

# The Beaver

2nd May 2006 Issue 642 The newspaper of the LSE SU

Destruction and distress in Dahab



Beyond petroleum



Beyond

PartB p4-5

NEWS4 New disabled access planned for Old Building

FEATURES8-9

Indonesian government ignore plight of orangutans

PARTB3 Renowned economist John Kenneth Galbraith remembered

## LSE's last-minute response Exams unwritten, markers on strike: national negotiations restart today

Sam Jones  
Executive Editor

Hundreds of LSE students face disruption to their final year exams this Summer.

Strike action called by the Association of University Teachers (AUT) could threaten to disrupt the setting and marking of exams across LSE departments.

School officials, meanwhile, have come under fire for being "woefully under prepared".

In a meeting of the LSE's governing Council last week, academics and school directors were told that eleven exam papers had not yet been written, and lecturers were expected to withhold student marks unless the strike action was cancelled, *The Beaver* can reveal.

*The Beaver* learned of the problems facing the LSE last

Tuesday evening. In an email the following day, Tim Murphy, the school's deputy director informed the student body of the problem. Murphy assured that students' needs remained "paramount".

"We are leaving no stone unturned to overcome any difficulties which the AUT action may present at LSE", he continued.

Details of the situation, have however, been kept closely guarded.

The number of papers that remain unwritten was cut down to single figures late last week. Senior officials remain hopeful that all the paper's will be completed in what they have described as a "rapidly changing situation".

Some of the school's most prominent departments as yet remain affected, however, with papers for Law, International Relations and Anthropology still unwritten.

Many post-graduate exams

have also been rescheduled to the last weeks of June by school planners to buy time.

Speaking to *The Beaver* on Friday, however, Murphy downplayed causes for serious concern. "Problems are minimal for us. Many universities in the sector will be in very serious trouble - their whole exam structure could fall to bits. They are doing all sorts of novel things in order to graduate students as normal", he said.

Academic Registrar, Simeon Underwood echoed Murphy's sentiments, adding that the school was particularly keen to minimise anxiety for undergraduate finalists.

"There is a danger - other universities have done this - of making contingencies too early. Suppose the dispute was to be resolved in the next fortnight - it would have caused a great deal of anxiety among staff and students for nothing," Underwood said.

One anonymous Students' Union (SU) official, however, has slated the LSE's "complete lack of adequate contingency planning" and rounded on the apparent attempts to curb anxiety over the issue amongst the student body.

On the 7 March, Council noted that "the AUT and NAFHE were involved in a national dispute over pay", but felt that "there was no LSE-specific dimension to this dispute."

"A small number of AUT members were on strike for one day at the School with minimal impact and others might take 'action short of strike' which could have an impact on marking of student exams."

No action, was subsequently taken. "There was nothing to bring up before council until now - negotiations seemed to be going nowhere" said Murphy. >>2



## Protests threaten as BP chief assumes LSE chair

Tanya Rajapakse  
News Editor

Controversy was sparked earlier this term as Peter Sutherland, the current chairman of British Petroleum was anointed as the new chairperson of the LSE.

Many within the Students' Union (SU), including several vociferous members of the new SU Executive are resolutely opposed to Sutherland's appointment. Concerns were also raised about the manner in which the appointment was pushed through LSE Council, the school's highest decision making authority.

**SUTHERLAND'S CV**

- Irish Attorney General
- Director General, WTO
- Legal Adviser for Ireland's constitutional ban on abortion
- European Union Commissioner
- Chair, Goldman Sachs
- Chair, British Petroleum

Anxious to avoid open criticism, the school even threatened the SU with severe repercussions if anything were to be printed in *The Beaver* last term. Sutherland's appointment was quietly announced on the last Friday of the Lent term.

Sutherland's current positions as Chairman of British Petroleum (BP) and investment bank Goldman Sachs have caused outrage, particularly within the LSE Students' Union (SU) Green Party, the Union's largest political organization. Sutherland also founded the International Monetary Fund.

The LSE SU Green Party accused BP of having a "well-documented history of social and environmental abuse." Male Co-Chair of the Green Party society and LSE SU student representative at LSE Council, James Caspell said "students are concerned that the appointment of a Chairman from a company associated with worker and environmental abuses in Alaska, the Caucasus and West Papua, signals that the LSE does not care about the environment, which is unacceptable given the threat of climate change.

The society is planning

action to raise awareness and involve more students in the protest against the appointment. According to the SU Environment and Ethics Officer, Aled Fisher, who is also the Secretary of the SU Green Party society, an online petition containing "demands relating to LSE's social/environmental policy," will be launched soon.

He also expects to gain the support of environmental and campaigning societies within the university as well as external groups such as 'Campaign for Climate Change' and 'Rising Tide' - both of which have campaigned against

Sutherland in the past.

Of more concern to others, BP has also stepped up donations to the LSE in recent years, establishing among other things, a number of 'BP Professorships'. Minutes of the council meeting of 7 March state: "It was noted that while some environmentalist groups might have concerns, many considered BP to be a market leader in corporate responsibility. In addition, BP had donated over £3 million to the School over the past 30 years."

Students have raised concerns that Sutherland's appointment was >>4

Features: *The Issue*

News

PartB: Arts

Features Editor Jess Brammar argues that the idea of women not being interested in sex is archaic and ultimately untrue

Features p.10

### Academic Freedom? Senior lecturer threatened for criticising School

Senior Government lecturer Dr. Erik Ringmar came under fire last week from senior figures within his department and Howard Davies for criticising the School's admission policy on his online blog. The threat of disciplinary action was traced all the way back to Davies after e-mails were leaked to *The Beaver*. >>2

Part B p6

Americans in Paris: Turn of the century American painters in the home of the Louvre

**RINGMAR TOLD TO REMOVE BLOG**  
MASSIVE SUPPORT FROM THE STUDENT BODY FOLLOWING THREATS

**CLEANERS' POVERTY WAGES**  
STUDENTS, CLEANERS AND ACADEMICS FIGHT SCHOOL FOR 'LIVING WAGE'

**TONY BLAIR VISITS LSE**  
UNVEILS THE LOST FABIAN WINDOW, INSTALLED IN THE SHAW LIBRARY

**AUT strikes; Sutherland; Erik Ringmar; Living Wage Campaign; Paper throwing; Ethnic minorities report; LSE students in local elections**

# Senior Lecturer threatened over comments

Sidhanth Kamath  
Managing Editor

Students and staff have rallied to the support of Dr. Erik Ringmar, a senior lecturer in the Government Department at the LSE, who was recently threatened with internal department disciplinary procedures by the Departmental Convenor Professor George Philip and further reprimanded by LSE Director Howard Davies.

Ringmar was invited to address prospective students at an LSE Open Day event, and made an unconventional and controversial speech, which he subsequently added to his online blog 'Forget the Footnotes.'

The speech, made on March 22, included comments such as: "An undergraduate is today worth £3000," and "I know we are expected to 'sell' our programme to you." He also expressed his belief that "first-class teachers usually will have their minds elsewhere than on undergraduate teaching," since the "greatness of a scholar is measured in terms of output - that is, research."

Ringmar was reprimanded by Philip in an email on March 24, which said that his speech "raised the question of whether you really did want the potential students to come to the School," and went on, "you embarrassed your colleagues." Philip's email also contained an informal oral

warning, requiring Ringmar to "destroy/cancel your blog entirely and shut the whole thing down" and expected that when representing the School in the future he would do so in "a positive way that does not risk bringing the School into disrepute," in order to ensure that a formal disciplinary would not be issued.

Ringmar claims that on being asked to attend the event he, "told the Convenor that I would speak in my own name and in my own fashion," and was "explicitly given the right to ignore the [prepared] Powerpoint presentation by the Deputy Convenor." However upon receiving the email he claimed to have been "intimidated by the big time professors who were hurling abuse" at him, and took down the site.

When contacted by *The Beaver* he commented that, "Blogs give power to the little guys, and the professors are terrified that this will set a precedent for criticism, even if it is purely of the constructive variety."

Ringmar subsequently decided to defy the departmental ban and re-posted the material believing that "this

was my one chance to make a stance." The blog contains an excerpt from the School's Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech which incorporates Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and states that every individual has the right to "impart

what I do is in accordance with School rules."

Davies replied saying he believed the blog was "damaging to the School," and found the blog to "contain criticisms of your colleagues." He went on to say the issue was not one of blogging, "it is whether a col-

flooded with comments from students and staff all supporting the contents of his Open Day speech, but more crucially his right to express his opinions. Comments have praised his speech's "refreshing honesty" and implied that his rejection of the usual corporate style presentation could only have strengthened the appeal of the School to students.

Since the controversy arose, the blog has been visited close to 10,000 times by over 2,620 visitors. A poll on the website also revealed that 60 percent of the 50 voters were of the opinion that the blog was "thought-provoking (and a great way to recruit students)" while only one voter believed that the results were "truly scandalous, punishable."

In 'blogger' conversations with students on the website, Ringmar has also expressed his belief that the LSE needs a 'Bloggers Charter,' and has underlined his determination to pursue the matter with the relevant authorities.

Student support has led to a support group titled 'Students who Support Erik Ringmar' on Facebook, a popular student networking web-

site. At the time of printing group membership had reached 156 members, who have all signed a petition in support of Ringmar.

Some students also reported that they were unable to access the blog through the LSE's network on Friday April 28, leading to suspicions that the school had fully clamped down on access to Ringmar's website.

An email to Ringmar from the man in charge of blogs at Warwick University explained that while their blogs "frequently contain robust criticism of aspects at the institution... understanding our staff and students' concerns is important to us... as is the idea that we are not afraid of criticism, as is the idea that we support freedom of speech."

The email continued, "The only particular concern we sometimes have is when criticism becomes abuse... [for example] to say that whoever is responsible for X is an idiot or some other, stronger term of abuse."

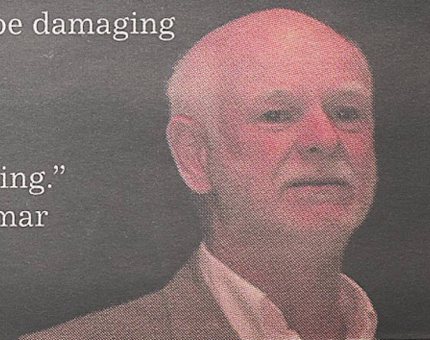
The enormity of support however, seems to have had effect, with Ringmar's latest posting claiming that the ban had been lifted, albeit "grudgingly," but that the department could continue to monitor the blog. Ringmar is determined to continue his campaign for a 'Bloggers Charter' and claims that "as far as this blog is concerned, I will never budge. I'm scared but not suffering, and the issue of freedom of speech is one for everyone."

"Destroy/cancel your blog entirely and shut the whole thing down."

George Phillip, Government Dept. Convenor, to Erik Ringmar 24/03/06

"I entirely support your convenor's views. I looked at the blog and it seemed to me to be damaging to the school ...

I think you should reflect carefully on your behaviour which I find most disappointing."  
Howard Davies to Erik Ringmar  
28/03/06 13:52



information...in writing or print...or through any other media."

Ringmar then contacted Davies on March 27 in an email requesting advice on the official School policy on blogging and expressing his belief that "a great School such as ours benefits from critical scrutiny," and that he was, "very keen to make sure that

league can publicly abuse his employer and colleagues without consequences." He also claimed that Ringmar had "repeated these slurs to parents and prospective students," accused his emails of being "disingenuous," and warned that Ringmar should "reflect very carefully," on his behaviour.

The blog has since been

## SU told to ban paper throwing at UGM



Elaine  
Londesborough  
News Editor

The LSE Students' Union (SU) has been told by the School's officials that they must ban paper throwing at the Union General Meeting (UGM) on the grounds of both the LSE's own Freedom of Speech regulations and the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

Opponents of paper throwing have long insisted that it makes for a hostile atmosphere at meetings which deters new people from getting involved and worst still, excludes students with disabilities.

The issue was discussed at length at the UGM of week five of the Lent Term, following the Constitution and Steering Committee's (C&S) controversial decision to ban it. The decision was consequently over turned by students at the UGM who voted to no confidence and dismiss the C&S Committee in light of their unpopular move.

However, following complaints made to the School about the practice, it seems that the original decision by C&S may have been vindicated. One of the C&S members who was dismissed over the issue has made a complaint to the School's Freedom of Speech (FoS) board.

The complaint argued that:

"the habit of paper or any other missile throwing clearly intimidates and interferes with a person's ability to take part in a meeting that occurs on the School's property."

Section 1.3.2(1) of the School's Codes of Practice on Freedom of Speech was also highlighted: "Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority."

The issue of compliance with the DDA has also been under debate, with the School's Legal Compliance office and the School's Secretary, Adrian Hall, having been contacted about the

issue. Hall has responded saying: "[We] request that [the General Secretary] seeks to achieve a resolution of the issue of paper throwing in meetings as soon as possible."

SU General Secretary, Rishi Madlani, responded by saying: "The Union is committed to ensuring that all members can participate in its activities and meetings without fear of discrimination."

"We are awaiting the results of the independent risk assessment we have requested," he added.

However, Union insiders have questioned if the promised risk assessment is merely a delaying tactic until the new sabbatical team takes over.

Dave Cole, one of the students who made the original complaint to C&S about paper throwing, is concerned that the SU Executive aren't doing enough to tackle this issue. He told *The Beaver*: "There has been a total lack of leadership from the Executive."

"It would have been infinitely preferable to resolve this within the SU, but that has not been possible," he continued.

Given the strong feelings on both sides of the debate, the issue of paper throwing at the UGM looks set to rumble on for some more time yet, but with pressure from the School the SU is likely to have no choice but to ban the practice.

## AUT exam crisis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

AUT members voted to strike again earlier this month, yet the issue was again not raised at LSE Council. Though the LSE cannot hope to directly influence the outcome of negotiations between the AUT and university employers, many have questioned the School's inadequate and slow response to the crisis. When asked just how serious the problem may be Murphy responded, "we don't know - we can't know." Striking staff have already been contacted by the school in an effort to persuade them to step down. Letters and emails were also sent out to try and ascertain the total number of staff intending to strike over the marking period.

Chris Husbands, the President of the AUT's LSE branch, said that "the local AUT fully supports the action as a tactic that is likely to be most effective in bringing about a serious and speedy response from UCEA (Universities and Colleges Employers' Association)."

"We greatly regret that the action short of a strike approved by 80 percent of AUT members who voted in the corresponding ballot - is seen as hurting students in the short term" he continued.

Husbands has been hoping to meet with LSE Director

Howard Davies to discuss matters.

School officials stressed that once an agreement had been reached nationally, the situation would be speedily retrieved.

The next arbitration meeting is scheduled today. Husbands was optimistic that the situation would be "wholly retrievable". No further developments were known at the time of going to press.

"There is a danger ... of making contingencies too early. Suppose the dispute was to be resolved in the next fortnight - it would have caused a great deal of anxiety among staff and students for nothing."

Simcon  
Underwood,  
Academic Registrar

# Taking LSE to the cleaners

- LSE Living Wage Campaign gathers pace
- Students demand end to poverty pay at LSE

Elaine Londesborough  
News Editor

The LSE Living Wage Campaign will get underway in earnest this week with an official launch and the presentation of a petition to Howard Davies. Following the success of a similar campaign at Queen Mary's University, hopes are high for the LSE to become the second Living Wage campus in the UK.

The LSE Living Wage Campaign is a broad group, including students, academics, cleaners and representatives from the London wide umbrella group London Citizens who are campaigning for improved working conditions and in particular for the

London living wage of £6.70 for LSE's contract cleaners.

