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PART B THE COMIC ISSUE



The Beaver

21st October 2008
Newspaper of the
London School of Economics
Students' Union

Spot the difference campus future takes shape



Discussions between the School and the Union on the proposed St Philips redevelopment, to include a Harvard-style campus square on the present site of Parish Hall, above, are already under way. The Academic Board met last week to consider the plans. Student consultations will begin later this term. Photo: Erik Lang

Sheikh Zayed campaign ends in defeat at UGM vote

Victoria Boggiano & Ali Moussavi

A student motion calling on the LSE to return £2.5 million to The Emirates Foundation and change the name of the Sheikh Zayed Theatre failed to pass at last week's Union General Meeting.

The LSE had recently agreed to name the main auditorium of the New Academic Building after Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the president of the United Arab Emirates from 1971 to 2004, in exchange for the money from the foundation.

The motion also called on student officials to lobby the LSE for a seat on the body responsible for oversight of donations, the LSE Development Committee.

Students supporting the motion pointed out the UAE's history of human rights abuses and the Sheikh's controversial record as the UAE's unelected ruler, claiming that it was inappropriate that the School accept the donation and honour the Sheikh by naming the theatre after him.

However, opponents of the motion argued that it would be inconsistent for the LSE to return the money because of the theatre's name. One student pointed to the example of The Hong Kong Theatre as being named in reference to an oppressive regime.

Other opponents made specific reference to the Sheikh's record as president, claiming that Zayed's rule had positive aspects, such as helping to advance education for women in the UAE.

One student said: "Human rights is what you think it is because it is a Western opinion. So don't go around telling me that an Eastern culture is the same as Western culture and impose your views on me."

Joseph Brown, a supporter of the motion, said that its defeat was "another disturbing victory for relativism and apathy in which we are willing to ignore child slavery and economic exploitation of millions so long as our leaders make the trains run on time."

Students' Union officials who were supporting the motion claim that its failure will not affect the Union's chances of gaining representation on the Development Committee, the board that gives approvals to donations, because there is broad support for the goal across the student body.



Comment p.12

Report blasts School on ethical investments policy

• School continues holding portfolio in arms companies

• Union accused of investing in nuclear weapons

Michael Deas

The LSE's approach to implementing a socially responsible investment (SRI) policy has come under fire in a report from a leading ethical investment firm

SRI policies have been adopted by several leading UK universities, including Oxford and St. Andrews, to avoid investment in unethical industries such as the arms trade and companies with links to oppressive regimes.

The report, released to The Beaver on condition of anonymity, claims the LSE's position is "exaggerating the financial impacts and costs of SRI."

It also accuses the LSE of being "alarmist" by claiming that SRI would prevent the

School from receiving large donations from some of its biggest supporters.

The LSE does not have a stringent SRI policy and has not yet confirmed if and when it will adopt one. The LSE currently invests over £40m in investment funds managed by Barclays Capital Management, which in turn invests the LSE's money in arms companies BAE Systems, Boeing and Rolls Royce.

The School recently rejected a proposal by LSE Director of Finance and Facilities Andy Farrell to adopt the United Nations Principles on Responsible Investment, which are considered by investment experts to be a weak framework for ethical investment.

The principles would not have stopped the LSE from investing in unethical companies, but would have required the School to engage with the companies that it in-

vests in to promote ethical behaviour.

The report seen by The Beaver states, "It is somewhat worrying that the LSE cannot bear even the UNPRI approach as it represents probably the easiest starting point for fiduciary investors."

LSE has said that any future policy of responsible investment would be based on engagement and would allow the School to continue to invest in unethical companies, including arms manufacturers.

The School has also stated that it has rejected calls by the Students' Union to divest from firms involved in Sudan and the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

When asked to outline the LSE's position on SRI in Michaelmas term of 2007, Farrell said that he was not prepared to comment as a policy would be in place by September 2008. A School committee has

been asked to report on possible SRI strategies in Michaelmas term 2009, meaning that the adoption of an SRI policy may well be several years off.

The Students' Union also has no overarching SRI policy. In a submission to Council Farrell notes that as a result of not having a comprehensive SRI policy the Students' Union invests in "the shares of a major company that provides uranium for both nuclear power generation and weapons production", an apparent reference to uranium miners BHP Billiton. The LSE also invests in BHP Billiton and the Beaver has been unable to substantiate Farrell's claim that BHP Billiton's uranium is used in weapons systems.

Students' Union Treasurer Wil Barber said that the Students' Union categorically does not invest in Sudan or Israel and will develop its own SRI policy over the year.

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Library



Top: Security staff member gives directions. Bottom: construction work outside the Library in John Watkins Plaza earlier this term. Photos: Erik Lang

Library students dislike being shown the door

Rajdeep Gahir

The LSE Library has employed new staff to direct students in and out of the building whilst building work obstructs the main entrance.

Students are being made to use an alternative exit, being guided both by signs and additional staff. The School commented that the additional hires are "a sensible way of helping new arrivals settle into unfamiliar surroundings".

It is understood that the entrance to the New Academic Building from Kingsway is not open because the LSE has insufficient security staff to monitor the doors.

Students were surprised by the School's hiring decision.

LSE fresher Arthur Bingqian Ma argued, "It's patronising to think that we are not intelligent enough to follow the signs". The Economics student called the additional Library staffing "a wasteful allocation of resources considering how much in fees we are paying".

Aled Fisher, General Secretary of the Students' Union, agreed that the additional staffing did not seem to be an efficient use of funds.

Questions about the Library's finances were a major issue for the Union last year as it pursued a campaign to keep the Library open 24 hours a day.

The LSE piloted 24 hour opening for the entire 2006-7 academic year and kept records of Library usage throughout the year.

Based on these figures, the School decided that there was insufficient demand for 24 hour opening during the Michaelmas and Lent terms. Last year, the Library was only open 24 hours a day during the exam period.

Students opposed the decision and drew up a petition which gained 1300 signatures, but were unable to influence the School.

The SU hopes to revive the 24 hour library campaign this year, making their proposal more targeted. Fisher said that "we need to redefine the campaign, focusing on what times of the year we feel a 24 hour library is actually required".

However he said that keeping the LSE Nursery open and securing a 'New Union Building' would be the Union's top campaigns.

Peter Barton, a third-year undergraduate who organised last year's campaign, said that a 24 hour library should remain on the agenda.

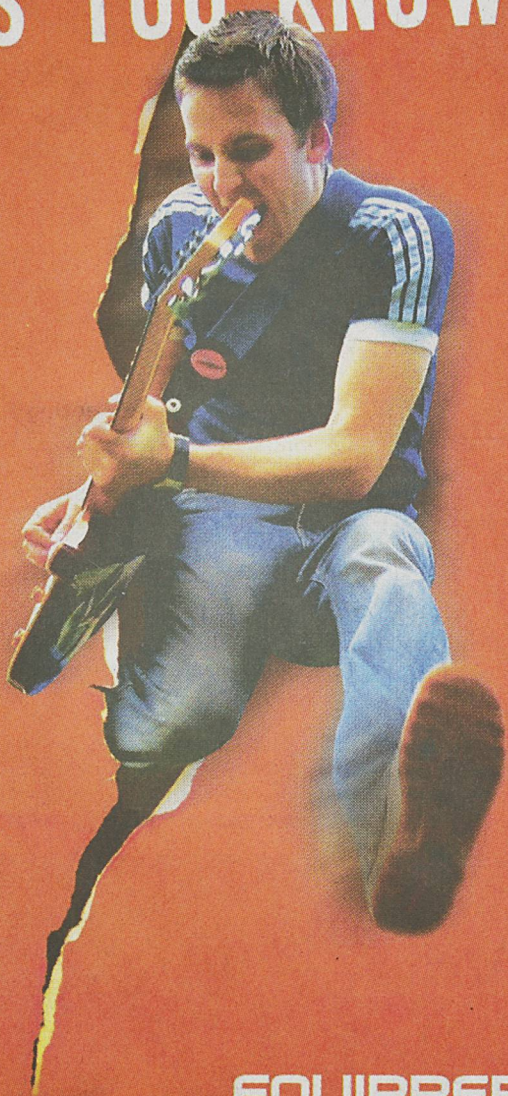
"It would be disappointing if the Union is no longer continuing to make the campaign for the 24 hour library a priority.

"This directly affects students ability to study and access to resources, and should be priority as students have repeatedly shown they want and need more access to the Library."

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New Academic Building



Can't book this: New Academic Building off limits to societies

Student societies room bookings blocked

School-Union memorandum promises use of space

Matthew Willis

The Students' Union has accused the LSE of breaching the basic agreement it has with the Union, after student society room bookings in the New Academic Building were blocked.

"We had no indication that the NAB was off-limits for student societies beforehand - our room request was abruptly cancelled," said Gaayatri Para, who tried to book a room last week for a Women in Business Society event with Bain and Company. "We had received significant interest in this event from our members," she said, adding that it was heavily over-subscribed.

The society had to move the meeting to a smaller room in another building.

The Union's General Secretary, Aled Fisher, raised the issue of room bookings at a meeting of the New Academic Building's user group in August, when the Students' Union did not appear on a draft document listing the groups entitled to use the New Academic Building.

"The impression that was conveyed to us was that it was a clerical sort of error or omission that would be sorted out," he said.

Fisher also noted that the School had said that societies could only hold "top draw" events in the New Academic Build-

ing. Fisher said he was concerned by the vagueness of the term 'top draw'.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the School and Union states that "the Students' Union and Students' Union societies shall have access to School space and equipment related to it on the same basis as other members of the school community."

It adds that "access to higher quality rooms should not be restricted merely to maintain their pristine condition."

In a statement last week, the School said that students and academic departments will be able to suggest amendments to the policy before it is finalised in November. The School emphasised that there may still be scope for societies to use the New Academic Building.

"Extra space has become available for student meetings" elsewhere on campus now that the Building was completed, the School said. "We expect rooms in the New Academic Building to be in high demand for teaching."

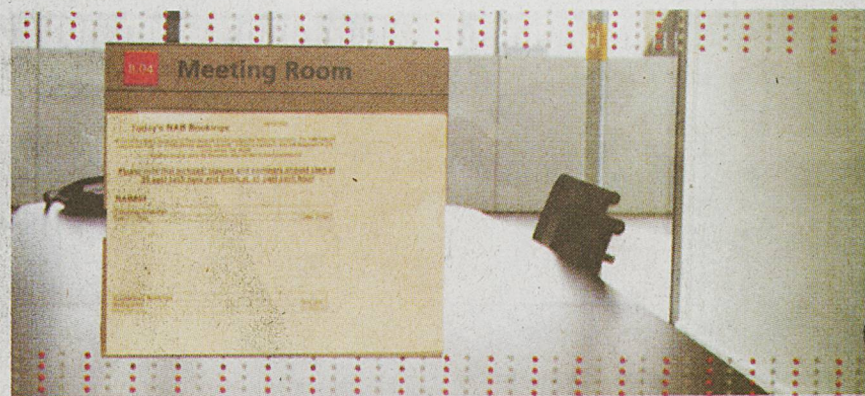
Fisher said that the School's claim to use the New Academic Building for teaching is inaccurate. "If the New Academic Building is booked from nine to nine with classes, then fine, but I don't see that happening. We aren't looking for privileges here. The Memorandum of Understanding is clear that students should be allowed to use the New Academic Building."

Fisher said that similar problems had surrounded the opening of Clement House in 1994. Societies were initially unable to use the new building and room bookings were phased in over a two year period.

It is understood that the Union will try to mobilise society support for changes to School policy before the November meeting.

"If the New Academic Building is booked from nine to nine with classes, then fine, but I don't see that happening"
Aled Fisher
Union General Secretary

Top to bottom: The Lincolns Inn Fields entrance to the New Academic Building; empty rooms in the NAB; the UN society's AGM, which was booked and held in Tower One Photos: Erik Lang



Socially Responsible Investment at LSE

School investment strategy comes under moral fire

Analysis

How would SRI adoption affect the School?

Michael Deas

The LSE invests over £40 million from donations, and until recently also invested tuition fees. The LSE uses an investment management firm, Barclays Capital Investment, who invest LSE's money in the arms companies Boeing, BAE Systems and Rolls Royce. They also invest the School's money in a number of firms associated with environmental and humanitarian disasters, including BP, Exxon Mobil and Nestle. Additionally, Barclays invests a large proportion of the School's invested money in BHP Billiton, a firm which LSE documents say "provides uranium for both nuclear power generation and weapons production." Students' Union officers issued LSE with a proposal for the implementation of an SRI policy in November 2006. Various School committees have since discussed the possibility of implementing an SRI policy. In the meantime, UGM motions have made it official Students' Union policy to call upon the School to divest from firms that profit from the conflict in Darfur and the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. In statements issued by Council during last spring and summer, the LSE made it clear that in the future "engagement rather than divestment should be the basis of development of the School's SRI policy." A

policy of engagement will not stop the LSE from investing in unethical companies, but would require the School to engage with the companies that it invests in to promote ethical behaviour. It also rules out the possibility of targeted divestment from Darfur and the occupation of Palestine.

The School has declared that it must be consistent in the way it treats donations and investments. It worries that a policy of divestment would mean that it would be unable to accept a large proportion of donations because of the nature of the donors. It is likely that a divestment policy would have prevented the School from accepting £2.5 million from the Abu Dhabi royal family because of concerns about human rights there for example. The School has accepted donations of over £1 million from BP in recent years. BP cut safety budgets in order to cut costs, leading to several environmental disasters and 15 deaths at an oil refinery explosion in Texas in 2005. The report seen by the Beaver describes the School's concerns as "alarmist". A policy of engagement would minimise the impact upon donations, it says.

The report seen by the Beaver has also rubbished the LSE's claims that responsible investment generates more modest returns, and has said that some institutions have even experienced an increased investment performance after adopting a stringent SRI policy.

It is also likely that there has been opposi-

tion to a policy of divestment within the School's administration because individuals involved in the decision making process are involved in the kind of firms and activities which the LSE would be divesting from. During a meeting of a sub-group of the Investments Committee, one of its members admitted to involvement in the management of funds for a company that was, at the time, in the "highest offenders" category in Sudan divestment company rankings.

Ethical investment experts say that engagement requires a large critical mass in order to affect real change, describing it as a "weak" alternative to divestment based policies.

In reference to the Students' Union's lack of SRI policy, which sees it invest in uranium miner BHP Billiton, Treasurer Will Barber said that "our current situation regarding investments is unacceptable and I hope that we can remedy this as soon as possible."

"Implementation of an SRI policy would require the agreement of all members of the Executive of the Students' Union as such any decision has had to be postponed since the start of term and all members have returned from holiday," he said. Students' Union officers have spoken about going beyond adopting an SRI policy by pursuing "positive" investment, whereby the Students' Union's funds are invested in such a way as to create positive change - such as in renewable energy research.



"It is inexcusable for an institution based on learning and progress to fund a trade that fuels war and perpetuates poverty."

Tim Street

Campaign Against the Arms Trade

"It is unacceptable that the LSE does not have SRI policy. This leads to a major conflict between the values of the School's Human Rights Centre and Conflict Studies Centre, and its investments"

Justus Rollin

Students' Union Environment and Ethics Officer

Focus SRI at other universities

Rajan Patel

Progress on socially responsible investment (SRI) has been mixed across UK universities, with some universities preferring ad hoc divestment to an overarching SRI policy.

Two of the largest Scottish universities have the clearest position on SRI.

The University of St. Andrews has just moved most of its endowment fund into a Sustainable Future Investment programme run by Morley Fund, an investment manager.

The majority of St. Andrews' £35 million endowment is now tied to investments that "promote socially responsible behaviour and sustainability" and do not

fund "the manufacture of arms and management of animal testing".

After lobbying from students, the university established a staff-student committee to review the SRI criteria and investment decisions. The group meets on at least a twice-yearly basis.

The University of Edinburgh's SRI policy makes provision for "any group within the University to draw attention to any investment held by the university that is considered 'unethical'".

Human rights abuse, discrimination on grounds of race and persistent environmental damage are cited as examples of unethical behaviour.

However, the university has recently been criticised by ethical investment campaigners for investing in Barclays, Tesco and other companies active in Zimbabwe.

The difficulties with establishing a comprehensive SRI policy have delayed

progress at some UK institutions.

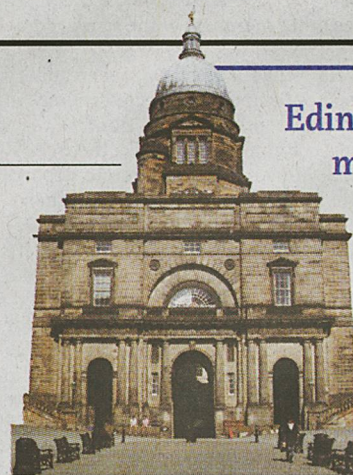
Oxford University agreed in principle to move towards SRI in May 2006. However, a committee was only set up in April this year to implement the agreed changes.

Oxford is now committed to "engage with companies in which it might invest" to encourage good practice and to screen all investments on ethical grounds.

A student representative will sit on the Review Committee that monitors the University's investments and makes policy recommendations.

Other universities have taken a more ad hoc approach.

Following pressure from students, UCL and many Cambridge colleges are divesting from the arms trade. UCL's provost, Malcolm Grant, said recently that UCL is "taking on board student concerns" and will consider whether to move its investments into ethical trusts.



Edinburgh University's SRI policy makes provision for "any group within the University to draw attention to any investment held by the University that is considered 'unethical'"

Edinburgh University

The majority of St. Andrews' £35m endowment is now tied to investments that "promote socially responsible behaviour and sustainability"

St. Andrews University





Titan missile in a silo
 Many institutional SRI policies are designed to prevent investment in nuclear weapons
 Flick user King Daffy

Timeline LSE and SRI

November 2006

LSE Students' Union proposes SRI paper. School's initial response is positive

Michaelmas 2007

LSE Director of Finance and Facilities, Andy Farrell, tells The Beaver he is not prepared to comment on SRI as a policy would be in place by July 2008

March 2008

Divestment principle rejected

November 2008

FGPC meeting. FGPC to report back in Michaelmas 2009

Sudan divestment campaign active on campus

Lent term 2007

LSE Students' Union passes controversial motion to divest from the Israeli occupation of Palestine

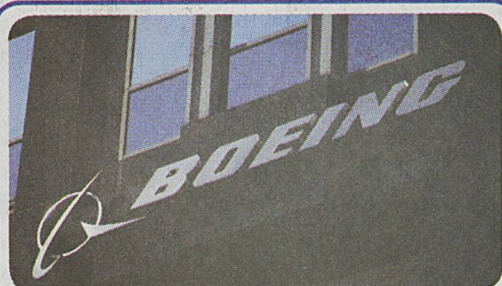
February 2008

With no policy yet in place, Farrell says he will comment after the Finance and General Purposes Committee (FGPC) meeting in November 2008

October 2008

Focus

Who are the arms companies inside LSE's investment portfolio?



- Boeing Integrated Defence Systems manufacture a wide range of military planes, tanks and unmanned aerial vehicles.
- In 2003 Boeing CEO Phillip Condit and CFP Michael Sears resigned over corruption allegations.

- BAE Systems manufacture military aircraft, tanks and nuclear submarines for the UK military.
- Until 2006 the Serious Fraud Office were investigating allegations of corruption surrounding BAE Systems' arms deals with Saudi Arabia.
- The OECD Anti-Bribery Working Group recently criticised the UK government's decision to close the investigation.



- Rolls Royce is an aircraft engine maker that designs and manufactures aircraft engines in partnership with firms including BAE Systems and Boeing.
- The Campaign Against the Arms Trade list Rolls Royce as a firm which should be divested from because of their instrumental role in the manufacture of military aircraft.

Price comparisons



Union shop beats competition in prices test

Rajan Patel

A Beaver survey of student shops across the University of London has challenged conventional wisdom that LSE students get a raw deal in the Students' Union (SU) shop.

Reporters from The Beaver visited the student shops at King's College, Imperial, SOAS and Queen Mary this week and compared the prices of a sample basket of food, stationery and miscellaneous goods.

Although the LSE SU shop is the most expensive purveyor of Lucozade, LSE prices for every other item in the survey either equal or undercut those in other University of London shops.

The LSE sells the cheapest Mars bars (43p) and cans of Coca Cola (52p) out of the shops surveyed and matches prices in the Sainsbury's on High Holborn.

Imperial College – no longer part of the University of London – is the cheapest for stationery. Popular 200 page Pukka Pads and Staedler highlighters are 60 and 70 per cent cheaper respectively at Imperial.

However, the LSE is much cheaper than high-street stationery's Ryman. Bic propeller pencils on sale at 19p in the SU shop cost £1.79 for three in Ryman and the SU shop is also cheaper for files and pens.

A spindle of 20 rewritable CDs on sale

for £4.99 at the LSE costs £8.99 at Ryman.

Students facing higher prices at other university shops have genuinely cheaper alternatives. At Queen Mary – located in Mile End, outside of Central London – students make real savings by shopping at budget stores a few minutes off campus.

Before the results were collected, Marcelo Cardoso and Faiz Nagutha, studying for an MSc in Economics said, "The stationery in the SU shop is very expensive, which is not surprising in the face of the shop's monopoly at LSE."

They agreed with other students that food prices were competitive. Aukriti Yadava, a first year Management student, said that the price of the FT was "fantastic". The FT sells for 50p in most other Union shops.

Kate Slay, the manager of the SU shop, said that the shop can compete with high street stores through participation in a buying group.

She said that the shop runs regular price checks against local competitors on standard items to keep prices down.

Slay acknowledged problems of overcrowding in the downstairs area of the shop, especially in the periods between lectures, but argued that little could be done to alleviate the problem given the space available.

Top: tills in the Students' Union shop in the Quad. Below: The Union shop in the New Academic Building opened last week. Erik Lang



Students set up inflation barometer for campus

Rajan Patel

The Students' Union Economics Society is constructing a student price index to track inflation and its impact on the cost of living for students.

Piloted last year, the LSE Student Consumer Price Index (SCPI) uses data collected from LSE students' to model a 'basket' of the average student's purchases.

Using price data published by the UK's Office of National Statistics, the survey team will record the monthly changes of the cost of goods in an LSE student's basket.

Union officials support the initiative and say that the results may inform Union policy proposals to the School.

The Union's General Secretary, Aled Fisher, said that the data could be used to evaluate whether financial support for students, such as the LSE's Hardship Fund, is adequate.

Former Economics Society President Tharshan Thavagnanam encouraged students from all academic departments to get involved to make the findings representative of the student body.

Thavagnanam said that all expenditure had to be included. "We're talking money spent on anything, from trips to the theatre, fine dining, potentially less fine dining and even Friday night in Fresh."

The Beaver will publish monthly SCPI figures in the Social section from next week.

Item	LSE	Ryman
Ringbinder	£0.99	£1.49
3 Bic pens	£0.57	£1.79
20 CDRs	£4.99	£8.99
Highlighter pen	£0.99	£1.09
Lever arch folder	£1.99	£2.99
Total cost	£9.53	£16.35

WAIT.

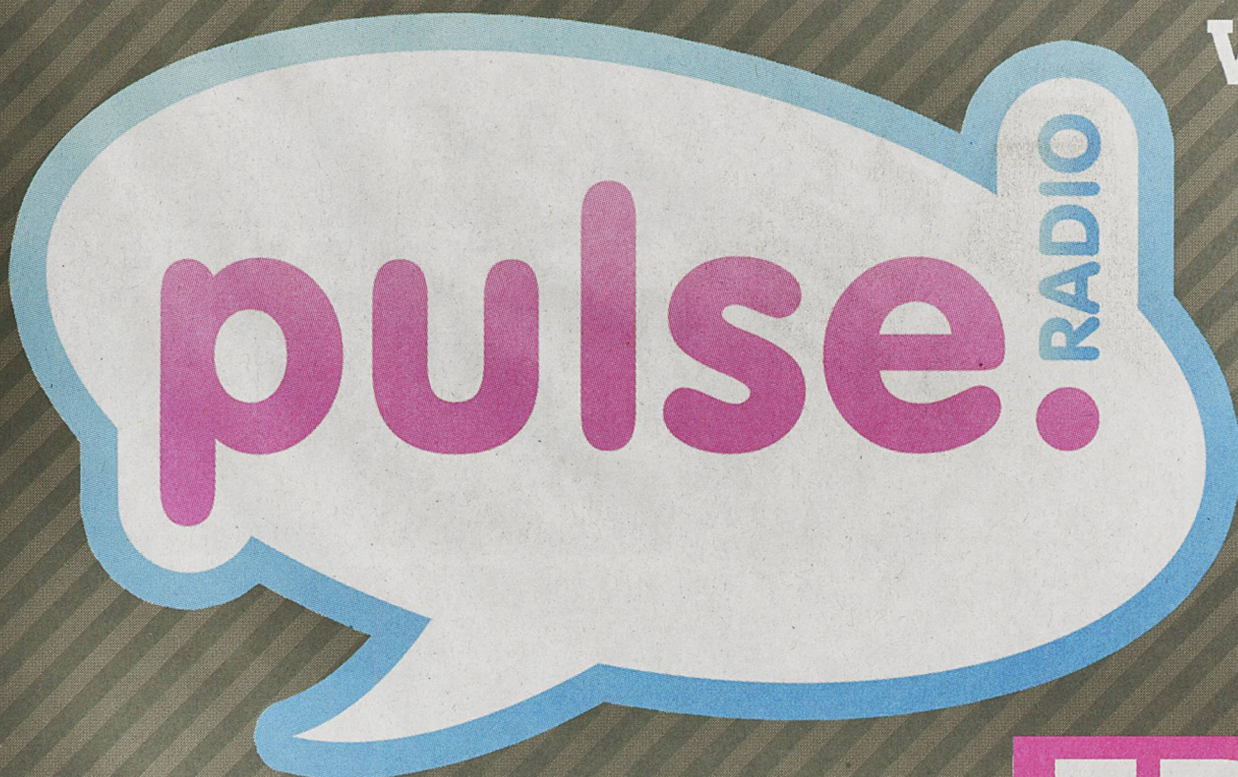
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LSE STUDENTS'
UNION

SHOP

Comment

Teaching standards should not be our only focus

There are more issues to take into account if we want the LSE learning experience improved

Jonathan
Damsgaard



Now, I may simply have been lucky in my teacher allocation last year, but I honestly cannot relate to the outrage that some students are voicing at the teaching standards here at LSE. However, the facts speak for themselves: LSE is ranked 107th out of 149 UK universities in student satisfaction, so students are obviously dissatisfied about something. Yet is this only due to a lack of teaching standards?

