious health consequences. In the wake of the recent tsunami, health experts and emergency response teams are working feverishly to provide what Europeans take for granted each day: clean, safe drinking water.

Access to clean drinking water is now the biggest single factor in determining whether the Asian tsunami will claim yet more victims. Health officials warn that widespread damage to sanitation systems and the overcrowded conditions of temporary settlements springing up throughout southern Asia are adding to the risk of disease outbreak. Consider the following worrying fact: even if a tsunami-related disease outbreak is entirely averted, three weeks from today more than 125,000 people across the globe will have died from waterborne disease, most of them children. In a month, the immediate loss of life associated with the tsunami will likely be surpassed by the number of people dying from drinking unsafe water. Rob Holden, operations manager for Health Action in Crises,

the programme will draw on the experiences of Indonesian counsellors who have responded to earlier social crises, including the brutal separatist struggle in East Timor and unrest in the Moluccas.

Meanwhile, health experts warn that it will take years to rebuild health infrastructure in the tsunami-devastated parts of Asia. According to the WHO Southeast Asia director Samlee Plianbangchang, in some places 60 percent of clinics and hospitals have been destroyed by the waves, resulting in massive deaths among medical workers. Indicative of the situation is the fact that one military hospital in Aceh had about 100 medical personnel including doctors, but after the tsunami only 10 of them survived! Samlee Plianbangchang also added that "basic health services should be rehabilitated by the end of 2006."

All that said, Dr. David Nabarro, head of crisis operations at the WHO, emphasises that "unless the necessary funds are urgently mobilized and coordinated in the field we could see as many fatalities from diseases as we have seen from the actual disaster itself."

On the same wavelength, Dr William Greenough of the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, believes that the WHO estimate is entirely accurate. According to Dr Greenough the outbreak of certain diseases, usually occurs several weeks after a natural disaster. Cases of cholera for example, "would peak in about 12 weeks."

Other experts however, appear sceptical about the above statements and are deeply concerned about misconceptions and inaccurate information regarding threats — real and imagined — to public health. Stephen Morse, an epidemiologist of the School of Public Health at Columbia University in New York believes that the above statement can be interpreted differently; "It's impossible to make a prediction like that" he said. "I do think that the point the WHO is trying to get at is the potentiality for these diseases, especially infectious diseases, to become major problems if we don't anticipate and manage these diseases," he added.

Furthermore, some experts in the medical community believe that comments regarding a high death count from diseases like cholera, typhoid fever and malaria may be difficult to substantiate and this is mainly due to the fact that for diseases like dengue fever and malaria, the greatest health risks are to the relief workers as most of the native adult population in these countries is already immune. Regarding the disposal of bodies which local officials have made a high priority following the tsunami, they also argue that contrary to the popular belief, "it's not an immediate or large public health risk" as the dead did not die of infectious disease.

Whoever is right what is important, is that the next time we turn on the tap and enjoy a glass of fresh, clean water, let's remember all those people deprived of such a simple commodity. If governments, businesses and citizens could respond to Asia's tsunami crisis with the same generosity they have to the spending for defence equipment, we could greatly diminish the daily drama that is currently taking place in Asia.

"Access to clean drinking water is now the biggest single factor in determining whether the Asian tsunami will claim yet more victims."

part of the Geneva-based World Health Organisation (WHO), said cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases contracted by drinking polluted water, which can lead to life-threatening dehydration, can be prevented as long as adequate supplies and delivery systems are quickly put in place.

Among the waterborne ailments linked to floods, the WHO cites bacterial and viral diseases such as typhoid fever, hepatitis A and leptospirosis, the latter of which can be spread through the urine of rodents attracted to flood debris. Other health dangers may also lurk. Standing water for instance, can provide an ideal breeding spot for mosquitoes carrying the malarial parasite, or the viruses that cause yellow or dengue fever. While temporary shelters can leave inhabitants exposed to the elements and mosquitoes, increasing their chances of falling ill.

Mental health is also a serious concern. In the wake of the tsunami disaster, Indonesia is launching its biggest ever mental health drive for traumatised survivors many of whom have never heard of psychological counselling before. More specifically, Indonesia has launched a £75,000 programme funded by the WHO, to establish guidelines for treating survivors and send counsellors to affected areas. In cooperation with the Indonesian Psychiatric Association and other groups,

Your Guide to What's On This Week

Political

LSE SU PICE Society

Panel Discussion on India's Economic Prospects: The Indian Century from three perspectives.

Dr Pulapre Balakrishnan is an Economics Professor at the Indian Institute of Management and a regular columnist for the Financial Express. Malay Mukherjee, a veteran of the steel industry, is the COO and President of Mittal Steel. Kamallesh Sharma is the High Commissioner of India to the UK and has held various diplomatic assignments including permanent representative of India to the U.N.

The event is free with no ticket required. 6-7pm, Hong Kong Theatre

Entertainment

LSE SU ChillOut society

Talk on Creative Meditation
By Ms Arti from the Inner Space UK

6-7pm, G210

LSE SU Live Music Society

Open Mic Event
The Underground Bar
7 pm onwards...

Members Free (with membership card)
Non Members 2 quid

Form bands, perform in front of a live audience, discover hidden talent and lis-

ten to the best music LSE has to offer! We hold fortnightly Open Mic events, where everyone is welcome no matter what musical ability or taste.

E-mail Hemant at
Su.Soc.Livemusic@lse.ac.uk to play or for further details...

LSE SU Alternative Entertainments Society

Are you an entertainer or just up for lots of fun?

Then you should definitely come to our practises down in the Old Gym on Tuesdays 2-3pm and Thursdays 1-2pm. We do juggling, balloon modelling, diabolo,

poi, yo-yo, devil sticks, manipulations with fire props, aerials and face painting. We are also open for suggestions, if there is any activity you would like to do. If you have any questions please contact society president (Jana) at
j.zolotarevskaia@lse.ac.uk

LSE SU Salsa Society

Everyone is truly welcomed to join the Salsa Society. We have classes weekly ranging from beginners, improvers, intermediate to advance!

The classes are as follows:
Tuesday : SOUND, Leicester Sq
7.30-9.30pm

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Political

Maths & Stats Soc

Homework Helping Session
1-3pm, S221

Subjects include: MA100, MA103, MA200, MA201, MA203, MA208, EC102, EC202, EC210, EC221, ST102, ST202, PoF.

1-3pm, S221

SU Shop - Special Offers

Snopake - 6 Part slim organiser - Was £3.49, now £2.99

Snopake - Ringbinders - Two for £3.49

Snopake - Polyfile ringbinder wallet three-pack only £1.99

**Rapesco offers!
Clothing reductions!**

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Political

LSE SU Women's Week

A Women's right to choose - where next for Britain?

A speaker from 'Aborton Rights' will be leading a discussion and debate session on a womens right to choose and the political situation both globally and here in Britain.

6pm, D311

Careers

LSE SU Krishna Consciousness Society
Time Management

Efficiency is the key to excelling. Tried and tested techniques for maximising that one resource that is always limiting us - time. 3rd in the success seminar series. All welcome. With free refreshments.

Contact Nimesh Mistry - 07961 892 742 or email N.Mistry2@lse.ac.uk

7-8pm, H206 (Connaught House)

LSE SU Actuarial Society

Analysis of Future Trends for Actuaries

An intellectual discussion by Julian Reynolds (Actuary, AXA), accompanied by LSE Alumni Andrew Chow, looking into actuarial issues such as the future of With Profits, Mortality improvements and the Savings Gap.

11.30am, G1

Entertainment

LSE SU ChillOut Society

Talk on positive and creative thinking by Professor Ian Pollack

5-6pm, E304

LSE SU Scandinavian Society

Vikings meet Vodka

In the good ol' days, the Vikings conquered various countries in what's now called Europe. They did not only drink beer, as most of you would think, but also massive amounts of vodka.

8pm, The Underground Bar

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Entertainment

LSE SU Salsa Society

Salsa Classes

Everyone is truly welcomed to join the Salsa Society. We have classes weekly ranging from beginners, improvers, intermediate to advance! These stages are conducted every week throughout the year even during the holidays.

8-10pm Ministry of Sound, Elephant and Castle

LSE SU Film Society

Life is Beautiful

A Jewish man has a wonderful romance with the help of his humour, but must use that same quality to protect his son in a Nazi death camp.

Free for members.
£1 for non-members.

7pm, New Theatre

LSE SU Women's Week

Free Yoga Class

No need to apply, just come along for some relaxation at the end of your week.

5pm, D311

Women's Week Crush

To raise awareness of the London wide gender pay gap, which currently stands at 25%, women will be receiving 25% off the entrance charge. From 8pm.

LSE SU International Society

Global Show

The International Society is having its annual Global Show on the 17th and 18th of February.

The society is calling to all hard-working, enthusiastic and motivated people to help them organise a range of events, varying from Choreographers to Audiovisual Team and Night Support.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting mix of performances email us at Su.Soc.International@lse.ac.uk or call Anuschka on 078 4986 1373.

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LSE SU Question Time Society

London 2012 -
Why Should We Back the Bid?

What would backing the capital's bid to host the 2012 Olympics mean to you? Come question our expert panel in our live audience debate and make up your own mind.

Speakers include
Richard Sumray, Chair, London 2012 Forum
Professor Stefan Szymanski, economist,

Imperial College London
Colin Stanbridge, Chief Executive,
London Chamber of Commerce
Chris Rawlinson, British Olympian and
Commonwealth champion, 400m hurdles.