The LSE's Campaign has gained high profile external support, with the Guardian journalist, Polly Toynbee, speaking out on the issue. She told *The Beaver*: "Contracted out staff have the same right to decent treatment as the directly employed. Ken Livingstone is making sure anyone who wants a GLA contract pays a living wage: other London employers are following suit. The LSE should be among the standard bearers for the living wage movement."

The LSE contracts out its cleaning to two companies, Ocean in halls of residences and Integrated for on campus work. There are around 150 cleaners employed by the two companies, who are paid only minimum wage of £5.05 and are often not paid for bank holidays or days they are sick.

The cleaners say they are often afraid to come forward about their situation, as they claim they fear being fired or disciplined. One cleaner, who does not want to be named, told *The Beaver*: "I've been working here for five years and I try to work all the hours I can because I have three daughters and I need to get money so they can go to college. It is very difficult. Especially if you are sick because you don't get paid."

It was London Citizens who co-ordinated the campaign at Queen Mary's University, which resulted in the announcement over Easter that no person employed on their campus will be paid less than the London Living Wage of £6.70, as calculated by the Mayor of London's Office.

The success, widely reported in the national media, was bought about by various direct

actions. The campaign was given credibility by the effective organisation of many sections of the university, an approach emulated at the LSE.

Despite threats that the move would lead to higher rents for students or pay cuts for academics, the living wage has been achieved at Queen Mary's with no job losses and with the money found from elsewhere.

Matthew Bolton, project manager for the Living Wage Campaign at London Citizens, told *The Beaver*: "London Citizens are delighted with the victory at Queen Mary's and the deal won for the cleaners there."

"The LSE launch will really put the pressure on [LSE Director] Howard Davies to meet with us and to follow Queen Mary's good example."

It is expected that the cost

to the LSE of implementing the living wage would be around £500,000. However, given that the LSE reported surplus of around £10 million last financial year, campaigners claim the change should be achievable without damaging the School's finances.

Director of the LSE, Howard Davies, has been sent a formal letter asking him to meet with representatives from the campaign. Various high profile members of the campaign, including LSE Students' Union General Secretary, Rishi Madlani, and government lecturer, John Chalcraft, signed the letter, which stated: "We believe that such a situation does not best serve the LSE's reputation as a prestigious, progressive and socially responsible university." Davies has yet to respond.

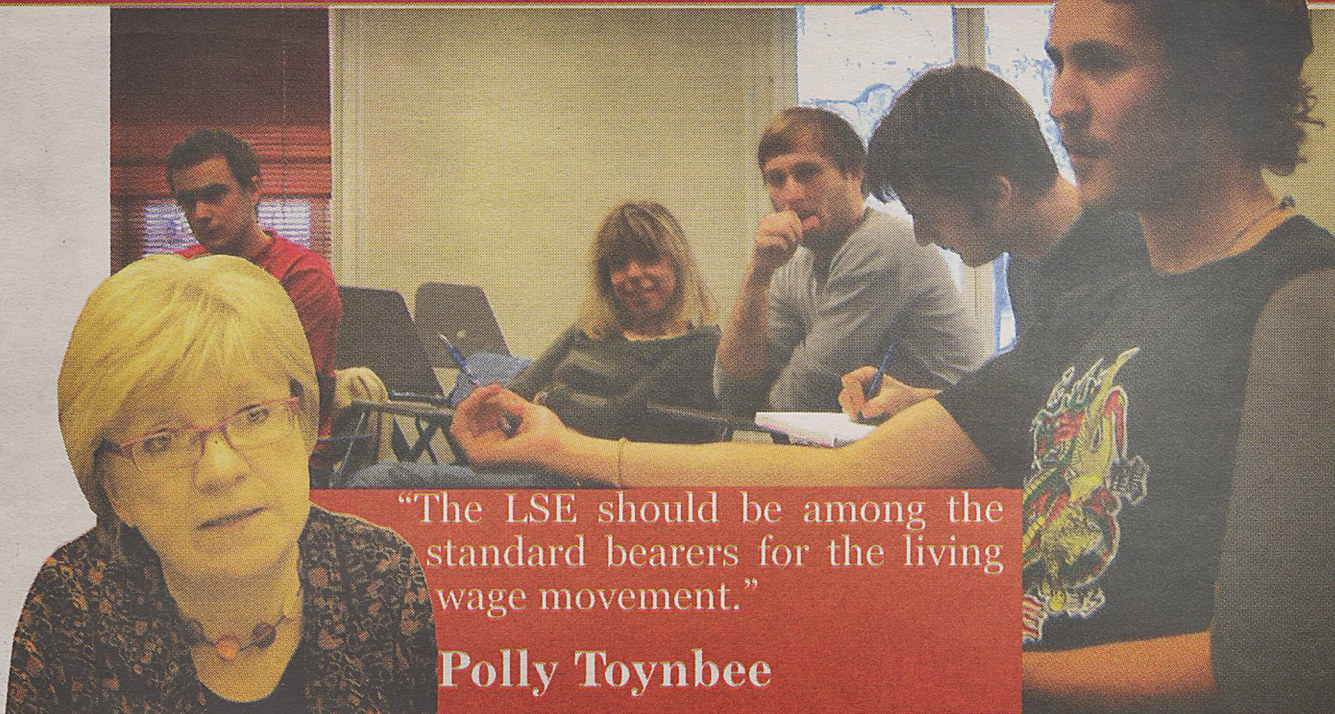
Joey Fireman, one of the students leading on the cam-

Photographs : Magnus Aabech

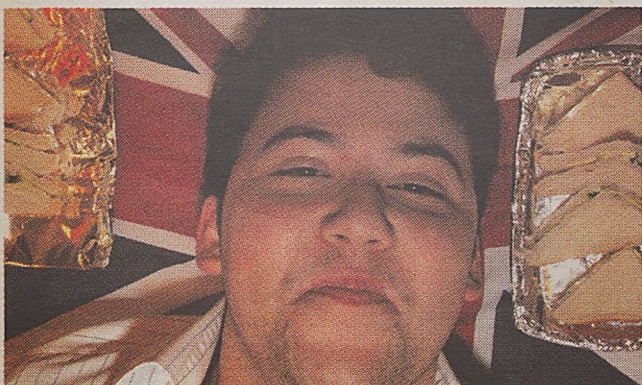
aign, told *The Beaver*: "The purpose of the launch is to send a loud and clear and public message that we're sick of how our school pays poverty wages."

"The School have indicated some willingness to meet, but on terms that reflect a desire to placate, rather than co-opt, students' and workers' demands. The launch will send the message that they still haven't taken us seriously enough," he added.

The LSE remains quiet about whether or not they will adopt the living wage in the way Queen Mary's has. A spokesperson said: "all directly employed LSE staff currently earn above £6.70 per hour. Following questions from the SU General Secretary concerning this wage issue related to the staff of our suppliers, the School has begun to look at this in further detail."



## Too few black students, LSE recruiters told



Chris Lam  
News Editor

The School's latest race report has shown that the LSE is nearly 13 percent below the Higher Education benchmark for black students at London universities.

The report bluntly concluded that, "statistically, black British [LSE] applicants have a very low prospect of admission" - three months after *The Beaver's* own investigation revealed the same.

The report analysed the admissions process from 1999 to 2005.

According to the Race Equality Working Group's (REWG) report only nine percent of all UK applicants in 2004 were black, and nearly 90 percent of those who did apply were not offered a place. The report states that UCAS indicators and the School's own records show that "the black and Chinese categories were polar opposites in terms of representation."

The School's representation of UK black and ethnic minority students is, however, higher than the South East regional average; but it is 1.3% less than the benchmark in London.

The Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE), which issues the benchmarks, has the power to cut funding to institutions if they fail to comply. The HEFCE Race Equality Scheme aims to ensure that all universities abide by the Race Relations Act, to which all UK Higher Education institutions must conform. HEFCE was unavailable for comment at the time of going to print.

An LSE spokesperson told *The Beaver* that: "The School's Race Equality Working Group continues to look at issues around admissions and widening participation among different ethnic groups. The LSE Choice scheme introduced this year works closely with inner city London schools, while recruitment staff continues to try and encourage applications from a wide range of ethnic groups as well as social backgrounds."

Part of the HEFCE Action Plan is "identifying whether there are any significant differences in non-completion rates for particular ethnic groups, and working with [Higher Education Institutions] to identify causes and possible remedies."

However as reported in *The Guardian* newspaper earlier in the year, HEFCE does

# 13%

Too few black UK students according to HEFCE benchmark

# 90%

Of black LSE applicants rejected

not measure ethnic participation at universities because "research suggests that there isn't a problem with ethnic diversity in universities."

*The Beaver's* investigation in January showed that the problem of under representation of UK black students was widespread amongst the elite 'Russell Group' of 19 universities of which LSE is a member. The problem is endemic to all sectors of education.

On a national scale, research has pointed to problems black students face at all levels of education including exclusions at primary and secondary schools and underachievement at GCSE which

impacts on A-Levels.

According to figures from the Higher Education Standard's Agency, achievement at school could be a major factor; there are more black African students at university than Black Caribbean and more Chinese and Indian than Pakistani. These are trends in line with school performance and they are also seen at the LSE.

The School runs several Widening Participation Schemes aimed at making students think about going to university but aimed at ethnic minorities in particular. However next year there will be a project aimed at, "young black males but with the aim of raising aspirations and achievement levels rather than with a view to recruiting to LSE."

LSE Students' Union General Secretary Rishi Madlani said: "The number is far lower than we would expect based on the proportion of black students at other levels of education."

"...the School is monitoring the ethnicity of students in the widening participation schemes but the solution has to be focussed at tackling the issues caused by a higher rate of exclusions and drop out rates" he continued.

# LSE students in local elections

Amy Williams

Testament to the LSE's political reputation, five students will be standing for local council seats around London this May 4.

James Caspell, Elaine Londesborough, Richard Simpson and Francois Gemenne will be contesting in Havering, Islington, Tower Hamlets and Hackney respectively for the Green Party. The students are members of the LSE Students' Union (SU) Green Party, currently the largest politically affiliated society on campus.

Caspell, Male co-Chair of the LSE SU Green Party, said, "The Green Party election candidates are giving people the

option of voting for social and environmental justice. The majority of the population are against Blair's wars and the privatisation of public services and we want them to realise that there is an alternative."

Londesborough, who is standing in Barnsbury Ward in Islington, told *The Beaver* "I'm standing in Islington to make sure that everyone has a chance to vote green in the local elections if they want to."

"The Green Party are the only party who have effective policies to achieve social and environmental justice, and it would be a huge shame if people didn't have a chance to vote for these things."

Dave Cole, a member of the LSE Labour Society, is standing in St James ward in Westminster for the Labour

party. He said: "it was suggested to me that I might stand somewhere. There are a lot of issues with Westminster City Council - Dolphin Square, Pimlico school, housing in general - and we hope we can raise those issues."

The LSE SU Conservative Society and the LSE SU Liberal Democrat Society have not put forward any candidates for the elections.

Local elections taking place this year will contest 4,360 seats across the country on 144 local authorities and all 32 London Boroughs. The elections may become crucial to the future of the current government, as the Labour Party looks set to lose many seats and control over councils including the London Borough of Camden.



LSE Students James Caspell and Elaine Londesborough at a Green Party Campaign launch

# Three Tuns is Best Bar None

Saabira Chaudhuri  
Senior Reporter

The Three Tuns, LSE's Students' Union (SU) Bar, has been awarded 'Best Bar None' accreditation on its first attempt. The 'Best Bar None' Accreditation Scheme was devised by the Greater Manchester Police in 2003, as part of a strategy to promote responsible licensed trade management and to reduce disorder in the city centre.

The objective of the Best Bar None Scheme is to provide an incentive for owners of licensed premises to improve

their standards through a high profile awards scheme.

The primary elements of 'Best Bar None' include: the promotion of responsible licensed trade management and socially responsible drinking, a commitment to caring for and protecting customers, and a commitment to reducing the potential for disorder in town centres and public places arising from alcohol abuse.

According to the NUS, "Students' Unions have always considered the welfare of their students and the Best Bar None Awards aims to reward, promote and recognize the efforts that Students' Unions place on corporate social

responsibility."

Assessment involves an examination of policy and practice in a wide range of areas such as first aid provisions, door and security policies and practice, health and safety provisions, handling instances of alcohol abuse, policy and practice in dealing with customers and policy and practice in dealing with drugs.

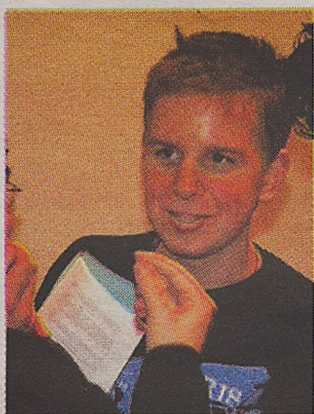
SU Treasurer Natalie Black told *The Beaver*: "I am really proud that we gained this prestigious award on our first attempt and I would like to recognize the hard work of the General Manager, Gethin Roberts, and the Bars Managers, Jim Fagan and Paul Harman."

## Union

### Krebbers wins Societies

After the fiasco surrounding last term's unconstitutional election for the position of Societies' Officer, the re-election, held on the 15 and 16 of March, gave Arthur Krebbers the position with a comfortable majority, and an increased share of the vote. While turnout had fallen considerably from just over 2000 to 659, Krebbers' share of the vote went up from 39 percent to 54 percent.

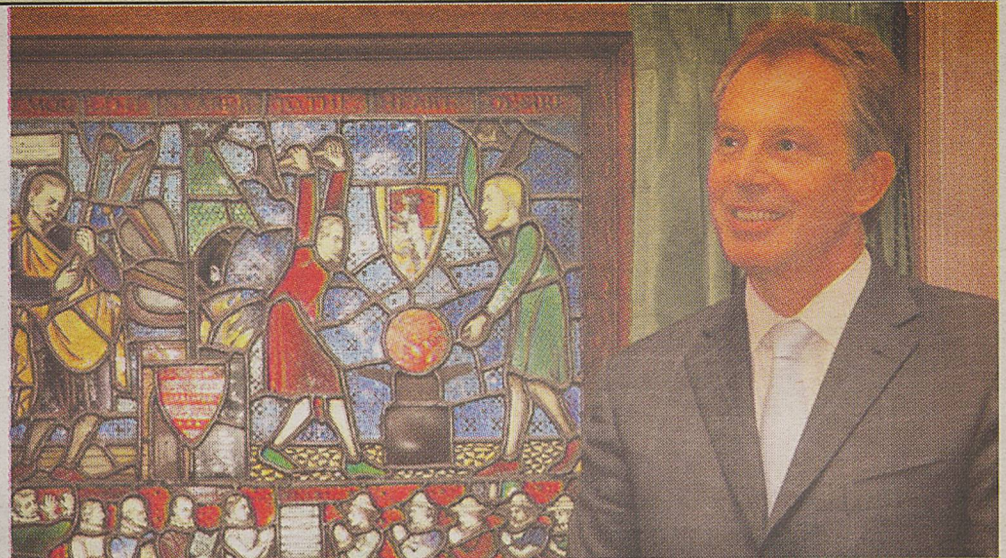
Patrick Cullen



## Charity

A third year LSE law student will be hitchhiking to Morocco as part of what is expected to be the world's largest ever hitchhike. Sati Nagra, who will depart the UK in May, is undertaking the challenge to raise money for the charity Link Community Development. "The hitch is a fantastic opportunity to raise money and awareness for the fabulous work that Link do," Nagra told *The Beaver*. For more information on the hitch and charity poker night, email Sati at s.k.nagra@lse.ac.uk

Owen Coughlan



# PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR VISITED THE LSE TO UNVEIL THE LOST FABIAN WINDOW

Photograph: Nigel Stead, LSE Photographer

# Sutherland appointed as LSE Chairman

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

intended to raise the financial clout of the school.

