

The Beaver

6 November 2007 Issue 670 The newspaper of the LSESU

Screwing the little guy
Minorities and establishments

Pages 11-16



Robert Redford

PartB 4



NEWS3 Careers Service fails to restrict student protests **C&A8** Colbert Nation **FEATURES14** Roland Fryer **SPORTS19** LSE hockey: The comeback kings **PARTB8** Ticket Touts

Students storm Council

Students demand meeting with LSE director Howard Davies to discuss "implicit support of Israeli Occupation"

Michael Deas
News Editor

Over twenty students stormed a meeting of the Council, the LSE's governing body, last Tuesday to demand that the School recognises the Palestinian Right to Education.

Holding banners, the group silently entered via a back entrance and a single student read a statement requesting a meeting with LSE Director Howard Davies.

The group will now meet with Davies next week to discuss the School's refusal to make a statement supporting the Palestinian Right to Education, despite its previous statement condemning a proposed academic boycott of Israeli academic institutions. The group had previously written to Davies to request a meeting twice.

Dialogue between the protestors, Davies and Council Chair Lord Grabiner lasted over thirty minutes.

After initial hostility to the protestors from Grabiner, the mood was well tempered, with some Council members appearing to appreciate the action.

Only one protestor spoke at a time whilst the rest remained silent and the group conferred between themselves before any agreement to leave was made.

Seph Brown, spokesperson for the LSE Students' Union (LSESU) Palestinian Society, said: "As a Director of a world-class academic institution, Howard Davies should represent a balanced and fair perspective, especially on the issue of the colonisation of Palestine. To condemn the discussion of an academic boycott of Israel, but to then ignore their blatant disruption and devastation of Palestinian academic freedom is entirely hypocritical."

In a statement released after the protest, the group claimed that the School's position amounted to "implicit support of the Israeli Occupation".

In May 2007 the University and College Union (UCU) passed a resolution calling on members to "consider the moral implications of existing and proposed links with Israeli academic institutions".

Whilst the motion only called for debate, some of UCU's members interpreted the motion as a call for an immediate boycott of Israeli institutions. Howard Davies subsequently released a statement saying that "boycott of Israeli academia would be contrary to the values of freedom of speech and freedom of academic inquiry that are essential to universities' missions", in line with the position adopted by the Russell Group of leading UK universities.

The School argues that a statement was made on the UCU motion because it directly affected the corporate governance of the school, whereas the plight of Palestinians does not.

An LSE spokesperson told *The Beaver*: "The LSE will not take a position on political issues that do not relate to the corporate governance of the School. This is the same for Palestine as it is with all such issues - for example we have not commented on recent events in Burma, Zimbabwe, North Korea or Iraq for this reason."

However, LSESU Women's Officer Daisy Mitchell-Forster, told *The Beaver*, "Davies' position is totally hypocritical. He claims that the occupation of Palestine is 'political' and does not wish to comment on the issue, yet by condemning a boycott and upholding Israeli academic freedoms he has



Photograph: Pooja Kesvan

Protestors occupied the Council meeting for over thirty minutes

clearly taken a one-sided position."

Letters to Davies signed by over fifty students and academics had previously highlighted "severe restrictions imposed by Israel on Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, which directly affect their ability to study or teach at universities, often preventing them even from reaching their universities".

The signatories also claimed that the Israeli military "regularly arrested Palestinian students and teachers and held them with-

out charge" and that Israeli academics who speak out against Israeli policies also have their academic freedom curtailed.

A letter sent in June asked Davies to "take a meaningful stand for academic freedom for Palestinians as well as Israelis".

In response, Davies argued that rather than make political statements, the LSE should instead "bring our intellectual resources to bear on the region's problems". Davies also said that he was seeking funding for a new Middle East

Centre that would allow the school to improve its ability to study and discuss the region.

Fadhil Bakeer Markar, who attended the Council meeting in his capacity as LSESU General Secretary, said, "I believe that the students were right to act in the way they did. They didn't have to act in the way they did, but as they had two previous attempts to have a meeting rejected, their actions were justified."