Tuesday 1st February, 1pm-2pm, Old Theatre.

Members' pre-debate lunch reception:
12noon, Underground Bar
KPMG post-debate reception: 2pm,
Underground Bar

Development Week 2005

Financing the Goals: Where is all the Money Going to come from?

Speakers:
Arabella Fraser, Oxfam Research
David Hillman, Tobin Tax Network
Paola Subacchi, Chatham House

Monday 31st January
6.15pm, E171

The MDGs so far - Challenges, Obstacles and Solutions

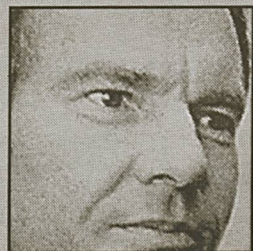
Speakers:
Adrian Wood, Department for
International Development
Dr Margot Salomon, Human Rights
Expert, LSE

Tuesday 1st February
2.30pm, E171

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B:art

Edited by Wejdan Ismail



Film

All-American In
Good Company
p24



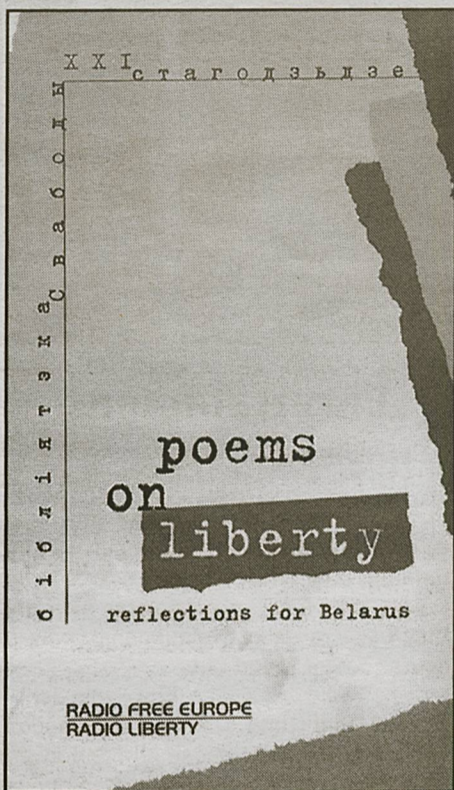
Music

The Prodigy con-
cert reviewed
p28

Poems on Liberty

translated by Vera Rich

ionmartea finds hope for Europe's Heart - Belarus



But things change when by defending your life, your language and your traditions, you risk your life. The breath that keeps you going is taken away from you, and nothing but a quiet frustration keeps lurking in your heart, bringing to the surface only solitary fragments of hope.

It is precisely hope that illuminates through Vera Rich's translation tour-de-force *Poems on Liberty: Reflections for Belarus*. The anthology, which appeared with the support of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, gathers 122 authors from Belarus; all of them with one aspiration: Freedom from Europe's "last dictator". For 365 consecutive days in 2001, the Belarusian service of Radio Liberty gave the opportunity to poets from five continents, from the age of 10 to 92, including exiled artists and Nobel prize winners, to read to the world words that are banned in Alexander Lukashenko's state. In a country in which the president does not speak the national language, even considering it unfit for serious use, the act of writing in Belarusian in itself is a courageous one. Now, the English world has the gift of feeling these beatings of heart, can hear these vibrating voices.



Maksim Bahdanovic (1891-1917)
Belarus' greatest lyric poet,
an inspiration for many modern writers

It is a rare book, that deserves to be treasured for at least two reasons, equally responsible for the book's quality. Firstly, it is an excellent guide to Belarusian poetry, a country which keeps its poets rather hidden from the public eye. The breadth of techniques, diverse use of metaphors, the complex set of ideas (despite the singular theme) – all

Publisher: Radio Free Europe
Release Date: 10 December '04
List Price: £8.00
Paperback 312 pp.

Ukrainian literature by Ukraine's Writers' Union, and having ventured into almost any European language, Rich is particularly tedious about her approach to Belarusian. It is both the heart and the mathematics of a poem that are transplanted almost untouched from one language to another, leaving only the words to gain a different form. We witness the work of a translator who refuses to leave any personal stamp on the original texts, a rather complex task for anyone who's tried translating poetry in particular. Translation, through this book, is confirmed its art status, which is a rather rare achievement in this age of best-sellers.

Usually veritable works of art are not allowed general distribution in the early stage of the game. Freedom is not only about expression, but the economical possibility of the spreading of an idea. Constrained by state (in the case of Belarus) and by market economy (in the UK), there is a risk that the trembling of wings found in *Poems of Liberty* may never take off for a long journey. All there remains is hope though.

"Dear God,
Who made good order and agreement,
let me repent
ahead of time, contain
at least a little
this unbearable pain,
and I'll swap daily bread
for a gulp of freedom."
(Artur Volski, translated by Vera Rich)

Everybody talks about freedom, particularly in the western world. The capitalist society brought the widening of choice; sexual liberation allowed us to express ourselves in the manners we feel most comfortable; the abolition of censorship allowed all kind of ideas to be popularised in many mainstream and alternative art forms. And yet, we all find an excuse to demonstrate that we are not really free. And we complain about it, even by bringing some carefully selected examples from aesthetics or economics, for that matter.

At the end of the day, we all have time to write and publicise our thoughts. If one doesn't like a certain head of state, one writes about it, and gets praised for his arguments by his supporters, or gets a good thrashing from his opponents. But the fact remains that the debate is kept open. And one is free to speak his heart if he feels something is affecting one's well-being.

Freedom - this is the white snow
Spread as a pall on things terrestrial,
Upon sin, hard, blackened thrown
Like a promise, blest, celestial...

Ludka Silnova



Dzmitry Zavadzki
TV journalist, disappeared in Miensk
on 7 July 2004

are to prove that we are witnessing the latest stage in the recognition of a nation's identity. Belarus has a brief history of independence, being mingled continuously between the Russian East and the Polish West, the Lithuanian North and the Ukrainian South. "All my life I've been a 'local'..." is Viktor Svied mentioning at the beginning of his poem, hoping that by the end, the nation will learn the meaning of "Know who we are – and we'll not perish!". The quality of the poetry is unarguably one of a cultured language, aware of its own shortcoming, but in awe of its musicality. By reading *Poems on Liberty* we know that Belarusians will not perish, and this is more than a statement of hope.

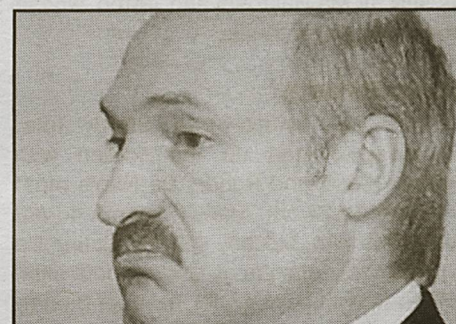
Secondly, there is Vera Rich's translation work. Acclaimed for her contribution to

"Know this:
Striving will freedom produce
Not pleas,
Kneeling,
Nor prayers in profusion,
Only you
Will defend Belarus!
Only you,
Young Belarusians!"

Nil Hilevic

Poems on Liberty can be obtained from:

The Francis Skaryna Belarusian Library
37 Holden Avenue
London N12
Price: £10 (post free)



The Last Dictator
Alexander Lukashenko

film

edited by Sarah Coughtrie and Dani Ismail

**In Good Company**

nataliehusdan finds herself in good...no, we can't do it

Director: Paul Weitz**Starring:** Dennis Quaid, Topher Grace, Scarlett Johansson**Release Date:** 18 February

I watched *Closer* last night and I'm still thinking about it today; the characters, the script, what it said, what it meant. I haven't thought about the film I'm reviewing, *In Good Company*, since the credits rolled and I stood up to leave the fat bloke sat next to me. It was actually a good film, funny at points, well acted, sincere, a few elements were cheesy but not too stinky. But no, it won't blow you away with its originality or hilarity, or make you think or reassess your life, work, relationships

bla bla, as most great films should. However the film achieved its purpose; a fun, cheerful, easy to watch, light comedy.

From brothers Paul and Chris Weitz who co-directed and wrote the screen adaptation of Nick Hornby's *About a Boy*, *In Good Company* features the excellent **Dennis Quaid** as 51 year old Dan Foreman, a good all-American husband, father and boss. Shaken after the news of his wife's unexpected pregnancy and daughter Alex's (**Scarlett Johansson**) decision to attend university in non-suburban, unsafe NYU, Dan's life, however, is going well. Similarly Carter Duryea's (**Topher Grace** - *That 70's Show*) world is rocked when his

wife of seven months leaves him, but at 26 he has just become the new head of ad sales at Sports America, a magazine newly acquired by conglomerate Globecome in their latest ruthless takeover, and he knows he will manage. The problem is that Carter's new job was Dan's old job, who has just been demoted in the takeover. So the dinosaur has been replaced by the whiz kid half his age who he now has to call boss.

The film makes a few jibes at bullshit corporate culture but its main exploration is of the tenuous relationship forged out of necessity between Dan and Carter; Dan needs his job because of the develop-

ments at home, and Carter's job is all he's got. The two slowly begin working together until further turmoil arrives when Carter falls for Dan's daughter Alex and they begin a secret relationship, only of course to get found out.

A good script and strong performances, especially by Quaid whose straightforward presence coupled with subtle emotional depth anchors the film, prevent this film from being typical sweet American mush. It's not a must see, but if you're free on a week night with your boyfriend or a mate, you'll enjoy it and probably go 'ah, that was quite good' at the end.