"A lot of emphasis has been placed on how much money Sutherland could make for the School by attracting donations, and how much BP has already donated. This sort of motive might be acceptable for House of Lords appointments but it should be a major concern to students and academics at LSE" said Caspell.

Meanwhile, Caspell issued a complaint against Sutherland's selection, commenting that current Chairman of the Court, Lord Grabiner QC, "avoided the possible embarrassment of students objecting in a formal vote and instead Sutherland's appointment was by vocal acclaim. At the end of the meeting, SU General Secretary, Rishi Madlani and I approached the Chair and made it clear that we were not willing to endorse Sutherland's appointment."

However, Madlani - the General Secretary of the LSE SU - told *The Beaver*, that it

was "clear that a two-thirds majority was there." He said the LSE SU was "involved with the Chairman Selection Committee" and had met him three days before the vote was taken.

He further noted that it was "very important that student governors raised the concerns of students" but went on to suggest that following the meeting many of these concerns were alleviated. Concerns Madlani mentioned included BP's environmental policy, Sutherland's academic experience and, given his positions in big businesses, the amount of time he has available to deal with LSE related issues.

In 2004 Director of the LSE, Sir Howard Davies, was forced to decline an offer to join oil company TotalFinaElf as a non-executive director following protests and a petition launched by the LSE SU. However, Fisher states that "it is unlikely that Sutherland will step aside or be 'scared away', and that's not the point of the protests. Hopefully, we will be able to put pressure on

LSE to continue to improve environmental and ethical standards on campus, and gain a renewed commitment to social justice and human rights."

In response to the claims, an LSE spokesperson told *The Beaver*, "student representatives were on the Selection Committee, the Council and the Court, and consulted throughout." They continued, "in terms of LSE's environmental policy, this is a commitment the School is taking very seriously, which is why the Director and senior management last year backed the 13 point Environmental Policy."

*The Beaver* did not receive a reply from the School to questions about the effects of the proposed protests by the Green Party society and whether the School was willing to reconsider the decision to appoint Sutherland.

Howard Davies, Director of the School, has said: "his (Sutherland's) background in public policy and his business and international interests match the LSE's profile remarkably well."

# New disabled access planned

Andy Hallett

An ambitious and long-awaited plan to make the LSE more accessible for disabled students and staff has been announced by

the School. In a widely praised move, the Old Building will receive a restructured main entrance landing, and a ramp running along the side of the building, making it wheelchair-accessible from

Houghton Street for the first time.

Indeed, the architectural refit is just the first part of what many at the LSE hope will be a comprehensive drive to make the School much more accessible than it is at the moment. To this end *The Beaver* has been informed that the entrance to Grosvenor House will also be improved for disabled students, and the construction will commence soon on five fully adapted rooms to provide facilities as close as possible to the School.

LSE Director of Finance and Facilities, Andrew Farrell was said to be instrumental in the campaign for the new ramp. Work of this kind is seen as a pressing issue for the School, most importantly because the Disabilities Discrimination Act (DDA) obliges organisations like the LSE to pre-empt disabled peoples' needs and accessibility issues, with punitive fines if the School is found lacking.

The redesigned exterior of the Old Building will mean students will not have to enter "round the back" off Clare Market and through the student services centre.



An artist's impression of the new disabled ramp

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

the Beaver

Established 1949 - Number 642

Without regard?

AUT strike: The issue is not who to blame, but what to do next

This paper believes it is not the place to here condemn or support the actions of the AUT and its membership. The rights, wrongs and moral intricacies of striking and unionism make for a gordian knot we feel unwilling to unravel in these column inches.

The facts on the ground then: The AUT is striking. It is doing so because eighty percent of its UK membership believe they are unfairly paid: so unfairly paid they will put down their pens and mark no more. There is no point here in lecturing the lecturers.

As students, the important issue now is that this crisis is brought to a close and our degrees do not suffer as a result. This will not be accomplished by attacking the AUT, but instead, by ensuring that the LSE has put in every contingency possible to safeguard our interests.

The problem lies in this issue. It certainly appears that the school was "woefully under prepared" for the eventuality of an AUT strike. That strike action has been escalating since Christmas, yet received all but the most cursory of mentions at LSE council, belies the simple fact: The LSE did not see fit to care about the strike.

Only now, weeks - nay months - after the threat of a marking strike was first mooted, has the issue truly hit home. As the LSE has rightly pointed out, should an accommodation be reached today between the AUT and University employers, the situation will rapidly be turned around. However, in the meantime, eventualities must be laid down in the open and students reassured.

To this end and at this time, students need to know what to expect and what to be prepared for, not who to be blaming or what not to worry about.

Of the various spurious reason the School have given for

Beyond Petroleum?

Appointment by stealth: LSE's new BP chair

appointing Peter Sutherland, Chairman of both BP and Goldman Sachs, as Chairman LSE's Court and Council, the fact that BP has donated £3 million to the School must rank as the most alarming.

For an appointment to such a position to be based on how much an individual's company has donated to the School, for this to even come into the equation, is further proof that the concerns of modern Higher Education institutions are financial before they are academic.

Student Governors of the School have suggested to council that maybe, given that our current Director is also from a business background, we should have an academic as our Chairman, to provide some balance? The School seem to have ignored these concerns, and have rather highlighted Sutherland's business background as a bonus in bringing him on board, as he has promised to "share his contacts" with the School and seek donations on his travels around the world.

They also cite the precedent of Howard Davies having no previous involvement with the School as a reason to appoint Sutherland. Where will this end? At what point can we say we have enough non-academic businessmen on board?

Students have been only minimally represented in his selection. The General Secretary of the SU was allowed to see the shortlist, but was not involved in the process of whittling that down to one. Even with this token gesture in hand, SU officials were sworn to secrecy before the acclamation of Sutherland's chairmanship became public, denying the student body as a whole the chance to voice opinions before the appointment was set in stone.

Whatever the concerns of the student body at large - whether they take issue, for example, at Sutherlands BP record or his expert support for the constitutional banning of abortion in Ireland, is irrelevant - the point is that all students had a right to express their opinion: openly and fairly.

A system without class

At last! A refreshing, honest and witty account of what prospective undergraduates should really expect of the LSE. Erik Ringmar's controversial open day speech clearly told students to be aware "that the first-class teachers usually will have their minds elsewhere than on undergraduate teaching" and if they are not absent in body, they may be absent in mind." A truer sentence could not have been uttered at an LSE Open Day. The usual marketing drivel and propaganda thrown at prospective students at such events is an insult to their intelligence. Surely bright and smart as they are, they should be presented with the truth and allowed to make their own minds up?

Whilst Ringmar's words may appear brutal, they are certainly not untrue. Once at the LSE, every student attains the enlightenment that academics aren't really that great at undergraduate teaching; they are often far too concerned in pursuit of their own research, steps to change the world (and the quest for recognition). Eventually (although in most cases perhaps a little too close to exams), we stu-



Ringmar has the right to express his frustrations with the 'commercialisation of education' Where else if not here, a place where "ideas are developed, analysed, evaluated and disseminated around the globe" will such a debate take place?

Fatima Manji Features Editor



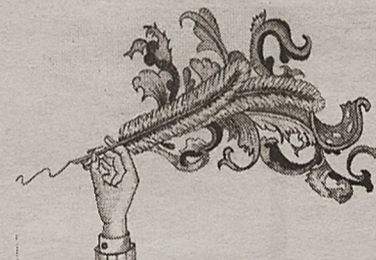
dents learn to cope...we no longer expect to be spoon-fed and we survive; even if it is only with the help of ProPlus, Red Bull and Wikipedia. Why then should prospective students be left under the illusion that LSE academics will be there for you every step of the way?

Ringmar is the first to admit he is one of these academics who "knows nothing" about undergraduate teaching, but he is evidently in tune with reality and not afraid to speak out. He highlighted the fantastic things about LSE; our geographical location, amazing history, intellectual power, diversity and multiculturalism. But at the same time he didn't deceive students on what to expect and was open about the drawbacks of being at an 'elite' institution. And I'm sure it must have made much more interesting listening than someone droning on about statistics, entry requirements and course choices, all of which can be read in the prospectus.

Finally, whether you agree with Ringmar or not, The School's Code of Practice on Free Speech clearly states: "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart infor-

mation and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his or her choice." For the Government Department to have taken action against Ringmar; demanding for his blog to be removed (and now for LSE officials to have the right to censor it, if deemed necessary) is appalling and in clear violation of this official policy. Ringmar has the right to express his frustrations with the 'commercialisation of education' and provide prospective students with an accurate picture of the LSE. And where else if not here, a place where "ideas are developed, analysed, evaluated and disseminated around the globe" (according to the LSE website) will such a debate take place? As students of such an institution, we must then play our role not only in praising Ringmar's honesty, but also by expressing our concern at the removal of the right to freedom of speech. For in the words of George Washington: "If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter."

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](mailto:thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk) and should be no longer than 250 words. All letters must be received by 3pm on the Sunday prior to publication. The Beaver reserves the right to edit letters prior to publication.

Phoney Blair

Dear Sir,

We were disheartened to discover that Tony Blair was recently invited to unveil the Fabian Window at LSE to commemorate our School's socialist foundations. We cannot think of anyone more inappropriate to remember their noble cause.

The Fabians sought to introduce polices which enabled public ownership; Blair has actively introduced policies which have undermined public ownership. The Fabians actively campaigned against war and aggression; Blair, in ordering our troops to invade Iraq, has sought to further it. In fact, the Labour Party is no longer the credible party of social justice, just as the Liberal Party were no longer

the vehicle for progress at the beginning of the last century.

The Fabians founded LSE to further the cause of equality and social justice and it is for this reason that many of us chose to apply here. We hope that for future events to remember LSE's progressive past, a more 'on message' politician can be invited.

Yours sincerely,  
James Caspell  
Aled Dilwyn Fisher

Hi guysh!

Dear Sir,

I am pleased with the relatively high turnout for the Societies Officer re-election at the end of last term.

Whilst I shared the concerns of

the returning officer with regards to holding this re-election, I am extremely delighted with the clear mandate that I have now received.

I do, however, feel that we need to take steps to avoid the communication failures that have led to problems in the first election. We really can not afford to risk another such case, not least given the amount of time, energy and finances that go into hosting another cross-campus ballot.

Kind regards,  
Arthur Krebbers,  
LSE SU Societies Officer

A letter from the editor

Dear Sirs,

I would like to take this oppor-

tunity to thank all the people who have made *the Beaver* what it is this year. Foremost among them has been everyone on the editorial board.

There have been plenty of late nights, early mornings and hard work inbetween. Without wanting to load cliché on top of cliché - this has been a truly fantastic year for the media at the LSE SU.

Putting together this issue was no easy feat either - and testament, I hope, to the continued dedication and effort of all the paper's voluntary editors and writers.

Thank you to everyone, for all the work they have put in this year: your efforts, not mine, have truly made this paper what it is. All the best,

Sam Jones  
Executive Editor 2005-2006

the Beaver

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The Beaver is available in alternative formats.

## FEATURES

Politics/Law/Business/Careers

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**WOMEN AND SEX**  
FEATURES EDITOR **JESS BRAMMAR**  
BELIEVES THAT THE IDEA OF WOMEN  
NOT BEING INTERESTED IN SEX IS  
COMPLETELY UNTRUE



**PLIGHT OF THE ORANGUTAN**  
ORANGUTANS ARE FAST BECOMING  
EXTINCT. **ALEXA SHARPLES** EXAMINES  
WHAT THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT  
ARE DOING TO PREVENT THIS



## The right approach

Charles  
Laurence

In the story of the Emperor's new clothes, a mighty emperor meets a mysterious tailor who spends many weeks making the most expensive and luxurious garment the Emperor has ever worn. When the Emperor puts it on he is a bit nervous for he cannot feel or see what he is wearing, but having been told that only the most refined tastes can appreciate such cloth, he convinces himself of what a beautiful garment he is wearing. When he parades through the town the townsfolk are similarly transfixed. The Emperor look just like a naked man walking through town and yet they realise, in fact, he is wearing a garment of incomparable expense and sophistication. It is only towards the end that a small child shatters everyone's illusion, by boldly stating that the emperor is not wearing any clothes.

There are many who see the last week as evidence of a government which has run out of steam, full of good intentions but ultimately corrupted, as all eventually are, by power. This is simply not the case. New Labour has, from its outset, been corrupt and venal. Often flagrantly so. For example:

Bernie Ecclestone, that well-known socialist radical, bunged £1 million to the party and promptly saw the ban on tobacco advertising delayed for formula one, an occurrence that would have led to heads rolling in a Conservative administration. We were told that the two events were purely coincidental.

The Party cravenly gave into their union paymasters over pensions, forcing millions in the private sector to spend years more in work in order to pay for the early retirement of who are on government payrolls.

The government spun the country into a war, and then bullied a naive scientist until he killed himself.

Dangerous criminals were not deported; endangering the public to protect asylum statistics.

The overspend on the NHS computer system alone equals all the third-world debt written off by the G8 last year.

Gordon Brown spends every year expanding his terracotta army of useless public sector workers, paid for by the tax payer and beholden to the Labour party for their jobs.

Tony Blair gives business men seats in the legislature in return for funding pet government projects.

Whilst any other government would have collapsed, the New Labour difference is their very own new set of clothing. The messianic New Labour project has spent year denigrating the opposition portraying them as dangerous and untrustworthy; giving New Labour an almost moral mission to stay in power. With this mindset almost anything becomes possible. Allowing policy to be dictated on the basis of cheques from Unions and big business is an acceptable immorality when facing the greater evil of the Conservatives. Rather like how lying to the British people was a legitimate tactic to go into a war Blair knew was right. This kind of charade

can only be kept up with a straight face by someone with deep psychological flaws. Someone who sees his mission as too important to let the truth step in the way, someone with the inability to accept wrongdoing even with all the facts presented. Introducing... Mr Anthony Blair. It is his shocked face that we saw when the Eccleston story broke; "How could anyone possibly accuse me of impropriety?" he seemed to convey with every utterance and contorted facial expression.

From this, a trend was set; plausible deniability, a self-righteous Blair and a complete disregard for the facts, the hallmarks of every New Labour scandal. As Anthony Seldon, Blair's biographer said once over the evidence on Iraq 'Blair didn't believe he was lying'. Media complicity and the Conservatives' uncanny ability to fall into every possible PR trap has allowed this particularly gruesome Emperor to march around unimpeded for years.

The ones who suffer, of course, are the little guys. The ones who have to work all hours of the day to pay for NHS paperclip pushers to do nothing productive before they retire on a generous pension. The ones who can't get an operation because it is too time consuming and would look bad on the statistics. And people like the woman, who was brutally raped by a man who should have been deported but wasn't because that would have reflected badly on the asylum application figures. The New Labour project serves the interest groups that fund it, the arbitrary targets it sets and its own survival. It does not serve the people. Cameron must remember that when he proudly claims to be the heir to Blair. Once the Conservatives have won the battle of PR they will win power only, because they are on people's side. Just like Thatcher was on the side of the man who wanted to own his house and start a business. Cameron must be on the side of the ill and uneducated against the self-serving systems that fail them.

The Emperor has been exposed, but he didn't just get undressed, he was naked all along.

## Eyes to the left

Andy  
Hallett

Dwight Eisenhower, who by recent standards of the US Presidency, was something of an intellectual, chose his final televised speech from the Oval Office (quoted at the beginning of Oliver Stone's JFK) to remark in a wonderful phrase that; "we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex... Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defence with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together." The year was 1961, at the height of the Cold War and yet terrifyingly the phrase is even more resonant

today, especially in the US but also to a certain extent to the rest of the world.

