

the Beaver

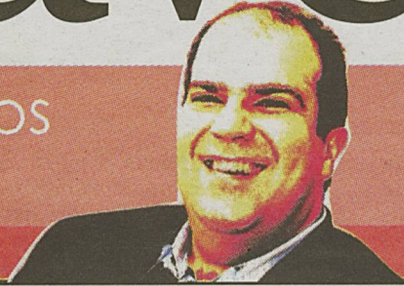
15/11/05

Issue 629

The newspaper of the LSESU

LSE Alumnus Stelios Haji-Ioannou

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Guide to Filmmaking

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Chinese government condemns LSE

Christopher Lam
Senior Reporter

The Chinese Embassy attempted to stop a controversial public lecture held by the Grimshaw Club on 7 November.

The talk was entitled "China's Secrets - the insider story uncensored" and was given by invited guests, Chen Yonglin, former Chinese diplomat to Australia and Hao Fengjun, former officer with China's secret 610 police force. The event was held in a packed D602, and drew a mixed and excited reaction from a large audience, which included many LSE students, the press, and the attention of the Chinese Embassy.

Both speakers have generated much hype and media attention around the world. In the past they have alleged that the Chinese dictatorship has exported its persecution of the families and followers of the spiritual practice 'Falun Gong' overseas, and that they even persecute the families in China of members of the group in other countries.

Despite the atmosphere in the room, Amanda Weyler, president of the Grimshaw Club, said "there was no attempt at sabotage". However, in the run up to the event, which was heavily advertised, a number of people claiming to be students attempted to discourage people from attending.

One woman claiming to be a student was handing out leaflets in the queue for the event which said that the speakers were defectors and liars and could not be trusted. "I challenged her, and she went off," said Weyler. Days before the event, green pieces of paper cautioning against attending an event run by 'defectors' were placed on all of the Grimshaw Club's own posters advertising the event.

The society sent out e-mails advertising the event to all of its members as well as to the Chinese societies in the

Union, and interested parties at the School of Oriental and African Studies. Notably, the LSE Students' Union (SU) Chinese Society did not forward the e-mail or advertise the event to any of its members. The society was unavailable for comment regarding the event.

A few days before the event, the Chinese Embassy sent an e-mail directly to Weyler strongly recommending that they were not to go ahead with the event. The e-mail said that the two guests were 'Falun Gong' activists who were going to spread lies. The society was told that they should not be given a political platform to stand on, and that any such talk could harm the image of the LSE in China.

Explaining the society's reaction to the e-mail, Weyler said, "we never had any intention of pulling the event, however, we did inform LSE security about it in case someone would try to disrupt the event."

Asked if she had replied to the e-mail, Weyler said that, "I haven't replied to it. I didn't really want to acknowledge it as in any way legitimate."

Weyler said that, "it was rather shocking that the embassy would target a student society for organising an entirely legitimate event in a public place. But the e-mail wasn't threatening as such, even if it did warn us that this type of event would damage the image of LSE in China, which really isn't our business."

Pulsefm Station Manager and Grimshaw Committee member Stacy-Marie Ishmael described the atmosphere in the talk as "electric". Taking photographs of the event, she said that many members of the audience "refused and were insistent not to have their photos taken," by herself and members of the Chinese press.

The two speakers covered similar topics from their previous talks. Chen Yonglin, former first secretary of the Chinese Consulate in Sydney, said that the Chinese Communist



Chen Yonglin and Hao Fengjun discussed the machinations of the Chinese state on 7 November in a Grimshaw public lecture

Photograph: Stacy-Marie Ishmael

Found guilty: Finance Society bosses dismissed by Students' Union

Elaine Londesborough
News Editor

Jay Majeethia and Tillmann Boettcher have been dismissed as President and Honorary Chair of the LSE Students' Union (SU) Finance Society following revelations of electoral malpractice in last week's edition of *The Beaver*.

The pair were called to an emergency Constitution Steering Committee (C & S)

meeting last Friday and were found to have been guilty of electoral malpractice in the Michaelmas term elections. C&S ruled that clause 7.1.3 of the Codes of Practice of the LSE SU, which reads 'The Union may after a recommendation by the C&S committee or the Executive committee, dismiss a society committee, or individual Society committee members on the grounds of fraudulent or illegal practice or unfair election practice', could be applied to this situation.

It was alleged that the posters placed around campus

on the morning of the first day of voting in the Michaelmas term elections, which said 'Vote No on Paul Brandenburg', constituted a 'smear campaign' by the Finance Society. This was therefore judged to be a pre-meditated and malicious attack on Brandenburg, who lost his position on the Academic Board by only 21 votes.

The dismissals followed a week in which Boettcher and Majeethia attempted to halt the publication and distribution of *The Beaver*

by threatening to have editors of the paper arrested. Prior to the publication of last week's edition of the paper, details of the article were leaked to Majeethia and Boettcher, who then assumed that the e-mails used in the article were obtained by 'hacking'.

Rumours were spread that the police had been called, leading to Sam Jones, Executive Editor of *The Beaver*, to temporarily halt publication of the paper until legal advice had been sought. The paper was later sent to the printers



Dr Maleeha Lodhi

Outspoken, witty and passionate, Dr Maleeha Lodhi, Pakistan's longest serving ambassador to the United States, speaks to Blink Editor Alexa Sharples about changing tides in her home country

Page 12



Was Napster a God? Guys and Dolls

Should we apologise to our rock idols for effectively stealing their money? Or should they actually be thanking us for contributing to the economy and their bank balances? *The Beaver* investigates the world of product placement and whether stars actually care

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GUYS AND DOLLS

Grandage's spruced up adaptation of Frank Loesser's hit classical musical from the 1950s, and gorgeous star Ewan McGregor, are examined in the Part B Theatre section



News

Majeethia and Boettcher dismissed by C&S

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once it transpired that no illegal means were employed to obtain the e-mails, and was distributed as normal for the rest of the week.

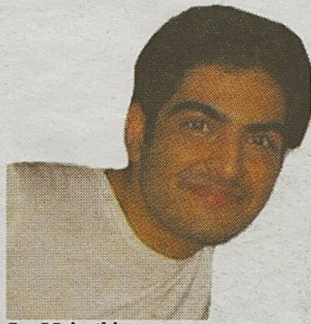
A statement issued by Jeremy Dear, General Secretary of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), further confirmed that *The Beaver* had not acted illegally or inappropriately. Dear told Jones: "The *Beaver* has carried out a legitimate journalistic investigation which is clearly in the public interest.

"The *Beaver* should make it clear that it did not, neither did it authorise anyone to, carry out a criminal act. The

Beaver obtained all information in a legal manner."

An anonymous tip-off revealed that members of the Finance Society committee were asked to sign a statement allowing IT Services to investigate their personal e-mails inboxes. However, Jean Sykes, head of IT Services, told *The Beaver*: "Our policy is to investigate specific complaints only where there are reasonable grounds, and as of yet we have not been presented with any allegation that would indicate a breach of our rules in respect of the Finance Society mailbox.

"I can also tell you that the suggestion that committee members sign statements did



Jay Majeethia:
Dismissed

not come from any of the IT Services staff who have been involved in this matter."

Boettcher maintains that committee members were pre-

pared to willingly sign the documents. He admitted, however, that he also asked committee members to "testify that they did not leak anything to *The Beaver*".

At the Union General Meeting (UGM) last Thursday, a motion was passed condemning the actions of the Finance Society. The emergency motion mandates Natalie Black, SU Treasurer, to send a letter to the Finance Society condemning their actions, and also mandates Arthur Krebbers and Jimmy Tam to explain their conduct regarding the Finance Society in front of the UGM.

At last Friday's C&S meeting, Boettcher accepted full



Tillmann Boettcher:
Dismissed

responsibility for the campaign against Brandenburg, but claimed that it was directed against his policies and had nothing to do with the article

he wrote in Issue 622 revealing the Finance Society's improper conduct in obtaining their best society award.

Sources are already speculating that Majeethia will be rerunning as President at the society's EGM later this month. Indeed, C&S made clear in their recommendations that they would do nothing to bar such a move. "Ultimately it is the membership of the Finance Society who should judge whether they want Majeethia to be their president or not" concluded the report.

Editorial, page 7

Lodhi discusses Kashmir solution



Dr Maleeha Lodhi spoke on the potential resolution of the Kashmir issue at the LSE

Photograph: Alex Teytelboym

Mahir Quraishi

Dr Maleeha Lodhi, High Commissioner for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Kingdom and an honorary fellow of the LSE, spoke to a packed audience in the Old Theatre on 7 November about the issues of tension between India and Pakistan, and the conditions for the resolution of the problems that have divided the two countries for 58 years. The lecture was chaired by Dr Athar Hussain and hosted by the LSE Asia Research Centre.

Dr Lodhi said the relationship between the two countries had entered a period of "strategic importance," with the past 20 months witnessing intense negotiations. She emphasised the changing public sentiment in both countries and the recognition that there is no military solution in a nuclearised sub-continent as

important reasons for this "new environment of peace". Lodhi added further that there was a realisation that the two countries urgently need to manage their relations in the presence of nuclear weapons, especially after the conflict in Kargil in 1999.

The High Commissioner started her talk with mention of the recent devastating earthquake in the subcontinent, saying it was Pakistan's "worst crisis" ever. The region affected worst by the earthquake, Kashmir, is the dividing issue in the subcontinent according to Dr Lodhi, and will be the crucial factor in determining the success or failure of the current peace process. She identified three major questions regarding Kashmir: "sovereignty", "security" and "humanitarian issues", all crucial parts of the peace process.

She added that Pakistan maintains a "pragmatic" and

"flexible" position, and is willing to accept Kashmiri independence as a possible solution. In response to a question posed by a Kashmiri student of the LSE about the role of Kashmir in determining its own future, Dr Lodhi said: "Kashmiris must accept the agreement and they will not accept unless they are part of the process. No peace process will work without [the Kashmiri] people."

"Sequential unilateralism" and the breakdown of the Cold-War model were two examples used by Dr Lodhi in emphasising the uniqueness and complexities the two countries face in the peace process.

However, Dr Lodhi stated that preservation of agreements, adopting a problem solving approach and a principle of reciprocity, especially with regards to demobilisation of nuclear capable ballistic weapons and decommissioning

of both conventional and nuclear weapons would ensure a sustained and successful dialogue between the countries. Dr Lodhi said the resilience of the current peace process was shown by the cooperation between the two countries in response to the recent New Delhi bombings and the smooth continuation of the peace process despite a change of government in India.

Dr Lodhi studied for her BSc and PhD degrees at the LSE, obtaining her PhD in 1980. She taught at the LSE for five years after which she returned to Pakistan to become the first female editor of a daily newspaper in Asia, *The Muslim* and also helped found and edit *The News International* newspaper. She has been Pakistan's longest serving ambassador to the United States and serves on the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Affairs.

Tuns price hike on Fridays and Saturdays

Tuns Friday & Saturday Night Price List

	New	Old
Carling	£1.75	£1.60
Worthingtons	£1.55	£1.40
Cider	£1.75	£1.60
Stella Artois	£2.15	£1.95
Grolsch	£2.10	£1.90
Guinness	£2.10	£1.90
Caffreys	£2.10	£1.90
Bottled beer	£2.10	£1.90
Corona	£2.20	£2.00
Magners	£2.40	£2.20
Spirit & Mixer	£1.75	£1.60

Patrick Cullen
Senior Reporter

LSE Students' Union (SU) Treasurer Natalie Black told the Union General Meeting (UGM) on 10 November that prices were to rise in the Three Tuns bar on Friday and Saturday nights, prompting a chorus of dissatisfaction and a shower of newspaper from the balcony. During her report to the UGM, Black mentioned that she would try and keep prices for popular drinks such as Carling as low as possible. According to price list sent to *The Beaver*, its new price is set at £1.75.

However, she immediately sought to 'sugar the pill' by announcing that the entrance cost before 10pm for Crush would be reduced from £3 to £2. When questioned about how the price rises would cover this reduction in entrance costs, Black replied that "we hope people will buy more drinks".

According to the price list, prices are to rise by 15 to 20 pence, with the most expensive drink being Magners at £2.40 (up 20 pence from £2.20), with the cheapest being Worthingtons at a new price of

£1.55 - an increase of 15 pence. In justifying the price rises, Black said "obviously, I don't do this for fun! This year we have to carry a number of licensing costs that the school used to pay, as well as increases in security and cleaning costs."

The treasurer declared in correspondence with *The Beaver* that the price rises "are only increasing on Friday and Saturday nights". On the reduction of the door price, Black said that this was to "encourage people to come earlier to make more of their venue and deal with the queues which can stretch down Houghton Street" and that "we expect it to have little impact on finances".

Students around the LSE seemed on the whole unfazed by the rises, with a common refrain amongst many saying that it would not affect them as they "don't use the Tuns". When told about the rises, some at first expressed dismay - "we're students, we're poor, the Union shouldn't be raising prices on us" said one first year - but, on being told of the extent and reasons for the price rise, were on the whole supportive. Members of the newspaper-throwing cadre were unavailable for comment.

News

Students find the time for bone marrow appeal

Arthur Krebbers

The Bone Marrow Appeal has received generous support from the student body, with over 120 volunteers signing in the first three days of the campaign. By the end of the week the appeal added over 250 LSE students.

Programme Director Nilufer Nasser told *The Beaver* the response has been "brilliant," adding that it has been "one of the best so far". Nasser hopes to cover every university in the country within the coming months.

'Find the Time', the charity she works for, was set up less than a year ago. Its designated aim is to increase the number of registrars on the British Bone Marrow Registry, as well as raising awareness about leukaemia.

Through poster, canvassing and lecturing, Nasser and her dedicated team of students have tried to explain the specifics of bone marrow transplants to the wider student population. "There are still a lot of uncertainties about this," explains Ted Low, a third year management student, and actively involved in the organisation. "People think that there are side effects to donating, but there really aren't. The tissue we take out regenerates within two to three weeks. Yet, it is life saving: bone marrow forms the building blocks of blood itself."

Low says undergoing such a transfusion could be "the greatest gift you can give. When handing out flyers on

the streets, my one liner is 'please find the time and save a life.' It really only takes 10 to 15 minutes."

Many more of the project volunteers are LSE students. Vim Ungapen, a second year management student, told *The Beaver* that he only received an e-mail outlining the campaign a week ago - and was immediately enthusiastic. "I was already a regular blood donor, but wanted to take the next step."

Ungapen is very pleased with the enthusiasm with which other students have greeted the project. "On the first day we weren't sure what to expect. But then the [Student Salon] suddenly flooded with people. Our busiest day so far has been Tuesday, when approximately 60 people added their name to the list."

First year economic history student Shaknoor Kassam was in charge of marketing the appeal. She hopes that her efforts, and those of the rest of the volunteers, have helped people on campus realise that "students can make a difference. It's often hard, as a student, to think you can make an actual change. Yet this unique charity really enables you to."

The charity is planning on making a second one-week visit to campus around mid-February next year. Kassam is already thinking of further ways to develop the campaign. "This week we will initially appeal to students who are more inclined to donate. With the experience, we will hopefully be able to gain additional widespread support in 2006."



SU General Secretary Rishi Madlani gives a blood sample for the bone marrow register
Photograph: Laleh Kazemi-Veisari



Union Jack

Cup of quad coffee: 90p.
Sabb officers with quad
Office hours: £26,000.
Finance Society cock up:
priceless.

Alas, Jack lacks enthusiasm this week. The leaves have turned and Jack feels the creep of mid-term rage.

The nice boys from the Finance Society look a bit fucked and its only the crusading hacks that give a damn. It all made for an admirable UGM - but there are only so many ego's you can fit in the OT.

Cole says he has "no friends", Sam Jones is "grossly incompetent" and Fabs Joseph needs English lessons (but unlike the other two, won't admit it). Jack feels the three should become friends. Back to the rage.

In between weekends spent at mobile phone emporia in Frankfurt, Jack wonders whether Tillmanator Butcher dedicates (*dedicated* surely? - ed.) all of his waking life to the LSE's very own Enron, The Finance Society. Alas, corporate restructuring has rendered his considerable weight of experience... useless.

Jack will be looking forward to their next arresting seminar.

Maybe Finsoc could consider a PR officer? Jack recommends Alistair Campbell (Just fuck off) but feels that they could just offer to buy this August publication. The Financial Beaver takes Jack's fancy.

Meanwhile, Cole seems to be getting his election manifesto through in parts. This way at least, our Union can enjoy all of his good policies with none of his nasty clothes. (Jack is reliably informed that Cole shares tailors with Idi Amin.)

Jack doff's his hat to Cole and looks forward to seeing the sabbos stooping to the level of the common quad pleb in their - now required - quad office hours. Indeed, quite unlike the coffee, 'how refreshing'. Jack will be asking Fishi what he thinks of Serena and Connor's assignation - though fears the response will be no more illuminating than the neighbours.com episode catch-up brief.

The UGM also solved the Middle East Crisis this week. Jack hopes Fishi will be letting the Palestinians and Israelis know that we back a two state solution. On the other hand, the Houghton Street Intifada continued apace with the irritating trots from FRFI using ideology as an excuse to peddle their unique brand of inflammatory dogma and hemp clothing.

Next week; North Korea.

Grimshaw event sparks Chinese controversy

from page 1

Party is not a stable government and warned that "the CCP is a wolf in sheep's clothing." He defected because of a lack of privacy and constant

surveillance and wants to be free forever.

Chen, former senior officer in the notorious '6-10 Office', created solely to survey 'Falun Gong' practitioners said that each time that a resolution is put forward in the UN which

calls for human rights in China to be improved, the CCP pressures Third World countries to vote against it. Chen said the CCP uses economic incentives to prevent Western governments from taking action or discuss the human

rights issues in China in a public forum.

During the event, Ishmael said that there were "two camps," and, "a definite split between those who were pro-west, and those who were forcibly against the speakers."

A few members of the audience questioned the integrity of the speakers, one asking "How can you know this since you have not been back to China in a long time?"

One foreign student from China said that she understood the reaction of the students who were scared of being identified because of fear of reprisals to themselves or their families. A Chinese member of the audience explained his reaction as "scared of being seen by his father back at home at a 'dissident' event".

The talk was held in D602, a room with capacity of 150. Witnesses report that perhaps over 250 were queuing for the event, and many were turned away, leading to arguments between two members of the public outside the room. Asked why a larger room was not booked for the event, Weyler said that she wanted to express her apologies, and that in order to fit the schedule of the speakers, "at the time of the event it was the only room available".

Despite the reaction in the room, Weyler said that the talk was a "success", and that future events covering similar topics may be possible.



Chen Yonglin was a Chinese diplomat stationed in Australia



Hao Fengjun was a senior officer in the 610 police
Photographs: Alex Teytelboym

News

State school recruitment below target

Isabella Steger
Senior Reporter

The LSE's intake of state school students falls far short of government benchmarks, according to the latest Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) figures. The School ranks sixth from the bottom amongst the 19 Russell Group universities for state school recruitment.

The statistics from 2003 (figures are published two years after registration) show that 64.3 percent of students in the LSE are recruited from state schools, short of the government benchmark of 78.2 percent. However, it does do better in comparison to fellow London universities UCL and Imperial who recruit 59.3 percent and 59.6 percent of their students from state schools respectively. Oxford, Cambridge and Durham are ranked below LSE.

The school does, however, operate a number of widening participation schemes in order

to address this problem, which was recently raised at the UGM. In September this year, official figures released showed a decline in state school university entrance in 2003.

The LSE's flagship recruitment programme, known as CHOICE, is a new scheme aimed at sixth-formers at sixty-one state schools among eight London boroughs. Over 150 talented students participate in an 18-month programme, where they receive specialist teaching in a particular subject, as well as advice on university applications and budgeting during student life. The scheme is also generously funded by the Sutton Trust and the Goldman Sachs Foundation.

The LSE Student Recruitment Office is also aiming to develop closer relations with state schools and colleges, especially targeting those with excellent A-level or IB grades to increase awareness of the School. The scheme extends out of the London

area as far as Newcastle and Manchester.

LSE Students' Union (SU) General Secretary Rishi Madlani commented that the LSE is "making strides in the right direction, but these steps are not changing the figures fast enough." He noted that the LSE does not traditionally have the same image of a public-school university like Bristol, Durham or Oxbridge do, but jokingly pointed out that the existence of state and public school groups on student directory website, Facebook, could suggest otherwise.

Nawaz Imam, a third year economics student, told *The Beaver*: "I don't think that LSE is particularly biased towards either state school or public education but could definitely do with extending its brand image across a wider variety of schooling systems. Certainly, LSE has a global reputation, but within the UK, it is perceived as more of an obscure institution, particularly amongst state schools in the

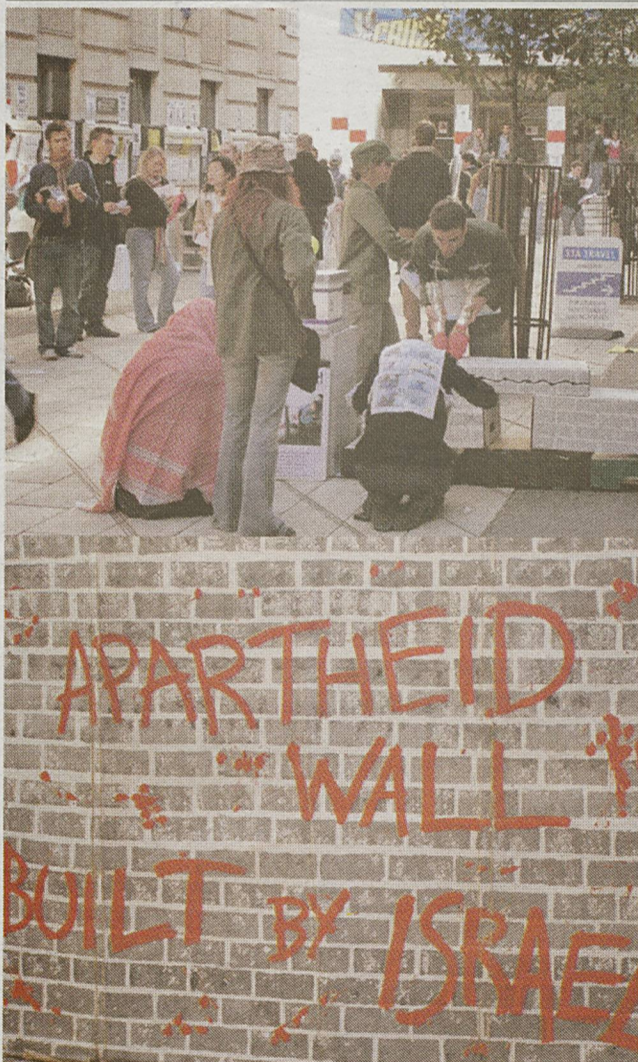
North of England."

There are worries however, that by targeting only schools with the best grades, LSE is not taking into consideration the socioeconomic circumstances that could be hampering students' achievements. However, *The Times Higher Education Supplement* discovered in March that the LSE ran a 'secret state quota' system whereby forty places were set aside each year for students from poorly performing state schools.

Phil Moss of Student Recruitment commented that top-up fees was not an LSE-specific challenge for state school students, as most universities have decided to introduce the full £3,000 tuition fee from 2006. In relation to high living costs in London, Moss said that higher education is an investment in their future for UK students, and the fact that average starting salaries for LSE graduates was higher than the national average should not deter state school students from applying.



Saint Bede's School in Surrey could benefit from LSE Choice
Photograph: Christopher Daniels



The LSE SU Fight Racism, Fight Imperialism Society held a controversial protest on Houghton Street last week. LSE SU General Secretary, Rishi Madlani, was among those to speak to the Society to about their behaviour.

Photographs: Sam Jones

Stelios makes a flying visit

Owen Coughlan

Organised by the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, Stelios Haji-Ioannou, founder of the easyGroup, returned to the LSE last week to deliver a speech about 'The Pros and Cons of Serial Entrepreneurship and Brand Extension'.

Haji-Ioannou, who graduated from the LSE in 1987, recently pledged £2 million to the School in order to fund another generation of graduates. With the orange easyGroup website projected on the screen behind him, the Greek Entrepreneur welcomed and congratulated the ten 'Stelios Scholars' - who were all present in the packed Old Theatre.

Stelios began his speech with a warning for the audience, advising not to "do a Bill Gates" and suggesting to budding entrepreneurs that they should stick with their education and get a job before starting their venture, stating that the most successful start up companies are the ones founded by those in their late twenties.

Admitting that he was not self made, having been funded early in his career by his shipping tycoon father, Haji-Ioannou named his early inspiration as Richard Branson, and the desire to 'have fun' as the motivation for founding and expanding his empire. "Without the funding from my father", Haji-Ioannou admitted, "I'd probably now be the owner of a kebab shop chain."

Talking about the right environment necessary to encourage enterprise, Haji-Ioannou suggested that LSE Director Howard Davies, who chaired the event, should have a word with his "Prime Minister friend" Tony Blair about promoting entrepreneurship in the UK through

celebrating success and tolerating failure. "By tolerating failure", Haji-Ioannou told the audience, "we learn to take risks."

The extension of the easyGroup into a 15 company empire, Haji-Ioannou explained, has been confined to two main groups: travel and leisure, and telecoms and financial services. "It is the links between the companies that has allowed for the rapid expansion" he said. When asked for his biggest business regret, Haji-Ioannou cited the rapid expansion of his internet café chain as a mistake. "I didn't listen to my advisors and it all just got out of control" he admitted.

Haji-Ioannou still insists that having fun takes priority over profit - with his companies only having to break even to survive. "If I was in it for the money" Haji-Ioannou commented, "I would have gone into Russian oil." He revealed that just three of his firms, easyJet, eastInternetcafe and easyCar, are big money makers for the easyGroup.

