

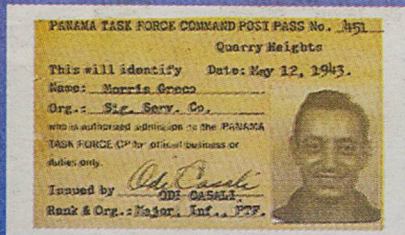
The Beaver

The Newspaper of the LSE SU

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ULU to scrap ID

University of London Union (ULU) membership cards could be phased out by August 2006 after a motion was passed by the ULU Council. ULU hope that instead students will be able to use their own college ID cards at ULU.

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'Fired' Attendants

Student fire attendants working at Crush claim to have been unfairly fired after an employment dispute. They say that since a private company took over responsibility, they have lost many of their rights, including reimbursement for late night transport home.

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Cordial Entente

As preparations continue for a joint venture to commemorate the centenary of the Entente Cordiale, the LSE SU was last week mentioned in the House of Lords. Next month, students and staff from Britain and France will meet at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire.

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Focus On: Brunei

Learn more about Brunei in blink. A Bruneian explains some lesser known facts about his country.

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Napoleonic

Interview with Napoleon Dynamite's school geek Jon Heder in Film.

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"Major failure of procedure"

Ben Chapman

A Fire Safety Officer present at the scene of the fire at Passfield Hall earlier this month has accused the hall staff of a "major failure of procedure" on the night of the incident.

Steve Chasty also said that he had been informed by the Fire Brigade officer in charge of dealing with the incident that, in his opinion, there had also been a fault on the fire alarm system, though this has been strongly refuted by the School.

The fire, which occurred on the evening of Friday 12 November in a first floor kitchen, was reported to the Fire Brigade at 6.06 pm, after a student had reported seeing smoke.

At this point, according to a student present in the corridor during the incident, rather than sounding the fire alarm, hall staff, which included the Warden, Bradley Franks, began to evacuate students from their rooms.

Fire Brigade records indicate that the first appliance arrived on the scene six minutes after the initial call, at 6.12 pm. At this point, the fire alarm had still not been raised, and was activated by the Fire Brigade at 6.13 pm.



Concerns have been raised about evacuation procedure at Passfield after a first-floor kitchen caught fire.

Fire procedure at Passfield, evident on signs posted throughout the residence states: "If you discover a fire, immediately operate nearest alarm call-point."

It continues: "On hearing alarm of fire, the person in charge will call the Fire Brigade immediately..."

Chasty told *The Beaver*: "The explanation given to me at the

time as to why the alarm had not been activated and the building evacuated was that the situation was under control. The procedure that should have been carried out had not been followed. My information was that [hall staff] were not doing their job properly."

The Beaver contacted Franks to ask why the fire procedure had not been followed, but he was

unavailable for comment.

David Tymms, Director of Residential Services, said that the School would be paying for a full report from the Fire Brigade on the events at Passfield, and that it would therefore be "foolhardy to comment" until that had been received.

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Racist posters marr awareness week

Chris Heathcote
News Editor

The discovery of three racist posters around the LSE campus has caused much consternation amongst the student body as the Students' Union staged its 'Respect not Racism' week.

Three posters, described by some as "amateurish", which read "keep Britain tidy; kick out the niggers and nuke the Muslims" were removed from a lift and a site near the Brunch Bowl. They also invited those who agreed with the sentiment to "meet at the three tons at 12pm on 18th November". While it remains unclear if the spelling mistake was deliberate, some have suggested that if it was, then perhaps

the posters were an attempt at a very distasteful joke.

Because the posters were simple in design, plain text on a white A4-sized sheet and handled by those who removed them, it was considered unlikely that those responsible could be caught.

Nonetheless, the posters were handed over to the School security staff who passed them on to the police for investigation. They could be considered illegal if they are deemed to qualify as 'inciting racial hatred'. If they were to be declared so, those who produced them would face criminal proceedings.

Although few considered that the arranged meeting was serious, the SU took the decision of informing the SU Bar Manager to

be vigilant and LSE security were also on hand. However, no such meeting ever took place.

The incident occurred on the Thursday of the SU's anti-racism week, and observers have commented that this has given added prominence to an incident which would still normally be regarded as appalling.

SU Treasurer, Gareth Carter who dealt with the incident on behalf of the SU said the posters "highlighted the need for the 'Respect not racism' week" and branded those responsible as "illiterate jobs".

He admitted that the SU and the School had no idea who could be behind the posters but speculated that it could have been a student at the School playing a "very, very bad joke".

"We really hope it is not an LSE student, but we are not so naïve as to believe that there is not a racist minority among us," he added.

Farhan Islam, the SU Anti-Racism Officer who oversaw the 'Respect not Racism' week, said he "couldn't believe that someone would put such a thing up at LSE" but doubted they were in any way linked to the week and its aims.

However, the posters failed to put much of a dampener on the 'Respect not racism' week, which was held for the second year running. Islam said the week had "gone very well" and succeeded in raising awareness of its aims.

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Racist posters

Continued from page 1

At the planning stage, it was decided to approach the week from a different angle by expanding the focus from simply an opportunity to lambast intolerance, but also to celebrate cultural diversity. This was the thinking behind the week's largest event: the food fair in the Underground bar last Monday, where fifteen societies provided a range of international food to the estimated 200 students who attended.

Pav Akhtar, NUS Black Students' Officer was the guest at one speaker event and told the audience he was concerned that changes in the NUS structure might undermine black representation. He stressed that more must be done to register students to vote and provide a prayer room on every campus. He remained upbeat, however, because the 'respect' movement seemed to be growing.

Throughout the week a stall operated in the Quad and encouraged students to support calls for greater provision of kosher and halal food around the School. By the end of the week, 250 students had signed their support.

All those involved in the organising of the week said they were pleased with the result. They promised that it would be back again next year and would build upon the success of this year.

Meanwhile, a police investigation into the racist posters is ongoing and anyone with any information has been urged to come forward.

One card fits all; ULU to scrap ID

Dharini Nagarajan

University of London Union (ULU) membership cards could be phased out by August 2006 after a motion was passed by the ULU council.

At the monthly ULU Council meeting, the ULU Vice-President for Finance and Services, Rob Park proposed a motion for ULU to explore the possibility of scrapping the ULU card and instead asking colleges to put the ULU logo on their college ID cards. The college ID cards would thus replace the ULU card. The motion was also amended to include the Nightline logo and number.

ULU currently issues a membership card to all full members of the union who want one. They are needed for voting in the annual online elections of the Executive officers and are also as a form of ID required to join ULU's sports clubs and societies. This year 40,000 students were issued with them.

However, the ULU Executive say the cards are relatively expensive both in terms of purchase and also the time taken to issue and processing the backing-card data. Hence, the main aim of discarding the card is to not only cut costs but also lessen the number of ID cards that a student has to carry.

The motion does however have a 'get-out clause' allowing the continuance of ULU cards for students at colleges who reject

the request.

Representing the LSE SU were ULU Council delegates, General Secretary Will Macfarlane, and newly elected Chris Heathcote and Angus Mulready-Jones. Heathcote and Macfarlane voted for the motion and Mulready-Jones against.

Explaining his decision to The Beaver, Heathcote said he voted in favour of the motion because "spending tens of thousands of pounds on membership cards is a waste and students should just be able to use their own college cards."

"There are other ways of allowing people a vote in ULU elections and proving their identity. ULU has many more worthwhile priorities to spend the money on," he added.

Macfarlane agreed but acknowledged "that having one card to act as both Union and ULU card would be ideal, but it is not realistic."

Mulready-Jones said he opposed the motion because the plan was "completely unworkable" that he voted against it.

"The LSE SU doesn't even have its own logo on our cards because the School, not the Union, produces them," he explained.

He went on to suggest that the "lack of uniformity" across London colleges would only create "even more confusion about what ULU is and what it does."

"A better idea would be to put 'University of London union' on the NUS cards of ULU colleges



Rob Park, ULU Vice-President for Finance and Services

instead of the individual institution name," he concluded.

Joint college and ULU cards have already been rolled out this year at Imperial College, the Royal Academy of Music and Queen Mary.

When asked if the same system could work at the LSE, Macfarlane were doubtful.

"It may work for Imperial with their separate Union card, for LSE and many other institutions we have quite technical and expensive college ID cards," he said.

He went on to say that there was not really the space for such logos.

Additionally, he criticized what he called the 'one size fits all' approach to the problem.

Finally he said he did not appreciate ULU "going over the

heads of their member Unions to the heads of colleges".

Both he and Heathcote called for ULU to communicate more with the membership colleges and to better reflect what students actually want.

Though the motion was passed, it seems to be highly unlikely that the School will even consider the prospect of a combined card or the incorporation of the ULU and Nightline logo on its ID cards.

The School told *The Beaver* that when the issue was raised some years ago, it had been decided that since membership of ULU is voluntary and students can opt out, it was inappropriate for LSE cards to carry the logo.

If they come to the same conclusion again, the ULU Executive may have to rethink their plans.

Lords back LSE entente cordiale



Hatfield House - venue for the LSE and Sciences-Po entente cordiale reception next week.

Alison Ball

As preparations continue for a joint venture to commemorate the centenary of the Entente Cordiale the LSE SU has been mentioned in the House of Lords for the first time.

The agreement, which was signed in 1904, has been credited for one hundred years of peace between Britain and France and turning the historical rivals into allies.

In an attempt to demonstrate that these close ties continue to this day, the LSE has teamed up with Sciences-Po in Paris to reinforce links between the Students'

Unions of a number of prestigious European Universities.

Last Thursday, on the first day of President Chirac of France's state visit to the United Kingdom, Lord Williams of Elvel, who is an LSE alumnus, asked the government to back the European Student Alliance.

Support of this project would be the first time the British parliament has proposed government backing for a student initiative.

Meanwhile, support has already been confirmed at the highest level on the French side.

President Chirac met Yves Djimi, an LSE student and chair of the Franco-British Association

and Segolene Dufour-Genesson, the chair of the LSE SU French Society at the French Ambassador's official Residence in London.

Djimi asked the President whether he would back the initiative and M. Chirac promised his full support.

The year of celebrations began April at the Château de Breteuil where the Entente Cordiale was originally signed.

It will end in a ceremony hosted by Lord Salisbury at Hatfield House on the 1st December.

A delegation of students and staff from both institutions will attend the event.

Fire attendants 'fired'

Kheng Soon Lim

Student fire attendants working at Crush claim to have been unfairly fired after an employment dispute.

The dispute arose after Stage 1 Security refused to compensate student employees for safe transport home at the end of their shift. Hester Barsham, speaking at Thursday's UGM asked General Secretary Will Macfarlane why the attendants had been fired.

Stage 1 Security, the firm to which students were subcontracted as fire attendants, denies the accusation. According to the company the students had not been fired, but rather, were simply not being given any work.

In the past student fire attendants were hired by the Union to stand by alarms in Crush ensuring that drunken revellers did not set them off. False alarms typically involve the evacuation of the Union's bars and often a significant loss of revenue.

Stage 1 Security defended the decision to switch to using professional security staff, arguing that trained individuals were far more capable of dealing with inebriated students.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, Gareth Carter, Student Union

Treasurer empathized with the decision of the company to hire professional, trained fire attendants. However, Carter added "That the student fire alarm attendants were not offered safe transport home is a matter I take very seriously".

According to Carter it was Stage 1 Security as the fire attendants' employer who should have been responsible for remunerating travel costs.

However, he went on to stress that he thought the situation was "totally unacceptable...To have Union members employed in the Union but without the same rights and privileges is an anathema to us.

"It is the Union's duty to ensure the welfare of our members and employees. I will be taking a very close look at the situation, and I would assure students that I would never compromise their welfare."

He commented that "offering casual employment to students is an important way of helping alleviate some of the financial hardship students in London inevitably suffer from."

In the long term hoped that Crush will forgo the necessity of alarm attendants altogether, as the fire alarms are moved behind the bar and away from the public.

'Scouse' elected Honourary President

Mark Power

Former LSE Football Club Captain Mike Griffith, known to his friends as 'Scouse' was elected posthumously to the position of Honourary President of the LSE Students' Union.

Griffith, who died in a road accident in August, was a popular figure within the Athletic Union and around the School.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, LSE SU Treasurer Gareth Carter, who spoke in favour of his candidacy said "Michael was an incredibly warm-hearted and intelligent person and I am honoured to be able to say he was a very good friend of mine.

"His tragic death touched a great many people. I think it fitting that he should be made Honourary President of the Union. It is a testament to his character and I know his parents and close friends will be deeply touched.



Campaigning for Honourary President at last Thursday's UGM. / Photo: Mark Donahue



Union Jack

Jack wasn't looking forward to this week's UGM, he fully expected another iniquate farce, but although we did have "isosceles hair" El on stage, like the harbinger of doom she is, to the nasty surprise of most we were obliged to stay until 2pm and even got through some motions.

Credit for this goes to the beautifully matronly chair, whom Jack may have a crush on.

The way she shrieks like a pissed-off banshee when she isn't obeyed, the coy flirting with the big, powerful Sabbs and way she enunciates "the motion will LIE on the order paper" keep Jack awake.

She is the saving grace of the currently tepid UGM and greater things beckon for her, not least the arms of Jack.

Otherwise, the UGM staples were there, like grammertical errors in this newspaper: Ming the Merciless vanquishing any opposition to his shocking £1.42 raise with a swish of his velvet jacket, Matt "tongue in cheek" Sinclair being clearly delighted that people were still reading his column, let alone being outraged by it, and of course Willgress making sure that his fellow pixies are allowed unfettered entrance to the real world from pixie-land.

Excluding when the dominatrix spoke, the only time anybody got particularly aroused was when the less sexy Prashant "I don't care, shut up" Rao was unwillingly shoved on stage and faced a typical left-wing inquisition of "why are you so horrible?".

One heckler even ventured "Bring back Power" and although the grinning one's mangling of vowels alone provided more entertainment than anything Rao could dream of, his pouncing on stage anytime anyone inserts the letters "C" and "S" into the same sentence may only be the death throes of his Union career, rather than a "revitalised" campaign for Comms.

Indeed, the pre-election wrangling is in full flow as left and right try to decide which hack goes where. Most of the Sabb positions however appear already decided with the camp hippie one conceding Gen Sec to the camper Asian one. The quiet one is quietly preparing for a second term in office, whilst Jack foresees the AU keeping treasurer for another year, in the sizable form of Mr Davies.

In fact the only intrigue lies in Comms, where K may yet have the power to deal with current or former Beaver editors. Only this and our beautiful chair will be keeping Jack awake tonight.

UGM rejects ethical advertising motion

Sam Jones
News Editor

The proposed introduction of a Union ethical advertising policy was mooted last Thursday by the UGM.

The motion, tabled by SU Environment and Ethics officer Joel Kenrick and seconded by Khurshid "K" Faizullaev, the

Communications Officer was defeated by a narrow margin of around ten votes following a recount.

Kenrick argued for the need to clarify the Union's existing policy regarding advertising and the SU Codes of Practice in light of recent negotiations with On Campus UK for the new Students' Union website.

Among other things, the motion outlined an outright ban on all advertising from political parties, tobacco, alcohol and gambling companies.

Matt Sinclair, the managing editor of *The Beaver* and Daniel Freedman, chair of the LSE SU Conservative society spoke against the motion.

Sinclair told the assembled

that an ethical advertising policy was unnecessary, arguing that students should decide for themselves whether to disregard advertising or not.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, Kenrick said that he had been "disappointed" by the result, adding that the case for had "not really been well articulated enough"

Passfield fire concerns

Continued from page 1

Chasty raised further concerns regarding the fire detection systems, and questioned why the alarm had not been activated automatically.

"I was informed by the Station Officer on duty that he believed there had been a fault on the fire alarm system. The heat detector in the kitchen and the smoke detector in the corridor didn't work to set the fire alarm off."

The School has been quick to deny any fault on the fire alarm system.

Tymms told *The Beaver* that a full test on the system had been carried out after the incident by contractors Fire FM, as demanded by the Fire Brigade, and that the system was shown to be working properly.

Furthermore, the system's event log shows that smoke was picked up in the corridor outside the kitchen by the ceiling smoke detector precisely one minute after the alarm had been manually activated, at 6.14 pm.

Tymms commented that, as the Fire Brigade had not seen the event log, it was not in a position to comment accurately on the effectiveness of the alarm system.

He claimed that the insulated fire door linking the kitchen to the corridor had "done its job" in preventing smoke from reaching the corridor sooner, and that the smouldering nature of the fire, which is believed to have been

caused by a cigarette left in a waste bin, prevented the kitchen from reaching the temperatures necessary to activate the heat detector.

Chasty responded to these claims by stating: "The corridor was sufficiently smoke-logged for us to want to break into rooms to get people out...It doesn't take much smoke to set a smoke detector off."

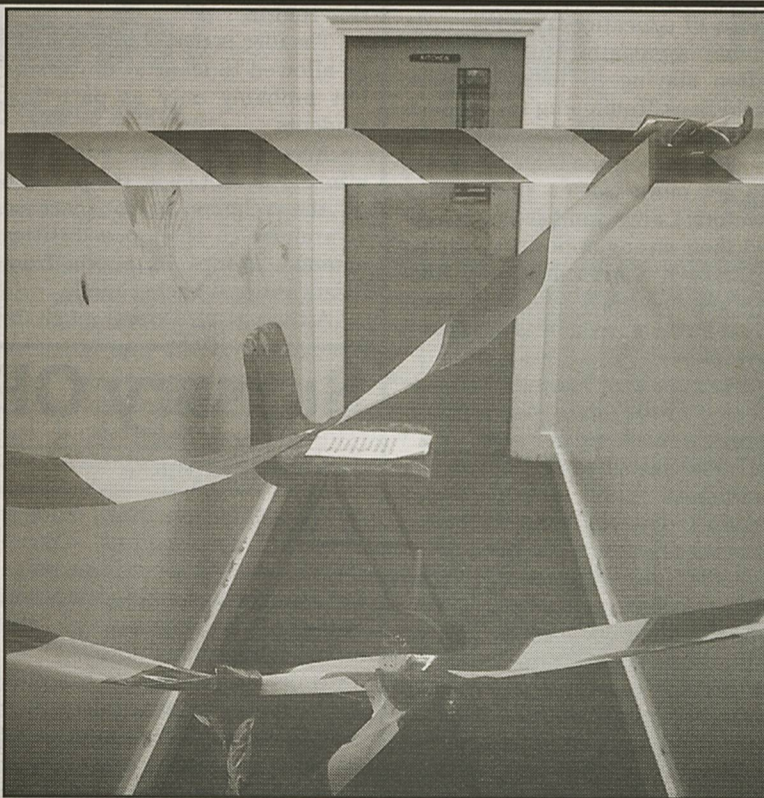
It remains unclear as to precisely what time the Fire Brigade entered the corridor; in particular whether it was before or after 6.14 pm, when the system log shows smoke detected in the corridor.

Tymms commented: "We will be reviewing the evacuation procedure...there is room for tightening up, but the alarm system in the hall was doing its job.

"Some smoke came through into the corridor underneath the fire door. The [smoke detector] being so high up perhaps delayed the process of setting off the alarm," he added.

"The system in Passfield is fundamentally the same system as in other halls, with heat detectors in the kitchens and smoke detectors in the halls. The system is subject to a quarterly test, when smoke is released into the smoke detectors, and the heat detectors are tested as well."

This month's incident is the second serious fire at Passfield in the last year. In the first incident,



Cordoned off: the burnt-out kitchen after the fire.

an external dustbin was set ablaze by another discarded cigarette, causing serious damage to the outside of the building. Again, the fire alarm did not go off.

This month's incident is the second serious fire at Passfield in the last year. In the first incident, an external dustbin was set ablaze by another discarded cigarette, causing serious damage to the outside of the building. Again, the fire alarm did not go off.

The School, unhappy with the response of then fire system con-

tractors TVF, terminated the contract and undertook a new deal with Fire FM, who are currently responsible for maintenance.

The recent fire caused widespread smoke damage to the walls, ceiling, flooring, surfaces and appliances within the kitchen, with some additional minor smoke damage to the walls and carpeting in the corridor.

It is likely to remain closed until the new year, and Tymms estimates the cost of repairing the damage to be over £5,000.

Boom and bust; Lawson relives the 1980s at LSE

Alexander George

LSE hosted the third of its Chancellors Reflect lectures last week as Nigel Lawson, Margaret Thatcher's longest serving Chancellor from 1983-89, spoke on the topic of Changing the Consensus.

The lecture detailed how Conservative economic policies under both Geoffrey Howe, under whom Lawson served as Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and Lawson marked a watershed in British politics.

Lord Lawson described the poor state of the economy when Thatcher became Prime Minister in 1979.

He described the unpopular action he took as "unpalatable medicine [that] had to be swallowed if the patient was to be cured."

He said the Thatcher government followed three principles of market freedom, monetary policy and financial discipline, which it felt was the best way to create the

right environment for sound economic growth.

Though Lord Lawson said not everything went perfectly, he felt that the massive fall in inflation and reform of the supply side sector were two great achievements of the Howe/Lawson tenure of the Treasury.

He pointed to New Labour's acceptance of much of the 1980's economic policies as a sign that the consensus had changed.

The former Chancellor of the Exchequer, who entered parliament in 1974, also commented that Gordon Brown's decision to give the Bank of England independence is the best decision the current Chancellor has made.

Lawson wished to do the same in 1988, but was not permitted by Thatcher.

That period saw strained relations between Thatcher and Lawson, largely due to the presence of Thatcher's economic adviser, Alan Walters.

One member of the audience alluded to this in a question

about the role of economic advisers in Number Ten.

Lord Lawson, however, refused to be drawn into details of his own experience.

Unlike Lord Howe who spoke in the previous week, Lord Lawson also spoke on wider economic issues, namely globalisation, joining the euro, which he opposes, and climate change.

On this last subject, he expressed his disappointment that this is not under the Treasury's auspices, particularly when Tony Blair himself has often highlights its dangers.

Lord Lawson, in a lighter moment, said that perhaps the Prime Minister likes to give "apocalyptic warnings based on flimsy evidence."

Lord Lawson himself favours the use of market forces in combating global warming.

Lord Lawson was also full of praise for LSE Director Howard Davis, who chaired the lecture.

Davies worked under Lawson as Special Adviser to the



Tight-lipped; Lawson wasn't specific about his time as Chancellor.

Chancellor in 1985-86.

Lord Lawson described his then young colleague as "intelligent, articulate, ambitious, supremely irreverent and intelligently promiscuous."

The series of lectures continue for the next two weeks when two more former chancellors take to

the LSE stage.

Next week is Lord Norman Lamont, followed by Kenneth Clarke.

Current chancellor Gordon Brown and John Major, who was chancellor after Lawson before he became prime minister, will not be taking part in the series,

Economic women talk

Kati Krause

Woman in the economy was the focus of an event at the LSE last week as successful women from a variety of professions were invited to speak.

Professor Susan Himmelweit, Eleanor Laing MP and Rachel Lomax discussed the role of women in the labour market and persistent career barriers last Tuesday. The debate was organised by the LSE Gender Institute and chaired by its head, Dr Diane Perrons.

While all of the speakers agreed that there had been substantial progress in promoting equality in the past 30 years, they also concurred that the main obstacle to female success was what Himmelweit called the 'choice language' - the choice between children and career.

Eleanor Laing MP, the Conservative Shadow Minister for Women, argued the case for a more flexible system that would solve the choice issue by allowing women to return to work after having a child, both on a moral basis and as the foundation of a successful economy.

"Let's face it, women will always have to produce the next generation, but keeping them out of the workforce is extremely expensive" she said.

Himmelweit, who teaches at the Open University, agreed with Laing that women who lead "men's lives" are not being discriminated against, but this changed once women decide to have children. She stressed that long working hours and high childcare costs made it impossible for women to combine their job with children, which makes the cost of motherhood in the UK the highest in Europe.

She suggested subsidising and improving childcare and reducing working hours.

Rachel Lomax, an Economics alumnus of the LSE and is now Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, agreed that people who take a career break - both men and women - are "severely penalized", but was more concerned with the issue of working in male-dominated environments.

She pointed to cultural patterns of educational and occupational segregation, with women often staying in low-paid jobs; held back from going for top jobs because of a fear of failure.

Pressed on the issue of quotas to get more women into certain sectors, Laing and Lomax asserted their strong opposition, saying that such a procedure was "like saying men can swim on their own but women will always need armbands".

Lomax did, however, concede that they might be necessary to break into all-male groups.

She clashed with some in the audience and insisted that women now had unprecedented choices and economic freedom.

She finished by telling women in the audience "you are in a completely different position now, so don't let yourself be weighed down by the example of your grandmothers!"



Conservative MP Eleanor Laing.

Young and keen; University for 14 yr-olds

Natalie Vassilouthis

Fourteen-year olds could be sent to study at university under new plans unveiled by the government.

In a move that is likely to be highly controversial, the idea has been floated as a potential part of the prospective secondary education reform.

The idea is that students could be allowed to learn at university, but probably only as part-time students.

According to the education minister, Ivan Lewis, the purpose of the scheme is to increase awareness of possibilities amongst groups of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Although still very much in

the planning stages, the scheme would apparently involve 14 and 15 year olds participating in seminars and lectures, for the purpose of being introduced into university life, with the ultimate goal of broadening their horizons regarding their future.

The hope is that by seeing what university learning is like, students who might not usually apply will be encouraged to.

However, should the idea progress further, universities are likely to be concerned about the maturity levels of 14 and 15 year olds and whether these are of an appropriate level for the university environment.

For example, SU bars may potentially be forced to significantly tighten their ID policy to

ensure that only over-18s use them.

In light of these questions, Lewis argued that amongst a group of 14-year-old girls who spent a week at their university, a positive change had been observed, resulting in two of the four going on to higher education.

"They had no idea what university was about before they went. They thought it was going to be strict and dull but they were amazed to discover about the academic challenges and social freedoms" Lewis told *The Guardian*.

It is anticipated that when the reform is finally unveiled these questions over the scheme will be brought to the forefront of the educational debate.

Bursary OFFA has changed

Tanya Rajapakse

Plans for an LSE bursary and scholarships scheme this week moved one stage further towards implementation following a meeting of the school's Academic Board.

A detailed report on the bursary scheme, to be implemented in 2006 with the inauguration of the government's controversial top-up fees programme, is to be submitted to council for ratification this Tuesday.

LSE SU General Secretary Will Macfarlane told *The Beaver* "We have come up with a bursaries scheme that will award significant bursaries to a large number of students" Until now it had been unclear whether the LSE would opt for a small number of large scholarships or a greater number of smaller bursaries.

Imperial College London has announced the largest bursaries to date at around £4000 a year. Cambridge and Oxford have also announced plans for large scale

scholarships. Macfarlane commented that "Other institutions are apparently going to try and award large scholarships... but it is the basis of our scheme to really make a difference to as many students as possible and not pander to the media."