One only has to consider the frequency with which the hyper power goes to war, most recently to secure Gulf oil. It is accompanied by the British poodle yapping at its heels, and by the aggressive lobbying power of "defence" firms like Boeing or BAE Systems, or the massive contributions Exxon Mobil and other assorted grotesques made to Bush's election funds. The intelligent observer may rightly conclude that arms or oil companies have a massively influential and enormously negative effect on government. Policy is fashioned to suit the morons who work for, or own shares in them. In a less dramatic fashion, New Labour has proven itself worthy of Eisenhower's worries about big business' effect on policy, since it now quite blatantly hands out seats in the national legislature for bribes from businessmen.

In fact, since 1961, business' influence over government, often to the detriment of citizens, has only become more and more significant in the US. Case in terrifying point would be the aptly named "Dick" Cheney's relationship with Halliburton, who was awarded a no-bid contract worth \$7 billion to "rebuild" Iraq (presumably this was needed given years of American bombing, devastation and the mass murder of 500,000 Iraqi children due to the strongly US-enforced UN "oil for food" programme). Readers may or may not be surprised to learn that Cheney, as the former CEO of Halliburton, has stock options in the company worth \$8 million, perhaps not the smallest of factors being considered when the Bush gang were deciding who would get a large chunk of their war spoils.

It is of course the party which in irony exceeded only by their 1997 "things can only get better" line, still terms itself "democratic and socialist" (it is neither); New Labour, which has got business bribes down to a tee. When Formula One boss Bernie Ecclestone gave Labour £1 million prior to the 'unrelated' announcement that motor racing would be exempt from the proposed ban on tobacco advertising in sport, Blair's response was "I'm a pretty straight kind of guy." If "pretty" means "shamelessly" and "straight" means "lying and corrupt" then our dear leader is dead right. One would think they would treat their own members, at least, with a modicum of respect. Although, if Labour party members are really happy about funding the 'chavtastic' Mrs. Blair's hair grooming to the tune of £7,700 (she "earns" approximately £250,000 per annum if you're interested), then they deserve all the contempt the government treats them with.

As if it were not bad enough that HM Government lies and spins its way across the polity, British taxpayers' cash is funding their bribery-induced schemes. It may interest British and French readers of this column to note the Anglo-French collaboration on three giant new aircraft carriers is being undertaken in the majority by arms companies (Thales and BAE) with clear and strong links with government on both sides of the channel. Their £3 billion cost would, of course, be able to save lives by sending mosquito nets to Africa or building hospitals in deprived areas of the UK, but unless nurses and aid workers have some spare millions that can help fund Blair's mortgage this is unlikely to occur. Indeed, given what Eisenhower's military-industrial complex did to his successor, I cannot be optimistic about the situation changing markedly. But of course, that does not mean we should not try. Try to remember that if you're voting this Thursday...

the Blog 02/05/06



The press has had great fun over the weekend describing the blow-by-blow details of John Prescott's affair with his former diary secretary, Tracy Temple. Ms Temple was paid in excess of £100,000 by *The Mail on Sunday* to reveal how the Deputy Prime Minister would "interrupt his official business to caress her or engage in sexual banter." The MP for Hull East has claimed that much of Ms Temple's recollections were "simply untrue," and has threatened to take the matter to the Press Complaints Commission. This week is likely to be worse for Prescott as the press are allegedly waiting to reveal two more improper relationships he had with colleagues.

It has been a bad week for many Ministers in the Labour Government. Last week pressure was heaped on the Home Secretary, Charles Clarke, after it emerged that hundreds of foreign prisoners had been released at the end of their sentences without deportation. Not to be left out, John Reid MP found his way into the news after it was revealed that cannabis had been found at the Scottish home of the Defence Secretary. Although remaining tight-lipped on the story a government spokesman did say that the cannabis could have been in the house for "up to twenty years." After keeping the story quiet for a couple of months, Strathclyde Police confirmed that the cannabis had been found during a "routine" sweep. Interestingly though, just over two months ago cannabis campaigner Jeffery Ditchfield was arrested and charged for sending a cannabis plant to a Government Minister. That Minister was John Reid.

As a beleaguered government head toward the local elections on Thursday many are asking whether it is purely coincidental that all of the Ministers under attack; Prescott, Hewitt, Clarke and Reid are Blair loyalists. The question is, who is the person who triggered these exposures, and why? The fact that the Home Office story has been sat on for a while before being leaked rules out the opposition as the source because they would certainly have used it earlier when they sought to get rid of Blunkett. Whoever was behind this wants Prescott and Clark out of the way. Gordon Brown is Old Labour through and through and has no need for Prescott, the token Old Labour dinosaur used to appease the Labour bank-benchers. Once in power, he is going to have a purge of Blairites so he will have no problem crippling a few along the way.

Ben Biggs, Features Editor

Ise



Beyond  
petroleum?

Part  
**B**

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE AROUND LONDON

## Feature

Exploring the merits of the energy industry and specifically BP, whose chairman, Peter Sutherland KCMG will chair the LSE



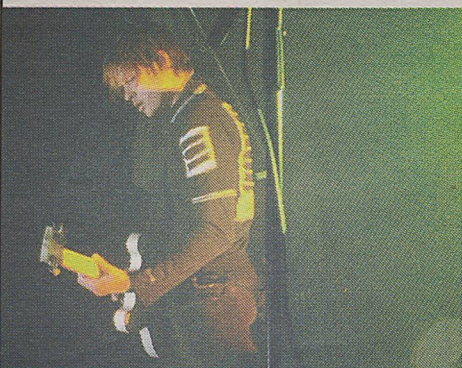
## Visual Arts

A review of the 'Americans in Paris 1860-1900' at the National Gallery



## Film

Tsotsi and Syriana, to be released on DVD in early July, offer rare insight into world affairs



## Music

An ambitious Tom Delonge plays London with a new group of pop-punk angels

## Today

'A Midsummer Night's Dream'  
Greenwich Playhouse  
7:45pm  
Admission: £8 with NUS

**The Cherry Reds**  
Rhythm Factory  
Doors at 8pm  
Admission: £3

**Blue Man Group**  
New London Theatre, Drury Lane, WC2  
8pm  
Tickets from £15

## Wednesday

'Madame Butterfly'  
Sadler's Wells Theatre  
7:30pm  
Admission: £33

**Towers of London**  
KCL, Surrey Street  
Doors at 7.30pm  
Admission: from £8.50

'Mary Poppins'  
Prince Edward Theatre  
7:30pm  
Admission: from £15

## Thursday

'Maxwell's Fullmooners'  
The Comedy Store, 1 Oxendon Street  
Doors at 11pm  
Admission: £10

**The Needles**  
Water Rats  
Doors at 7:30pm  
Admission: £5 with NUS

Baroque Music Festival  
St. John's Church, Smith's Square  
Doors at 7:30pm  
Admission: from £9

## Friday

Singalong: 'A Sound of Music'  
Prince Charles Theatre, 7 Leicester Place  
7:30pm  
Admission: £13.50

**ILiKETRAiNS**  
Camden Barfly  
Doors at 7:30pm  
Admission: £6

'La Fille Mal Gardee'  
Royal Opera House  
7.30  
Tickets from £28

## Saturday

**Tim Clark**  
Camden Jongleurs  
Doors at 10pm  
Admission: £15

'Feeling Gloomy' Clubnight  
Islington Academy  
10pm - 4am  
Admission: £4 with NUS

**David Icke** - Freedom or Fascism?  
Brixton Academy  
Doors open at 1pm  
Admission: from £25

## Sunday

**Mendeed**  
Camden Underworld  
Doors at 7:30pm  
Admission: £4

'Breakfast with Jonny Wilkinson'  
Menier Chocolate Factory, 53 Southwark St.  
4pm  
Admissions: £18.50

'City of Wine'  
Vinopolis, 1 Bank End, SE1  
12pm - 6pm  
Admission: £12.50

## Monday

**Take That**  
Wembley Arena  
Doors at 7:30pm  
Admission: from £35

**Amy Smith & Julia Biel**  
Islington Bar Academy  
Doors at 7pm  
Admission: from £7

'Billy Elliot: The Musical'  
Victoria Palace Theatre  
7.30  
Tickets from £17.50

# EDITORIAL

On 1 January 2008, Peter Sutherland KCMG will begin serving as Chairman of the LSE Council and the Court of Governors. The BP website notes his service as chairman at both BP and Goldman Sachs International and non-executive director at the Royal Bank of Scotland Group, whose website in turn lists past service as attorney general of Ireland and director general of the World Trade Organisation. Clearly Sutherland can offer remarkable skill and exceptional leadership to the LSE. Any rational being, at first glance, would feel little need to thrust politics upon the unanimous appointment.

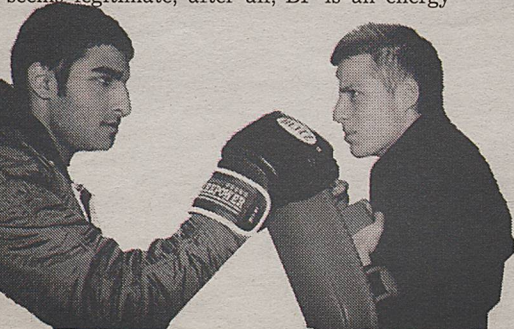
However, LSE students are often a far cry from rational. One only needs to mention the recent AU Barrel riot as a reminder. And so the appointment of Sutherland has been met with student opposition. Some of the outrage seems legitimate; after all, BP is an energy

company that has had its share of oil spillages and carbon emissions. Some of the outrage, however, seems less legitimate; some are using the appointment as an excuse to reiterate every blanket criticism of the energy industry, with Sutherland at the lone receiving end.

Regardless of who wins and who loses, our everyday dependence on energy remains. Petrochemicals are used to dye the ink with which we will write exams. They are in the food additives we will consume during study breaks. And they are in the pain relievers we will take after our results arrive and our parents beat us with wooden sticks. The energy problem cannot be solved overnight.

Good luck on exams, and congratulations to future PartB editors Kevin Perry and Dan Yates.

jamimakan & alexteyfelboym



# HEY YOU!

**French cigarettes**  
By Anonymous

I've always hated going to Selfridges because there are so many good-looking girls there. They wear designer label clothes, which are real and cost as much as my entire amazing drum kit. They never go in pairs: alone or in threesomes. If they choose the latter option, the shopping is often accompanied by Paris Hilton copyrighted phrases and loud laughter. Never approach them. But she was alone in the Prada section. I was sitting in the restaurant on the first floor, sipping over-priced Darjeeling.

I wouldn't say she caught my eye. She stole my eyes: long slim legs, shaped by morning runs, slender, tanned body, despite the cold early spring.

She glanced at me and continued shopping.

I looked down at my cup. The steam hit my face.

She visited a couple more sections before walking into the restaurant. I felt that she forced herself to concentrate on the coffee menu on the wall. A child fell from a chair and started crying. Waitress panicked and rushed over to help.

'Can I have a cigarette?' - I heard.

'What do you usually smoke?'

'Gitanes'

'Why?'

'They remind me of home' - she smiled and sat down.

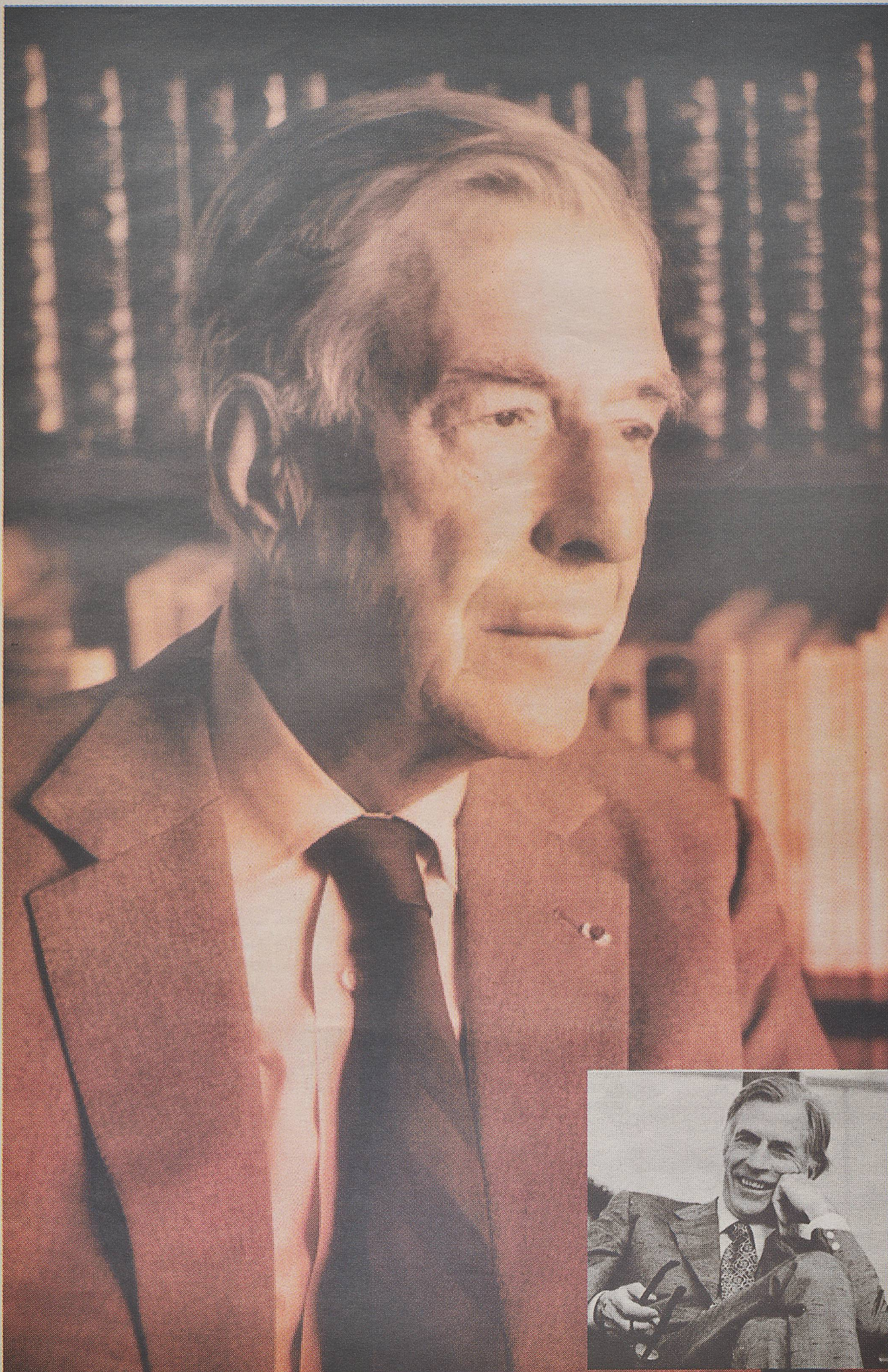
We didn't sleep that night.

Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations -changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent- to [thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk](mailto:thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk) with 'Hey You!' as the subject line. Hey You! inspired by the OC Weekly of Santa Ana, California.



# GALBRAITH

John Kenneth Galbraith, economist, philosopher, died on 29th April



More in the United States die of too much food than of too little

John Galbraith came to the LSE seven years ago with a lecture entitled 'In the New Century, the Unfinished Business of the Old.' The uncompromising liberal was on hostile territory; he always admitted that his heart lay at Cambridge – 'the temple', as he often called it. He would recall lengthy debates between John Maynard Keynes, whom he admired, and Friedrich von Hayek over sixty years ago. Like every other great economist, Galbraith disagreed with the obvious, but he did not do so behind the hundreds of doors of an academic department – he delivered economics to anyone who sought the explanations.