In the audience at Haji-Ioannou's request was Rebecca Lush, an Environmental Campaigner from the charity Road Block, who asked about easyJet's policies on aircraft emissions and the aviation industry's role in climate change.

Haji-Ioannou explained that easyJet was "solving rather than exacerbating environmental problems" through a newer fleet, fuller flights and more seats per aircraft. He did feel however that any measures put into place across the industry must be fair - not favouring one company more than others.

As the ten year anniversary of the first easyJet flight passes, Haji-Ioannou said that he can not predict where the easyGroup will be in another ten years. He felt however that oil, shipping and Silicon Valley

were the 'big opportunity' industries for the future, whilst he saw little scope for expanding his low cost airline concept to longer haul flights. Davies only hoped that the easyGroup wouldn't be expanding into education, as he "already had the easyDegree brand in mind for the International Relations Department."

The event was followed by

a drinks reception, attended by Stelios and his ten scholars, as well as the Chairs of all LSE societies. One source told *The Beaver*, "All I remember was Chris Heathcote getting drunk and being a cock - once again embarrassing himself and the Union."

for additional coverage see Part B, pages 4&5



Nice to be back? Stelios at the LSE

Photograph: Alex Teytelboym

News

Are we suffering from "Anthraxxiety"?

Laura Deck
Senior Reporter

A debate on anti-terror laws hosted by the Comparative Ideologies Society (CIS) on 8 November addressed the current state of political affairs in the United Kingdom and the way measures taken to prevent terrorism are affecting the lives of Muslims across the country. The event was chaired by Saghir Hussein of the Stop Political Terror Campaign and although seven speakers were scheduled to partake in the debate, only five were there on the day.

Preceding the panel discussion, speaker Fahad Ansari of the Islamic Human Rights Commission gave a short presentation. Ansari recently released a lengthy report on current and proposed anti-terror measures and their effects called "British Anti-Terrorism: A Modern Day Witch-hunt". In his report he recalls the effects of anti-terror laws in Northern Ireland, specifically the failure of internment as a tactic to reduce violence and unrest. He ended his report with a list of recommendations for the new Terrorism Bill, and for ways to reduce "institutional Islamophobia," "extremism," and the "demonisation" of Muslims in the UK.

The first guest to speak was Hugo Charlton, founding member of the Campaign against Criminalising Communities and Green Party spokesman for human rights. Charlton brought up the comparison between the rise of

Nazi Germany and Islamophobia today, one echoed several times later in the debate by Ansari and Makbool Javaid, lawyer and civil rights campaigner.

Ansari said that Muslims in the UK are "worried about four things...being blown up on the train, being beaten up by racists, being shot by anti-terror police, or being stopped and searched." He also mentioned Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's recent comments, which were the subject of a recent fraudulent UGM motion circulated in the name of the CIS earlier this month calling for the support of Ahmadinejad's remarks. On the contrary, a UGM motion passed on 10 November condemned the Iranian President's remarks. Ansari asked if people are to "call a political leader who says that Israel should be 'wiped off the map,' an extremist?" He went on to ask if those "fighting for land" are also considered to be extremists. Next, Ansari predicted that "pretty soon something will happen," and that the "government cannot defeat 'political Islam'... It's like a jack in the box".

Claire Fox, director of the Institute of Ideas, insisted that "it is not 9/11 or 7/7 that changed the world, it is the reaction to these events that will change the world." Fox also commended the Middlesex Students' Union President for holding a debate with controversial Islamist organisation Hizb ut-Tahrir, which resulted in his suspension. She blamed the National

Union of Students for its "counter-productive" no-platform policy on the group. Regarding Hizb ut-Tahrir, Fox objected to the proposed ban on such radical groups, saying "I should be allowed to debate with these guys... I would thrash them... That's the best way to deal with these guys." She continued to express concern for the atmosphere of fear in the country, suggesting "our society is suffering from 'anthraxxiety,' it's scared of its own shadows" and the terror bill implies "apocalyptic views of what's going to happen".

Professor of philosophy at Birkbeck College A.C. Grayling also condemned the potential ban of radical Islamist groups, although he admitted having "reservations" about Hizb ut-Tahrir. Grayling spoke primarily on the historical examples of phobias and scaremongering, saying that these problems and exaggerations by leaders and under-represented groups in society are "natural in context of a long-term view". Grayling also briefly mentioned human rights issues in China, and he earlier posted an article on his personal website citing why China should not get the 2008 Olympics, and if they do—as they have already been awarded the 2008 games—they should be boycotted due to China's human rights record.

Lawyer and Civil Rights Campaigner Makbool Javaid, who has been the centre of controversy for alleged affiliation with radical groups, called for "some honesty" for Muslims, who were "never told the rules of the game". He

asserted that for Muslims "there is a climate of fear" and that they are afraid of racists and the government's reaction to terrorism in London. The portrayal of Muslims in a negative light by the media was another issue that he raised, criticizing the coverage of the Muslim population in the UK.

All speakers agreed that some of the anti-terror proposals are unjust and discriminatory. They believe actions taken by the government have done little to address the hysteria surrounding Muslims and within Muslim communities in the UK. During the question and answer session at the end of the event, one audience member criticized the comparison to Nazism, saying it was a poor interpretation of the situation. Fox agreed that it was an "overblown" comparison. Questions regarding the connection between the Iraq War and suicide bombings were also posed, to which Fox believed any such connection seemed "hazy" and suggested that instead of looking for that relationship, people should ask why others find such "uninspiring acts so inspiring".

LSE Deputy Director Tim Murphy had earlier expressed interest in chairing the event to CIS President Usmaan Ashraf, but he was unable to join the panel due to illness. Member of Parliament Mark Oaten was also scheduled to speak but could attend because he was debating in Parliament at the time.

Christopher Lam
contributed to the
reporting of this article

Societies

SPICE visit BBC

The LSE SU Society for the Promotion of Indian Culture and Ethos (SPICE) committee members were amongst students and notables from Asian music and arts invited for a live interview for the BBC Asian Network's lunch hour show on 10 November at Madame Tussauds. Kanan Dhru, Saakshi Kumar and Mohamed Gulamhussein were interviewed about SPICE and their experiences in London as



international Asian students. The show, presented by charismatic duo Raj and Pablo, is touring the UK and currently in London.

Mohamed Gulamhussein

Education

Private Schools in Fee Fixing Scandal

Fifty of England's top private schools are under investigation by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) for collaborating with each other to fix their tuition fees at higher than market rates. Schools including Eton, Harrow and Westminster are deemed to have acted as a cartel to charge parents higher fees than they otherwise would have been and an enquiry will now look into the OFT's original findings and impose sanctions as necessary.

James Caspell

Students' Union

Sing for your supper

Last week's UGM brought with it a nasty surprise for the SU Sabbatical Officers: being forced to sing. A motion passed unanimously mandating the Saabs to sing at LSE Starhunt 2005 - a fundraising talent contest being organised by the Music Business and Development Societies in aid of music therapy charity Silver Clef. The show takes place on Monday 28 November in the Quad with star turn Howard Davies singing Celebrity Karaoke.

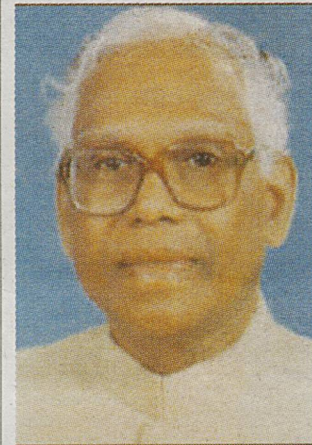
Thomas Plank

Alumni

Narayanan dies at 85

Former Indian President K R Narayanan passed away last Wednesday in New Delhi after suffering from pneumonia and kidney failure. Narayanan obtained a Economics degree with a specialisation in politics from the LSE. Narayanan was the first 'untouchable', the lowest class of India's long-standing caste system, to occupy the country's highest office. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Tanya Rajapakse



Chinese President gets mixed reception

Muin Boase

Last week supporters and protestors from the LSE gathered outside Buckingham Palace. Some were there to greet Chinese President Hu Jintao, others to protest against his visit.

As the royal carriage drew up to the palace, Hu resolutely ignored the protestors instead waving at his supporters as the queen looked on at the angry demonstrators.

President Hu was on a state visit in order build stronger economic and diplomatic ties between China and Britain. Critics, however are outraged by Tony Blair's entertaining of the leader of a country with one of world's worst human rights records in which

dissidents are routinely imprisoned, tortured or executed.

Several LSE students that support Hu were interviewed on BBC's Newsnight, where they strongly denied that they had been sent by the Chinese embassy.

Amongst the protestors were members of the Falun Gong and Free Tibet movements. Tenzin Metok Sither, who left the LSE to work full time for Free Tibet, urged President Hu Jintao "to meet with the Dalai Lama to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the 55 years of occupation of Tibet."

As China emerges as a key international player, controversy over its human rights record is likely to continue to divide student opinion.



Protesters outside Buckingham Palace Photograph: Muin Boase

Director comments on THES league tables

Douglas Oliver

Howard Davies, director of the LSE, last week wrote in *The Independent* newspaper that though university league tables are useful, prospective students ought not choose their University on "auto-pilot" solely by how high they are rated.

Davies' comments came a week after the *Times Higher Education Supplement* ranked

the LSE the eleventh best higher education institution in the world.

In his article, Davies pointed out that the LSE was actually second best in the social sciences and that in terms of one of the ranking criteria - internationalism of the student body - it was top. Davies went on to trumpet the "multi-ethnic jollification" that an LSE social life provides, citing, by way of example, the following events held in one week, including: Diwali,

Ramadan; Scandanavian pub crawls; a CEEDS party; and Chinese lessons on Houghton Street.

However, Davies pointed to the frailties of university league tables, claiming "enthusiasm for any particular table on the part of an organisation listed in it, is tightly correlated with the position at which that organisation appears." Davies also noted the "oddity" of Sciences Po in Paris last year being ranked outside of the 200.

Davies concluded that the compiling of university league tables could be made "better, more accurate and stable". However, Davies claimed that there was a risk that "prospective students, faculty and research benefactors might put their decisions on auto-pilot" if students decided that, rather than thinking for themselves, they should base their higher education decision exclusively on rigidly set university league tables.

Paul Brandenburg

Societies

The LSE SU Debate Society made it to the finals of the Oxford IV debate tournament last weekend. The LSE team, consisting of Debate Society President Ali Dewji and The Beaver's former managing editor Matt Sinclair, narrowly lost out to Cambridge with Lincoln's Inn and Yale being the other two teams to make it to the finals. However, the LSE team finished first on tab, with Ali Dewji being ranked the second best speaker at the tournament.

Nastaran Tavokoli-Far

School finances

Annual fund allocations

Following a meeting of the Annual Fund Allocations Advisory Group, £371,920 has been allocated to various school purposes, including £100,000 towards the New Academic Building, £18,920 for additional Students' Union hardship funds, and £10,000 for refurbishment of the PuLSE radio and LooSE TV studios. Additionally, £20,000 was spent on a new piano for the Shaw Library, and £10,000 was spent on a new podium in the Hong Kong Theatre.

Leaving ULU

University of London Union Membership



At a recent UGM, Director Howard Davies addressed the issue of LSE's membership to the University of London (UL) in saying: "The University of London doesn't really add to LSE but then it doesn't really cost much either - under £300,000 per year." This position appears to be in contrast with that given by the school only a few weeks ago, when it indicated that its soon to be acquired formal powers to confer its own degrees will not necessarily be used.

Saabira Chaudhuri

Comment & Analysis: Union

Disability awareness week

LSE SU Disabilities Officer **Kanishka Aubeelack** writes on this year's LSE SU Student's with Disabilities awareness week.

After many weeks of preparation, it's finally Disability Awareness Week, but what is its purpose? Are we trying to raise awareness within the student body or are we trying to raise support among the students to lobby the school? The answer is both.

First and foremost, the purpose of the Disability Awareness Week is, as its name indicates, to raise awareness within the LSE student body. For instance, many of you wouldn't have been aware that there are nearly 400 students with disabilities on campus.

This number might be surprising to you but this hardly is the case, since statistically speaking, it is the norm. The majority of these disabled students have hidden disabilities which can range from dyslexia to Myalgic Encephalopathy (ME). Moreover, it is a fact that anyone of us may suffer from a disability in the future be it arthritis or even RSI - Repetitive Strain Injury (which may develop from an incorrect posture when typing or using the computer).

First and foremost, the purpose of the Disability Awareness Week is to raise awareness within the LSE student body. There are 400 students with disabilities on campus.



So, if we are to fully integrate disabled people within society, then the first step towards this goal is understanding, which is the aim of this week.

At the same time, raising awareness can also send a clear message to the school that disability is an issue which students care about.

The school has indeed done (and is still doing) a lot in terms of infrastructural changes and also in terms of policy. In comparison to a few years ago, a student with a disability now finds the proper support within the hefty administration, but this is not

reason enough to allow the school to rest on its laurels; instead we must encourage further progress.

However, I think that, at the end of the day, the most important reason for a Disability Awareness Week is to realise and recognise the courage of people with disabilities. They are the ones who get up every morning knowing for a fact that they will once more face obstacles and incomprehension, knowing that they cannot take for granted what many of us do and yet, they carry on with their lives blending inconspicuously among the masses.

We speak of heroes who have died for their country, but let us also speak of these heroes who persevere despite everything and who, for this very reason, attribute much more value to the simple things of life than most do.

LSE SWD Week

For full details, see listings, page 16

Contact Kanishka @ su.disability@lse.ac.uk or visit

www.lsesu.com/main/equality/SWD

Rising to the challenge

Fighting racism has never been more important writes **James Kanabar**



Photograph: Tamsin Davies

In issue 624, Clem Broumley Young alluded to the fact that LSE students rarely mix with people from backgrounds foreign to their own. Whilst this is undoubtedly true; I would go further in asserting that racist opinions are commonly held and that,

whilst the LSE rightly sees its multi-cultural student body as a selling point, many take an entirely antithetical view.

In my year and a half at the LSE, I have borne witness to too many expressions of such attitudes for them to be merely

dismissed as anomalous. Last Friday during my weekly pilgrimage to Crush, I overheard an LSE student in the toilets talking about how he felt 'Muslims add nothing to British society, they're all terrorists and should be deported'. My vehement anger at

such bigotry being slightly hardened by alcohol, I confronted the man and asked him to explain himself. What I found most disturbing was not that he held such views, but that a multitude of people rushed to support him, whilst others merely showed indifference.

This incident is merely one in a long line. I have heard people in halls complain about 'all the Chinese with their smelly food hogging the kitchens'. Similarly, the number of people who have complained that the famed lack of social life at the LSE is a ramification of the number of 'bloody foreigners who can't speak English and just work all the time' reaches well into double figures.

Whilst it can be expected that people will mix with those from similar backgrounds as themselves, this division appears to have metastasised into outright resentment and hatred of other cultures and races. Such resentment is not confined just to oral expression either, as I have witnessed three racially motivated fights between LSE students in the past year.

Racism is often perceived as

being the preserve of the poorly educated in Britain and is associated with skinheads, Burberry hats and football hooligans. However, what is most disturbing is that the racism I have witnessed has all emanated from the mouths of educated and ostensibly cultured individuals. This is extremely disturbing, as racism is far more pervasive and ultimately destructive when espoused eloquently by a middle class man in chinos than when spouted by Kappa clad thugs.

Whilst Anti-Racism Officer Raihan Alfaradhi is doing an excellent job in organising events such as RISE Week, the Student Union needs to prioritise such events to a greater extent and also do more to combat racism within the student body. This could be best achieved within the halls of residence and societies, by organising more activities that encourage people from contrasting backgrounds to mix, thus showing that cultural differences do not have to be divides. The SU's rhetoric on anti-racism is impressive, perhaps it is time that it was backed up by more targeted action.

theBeaver

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thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk

and you will be added to the list in next week's paper. *The Beaver* is available in alternative formats.

Comment & Analysis: Editorial

Beaver

Karma police

Finance Society dismissals

Liberty for the wolves is death to the lambs. That Tillmann Boettcher and Jay Majeethia have been dismissed by C&S is a commendable decision: infrequent are the occasions when C&S should be lauded as a body of relevance and accountability to students. This is one.

Some may pass off what has happened as petty; a ridiculous overreaction to what was ultimately, a series of personal vendettas and minor quibbles. Such an assessment is a crass deflection from the truth of the matter: Majeethia and Boettcher behaved utterly inappropriately - flouting the constitution and damaging the best aims and interests of the LSE SU's largest society.

Irregardless of whether Majeethia is re-elected as the Finance Society's President, we can only hope that the society can move on and continue to deliver the superb service it has done in the past to its members and to LSE students: something of late lost in cloying sleaze.

In a week that has seen Beaver editors threatened with arrest (on utterly spurious grounds) intervention from the National Union of Journalists and a great deal more protracted politicking than is usual even in the SU, it is now in the interests of all students to move on.

As this paper last week demanded, clear message has been sent by the Union: no-one is above the rules and no-one may act with impunity.

Je suis l'état (School)

LSE fails to meet state school targets

It comes as little surprise that the LSE is falling short of its government targets for the admission of state school students. Indeed very few of the Russell Group universities come anywhere near to meeting these targets.

The correlation is negative: the better the uni, the fewer state school students. Any debate over the nature of university admissions is bound to be divisive. The LSE's policy of operating an (utterly minute) quota on the admission of severely economically disadvantaged students made front page in the nationals.

Britain's 'best selling quality daily' enjoyed jumping on the most telling tory bandwagon and condemned the LSE's bolshyness. Yarbles. But alas, it is not merely the universities who are to blame.

The LSE's response has been tempered; it faces a government with a singular and stark determination to get its own way in the face of widespread opposition. The result, is that we have top-up fees and an increasingly fractured pedagogy. There is trouble in the academe.

The LSE may be falling short, but so frankly, is too a Labour government which promised delivery on education, education, education. Their delivery (spoiled goods) has been an increasingly marketised system in which the wealthy seem to succeed. No wonder then that the LSE is failing to meet its targets.

Quota systems are not the answer: they are unfair and apply a degree of retrospective social engineering that advantages few people in the long run. The task in hand is not to apply quota systems to a statistical problem, but to tackle the demographic causes of that problem in the first place; namely, an unequitable school system; inefficient exams; a negative meritocracy and a culture of competition.

The LSE should continue to do what it has long done; to pressure the government and lobby for a more just system; but now the support of students is needed too: not just to march against fees at university; but against inequalities in the education system as a whole.

China's traitors

Chinese embassy criticises LSE

The Chinese embassy condemning LSE lectures is one of those events that is both rather humorous and also deeply worrying. Humorous because of the great stupidity with which they clumsily branded the speakers 'traitors' and foolishly threatened the LSE - worrying because many chinese students genuinely feared for their safety having been at the event.

In a fortnight of poster campaigns gone awry it was also nice to see Chinese embassy doing the same: "Chen Yonglin is a defector from China, how can we believe what he says?" Political power indeed seems to come from the barrel of a gun.

Letters to the Editor

The Beaver offers all readers the right to reply to anything that appears in the paper. Letters should be sent to thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk and should be no longer than 250 words. All letters must be recieved by 3pm on the Sunday prior to publication. The Beaver reserves the right to edit letters prior to publication.

Vendetta's, resignations and newstape; Beavergate

Dear Sir,

Responding to the Finance Society scandal in last week's *Beaver*, I will correct Mr Boettcher in indirectly attacking the character of the current Commerce Society president and ironically questioning his capability. I would like to say that the president is a person of integrity and sound ability, and along with his team is a testament to the continuing achievements and open atmosphere of the society.

As former President, work by the Commerce Society in presenting a broad outlook to career opportunities and hosting open-access events was hampered after attempts to damage committee efforts. SU budgets were also claimed to be too tight to support societies of similar focus. With the Finance Society operating in a predatory and monopolistic fashion, and spending time and scarce SU resources on unrelated activities (including smear campaigns), such SU rationale is undermined. This shameful behaviour also raises serious questions as to its worthiness for LSE SU affiliation, City sponsorship or to act as a representative for the LSE population to the finance industry.

Should Mr Boettcher and Mr Majeethia cling onto their positions, I would offer a small piece of advice, long overdue. Instead of playing devious political games, focus should be on providing members and sponsors with a high level of service, not damaging reputations and running a society according to inflated egos and personal aims.

Many society officers choose City careers; however dubious activities can seriously question personal integrities or worse. Mr Leeson learnt that the hard way.

James Allen
Former President - LSESU
Commerce Society
(2004-2005)

Dear Sir,

I am utterly disappointed in your treatment of my role in what you describe as the 'Finsogate'.

My appointment as newsletter editor was - from my perspective - completely based on merit. I took the initiative and applied for this position through the official means, outlining my experience within journalism. My function is also completely non-managerial - all I do is write reports on past society events. I was not even aware of many of the allegations published in your article - regarding the internal workings of the senior committee.

I would also like to remind you that my campaign for the Court of Governors received support from a broad part of the student body, including numerous soci-

The Rogue's Gallery
No. 1 : Karma Police



eties and sport clubs. As a student representative, I have always spoken on an independent, non-political platform. My conduct within C&S is evidential for this; I was outspoken in my critique against the measures undertaken by the Finance society in pursuit of the annual SU Society award. In the last vote on the question of whether to address a letter to the Finance and Services Committee encouraging them to withdraw the award, I felt it right to abstain - using similar motivations as applied by yourself.

I am also let down by the fact that you failed to question me before repeatedly mentioning my name in your front page article. Surely you must have had a few minutes spare during the two weeks you invested in researching this matter?

Yours sincerely

Arthur Kriebbers
LSE SU Finance Society
Committee Member,
LSE SU C&S Committee
Member

Dear Sir,

In last week's article 'Deceit, lies & ticker tape; Finsogate', you called the election for Finance Society's Honorary Chairperson "illegal" and "void". As the SU representative supervising, I did not consider the election to be illegal or void and therefore I do not believe that I "neglected" to flag up anything with the SU Returning Officer Doug Oliver -

in fact, contrary to what you write, it is not actually Doug's role to oversee society elections.

If members of a society dispute the results or integrity of an election despite the presence of an SU representative such as myself, they have the opportunity to write a complaint to the SU Executive, through the SU Treasurer Natalie Black, within twenty-four hours of the election. I would like to note that neither Natalie or I received any complaint regarding the election for Honorary Chairperson.

Yours sincerely,

Jimmy Tam
LSE SU Societies Officer

At the going down of the sun...

Dear sir,

It's easy to forget in the midst of the hackery and scheming surrounding the SU right now that it's all bollocks and doesn't matter. With this in mind I want to express my thanks to Rishi Madhani for using his energy, productively organizing a fitting Remembrance Day tribute to LSE staff and students who fought in the two World Wars. The ceremony was the first to be held by the SU in at least 20 years. How fickle our worries are compared to those former LSE students and staff who lived and died through the most unimaginable horrors of war. During the ceremony we learnt about the

make-up of those who died; from all social classes, nationalities, races and religions. Men and women who were living peaceful lives. They will never finish their studies nor teach another student. I am grateful for their sacrifice. I hope the SU can continue showing it's gratitude to them in the future.

Sincerely

Nick Green

Beaver love...

Hi Beaver

We (at *Bath Impact*, the newspaper for the University of Bath) have been sent your quality publication for the last 3 issues. We would like to say, keep up the good work guys, it is an awesome paper.

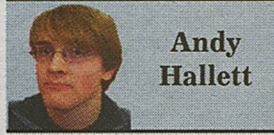
In particular we like your sports section, which has us laughing everytime, 'tis comedy genius. Especially the lines on "Ann Widcomes love canal", and the "Vision of David Blunkett". So if you ever find yourselves in Bath and fancy going out for a drink, give us a shout.

Everyone at impact

The Beaver would also like to thank the kind writers and players of the LSE AU Football teams who so thoughtfully sent us many letters about our vast left wing censorship conspiracy. Space restraints and an overbearing sense of political correctness prevent us from publishing them in their unattenuated form. We hope the following will suffice:
Dear 'whoever'
Stop censoring sports.
LSE AU FC member

BlinkPolitics

Eyes to the left



Andy Hallett

Prostitution of a nation

I was on the Mall last Tuesday, waiting with dozens of other students and activists to give a warm welcome to Hu Jintao, Chinese Premier and grotesque human rights abuser. What was interesting was being surrounded by Tibetan independence and Falun Gong advocates, both deeply worthy causes which we should all support. But no-one was protesting about the 99% of China's 1.3 billion citizens being prostituted to Western capitalism. This is the direct result of Western multinational exploitation of China, with the sickening encouragement of the Chinese Communist (sic) Party.

Neo-liberal economists and politicians enthuse about China's rapid (9% per annum) growth in GDP, but neglect to mention both that much of this wealth flows into the shareholders of Nike or the Gap instead of staying in China, and that enormous inequalities are being created. Nike, apparently buying into their go-go capitalist slogan, 'Just do it', have been caught paying workers in their Chinese factories 6 US cents an hour. Trickle-down economics indeed; the CEO of Nike receives a salary millions of times larger, whilst working a fraction as hard.

Chinese society is becoming more and more polarised between the mass of peasants and workers who toil for up to 18 hours a day in unsafe conditions, and the elite. These tend to be those who have done very well out of Deng Xiaoping's liberalisation of China and live in the coastal cities. Marxism was abandoned years ago by this elite, although images of Mao, who was responsible for more deaths than Hitler and Stalin combined, adorn walls throughout China, reminding people of the police state they live under.

Indeed, all of the positive policies the CCP had, such as generous pensions, have ended in laissez-faire capitalism. Thus, most Chinese are little more than wage-slaves, illustrating the hollowness of economic growth, if all that results is a new Rolls-Royce dealership in Shanghai. None of this is going to improve through increased trade, as only 1% of the population are in contact with the outside world and free media sources. Recently hundreds of internet cafes were closed down in Beijing, as their users were reading the truth about atrocities like 1989's in Tiananmen Square.