**In Your Local Cinema...****Elektra**

I just watched *Daredevil* a couple weeks ago, and not even Colin Farrell's yummy accent made up for the lacklustre show that I was in for. With such memories so close at hand, I have not been looking forward to *Elektra*. She has gained supernatural powers, aside from the pure insensitivity that it takes to go about beating up a blind guy, and uses them to fight victims as silly as Ms Halitosis and Tattoo, whose body art comes to life.

Mean Streets

Before *The Aviator* and *Shark Tale*, Scorsese burned up the screen with Harvey Keitel and Robert De Niro's most intimate, raw work. Many it seems do not know this film, but any self-respecting De Niro fan should get it under their skin. Brutal and shocking, not as user-friendly as *Goodfellas*, and not as long as *Gangs*, this is an instant classic.

Ray

Jamie Foxx delivers a superb performance as the late Ray Charles. Covering an ambitious 20-odd years, the film unabashedly uses his best songs to spice up scenes and doesn't shy from the grim story lines - the drugs, the rehab, the sex. Sarah wrote a great review of this last term and is definitely worth reading if you've not got your hands on it. Ray is a brash, unforgiving and simultaneously respectful homage to a well-loved, and missed, singer.

Dear Frankie

A deaf 9 year old keeps in contact with his AWOL father by letter, but it's actually his mother that fashions the replies to his efforts. When the missing father's ship is due to dock by their hometown, however, it appears the façade will be ruined till his mother pays a stranger to pretend to be his father. Sweet, predictable sap.

In Your Local Blockbuster...**Metallica - Some Kind of Monster**

I'm desperate to see this reputedly unintentionally hilarious picture of a group of very rich idiots descend slowly into paranoid, drug induced madness. The excellent Johnny over at Ruthless Reviews proclaimed it "funnier than *Spinal Tap*", which is quite the accolade. Follows the band, who are getting old and cranky, through a hilarious mental breakdown. And don't feel too bad about laughing at them...remember *St Anger*? No? Us neither.

Catwoman

Again with the comic book movies! It's entirely possible that I'm overreacting, but I'm starting to have sweaty nightmares in which every movie released from now until the date of our inevitable deaths will be entirely inhuman, CGI enhanced, probably starring some kind of animal or talking plant life, feature lame nu-metal

soundtracks and the kind of laughable dialogue found in unoriginal, lazy piles of semen like *X-wankers* and *Catwoman*. The anxiety I have to deal with is going to drive me to herbal tea. The other day I smoked a menthol cigarette. A menthol!

Dodgeball - A True Underdog Story

Dani: This really is a rather sad imitation of all the other funnier **Vince Vaughn** and **Ben Stiller** films (even *Old School* and *Zoolander*). Stiller's character is so disgusting and pointless it makes me question the meaning of life. I'd rather see *Anchorman*.

Sarah: Oh, just go read a book or something.

Soul Plane

Don't you have essays to do?

the official film of Red Nose Day 2005!

Racing Stripes

johnmacartney watches charity movie, doesn't pay



This is the sort of film I should hate. It stars **Whoopi Goldberg**, who I will never forgive for Yoko-ing *Cheers*. It has songs from *Sting* and *Bryan Adams*. It is about a zebra in America, where they think it's said zebra. Oddly for a kids' film, it is being released for February half term rather than Christmas or the summer holidays, which suggests it didn't set the world alight upon its American release.

However, my expectations were quite high. It has some big names and will be the official Red Nose Day film, so it will be raising money for an excellent cause, even if my cynical side wonders if this is a ploy to inflate numbers. It is also a

good-hearted children's movie which, although it contains talking animals and CGI, looks charmingly old-fashioned compared to, say, *Shark's Tale*.

The film follows a young zebra named **Stripes** (voiced by *Malcolm in the Middle's* **Frankie Muniz**) who is left behind by a circus, adopted by a Kentucky farmer and grows up thinking he's a racehorse. His owner, **Channing Walsh** (yes really – and she's a girl!), played by **Hayden Panettiere** (yes really – and she's a girl!), is meanwhile trying to fight her father's objections to her horse riding. Both their dreams come true when she is allowed to ride **Stripes** in the Kentucky Open.

The film is certainly quite inventive. It is refreshing to see some real people in a market increasingly dominated by completely computer generated animation. What little there is, for instance the animals' "mouths" when they talk, are never less than convincing. The live action is even more impressive. Where else can you legally see a girl riding a zebra? There is also a fantastic set piece where **Stripes** races a horse, watched by hundreds of other animals which, the producers claim, was done with virtually no CGI enhancements.

There are also some nice moments. **David Spade** and **Steve Harvey** are on

Director: Frederik Du Chau
Starring: Dustin Hoffman, Whoopi Goldberg, Hayden Panettiere
Release Date: 4 February

good form as a pair of horseflies who rap. I honestly can't think why nobody ever thought of this before. Also, **Snoop Dogg** plays the farmyard mutt. See what they did there? His bloodhound saying "Foschizzle" is so funny it almost redeems Mr Dogg's (Snoop's?) creepiness.

Unfortunately, none of this really overcomes the fact that the film just isn't very good.

As periodically amusing as the animals are, some of the best talents, particularly **Dustin Hoffman**, are criminally underused and the all-human segments are quite simply dull. The continuity is distractingly bad and it's impossible to get as involved with a bunch of farmyard animals as you need to be to care.

The film doesn't go light on the moralizing either. We are taught about prejudice ("You're just different. For some horses that's scary"), friendship and all-American values such as the importance of hard work. An admirable goal but, darling, I am at the LSE.

So there may well be worse films out this half term, but this really isn't like *Shrek*, designed to appeal to everybody. You do kind of have to go, it being for charity and all. But bring a book. *Shrek*, maybe.



National Film Theatre Season The Wild Bunch: American Cinema 1967-1980



The National Film Theatre is running another excellent season of films throughout January and February. They explain the premise thus:

In the second half of the 1960s, something happened to American cinema. The country was in turmoil, with the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights movement, a series of political assassinations, widespread protest and the rise of the hippy movement all serving to create an atmosphere

of divisive unrest. Out of this time of social change, came a decade and a half of challenging, irreverent and innovative film-making. The NFT celebrates this landmark era with a two-month season screening over fifty of the best films from 1967-1980, including extended runs in new prints of *Nashville* and *Mean Streets*.

You can see a full timetable of showings at <http://www.bfi.org.uk/showing/nft/wild-bunch/>, and here are some Beaverfilm picks...

The Deer Hunter

Along with *Full Metal Jacket*, *Apocalypse Now*, *Platoon* and *Hamburger Hill*, this is considered one of the finest Vietnam movies every produced. Focusing on friends (**Robert De Niro** and **Christopher Walken**) trapped in a POW camp, this famously and traumatically uses Russian Roulette torture to go right to the heart of choice, sacrifice and inevitable death.

Wed 16th Feb - 7 pm

Sat 19th Feb - 7.40 pm

Wed 23rd Feb - 7.45pm

Taxi Driver

"You talkin' to me? You talkin' to me? You talkin' to me? Then who the hell else are you talkin' to? You talkin' to me? Well, I'm the only one here. Who the fuck do you think you're talking to? Oh, yeah? Ok. Huh?"

Thur 10th Feb - 6.15

Fri 11th Feb - 8.45

Wed 16th Feb - 8.45



ROBERT DE NIRO
IL CACCIATORE
Un film di MICHAEL CIMINO
ROBERT DE NIRO ... IL CACCIATORE

Right Time, Right Place: sarahcoughtrie considers what tempts film-makers to The Big Smoke

I received an excited phone call from my flatmate yesterday, yelping that there were hundreds of police and TV cameras crowded around at the top of the road and I should come down immediately and find out what all the commotion was about. Sadly, a Hoxtonite had not, infuriated by crack-addled incompetence, run amok in the post office at the top of Old Street, brandishing a gun and demanding stamps, balls of string and rolls of crap

Sellotape that actually sticks. Rather, the location was being used for the filming of a BBC movie called *Dirty Bomb*, and as an added bonus we'd probably be hearing gunshots over the next few days.

It was hardly surprising. London, love it or hate it, has a multitude of distinctive nooks and crannies, and as such is an extremely popular location for photographers and filmmakers.

Last year I made a pilgrimage to Heddon Street, where the famous cover for **David Bowie's** *The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars* album was shot, and was pleased to find a red phone box in the same spot. However, since the council is obviously unconcerned with the protection of important historical relics, it's a new phone box, and the "Kwest" sign has been lifted by a light fingered Bowie fan I will hate forever.

28 Days Later, as well as being one of the best horror movies of recent years and having the best tag line ('The End Is Extremely Fucking Nigh') I can think of, contained some especially striking scenes of London. The image of **Cillian Murphy** wandering alone down a deserted Westminster Bridge and into Piccadilly Circus to the paranoid strains of **Godspeed You! Black Emperor's** *East Hastings* was chilling for Londoners used to streets surging with bodies. For shooting, the area was shut down by the police for mere minutes at a time while the scenes were filmed using DV for the gritty feel, and the speed needed to avoid pissing off the locals.