Under proposals announced by the recently appointed Director of the Office for Fair Access (OFFA), Sir Martin Harris, universities are to be expected to designate up to twenty percent of income earned through top-up fees to bursary schemes.

Harris' comments have drawn much criticism from the university sector, which remains firmly in opposition to perceived government interference in higher education.

Sir Martin has also created a huge outcry from the university sector following his claim on Radio 4 that if universities were to spend this 20 percent of their top-up fee money on bursaries they could generate £200 million for the less well off.

Sir Martin's comment has drawn a lot of criticism from university vice-chancellors, who are worried that they are being told as to how they should spend their top-up fee income. The Independent quoted one as saying "I think it's outrageous that he (Sir Martin) should make such a request of everybody."

At present, under the Higher Education Act, universities are required to allocate a minimum of £300 per head for the poorest students. Exactly how this is spent remains at the discretion of individual institutions.

In a statement to *The Beaver* an LSE spokesperson said, "The overall proposal at LSE is to channel a third of all money from variable fee income towards student support."

Macfarlane went on to suggest how the bursaries would be allocated: "our scheme will make awards to students automatically on the basis of their financial background and no other qualification."

New Labour is doomed, says Benn at the LSE

James Caspell

Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Hansard Society, veteran politician Tony Benn was invited to speak at the LSE last week.

Benn, the longest serving Labour MP ever spoke with psephologist and colleague Dr David Butler, looking back over the past 60 years of UK politics.

Benn predicted the decline of New Labour and the need for a rebirth of democracy in the UK.

Talking with reference to the current conflict in Iraq he spoke of his experiences of the Second World War, and suggested that George Bush and Tony Blair have started a "religious war that could go on for hundreds of years."

He also highlighted the role of religion in the recent US elections, crediting Bush' recent victory to the "Evangelicals who appear to be pro-life when it comes to having an abortion but not when it comes to killing 100,000 Iraqi's"

First elected 54 years ago,

Benn cited two reasons for the radicalisation of his politics.

First was the realisation that in the wake of the General Strike in 1926 "over one million miners had been injured and six thousand had been killed due to the privatisation of the coal mines".

The other was as a result of serving as a Minister during the 1960's and 70's: "When the IMF is telling you to cut millions off of public expenditure, you realise where the power really lies" he told the audience.

Benn has often been branded as the man who gifted the Conservative Party eighteen years of ascendancy as a result of his left-wing policies.

However, Benn countered this by saying it was the formation of the breakaway Social Democratic Party, Neil Kinnock's lack of support for the Miners Strike and a "right-wing media" that had consigned Labour to opposition for so long.

Predicting the imminent expiry of New Labour, he said "nobody wants pensioner poverty,

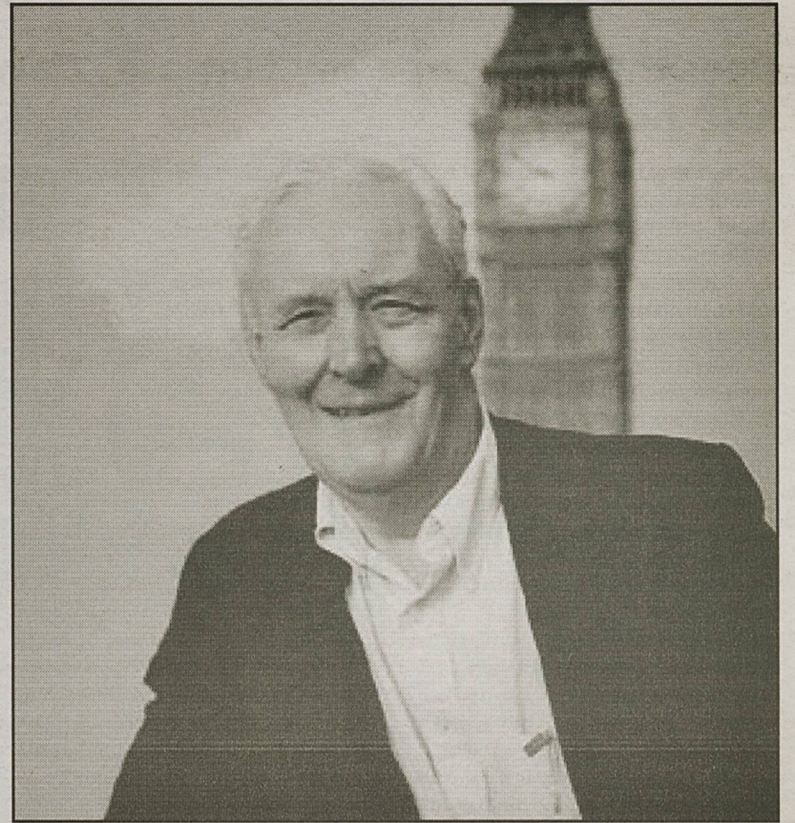
students saddled with debt...and nobody wants war."

When questioned on House of Lords reform and apparent voter 'apathy', Benn responded by blaming an "unrepresentative" political system adding, "The commons is weaker than I have ever known it...there needs to be a rebirth in democracy".

When questioned about his view on the proposed smoking ban in public places, Benn at first lit up his pipe in jest, before indicating that he supported such a ban.

Finally, Benn, who was voted 'Politician of the Year' in 2002 and has since become a focal point of the Stop the War Coalition emphasised how he will continue to advocate the peace and democracy that he believes in.

In a final jibe towards New Labour's current policy on teacher recruitment, Benn, who in 2001 left Parliament to "spend more time in politics", described his role as "untrained classroom assistant to the nation" pouring himself yet another cup of tea.



Tony Benn used a speech at the School to send a warning to his party

Visa system mess

Simon Chignell

Problems with administration and cost of UK Visas to potential LSE students have been brought into sharper focus by the LSE SU in the same week in which it emerged that such problems may have already cost UK Universities up to £30 million in lost revenue.

In an attempt to counter the problem, a motion was passed at the UGM without any opposition, calling on the Union to oppose increasing Visa charges in order to "show the overwhelming opposition to the charges within our student body".

SU General Secretary, Will Macfarlane, who co-wrote the motion, argued that "the current system has created chaos for many international students, who have not been aware of the ongoing changes and increases in price for their educational visas."

Earlier this year, the government agency known as UK Visas admitted that the process of applying for visas had been "tightened up" in order to restrict the number of people obtaining a student's visa in order to find work in the UK.

"There has been no change in policy but we have strengthened our consideration process and that's in response to evidence of serious abuse" a spokesperson told *The Guardian*.

However, last week a survey taken by the Conservative Party revealed that such changes may have already cost UK Universities as much as £30 million in lost fees income.

The Shadow Higher Education Minister Chris Grayling said that the survey showed that two thirds of universities were having problems with Overseas Student's visas applications.

One university reported a loss of £2 million pounds and the LSE this year could potentially lose over £10,000 for every student refused entry or deterred from coming to the UK through visa difficulties.

Problems have reportedly led to students from China, with a fast-growing demand for Higher Education, choosing Canadian or Australian Universities ahead of their UK counterparts.

Macfarlane indicated that he had spoken with the director of LSE Sir Howard Davies about joining forces on the issue and said "He has been in touch with me about us working with the School on this and we fully intend to do so."

An LSE spokesperson commented "We have been trying to raise awareness about the effect of these regulations for some time.

"We are very concerned about the impact it will have both on LSE and international students generally."

"The LSE is expected to be harder hit than most due to its student composition being heavily weighted with overseas students.

Matt Willgress, who proposed the motion along with Macfarlane, said "A large number of students at LSE have had problems with the system. I think there is a serious case for not having them [visa charges] all together."

He asked students to take action on the issue saying "we need to campaign on this issue."

Last year a postcard petition opposing visa charges was delivered to 10 Downing Street, and Macfarlane indicated that there would be more awareness-raising at the School and further initiatives to highlight student opposition.

Lowering of the standards

Tom Jenkins

Nearly half of University academics questioned in a survey claimed they had felt obliged to pass a student they felt deserved to fail, according to an internet poll carried out by the *Times* newspaper.

Of 400 academics questioned in the survey, over 83 percent said they felt that standards had suffered as a result of "the squeeze on the resources of higher education".

Nearly 20 percent claimed to have turned a blind eye to plagiarism.

However, critics have been quick to rubbish the study as

unsound, pointing to the tiny sample - only 400 academics rook part of a possible 90,000.

LSE sources were also keen to point out that LSE assessment procedures were more stringent than at many other universities.

"All papers, with very few exceptions, are subject to blind double marking by academic staff," a spokesperson told *The Beaver*.

"External examiners from peer institutions ensure that standards are consistent with the best of the rest of the sector," they added.

In response to the question of plagiarism, the LSE commented that "the School has recently

revised its rules in this area to make them even more severe. One of the main reasons for the School's heavy emphasis on closed examinations is to reduce the possibility that a student's final classification can be influenced by marks for plagiarised material."

Some sections of the media, most notably *The Daily Mail* newspaper lost no opportunity in using the survey to attack the government's higher education targets.

Given the recent controversies in the field of higher education policy, more surveys, drum banging and back biting seem inevitable.

Advertisement

SU Shop

Pocket size 2005 academic diaries still on offer

Charity Christmas cards now available

Newly designed LSE Christmas cards also available

Other special offers still in store

Politics for students

Does the UGM serve any purpose? *Dave Cole* argues that it does - for students AND politics.

Of late, there has been much huffing and puffing around the theme of 'students not politics'. The politics of the Students' Union are, we are told, dominated by a small clique of lefties, some of whom have beards and most of whom need to wash more often.

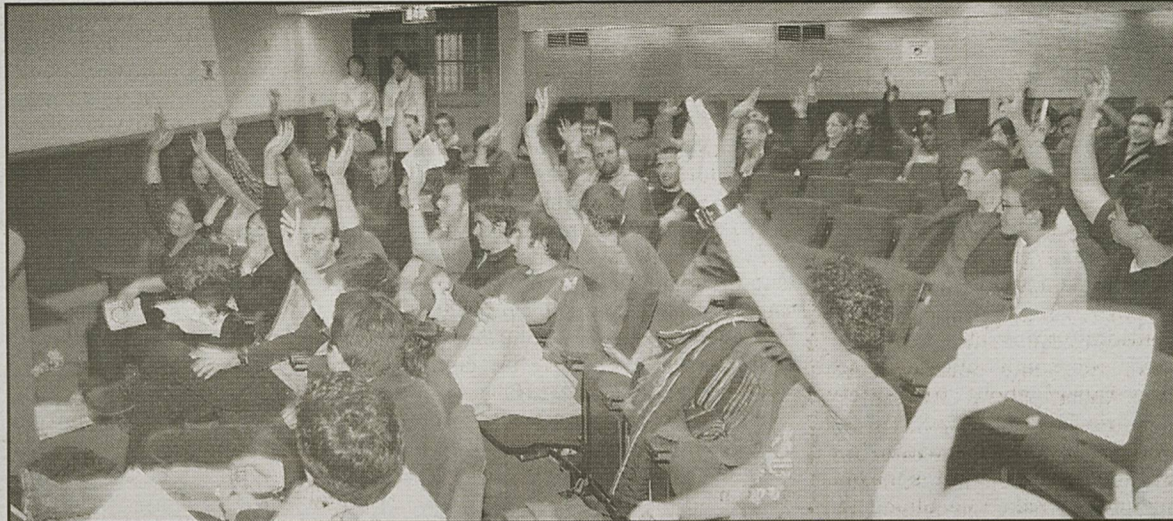
We need more meetings about what colour Copy Shop Paper Requisition Form (B) should be on and less about Yasser Arafat. Maybe here we have extremes. Is Yasser Arafat part of the fundamental business of the Students' Union? No.

The fact, though, that two-thirds of the people present last week wanted to talk about him suggests that people have more than a passing interest in world politics. Nor can we ignore the fact that the SU has a role to play internationally.

No, I don't think that we should be overthrowing the state, but as part of a campaign to, say, boycott Nestle, the LSE SU can punch above its weight. Equally, the minutiae of running the SU are better dealt with in committees than in the UGM.

Let us take a less clear example: the BNP. I have heard it said that we should not talk about the BNP because there isn't a problem with racism at LSE and we're just making martyrs out of them.

Funny thing is, they said something very similar at Greenwich a few years ago. Surely the BNP couldn't get any-



where in a multicultural community? Tell that to the black students who are harassed and attacked on their way in and out of Greenwich by the BNP.

If that doesn't affect students as students, I don't know what does. To paraphrase Niemoller, first they came for the former polys...

There are a wealth of issues that are not issues that should solely be dealt with by the LSE Students' Union. That does not mean that they should not be dealt with at all by the LSE Students' Union.

Students are in a difficult financial situation that makes them much more vulnerable to the pressures that society throws at them - discrimination on the basis of race, gender, sexuality and disability, for starters. We are

also told that the Students' Union in general and the UGM in particular are ineffectual.

They may well not advertise themselves as well as they might but the fact that they are at a low ebb means we should redouble our efforts to increase participation and engagement within the Union, not pack up and go home.

I must profess confusion, though, at the right on the one hand saying that the SU shouldn't debate certain issues because there are more appropriate areas for discussion and then saying that the UGM should be abolished because it doesn't have enough to do.

The recent elections had a very high turnout. At the same time, the Students' Union has moved to a more positive campaigning role - Anti-Racism,

Women's & LGBT officers and the Communications Sabbatical have been introduced. No, things will not become perfect overnight, but that does not mean we cannot - or should not - do anything.

The line that what is labelled 'the right' within the SU puts out would have rather more credibility if they actually put forward positive proposals rather than stopping motions that people have decided to talk about.

However, the Students' Union must be about more than UGM, motions and policy.

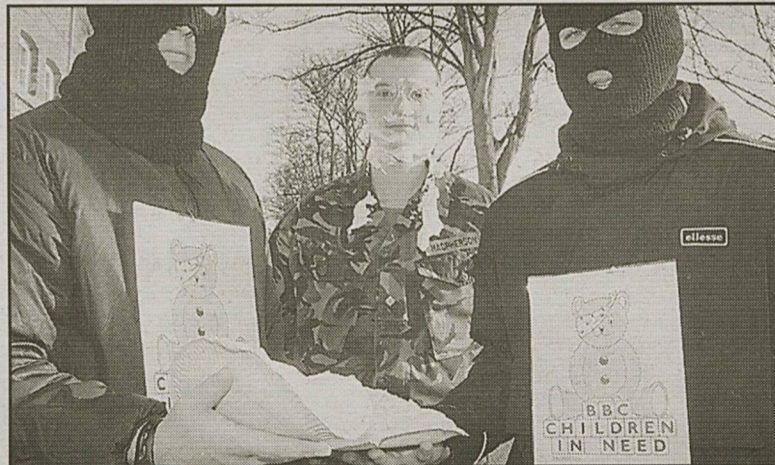
Rather than making promises about engaging people, we actually need to show people what we are doing: providing services for students such as counselling and cheap food; representing students to the School; and campaigning for a better deal for students.

Uncharitable

Eliot Pollak leaps from Dizzie Rascal lyrics to a nation of misanthropists - the random wandering continues

'You ain't gotta feel guilt just selfless, give a little help to the helpless.' So raps none other than Sir Dizzie of Rascal on the re-release of the Band Aid single 'Do They Know it's Christmas,' available in all good record shops this week. And you know what, I think I will try to help the helpless. Given one of Dizzie Rascal's previous lyrical pearls, "what's all that about you sh*t head, f*ck your mum man" (from the track Jus' a Rascal) it would arguably be rude not to.

Ignoring the fact that the last thing the Muslim population of Sudan wants to be told is that it's Christmas ("go away you bastard infidels,") there is plenty to feel uncomfortable about regarding this whole egregious shenanigan of Band Aid. As the nation deposits their £3.99 with Bob Geldof, it is as if we have all fulfilled our duties to the poor for another twenty years. Such a piffling amount is so patronising to the genuinely destitute that it's embarrassing. And as the Band Aid superstars, who for three hundred and sixty four lavish days per year act as the very



antithesis of altruism by squandering huge money on ostentatious stage routines drive off in their soft-top Jags, isn't it about time we took charity seriously in this country?

Quite simply, we are not a nation of philanthropists. Take Children in Need for example. C in N is a mighty fundraiser which although you might not have noticed, took place last Friday night on the Beeb. And despite the best efforts of the bandaged, slightly camp Pudsey Bear and despite (or possibly because of)

the best efforts of the very camp although sadly not yet bandaged Will Young, Children in Need will not raise more than £30m. This approximates to a woeful tally of about 50p per person in the United Kingdom. Given that we spend double that amount on a pint without even cursory thought, as a nation, our devotion to good causes is clearly lacking.

Not only this, but on an individual level, we show shocking concern for the poor every single day on Kingsway. Those annoying luminous-jacketed chaps outside

the tube come up to us and say something like, "Would you like to save a castrated dolphin sir?" To which our answer is something along the lines of, "Sure. Oh damn! I just left my wallet in the toilet. Come back to me on a day that doesn't end in a y."

With humanity pretty much in agreement that charitable donations are a good thing, surely it's time for a revolutionary new system to turn words into action. I believe a charity levy should be introduced, a figure of 3 percent of annual income (post tax) sounds about right. Further, it should be entirely at the discretion of the donor as to which charity this money is bequeathed. Finally, a receipt from any registered charity for the correct amount must be provided along with one's tax returns as proof of payment. Failure to comply will lead to punishments as extreme as being forced to listen to the entire Dizzie Rascal back catalogue.

Anyway, enough of this moralistic ranting, I'm off to buy a new iPod. Well they do say charity begins at home.

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The Beaver is available in alternative formats.

The Beaver Comment

Where there's smoke

Regardless of where the blame lies, the consequences of the fire at Passfield could have been dire in what appears to be a major failing of fire safety procedure.

Though everyone was evacuated safely, that the hall staff did not think to sound the fire alarm the moment they were made aware of the incident in the kitchen is appalling. It took seven minutes for the alarm to be sounded after the fire brigade was called - seven minutes where, were it not for a fire door that thankfully served its purpose, lives could have been lost.

How is it that not a single member of hall staff thought to sound the alarm? Why did the fire brigade have to do so?

The LSE, to its credit, has acknowledged that its fire safety procedures need to be tightened up but why does it take an incident of such a magnitude to bring attention to this fact?

Far too many questions are being raised about fire safety procedures which have to be answered by officials within the LSE and at some point, someone will have to take the blame for what could have been a disaster.

No respect for racists

The concern raised by the three racist posters found around the campus is, more than anything, a clear example that we, as students, should be careful not to be naïve about the world that surrounds us.

At the LSE, we do live in a uniquely diverse environment and Bernie Taffs, head of security at the School has said in the past couple years that he has never, in his time here, recorded any racist incidents.

The fact is the LSE is a type of Utopian dream, where most students live shielded from the real world, where racism is almost a part of daily life.

The Union has been good to

react with a swift and strong response to the posters, as any such incident must quickly be stamped out.

Hopefully, the posters were nothing more than an incredibly crude joke that is, without a doubt, out of character for the majority of students at this university. The sad fact is that people who hold the beliefs articulated in the posters do exist and do attend universities such as our own.

This newspaper would like to, much as Gareth Carter quite rightly did at the UGM, encourage any students who find such posters to take them down and report them to LSE security.

Red card for ULU

ULU's recent proposal to discontinue its cards and add its insignia to college cards is the latest ridiculous proposal made by an organisation that is redundant.

Much as one ULU Council delegate commented, the proposal is like all of ULU's ideas - attempting to resolve a problem with a "one size fits all" resolution for upwards of 130,000 students.

Some have said that the issue

marks a return to the debate as to the relevance of ULU.

In the opinion of this newspaper, however, there is no debate: ULU serves no purpose for LSE students - we do not use the ULU building or much of any ULU facilities. Why should we put the ULU logo on our campus cards?

The only use for ULU is its sports facilities - one sabbatical officer can do that job.

Apology

The Beaver would like to apologise to anyone who took offence to the insulting reference to Muslims in last week's edition of Musings, titled "Chriismukkahmadanwalipascha baisakhiwesak...".

Neither the author or the newspaper intended for the reference to be interpreted as derogatory or offensive, but we acknowledge that, in fact, this was not the case. That the incident occurred in 'Respect not Racism' week was

all the more unfortunate.

We have recently instituted new editing practices with a more streamlined procedure for questioning any such references and the reader can rest assured that The Beaver will do everything possible to ensure that such a remark is reviewed by several editors and executive officers before it is approved.

In summation, we apologise unreservedly for any offence caused.

Letters to the Editor

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

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to Matthew Sinclair's supposedly tongue-in-cheek remarks on 'exploding Muslims'. I do not find it acceptable that a sweeping comment branding Muslims as 'exploding could be published particularly at this 'time of flamboyant religious warfare'.

To find this comment remotely funny seems to me the equivalent of laughing at the jokes of the Rat Pack when they referred to Sammy Davis Jr. as "Smokey" during the height of the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Mr. Sinclair's comments are NOT funny, or tongue-in-cheek: they are offensive, not just to Muslims, but also make a mockery of the desperation of suicides and the tragic deaths and injury that they cause to people involved in them. I hope you will ensure that similar comments are not published in the future on Muslims, or any other religious denomination for that matter, as it is your duty to guarantee that no groups are ridiculed in this student's publication.

Ohood Abdulghaffar

Dear Sir,

I am very disturbed by how poorly The Beaver's so called "tongue in cheek" columns are currently being edited.

I find it shocking and rather upsetting that whilst the SU is trying to promote racial equality and diversity on campus during Respect Not Racism Week, The Beaver is printing articles that are not just unsettling and intimidating for racial minorities, but are just down right insulting and abusive.

I have received complaints from several students who feel that articles like those of Mr Sinclair that disingenuously stereotype more than a billion people all round the world, while paradoxically calling for people to work "together across religious boundaries", are ostracizing them in the wider school community.

As the SU is firmly committed to promoting an environment "in which all individuals may contribute as fully as possible without fear of unfair and discriminatory attitudes" (A.1.1 of the constitution); I feel that it is the responsibility of The Beaver to make an apology to those who have been insulted and demeaned.

Farhan Islam
LSE SU Anti-Racism Officer

Dear Sir,

After yesterday's truly bizarre and somewhat bewildering questioning of the Executive Editor, I felt it necessary to write in support of your "tongue-in-cheek" columns.

Often reactionaries ask if the world has gone mad and although I have never been called a reactionary, after listening to the questions raised at the UGM, I did find myself asking that very question.

Jonathan Swift satirically

wrote that babies should be eaten, was this offensive? Certainly. Should it have been censored? Certainly not. One can hardly imagine literature without the work of Swift. Let us not get carried away: the quality of writings by Messrs Swift and Sinclair are sadly incomparable but the point is clear, censorship is a bad thing and its use should be strictly limited. Were Sinclair's comments in good taste? Certainly not. Were they offensive? Probably not but even if they were they raised an eye-brow, generated debate, entertained the reader - the raison d'etre for a student newspaper.

Chris Wilson

Dear Sir,

This letter comes in response to the 'Passfield elections débâcle' article. Yes indeed I was responsible for running the RON campaign and my "personal reasons" for doing so are as follows: firstly, I believe that students should be aware that they have another option in addition to the candidates listed on the ballot paper, and, secondly, a significant number of people agreed that RON should be promoted but failed to take any action therefore I decided that activism, as opposed to idle chatter over breakfast, was the way forward.

My campaign was not, as has been suggested, "malicious or needlessly negative" and did not breach any of the campaign rules or section 9 (m) of the Passfield Constitution. I should also like to point out that my posters could not have influenced that many people as they were only up for a short amount of time. Therefore, the fact that RON received so many first preference votes only goes to show that the calibre of the two presidential candidates was a genuine concern for the majority of the Passfield residents. Furthermore, I should like to reiterate the words of last week's article and stress that I did not receive any help from Jimmy Tam before or during my campaign. Incidentally, that does not mean that I didn't receive any help from other Passfield residents.

Whether my campaign made a crucial difference to the results is unclear but one must remember: the Passfield residents voted RON for a reason.

Jade Charles

Dear Sir,

I write in response to last week's article 'Passfield election débâcle'. The article makes some very serious, untrue and unfair allegations of "underhand electoral practice" based on a shocking lack of evidence.

The unbalanced article is based entirely on speculation, rumours, unknown sources, anonymous individuals and unsupported accusations. I strongly question the legitimacy of the article's claims and refute any suggestions of electoral malpractice.

Passfield, in my opinion, elected RON because residents thought the two presidential candidates simply weren't right for the job. I see this as an example of Passfield's awareness of political democracy and RON serving its function.

The rumours that I was behind the RON campaign are illogical and absurd. People approached me during the election asking me to re-run and I considered it, but I have never had any intention to re-run (especially being returning officer), so it is irrational to accuse me of orchestrating the RON campaign for my own interests.

I believe the elections have been run fairly and justly by Fynn Prager and myself. Fynn and I did not leak any ballot paper descriptions and a closed count is the precedent for Passfield elections, which no resident raised any concern about.

I am disappointed at these false allegations, which undermine the hard work Fynn and myself have put into these elections. Nevertheless, I want to wish the new Passfield committee the best of luck.

Jimmy Tam
Passfield President

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express concern over the motion voted by the LSE SU to express condolence for the death of Arafat. I believe everyone has the right to express publicly their thoughts and mourning, but to do it in the name of all LSE students, is, in my opinion, problematic. I just wanted to say: NOT IN MY NAME. I would express equal concern if formal condolences in the name of LSE students were delivered for the death of Sharon, Bush, Chirac, the King of Bhutan or the Sultan of Brunei.

I am also concerned that the Manichean debate that raged this week at Lse may not take in account the views of those students that feel frustration and sadness over the complex Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I believe that this "aut-aut" debate isn't useful to create a climate of constructive criticism and critical concern over the suffering and mistakes of both sides, and indeed a climate of much needed peace in our university environment and the wider world.

Mind you, if the Fight Racism society can shamelessly call for ethnic violence and for the annihilation of the Jewish people, I fear that peace is far. Doesn't anti-Semitism come under racism? Isn't peace more than five letter word on a flag? I am indeed hurt and ashamed of the wave of anti-Semitism that is growing among the intellectual elites, and of the way that racism against Jews is tolerated and encouraged. It proves that notwithstanding the Holocaust, hate is still thicker than blood.

Diana L. Copper

Features

Features Correspondent: Steve Gummer

blink

Editors: Tracy Alloway &
James Upsher

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"In reality it is Arafat's role as a
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The new economic order is
'Made In China'"Nations in the West will have to
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more cheaply performed in the Far
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Law

What's wrong with ID Cards

"There are further inherent prob-
lems regarding equality and possi-
ble racism if National ID Cards
were to be introduced."
pg. 16Violence
against
women:
Problem?
What
problem?*Noelle Chen and Astrid Chang,*
in conjunction with Amnesty
International's Stop Violence
Against Women Campaign,
draw attention to the prob-
lem.