The solution? Boycotting Chinese goods is a start, albeit a difficult one considering how many consumer goods come from China. Best of all, would be increased awareness of the real China, the one which shows the true horrors of unregulated capitalism and dangers of totalitarianism. China could be rich if wealth was shared out fairly and the West and CCP did not collude to profit off the Chinese people's backs. Quite simply, we cannot ignore the anguish of a fifth of the world's population.

Down, but not out

Bush may be a lame duck, but he's far from roasted, writes Blink Correspondent Alexander George

Exactly one year ago, I wrote an article in this paper headlined: 'Bush now has a golden chance to join the greats.' After emerging victorious from a gruelling presidential election and gaining over fifty percent of the popular vote (something Bill Clinton did not achieve in his two election victories) - plus being buoyed by increased Republican domination of Congress - George W. Bush towered like a colossus over American politics. Given the extraordinary events he had to deal with, it did not seem implausible that he might eventually join the likes of Messrs Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Reagan in the presidential pantheon.

A year can make a big difference, though. Nowadays, the anti-Bush brigade no longer have to rant and rave to make their point. The headlines do it for them. The rising death toll in Iraq, Hurricane Katrina, excessive government spending, the nomination of his personal lawyer to the Supreme Court and now the Plame Affair, involving Vice-President Cheney's Chief of Staff, Lewis Libby. The consensus among most commentators is that the President is not so much a lame duck, but one that's about to be put in the oven and roasted.

I was, and remain, a fan of President Bush. I acknowledge that he does have his faults. He has been unwilling to replace several mediocre staff. Donald Rumsfeld is the most obvious example. Also, many would like to see a reduction in Bush's 'big government conservatism' and a return to the limited government approach of Reagan and Thatcher. Finally, the moral values agenda - no doubt genuine on Bush's part - has proved more divisive than inclusive in America's culture wars. However,

these flaws pale when set beside Bush's defining policies of his presidency: the fight against Islamic fundamentalism and the spread of freedom worldwide.

Two key issues arise from Bush's current woes; the first is his legacy. My own hunch is that the Plame Affair will not seriously harm him. Unlike Monicagate (which did not damage Clinton too much but made great tabloid sensations), this case is probably far too complex - and boring - to sustain long-term media interest. Every time I read about it, I lose track of how A told B, "X", and C did Y to D.

Reagan successfully shook off the Iran-Contra Scandal to win

' Since Bill Clinton left office, the Democrats have been ludicrously divided over what they stand for and how to connect with American voters'

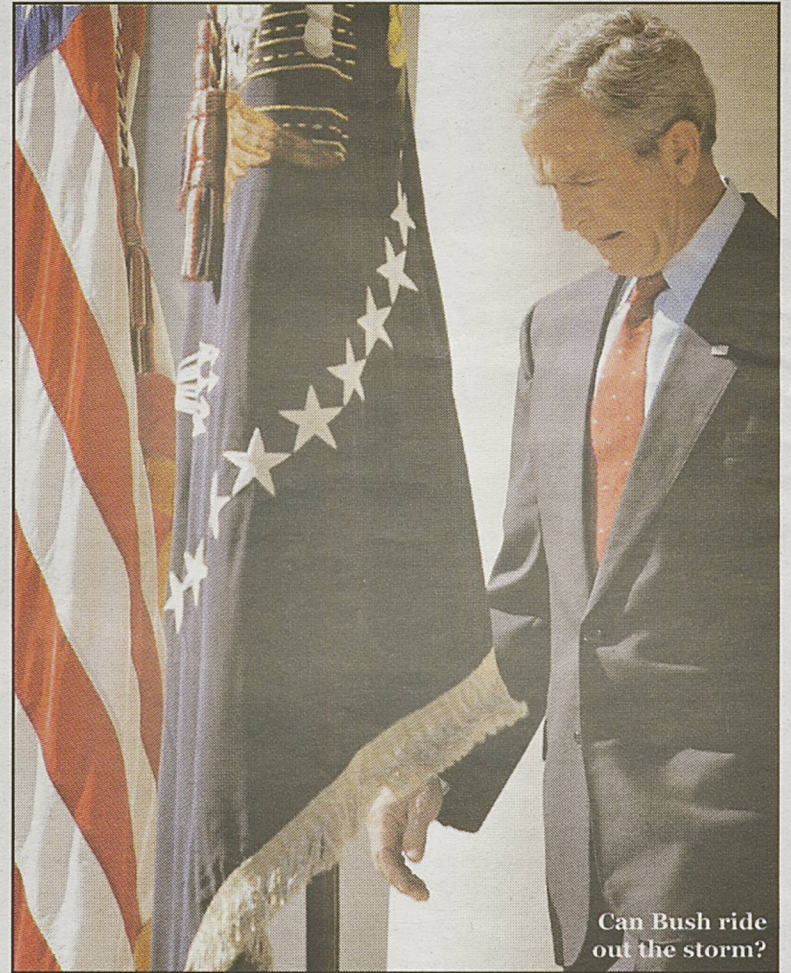
the Cold War and see freedom defeat totalitarianism in Eastern Europe. Because of the current difficulties in Iraq, it is unlikely that we will see the full benefits of Bush's policy during his presidency. However, despite the flow of grim news from there, hope exists in the form of an embryonic democracy taking root. History, not contemporary opinion, ultimately judges presidents. Bush can take comfort from Harry Truman, who suffered low ratings during his time in the White House but is now viewed favourably because he recognised and responded to the threat of

Communism. If Islamic terrorism is eventually defeated and democracy spreads to outposts of despotism, history will judge Bush in a similar light.

Secondly, should Bush's troubles continue, will the 2008 presidential election be a cakewalk for the Democrats and Hillary Clinton? Not at all. Since Bill Clinton left office, the Democrats have been ludicrously divided over what they stand for and how to connect with American voters. Furthermore, the Republicans

have an immensely strong field of presidential candidates to choose from: Condoleezza Rice, Rudolph Giuliani, John McCain, Jeb Bush and George Allen. Indeed, the inept performance of the Mayor of New Orleans during Katrina helped to remind people of Giuliani's strong leadership during 9/11.

However, Bush himself can still revive his presidency. He may be a lame duck tied to a roasting spit, but he can break free and rise above his critics.



Can Bush ride out the storm?

Political Digest

Terror in Jordan

09/11/05 Yee To Wong

On Wednesday, Jordan was shaken by a series of suicide bombings on three hotels - the Grand Hyatt, the Radisson, and the Days Inn - popular among westerners, Israelis, and the Jordanian elite. According to figures released on Friday, 57 were killed, including 12 foreigners, and hundreds were wounded.

The prevalent assumption among the Jordanians is that al-Qaeda was behind the attacks. "All of these are Iraqis from the land between the two rivers," said an al-Qaeda statement on the internet, referring to Iraq by its ancient name, Mesopotamia.

"They vowed to die and they chose the shortest route to receive the blessings of God." The authenticity of the claim could not be immediately verified, but it appeared on a site where past al-Qaeda statements were posted.

An anonymous Jordanian security official told the press that the police have "assembled three (male) bodies", which they believe to be the bombers.

Police said on Friday they had arrested 120 people nationwide, mainly Iraqis and Jordanians, in connection with the bombings. "Sources have been rounded up in different parts of the country since the attacks," revealed one police official. "We don't know if any of them were involved in the attacks or assisted the suicide bombers. Many may simply be innocent."

Jordan's King Abdullah II had promised to hunt down those responsible for the bombings. "We will pursue those criminals and

those who are behind them and we will reach them wherever they are," he said in a televised address to the nation on Thursday. World leaders including US President George W. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon condemned the bombings. In Iraq, government spokesman Laith Kubba urged the countries in the region to stand united in the fight against terrorism.

Meanwhile, thousands of Jordanians poured onto the streets on Friday for a second day of protest denouncing al-Zarqawi, al-Qaeda's Jordanian-born leader in Iraq. "Al-Zarqawi you are a coward, Amman will remain safe," chanted the protesters, some of whom carried banners with slogans reading, 'No for terrorism and criminals.'

Many of the 400,000 Iraqis living in Jordan also joined the protests and called for the punishment of those involved in the attacks - even if they turn out to

be Iraqis.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, on his tour of the Middle East, met King Abdullah and Jordan's foreign minister to try to build greater co-operation in the Middle East to combat terrorism. "No ideology, no course can justify the vicious killing of innocent civilians," said Annan.

It was not surprising that Jordan has been targeted by al-Qaeda. Jordan is a crucial ally of the United States and the world's fourth-largest recipient of American aid. It has become a hub for western diplomats, businessmen, aid agencies, military personnel, as well as expatriate Iraqis going in and out of Iraq.

The attacks in Amman sparked fears that a new generation of jihadists - independent, operationally and financially from al-Qaeda's original leaders - is emerging, as tensions in the region remain unsettled after the Iraq war.

BlinkPolitics

Troubled times

Blink Correspondent
Lisa Cunningham
reflects on Blair's
darkest hour

No one would blame Tony Blair for feeling like he is in the midst of a very bad dream at the moment. On Wednesday 2 November, David Blunkett, a key Blairite, resigned from the cabinet. This is the second time in a year that the disgraced former minister has had to quit in a fury of scandal and media attention. This time, instead of a fast-tracked visa, fervent affair and love child, it was revealed that Blunkett broke the ministerial code of conduct regarding paid work he took while out of the cabinet.

In reaction to Blunkett's resignation, Michael Howard has called the Prime Minister a "lame duck". Others have suggested that the departure of Blunkett could be the beginning of the end for Blair. It is certain that the Prime Minister's authority has been damaged. With a close aide gone from the Cabinet, the Prime Minister is feeling vulnerable.

It is therefore without surprise that a loyal Blairite has been chosen as Blunkett's successor. John Hutton, 50, has been in the Cabinet since the last elec-

tion, as chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, a relatively minor role. Indeed, even as the rest of the Cabinet blanked him, Hutton staunchly defended Blunkett in the days prior to his resignation.

It was fitting that Blunkett, widely regarded as a political big-hitter, came back to the front bench as the head of the Department for Work and Pensions. This area has proven to be a significant part of Labour's third term. The incapacity benefit, widely thought to be a drain on the economy, is to be extensively reviewed. Further, a key report on the pensions crisis is due to be published on 30 November.

However, this reform could prove to be another area of controversy for the weakened Prime Minister. The costs of disability benefits are to be reduced by helping claimants return to work. This will surely prove unpopular among backbenchers. If an individual is receiving incapacity benefit, aren't they unfit for work?

Blair's bad fortune continued on Wednesday. MPs voted on whether the police should be able to hold terror suspects for up to 90 days without charge. The Prime Minister saw his majority diminish; the proposal was rejected by 322 votes to 291, indicating a considerable backbench rebellion.

This is the first defeat in the House of Commons of Blair's premiership. Could the Prime Minister be starting to lose the support of the parliamentary Labour Party? This is worrying for any leader. But what is embarrassing, is his insistence that he was right and his opponents wrong. Before the vote he accused those that disagreed with him of "woeful complacency". Now he has lost, he claims they have behaved in a "deeply irresponsible manner".

Arguably, Blair is looking increasing like a previous incumbent of Number 10. Indeed, the parallels between Blair and Thatcher have been highlighted many times; their presidential style, length of time in office, large majorities and weak oppositions. The similarities may now have taken on a new guise, however - a sudden fall from grace of an arrogant leader, pushed over the edge by their own MPs fearful of public opinion.

What is more, there is further controversial legislation in the pipeline. Patricia Hewitt, the Health Secretary is due to publish a White Paper in December that will recommend an increase in patient choice in the NHS. Choice has already proven unpopular among Labour supporters. The recent education White Paper, which reeked of choice, was highly criticised.

No one wishes to be accused of over egging the cake, but I can't help but wonder: is this Brown's moment? The divisions between the two men have been noted at length. The Prime Minister has been dealt a series of blows and Brown's urgency to be at the helm is obvious. No one is questioning him as the successor to Blair. What is stopping him from making his move?

All this is looking very grave: an undermined leader, a strong and obvious successor and controversial proposals. Blair should start praying for a miracle. Otherwise he could wake from this bad dream to find he no longer resides at 10 Downing Street.



Things can only get better

The right approach

Charles Laurence

Vive le capitalisme!

What the hell happened in New Orleans? The answers from a new investigation may surprise you. Total recorded deaths 973, Murders 0, Rapes 0. You may be shocked by these statistics, but they come from a BBC investigation into the gross media exaggeration of the events following the hurricane.

In New Orleans, the media were so consumed by 'exposing' the violence in Bush's America they never stopped to check if any of the stories were true. The short answer is that they were not. Police Chief Eddie Compass, the man who brought the 'horror' to America's living rooms on the Oprah Winfrey Show, resigned last week admitting that his story was not based on any evidence. And whilst the frenzied Mr Compass was strutting his alarmist message on the airwaves, those who did not fit the media message were ignored. Like National Guardsman Lt Col Jacques Thibodeaux who was in the supposedly hellish 'Superbowl', he said, "the events were highly exaggerated ... it was a very stable environment". However, the media had already made its mind up - New Orleans was the symbol of capitalist hell, and they were not going to let facts get in the way.

If the liberal press wanted to see the ugly side of America this was not the place to be - from 'Coca-Cola' donating \$1million to the 700,000 food parcels sent from Aberdeen South Dakota, to the kindness of the citizens of Houston who took in tens of thousands of refugees, the real story of Katrina was of the extraordinary generosity of the American people.

If *The Guardian* et al really want to see a failed society, I suggest they hop on the Eurostar. In 2003 over 14,000 elderly French people died in a heat wave. 14 times the number of people died in France when it got hot, than died in America in their worst natural disaster ever. When the government in the US fails the people step in, in France 14,000 grannies die. When an entire city is destroyed, America does not collapse into violence; when two French teenagers electrocute themselves, 300 towns erupt.

Much to the liberal commentators' chagrin, US society is in rude health: a proud country inspires pride in its citizens, hence the stars and stripes fluttering outside US mosques. And as the French State slips down the EUrinal, who can blame its immigrants for railing against it? The 'French model' has protected white Frenchmen's jobs at the expense of immigrants', the ideal of the state has eroded the bonds of neighbourly generosity. And now, in the year Rosa Parks died, it is a sad fact that Parisian suburban trains are racially self-segregated. astray.

We shall remember

Joe McDevitt argues
why poppies should
be worn with pride

Walking around LSE last week, I made a disturbing observation: a virtual absence of students wearing poppies. In fact, I counted ten in total, which is, coincidentally, the number of British First World War veterans still alive today.

Apathy is not a characteristic of the LSE student populace. Houghton Street is a hub of politics, precepts and petitions. The Students' Union is highly engaged and as active as any in the country. Put simply, "we care".

The Poppy Appeal ought to be deemed worthy enough to justify making a contribution once a year. The ex-service community, consisting of veterans and their dependants, numbers a staggering 10.5 million. Of this, 3.8 million are surviving on less than £10,000 per year and 4.4 million have a long-term illness or disability. The Royal British Legion helps alleviate the tolls of war, spending a total of £43.5 million on care homes and services that are a lifeline for many. £23 mil-

lion of that total is raised through the Poppy Appeal suggesting that a large portion of British society still acknowledges it as a deserving cause. So, what is it about Remembrance Day that has precipitated such apathy amongst students?

The prevailing attitude towards war, today, is different. This is indisputable. Notions of a just war have altered to such a degree that, on the whole, war is rarely viewed as a necessity. War is deemed a failure in foreign policy. With the threat of Britain being invaded a mere fantasy, the need for a moral justification for war has never been stronger. This change in outlook is commendable and is arguably the most important form of remembrance of all. Britain looks back and yearns to avoid the calamities of large-scale wars and the senseless loss of life that accompanies them.

Britain's retrospective revulsion of war is, however, affecting our ability to de-politicise ourselves and remove ourselves from today's context for Remembrance Day. Students remain the standard-bearers of this revulsion and it is surely no coincidence that students display such indifference to the occasion.

While most students would have no problem in honouring the dead, they might take issue in honouring 'The Glorious Dead'. Militarism has become, unfairly, associated with the red poppy. Some of the rhetoric of remembrance conflicts with our sceptical values, and subtly turns heads away from taking interest; something palpably evident in my LSE poppy count.

There has always been a degree of confusion in interpreting the purposes of remembrance. The white poppy campaign, started in 1933, was a product of this confusion. Designed by pacifists after the First World War, the white poppy emerged as a protest to the perceived militarism of the red poppy. White poppies, with their political edge, would undoubtedly sell better amongst students. Are we simply political beasts that need to be satiated? Quite possibly. But white poppies are unnecessary for Remembrance Day; it is not the time for grandiose political statements. Stuart Gendall, Director of Communications for the Royal British Legion, said last week, "The red poppy already says everything that the white poppy is trying to say".

Remembrance is derived by

the individual. One can choose to remember a relative, remember a war, even remember the futility of war. But the element that binds the individual choice of remembrance are the average service men and women. Purely an acknowledgement, as a nation, of their sacrifice.

Last week in... Sibbhult, Sweden

Two drunkards recklessly besieged a retirement home after consuming an inordinate amount of fermented apples. So inebriated were the culprits, they refused to bow to police attempts to remove them.

Forced to resort to more extreme measures, an armed hunter was called in. With gun and dog on their tail, the duo hastily retreated without objection. Police Chief Bengt Hallberg, to ensure the offenders were not tempted to return for one last tippie, promptly confiscated the alcoholic fruit.

The partners in crime were a pair of mischievous elks.

BlinkPolitics

Reunification conundrum

Blink Correspondent Adrian Li examines a shared future for North and South Korea

Last Thursday, James Mawdsley, the pro-democracy activist made famous by his incarceration in solitary confinement in a Burmese jail, delivered a public lecture on conditions in North Korea. Mawdsley had just returned from North Korea as part of a parliamentary delegation.

Talking to him before the lecture about conditions north of the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), during which he showed me copies of the Pyongyang Times, it seemed that if reunification were to come to Korea, it could prove even more difficult than German reunification and the attempt to revive the East German economy.

On the face of it, reunification would seem, to some extent, logical. The Korean nation has long had its own shared culture and history. Until annexed by Japan in 1910, it was an independent kingdom, albeit at times only nominally. The division of the Korean Peninsula does not make economic sense either, since most of the heavy industry potential is in the North and the fertile lands are in the South.

From the 1990s, tourism links, family reunification and cooperation in sporting events have been stepped up. In the 2000 Sydney and the 2004 Athens Olympics, both teams marched under a unification flag at the opening ceremonies. In the 2006 Asian Games, both Koreas will compete as one team.

'As the Korean War generation dies out, the population born after the 1970s will have fewer emotional ties to the North'

Yet I foresee a problem. As the Korean War generation dies out, the population born after the 1970s, when the South Korean economy really took off, will have fewer emotional ties to the North. I'm sure they would want an end to the DMZ which would negate the need for compulsory military

service, but absorbing the North Korean population will be a problem.

It is not easy to assimilate people brought up in a Stalinist state with totalitarian control, thinking that the outside world was not good for them, with a vibrant and affluent capitalist population.

Korea probably is the definition of a situation where geography can jeopardise a country. Located between two rival powers, China and Japan, it has a history of being invaded time and time again, by the Chinese, Mongols, Manchurians and the Japanese. The Korean Peninsula is a potential flashpoint for a future Sino-Japanese confrontation.

It is also possible that a reunified Korea would cause problems for both China and Japan. It would not be in China's interest to have a viable working capitalist and democratic state on its borders. It was to prevent the presence of US troops on the Yalu River that China became embroiled in the Korean War. China may see capitalist democ-

racy on its borders as an American presence.

Likewise, a unified Korea would be an economic challenge to the Japanese economy. Finally, with the North Korean threat gone, the US may leave the region, which would increase Japanese fears of China. There has to be a continued US presence in North East Asia to stabilise the region and act as some regional 'sheriff', keeping the two powers apart and restrained.

If reunification were impossible, then it is crucial that North Korea does not obtain a capability to launch nuclear weapons. The Six Party Talks have led to yet another stalemate, with only the agreement to keep the process alive. China, as the only one to make a deal with North Korea, has used the talks to gain an advantage in the region.

The US needs to make noises, saying that it will not stand by if Japan were to develop nuclear weapons in response to North Korean nuclear weapons. That would force China to bring about a resolution to the problem.



Iran: are sanctions strong enough?

Will Joe considers the solution to the Iranian problem

The comments by the Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmedinejad that he wanted to see Israel 'wiped off the map' must have infuriated and outraged, amongst others, those who are pro-Palestinian. A cause that seeks justice can claim the moral high ground but seeks the annihilation of an entire country and its people deserves to be vilified.

But this was just par for the course for a man who, since coming to office in June, has begun systematically reversing the few progressive changes made by his predecessors. Whether it is with regards to Israel, fuelling unrest in neighbouring Iraq or the ongoing row over the Iranian nuclear program, many in the West are beginning to think that something needs to be done to curb the negative influence Iran can exert over the region.

The question, therefore, is what course of action would have the effect of censoring the reac-

tionary leadership? There seem to be three options: referral of Iran to the Security Council of the UN, which might lead to censure and multi-lateral sanctions, unilateral sanctions imposed without the authorisation of the UN, or military action by one or more parties.

This is reminiscent of George W making his case for the invasion of Iraq. But we have learnt something from that quagmire, and whether or not you believe that having one situation in crisis we should stumble into another; the lessons of Iraq could prove

'Israel should be allowed to carry out a precision strike on Iran's nuclear facilities'

useful in dealing with Iran.

Despite liberal fears and the hopes of hawkish neo-cons in the Pentagon, there is no realistic likelihood of an American invasion of Iran. The American forces are overstretched, Bush has little enough domestic political capital and Iraq has taught all involved

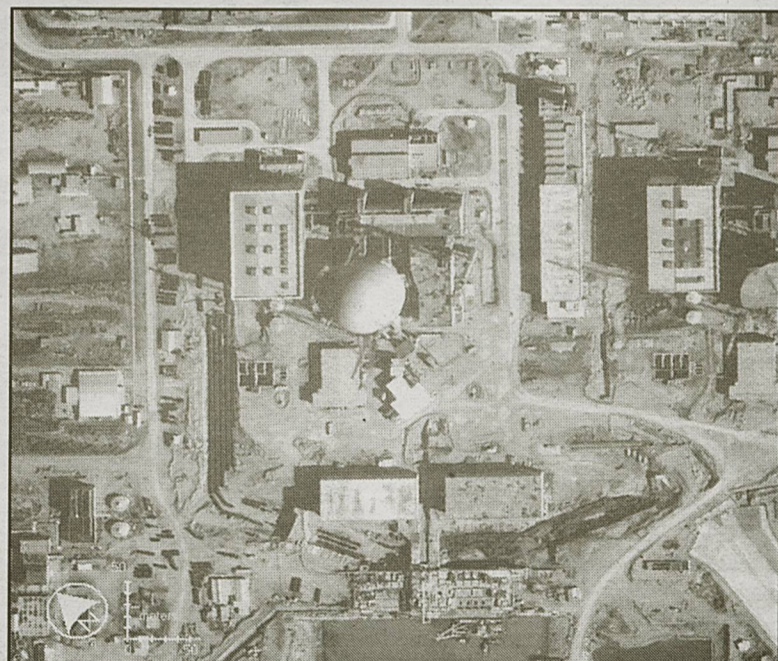
how difficult it can be to stabilise and re-build shattered countries.

Perhaps most importantly, there can be no question of 'regime change' as Iran is a democracy and Mr Ahmedinejad was democratically elected.

And so we seem to be left with the options of sanctions and inspections to either persuade Tehran that it doesn't need nuclear power or confirm independently that the nuclear program is indeed civilian and is going to remain so. However, sanctions will usually affect the poorest members of society, as demonstrated in Iraq. In this era of 24 hour global news, images emerging from Iran of starving children would, quite rightly, have the international community up in arms.

I also believe no amount of inspections or accountability would be able to remove any chance of a civilian nuclear program being converted into a military one, and so it would come down to a simple matter of trust in the Iranian government.

Mr Ahmedinejad has claimed that it is Iran's "inalienable right to produce nuclear fuel." Iran may not be headed by a jump-



Suspected nuclear weapons site

suiting Elvis impersonator that announces to the world he is a nutter at every opportunity as North Korea is, but it is a country that has proved itself unstable, and an enemy of tolerance and freedom.

As in 1981, when Israel bombed Iraq's Osirak reactor and prevented Saddam Hussein from turning Iraq into a nuclear power, Israel should be allowed to carry out a precision strike on Iran's nuclear facilities. The Israeli cabinet have reportedly been told that Iran could have a nuclear weapon by 2007 and, considering Mr Ahmedinejad's recent comments, I believe that they have every reason to feel uneasy.

The US is currently in negoti-

ation to sell Israel 5,000 precision bombs, including 500 one-ton 'bunker busters' that are believed to be in preparation for just such a strike.

This solution minimises any threat of Iranian civilian casualties. There can never be a total guarantee that no civilians would perish, but considering the alternative it is the least of several evils. The outrage that would certainly follow a military strike on a sovereign state would be muted, as other countries in the region would be secretly relieved that their unruly neighbour has been deprived of the ability to destabilise the entire region by either starting a war or an arms race that would lead to one.