In principle, I do not oppose reviving teaching; still, I contend that there are certain improvements that are equally as relevant, or even more pressing.

Firstly, LSE's exam system is archaic. Most of our courses are 100 per cent exam based. According to my research, allowing for the exception of dissertations, the Government Department, for example, only has two undergraduate courses that incorporate coursework. It is even worse for the Economics Department, where no courses at all use coursework to assess students. This is the same for International Relations, Accounting, Economic History, and Mathematics. Only the Geography Department seems to embrace the idea where 80 per cent of courses use it. Surely it isn't too much to ask that a course such as EC102, which around 75 per cent of first years take, could incorporate a bit of coursework or class participation into the curriculum? The emphasis on quantitative results rather than student development is just as large a source of resentment as incompetent teachers.

Exams are an outdated method of assessment. If the School really wants to be known as a centre of excellence then the exam system needs a revamp. Movement towards assessment based more on coursework and student participation should be the way forward.

Secondly, one point of concern that some students have raised is the limited choice of courses on offer for undergraduates, in contrast to postgraduates. Most shocking is the Government Department,



Flickr user
Xin Li 88

which has a 7:1 ratio of postgraduate courses to undergraduate. The possibility of introducing 'Social Science 101', while admirable, is simply not enough. A move towards a more 'Americanised' system of term-based papers would not only allow quantitative students to develop a more 'well-rounded' set of skills, but reduce the emphasis on final examinations in May and June. It would also allow students to specialise further in the third year. If we had term-based papers students would surely branch out of their departments more.

Thirdly, why exactly is it that we do not do retakes? Even Oxford and Cambridge, our constant source of comparison, allow their students to re-sit exams in September. The current arrangement at LSE is borderline punitive. Not only does the School extract an additional fee for repeating the course, but I recall a World Bank report that estimated that one year

of further education raises lifetime income by 20%. Talk about opportunity costs. Its not even like students are weeded out after failing; in fact, they are actively encouraged to stay on and take advantage of the extensive support systems in place for struggling students. So why this peculiar retake arrangement? Is it unreasonable to request retakes in September?

Even if one does manage to pass the exams (some, like EC102, are constantly rumoured to have failing rates of 40 per cent - although this doesn't actually seem to be the case) there is no system in place for exam feedback, or room for critical review. Even for those few courses that do offer coursework, students are not supplied with an assessment breakdown, and there is no feedback based on exam papers whatsoever. This is especially relevant in the qualitative subjects such

How are we supposed to improve our game if we are not informed of our weaknesses?

as Government, History or International Relations where several essays need to be produced in the exam. How are we supposed to improve our game if we are not informed of our weaknesses? The move towards "academic advisers", outlined in the forty recommendations of the School's Academic Board, is certainly a step in the right direction. But I wouldn't say students necessarily need more face time (a prohibitively expensive reform) but simply more extensive feedback on progress and submitted work.

If we are looking for long term solution, perhaps we should go for a more cost-effective approach than spending 80 per cent of the funds allocated by the Task Force in reducing class sizes - and even then only for masters students. I'm not saying teaching shouldn't be improved - go for it. I'm just saying we shouldn't stop there.

Union

Jack



Jack could still smell fresh meat in the amphitheatre. This Meeting he most looked forward to, as the chance of seeing a red face or two was higher than he could remember. Time would prove his anticipation correct.

Expecting the amphitheatre to be jam-packed with crusty faces and unbruised egos, Jack was aghast to trip over a tumbleweed upon entry. Nope, not a tumbleweed, just Smelldon. He was promised by the unholy trinity and Smelldon it would "be different this year." "No really," they pleaded. "People will come this year."

With the lonely wind still whistling in his ears and bristle of tumbleweed wacking him in the face, Jack awaited DJ Smelldon's report. EGO 1 - SU Website nil.

In a shocking revelation/admission of personal failure, Smelldon conceded that it was "still crap". We've played this game before with that Dewj-bag communicator from two years ago...

Culture clash, class war and dodgy bearded dictators, not to mention slimey oil-stenched money which Smelldon desperately needs for The Beaver website... Surely, Jack thought, that should up the turnout.

As reports continued on for far too long, Jack was feeling frustrated. The Chair of the C&7 Dwarves Committee was starting to sound like an over-enthusiastic toddler jumping the proverbial gun with that Societies Constitution. But when the noise died down, a Cookie Monster piped up, "Nadeem, you are a lying, incompetent clown!" An awkward silence as we desperately held our breath for the magic two words, "No Confidence". Down came a sorry excuse for a balcony boy to make his case for sacking the Seven Dwarves. But in retort, some awkward Welshman told us how the Seven Dwarves were the lesser of a pool of 40 first time election candidates' evils.

Jack learned about some Shakey mofo who

has been dead for a while who was very mean to a lot of people who no one seems to like. Well that's not all true, we like his money. Well that's not strictly true either, we like that he put a lot of women in schools.

Then Tarzan Marwa revealed a something shocking. Almost Beaver front page news - Stop Press: THIS JUST IN - HONG KONG THEATRE NAMED AFTER A GULAG...

If it wasn't for people actually liking the Shakey mofo, who by the way, also has a theatre named after him, Jack was hoping to hear a slow applause for Tarzan astounding revelation.

However, Tarzan did impress us with an excerpt from his soon to be published memoirs: Escape from Alcatraz (Oriental Version). Chilling stuff...

What fascinated Jack the most was how Baker-Maker bitterly clung to the limelight, asking one of the unholy trinity if he was going to clean up the mess from yesteryear... Well, now

that you mention it Baker-Maker... And what a mess indeed...

Emani Akwan Kenobi is silent but deadly. Having charmed with stress-testing condoms, Emani got straight on to trashing Shakey in the amphitheatre. Alas, Shakey's Praetorian Guard of wealthy, expatriate, LSE-educated groupies, silenced Emani with the efficiency of well-oiled machinery. Shakey democracy prevailed after all.

So Shakey keeps his Coliseum in the NAB. The unholy trinity + Smelldon ran off to their East Wing Bunker to find a rich guy who they're comfortable with naming something after, preferably some non-Shakey mofo who keeps his Fabian roots with a bit of champagne. Jack can reveal that Team Trinity + Smelldon is vetting Simon Cowell as the closest fit.



The Beaver

Established in 1949
Issue No. 689

Telephone: 0207 955 6705 Email: thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk

Book them and they will come

For a change last week, the Beaver held its regular editorial board meeting in the New Academic Building. As many in the School and student body will know, the Beaver's office is lodged in one of the dingiest corners of East Building. So are the offices of Pulse radio, the Students' Union managers, and two Union sabbatical officers, which are all based on the same corridor. That's where Beaver editors usually meet; but it's not a very nice place to hold meetings. So why not, we thought, make use of the acres of space the New Academic Building has recently created on campus? Why not let ten thousand square metres of Kingsway real estate shine a little light in our stunted journalistic lives?

Because, in common with all the student societies in the Union, we are not allowed to book rooms in the New Academic Building. That

didn't stop us. We just found an empty room. No one kicked us out. And we were certainly not interfering with the "high demand" for teaching space that the School says justifies locking out societies. Most other rooms on two floors of classrooms were empty, on a weekday late afternoon.

It is particularly shameful that the School is now using this teaching argument to wheedle its way out of having violated the Memorandum of Understanding it has with the Union on this issue, when in the summer it told the Union's General Secretary that this was all due to a clerical error.

The Memorandum of Understanding is the defining constitutive document that sets out the legal relationship between LSE and the LSE Students' Union. It states quite clearly that Union organisations are allowed the same access to School space as anyone else on campus. It is our

right, not a privilege. Above all, that provision has the same legal status as anything else covered in the agreement. And it covers everything. So if the School is now going to decide that it should be allowed to pick and mix which bits of the Memorandum are applicable to it, then we may as well tear that document up and let chaos ensue. Why should the Students' Union, shut up in its East Building warren, uphold its end of the bargain? Why should LSE students continue to place any trust in the School to think of their welfare?

If nothing else, the authorities should ask themselves why on earth they would want to keep a landmark building on campus aloof from societies, the best expression of the student body. That is no way to build a community. School officials told the Beaver as the building opened that they hoped the "social spaces" provided would not get too crowded between

lectures. Looking out over the graveyard quiet of the Atrium last week, it appeared congestion is going to be the least of the School's worries if it carries on denying the Building to student societies. It is a shame that an administrative blunder might already be turning this amazing architectural vision into an empty waste of space.

The School must expedite opening the New Academic Building's rooms to students and their societies, for its own good. Students should not have to wait two years for bookings to be phased in, as happened with Clements House. And until the School reforms on this issue, the Beaver has one piece of advice for students involved in Union societies. Go to the New Academic Building. Find a room that is empty. Don't bother booking. Use it. And pay no heed to a daft ruling that the School cannot enforce and should never have imposed on us.

The School and SRI

If LSE had agreed in principle to adopt a stringent policy on Socially Responsible Investment and was busy working out the details, then The Beaver could understand the delay. SRI policies are difficult to implement. Oxford University spent two years making sure they got it right. But after two years of endless meetings and countless reports, our School's administration cannot even yet decide whether to get a policy at all.

Further still, for all its dithering, the School has been unable to give a simple explanation for why it won't make the change.

Well, let the Beaver give some reasons of its own. First of all, the School invests money to secure its finances far into the future. SRI channels funds towards ventures that are environmentally and socially stable in the long term. In other words, adopting SRI would reinforce the

investment strategy the School is supposed to be carrying out anyway.

Secondly, then, in no way would switching policy represent a financial death-knell for LSE's money. The examples of other higher education institutions, Oxford included, have already shown this not to be the case.

But above all, as an academic institution LSE is supposed to be at the frontier of social progress. That's why it will not be good enough just to implement the basic United Nations-derived Principles of Responsible Investment as the School's policy. We must go further. The fact that even UNPRI is considered by some a step too far shows how much perceptions must change. SRI will benefit the School immensely, not just to salve its conscience but in terms of pure financial self-interest in an uncertain world.

The Zayed factor

Sheikh Zayed has left the building. Well, we wish. The New Academic Building's largest lecture theatre will still bear the name of a man many on campus have said was a tyrant, and still others a great nation-builder. For the Beaver's part, we still think that naming a lecture theatre after a noted oppressor of free speech was an irony too far for the School. But last Thursday's defeat of a Union General Meeting motion against the naming will from now on effectively defuse Sheikh Zayed as an issue in the Union's politics and media.

Union leaders say they will respect the vote and move on from the Sheikh Zayed affair. They have already established promising campaigns on saving the Nursery and promoting teaching reform throughout the School, after all. But we don't think this defeat should discourage them from taking up political campaigns in the future.

That's what students' unions are for. There is a lot of sentiment on this campus that Union politics should solely be about welfare issues. That ignores the point that many of the political disputes that seem to be way above most student politicians' league in fact reflect changes that are going on in society in general, and how the academic institutions where unions are based contribute to that society. They need to be debated for that reason.

So it is important that Union officials learn lessons from the defeat of the motion. Not least, this campaign should have been better organised. Lost as it sometimes was in a fug of dubious allegations of antisemitism, it should have settled on a direct message to convince LSE students. The motion having fallen, it is right for Union politicians to move on from Sheikh Zayed - but not from politics.



21st Oct Price £29.99

PART B

THE COMIC

**1ST AND
LAST ISSUE
EVER**



**CAN HOLLI ESCAPE
JOSH'S GIANT EGO...**



4 02 N V 1 2 8 0 B D R H 0 3 5 8 6 7 P N C J N T 1 6 8 7 K

Images: Flickr users: Philippe Leroyer, Yard Sale and Mr. Bran

KAPOW! PART B THE COMIC!

WELCOME TRUE BELIEVERS! READ ON TO WITNESS EACH SECTION IN GRAPHIC NOVEL GUISE!

THE CENTRESPREAD IS THE LOVE CHILD OF SOME OF LSE'S BEST ARTISTIC TALENT, DETAILING THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR ESTEEMED INSTITUTION.

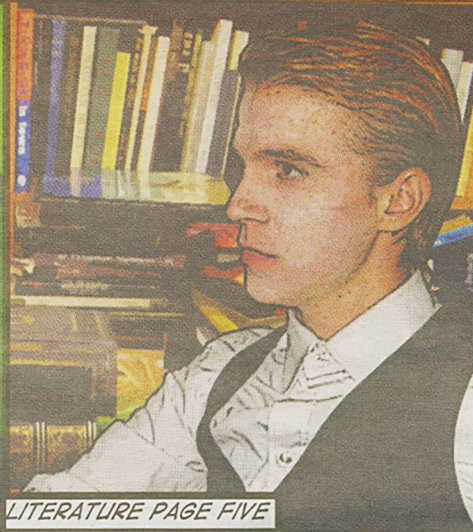
WE INTERVIEWED DAVID FICKLEY, FOUNDER OF THE FIRST BRITISH COMIC FOR TWENTY YEARS.

MARVEL AT PAGE 12 AND 13'S MANGA MANIFICENCE, READ THE PAGES RIGHT TO LEFT IN TRUE MANGA STYLE. THE FRONT COVER IS THE BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS OF RAVI THE BOY WONDER.

A GIGANTIC THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ISSUE. WE BLOODY LOVE IT, HOPE YOU DO TOO. COMMANDERS IN CHIEF - HOLLI EASTMAN AND JOSH HELLER



RANT PAGE THREE



LITERATURE PAGE FIVE



FILM PAGE SIX



TELLY PAGE SEVEN



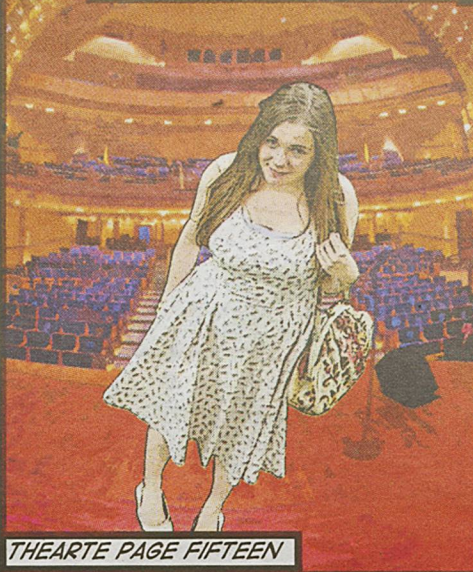
MUSIC PAGES TEN AND ELEVEN



VISUAL ARTS PAGES TWELVE AND THIRTEEN



JOURNEYS PAGE FOURTEEN

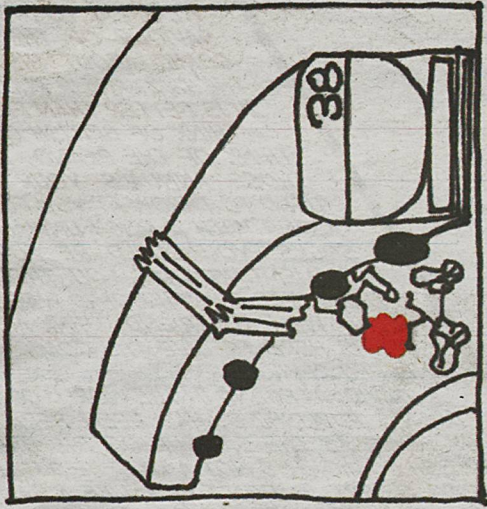
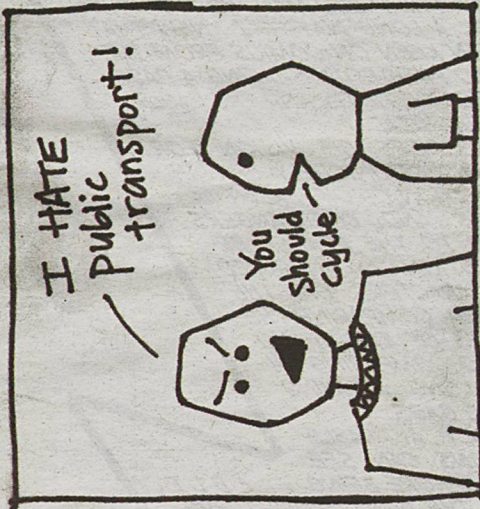
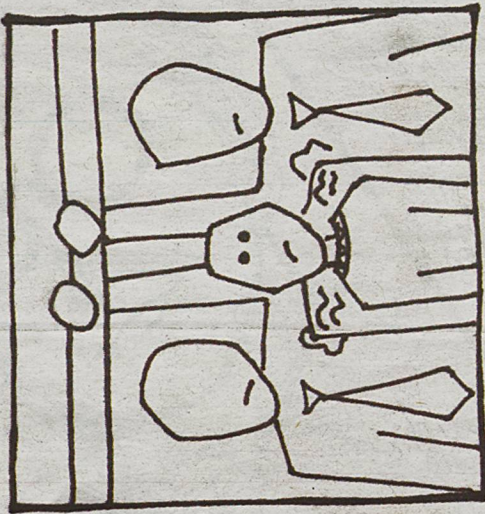


THEARTE PAGE FIFTEEN

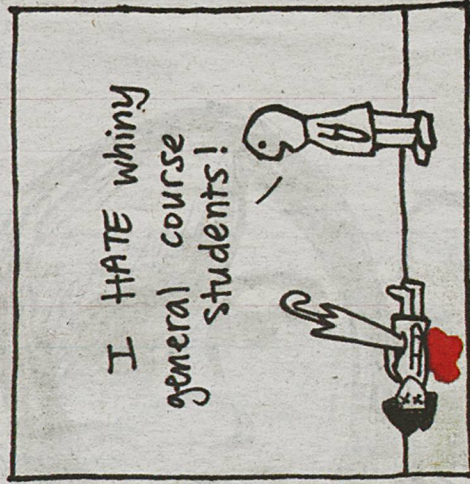
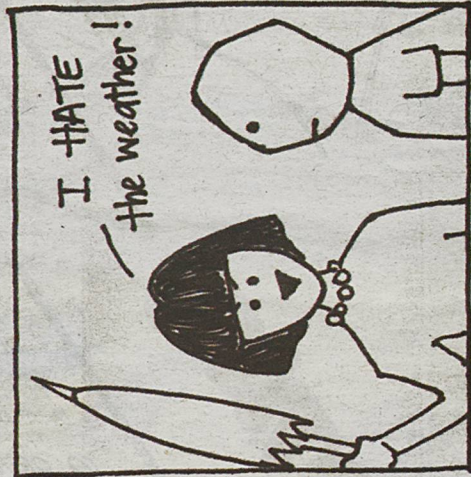
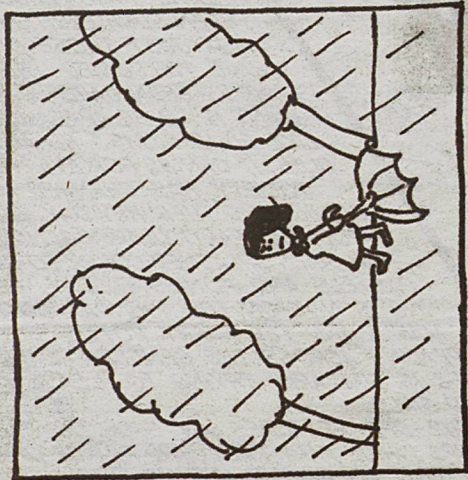


SEX AND GENDER PAGE SIXTEEN

TRANSPORT



WEATHER



abadesi



SALVATION

WE SPEAK TO DAVID FICKLEY, THE SAVIOUR OF THE GREAT BRITISH COMIC ABOUT HIS NEW VENTURE THE DFC, PHILIP PULLMAN, AND WHY 24 IS BETTER THAN FRIENDS...

THINK OF BRITISH COMICS AND YOU THINK OF THE BEANO, THE DANDY, AND THOSE ANNUALS YOUR GRAN ALWAYS LIKED TO THROW AT YOU FOR CHRISTMAS, ALONG WITH A MUCH UNWANTED PAIR OF SOCKS. YOU COULD BE FORGIVEN FOR COMMENTING THAT YOU THOUGHT THAT THE GREAT BRITISH COMIC WAS ACTUALLY DEAD. WELL MY FRIEND, THINK AGAIN, THE DFC IS HERE TO GIVE THE COMIC A MUCH NEEDED REVIVAL.

DAVID, A LEGEND IN THE WORLD OF CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING, HAS BEEN HERALDED BY SOME AS THE SAVIOUR OF THE GREAT BRITISH COMIC. IT'S NOT A TITLE HE'S WILLING TO ACCEPT. "I DON'T FEEL LIKE A SAVIOUR, WE HAVE OVER 40 CONTRIBUTORS, THE DFC IS IN A SENSE A CLEARING HOUSE FOR THEIR TALENT". THE DFC IS A 36 PAGE FULL COLOUR, WEEKLY COMIC, FILLED WITH A PLETHORA OF STRIPS AND STORIES TO ENGAGE ITS READERS, FEATURING TALES FROM THE LIKES OF PHILIP PULLMAN. HE AND FICKLEY GO BACK A LONG WAY - "I KNEW THAT PHILIP HAD BEEN KEEN ON COMICS FROM THE BEGINNING", AND WITH BOTH SHARING A PASSION FOR THE LIKES OF TINTIN AND THE EAGLE, THE PAIRING SEEMED IDEAL.

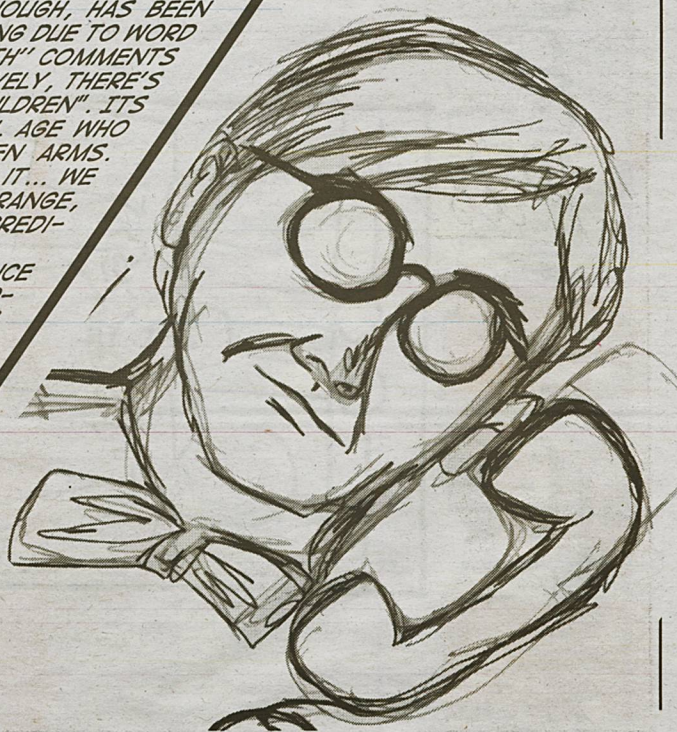
HE DESCRIBES HIS VISION FOR THE COMIC AS UNIQUELY BRITISH. A CULMINATION OF DIFFERENT INSTALLMENTS AND CLIFFHANGERS WHICH LEAD TO THE READER BECOMING EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED WITH THE CHARACTERS ON THE PAGES. FOR DAVID, COMPARING THE DFC TO THE LIKES OF THE BEANO WOULD BE AKIN TO COMPARING 24 TO FRIENDS, OR LONG RUNNING DRAMAS TO ONE-LINE GAGS.

THE COMIC IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO ORDER ONLINE. FANS CAN SEE THE DFC IN CYBERSPACE BEFORE BEING ABLE TO GET THEIR HANDS ON THE REAL THING. THERE WAS A CONCERN THAT BY RELYING SOLELY ON ONLINE SALES THEY MAY BE TYING ONE HAND BEHIND THEIR BACKS. THE BUSINESS THOUGH, HAS BEEN READER LED, WITH SALES INCREASING DUE TO WORD OF MOUTH. "IT'S AN HONEST GROWTH" COMMENTS DAVID. "THE FEEDBACK HAS BEEN LOVELY, THERE'S BEEN SUCH EXCITEMENT FROM THE CHILDREN". IT'S NOT JUST THOSE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE WHO HAVE WELCOMED THE COMIC WITH OPEN ARMS. "WE'VE BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO OVER-AGE IT... WE WANT IT TO BE APPEALING TO A WIDE AGE RANGE, LIKE PIXAR FILMS." HE ADDS, "LIKE THE INCREDIBLES, IT CAN BE FOR EVERYBODY".