In the United States, a woman is bat-
tered every 15 seconds and raped every
90 seconds. Two women per week are
killed by their partners in the United
Kingdom. In Russia, 36,000 women are
beaten every day by their husband or part-
ner and in France, 25,000 women are raped
per year. More than 135 million girls have
undergone female genital mutilation and
an additional 6,000 are at risk every single
day. One in every three women has been
physically or sexually abused in their life-
time, and that amounts to one billion
women around the world.

As we scuttle about fulfilling our
important lives, worrying about unwritten
3,000-word essays, reminiscing over how
fabulously drunk people were at Crush, or
wondering when we will finally get that
dream New York apartment and that
investment banking job, it is cruelly tragic
that at the very same time countless
women around the world do not even have
their right to a dignified existence. It is
equally tragic that many of us do not
realise the severity of this veiled problem.
Violence against women is a hidden crime.
The girl next to you in the library, the lady
that serves you your morning cuppa, the
conductor of the bus you take everyday -
all of them could be silent victims of abuse.

Violence against women is prevalent in
every society in the world and cuts across
all boundaries of class, race and culture. It
takes several forms and this includes phys-
ical and sexual abuse such as domestic
battering and rape, as well as culture-
related violence such as female genital
mutilation. These are violations that
besides inflicting pain, also rob women of
their sense of worth and their value to the
world.



Domestic violence involves physical
attacks such as slapping, punching, beat-
ing, and knifing and usually escalates in
frequency and severity over time. Con-
currently, emotional harm can be
exacted in the form of criticism, threats
and intimidation. Sexual abuse includes
rape, sexual degradation and violence
directed against the genitalia. All of this
leaves women living in fear and shame
while the psychological effects can lead to
depression and ultimately, suicide. In an
age where the empowerment of women is
endlessly trumpeted - be it from the Spice
Girls or the Sex and the City posse, the
vulnerability of many women is overlooked
and the severity of this problem greatly
underappreciated.

Unfortunately, we are nowhere near
seeing the end of this problem. Women
continue to stay on in violent relationships
because there seems to be no alternative.
While fear and the lack of confidence keep
them in abusive relationships, some women
are also locked in by their inability to fend
for themselves and their children. Likew-
ise for rape, shame and the feeling
that no one will listen cause most women
to keep mum about their attacks. Only six-
teen countries have legislation referring to
sexual assault, while only three have legis-
lation that specifically addresses violence
against women as a crime. As such, many
incidents of violence go unreported -
abusers are not prosecuted. In 2002, only 3
percent of all rapes in Chile were reported.
In the UK, this figure was estimated at 13
percent.

Culture-related violence is likewise
notoriously difficult to tackle for its being
steeped in tradition. Female Genital
Mutilation for one is a steadfast cultural
practice among many societies where it is
considered a process of purification. The

practice, which involves the partial or total
removal of the clitoris, the labia minora
and majora (usually with a piece of broken
glass, tin lid or razor blade) before sewing
up raw parts, again aims to reduce a
woman's sexual desire and thus the chance
of extra-marital affairs. The mutilation,
besides the torture of the ordeal, also caus-
es severe pain during urination, menstua-
tion, sexual intercourse and childbirth,
while long-term health consequences
include chronic infection, internal abscess-
es and fatal haemorrhaging. And that is if
one survives the initial process in the first
place - many girls enter into shock and die
shortly after from the severe bleeding.

This March, Amnesty International
launched a global 'Stop Violence Against
Women' (SVAW) campaign which focuses
on ending violence against women in the
family and in conflict or post-conflict situ-
ations. It aims to contribute to the efforts
of women's rights movements around the
world, to expose and to demand the redress
of violence. Ultimately, their goal is the
creation of a world in which women and
girls are afforded their basic human rights.

Will such campaigns actually make a
difference and is it within our power to
bring about significant change? These
problems may seem all so far removed from
our lives and general apathy has made it
acceptable that we continue to languish in
our inertia. As much as we would like vio-
lence to be halted immediately, it would be
impossible without concerted effort by all
of us. We need to challenge norms and atti-
tudes, to pressure governments to adopt
laws and establish working systems that
protect women's rights. Being aware is the
first step, but that alone will not be suffi-
cient. We have to start believing that, we
too have a responsibility in putting a stop
to such horrid violence against women.

"As long as violence against women
continues, we cannot claim to be making
real progress towards equality, develop-
ment, and peace" (UN Secretary General
Kofi Annan). Be the change you want to
see in the world. You can start by making a
personal commitment to never perpetrate,
tolerate or justify violence against women.
Lend support to a female friend whom you
feel may be a victim of abuse. Tell someone
something that you have learned about the
problem and get them to pass it on. The
more people understand the realities of
violence against women, the closer we will
be to a world that is free from it. Every one
of us counts in this effort to stop violence
against women and its success will ulti-
mately lie in our collective strength.

blink management

Thinking about writing for blink? blink welcomes articles from all LSE students.
Articles should be around 800-1200 words in length and submitted to :

thebeaver.blink@lse.ac.uk

If you are interested in participating in a country fact file please email:
S.S.Khaw@lse.ac.uk or K.E.Solberg@lse.ac.ukblink is currently looking for students to share their internship experiences. If you are
interested in taking part please email: A.Anand@lse.ac.uk

Why LSE's Crush is pertinently named

Mala Nangla follows up her article "Sex: Yes please...oh sorry, I'm at the LSE" with a look at the School's most sexually-charged event.

Continuing the dilemma of the asexual nature of the LSE, which seems to have become a minor topic of debate, I am inclined to alter this view from observations and anecdotal stories stemming from its party scene, as well as pending performances from Howard Davies.

Word-of-mouth has it that the ultimate LSE party is Crush. Its successful twist is the ever-changing themes that spice it up (Diwali style) and sex it up (school disco). Whilst surveying the grooving crowd, it struck me that the night was suitably named for two reasons: most of us were indeed crushed at the end of the night in the cloakroom queue - which by the way - is a great way to sober up; and many students seemed to have developed a crush, if not several, by the end of the night.

As a pointer for Crush virgins, I discovered it is one of the few places in London that serves snakebites. Since many of our students are from abroad and may not be aware of what this is, snakebites are as much of an institution to British students, as fish and chips are to the nation. Do not ask what they are, just buy one at the bar. But make sure you are with platonic friends after a couple of hours.

So to start the night being true to one of LSE's claims to fame - Malinowski (an advocate of immersing oneself into unknown cultures for a more insightful understanding of behaviour) my friends and I bought a round of these lethal cocktails and began to notice some anomalies through our blackcurrant-tinted spectacles.

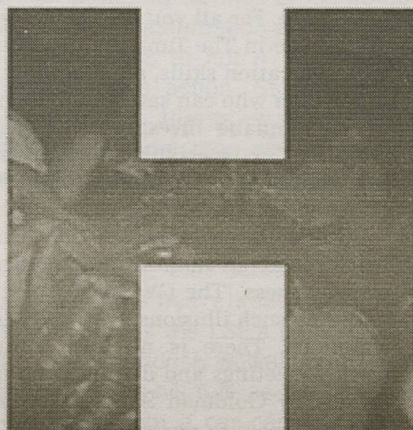
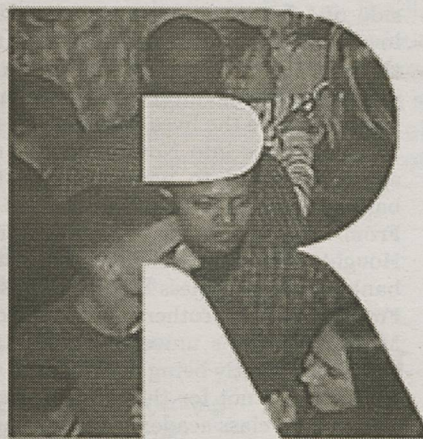
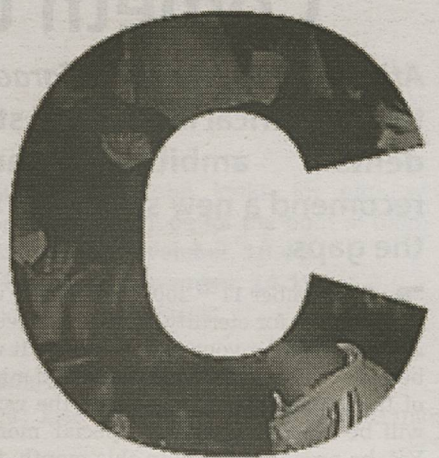
At any bar in central London, sexual tension is almost visible in the air between the wine-swilling, high-heeled not-really blonde girls and pin-stripe suited-and-booted beer-guzzling boys. At Crush you may think there would be a different ambience given our small-ish population, but our students are into short-term frolicking. Unlike other bars where flirting is rife because it is unlikely you will ever bump into guy that pinched your ass again, or the

girl that shook her booty like Beyoncé in your groin, LSE's prowlers have not been holding back. And the beauty of it is, come Monday morning, there they are in broad daylight on Houghton St. smiling with expressions as innocent as those smoothies.

But it is not just our own kind that is creating such a charged atmosphere through transparent body language and unobtrusive gesticulations. There are often a lot of unfamiliar and slightly older looking faces in the crowd. This has been a recurring Friday phenomenon. Who are these unknown but welcome strangers that have chosen to crash Crush? Well the majority seem to be local City boys who have decided to forego the pleasure of the plethora of their meat markets for our sweat box. And their presence is apparently due to Crush's reputation of being a great place to pick-up.

If this is not enough to prove the view wrong that LSE can be asexual, what has really been getting tongues wagging around school are the parties hosted by our South American contingent, with many students saying the best nights were the Brazilian and Latin American quad parties and the Colombian boat party. All there is to say on the matter is "Ola! Annually is not enough. Please think in semesters. Oh and any more imported caipirinha is welcome."

During another conversation with my very wise and still nameless American friend, I mentioned that the debate may actually become a social studies project of an LSE undergraduate and she remarked on the irony, "Wasn't your point that the LSE could over-intellectualise things?" Well I have discovered no one better to prove this wrong than our illustrious Director, Howard Davies. No comment from him is needed. To find out his thoughts on the matter, just go and see his forthcoming performance in our rampantly saucy, cross-dressing Christmas pantomime.



Musings

Ukrainian Stalling

The Ben Chapman Memorial Musings

Matthew Sinclair

Current experiences in the Ukraine remind us that in some parts of the world politics moves exceptionally slowly. Most of us left the cold war behind over a decade ago. We've survived superpower confrontation, enjoyed a happy period of hopeful overconfidence and now find ourselves struggling with a period of fearful paralysis in the face of the world's angry and small minded.

Ukraine's election sees the opposition attempting to oust the anointed successor to current President Leonid Kuchma; Russian-backed Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. The opposition is led by Viktor Yushchenko, the pro-Western Viktor, liberal enough to obtain an American wife and a career as an economist. A paragon of modernity versus a leading defender of the old.

In this election Yushchenko is fighting both the influence of Moscow and a corrupt state in the name of the market and joining the free world. He is thought more popular and won the first round of voting but international observers of the election describe a "step backwards" for democracy that might leave a Yushchenko victory elusive. All very late eighties.

Musically inclined Ukrainians listen to Chris de Burgh and Genesis. Ukrainians wear "Taxi" clothing and two-toned jeans. Yushchenko wants to "pursue free market reforms"; all very Thatcher. In around ten years I'm predicting they'll hit a Clintonite sex scandal followed by a slide into terrorism fears and a pre-emptive war with some shifty Amish. Those crazy Ukrainians with their wacky eighties retro styling.

It gets worse. In Nepal Maoist rebels are slowly taking over. The Nepalese are heading straight for the late forties. Sometime around 2009 starvation is set to take-over followed, a few years later, by a denunciation of "capitalist roaders" and anyone else who looks vaguely unsavoury; political fun for the whole family.

Even within the United Kingdom there are those who just haven't accepted the times changing. Galloway's 'Respect' massive seems to be almost entirely composed of confused old men who remember the good old days when progressives were... well... progressing. They then manage to convince some of the young, confused and angry and bring them aboard. A unionist present at an LSE meeting on top-up fees in my first year was asked how he would fund improvements to British higher education. He responded by asking why we couldn't just return to the seventies and tax high-earners more.

The Ukrainian government, Nepalese rebels and the Respect coalition; tomorrow they will run faster, stretch their arms out father... so they beat on, boats against the current, born back ceaselessly into the past.

Hactivist



Bye Y'all

Tracy Alloway

Like November 2nd, today is indeed a sad day, for you are looking at my last ever Hactivist. After ten lovingly-written and painstakingly-crafted columns, I will be relinquishing this space to another, due to new commitments (blink editorship). Fortunately for you all, I have decided to go out on an optimistic note (I say fortunately, since my original plans for the final column involved excessive ranting and loads of expletives).

Hactivist has been through some tough times, not least among them the re-election of George Bush, yet hope for us left-wingers still remains. That's right, Iraqis may be dying, the Whitehouse lying, and democrats crying, but there are plenty of reasons not to throw yourself off London Bridge (yet).

Despite all this political turmoil and social polarization, we've seen the emergence of a political activism akin to the level of the 1960's. Today's liberals may not be wandering around in tie-dyed T-shirts, espousing free love and heavy drug use (...wait a second...) but they are actively engaging in direct action against governments and policies they disagree with. There are protests, grass-roots campaigns, and the development of an entire activist-cultural phenomena.

We may not be gazing into lava lamps and burning bras (although you never know what might happen at The Barrel), but we are making our opinions known. As the generation which will have to deal with the immediate legacy of the Bush and Blair administrations (spiralling debts, messy wars, the erosion of social security programs) we *reserve and deserve*, a direct say in what's going on.

As a powerhouse of international intellect, the LSE in particular has a prominent role to play in "The New Sixties." We have the brains (or, we like to think we do) and resources (or at least, Gareth Carter does) to make a difference in world politics. But most of all, we have the futures. LSE students become diplomats, politicians, NGO workers, and academics who will have the opportunity to exert real influence.

To the students of the LSE (and future leaders of the world) never forget the lessons learned at your beloved university. When you are making millions a year, never forget the time when you thought £3 for a pint was outrageous. When you're an elderly miser advocating lower-taxes, never forget that there was a time when you would have wept with joy for a government grant. When you're wheeling and dealing in parliament, never forget there was a time when you thought the post of LSE SU Honorary Vice President was very important.

Well, this has gotten much more sentimental than I'm used to. I will therefore finish Hactivist on a lighter note and impart to everyone my last remaining nugget of wisdom: if all else fails, and the world continues to go to hell, a night out at Crush with good friends and bad drinks will *always* solve *all* your problems (or at least, put you in a state so amazingly intoxicated that you won't remember them).

Features

Features Correspondent: Steve Gummer

'Cometh the hour, cometh the man'

Atif Ali and Raihan AlFaradhi take a satirical look at LSE students' ambition and recommend a new society to fill the gaps.

November 11th 2004: a date that will echo for eternity. There's no need to reach for your diaries either. It will be forever etched into the hearts and minds of the people. Children all over the world will be taught about this 'special' month. Yes, be prepared - it is in this month, this year, on the roadwork-ridden streets outside of LSE we have come to know and love, that history will be made. For it is in this month that Jibran Sethi, a relatively unknown (Economics) undergraduate at LSE, will save the lives of many.

As we race into November, we are yet again subjected to waves of investment banks pounding on LSE's proverbial door. From the countless posters around Houghton Street it is clear that Investment banks are big business that mean business. From Lehmann Brothers CV workshops to Morgan Stanley's university presentation, we are constantly being told that the world of finance is not for the faint hearted. As well as first class academic results you also have to have excellent teamwork and communication skills. No 'biggie' I hear you say. Well for all those who include shouting obscenities after a night out at The Tuns in your communication skills dossier, think again.

In today's world of finance, investment banks are looking for sleek, sharp, well rounded individuals that can demonstrate teamwork and communication skills. They are looking for individuals, who have been active at university, individuals who have played a pivotal role in a society and not just spent their time binge drinking or playing poker.

'Its beauty is in its simplicity. There is no form filling, no weekly meetings and definitely no presentations by Goldman Sachs H₂O distribution engineers to packed D-Rooms, claiming to know the culture of success.'

Being a member of a society, just doesn't quite cut it I'm afraid. The banks are after the Presidents, Treasurers and General Secretaries out there. It is with this in mind that I return to the opening paragraph. For all you that have spent too much time in The Tuns, or just lack basic communication skills, all is not lost. There is one man who can save you. Whether you are a wannabe investment banker or a budding tax specialist, Jibran, and his brainchild, 'The CV Booster Society' are here to save you.

Unlike other societies that claim to teach you about running or marketing your own business, 'The CV Booster Society' is under no such illusions. Its beauty is in its simplicity. There is no form filling, no weekly meetings and definitely no presentations by Goldman Sachs H₂O distribution engineers to packed D-Rooms, claiming to know the culture of success.

'At The CV Booster Society there is a



Climbing the greasy pole. Graphic: James Upsher

true belief in equality,' remarks Jibran. Our members come from all walks of life; ranging from 'hoody' Patels to 'wassup brov' desi's. 'We don't think it's fair to discriminate; not even against anthropology students. In my society, if you want to be President, you are a President. We are all Presidents in my society.'

Let us all now take a minute to salute Jibran. A man described in a magazine as a visionary - a man with 'a dream.' A national hero whose creation, 'The CV Booster Society' has saved countless people from leaving The Tuns ever again. So remember when you are next filling out a

job/internship application form and they ask for examples of leadership skills, there's no reason to despair. Just sign up to 'The CV Booster Society' next week and you can confidently write that you were President of a society at LSE. If they probe you further on the matter, then of course do what any self-respecting LSE student would do; be imaginative with the truth. Failing that, play the equal opportunity card and Bob's your uncle.

NB Any names/characters mentioned in this article are purely fictional. Resemblances to any real life character are purely coincidental.

Politics



After Bush's re-election, Michael Scott considers the future actions of a Republican White House

By now anyone who remotely takes an interest in current affairs knows that George W. Bush has been re-elected to the White House. With a clearer mandate than in 2000 and without a re-election to worry about, the question now is how will this impact on the world?

Going by Bush's previous term in office this means a likely increase in America's budget deficit for a start. Why does this matter for the rest of the world? Well the old saying goes that if America sneezes the world catches a cold. Unfortunate though the situation is the world is dependent on the dollar for a healthy global economy. The large budget deficit increases the risk of financial instability and at the worst could cause a dollar crisis. A period of economic retrenchment could follow and therefore risky investments in developing countries could dry up, causing further poverty and the chill from retrenchment could also affect developed countries' economies as well.

The Bush neo-conservative foreign policy model set by the previous three years at least is also not encouraging. The War on Terror is at best a score draw and at worst being edged by the terrorists. Take aim number one: Osama bin Laden captured dead or alive. As his little political advert to the US at the weekend before the election proved he is very much alive and contrary to previous reports well. He also doesn't appear to be wearing an orange boiler suit behind a cage at Guantanamo Bay. Aim number two: To drive out terrorists by all means necessary. First on the list: Afghanistan. Military success as the Taliban were beaten and Al-Qaeda fled the country. Yet despite the recent elections, Afghanistan is nowhere near rehabilitated. The country is a security nightmare, with a school bombed in August, and our old friend Mullah Omar, the former Supreme Leader of the Taliban, warning of attacks on voters. Whilst the country has made some steps, the process, naturally enough, is taking time. Time that requires a more focused and concentrated effort by the US and its allies to secure Afghanistan from militia groups and terrorist groups roaming the country.

However, George W. Bush in his enlightened wisdom decided that was not enough. He needed another war: Iraq. Attempting to assuage the public Bush and his faithful friend Blair declared Iraq a clear and present danger with weapons of mass destruction. This *stated* case has since been exploded. At risk of being labelled a Saddam sympathiser the Iraq War as it has happened may not have been in our best interests. Iraq now finds itself in a pickle, free from the tyranny of Saddam (via Shock and Awe [SaW] which left many

'If Bush follows his previous four years with more of the same and sprinkles on top, it was nice knowing you all.'

Iraqi civilians shocked and awed by the bloodshed with "as many as 4,300 civilians" [BBC NEWS] killed during SaW). Many more died in operations against insurgents after the war.

Ah yes. The insurgents. Far from making Iraq safer, civilian life is now a security nightmare. Iraq under Saddam was never a happy, kite-flying place but, being tyrannical he did tend to have security covered. Whilst opponents were summarily tortured, murdered or held indefinitely (that last bit reminds me of somewhere else), only he and his security forces threatened civilians. Post-Saddam there is Muqtada al-Sadr and numerous non-Iraqi terrorist groups such as the Tawhid and Jihad group (who kidnapped and beheaded Ken Bigley, Jack Hensley and Eugene Armstrong) led by an Al-Qaeda linked man Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi, for Iraqis to contend with. Such groups only felt safe operating with impunity in a post-Saddam Iraq. Together both Iraq and Afghanistan have stretched money and manpower, returning us to the US budget and a possible *raison d'être* for it: Bush is spending like a lottery winner in a flash car showroom on his wars. Nor is the world safer, both countries remain fledgling states on a long road to stable democracy that will take many months maybe even years of baby steps to complete. The January elections in Iraq may set up a democracy in name but with security so dire the outlook does not suggest a possible exit strategy unless we want Iraq to fall into chaos. Therefore neo-con military bluster and prowess is failing.

The world is complex with interactions and interdependence on many levels, where one action requires an equal action/reaction somewhere else. The Bush cudgel approach misses these nuances, and that is a scary prospect. Four more years of an emboldened Bush with a bigger cudgel courtesy of the far-right Christian fundamentalists. Christian fundamentalists, who in my opinion are to Christianity what the Islamic fundamentalists are to Islam, a scary reactionary offshoot with no place in

modern multicultural societies. An emboldened Bush points to more "pre-emptive wars" bloodshed and previously liberated countries starved of important attention and resources needed to prevent relapse. A mandated Bush with no further term to fight for, suggests the perpetrators of 9/11 remain free to make home videos of insults, threats and nasties such as beheaded hostage victims and more terror attacks.

So is Bush contemplating more wars? Is he contemplating more unilateral decisions when it suits him? Can he finally nail Osama bin Laden? These questions pose serious dilemmas to the world and Blair in particular. The only hope is that Bush follows his pledge to heal wounds from the divisive US election and changes his spots. Hopefully Bush will agree to British-led proposals for greater aid to developing countries and a fairer trade policy towards these countries. Together these should help alleviate poverty from where some foot soldiers of terrorism can be recruited. Bush's new leaf can start by admitting post-war reconstruction of Iraq needs a realistic damage assessment and a new plan to keep Iraqi civilians on the Allied side, else political capital built up by Saddam's removal will be lost. Greater utilisation of counter-terrorist intelligence to keep terrorists running whilst consolidating the two countries currently in a mess, before setting off on anymore US military product demonstrations is needed. International law should not be subverted and free and fair trials of Guantanamo Bay prisoners is required, else our values are cheapened in world eyes. The environment must be taken seriously by Bush. The New Scientist report on rivers suggests that "many that provide water for the majority of the world's people will begin to dry up" which may result in water wars. This is especially pertinent in the Middle East where water runs between Israel, Lebanon and other countries with enmity between them.

Finally, what world are we moving towards when nations led by a Christian fundamentalist-voted president are fighting Islamic fundamentalist right terrorist groups? One wonders at millions of people's mindsets around the world who believe that preventing individuals from having equal rights depending on sexuality or gender is a world they wish to live in. Thus, in conclusion I would offer that the next four years is going to be one hell of a bumpy ride and, with the second term fail-safe removed, if Bush follows his previous four years with more of the same and sprinkles on top, it was nice knowing you all. If however he does miraculously "flip-flop," which frankly is needed now more than ever, join hands and sing for joy.

The Right Approach



As Selfish As They Get

Daniel Freedman

In the film "As Good As It Gets," a female fan asks Jack Nicholson's character: "How do you write women so well?" He replies: "I imagine a man, and subtract reason and accountability." If someone were to ask me: "How can you predict the demands a trade union will make?" I would answer: "Imagine a fair request, and then subtract economic common sense and add selfishness."

Nowhere, perhaps, is this clearer than with the minimum wage. Earlier this month, the Trade Union Congress called for a rise to £6-an-hour, claiming it would benefit 2 million people. Following this logic, why only demand £6? Why not £10? Or why not say all workers should get the same as a city-lawyer? That would surely benefit lots of people right?

Wrong. Aside from the few communists reading this who are probably nodding in agreement, the rest of you know this is a ridiculous demand. Why? Because employers won't pay for labour more than it is worth to them. As Henry Hazlitt explains in "Economics in One Lesson," (a book definitely worth reading) all that happens when a government decides to increase the minimum wage is that anyone not worth that new wage to the employer will lose their job.

Wages are a price. Salaries are decided based on the value of that person's skills to the employer. Every time the minimum wage is increased, some people are no longer worth the new price (wage) and so lose their jobs. As Hazlitt explains, you can't magically make a person worth an amount to an employer by making it illegal to pay him anything else.

All you do instead is force a person willing to work into unemployment – and onto welfare. So instead of allowing them to support themselves, you're removing the choice from them and forcing the taxpayer to pay them to be idle. In addition you're robbing them of the dignity and freedom that comes from self-support.

Case-studies demonstrate as much. For example, when former-U.S. President Bill Clinton raised the minimum wage in 1996 – according to his own Labour Department 20,000 people lost jobs. Independent, and probably more accurate, studies put the figures much higher. And the people most hit were of course not the trade union members who demanded the rise – but were unskilled minorities and teenagers. No wonder Nobel-prize winning economist Milton Friedman described it as: "one of the most, if not the most, anti-black laws on the statute books."

In this country, the Labour government regularly touts its raise of the minimum wage as a success. This is not true. The British economy was able to hide job losses thanks to the boom it has been enjoying due to two-decades of Thatcherite reforms – which made the country more competitive vis-à-vis its European neighbours.

But as economic logic dictates, many people in this country are unnecessarily unemployed as a consequence – of course, just not any trade union members.

Politics

The price of Rice

Richard Coopey takes a look at the consequences of Bush's latest appointment. He doesn't like what he sees...

Just when we had gotten used to the idea that we were stuck with four more years of Dubya, we are told that one of the few moderate voices in the American cabinet has resigned, only to be replaced with one of its most hawkish members. Colin Powell (despite a strange inability to pronounce his own first name) was undoubtedly a dove amongst hawks, and a man who could at least attempt to show a respectable side to American foreign policy when dealing with the rest of the world. Condeleeza Rice's appointment to replace him will mean a very different slant, as she is one of President Bush's most trusted advisors and is on fine terms with the hawks in the Pentagon, including Donald Rumsfeld and Paul Wolfowitz. For the liberals among us, it is safe to say that it is not an appointment to relish.