Part

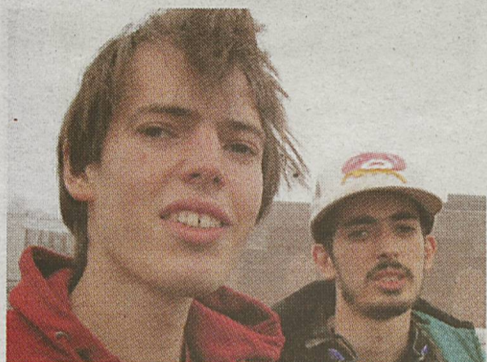
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The Part B Guide to making your own film
Onbashira Matsuri The Guys and the Dolls
The Intellectual Fashionista Caipirinhas and
Capoeira Jeffrey Lewis Cultural Evolution

Inside this

Film

Film editors Jami Makan and Casey Cohen present a bible for student filmmakers to be read five times daily facing Hollywood.



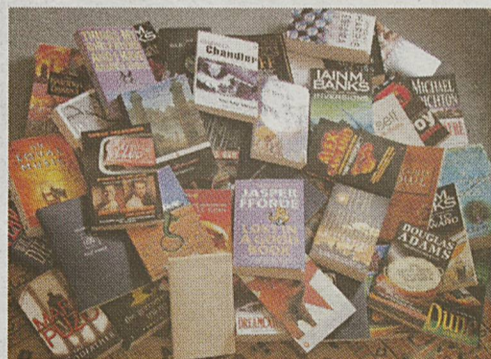
Music

New York City singer/songwriter and comic book artist, Jeffrey Lewis, releases first formal studio album, *City and Eastern Songs*.



Theatre

The West End's rendition of Frank Loesser's classic, *Guys and Dolls*, stars Ewan McGregor and Jane Krakowski.



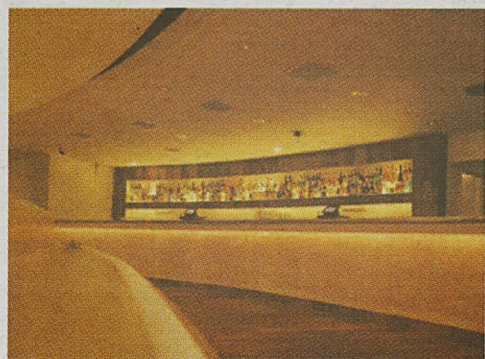
Literature

Gabriel Zaid's *So Many Books* advises readers to take full advantage of today's literary diversity



Fashion

Today's modern woman has taken a more intellectual approach to dressing fashionably, marking the death of the "bimbo."



About

LSE's Brazilian society has found nighttime hotspot Guanabara, and for good reason

The Editor's Week

Wednesday 16 November

Last Chance

Devendra Barnhart

There is no reason why you shouldn't have already heard of this amazing artist, who describes his music as "Brazilian folk-women learning to play rock 'n' roll." His old-school influences make this man a folk-pop god. If you already have a ticket, congratulations.

At: Astoria, 157 Charring Cross Road
Hours: 7 pm
Price: £15
Tube: Tottenham Court Road tube
www.meanfiddler.com

Demetri Martin

An American and former Perrier Award winner, Martin, reads his collection of highly intelligent and clever humour from 'These Are Jokes.' If you don't hate Americans, enjoy; if you do, pretend you don't and go anyway.

At: Soho Theatre, 21 Dean Street
Hours: 9.30pm
Price: £15
Tube: Tottenham Court Road tube

Book Now

The Darkness

Suffolk's own, this group of eccentric glam-rockers are returning to the UK. Their new album, 'One Way Ticket to Hell.. and Back' comes out November 28. Even if this album is a total piece of shit, which is highly unlikely, these ostentatious rockers always put on the best of shows. Did you believe in a 'thing called love,' or do you just like seeing middle-aged men dance around in tight leather? Either way, this show is worth far more than its ticket-price.

At: Feb 7 & 8, 2006. Alexandra Place, Wood Green
Price: £27.50
Tube: Wood Green tube

Now Showing

The Producers

Once upon a time, Mel Brooks created a tale of two Broadway producers who screwed their investors out of \$2 million (an 'S' with a line through it represents an American dollar, which is worth about 40p). Brooks's creation made American audiences laugh for years in the states, and now its in London. Take a date, get ready to laugh.

At: Drury Lane Theatre Royal, Catherine St.
Hours: Mon-Sat 7.30 pm; Wed and Sat Matinees 2.30pm;
Price: £10-£49
Tube: Covent Garden tube

There's more to LSE than classes...really.

How many hours a week do you spend at LSE? Out of those, how many hours do you spend in a classroom? The rest of the time, what are you doing?

Chances are, you're in the Tuns or on Houghton Street smoking a sneaky cigarette. LSE offers the rare opportunity to be part of an intellectual community in the heart of one of the world's most vibrant capitals. It's biggest attraction though, turns out to also be its biggest flaw. In a city of 7 million, LSE and its few thousand students evaporate into the pollution.

As a commuter university, it's sometimes tempting to show up for class and leave quickly enough to crawl back into bed before waking up completely, never to return, scarcely making eye contact with the hundreds of kindred souls who traverse Houghton Street daily.

It's sad but true that most of us will never be in this position again. After university, it's time to get a real job, with real problems and real consequences. As we get older, the individual passion that makes us all unique finds more and more obstacles, until it's ultimately snubbed out by responsibility.

So what does this mean? Why would anyone

choose to waste this luxury on sleeping, drinking or indifference. While the occasional indulgence on the former two is healthy, par for the course, the latter is inexcusable.

Not everyone is going to start their own society, most people wouldn't touch the UGM with a ten-foot pole.

Not everyone is going to work on a newspaper, not everyone wants to.

Some people love sports, others hate them. But few people want to walk away from this place without something to remember. 50 years from now, no one is going to remember a stellar performance on an exam or how many episodes of Neighbours they watched in a single sitting, but the friends and accomplishments outside the drag of the curriculum, will last forever.

Stay at home and sit on your ass, just realise that its your decision and no one else's. You're going to be sitting on your lazy boy and no one will remember you either.

Editors
 petermclaughlin
 natalievassilouthis



Photograph: Alex Tevtelboym

Blood on the Hill

Onbashira Matsuri, one of the most thrilling events in Japan's religious calendar, is sometimes fatal but always spectacular.

Having spent most of my time in Japan cloistered in Tokyo's warm folds, it was with some excitement that I accepted the invitation to see the Onbashira Matsuri, one of Japan's most exciting festivals, which is held in Nagano, in central Honshu. It is not often that one gets to witness awesome ancient ceremony, a cheerful provincial party and pointless gory death on the same occasion, so I made sure to bring my camera, too.

The festival began 1200 years ago in the Heian period, and has been performed every six or seven years since then, in the years of the Tiger and the Monkey. The official history is deeply rooted in Shinto and the belief that the Gods (or 'Kami') exist around us in rocks, rivers, trees and other aspects of nature. The people of Shinnanokuni (now Nagano) would traditionally renew their links to God and nature by bringing the new trees into the town at these intervals for use in their 4 shrines (hence the 16 pillars). Others schools of thought have linked these rituals with similar animistic, phallic and totemistic traditions elsewhere in the world, such as England, Lapland, Mexico and India. Yet others hold to the 'drunken lark' theory, in which groups of inebriated men perform elaborate and pointless acts on some kind of bet.

Onbashira takes place over the course of two months in the small town of Suwa and has a few stages. First, sixteen huge trees are cut and dragged 10km from Mt. Yatsugatake to the town over the course of three days. If this seems like a long time, bear in mind that the logs are typically one metre thick, seventeen metres long and thirteen tonnes in weight. And they're pulled by hand. The logs are then transported across an icy river, with men tied and clinging to them. Many are flung into the snow-melt water and it is rumoured that this year at least one man died from a shock to the system after his icy plunge. I tried to get some statistics on the actual fatalities, but I was told by one man that local people 'hide the dead'. Apparently this means they try to conceal the numbers from the press, not that the poor buggers are dumped in the forest for the wolves.

Stage three is what I came to

see. The Yama-dashi festival of the Lower Shrine is where the men slide down the hill on the tree shouting 'Bansai' and sometimes being crushed to death by the weight of the tree trunks on the way down. Arriving at 6am I had time to inspect the hill, and it was genuinely scary, completely uneven with a grade of at least 40 degrees. It took me a good four or five minutes to climb the hill, and even longer to go down it; the loons from Suwa would make it in something like eight seconds. In 1998, 1.78 million people came to see the Onbashira Festival whilst the town of Suwa shields a little over 50,000 souls. At 6.30am a decent-sized crowd was gathering and I took my place in line. Opposite the hill a small stand had been erected, which could probably hold 300 of the most respected city-folk. Those tickets were gone in moments and the rest of us stood poised to get the best of the rest of the good spots before the latecomers arrived. The Yakusa (Japanese mafia) were there in force, of course, wearing ridiculous hip-hop outfits and coralling their girlfriends into selling brown flavoured bananas, yukky-soba, and pink-matter on a stick, all for just 500 yen (about £2.60).

A fellow in white appeared to open the ceremony by stumbling down the hill with a few helpers, a big roar went up and down came the log. From where I was sitting it looked like a scene from an earthquake movie, with hundreds of people running in blind panic as dust and debris clouded the view. Only a couple of dozen guys are actually on the log as it plummets, but they are accompanied by well-wishers, hangers on and, I guess, ambulance-men.

The whole thing took just a few seconds, but everyone gave a massive cheer of gratitude at the end and there was a general feeling in the crowd that no-one had died, since the ambulances were quiet and there were no visible limbs left on the hill. It was nightfall before the third and last log came down and by that time I was watching the whole thing on TV and soothing my sunburnt nose with yoghurt. I asked my colleague why the event seemed so tame this year. 'Not rain', he replied, 'so dry for danger. Come again in seven years later for see blood on the hill.'

sebastianvansaa



-Indirect flight between London and Narita in Nov - £481
 -Simple 'Business Hotel' room - £50
 -11pm-9am in a 'Love Hotel' - £40
 -Glass of beer in Japanese Izakaya - £2
 -Bullet train to Suwa region - £35
 -Watching elderly men thunder down a hill in dressing gowns on a log - Priceless

If you have had a festival experience, whether frivolous or life-altering, please send articles and photos to h.smith@lse.ac.uk and share your story.

A life less easy

LSE Alumnus and founder of Easy Jet, Stelios Haji-Ioannou talks to **Stefanie Khaw** about life, money, success and resilience

Ten years ago, a young Greek man oversaw a 7am flight leaving from London's Luton airport. It was the realisation of a dream of his, originally conceived upon meeting a certain hip and trendy British tycoon, none other than Sir Richard Branson. But compared to his idol's inter-continental airline, Virgin Atlantic, flying Luton-Glasgow didn't seem to be very cool at all.

Heck, it was a low-budget airline. There's nothing cool about two rented 737s, a crew in orange sweat-shirts and £29 one-way fares to Glasgow advertised as 'fly to Scotland for the price of a pair of jeans'. Jeans from H&M maybe, but definitely nothing less than £100 if you're shopping at Selfridges - at the risk of sounding fashionably elitist.

Fast forward ten years, and easyJet has successfully made it as the top low-cost airline in Europe. The easyGroup, the umbrella unit for all things under the easy brand, is today not merely confined to air travel, but has extensions in as many as 15 different markets, ranging from Internet cafes to pizza deliveries to car rentals.

"You can't really see forward more than ten years in your life. easyJet is ten years old now, I could never have predicted that it would be here today," says Stelios Haji-Ioannou, founder of easyGroup and proud LSE alumnus.

Having pursued his undergraduate studies at the LSE, he claims that his

fondest university memories are the ones spent socialising in the Brunch Bowl. "That was the only reason for me to go to school, apart from using the library. The system back then was such that you didn't really have to attend classes as long as you studied towards the end." Having said that, one may be tempted into thinking that the Greek entrepreneur was your typical laid-back-but-brilliant type of a student - the ones who you never see in class but who did unbelievably well come exam time.

But that's probably not the case. It's pretty evident how much Stelios values a university education. Earlier this year, he made a £2m pound pledge to the LSE for the funding of 100 scholarships over ten years. At the beginning of his public lecture at the school last Wednesday, he proudly requested for the ten 'Stelios Scholars' in the audience to stand up for the crowd's acknowledgement. "The purpose of education is not merely gaining knowledge, it's about developing problem-solving skills, allowing yourself to gain new experiences and taking time to mature. Don't try and have your big idea when you're in university - don't do a Bill Gates. It's unlikely that you'll found the next Microsoft at the age of 19."

So was he already formulating grand plans of following in Branson's footsteps during sleepy economics lectures? Far from it, he says. "Back then I was focused on staying in the family business. When I

was at the LSE, I never imagined that I'd start an airline. Then one day, I met Branson. I thought that he seemed to be having fun, so I thought that I'd like to do that too."

Upon returning to Greece, Stelios worked for his father, a tycoon in the Greek shipping industry. After a few years, he opted out to start Stelmar Tankers, which was sold this year for approximately \$1.33 billion. To start easyJet, he approached his father for a £5m loan. Starting a tanker company at 25 and an airline three years later is no mean feat, as both require immense amounts of capital. He admits that he's been very lucky and always credits his rich father for his success. "If there were no rich blood-ties, maybe I would have been a very successful owner of a chain of kebab shops in Greece," he jokes. He was also fortunate enough to have started easyJet when the European airline market was deregulating in the mid 1990s.

Despite having an angel investor, and simply being at the right place at the right time, things have definitely not been plain sailing for Stelios. As with all businesses, EasyJet has not been spared its share of setbacks. During its early years, the airline was forced to cancel 20% of flights because the additional jet ordered to support their increased capacity arrived a month behind schedule. "In my experience, people are willing to trust people. Customers are willing to forgive and forget if they see someone

doing something about it," he says. Stelios dealt with angry customers, reassured them that things would get better and compensated them with free flights. "It's not the getting into trouble that gets you into trouble, it's not doing anything about it which is the problem."

One thing you have to admire about the guy is his resilience. At times when most people would have bailed out before the company was deep in the red, Stelios decided to press on and throw more money in. When the Internet bubble burst, Stelios had to decide if he wanted to invest more into his Internet café venture, an endeavour that he was expanding very rapidly. By an unlucky coincidence, the bubble burst around the time of 9/11, which put air travel to a halt, thus affecting Stelios's core business. Fortunately, he stuck to it and the easyInternetCafe franchise now serves 12 million customers a year in 8 European countries.

Dealing with angry customers must have been second nature for the seemingly charismatic and confident Stelios. But he insists that he is naturally shy. He trained himself in public speaking and worked on his presentation skills. "Practice makes perfect," he quips. "The more you do it, the better you get and the more feedback you get from people, the more confidence you get." He also confesses to not being very cosmopolitan during his LSE days because he hung out mostly with other Greeks - something that

may be familiar to present-day LSE students.

Not going head-first into a business start-up may have also been one of the key factors in Stelios's success. He quotes a Sunday Times article which says that, "the most creative phase of a person's life is at the age of 28 and 29." By heading his father's empire, Stelios learnt many practices which would guide him through his future business ventures. "Do hold back till your late 20s to get some experience. You'll be able to decide for yourself if you're a manager or an entrepreneur." If you're the latter, he says, "you'll never be happy unless you're your own boss. I had a job, I worked for my father - I hated it."

He admits wanting to break away from the stereotype rich-kid-living-off-father's-fortune perception that people may have had of him. That was one of the initial driving forces behind easyGroup. But now that easyJet has made it big, along with its other brand extensions, all he wants is to see the business grow even further by means of venturing into new markets. Stelios probably has to spend many cold and gloomy mornings in airports on the outskirts of cities. It probably isn't very pleasant dealing with disgruntled customers. It's not very glamorous either if you're known as the H&M of air travel. But he proudly announces that, "I do it because I enjoy it." Judging from that, and his claim that his one regret is not having spent enough time at the gym, I'd say he's pretty much made it.



Don't try and have your big idea when you're in university - don't do a Bill Gates. It's unlikely that you'll found the next Microsoft at the age of 19.

The Ethical Audit

1. Budget Airlines

A return flight to Berlin for the grand total of £20. World Cup here I come.

Enjoy the flight - no reclining seats, window blinds, seat headrest covers or seat pockets. Seats have gotten so small (as in 26 inches) some airlines are making customers fork out an extra £100 plus for up to 6 inches more legroom.

As long as I get there, which I will. Flying is one of the safest ways of traveling. The number of fatal air accidents has been no more than 1 for every 2,000,000,000 miles flown.

There's a stream of cases where drunken louts have compromised the safety of all onboard. It's you and a 100,000 other English football supporters heading to Germany for the World Cup. The authorities started preparing months ago.

But you can't deny that Berlin and the World Cup would be at a huge loss without us.

At an immense environmental cost. The number of people flying in and out of the UK is expected to increase from 180 million to 500 million by 2030. Based on this, aviation will be responsible for two-thirds of all UK greenhouse-gas emissions by 2050. Today UK aviation accounts for 15 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions.

If that's the case, charge people higher prices.

Well the government should be levying higher taxes. Your £20 flight to Germany would cost £120 if air fuel were taxed on the same scale as petrol. Driving to the airport is costing more than the flight you're about to catch. That very flight emits 1,300kg of carbon dioxide per passenger.

So why isn't the government demanding more from airlines?

Well that's the question. The Treasury has confirmed the environmental and social costs of aviation are about double the £800m a year it raises in air passenger duty. Gordon Brown could raise some of the extra revenue he needs by removing the effective £9.2 billion subsidy received each year by the aviation industry, which pays no tax on fuel or VAT on tickets - the very subsidy making your £20 flight possible. The government have been going easy on the easyJet set for far too long.

Alexa Sharples



Alex Teytelboym

The LSE Students' C

jamimakan and caseycohen present an epic special issue for the next generation of directors and producers. the pullout of the pullout, these two pages should be laminated, framed and memorised. any simpleton, by following the steps below, can subscribe to a Hollywood life of luxury, sex, fame and red carpet stardom...

1 Get Some Ideas

Germinating an idea, the initial spark that sets your imagination ablaze, usually gets creative juices flowing. Most great ideas for movies need to be able to be summarised into a quick, succinct pitch. Don't believe me?

Citizen Kane: 'Rise and fall of newspaper mogul'

Jaws: 'Man afraid of water pursues killer shark'

Reservoir Dogs: 'Diamond heist goes wrong'

A good way to start is to consider 'What if...'

ET: 'What if...an alien visitor gets left behind on Earth?'

Toy Story: 'What if...toys came to life?'

Shallow Grave: 'What if...a lodger dies leaving behind a suitcase with a million pounds in it?'

Write down as many as you can. One will eventually capture your imagination. Brainstorm but don't self-censor, since there is no such thing as a bad idea. You're mining for inspiration and originality. Discuss your ideas with other people face to face. Reading scripts takes time and effort, so in our time-poor society people might be turned off. Simply bounce an idea off of someone and they can immediately get involved in the intellectual process. The more you share ideas the more polished they become. Discover flaws! You will learn to tell the story better.

For serious budding filmmakers there is a theory that deconstructs film into a series of beats and acts, as though it were a 'musical score.' This analysis is helpful for the classically-minded. Great films such as

Chinatown contain a definite three-act structure with a climax at the end of each act. But a more natural approach also works and has been used successfully by filmmakers including **Quentin Tarantino**. Sticking to classical film theories can sometimes hinder innovation. Would *The Beatles* have been as good had they been classically trained? It's your call.

Be ready to record your ideas. Don't sit alone in an empty room. Read a newspaper, get interested in theatre and art, read books. You'll begin to overflow with ideas. Talent borrows, genius steals. Ideas are out there, so start a journal to record the interesting ones. They will mature, flourish and flow into each other, creating a superstructure.

This is what professional filmmakers do, and it is part of the creative process. A thought may languish in a journal or computer file for years before being discovered. Legendary French director **Luc Besson** waited years to make *The Fifth Element* after recording his ideas as a precocious teenager. Remember, film can have a simple or sophisticated concept. For example, you could write a minimal mood piece based around a few characters like *Lost in Translation* or an epic script with historical sweep and grandeur like *Dr. Zhivago*.

Develop characters, give them a back story. It's best to know everything about characters before plot. What school did they go to? Do they have parents? Did they have a happy childhood? Are they existential fatalists? Romantic optimists? Sexual orientation? Flesh them out! You will notice dialogue greatly improving. Also, remember to be innovative. You probably have the wrong motives if you want to make movies for sex, money and fame. To make a great film you

have to want to make a great film. Consider your motives, boys and girls.

And what makes a great film? Great films should teach us something about ourselves that we don't already know. Great films allow a deeper understanding of human nature. Great films should enrich us, make us want to be better people, cooler people, smarter people, more human. We should want to watch them again and again, not just in 30 years but in 300 years. Of course, few of us have the talent to make that happen but we should always aim for the best. To misquote **Bill Shankly**, '[Cinema] is not a matter of life and death, it is much more important than that.'

deaglanmacfarland



2 Network

Film Society

Are you a fan of **Ingmar Bergman**? Is your secret dream to become the next **Sofia Coppola**? Do you consider Ciné Lumière your second home? Or do you think **Meg Ryan** and that rom-coms are underrated?

The Film Society hails pluralism. That is, we show everything from quirky Danish to conventional Hollywood films. The only limits are ones that we set, so if you want to have your say then get involved.

Each week we have a new theme, and this year includes a Nouvelle Vague Week, a Mental Week and a Classic Hollywood Week. Last year we showed **Stanley Kubrick's** *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*. The film was followed by a speech by the film's production designer and two-time Academy

Award winner **Ken Adam**. If you want to screen a particular film or have a speaker in mind that you would like to contact and invite to campus, then join our society.

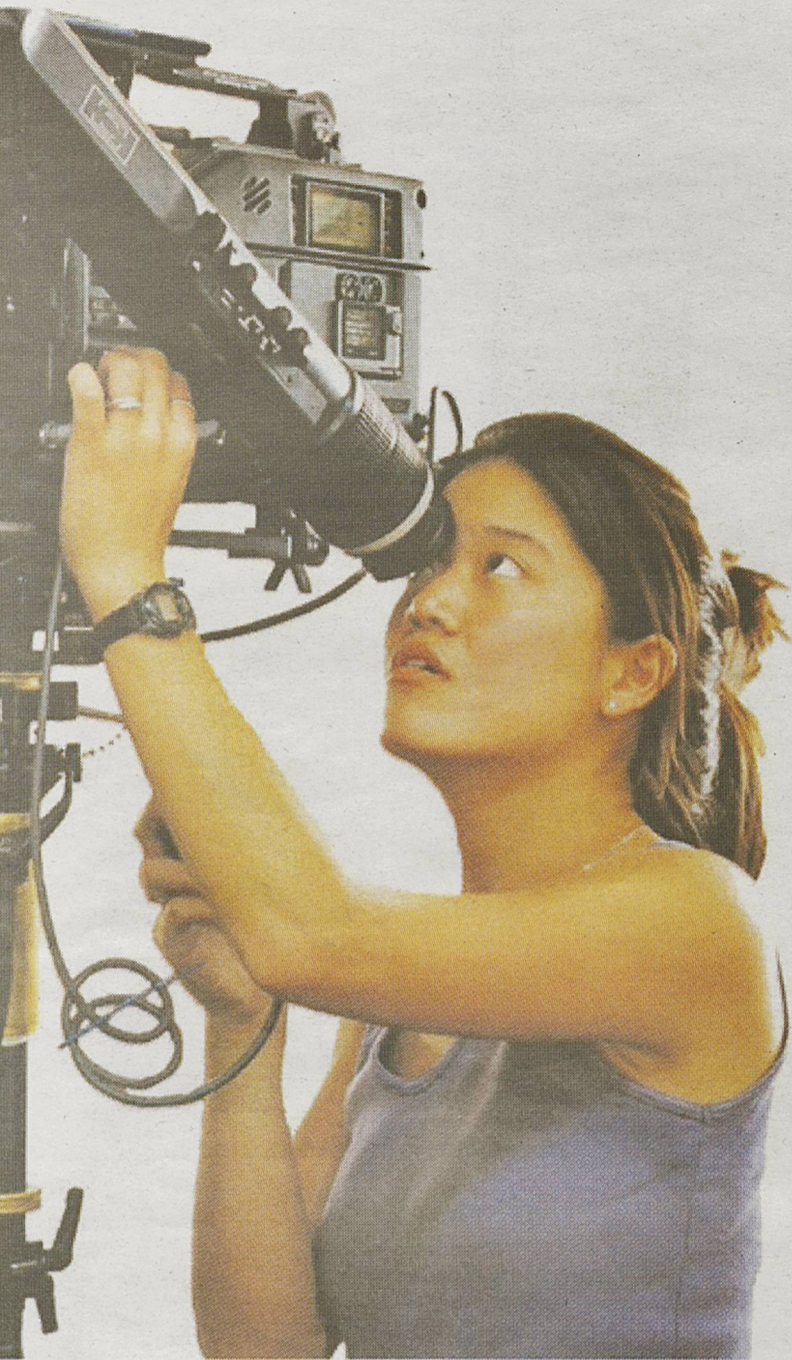
Apart from all this, we offer our members a £1 discount at Ciné Lumière, a great art house cinema located in South Kensington. As you can tell, the benefits of becoming a member are almost endless. We have just elected a new committee. We intend to work hard to fulfill the wants of our members, so if you are not already one, then email su.soc.film@lse.ac.uk or come to one of our film nights!

hillenfrancke

LooSE TV

This special issue offers a brief guide to filmmaking, but if you're looking for support to make a film or an outlet to broadcast

Guide to Filmmaking



Special Film Issue

3

Join the Industry

Despite all the film premieres and the occasional brushing of shoulders with famous people, working in the film industry can be just like any other job with its own set of ups and downs. As a documentary film producer, I travelled the United States to do research at archives and museums and to find men and women who'd make good interviews. But I've also ordered my fair share of lunches and once sat for hours in a dark house with a walkie-talkie waiting for my cue to turn a table lamp on and off in order to create the perfect shot.