While the showy, shabby glamour of the centre is what makes London instantly recognisable in countless movies from the *Bonds* to *Bridget Jones*, there is plenty further out to tempt camera-monkeys. Since London is, in effect, a series of real-

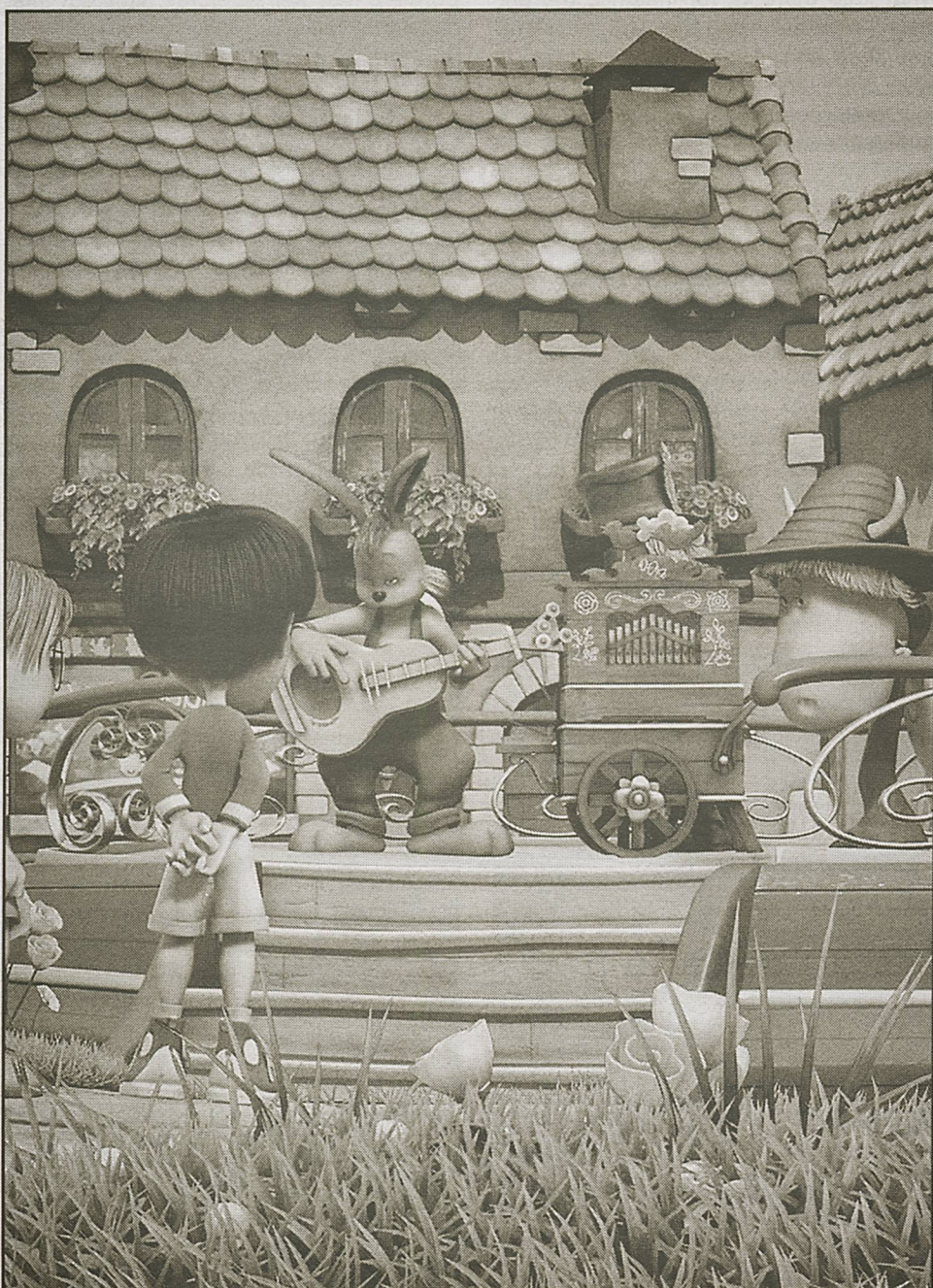


ly little towns lumped together in a vague spider shape, it's possible to create the effect of travelling around without using up too much petrol. Camden is popular, and there is currently a move towards the East End as a location due to quieter streets and less traffic. Surprisingly, the final sniper scene in **Kubrick's** Vietnam masterpiece *Full Metal Jacket* was shot in the Beckton Gas Works in Docklands.



Magic Roundabout

gerardraiti finds little magic in this roundabout



Director: Dave Borthwick, Jean Duval, Frank Passingham
Voices: Jim Broadbent, Lee Evans, Kylie, Robbie Williams
Running Time: 85 min
Release Date: 11 February

If you are age 3 or have an obsession for puns, then you should rush to see the CGI feature version of *The Magic Roundabout*. Otherwise, stay clear of this snooze fest! Spend some time, instead, talking with your friends about childhood memories of the original puppet version of the show.

With a star-studded cast of voice talents that includes **Robbie Williams**, **Kylie Minogue**, and **Ian McKellen**, it is befuddling as to why these celebrities attached themselves to such a lame duck! At the helm of this sinking tugboat is executive producer Jake Eberts, who earned notoriety for *Driving Miss Daisy* and *Dances with Wolves*. This film is an example in wasting talent; yet it is a testament to transnational coordination, with work taking place in France, England, and Canada, countries that seldom enter the foray of feature animation.

The movie's history is more interesting than the film itself. *The Magic Roundabout* is an adaptation of the 1963 children's show created by English animator Ivor Wood, sold to France, and later acquired by the BBC. The BBC resurrected several unreleased episodes in 1991, and brought the characters into the living rooms for a new generation.

In the movie, the fab four of anthropomorphic animals venture around in search of three diamonds whose loss could repre-

sent the end of the world at the clutches of the nefarious Zeebad. While the non-Pixar, non-Dreamworks approach to CGI is refreshing, especially as the "Classic Disney" ethos of heroic self-awareness and love are fundamental to many animated features, *The Magic Roundabout* is cutely uninteresting.

The story is picaresque and consequently episodic like *Huck Finn* or *The Odyssey*. The relentless onslaught of puns in a contrived attempt at humor is nauseating. The animation is generally fluid and consistent within the artistic style, which is very on the nose and storybook-like, similar to Warner Bros' attempt with *The Polar Express*. However, the characters have some trouble running, and the handful of fight scenes is pretty static. Things just aren't quite up to snuff with the Pixar standards of *The Incredibles*. Then again, production studio Pathé lacks the economic resources and the creative vigour of the American animation behemoths. The studio has developed a reputation in my book for strong family films with absolutely no box office appeal despite producing *Chicken Run*.

All in all, *The Magic Roundabout* typifies the type of feature films that should be made Direct-to-DVD. It would put most Direct-to-DVDs to shame, especially those abysmal Disney DVD sequels. Sadly, Pathé chose the wrong medium for their product. It would make a far greater 90-minute break for kids after breakfast than a trip to the movie theatre.



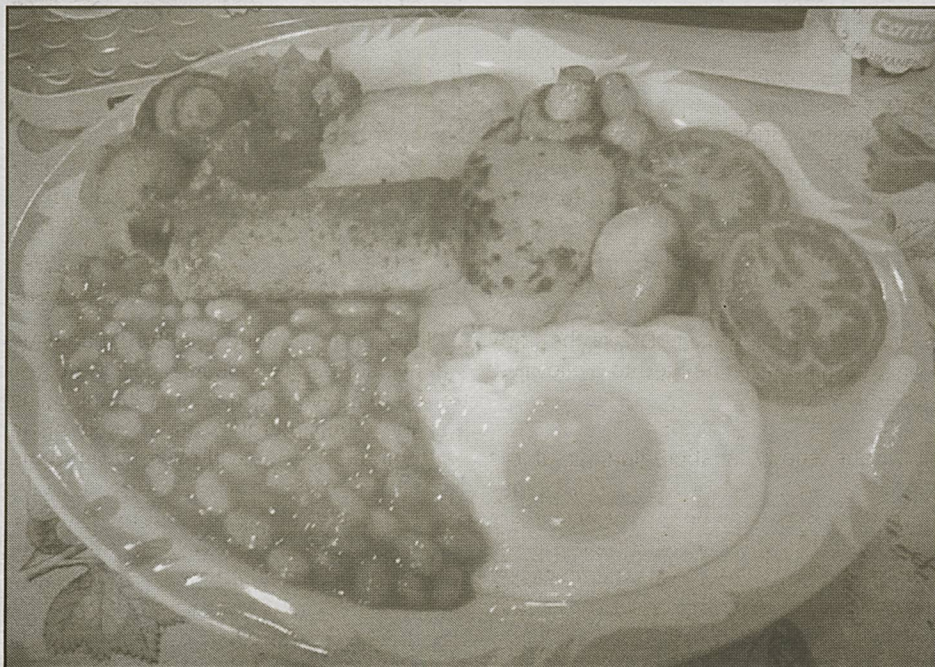
Anyone interested in writing for beaverfilm? Contact us on thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk

about

edited by Joanne Lancaster

Best of British?

graceduffy waxes lyrical over one great British institution...



If you are to live in a foreign country it is important to get a taste of that country's culture - and food is one of the best ways of doing this.

Britain is not a country famed for its cuisine but we do have some wonderful dishes to offer; the traditional Sunday lunch of roast beef with all the trimmings, fish and chips and, of course, the full English breakfast. I strongly urge you to try this if

you have not done so already before you leave these beautiful isles.

I am an enormous fan of the full English (or Irish, or Scottish...) breakfast - not to mention the fact that it is the only known cure for a stonking great hangover! - and by far and away the best breakfast in London is to be found at **Maggie's Café** in Lewisham.