Rice is undoubtedly a very learned woman, but her experience lies in the field of the Soviet Union, and this quite possibly has contributed to the Bush Administration's somewhat misguided policies with regard to the war on terror. The administration has very much treated Al-Qaeda and its ilk in much the same way as it treated the Soviet Union. It's much easier to assume that the enemy is a big bad country that you can attack militarily, or with sanctions or through other indirect means. The fact is, that things are not that simple, as this writer has suggested before; military force is not necessarily the best way to go about defeating Islamic extremism.

But what does Rice's appointment actually mean for American policy? Well, I will start with the silver lining. There is strong speculation that Colin Powell will become US ambassador to Britain, which at least means there will be someone effective in that job, and someone who is known to get along well with our Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary.

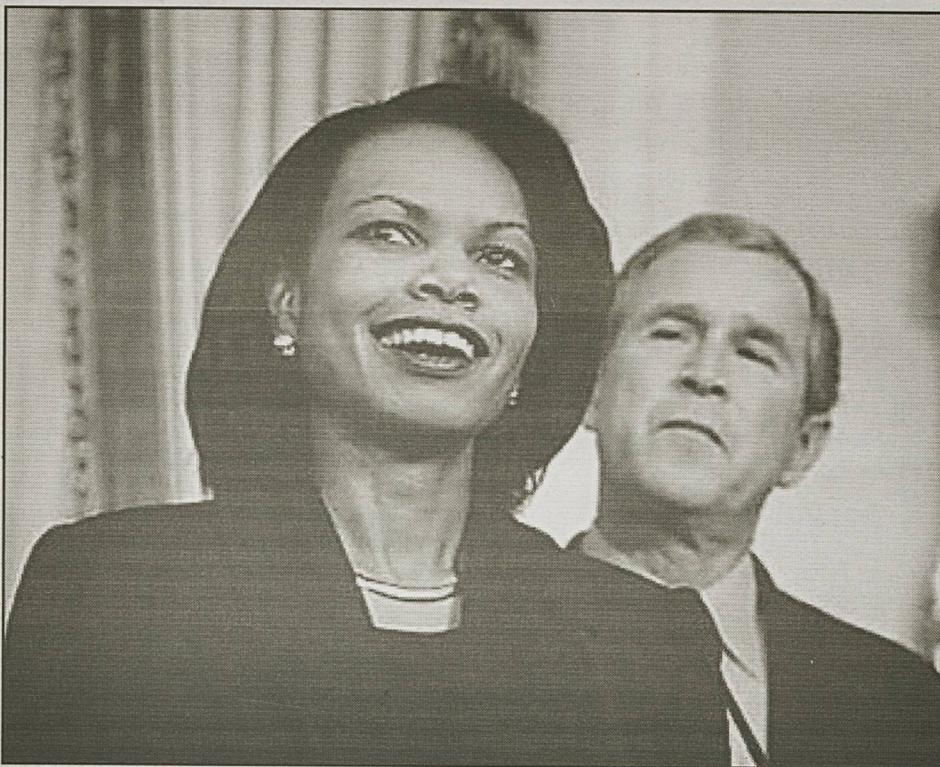
As for direct changes in policy, it is unlikely that much will really be different, as Powell was (unfortunately) such a marginalised figure within the US administration that he was unable to exert as much

"There are strong rumours circulating that Ms. Rice may well have her eyes on the top job."

influence over policy as a Secretary of State would normally expect. Powell was forced to fly back to the US from a tour of Central Asia to prevent a policy coup by Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld, who were attempting to change US foreign policy in the absence of the Secretary of State by cutting ties to Yasser Arafat. Powell allegedly described the hawks in the administration as "f***ing crazies", and although this statement was denied, I for one hope it was true, as it is nice to see someone in such a high position talking sense. The greatest impingement on Powell's reign was the manner in which the office of the Vice President asserted itself into foreign affairs, second guessing him at every turn, to ensure that the neo-conservative agenda was advanced. It will be interesting to see how the two offices act together now that they are occupied by people in such strong agreement.

Despite the fact that Powell's power was very much curtailed, the change in personnel does mean that the most prominent potential restraint on the administration has been removed, and replaced with someone who wholeheartedly supports Bush's aggressive, neo-conservative foreign policy.

Rice is likely to encourage the continuation of Dubya's doctrine of pre-emption, and it should also be pointed out that she is unlikely to reduce the feeling that the administration is in the pocket of the oil industry, given that she is such a close friend to the sector (she even has an oil tanker named after her). It does have to be said though, that her appointment seems



like a seriously backhanded compliment to me. She has secured it due to her political agreement with Dubya and, at least in part, due to her personal bond with the President including, it has been said, a shared love of American football. Well, its nice to know that there is serious reasoning behind the appointment of the most senior cabinet post.

There are many serious issues which are likely to arise during the next four years of the Bush presidency, with much at stake for the world. Obviously, the primary issue will be cleaning up the mess in Iraq, a mess which is looking significantly worse this week after the murder of an unarmed, wounded Iraqi insurgent in a mosque in Faluja, which was caught on camera by an American film crew. Once again, the US forces have handed a major propaganda coup to the insurgents. If the US military shoots itself in the foot many more times then it is unlikely to have any toes left. The Iraqi occupation will not end overnight, and Rice's appointment is likely to ensure that American involvement in the region will continue for the foreseeable future. Alongside Iraq, there is also the issue of helping to build democracy in Afghanistan. The recent elections have shown promise, but there is a long way to go and the security situation in the country is difficult at best. I am not, and never will be an apologist for the Taliban, and I certainly say good riddance to them as I did to Saddam Hussein. However, a colleague of mine from Australia used to

work in Afghanistan, and tells me that whilst the Taliban were hated, people could walk the streets at night in total safety, and that this is certainly not the case in present day Kabul. There is much work to be done and it will not be an easy task for the new Secretary of State.

Iran is also likely to be a major issue, with her nuclear status being somewhat troubling, and also the fact that there is a feeling that if the war in Iraq ever draws to a close, the USA may well be looking to move on to her next stint of "regime change" in the Middle East. With Rice at the helm of the State Department, there is now a very senior, aggressive voice who may well be arguing in favour of such

action, especially given the oil rich nature of the Iranian state, and its Islamic base. Hopefully common sense and restraint will prevail, but there has certainly been an increase in the (albeit still slim) likelihood of action against Iran due to the change in personnel.

Undoubtedly, however, the biggest security issue in the Middle East, if not the world, is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This is the fuel which is constantly poured onto the fire of Islamic extremism, and unless there is a reasonable solution to this problem it is not going to go away. Palestine is an issue which has challenged a succession of Secretaries of State, and the appointment of Rice is likely to lead to continuing staunch support for Israel, quite possibly to the detriment of the peace process. The words of Silvan Shalom, the Israeli Foreign Minister, may turn out to be very prophetic when he said to Powell that his resignation was "a big loss for peace in the Middle East."

Away from the Middle East, the North Korean nuclear issue is still unresolved, with Rice likely to continue the hawkish US policy in the region - despite the South Korean's objecting - understandable, as they are the ones in the line of fire should things go wrong. Without Powell as a restraining influence, it may well be that the problems in this region are also exacerbated.

Rice's other major task, and one for which she seems to be singularly ill-equipped, is to heal the divide between

Europe and the United States. Her single-minded pursuit of hawkish policies means that she is unlikely to abandon American unilateralism in favour of a more multilateral approach. So it is seems that she is unlikely to facilitate an improvement in Euro-American relations. Europe will continue to be marginalised and Tony Blair will have an even harder job in restraining the greater excesses of President Bush.

In all, it seems that the appointment of Rice to such a senior position in the cabinet is likely to continue the domination of the neo-cons within the Cabinet, and ensure that George Bush's aggressive foreign policy in the war on terror is likely to continue unabated, following the removal of the only moderating voice in the administration. Rice also brings a very strong pro-Israel voice to the State Department, having once been quoted as saying "You have to stand by Israel regardless... However Israel determines or defines what it can do... you have to support it". This hardly gives the impression that the United States will be moving to take a more conciliatory position in the Middle East. Rice has also been described as the closest thing to President Bush's "alter ego," meaning that the White House's direct control over foreign policy is likely to continue, and Rice's appointment is the harbinger for a continuation of the administration's hawkish world view.

In the longer term, despite suggestions that she was looking to return to the world of academia, there may well be another reason for Rice's enthusiasm to step up to such a senior position. There are strong rumours circulating that Ms. Rice may well have her eyes on the top job, with a potential presidential candidacy in 2008, offering the interesting proposition of two women facing off for election, with Hilary Clinton being strongly mooted as a democratic candidate. Whether the Republican support-base is likely to support a black woman as a presidential candidate is a matter for debate, but should she secure the party nomination, Rice would make a formidable candidate, as she would be able

"Dr Rice is likely to encourage the continuation of Dubya's doctrine of pre-emption"

to appeal to many who are outside the traditional sectors of the population which support the GOP.

So, it is farewell to Colin Powell, the most internationally popular man in the Bush cabinet, and hello to Condeleeza Rice, a hawk in control of the state department, with the potential to be a future president. There will probably be very little change in the policy of the administration, but it is safe to say that a little voice of sanity has been lost. Much talk after the recent presidential election was of whether President Bush would attempt to unite the country behind a more moderate policy set, or whether he would now head further to the extreme as he has no need to seek future re-election. The appointment of Rice is a firm indicator that the latter course is more likely. The "f***ing crazies" are now well and truly in the ascendancy. Heaven help us. Four more years.

Politics

"With our blood and soul we redeem you, Abu Ammar," chanted tens of thousands of Palestinians as the body of Yasser Arafat was flown back to Palestine for burial on November 12th. Their choice of name was not accidental. While it is not uncommon for Arabs to take on the name they wish to give their first-born son (Abu Ammar means father of Ammar) in Arafat's case his nom de guerre was associated with his time as a courageous guerrilla leader, rather than as a President many regard as corrupt and tyrannical.

Arafat has been the leader of the Palestinian struggle for justice for so long that for the current generation of Palestinians he is the only leader they have ever known. He has led them from a time when Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir famously remarked "there are no Palestinians" to today when even the American President claims he would like to see a Palestinian state (even if he does not act on this claim). This accounts for the huge display of grief evident at Arafat's funeral. For whatever his faults as a leader, Arafat is seen as embodying the Palestinian cause throughout the world. As such he is an icon of not only the ongoing suffering of his people but also the anti-colonial movement.

"Ironically, during the 1990's Arafat devoted much of his time to protecting Israel from attacks."

Arafat has been as controversial a figure in death as he was in life. While some in the Israeli peace movement and supporters of the Palestinian cause have praised Arafat and focused on his efforts to secure peace, many more pro-Israeli commentators did not even wait for Arafat to be buried to demonise him. Israeli Minister of Justice, Yosef Lapid's last message to Arafat in his final days was that he could not be buried where he wished since "Jerusalem is the city where Jewish kings are buried, and not Arab terrorists."

In reality it is Arafat's role as a Palestinian icon that leads to the controversy surrounding his life. To many of those who believe that Palestinians have as much right to the historic land of Palestine as Israelis and thus wish to see both peoples sharing this land the man who came to embody their cause must be defended, whatever his personal flaws. But at the same time those who reject this notion in favour of a "Greater Israel" blame Arafat for any act of violence associated with the Palestinians, real or imagined. For an excellent example of this see Daniel Freedman's column in last week's *Beaver* "Good Riddance," in which he claims that Arafat is the father of modern terrorism and inspired 9/11.

Ironically, during the 1990s Arafat devoted much of his time protecting Israel from attacks. Head of Israeli Intelligence Ami Ayalon said in 1998 that Arafat's Palestinian Authority were doing a better job than Israeli security forces, even assassinating several Hamas activists and attempting to make their deaths look accidental. Oslo required Arafat to be responsible for protecting Israelis, while offering no equivalent protection to Palestinian civilians. Consequently Arafat suppressed media criticism of Israel and tortured dissidents, earning much criticism from human rights groups.

The Oslo period saw Arafat's popularity drop to its lowest ever levels among Palestinians. While the level of violence Israel directed against the Palestinians did fall, and although the peace process saw many thousands of political prisoners released, it was otherwise a complete disaster for most Palestinians. As part of the first Oslo Accord Arafat recognised Israel's right to 78 percent of Palestine, maintaining the PLO's claim to only Gaza, East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Despite this enormous compromise, Israel did not freeze the building of settlements in these territories. In fact settlement building continued at an unprecedented rate, with the Israeli government offering huge subsidies to entice reluctant Israelis to move there while Israel also constructed a set of 'settler bypass roads' that cut across the territories and on which only Jewish Israelis were allowed to drive. Combined with a system of checkpoints and roadblocks these settler roads divided the remaining Palestinian lands into a series of disconnected cantons and strangled the Palestinian economy. This Israeli expansion was funded by the US government, which claimed to be a neutral mediator in the peace process.

No wonder then, that despite being elected with 83 percent of the popular vote in 1996, by 2000 Arafat's position was looking increasingly precarious. Israel and its supporters blame Arafat for the collapse of the peace process and the subsequent outbreak of violence but this is far from accurate. Israel has refused to publish the offer it made to Arafat in the final negotiations at Camp David. However, research by Tanya Reinhart, columnist for the best-selling Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, has shown that Israel only actually offered to hand over little more than 60 percent of the West Bank, divided into four separate blocks, as well as Gaza. In return they expected to keep almost all of East Jerusalem and for Arafat to all but abandon the right of return of almost all of the 3.5 million registered Palestinian refugees that Israel expelled from Palestine in the 1948 and 1967 wars. Needless to say that having already surrendered so much of Palestine, Arafat could not sell this deal to his people without being overthrown.

When Ariel Sharon's visit to the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound (the third holiest shrine in Islam) in September 2000 led to large protests, the Israeli army opened fire killing 12 unarmed Palestinians and wounding dozens more. Their actions sparked the second Palestinian 'Intifada'. Israel was quick to claim Arafat was behind the return to violence and he was happy to try to claim leadership of the uprising. However the Mitchell report into the start of the Intifada concluded that Arafat was not involved. He had actually tried to warn against Sharon's visit. Some Palestinian commentators argue that if the Intifada hadn't broken out when it did then it may have ended up being directed against Arafat as well as Israel.

At first the Al-Aqsa Intifada continued in much the same way as the 1987 Intifada, with stone-throwing, protests and strikes. However, following the deaths of over 140 Palestinians in the first few weeks, some armed factions started carrying out attacks against both the Israeli army and innocent civilians. The Islamist groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad resorted to sending suicide bombers and soon other factions were resorting to the same tactics including the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an offshoot of Arafat's own Fatah movement. While Arafat never publicly supported these bombings Israel and her allies blamed him for not stopping them. They have even alleged that he is responsible for all attacks, even those carried out by rival

Arafat revised

Matt Axworthy makes the case for Yasser Arafat's iconic status and defends his legacy as a symbol of the Palestinian struggle.



factions.

In December 2001 Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon decided to destroy Arafat's Palestinian Authority. Not only police stations but also airports, prisons, legislative buildings and government ministries were attacked, killing many Palestinian Authority employees. In 'Operation Defensive Shield' in April 2002 Israel bombed parts of Arafat's headquarters; 'the Muqata' and then laid siege to it. Meanwhile with the world distracted the Israeli army attacked Jenin refugee camp, destroying one third of the camp, and killing a still unknown number of civilians. These actions restored Arafat's popularity among Palestinians and led to him once again being seen as the defiant leader standing up to Israeli aggression and symbolising the plight of his oppressed but not broken people.

Arafat's death comes at a time when

the Palestinians have lost some of their most prominent figures: Edward Said to leukaemia, Sheikh Ahmad Yasin and Abd al-Aziz Rantisi to Israeli air strikes, and Marwan al-Barghuthi to prison. However despite the void their leaders' absence may have left, one thing remains certain: The Palestinians' desire for freedom and equality in their homeland remains unbroken. They have been struggling now for generations and one day will see Arafat's dream of Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews sharing the land of Palestine fulfilled.

Business

Business Correspondent: Aanchal Anand

The new economic order is 'Made in China'

China is more important than ever to the world economy. *Malcolm Bell* discusses the implications for the rest of the world.

The world economic order has changed because I have a Chinese iPod. I didn't buy it in China, it doesn't have Chinese letters and it isn't a Chinese version, but it was "Made in China" by Apple and then shipped to my door by courier. This is not a new thing. We are used to reading "Made in China" on most of our electronic products, if not then "Made in Japan" or "Made in Korea." However, the significance of my iPod being made in China is much greater than you may already be thinking.

Since 1981, European, US and other 'Western consumers' would often choose between Japanese, Chinese and other Far Eastern manufacturers for their electronic products. Brands such as Sony, LG, Samsung, Nissan and many others have become household names but more and more Western companies such as Apple are manufacturing not in the US or Europe but in China. They are doing this quite simply because of the cheaper costs (wages, technology, capital) which improves their profits. This really is free market capitalism in full force. But what are the implications for this trend on the rest of the world and for China?

According to *The Economist*, between 1981 and 1991 China grew by 9.3 percent per year and 9.8 percent between 1991 and 2001 - the fastest growing economy in the world. China is the second largest economy behind the United States by Purchasing Power Parity - at \$5,111 billion - and sixth by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) behind France and the United Kingdom. China has the highest percent-



Rush hour as China's population goes to work.

age of population of labour force at 56.5 percent, the majority of whom are skilled, and if these trends continue it will surpass the United States within 20 years.

Foreign investment is, in part, building the Chinese economy because of companies like Apple that find it cheaper to produce there than anywhere else.

China's foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows surpassed those of the United States in 2002, making China the world's leading destination for foreign funds - with a \$26.1 billion inflow. In 2003, this inflow grew by 30 percent to \$34.1 billion. These increases are more striking given

that global FDI fell 50 percent in 2001 and an estimated 25 percent in 2002. Foreign companies are investing in China, not just in manufacturing but also in Research and Development and in services. To date, 110 of the US Fortune 500 companies active in China have established R&D centers.

Foreign companies are not just investing capital but they are investing in skills, labour, technology and management, and transferring them all to China when they go. Manufactured products are then passed through the integrated world transport network to reach any consumer within two weeks - my iPod only took eight days to reach me from Shenzhen.

These trends have significant implications for the world in the short to medium term, and in the "West" in the longer term - when, as John Maynard Keynes said, "We are all dead." Of course, the developing strength of China presents certain geopolitical changes as well, but economically the meaning of 'Made in China' is greater than ever.

For the last few years 'outsourcing' of certain business functions and tasks to countries like India, China and elsewhere have presented opportunities for businesses, and headaches for politicians. Tasks which are inherently labour intensive, such as call centres and service-driven customer management, can as easily be done in Eastern India as in South Yorkshire and at a fraction of the cost. The political and economic implications are clear as highlighted in the US election where, with jobs going to Chinese and Indian workers Bush and Kerry were arguing about who was most going to protect US jobs. Understandable but not rational. More and more companies are not "outsourcing"; they are increasingly shifting their entire production base.

I was once asked by an Oxford interviewer if a 100 percent service based economy is possible and my answer was not only yes but that it is happening now. Western nations should not and - to be fair - cannot compete on production cost with Far Eastern nations such as China. However, these trends can be managed by adapting to these challenges. We can take Britain as an example of our typical Western economy. More than 80 percent of

'The US and the UK want to spread democracy throughout the world and in doing so they are also spreading market based capitalism.'

the economy is service-based and this proportion is rising. We are service based because that is the area in which we succeed; we are, in the words of Adam Smith, "specialising" because we have a comparative advantage over China and Japan and other countries in producing services whereas they have an advantage in producing goods. My crystal ball shows me that the increasing development of China will result in an increasing number of firms shifting manufacturing to the Far East and we will somehow have to adapt, so that our few remaining metal workers in Wales for example will have to learn how to sell market research in an office instead.

It is entirely possible to envisage a world in which the manufacturing base is located in one region and services in another. We all know about globalisation and the integration of the world economy and I believe that this integration will rebalance economic power. Nations in the West will have to accept that protection of jobs in areas where they can be better and more cheaply performed in the Far East is bad for their economy and the world economy as a whole. Economic realities must be accepted by politicians - and the two are directly linked. The US and the UK want to spread democracy throughout the world and in doing so they are also spreading market based capitalism. The law of the market predicts that firms will produce at the lowest possible cost because they are profit maximisers and this means that the new global economic order is being "Made In China."

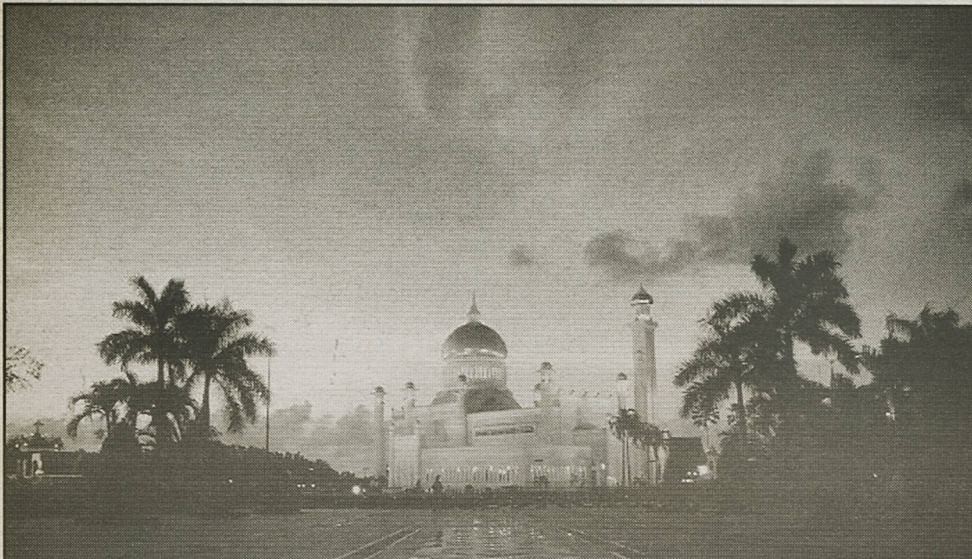
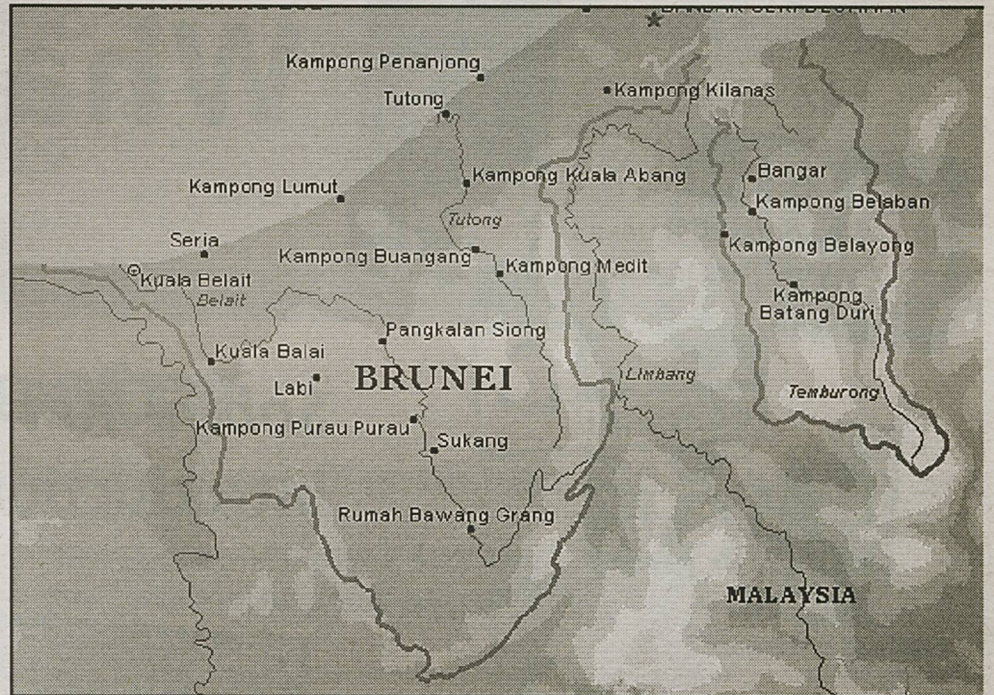


The Nanjing Lu, Shanghai: China's Oxford Street

International

International Correspondents: Stefanie Khaw and Kristin Solberg

Focus on: Brunei



Kheng Lim is a Bruneian. He educates *Fiona Leung* who knows very little about Brunei. *Stefanie Khaw* and *Kristin Solberg* supervise the process for blink.

The Starting Point

Our two subjects share some of their initial knowledge of Brunei

People have to have marriage counselling before they get married. When Queen Elizabeth visited Brunei, she commented that the UK should implement similar measures to combat the country's high divorce rates.

There's no income tax in Brunei, only corporation and road taxes. Since we're an oil-rich country, the oil revenues go towards the funding of social services.

There is one car to every two people. Car ownership in Brunei is really high due to car loans and subsidies.

There are around six to eight kids in a normal Bruneian family. So there are loads of MPVs to move these large families around.

Many people have domestic servants in Brunei. And cable TV, which I think is a necessity.

Kheng's Brunei Facts



Fiona's Brunei "Facts"

The weather's hot and humid in Brunei.

Loads of Malay people, curries, spicy food come to mind when I hear the word Brunei.

It reminds me of desserts, I don't know why.

Where is Brunei?

Fiona: No idea. Probably in Asia.

Kheng: At least you didn't say it was in the Middle East. Most people think it's in the Middle East because we're an oil-rich country.

Fiona: Maybe it's the name. But now that I've met you, I'd say it's somewhere near Malaysia.

Kheng: We were given the option of joining Malaysia. But we didn't want all our money from oil revenues going to Kuala Lumpur.

What is its form of governance?

Fiona: Democratic?

Kheng: Actually we are a monarchy. We have a legislative council (parliament). The Sultan is the Prime Minister.

What are Brunei's main imports?

Fiona: Definitely not oil.

Kheng: You're definitely correct.

Fiona: Probably other commodities since it's relatively small.

Kheng: That is a tough one. We import almost everything except oil.

Who do you export to?

Kheng: We export crude oil to the refineries in Singapore and natural gas to Japan. Brunei also has textile plants - textiles are our second largest export.

Is Brunei westernised?

Fiona: I don't think it is.

Kheng: Yes and no. On a superficial basis: in terms of music, films and fashion - yes. But deep down we have very un-western mentalities. We place more focus on consensus than conflict. We have a lot of respect for hierarchy which is alien to the Western world.

Fiona: What language do you speak in Brunei?

Kheng: Malay is spoken among the ethnic minorities, Chinese (especially the Hokkien dialect) and everyone speaks English anyway. There's a huge Phillipino population - so Tagalog as well.

Fiona: How big is Brunei? I'd guess there'd be about 600,000 people?