If you're thinking about a career in film, it's easier than you think to 'break into the business.' Firstly, get an internship. During your internship, be responsible. It's easy to feel undervalued when you're collating scripts (especially when not getting paid), but it's important to treat your internship like a job. Once there, ask questions. Find out what each person does so you can see where your interests lie.

Next, network! Join filmmakers' organisations. They often run workshops, hold screenings and host networking parties. Watch

movies critically. Pay attention to details: camerawork, music and storytelling techniques. Finally, be patient! No two jobs will be the same and to stick it out in this industry you must be willing to adapt.

meghanhorvath

After I finished my undergraduate degree in the United States, I decided to give my educational background in television and film studies a shot in the real world and moved to Los Angeles. A college professor put me in contact with an independent film producer who offered me an assistant position that I naturally accepted. I did basic secretary work for a bit, but was eventually given more freedom to not just sit in on but fully contribute to creative script development meetings with co-producers, writers and directors of projects my boss had in development.

I spent a year in Hollywood before deciding to move on. Although I enjoyed my time there, I also saw many disillusioned people. Thus, I'd like to offer two important

pieces of advice to anyone interested in the field.

First, if you are not prepared to 'pay your dues' and start at the bottom of the totem pole (and perhaps be there for quite a long while) then don't even think about joining this industry.

Second, subscribe to Variety.com and scour it daily. Be able to name who works at which agencies, studios and production companies, who represents different actors and writers, who recently bought or sold different scripts and what deals are currently in the works. If you are good at this, you might have a future in film. If not...

You do not need experience in television or film to get started in Hollywood. What you do need is an extremely strong drive to persevere through tedious times and work hard to prove yourself. That, and the Thomas Brothers map book for Los Angeles County. Don't leave home without it. But driving in L.A. is an entirely different cautionary tale, so I'll just leave it at that!

eleanormorrison

4

Get Noticed

CobraVision

Cobra Beer has launched its CobraVision competition to showcase 10 short films from every director. Exactly how short? Five seconds each. Winning entries will be aired on national

television during their sponsorship of ITV2 and ITV3 Movies. In addition, the best of the best will be entered into the CobraVision Film Festival in March 2006, where prizes include trips to India, cash and beer.

Check out details at: www.cobrabeer.com/cobravisision

BBC Film Network

Film Network is the BBC's interactive way of showcasing shorts by new British filmmakers. Three new films are streamed online every week. If your submission is successful, you will receive your own webpage to display information about your cast and crew as well as feedback from an Industry Panel, which includes big names from the BBC, film festivals and production companies. For further information and submission forms, visit: www.bbc.co.uk/filmnetwork

Tiscali

Internet company Tiscali is letting young filmmakers compete to make a rock video for tracks by bands The Shakes, The Alps, Mad Staring Eyes or The Slides. Just submit a storyboard, budget and your credentials by 1 December. You can listen to the bands and view competition details at: www.tiscali.co.uk/entertainment/competitions/pop.html



on Campus

your work then LooSE TV is the place to be. LooSE isn't a studio, but rather a network of filmmakers with vibrant ideas, a network of friends working together to realise those ideas.

Broadcast on the screens in the Tuns and Underground, LooSE is currently in its second year of existence, a year that promises to be exciting because the future of the network is still being sculpted.

There are no studio executives at LooSE commanding members to make certain projects. Creative freedom is a hallmark of the network. You can share your idea with other members through meetings and our online forums in order to attract interested people and bandy together a crew. Our members are making all kinds of features about news reports, campus and current affairs, documentaries, mockumentaries, short fiction, awareness campaigns and on-

request projects for other societies. This list is by no means exhaustive, not that we'd want it to be.

Support form the network comes in various forms, from offering basic filmmaking workshops to helping assemble crews and loaning out equipment. At the moment, equipment is limited and editing facilities tend to be members' laptops, but proposals have been submitted to the SU to improve things. We aim to join the Media Group, which includes PuLSE FM, *The Script* and *The Beaver*. Our prospects are looking very good.

A fresh, active and exciting society, LooSE is a fantastic way to get involved. Interested? Email su.soc.tv@lse.ac.uk to join and get updates on projects and meetings, and check out our online forums at forums.loosetv.co.uk.

sanjivkrishnan

Music

Jeff and Jack Went up a Hill

Jeffrey Lewis

New York resident, comic book artist, singer and entertainer **Jeffrey Lewis** returns with his third long-player, and first-proper studio album. Jeffrey has been entertaining a small but devoted crowd across the world since his 2002 debut *The Last Time I Did Acid I Went Insane and Other Favourites*, with his motley assortment of dark yet frequently hilarious lo-fi musings.

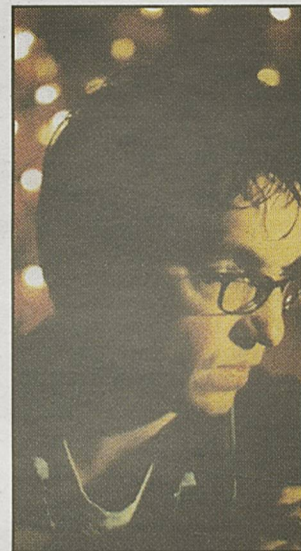
City and Eastern Songs breaks his previously set mould, with the addition of musical talent! Jeffrey has learnt to play the guitar, and boy does he sound good. This is by no means a slur on his previous output, but whereas previously his songs were lyrically led, now there is balance. Lyrically of course Jeffrey is still on form. "Williamsburgh Will Oldham Horror" is a questionably fictional account of the time Jeffrey met **Bonnie Prince Billy** on the train, only for him to be left lying on the train track with his trousers around his ankles and the Bonnie Prince mounting him from behind. Those crazy New Yorkers...

Strokes money (like drug money, but dirtier) is backing Jeffrey for success via the ever commendable **Rough Trade Records**. Is this going to be Jeff's big break? Possibly: the promotion is obviously there now (hell, even *The Beaver* got sent a copy), yet Jeffrey's enduring DIY ethic (justification or excuse?) means its difficult to picture him in anything other than small/slightly scummy venues, forever accompanied by his dutiful brother, and bassist, **Jack Lewis**. To Jeff we wish the best of luck, success or no success, for he offers rays of happiness in the malaise of darkness in which we all suffer. Ace.

benhowarth



Singles

Single of the week
Richard Hawley: Coles Corner

"Coles Corner" sees Sheffield-native **Richard Hawley** launching an unlikely one man campaign to convince us that his northern hometown, formerly best known for producing steel and rubbish football teams (ahem? - Ed), is actually a romantic capital to rival the likes of Paris or Venice. He's surprisingly successful, transforming a walk through the city into a aching paen to love. Led by lush strings that perfectly complement his low croon, this is one for the old romantic in you.

kevinperry

Fort Minor- Believe me.

Fort Minor, who made an appearance at the Reading Festival are the side project of **Linkin Park's Mike Shinoda**, are an eclectic mix of rap, metal, hip hop and rock. They have, on this occasion, come together with **Jay-Z** as the executive producer to form the single, "Believe me." This track has a catchy melody over a drum machine beat, which has its own distinctive style. It has very much an organic sound, harsh but catchy with a recurring melody which is very memorable.

heidimitchell

The Bullets: This Is Hell

The title of this single is a pretty good description of what happens when you listen to it. It made me want to cry, and not in a good way. The Bullets, terrifyingly, sound like Bon Jovi fronted by Bryan Adams; whimsical, wannabe anthemic rock. And to think that the label described it as 'adrenalin fuelled', comatose more like. Hell indeed.

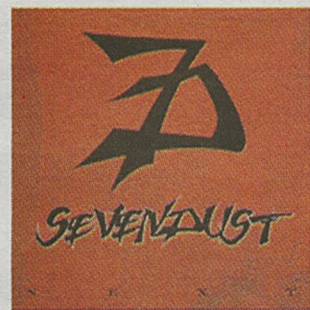
nathancapone

The Subways: No Goodbyes

The Subways' new single, "No Goodbyes" sports the same profound message as previous releases, "Oh Yeah" and "Rock and Roll Queen": this guy really digs this girl. It's a bit simple, but it seems to work for them. Despite the similar theme, however, "No Goodbyes" is a step away from the grungy garage rock sound of previous singles and into the world of mainstream British rock; less White Stripes, more Oasis.

willglass

Rock/Metal

Sevendust
Next

Sevendust have been described by some as a stereotypical post-hardcore band to be grouped with "new wave of American heavy metal" bands such as **Killswitch Engage** and **Chimera**. However, they were in fact more or less the pioneers of this genre! The heavy, aggressive opening of the album is very powerful and is complimented by the melodies it is interchanged with. The raw guitars, mixed with the variation in vocals make it a much more dynamic album than others of its genre. This album is very enjoyable to listen to and improves each time! It really helps Sevendust to shake off their nu-metal tag. It is quite a conceptual album which has clearly been very influenced by bands such as **Tool**. This would

include tracks such as 'Hero' which sounds like a heavier version of **Staind** and the more melodic 'Ugly' which is a heavier version of **Tool**.

The opening tracks are particularly powerful and memorable where as the middle of the album becomes a little monotonous, seeming lost in trying to fulfil the post hardcore mould. However, there are some elements of a much more heavy rock style in tracks like 'See and believe', which provide more of a melodic break. Certain elements of it could be labelled along with the general "noise" genre which so much of the current metal being churned out belongs to, however, this album is far more dynamic. Although there are on casual observation many bands like **Sevendust**, they are a lot more varied in their sound than their competitors. The track 'Never' is however a must, even if it does sound like that less dynamic version of **Tool**!

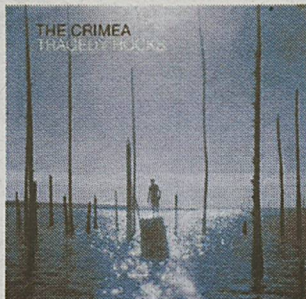
heidimitchell

Alternative

The Crimea
Tragedy Rocks

The Crimea: Tragedy Rocks *Tragedy Rocks*, **The Crimea's** debut, is by no means a happy album; the songs are a bitter-sweet cocktail spiked with tales of broken-down romance, red-

raw maudlin emotion and soul-searching at the bottom of a bottle of gin. It is rare occurrence, therefore, that a record which is essentially a very melancholy affair sounds so remarkably uplifting. **Tragedy Rocks** is sweeping, tender and at times spectacularly beautiful. The style is one of those wonderfully weird, lush, angular sounds that recalls **The Flaming Lips** and **My Morning Jacket**. It also carries the same doe-eyed indie charm of **Death Cab For Cutie** and **The Shins** which you might imagine playing in a sad **Natalie Portman** look-alike's teenage bedroom. Opening track 'White Russian Galaxy' is a delight of sweet guitar and looping piano chords, while 'Bad Vibrations' bounces with a wozy jangle. Not that the instrumentation is all cute acoustic plucking, the guitar on 'Girl Just Died' soars like a kite over singer **Davey McManus** intoning his emotionally con-



fused lyrics ("if you want to see my happy side / better tell me that my girl just died"). On 'Opposite Ends' he resembles **Spiritualized's Jason Pierce** having been dumped by his girlfriend and then fallen down a well; crying "remember how it used to feel / remember how it used to feel". Yet the highlight of the album is undoubtedly the final track 'Someone's Crying', a bare 'Perfect Day'-style torch song that bleeds with agitation at the search for God. A record straight from the heart then, and although it is probably not mainstream enough to gain a wide following it is proof, strangely, that tragedy can indeed rock.

nathancapone
With input from such well respected producers, such as

Post hardcore punk

Story of the Year
In the Wake of
Determination

Steve Evetts, of **Hatebreed**, one would expect this album to be far more varied, professional and well mixed. It starts with a powerful and memorable opening but really just goes downhill from there with one or two enjoyable moments later on. The single to be taken from this album, 'We don't care any more', was perhaps not the best choice with its weak pop punk



sound. The other principal track, the autobiographical 'Five against the world,' is not particularly powerful or memorable and makes the listener question their independent musical abilities. In the *Wake of Determination* has a distinctly **AFI** sound to it, this really shows their post hardcore punk influences. The album does show some variation with more melodic moments such as "taste the poison," and "sleep." In fairness, this album is musically of a high standard but only in the same way as a large number of metal albums are. The main weakness would be in most people's opinion the vocals which sound like an extremely weak and lazy version of **Green Day** (that's saying something! - Ed). This is an album which would only really appeal to a specific audience. Perhaps to say that **Story of the Year** are currently supporting **Funeral for a Friend** and they complement each other's styles.

heidimitchell

In the West End

Guys and Dolls and Girls

anuschkabaras explains why luck was her lady that night

Where: Piccadilly Theatre, Denman Street (Piccadilly Circus tube, Leicester Square, Charing Cross)
When: Mon-Sat 7.30pm
Prices: £20 - £55
Director: Michael Grandage
Music and Lyrics: Frank Loesser
Book: Joe Swerling & Abe Burrows

Grandage's revamped adaptation of Frank Loesser's 1950s classical musical is swinging and bursting with exuberance. With its brilliant musical score and superb cast, including Ewan McGregor (swoon...) as the dapper and smooth Sky Masterson and Jane Krakowski (Elaine in *Ally McBeal*) as the incredibly sexy Miss Adelaide, *Guys and Dolls* looks set to be a sure-fire West End hit.

Nathan Detroit, desperate to find a home for his permanent floating crap game bets his pal, Sky Masterson, that he can't make the next lady he sees fall in love with him. This next lady happens to be the straight-laced virginal neighbourhood missionary, Sarah Brown. When the delectable Masterson persuades her to go with him on a date to Havana and Detroit and his Hot Box showgirl Adelaide fall out over his surreptitious undertakings and their non-existent wedding, the two love stories begin to intertwine.

Henceforth, the stage is set for an evening of ebulliently witty dialogue and high spirited entertainment, set to the 'toe tapping beat of Loesser's superlative

compositions'. *Guys and Dolls* is the veritable Broadway fable. Staging it was a risky endeavour for Grandage, considering the overwhelming success of Richard Eyre's 1982 production in the true spirit of a 'New York fairy-tale'. Indeed, critics have said that, in comparison, Grandage's musical falls somewhat flat on its face. Admittedly, his realistic approach seems at slight odds with the fairy-tale quality of the story: the show lacks that crucial showbiz pizzazz, the costumes are too drab with the less than smart grey suits and faded brown fedoras, and the set is lacklustre with its 'vague sprinkling of thinly lit skyscrapers' in the background. However, it is obvious that the strength of Grandage's version lies in its low-key staging. By demythologizing the setting, Grandage captures the disenchanting reality of the lives of the sidewalk gamblers. The unglamorous side of 1920s New York is depicted in the dreariness of the Times Square sewers and the lewd tattiness of the small-time cabarets and effectively portrayed through the minimalist sets. Grandage's focus is very much on the story and the characters, which is what makes the experience of watching it so memorable. The music, which portrays the street sounds and speech rhythms of the street, and dazzling dance sequences - from a medley of sharp jazz moves to balletic pirouettes as well as some sexy Havana tango and rumba thrown in - pep up the story as it unfolds. What we have is a musical that is wonderfully refreshing and unencumbered by flashy mise-en-scene and false values. There is nothing pretentious about it, which is why it works.



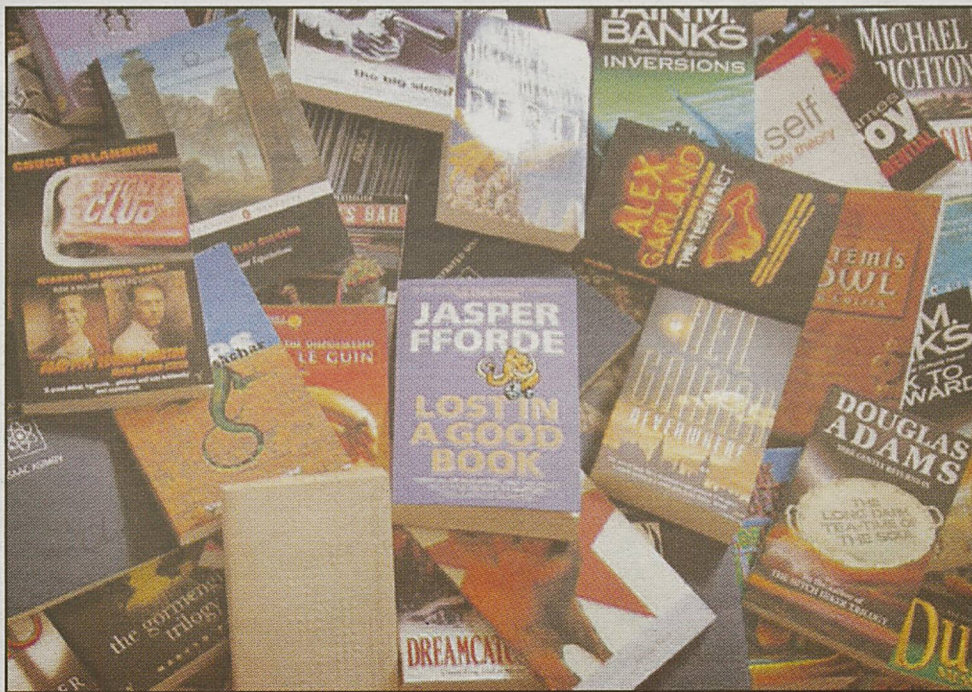
So Little Time, So Many Books?

Literature

Gabriel Zaid's *So Many Books* advises readers to make full use of the diversity of today's modern library

There is never enough time to read. The number of books we ought to have read increases with every Booker Prize nomination and BBC poll. A new book is published every 30 seconds, leaving us caught in a Malthusian dilemma where the number of books increases exponentially and the number of books we have read increases arithmetically. It seems that all of us have no choice but to throw up our arms and face up to the fact that we will be culturally ignorant.

Not so, says the author Gabriel Zaid, a Mexican literary critic. In the highly engaging series of short essays *So Many Books*, he gives his take on this explosion in what he terms "bibliodiversity". Recalling arguments from Socrates and the Bible, the author reminds us that books can sometimes be a distraction to actual inquiry. Books can be like conversations with the local pub bore - they can only say the same thing over and over,



and they will never listen to your side of your conversation. To our relief, the author reminds us that it is not the quantity of cultural output we can absorb that is important, but whether it makes us feel more alive.

Make use of this diversity of books, we are told, and find from it the few books that inspire and engage us, to form what he calls a constellation of books. Extending Mortimer Adler's treatment of books as conversations of ideas, Zaid regards books as continuations of past conversations in what he loosely defines as culture. He likens each person's constellation of books to people in a cocktail party, delighting in conversation within their own small groups, as opposed to having one large group discussion where few people have a chance to speak at all.

The remaining essays are miscellaneous meditations on the book market, ranging from the fanciful, which involved literary geishas to the scholarly on

the economics of the book market. He explores a few somewhat unconvincing arguments on why the book is not going away despite the threat of electronic and digital media. The remaining topics include the inseparability of commerce and culture. Fortunately for us, culture can survive commerce, as the costs of publishing are small. He rails against academic writers, who write as a means to an end. He briefly speaks of writers who write to immortalise themselves, comparing them to people who leave offspring behind in an overpopulated world.

Frequent book buyers will no doubt nod in agreement when they read that the most expensive aspect of reading is not the money spent on it, but the time. Indeed, as fewer and fewer of us have enough time to sit down and read, Zaid's brief volume does well to remind us of the importance and pleasures of reading.

ambrosewong

Modern Style

Smarter Women, Smarter Fashion



There was a time when the size of a girl's wardrobe and her IQ bore no resemblance in the hierarchical system that is the fashion industry. Then it was the blonde, busty, bombshells that stole the show with their pearl white teeth and pouty lips. But times, like the new Conservative leader, are constantly changing and now it seems that the highly conscious fashionista is not overly concerned with the latest Galliano creation as she is with competing over the size of her book collection. Dégas is suddenly more important than Dior.

Classic examples can be seen with American high-flyer Condoleezza Rice, who is as widely known and respected for her fashion taste as she is her diplomacy skills (we'll let you make up your own minds on that one) and even, if only for the briefest of times, the likes of Carol Vorderman - what were we thinking?

This means that today's latest must have accessory is therefore the latest Dan Brown rather than, say, the new Mulberry handbag, which is now reduced to second on the list of priorities for these Intellectual Fashionistas (IFs). Nowadays, it would not be so surprising to hear that the hottest must-see supermodel has an economics degree from the LSE (where else?) and can recite Yeats backwards in four languages.

So what is the cause of these IFs? Well, it seems that the rise of the modern rugged individualist woman, who has the capacity to pull off multi-million pound deals on the phone whilst simultaneously changing nappies, is partly to blame, along with wealthy dot.com trillionaire men who no longer just want some arm candy to make up for the misfortune that is the size of their manhood. These malequippeds would rather show off the size of their girlfriend's intellect rather than the size of her décolletage. Ironically, we have gone back to more traditional forms of courting where a conversation on reducing poverty in Africa, is seen as more stimulating than a rough shag in the toilets of a seedy club. You'll never catch an IF in a compromising position, she would much rather be whisked off her feet during a foxtrot by a man with unusually long sideburns (you know who I mean), and even Kate Moss seems to have got bored with wild, drunken, lesbian threesomes with Sadie Frost and others as has been alleged in national tabloids.

Yes, our IFs can even see the Caligula-esque similarities, whilst remarking on how the stylish Romans were always more confident

than their barbarian counterparts and citing the correlation between fashion and military success: 'The Nazi SA wore brown shirts as their uniform - that says it all' I can hear them suggesting.

This is why the escort industry has suddenly seen a boom in the requirement for intelligent and attractive girls not just your ordinary Jane Mansfield types, unless of course you go to Harvey Nicks (or so I've heard), and why the IF is the hottest girl on the beach reading Tolstoy whilst sipping a glass of perfectly chilled rosé champagne, turning heads as often as she turns the page.

The thing is, though, that men are even more competitive than women when it comes to exclusivity - how often have you seen guys boasting that they were the first in the neighbourhood to own the new Sharp 3G phone/organiser/nuclear detonator. Man's rampant desire for things that others don't have, led us to the inevitability of wearing pink t-shirts. We did this to show that we were confident, superior beings who were rebels to the stringencies of society, or as I like to think, those who were trying to make up for other deficiencies in their lives.

The economic bottom line in all of this is that when IFs are scarce, they become valuable commodities for men in terms of the social stratosphere. This was aptly demonstrated in the film 'The American President', which unusually portrayed the Big Man as a widower, who is rescued by his date being able to speak French to Monsieur le President. Such skills are indispensable in such situations, as anyone who has had the petulance to speak English in Paris will tell you.

However, as more and more people attend higher education, and Masters Degrees are handed out like GCSE A grades, the demand for IFs will make like the universe and begin to collapse on itself. IFs will become common place and therefore highly undesirable to men, unless of course they have an IQ of 170 and a PhD from Harvard (or should that be LSE?).

The IF Factor will become so hard to achieve, that the only way forward is for girls to quit learning foreign languages and concentrate on becoming astronauts - after all, not only does French and German become largely irrelevant in space, what man would turn down a female astronaut, especially when he has the chance to join the intergalactic mile high club?

benjaminlamy

Visual Arts

The Cultural Evolution

veronikakapustina waited a thousand years to bring us an imperial message from the newly permitting forbidden city

The Royal Academy brings you a landmark exhibition dedicated to the rule of arguably the three most powerful Emperors in the history of China. A worthy instalment in the Great Empire Series of the Royal Academy and a suitable follow up to previous collaborations with the Palace Museum in Beijing, the show succeeds in opening the season of what promises to be the most wide ranging celebrations of Chinese cultural diversity in London to date.

An unprecedented loan of 400 items from the collections of the Palace Museum, one of the largest museums in China, has been negotiated by the RA team. Sir Nicholas Grimshaw, the academy's president said that half of the items were ranked "first class" by the Chinese. Typically 15% of an international loan consists of such items. Informal commentary from the curators confirmed that the greatest challenge was persuading their Chinese colleagues to raise the ceiling on this lending rate, set by the Ministry of Culture.

Two hundred years ago the penalty for unauthorised entry to the Forbidden City dubbed 'The Palace Museum' by Beijing authorities, would have been instant death. Earlier this year I gained admittance and live to inform you, that despite the efforts of the RA, it is unreasonable to expect the exhibition to reproduce the excitement that you feel getting lost in labyrinth of the imperial seat of power. Instead it offers an insight into the many facets of court life during China's last imperial dynasty, a time when it was one of the largest empires in Eurasia, the other two being the Romanov Empire in Russia and Ottoman Empire in Turkey.

Formal portraits of the three Emperors: Kangxi, Yongzheng and Qianlong: father, son and grandson open the exhibition. As I entered I was enveloped in a mood of imperial grandeur created by the visually arresting splendour of imperial dress. If you marvelled at the detail of Turkish embroidery in 'Turks: a Journey of a Thousand Years', you will be shown a

new level of artistry by the textiles in this exhibition.

The Qing, referred to as Manchus, were not ethnic Han Chinese but descendants of a Jurchen tribe from the north-east of China, present day Manchuria. The Han Chinese respected the Manchus' military might but were not impressed by it. The literati praised intellectual accomplishment above all and viewed calligraphy as the highest art form. These pursuits cannot be fully appreciated though without a knowledge of Chinese, as the

Mongolian history and language as they consolidated their conquered territories. The RA invited you to explore the resulting breadth in the daily ritual of court life and the momentous occasions that marked the progression of their rule.

The exhibition is organised thematically with the layout of the rooms clearly attempting to mirror the architecture and palace interiors of the Forbidden City. Walking into the section dedicated to court life, I found myself transported to a

visual elements of the characters and homophonic sounds of the words are integral to the interpretation of poems and art historical records.