For £4 you get unlimited tea and coffee and you can choose however many items off the menu you think you can eat. Aside from the essentials of bacon, egg, sausage, hash browns, fried bread, beans, tomatoes and mushrooms, you can also choose from a wide variety of accompaniments including black pudding (that's a dish of fried pig's blood for those of you who don't know - I find it revolting but many profess it's tastiness), bubble & squeak (cabbage and potato), chips, burgers and numerous others.

No one I know of has ever managed to order every item and clear his plate - although a friend of mine made a valiant effort and then couldn't move for an hour! - so if you manage this terrific feat please let me know.

I know Lewisham seems quite far out but it's only 20 minutes from Charing Cross on the train and Maggie's is just round the corner from the train station. For that much high quality food at such a low price, served in a lovely comfy setting with two wonderful Irish ladies constantly filling up your cup, it's well worth the effort.

You can't come to England and not have a proper English breakfast, and Maggie's is the best place to do it.

...plus receive 10% off at another Mr Fish, Bayswater

A fish out of Bayswater with a fresh take on a great British tradition!

At first glance, there is little to distinguish Bayswater's new **Mr. Fish** from a take-away, but cast around at the back and you will find a fully licensed restaurant with an excellent menu. No pretensions here, just good honest fare at great value prices! Mr Fish's menu contains a remarkable range of good quality fish. Offered battered, poached, bread-crumbed and grilled, its all cooked to very high standards. You can splash out on some grilled seabass washed down with a glass of wine or simply order a traditional fried cod and chips with mushy peas and a beer. Sound like heaven? You can be sure that Mr Fish is well worth a visit.

Throughout January and February students with valid NUS cards can claim a 10% discount on their meal, N.b. minimum spend on takeaways is £2.50 and £5 in the restaurant.



A day of fun filled fashion and it's free!

Time to pamper yourself, *darling?*



Paint those nails, gloss those lips and slip on a slinky outfit, you are invited to THE fashion event of the year - the *more* magazine's Fashion Awards 2005. The magazine's premiere awards celebrate high street fashion and bring together the fashion glitterati for one exciting day of glamour, style and entertainment in London.

On 3rd February, the Commonwealth Club will be transformed to host the *more* Fashion Awards, climaxing in a Guinness World Record attempt for the longest ever-continuous catwalk show. Over 10 hours, 25 Models will showcase over 500

outfits from 20 high street retailers. The show is open to the public, and it's free, so get down and witness a very stylish World Record being smashed!

The catwalk show isn't the only attraction. Throughout the day, FM Models will be scouting for the next Kate Moss, so if you have model potential, don your cowboy boots and head down to the event. *more's* very own fashion and beauty experts will also be on hand to offer style advice and share beauty secrets, and if you fancy being a real star you'll be given the chance to become a *more* Magazine cover girl with a little digital magic.

With all the excitement someone is bound to break a nail, but never fear, as the London School of Beauty will be operating a free nail bar to deal with emergencies or offer a spot of pampering. If you're having a bad hair day, forget the hat, as the Schwarzkopf LIVE demonstrations will offer crowning solutions.

Once you've finished pampering, preening and mingling with the style gurus, take a walk round the fashion and beauty photo gallery for some inspiration for your next purchase. Then all there remains to do is hit the shops - well Thursday is late night shopping!

Schedule:

9am-7pm - World Record Breaking attempt - Longest ever catwalk show
The inaugural *more* Fashion Awards will attempt to break a world record for the longest ever continuous catwalk show. Official World Record adjudicators will be present. The catwalk show will be given a splash of colour by choreographer Lyndon Lloyd, who's worked with stars including Rachel Stevens and on TOTP's and Pepsi Chart Show.

9am - 5.30pm

- * FM Models will be scouting for new talent
- * The London School of Beauty will be operating a free nail bar
- * *more* fashion and beauty experts will be on hand to offer style advice
- * Fashion and beauty photo gallery for guests to view
- * Schwarzkopf LIVE demonstrations
- * Become a *more* Magazine cover girl with a little digital magic

3rd February @ The Commonwealth Club,

**18 Northumberland Avenue,
London WC2N**

music

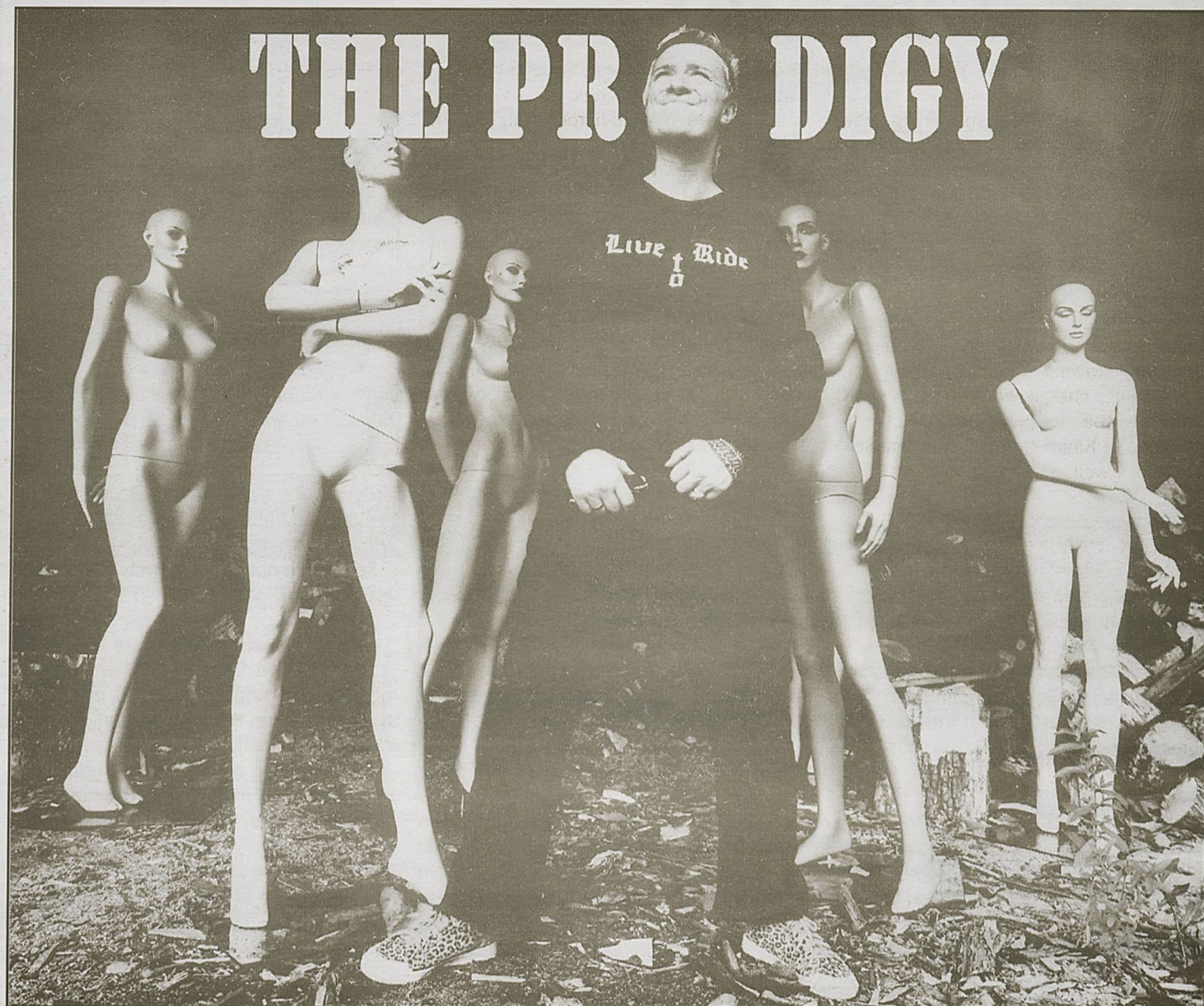
edited by Matt Boys and Ben Howarth

paulmatthews
watches **The Prodigy** at
Brixton Academy

The Prodigy have certainly been through musical changes over the years. This can be measured at the Brixton Academy from the assembled crowd. Skinny indie kids in Libertines T-shirts stand next to Marilyn Manson black make up only Goths; pilled up Essex track-suited clubbers are rubbing shoulders with narley 'half a dead pigeon in those dreads' crusty hippy types. Nice and diverse.

Another thing I noticed was the extent of tattoos on display, bloody loads of them, and similarly going across the various incarnations that the Prodigy's logo has taken over the years. One crazed shirtless (and heavily sweating) chap even had an 'experience-era motif' on one forearm and a 'the fat of the land' ant on the other. Even if being chemically induced is to blame, getting someone to inject ink into your skin to form the symbol of the band definitely marks a good sign of dedication in my book. That The Prodigy have travelled so many musical avenues yet have still kept so many so compelled is without doubt an incredible achievement.

The music itself was in places fantastically wonderful, full throttle smashing beats, though really that's what you would expect from a PA the size of several small cars. The live drummer and guitarist complementing the now usual trio of Liam Howlett, Maxim, Keith Flint also really did add to the dynamic. Whilst the new material from 'Always Outnumbered Never Outgunned' didn't exactly set the place ablaze, the older stuff was totally incendiary, 'Firestarter' in particular being wonderfully insane. I have been to the Brixton



Academy on quite a few occasions and have never seen everyone in the entire crowd jumping all the way to the very back of the stalls. 3,000 people pogoing in unison to beats that feel like they are punching you in the stomach... impressive to say the least!