SOCIETY HAS CHANGED A GREAT DEAL SINCE COMICS HAD THEIR HEY DAY. IN THE SIXTIES CHILDHOOD WAS PARTICULARLY GENDERED, WITH COMICS FOR GIRLS SPLASHED COVER TO COVER WITH PINKS, PASTELS AND PONIES. TODAY, GENDER TARGETING IS NOT ON THE AGENDA. "BOTH PHILIP PULLMAN'S AND THE HARRY POTTER BOOKS ARE APPEALING ACROSS THE GENDERS" DAVID SAYS THE DFC IS SIMILARLY TRYING TO PLEASE BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS.

THE DFC FEATURES AN ECLECTIC RANGE OF STRIPS WHICH VARY FROM THE PRINCE OF BAGHDAD, AND, MY PERSONAL FAVOURITE, VERN AND LETTUCE, WHICH FOLLOWS THE ADVENTURES OF SHEEP. DAVID ATTRIBUTES THE SUCCESS TO FOLLOWING "THE GREAT CARDINAL RULE STORY-TELLING - WITH GREAT STORY EV-THING ELSE FOLLOWS." IN THIS CASE RIGHT.

CALLING

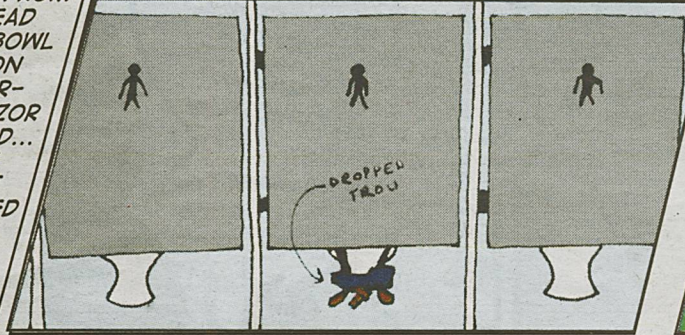


ULYSSES

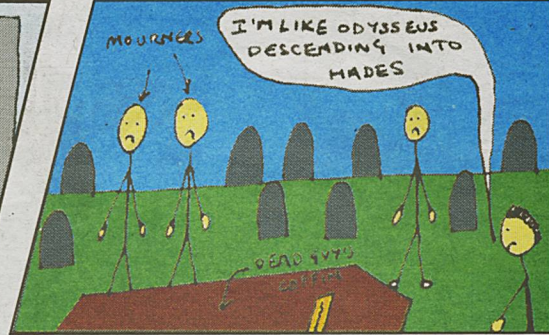
the greatest novel ever reimagined as a comic...

STATELY, PLUMP BUCK MULLIGAN CAME DOWN FROM THE STAIRHEAD BEARING A BOWL OF LATHER ON WHICH A MIRROR AND RAZOR LAY CROSSED... HE HELD THE BOWL ALOFT AND INTONED - INTROIBO AD ALTERE DEI.

MEANWHILE... MR LEOPOLD BLOOM ATE WITH RELISH THE INNER ORGANS OF BEASTS AND FOWLS.



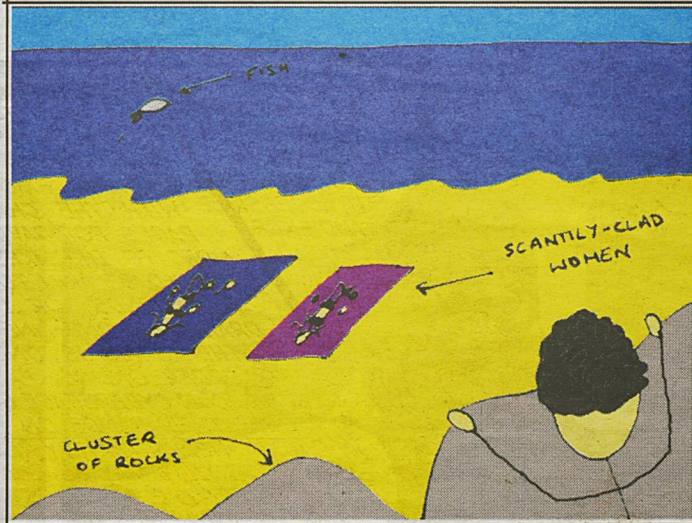
LATER, A FUNERAL BURSTING WITH SYMBOLISM...



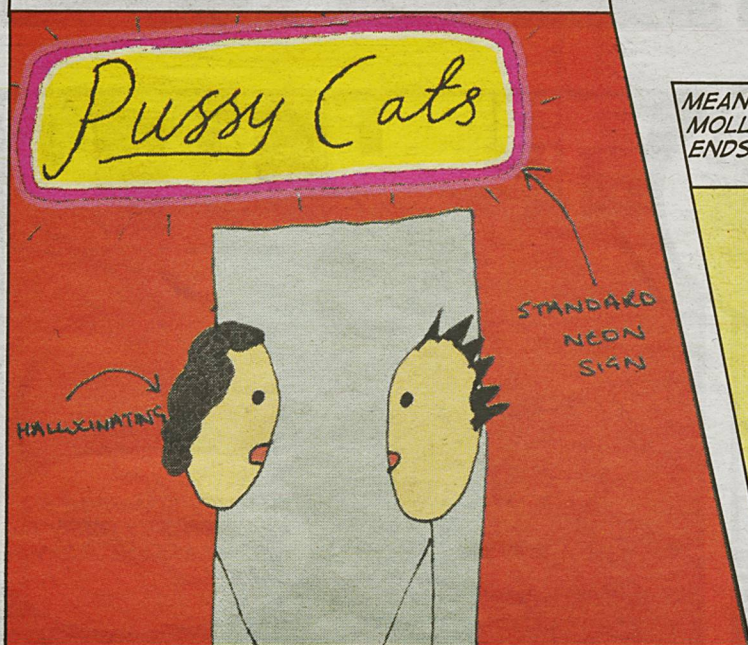
THEN, OUTSIDE A TAVERN SOME ANTI-SEMITISM.



LEOPOLD BLOOM, FOR IT IS HE, NIPS TO THE BEACH FOR A QUICK PERY...



THEN ON TO THE LOCAL BROTHEL...

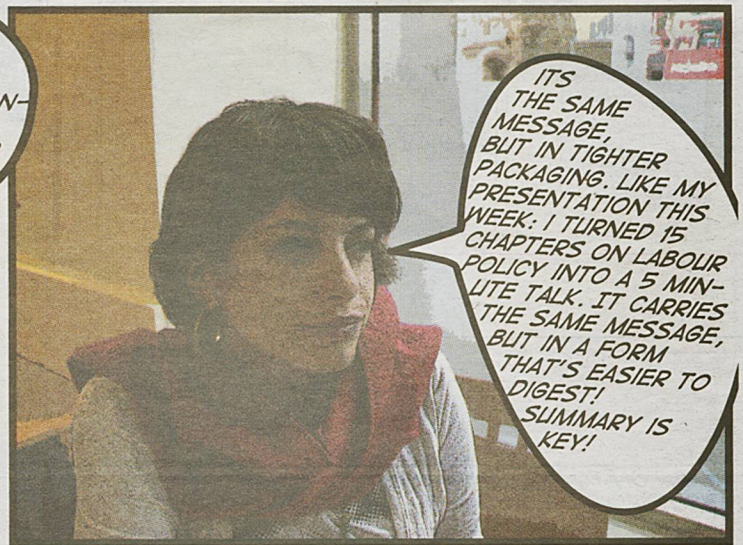
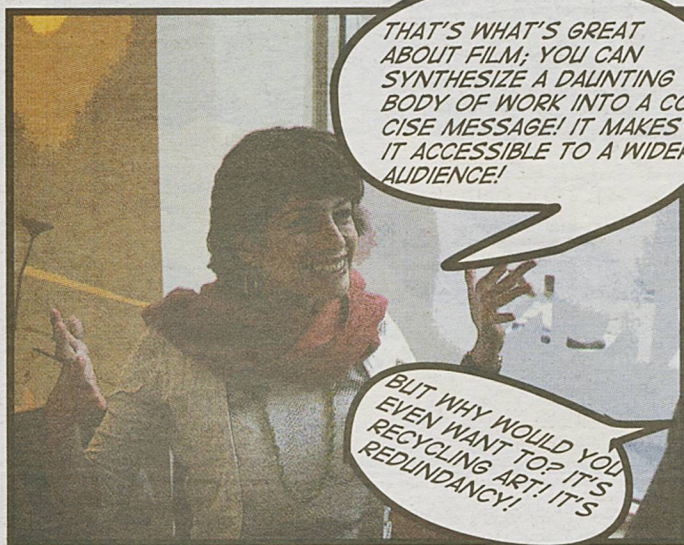
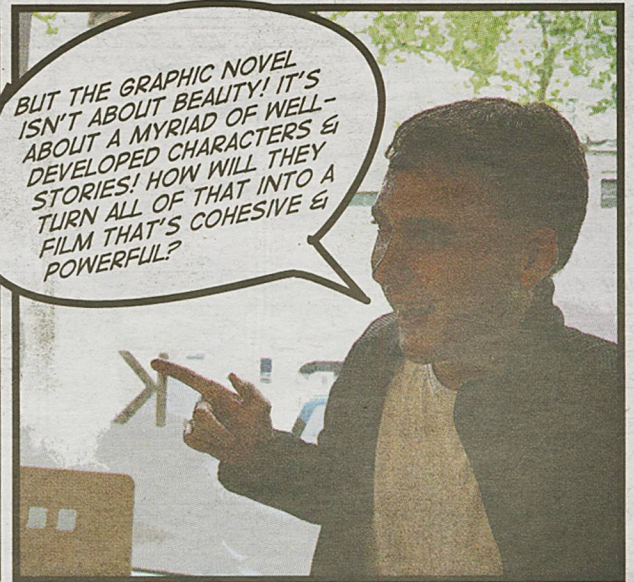


MEANWHILE WITHOUT PUNCTATION BLOOMS WIFE YES MOLLY BLOOM HAS AN AFFAIR YES AND THE NOVEL ENDS YES YES YES...




pop efficiency

PAIL AND MAIA DISCUSS FILM ADAPTATIONS OF COMIC BOOKS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS, BY TRENT MAYNARD




MAUREEN'S MADVENTURES


MAUREEN MALAISE WAS UNFORTUNATE. SHE, UNLIKE THOSE SURROUNDING HER WAS NOT BLESSED WITH SUPERTALENT. PERFECT PHYSIQUE, EXTRAORDINARY INTELLECT, GOOD HEALTH, ALL OF WHICH SHE LACKED WITHIN HER BODY SINCE BIRTH.



DESPITE HER LIES & FALSE PRETENCES OF HER ORDINARY IDENTITY, SHE KNEW THAT SHE JUST WOULDN'T CUT IT AS BEING ON THE SUPERTALENTED ELITE. IN AN ENDEAVOUR TO SAVE HERSELF, MAUREEN SOUGHT SOLACE IN TURKEY TWIZZLERS & DECIDED TO RETREAT INTO THE CAVE OF MELANCHOLY, FROM WHERE NO MAN HAS EVER RETURNED.



IN THE FLASH OF AN ELECTRIC BLUE LIGHTENING, BRAINBOX FRY DETECTED SURGING WAVES OF GLOOM RADIATING FROM THE PATH LEADING TOWARD THE CAVES OF MELANCHOLY AND SUMMONED HIS SPANDEX COHORT WITH AN EXHALING HORN.



IN THE MIDST OF A PINK CLOUD PANACHE GOK & GASTRO OLIVER MATERIALIZED OUT OF THICK DUSTY SULPHEROUS AIR.



THIS HOLY TRINITY OF SUPERTALENTS MUST ONCE AGAIN FULFIL THEIR DAILY CALLING. BEFORE MAUREEN MALAISE COULD GASP IN ASTONISHMENT, BRAINBOX FRY SCREAMED

QI, QI, KNOWLEDGE IS I!

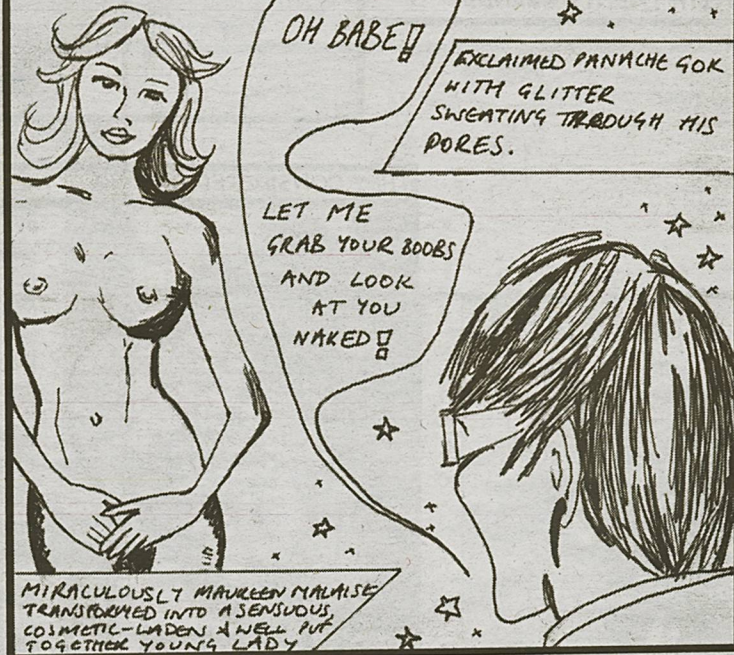
IN FITS OF JITTERS & OUTBURSTS OF LATIN PHRASES, BRAINBOX FRY HAD TELEPATHISED SERIES OF KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM INTO MAUREEN MALAISE'S DORMANT CRANIUM...

OH BABE!

EXCLAIMED PANACHE GOK WITH GLITTER SWEATING THROUGH HIS PORES.

LET ME GRAB YOUR BOOBS AND LOOK AT YOU NAKED!


MIRACULOUSLY MAUREEN MALAISE TRANSFORMED INTO A SENSUOUS, COSMETIC-LADEN & WELL PUT TOGETHER YOUNG LADY.



GASTRO OLIVER SEIZED THE DAMNED & SINFUL TURKEY TWIZZLER FROM MAUREEN'S HAND IN A FIT OF MEAT LAZE...

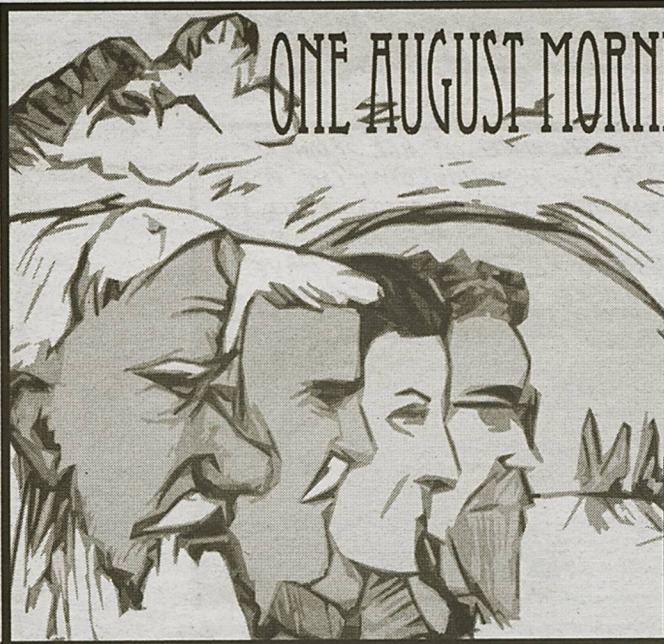
TURKEY TWIZZLERS

AND COOKED HER ANICE WHOLESOME SUNDAY ROAST. PORRA SAID MAUREEN, POLISHING OFF THE LAST FEW SPROUTS

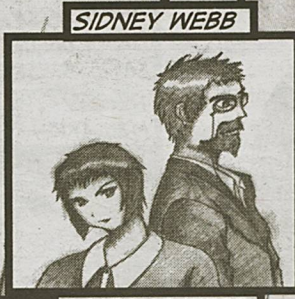


ANOTHER FLASH OF ELECTRIC BLUE LIGHTENING SPARKED AND THE HOLY TRINITY VANISHED. MAUREEN MALAISE DECIDED THE CAVE OF MELANCHOLY WAS FOR BORING PEOPLE AND INSTEAD SHE JOINED THE BIG BROTHER HOUSE, RESIDENCE OF SUPERTALENT CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

ONE AUGUST MORNING IN 1894

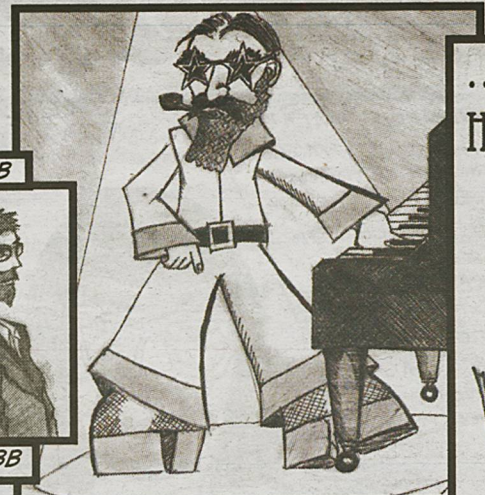


FOUR FABIANS



SIDNEY WEBB

BEATRICE WEBB

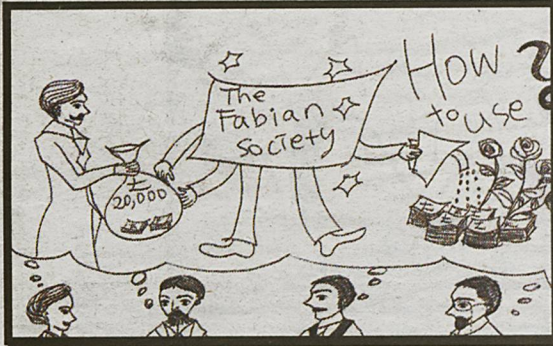


GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

...BRE
HOUSE



GRAHAM WALLAS



WHAT TO DO WITH TWENTY GRAND?

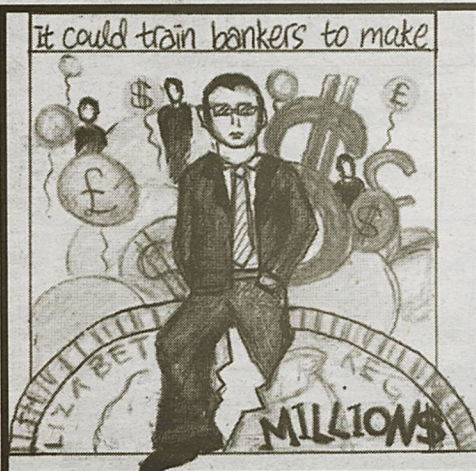


Suddenly, George Bernard Shaw had an idea...

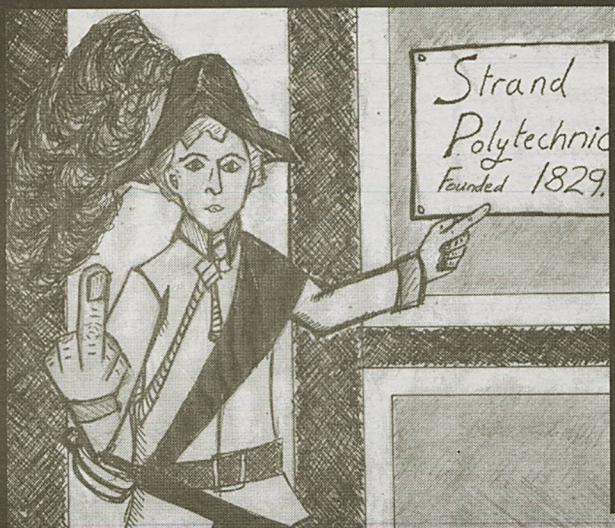
I know this great Place Down in Soho, how much Snack do you think \$20,000 would buy?



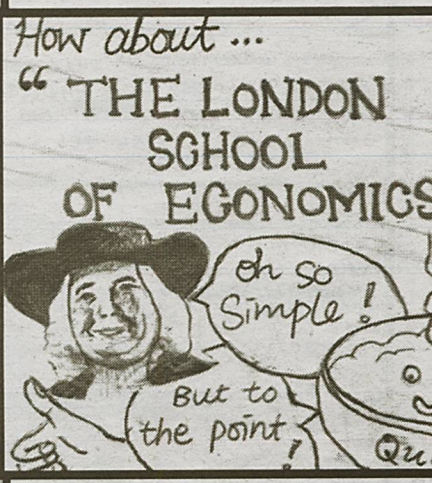
THEY CONSIDERED CALLING IT THE STRAND POLY.



It could train bankers to make



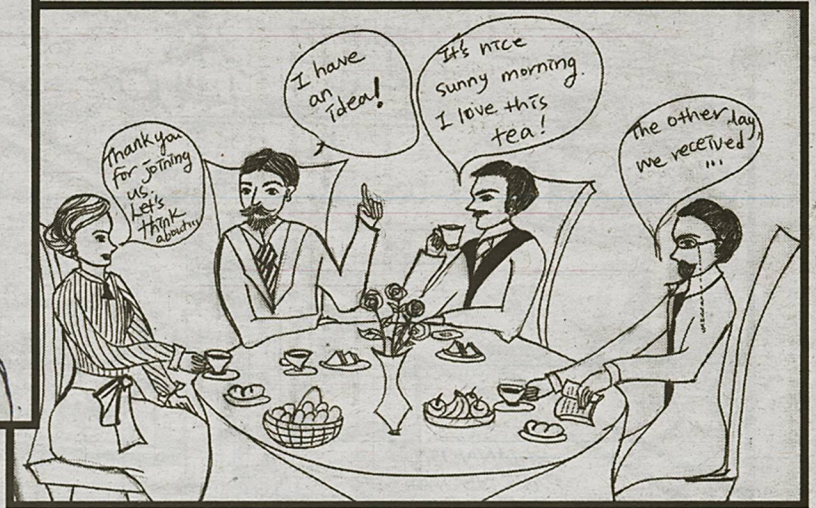
BUT THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON GOT THERE FIRST



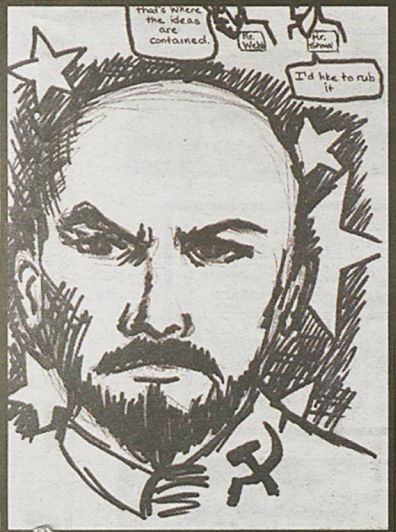
How about ... "THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS"

BRKFAST AT THE BOROUGH FARM PANCAKE
E IN SURREY...

PANCAKE HOUSE

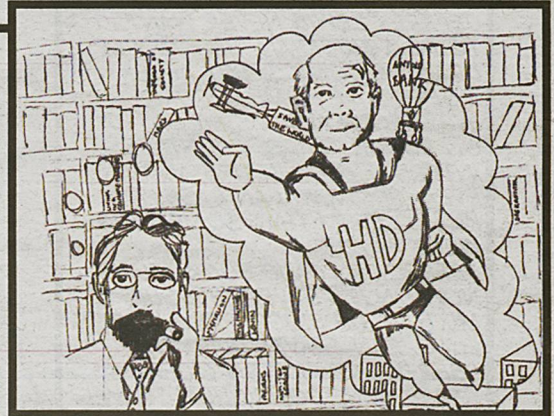


THEY REALLY REALLY REALLY LIKED LENIN



LACK OF MONEY IS ONE WHO PAYS THE ROOT OF MORE INTO THE WORLD THAN HE TAKES FROM IT. A FOOL'S BRAIN DIGESTS PHILOSOPHY INTO FOLLY, SCIENCE INTO SUPERSTITION, AND ART INTO PEDANTRY. HENCE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

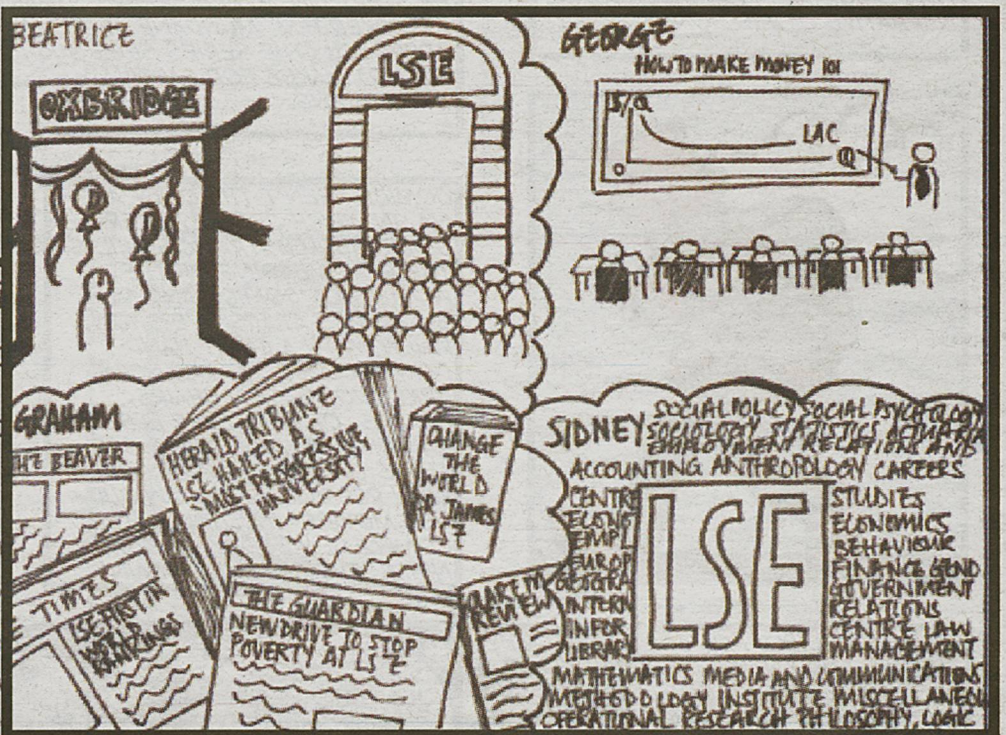
DISMAYED WITH THE OXBRIDGE ORTHODOXY,



THEIR THOUGHTS TURNED TO A SCHOOL.