It follows that the role of the Emperors scholarly dedication was as important as military leadership in ensuring lasting integration into Chinese society. Each reign is marked by outstanding achievements of intellectual pursuit ranging from Kangxi's interest in astronomy to Qianlong's 30,000 poems. Furthermore they were successful in fusing a spectrum of cultural influences as diverse as Shamanism and Tibetan Buddhism with elements of

throne room in one of the palaces, drawn in by the illusion of perspective created by the scrolls unrolled across the room towards a gold-lacquered throne.

The scrolls serve as records of significant events and are usually opened a few feet at a time to be read as books with brief notes guiding the reader through the images. They were commissioned entirely by the imperial court and executed by both Chinese and Jesuit, ('western') artists.

The walls are covered by hanging scrolls displaying panoramic views of courtyard expanses and glimpses of imperial gardens; all images of the Forbidden City.

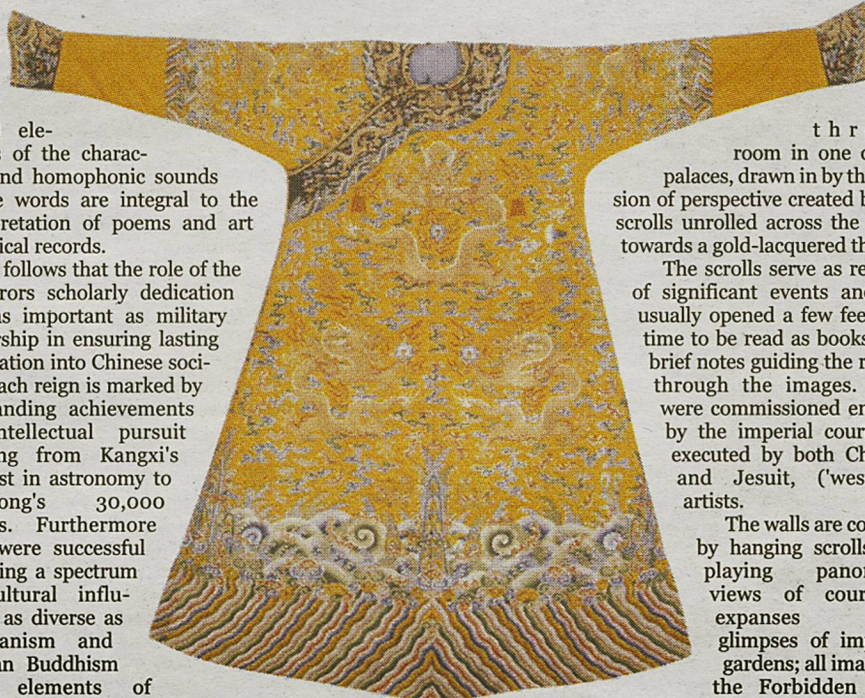
Irrespective of subject matter, whether it is Emperor observing his sons engaging in traditional Chinese pastimes, such as setting up fireworks or the mocking expressions that the servants adopt towards their masters behind their back, each aspect of the hanging scrolls is executed with equally detailed and painstakingly precise brush strokes. Due to the size and fragility of the paintings and the delicate nature of the textiles these works are ordinarily confined to the store room of the Palace Museum and have rarely been seen before both within and beyond Chinese borders.

Various economic and political issues specific to the reigns of the Emperors are brought to light, yet the tenuous link between these and court art can be complicated to establish for those who are not new to the discipline of art history or are unfamiliar with Chinese subject matter. Jessica Rawson, warden of Merton College, Oxford and lead curator for the exhibition believes though that 'only by internalising this display of wealth and plethora of daily activities, can we begin to comprehend the power and influence of the state'. The audio guide comes in useful at this point, as it navigates you through the range of artefacts, explaining their significance and use.

Motifs and potent symbols still carry great significance in present day China and will be of interest whether you are Chinese, an enthusiast or simply curious. They conclude the RA's "choreographed performance", the outcome of which is a comprehensive introduction to key elements in Chinese culture.

Art is the ultimate inspiration for travel. Its pursuit can take you to places that you never dreamed of seeing. If you plan to become involved in 'China in London 2006', just remember that you do not need to go far in order to partake in the festivities.

At: Royal Academy
Date: 12 November to 17 April
Tube: Piccadilly Circus
Price: £11 (£7 NUS / ISIC)



Caipirinhas and Capoeira

One year on, the secret's out: Guanabara is King of Brazil-chic!

It's gonna be one of those nights" announces the DJ as he drops another Brazilian house tune into a mix which started off with traditional samba, went to town on Brazilian funk, got interrupted by a live set by the samba band Verde Vai featuring two spectacular dancing carnival queens and had the crowd going wild with joy. I just came here for a quick happy-hour Caipirinha with LSE's Brazilian Society, but "one of those nights" just always seems to happen at the best bar in London.

Guanabara's success has been extraordinary since it was set up a year ago. Housed inside the same theatre currently showing Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat on Drury lane, it is named after the famous bay in Rio de Janeiro and it instantly revives the same 'joie de vivre' we all know and love Brazil for. Last year when I returned to London after a gap year that took me singing, dancing and drinking through Brazil, Guanabara was a revelation - a place where I could relive those days through the music, the food, the people and the Caipirinhas. And it's only 5 minutes from LSE.

Since then I have been hooked. On Monday nights is Caipirinha Appreciation Society. If you don't yet know what a Caipirinha is, I advise you to put down your copy of the Beaver and run to Guanabara for a taste of salvation. 50ml of cachaça (a potent sugarcane spirit), a tablespoon of sugar, a lime and some crushed ice are all that is needed to create the world's greatest cocktail. On Monday and Tuesday nights it costs a mere £2.50 (with student card) to drink these exquisite creations until 2am, while the happy hour has them at that price until 7.30 every other night. On Wednesdays there's a great samba night, but the best is saved for Sunday. Forró is a traditional Brazilian dance that has the gliding steps of tango and the turns of salsa. Whatever it is, Sundays are when 600 (mostly Brazilians) turn up to impress on the dance floor. Make sure you get there for the lessons between 6.30 - 7.30 so you don't embarrass yourself dancing with gorgeous Brazilians. You can thank me afterwards.

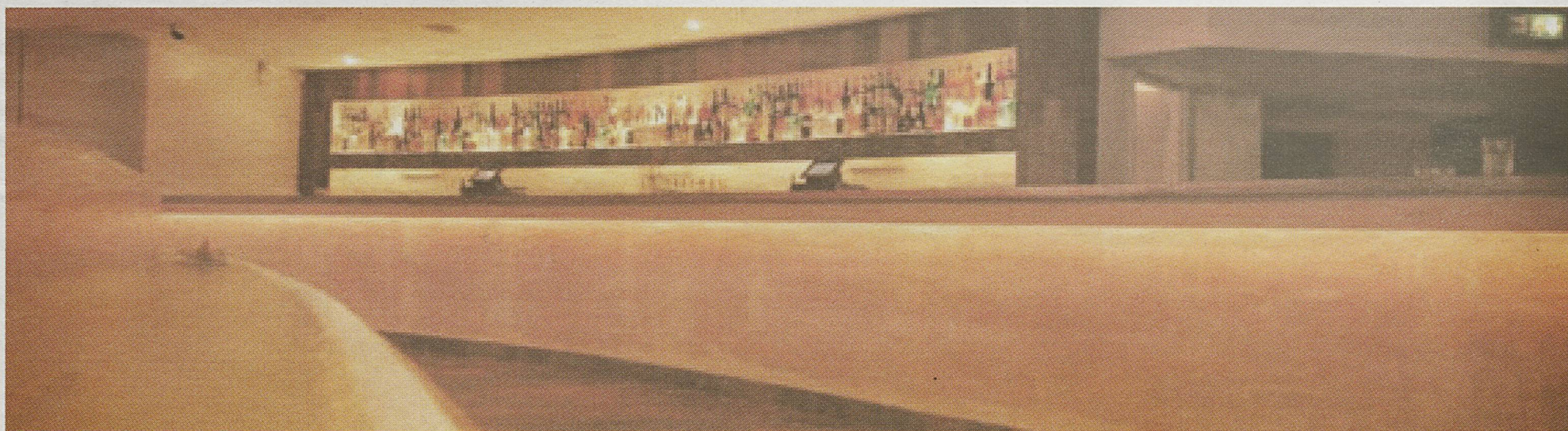
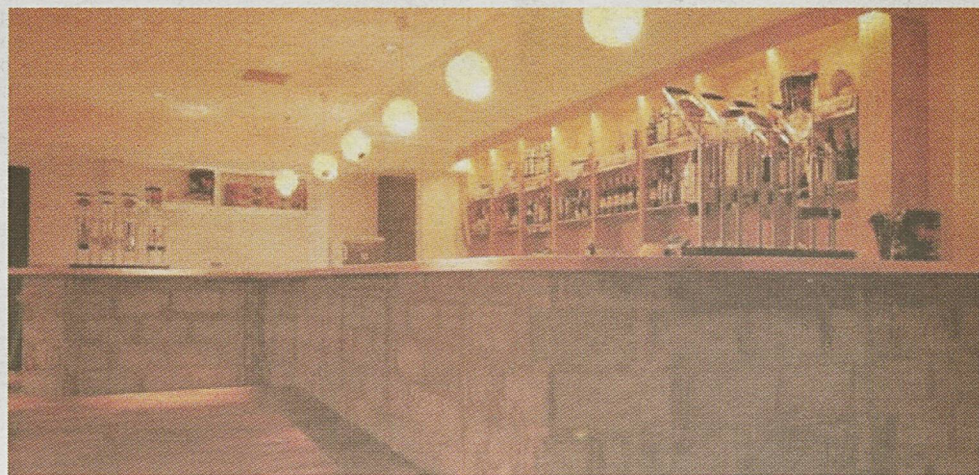
"Brazil is more than football and carnival" say the Guanabara team. This luxurious venue - with

its mirrored ceilings, soft curves and wooden floors - has hosted charity events with music-legend Gilberto Gil, visual art shows and a Brazilian Film Festival. When I took my mum to Guanabara she, as a Colombian, hated the Brazilian rhythms, but, as a Colombian, adored the Brazilian food they serve like pao de queijo and the feijoadina, both delicious dishes very similar to the Colombian food she grew up on. Tee-totalers will adore the delicious smoothies on offer.

So whether you have an adoration of all things Latin American, or you're a caipi-virgin looking for a thrill, take the short walk to Guanabara after lectures. Or, just go to the Underground bar this Thursday, where the Brazilian Society are holding their welcome party promising Caipirinhas, Brazilian music and Guanabara's DJ Vivi Reis until 1am. It promises to be "one of those nights".

nickgreen

Guanabara is open everyday from 5pm - 2am
Go to www.guanabara.co.uk
The Brazilian Society party is held on Thursday 3rd November between 7pm and 1am. Tickets cost £2 for members (£3 non-members) and are available on Houghton Street.



Guy Fawkes - "More of a whimper than a bang" - and so is the exhibition

England under King James I - Imagine you are a Catholic fed up with the King's refusal to give you the same rights as Protestants. What would you do? Robert Casteby and Guy Fawkes decided to plot arguably the most significant terror attack in the history of Britain, but everything failed.

Why did it not work? Somebody who knew about their plan wrote a letter - the now famous 'Monteagle Letter'. There is no doubt that they would want to know who wrote it ... so do the Metropolitan Police, even to this day, and the question is at the heart of the exhibition. Another unanswered question asks how much the government knew about the plot. The display at the Shakespeare Globe theatre, with the help of the Metropolitan Police, sheds light onto the first

recorded bomb scare in history from a whole new angle. The idea is great - the result rather unremarkable.

First of all there is an introduction to all of the key players in this plot, followed by a step by account of how the plot was conceived and executed and why it failed. The biographies of the main characters are very attractively introduced.

The exhibit isn't executed in the most riveting fashion: too many texts and too few illustrations; no dummies recreating the key moments of the plot; no simulation of what could have happened - merely some recorded dialogues played on a loop in a dark room where the archives of Fawkes' interrogation are displayed alongside three barrels of powder and a dozen of bundles of firewood set there, presumably, to induce 'Atmosphere'.

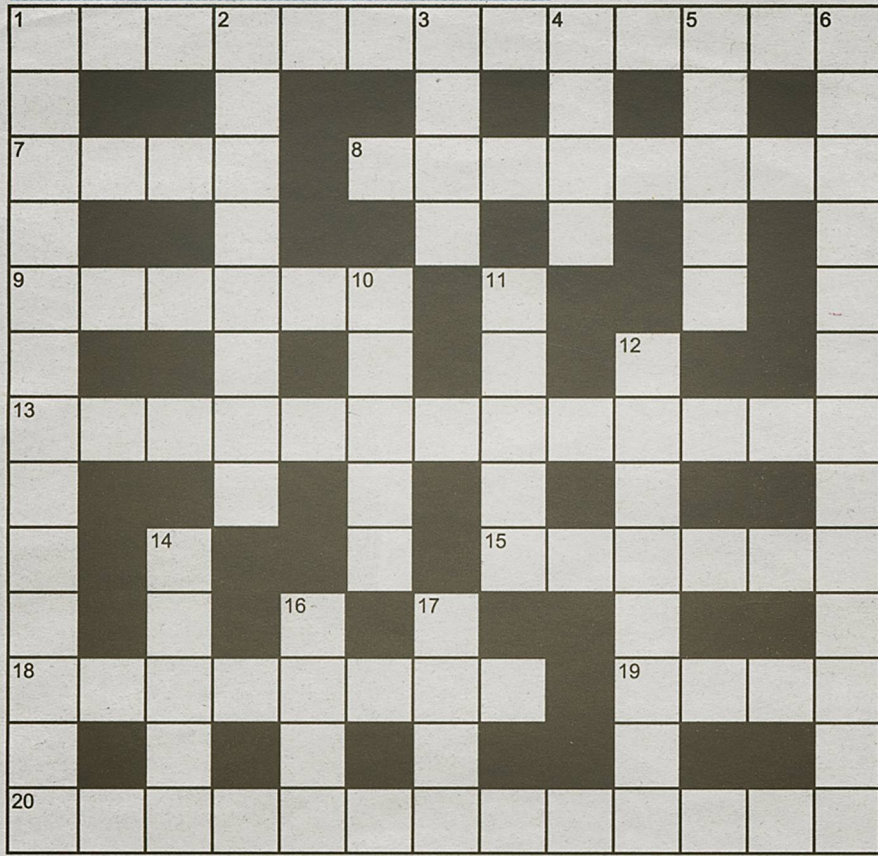
The problem of the 'Monteagle Letter' is only solved by supposition - whilst the exhibit seems to indicate that the government, who had plenty of highly skilled spies engaged in surveillance (especially of Catholics), knew something it is contentious as to how much they actually knew.

Tickets are expensive. However, they include a visit to the hugely historically significant Globe Theatre where one can learn about many aspects of the theatre: how it was constructed; how it is used now; and what the performances were like in the Elizabethan/Jacobean period. It may perhaps be more worthwhile to visit the Globe, and devote any spare time to visiting the Gunpowder Plot Exhibition - it's well worth a look, if not to go out of one's way for.

lucygoulet

Quick Crossword #1

Set by Lepidopterus



Across

- 1. Starchy or sugary foods (13)
- 7. Deep unconscious state (4)
- 8. Fragrant climbing flower (5,3)
- 9. Meddle, fiddle with (6)
- 13. Highly personal (13)
- 15. Bury (6)
- 18. Marks deeply (8)
- 19. Bristol river (4)
- 20. Illegal judicial proceeding (8,5)

Down

- 1. Small wooden implement for serving appetisers (8,5)
- 2. Flight recorder (5,3)
- 3. Churchyard trees (4)
- 5. Yellow semiprecious stone (5)
- 6. Opposition party (6,7)
- 10. Artificial silk (5)
- 11. Male relative (5)
- 12. Male treble singer (8)
- 14. Start (5)
- 16. Molten rock (4)
- 17. Untie (4)

Easy

			9		3		4
			6				5
	5	7	3			1	9
5	3						
	8		5	4	6		3
							5
8	1	9			3	5	4
3					1		
2		5		7			

Difficult

6	4		5				
9	3						
	8	7		6	9	2	
	2				6		
	1	6	4		3	9	7
			1				5
		3	2	1		5	6
							2
							4
					7		9
							1

Su Doku 15/11/05



NEXT WEEK in Part B: Kakuro, Union dot-to-dot, Beaverlingus and the Beaver's very first agony aunt



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BlinkPolitics

The anti-French revolution

Blink Correspondent Joshua Hergesheimer draws parallels between French riots past and present

The French Republic, November 2005. The now all-too-familiar ritual: as darkness descends, the suburbs explode. Crumbling residential areas transform into arenas of urban warfare. Riot police stand in formation, confronting the pent-up rage of the impoverished residents. Silhouetted against a flaming backdrop and set to a soundtrack of shattering glass punctuated by wailing sirens, the young men attack, hurling rocks, bottles, Molotov cocktails. Projectiles smash against riot shields, echoing off the tower blocks.

Attempts by police to barricade against further advances entice those who need little

incentive to rebel. The stalwart authority of the state meets the nothing-to-lose attitude of the young, feeling suddenly empowered by their ability to challenge the police and the government for control of these neighborhoods. They know the media is watching, beaming their shadowy figures into comfortable French living rooms around the country.

Day breaks. Shards of glass sparkle in the early-morning light. Bricks and rocks lie in the streets, no longer weapons, just rubble to be swept up by early-rising street cleaners. But no urban clean-up project can cleanse the scenes of the previous night from the television screens, radio programs, or daily newspa-

pers. Each night of unrest burns deeper into the collective memory of the country. These are memories that France cannot, and indeed should not, forget.

These riots exposed the gaping chasm that exists between the romance of French Republicanism, where all citizens are equal, and the harsh reality, where huge numbers of people feel politically and socially excluded. The evidence is undeniable - the twisted metal frames of burnt-out vehicles testify to the smoldering resentment of those who reside in France, yet feel alienated from it.

Many analysts have pointed to the economic problems that plague the deprived suburban areas, where unemployment is several times higher than the national average. Life on the estates, for many, revolves around crime, drug use and violence. Socially marginalized and poorly represented, these people remain hidden, cloistered away in decrepit tower blocks, isolated from a prosperous mainstream France that dresses fashionably, shops at farmers' markets and hosts extravagant dinner parties.

For its part, the government appears to hope that these riots are over lack of jobs and resources. Additional funding for job training and development was promised as an incentive to halt the rioting. However, the promise of more jobs and greater prosperity rings somewhat hollow in the face of such intense anger.

The absence of sufficient jobs and funding for people living in the suburbs is not the underlying reason for the conflict, though it is undoubtedly a contributing factor. Similarly, pointing to the comments made by Nicholas Sarkozy (whether his comments should be translated as 'scum' or 'rabble' is now somewhat irrelevant) as to the source of the problem also misses the point that his comments have simply served to fuel resentment that was there long before the suburbs exploded.

The real source of the conflict is the rioter's perception of France itself. What the rioters feel about Nicholas Sarkozy - that he is a racist - is what they

feel about French people in general. Almost everyone interviewed from the suburbs believes that they have been excluded simply because of their family name or background. They are at the same time French and yet not French. They resent being treated as second-class citizens in the only land some have ever called home.

So is this the next French Revolution? Such a comparison may be tempting, but is probably inaccurate. Past revolts were undertaken in France with the conviction that, through using violence as means to achieve their goals, France would be purged of the elements which had led it astray from its principles of liberty and equality. The slogan, 'in attacking a corrupt France, it is

'The France they burn is the 'real' France - a polarised society fueled by prejudice and resentment'

France that I defend', exemplified the idea that those in power had led France astray, and that revolution was justified because it would return France to its true nature. Whether the revolution stayed true to these goals is another question entirely.

These riots are clearly different. They do not invite participation by wider sections of the population, nor do they seek to build a consensus among the citizens that the current system is unjust. It is vengeance that drives this revolt. The violence is an end in itself.

In the eyes of those who fill the streets each night to burn and destroy, the France they burn is the 'real' France - a polarized society fueled by prejudice and resentment. What they set alight every evening is the idea of France itself. If anything, these riots should be seen as the anti-French Revolution.

It would be easy enough to place all the blame squarely on the French for these problems -

'We are all from the riff-raff'



Riot police - armed and ready

on the government, the system, the population as a whole. It is true that France has failed to sufficiently address the concerns of minority groups.

However, it is important to recognise that while no group in France is inherently racist, both sides are fast becoming reactionary racists. The cherished concept of integration is a two-way street, one that demands changes from both sides.

The anti-French tone and the sweeping generalizations made by the rioters about all French people unfortunately reveals that they are steeped in the same racist and prejudiced views as those they accuse.

The rioters' claim that all French are prejudiced and that France is a racist country will do little to persuade the average French person to change their attitudes. This makes the issue more intractable, since these are precisely the people that must be convinced that France will be able to rebuild itself along the ideals of the Republic, no matter how unlikely that goal now seems. Without everyone on board, the project cannot even get off the ground.

The irony is that, while the towns and cities across France burn with racial tensions, across the Mediterranean, thousands of people are waiting impatiently, staring across the sea, seeking passage to Europe any way they can. In their minds is firmly planted the same idea: employment and opportunity.

Those from French-speaking countries in Africa will undoubtedly try to enter France, in the back of trucks or boats, under cover of darkness, with forged documents. Those who are successful will fill the black market, inviting further police scrutiny of all 'foreign' looking residents. This in turn will fuel the resentment felt by those who live under the gaze of an intrusive police force and an increasingly apprehensive French citizenry.

The question, then, is, who will break down these barriers and lead France towards meaningful integration? At this moment, neither side seems to have much incentive to try.

BlinkPolitics

The tide of change

Blink Editor **Alexa Sharples** discusses a changing Pakistan with Dr **Maleeha Lodhi**

Glaring up at the balcony of the Old Theatre, Dr Maleeha Lodhi confronts a speaker from a noted conservative Islamic group with an 'I've heard-it-all-before' sigh. She's already been demanded to cover up her hair by them in the past, she explains. Her hair didn't turn out to be the issue, but this fleeting moment during her talk last week was one of the most telling.

Outspoken, witty and passionate, this divorced single mother has defied a male-domi-

nated society, where the women who have grabbed the reins of political power have done so either through their family or by taking the place of assassinated husbands or fathers.

As an Economics undergraduate at the LSE during the 70s, before obtaining her PhD in Politics in 1980, Lodhi talks fondly of her university years. Beyond her involvement in the politics of the Pakistan Student Society, Lodhi describes how she "got on famously" with her tutors, lectur-

ers and fellow students. "There was a good bunch of us, who were always hanging out together." Praising Wright's Bar omelettes as a fail-safe late breakfast, she also complained how the old library was "not as hospitable as the new one."

She stayed on at the LSE for another five years, teaching Politics and Sociology, before returning to Pakistan to launch her career in journalism. Lodhi edited two of Pakistan's major English newspapers, The News

International and The Muslim, becoming the first female editor of a national daily newspaper in the whole of Asia

Leaving journalism some 10 years later, Lodhi was appointed Pakistan's ambassador to the US by Bhutto in 1994. That year, this former LSE student was named by TIME magazine as one of the 100 global leaders most likely to define the 21st century - the only Pakistani bestowed the recognition. She continued as ambassador under Musharraf, and in the process became Pakistan's longest serving ambassador to the US.

Now back in the UK as Pakistan's High Commissioner to Britain, Lodhi describes the biggest challenge facing her country as "the aftermath of the earthquake, which has confronted Pakistan with an unprecedented challenge. There's the challenge of saving lives in the next 6 months and then, of course, the

'This former LSE student was named by TIME magazine as one of the 100 global leaders most likely to define the 21st century - the only Pakistani bestowed the recognition'

imposing task of the rehabilitation and reconstruction. And that's huge. All our energies are, at this point in time, directed towards saving lives as well as ensuring that people have an opportunity and have the assistance to rebuild shattered lives."

Following on from Musharraf's recent calls for more Western aid, Lodhi describes how "the international response to the disaster has not been commensurate to scale and magnitude of the disaster. So although Pakistan is very grateful for all the help it has received, both from governments as well as publics, including Britain, we feel that more is needed because the scale of the disaster is such that we have to get 3.3 million people, who have been displaced by the earthquake, shelter...we also have to make sure that tens of thousands of people get medical care"

"Everything in those regions have been destroyed - the infrastructure, the medical facilities, the hospitals, you name it. So look at the magnitude of what is needed. The assistance hasn't matched that yet. But, we are hopeful that as the world realises the full

scale, it will step up to the plate and it will be more generous than it has been so far."

On anti-American sentiment in Pakistan, Lodhi feels, "the majority of people in Pakistan wish to have good relations with the West, including with the United States, but there are always elements or sections of opinion which do not agree with that...some of the sentiment reflects the history of relations between the two countries that have been event driven...people sometimes have expectations that the US is unable, in their mind, to come up to those expectations. So therefore, there is the issue of dashed expectations."

"I also think part of it is to do with the view that somehow the US-led West has not been fair on issues like Palestine and issues affecting the Muslim world. So I think there's a huge amount that needs to be done. This kind of sentiment also reflects a deep sense of injury and Pakistan in that sense is not unique, it's part of the broader Muslim world. And you do find in the Muslim world a sense of injury where people feel issues close to Muslim hearts and minds have not received the kind of attention from the United States that they should."

Lodhi is a veteran of dealing with the media, and having been on both sides of reporting. This was never more clear than in the aftermath of 9/11, when "the spotlight was on Pakistan because...obviously Pakistan became pivotal to the response involved in 9/11. My role changed because I had to do much more public diplomacy...which means being in the public realm - on the television, in the media, at think tanks and at various public platforms to explain Pakistan's role and position, and to make people understand."