Visually as you would expect, the backdrop was great, well, at least it made my flatmate ask "Do you think this is what

'post-apocalyptic paganism' is meant to look like?" Throbbing strobes and seemingly random discarded metal scrap and wires littered the stage. Keith and Maxim, both dressed head to toe in black, menaced back and forth, though it did seem that the gyrating, headshaking, kicking was a tad forced. The effortless violence I remember from when I first saw The Prodigy back in 1996 has almost certainly dimmed. They still hold a unique posi-

tion in that well cliqued 'dance-rock crossover' bit of music, though I couldn't help getting the feeling that when early on Maxim shouts out to the crowd 'it's been too fucking long' that maybe he was right in more ways than one. But hey I still got back at 5am with ringing ears and feeling very pleased.

On the toilet venue tour with Dakar Rally

sarah Taylor gets down 'n' dirty with LSE hopefuls, Dakar Rally

Dakar Rally have gigged around London since last April, and judging by this gig, have managed to build up a fan base of four. The Pleasure Unit is a pleasant enough pub, albeit an overpriced one with a silly name, which provides new bands with a small stage on which to spill their pints and sing their little hearts out. Best of all the punters were a sight for sore eyes; I thought I'd died and gone to indieboy heaven. So much hair was in evidence on so few leather-jacketed men. Granted, the Shoreditch mullets on display took the theme too far.

A prior engagement at a cheaper licensed establishment caused this reviewer to miss the first act, but can't have been worse than the second, 'Youth Is Dead'. It

"A prior engagement at a cheaper licensed establishment caused this reviewer to miss the first act."

seems that poetry is also dead; one song worthy of the Beaver poetry page was titled 'Alpha and Omega: The Beginning and the End'. They produced a Nirvana rip-off drone, with the lead singer's angst and probably sexual frustration coming over all too clearly in his strangled, overwrought vocals. One audience member expressed my feelings exactly by leaning against a pillar and reading a novel for the duration of the set.

Dakar Rally were not only good by comparison. Front man Kev Sewell on vocals, though not the band's most photogenic member, has a energetic physical presence, jumping and wriggling his skinny hips entertainingly. Rob Foster on lead guitar and Paulo Mathews on bass, though less excitable, provide solid backing. Mention should also be made of Andy Law on drums, 'the only totally blind drummer known to be currently working the London scene' and a very competent rhythm section, equipment permitting. Efforts to fix a rapidly disintegrating drum kit were not aided by the amount of alcohol consumed by some band members, and the poor quality of onstage banter failed to smooth over delays caused by these 'technical difficulties'.

Nevertheless their songs had a tight, practised feel to them, zipping by slickly despite the shambolic, slightly Spinal Tap performance. The overall sound was their own; a catchy, melodic and sometimes heavy-ish mix of post rock'n'roll. Unlike their spot-the-influence contemporaries, Dakar Rally were only a little bit British Sea Power and Electric Soft Parade, though I imagine the comparisons will draw closer on their new demo. While two or three songs really stood out, even the least impressive provided something to tap your feet, or, in the case of the four-man mini mosh pit, spill your pint in your hair to.

Why I Love... Mower

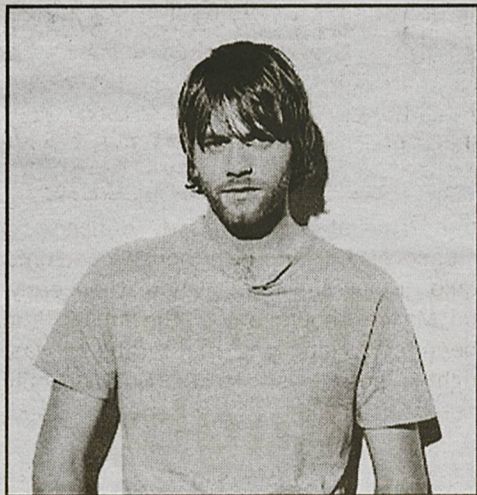
benhowarth

Curiosity may have killed the cat, but at least it will have been a glorious, nay triumphant, attempt at something new, something previously unseen. Better to be a dead cat than a living, breathing, indifferent lump of goo. This is why I love Mower. Although I could certainly argue the case that their songs are greater than any gone previously, it would be to a headshaking, pitying audience. Yet that is what they have aimed for. Despite their turbulent and disruptive history (featuring several line-up changes over their short, chequered past) they have strived to reach a place unvisited lyrically since the Kinks, and unvisited musically since....well...no one really.

Their songs are untidy, their clothes ill-fitting and their image very definitely uncool. There is however something inexplicably warming about their tales of infidelity, inebriation and ineptitude that draws the listener in, promotes camaraderie, and offers the occasional opportunity for a good scream-a-long.

Mower are a band cursed with tragic misfortune. Their debut single was praised as a breakthrough in lo-fi rock only for the band to combust (allegedly as a result of producer Graham Coxon's 'confrontational' recording techniques) leaving lead singer Matt Motte to tour the album by himself. Motte returned with the reformed Mower two years later, yet managed to lose another bassist (just where do they go?) on the cusp of success. Tragedy turned to farce when Motte was beaten and hospitalised following a late night attempt to prevent animal cruelty resulted in the perpetrators refocusing their aggression on him.

They will probably never reach greatness, never record a classic album, or become an overnight success. Yet none of this matters, and if anything, makes loving Mower that little bit sweeter.



Brian McFadden - *Irish Son*

Robbie did it. Geri did it. Now Bryan's done it. And changed his name back to Brian in the process. You'd think that being rebellious enough to depart from the safest pop group in history would resonate into your music. Hmm. Not so.

The sweeping epic debut *Real to Me* was brilliant, despite my disappointment when I realised it wasn't a song about Kerry's breasts, but the rest of this album smacks of Ronan MOR at its worst.

It seems the turmoil of divorcing the Queen of the Jungle has made Brian go so monkey-nuts that he's forgotten what a decent song sounds like.

Content on pouring his heart out on every lyric (I'll spare you the quotes), *Irish Son* sounds like a draft of Brian's autobiography that got mistakenly sent to the record company instead of the publishers.

There are, admittedly, a few good songs here - *Walking Into Walls* is a good enough ballad to prevent me from making the obvious joke - and the album's finale, *Almost Here* (a stunning duet with lovely

Delta Goodrem), is its saving grace. But, unfortunately, it's too little too late.

Brian, you had your chance to prove that life does indeed come after West and things were looking good with the new sexier, scruffier look (despite the eerie likeness to Daniel Bedingfield). Music-wise, however, what we've got is an album that sounds rather like Westlife, but with more guitars, a couple of swear words and less men - which, in my opinion, is never a good thing.

jimmytam

Single and Extended Player Releases

Lemon Jelly - *The Shouty Track*

The sound of someone about to be sick, with the sweat and paranoid focus included - for three and half minutes. If you question the depth of Will Oldham's music, then it's advisable that you steer well clear of this one. However, if you just want to get wasted on cider and dance like a fool...

laurencekavanagh

New Found Glory - *I Don't Wanna Know*

I wanted to hate this, but was prevented from doing so by the lovely harmonies from boys who otherwise can't sing a note. And whilst I was wavering, they chucked in a string section as well. Aaah, how lovely. No! Wait! Hold on a second... yep, it is tripe after all.

laurencekavanagh

Kaiser Chiefs - *Oh My God*

Featuring one the best shoutalong choruses of the past twelve months, the latest single from the Leeds fivesome builds on the success of previous release *I Predict a Riot*. Edgy, spiky punk-pop that's undoubtedly cool; comparisons with The Clash are evident. Could be the next big thing in 2005.

nathancapone

Hal - *What A Lovely Dance*

An Irish band that aren't The Thrills or U2, Hal pursue a charming and frothy brand of pop drawing their influences from The Carpenters and *Abbey Road* era Beatles. A song that's sweet without being sickly in both its lyrics ("wasn't thinking about what was wrong but what was right") and instrumentation.

nathancapone

Ambulance Ltd - *Stay Where You Are*

Six-minute slice of melodic indie-pop-rock that initially sounds promising, with some discrete post-rock influences, but which ends up chucking the experimentation out of the window in favour of something more traditional. Hardly revolutionary, though Lou Reed is a big fan, apparently.

dominical-badri

Towers Of London - *On A Noose*

As The Ramones proved, sometimes 4 chords (*they found that 4th chord?! -ed*) are all you need. With a singer who's filthy growl struts and stomps across some grimy guitars and healthy 'Heys', *On A Noose* is good and simple fun old school London street punk style. Now go and find your abused DMs and UK Subs badges.

nastarantavakoli-far

The Others - *Lackey*

Spontaneous riotous gigs on the London Underground and various zebra crossings have made The Others the most infamous band in the UK. Though certainly not bad, this standard NME-esque indie rock piece with annoyingly basic 'political' lyrics leaves me thinking that devotees of this cult band are more in love with the thrill of the guerrilla gig than this average music. Great to dance to on the Circle Line I'm sure.

nastarantavakoli-far

U2 - *Sometimes You Can't Make It On Your Own*

Bit of a slow one from Bono et al here. Soaring orchestration and all that. But it's a bit like "whatever" y'know?

mattboys

Men's Rugby Pipped by Portsmouth Ringers

Stand in Skipper Joey sees Men's Rugby Second Team battle bravely against the sailors of Portsmouth Uni

Tristram
Leach



LSE Giant 2nds.....7
Portsmouth Professional
XV.....rather more
Fortress Berrylands, Surrey



To be honest the omens were never great for this game: Savvy second team players had already ascertained that Portsmouth had no first XV match on the day of our game and so were sure to field a team full of ringers, which they duly did. The sexy seconds, meanwhile, were without their captain and several players due to injury.