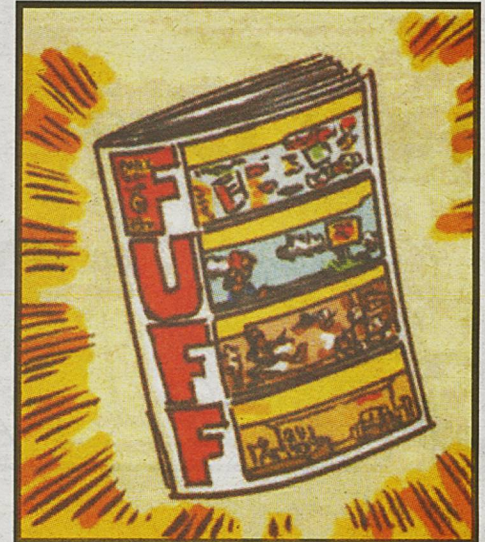


GBS REALLY LIKED THE IDEA



THEY PONDERED WHAT A WONDERFUL PLACE IT WOULD BE

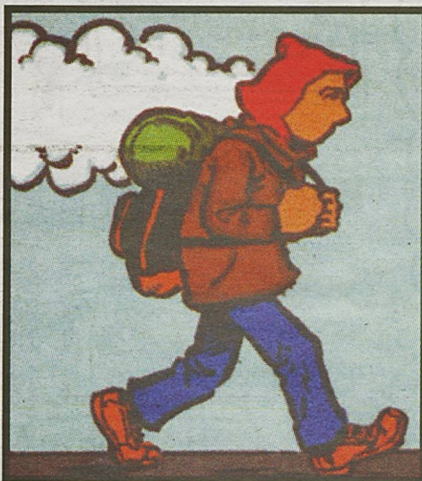
JEFFREY LEWIS - COMIC HERO



JEFFREY LEWIS NEVER WANTED TO BE A MUSICIAN. HE GREW UP DRAWING COMICS, BUT AFTER A SERIES OF HOME RECORDINGS, FOUR ALBUMS RELEASED ON ROUGH TRADE, COUNTLESS INTERNATIONAL TOURS AND AN EVER-GROWING FAN BASE, IT WOULD SEEM THAT SOMETHING WENT WRONG. JEFFREY'S COMIC BOOK "FUUFF", NOW ON ITS SEVENTH ISSUE, IS A MIXTURE OF BIOGRAPHY ("JEFF'S EUROPEAN TRAVEL DIARY"), LIBER-WEIRD FICTION ("JEFF'S SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM TRAVEL DIARY") AND WHIMSICAL INFORMATIVE SEGMENTS ("THE BIZARRE TRUE STORY OF THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM"), FEATURING ALL THE WIT, ORIGINALITY, AND PERSONAL NARRATIVE OF HIS SONGS.



THE "EUROPEAN TRAVEL DIARY" IS A PARTICULAR HIGHLIGHT. TELLING THE STORY OF THE 3 MONTHS HE SPENT HITCHHIKING AROUND EUROPE AT THE TURN OF THE MILLENNIUM (JUST IN CASE IT ALL CAME TO AN END AND HE HAD YET TO TRAVEL THERE), JEFFREY DOCUMENTS EVERY FLOOR HE SLEPT ON, EVERY CREEPY STRANGER HE MET AND EVERY DOG THAT ATTACKED HIM. MUNDANE AS IT MAY SOUND, THE HONEST, TELL-ALL APPROACH (THE SERIES SEES SUCH INTIMACY AS A FAILED ONE-NIGHT STAND) MAKES FOR CAPTIVATING READING.



COMICS AREN'T THE ONLY ARENA IN WHICH JEFFREY EXERCISES HIS ILLUSTRATION SKILLS. THE REAL MERGING OF THE WORLDS OF COMICS AND MUSIC COMES AT HIS LIVE SHOWS WHEN, WITH A GIANT HAND-DRAWN COMIC, HE BALANCES PRECARIOUSLY ON CHAIRS, CRATES, OR WHATEVER ELSE HE CAN FIND, AND DELIVERS SERMONS OF THE STRANGEST KIND. WITH RECENT "VERY LOW BUDGET MOVIES" INCLUDING 'THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF COMMUNISM' 'THE CREEPING BRAIN'



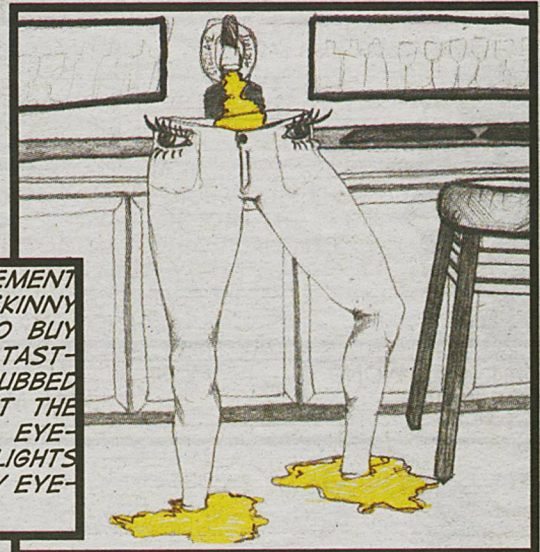
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO DESCRIBE THE WIT AND ENTHUSIASM DELIVERED IN BOTH JEFFREY'S COMIC BOOKS AND "MOVIES", BUT I HOPE I'VE DONE ENOUGH TO CONVINCE YOU OF THE GREATNESS THAT HAS EMERGED FROM THE MEETING OF THESE MEDIA, AND THE UNIQUE BRAIN OF JEFFREY LEWIS.



MAPS AND ATLASES



I TURNED OUT OF THE DRIZZLING STROKE NEWINGTON. NIGHT AND FLICKED MY CIGARETTE INTO A PLANT POT, SHIVERING IN THE NEW WARMTH.



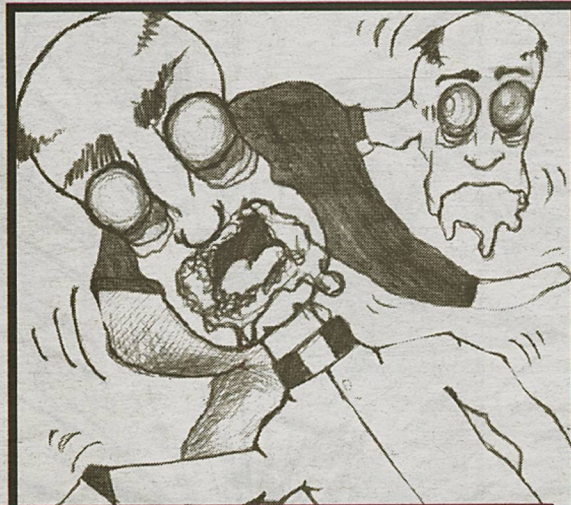
IN THE DINGY BASEMENT THROGS OF SKINNY JEANS JOSTLED TO BUY OVERPRICED BEER TASTING OF CARPET. I RUBBED MY FACE AND FELT THE COLDNESS OF MY EYEBALLS WHILE LIGHTS ERUPTED BEHIND MY EYELIDS, WAITING

TWO BANDS CAME AND WENT, REGURGITATING THE SORT OF INDIE POP FARTS WHICH DRIBBLE INTO YOUR EARS IN SHOPPING CENTRES. AN EXPECTANT HUSH



FELL, UNTIL FOUR MEN EMERGED BLINKING TO VAPID CHEERS AND IRONIC WHOOPS. THEY LOOKED AT EACH OTHER IN SILENCE, POISED...

...BEFORE ERUPTING INTO A DESTRUCTIVE WHIRLWIND OF NOISE. DELIRIOUS HUMMINGBIRDS PIROUQUETTED DESPERATELY INSIDE THEIR GUITARS, DIZZYING DRUMS CIRCLED AND STAGGERED. THEIR MONSTROUS VIRTUOSITY WAS ONLY HUMANISED BY THE SOFT HYPNOTIC LYRICS BURROWING INTO MY BRAIN



I PANICKED AT THE JOY FLOODING MY VEINS, THOSE VELVET CORRIDORS DILLED BY TEPID EXISTENCE, AND FLAILED VIOLENTLY TO THE ALTAR WHERE THE INSANE PRIESTS WERE FOAMING AT THE MOUTH AND DANCING TO SEVEN RHYTHMS AT ONCE.



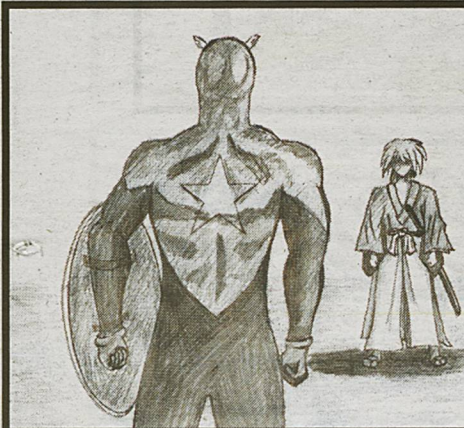
MY FEET BLISTERED AND MY EARS BLED AS I SWAM FURTHER INTO THE PERFECT OCEAN OF WARM SOUND. I WAS WASHED UP THREE DAYS LATER ON A KERB IN NORTH LONDON, WITH A PART OF THAT BAND WHO HAVE RESTORED MY FAITH IN GUITAR MUSIC STILL LIVING DEEP INSIDE OF ME

THE RISE OF MANGA



ARTWORK: CHUN HAN WONG
WORDS: CHLOE EVANS

ARE WE READY FOR AN ASIAN INVASION IN THE COMIC WORLD?
WILL MANGA DOMINATE THE COMIC BOOK WORLD? SOME SAY IT ALREADY HAS...



WE ARE ALL PRETTY FAMILIAR WITH THE AMERICAN MARVEL AND DC COMICS. THEY HAVE BEEN THE SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THE SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS. THERE HAVE BEEN SUPER-MAN, IRON MAN, THE HULK, X-MEN, FANTASTIC FOUR AND NOT FORGETTING THE SUPER POPULAR (NO PUN INTENDED) SPIDER-MAN AND BATMAN FRANCHISES. HOWEVER, ONCE YOU'VE READ THE COMICS OR WATCHED A FEW FILMS, THEY START TO BECOME A CLICHE.

"WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY..."
VOICE OVER FADES

HOWEVER, IN THE LAST TEN YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A SURGE IN POPULARITY WITH JAPANESE MANGA AND KOREAN MANHWA IN THE GLOBAL MARKET.

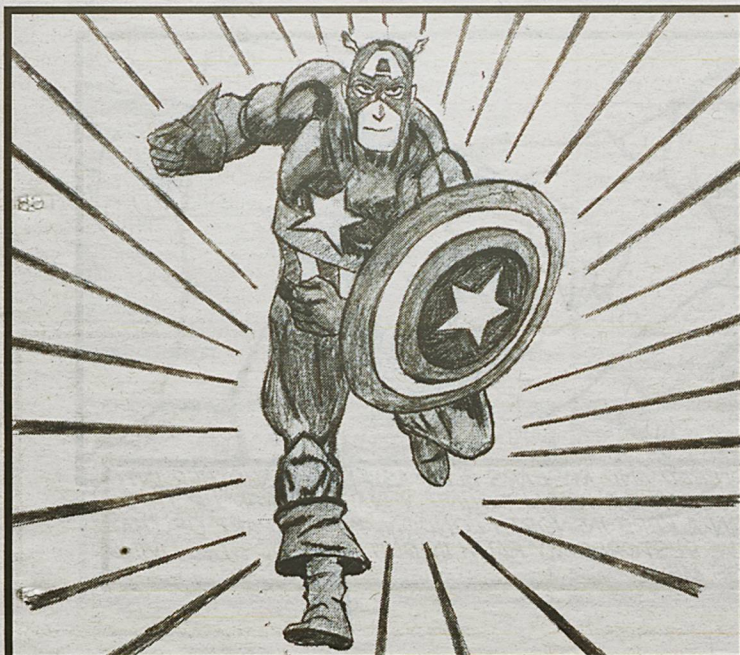
SO WHAT EXACTLY IS MANGA?
MANGA IS THE JAPANESE TERM FOR COMICS OR "WHIMSICAL PICTURES".

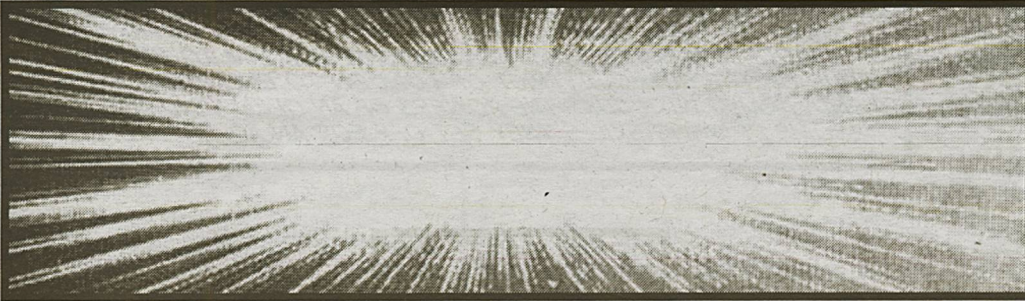


THEY ARE VERY STYLISED IN DESIGN AND THE CHARACTERS ARE PARTICULARLY NOTED FOR THEIR LARGE EYES. THEIR PLOTS ARE NOT JUST LIMITED TO THE SUPER-HERO GENRE; THERE ARE SHOJO (TEENAGE GIRL) AND JOSEI (WOMEN) MANGA WHERE ROMANCE AND DRAMA IS CENTRAL TO THE PLOT. MANGA FOR MALES, SHONEN AND SEINEN, INVOLVE MAINLY ACTION-PACKED STORYLINES WITH ELEMENTS OF COMEDY.



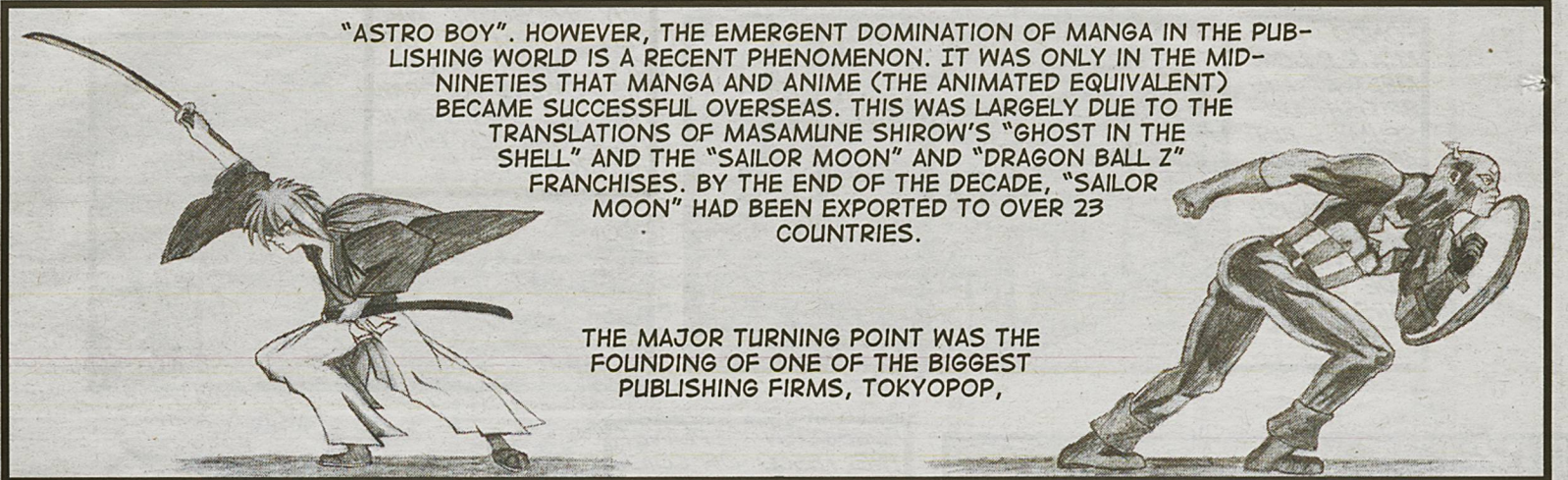
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THESE ARE BUT A FEW OF THE GENRE OF MANGA THAT ONE CAN CHOOSE FROM, AND IT IS THIS DIVERSITY OF STORYLINES HAS MADE IT POPULAR WITH FANS.

THOUGH MANGA HAS ITS ROOTS IN THE MEIJI PERIOD IN JAPAN, ITS CURRENT FORM HAS BEEN POPULAR IN JAPAN SINCE 1945 WHEN OSAMU TEZUKA, KNOWN AS THE "FATHER OF MANGA", CREATED THE SCI-FI CULT CLASSIC

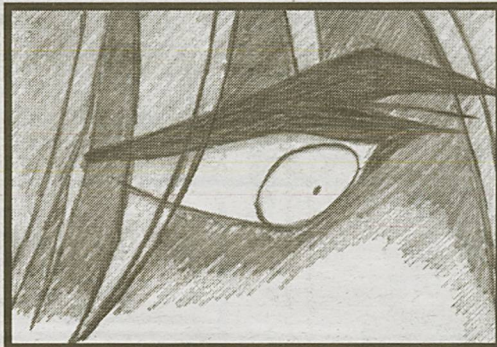
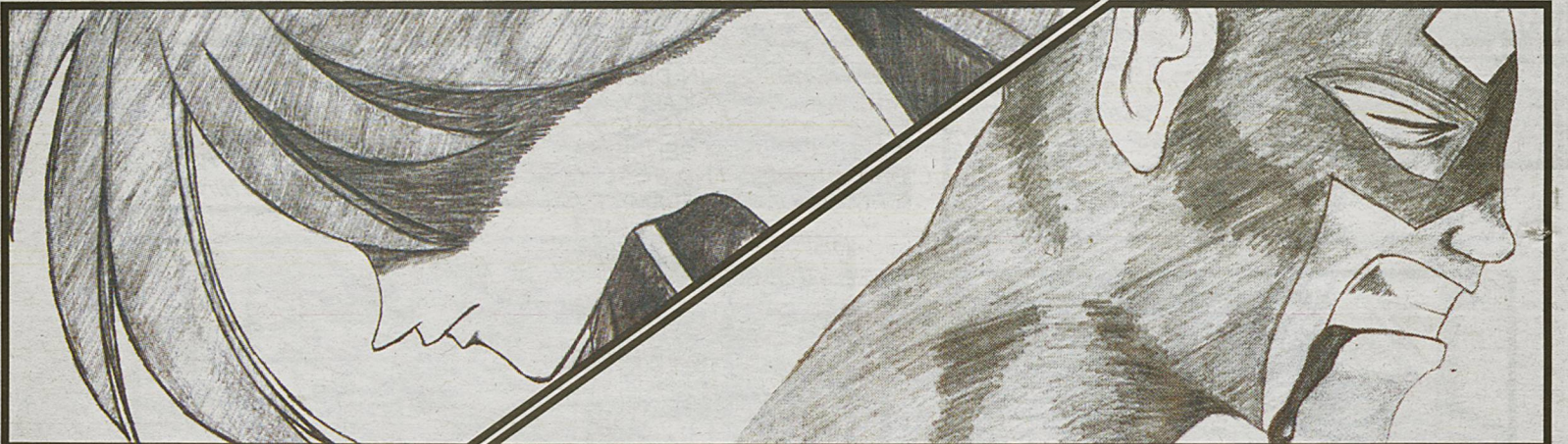


"ASTRO BOY". HOWEVER, THE EMERGENT DOMINATION OF MANGA IN THE PUBLISHING WORLD IS A RECENT PHENOMENON. IT WAS ONLY IN THE MID-NINETIES THAT MANGA AND ANIME (THE ANIMATED EQUIVALENT) BECAME SUCCESSFUL OVERSEAS. THIS WAS LARGELY DUE TO THE TRANSLATIONS OF MASAMUNE SHIROW'S "GHOST IN THE SHELL" AND THE "SAILOR MOON" AND "DRAGON BALL Z" FRANCHISES. BY THE END OF THE DECADE, "SAILOR MOON" HAD BEEN EXPORTED TO OVER 23 COUNTRIES.

THE MAJOR TURNING POINT WAS THE FOUNDING OF ONE OF THE BIGGEST PUBLISHING FIRMS, TOKYOPOP,

IN 1996 IN JAPAN AND IN 1997 IN LOS ANGELES WHICH BROUGHT MANGA TO AN AMERICAN AUDIENCE. TOKYOPOP RELEASED THE MOST POPULAR TITLES IN JAPAN INTO THE UNITED STATES. THESE INCLUDED THE SHOJO MANGA "FRUITS BASKET", WHICH THEN SOLD OVER TWO MILLION COPIES ABROAD - AN AFFIRMATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL APPEAL OF MANGA.

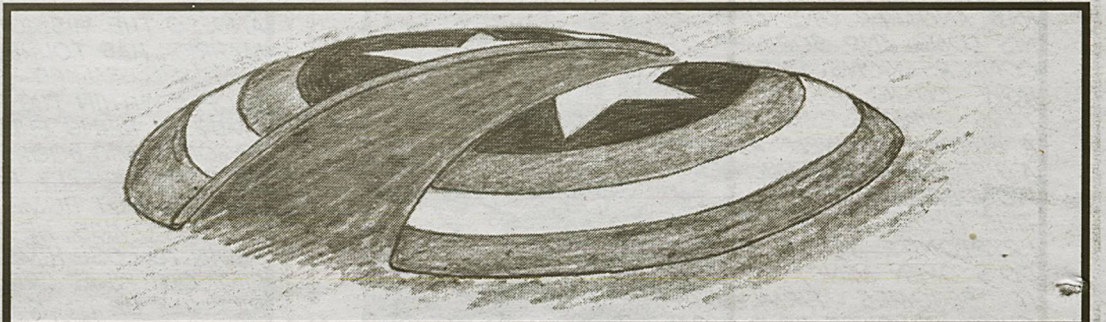
WHAT OF MANGA'S INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE? IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2006, THE WORTH OF THE MANGA MARKET EXCEEDED US\$200 MILLION. INDEED, THE AMERICAN RELEASE OF HAYAO MIYAZAKI'S "SPIRITED AWAY" WAS A COMMERCIAL AND CRITICAL SUCCESS, RECEIVING AN ACADEMY AWARD IN 2002. THE AMERICAN FILM



INDUSTRY HAS ALSO HOPPED ONTO THE ANIME BANDWAGON BY ADAPTING ANIME INTO FEATURE-LENGTH FILMS. "DRAGON BALL Z" AND "AKIRA" HAVE BOTH BEEN SCHEDULED FOR 2009 RELEASES.

IS MANGA JUST ANOTHER FAD IN THE ARTS SCENE? BY THE LOOKS OF THINGS, WE CAN SAFELY SAY THAT IT IS HERE TO STAY. WATCH THIS SPACE.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT MANGA?
SU.SOC.ANIMEMANGA@LSE.AC.UK



Adventures In

THE STORY SO FAR: AFTER FINDING OUT FONDO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT COMIC BOOKS, MARRICK DECIDES IT IS TIME FOR HIM TO BE TAKEN ON A TOUR OF THE COMIC DISTRICT OF LONDON TO ENLIGHTEN HIS LITTLE FRIEND. ARMED WITH JUST THE POWERS OF AN OPEN MIND AND SUPER-AWESOME DRAWING SKILLS THEY SET OFF FOR AN ADVENTURE...

Script: Fim Krypt.

inks: Mark Twyford.

Comic Land.

FONDO AND MARRICK MEET AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM BUT AFTER FINDING THE GATE THEY REALISE THEY ARE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BARS...



IN THE FIRST SHOP THEY GO INTO, THEY ENCOUNTER AN EVIL GUY IN 'GOSH!' WHO TELLS THEM TO FUCK OFF. MARRICK USES HIS POWERS TO DRAW HIM ALL MEAN AND WITH SOME GLIN THING. FONDO FLEES...