He was born on 15 October 1908 in Ontario and received most of his early education in Canada. After obtaining a PhD from Berkeley, he moved to the epicenter of contemporary economics at Cambridge. Keynesian influence impacted most of Galbraith's early work and he retained most of the postulates for the rest of his life. After the war, by then an American citizen who served in the White House Administration, Galbraith began teaching as a professor at Princeton. Student had to stand to listen to his lectures, but the theatres were always full.

His writing was fluent and stripped of technicalities. Galbraith once regarded 'A Theory of Price Control' as his best book, but it never left academic circles. His decision to write for a wider audience set his talent free.

'The Affluent Society', probably Galbraith's best-known work, left the American audience speechless. He took apart consumer and producer culture, presenting the obvious overproduction of frivolous goods and pointed out that advertising induced consumers to purchase goods they never needed. However, several other famous economists disagreed, showing that advertising is informative and give the consumer more power.

Galbraith's genius was admired at the office, but he was much more respected as a diplomat and a speechwriter than a policy advisor. In 'The New Industrial State' he argued that government policy should be determined by the emerging class of academics and intellectuals – a class to which he belonged himself. Perhaps the government sensed that and Galbraith was sent as ambassador to India. He admired the East and had considerable experience, researching Indian art and writing a book on it. He gathered an extensive collection of antiques, most of which are now at Harvard.

He never received a Nobel Prize, though many of his critics, including Stigler and Becker, did. But he remained faithful to his principles, now often called 'classic Galbraithian heresies', to his last days. 'In economics, the majority is always wrong,' he maintained. He never belonged to a majority and rarely succumbed to modesty, which he regarded a 'vastly overrated virtue'. In his last years the heretic, much like Galileo, found the strength to write his last book, where he challenged virtually all of conventional economics. He sided with the poor, arguing that they will eventually become the fundamental part of the political system. The Fabians, who founded the School, would have loved him.

alexteylboym

## It is a misconception that BP has a terrible environmental record.

Admittedly, it is bad if compared with the environmentalist idyll of people who gave up on taking foreign holidays or driving to work. However if the reality that the world currently runs on oil is accepted as beyond BP's control, then their record starts to look very good. Their investment of £5 billion over 10 years in alternative energy is a vast amount of money. It is also money being spent by a company interested in making alternative energy a practical and economical proposition. If hydrogen cars and solar power become a reality, this will most likely be as a result of investments by energy companies like BP, along with other big investors in alternative energy like Toyota. BP's work on reducing emissions has been hugely successful, meeting its target of a 10% reduction eight years ahead of schedule. This reduction has also been hugely beneficial to the company. BP has saved \$600 million through these efficiency gains. Achieving significant cuts in emissions by making current technology more efficient also provides a practical way to combat climate change.

The environmentalist movement can be its own worst enemy, condemning BP as to attack one of the best hopes for improvement in the way we treat our environment. Likewise, the Chancellor can be the worst enemy of the British economy. Taking the profit from the North Sea hurts investment there and hastens the day when Britain's economy can be wrecked by increases in the oil price and undermines any effort to overcome the economic challenge of our ageing population by reducing pensions.

British Petroleum (a company to be proud of)

Those looking at the profitable corporation that is BP should be aware that its corporate activities have positive impacts that are often understated. These may be less obvious than handouts or charitable gifts but they are, nevertheless, massively important. When listening to Gordon Brown's complaints about how oil prices are hurting the UK economy, it is important to remember that we have only just become net importers of oil and that our net imports are still negligible. The only way that high oil prices can cause trouble for the British economy is if they crash other economies which are genuinely dependent upon imports of oil, such as the US'. Since the US economy is still improving, Britain's economic sluggishness cannot be blamed on the oil price. This means that the effects of high oil prices in the UK are to shift income from motorists to the shareholders of oil firms like BP.

Concerns about whether it can be fair for BP to be making so much profit, \$22.3 billion last year, don't stand up to scrutiny. BP dividends make up around 17% of the entire income of UK pension funds. When the introduction of means testing and tax raids on pension funds have led to a reduced incentive to save and a fiscal crisis looms on the horizon thanks to too many pensioners relying on tax income to provide for them in their old age, increasing the income of pension funds can only be a good thing. Oil profits, which some commentators seem to view as money lost to the ether, actually help us get away with policy mistakes that discourage proper provision for old age.

A shift in income from motorists to pensioners cannot be seen as an injustice.

# The price of oil

BP announced that it would spend as much as £5 billion on alternative energy projects in the next ten years. It will invest into solar, wind and hydrogen power projects.

A recent explosion at a refinery left 15 people dead. BP admitted fault in the explosion. Since 1990 BP has reported over 100 accidents in the UK.

BP has a history of human rights abuses, and environmental and social crimes, committed across the globe. Even among the litany of oil company-related scandals, BP stands out as a particularly bad apple. The corporation has left a painful scar on people, communities and landscapes all over the world. Many of you, I am sure, will come from countries in which BP has caused significant destruction. The most high-profile case of recent years is the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline. Stretching from the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean, the pipeline runs through the Borjomi National Park, where residents fear that oil spills will contaminate their mineral water industry, which is a major export commodity for the region. BP's contracts with the 3 governments involved, who have poor human rights record, override domestic social and environmental legislation and has been described as 'colonial' giving effective sovereignty to BP and its partners. In West Papua, Colombia, Alaska and the North Sea - areas surrounding other pipelines - BP has a record of driving down taxes, depriving states of revenue and energy, human rights abuses, confiscation of property with little or no compensation and environmental disasters (including spills and river diversions). This year, the Prudhoe Bay Alaskan Oil Slick released 265,000 barrels of oil after BP had been fined \$300,000 in 2002 for failing to install a leak detection system promptly, as required by state law. The list of BP's terrible infractions is daunting, but suffice to say, these are serious offences that are recurring frequently in connection to BP projects around the world, and they should be worrying for all people who care about human rights, society and the environment.

Many corporations have well-documented records of ethical and environmental abuse, but individual corporations and individuals within corporations can make a difference to the way in which their company acts. As the Chairman of BP, Sutherland has an obligation to oversee the activities of the company and make sure that their actions are in line with their rhetoric. The report from LSE Council asserts that, 'it was noted that while some environmentalist groups might have concerns, many considered BP to be a market leader in corporate responsibility.' In addition, BP had donated over £3 million to the School over the past 30 years. This seems like a worrying justification for Sutherland's appointment. It ignores the concerns of a large part of civil society, suggesting that Corporate Responsibility is a worthy substitute for genuinely ethical behaviour and implies that companies should expect returns on their apparently innocent donations to the school. It is surely a worrying signal from LSE when they choose a significant donor, with little experience in charge of academic institutions, to head the most important body in the school. I am not ruling out Corporate Responsibility in its entirety - such an idea is commendable if it does not act as a veneer for a systemic abuse of ethical standards. In the case of BP, however, it simply masks the reality of their way of conducting business. Consider the fact that BP spends seven times more money on its Greenwash advertising campaign than on environmental projects. Green-Washing is a classic BP trick: they advertise themselves as committed to sustainability while performing in an irresponsible and reckless manner when it comes to social and environmental realities. The appointment of Sir Peter Sutherland sends a sad message to the rest of the world and many people who have suffered as a result of BP's projects.

BP is responsible for the spill of 267,000 gallons of oil on the Alaska North Slope in March. This was the world's biggest spill ever.

A recent explosion at a BP refinery left 15 people dead. BP admitted its role in the accident. 90 BP refineries have caused over 3,500 deaths across the U.S.

One of BP's projects, the £2.5bn, 1000 mile-long Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipe has been criticised for violation of international standards. Environmental groups argue the pipeline will worsen human rights problems along the route, as many of the neighbouring Kurdish population was not consulted

# Americans in Paris



Aspiring American artists, enticed by Paris' heady mix of sophisticated glamour and grimy human depravity, arrived in the city at the turn of the 20th century. They came to learn their craft in smoke-filled studios, and to see progressive and exciting art, from the annual Paris Salon, to the eight Impressionist shows, where iconic artists such as Monet and Renoir were first put on public display. Many of these artists adapted the distinctly French styles they had picked up in Paris to the commercial and artistic environment of their homeland once they returned to the United States. It is this extraordinary mix of Parisian flair and licentiousness with the lustre and optimism of turn-of-the-century America that makes this exhibition so unique.

The exhibition is divided into seven rooms, which lead

the visitor through the various stages of the American artist in Paris. The first room, 'Paris as Training Ground,' introduces the sundry of US artists, both leading and eccentric, who found Paris so alluring. Here we were familiarised with the two main worlds of Parisian art: the flâneurs of Carolus-Duran and Kenneth R. Cranford, to the bohemians of Joseph Lindon Smith and dishevelled Irishman Thomas Hovenden. After this induction, we drifted into the second room, 'Paris as Proving Ground,' which is really the tour de force of the exhibition. Entering the room, you are greeted by Whistler's intense portrait of his mother, which is on loan from the Musée d'Orsay in Paris. This painting is reminiscent of Hopper in both the smooth lines of its composition and the desolation of its subject. The arrangement in Grey and

Black of his mother's unceasing prayer for her son's success as an artist somewhat overshadows the other masterpieces present. To the left is Thomas Eakins' striking image of the crucifixion, and to the right is Whistler's magnificent 'The White Girl,' a symphony in white and exercise in realism in the manner of Courbet, depicting his Irish lover's forlorn gaze, with the floral emblem of the aesthetic movement, the lily, drooping in her hand. Rooms 3-6 represent fin de siècle Paris at its best, from Sargent's depiction of flamboyant top-hat-and-tails rehearsals at the Cirque d'Hiver and controversial image of the glamorous femme fatale Madame Gautreau, to Vonnegut's impressionist aesthetic of broken brush strokes and vibrant colours of a poppy field in the Parisian summer.

The final room is the most incongruous of the exhibi-

tion, containing paintings by artists who returned to the US and adapted their work to the tastes of American buyers. Ironically, it is in these latter paintings, heavily influenced by the free brushstrokes of the Impressionist style, but poor substitutes in pastels and pallid colours, that one begins to fully appreciate the vivacity of the Parisian art scene. Tarbell's 'Three Sisters,' for example, is an idyllic scene of American buoyancy and affluence, with all the prettiness of a Renoir, but lacking that mysterious element that makes the paintings of the Parisian school so full of life and narrative.

Take an hour break from revision and head down the Strand - the exhibition runs until 21 May, and student concessions are available at £4.50.

jessbrammar&samlehmann

@ the National  
Gallery, Sainsbury  
Wing, until 21 May

ARTS

## Insightful summer DVDs *Tsotsi* (3 July) and *Syriana* (10 July) are more pertinent to world affairs than the next Hilary Duff flop



Robber steals car and then notices infant on backseat. A classic storyline that has characterised dozens of bland Hollywood comedies over the years. In most cases, the presence of the child shocks and defeats the generic car thief. The audience laughs as the child overwhelms his clumsy captor, inadvertently forced to provide pastoral care reserved for parenthood. The generic car thief seems aloof and helpless. And chances are he is not an orphaned thug who, on the same day, helped murder a Johannesburg shopkeeper, pummelled an alcoholic friend or shot the mother of the child on the driveway of her million-dollar home.

Indeed, the placement of such a clichéd plot twist at the heart of a graphic South African gangster film seems bizarre and jarring. But rather than serving as a narrow comedic device, the mistake of accidentally driving off with an infant brings about a process of personal transformation and redemption within the thief. The thief here, from whom the film takes its name, is played by Presley Chweneyagae, who has never trained formally as an actor. After noticing the child, bewilderment causes him to crash the car. He strips the car of any valuable personal belongings and decides, for reasons left unclear, to take the child before walking back to the shanty town from which he came. After a day of struggling to care for the infant, Tsotsi forces a local single mother, at gunpoint, to feed and wash the child. During a second encounter, she begs him to let her care for the child. She desires company for her own infant and notices his clear incompetence at child rearing.

A newly unburdened Tsotsi rejoins his fellow thugs Boston, a failed teacher played by Mthusi Magano, Butcher, a ruthless assassin played by Zenzo Ngqobe and Aap, his closest and most loyal companion played by Kenneth Nkosi. However, while their job demonstrates the new maturity of Tsotsi, it also eventually brings about his downfall.

Unlike *The Constant Gardener* or *City of God*, *Tsotsi* does not depend on a setting of poverty, crime and despair to engage the audience. Because its protagonist embodies those characteristics rather than attempting to escape them, the audience observes South African poverty from a uniquely internal perspective. Director Gavin Hood captures the sentiments of characters so effectively that when Tsotsi enters an affluent neighbourhood and proceeds to steal a BMW (and infant) on the driveway of a gated house, the audience identifies less with his wealthy victims until the final climactic scene.

*Tsotsi* has already left its mark on the film industry, having recently won the Best Foreign Film Oscar. It offers a soundtrack of 'Kwaito,' the urban dance music of modern South African townships that is sung in street slang and draws upon every genre from hip-hop to British house. It offers a unique interpretation of the only novel written by prolific playwright Athol Fugard. Finally, it offers riveting insight into thug life in South African shantytowns, a lifestyle that, despite its violent exterior, is one we can all relate to.

jamimakan



*Syriana* defies neat summarisation. Written and directed by Stephen Gaghan, whose *Traffic* won an Oscar for Best Screenplay, *Syriana* traces out the global effects of a merger between two international oil firms. It follows everyone from ruthless Washington lawyers to Geneva-based energy analysts to aging CIA agents to disaffected Pakistani labourers. Some stories seem more closely linked than others. Some stories might not seem linked at all. But in any case, the film paints a disparaging reality, one in which corruption within the intelligence community and oil industry triumphs over Middle Eastern reform and, quite literally, the lives of innocent women and children everywhere.

Gaghan, who undertook 18 months of research and met Texas oil barons, CIA agents and Hezbollah leaders, insists that every event dramatised in *Syriana* actually happened. But because of its unique breadth, *Syriana* is less controversial than universally disheartening. Although America clearly 'wins' at the end, the film does not take sides. Rather, it suggests that no definite sides exist in an overwhelmingly complex world. After all, what good are moral principles when, as one character states, 'corruption keeps us safe and warm?'

Before shooting *Syriana*, George Clooney put on 35 pounds to play Bob Barnes, a veteran CIA agent fluent in Farsi. Extremists recruit an unemployed Pakistani youth to carry out an attack using explosives he lost in Tehran. Meanwhile, Barnes is sent to assassinate an emir dedicated to reform but falsely declared a sponsor of terrorism. Matt

Damon plays an yuppie energy analyst who befriends the emir. Jeffrey Wright plays Bennett Holiday, a lawyer assigned to investigate the legality of a merger between two major oil companies. He must divide his time between company execs and Washington insiders, some of whom benefit from political turmoil in the Middle East.