Nonetheless the mood in the camp was far from despondent as the game kicked off, with stand in skipper Joey Youssof-Qaida delivering a rousing team talk and leading the boys out.

It was clear from the first whistle, however, that we were in for an experience akin to that of the good citizens of Fallujah when they last declined the Americans' kind offer of government. We were bombarded on all sides by strong, fast, Portsmouth ball carriers.

Muttering unintelligibly in either Welsh or Chav these roid-bombs hurled themselves at our team, driven wild by the hormonal imbalances

brought on by substance abuse. Within five minutes they had scored their first try and set a pattern that was to be perpetuated over eighty agonizing minutes.

Simply put, LSE did not have the physical resources to deal with a team the size and strength of Portsmouth. But this article is no paean to the qualities of our opposition.

There was much to admire about the way LSE withstood the shock and awe onslaught. [Censored by editorial decree]. As the game wore on, the team responded to instructions to tackle lower and the Portsmouth giants began to tumble: a lesson to be learned for the next time we face a sizeable opposition.

Most commendable of all was

the heart that LSE showed under an assault that we could never weather.

In particular, there was a period early in the second half when we almost seemed to capture the initiative. Great pick and go running from Sameer Daar, Aaron Stirling (newly returned to the bosom of the 2nd team) and Gay Hair Dunford, meant we had momentum in the center of the field, and when an able back line flung the ball wide there was the indomitable Gay Hair (a clear man of the match) to touch the ball down for a try.

Then up stepped Chris Barrow, the team's very own gap-toothed-romany, to perform the Wilkinson role. He exuded quiet determination and an unshakeable sense of purpose, but one member of our team

seemed hell bent on preventing Chris taking a run up.

Jan Van Groffe, the German giant, had clearly taken a liking for Chris and was endeavoring to keep his face in contact with the latter's posterior. At every step backwards Chris would come up against the sizeable Teuton kneeling as if in worship.

Eventually, Jan's devotions were complete, and he allowed Chris to run and take the kick. And what a kick it was: if this game is to go down in the annals of history it will be for that kick.

The ball soared like a lark rising to meet the dawn, and sped true between the posts. Portsmouth may have won the rugby but none of their kicks were a patch on ours.

As the game progressed, Portsmouth attempted to create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation. But LSE's fortitude was astounding.

Particular heroics were performed by Ed "son of Lloyd" Parnell, and Sameer, both of whom played on with injuries. But all members of the team can be proud of their efforts against a side that could have eaten us with ease.

Christian Rieben and Gillen both had superb games as substitutes in the second half. Weasel, now without the locks to nonchalantly sweep out of his eyes as he waited under the high ball, nonetheless had a stormer with his new 80's bond trader hair.

In particular one piece of play might have led to points had it not been for official myopia. Jon Ussher and Jimmy Son were both mobile around the park, and tireless in rucking and defence.

Chris Stannard will surely be an asset to the team in the weeks to come, as will Girven, if we can only hold on to him. Nick Cassin built on a solid start to his LSE rugby career, and Bary was tireless at ever serving the back line with what ball we could get.

So at the end of the day, it was Portsmouth who had arms raised in a gesture of victory, but against weaker opposition this team will thrive.

Now is not the time to falter.



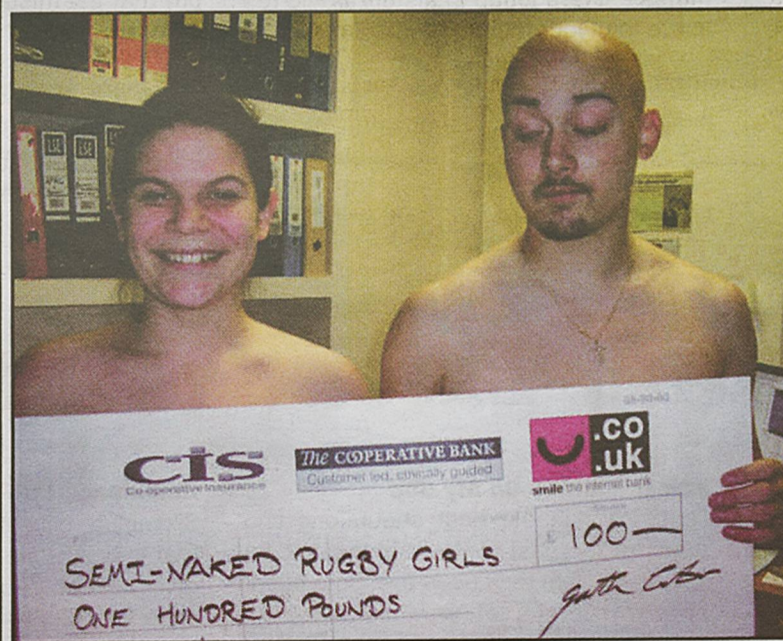
Team of the Week

Dom Rustam selects
the best players
from this week's games.



- Key:
- 1 First Team Player
 - 2 Second Team Player
 - 3 Third Team Player
 - 4 Fourth Team Player
 - 5 Fifth Team Player
 - 6 Sixth Team Player
 - 7 Seventh Team Player

Paul



Following the success of raising the most money at the LSE Rag Week 'Stars in Their Eyes' last year, womens' rugby have decided to go one better. Hoping to raise as much money as possible, they returned to Fortress Berrylands on a VERY cold day to recreate the WI calendar. So 'Berrylands, within the realms of decency' was born, with strategically placed rugby balls and tackle pads ensuring the dignity of all was kept intact. All team members were involved, either featuring in photos, or in making of the actual calendar.

The calendars will be on sale from Monday 24 January, and will be available from the Three Tuns, the Gym and from a women's rugby stand on Houghton Street. At a mere £5 a piece, they're a bargain not to be missed.

We would like to thank STA Travel and Gareth Carter, SU Treasurer for their kind donations to cover printing costs which have allowed us to donate ALL proceeds to the Rag Week fund. We would also like to thank LSE reprographics and IT Services for all their help in producing the calendar, and we are grateful for the

Women's Rugby Strut Their Stuff for Charity

kind words of encouragement from members of the sabbatical team (including the womens' officer) and Howard Davies.

When asked to comment SU Treasure Gareth Carter replied, 'I still think £100 to see women's rugby players topless is a little steep, but I guess that's the going rate these days so mustn't grumble. I've spent £100 on worse things... last year's SU Summer Ball for one, and at least this time all the money's going to charity rather than the bastard Savoy Hotel.'

Come on, it is my last week after all....

Poultry in Motion: Sorry Firsts Silenced by Flying Turkeys

Firsts shown to be a 'side of little talent and even less substance' against majestic Seconds

Alex Di
Francesco



LSE Footy 1sts.....2

LSE Legendary 2nds.....2

Fortress Berrylands, Surrey



Winter - AC, Roma - Lazio, St. Albans City - Luton Town; Derbies do come bigger than this, but only in terms of attendance. Round 2 of 2005 saw the 'Mighty Mighty' pitted against an under-strength bunch of so called footballing turkeys. 'Brummie's Lard Army' was even reduced to taking it in turns to stand in-between the posts and robbed of midfield lights, Aman and Rich.

And so the writing appeared to be on the wall as the unfeasibly arrogant, confident in their superior footballing ability, prepared to demolish the less skilfully endowed and bask, once more, in the glory of a comprehensive victory. But there are no foregone conclusions in football, particularly when your arrogance is derived from a fundamental misconception i.e. that you're any good at playing the wonderful game. No-one is quite sure how the First team has been assembled, some say names were drawn from a hat at the beginning of the year, but the official line is that if your mum cuts your hair, you're in (especially if she wet shaves it).

Having been stung by inaccurate and vainglorious reporting of this year's opening round, Brummie's Army stepped onto the

pitch secure in the knowledge that XI v XI there was everything to play for. The Firsts, perhaps already with their minds on showering together, were unprepared to see the myth of their supremacy systematically dismantled. In the first half it became clear that turkeys might fly.

In midfield Gamel, Sherif and Nicos were majestic, aided, admittedly, by the 'money man' who was conspicuous by his absence and by the 'one man band' who seemed to have left all his instruments at home (The Firsts remind your correspondent of the great Napoli side of the late 80's and early 90's namely a one man show, the difference being Stelios, unlike Maradona, has days when he can't differentiate between his feet and the finger he is unwilling to pull out of his...ear).

Up front the relentless efforts

of Freddie were of particular note, as time after time the University's 'top' defence was made to appear flat-footed and unsure of itself. At the back, Brummie, with a few games under his considerable belt (but fresh from a series of alcohol related misdemeanours, I'd warrant) put Jimmy Little in his place, no not on the bench, but certainly on the backfoot with a series of well timed interventions and a cool head under pressure.

Unfortunately Stelios, despite the lack of instruments, managed to whistle a tune and produce a typically stylish opening goal, beating the first of two stand-in keepers. 1-0 at the break and the University's self styled football gurus were, prematurely, breathing a collective sigh of relief.

The second half saw some inspired tactical changes from Brummie and proof from Freddie that if you Knox often enough the

Firsts' skipper will kindly open the door for you, neat interplay was clinically finished. Subsequent goals followed, one at each end, 2-2 at the final whistle. A score-line which masks an authoritative display from the Seconds and a First team which can only be described as a shambles.

Admittedly if Fishlock had realised that he'd travelled down to Berrylands to play football rather than perform pirouettes in the six yard box, we may have been looking at a different result. But, Fish misfiring is symptomatic of a general malaise which permeates a side of little talent and even less substance. I can't imagine that Imperial are quaking in their football boots, whereas the 'rotund' Seconds are sure to go from strength to strength.