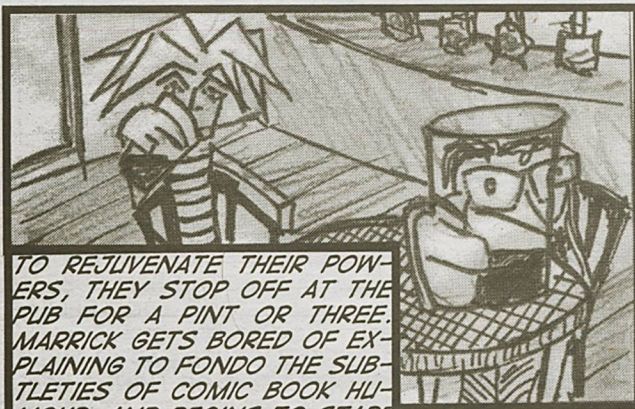


THE TOUR IS DELAYED AS MARRICK BROWSSES THROUGH THE FINE VINTAGE COMICS AT COMICANA, WHILE FONDO FINDS OUT THAT ART IN COMICS IS ACTUALLY NOT VERY ARTSY AT ALL...

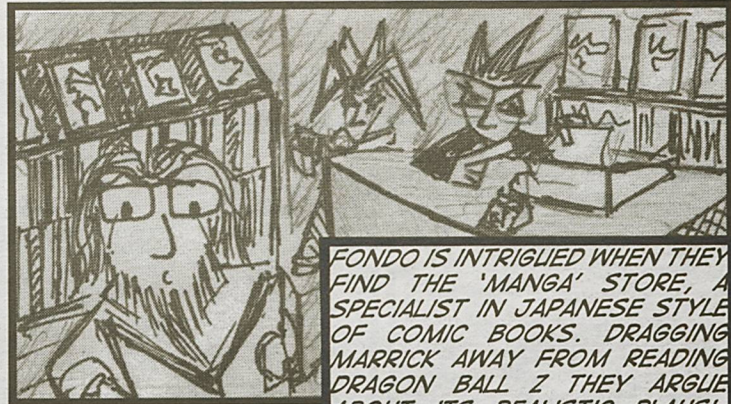
FORBIDDEN PLANET: THE TESCO OF COMIC STORES, DISCOUNT PRICES AND THE COOLEST STORMTROOPER OUTFIT EVER IN THE WINDOW. THE NAME IS AS SCARY AS ITS SIZE...



DISASTER STRIKES AS FONDO LOSES MARRICK AND IS LEFT TO FEND FOR HIMSELF IN FORBIDDEN PLANET! HOURS LATER HE FINDS HIM TALKING TO A FELLOW STAR WARS FAN ABOUT WEIRD AND WONDERFUL COMIC BOOK THINGS...



TO REJUVENATE THEIR POWERS, THEY STOP OFF AT THE PUB FOR A PINT OR THREE. MARRICK GETS BORED OF EXPLAINING TO FONDO THE SUBTLETIES OF COMIC BOOK HUMOUR, AND BEGINS TO STARE PENSIVELY THROUGH HIS ALE.



FONDO IS INTRIGUED WHEN THEY FIND THE 'MANGA' STORE, A SPECIALIST IN JAPANESE STYLE OF COMIC BOOKS. DRAGGING MARRICK AWAY FROM READING DRAGON BALL Z THEY ARGUE ABOUT ITS REALISTIC PLAUSIBILITY COMPARED TO THE MUCH BETTER AND BELIEVEABLE POKEMON SERIES.

IN ORCS NEST, MARRICK HAS ANOTHER ONE OF HIS LONG AND BORING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HOW COMIC CHARACTERS POWERS CAN BE A BURDEN AS WELL AS A GIFT AND OTHER SUCH WONDERFUL RUBBISH. THIS TURNS OUT TO BE KRYPTONITE TO FONDO'S OPEN MIND, AND IT BECOMES FIRMLY SHUT. HE LONGS TO GO HOME.



AND SO THE MISSION WAS COMPLETED, FONDO AND MARRICK HAD TOURED ALL OF THE COMIC BOOK DISTRICT AND TALKED TO SURPRISINGLY INTERESTING PEOPLE WITHIN THE WORLD OF COMICS. FONDO FELT SMLUG IN BEING FULLY EDUCATED IN THE COMPLEXITY OF COMIC BOOKS, WHILE MARRICK WAS SATISFIED WITH HIS WEEKLY FIX OF VISITING COMIC STORES. AS THEY GOT HOME FONDO SAW ONE OF MARRICKS PRIZED COMICS, HE OPENED UP THE FIRST PAGE AND BEGAN TO LOSE HIMSELF IN JUDGE DREDD'S WORLD... FIND OUT WHAT CRAZY JOURNEYS FONDO AND MARRICK GET UP TO IN NEXT WEEKS EDITION OF PARTB... OR MAYBE NOT.

THE

Shakespeare

FILES

FIE UPON MALE-PATTERNED BALDNESS!

STRATFORD - LIPON - AVON AGES 16

TEENAGE WILL TAKES A BREAK FROM LISTENING TO HEAVY METAL AND TRYING TO GROW A Moustache AND BEGINS TO WRITE...

WILL'S 1ST DRAFT

I ACT LIKE A FOOL IN ORDER TO HIDE MY SECRET.

THE HERO, BAT-HAMLET-FELLOW, IS DRIVEN TO OBSESSIVE REVENGE FOLLOWING HIS FATHER'S DEATH. HE IS ACCOMPANIED AND AIDED BY HIS LOYAL BUT DIMWITTED SIDEKICK, ROB-HORATIO.

WILL'S PUBLISHER

THOU HAST NO CONCEPT OF THE MODERN MARKET, THOU YELLOW-BELLIED MON-GREL.

ALTHOUGH WILL'S PUBLISHER LOVES MEN IN TIGHTS, HE TELLS WILL TO DROP THE SUPERHERO CRAP AND STICK IN A NICE JUICY MURDER OR TWO.

IN WILL'S MIND

POW!

WILL SHELVES PLANS FOR A PRODUCTION OF SPIDERWILL.

THE GLOBE

BAT-HAMLET-FELLOW TAKES TO THE STAGE WITH A DIFFERENT NAME AND A SLIGHT CHANGE OF OUTFIT.

IN A FIT OF ADOLESCENT ANGST, WILL THROWS AWAY HIS ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS. FOUR CENTURIES LATER THEY ARE DISCOVERED BY MARTIN GOODMAN, WHO, PURELY COINCIDENTALLY, GOES ON TO FOUND MARVEL.

ky

mira

hammad

Teenage
Tricks
presents

BECOMING HUMAN

IT WAS A CLEAR NIGHT, AND A FULL MOON WAS RISING...

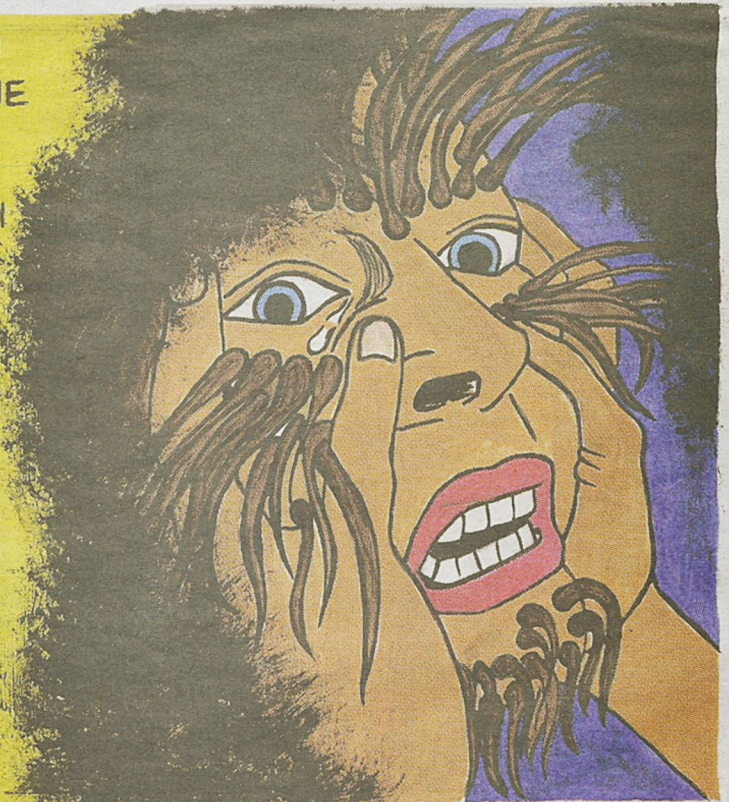


AS SHE WALKED ALONG THE PATH, JANE FELT A STRANGE SENSATION COME OVER HER...



WITH A SUDDEN FEAR, SHE BECAME AWARE OF THICK STRANDS OF HAIR PIERCING THROUGH HER SKIN...

ERUPTING ON HER FACE AS SHE WEPT IN AGONY!



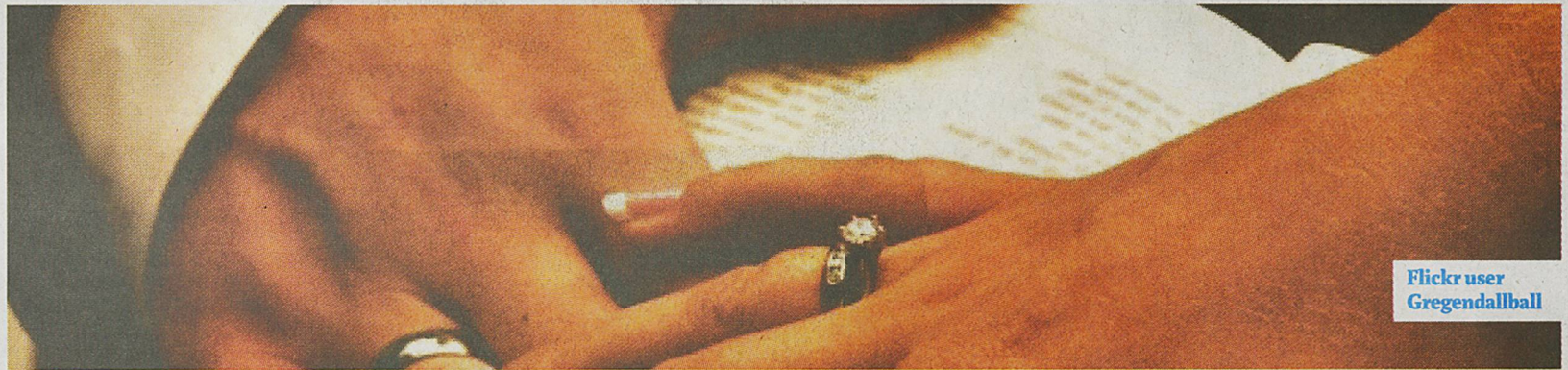
AS SHE LISTENED TO THE VOICES, JANE REALISED THE TERRIBLE TRUTH... THE BEAST WITHIN HER HAD AWAKENED, AND THE BEAST WOULD HAVE TO BE HIDDEN IN THE DARKNESS FOREVER!



Marriage and studying don't need a divorce

Why Madonna and Guy Ritchie don't surprise us any more

Andy Gliddon



Flickr user Gregendallball

Something else has crashed this week, then. Not content to watch the stocks tumble, Madonna and Guy Ritchie have thrown in the towel after seven and a half years of marriage.

Quite what the definitive performing strumpet and a posh-boy maker of cockney gangster movies ever saw in each other has always been a mystery, but their relationship managed to endure beyond just a cheap publicity stunt. It seemed to suggest that even the brash American showstoppers could be seduced by an old fashioned British charm, a great accent – and blood sports. But it also seemed to suggest that marriage could occur and last, even in the most unlikely circumstances.

I must admit having a strong opinion on marriage. I've been a married undergraduate student for just over a year now. I met my wife at school; we went to different universities but spent most weekends travelling back and forwards between them. Marriage just seemed to fit us.

Before anyone projectile vomits across the library – it's not a fairy tale. Marriage is a lifestyle, a way of living that sometimes conflicts with a purely self-centred existence. To actually start saying 'we' is a big step.

But then don't we all, deep down, want to share our lives with other people? Are we designed to be alone? I have to wonder – why it is that for most people marriage just doesn't fit? And why does it sometimes stop fitting?

When, on July 2 this year, Madonna's publicist emailed Reuters to state that 'There are no divorce plans' between her and Ritchie, the media circus drew a collective breath. It's strange to say there are no plans for divorce when divorce is just the inevitable consequence of having no plans for a marriage. The denial of active involvement was like saying there are no plans to stop breathing – only forgetting to continue drawing breath.

Their divorce had become inevitable. But so many marriages end in divorce, and not just the celebrity ones. The Office for National Statistics in the UK puts the divorce rate for 2007 at 1.19 per cent of married couples. That seems low, but multiply that by a poten-

tial married life of at least fifty years, it creates a 3/5 chance of breaking up.

The supposed 'seven year itch' has also become a fixture of the public imagination. Originating from Marilyn Munroe's 1955 film bearing the name, the expectation is that men, and increasingly women, will stray after seven years. Claims of Madonna's secret love shack this summer with baseball star Alex Rodriguez will only add to the popular mythology.

If, then, divorce is so likely, that has to change the nature of marriage. It has to limit the total sharing, the total intimacy, the total love that gives 100 per cent and keeps nothing back. And that can be what limits its attractiveness to people considering it.

Rather than being shocked at people who get divorced, surprise is now reserved for young people who do get married like me. A common theme for those who challenge marriage is that it doesn't take account of the plurality of modern relationships and sexuality. Few want to settle down; marriage is the straight and certain path into their parents' middle-aged lives.

Having children is a part of this. Sure, two parents is still the ideal, but a declining birth rate in richer countries shows that a significant proportion of people are declining parenthood. This is part of the same event – people are looking for satisfaction in other things. But what are they looking for? What are we all looking for? And once we find it, can it remain real?

In the film *Meet Joe Black*, Jeffrey Tambor plays Quince, a bumbling fool promoted beyond his abilities by his rich father-in-law but who nonetheless proves to have the biggest heart.

"How do you know?" asks Joe Black.

"Because she knows the worst thing about me and it's okay... It's like... You know each other's secrets... Their deepest, darkest, secrets. Yeah, and then you're free. You're free... You're free to love each other completely... totally. There's no fear. So there's nothing you don't know about each other and it's okay."

Recommending that Death reveal his true identity to his girlfriend may not seem like everyone's idea of good advice, but what sticks is his sense of liberation.

Marriage is a lifestyle that sometimes conflicts with a purely self-centred existence. To actually start saying 'we' is a big step

Being completely open and it being okay.

It would be interesting to know whether Madonna or Guy ever revealed their true selves to each other. A thousand personal rebranding exercises must have a confusing effect on any sense of self.

At times, their marriage looked like another revamp – the adoption of tweed, a quasi-English accent and the country estate – all for a singer who epitomised the American dream. And sex... Madonna wearing an anorak is like seeing Paris Hilton trying to join the British establishment – I won't believe what I'm seeing.

Unremitting 24 hour celebrity obsession can drive an imprisoning self-consciousness in the modern world. London is the eye of the storm – they fall out of our nightclubs, they bump into our friends and they walk our streets.

But security is not the only thing that people need. Security from what? Freedom to do what? It's for the life that you want to live. Marriage doesn't have to be the life of your parents – it's not settling down – it's ramping up.

It's the moment, it's the dream, it's the romance, the thrills, flights of fancy, individual triumph, collective success and then the sense of belonging, the sense of being home. Marriage, just like life, depends on attitude, your response to challenges and your desire. There are inevitable consequences to having no plans; just like with marriage, just like with breathing.

Marriage isn't the solution to all the world's ills but it doesn't deserve its current reputation. Mind you, neither is it a one-size-fits-all category. It's a 'just fits' category.

The fear that marriage is limiting puts off many people for whom it does fit. This would change if there were more that dared promote it.

It is not fair to blame celebrities for this feature of modern society, but perhaps we use them as an excuse to avoid our own lives. Madonna and Guy will not benefit from the public forum of recriminations; but how many people will see the headlines and decide not to pop the question?

As for me, student or not, I would do it again in an instant.

I want to ride my bicycle

The benefits of cycling are obvious, but we still face too many obstacles

Meghan Bruni



I am sandwiched between red moving monsters thirty times my size, breathing in a delicious cocktail of benzene and xylene fumes, planning how I will get around the swarms of jay-walkers, taxis, construction sites and potholes. I am a cyclist in London. And I am not afraid.

Ok, I lied. I am afraid. Afraid for

my life, yes, but more afraid that unless something is done to make biking more accessible to the masses in London, the act will soon become obsolete. Because currently, cycling provisions in London are a disaster. Bike lanes are virtually unheard of. When you're lucky enough to find one, chances are it's already been converted into a taxi loading zone, bus stop and/or construction site, and will probably become unmarked in about 100 meters anyway. When stopped at a red light, it is not uncommon for a vehicle to accidentally nudge you from behind, as happened to me last week.

Having reached your destination alive and able to breathe (or cough) a sigh of relief, the next struggle is to find a place to lock your bike. The LSE campus suffers a chronic lack of facilities for bike users,



Photo: Erik Lang

and finding a space to lock up near your next class is a nightmare at busy times. The time it takes to find space is enough of a hassle to put many people off, and regularly makes me late for class.

Oh, and if you're looking for a retreat from the madness of the streets and head to Hyde Park, remember that you're not actually allowed to cycle inside the park on the sacred pedestrian paths. A police officer was quick to point this out to me as he issued an "Unauthorised Cycling in a Royal Park" report, and was kind enough to not charge me £500 - this time. How considerate.

In the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany, governments have made decisions to make biking safe, convenient and practical. It worked. In Amsterdam,

virtually every street has a smooth, clear bike lane, and cycling is the preferred mode of transportation. There are more bikes than cars, and everyone is happier, healthier and significantly less stressed out as a result.

The health benefits of cycling have been proven again and again, especially compared to driving. It has been shown to be good for your heart and can help to reduce the risk of obesity and diabetes. On top of that, it lifts your mood and helps eliminate stress - perfect for students.

In the UK, only about one percent of trips are by bike. Considering that London wants to lead the way on climate change and yet still has the worst air quality in the UK, this is simply unacceptable. Transport for London (TfL) say

that the number of cyclists in London has increased by 83% in the last year, but it seems that improvements in the cycling infrastructure haven't risen by nearly as much. Money raised from the Congestion Charge should be used to build actual bike lanes until cycling becomes more convenient than driving (where does that money go, anyway?). Cyclists must get the right of way. And more bike parking facilities should be provided, damn it.

Despite all the factors against me, I refuse to give in. I will not join the masses on the bus, tube, and over-crowded pavements. Cycling is my right, and I will continue to exercise it. Besides being a fun and convenient means of transport, cycling is a political act, one that screams: "Driving stinks - everyone should be biking!"



Shacks and skyscrapers along the Sheikh Zayed road in Dubai. Flickr user octal

The Sheikh Zayed theatre motion

Shame on you LSE students, for giving this tyrant a free pass

Every individual has to perform his duty. Man is mortal, but his work is not. Therefore, work is greater than wealth."

There are few things on which I find myself agreeing with the late Sheikh Zayed, but this is certainly one of them. Of course, Sheikh Zayed - whose wealth was estimated at around \$30 billion a year - died one of the richest men in the world.

Nevertheless, it is true that we are largely judged by our actions, rather than our wealth or even our final achievements. It is for this reason that I was ashamed at the decision of the Union General Meeting last Thursday to endorse a tyrant and display his name openly in the New Academic Building as a champion of humanity.

It is true that Sheikh Zayed was a champion. A champion of the bourgeois ethnic minority - the "locals" - that make up just under a fifth of the population. The elites that Zayed championed receive free housing and electricity, free educa-

If a slave writes an article complaining about his master, the odds are he will be punished

Anonymous

tion up to a tertiary level and a gift of approximately 15,000 pounds when they get married. The remaining four-fifths of the population - made up of mainly south Asians, other Arab nationals and far easterners - face a daily struggle to survive.

My parents moved to the United Arab Emirates over 35 years ago. I was born there and consider it home, and yet I still have no rights. When I return home over the holidays, I do so on a visit visa. Yet when British nationals travel to Dubai to enjoy the fashionable skyscrapers that now litter the skyline, they can do so without any form of travel visa. I know of few countries where a holiday-maker can travel about more easily than an actual citizen.

I write this anonymously, because 80 per cent of the people residing in the UAE are nothing more than owned labour. Our lives and livelihood are at the mercy of our "sponsors" - who have to be locals. They can withhold our pay and banish us at their will: in effect, modern slavery.

And if a slave writes an article com-

plaining about his master, the odds are he will be punished.

It is worth noting that punishment in the UAE does not consist of fines or 'formal warnings', but rather confiscation of property, deportation or (if you are lucky) physical beatings.

Those who argued against the motion have pointed towards the popularity of Zayed amongst Emiratis. I personally mourned his passing at the end of Ramadan in 2004. I now realise I was somewhat naïve.

My family, like most of the wealthy expats - many of whom are at LSE - had profited from the sweat and blood of labourers, who make up about half the population.

In summer the temperatures can reach 50 degrees. With no labour laws workers are forced to toil on the world's tallest towers for negligible wages and no job security.

Some have suggested that there is little evidence for Zayed's human rights abuses. There are reasons for this. The

press in the UAE is government controlled. As in Stalin's Russia, it may be many years before we realise the full extent of what has been taking place.

The LSE is far from perfect, but it is a shame that a campaign that could have mobilised students against all forms of oppression and discrimination has been halted by students who do not see the significance of a name. Naming a lecture theatre after Sheikh Zayed will not bring back the migrant workers who have died in the Emirati desert heat in the past 40 years. Nor will many homosexual and Jewish students feel comfortable going into a theatre that venerates the man who did this - a man who claimed "Jews are the enemies of all nations".

Had the motion passed the union would have had a say in all dodgy donations, and the message would be sent to all tyrants that you are not welcome at LSE.

The School does not need £2.5 million off a despot. It is for this reason that we should change the name.

Revolution is not the solution

The new generation of student socialists need an ideological bailout

Mohsen Amiri

Socialist don't do practicality, really. Socialists came to power in Russia without a plan for its governance, spluttering and choking catastrophically on the bureaucracy they implemented in an attempt to codify some lofty ideal. It makes sense, therefore, that when today's socialists speaks of 'marches on the city' and 'no bailout', we should not point out the obvious - that a failure to rescue the bankers at fault will affect every tier of our community and every aspect of our lives. Rather, we should engage them in a debate of ideas, simultaneously proving to them the worth of the rescue package and legitimising what can easily be interpreted as a knee-jerk reaction.

At the very first Students' Union Gen-

eral Meeting this year, this first-year Law student stepped out of character, adopted a pantomime persona and shouted down an ultimately unsuccessful motion to release the LSE Students' Union banner for use in protest against the rescue package. Just as the rhetoric of the socialist mouthpiece was countered then, the commenter will now attempt to rebuff said mouthpiece's arguments and thinking.

The first question is one of pure mischievous semantics. 'Bailout' suggests that the City bankers have committed some morally reprehensible crime and the state, rather than punishing them for improper conduct in their private sphere, is giving them £50 billion of taxpayers' money with which to wash their hands. The truth is that, whatever we may make of the conduct of the City, no regulatory body or organ of government expressly forbade it. The City bankers did what they had reason to believe would be beneficial to the firm, and were proven wrong. The City bankers are not 'fat-cats', or 'greedy', or 'criminals'. They are the thalidomide doctors of our day; they did their jobs in the manner they regarded as proper, and could not have predicted the catastrophe



Photo: Zeeshan Malik

that they eventually, unfortunately and unintentionally caused.

The second argument today's socialist puts forward is one that can easily be interpreted as spite. He asks why we, the ordinary people and taxpayers, should 'bailout' the bankers who have 'had it good for fifteen years'. We shall ignore, for the time being, the failure of that statement to regard the phenomenal rise of oil prices as a possible cause of worry for these 'easy-living fat cats' over the past few years, as well as other issues mentioned above. Instead, let us look more closely at the taxpayer's role in the functioning of the modern state. He pays his taxes such that society can function normally, maintain and improve itself. The banking crisis has created a climate of fear and uncertainty, as well as endangered the jobs of thousands of citizens; using tax contributions to correct it is no different from giving the unemployed the 'safety net' of social

welfare, or providing job service centres to ease them back into the workforce.

Finally, our banner-waving socialists argue that the City's 'bonus culture' is an evil that should have been cut out long before the financial crisis ended it; a deeply corrupt and extortionate system of rewarding failure. This makes sense from their point of view - their economics do not reward good workers, much less businessmen of undeniably questionable conduct - but by being rational rather than subscribing to high rhetoric, the sense of attacking the beneficiaries of the 'bonus culture' becomes less apparent. Linguistics are again useful; the term 'culture' is one that implies universality across the industry, and in such circumstances it makes sense that bonuses and rewards would be scaled according to position. Thus Dick Fuld, CEO of Lehman Brothers - who, as we have already seen, did his job in a manner considered not only accept-

able but enterprising - can 'walk away with half a billion dollars'. The idea that we should view the City, with hindsight, as a morally bankrupt and greedy operation seems to retroactively punish it for doing its job; remember, under Fuld, Lehman Brothers' revenue increased 600 per cent.

Herein we find the real reason the socialist rears his ugly head now; he has a climate of fear, a Main Street vulnerable to rhetoric and a sense of instability to work with. He says it himself - 'the bankers have had it good for 15 years', as have many of the rest of us, and his words have fallen on deaf ears. Now, though, people ask him the right questions: why should they be bailed out? Why should I pay for their crisis? Why can they walk away with millions? The answers this commenter gives are his own view; there are many others.

What is sure, though, is that no matter the question, socialism is not the answer.

Features



Photo: Chun Han Wong

The case for revolution

Thomas Friedman sounds the klaxons for a green revolution, but Ira Goldstein doubts that the audience caught on.