Kheng: 300,000 to be exact. You can drive around the country in two hours.

Fiona: How big is the UK?

Kheng: There are 59 million people in the UK.

What is the capital of Brunei?

Fiona: Is there one?

Kheng: Although we're tiny, we still have towns in Brunei. Our capital is Bandar Seri Begawan. 'Bandar' is Persian for town and 'Seri Begawan' is the title of an abdicated Sultan.

Is it a rich country?

Fiona: Yes, since it has oil.

Kheng: We don't all drive round in Mercedes' like your typical Arab sheikh. Citizens of Brunei enjoy free education, health care and unemployment benefits. There is no poverty, no one is really, really poor.

What is its national sport?

Fiona: Don't know...camel racing?

Kheng: Football. We play in football leagues - in fact, we won the Malaysian Cup a few years ago.

Fiona: What's the food like?

Kheng: Have you had Malaysian food before? We've got a lot of curries. We are sweet-toothed people so there are loads of cakes and chocolates around. Due to the expatriate population, you'll get Japanese, Indian, Chinese and Western food as well.

Fiona: Are there fast food chains?

Kheng: Definitely. Can't escape from that, can you?

What can you tell us about the culture in Brunei?

Fiona: They're probably quite closely knit since it's so small.

Kheng: Correct. The best word to describe the culture would be 'bergotong-royong'. Basically this means that everyone loves everyone. Everyone pulls together to do the same thing. In terms of ethnic culture, we consist of Indians, Chinese and Malays.

What's wrong with ID cards?

Sohini Kar-Purkayastha argues against the introduction of National ID Cards in the UK.



The Government is proposing to introduce National ID Cards. Rather than just being a traditional proof of age, these are planned to contain more intimate information. Such information includes sex, nationality, age and biometric information, such as facial scanning, iris imaging and fingerprinting. Such cards are set to first appear in 2007.

While many European countries do have National ID Cards, no other Common law country (like the UK) has such a scheme. It is difficult to compare the proposed system with other European countries because the context in which ID Cards are used, and the surrounding circumstances, are very different. For example, in Germany they have a full mandatory ID Card, but they also have some of the strongest privacy laws in Europe (including a constitutionally enshrined right to privacy).

In the UK, however, such a scheme would be seriously detrimental to individual liberty and personal privacy. This is the position maintained by 'Liberty', an organisation opposed to the introduction of National ID Cards. 'Liberty' realises the importance of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights: "everyone has the right to respect for his private and

family life, his home and his correspondence". Ignoring this consideration could have negative repercussions. In Australia, privacy objections came from the public and lobby groups rather than the courts. Massive protest against the Australian card in 1987 almost brought down the government, and led to the hasty withdrawal of the ID Card proposals.

There are further problems regarding equality and potential racism if National ID Cards containing such sensitive information were to be introduced. With such a large, nation-wide scheme, how would the information be stored? Would there be data sharing between the National ID Card scheme, the national DNA register, and the proposed national database on children? In how many places would your information be stored? How many people would have access to it? This is a real problem: look at the "Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, 2000" (RIPA) as an example - public bodies have consistently stepped outside the bounds of what is permissible under the RIPA, and it's been necessary to draft orders to make this widespread illegal behaviour legal ("regulate the unregulated," in Home Office speak).

So why introduce a system which has so many concerns and which will cost £3 billion pounds over the next ten years? What are the supposed advantages?

First, it is said that the system will help prevent crime:

- Liberty@LSE agrees that there is no

real evidence to back up this Home Office claim.

- There is no real evidence from other countries with ID card schemes of any impact on general crime or identity fraud.

- It is unclear how ID cards can help with the evidential chain, which links suspects to the crime.

- If anything, identity fraud may become easier and more profitable. If the

- With regards to forgery, even a double biometric scheme may not be enough. A leading biometric expert, based in the UK and responsible for a number of governmental biometric schemes (including facial recognition technological deployment), has expressed concerns regarding the most advanced biometric technologies available on the market. The leading US system was cracked by a group of Japanese graduate students in 2003.

Second, it has been argued that it would be useful in fighting terrorism:

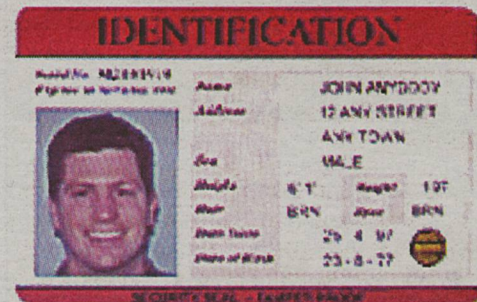
- Liberty @ LSE argues that it is not good for fighting terrorism: the attacks of 9/11 were as a result of the failure of intelligence, not the failure of identification.

- The Madrid bombers were Spanish citizens, complete with ID cards.

- Even Home Secretary David Blunkett has said, "The primary reason for having ID cards is not because we believe they will stop terrorists. It will contribute towards the overall task of prevention, but it will not guarantee that we will not be hit".

- Looking at terrorist incidents since 1986, a Privacy International report finds that, of the 25 countries most affected, 80 percent already had national identity cards.

Having identified the disadvantages of ID Cards and the flaws in the arguments in favour of them, I ask you: what's RIGHT about ID Cards?



card is trusted as a gateway to a plethora of public services and entitlements, the demand for forgeries will be very high.

- Common sense suggests that having to provide multiple forms of ID is some sort of barrier to identity fraud - a "one card proves all approach" is fraught with dangers (this is why the 'trusted card' has been opposed in the US).

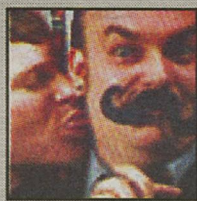
- Without direct benefits, is it cost effective to use the money in this way? Maybe this same money could be better focused, such as more police officers to improve detection rates.



"If anything, identity fraud may become easier and more profitable. If the card is trusted as a gateway to a plethora of public services and entitlements, the demand for forgeries will be very high."

B:art

Edited by Carolina Bunting



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Comments, questions or articles submit to: thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk

All That Jazz... In Poetry

With the London Jazz Festival ending last week, nastarantavakoli-far revisits three of the best Jazz poets



No conversation about poetry and jazz, the blues and African American culture, is complete without Langston Hughes, the 'poet laureate of the Negro Race'. Born in Missouri in 1902, Hughes was the first black student at Columbia University. However, a thirst for the world drove him to quit after a year and board a ship with nothing but a copy of Walt Whitman's famous *Leaves of Grass*. Returning to New York, he soaked up jazz and became famous both for poems which dealt with the plight of African Americans and for the deep blues rhythm to his work. Hughes loved jazz and the blues so much that he instructed his mourners at his funeral to wear red "cuz there ain't no sense/in my being dead" and requested that Duke Ellington's *Do Nothin' Till You Hear from Me* be played. The beauty of Hughes' work – which many contemporary critics point out as a flaw – is its sheer simplicity. Hughes had no need to drape emotions in metaphor. If he wanted to say something, he just did. As a result, Hughes's poetry is at times sweet, sorrowful, furious, joyful, sometimes naïve even, but always brutally honest. *Song for a Dark Girl* begins:

"Way down south in Dixie
(Break the heart of me)
They hung my black young lover
To a cross roads tree."

As with much of Hughes's poems, this drips with the blues. One can imagine the pained voice of a solitary Leadbelly singing this and a slow lament on a tin sounding guitar.

Being one of the most famous Black American writers of the time, Hughes's work always dealt with being a Black American in a divided and harsh America. The strong pride he had in his identity is always beautiful. In *Epilogue* he claims:

"I, too, am America"

As one of the most famous and loved poets of the 20th century, Hughes is not just considered to be an excellent black American writer, but is regarded as one of America's greats.

New York and San Francisco were breeding jazz bands and jazz jams like a deadly virus in the 1950s. Young intellectuals drunk on everything from Buddhism to Anarchy to Communism to speed frequented jazz joints. The Bay Area was especially famous for its many bars where poets would gather before a performance and read their work to one another and improvise in perfect jazz style: the infamous "poetry slam". It was in such places where the 'Beat generation' truly came to life. A young poet named Allen Ginsberg just happened to have moved to Frisco from New York when Dylan Thomas came to town, and when different academics were moving to the area to take part in

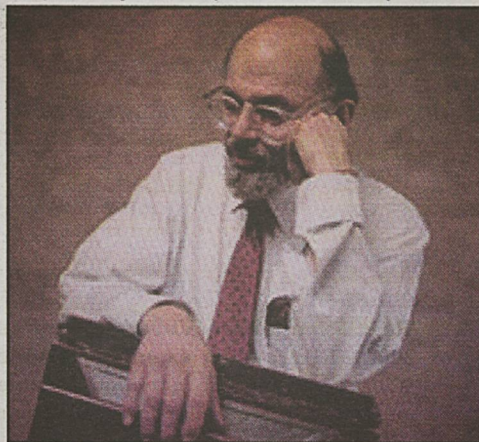
**"The rhythm of life is a jazz rhythm, honey,
The gods are laughing at us"**

Langston Hughes

this scene. It is here that Ginsberg penned the famous *Howl*, probably one of the most revolutionary poems of the 20th century. Legend has it that upon its first reading, his good friend Jack Kerouac (of *On The Road* and *Blues and Haikus* fame) howled "GO" all the way through and Ginsberg broke down in tears upon finishing. The rest of the crowd was roaring. If you only read one poem in your life, let it be this one. Fast, insane, crazy, manic, metaphorical, simultaneously nostalgic and sad, intense, pulsating, lucid, pretentious, just incredible. Like a John Coltrane solo really. Commencing :

"I saw the best minds of my generation
destroyed by madness, starving
hysterical naked,
dragging themselves through the negro
streets at dawn looking for an
angry fix,
angelheaded hipsters burning for the
ancient heavenly connection to
the starry dynamo in the
machinery of night,
who poverty and tatters and hollow-eyed
and high sat up smoking in the
supernatural darkness of cold-
water flats floating across the
tops of cities contemplating jazz"

and so Ginsberg continues for 7 pages, picking up speed. Set in four parts, this poem is truly a masterpiece heavily inspired by the sophistication, experimen-



Allen Ginsberg

tation and sheer thrill of jazz. Hughes had been a spokesperson for Black Americans. With the outbreak of angry riots in black American ghettos across America in the late 1960s came another spokesperson. A huge admirer of Langston Hughes, this poet followed him

by enrolling into Lincoln University. This author, who penned many stinging lyrical attacks on America, was an acclaimed



Gil Scott Heron

jazz musician himself. This person was none other than Gil Scott Heron. The name still invokes admiration and disgust. Heron's honesty is still poignant. He was the creator of the infamous *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised*:

"You will not be able to stay at home,
brother.
You will not be able to plug in, turn on and
cop out."

Fiercely highlighting racial tensions and exploitation, this firm and critical poem is regarded by many as being the main inspiration behind hip-hop.

"There will be no pictures of pigs shooting
down brothers in the instant replay."

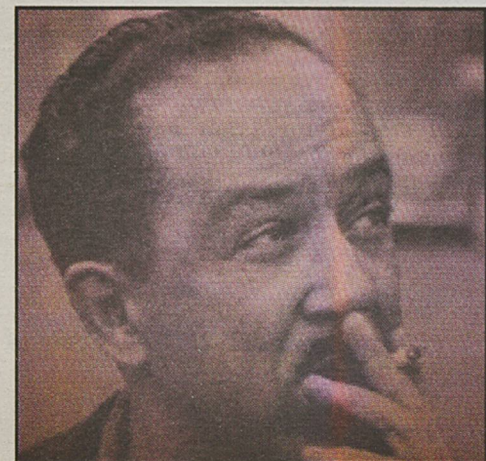
Heron continues:

"The revolution will not be right back after
a message about a white tornado, white
lightening or white people."

Heron concludes by firmly stating:

"The revolution will be no re-runs broth-
ers;
The revolution will be live"

Whether you admire Heron's bold words, which inspired a generation of kids who went on to form some of the most political music of our times (Chuck D of Public Enemy is a huge fan), or find his Black Panther-esque writings to be over the top, purely provocative, offensive, perhaps even racist, one cannot deny the power and influence of Heron's work.



Langston Hughes

visual arts

edited by Caroline Bray

All that Jazz...In Photography

nastarantavakoli-far reflects on the cool cats of jazz with the help of some stirring snaps

Jazz according to Rex

Venue: GLA City Hall

Dates: Until 28th November

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 8pm until 8pm

Cost: Free entry

Limited edition prints are also available from the show.

To celebrate the London Jazz Festival, Rex Features have compiled some of the most exciting images from the world of jazz. Elegant, sophisticated and classic, these photos perfectly capture the essence and spark of jazz.

Daniel Czap's tonal shot of Theolonius Monk is incredibly dramatic. Monk looks thoroughly majestic and deep in thought, the heavy contrasts in tone strengthening the serious mood of the piece. Marco Dos Santos has created something very similar in the case of Herbie Hancock, the thick shades of black and grey being cleverly and tastefully broken by deep scarlet spectacles. Miles Davis can just barely be made out in the background in Sam Shaw's shot. He looks highly sombre while playing his trumpet, 'kind of blue' really. Brilliant.



Herbie Hancock

However, for every serious or sorrowful artiste there is a playful and jovial character. This is demonstrated supremely by Louis Armstrong who was always playful and jovial. He smiles crazily in one picture, the perfect image of the fun side of jazz. Armstrong and Duke Ellington are caught in a great classic black and white photo by Larry Shaw. Ellington at the piano, wrapped up warm next to a comically serious Armstrong. These two look like good old friends that they were, warming up on a cold night. Shaw catches the pair again, this time in deeply rich colour, yet again, playful and jolly.



Dizzy Gillespie

The real beauty of this exhibition is how the different sides of jazz are lined up against each other. In addition to the more jovial shots, Shaw also captures Ellington's sadder side, the side responsible for such classics as 'Blood Count'. Dwarfed in a huge, old room, a stark black piano can just be made out from a background comprised of blocks of grey. A calm and sad Ellington is seated softly touching the keys. Even more fascinating is a photograph of Willie Kirk by Sam Shaw. Grainy and dark, Kirk is slouched heavily in an armchair, a bottle of alcohol next to him, a deeply pained expression on his face as he blows into his saxophone. This piece is more akin to a rusty old bluesman from a farm in Mississippi than the bright lights and rumble of the big city. It seems that behind the energy, glamour and sparkle of the jazz show, there is a thoroughly private person to be found. Shaw also seems to creep up on Dizzy Gillespie, finding him in a quiet, mellow moment, the thick grains and faded colour looking very vintage, and again, warm and blue. However, without a doubt the most effective and stunning photograph to capture the musician alone is by Patrick Frilet. He shows the solid silhouette of Archie Shep in Senegal playing his saxophone. A solid and dense silhouette of a lone musician backed by stunning azure sea, so striking and elegant.

Though the photographs show different musicians in different modes and conveying different moods, the style and sophistication of every one of them is lucid. From the most elegant Duke Ellington himself to slightly scruffy Gillespie, each and everyone of these cats looks thoroughly dapper and swish, just like their sophisticated and stylish music. Bearing in mind the fact that the many of these mostly Black American musicians were playing during a time when Black Americans were being lynched in the south, one can just imagine how very awesome and inspiring these highly talented musicians - who are still so appealing - must have been to people back then. Be sure to make yourself a free hour and check these cats, as cool now as ever.



Weekly Wander

Charles Spencer Chaplin (1889-1977) was born in Walworth, London, England. Chaplin's life started off with difficulty, his parents separated shortly after his birth and Chaplin fell into the care of his unstable mother. In 1896 she was unable to find work so Chaplin and his brother were sent to the workhouse and were shortly after moved to Hanwell School for Orphans and Destitute Children. His father died when he was just 12 from alcoholism and his mother suffered a severe mental breakdown for which she was placed in Croydon asylum.

Despite such a difficult background, Chaplin went on to become the most successful early Hollywood actor. His first stage appearance was in 1894, standing in for his mother in a Music Hall performance. He moved to America in 1912, with the Karno Company, where he was spotted by Mark Sennett who hired him for the Keystone Film Company. Despite his initial difficulties with the Keystone style of acting, Chaplin's popularity quickly soared when he adopted his famous tramp persona. Along with the rise in his popularity came a rise in his wages. In 1914 he earned just \$150 a week and by 1917 he became the first actor to earn US\$1 million for a film.

Unfortunately, his huge success as a film director and actor became overshadowed by his notorious personal life. Chaplin became renowned for marrying and having children with women much younger than himself (some just 16 years old).

Leicester Square, the home of London Cinema, houses a modest tribute this film genius in the form of a statue on the central square. Chaplin watches over the city's film goers, dressed as his notorious tramp and leaning on his bamboo cane which bends under his arm. The statue is small but somehow fitting to this silent film star. Chaplin's tramp didn't often mean to cause the trouble he did, had his heart in the right place and often adopted the dreamy look which graces his tribute.



The Charlie Chaplin Statue, Leicester Square

music

edited by Matt Boys and Ben Howarth

Fonda 500

jondekeyser checks out Hull's maverick rockers.....

Part electronic nonsense and part punk rock, Fonda 500 produce a sound so puzzling it makes you question whether anything makes sense anymore. By the end of the night, I had no idea where I was, or why I was dancing around like a fool. People in the crowd seemed genuinely confused as to why they were having the best time of their lives, on a Saturday night, in a small "theatre" in Kings Cross, watching a man who was clearly unhinged.

Wearing a beanie hat that covers his eyes, with Mickey Mouse ears stitched on the top, Simon Fonda doesn't look like your conventional frontman. In fact, he looks like a cross between Chris Moyles and Badly Drawn Boy. He litters the intervals between songs with amusing observations on life. "You see, what I've done here, is sellotape the key down so that it plays a note continuously. I tried gaffer tape, but it was too hard to peel off. With sellotape you can fold over the corner to make it a triangle." Later on, he demonstrates that he does use gaffer tape sometimes, this time to tape his Casio keyboard (the kind that wouldn't look out of place in a nursery school) to a board.



You couldn't help but smile. Fonda put on a very entertaining show. And I haven't even mentioned the beat-boxing yet.

Rahzel is a reasonable comparison, although I don't think I'm being unfair when I say that Simon's hi-hat isn't quite as good. Conventionally, beat-boxing has no place in rock 'n' roll. Neither does a female bassist called "Bod", and definitely not a £5 Casio keyboard. Somehow these eccentric fools combine all this with some very good songs. And one terrible one. The latter seemed to pay little attention to songwriting convention, i.e. have a tune. Unwanted noise is a generous description for this particular song. I suppose when you are as inventive as this, output can be a little hit-and-miss. Thankfully, most of it was a hit, it's just a shame they decided to end with such a weak song. Look out for the amusingly titled, "Number 1 Hi-Fi Hair", which contains not one, but two tracks dedicated to haircuts, and the tongue-twisting "Spectrumatricalogical Sounds".

The Decemberists + The Unicorns

matthewhinds revels in the shock of seeing great music in the quad...

Why does LSE chop down 10,000 square miles of forest to make posters for Albino Manatees for a Free-Marmite Society but they can't make one damn flier for the Unicorns and the Decemberists show that took place at the Quad? What gives?

Maybe no one from LSE was aware of the good fortune of having two fine North American bands play at our school but luckily other music loving Londoners came to see the great show. The Unicorns hailing from Canada were in London to promote the release of their new album, *Who Will Cut Our Hair When We're Gone?* The band came out on stage in quasi-white robes that can only be described as Luke Skywalker chic. A somewhat cynical London crowd looked dimly towards them. Fortunately, this did not deter the Unicorns giving it their best and just playing some good old-fashioned rock and roll.



The influences were many, circumnavigating from Sly and the Family Stone funk, to the quirky leanings of Talking Heads and Modest Mouse. Seeing the less than enthused crowd, the Unicorns proceeded to lead everyone in the Quad to sit down on the floor and rise up for the final musi-

cal crescendo. Let's just say it fell a bit flat. I don't blame the Unicorns for having fun. As a great man once told me, the crowd probably thought of themselves as being "too cool for school".

Luckily, the Decemberists were "cool" enough for the crowd. Over the past two years the Decemberists have garnished a cult following in the States with their whimsical historical narrative pop. Lead singer Colin Maloy, sings the tale of soldiers in the trenches of the Great War, chimney sweeps, trapeze artists, and French Legionnaires. Often compared to the band Neutral Milk Hotel, I have always seen them in the same vein as the Kinks or early Bee Gees. Sometimes, their songs and theatrical leanings give off an impression of a Victorian British Music Hall. The band was in a bit of a sullen mood as they created a sonic interpretation of the mumblings and fumbings of a

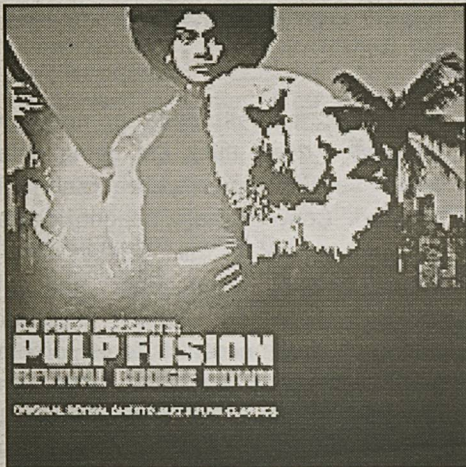
Bush cabinet meeting on stage. But the band played a very tight set, to a revitalized crowd that were excited to hear their favourite songs such as the "Soldiering Life" and "Grace Cathedral Hill".

The song that grabbed my attention was "Los Angeles I'm Yours", an ode to the reckless debauchery of So Cal. During the song, the band got into such a surprising groove that it would have made Isaac Hayes proud. The show came to a spectacular end, as the band seemed to play to the death as all members fell to the ground amongst the rubble of guitars, cellos and wires. Not bad for a band that's from Portland, Oregon and was named after a bunch 1824 Russian Revolutionaries.

It was a good night of music at old LSE. Let's just hope next time there's a poster for students to actually know about it.

ALBUMS

Pulp Fusion: Revival Boogie Down (compiled & mixed by DJ Pogo)



Break out those groovy flares and crazy platform shoes, because this latest offering from Harmless Records, a joint effort by funk-soul giants DJ Pogo and Pulp Fusion, will have you super disco breaking from the very first track.

The first cd in this double set features a selection of fabulous grooves mixed by the genre-defying Pogo himself. The sultry sounds of 'Touch Me' by Wish & Fondae Rae blend effortlessly into the quirkiness of 'I Hear Music in the Streets' by Unlimited Touch. From there, you're treated to a disco-soul-funk-boogie extravaganza, with everyone from Herbie Hancock to Marva Whitney being thrown into the mix. Standout tracks include 'Flashlight', by the legendary Parliament and Candy by that 80s tour de force, Cameo. Also worthy of mention is the relatively laid-back 'Bounce, Rock, Skate, Roll' - Vanghan Mason leave one hankering for a trip to the roller-disco

and pondering the effects that London weather would have on an afro.

The second cd contains the same tracks as the first, but unmixed and in a slightly different order.

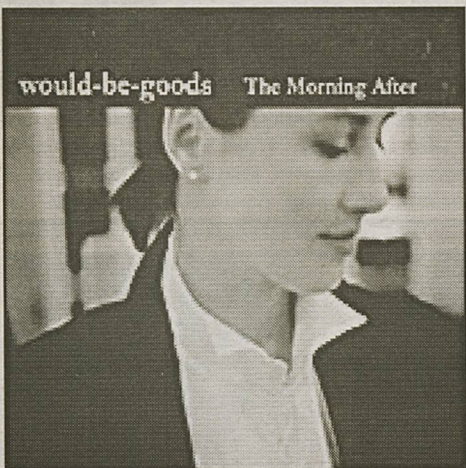
The production quality is generally stellar, with the only exception being a slight but noticeable tinniness on some tracks. Of course, this does give them that authentic 8-track feel.

These cracking tunes are guaranteed to funk up any party - you'll be busting a move on the dancefloor in no time flat. Whether you're a connoisseur of all things funkadelic or just looking to expand your musical horizons, Pulp Fusion: Revival Boogie Down is as crucial as tight jeans and a Saturday Night Fever strut.

Boogie on.

(stacy-marielshmael)

Would-Be-Goods - The Morning After



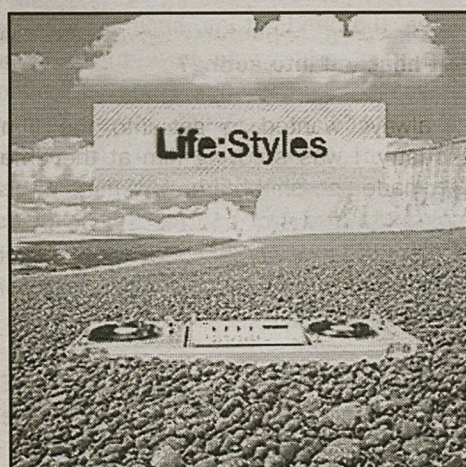
As might be expected from a band named after an E. Nesbit story about well-meaning children getting into scrapes, the Would-Be-Goods are a tad twee. However, this works for them, in a sweet (but thankfully only rarely saccharine) fourth outing: it should, as both vocalist Jessica Griffin and guitarist Peter Momtchiloff are veterans of all things treacly and only rarely seem to become mired in their own molasses. Most of the songs are actually fairly pacey, matching Griffin's dulcet tones with understated but equally aurally pleasing guitar and bass. Although Griffin is always in firm command, has a beautifully mellifluous voice and is a skilled songwriter, the importance of the band functioning as a whole is clear: the more acoustic num-

bers can become cloying and failed the "housemate test" - that is, whether the innocent listener will be berated by normally non-committal housemates. In this case sustained mockery was inspired by 'Too Old', which definitely gets a red light and should under no circumstances be advertised before 9pm. However, all the songs are short, rarely passing three minutes in length, and such moments of preciousness are generally followed by something a little more balanced.

All-in-all, music from veterans of twee that mostly avoids self-indulgence and instead provides something unusual and well-crafted, which may however require occasional use of the skip button.

(aedanlake)

Harmless presents Life:Styles - compiled by Laurent Garnier



In the wake of the advent of the superstar DJ we have become accustomed to the superstar compilation. In recent years we have been treated to a host of formative DJ's favourite spins and Laurent Garnier's offering in the Life:Styles series (of four so far) follows in their wake.

Given Garnier's epoch, it is not surprising that most of the tracks on offer here originate from the 70s and early 80s. Please don't understand that as a slant either - each of these pieces sounds as fresh as they ever could in their own contemporary surroundings. Needless to say, Laurent Garnier presents a laid back affair with little to be rushed about and plenty to dance around.