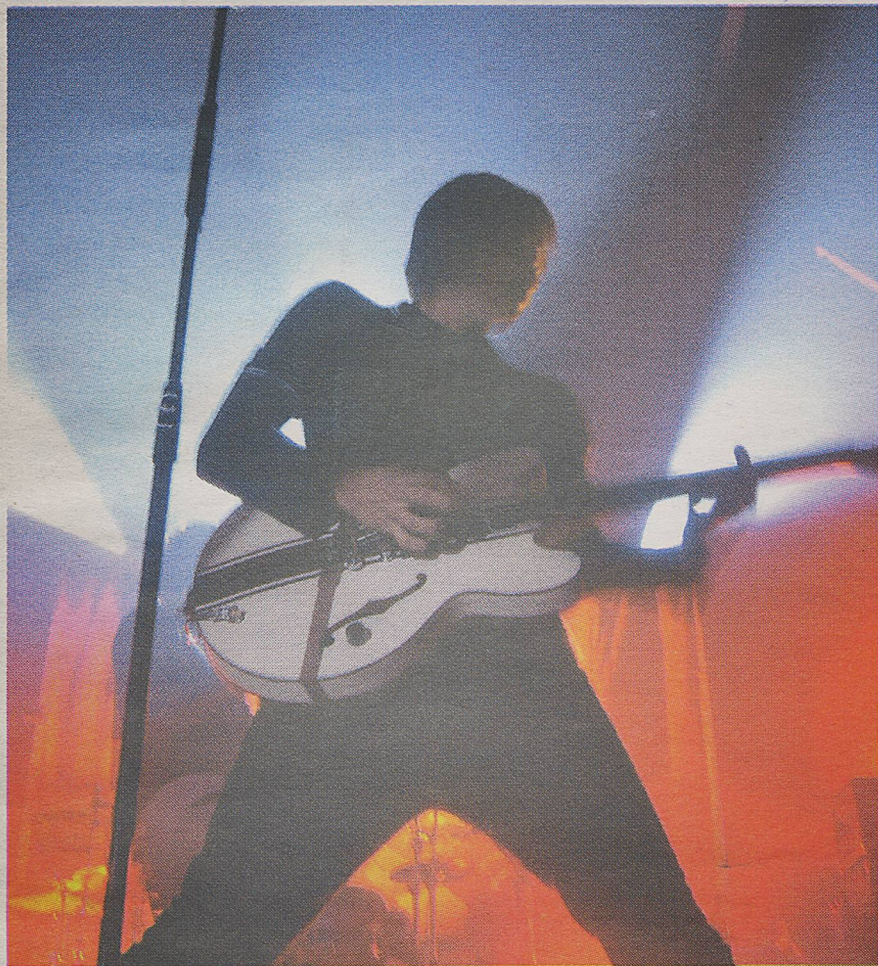
Each character, despite his role in the cinematic superstructure, endures personal issues (there is alcoholism in Holiday's family, while Barnes' son at Princeton becomes frustrated with parental secrecy) which, though limited to subplot material, ultimately win audiences. It is precisely here that they find their place in the landscape of *Syriana*. The film, having managed to make room for everyone and everything, immediately becomes less disheartening, as domestic issues are more easily tackled than grim political realities.

*Syriana* might offer criticism for Western foreign policy enthusiasts, comfort for opponents of globalisation and general pessimism for the rest of us. But if nothing else, the film, which sometimes feels like a documentary, offers tremendous insight into that grey area where members of the intelligence community, policymakers, terrorists and multinational corporations intersect. And undoubtedly, the next time audiences read *Financial Times* headlines about oil mergers, the last thing on their minds will be the price of petrol.

jamimakan

# Angels and Airwaves

Former Blink 182 guitarist Tom DeLonge has returned to the pop-punk scene with an ambitious project that simultaneously takes the piss and aims to change the world as we know it



During recent months, hearing **Tom DeLonge** describe his new band **Angels and Airwaves** as 'the antithesis of being safe' and 'a grand experiment' through which he was 'coming into his own great era' almost felt like hearing **President Bush** call **Donald Rumsfeld** 'exactly what is needed' for the Iraq War. Was DeLonge, with a face straighter than any emo haircut, actually serious, or were such baffling declarations literal tomfoolery? Did worldwide popularity amongst an entire generation of Ritalin-popping adolescents go straight to his head, or had he moved past crude **Blink 182** poop jokes and embraced a more cultivated taste for satire and farce?

The UK debut of **Angels and Airwaves** at Camden's Electric Ballroom simultaneously suggested both. On one hand, DeLonge, backed by bassist **Ryan Sinn** (**The Distillers**), drummer **Atom Willard** (**The Offspring**, **Rocket from the Crypt**) and guitarist **David Kennedy** (**Boxcar Racer**), put aside his guitar and danced in place, grinning and sticking his tongue out to the side as though to mock celebrity frontmen everywhere. He waved his arms around like I used to whenever 'YMCA' came on at middle school dances. On the other hand, DeLonge played fast guitar parts with impressive precision as his voice (a far cry from whiny) filled the relatively small venue. He had all the makings of an ace frontman and even dressed the part, sporting a polo and a new, longer hairstyle. A long-sleeve shirt covered his tattoos. If DeLonge were an actor, **Angels and Airwaves** has seen him transform from **Adam Sandler** into **Vince Vaughn** or a young **Bill Murray**.

The music, set to be released at the end of May on an album titled *We Don't Need to Whisper*, consisted of anthems with long electronic intros, catchy melodies and lyrics about war and love. Audience members stood quietly during much of the set but got excited during 'The Adventure,' a single that was released online a few weeks ago. When DeLonge talked between songs, touching stories and anecdotes surprised those expecting his trademark potty mouth. He even urged audience members to pursue their dreams and never give up, wise words that might have seemed more appropriate for middle school graduations. Despite those exaggerated 'great era' assertions, here you could tell he was being sincere.

But the humour, though toned down, was still there. DeLonge joked that he doesn't get tired since he takes vitamins before he 'does it with my lady.' The highlight of the performance, besides 'The Adventure,' was an acoustic cover of 'Down' from **Blink 182's** self-titled album, which was released before the band announced an 'indefinite hiatus.'

Even though the members of **Angels and Airwaves** might not have the power to replace incompetent Defense Secretaries or end the policy of pre-emptive war, their intimate show at the Electric Ballroom changed the world, or at least Camden, for many of the fans who attended. And, as DeLonge admitted before walking off the stage, inspiration and happiness—rather than world domination or superstardom—are what this band is really all about.

words & photograph: jamimakan

## Confetti and sweets

Islands combine complex instrumentation with sweet, creative pop music

It's a common misconception that we indie elitists hate pop music. With our constant, scathing criticism of Top 40 music and popular culture regarded as infallible evidence of our passionate hatred of melody, it would be easy to think that we would not want to hear any music not recorded in a dustbin. But, really, the opposite is true. It is in fact our unabashed love for the joyous, healing power of pop that causes us to be so irate with the state of modern chart music. Our attitude is comparable to the anger felt when one sees a loved one get a job at an investment bank and slide into a life of cocaine, consumption and mediocrity. It's not that we hate the person. Rather, we hate what they have become: an empty shell of their former glory. And thus, the wave of revulsion we feel after hearing the latest musical turd carelessly laid out by **Simon Cowell**, stems not from our hatred of the art form but instead from a desire for popular music to be as good as **Brian Wilson** and **Phil Spector** once made it.

So how does this lengthy missive on my attitude towards pop music relate to the music of **Islands**? Is it poorly-written filler, or something I needed to get off my chest? **Islands** make wonderful, life-affirming pop music, and as such they are a fitting salve for wounds inflicted by an orgy of songs as insidiously horrible as 'My Humps.' It should come as no surprise that **Islands** make music that's as addictive as crack and as fun and varied as a pack of jelly beans; they have a remarkable pop pedigree, with core members **Nick Diamonds** and **J'aime Tambour** having been in **The Unicorns**, the last band to release such an interesting pop record.

The **Unicorns** managed a rare feat: they wrote songs that were essentially formless, lacking any sort of verse-chorus

structure, but still managed to be both catchy and absorbing. Their lyrics were characterised by an obsession with the maudlin topics of death and abandonment. After first listening to *Return to the Sea* one might dismiss it merely as a simplified version of **The Unicorns'** ADD madness, but upon closer inspection, it becomes apparent that **Islands** haven't dumbed down that sound for a wider audience. Instead, they have merely tightened their chops with more focused songwriting. Take the album opener 'Swans (Life After Death)' which unfolds perfectly over its nine-minute length, starting with gently picked guitars, eerie synths and shuffling drums. An untreated piano riff gradually seeps into the mix, along with two more squelching synths, while **Diamonds** gently croons, 'I woke up thirsty on the day I died.'

**Islands'** success lies in their dense production; something they share with obvious forerunner **Brian Wilson**. **Beach Boys** songs were deceptive in their apparent simplicity. At first listen, they appear to be nothing more than a few 'Bah Bah' vocals and pretty guitars, but closer inspection reveals an orchestra's worth of instrumentation within the mix. And so it is with **Islands**; they write pop symphonies enriched by tiny flourishes and a vast array of unusual instrumentation. Careful attention to detail keeps you interested in **Islands** songs after your initial awe at pretty melodies. Nowhere is this more apparent than on 'Rough Gem.' The song begins with a lumbering violin line before a synthesiser and recorder lay down the main riff, which is later picked up by plucked violins and a different synth. Every time the riff is played, it mutates with the addition of everything from a bass clarinet to a swanny whistle.



'Where There's a Will There's a Whalebone' begins with dubby bass and echo-laden keyboards but soon mutates into a hip-hop track in which rappers **Subtitle** and **Busdriver** are given free reign to lay down deft rhymes. 'Jogging Gorgeous Summer' has a calypso feel, with joyous steel drums alongside a simple groovebox beat and tin whistle. Every

track on *Return to the Sea* is bursting at the seams with ideas and instrumentation, threatening to explode in a shower of confetti and sweets at any moment. It's the sort of relentless creativity that makes you think **Islands** have many more great albums to come.

samashon

# Reviews

The Flaming Lips  
*At War with the Mystics*  
\*\*\*\*\*



I want to tell you that the new Flaming Lips album will delight your ears and stimulate your brain even if you haven't dabbled in hallucinogenic drugs, but unfortunately music reviews are necessarily subjective, like all journalism is, no matter what those swine at the BBC or Reuters may tell you about their phoney quest for objectivism, and therefore I have to refer to the first time I ever ate psilocybin mushrooms if I'm to give you any idea of the strange and wonderful trip that is *At War With The Mystics*.

I was sixteen years old and I ate a plate of mushrooms before spending half an hour giggling, an hour or so lying on the floor and watching a huge Jimi Hendrix woman dance on the ceiling, a couple of hours partying with my good buddy The Colour Yellow and then spent an hour or so convinced that I was dead, whilst I explored the true

meaning of my tiny and seemingly insignificant place in the vastness of the universe.

This album is a fairly accurate mirror of that experience, and since the flag-suckers in Whitehall closed the loop-holes on possession of Bill Hick's favourite fungi, listening to this album may well be the closest I can legally get to recreating it. It mixes a sense of fun, an incredible sense of urgency and a background murmur of impending doom whilst keeping at its forefront an overarching and all-encompassing sense of joie de vivre. Seriously, it's like one of those dreams where everything's really weird but everything's really fucking amazing at the same time.

Lyricaly, Lips leader Wayne Coyne has managed to write a relevant political album without forgetting to make you smile. Have you heard any political commentator sum up the Project for the New American Century better than on opener 'The Yeah Yeah Yeah Song' where Coyne sings 'If you could blow up the world with the flick of a switch / Would you do it?' and 'If you could make everybody poor just so you could be rich / Would you do it?', but when it's accompanied by that cartoony and catchy 'Yeah Yeah Yeah' chorus it doesn't feel heavy or preachy, just ridiculous, bringing to mind Mel Brooks' remark that the best way to bring down a tyrant is with laughter. The global politics theme runs through the album like a thin red cord, 'they have the weapons to solve all your questions' declares

Coyne on 'The W.A.N.D.' but 'we got the power now, motherfucker! That's where it belongs' and most bluntly of all on 'Haven't got a Clue,' 'every time you state your case, the more I want to punch your face'.

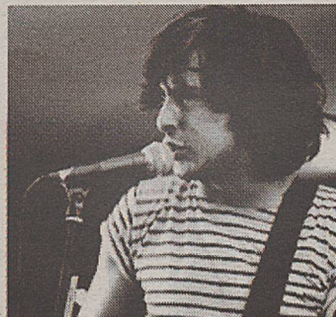
Politics is not the only subject making waves in the world of The Flaming Lips, however, and man's place in the cosmos, well trodden territory for them, gets an airing on songs with titles like 'It Overtakes Me / The Stars Are So Big...I Am So Small...Do I Stand A Chance?'

Musically the band have somehow managed to retain the uniqueness of their sound without merely re-making either *The Soft Bulletin* or *Yoshimi Battles The Pink Robots*. *At War With The Mystics* is a treasure trove of ideas glistening in the darkness of sterile and stale commercial pop. Even the more straightforward, radio-friendly tracks like 'Free Radicals' and 'Mr. Ambulance Driver' bristle with enough quirkiness to demand the listener's attention and force a smile onto their face.

So yeah. They're a load of punks who ate a plate full of acid and decided to release songs with subtitles like 'A Hallucination of the Christmas Skeleton Pleading With A Suicide Bomber,' but don't hold that against them. *At War With The Mystics* is joyously and effortlessly the best album that's been released this year, and you don't have to be on drugs to hear that.

kevinperry

Dirty Pretty Things  
*Metro Riots and 747s*  
*Islington Academy*



It is eleven o'clock in the morning, I have been awake for a little under an hour, and yet I am already standing in the warm bosom of the Islington Academy, awaiting the onslaught of live music. Such are the delights of Carling Live 24, where those of us unable to afford eight odd gigs in one day, turn up to gigs at weird times.

Anyway, my confusion is relatively short-lived as here come 747s to open my bleary eyes. Woah! Wait a minute...I wasn't expecting the bassist to start singing...I thought that guy in the middle was the singer? Oh, it turns out he is. They were just messing with us for the first track. Christ, don't they know it's early? They sound good though. Kinda like The Strokes. I like the guitarist's flying cap and goggles. Oh wait...now he's the bassist. And the bassist is now the piano player. And they don't sound anything like The Strokes anymore. They sound more like some

sort of piratical sea shanty now, and suddenly they've all pulled out frying pans and are improvising a percussion section. This is insane, but very very good. I think they're too clever for me at this time of the morning.

They've gone now...and here comes Metro Riots...there's nothing clever about this. It's just dirty, dirty rock'n'roll and big stupid riffs.

The guitarist looks like Bobby Gillespie, but the singer really can't get away with wearing those shades in here.

Carl Barat leads his Dirty Pretty Things on for a raucous set. He gets along, just singing his song...if people tell him he's wrong? Fuck 'em. The crowd don't seem to mind that their album is yet to be released, and sings every word anyway. 'Bang, Bang, You're Dead' and any mention of the Libertines particularly excite the now wide-awake crowd.

kevinperry

MUSIC



## SUDOKU13

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VERY LIMP

'Charles' column looks enormous this week!

Beaverlingus

S.G. Jones

## Ask Auntie Shaw

**Some bastard keeps stealing my spot on the second floor study area in the library. He was there at 8am last week and I've tried waiting until he leaves so I can leave my things there but he seems to work until the early hours. What a wanker! Auntie, come up with some devious plan to make him go away!**

Nathan  
LLB Law

8am in the library? It seems to me that you and your rival need to live a little. Work hard, play hard. If you really can't find a space, you can always come and cuddle up with me in the Shaw library!

Ever your Auntie, AS

**I don't think I've handwritten anything since last year's exams. My first one is 3 weeks away, I need help!**

Natalie  
Social Policy

Not to worry, you just need to work those muscles and get them moving again. Now there is always a crude option which I dare not mention explicitly in the public domain. Sit back, close your eyes, exhale and yawn. Raise your right arm until it is level with your right ear and about 7cm away from your face. In one swift motion, turn your palm along with wrist in a sharp anti clock wise direction. That should get your wrist back into shape and your brain back into exam mode. Good luck!