Another notable Pakistani woman who has been the subject of much international media attention is Muktar Mai, the victim of a gang rape, who has engaged in a lengthy, very public legal battle against her attackers. On attitudes towards women in South Asia, Lodhi believes, "these issues are there, they need to be addressed. I think Muktar Mai symbolises resistance to the kind of attitudes that you talk about, and to the extent that you do have figures like that who are prepared to resist and fight, I think that's a hopeful sign for the future. It shows there's awareness, number one, and two, there's a will to address these issues."

Women like Muktar Mai and Maleeha Lodhi are both the product and the driving force of Pakistan's evolving social climate. The change may be slow by Western standards, but, as Lodhi says, "There are challenges, but part of that is addressing them."



BlinkBusiness

Piracy's paradox

Blink Correspondent Stefanie Khaw questions whether music piracy is really such a bad thing

U2's album last year, *How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb*, hit pirate sites some two weeks before the official release date. Former UCL rockers, Coldplay, spent eighteen long months writing sixty songs for their much anticipated X & Y album only to have it leaked out one week prior to its European release date. To Bono: We're sorry. And to Chris Martin: We loved *Fix You*, and we're sorry too.

To Kirsten Dunst, Jude Law and Hilary Swank: we're sorry people are downloading your films for free. At least you got a killer bod after *Million Dollar Baby*, Hilary. Renee Zellweger wasn't so lucky after *Bridget*.

The story is a familiar one. The evil pirate steals copyrighted media and proceeds to proliferate copies, making these accessible to the masses for free or for a marginal fee. Piracy is bad because the people who do it are organised criminals; the quality of the product is poor and it prevents money from going back to fund future film production.

Or so they say. Smitha Ballal of NYU's School of Journalism claims in her blog that there are effectively millions of dollars of US goods floating around the Chinese marketplace for free at the expense of the music and entertainment industry. Rather than calling for stricter legal action, she questions "whether there is payment to the US economy of some sort."

What she means is product placement. I'm talking Lacoste shirts on Alex Hitchens (Will Smith) in *Hitch*; the BMW Z8 in James Bond movie *The World is Not Enough*; FedEx and the Wilson ball in *Cast Away*. Want more? Converse shoes on *I, Robot*; Manolo Blahnik and a host of other designer goods on *Sex and the City*; Christian Dior on *The OC*; the list goes on...

Product placements are based on exposure, with payment based on the degree of exposure the product has in the movie. Barter systems work too: if Sarah Jessica Parker wanted to keep that Christian Lacroix jacket that her character wore in Paris, she could.

Joss Stone may have lost out on sales because some no-good-pirate downloaded *Spoiled* off Ares. But wouldn't you agree that since the illegal download was free, more people would listen to her music and thus increase her fan base? I don't think I'd get too upset - with my soaring popular-

ity, some high street retail chain might notice me and before you know it, there'd be a poster of me in every Gap store.

She's not the only one to get involved in brand endorsements. Uma Thurman, Brad Pitt and Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan are brand ambassadors for Tag Heuer. You get free products, you even get paid to use them, it's no wonder celebs aren't doing much to counter piracy. It doesn't really make a difference to them.

Taking brand endorsements a step further, celebrities are now creating their own brands. Harnessing her massive star

'Joss Stone may have lost out on sales because someone downloaded *Spoiled*...but since the illegal download, more people listen to her music'

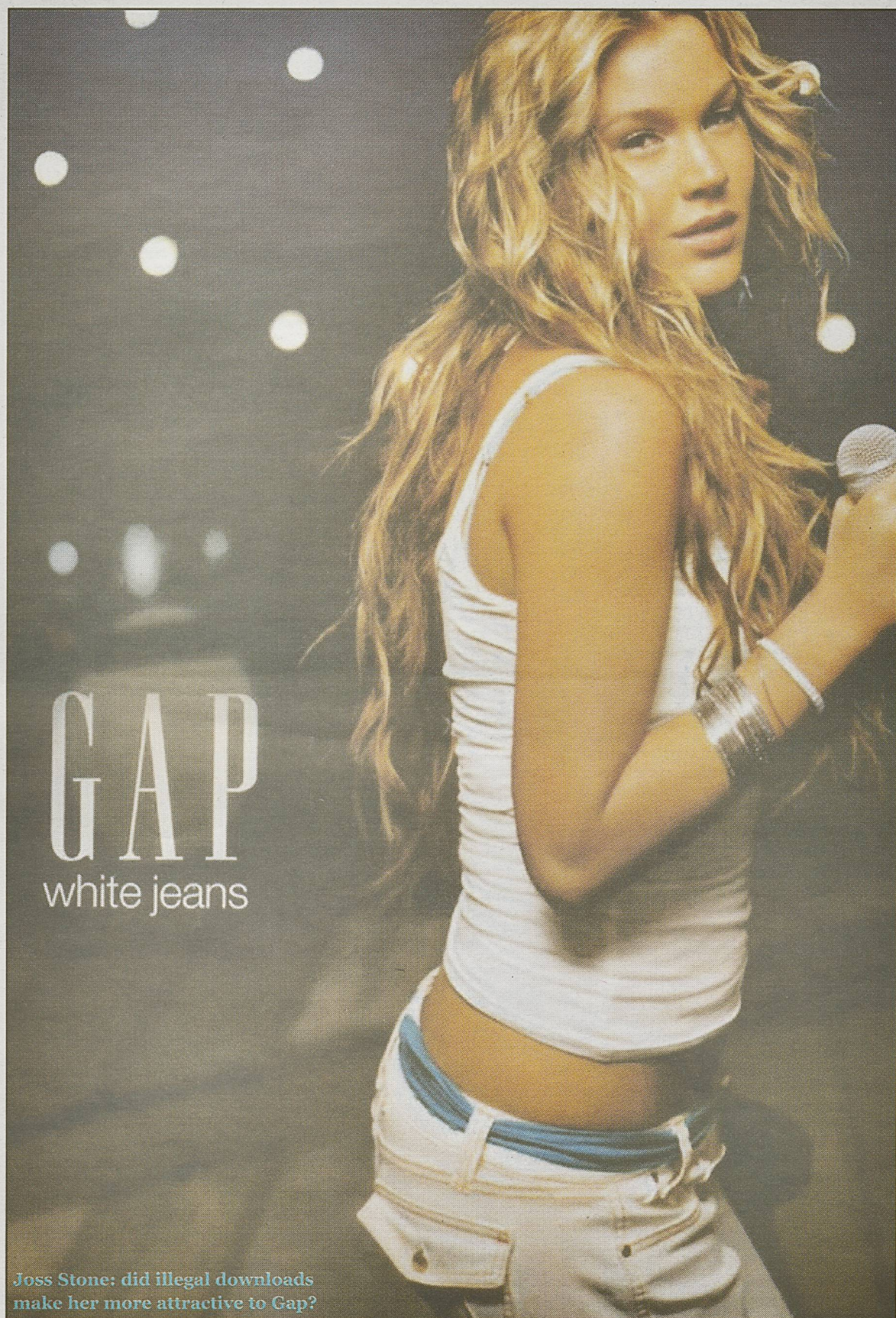
power and influence, Gwen Stefani has given us the L.A.M.B. collection, which she, strangely, describes as, "a little bit The Sound of Music. A little bit of Orange County. A little bit of the Rastafarian rasta girls. A little bit English Great Gatsby garden party girls."

Need I say more? The Sean John collection by P. Diddy was named top menswear designer of the year in 2004 by the Council of Fashion Designers of America, beating designers Ralph Lauren and Michael Kors.

So what's wrong with piracy anyway? Copying isn't, after all, theft in the traditional sense whereby the thief takes something tangible, thereby depriving the victim of it - the only thing affected is a highly abstract revenue stream.

Distribution and production companies such as Miramax Films and Sony already make oodles of cash. Perhaps industry heavyweights are worried about depleting profit margins which were at one time incredibly ludicrous. It's time to cut back a little.

We've seen how some celebrities don't lose out when we download their songs/movies illegally. If you're good enough at what you do, your fame and credibility are sure to bring heavyweights in fashion, luxury goods and even



Joss Stone: did illegal downloads make her more attractive to Gap?

food industries (think Starbucks in *Austin Powers* - didn't notice that, did you?) knocking on your door.

Idealistically speaking, if you were a true lover of your craft, you wouldn't mind earning peanuts. If I wrote a song, I'd be happy just to know that you'd listened to it, hummed along to it, sang it in the shower and serenad-

ed your girlfriend with it. But then again, in an ideal world, the value of art in all its forms - contemporary dance, blockbuster movies and even pop music - would never be undermined and underestimated by piracy. People would acknowledge the effort, money, time, and 'piece of the artiste's soul' which was put in, by paying the full value of what

the product was worth.

I have never written a song, much less produced a movie, but I have strung together approximately 831 words, up to this full-stop. It would be nice to get monetary contributions of 79p per reader so I can buy Kanye West and Jamie Foxx's *Gold Digger* off iTunes. Legally.

BlinkCareers

Graduates

Careers Correspondent
Xueling Lee discusses taking the first steps

Watching your friends slave over their graduate applications, does the thought of a City job leave you cold? Maybe you're unsure whether following the crowd is the best route for you. Fret not: while it's true that roughly one in three LSE graduates end up working in the City, there are alternatives. It's not that difficult to start thinking about what you can do when you leave the LSE.

Doing some self-evaluation to find out your interests, skills and motivations is the first thing you need to do. It's best to be brutally honest. As glitzy as management consultancy looks, it's not for you if you hate spending even a night away from home. And while working for an NGO in a developing country is a very noble profession, you might want to think again if you know you're the materialistic sort who needs your modern comforts.

Next, get an idea of the options available. You could start by finding out what doors your qualifications open for you. However, you might be surprised to find that many graduate jobs do not require specific degree disciplines.

Another option is examining the most popular options amongst past LSE graduates. The Careers Service produces an excellent 'What do LSE Graduates do?' information sheet, breaking down the information according to departments.

After figuring out what industries and occupations you're best suited to and most interested in, it's time to focus your search. Explore these sectors to learn the best way to break into these industries; find out the typical requirements and remunerations of these jobs. There are entire books and websites devoted to specific industries. Networking is another great way to find out more information - so start making use of that membership to the Business/Finance/AMP Society! If you can arrange it, work shadowing can also be very insightful. And there's always a chance to get your name in print in the Beaver for any budding journalists.

Finally, after gathering all that information, it's time for a reality check. See if you measure up to the job requirements. Analyse where your weak areas lie and brush up on these. For example, you may need to study harder to get that first in econometrics if you're planning to do a post-graduate degree in economics; you may need to start getting involved in societies to prove you have leadership skills; or you may need to get a work placement to get your foot in the door.

Hopefully this article has provided you with a framework to make the prospect of graduation less scary. If you still have questions, don't worry! Over the next few months, the Careers section will continue churning out articles featuring particular industries and giving advice on the job application process.

Internship blues

Atif Ali reflects on a summer in the office

Like many of my career-hungry LSE peers, I undertook an eight week summer internship. However, contrary to most, I wasn't trading swaps, options or bonds. Instead, I woke up one morning and found myself in the glamorous world of pension consulting. Working from nine to five, I spent much of my time entering data into Excel spreadsheets and even had the chance to try an £18 portion of fish and chips.

With hindsight, one of the best aspects of my work was that I finished at five. With the rest of my colleagues just as eager to "knock off" as me, we really made the most of our evenings. On one occasion, we played an office cricket match, where the absence of cork hitting willow was readily explained by the countless empty cans of beer littered across the field.

Was the point of existence merely to work five days a week from nine to five, only to blow your money on beer? Everyone around me looked so happy, so why wasn't I? I was on the verge of realising my life's hopes and dreams, and yet I didn't feel like it. What did the future hold for me? Was working life really going to be so unfulfilling?

I have learnt many lessons from my eight week placement, most notable of all that Microsoft

Office is the best thing since sliced bread. With others also in front of a computer, I often found myself engaged in lively discussions that helped take the 'edge' off pensions. Some re-told their delightful experiences at investment banks where they'd quite literally not seen the light of day for the past week. It wasn't all bad though, some were fortunate enough to be treated to veggie burgers and a bouncy castle bonanza, while others interpreted "short personal calls" on the office phone in the widest sense possible.

All in all, I would say that a summer internship is a unique way to find out more about a possible career path and gives you an

'Some retold their experiences at investment banks where they'd literally not seen the light of day for the past week'

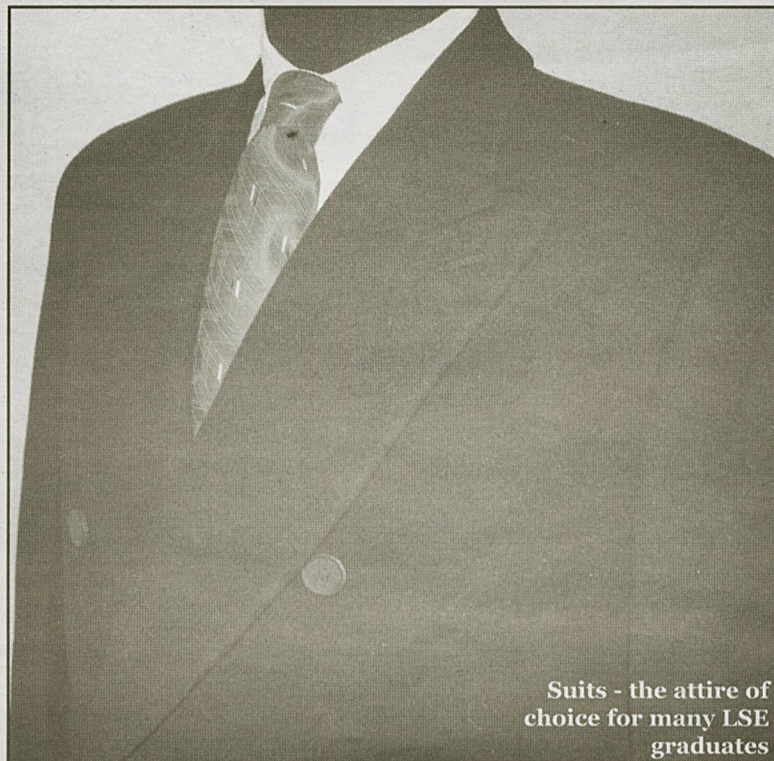
invaluable opportunity to taste office life. I had the opportunity to dine at a fancy restaurant, take a cruise down the River Thames and board the London Eye, while still making time to learn the difference between a defined contributions and a defined benefit

pension scheme. One thing is for sure, working life really makes you appreciate how great university life really is.

And so, I entered my final year having learnt that money alone will not drive me to work. I must enjoy what I do for a living if I'm to have any hope of being happy. I now realise more than ever that

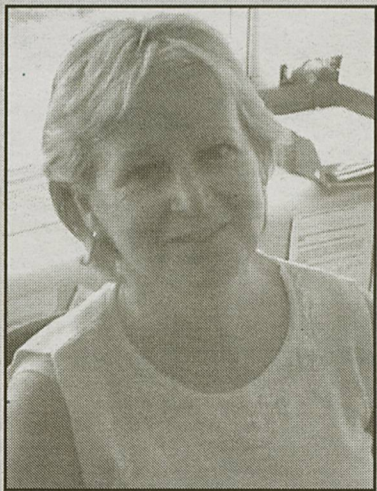
time doesn't wait for anyone. I plan to make the most of my final year and, who knows, perhaps all things considered a career in pension consulting is not as bad as I once thought.

Finally, for those of you who are curious, the £18 fish and chips tasted about as good as the ones from the local chippy.



Suits - the attire of choice for many LSE graduates

Career Profile



Fiona Sandford
Director of LSE
Careers Service

A careers service has existed at LSE in some shape, size or form for as long as the LSE has been established. Fiona Sandford became head of it almost exactly three years ago, having previously been head of careers at UCL.

Sandford tells us that she hasn't looked back since the her positive experience of her own university careers service persuaded her to pursue careers advising herself.

"For me this is, in many ways, the perfect job. We often say to students there are five things that everybody wants from work - intellectual challenge, money, work-life balance, good colleagues and making a difference. For me, this job has the perfect balance, because it allows me to make a difference to the students in front of me...it's challenging, intellectually and in many other ways."

The LSE Careers Service has changed dramatically since the beginning of her time at its head. "When I first came here, as is very well known, the Careers Service had been for several years, under-resourced. There were two and a half careers advisers and two support staff and we now have a staff of 15. The school has been very generous in expanding our resources, but it's still a high priority to improve them."

Sandford also cites the necessity of meeting various student demands as another challenge. "We have the most career focused students in the UK, and we have to balance the needs of the career focused students, but also make

sure that we reach out to the more traditional undergraduate, who sees career choice as all too difficult."

However, Sandford stresses that these issues are being tackled. In terms of what has already been done, she explains, "up until last year, careers advisers were employed directly by the University of London, and we are now employed directly by the school, which allows us to target our target our services more precisely to the needs of students."

Regarding the specific needs of LSE students, Sandford describes the "one key challenge" for the careers service as the polarisation of the student populace. "The majority of LSE students think that when they leave LSE there are only two routes. You come out of Houghton Street you turn left to make your fortune, or you turn right to change the world; Westminster or the City. And really there's a whole range of careers that are not thought about by LSE students. We are working this year to do more in the way of events to try and change those perceptions."

With regards to helping international students returning home, Sandford hinted at potentially staging an LSE careers event in China, and the need to build international relationships with other universities: "We already have very good relationships with our colleagues in the UK and Europe, and we have some relationships in North America, but that really needs developing."

Another dramatic develop-

ment, which is still unfurling, has been the impact of technology and the internet on the way the Careers Service is run. "The first thing I did was make the job notice board an online searchable database," Sandford says, "We also have an online system where you can book appointments online. The other big IT project that is unique to LSE is the online CV builder, that students can submit their CV and employers can search that database. There is a webCT project for students to share their interview experiences - peer-to-peer learning. And finally there is also JobShop, advertising part-time and term-time work."

Sandford says that she believes the overarching aim of her department is to, "develop career management skills that students will be able to utilise for the rest of their lives." With LSE students consistently voted by companies as amongst the world's most employable, the Careers Service must be doing something right.

What is it that makes LSE students so attractive to employers? "I think, the unique mix of academic excellence, the social science approach of both qualitative and quantitative skills being developed in all programmes, and the engagement that so many LSE students have with student life. The vibrancy of the campus mean that LSE students, much more so than at any other universities, are such a part of life. LSE students develop all the soft skills that employers are looking for."

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making sure you
don't miss them

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Alternatively, if you're a first-year student (second-year if you're on a four-year course), you can find out where to make the most of your strengths by joining our **Easter Program**. Running for five days in London, it gives you the chance to spend a day with each of our four key divisions. We'll need to receive your application by **16 December 2005**.

To find out more, and to apply online, visit our website.

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TUESDAY

11:30-12:30 THE SOCIETIES SHOW on PULSE RADIO
Info: Join your Societies Officer Jimmy Tam for the latest society news, some top pop tunes and this week's special guest. Listen live in the Quad or online at www.pulsefm.co.uk.

12:00-14:00 KNITTING Society
Event: Knitting session
Venue: Quad

12:45 LIBERAL DEMOCRATS Society
Event: Speech by the Rt Hon Charles Kennedy MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats: 'Young People and Politics: Giving them Power'
Venue: Shaw Library

18:00 SIKH-PUNJAB Society
Event: Rehmas Sahib (Evening Prayer) (weekly)
Venue: E304

Info: Open to everybody! Bring something to cover your head - if you can't, then we can provide!

18:30 SIKH-PUNJAB Society
Event: Sikh Musical Heritage Concert of Sikh Music for World Peace
Venue: UCL Bloomsbury, 15 Gordon Street, London WC1H 0AH

Cost: £7 (£5 for students/concessions)

Info: The evening promises to be a spectacular display of Sikh musical heritage, aiming to revive the ancient traditions of Naad Yoga, the science of sound. This event has been organised to raise money for the 'Unique Orphanage' in India and aims to re-establish the missing link between music, spirituality, philosophy and healing. Ticket hotline: 020 7388 8822.

18:30-20:30 VISUAL ARTS Society
Event: Life Drawing Classes (weekly)
Venue: Y002

19:00 FILM Society
Event: SU Disability Awareness Week: 'The Idiots' screening
Venue: D302
Cost: FREE

WEDNESDAY

11:30-13:00 CATHOLIC Society
Event: Open Session with Fr Ian (weekly)
Venue: LSE Chaplaincy, opposite the Peacock Theatre

12:00-13:00 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Society
Event: Letter Writing (weekly)
Venue: Upstairs in the Quad
Cost: FREE (and we pay for postage)

Info: Come along to sign a few letters demanding the release of prisoners of conscience - it only takes a minute and you might just help save a life!
Contact: su.soc.amnesty-international@lse.ac.uk

13:00 AFRICAN-CARIBBEAN Society
Event: Rare Recruitment CV Workshop with Raphael Mokedes (Managing Director)
Venue: Z032
Cost: FREE! ALL welcome
Contact: su.soc.african-caribbean@lse.ac.uk

13:00-15:00 MATHS & STATS Society
Event: Homework Help Session (weekly)
Venue: Z129

Info: Frustrated with tough courses? We can help! FREE weekly Homework Help Sessions (voted Best Society Event of 2003-4) - especially helpful for First Years!

13:15 CATHOLIC Society
Event: Catholic Mass (weekly)
Venue: LSE Chaplaincy, opposite the Peacock Theatre
Info: Followed by a free lunch!!! ALL WELCOME.

17:00 MEDIA GROUP
Event: Careers in the Media: An Insider's Guide
Venue: Old Theatre
Cost: FREE and open to all
Info: For those interested in television, radio, film, print media or PR.

19:30-23:00 KLOTH FASHION Society and PULSE FM RADIO
Event: 3 Bands for £3! Party
Venue: Quad
Cost: £3 for Kloth Fashion members; £5 for non-members (all tickets come with a free drink!)
Info: A music gig with 3 live bands and a PULSE FM Radio DJ. Headlining are The Light Years and The Lighthouse (www.thelighthouse.com), plus LSE's very own Dollface, as well as The Black Water Jacks.

THURSDAY

18:00 KNITTING Society
Event: Knitting session
Venue: Students' Room/Student Salon

19:15 FILIPINO Society
Event: 'Rizal' film showing
Venue: E168
Info: A film about the national hero of the Philippines, Jose Rizal.

19:25-21:00 CHRISTIAN UNION Society
Event: CU Central (weekly) during Michaelmas Term)
Venue: D202
Info: Come along to CU Central - LSE SU CU united on campus - for dynamic praise and worship and practical teaching. Open to all, bring your friends! Visit www.lse.cu.com for further information.

20:00-01:00 ROCK IDOLS LIVE
Venue: Quad
Cost: £3

Info: Sponsored by XFM, Rock Idols Live is a 'Battle of the Bands' travelling across the UK's biggest students' unions and exposing bands to student crowds from Glasgow to London. It is a multi stage competition with progressing bands being moved onto further heats in different students' unions. The eventual winners will be given a cash prize, media exposure and further promotion through all Rock Idols avenues, including a promotional tour. The amazing band Rebecca will also be rocking - check them out and the event at <http://music.rock-idols.com/bands/rebecca>.

FRIDAY

12:15 ANTHROPOLOGY Society
Event: Ethnographic film screening: 'Living with the Invisible'
Venue: British Museum (meet outside Old Building at 12:15 to go together)
Cost: FREE

Info: In 'Living with the Invisible', two Moroccan women take on the power of the 'invisibles' - the jinn who cause their illness - and prepare to abate them through ritual.

14:00-15:00 LITERATURE Society
Event: Book Club: 'Small Island' by Andrea Levy
Venue: A283

19:00 FILM Society
Event: SU Disability Awareness Week: 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's' screening
Venue: E171
Cost: FREE

20:30-3:00 MEXICAN Society
Event: The One & Only Tequila Party
Venue: The yacht club, Temple Pier Victoria embankment
Cost: £4 ladies and members, £5 NJS, £7 all others.
Info: Sol Beer at the entrance. Join the Mexicans and let them teach you how to drink tequila

the Beaver Listings

To include your society event here, email your Societies Officer Jimmy Tam at su.societies@lse.ac.uk by Friday. For the most up-to-date listings, check out the What's On page on the LSE SU website: www.lseu.com/whatson.

WEEKEND

No Events

LSESU MEDIA GROUP

17:00 Wednesday 16 November
 LSESU Media Group presents
Event: Careers in Media: An Insider's Guide
 (Everything you always wanted to know but didn't know who to ask) We will be featuring speakers from the BBC, amongst other distinguished panellists.
 If you're interested in television, radio, film, print media or PR, be there.
Venue: Old Theatre
Cost: Free

MONDAY

18:00 PEOPLE & PLANET Society
Event: Weekly meeting
Venue: E304

19:00 GAIA Society
Event: 'Universally Challenged' pub quiz
Venue: Quad
Cost: £1 for members; £2 for non-members
Info: Come join a team and play against UCL to answer questions and win prizes!

DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK SCHEDULE

(Stall in Quad all week)

Tuesday 1900
Event: Film Night in partnership with FILM Society
Venue: D302
Info: Showing "Titicut Pollies"

Wednesday 1230-1400
Event: Employment Opportunities with Sarah Dennes
Venue: H104

Thursday 1200-1300
Event: Samaritans Talk with Zilda Tandy
Venue: S300

Friday 1300-1400
Event: Communicating with the deaf
Venue: A316
Info: How would you communicate with a deaf person without knowing sign language?

Friday 1900
Event: Film Night in partnership with FILM Society
Venue: E171
Info: Showing "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"

19:00-21:30 SWING DANCE Society
Event: Swing Dance Class (weekly - same time and place)
Venue: G108
Cost: £2 for members, £4 for non-members (but membership is only £2 and includes discounted entry to swing clubs)
Info: A friendly, beginners' swing dance class with experienced teachers. It doesn't matter if you don't even know what swing is, everyone is welcome to come along and find out! We'll have two hours of taught class, followed by half an hour of practice time (optional). Please wear flat (if possible, smooth) shoes.