Van Morrison, Serge Gainsbourg, Miles Davis and Nina Simone all appear, but

each with unusual material. Meanwhile elsewhere we are treated to the insight of a very healthy record collection. The Charly Ace and Fay reggae number - 'Punanny' - leaves little to be said outside of the titillating 'Carry On' title. However all is not good and novelty gets the better of Laurent when he whips out 'Penguin' - his alternative to 'The Birdie Song' (fight hideous with ugly).

Just reading the sleeve notes, it is obvious that Garnier cares an immense amount about his records and especially those he has presented for us here. Stories of £50 a 7 inch aren't in the slightest bit surprising when someone presents decent collections such as these. Careful ears will no doubt appreciate the delicacies.

(laurencekavanagh)

SINGLES

The Polyphonic Spree: Two Thousand Places

Just in time, here come the Spree to drive away the clouds of gloom brought by shorter days and lengthening reading lists. As should be expected by now, this is relentlessly and mercilessly happy, with madman/high priest Tim Delaughter yelling our woes away and the rest of the collective/cult inducing a downright dangerous level of serotonin production with their insistence that life really isn't so bad.

(aedanlake)

Republic of Loose: Tell More Lies

The immediate invitation to dance will let you know what this guitar band desires. Is this 21st Century swing? I'm not convinced yet, but it's not going to stop these boys. Despite Californian suspicions me thinks that they're going to carry us away for a little while yet.

(laurencekavanagh)

The Delays: Lost In A Melody

I never thought Delays would become a proper rock 'n' roll band. "Lost In A Melody" is a huge progression from the samey pop on "Faded Seaside Glamour". Vocals are harsher, lyrics punchier and the circus organ edgier. It's just a shame that b-side "Wanderlust" is awful. So dull, it makes applying for an internship at J.P. Morgan seem like the most fun you've ever had.

(jondekeyser)

Magnétophone: Kel's Vintage Thought

Is this really a synthesizer from Birmingham? No, it is a train on a Friday night: rough start, exciting ride through dark tunnels, slowly approaching your destination; an arduous build-up, then finally spitting you out (just before realizing you left your umbrella inside). Leaves you yearning for a warm seat. Bliss of monotonous layering. Explore it yourself.

(millenwolde-selassie)

Reuben: 'Two Songs for Free' sampler

Unusually engaging for rock of the Kerrang-school, these two previous singles are now being handed out to press and gig-goers in the hope of raising the energetic post-hardcore trio's profile. On 'Stuck in My Throat' and 'Let's Stop Hanging Out' Reuben toy with cross-generic conventions, interspersing grungey moaning with inexplicable bursts of shouting (and occasionally roaring), and creating quite a promising sound.

(aedanlake)

film

edited by Dani Ismail and Sarah Coughtrie

*Girls only want boyfriends who have great skills.
You know, like nunchuck skills, bowhunting skills, computer hacking skills...*



Napoleon Dynamite

morwennabennett laughs at those less fortunate than her

Napoleon Dynamite may be a strange title, boast a first time director, and star relatively unknown actors but do not let this put you off. It is American independent film at its best and pure comedy genius. After being a runaway hit at the Sundance Film Festival, it has taken the US by storm.

Set in Preston, Idaho – a.k.a Hicksville, the film focuses on the life of the local high school geek, Napoleon Dynamite (Jon Heder). Yet this is no ordinary teen movie and Napoleon is no ordinary geek.

A somewhat tragic figure, he wears moon boots and has a tight afro. The latest school year brings new people into his life – Pedro (Efren Ramirez) a Mexican immigrant who bakes cakes for women he is trying to woo; and Deb (Tina Majorina – ‘Corrina Corrina’) who sells home made crafts and takes glamour photos. When Pedro decides to run for Class President, Napoleon manages to turn the school upside down.

With distinct feelings of Wes Anderson-esque humour, *Napoleon Dynamite* is

made up of bizarre scenes which appear stranger than fiction. These range from a farmer shooting a cow in front of a whole bus load of screaming school children; to Napoleon’s uncle demonstrating his football skills by throwing a steak at Napoleon’s face. It is laugh out loud funny. The director Jared Hess is truly making a comical homage to his home town; apparently many of the events are based on his experiences at high school in Preston.

The film is shot in a minimalist way with a

Director: Jared Hess
Starring: Jon Heder, Jon Gries
Release Date: 3 December
Certificate: 86 min
Release Date: PG

distinct air of the 80s throughout, adding to the independent and original vibe. The cast is incredibly talented, especially Jon Heder. He somehow gets you to relate to Napoleon, while playing swing ball and drawing his favourite animal the ‘liger’ (cross between a lion and a tiger).

If you want to laugh back at the days of side ponytails or just enjoy truly random humour, this film is definitely for you.

Interview with Jon Heder

morwennabennett lusts after those less fortunate than her

Sitting in a suite of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Knightsbridge, surrounded by journalists, I felt my life was empty as I didn't have a snazzy Dictaphone. Luckily the star of the show Jon Heder walked in – to my dismay he did not have an afro in real life (but on the plus side he was quite hot.)

Who decided that the afro shouldn't be permanent, you or your wife?

“Well it was permanent when I got it and then uh, yeah I mean those curls stay in, locked until you cut them off or you let them grow out...I really liked playing with the hair. It was easy to maintain but after the film...it was enough. It was like the third perm I had got for the film and my hair was kinda fried which wasn't very good. We actually permed it again, permed it straight which fried it even more so I looked like a lion so we ended up just cutting it off.”

Were you a geek at school?

“I was probably more towards the geek part, I was definitely not a sport's jock I mean, I wasn't as clueless as Napoleon who has no idea how dorky he is. I knew how dorky I was.”

Do you think there's any danger of people seeing Napoleon as suffering from arrested development?

“He's definitely mentally impaired I guess, I mean (people laugh awkwardly as the guy from UIP says – ‘Do you really think so?’ Heder tries to backtrack) No no, he's a social misfit you know; he's bordering that line, both him and Kip (Napoleon's brother). Kip even more in some ways. He's grown up in a different environment, he's a good kid and you know I don't think he technically has any learning disabilities. He's just socially so awkward it seems to seep into some of his other functions.”

Did you ever bake a cake like Pedro to win the lady of your dreams?

“I did some nerdy stuff, I never baked a cake. I think I sent her a pine cone with some lame pun attached or something, I'm not quite sure. Yeah I was definitely awkward with the females and, once again I wasn't as awkward as Napoleon, but I always was trying to hook up with the ladies.”

Did it hurt in the scene where the steak was thrown in your face?

“It hurt, a lot (laughs). We did about four takes, the first two takes completely missed. He was a good distance away and it was actually Uncle Rico who threw the steak. The third one hit me in the armpit and then left this nasty, you know, meat juice on my shirt. And then the fourth one he said, ‘Look I'm going to

throw this hard cos I can aim better’. So he really threw it hard and it smacked and ripped my glasses off and I had a big bruise that we had to cover up with make up. It hurt but luckily I stayed in character. I was like ‘I don't know what I'm gonna do if I crack up, I don't know if we'll have to do that again’.”

You were an animation student; did you get hijacked into acting?

“I always wanted to get into the film industry. I was studying film at the time we made the short film, and then when we made the feature I had switched over to animation. But the whole time on the side I would audition for short student films...for me I was like, I'm not going to try to get jobs in acting unless something big happens, like *Napoleon*. But I definitely have an interest to continue to work on animation. I have aspirations to direct animation some day.”

*Hit the road, Jack...***Ray (aka Unchain My Heart: The Ray Charles Story)**

sarahcoughtrie dissects the strange and wonderful tale of a legend. And cries.

Director: Taylor Hackford
Starring: Jamie Foxx, Kerry Washington, Regina King
Release Date: 21st January
Running Time: 152 min



Biopics, and especially musical biopics, are tricky beasts to tame. If your director is completely in awe of his subject the film will be schmaltzy. If your director has nothing but contempt for his subject then you have **Oliver Stone's The Doors**, a

trashy piece of pulp so lacking in truth and consistency that the surviving Doors members refused to have anything to do with its production. Coming from the men so money hungry they hired Ian Astbury to "play" Jim on their ill conceived recent

tour, this was a pretty dark insult. Not so with **Ray**. Director **Taylor Hackford** is a true muso, having spent his life listening to Ray Charles's music, and having begun his career fighting the good fight for uninterrupted rock music performances on US television. Crucially, Charles was a major figure in the making of the movie, giving **Jamie Foxx** the nod to play him, and ensuring Hackford's portrayal of him was accurate, no matter how unpleasant.

And unpleasant it is. We meet Charles as a blind kid blagging his way onto a bus to Seattle, meeting a pre-success Quincy Jones and wowing the crowds in small blues clubs. Early in his career Charles became addicted to heroin, and by the time he was breaking into the mainstream he had "that junkies edge". There followed numerous affairs with fans and backing singers, drug related arrests and the general swelling of the rock star's ego. In 1959 he committed the Cardinal Sin and left his indie label Atlantic Records for a major, surrounding himself with sycophants and, bizarrely, orchestras.

Ray's journey from blind Florida hick to soul legend to civil rights activist to tosser and back again is documented with

style, grace and a willingness to show the bad for what it always is: one facet of a complex man whose genius drives him to the edge. Luckily for everyone involved, Charles was coaxed from the brink, entered rehab, made peace with his subconscious, yadda yadda. After the whipsmart pace and witty dialogue of the first 2 and a half hours, the sticky ending was atrocious but mercifully short, suggesting Hackford was slightly uncomfortable with the sickly sweet conclusion the film was inevitably drawn towards.

"Soul is a way of life, but it is always the hard way"

- Ray Charles

Quite apart from the acting, scripting and faithful storytelling, we could always count on a marvellous soundtrack. Ray Charles was one of the most daring and talented performers ever to grace a stage, until his death from liver failure on June 11, 2004. He was adored by many, and that he died at all, let alone before seeing the excellent film into which he poured so much effort is a very real tragedy. Rest in peace.

Vera Drake

sahrizzo watches boring movie, writes review

Director: Mike Leigh
Starring: Imelda Staunton, Richard Graham
Running Time: 125 mins
Release Date: 7 January
Certificate: 12A

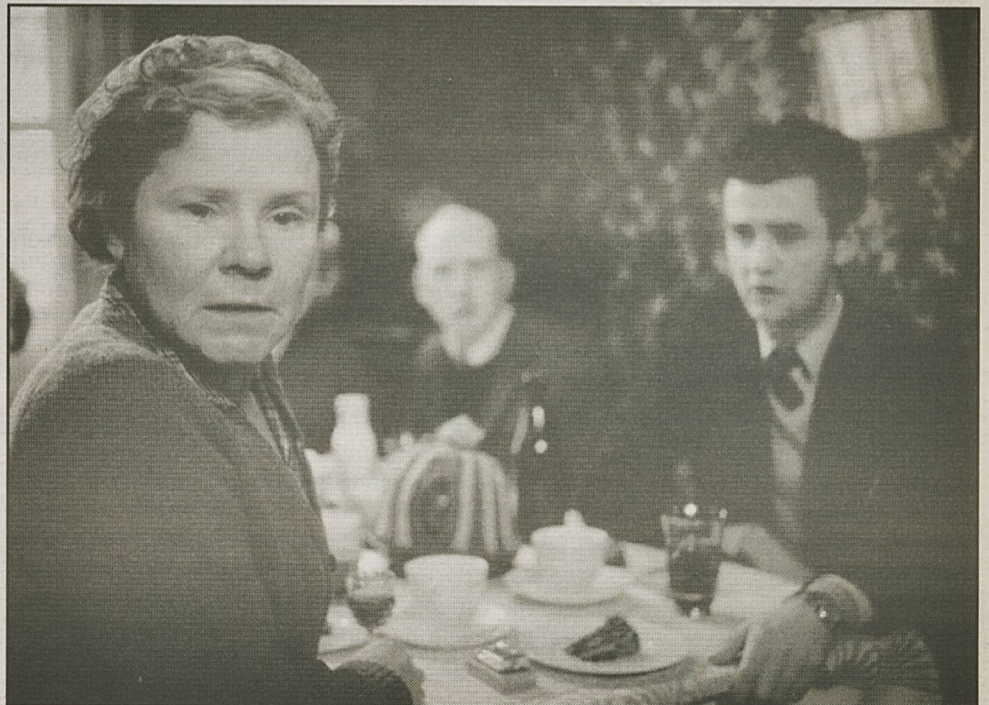
Vera Drake, written and directed by Mike Leigh, portrays abortion in England during the 1950s before its legalization in the late 1960s. Leigh stumbles as his story tries too hard to portray the extraordinary in the ordinary. With superb acting by some of Britain's finest, the script's unbelievable angelic and caricature-like characters fatally taint the film from ever approaching greatness.

Set in London, Vera Drake (**Imelda Staunton**) is the elderly mother of two adoring adult children and the perfect wife of a loving war survivor husband (**Phil Davis**) during the 1950s. The film seeks to capture the day-to-day life of selfless Vera as she completes her "rounds" to various friends and family, providing a quick tidying, an uplifting quip, and, of course, a cup of tea. Between all these daily acts of goodwill, Vera is also a housekeeper where she cleans earnestly as though the houses are her own.

But, Vera possesses a secret life as believable as Clark Kent and Superman. She has been performing free abortions for women on a weekly basis for over 20 years. She regards these visits as just another stop on her daily "rounds," completing them with her eternal cheerfulness. The Drakes' seemingly perfect world crashes after one of Vera's abortions nearly kills a young girl who must then name her abortionist.

The film masterfully succeeds in portraying a time period we often forget existed less than 60 years ago—when a woman was not even given the option of an abortion. While Leigh does not allow the movie to become a champion of a woman's right to choose, his position on the issue is apparent.

The film fails, however, to show a true picture of abortions for working- or lower-middle class women in the 1950s. Vera's



safe, friendly, and costless abortions, while excellently and vividly captured in the film, are idealistic. Leigh fails to address the most riveting element of the story: *why* does this woman offer her services "to help girls who are in trouble?" What explains the dichotomy in Vera's life? Instead of providing the rich story behind women like Vera Drake, who assisted girls when no one else would in spite of the potential consequences, Leigh dwells on the idea that abortionists are the people you'd least expect.

This may very well be the only film review that does not loudly applaud Vera Drake or hint at definite future Bafta and Oscar nods. While the acting is applaudable, particularly Staunton, this purported historical narrative does not tell the whole story behind the Vera Drakes of the world.

Discovering Latin America - 3rd Film Festival

From humble beginnings, this latin film festival has managed to almost triple the number of sexy Latin American films that it screens in its annual extravaganza. This year, we can indulge in 23 premieres, made by selected directors from ten countries.

Starting on November 25 and running till December 5, you can watch films, documentaries, attend masterclasses (however vague that may sound) and spend the opening gala night heralding *Motorcycle Diaries* which can never be a bad thing.

This year, the cinemas participating are the Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Ritzy Cinema (in Brixton - great for a night out when you decide to visit the bar before watching a film and spend the rest of the evening listening to live music on the terrace), the Latin America Bureau, the Odeon Covent Garden and Odeon Panton Street.

And for what's worth watching this week..

GALA NIGHT

Familla Rodante

Dir: Pablo Trapero, Argentina, 2004, 103 mins

12 members of a Buenos Aires suburban family set off on a 1000km trip to take their grandmother to a wedding. Relationships are stretched to the limit and the family shows resilience to a host of obstacles, while portraying their human side with a simple sensitivity.

Thursday 25 November, 18.30

Odeon Covent Garden

Taxi, An Encounter

Dir: Gabriela David, Argentina, 2001, 93 mins

A young man in Buenos Aires makes a living stealing taxis before selling them on to crooked car dealers, but before doing so he drives his way around the city. In one encounter he meets a girl who he then has to take to the hospital - when, on

her release, she looks for him, she sparks some hope for the both of them.

Sunday 28 November, 18.45

Monday 29 November, 14.15

Odeon Panton Street

Bus 174

Dir: José Padilha, Brazil, 2002, 120 mins

This film charts the real story of a bus hijacking on Valentine's Day in Brazil, 2000, broadcast live on television for four and a half hours. The documentary explores the background of the hijacker, a street kid who witnessed the murder of his mother and survived a massacre of homeless children.

Monday 29 November, 20.15.

The Ritzy Cinema

For full listings see:

<http://www.discovering-latinamerica.org.uk/>



Pollock

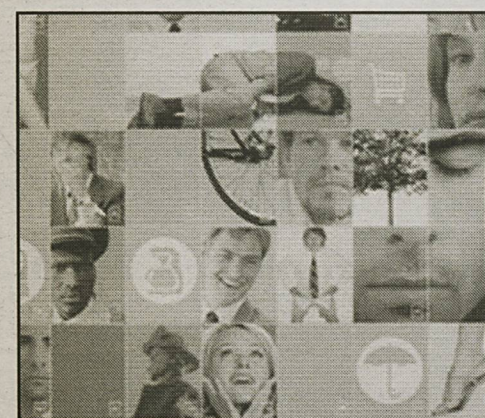
Yup it's another Film Society Night. On Friday 26th November in the New Theatre you can see the ever sexy Ed Harris in Pollock..

At the end of the 1940's, abstract expressionist Jackson Pollock (1912-1956) is featured in *Life* magazine. Flashback to 1941, he's living with his brother in a tiny apartment in New York City, drinking too much, and exhibiting an occasional painting in group shows. That's when he

meets artist Lee Krasner, who puts her career on hold to be his companion, lover, champion, wife, and, in essence, caretaker. To get him away from booze, insecurity, and the stress of city life, they move to the Hamptons where nature and sobriety help Pollock achieve a breakthrough in style: a critic praises, then *Life* magazine calls. But so do old demons: the end is nasty, brutish, and short.

Members: Free
Non Members: £1

In Your Local Cinema



I Heart Huckabees

An existential comedy dealing with nothing as much as everything, this seemingly improbable block buster managed to attract a star studded cast to play a long list of quirky and unusual characters. Whilst seeking to make sense of the world, various characters indulge the help of "existential detectives" to help them figure out the meaning of coincidences, discover whether life is really connected or meaningful and debate with those who think who think not.

Harold And Kumar Get The Munchies

The director of *Dude, Where's My Car?* returns with a stoner flick about a Korean-American investment banker and an Indian-American aspiring medical student in a desperate search for burgers to quench their munchies. If this is even half as crap as *Dude*, one should prepare for 90 minutes of piss poor jokes, scenes that only serve to make you grimace at the pure humiliation actors must have been subjected to to perform such shite, and to walk away completely unsatisfied.

The Forgotten

Julianne Moore loses her 8 year old son in a plane crash, only to be told by her psychiatrist that she had made the memory of her son. She meets **Dominic West**, a father whose daughter also mysteriously disappeared...

Huckle

The serenity of a Hungarian peasant village is shattered by the discovery of a corpse at the bottom of a lake and two funerals...

In Your Local Blockbuster

Those nice, omniprescent DVD distributors seem to have taken heed of my complaints about the number of children's movies I've had to talk about lately, and have this week blessed us with a shed-load of erotica.

The first DVD on the block this week is **King Arthur**, a film so lewd and disturbing that it earned itself a ban in a third of American States for scenes of full frontal nudity, mutual masturbation and frequent strong references to hot n' steamy lesbian round table action. Starring everyone's favourite titless wonder **Keira Knightly** and some men who wish they were Brad Pitt, this much lauded erotic masterwork should not be missed.

Dani assures me that **Spiderman 2** will also cause some heavy breathing in front of laptops across the LSE's halls of residence. The notoriously well-endowed Toby Maguire reprises his role as the hitchhiker who flees from a car carrying Gonzo High Priest Hunter S Thompson en route to Vegas only to be bitten by Charles

Manson and granted special powers. The title is taken from a much celebrated scene in which Maguire and Kirsten Dunst smoke, in their words, "sweet Mary Jane" and pleasure each other on the hood of an F360 Spider. For the second time, it must be presumed.

Carrying on the rather risque theme of this weeks releases, I'm sure the inimitable **Thunderbirds** needs no introduction. This is the sad and glorious tale of the late New York Doll Johnny Thunders, retold by marionettes. Squirm when Johnny dangles a syringe in front of Sid Vicious murmuring "Are you a man or a boy?", and laugh while the puppet, who has clearly forgotten he is made of wood, attempts to shoot up. Also out is *Home on the Range*, a family adventure following some cows who decide to liberate their farm. Parody porno version coming to a bit torrent near you!

Until next time...

theatre

edited by Saalim Chowdhury

Luvvies, it's coming out time!

gemmacook on finding her passion going *into the woods* in the LSE cultural void.

After reading 'Luvvies, wherefore art thou?' in last week's theatre column I felt the need to firstly share in the writer's frustration and secondly to show that there are ways for the would-be thespian at LSE to indulge their artistic tendencies even if it does mean looking slightly further a field.

I remember only too well my first Freshers' Fair at the LSE and my frantic search for a musical theatre society. By the end of the day, despite my pleading, the drama society assured me they did not have the resources for a musical, the music society is for players and choral singers and the arts society just watch! So what is a girl to do?

As someone not wanting to resign myself to three years without a musical, I was extremely fortunate to come across a small group of second year students who having experienced the same frustrations as me, took the brave and admirable step of setting up their own, independent theatre company to fill the void at the LSE. The University Players is a testament to what a group of motivated students can do when they put their mind to it. Having sent out notices of auditions to all the students in every music, drama or arts society in the University of London they were able to put together a cast of extremely talented and somewhat quirky individuals from a wide range of degree disciplines and col-

leges. As their reputation grew, their diversity increased, drawing from a larger and more varied talent pool with jobbing Actors, Lawyers and Civil Servants among the cast members.

To date they have successfully put on two shows with all our proceeds being donated to charity, lately supporting the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Handicapped Children Pilgrimage Trust. The small nature of the company means that everyone has the chance to participate in every aspect of putting on a show, at the same time, gaining a real feel for the difficulties faced by the industry as a whole. As well as strutting my stuff on stage I have been the Producer for the group's two most recent projects and this has given me a real understanding of theatre from every angle.

Their latest venture is three performances (in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust, an independent bone marrow donor register) of one of my favourite musicals: *Into the Woods*, by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine. Set in a magical faraway kingdom, *Into the Woods* tells the story of a childless Baker and his wife, whose longing for a child is thwarted by the mischievous, and damn right ugly, witch who (somewhat conveniently) lives in the cottage next door. The show re-introduces characters from traditional childhood fairy tales, but somehow these characters are not exactly as you remember

them. Cinderella is clinically insane; Little Red Ridinghood who gets a bit too excited when she is being 'devoured' by the hungry wolf; and what exactly did Jack get up to with the Giant's Wife? *Into the Woods* takes that concept of fairytale one step further, calling out to a generation that knows precisely of what little use depending on a happily ever after is. *Into the Woods* explores a variety of themes, possibly the most important being that of a threat to civilisation, brought about through the actions of the characters. In a time of increasing world conflict and threat, our actions, however insubstantial, have an affect on others and must be accounted for.

There are options available out there for anyone who wants to be involved in Theatre at any level. If there you cannot find a group or a project happening that

is exactly to your liking then the best advice is to take the challenge of setting it up yourself. Whilst being tough at first, you may be surprised at what support you can garner together, and equally what the results of your endeavours can be. The student theatre scene at the LSE is what we make it, if we just concede that there is nothing and give up we will never get anywhere and nothing will ever change.

Luvvies, don't be afraid to show yourselves!

***Into the Woods* opens at the Greenwood Theatre (Weston Street, London Bridge, SE1 3RA) on 24th November for a limited three night run.**

Tickets £6 - All profits donated to the Anthony Nolan Trust.

To book tickets call 0207 388 8822.



Ruined Steel

rehanahmed on the edge of modern theatre?



Company: Camden People's Theatre

Venue: 58 - 60 Hampstead Rd

Ticket Prices: £6-8

Run: Until 30th Nov.

I should have known better. I really should have. The shady types sizing me up outside the nearby kebab houses. The utter lack of a line up save for the University of Westminster philistines lured in unknowingly by their Goldsmiths girlfriends. Oh, and the trademark fat, sloppy, box office clerk in a vest.

I'm positive I could fill you in on the plot had I remained for its entirety. From what I could gather, some testosterone laden fellow is quite miffed having to be a prototype for the Ruined Steel Corporation (RSC) in the year 2065. They plan to inject him with some material that will cause him to obliterate any pirated RSC products within a three mile radius thus ensuring the corporation's global dominance. He then brings his dead wife back through some regenerative process to help him avenge his physiological mutation.

I failed to comprehend much else owing to the techie fluff the cast was speaking in. Immeasurably bored, I turned my curiosity towards the audience and noted an unhealthy amount of fat, balding fifty somethings in the front row. Interesting, perhaps it's some sort of artistic renaissance sweeping Camden area lorry drivers. Oh dear no, they're here for the three minutes of female nudity.

The Westminster types had begun texting on their mobiles (possibly hoping for an invite to the SOAS pyjama party), other couples making out and the lorry drivers feeling quite cheated at having to pay six quid for a mere three minutes of flesh.

Ceterum censeo, keep away from this play. Keep away from Camden.

If you want to write for reviews or articles for theatre (and more importantly get free theatre tickets)

send mail to thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk with the subject theatre.

Audition notices can be sent to the above address: Deadline Friday 12pm

about

edited by Joanne Lancaster

Misato

joanelancaster on sushi for beginners

Speaking as someone who was terrified of the very idea of sushi, **Misato** didn't appeal to me that much to begin with: I was converted. It's actually perfect as an introduction to Japanese food and certainly not too scary. The food is (apparently) authentic Japanese - perhaps a good sign being authentic Japanese customers! Bento boxes containing sushi, chicken, salad, and rice are popular while the chicken katsu curry is mouth watering. The food is delicious; well cooked and fresh.

The atmosphere is busy - yes, OK, so it's packed to the doors- but fun. Not the ideal place for a romantic evening it has to be admitted, but great with friends. Portions are huge, but this is probably a good thing as the price is not cheap. It isn't too expensive either: perhaps £10 if you don't splash out on starters or side dishes and can make a drink last. Make sure that you're very hungry if you want to get the most out of Misato, if you plan well it could probably do for a couple of days!

The service seemed to be good; my waiter was friendly and prompt although (as it was so busy) rushed. Having said that there did seem to be some problems with waiters who could speak very little English. The restaurant's decor is perhaps best described as functional, all the atmosphere of this place comes from the buzz.

Yes, there are problems with Misato. The queue (although fifteen minutes is not too bad), the decor, the hustle and bustle. Also they don't take credit cards- which



might have been better to know before we had sat down. There aren't any cash-points very close by either, which helps.

On the other hand the food is tasty, apparently good quality if you are a Japanese cuisine buff but not scary for the less adventurous. It's tempting to recommend the restaurant as a place to get a quick

bite rather than something to plan your whole evening around; it depends if you're willing to pay £10 or so for the privilege.

Misato, 11 Wardour Street (off Shaftesbury Avenue), nearest tube Picadilly Circus/ Leicester Square

It's not all about kebabs

About explores Edgware Road



Think about food from the Middle East, and chances are your mind goes to Turkish kebab houses. But there's much more than that available...