"Whatever the outcome, the message I want the School to understand is that any student has the right to have their

voice heard."

Ziyaad Lunat, Palestine Society Chair, told *The Beaver*:

"We will not let Howard Davies get away with ignoring the Palestinian right to education. The general feeling of Council members was that Davies dealt with the issue in an inappropriate manner by refusing to meet with students and staff. A world class academic institution like the LSE should condemn Israel's assault on Palestinian right to education as a matter of principle."

PartB: Film

PartB Page 5
War stories



Features: The Nick Clegg Interview

Page 12
The strange
rebirth of
liberal Britain?



PartCareers: Internships

PartC Page 6
Don't panic



In other news

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS



Cambridge college cancels May Ball

A college at Cambridge University has cancelled its prestigious May Ball after the student organisers got lower grades than predicted.

Peterhouse will now only stage the event once every three years in a bid to boost students' results.

The news has upset undergraduates at Cambridge who claim the May Ball is the highlight of their social calendar.

Cambridge's smallest college came second from bottom in a college ranking for its academic performance.

Ben Fisher, President of the college's Junior Common Room, said: "Students are not particularly pleased. We are having an open meeting soon so people can air their concerns."

May Balls, which can cost more than £100 to attend, traditionally mark the end on the university year in June.

EducationGuardian

Facebook search for student's killer

The pathologist who carried out the autopsy on the murdered British student Meredith Kercher in Perugia said he had made "interesting" discoveries about her death. Ms Kercher, 21, was found partially clothed with her throat cut at her student accommodation on Friday in the Umbrian city.

Luca Lalli said autopsy evidence showed "she possibly had sexual relations before her death, but was not raped", and denied Italian press reports to the contrary. He also said the weapon used to kill Ms Kercher was a penknife. Her body could now be released to her parents as early as today

Italian police investigating her murder are looking at photographs which were posted on the Facebook website, according to one of her acquaintances who says he has helped the police with their inquiries. Kercher was pictured with friends in pubs and clubs in the medieval Italian city, where she was studying Italian.

how do

Cambridge meningitis scare

A MENINGITIS outbreak has hit Cambridge University with three students struck down by the killer disease.

Health officials have revealed that the students were admitted to Addenbrooke's Hospital this week suffering from the life-threatening illness.

Their fellow students have been thrown into panic by the threat and even cancelled an inter-college rugby match.

Picture of the week



Photograph: Anita Dorota

Please send your submissions for 'Picture of the Week' to photos@thebeaveronline.co.uk to be featured here

NEWS IN BRIEF

RAG Halloween collection

The LSE Raising and Giving (RAG) Society celebrated Halloween in style this year. Members of the Society dressed up in various costumes and held a "raid" on Houghton Street, collecting donations for UNICEF last Tuesday. The members also took their raid to a Public International Law lecture in an attempt to further raise awareness and money. All in all, the event raised over £ 200.

Citigroup Living Wage action pays off

Citigroup has agreed to pay its cleaning staff the Living Wage following the joint demonstration by LSE Citizens for Social Justice, the Transport and General Workers Union (T&G) and London Citizens last month.

Protestors leafleted LSE students attending a careers evening at the bank's Canary Wharf headquarters and spoke with the Facilities Manager.

Announcing Citigroup's decision Sam Causton, Chair of LSE Citizens for Social Justice, said, "It's a great high profile victory for the campaign and for the underpaid in London which really shows what a difference intelligent activism can make to people's lives. Well done to all involved, we have much to be proud of here."

The Living Wage, calculated by the Mayor's Office, is currently £7.20 per hour.

Davies to give lecture on judging booker prize

Howard Davies, Director of the LSE, will speak tonight (Tuesday 6 November) on his experience of judging the Booker Prize.

Having chaired the Booker Prize panel this year, Davies will reflect on the judging process and the current state of the English novel.

Entitled "Judging the Booker Prize: what concerns novelists in English today (and what does not)", the lecture will begin at 6.30pm in the Hong Kong Theatre. No ticket is required and entry is on a first come, first served basis.