Hugs and kisses, AS

**Callela, the 'AU five day sex fest', was wicked and I was among many who returned covered with, among other things, bruises I don't remember getting. I've fallen for one of the girls who came with us and I doubt she thinks much of me after what went on in the Mediterranean. Can you publish this? I'm sure she'll know who she is when I say 'tequilaaaa!' LSEFC**

Ah, Callela boy, Mr. Shaw and I would love to join you youngsters next time. 'Pin the donkey, Callela style' sounds very exciting indeed! Every week we get a few brave declarations of passion and we've had a few success stories. No 'Auntie Shaw matchmaking service' marriages or babies yet, but watch this space.

Love always, AS

**CHAVS!!! They should all be shot. Crush on Friday made me realise just how much I loathe them. I really don't want future generations to look back at these years and see chavs everywhere. How can I disassociate myself as much as possible?!**

Ruth  
1<sup>st</sup> year, Bankside

Ah yes, the era of 'chav culture' is unfortunately at its peak at the moment. We must all be strong and fight those pregnant children, kappa shoes and bright tracksuits. And do not worry about Chavs taking over the world, I am sure it is merely a passing phase.

Mwah, Auntie Shaw

**Why the fuck are these teachers threatening to not mark our exams? Are you involved in this? I've been here for five years (don't ask) and I want my degree. Why can't they just protest without disrupting our lives?!**

Sally  
Distressed 3<sup>rd</sup> year

Do be patient with school staff, who are diligently trying to get around this unfortunate crisis. On the brightside, if your exam does get postponed, you can spend more time on my sofa telling Auntie about all your trouble.

Hugs and kisses, Auntie Shaw

# Dahab bombings: is this war?

Features Editor Joshua Hergesheimer on whether a "Clash of Civilizations" is now inevitable



The triple bombing in the Egyptian tourist town of Dahab was a reconfirmation - if any was needed - that the risks of being caught in a terrorist attack are still real. Popular with high spending tourists and budget backpackers, Dahab is famous for its relaxed atmosphere and its crystal clear waters. These attacks will undoubtedly serve to make foreign holiday-makers reconsider their plans for a vacation on the Sinai peninsula.

But while the media in America and Europe beams images of carnage into the comfortable houses of people wealthy enough to even consider the idea of a holiday abroad, little attention seems paid to the fact that the vast majority of people killed or injured were not foreigners, but Egyptians.

Though our chauvinism may blind us momentarily, upon reflection it becomes clear that it is local people who suffer most from these terrorist attacks. Not only have they been a majority of the victims in the spate of bombings that have rocked Egypt over the past few years - first in Taba, then in Sharm-el-Sheik, and now in Dahab - but it is they who have to wake up the next day, sift through the rubble, and try to salvage what is left of their lives. While foreigners have the privilege of catching the next plane back to their countries, where homes and families are still intact, residents of Dahab must persevere and struggle to feed their families and build a better life for their children. This physical and emotional recovery will be made much more difficult due to the decline in visitor numbers that inevitably accompanies such atrocities.

But, we wonder, if it is local

people who suffer most, why do terrorists target their towns, their cities? It is a valid question. If it is fellow Muslims who end up suffering most, why attack in places where they will clearly be the victims? The answer usually given is that areas frequented by Westerners are targeted to send a message to Europeans and Americans. The deaths of local people are only incidental.

This explanation initially seems convincing. Coming just after Bin Laden's message spelled out the warning that Western civilians were legitimate targets, these bombings can be seen as a stark reminder of the ability of terrorists to disrupt our lives with virtual impunity. However, this is only part of the story.

The idea that all Islamic fundamentalists are bent on the destruction of the West and its decadent lifestyle reveals more about our ego-centric view of ourselves as the centre of the world than it does about the terrorists and their motivations. Though it seems only natural that we in the West must be the primary targets, this superficial view obscures the fact that, with the exception of 9/11 and a few European capitals, the main target of Islamic terrorism has not been "the West" but those who are seen to represent "the West within." In other words, it is not Westerners but those people in Muslim countries who are seen to conspire with the West - those who are perceived to hold Western values, promote Western ideas, or advocate Western-style political or economic policies - that have historically been and continue to be the main targets of Islamic fundamentalist rage.

Once we see things from this perspective, it puts the terrorist attacks in a new light, since it is

**'By killing local people and damaging the tourism industry, the attacks send a signal - not to us in the West but to the Egyptians - that this is war, and that they are on the front line'**

precisely those people who are seen to subordinate themselves to Western interests in Egypt who end up paying the price for tailoring their land to Western interests. By killing local people and damaging the tourism industry, the attacks send a signal - not to us in the West but to the Egyptian people - that this is war, and that they are on the front line.

Though this message is meant for the people of the Sinai, it is one that we in the West would do well to heed. Only after we get over our ego-centrism will we realize that the average Western person is not under imminent threat from Islamic terrorists. Instead, the people most at risk are those who try to bridge the gap between the two cultures, those who try and broaden the scope of Islam to include new ideas from other traditions, all the while critically questioning everything they learn. It is those who imbibe from both cultures and attempt to take the best from each that are most at risk, because they are seen as traitors, as collaborators, those who must be eliminated.

As long as we in the West believe that we are the primary targets of terrorist attacks, we will be overly-susceptible to

manipulation by those who paint a shallow and misleading portrait of the situation, characterizing the bombings as the opening salvos in the clash of civilizations. Therefore, the next time we hear politicians touting the need to resolutely support the "war" on terror or the "war" against extremism, we would do well to consider how this issue is being depicted and why. Though the current situation has been articulated by both Bush and Bin Laden as a war - whether a war on terror, a war against freedom or a war against Islam - we should stop and inquire as to how accurate this portrayal really is.

For starters, we should admit that both Bush and Bin Laden represent equally extreme viewpoints. In what they portray as a battle of epic proportions, each leader forcefully declares to his admiring audience that "you are either with us or against us." In their minds, the ends justify the means in this life-or-death struggle for dominance.

But is this true? If we accept the premise that this is a war, then it does seem to imply that there can only be two sides. However, approaching the issue uncritically in this way only serves to drastically over-simplify what most rational people recognize as an immensely complex issue with no easy solution. But perhaps the greatest casualty of framing the issue in zero-sum terms is that it excludes the rest of us - the vast majority that want nothing to do with either the saber-rattling speeches of a hypocritical American government or with the fanatical ideals propounded by those willing to destroy anything and anyone in the name of a God they believe to be vengeful and judgmental.

Those of us interested in gen-

uine dialogue are quickly losing the ability to speak across cultures, bridge gaps, address legitimate grievances and support inquisitive discourse, because the arena in which that debate takes place has been commandeered by extremists on both sides, cordoned off into hostile camps, each bent on destroying the monolithic enemy they have fabricated.

In other words, we should strenuously resist buying into the idea that the world is facing a clash of civilizations, no matter how many times that phrase echoes, because this is precisely what Bush and Bin Laden want us to believe. Each of them have a vested interest in perpetuating this conflict because fear and misunderstanding create loyal subjects. After all, the quickest way to win more adherents is to claim that you are their only protector, their only hope against an evil enemy that only you have the power to defeat.

So far, the success of this project has been reasonably limited. Despite the bombing of Afghanistan, the invasion of Iraq, the abuses that took place in Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib, and the attempt to marginalize a democratically-elected Hamas, most Muslims do not yet subscribe to Bin Laden's message that the West is waging a war against Islam. Most of them are able to separate their feelings about people from Western countries from their feelings about the actions of our governments. I also believe that the vast majority of people from Western countries remain skeptical about the world according to Bush. How long people will resist the extremist ideology and the easy answers offered by Bush and Bin Laden, however, remains to be seen.



# The plight of the orangutan



Of all the great apes, the orangutan faces the most imminent danger of extinction. With the world's remaining orangutans found in Borneo, **Alexa Sharples** discusses the challenges to conservation in Indonesia.

Found in the tropical rainforests of Malaysia and Indonesia, orangutans, which translates literally as 'men of the forest,' are rapidly disappearing. Thousands of years ago there were more than three million living all over South-East Asia. Now, they are just limited to the two islands of Borneo and Sumatra in 63 fragments of forest.

Orangutans are the most intelligent of the great apes and genetically they are 97.4 percent similar to humans. In the wild they can live up until the age of 50, and females only give birth about once every 10 years - the longest time between births of any mammal, which is why orangutan populations are very slow to recover from disturbance.

Of all the great apes, the orangutan faces the most imminent danger of extinction. The world's population of orangutans has declined by more than half in the last 20 years. Generous estimates suggest that 20,000 survive in the wild, while the pessimistic suggest 10,000. Unless the trend is halted, orangutans will be extinct in the wild within the next 10 years.

Fighting against such odds are people like Peter Karsono and Dr. Smits, founders of the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOS). Some 15 years ago, Dr. Smits, an ecologist and senior advisor to the Indonesian Minister of Forestry, found a sick baby orangutan on a rubbish heap in a local market. This was the foundation of an organization now staffed by some 250 people dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating orangutans before reintroducing them into the wild.

The initial and primary rehabilitation centre is Wanariset, located near the coastal town of Balikpapan to the very east of Kalimantan - the Indonesian part of Borneo. There is also another centre in the south. This sanctuary in Balikpapan is one of the world's largest primate conservation projects.

Working under an official agreement with the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry, BOS operates almost entirely on donations, with the Indonesian government contributing some 2 percent of its overhead. Originally designed for 100 orangutans, today there are more than 200 being rehabilitated and the centre has taken in over 1,000 since it started.

The animals that come to Wanariset are often not only traumatized emotionally from the loss of their mothers but have been physically abused. One orphan had her fingers chopped off for stealing eggs, while another could no longer walk because she had been chained beneath a house for years. Like humans, they'll suffer from depression, nightmares and shyness.

At the centre, the animals are given a full medical checkup, including screening for diseases such as tuberculosis and hepatitis. Hair, nail and blood samples

are taken for DNA testing and each orangutan is fingerprinted and fitted with an identifying chip. Locals act as surrogate mothers, providing around-the-clock care and the centre gets through 1 ton of fruit of day, as well as copious amounts of milk and tofu. Eventually, the orangutans are transferred to large tracts of protected forest where they are encouraged to live as they would do in the wild. Each orangutan that goes through this rehabilitation and reintroduction process costs around \$5,000.


Borneo is the third largest island in the world and has 10 percent of the world's remaining rainforest. In the past decade alone, some 361 species of animals have been discovered on the island. With swampy coastal areas and a mountainous interior, much of the terrain was virtually impassable and unexplored.

Headhunters ruled the remote parts of the island until a century ago. However, since the 80s and 90s, Indonesia, the fourth most populous country in the world, has undergone a remarkable transition. With this, Borneo's forests have been levelled at a rate unparalleled in human history - 80 percent of the island's primary forest has been lost in the last 20 years - pillaged for its highly lucrative land, timber and animals.

'The animals that come to Wanariset are often traumatised...one orphan had her fingers chopped off for stealing eggs, while another could no longer walk because she had been chained beneath the house for years'

Indonesia is losing almost 2 million hectares of forest a year - an area about the size of Wales. Fires started by major timber and plantation companies as a cheap way of clearing vast amounts of land are the most visible threat to Indonesian rainforests. Local landowners who live off subsistence farming will also start up smaller scale fires. Burning is illegal, but still up to 1,000 fires are lit every year and it was this practice that led to the devastating fires of '97 and '98 that destroyed 25,000sq miles of forest and killed about 16,000 orangutans. Illegal logging has also devastated natural parks and protected zones and is so extensive that it is greater than legal timber production.

With such severe deforestation, safe forest and suitable release sites on the island of Borneo has pretty much run out and BOS has been acquiring thousands of hectares of land,







which is being made into new nature reserves and sanctuaries. This is done with an emphasis on getting local people involved, with one scheme involving medical for locals in exchange for caring for trees replanted by BOS, as well as teaching locals how to use land that does not require destroying or burning forests while providing sustainable incomes, such as growing sugar palms, rattan, and certain fruits and vegetables. They are also developing small hotels and villas in the middle of these reserves, with the idea of promoting eco-tourism.

Central to the issues of fires and illegal logging are palm oil plantations. 90 percent of the world's palm oil comes from

Malaysia and Indonesia and most of the plantations are on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. Palm oil is big business - it has become the world's cheapest and best selling vegetable oil, and brings in over \$3 billion for Indonesia's economy each year. 1 in 10 products on our supermarket shelves contains palm oil - from margarine to lipstick to toothpaste to ice-cream. The government grants permits to palm oil companies, but rarely keeps track of what actually goes on once the permit is signed.

Palm oil plantations are biologically impoverished, and as rainforests are cleared to make way for plantations, the orangutans are forced out. Orangutans are branded as pests and hunters

are hired to kill them, earning up to \$20 for an orangutan head.

There is also an issue with workers and exploration crews, who, in their free time will go hunting for fun and are often misled by their guides into thinking that orangutan meat is a kind of aphrodisiac. With orangutans that are killed, their skulls are sold to local Dayaks who carve them into souvenirs for tourists and sell them for \$200 - the equivalent to an average annual wage is in many rural areas.

Closely related to poaching is the thriving illegal trade of baby orangutans, especially throughout East Asia. Orangutans are listed on Appendix One of Cites, the

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, with the intention of stopping all international trade. But that protection is failing miserably.

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The only way to get a baby orangutan is to kill the mother. Most of the time the baby is also killed, but if it isn't, it is then smuggled out on logging boats and tankers. To get one baby out of the forest alive and on to the black market, BOS has calculated that three to five orangutans would have been killed. Assuming the baby doesn't die from injuries or stress, a baby orangutan can be sold to a local wildlife trader for \$100. In Jakarta's markets, orangutans are bought and sold for \$700. And, if a trader has an overseas buyer from the US or

Europe, he might make up to \$20,000. Orangutans, gibbons and monkeys have always been kept as pets, with families treating them as children. But as they grow older, bigger and more unmanageable they often abuse them, even teaching them to smoke and drink. Many of the orangutans received by the center would only eat fried chicken and others would only drink out of a can.

Dr. Smits leads raids all over the country, confiscating orangutans and helping police identify dealers in exotic animals. However, a big-bucks black market breeds violence, to which Smits is no stranger: he and his family frequently receive death threats, his three dogs have been killed and his house was set on fire.

'Orangutans have always been kept as pets. But as they grow older, bigger and more unmanageable, families often abuse them, even teaching them to smoke and drink'

The orangutan is supposed to be protected by law in Indonesia, and the penalties for owning, trading or poaching orangutans is 5 years in prison and a 500 million rupiah fine. But it's a losing battle against the smugglers, backed by corrupt officials in the police, army and the courts. If a case gets to court, bribed witnesses start appearing, confessions are pulled back, and people from high up start making phone calls to the judges. In any given year Smits can conduct 20 operations, resulting in only three convictions. More locally in and around Balikpapan, Karsono has never heard of any of the penalties being exercised.

However, late last year Indonesia signed the Kinhasa Declaration. This treaty, signed by more than 20 nations, is an agreement aimed at saving the world's great apes from extinction. And, even more recently, the Indonesia Minister of Forestry publicly announced that no further forested areas would be converted to palm oil. If enforced, it will mean a very real difference to the survival of tens of thousands of orangutans, other species and the rainforest itself.

However, the challenges to conservation in Borneo and throughout wider Indonesia are huge, with forest fires, illegal logging, plantations, poaching, the illegal pet trade and corruption proving to be the biggest challenges. This is the plight of the orangutan.

# No sex please, we're women

Features Editor Jess Brammar argues that the idea of women not being interested in sex isn't just archaic and steeped in prejudice, it's simply not true.