It was the hottest lecture ticket of the school term so far – 50 minutes of impassioned and compelling oratory on the pressing ills that plague our planet. The illustrious figure who delivered it – New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman.

Catapulted into the limelight with his last book, the critically-acclaimed bestseller *The World is Flat*, Friedman is touring the globe to promote his newest offering *Hot, Flat and Crowded: Why the World Needs a Green Revolution – and How We can Renew Our Global Future*. Stopping by at the LSE last Tuesday to mark the launch of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment here, with an abundance of stories about his personal journalistic travels and environmental buzz-concepts he has packaged to help the average citizen understand our rapidly changing world.

To say the one-time Pulitzer Prize winner has achieved global rock-star status is an understatement; in an intensely politically-conscious constituency such as the LSE, it was no surprise that he was met with adoration, smiles and ovations abound.

More than a lecture about global climate change, this was an exercise in patriotic soul-searching for a proudly

American writer. Besides trying to convince any climate-change sceptics in the audience that we need a green revolution, he also offered up a proposition for how that revolution should occur and who should lead it – Americans using good ol' fashioned American innovation.

It was as much a declamation on the deteriorating state of the American culture of creativity and invention as it was on the imperative of tackling climate change. Echoing sentiments he frequently expresses in his columns that formed the thesis behind *Hot, Flat and Crowded*, Friedman argued that an energy technology, or ET, revolution is in order.

Describing his country as the United States of Fighting Terrorism, Friedman admitted that Americans have gotten "fat, dumb and lazy" since the end of the Cold War. With a government that simply "doesn't work anymore", it is no wonder that America is lagging behind, unable to restructure its economy and way of life in the most pressing of times. He blamed partisan politics for coming up with a "permanent presidential campaign" that distracted the Bush administration – a reality we have all seen play out on 24-hour news networks covering "Decision 2008" for more than a year leading up to November 4. In short, the United States have yet

to realise the need for an ET revolution, much less embrace it.

The impetus for this revolution, as Friedman explained, are the "incredible opportunities masquerading as incredible problems" that face the world today. He identified five "mega-trends" – energy and national resources supply and demand, petrodicatorship, global warming, energy poverty and biodiversity loss – which were all underpinned by climate change. Facing these five most important issues in the world today, Friedman believes America needs to respond to them, and it can be achieved by embarking upon the energy revolution.

Adding to the urgency of the problem is that fact that the world is getting crowded. Trends in energy and national resources supply and demand, as Friedman saw them, paint a picture of rapid urban development coupled with insatiable energy consumption. Currently, there are nine urban centres around the world where there are approximately 300 million or more people and whose consumption rates reflect those of Americans, or "Americoms". All nine are growing, with India and China due to "give birth" to another "Americom" each, with the growth in use of dirty, non-renewable energy sources an inextricable accessory. How-

The United States have yet to realise the need for an energy technology revolution, much less embrace it

ever, with an ET revolution, the inevitable growth of urban centres would not be coupled with undesirable environmental consequences.

And the most coveted commodity that fuels the dirty growth? None other than oil. Friedman's most compelling and original argument came as he described his second mega-trend, the rise of what he has dubbed "petrodicatorships". Friedman demonstrated how the price of oil has an observable inverse relationship with the "pace of freedom" in oil producing countries (measured by annual ratings from NGO Freedom House). "At twenty dollars a barrel, the Holocaust was never a myth," Friedman said, in reference to Iranian President Ahmadinejad's infamous soundbite. Rising oil prices, he concluded, give the absolutist leaders of oil producing nations the power to clamp down on political freedoms and lash out against other states in the international system without fear of recourse.

While these economic and political phenomena are fuelling climate change, it is the natural consequences of human-

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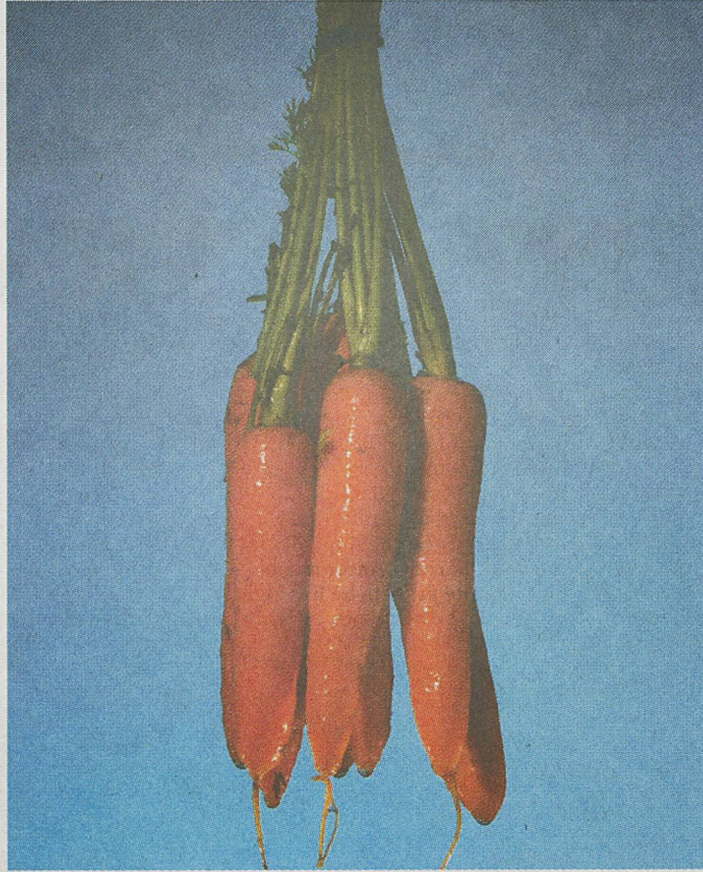
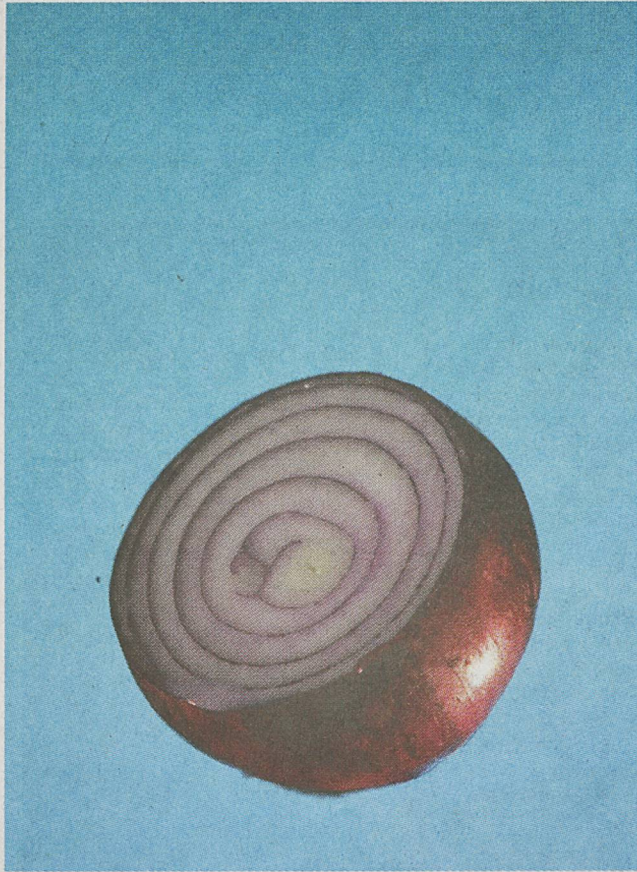


Photo: Liam Chambers

A costcutter's guide to eating

Cooking your own food can be quick, cheap and healthy; Daniel Jason and Catherine Smith find out how.

The average dish eaten by students during term time is notoriously bad, in terms of both taste and nutrition. Diets of cold baked beans, Mars bars and Subways aren't uncommon for many of us due to their simplicity and low-cost. But as we know, this is a devastatingly bad diet which invariably leads to the sad, sorry path of picking up colds, flu and every other wretched illness lurking in university halls and lecture rooms.

Student food doesn't have to be from a fast-food chain, or a frozen microwave meal that turns out soggy and far too salty: it can be a dish of actual home-cooked food. But banish those thoughts of slaving away in front of a stove for hours, for most of the recipes contained here take less than 20 minutes to prepare and cook. Even better, the recipes fit into a weekly budget of under £47.69 for two people. When the national student average is £25 a week for one person, The Beaver is within limit, but has included some snacks and treats such as ice-cream. You can cut these out or replace them with other items if you so choose. Whilst this may seem like a lot of money to spend on food, keep in mind that six £4 meals from the Quad is just as much, doesn't cover three meals a day for a week and isn't all that healthy.

As far as money saving tips go, getting together and pooling your money is a good and surprisingly little-used tactic. If three or four people pool £20 each, you'll generate

between £60-£80 of weekly food shopping, which for us students is a princely sum indeed.

When buying your food, the place you buy it from matters, as every supermarket charges a different price for most things. I found Tesco's to be a considerably cheaper place to shop, compared to rivals Sainsbury's, Asda and Ocado/Waitrose. The same items which came to £47.69 in Tesco would cost £58.60 in Sainsbury's, £62.79 in Asda and a massive £81.85 from Ocado. Having said this, fruit and vegetables do tend to be cheaper in Sainsbury's, not Tesco's. Cheaper still are the independent shops and stalls around LSE.

Even once the cheapest place to shop has been identified, you can reduce food bills further by buying in bulk, thereby getting products for cheaper in the long run. However, before you can benefit from economies of scale, you not only have to pay more money up front, but have to have adequate storage or fridge space to put the item. For people living either on a tight budget or in university halls this may be a problem, but for those with a bigger budget and flat-sharing, less so.

Special offers too are very useful for knocking off pounds from your food bill. Items can be marked down from as little as 10p to as much as £1, whilst "buy one get one free" offers halves the price of an item. The only caveat is to ensure you don't buy any items that you don't need or won't use before the expiry date.

Further, the assumption associated with supermarket shopping is that packaged goods cost more than loose items because packaging costs money, the cost of which is then passed on to the consumer. Generally speaking this assumption is correct, but this isn't always the case and loose items can sometimes be significantly more expensive than packaged goods, so keep an eye out.

Once the shopping is done, walking home with 5 carrier bags of heavy goods isn't appealing to anyone, but whilst online shopping is a convenient solution to this, it isn't necessarily the cheapest one. Discounts are typically given to those who shop online, but this may be negated by supermarket delivery charges which can be between £4 and £10 for a grocery bill. For those who do opt for online shopping and delivery, Tesco, Sainsbury's and Ocado will all deliver to the LSE area, whilst Asda will not. If delivery sounds too expensive, you don't have to buy your weekly shopping in one go, but can split it up over the week. Keep in mind that the first shopping trip will always be more expensive, whereas the following ones will simply be replacing goods you've used up and will cost less.

But what about the nutritional value of the food we consume? According to Yale University, an orange is more adept to keeping the doctor away than an apple. They've developed the Overall Nutritional Quality Index (ONQI) to score foods from 1 to 100 based on their nutritional value, including

sugar, salt, vitamins and impact on blood pressure and other health concerns. An apple scores well with 96 on the Index, but oranges have a perfect 100 score.

According to the British Nutrition Foundation (BNF), canned foods are generally just as healthy as fresh goods. They are also less expensive than fresh products, require relatively little space to store and will stay in-date for much longer. Whilst items tinned with brine or syrup should be avoided (go for those stored in water, olive oil or fruit juice), tinned fruit and vegetables will count as part of your 5-a-day. Similarly, frozen, dried and juiced produce are just as good as fresh ones.

In the light of this, it is perhaps unsurprising that organic produce isn't actually any healthier for us than non-organic produce. The BNF advises that whilst buying organic has been labelled 'healthy', there's no evidence suggesting that this is actually the case, so steering clear of expensive organic food is a prudent move.

Instead, healthy eating revolves around a balanced diet, not how much organic products you've eaten in the past week. The BNF highlights that basing meals around starchy foods is the key to a well balanced diet and indicates that products containing fat products are also required to remain healthy. Starchy foods include wholegrain bread, pasta, rice, cereal and potatoes. You need to eat some fat, salt and sugar products throughout the day too.

Know it all? Think again:

- 5-a-day means five 80g servings of fruit and vegetables each day. 80g is about three tablespoons.
- Frozen, tinned, dried or juiced fruit and vegetables are just as healthy as fresh ones and count towards your 5-a-day.
- Non-organic produce is just as healthy as organic produce.
- Fizzy drinks are the least nutritious foodstuffs on the planet. Diet fizzy drinks aren't much better.
- The nutritional value of one fresh orange is better than the value of 3 cups of orange juice together.
- Brown bread, brown rice, wholegrain cereals and pasta are much healthier than their non-wholegrain counterparts.

The answer is an energy technology race

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kind's industrial excess that are showing us the results. "Global weirding", as a friend of Friedman's described it, is a lot worse than what people think or believe. Far worse than what Al Gore purported in "An Inconvenient Truth" – permanent environmental damage is imminent and will worsen in the coming decade, instead of Gore's original prediction of 2050 or later. "Doesn't Al Gore owe us an apology?" he asked. "I, Al Gore, completely underestimated climate change." To Friedman's mind, that apology might be a better alarm bell than the film.

Coupled with the dangerous consequences of climate change is massive biodiversity loss. "We're burning all the great paintings in the Louvre just to cook dinner." Friedman sees this trend culminating in humanity's return to "the age of

Noah". Pointing to the predicament facing the critically-endangered Yangtze giant soft-shell turtle, he argued that we have become "the first generation of humans who need a strategy to save the last pairs."

However, in this case, he did not successfully persuade that biodiversity loss is an "opportunity masquerading as a problem," as he had framed the other megatrends. In fact, he offered no real solution or suggestion to curb this problem, short of harnessing American innovation and investing in clean energy and then keeping our fingers crossed.

In describing the final mega-trend in our hot, flat and crowded world, Friedman pointed to the large-scale energy poverty afflicting over 1.6 billion people. "If you don't have electricity, you can't get to Google [and] you will be disadvantaged

exponentially." Without the education and resources to tackle technically complex issues, innovative solutions to mitigate climate change are unlikely to be discovered. Moreover, the needs of developing countries cannot be met without the proper energy infrastructure in place.

Friedman's proposed solution is to repack the problems as opportunities and apply his panacea for the ills of the 21st century – "abundant, cheap, clean, reliable electrons." The ET revolution, as Friedman envisaged, will push us to approach environmental issues with immediacy and dedication, much like the IT revolution of the last century. He argues that innovators will be rewarded with a payout as demand for clean energy grows the world over.

America, in Friedman's opinion,

has the potential to innovate its way out climate change. With a new administration, the markets can be shaped with the right regulation to foster innovation and transform the energy sector. "Waiting for a Kyoto-esque agreement is foolish" since the compulsion of a treaty will never work. Instead, something like an arms-race in clean and renewable technology should erupt. The competition would produce thousands of ideas, from which a few good ones might become to climate change what Google or Microsoft is to information technology.

Competing against an existing, cheap, dirty alternative is challenging, Friedman admits. But he believes that we can simply "get rid of it, make it expensive and make it clean" and our problems will be solved, or at least be on our way to solving them.

America ought to lead the way and model itself, in some ways, on China. The ability of the Chinese government to implement broad regulations and changes, with minimal opposition, might just be what America needs to kick-start an energy technology revolution.

"We have exactly enough time... starting now." Crowd-pleasing rhetoric indeed. But ultimately, it seemed as if the crowd was enamoured more with the man and his words than the environmental cause and its challenges.

Hayek

Alex
Blance



Rose in bloom doomed to wilt

Smiling was never Gordon Brown's strong point, but in the past few days that rictus grin has started to really get on my nerves.

As the world economy crashes down around our ears and we continue our inexorable slide towards the End of Days, the only stocks that continue to rise are those of bankruptcy lawyers, discount supermarkets, and apparently our own dear leader.

Let me explain: in the recent past, Mr Brown has been touring the world, gracing the other nations with his brooding presence and his economic master plan. It was, after all, the British model for bank rescue that has now been copied by many countries facing similar catastrophes, and it seems that the Prime Minister's ten years at the helm of the British Treasury are continuing to pay off.

Further, the Government has apparently ensured that the directors of our newly-nationalised banking institutions will not be receiving their lucrative bonuses this year, as the taxpayer should not and will not be rewarding failure. Perhaps unsur-

prisingly, the one exception to this eminently sound principle appears to be the Prime Minister himself. This, let's not forget, is the man who spent ten years in Number 11 crowing that boom and bust was a thing of the past.

In this brave new economic world, we would be just fine if we got mortgaged up to our eyeballs, took out another credit card or five, and blew everything we didn't have on whatever glitzy trinkets from the Far East happened to take our fancy. No such luck. But worst of all, like the cricket in Aesop's fable, the Prime Minister had frittered away all our money in the good times, leaving nothing for the cold, barren winter ahead. Yet, just like the fat cats he has rightly criticised, he seems to be reaping the rewards for his colossal failure, in the shape of rising approval ratings and adulation from the British press.

I have faith that the British public certainly are not fools, that they will see through Mr Brown's canny repositioning as saviour of the global economy. All the enemies of Mr Brown have to do is bide their time

and wait until the current crisis is over and he is back to his blundering self again. A prominent Labour former minister noted the other day that "Gordon is doing brilliantly now he's Chancellor again. But when he becomes Prime Minister again in a few weeks we can expect to be back where we were."

Even if the public believe Mr Brown has been taking the right decisions in the current crisis, the fatal flaws of his past bad decision making will still be there when the shock subsides - and there remains all the future bad decision making to be seen to as well. When Gordon Brown is Prime Minister again, we may very well be left with an economy in recession, job losses and a dawning realisation that the Prime Minister is as complicit in this almighty mess as all the hated bankers, hedge fund managers and short-sellers.

There are still 18 months to go until we finally get a general election; plenty of time for a fall in the shares of Gordon Brown Plc to wipe that smile off his face.

Viridian

Recipes for happiness

Justus Rollin

Environment and Ethics officer

Now that the seriousness of the new academic year has caught up with most of us, it is time to remember that life is not only about reading, writing and listening, but also about environmentalism.

I view environmentalism as an approach to life. An approach that can be fun and full of joy. Of course, we do seem to be confronted with constant challenges. The so-called economic meltdown. Oil price hikes. Climate change. On the other hand, I tend to view the society, or perhaps the social milieu, in which I live as a highly competitive, exhausting and stressful milieu. Since this is not the world I'd be able to live happily in, I try to create my own personal utopia everyday. It might be a dreamy attitude, but it definitely has benefits for my well-being and the environment. No cost-benefit analysis could quantify the positive environmental impact one can have by merely being happy, sensitive and considerate.

There are a few struggles that await us. However, I prefer fighting with a smile on my face. It's more fun, and less emotionally exhausting.

This is how I do it: Hug a tree once a week. Pick self-planted lemon balm and peppermint for tea. Lie on the lawn and look towards the sun or moon. Find a random item in a skip and assign a new role to it. Last week, it was a piece of building wood, but now it's a shelf. Forget time while doing something enjoyable. Cook a vegan meal for friends with organic veges. Break a rule, at least in my mind, such as thinking how a world without cars would look like. I sometimes use this norm-breaking device when being involved in a serious academic discussion. I just picture all LSE students gardening veges and helping preparing them in the Fourth Floor Restaurant. Or I imagine academics giving out food to homeless people at Lincoln Inn Fields. It makes me smile. And it makes me question authority and knowledge.

Hoping that the oh-so-stressful life as a student can be a bit more fun this week, fun that lets us stay connected to ourselves, I'll leave you with a last comment. Recycling in the Fourth Floor Restaurant is very easy and fun! Just follow the signs and tell your fellow students to do so as well! By the way, paper tissue can go in two different bins! Not including the one going to landfill. Have fun solving this riddle.

Laski



Vlad
Unkovski-
Korica

Aux armes, citoyens!

The global economic downturn directly endangers the jobs, savings and livelihoods of millions. But it also threatens to compound political divisions over the response to a key menace of our times: global climate change.

Just last week, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia called for a rethink on the level and cost of emission-reductions in the European Union. Italy backed them.

Critics of the projected 20% cut in carbon emissions in the EU by 2020 argue that the cut should be based on emissions in 1999, instead of 2005 levels as planned. Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi explained: "Our businesses are in absolutely no position at the moment to absorb the costs of the regulations that have been proposed."

But it is too easy to paint the more developed EU states like Britain, France or Germany as the progressives in this story. For it is doubtful that the solutions proposed by these countries represent a viable solution to the problem.

Consider this statement by former business secretary John Hutton at the Labour Party conference: "No coal

plus no nuclear equals no lights. No power. No future."

I was also greatly amused by a recent tirade in the Guardian unleashed by Arthur Scargill, former leader of the National Union of Mineworkers, against George Monbiot, a leading eco-socialist campaigner, about the latter's rather lukewarm criticism of nuclear power: "I challenge George Monbiot to test out which is the most dangerous fuel - coal or nuclear power. I am prepared to go into a room full of CO₂ for two minutes, if he is prepared to go into a room full of radiation for two minutes."

But this is a false dilemma. An emergency insulation programme alone could cut carbon emissions seven times as much as the nuclear option, according to the Rocky Mountain Institute.

Wind farms together with an expanded, efficient public transport system would go far towards cutting emissions. Wind farms on land and near shore alone would be able, according to a 2005 study at Stanford University, to satisfy current global demand for electric power seven times over. According to the Government's own admission, too, wind power is likely to be the cheapest generator of electric power by 2020.

Reducing car use, which accounts for 45 percent of carbon emissions, would be another giant step to saving the planet.

These methods would certainly be safer than nuclear plants and would create jobs at a time when two million could be unemployed by Christmas. They would also discourage a global nuclear arms race far more effectively than the threat of US bombing.

Instead of spending hundreds of billions on enormous military budgets, nuclear plants and the purchase of toxic debts incurred in the financial speculation of the last decade, the G8 governments ought to prepare an emergency action programme to stop the climate chaos caused by market competition.

However, as the colossal bailout of the banks shows, the world's ruling elites only move when a clear and present danger directly threatens their backers in the private sector.

Only grassroots politics that engages in massive civil disobedience and allies with other social forces which have no stake in the status quo, like the labour movement, can hope to create, from below, the political will necessary to stop global warming.

Measured musings

Government plays 'I-Spy' too

The UK is estimated to have an astounding 4 million CCTV cameras monitoring the British public, more closed-circuit cameras than any other nation in the world. Gone are the days of simple recording equipment however, some of these cameras are even capable of recognising an individual's face when compared to a central database. As if this isn't quite enough surveillance, the British public stand to be monitored even further.

The UK government is currently playing with the idea of passing a law obligating telecom companies and Internet Service Providers to store every phone call and e-mail message sent in the UK, as well as all the internet browsing habits of all citizens, for a minimum of 18 months.

This would effectively create a new database accessible to central government, in addition to those which already exist.

One of those databases currently in existence is the Identity Database, created

to hold the personal details of British nationals with identity cards, a scheme which may become compulsory in the next few years. Another is the National Child Database was created to hold the personal information of all children under 18 in the UK, the Citizen Information database connects National Insurance numbers to personal details of individuals and the NHS National Programme database is designed to centralise all health care records of all patients under the NHS system.

I'll leave it to the reader to decide which databases are useful and which are excessive, but clearly the UK seems to be cruising down a road which leads to a total-surveillance society. Whilst many people argue that law-abiding citizens have nothing to fear if their information is held, it is easy to forget that government is made up of individuals, individuals who are as corruptible as any other person and may be tempted to use the information at their disposal for things which aren't quite in the public interest. We have seen

in the recent past how local councils used terrorism laws inappropriately, most notably to spy on citizens they believed were responsible for such trivial 'crimes' as dog fouling. Needless to say, this is a terrible invasion of privacy for such a trivial reason.

But even if one central body comprising of people you don't know holding all your personal information and that of your children is of no concern to you, the fact that this government has been responsible for so many data-loss incidents should be.

Why it seems to be common practice for civil servants to routinely hold the personal details of UK citizens on laptops, flash-drives or CDs, then remove it from government buildings is a mystery to all. At the very least, one would think that after the first devastating data-loss incident measures would have been put into place to prevent future incidents. What the British public saw instead was a quick succession of data loss across 13

government departments from May 2007 until October 2008. In total, an astounding 29-million personal records have been lost by the government so far. Considering the UK's total population is approximately 60 million, that potentially translates into one in two people on any given street in Britain having had their data lost by the government.

The questions we should be asking in this respect is why we should trust the government with the data that they currently hold, let alone any proposed extensions to the amount of data they hold.

Clearly, we shouldn't.

Daniel Jason
Features Editor



Three paths towards a better Britain

Calum Young wants more from the perennial third-fiddlers

Student concerns generally list as follows: having clean clothes, finding cheap booze and fighting for social justice. In that order? Probably not, but it is with the third issue that the Liberal Democrats are able to provide not all, but some of the answers.

They first came to my attention as a student with their opposition to university top-up fees and, in particular, to the privatisation of our debt. The Liberal Democrats voted consistently against such policies and the banal reasoning which sees our student interest rates being calculated according to inflation in the month of March only. This means a sudden oil price hike could have devastating consequences for me and you when we come to pay off our debt.