University Challenge captain suspended from Oxford

The captain of Magdalen College Oxford's University Challenge quiz team has been 'rusticated', or suspended, for one year due to poor academic performance.

Jon Wright, a second year History student, said, "It was purely for academic reasons, just because I didn't work hard enough, so they suggested I take a year off and regain my focus which I am now doing."

Wright plans to oppose any attempts by his college to remove him as University Challenge team captain.

Notable figures who suffered rustication while at university include John Milton, Oscar Wilde and Stephen Fry.

This week in 1997

Students crowded Hyde Park on Saturday morning in order to participate in one of fourteen marches across the country as part of the National Union of Students' national campaign against tuition fees.

The event attracted a number of speakers from Phil Woolas, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on Higher Education to Billy Bragg. The London rally was addressed by left wing Labour MP Diane Abbott who did not receive a warm reception and Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat MP who stated that "if we can't defend Higher Education we might as well go home".

The policy of the NUS' Executive was brought into question after a number of universities openly criticised the Union's approach to the 'Say no to fees' campaign, describing it as 'disorganised' and 'deliberately designed to fail'.



IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS 1

- Sutherland to chair both BP and LSE
- SU rejects Careers Service gagging agreement
- Michaelmas Term SU Elections Results
- Research metrics cause concern
- Jewish Society calls for peace and understanding
- Former head of MI6 harassed at LSE
- Stop The War AGM
- PHD computers off limits to undergraduates

COMMENT & ANALYSIS 7

- Migrant voices
- All the Gen-Sec's men
- Wag the dog
- Colbert Nation
- Hear us when we cry to thee
- Living up to the good name

FEATURES 11

- The strange rebirth of liberal Britain?
- A new kind of revolution?
- Acting bright
- The poorest pay the most
- Egypt: No rights
- Scottish Independence



LISTINGS 17

- The Beaver - Marketing & Admin
- China Development Society
- Yakety Yak - Free Tibet

SPORTS 18

- Good, but still some room for improvement
- The Lowdown
- The Punter
- Rugby 2nds cause Herts failure
- LSE the comeback kings
- Imperial Medics fail to heal the wounds as fourths' colonise

PARTB B1

- Transient in London
- The Blogboard
- Clear Your Tubes
- Waxin' Off
- Robert Redford
- War Stories
- Celebrity Corner
- The Mist Descends On Touts
- Music on Campus
- A Novel with Cocaine
- "Life, living, all is

Death's "Land of Mushrooms"

- Application Forms
- You're studying law
- The interviewer's advice
- Banking is the answer
- Writing in Style
- Spend time in a Think Tank
- Investing in summer work
- Being a part of development



Sutherland to chair both BP and LSE

Future LSE Council Chair to stay on at BP until 2009

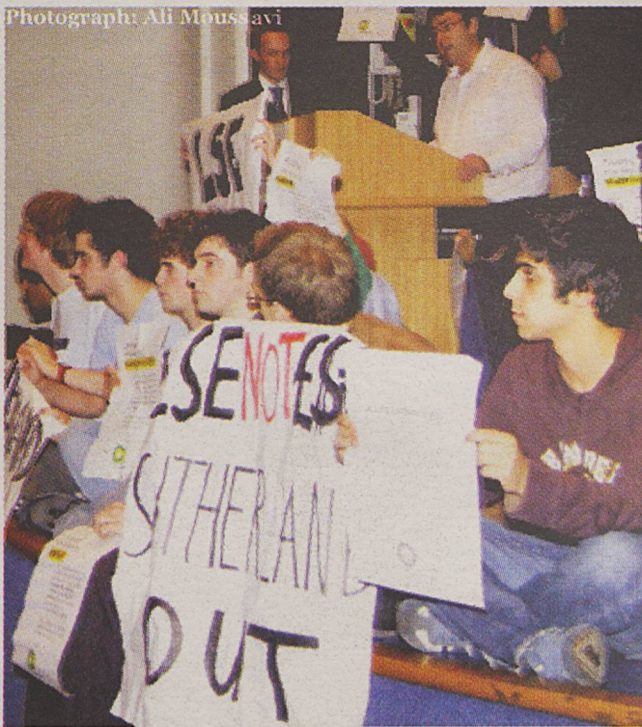
Michael Deas
News Editor

Peter Sutherland will be Chairman of both BP and the LSE's Council from January 2008.