Some weeks ago, a headline on the BBC website caught my eye: 'Women Say Casual Sex is Immoral.' The article explained that 9 out of 10 women interviewed in an academic survey had declared one-night stands morally depraved. Evidently, in an age when our lives are seemingly bombarded from all sides by sexual imagery and language, women are still as sexually frigid as ever.

**'Trying to persuade women to deny their capacity to be sexual beings, ironically, confines them to being just that'**

Before we lament the death of the feminist revolution, and embrace our inner virgins, it might be worth noting that the 'survey' asked all of 46 women, aged 23-83. The upper end of this age group might be forgiven for thinking that a one night stand was a one off performance in a music hall, rather than something undertaken by sexually active and consenting adults.

Not surprisingly, the results of this highly dubious piece of academic research perpetuated the usual chauvinistic claptrap that women are fed about their sex lives. "Women positioned sex very much in the context of an intimate relationship," says Dr Sharron Hinchcliff. Indeed, those poor souls who had engaged in casual sex did so because, "they were looking for love or because they had got drunk or were high on drugs."

It is almost not worth dignifying this sort of archaic, patriarchal propaganda with a response, and I would not feel compelled to do so if I did not see this attitude reflected amongst my peers. While most of my

female friends will happily giggle over confessions about their sexual exploits, and frequently express frustration with men's attempts to turn casual flings into the kind of long-lasting relationship that Dr Hinchcliff and her ilk claim we're all striving for, it's amongst young men that I am shocked to find the most puritanical views towards sexually-active women.

A good friend of mine recently spent a perfect evening with a man who she'd known for a long time, and had always been attracted to. When he called her to end the relationship a week later, she was told by numerous (sexually active) male friends that the fault was hers - by sleeping with him, she had somehow demystified herself, and thus removed that indefinable quality that makes a woman girlfriend-material. The view, expressed

with alarming frequency by men of all ages and cultural backgrounds, that sex is essentially a power game between male and female, in which the woman's role is simply to withhold her sexuality as a tool to ensnare and attract men, is tantamount to removing women's right to both enjoy sex, and have it on their own terms.

This is reflected in the government's new campaign to persuade men that it is no longer sufficient to stop when a woman says no, but to secure an explicit and emphatic yes before engaging in sexual relations. While the motives behind this are

admirable, it is underpinned with the disturbing notion that sex exists for male gratification, to be offered by women, rather than as something that women themselves may want. The question is men's to ask, and our role and right is to offer a positive or negative response.

Perhaps men sometimes feel threatened by the idea that a woman who sleeps with them may go on to sleep with the rest of their male friends, team-mates,

family -

members, etc. Or worse, she may already have done so. This is based on the idea that women, rather than being deeply complicated individuals, are all either whiter than white, or putting out to all and sundry. Could it be that some women only sleep with men that they feel a mutually attraction with? It is not such a large step from this simplistic approach to the notion that a woman's choice to go to bed with a man she feels attracted to removes her right to refuse to have sex with men she doesn't. This idea of women as in control of their own sex lives is perhaps a little advanced for men, as we are led to believe that their small brains are unable to fully function once the blood has rushed to their groin.

No one would deny that sex within an intimate relationship can be an extraordinarily emotional, life-affirming experience for both partners, and is arguably far more gratifying than the fumble in the dark that most one-night stands usually amount to. However, to suggest, as Dr Hinchcliff does, that "Sex is an emotional experience for women so how could they have sex without being emotionally involved?", is simply not true. As much as anything else, it suggests that sex is never an emotional experience for men, which is doing them a huge disservice.

The other deeply offensive assumption in the presentation of female chastity as empowering to women is the notion that female power and attraction stems above all from our physical sexuality, specifically our right to withhold it, rather

than from our intellect, sense of humour, or any other non-physical attributes. Only by refusing to give ourselves up to men, poor sex-obsessed ignoramuses that they are, can we force them to listen to what we are saying, appreciate our personalities, and form meaningful relationships with us. A woman's physical and sexual capacity becomes a prize, a reward for those men who have the patience to go the long haul.

However, any girl who has let her halo slip and ended up in bed with a man before she's secured that all-important written contract committing him to a life-long relationship, will know that sometimes, even once you've given away your most prized assets, there are ways of making a man hang around that don't centre around the possibility of sexual gratification. Ladies, if you can bed a man, and still have him wanting to talk to you later, then maybe you've achieved that rare and special thing - a relationship based on a meeting of minds. Oh, and the fact that you actually like each other.

Trying to persuade women to deny their capacity to be sexual beings, ironically, confines them to being just that. Male sexuality, on the contrary, is viewed as a part of a man's multi-faceted personality, rather than his defining quality. Where a man can be both sexually predatory, sexually submissive, authoritative, funny, endearingly vulnerable and awe-inspiringly arrogant, to highlight a woman's sexual function by repressing it, whilst claiming to elevate the other areas of her personality, reduces her to a sexual instrument, either withholding or offering her services for male gratification.

It is crucial that women maintain the right to say no to sex. Feminists spent the 1970s and 1980s trying to persuade women that it's also okay to say yes. Isn't it about time that we had the right to be the ones asking the question?



In Lehmann's Terms

Sam Lehmann Editor



"Hello, Mr Lehmann, I'm phoning on behalf of the National Student Survey..."

"I'm sorry - how did you get my mobile number? And do you really think that if I did have fifteen minutes of my valuable time free I would spend it filling out a pointless survey which has no effect on me whatsoever?"

"Thank you for your time, sir."

"Don't you ever go phoning this number again, or I swear to God I'll have you swinging from a tree by your [dialling tone]..."

Despite being a holiday, Easter usually turns out to be a stressful time for us students. Jesus' Easter holiday of being betrayed by his friend, forced to drag two pieces of wood for miles whilst being publicly flogged, and then having his bloody and naked body nailed

to a cross frankly pails in comparison to the feat of writing 10,000 words from scratch in 36 hours with only reconstituted chocolate for energy. Throw in your mum kindly reminding you that "if you started your dissertation earlier, you could have had an early night," and the idea of thorns digging into your temple and nails penetrating your extremities seems frighteningly appealing.

That woman on the other end of my mobile phone had to feel my wrath, and I think deservedly so. The National Student Survey was completed by 55% of LSE students last year, and this year it looks like we're on track to lower that figure. It may be important that LSE finds out what its weak spots are (ummm...how about the pastoral care system, which is consistently poor and nothing is done about it?), but it seems ridiculous that third year students should be pestered to fill in the survey when they are already stressed and pressed for time. That the LSE can pass our home and mobile numbers onto the IPOS (the guys who administer the survey), and then that they are entitled to call us up to TWELVE times, is, in the words of Bernard Manning, a fucking disgrace. If we want to fill it out, we'll fill it out. Just at the moment, some of us, believe it or not, have more

important things to do. Even then, students aren't exactly the most motivated group of people in the country anyway. Leave us alone.

Some of us did at least get the chance to chill the fuck out in that wondrous place called 'Calella,' situated 26 hours by coach into mainland Europe. Essentially a five-day long Barrel, complete with both more free drink and mindless destruction, Calella gave around a hundred of us the chance to forget essays, surveys and morals, and engage in some hardcore Eurolash. Every picture in this week's diminutive edition of BeaverSports tells a thousand drunkenly slurred words. Potentially incriminating photos have been removed, which hugely limited the selection to choose from. The convention of 'what goes on tour, stays on tour' (incorporated into the Official Secrets Act 1998) means the most debauched tales could also not be included, but generally you can guess what went on by imagining the most horrific drunken acts humanly possible, multiply that by ten, and then throw a small animal into the mix. Add thousands of unbelievably thick polytechnics, and you get the idea.

On that note, I want to quickly talk about the number of useless idiots bred by this country's polytechnics. It is

both depressing and vomit-inducing that in Calella you see first-hand the number of absolute retards who are getting pointless degrees from even more worthless 'universities.' The only consolation is that the vast majority of them graduate, find themselves 15 grand in debt (having spent it on tanning salons and nitros for their Citroen AX) and without any self-respecting company wanting to employ them. Oh well, at least their degrees will save them money on toilet roll for a while.

And that toilet reference brings me neatly full circle to the final end to my career at BeaverSports. I'll spare you all the sentimental bullshit. What's important now is that Sports continues under Sancha and Laura in its same inimitable style. To all you first and second years: make sure you get involved next year in the AU and contribute to the paper - you really won't regret it. As for you third years, I'll just leave you alone to get on with it. No need to stress out too much, get involved with any chance to take a break and play some sport with your mates, and see you all at sports day.

Take care of yourselves, and each other,

Love Sam x

Great Debate

The great debate no.9: "The hardest job in football"

Paul Merson, the world's worst football pundit, proudly claimed that Steve McLaren was the man for the job because, and let me make sure I get this word perfect, 'he's not dirty, he's clean.' Now, sadly McLaren's hygiene habits are not of interest to me, but may be of interest to his wife now we all know he likes a bit of a side salad. I will probably never meet the England manager, whoever they turn out to be, so hygiene aside, all I really care about is...well what everyone cares about, getting the best man for the job. Probably the most boring statement ever to appear in print and far too over used in the past few weeks, you think Mourinho would have least bussed up the lingo and said 'best penis for the job' or something but no sadly that's what everyone keeps saying, Scolari, McLaren, the FA, my Dad...

The press in this country apparently are awful. If you ask me I don't think they are awful enough, let Sam and I run The Mirror for a week and there will be more exposés coming out of your ear holes, than satisfied personal assistants leaving McLaren's study. It is rumoured Felipe Scolari turned down the position because of the pressure of the English press, if you ask me he is as Mafioso as Abramovich and was only interviewed in England so he could stock up 25 Soho Square with enough

Cubans to last a life time.

But allegations aside, the press are influential. Ironically, the English are a very proud sort who enjoy condemning whomever sticks their neck out for the country, Venables for example, easily best 'coach' in the last twenty years and what did we do, show him no gratitude and let him leave with a black cloud over his head due to some 'business dealings.' And yet we keep the players in our hearts despite record gambling losses, mobile phone affairs and rape allegations.

Being 'clean' is important, but, in my opinion, 'off white' will do. Obviously if you are hiding a van full of Bulgarian children in your basement, are currently married to more than one woman, or secretly married to a man, or have more than three points on your licence, you best not apply.

So the England press is a tough lot, but the team are even tougher. With such charismatic stars as Joe Cole and Gary Neville, the new manager has competition on his hands. It is a well known fact that to be a great manager you need to be bigger than your players. We don't need pictures of Terry and Rooney leaving a nightclub, German slapper on one arm, bottle of vodka in the other. To keep such dopey testosterone-driven footballers in place, the manager has to be disciplined, slightly nutty and, to be hon-

est, down right scary. This is McLaren's problem: he just looks so nice every time his poor excuse of a team climb back unjustly from another '3-0 down on aggregate' UEFA tie to aid every sports bookies nightmare. They've got to be a figure head, a man of steel. And to be honest, there's nothing like a foreigner with a dodgy tan to work wonders in that department, we all know Mourinho has an AK-47 under that Armani coat.

What's wrong with Scolari? The man who took Brazil to their fifth World Cup title must be talented, not to mention taking Portugal to the Euro final...

Firstly Portugal lost to Greece in the final...enough said. And not being remotely naïve but I could have coached the Brazilian team of 2002 to success, with no Portuguese lingo in my vocab what so ever. I would have turned on the Barry Manilow and wooed my way to success. Its all about the passion.

I personally think the FA have overlooked the one man for the job. Mark Hughes, manager of Blackburn Rovers, has done wonders with the Lancashire side. As a player Hughes played for Europe's top teams, brief spells at Barca and Bayern Munich together with his successes at United and Chelsea where he achieved PFA Player of the Year, League Cup, FA Cup and Cup Winners' Cup medals. As a manager he

is awesome as well, working wonders with a very limited Welsh team otherwise known as Ryan Giggs and...no that's it, he started the renaissance of Welsh football with a 2-1 defeat of Italy in a Euro 2004 qualifying match. He has had experience of managing an international side, he's close to home, hygienic, and is a distinguished player.

I'm not saying to be a great coach you have to be a great player. Scolari was nothing of a player and yet his achievements as manager are second to none. But then again look at Klinsman, his achievements as a manager have been slight and yet no one is doubting his ability. I think Mark Hughes was shamefully overlooked and if anyone from the FA is reading my measly article, then get to it

So if we don't go with an international, not even a taff, then McLaren is definitely the pick of the Englishmen. For all his sins in the stationary cupboard he has won the Champs League working with the most successful Man United manager and he's worked with the crop of English talent we call the English football team for years now as Sven's number two. I am happy to give him a chance but one word for you Steve: PASSION. Get some or go home.

Sanch x

Sporting timetable

Sancha's ~~revision~~ sporting timetable

I weep when I hear how A levels are supposedly getting easier. June is exam month. It is also, together with the last week of May and first week of July, the six greatest weeks of sport there is. Exam scheduling is a ploy by the government to fuck up every students education. AC Milan vs. Liverpool, why I failed MA107, Federer vs. Nadal, French Open Semi Final, ST107 practically down the toilet hole. Brazil beating England in 2002 World Cup - basically if you got an A grade at GCSE Physics that morning, I salute you, if you failed it miserably because your paper was drowned in your tears I still salute you, I spent that morning bunking triple maths, contemplating jumping, on Battersea Bridge.

So here's my 'far more important than revision' sports guide to the next month, I've included some predictions and hot tips so you all have ample ammunition next year to take the piss out of me.

So cut it out, stick it in your diaries, on your ceiling, over your revision table, on the fridge...sit back and enjoy...its going to be one hell of a summer.

- 10th May Football: UEFA Cup final, Middlesbrough vs Sevilla Sancha says - Sevilla victory, sorry McLaren
11th-15th May Cricket: England vs Sri Lanka, first Test (Lords) Sancha says - Draw
13th May Football: FA Cup final, Liverpool vs West Ham Sancha says - Sherringham to win the FA Cup at 40 for the Hammers
14th May Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix Sancha says - Don't care
17th May Football: UEFA Champions League final, Barcelona vs Arsenal Sancha says - Barca easy victory
21st May Football: League Championship play-off final Sancha says - Palace
25th-29th May Cricket: England vs Sri Lanka, second Test Sancha says - England victory
27th May Football: League Two play-off final Sancha says - League two?
28th May Football: League One play-off final Sancha says - League one?
Formula 1: Monaco F1 Grand Prix Sancha says - Alonso to piss everyone off as always
28th May-11th June Tennis: French Open, Roland Garros Sancha says - Federer to finally show Nadal up on clay
2nd-6th June Cricket: England vs Sri Lanka, third Test Sancha says - England victory
3rd June Horse racing: Epsom Derby Sancha says - Sir Percy
9th June Football: World Cup begins Sancha says - Brazil, Spain, Germany and England to make final four
10th June Rugby Union: Australia vs Ireland Sancha says - Get a new sport
Football: England vs Paraguay, World Cup group game Sancha says - 2-0 England
12th-18th June Tennis: Stella Artois Championship Sancha says - Murray v Roddick final
15th June Cricket: England vs Sri Lanka, Twenty20 International Sancha says - get the lagers in
Football: England vs Trinidad and Tobago, World Cup group game Nuremberg, Germany Sancha says - 3-1 England
15th-18th June Golf: US Open Sancha says - Goosen
Exams over! World Cup Finals and Wimbledon await you.
Happy Galavanting xxxxx

## Revision timetable?

Everything you need to know about sport over the next month

## Editorial

Sam's last editorial...again  
Sam Lehmann



## Great debate

McLaren, Scolari or none of the above?  
Sancha Bainton



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Beaver

# sports

# Calella 2006: a lesson in morality



This week: the actual really final edition of BeaverSports...ever (until next term)