Footy 1sts man the fuck up



Knoxy

Mighty Mighty 1sts	5
Roehampton 1sts	3

As dangerous as a French immigrant with a Zippo, the Mighty Mighty Firsts continue to coruscate across the BUSA landscape with sparks flying from their heels. So with my trusty thesaurus open in front of me and my more bizarre peccadilloes behind me, here is the story of our latest triumph.

We had a point to prove and three points to win. As per usual however we were behind schedule and benevolently offered Roehampton the de rigueur one goal head-start. Unlike female general course students though, we were not going down easily.

Fresh from dreaming of being sodomised by African dictators while dressed in a tunic (think of an interracial Caligula), the young Sloane Fred Salt was ready to build on his impressive goal tally with a beautifully crafted brace. Like the Home Alone movies, the second was the real classic. A slick move down the left allowed golden boy Chris Paterson to drill in a ball to the near post where Fred's shins were waiting to shank the ball into the net. The catharsis was evident. Approaching half-time one goal to the good, we were as happy as a cock in a bucket of cunts.

But this wouldn't be the Mighty Mighty Firsts without at least a smidgen of drama, a scintilla of suspense or a transient touch of tension. With seconds left on

the first-half clock, the Roehampton centre forward went down in the box easier than an intern in the oval office. The ref, who was (allegedly) more dodgy than a Finance Society committee member, awarded the poly the penalty. Despite his best efforts, love muffin Rich Gull couldn't keep the spot kick out and we were level at the break.

Lesser teams would have folded like a world origami champion but once again the Mighty Mighty Firsts manned the fuck up. Knoxy led the charge with a vertiginous assault forward from the back. The resulting corner was a right bobby dazler taken by little Paolo and the FC Club Captain smashed it home. As a consequence of the resulting shock the podgy Scot suffered a pitchside asthma attack and was effectively useless for the remainder of the game. But we were back on track.

Symbolically, and let's hope eschatologically, Matt Joy followed on from Knoxy's lead to put us four-three up with a Steve Harmison-esque finish from at least twelve yards out. Pandemonium ensued as the game took another twist.

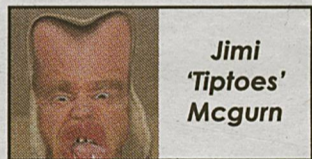
For the next part of the patch the Mighty Mighty Firsts spent more time with their backs to the wall than a diligent Edgware Road whore. Admitting that "mon francais n'est pas tres bon", Brummie played out of his

wrinkly skin, winning every first, second and third ball that came near the Walsall legend. Judas San was doing the same on the left while keeping as close as an eye on his forward as Graham Rix has been on my fifteen year-old sister. The wingers' triumvirate; Paolo; Dom; and Barney; gave Joy more selection headaches while returning hero Jimmy Little gazed on like a proud father from the touchline. Like my own dad, he wasn't afraid of getting involved with the kids as he showed with a vintage Little cameo. Rich Nicholls covered more miles than your average jazz club but let himself down by succumbing to the wonders of Brummie's Marlboro Lights later in the night.

The last (Welsh and incomprehensible) word was left to Fishy Fishlock, who thoroughly deserved the sweetly finished last-minute goal which made it five for the Mighty Mighty Ones. When the whistle went in the 110th minute, the scenes brought tears to even my cynical eyes. The AU had kindly laid on a firework display in our honour and in true Mighty Mighty First style we went out with a bang. The troops continued through the night, with Dom embalming himself in Hoisin Sauce at Crispy Duck. But it was that kind of night, and it had been that kind of day. I fucking love saying this: the Mighty Mighty Firsts rock on.



Imperious 3rds kick into gear



Jimi 'Tiptoes' McGurn

Mighty 3rds	4
Gimperial 3rds	1

After a stuttering start to the season the Mighty 3rd Team produced in this match a performance that suggests ULU titles is a distinct possibility. Before Wednesday the 3rds strikers were beginning to make Peter Crouch look prolific but how quickly fortunes change; Jaimal 'jay-sean' Amin stepped up to the plate bagging a brace in an inspired attacking performance.

The 3rds began the mission to Heathrow buoyed by the return of Mark 'the administrator' Hultum and 'so solid' Gurj, both bought steel and authority to a back four marshalled by the impeccable Dan 'the viscount' Holness. Andy 'Stella' Mason provided some much needed aggression down our right flank, doing his reputation no harm whatsoever by starting a fight within 10 minutes of his return to the fold. Regular keeper Nick

was forced out due to a suspect problem with his right hand (need I say more), but stand-in Chris proved to be a more than able deputy, producing a cracking performance between the sticks and, more importantly, on the lash.

We began brightly, schooling the gimps with our dynamic passing and fluid movement. Dobbo and King Kong combined brilliantly down our left flank, persistently raiding the miserable Imperial back four. Our early pressure finally told when Andy 'Highlander' Logan opened his account for the season with an unstoppable 25-yard screamer. Logan changed personnel in the second-half, Victor 'lurpak' Sonier and Oli 'the artful dodger' Ursino provided guile and industry in the middle. Fabs dropped into a central holding role with ease, adding pace and cre-

ativity. It was only a matter of time before we added to our tally and with less than an hour on the clock Jaimal ended his early season drought with a devastating quick-fire double. The gimp's grabbed a scrappy goal before Geoff confirmed his reputation as the luckiest striker in LSEFC history by scoring within 5 minutes of his introduction. The rout was complete and now the lash could be embraced.

Logan mixed up a potent celebratory 'cocktail' for the journey home, a taster for the pub-crawl that was to come. Victor entertained us all with his intimate knowledge of Lurpak and it's value as a lubricant, whilst Fab's and Geoff provided much hilarity as they brawled over muffins and candle wax....yes it was both as surreal and petty as it sounds. An awesome night to cap a great victory, the Mighty 3rds are back.

Filthy 4ths nail poly slags



Chris Nail'er

Filthy 4ths	1
GKT 3rds	0

After hearing about the filthy fours recent rise in form Mr.Mourinho invited us to play at his ground last Saturday. Unfortunately as Chelsea were busy losing to Man Utd we had to play a team that call themselves GKT. Upon arrival it appeared that Mr.Abrav-o-dick had spent up at Chelsea as there was a distinct lack of grass on the pitch. This, however, did not stop the 4ths playing their usual slick passing game and we came away with a 1-0 victory. This was due to another 2-yard screamer from the self proclaimed Emile Heskey of the fourth team, Mark Hultum and a defence that was tighter than a camels arse in a sandstorm.

Then it was onto the grudge match, the strand poly kings. After missing more chances than Peter Crouch and somehow ending up without a point the previous Wednesday the 4ths were out for revenge. Although we have little

Filthy 4ths	5
Strand Poly 5ths	1

trouble scoring off the pitch, on the pitch our scoring prowess leaves a lot to be desired. With that in mind Captain Nail'er decided to take charge and belted one in from 35 yards to grab his first goal (at the right end) in LSE colours. With new competition for the places up front, our strikers got off their arse and started scoring themselves. Mr Volleyballer Bach scored a trio of one-touch, top corner, pure Ronaldinho, strikes. Joey ejaculated with excitement.

Then to wrap the game up Sister Josh finally got a header on target at the 10th time of asking to make it 5-0 to the filthies.

At 5-0 the 4ths were cruising and Jose switched us to a 4-5-1 formation. However, I don't know

whether it was the fact we got a little bit too excited at the prospect of the fireworks to come or that we just simply felt sorry for them but either way we gifted them a consolation goal at the death.

This left 4th team beater Chris Harris, our keeper for the day, devastated. The former Devon 2nd choice goalie was hoping for a clean sheet, unlike his girlfriend's, which I believe still has his dried puke stains on after he was sick over her after a schooling at taps.

After the game it was drinks then fireworks. Joey ejaculated for a second time. The fourth team went home, everyone happy, except for Joey's mum who not only had the filthies filthy kit to wash but her son's cumstained y-fronts

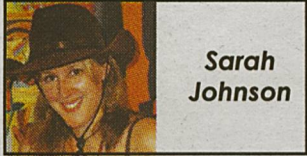
Ladies' Football are a perfect 10

LSE Football Beauties

10

Queen Mary Beasts

0



Sarah Johnson

It was a cold, wet and windy Sunday afternoon, and for a moment I thought I was back up north watching my beloved Boro, but that's a different story! Instead it was Fortress Berrylands and the mighty WFC that were heading out to maintain their unbeaten record. Not even the rain could dampen the team spirit, although we were a little concerned that the opposition could.

Queen Mary were clearly up for the game, having beaten Kings by a bigger margin than we did, they were hoping for another easy game, and tried some pre match mind games by sitting in the same train carriage and trying to stare us out.

With the rain lashing down at kick off, we knew the conditions were going to make for an interesting match with the ball skimming over the wet grass and potentially through either set of goalie gloves. The nerves lasted all of a minute - which was how long it took for us to take the lead through a brilliant goal from our Brooklyn Italian Luisa!! With the early lead we went on to score 3 more in the first half with Francesca and Cristina added their names to the score sheet, and a Beckham-esque free kick from Sarah was wrongly disallowed by a ref who was obviously feeling a bit of sympathy for QM at that point.

The 2nd half started with an angry QM trying their best (but

failing) to breakthrough a solid defence. They tried everything, even growling at us when they went for the ball, but Liz, Emily, Jade and Edwina kept them from having even half a chance. The angrier the beasts got, the more the decisions went our way from the ref and the goals kept coming. Justine and Sophie were brilliant playmakers in midfield and made sure Laura and Luisa up front got plenty of opportunities to score - which they happily took, with Luisa ending with 6, not bad for her first game! It was another quiet day for Asha who could have done her MA100 homework in all her free time, but still kept focused on the few occasions when QM got the ball anywhere near her goal.

All in all, it was an emphatic win for the WFC which I would have loved to have been a part of, but unfortunately a drunken accident with a pizza left me with a nasty burn on my leg which meant my only contribution was a few biased offside calls as I ran (or rather limped) the line. RJ and Alison were there to keep the team spirit up right until the final whistle, at which point it finally stopped raining and we happily headed home.

Tuesday's training session wasn't such a success though, with more bad weather and other arrangements putting some off the trek to Berrylands, the hardcore few that did make it instead decided to find the nearest pub! So still talking about Sundays win, we spent our training session drinking and listening to the trains rumble above us while brainstorming about what to wear for the Barrel! Any suggestions?



Making love easy for Rugby 1sts, winning less so



Ed 'Bear' Harrod

Picture the scene: Fortress Berrylands, Wednesday 09/11/05; the sky clear, the sun bright, the air crisp. Superb rugby-playing conditions. Let battle commence.

Most members of our magnificent AU would argue that any analogy between rugby and war is no more than empty, creative-induced rhetoric. The New Zealand press likened the 2003 England tourists, pretty accurately to be fair, to the Ork armies of Mordor - in short they were fucking ugly cunts. George Wanker-fuckface-twat-guntniffer-bitch Bush, to use his given name, enjoyed a rucker game or two at college and look how good at war he's become.

Never can the analogy have been more pertinent however than in application to the titanic clash between the LSE Lords of

War 1st XV and the Philistine Pompey Poly scum. Hampered by their insistence that square wheels are better than round ones, the away team surprisingly made it to Berrylands on time. However, not wanting to disappoint themselves by being too clever, they still managed a half decent fuck up and got the kick off time wrong.



Rugby 1sts

20

Portsmouth 1sts

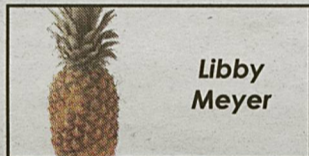
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ens rugby wannabes in the forwards and the god-like genii backs led to a superb opening try from new guerero, Jorge.

A war of attrition ensued; the poly realised the futility of engaging in open, deliberate struggle with the LSE and instead resorted to unconventional guerrilla tactics, sneakily fiddling with our balls just as we were scoring. If the ref wasn't such a fat fucking prole things might have been different, but then he did allow Kav to prove what a fucking winner he is when it comes to cheating. Further tries came from Rhys and Rich, and everyone played like fucking heros, inspired by their commander jimmy jimmy jim jam fighting as only a scouse dwarf could.

The most successful conquerors in human history were Oriental, and although 40kg mongrel Fraser does his best to keep the Mongol flag flying, his name's not Genghis. So we lost. Nice one Fraser.

Heroic Netball 5ths finally defeated, by the 4ths



Libby Meyer

Last Wednesday was LSE netball's biggest match of the year - the grudge match between the 4th and 5th teams. The 5th team were feeling very confident with their undefeated record (and also because we won last year). However, our superhero spirit sadly wasn't enough to beat the pirate 4ths.

The legendary 5th team transformed into our alter egos at Berrylands from LSE netballers to superheroes. As we walked towards the netball courts, our capes flew behind us and we dazzled everyone who saw us with our amazing masks.

Nikki (goal keeper) became Super Nails. With her manicure set, nail file, varnishes and slightly illegal nail length she deterred all evil. Super Nails was supported by our fantastic goal defence, Pinstripe Pui. Our wing defence was Super Sleeping Siana who fights tiredness and colds through her Z shaped boomerang. She also has the ability to rescue you from reality and stress. Afro Anna also played an excellent quarter as wing defence. Libby played centre as Kleptogirl

Netball 5ths

16

Netball 4ths

21

and likened herself to Robin Hood. Instead of stealing from the rich and giving to the poor, she steals when she's drunk and donates random artefacts to the Alma Grove Foundation (her flatmates). Owners of bars, pubs and restaurants should beware, her amazing powers have led her to come home with a range of exciting goods from pineapples to piñatas. Super Claw and Super Jen played brilliantly as wing attacks. Our goal attacks were Super Bex and Ketchup Girl. Harry morphed into Ketchup Girl and her mission was to condiment the world! She also recommends people give her a squeeze! London Girl and Red Gimp were our fantastic goal shooters. Mel became London Girl and her boxers marked her territory! While Tamsin originally planned to be Red Devil but her mask inspired her become Red Gimp. She was captured as a baby and transformed into a lowly gimp. Only recently has she been rescued and now, consumed by revenge, she patrol the streets of London fighting baddies (and shooting goals).

As superheroes, the legendary 5th team are able to fight all evil that comes across our path but somehow, we suffered a minor glitch and our powers were unable to extend to netball victory last Wednesday. Was this because we didn't have enough time to incorporate our lucky half court into our warm up? Or because Super Nails wasn't wearing her nail tape? Or was it because some of the superheroes occasionally suffered from vision loss when capes went eschew? Or could it possibly be because the 4ths are a higher team than us? We knew the fourth suggestion was defi-

nately not the reason for our defeat.

The next day, we played our second grudge match, the final quarter against RVC. We weren't going to take any risks since they tried to steal our victory almost a month ago so we made sure we had enough time to play our lucky half court before the match. Now all the superheroes have a clear mind when doing their duty to ensure London is a safe city. Our lucky half court is a prerequisite for 5th team victory! After 15 minutes of intense netball, the 5th team proved their legendary status and increased our victory from 17 - 15 at the end of the third quarter a month ago, to 22 - 18! We'd like to thank Ems for helping us out and being an amazing goal keeper for us!



Hockey 2nds shake Gimperial, babies



JJ

Hockey 2nds	9
Gimperial 4ths	0

Inspired victory or shambolic debacle? Either way the LSE 2nds are sitting pretty at the top of their BUSA division while they leave a trail of destruction where well respected London medical schools once stood. Surely last weeks sodomising of Imperial Medic 4ths was enough to make this weeks opponents St. Barts 3rds question their rationale for turning up.

In fact I'm sure they would have preferred geriatric pubic de-lousing to the 14-0 hammering that they received at Fortress Battersea. However, before we go on, a few words are needed about our last game, at home to Imperial 4ths.

It took us all but three minutes to take the lead through a short corner that was converted by Emmsy. To be fair, the rest of the game is a bit of a blur, however, we finished the game victorious, winning by 9

goals to nil, with new recruit Fareed getting himself on the score sheet and Emmsy bagging 8 with the decapitation of the Imperial right back to boot.

Thus the proverbial ante was upped this week when St. Barts came strolling up to the fortress five minutes before push back. It took us a whole ninety seconds to take the lead, hey, at least we're improving. After another ten minutes of ruthless onslaught the score was 4-0.

By this stage they looked more shaken than a baby in the care of Louise Woodward. With his best strike of the day, Emmsy struck his 50th goal for LSE in only two years off another short corner strike that rattled the top right hand corner of the backboard. With Gilo adding another and the Barts goalkeeper trying to give Emmsy a cuddle, of which he wasn't very apprecia-

tive, we went in 7-0 leaders at the break.

The half time team talk was more like a communal pat on the back yet captain JJ was deadly serious when telling the lads the he wanted to have our lead doubled by the final whistle. For St. Barts, their tactic of putting someone of reasonable girth but limited ability in goal was not working. Step up their shortest, thinnest and most uncoordinated player. His dexterity was akin to John Merrick trying to play tidlywinks with oven gloves on. The seconds, aware of their even greater ineptitude at the back, went to town on carrying out the

captain's orders.

A fine hat-trick from Omer, a great strike off a short from skipper JJ and three more from Emmsy, finishing with 8 for the second week running, rounded off the biggest win in LSE 2nds history. Mentions must go to AJ for fine performance back in his old position on the wing. Fareed for a solid attacking and defensive display. Tommo for co-ordinating a good defensive performance (albeit they never got in our D let alone had a shot at our goal), Teale for actually doing some defending and Gilo who's transition from left back to left half has been smoother than a Kabir chat up line.

Our advice to GKT who we play next week: give us the walkover or prepare to be bent over.

Men's Hockey BUSA 5

1. St Georges 2nds	12
2. LSE 2nds	9
3. GKT 2nds	9
4. Imperial 3rds	4
5. UCL 3rds	3



Netball 6ths leave medics with broken hearts

Picture the scene; torrential rain, a windswept team, and a treacherous journey through the underground making the 6th team arrive slightly late!

It appeared to be part of an elaborate GKT plan. At least we hoped so. We were greeted by a team which we thought were gonna be top athletes, but were pleasantly surprised beneath their sullen exterior and professional attitude, as we began to discover that it were merely a farce. When some said they hadn't played in a while they weren't being modest!

By the first quarter the score being 8-3 (that's a



Jess Harvey & Steph Abbott

goal every 1min 20 vs. theirs every 4 mins!) We had an attack of conscience, so by the second half we only let them reach 12-3 to LSE. Gemma the 'goal bouncer' had a stricter entry policy that China White. Relaying back to Chantelle aka "the beast" on GD, the ball flew back to our side. To Steph of C getting picked up by a speeding camera, narrowly avoiding the fence! Hannah on WD was hungry for some ball leaving Laura

Super Sexy 6ths 19

Potty-sox equally satisfied. With the aid of her sidekick Jess the mess - it was like taking candy from a baby, or dignity/victory from, lets face it, seven stropo pymares, and facially challenged ones at that (now girls lets not get bitchy!). 'Loose' was far from it, despite being sleep deprived, her defence mirrored that of the Mitchell brothers. Ozzie Mel took the rain in her stride, bouncing around the court like a kangaroo.

With such a formidable team the score rested at modest 19-4, yes that's 19-4!! The first ever 6th team victory. Gemma won dame of the game. (We couldn't help laugh when we heard "do you think they're better than our 3rd team?". D'you know..... we might just be!!)

Well-done girls - first step GKT, next world domination! So in the gracious LSE style - keep up the good work and wooooohoooooo!

Fireworks.

Especially when you're not only at Berrylands but its been so thoroughly thought through that they are even in the LSE colours.

Being old enough to drink on public transport without running the risk of losing your free travel.

The writers who make BeaverSports so awesome.

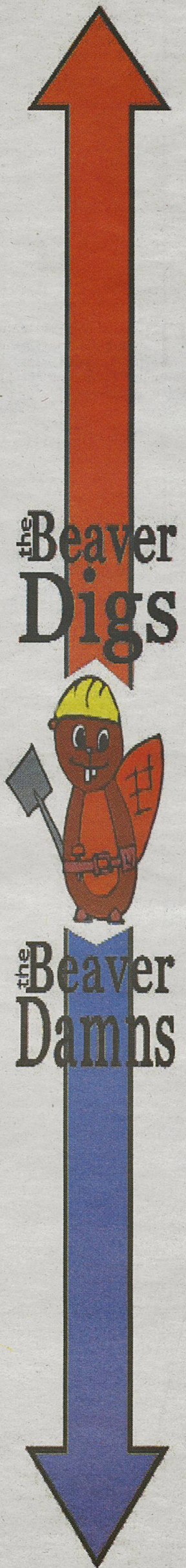
Knoxy; JJ; Sancha Bainton; Barbie; Tiptoes; Brownie; Jim; Sandy and Parf; Murderer; Libby Meyer; KB; Bear; Sarah Johnson; and all the rest of you; a big thank you from your editors K-Lo and Jen O'Side

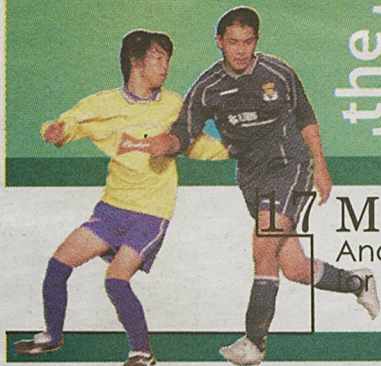
Increase in drinks prices in the Tuns. Are they paying for the 'sophisticated' new curtains or something? £1.75 for piss just takes the piss.

Minority sports not getting socially involved in the AU: the Barrel is your opportunity to rectify this situation!

Not being let into Walkabout because you're too drunk. If you weren't that drunk you wouldn't be there in the first place, capiche?

People who throw a Barrel costume together without thinking it through. It does matter what you go as and it will affect your chances of getting laid.





17 Men's Footy
Another great week for the mighty LSE FC

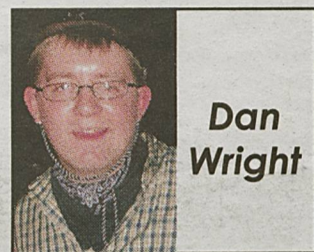


19 Hot?
What does the Beaver dig this week?



18 Girl's football
LSE Women's Football score an amazing 10 goals!

“The Shuttlecocks” are flying up the charts



The difficult task of following an excellent last season starts with a win, a draw and a defeat but Badminton are still hopeful for the league

LSE	Badminton 1sts	4	3	Portsmouth & Others	University of Portsmouth
BUSA Division One		Wednesday 2nd & 9th November		Pikie Portsmouth	

After the success of last year (The ladies winning the first division and LSE team of the year award and the men's first team not only retaining their division one status but also finishing a very creditable third!) we were worrying about how we'd live up to it, especially as there were only three survivors left from each team.

However, come the men's trials and the unique challenge of having to look at 70 players over four hours on ONE court, it became apparent that we had a large crop of good, enthusiastic first years - things were looking up for both the men's first and second teams!

So after a few training sessions our captain Rishab managed to select a team for the first match against Portsmouth. We knew from our trip to Bournemouth last year that they breed them big down on the coast and sure enough, a team of giants emerged through the door to the court, 25 minutes late I might add.

Our team of vertically challenged guys however, more than made up for our lack of height with our vastly superior skills. I managed to polish off both their singles players and Vinoth, with his laid back approach made light work of his first singles game. The doubles however, proved a little harder as Portsmouth's power took over. However our two singles-specialists, Rishab and

Rahul, managed to combine their individual talents to take one of their two games. This proved vital as we ran out of time due to their lateness and needed to void the last game (Vinoth would have won it anyway!), thus giving us a 4-3 win.

Fresh from this victory and our second place in the boat race at the AU Welcome Party, we made it down to the Tuns for a quick celebratory pint. I could only manage a quick one though as I had to get my red and white scarf out and find a pub showing the Liverpool match, no easy task in London when Chelsea are playing the same day!

So to the next match, another home tie against Hertfordshire. Again they turned up 25 minutes late. I really don't understand why these other so called university students can't get from place A to B on time! I was first up against their number one and never have I played against such a cheating whore; using gamesmanship and cheating tactics right from the start. I pathetically allowed him to get to me, losing out in two close, anger fuelled games. Vinoth was next up and he played well but lost in three games. This time it was Sean and KT's turn to win one of their doubles with Rishab and Rahul unlucky to lose. However, this was to be the only game we won. Again we ran out of time so we agreed to void the last



Meet LSE's very own new boy band, "The Shuttlecocks"

match making it 6-1 to them. However, as we should have expected it from this bunch of nasty, two-faced bastards, they asked BUSA to change the score to 7-1!

Our first away match of the season...the short trip to Mile End to play Queen Mary (a much nicer bunch of guys than Hertfordshire!) This time the team was re-jigged with Rishab reverting to

singles, Vinoth partnering KT and John "steady" Samuel returning (after re-registering late as a student for this year!) to partner Sean. Unfortunately the new doubles partnerships didn't quite work out although they showed a lot of potential and we lost all four games. Fortunately, their singles players were no great shakes and Rishab destroyed both of them. Although I played like a

beginner and tried my best to lose my first game (losing the first set and being 10-2 down in the decider, before coming back to win 15-11!) I took both games as well to give us a 4-4 draw.

It was then off to Holborn to meet up with the other badminton teams for our first full team social of the year at a nice Thai restaurant. Then, for me anyway, on to the Tuns

before the Walkabout school disco, where incidentally, I didn't win the £500 cash (shame!).

So after our shaky start to the season (one win, one draw and one defeat) we amazingly lie in third place, only three points behind the leaders although that could all change soon as we play the two teams above over the next couple of weeks...so watch this space!