LSE Netball 4ths fight bravely but to no avail

Christmas snacking and lack of netball skirts said to be the cause of lacklustre performance.

Laura
Cowell



Netball Sexy 4ths.....10

St. George's Dragons....30

The Land of the Beautiful



Simone actually praised us instead of commenting on the extra Christmas pounds.

The second quarter was fantastic. We showed that we could face any team with our fighting spirit and style. Philippa showed some super tactical positioning as shooter and got some beautiful goals in. Yelena was equally good, even after having to recover from a graceful dive where she ended up lying full stretch on the floor. Catherine was

wonderful as ever in whatever position we put her in and Asha was all over the place - in a good way!

Briony and Cat were wonderful on the wings adding to the overall smoothness of play. Jordina as goalkeeper finally listened to our weeks of pleading, and her feet actually left the floor when she jumped. For someone I have never seen go faster than a quick walk she was incredibly speedy and she was scaring me in the circle, and I'm on her team.

We knew the match would be tough, St George's 2nds were two leagues above us and were wearing netball skirts and knee supports, the signs of real athletes. However we faced them bravely.

We were encouraged by our stunning training session on Monday night (in the rain I might add!) where our lovely coach

However, officially named 'player of the match' was Ems, our spiritual and sporting leader. We thought she might take off with the height she got into some of her jumps and she never failed to grab even the most wayward balls.

The score was close, St Georges were quick and energetic and very good at using their physical presence to intimidate, especially our lovely shooters. But we were triumphant with a 5-4 win in those 15 minutes.

Unfortunately there were however, three other quarters where although we were good we were not quite as good. Their speed and accuracy and our occasional sloppy play meant they pretty much raped us overall. Even their compulsory three cheers at the end of the match were more energetic and co-ordinated than the lack lustre effort we gasped.

However not all was lost, we have the memory of winning the second quarter.

Sports Shorts

Football Results

Last week saw the heaviest-drinking team in the AU, the 5ths, beat Alex Lee's Fourth team. The score was 4-1 to the G Unit boys, with two goals from Adam 'Midget Fancier' Stocker, Charlie, and one from the Beave. The Fifths hope to continue their relatively successful form from the first half of the season and push for one of the two promotion places from Division 2. They're also looking forward to a lucrative cup run, which begins on 29th January against St Barts, who they've already beaten in the league.

Matt Bawden's Sixth team decided to take a different approach to the traditional FC pre-Christmas team dinner. Instead of going to Brick Lane, as has become traditional for many teams, the Sixths decided to visit Warsaw in Poland for the day. Matt said that a fantastic time was had by all 11 members of the team. "We had to meet up at the undgodly hour of 3am to catch our flight, and we had nowhere to sleep, but we had a fucking brilliant time". Matt added that the Neo-Gothic architecture of Southern Warsaw, much designed under the rule of Sigismund III in the early 17th Century, was a particular delight.

Womens' Badminton

After a superb unbeaten start to the season, which saw them top their ULU league, the Womens' Badminton team finally lost a game last week. Captain Christelle admitted she was disappointed, however key members of the team were missing - at home soaking up some rays!

Men's Rugby

Rob Donnellan's mighty third team continued to prove their worth as they beat Imperial 4ths 56-22. Club Captain Mat Browne commented that Ballsucker and Rafi 'had an amazing game' with 2 tries each whilst skinny Matt and mini-Lloyd also scored. Donnellan has made history this school year captaining the most successful Third team ever.

So Long, Farewell....



So after too many issues to remember, we're standing down to concentrate on the old final exams. What can we say, it's been a rollercoaster ride at the helm of BeaverSports. Thanks to everyone that's written articles for us, thanks to anyone who took photos, thanks to Dom Rustam for doing 'Team of the Week'. We hope you've enjoyed BeaverSports, and apologise for offending any American Soldiers. Lots of love. Louise & Paul.



Has Fabs Got News for You

Ian Hislop inspires the LSE Football Thirds into a three goal triumph over the pig farmers

**Fabs
'Friend of
Hislop'
Joseph**



LSE Mighty 3^{rds}3

**Rebecca Loos Pig
W*inking College.....0**



The LSE Third Team meet their new billionaire owner

Being part of the ignorant self hating racist sexist AU I still managed to get my team to represent the LSE in a respectable fashion and make a mockery of some REAL doctors at Royal Vet College.

After consoling my team after a barrage of unadulterated slurs upon their good names, which have been taken very very personally, we trudged to Potters Bar to face RVC in a crunch match.

For those who care we may win the league and this match along with Saturday's clash with the pikey scum from Holloway prison are set to make or break our challenge for the title.

A chance pre-match meeting

with Ian Hislop of Private Eye fame was much enjoyed.

Even though most readers rarely treat the AU like the professionals we are and probably take more interest in our off the field antics than appreciating our sporting anecdotes, I will risk a little description of our game, but be assured I will be frowning upon and dishing the dirt on rogue players in the central celeb pages of the Beaver.

Taking to the field we were at

first threatened by obstacles such as a field of horses and some cows attempting to break out of the netball courts.

After running a gauntlet worthy of being called an adventure we came to what can only be described as a HILL with one goal in the distance at the top and another at the bottom.

The task now was fast becoming daunting but we felt like our brothers and sisters in Iraq, "well like it or not we're here now,

might as well get the job done properly!"

Risking an uphill struggle both halves, we won the toss and chose to face the hill in the first half.

After a sterling display from the defence and an outstanding return from the Christmas break from our keeper the real fit Nick, we jogged in at the half time with the game as it started (0-0 for you woman and imbeciles).

After a scrutinising assess-

ment of our first half display and a complementary moral boosting rant from my Administrator we took to the field.

40 seconds later it was 1-0 to the mighty third team as Jay Sean, back from tour in Armenia, fired home his first before using his unique blend of banghra rhythms with Western pop beats (check out his latest single 'Eyes on You') to make it 2-0 twenty minutes from time.

Now we began to showboat and following a great bit of build up play and then skill from myself leading to a cruel cross into the box, we put the game beyond the oppositions reach with five minutes left as Gazza popped up to add to his tally of good goals.

We are good, you know this already.

Lastly well done to the Beaver sports editors over the last however long.

May the next idiots who take the job be as good.

Any women or any race that may be offended by any comments please write a 'letter to the editor' as these are becoming a highlight of my Beaver entertainment.

QM Can't "Stick" the 7ths!

Sevenths out-play and out-bling the rudeboyz of QMW.

**Paul 'Old Firm
Green'
McAleavey**



LSE Champagne 7^{ths}1

QM So Solid Crew.....1

Fortress Berrylands, Surrey



Chavs aren't really that funny. I was unfortunate enough to see Goldie Lookin' Chain play a festival in Belfast, in which they received a rapturous reception, probably because most of the teenagers in the audience thought they were watching their dads. Judging by their teams that I've played against in my time at LSE, QM clearly avoid the UCAS clearing scheme in favour of some kind of "dole sweep", where every Usher-listening Evisu-wearing pikey this side of Mile End has their photo stuck on a QM student card and told to turn up to lectures, but leave their air pistols at home.

The Champagne Sevenths had

been warming up on the pitch at Berrylands for a full hour before eleven Elizabeth Duke-blinging pikeys turned up to play us. We could hear their gold chains creaking from several miles off, and once they'd put their flickknives in their valuables bag, the match was ready to begin. Graeme Holloway, sweating off the previous night's "Requilas", sent a dangerous cross into the QM box which David P Rees slid in to convert - giving the Sevenths a dream start. Unfortunately the lead lasted as

long as a Peter Sutcliffe home visit, and one of the QM So Solid Crew (I think it was Asher D) slotted home an equaliser. To give you an idea of what a cunt he was, he celebrated by making gun noises and "shooting" into the air. What a piece. However, the defence, marshalled superbly by the playing-through-the-pain-barrier K-Lo, and featuring a truly excellent Chris Schell, was excellent for the rest of the game. All in all, a decent point won against a team who really should be in a Young Offenders' Institute.

LSE Tennis

Sumit documents the win over SOAS

**Sumit 'Tells it
Like it Is'
Buttoo**



Way from the 'professional' LSE stars for one week as it was the turn of us 'amateurs' to show what we can do.

The last week of Lent Term saw LSE Social take on SOAS on their own patch and give 'em a good kicking.

Well maybe thats a bit of an exaggeration!

It actually finished as a respectable draw after a highly competitive 3 hours of up and down drama.

But I was called upon at the end to win it by games difference in the last singles game.

After some highly questionable seedings by our captain, Justin, Ted and Jacky pulled out easy wins to give LSE an excellent start.

Next up, Alex unfortunately went down in a close battle against their best player to pull SOAS back into it.

Justin and I then played the doubles, and let's just say it was

a bad mis-match (and I also injured my leg during the 3rd game of the set).

Our only female player, Huei-Suen, Captain of the Womens' Team, then played superbly to put us back in to the lead at 3-2.

Then it was down to me.

I only needed to win one game to secure victory for us and I was reasonably confident even with my reduced efficiency leg!

Unfortunately my opponent knew he had to win 6-0 and he went about it in ruthless fashion.

He took the 1st 4 games and I feared the worst.

Thankfully I managed to ignore my leg for a while and pulled it back to 4-4.

Even then I nearly won, but he just upped his game to snatch it 6-4.

But we'd done enough for victory and even got a flash trophy for our efforts!

Better luck next time SOAS.

Ok, back to the real stuff next week!