For Middle Eastern food in London, the only place to go is Edgware Road. As you walk along, it seems nearly every place you pass sells Lebanese or Iranian food. Within this, though, there is a huge variety of quality and price.

At the top end of the scale, Maroush sells Lebanese food - very expensive Lebanese

food! Dinner would probably cost around £20 if you have starters and desserts. But it's well worth it. Maroush has an amazing atmosphere, the food is of high quality, service is excellent, the restaurant looks lovely and there is entertainment: music and belly dancing! Here's a tip: order a number of starters but no main course. The sweets are the best part of the meal so make sure you

leave space!

If you have slightly less money, Kandoo is also a very nice restaurant. OK, so it shares its name with toilet paper but don't hold that against it. Iranian this time, it is smaller and less "themed"- no belly dancers- with excellent food. The restaurant has a bring-your-own policy, no alcohol license, which makes it a more reasonable price. The speciality is kebabs, yes I know it's not all about kebabs but they happen to be very nice.

The only problem is that there are there are limited vegetarian options (unlike Maroush). Booking is recommended- the number is 020 7724 2428.

Apart from restaurants such as these, Middle Eastern food is also available from a large number of cafes on Edgware Road. These range from lovely little places to restaurants you would feel slightly scared to enter! Beirut Express is a sort of a Lebanese version of McDonalds, not one to choose for the atmosphere but the food is fairly good. Starters begin from £1.50 or so, main courses around £6-8.

Food is one of the reasons for visiting these restaurants, the other is for the shisha pipes. These are available mainly in the slightly seedier looking restaurants. They cost about £4 in most places, and come in a range of flavours: apple and strawberry being perhaps the most usual. To eat in these places would probably set you back about £5.

So next time you fancy a kebab, remember there's much more out there if you look.

London Landmarks

Kew Gardens

Not just for budding (no pun intended) Alan Titchmarshs, visit Kew this winter

Opening Times: 10am - 4pm (until 9pm 16-19 December)

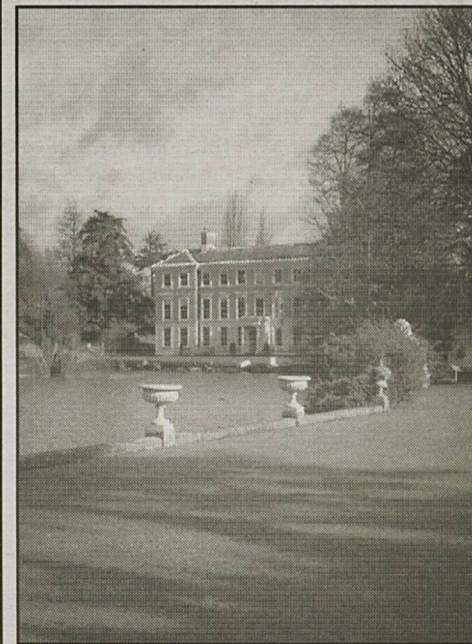
Cost of Entry: £6 for students - free after 4.15pm on late opening nights

Location: Kew Gardens station is on the District Line, Zone 3

Why Visit: Well, Kew is most famous for its plants, from all over the world. Thanks to the greenhouses it's great to visit all year round, but just before Christmas is perfect, the garden is decorated beautifully- thousands of lights, lots of Christmas trees. From the 16 to the 19 of December Kew has evening openings, free to get into. Whether during the day or in the evening its a lovely place to just wander around.

On the Downside: Kew may not be only about the plants but it helps to have some sort of an interest. Christmas is a good time to visit but it will be cold!

More information/ Booking: www.rbgkew.org.uk



Kew Palace

Been anywhere nice recently?

If you're interested in writing for About email thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk

Your Guide to What's On This Week

contact: su.societies@lse.ac.ukT
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K**Alternative Entertainments Society**

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

Then you should definitely come to our practises down in the Old Gym on Tuesdays 2-3pm and Thursdays 1-2pm.

We do juggling, balloon modelling, diabolo, poi, yo-yo, devil sticks, and manipulations with fire props. Also, new for this year: aerials and face painting. We are also open for suggestions, if there is any activity you would like to do.

If you have any questions please contact society president (Jana) at j.zolotarevskaja@lse.ac.uk or society secretary (Yasha) at su.soc.altents@lse.ac.uk

Salsa Society

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

Tuesday : SOUND, Leicester Sq 7.30-9.30pm

Chess Society

LSE Speed Chess Tournament is being held on Tuesday 23rd November at 7pm in V102, £1 entry fee with CASH PRIZES!

Islamic Society

The Truth About Boys And Girls: LOVE IN ISLAM

An Eid Dinner

Doors Open 4:30pm

An evening of talks, nasheeds, a three-course meal, sisters' artistic Karate display and the much awaited Charity Week final update!

Tickets £5

The London Muslim Centre, 46 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1JX
Nearest Stations: Whitechapel & Aldgate East

Tickets are being sold on campus, contact 07951 987 728 or the Islamic Society at mail@lseisoc.com.

Maths & Stats Society

Homework helping session 24-11-2004
Wednesday 13:00-15:00 Y115

Helping modules: MA100, MA103, MA107, MA200, MA201, ST102, ST107, ST202, ST201, AC100, POF, EC 102, EC210, EC201, EC202.

Maths & Stats Society PWC Presentation 24-11-2004 Wednesday 16:10-18:00 D402

Full recruitment presentation for members only. First come first serve, places are limited.

LSE International Society**GLOBAL SHOW AUDITIONS**

Are you interested in participating in the BIGGEST & BEST show at the LSE? The annual Global Show gives you the opportunity to show off your talents and cultural heritage, and the chance to perform in front of more than 1000 people!

We welcome all kinds of acts including dances, songs and skits. If you are interested, come to the auditions and show us a few minutes of your act. We also need MCs for the show and models for an international fashion show!!!

The auditions are going to take place on:
Wed Nov. 24th, H201, 14:00-16:00,

PuLSE Radio presents...**imPuLSE**

7pm - 1am Underground Bar

Featuring the best PuLSE DJs, UDMS DJs and Alternative Entertainments Society - turn up early for some surprises

Free for all LSE students (don't forget to bring your ID card)

£1 for non-LSE students (don't forget to bring your mates!)

Log on to our new website www.pulsefm.co.uk to be launched on the night

Hellenic Society

Public lecture

Mr Stelios Haji-Ioannou

will speak on:

Serial entrepreneurship, a job or an addiction?

Chair: Prof. Kevin Featherstone

Date: Wednesday 24 November 2004

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: LSE, Hong Kong Theatre, Ground Floor, Clement House, 99 Aldwych, WC2B 4JF London.

The lecture is open to all with no ticket required. Entry is on a first come first served basis

LSESU KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS SOCIETY PRESENTS...**EVENT 1: BHAGAVAD GITA TASTERS**

(in conjunction with Hindu Society)

Part 3

Thurs 25th Nov, 5pm - 6pm

In Room D9, Clement House, LSE

Free entry. Philosophy Class, ask, discuss, explore ideas.

Nearest Station: Holborn, Info: 07717878330

Explore the timeless wisdom of the Vedas, an ancient body of scriptures from India. The Bhagavad Gita, the most reknowned of these scriptures, explains detailed processes for understanding identity, the

psychology of the mind and ways of obtaining absolute knowledge. The event is FREE and open to all.

LSESU KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS SOCIETY PRESENTS...**EVENT 2: CHARACTER IS COMPETENCE!**

Part 2 of the "Spirituality and Success" Series

Thurs 25th Nov, 6pm-7pm followed by refreshments

In Room D209, Clement House, LSE

Seminar, FREE entry and FREE food, drinks and dessert.

Nearest Station: Holborn, Info:

07717878330

What is the key to inspiration, integrity and peak performance? Tried and tested techniques for producing external success by enhancing our own internal faculties. A rare opportunity to hear from Edward Anobah Jr, an Economics graduate from LSE, who is currently at the cutting edge in the formulation of ground-breaking presentations to blue-chip companies including Goldman Sachs. FREE ENTRY. With FREE MEAL and refreshments...don't miss out!

For more info email N.Mistry2@lse.ac.uk or call 0771-7878330. Visit www.krishnasoc.com/lse.htm

The Actuarial Society

GAAPS International and the Actuarial Profession

"Tips on application process and CV"

Date: Thursday 25 Nov, 2004

Time: 3.10 - 4 pm

Venue: New Theatre, East Building

Speakers: Carlotta Guirao and Indrani O'Leary

An event by the **Actuarial Society!**

GAAPS International are a specialist actuarial recruitment agency which looks for the right people for the right job on behalf of the top actuarial firms in the country. The session basically involves the role of GAAPS and what they can offer to students who are interested in the field, and top tips on applications and cv-writing. It's highly recommended for those who are starting on applications and are interested in landing an actuarial job.

Alternative Entertainments Society

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

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Salsa Society

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Friday : MINISTRY OF SALSA, Elephant and Castle 8.00-10.00pm

LSE International Society**GLOBAL SHOW AUDITIONS**

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We welcome all kinds of acts including dances, songs and skits. If you are interested, come to the auditions and show us a few minutes of your act. We also need MCs for the show and models for an international fashion show!!!

The auditions are going to take place on:
Fri Nov. 26th, V105, 10:00-12:00

LSE International Society**GLOBAL SHOW AUDITIONS**

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We welcome all kinds of acts including dances, songs and skits. If you are interested, come to the auditions and show us a few minutes of your act. We also need MCs for the show and models for an international fashion show!!!

The auditions are going to take place on:
Thur Nov. 25th, Z029, 14:00-16:00

LSESU Israeli Society Event:

Daniel Taub, Director, General Law Division, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be discussing the topic of International Law in the Middle East.
Room E304

Thursday 25th of November, 18:00pm

LSESU Socialist Worker Student Society Forum

How can we stop capitalism from destroying our planet?

Thursday 5:30pm in D206

Azerbaijan Society

the CAVIAR NIGHT at the L'equipe Anglaise 21-22 Duke Street london W1 10pm-3pm

The Actuarial Society

Visit to the Bank of England

Date: 8 December 2004

Time: 3 pm

Venue: Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8AH

The society would like to invite all LSE students to visit the one and only Bank of England!

If this sounds interesting, please e-mail our Project Director, Pooja at p.chandaria@lse.ac.uk.

The event is free but you will need to pay £2 as a caution fee. The £2 will be returned to you if you turn up on time for the event.

Modern Dance Society

Annual Dance Show First Get-Together

Tuesday 30th November

18:30

S50

This is a call to all CHOREOGRAPHERS and DANCERS out there. Are you interested in participating in the annual LSE SU modern dance show in the Lent Term? Then this is the event you NEED to attend! Come along and get involved!

If you don't want to dance in the show, you can still come along and help us in any way you want! The more the merrier! There will be FREE nibbles and soft drinks too!

PASSION ENERGY IMPACT

What we do:

Bain's business is helping make companies more valuable

Who we work for:

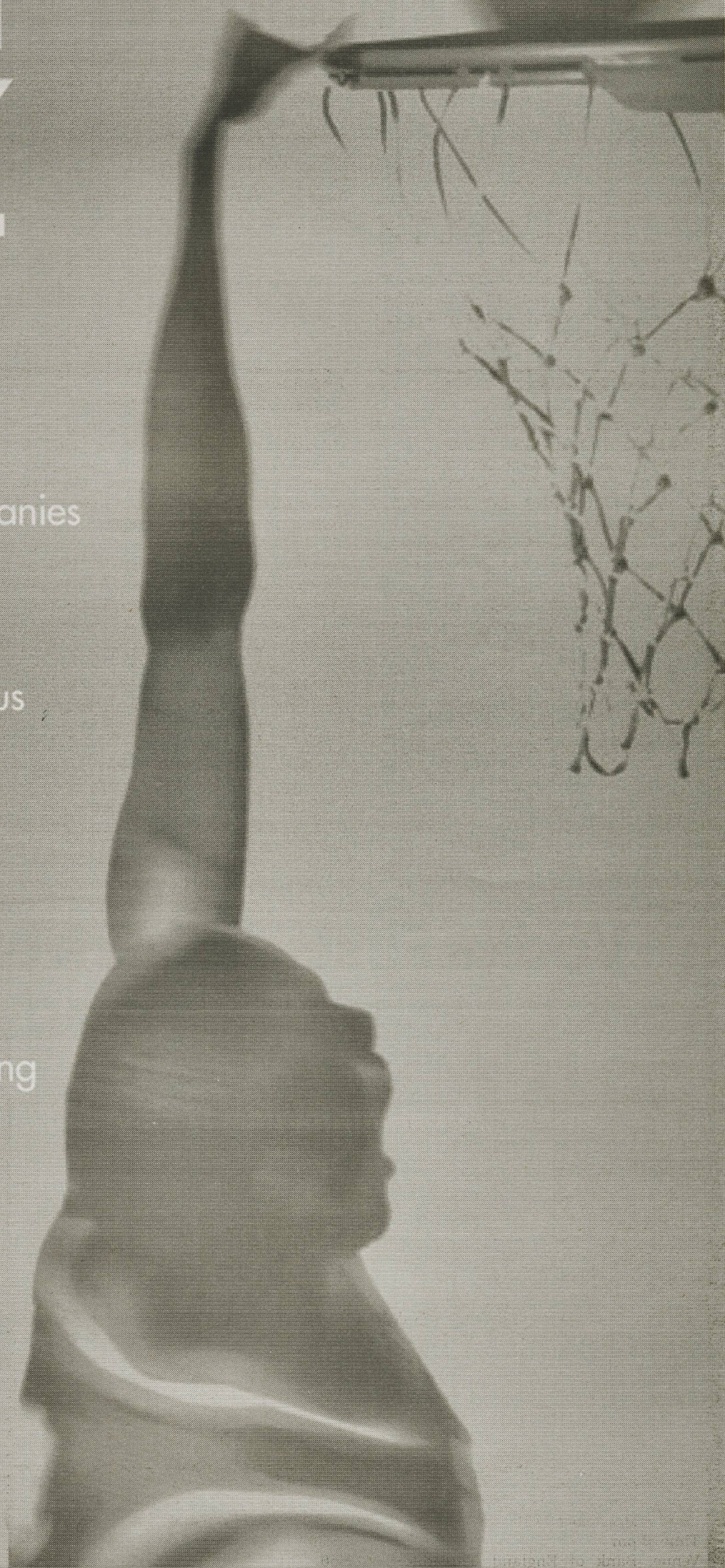
Our clients are typically bold ambitious business leaders

What you will do:

You will work with top management on their most critical issues

What we offer:

Bain is a springboard to an outstanding career path



BAIN & COMPANY

Global strategy consultants

Please submit your application online by visiting www.joinbainlondon.com

The application closing deadline is 3rd December 2004

Top of the tree? League tables here

Find out where your favourite LSE sporting superstars are in their respective leagues below....

LSE Women's Rugby - BUSA South Eastern Conference

	P	W	D	L
University College Chichester Women's 1st	2	2	0	0
Brunel University West London Women's 1st	2	2	0	0
London School of Economics Women's 1st	3	1	0	2
Guys, Kings & St Thomas' Women's 1st	3	0	0	3



LSE Men's Football Thirds and Fourths - ULU Division 1

1	Guys, Kings & St Thomas' Men's 2s ULU	8	6	0	2	33	14	19	18
2	Goldsmiths College Men's 1s ULU	8	5	1	2	28	12	16	16
3	Royal Holloway, University of London Men's 4s ULU	7	5	0	2	28	6	22	15
4	Royal Veterinary College Men's 1s ULU	6	4	1	1	18	11	7	13
5	Imperial College, London Men's 4s ULU	8	3	3	2	23	13	10	12
6	London School of Economics Men's 3s ULU	5	4	0	1	12	6	6	12
7	University College London Men's 4s ULU	5	3	1	1	9	8	1	10
8	Royal Free & University College Medical School Men's 2s ULU	7	3	0	4	8	25	-17	9
9	London School of Economics Men's 4s ULU	8	1	1	6	11	23	-12	4
10	University College London Men's 5s ULU	6	1	1	4	9	21	-12	4
11	Guys, Kings & St Thomas' Men's 3s ULU	7	1	1	5	9	30	-21	4
12	Royal Free & University College Medical School Men's 3s ULU	7	0	1	6	5	24	-19	1



LSE Men's Football Sixths and Sevens - ULU Division 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1 University College London Men's 6s ULU	8	7	0	1	46	10	36	21
2 London School of Economics Men's 7s ULU	8	7	0	1	38	9	29	21
3 Queen Mary, University of London Men's 3s ULU	7	5	1	1	19	8	11	19
4 Imperial College, London Men's 6s ULU	9	3	4	2	18	12	6	13
5 St Bartholemews & Royal London Men's 3 ULU	7	3	2	2	13	15	-2	11
6 Guys, Kings & St Thomas' Men's 4s ULU	6	2	3	1	14	6	8	9
7 London School of Economics Men's 6s ULU	9	2	3	4	13	26	-13	9
8 King's College, London Men's 7s ULU	8	2	2	4	13	21	-8	8
9 Queen Mary, University of London Men's 4s ULU	6	2	1	3	18	17	1	7
10 School of Slavonic & East European Studies Men's 1s ULU	9	2	1	6	17	32	-15	7
11 King's College, London Men's 5s ULU	8	1	3	4	15	36	-21	3
12 Imperial Medicals Men's 4s ULU	7	0	0	7	4	36	-32	0



Vodka Firsts embark on shock losing streak!

Netball Firsts suffer two shock defeats in a row. Firstly to some UCL slags and then to the geeks of GKT. They also get chucked out of Walkabout.

Olivia Schofield



LSE Netball 1sts.....25

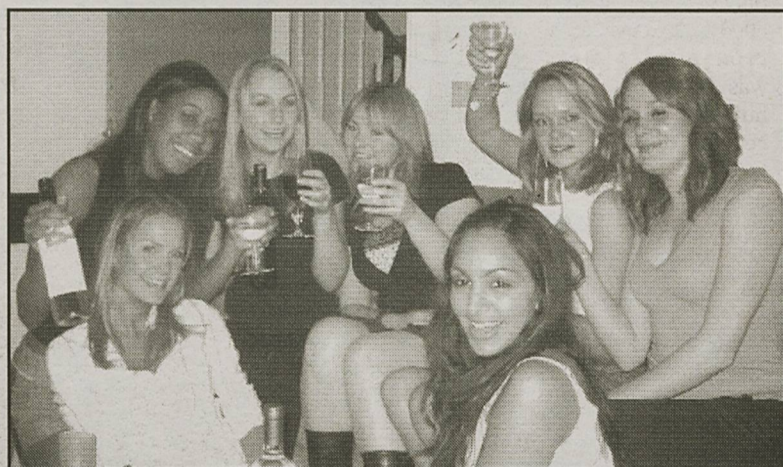
UCL Bitches.....28

Wapping, Central London

LSE Netball 1sts.....19

GKT Geeks.....40

Middleoffuckingnowhere



boys on Wednesday nights!). After 10 minutes of frantic running around we managed to sort out all the problems, and even managed to bend the metal post to get it semi erect (now there's skill for you...). We then rushed onto the court and got ready to face a rather ugly looking side from UCL.

Within the first few minutes it was clear that this was going to be a tough game. The score was very close and this resulted in a lot of tension between the teams. By half time the game had erupted into a full scale slugging match which left the UCL team being cautioned for foul language. After three quarters of the match our team had taken back the lead and we had four goals in hand. By this

time we were getting fed up and UCL's constant insults were starting to piss us off. The final quarter somehow went tits up and UCL snuck back into the lead. It was definitely a case of the biggest bitches won. The final whistle blew and there was some reluctant hand shaking. It was at this point that we were delighted to hear the umpire tell the UCL team that they were the worst team she had ever had to umpire and that she was disgusted that they could be such bitches on court. They might have won the game but we definitely came out on top.

Without letting Monday's setback get us down we met in the Tuns on Wednesday lunchtime with spirits high and ready to go.

Which is a good job really because we had a bloody hour and a half journey to get to the GKT home grounds! Nevertheless, always trying to look on the bright side, the thought of a free post-match burger and chips spurred us on (GKT is the only netball team which does match teas - very exciting). The train journey was rather amusing with lots of banter about knickers after I forgot to write an article last week which meant we got relegated to "News in Brief", which was followed by promises not to flash our 'briefs' on Wednesday nights (something I find particularly hard to stick to). We were also enlightened as to why Ash gets naked in hole-in-the-ground style toilets and how George's boyfriend has a boyfriend. It was a fascinating journey... When we finally got there the GKT team completely ignored us and then came over half an hour later to say the match was delayed. This was perfect as it allowed us to catch the first half of 'Neighbours' in the club house. When we finally got on court it was clear these girls were your classic 'netball geeks'. They had the aura of girls who lived, breathed and dreamed netball. This was later confirmed when Rachel overheard one of their girls in the toilet after the match crying because she didn't

feel like she had stretched for the ball enough or played well enough, which is quite ironic because they beat us 40-19! The match itself was quite enjoyable, it was good to play a high standard game which thankfully lacked all elements of bitchiness. It also gave us a chance to try out some new combinations which worked really well. Captain Jade deservedly got voted women of the match for the third time this season.

Wednesday night was very much needed after such a shocking weeks' performance. This was our one last chance to prove that the Vodka Firsts are really top notch girls. Our efforts to drown our sorrows and have a good time were slightly hindered by the lack of Andy Gold, but the arrival of Jade's birthday at midnight gave us a reason to carry on. With the entire team in tiny little skirts (with the exception of Phoebe tut tut) we put on a good show which unfortunately came to a premature end with all of our team, minus myself and the lovely Rachel, getting kicked out of Walkabout. Nice one girls. Needless to say a good night was had by all, but we were punished for our antics by having to go training for 2 hours on Thursday night!

What a week. Where did it all go wrong? The unthinkable has happened and the newly renamed 'Vodka Firsts' have lost two matches in a row. So what happened? Well... Monday night involved the usual trek to Wapping, a place far too far away. There was panic and confusion from the start with dodgy court bookings, late umpires, the LSE second team needing the courts too and netball posts that looked like they were suffering from a bit of brewer's droop (a bit like AU

Fishlock and Little mock the souls of Kingston Poly

The perennial dole scum of Kingston come to the Fortress and snatch a draw with the First Team

Gaz
'The Pirate'
Carter



LSE Footy Firsts.....2
Kingston Slags.....2
Fortress Berrylands, Surrey

It is a wonder to me why some people even bother getting up in the morning. If I went to Kingston Technical Institute to study a Page-turning HnD and couldn't complete a full sentence without referring to my Penguin Children's Dictionary I wouldn't. Yet somehow Kingston manage to scrape together eleven preening half-wits every Wednesday to come out and soil the majesty of various University playing fields.

It all started so well. The Firsts were into their stride before the Kingston degenerates had even awoken from their general ignorance of football. The midfield were running the game and Fishy Fishlock and Jimmy Little were hounding the heals of the lumpen wretches Kingston had as centre-halves. Judas San was playing out of his skin at

left-back, as the Kingston ensemble appeared genuinely confused by the incredible knack for being better than them we were exhibiting. Stelios shim-mied and turned, and The Littlest Paolo showed that size isn't everything, by flooring the hulking Kingston right-back. Our first goal arrived when Jimmy Little showed that, indeed, it is what you do with it that counts, as he latched on to a threaded clearance from Richie Gull and took the ball past the keeper before finishing clinically from an angle tighter than Brummie's short shorts.

Jubilant, the First Team moved into an even higher gear, with the midfield displaying all

the wonderous skill we have come to expect from them. Realising they were in danger of being hammered, Kingston began to play dirty. Their linesman began flagging for all manner of offences, some so blatantly fallacious and made-up it made one embarrassed to share the same DNA as the hapless mongoloid they had running the line. This shameless cheating was compounded by the referee's seeming inability to do anything at all. Ignoring a stone-wall off-side, he waved play on as a Kingston forward took full advantage of the referee's illegitimate birth to pull one back; a cut back from the by-line finding a big ginger man who finished

with all the class of a £2 bottle of screw-cap table wine.

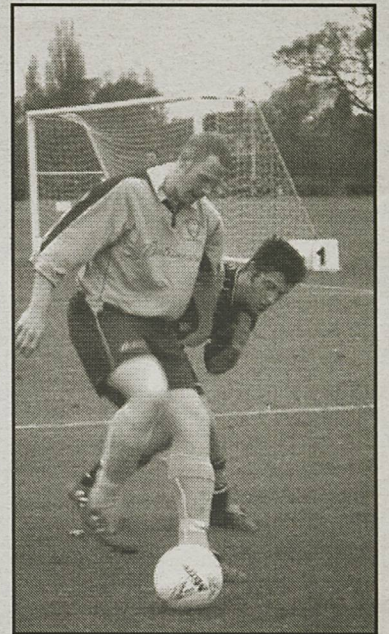
Riled, angry and a little peckish, the Firsts re-doubled their efforts, with Fishy Fishlock continuing his rich vein of form by netting a second. Almost a carbon-copy of the first, his skill and pace exemplified everything that the Kingston player's mother's were hoping for but never got from their hideous offspring.

With Kingston having lost a player to injury in the first half, they decided to bring on their secret weapon: a man about 7 foot tall, and with an ego to match. Wary of ruffling his shitty £6 Mr Topper's haircut, he decided to be Not Very Good and thus joined the ranks of very average players whom the Firsts midfield enjoy pissing all over each week.

The Firsts regrouped and dug in, and it wasn't until the Kingston centre-forward caught the ball, carried it round the BFG and placed it past a puzzled Richie Gull that parity was restored. Unaware that the referee saw carrying the ball in your hands as a legitimate weapon in the football players arsenal, the Firsts were somewhat shocked to discover he had allowed such underhand tactics to succeed. Attempted negotiations with the referee to, at most, give them 'half a goal' failed, and the Firsts were left to wonder at how such a benign old man in black could

be guilty of such hideous indiscretions.

The Firsts continued to mock the souls of the Kingston players, but their flagrant disregard for the rules had become tired, and Fishy Fishlock grew weary of being better than their defenders. A tepid end to a game the Firsts won about 14-0 in Real Life, but drew 2-2 on paper. Bring back Charlie Robinson - he at least attempted to retain some dignity whilst having his anus duly pillaged by the Mighty Mighty First Team.



Anyone for Tennis?

Sumit reports on the exploits of the LSE Tennis Team....

Sumit
Battoo



So the first doubles match to get underway featured Andrew and Alex and they got off to a blistering start as their opponents fell to a 15-40 deficit in their first service game. They did well to get it back to deuce but then undid their hard work by missing an easy smash, and Alex punished them to the maximum with a super return down the line to snatch the game.