Sutherland was expected to step down as Chair of BP at some point this year but the oil company has announced he will remain in place until 2009. Students understood that Sutherland would not hold both positions simultaneously, thus avoiding the School being tainted by direct association with BP.

His appointment as Chair of Council last year met with strong opposition from members of the LSE Students' Union's (LSESU) Executive Committee, who felt that his central role in the environmental crimes perpetrated by BP, and his role in outlawing abortion in Ireland, make him unsuitable to govern an institution founded on the principles of Fabianism.

Aled Dilwyn Fisher, LSESU Environment and Ethics officer, told *The Beaver*: "Given BP's current legal and moral dilemmas regarding the amount of fines they are having to pay, Sutherland's keeping the Chair shows he is unwilling to take responsibility for BP's misdemeanours. Keeping the BP Chair and taking up the LSE Chair despite student opposition shows disregard for legal and democratic structures."



LSE students' sit-in against Sutherland last year

In May the US Chemical Safety Board said that the BP board, including Sutherland, must take responsibility for the negligence that led to the Texas City refinery disaster that killed fifteen people. The Board's study concluded that the accident was the result of fatigue caused by long working hours, cost cutting of safety and the board's failure to "exercise effective safety oversight".

In 2004 the European Court of Human rights accused BP of multiple human rights violations at the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline project. Last July BP made a multi-million pound settlement with Colombian farmers who argued that BP benefited from harassment carried out by paramilitaries-guarding a BP pipeline.

BP has been ordered to pay over US\$10m in fines for safety and environmental crimes in



Peter Sutherland

the last decade.

An LSE spokesperson told *The Beaver*: "Peter Sutherland assumes the non-executive and unpaid position of Chair of the LSE Council on 1 January 2008. He was elected a member of the Court of Governors in March 2006. The appointment as Chair of the Council is not conditional on him relinquishing the Chairmanship of BP."

Sutherland currently attends both Court of

Governors and Council meetings. He is not a member of Council, but attends as a guest.

Last year, students demonstrated their opposition to his appointment at a controversial sit-in that halted a lecture he was due to give in the Old Theatre. There was a further demonstration against the appointment outside a dinner reception he attended at LSE.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: PAGE 9



Union Jack

Such a sham. The UGM that never was. The culprit? The biannual Union beauty pageant that was in full-swing out on Houghton Street. Future servants of the Union strangely decided that in lieu of a condescending presence before the Convention, lapping up in self-indulgent vanity fairs was a preferable way to spend Thursday lunch time. Jack never quite understood the incontrovertible logic of these political showmen, and probably never will.

The show must go on, declared Union Commissar Tarzan, who had swapped the cowboy headgear for some grey matter to fill his brains. Answering dutifully to Tarzan's call, Angler "Pacifist" Fisher bravely sacrificed his turn in the swimsuit segment on the pageant to kickstart the UGM.

Crisis came quickly. As the Fisher's pacifist agenda came to a vote, the Convention collapsed in confusion, debating the need for a supermajority to realise Fisher's Greenpeace wet dream. But cometh the hour, cometh the man. Rising from his armchair of pointless sarcasm in the front row of the Convention, Andy "Clueless" Hamlet leapt forth to the rescue. But as he approached his moment of 'eureka', the empty vessel upon his shoulders finally revealed its lack of essence.

Doubt shrouded Hamlet in an instant. Two-thirds? Supermajority? Oui? Non? It was as if the weight of the world had collapsed upon him in a heartbeat. The fluttering of pages reverberated ominously across the Convention as Hamlet sought answers. Minutes passed. The AU vultures residing above bayed for blood. But Hamlet shall not be moved. His' not to make reply, his' not to reason why, his' but to fumble and deny. What would the Constitution yield? All the world wondered.