I'm also a supporter of the Party because they offer a genuinely liberal stance on social issues. In broad terms, they argue that each individual is free to act in any way he or she wishes, so long as it does not harm other people. This applies even when the consensus is that an individual's actions are not in their own best interests. This seems like sound reasoning. Historically, allowing people to live as they want has led to a vibrant progressive society of new ideas. Secondly, I've always doubted any moral agenda which tries to mould individuals in a certain manner; I would argue the individual is best placed to decide what is right for his or her own life.

In practical terms, this means less state intervention but an increase in social mobility. I grew up next to a council estate and watched money being taken from the poor in taxation only to be given back to them through tax credits in a demeaning and pointless exercise. Instead, the Liberal Democrats would reduce the tax burden for the poor and put individuals back in charge of their own existence, rather than having their freedom and prosperity filtered through the state.

Disappointingly, whilst the Liberal Democrats are turning away from their social democratic side and towards the liberal strand in their heritage, they still remain relatively muted in campaigning against paternalistic policies. For example, the recent Tory pledge to introduce tax cuts for married families was a clear example of an illiberal policy which should have been publicly refuted. The state should not be encouraging its citizens to pursue any one course in their lives, we should be able to live as we want unhindered wherever possible by financial burden.

The Liberal Democrats have also failed to capitalise politically on the green movement, which disappoints me as someone who watched them pioneer that cause in mainstream British politics. Students seem to bypass the Lib Dems despite their real commitment to a switch to green taxation and a Europe-wide contract on energy reduction. Again, a tepid public commitment to fundamentally intelligent values has cost the Lib Dems.

However, as a student the Lib Dems maintain their appeal to me through their demands for lower council tax and the re-introduction of the 10 per cent rate of income tax. As we all know, doing a degree is getting incredibly expensive, and jobs afterwards are looking less secure. This also comes at a time when the difference in income for those with degrees and those without is diminishing. In my view, the Liberal Democrats were right to oppose the introduction of top-up fees for all students because it places an enormous burden on young men and women starting out in their careers. Similarly I fear that having introduced fees it is likely that the current cap for British students will be shifted upwards and even removed. Statistics already suggest working-class families are finding a university education, particularly in London, beyond their means. The Lib Dems are offering a real alternative of greater social mobility.

Paradoxically, the Lib Dems despite having the richest philosophical background in British politics are known for not being known. This is a fairly tragic state of affairs and reflects poorly on the party's ability to reach out and gain widespread support. However there is hope, the party has a group of first-rate people at the top and policies which, if given the chance, would provide bold answers to Britain's problems.



The Lib Dems maintain their appeal to me through their demands for lower council tax and the re-introduction of the 10 per cent rate of income tax

- Calum Young

Harry Davies puts in some good words for

It's easy to forget how much about higher education has changed since 1997. Even Labour's fiercest critics would have to agree that more young people stay on in training or education for longer these days.

There are financial inducements, for one. Twinned with the maintenance loan and grant schemes, bursaries and scholarships, students are in a fairer, more equitable position than they would have been prior to Labour's funding reforms. And as of last month, one third of entitled students started to receive a full grant of £2,835 with a further third gaining a partial grant.

Even before entering higher education, students from poorer families now have the right to Education Maintenance Allowance which has dramatically increased staying-on rates, post 16 and beyond, among lower socio economic groups in inner cities and among ethnic minorities. There are far more places in higher education and training, with application rates up by 9 per cent this year on last. The numbers entering higher education are up 30,000 since Labour came to power. The number of apprenticeships too has doubled to 180,000 since 1997.

Labour has inspired a radical change in the way higher education is viewed. For the student, it's a personal investment in their futures. For the country, it's a step to developing an educated, emancipated workforce.

So, if it is so good, why is it so bad? As students, loans and top-up fees rank high on our list of principal concerns. Previously as a student you'd receive a grant, topped up by your parents (if they were wealthy), and you didn't have to pay it back. Local taxpayers put you through university and paid for your food and accommodation while you were there. Fees weren't even an issue (they were paid by the local education authority) and the average student probably thought the lecturers and teachers were doing the job for nothing.

But it wasn't in fact free, nor was it morally justifiable. The reality is that rich people saw university, with all of its consequent social and economic advantages, as an automatic right for their children. What made this even more inequitable was that sixteen-year-old school leavers from less-advantaged backgrounds were paying income tax to fund the education and maintenance of students who could pay for it themselves. In this country, if you're holding a fistful of aces, you would not ask for a re-deal.

Throughout the eighties and nineties, world-class universities were squeezed year on year because fees were relatively low and raising them would have put pressure on tax-capped local authorities. Like many neglected areas of public service, massive cash injections were needed to compensate for years of Tory misrule.

Today, top up fees in fact still pay only a fraction of the true costs of tuition; it's still subsidised, and we're still getting a hand out from the taxpayer. Moreover, students are no longer required to provide the cash for their courses up front; the incentive for poorer students and their families to enter higher education is obvious.

For what it's worth, Labour could have been more receptive to the idea of a graduate tax, and this debate is still worth having. It is undeniable that student debt is a struggle for many who leave university, but you would be hard-pressed to find anyone who didn't leave university debt-free in 'the good old days'. What is clear is that we cannot ever go back to underfunding higher education and restricting a university education to being a perk for the the richest in our society.

That aside, there are countless ways in which Labour has created advantages for everyone since 1997. The introduction of the national minimum wage, the repealing of Section 28 (giving equal rights to LGBT students), tax credits for families who needed them most, public sector pay rises, unprecedented investment in apprenticeships, and funding for international development programmes.

Of course there is more to be done, but anyone with a sense of social justice can appreciate how much Labour has improved the lives of ordinary people, and particularly the lives of students.



Flickr users fotologic, Liberal Democrats, Ewan McIntosh, dogfrog, stuartpinfold, Kevulike, Anosmia

ain - students speak out

the powers that be

Alex Blance wants to go back to a Conservative future



Labour has inspired a radical change in the way higher education is viewed

- Harry Davies

When I confess my terrible secret to my fellow students, the reaction is usually the same: a raised eyebrow, a snort of derision, and a tirade of abuse.

Yes, it's not easy being a campus Conservative. Students are notoriously left-wing: As the saying goes, if you're under thirty and vote Conservative, you have no heart, if you're over thirty and vote Labour, you have no head. Our generation may be Thatcher's babies, but the issues that have mobilised young people in recent years have been defiantly left wing, from top-up fees to Iraq, globalisation to civil liberties.

But it seems that behind closed doors, a growing number of young people are discovering the love that dare not speak its name. The Conservatives are the biggest political society at the LSE, a situation that's reflected around the country, where Conservative Future has many more members than Young Labour. At first glance, this may seem surprising: the Conservatives have made no attempt to win the student vote by promising to scrap top-up fees and they remain in favour of continued engagement in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But for me, this failure to pander to the student vote is the very essence of Conservative philosophy. While Labour governs according to the principle of 'divide and rule', splitting the electorate up into minority groups who can be bought with targeted giveaways, the Conservatives believe that we are 'one nation', with a shared purpose and common interests.

It is little wonder that the Conservatives had the first female and the first Jewish prime ministers; it would be no surprise if we were the first to have a black or Asian prime minister in due course. This is because Conservatives have always believed that people are not defined by their class or their race but by their individual personality and abilities. Boris Johnson made this approach a cornerstone of his campaign to become London mayor, opposing Ken Livingstone's bribes for minority groups in favour of a unified London approach. Londoners of all backgrounds embraced his message that all our interests are better served by working together.

So what sort of a society do the Conservative Party believe in? As it turns out, it is one that many students would like to live in. A Britain where you don't have to carry an ID card to prove your identity and you cannot be locked up for 42 days without trial; a country where wind turbines and solar power help tackle energy insecurity and climate change; a society where we trust people to make the decisions that affect their own families, schools and communities, rather than running around trying to follow the latest Five Year Plan from Number 10.

The Conservatives believe that on the whole, Britain is a pretty good place, filled with pretty good people. If we free them from the shackles of state interference, economic growth and social improvement will follow. And that's good for all of us, whether we're students or not.

Luckily, most of us are too young to remember the Britain of the late 1970s, a country that was slowly going down the pan. But while many on the left saw nothing but decline in the future, Mrs Thatcher strongly believed that Britain could still be a serious world player. The economic revolution she ushered in saw us rediscover our prosperity and our place in the world. After another decade of Labour mismanagement, Britain faces new problems: a growing sense of mistrust for our fellow citizens and a rising tide of antisocial behaviour.

But once again there is an opposition party ready to step in and make the difficult decisions needed to get the country back on its feet. David Cameron has said he wants to do for society what Mrs Thatcher did for the economy. For the sake of our future, we should hope that he is able to live up to his promise.



The Conservatives believe that we are 'one nation', with a shared purpose and common interests

- Alex Blance



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The Beaver

Social

Michaelmas Elections preview Where your vote will go



Do democracy a favour

As election season approaches, find out what you'll be voting for

Court of Governors

Places available: 5

Role: Five students are elected to represent student views to the second highest decision making body in the LSE. The Court discusses major decisions that will affect the LSE's future development. The Board also deal with the naming of new buildings (such as the New Academic Building – NAB) and lecture theatres.

Famous members of the Court include Cherie Booth (Blair), Sir Peter Sutherland, the School's Chair, and Lord Saatchi. The General Secretary of the Students' Union is also a member. Academic issues are sometimes discussed by the governors, though these are usually dealt with by the Academic board.

The Court of Governors meets once a term and all members of the student union are entitled to run for a position on the Court of Governors.

The Academic Board

Places available: 3

Role: The academic board is the highest committee within LSE. Its members meet

to discuss issues regarding the academic standards of the LSE. Sir Howard Davies is the chair of the board.

Notable Achievement: Students and the board complained about teaching standards, leading to LSE investing £2million to resolve the issue.

Residences Officer

Places available: 1

Role: The Residences Officer is your first point of contact regarding accommodation. The officers job is to offer advice and listen to your complaints. In addition, the student elected for this role will also liaise with Hall committees.

They are also charged with holding a 'residences forum' once in both Michaelmas and Lent terms.

Postgraduate Officer

Places available: 1. Open to all research/taught postgraduate students.

Role: The post grad officer will be the voice of LSE postgraduate students to the Union Executive and a trustee of the

Students' Union. This individual must be a postgraduate student. The postgraduate officer communicates with the National Postgraduate Committee and receives a budget as the Chair of the Postgraduates Forum, which must be held once a term.

General Course Representative

Places available: 1. NB. Only General Course students may stand and vote for this position

Role: This is the primary representative for all General Course students to the Executive Committee and the school. The Gen. Course Rep sends a fortnightly email to General Course students and advises them of upcoming events/news.

Honorary President and Honorary Vice-President

Places available: 1 for each position

The Honorary President is a nominated position. The President is the symbolic head of the union. This is an individual whose actions best represents what we at the Union aspire to achieve. This year's

Honorary President was Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese Pro-Democracy prisoner of conscience.

The Honorary Vice-President is another nominated position. In the past it has sometimes been a student/young person who has also shown the capacity to represent what symbolises the best attributes of the Union. This year's Vice-President was Khaled Al-Mudallal, a Bradford Student who became stranded in Gaza. But it doesn't have to be a young person, and you may find a surprise on the ballot for both these positions.

Constitution and Steering Committee

Places available: 2

Role: One of seven who interpret/advise on the Codes of Practice and Constitution of the Union. They oversee motions before they go to the Union General Meeting (UGM) to ensure they are not illegal or against equal opportunities. They also help the UGM Chair conduct meetings. Members have an eye for detail and enjoy having a debate.

National Union of Students (NUS) Representatives

Places available: 5

Role: Students are elected as representatives to the National Union of Students (NUS) annual conference. This allows you to take a lead not only on issues affecting LSE Students, but students across the country. The NUS campaigns for fairer funding of higher education, to improve student welfare, and strengthen students' unions through training and support. This is one of the most exciting times to run for the NUS, given that 2009 will see a review on the level of Tuition Fees paid by UK (and European Union) students as well as further attempts to reform the NUS. There has never been a better time to get involved with the NUS and have your voice heard on a national level.

All students, both undergraduates and postgraduates are able to run for the positions.

Campus life Freshers' Flu

Atishoo!

It comes round every year. We all get it. It goes away eventually. But Felipe Martins says Freshers' Flu is still a nuisance

The coughing in lectures and classes, the sickening yellowy stuff on the tissue paper after you've blown your nose, the body pains that make you want to stay in bed the whole day. Sound familiar to you? That's right: these symptoms all belong to what has been nick-named through the years as "Freshers Flu".

Freshers Flu is in essence the real flu, although its nickname is derived from the fact that nearly all freshers catch it in their first few weeks at university. And it's not only limited to LSE students or freshers.

"Second, third year and graduate students also tend to get the flu at the start of the academic year," notes Carr-Saunders student Sonia Dunlop, who has seen the same phenomenon happening every year since she started her studies at LSE as an undergraduate, all the way through to her current fourth year as a postgraduate student.

"I'd say that at some point or another, at least 70 per cent of students get the flu each year," she adds.

The flu catches on because "people go out a lot to crammed places – they share drinks, don't get enough sleep, they snog

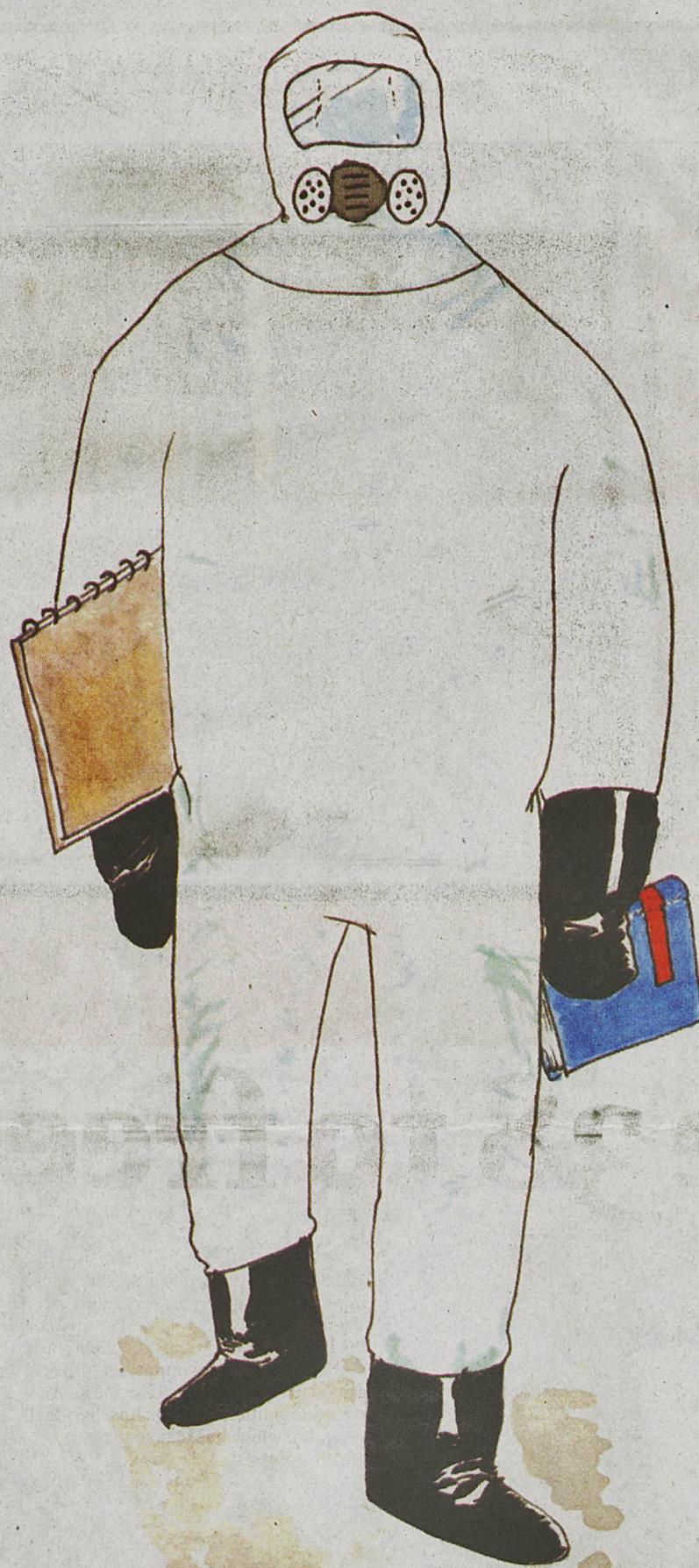
and God knows what," Dunlop says. "This allows bacteria to spread and consequently weakens the immune system," making students more prone to catching the flu during this time of voracious partying.

"A bit groggy" is how fresher Melanie Hau describes the way she has felt since catching the flu in the last few days. "Many lose their capacity to concentrate effectively and to work," points out the Practice Manager of the St Philip's Medical Centre on the LSE campus, Imran Iqbal.

The surge in the flu over the past few weeks has also been noted by a major chemist on Tottenham Court Road, in an area largely frequented by students, while the St Philip's Medical Centre, where many LSE students are registered, also acknowledges the surge as an annual occurrence.

However, many students prefer to treat their illness themselves, and hence the number of students diagnosed with the flu at the medical centre has been relatively low so far, with only around 20 cases since the beginning of the academic year.

To be safe from the flu, students can take several precautions. It's probably best to miss one party and have a quiet night



in if you feel ill, than for the flu to worsen – leaving you unable to go out for a whole week. Apart from these and other simple precautions, your local medical centre (e.g. St Philip's) offers the flu vaccination for free – yes, free – to all registered patients.

This will save you £15, which is what you would pay for a flu jab in Boots. Even if you're not registered in any medical centre, you can still save money by taking the flu jab at the St Philip's Medical Centre for only £9.95. All you have to do is make an appointment at the reception, and then meet with the nurse to take the jab. But hurry, as stocks are limited.

To those who have been through Freshers Flu – don't worry, because every one has been there at some point. After all, how can you be a fresher without having Freshers Flu? And if you think you are one of the lucky ones... Your time will come too (unless, of course, you've been smart enough to take flu jab).

Society report RAG Freshers' Ball

Glad RAGs

Louisa Clare Evans

Thanks to its highly successful RAG Freshers' Ball, LSE Students' Union's year-round Raising And Giving campaign has got off to a flying start for 2008-2009. Last Tuesday more than seven hundred people attended the three-floored, James Bond-themed party. The Casino boasted prizes from a cruise and Samsung smart phone, to TopShop vouchers and two bottles of (good) champagne.

Three of these prizes are still unclaimed, so if there is a Greg, Rhys or Weichow Wang about please get in touch with RAG to claim your prizes!

Ben Jones, the current President of RAG said of the ball that "the feedback has been really positive. We completely sold out of tickets and had around a hundred people wanting to buy tickets on the door." The event raised over £7,205 for RAG's worthy charities, setting RAG firmly on the road for raising even more than last year's fundraising total of £20,000. That's no mean feat for what, given LSE's size, is a comparatively smaller committee than at more established RAG universities in

the UK such as Nottingham or Loughborough.

The committee themselves would be the first to admit that they are still learning the ropes. Jessica Cartwright, last year's president and this year's vice-president, said that "we had a few hiccups at the start, and didn't quite meet the bar spend, but overall we're really pleased with what we put together." According to Jones: "The approximate £100 missed bar spend will be put back into future RAG events for all RAG members." So it wasn't all bad.

Charlotte Gerada, RAG's Events Officer said she had been really impressed

with this year's Freshers. "They seem really enthusiastic. We had so many people sign up during Fresher's Fair so we're hoping to get even more people involved this year."

There are lots of ways that anyone at LSE can take part in RAG, and the committee is really keen to get as many new faces as possible involved. There will be a meeting this Tuesday for anyone interested in being part of the RAG Publicity Team, or being a Halls Representative. Both the Events Team and Business and Finance Team are looking for willing volunteers and will have a separate meeting on Thursday. Keep an eye out for meeting

places to be confirmed at the beginning of this week.

RAG's next big event will be the London RAG Raid, where LSE's RAG will be joined, in costume, by RAGs from other universities across the UK. For more information about this most glorious of RAG traditions or any other queries, drop an email to su.rag@lse.ac.uk.

Dates

Tuesday 21 October
Publicity Team and Halls Reps
Thursday 23 October
Events and Business Teams

Experience My first two weeks at LSE



Flickr user Will Southward

On the 38 to freedom

Not even London's transport system can stop Yu-Chien Fang escaping her sheltered life for LSE

So, here I am, at the ripe old age of 24, embarking on the momentous endeavour of attaining a Masters at the LSE. Unfortunately, this also entails the simultaneous ejection from the hitherto unappreciated comforts of home. LSE implies London, which implies student residences, which, I have been told in good faith, is filled with such trials as doing one's own laundry, cooking one's own meals and (oh, will horrors never cease) communal bathrooms. To put my anxieties and the rest of the article in context, let me state at the outset that, the little South African princess that I am, I have only very recently sprung from the wombs of Mommy and Daddy (who provide food,

shelter, love, affection and everything in between), GPS (which gives directions from A-B with pinpoint accuracy) and Nanny (who provides everything else). Now, this may or may not be similar to anyone else's background at the LSE: but I'll happily admit I have lived a very sheltered life.

I arrive in London on a beautiful sunny Sunday. Apparently it was the first blue sky Londoners had seen in over two weeks. Lucky me! All seems good, the restroom is small but serviceable, my flat mates are friendly and - thank God for small mercies - the communal bathrooms are clean. I pass a peaceful if uneventful night.

The next morning, I wake up bright

and early, determined to get to the all-important induction meetings on time. There is nothing, I have been assured, that the Brits like better than punctuality, and seeming keen is very important to create a good first impression. I ask the knowledgeable gentleman at the Rosebery Hall reception which bus to take to campus and he points me to Number 38. Get off at King's Way, he says. 'King's Way,' he reminds me helpfully, 'is practically at the school doorstep'. I duly hop on the 38. I think to myself, 'Hey, look at me, riding in a traditional London double-decker, swiping in with my very own Oyster card, you'd never know I was a tourist.' No. You'd never know. Right up to the point when I miss my stop.

So, I'm sitting there, admiring the scenery, diligently looking out for King's Way. The bus rolls on, I see London town for the first time. . . 5 minutes. . . 10 minutes. . . 15 minutes go by, I'm thinking, 'Must be soon now', but no, no King's Way. . . 20 minutes. . . 25 minutes. What? Terminal station? I've missed my stop! How did this happen? There was no King's Way, I'm absolutely positive! I get off and ask the conductor for help. He says that 'King's Way is the street, the station is

Holborn. Get on the 38 again and get off at Holborn'. OK, fine, not a disaster, just get on the bus again. So, I duly get back on, 5 minutes. . . 10 minutes. . . I'm thinking, 'OK, must be soon now'. . . no. . . no. . . still no Holborn. All right, maybe it was really close to home then. . . and bam! Rosebery Avenue! Shit! I'm back home! I've taken the bus all the way back, practically to my own doorstep again!

So I decide that as I've already wasted God knows how many pounds, let me walk it, et voilà - despite my atrocious sense of direction and never having had the ability to navigate by map before, I find campus, by walking, all on my own. Just one of my many triumphs in the last few days.

LSE is fantastic. I've spent just about every day on campus, being astounded by the international and SMART student body. People are speaking in their second language and yet they're so informed, educated and witty. The library is huge and the system is so well designed. Self-service? Just scan and go? I've put up with five years of eternal queues, crusty librarians and fidgety ancient ink stamps. This is amazing! And there are about a million books. I don't think I have to read

anything else at all - I just keep wanting to read other people's textbooks. The campus is weird though. There's no real campus, no big impressive doors or anything. It's almost as if the School bought a few of the buildings along a busy road and that's the campus. I find it a bit surreal that we have our main building right next to some random coffee shop and the post office.

I think I'm suffering from over-stimulation at this point. Every little alley fills me with glee (has anyone else seen The Old Curiosity Shop yet?). Every new lecturer keeps astounding me with their unbelievable résumé, astonishing me with their friendliness and approachability. Every new person I meet is from a hitherto unknown country (Kyrgyzstan anyone?). I spend every waking minute wandering around, ignoring my increasing list of readings (and one memorable afternoon having lunch with a young Paul Walker look-alike). And here it is, my second week already. And it's Thursday night, which means soon, as we say in South Africa, 'It's the weekend, baby!'

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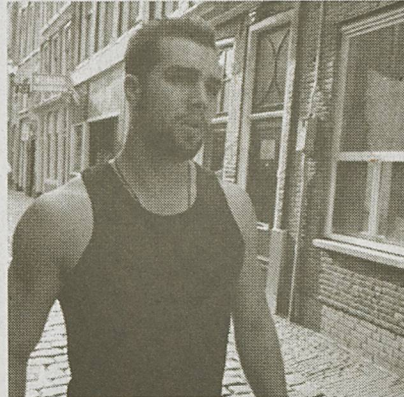
Team mates

LSE's resident Cheeky Chappay Tom Jacques tells us about the LSEFC 1st team



Ed, please don't fine me too much for this article!

Best Playa...



Tiago, our Brazilian import, managed to get home to a girl's bed by merely flexing his muscles and letting her stroke his tattoo. This story is made better by the fact that he had to jump out of the window the next morning, wearing his toga, as her father chased him out of the house!

Worst Playa...

Rob Fenton. His lack of conversion has



made old Rojo look like Casanova!

Worst dress sence...

Scouse. He resembles Oliver Twist and seems completely startled by the bright lights of London Town.

Most likely to pull your sister...

In the summer I invited Rick Roberts for a night out in Romford. All was going swimmingly until I went to wake him up in the spare room, couldn't find him, and found him in bed with my sister!

Biggest hardman...