In the other doubles it was the Argentinean resistance of the new 'boy' Nic, and the determinedness of Felix. The two made a poor start as their opponents eased to the first game, with the ball flying out of the court off Felix's racket as the pair struggled to wake up! The ginger dude opponent had a very extravagant OTT service action, and this could explain why it took a few games for our two to settle! Indeed after the below par beginning, Felix and Nic played some beautiful tennis as they comfortably took LSE into a 2-0 overall lead by triumphing 8-4, Felix being the one to serve out the victory.

The next thing to happen was rather remarkable, and certainly unexpected.

With a touch of the Spanish

play-acting from last week's game against England, Alex's singles opponent mysteriously pulled out just before the match was going to start. His excuse was that he was 'ill', which is slightly strange as he managed to play the full doubles match without complaining about it! We thought of many real reasons why this 'unfortunate' episode occurred, Alex's hair blonde being hair being a particularly popular notion! Anyway, whatever the reason, Alex was handed a walkover, and the tie was effectively over with LSE 4-0 up.

So the first singles that did actually happen was Nic's match against the immensely talented - not - ginger bread man. There were some good rallies, so credit where it's due, as it takes two to tango. But the Brune became ever more frustrated as the match drew on. His technique was incredibly amusing to watch - he had the weirdest serve ever, and when he was receiving he looked as though he had a hedgehog in his pants! The victory never looked in doubt and Nic yawned to a 6-3 6-3 win to give LSE a deserved, unassailable 6-0 lead.

Therefore there was not really any pressure on the other two players; of course they were unaware of this. But it was a good job the matches did not matter a great deal, as Andrew never looked like winning his. His opponent used to

play satellite events, and had travelled to America for University, but mainly just to play tennis, and it was certainly showing. Andrew huffed and puffed but his rival kept getting everything back. After winning the first set, Andrew could not stop him taking control, and his body language became more and more downbeat. His opposite number preyed on this and played some delightful shots, to make sure that Andrew came out disappointed in his performance as he went down 6-4, 3-6, 0-6. Overall we were now at 6-2 and Brunel looked as though they might retain some pride.

Once again Felix was the player to bring the curtain down for LSE. His opponent served first and looked rather confident to say he had just lost against Felix in the doubles (well I suppose he had to play with the Ginner in that match!). But soon, probably after he realised his team had already thrown the tie away, he began to throw in a few wild shots, and he walloped a ball at the net in disgust as he continually flunked easy shots. Felix kept his composure, and even managed to summon enough energy to actually win this match after dominating much of it like he always does. He could not believe he won, but he did come through 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 to give LSE the same 8-2 score they came away from Brunel with earlier in the campaign.



Team of the Week

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



Key:

- 1 First Team Player
- 2 Second Team Player
- 3 Third Team Player
- 4 Fourth Team Player
- 5 Fifth Team Player
- 6 Sixth Team Player
- 7 Seventh Team Player
- W Women's Football

Team of the week:

The 'Champagne' Sevens. You're 5-2 down with 20 minutes left in a game, against a team who are playing First Team ringers. What do you do? Cry? The Sevens opted instead for scoring 4 goals in the last 20 minutes to nick an amazing game against Queen Mary's 6-5.

Star of the week:

Fred 'Baby' Salt - As much as I like the guy we know what this will do to his already huge ego! Away to Canterbury the seconds, down 1-0, were staring their fourth

straight defeat in the eyes. Cue Mr. Salt whose calmly taken goal in injury time not only restored a smidgen of pride, but almost...almost earned him a compliment from Brummy.

Schoolboy of the week:

Nick Green - What do Zinedine Zidane and Nick Green from the LSEFC Seventh Team have in common? A tendency to puke at vital moments on a football pitch? Yes. Poor, poor Nick starring in his team's amazing comeback got so excited by his goal he threw up amidst the celebrations.

Spain can't hold back this 'monkey'

Fabs argues that another 'Stella' performance from the Thirds reinforces their supremacy against First and Second team pansiness

Fabs
Joseph



LSE Footy 3rds.....2
Imperial.....0
Fortress Berrylands, Surrey



Well well dear readers, the mighty thirds have been missing from the back page for a week as three dismal chicken crap scared teams ran crying at the proposition of facing us in such rampant form. Clan 'Fabs' rocked up to the beautiful home of LSE major sports, The Three Tuns, after praising Berrylands with the type of football it's missed for so long. So yes I know it's starting to get boring but yes we did win..... again, and yes we did keep another clean sheet. Let me explain how this unstoppable force puts Mourinho to shame.

It all starts at the back, for the ladies reading that's the defence. The silky smooth skills but gritty tackling of the aptly named Administrator hold together a back four comprising of some of the hardest bastards ever seen. Seen the fabulous Five or that rubbish family of Incredibles, well they all met their match when faced with this lot. Forest Gump, Dan, our team of the week regular

has never been beaten by a winger, never stopped running, never scored.....well we'll over look that. Mark is anchored by one of those big scary Scottish people who actually talk really softly and have five rabbits and a budgie as pets. Bruiser, Chris, is so no nonsense the match ball asks to be subbed at half time let alone any meagre strikers the opposition care to put in front of him. Then if that's not enough of a blockade for any team to break down, Andy Logan brought along this tramp he took in a few weeks back just to see if he could play. Turns out Gypsy not only plays hard on and off the pitch but has supernatural powers against anyone who dares take him on from the opposition. The stench of five week old boxers only over powered by the killer whip from his greasy hair as he turns and runs. Poor old Imperial College rocked up and promptly got a royal going over. The funniest match up had to be the little, quite skilful Chinese lad they

upfront getting more abuse than the fifth team give Crispy Duck on a Wednesday night after Walkabout, which by the way is run by a bunch of dickheads.

However you can't win bugger all unless you score. For those stats lovers out there the Third team has scored in all of their matches this season with considerable ease, apart from when Gazza Dhama chips in scoring the hard way with solo wonder goals. Unfortunately the pressure got to me following all the hype over Golden Boot and I had a shocking game, resigning myself to left back in order to cover for our Gypsy left back who couldn't afford proper contact lenses... they promptly fell out. However the freshers stole the show. Our Philipino sex slave arrived via postal order to slot home a chance early on in the first half to stun gritty Imperial. And gritty they were coming out of the blocks very well in the second half. Luckily out central midfield duo of Highlander Logan and poor

man's Healy Jimmy McGurn held the Third team ship steady breaking up all forward motion from our wilting opponents. Gazza Dhama had obviously enjoyed his two weeks off along with Maverick Come, and the two wingers tired early on in the second half after putting in top performances. This is where the real beauty of the third team bears fruit as committed substitutes fighting for places in the starting line up came on to revitalise the team. A certain 'Stella' performance from wife beater Andy Mason down the right saw us create a lot of opportunities. One of which fell to the Italian Stallion Felipe, back from injury to hammer one in off the post from the edge of the box. The poor Imperial droopers dropped their heads, just like their girlfriends keep complaining to me about, far too easily and we

ended the match with a glut of chances.

All this glory comes at the hands of moi, a terrible man for whom hell would be pleasant. Unfortunately what really gets up peoples arses is my team is the best na na na. So there, it's official. This special petulant message is especially for the fourth team who we play this Wednesday at Berrylands.....I recommend this as the match of the week, if any one has never been to a football match then this is the best football you'll see this term (that's value for money wise). First versus the seconds was pansy stuff, the real men battle it out 2:15 tomorrow, I just hope the paramedics are on stand by.



Top of the League

Women's Badminton aim high after fantastic start

Women's Badminton Club Captain Christelle Lim-Fon-Kee reports on the phenomenal start the women's team has had this year: What can I say except that I couldn't be more proud of my girls! Since the beginning of the BUSA league, the Women's team remains unbeaten leaving us at the top as shown in last week's Beaver. Our worst match was against Reading, who were incredibly tough opponent but we held firm to claim a draw. I can say that this year, our aim is to sustain our predominance and unbeaten record; a goal that we will definitely achieve! We just have to remember Reading and also Imperial where our best player Miss Yuru (known as Chopstick) gave a stun-

ning performance so that we finally won 5-3. Miss Chopstick has been representing LSE for 3 years and all our opponents just drop dead when they hear that name! But, most importantly, there is a great team spirit! Everyone is so motivated. Mei, our club captain did a great job playing singles, Fangting, our double player did scare off some opponents with her smash! Viola and her double partner Sinead did a good job with net shots and making our opponents dancing on the badminton court! Not to forget all our reserves who are ready to jump on the badminton court whenever we need them! This is a good way for me to thank my team for all their hard work! So girls, Good work!



Mixed fortunes for Netball

Victory against Imperial numbs pain of loss to Strand Poly Hookers

Alison
Blease



LSE Netball 2nds.....14

Strand Poly Hookers.....26

Wapping, Central London

LSE Netball 2nds.....49

Imperial Rejects.....11

Lincoln's Inn, Up-the-road

Despite some sports teams, only writing up matches when they win, I would like to clarify that the absence of a match report from the seconds last week was merely due to the fact that we didn't have any matches not because we are crap and lose. We are incredible!

On Monday night the glorious seconds arrived at Wapping to

begin the battle against Strand Poly only to be greeted by our delightful firsts having a full blown slanging match against UCL. We were tempted to join in to defend LSE's honour but then we realised the firsts were big enough and ugly enough (in disposition only of course!!) to look after themselves.

The match began and frankly they were not as good as we had feared, and we were playing really well. The first quarter was pretty even. However in the second quarter they began to pull away from us. The score-line does not really reflect the true closeness of the match. Anyway, we lost so lets move on...

After the match Aine and Emma confirmed their places as chief alcoholics in residence by deciding to go for a drink round Euston on the way home despite the fact that it was 11.30 on a Monday night and they both looked like tramps in their smelly netball kit (I say this affectionately by the way!). Everyone better watch out at the barrel cos these two will have drunk it before everyone's through the door if you're not careful!

Wednesday arrived and all I

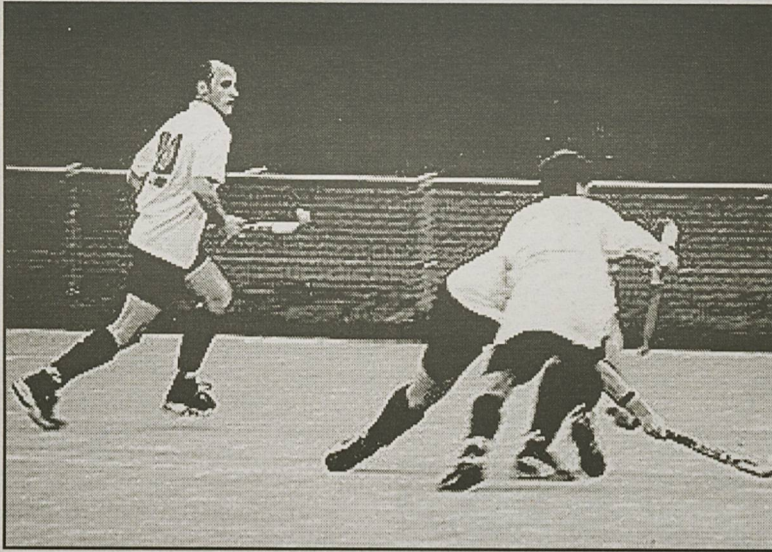
can say is that Lincoln's Inn bore witness to one of the greatest defeats of recent times... well this season anyway. This was quite possibly the performance of the season so far - we were poised, we were fast, we were on fire!! There were goals galore and every single player put in a superb performance. I'd lost my voice by the end from shouting "excellent shot LSE", "nice one LSE" and even "ooh...fantastic work LSE". They weren't that awful, they had a couple of good players but they could not stand a chance when we had discovered such fine form in ourselves. We were so good that Charlie's GK fell in love with her whilst the rest of their team despaired the fact that they could not keep up with us at all.

All in all an excellent week. Well done Laura, Marie, Aine, Emma, Jenna, Jade, Jen, Alex and Charlie for a STUPENDOUS PERFORMANCE this week...you have made your captain proud - but I'm not worried, I'm sure you'll be back to your shameful ways at our team dinner next week. I'll bring the vodka...and the camera. Watch this space...

Nil-Nil: What more can be said?

A boring hockey stalemate not worthy of print but an interesting insight into various social rejects

Not looking his best: FT Boy



LSE Hockey 1sts.....0
Royal Vets.....0
Potters Bar School of Rail Track Maintenance

After a fairly nervous train journey, the Men's Hockey 1s arrived at the distinctly provincial outpost of Potters Bar. Being bestial veterinary students, the opposition were fat, ugly and pretty piss poor at hockey. Our captain, Frodo assured us in his not unconfident manner that 'today lads, we're definitely gonna' win...'

As you can see from the score line above, the game could only be described as awful. The LSE forwards displayed the finesse and ingenuity of Abu Hamza piano recital and the degenerate opposition managed to filch-up all attacks. Dick of the day was Mustafa for giving the best Ade Akinbiyi impression and man of the match was Porter for not being quite as shit as everyone else.

Seeing as the game was such a disappointment I thought this might be a good opportunity to introduce the men's hockey team. I'll begin with the defensive rock that is Porter: he has one eccentricity that his girlfriend was kind enough to share with us, that being his habit to cry 'oh yes' like the Churchill Insurance dog on climax... nice. Fortunately, Porter is

partnered in the centre of defence by the balding leviathan, Wacko Jacko. As his name suggests, Jacko just really loves children. He compliments this unusual penchant with pre-match outbursts that demand the rest of the team 'go out there and bleed!' One player who does bleed for Wacko is Alan Ball, so called because of his distinct lack of height and normal coloured hair. Alan is as useful as a one-legged man in an arse-kicking competition, but what he lacks in skill he makes up for with dogged determination.

Tesh couldn't organise an orgy in a brothel with a fist full of fifties. He works too hard for a first year and seems to think that he's 'better than walkabout'... this one shows potential.

Nile is new to the team, although he only looks 16 he is in fact a postgrad. Like most postgrads he's a bit of a boring bastard. However, he is in possession of an uncanny ability to down pints. He

used to 'study' at Sussex, but the least said about that the better... Our captain, Frodo, unsurprisingly, has a strong resemblance to a hobbit and can often be found smoking pipeweed in a Hobbiton tenement. He has replaced the more laissez faire leadership of Wacko with an iron fist of efficiency and routine. Pre-match warm-ups, warm-downs and unrelenting discipline are the order of the day but doesn't tackle Walkabout with the same meticulous style.

Third year Mowgli - lost without his mentor Vish Suppa - has taken to randomly shouting the name 'Quentin' in Tourette's style fits. Purporting to be our striker, Mowgli will sometimes score a couple of goals, but only when its of no use whatsoever. Our other striker, Mustafa, has a similarly severe inability to put the ball in the back of the net. He can however 'finish the job' on a Wednesday night and particularly enjoys fulfilling Munchkin's sordid bedroom

fantasies (I've heard its very good for the complexion). Jeff, or 'Bells, was foolish enough to invite his mother along to the first game. She left fairly soon after the game as the rest of the lads made every effort to extend her vocabulary in a more x-rated direction, she loved it really.

Unfortunately, Sharon - the Chigwell/Yerevan mongrel - is still our goalie. This year, Sharon's on pitch performances have been supplemented by extended 'fitness' sessions inspired by his very accommodating (or so we're told) girlfriend... bastard. Spok is another senior member of the club, he is also the most erudite; so much so that he could probably explain to you what erudite actually means. Although Spok resembles a stylist from Channel 4's The Salon he is in fact a horrific misogynist and refers to his 'bitch' with up most disdain. He's been working a little bit too hard this year and his acerbic presence in the Tuns has been sorely missed. Another member of the team with a more nineteenth century view on sexual equality is F*cknut. He hails from the valleys of Wales and is dumbfounded by the magical 'elecomatrical' trains of London. With an unusual proclivity for deviant pornography, F*cknut has been known to invite as many as 12 guests into his Roseberry shoebox for late night viewings. He's the rudest member of the club and seems to think that boasting about his maths will eventually end his duck with the ladies... good luck. As for myself, the fact that everyday my team mates 'wish my dad had settled for a blow job' is evidence of my clear incompetence.

A minor 'huck up' for Ultimate team

Ultimate fail to make the final of the London Winter League but put on a praiseworthy display

J.B. Dracup



This week we played in the 'London Winter League' over in Wandsworth Common. First match at 11am was against PAF - an office team. We went 4 or 5 to nil up quite quickly - with some great flowing play and mid-length hucks. However, PAF regrouped and after our easy and fairly unstructured first half, and the second half was much closer. We played fairly rubbish in the second half - mainly because we were just looking for the glory pass every time, not the safe one. No problem though, final score LSE 8 - PAF 5.

At 10am PAF had played imperial and won by 1. We had imperial next and were starting the game with a net score difference of +3 - all we needed to do was not lose by 5 or more and we went through to the finals.

The game against Imperial was a fairly close game all the way through, both teams defending well. However, with 5 min left to go, Imperial went 7 - 4 up. They quick-

ly scored another making it 8 - 4 as the hooter went. As we always finish the point in play after the hooter, if we won that point we were through, if Imperial won it we were joint with PAF on a net score difference of -2. Unfortunately, Imperial scored it and we finished LSE 4 - Imperial 9. The game was closer than that score reflects - they just got away from us at the end. As the score difference was the same with PAF, it went to total scored and it seems they scored more than us and

went through. Yet again LSE were left playing for best of the rest.

Next up was Colchester - we were stacked. They liked hucking, and scored quite a few with long passes. However, we out ran them and put up some good defence - and also some reasonable hucks with Phil or Paget on the end of them. Enjoyable game for everybody really, we won by a fair margin in the end LSE 12 - Colchester 7.

Our final game should have been our easiest win of the tournament -

they were short of players and had not been doing very well in their earlier matches - a few of them had gone home as well so they couldn't really field a team. Unfortunately, as the tournament was all but over by then, they managed to get quite a few players from other teams to join them. Including about 4 very experienced from UCL and a couple from Discuits. It transpired that this was more like 'Winter League All Stars' v LSE.

The Disc Locators, with their assembled team, did not have a very tight defence - they could not be bothered to run much - but all their passes were accurate and 1 in 2 was a huck into the end zone. 'Huck it or you're nothing' was their main call. We managed to keep it fairly even and the score was a good-hearted 9 all at the hooter. A last optimistic but successful 'huck and chase' from the Disc Locators meant we lost 9-10.

Great Tournament, despite the fact that we seem to always win 2, loose 2 we are certainly getting better - one of these days we'll go through to the finals.

Sports-shorts

Men's Rugby defeat

To be beaten by Strand Poly twice before the Barrel can only be described as soul-destroying for the Men's Rugby Seconds. The scoreline of twenty-something to a meagre five reflected the lack of team cohesion and consistency, which has afflicted the team this year. There were positives as pointed out by the first team's Tupac such as the play of Captain Tristram, 'Gay Hair' Rob and a strong debut by Declan. Hopefully next week will see some improvement (and an article). The Third team were also defeated by Canterbury by a whopping hundred garrillion to nil, no one was available for comment. The first team did not have a game but will welcome back Shettters, Tupac, Leggy and Ballsucker in the decisive games against Sussex and St. George's.

Football round-up

Brummie's Second team were robbed by UCL despite being 2-1 up with ten minutes to go. The reason: not complacency but because the ref gave 2 unsubstantiated free kicks on the edge of the box, which they then converted to goals. Bastards! The next game against Canterbury finished 1-1, and was according to the Captain, 'rubbish, we equalised late, nothing more to say other than that I am slightly disappointed!' However, congratulations to Freddie Salt for scoring in both games. The fifths had another stupendous week following last week's comeback versus the Strand Poly. A goal from Irfan Ladak meant victory over St. Bart's Seconds, whilst 2 from Godders and 1 from Luther Kisanga secured a glorious win over RUMs and a big smile from Captain Drew. In contrast Alex Lee's Fourth Team lost 4-2 to Royal Holloway, observer Dom Rustam called it unlucky and commented that Taffy was the weakest link and rubbish yet again. Matt Bawden's Sixth team lost 1-2 to Imperial but got back on track by beating Queen Mary's on Saturday. The Champagne Sevenths lost 5-3 to GKT ending their stunning 8 game unbeaten run. Captain Paul McAleavey added quite hastily that 'we're not normally this shit!' and proved his worth with a 5-2 victory over SEES.

Netball Results

LSE Netball Club Captain Helen O'Toole described this week as disappointing after many lost opportunities and sheer bad luck plagued the club. The First team's undefeated run ground to a halt with a loss to Guys Medics. The medics would also haunt the fourths forcing an unpalatable 34-14 loss. The Seconds lost one, won one. The Thirds lost roughly 40-10 to Gimperial and the fifths lost 'by a lot' to the Royal Free & University College School.

The Barrel

Only 10 days to go, are you ready? Will you make it to Barrel Crush?



Greatest comeback since Jesus rose from the dead

You are 5-2 down with 20 minutes left. What do you do?

Paul
'Phil Lynott'
McAleavey



Champagne 7ths6

Queen Mary5

Fortress Berrylands, Surrey



play their 3rd team striker against the Sevenths. Forgetting that the Sevenths had already played the QM 3rds earlier in the season, and thus recognized him. It's at times like this when you think the Times placing QM at 42nd in the university league tables was slightly over-respectful.

Within ten minutes the Sevenths were 2-0 down, due in part to keeper Matt doing a great impression of David James, and centre back Paul McAleavey deciding to play on the right wing for a few minutes. However we were thrown a lifeline by the ever reliable Ross Lucas pulling a goal back. Undaunted by this setback, the Sevenths defence decided to compensate the QM boys

for their lack of a future career by gifting them two more goals. Just before half time, the Sevenths were 4-1 down. Then, in another display of their brainpower, the QM captain decided to handle the ball on his own line. Displaying a bizarre disregard for FIFA rules, the referee neglected to send him off. Ed Calow, with his dad watching, slotted home the spot kick, which now gives him an 'impressive' penalty ratio for the Sevenths of five taken, two scored.

After an inspirational half time talk from Captain McAleavey ("We're playing shit. We're normally better than this. Let's not get raped"), the Sevenths started the second half feeling about as optimistic as Ian

Huntley is of taking part in Children in Need. The QM bastards were heard to utter such phrases as "How are you top of the league? You're shit", and when the referee said there were 20 minutes left, they uttered the immortal line "That's it boys, we're safe". Just like a cockle picker watching the tide come in, the signs of doom were appearing on the horizon for the QM rudeboys.

Spurred on by such imbecilic rantings from the opposition, from deep within their souls the Sevenths pulled out the Champagne spirit. This was exemplified by no-one more than Nick Green, playing on the right wing. The boy from Tottenham coasted past the QM defenders with the ease of a joyrider going through traffic lights, and slid the ball home for a sublime goal to reduce the deficit to 5-3. Unlike David Blunkett, the Sevenths could see the light at the end of the tunnel. Rob 'Infrared' Green scored one more to make the score 5-4, and QM were looking more nervous than a pensioner in Harold Shipman's waiting room. Huge pressure in the final ten minutes resulted in Rob Green sliding in at the far post to finally level the scores.

The QM rudeboys were going mental at each other, threatening to pull out their "pieces" and "stick" anyone that annoyed them. Their

number 11, who was a particularly nasty chap, had a problem with the Sevenths' Nathan Dobson, and made several rude comments regarding Nathan's parentage and the sexual orientation of his mother. Capping an amazing comeback, Ed Calow headed in a Dobosh corner with a minute to go. We were happier than Gary Glitter finding out he has internet access in his prison cell. As the Second half referee, who may also have been the Sevenths captain, blew for full time 5 minutes early, the greatest comeback since Jesus rose from the dead was complete. You heard it here first; The Sevenths - officially better than Jesus.



Running show the Polys how to do it

Lawrence recalls the LSE Running Team's day out on Wimbledon Common.

Lawrence
'Radcliffe'
Leong



result after 3 races:

Standings	Points
2 University College.....	220
3 Imperial College	203
7 University College	172
8 King's College.....	168
9 L.S.E.....	158

Men's result after 3 races:

Standings	Points
2 University College.....	1094
4 Imperial College	1035
5 L.S.E.....	994



heavy, disbelief and disappointment of some after race. The team had something to prove...to Gimperial, to Strand Poly, to each other and to themselves. Strangely enough, the shot of realization came not in the heat of the race but in the aftermath.

The start (a garbled yell from the organizer "Gewwww-oo!!") signaled the start of what must be the toughest and longest race yet in the league. Fast, flat, furious. The steady thump of spiked shoes and trainers together with the beating drum of one's heart must have been the staple acoustical diet of every runner for 30 minutes or more. The course was a hell-trap. Under the fresh fragile autumn leaves, lay the evil pothole or root destined to cause a sprained ankle or strained hip

(Read: Kevin B). Kniving thorns and brambles conspired to taste blood as runners brushed past (Read: Anand C). Snarling mudpits lay in wait to cause the next fall or tumble. (Read: David B and Scott A). There in that forest of gloom, lay the greatest prophet of doom for LSE: poorly placed guiding flags. The innocuous little yellow flags, certainly well camouflaged behind leaves and twigs, were specially designed to make oxygen-deprived runners waste precious minutes running round in circles in the damn forest. (Read: Lawrence L, Jack L, Justin T).

Mud, blood, sweat and tears (from the exceptionally dry weather that day of course) greeted us at the end. It is one of those points in ones life to



philosophically muse: 'Why do I run?' (a.k.a. What the fuck just fucking happened to my fucking race?) It was never ever about the triumph but to have fought well. Yet, this baptism of fire had produced LSE winners of its own. For the women's, Jenny A took at well-deserved 15 (out of 44), followed by Suzanne F in 28th and Zhou Li and Amal S (running her first race with lots of guts and smiles!). A full women's team meant that LSE move into the top ten at 9th. For the men's, Matt R battled his way up to 20th place (courtesy of his 'bought 5-hours-before-the-race blue spikes) and David B did the team proud scrapping a top 10 finish (out of 78 runners!). Making up the top fifty for LSE were Anand C, Scott A, Matt H, Lawrence

L and Jack L respectively. This was just enough for us to keep on the heels of UCL and Imperial with less than a hundred points separating. A special mention goes to Kevin B who hobbled his way to the finish despite pulling a muscle and to William D for nicking in front of a UC runner by 0.4 seconds!

However in the end, points, timings, placings, nothing could quantify what was shown by the true champions who put up with sore knees, cut arms, muddied faces and shoes. I'm sure many of us that day learnt empathy and sympathy. Few complained and few grumbled and hopefully none would indulge in self-pity. In the end, every sportsperson must ask him or herself everyday: 'Why do I do what I do?'

How often it is in the pages of BeaverSports one gets news of 'LSE crushes the Gimperial uglies!' or 'Underhand tactics take out LSE 2nds!'. Yet no simple headline can adequately capture the spirit of Wimbledon Common on 17th November where LSE runners took to the mud, hill and grass in a demonstration of true running spirit. The mood had been light, relaxed and jovial on our way to Wimbledon Common, much a contrast to the