Tiago and Georgi look like they should be on muscle beach rather than Berrylands

The joker...

Ed said that if I don't say he is the team joker then I get a hefty fine: Ed is hilarious. He understands and enjoys all banter 100% of the time. I find it difficult to stop laughing every time he speaks.

Slowest player..

I don't think I could get away with anyone



else but saying Lowster. Sorry Low, but you are fucking slow.

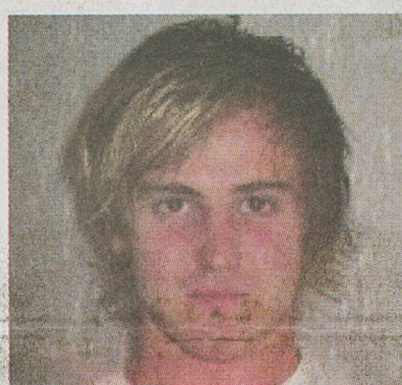
Most likely to chat out of his arse...

In all fairness I do chat a ridiculous amount of crap. You'll probably hear me talking about the time I played for Dagenham & Redbridge and scored a couple against West Ham. Also that I'm a quality boxer who didn't embarrass myself during the LSE Fight Night. A little known fact about me is that I actually went to school at Eton, where Prince Harry was 3 years above me.

Worst English...

Alex Casimo has a thick scouse accent that makes him utterly incomprehensible.

Worst haircut...



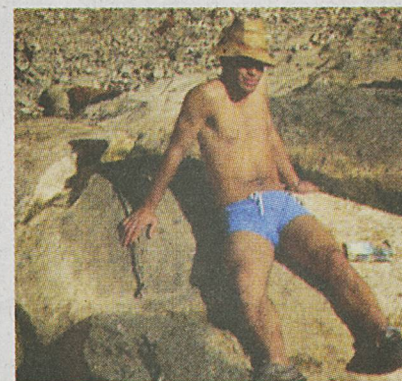
Lawrence Fisher. You can see the photo, I think we can all agree on this one.

Best moaner...

Scouse. The Liverpuddlian ragamuffin won't shut the fuck up on the football pitch, it's just lucky that no-one can understand what on earth he is saying! A close second is Brian, Healy Snr., but as with scouse no-one can really understand what he's saying!

Who's longest in the shower?

I would have said myself until I sat next to Mike Maynard and realised I was about as big as his left ball.



flickr user Cdr Aitch

Hamilton needs to learn

Nick 'Sir Francis' Drake explains what it takes to be a winner

What do you do when you've won it all? Achieved all your dreams? Climbed Mount Olympus? For the serial champions, the answer is simple: do it all again.

Consider Steve Redgrave, rowing's Michael Jordan. Sir Steve won his first Olympic gold medal in 1984 but kept coming back, even when he promised he wouldn't. Sixteen years later the result was five consecutive Olympic golds and the indisputable title of rowing's greatest champion. Le Tour de France's first century of cycling was also defined by the number five. Four legendary riders, Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain, all won the Tour de France five times but never made it to six. The wheels were set into motion for this to change in 1999, when Lance Armstrong, a cancer survivor from Texas, won his first Tour. He went on to redefine a sport notorious for horrific crashes, bad luck and doping to win seven consecutive times. Even now this insatiable champion of champions wants more, just one more yellow jersey. Armstrong will ride through the fields and mountains of France in pursuit of his eighth title and another defining number for the sport of cycling. Motor racing's Schumacher and seven, basketball's Russell and eleven or swimming's Phelps and fourteen, are all the numbers of serial champions.

For those athletes who win just once or twice in their careers, the mere champions of sports, luck can be a friend. For Zach Johnson, unusual weather conditions, the form of his life and - according to the devout Christian - divine intervention all combined to help him win the 2007 Masters Golf Championship. The victory was career defining but without belittling Johnson's achievement it is victory unlikely to be repeated. His best performance in one of golf's four majors - besides his victory - is tied 17th and he has yet to show signs of the golf that won him his maiden major. For the man Johnson beat to the title, Tiger Woods, the challenge is different. The challenge for Woods and all of sport's perennial champions is to produce not just one great performance but many. Michael Jordan said the hardest thing in sports is

consistency and the reason is factors like luck, the weather, the performance of your teammates become enemies not friends. These uncontrollable factors are sport's balancing forces that rush to the aid of the underdog.

In 2007, at the World Championships Michael Phelps was, just like in Beijing, chasing eight golds. But unlike in Beijing he won only seven. Wisely, considering the US' dominance in swimming and Phelps' ridiculously packed schedule, the US put a second string team into the heats of the 4x100 medley relay. However, a false start during a changeover by one of the US men disqualified the US team and denied Phelps a chance at eight golds. Something entirely out of his control stood in the way of Phelps' quest for consistency.

So how do these uncompromising champions of champions, the athletes that have literally redefined their sports by their unprecedented dominance, overcome these uncontrollable factors? The answer may be surprising but actually they don't even try to. Instead they just accept it, move on and usually win anyway.

In 1936 the Olympics were held in Germany. Hitler was starting to take a stranglehold over the German people and his ideas about racial supremacy were gathering pace. He and his ministers were hoping for a dominate display by Germany's athletes (indeed they topped the medal table) to show the resurgence of Germany under the Nazi regime. Crucially the Games were a chance for Hitler to prove to the world the superiority of the Aryan race over other races, including black Africans. So when Jesse Owen, an African-American, woke up on the 3rd August 1936 he didn't just have to beat the other athletes he also had to beat the officials too. In the long-jump for example (one of the four events he competed in that day) the officials would cheat him and chop centimetres of the distance he had jumped. Yet despite this, he accepted what was uncontrollable and finished one of the greatest days in sporting history with four golds and became not just an Olympic legend but an icon for the black power movement.

British Formula 1 driver Lewis Hamilton must learn from these serial champions is to accept what's out of his control like his collision with Massa in Japan or the decision to deny him victory in Belgium this year for a dubious illegal manoeuvre. He cannot be haunted by what might have been but instead must focus purely on controlling the controllable. Whether Hamilton wins the F1 championship this season or not, his performances in F1 have been a very mixed bag. On the one hand there have been some racing master classes: like his performance at Monaco this year where he won despite numerous safety cars eradicating the leads he had so diligently built up. On the other hand though, he has developed an unsettling tendency to make kindergarten errors at crucial times. For example, in China last year, despite leading Kimi Raikkonen the eventual champion by 17 points with just two races to go, he crashed when driving out of the pit-lane and in doing so helped end his title chances.

Coming into the finale of the F1 season Hamilton is in a strong position to win the championship. Hamilton is in almost exactly the same situation he faced and failed from last year: with one race to go he leads his title rival, in this case Felipe Massa of Ferrari, by seven points. It's been said before, but it is Hamilton's championship to lose.

The New York Giants' quarterback, Eli Manning's performances in many ways were similar to Hamilton's: at times awe-inspiringly good but at other times mistake-ridden and unreliable. What Manning realised last season is that American Football games, like F1 races, are usually lost not won. In controlling the controllable, namely his own performance and minimizing his mistakes he helped his team to one of the greatest underdog victories in the history of sports.

Last season, Raikkonen didn't win the championship; Hamilton lost it. If Hamilton doesn't want to lose it again he must learn the lessons of the serial champions and then maybe, in time, he will join them.

Results

Squash

Men's 1st beat Essex 1st 3-2
Men's 1st beat Queen Mary's 1st 5-0
Men's 2nd beat Men's 3rd 3-2
Women's 1sts beat Reading 4-0

Rugby

LSE rugby 1sts 12 - 22 Kent 1sts
2XV played the 3XV and I think we agreed the score was 38 - 10
Surrey Womens Rugby 40 LSE Rugby 0

Women's Netball

University Campus Suffolk 4 LSE 2nds 40
LSE 4ths netball lost 13-16 to KCL Medics 5ths!

Tennis

Mens first vs UCL 2nds, rained off
Mens 2nd vs Kings CL 1sts, lost 4-6
Womens 1st vs brighton 1st lost 2-8.

Mens' Hockey

1st team drew 3-3 at home to KCL 1sts.

Badminton

LSE Men's Firsts beat Queen Mary Firsts 5-3
LSE Men's Seconds lost to UCL Firsts 0-8

Basketball

LSE Men's 1st Basketball Team beat Brighton's 1st; 57-55
Women's b'ball Lost to Goldsmiths 20-39

Table Tennis

Men's 1sts beat Middlesex Uni 9-7
Women's 1sts beat Essex Uni 4-1

Running team

Results from Wednesday:
15.10.08; London Colleges League first race at Parliament Hill:
Men's individual results (LSE placings)
6 Daniel Hawellek LSE
17 Domien de Witte LSE
32 Vikram Balachandrar LSE
61 Phil Armour LSE
87 Christian Petrangelo LSE
88 Greg Opie LSE
90 Keith Adams *LSE II
94 James May LSE II
96 Alex Boyce LSE II
100 Peter Whiite LSE II
101 Kevin Dickman LSE II
Women's individual results:
7 Joy Zhu LSE
10 Caterina Scaramelli LSE
17 Carolyn Reardon LSE
21 Harriet Jackson LSE II

Football

LSE 1s beat Roehampton 1s 4-1
LSE 1s drew with QM 1s 0-0

LSE 2s lost to QM 2s 3-5
LSE 2s lost to RUMs 1s 2-3

LSE 3s beat Kingston 4s 1-0
LSE 3s beat St Barts 3-2
LSE 4s lost to LSE 5s 1-4
LSE 4s lost to Holloway 4s 1-2

LSE 5s beat LSE 4s 4-1
LSE 5s beat QM 3s 1-0

LSE 6s beat St George's 2 5-2
LSE 6s lost to Holloway 5s 1-2

LSE 7s beat Imperial Medics 6-2
LSE 7s drew with Holloway 6s 1-1

When in Rome, dress as a Togalese ...

Sophie Hunt

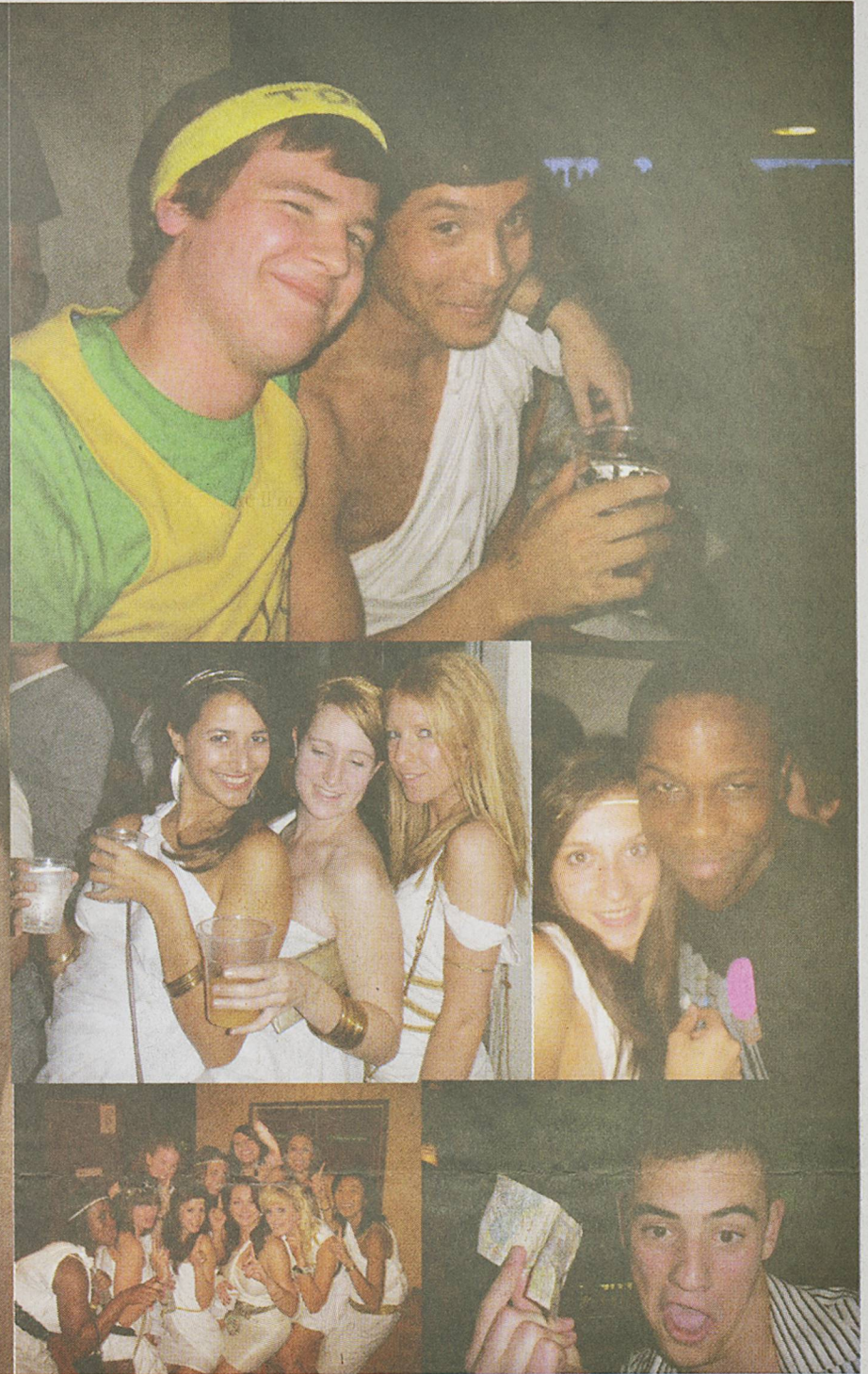
It is a little known fact that the third Wednesday in October is a date long celebrated in the Roman Calendar. This great occasion commemorates the gods' generous provision of snakebite on earth and the arrival of fresh livers to campus. Standard ceremonial procedures include boat races, games of taps and publically forced imbibing. It is customary to fashion the traditional dress in a manner that ensures it is no longer respectable or decent when the hour is called to begin the procession to Leicester Square.

Not that the AU needs an excuse to drink. We manage the feat regularly, but to welcome all those budding new sports men and women to the AU, it seemed only logical to do it in fancy dress. The interpretation of what can be considered a 'toga' was impressively broad. Netball, clearly familiar with navigating their way around bed sheets, used it to legitimately have a lot of leg on display. Men's rugby used their freshers as slaves, dressing them in a single loin cloth, while some bright spark in the FC got the 5ths and 6ths dressed as 'Togans', complete with facepaint and the national football kit. Unfortunately, my memory is a little bit hazy of the details of the night, but like all great gatherings, nearly everyone there were in a similar state, so thankfully the factual accuracy of anything reported here is unlikely to be challenged.

My congratulations this week must go to men's rugby who although may not be able to beat the FC in a test of strength, they can when it comes to drinking. Women's hockey also deserve some respect, who proved that they have the drinking skills to grace the tuns every Wednesday night, having been clear winners of the women's boat race. Apologies are directed towards those FC and rugby fresher's who were volunteered to take place in the straight arm downing competition. Maybe some practise is in order to prevent such a blatant self inflicted beer shower.

Due to libel issues, naming and shaming isn't really allowed in *The Beaver*.

However, courtesy of some budding photo journalists lurking in the AU, for those of you not in attendance (shame on you) here is what you were missing out on...



Running tings bad bwoy

Greg Opie

After the departure of Tom "LSE Sports Personality of the Year 2008" Beedell (he graduated, apparently), there was naturally some concern about how the running team would do this year. It turns out we will barely notice he's not there.

Despite the conditions that could only be described as "wet and muddy", fifteen brave runners turned out for the first race of the season last Wednesday, held at the aptly named Parliament Hill. It's a course that was described by the captain of the team as having "one hill near the start then its mostly flat", and he was right about the first hill - but forgot to mention all the other hills after that one. It certainly isn't a course designed to be raced right after a summer of no exercise and too much drinking.

With that in mind, the teams performed very well. The women's team find themselves just 4 points off University of London leaders UCL, and only 30 points off the future sports teachers from sports college St Mary's. The men's first team are currently a solid third, trailing UCL and Gimperial, while the second team are only 20 points behind Strand Poly's first team.

There were also some spectacular individual performances, particularly from Daniel Hawellek and Joy Zhu, who came 6th and 7th in the men's and women's races respectively. For the women, we then had Caterina Scaramelli coming in at 10th, Carolyn Reardon finishing 17th and Harriet Jackson rounding up the team at 21st. If the women's team continue to race like that they could easily top the league.

For the men's team, new boy Domien De Witte finished in 17th place, shortly

followed by Vikram Balachandar in 32nd. The running team is particularly badly hit by Wednesday afternoon scheduling, and Vikram is a perfect example of this; under the cover of "wanting to do an LSE postgraduate course" he jumped ship from the UCL team, only to find the Economics department have packed out his Wednesday afternoons, clearly not realising how vital he is to LSE running. After Vikram came another new recruit, Phil "doesn't need a nickname because his surname is" Armour in 61st, and then rounding off the first team were Christian Petrangelo and team captain Greg "leads from the back" Opie in 87th and 88th.

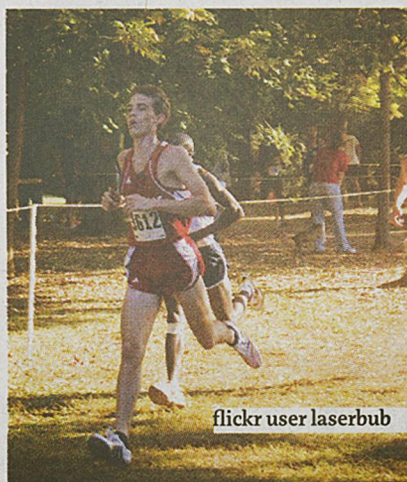
Then came the men's second team, led by veteran Keith Adams in 90th, and treasurer James May in 94th, who is certainly producing a lot less banter this year after losing his head to head with Greg Opie in last year's league. Alex Boyce came in close behind at 96th, followed by Peter White and Kevin Dickman at 100th and 101st.

It was a great start to the season, and each team now has their own targets. The women's team can win their league, the men's realistically needs to aim at overtaking Gimperial to come second, and for the men's seconds, they have the first team from across the Strand within their sights.

Running League Table

- MEN**
- 1 - UCL - 590pts
 - 2 - Imperial - 559pts
 - 3 - LSE - 509pts
 - 4 - Royal Holloway - 446pts
 - 5 - UCL 2nds - 432pts
 - 6 - Imperial 2nds - 418pts
 - 7 - UCL 3rds - 308pts
 - 8 - Imperial 3rds - 280pts
 - 9 - Kings - 262pts
 - 10 - LSE 2nds - 239pts

- WOMEN**
- 1 - UCL - 213pts
 - 2 - LSE - 209pts
 - 3 - Kings - 183pts
 - 4 - UCL 2nds - 182pts
 - 5 - Imperial - 159pts



flickr user laserbub

The AU Insider

Mark Question

Beaver Sport witnessed a bouncer at Zoo Bar requesting a netballer to show him her penis. Nice, and harsh, but fair.

The rugby team have a sweepstake going on how many of LSE's finest the female contingent of their club will take home on Wednesday nights over the course of the year. Most seem to suggest it will be between 35-45, though all bets are welcome. Please contact the rugby club captain should you wish to get involved. Sports has the current total at 4. If you know otherwise please contact us.

And finally, our well placed sources tell us that LSE's mystery lottery winner of £235,000 is a member of our very own Ultimate Frisbee team. Come on mate, share the wealth, our frisbees are shit quality, time for an upgrade!

Gamblers Anon

Keeping & Low

Like the punter but better and for real

The kind people at Betfair have given us £20 per week to put down on whatever takes our fancy! Starting next week we will be looking at those sporting occasions that don't quite get the press coverage they clearly deserve. We will be betting with great care on all forms of sport, such as Gaelic Football, the Chess World Championship, Pelota, and, of course, Handball. If you have any hot tips on Norwegian 2nd Division football, the inside scoop on an upcoming

Aussie Rules game, or you know the lay of the land for the UK Ultimate Frisbee Championships, make sure you get in contact with the sports team at TheBeaver.Sports@lse.ac.uk. We will be keeping a running total of our successes and failures as we move away from the mainstream and into the unknown. Is sports betting about knowledge of the game, or is it just luck? We will find out by betting on the unfamiliar every week.

18+ Please gamble responsibly. Visit www.gambleaware.co.uk.

Sport

A Revolutionary Performance

Samurai Tempest Keeping

LSE 5ths 4
LSE 4ths 1

Facing another LSE team, your friends along with the odd foe, is a unique experience in the world of ULU men's football. In fact any of the sports clubs who are gifted with such an opportunity will testify that no fixture demands such mental and physical preparation. Timetabling difficulties dictate that every year the second week of the Michaelmas term bares witness to the perennial derby between the FC's two most banterous teams (honourable mention goes out to the thirds). Added spice was provided by the fact that last season both sides gained promotion to ULU Division 1, the title decided on goal difference as the Fourths were named champions.

So, a mere four months after being disemboweled by the graduations of many a senior player, the Fifths found themselves once again ready to take on their most hated rivals. That group of filthy degenerates who revel so much in rubbing our noses in their superior status. But what's in a name I ask you, what's in a name? The American president is the self professed leader of the free world, yet some call him a terrorist. Tupac Shakur is synonymous with groups who plague many parts of the aforementioned country, but I call him a revolutionary.

The build up to the game couldn't have been more contrasting for the two teams. LSE Fourths returned this year with much of their squad intact, the only notable absentee being the new Sixth team goal machine and erstwhile Beaver sports editor Josh Tendeter. Meanwhile the Fifths had been ravaged by departures of some of the finest to ever don the Sky Blue: Knuckles, The Furher, Birkenstock, Sapha and Ploppy (n.b. still technically an LSE student until Oct 22nd and according to the oracle himself Mr Richard Morrow still allowed to represent his University until one year post graduation date). In addition while the Fourths secured a fortunate opening day victory, the fifths were dealt a cruel hand by lady luck as they valiantly went down against GKT.

Despite the Saturday afternoon debacle spirits remained high in the 'Caz Revolution'. The name was a parting gift from that fan of all things nationalistic Peter Greenall in lieu of the massive squad rebuilding required. Sanjay Girvan was happy to sit on the train and gee us all up with promises of audio recordings of his nocturnal maneuvering, a promise which was broken faster than the 2nd team's defense after we all learned he has a girlfriend back in Atlanta. Notable contributions also came from Travel Editor Graeme Birrell who I'm happy to say can spell chicken but

can't tell the truth when it comes to sexual conquests and of course, the leader of our gang, Carys Glitter.

The fifths were fortunate not to fall behind early. A clinical attack begun by Bernie and not involving Andrew Simpson, something of a recurring theme both on and off the field, culminated in a goal being disallowed for the ball momentarily passing out of play. However from that point on the game was all about the revolutionaries. Drive and direction from Jon Mckinley and Dave Leeming. Ideology and craft from myself, Steven Treible and Seb Lim. Eastern promise in Nick See and Armand Daatay. Plus a German, Welshman and a couple of lads from Essex. Basically all the requisite ingredients for an underground cell with designs on regime change.

The first goal came courtesy of a storming box to box run from the well endowed, ladies take careful note, Kevin Clark. The resident pimp daddy of post graduate studies was just able to slide Leeming's cleverly delayed through ball underneath the onrushing Jamie Broom to put the fifths ahead and let the fourths know that in this game reputations count for little. Speaking of reputations, over the past three years it was regularly leveled by fourth team members that the fifths were a one man team (Tendeter 07), that man being the acorn hearted Korean wing wizard Dave Hardy. With Knuckles now firmly in the teeth of the credit crunch such accusations no longer hold sway and it seems similar gripes may now be more applicable to the Filthies.

The dejection was notable on Captain Rojo's face when he learned via the media that star striker Vic Nayar was to be sidelined indefinitely with Ankle knock. Without him the fourths looked toothless in attack but more surprisingly clueless in defence. Broomhead, in a very giving mood this particular afternoon, granted the 5s a second goal by allowing Mckinley's fearsome but straight drive to squirm underneath him. Half time was greeted with a determination to not let this one escape us as had been the case three days before.

A brief rally after the break in which the fours pulled a goal back was put down ruthlessly by the insurmountable Leeming, who over the course of the game covered more ground than a pair of Rob Low's boxer shorts. He deservedly scored when confusion in the opposition defense presented him with a glimmer of a chance which he expertly looped over Broom with a slash of his forehead. The keeper was again at fault for the fourth goal when he failed to gather another simple drive which Leeming delightfully dispatched for his second, wrapping up victory and bragging rights for the foreseeable future.



Only two games in to the season it is impossible to predict what the final league table will look like but I'm quietly confident it will be something similar to that displayed on this page. Bold words you might say but Trotsky, Martin Luther-King, Mao Tse-Tung and Ayatollah Khomeini didn't get where they did by biting their tongues. There's were battles which encompassed more than words and more than individuals. By the end of the year hopefully we will be able to add one more name to this illustrious list.

Viva la revolution.



University of London Division 1 League Table

	P	W	D	L	Pts
UCL 5s	3	2	0	1	6
LSE Men's 5s	3	2	0	1	6
Royal Holloway, 4s	2	2	0	0	6
Imperial College, London 4s	2	1	0	1	3
RUMs 2s	1	1	0	0	3
King's 3s	2	1	0	1	3
LSE 4s	3	1	0	2	3
UCL 6s	2	0	1	1	1
Imperial College 5s	2	0	1	1	1
Royal Vets 1s	1	0	0	1	0
Queen Mary 3s	1	0	0	1	0