While Hamlet faltered, the deposed "Danton" Kettle-in-ham sensed a comeback. He swiftly swept his inept successor aside and seized the Union Bible. His learned hands fingered through the sacred papers with blinding speed. "There's no need for a supermajority!" exclaimed Kettle-in-ham. Hamlet slumped into his seat, gutted. The Committee of Union Safety was about to fall on its sword.

Not unless DJ Smelldon had anything to say about it. The pleasure of honourable suicide shall be denied to the Committee. "No confidence to C&S!" His cry for the spilling of Committee blood soon spread across the Union floor.

Bloodlust got the better of Tarzan, who gleefully summoned Hamlet to the guillotine. But therein lay the treachery of Smelldon. While Tarzan turned his back, Smelldon sprang his trap - it was the power-guzzling Commissar that shall be put on trial.

"Quoracy!" In a stunning reversal, Tarzan's pleas for mercy came up triumphs. With the Committee of Union Safety still wallowing in self-pity for their own ineptitude, Tarzan succeeded in throwing up a smokescreen of obfuscation to deny Smelldon. Thermidor had been avoided, but only just.

SU rejects Careers Service gagging order

LSE Careers Service requests agreement with SU on boycotting and protest decorum

Ruchika Tulshyan
News Editor

The LSE Students' Union (LSESU) has rejected a proposed agreement with the Careers Service designed to stipulate the ways in which students protest against companies that host events at LSE. The request agreement was sent to the Students' Union in light of the protest at the Citigroup headquarters last month.

The proposal included clauses such as, "The Careers Service is also happy that students should lawfully protest about the presence of employers provided that; such protests do not prevent the employer from making their presentation or participating in LSE organised events; or prevent students who wish to hear the employer making a presentation from doing so."

The Beaver understands that the Careers Service was nervous that its International Organisations event, which included members of the IMF, would be marred by protests. It is also understood that the Service is concerned it may not be able to attract high profile companies if LSE develops a reputation of active and troublesome protesting.

Daisy Mitchell-Forster, LSESU Women's Officer, told *The Beaver*, "The authoritarian agreement suggested by the School attempts to oblige the LSESU to police our own members. It would restrict many aspects of lawful protest

as well as undermine the democratic sovereignty of the UGM to decide what the Union's elected officers can and can't do. The Executive would be failing in our jobs if it were to even contemplate signing such a restrictive document."

The Careers Service's agreement included requests to discontinue what is normally allowed in lawful protest such as "deliberate attempts to disrupt or interfere with the presentation or event e.g. by noise to drown speakers or persistent questioning designed to prevent others from participating in the discussion".

In return, the Careers Service would have agreed to include information on unethical practices in its literature for job-hunting students.

Fadhil Bakeer-Markar, LSESU General Secretary, said, "Any student has the right to protest at any given circumstance at something they don't think is right. If the agreement was signed without full consultation, it would have constituted a breach of students' rights."

At a meeting of the Students' Union Executive Committee last week a representative of the Careers Service said that they would work to highlight existing regulations, such as the LSE Code of Conduct, that address the Careers Service's concerns.

The draft proposal was based on an existing agreement Cambridge University and its Students' Union.



LSE students protest at the Citigroup headquarters

Text of Careers Service Proposal:
LSE SU will not organise nor encourage and will advise its members against:

- Any attempt physically to prevent persons wishing to attend from doing so or intimidating them or the representatives of the employer
- Deliberate attempts to disrupt or interfere with the presentation or event e.g. by noise to drown speakers or persistent questioning designed to prevent others from participating in the discussion
- Refusal to leave if asked to do so by the LSE Security, members of staff from the Careers Service, staff responsible for safety or security at any venue or the Police
- Any action which breaches LSE's discipline

Michaelmas Term SU Elections Results

Erica Gornall

The LSE Students' Union (LSESU) Michaelmas Term elections produced some close races, with the results of voting for National Union of Students (NUS) delegates still unannounced at the time *The Beaver* went to print.

The results of this race were due to come out at 5pm yesterday (Monday). Although some had accused the elections of having limited presence on campus, turnout was higher than last year.

According to LSESU Returning Officer James Bacon, 1145 people voted in last week's elections. Positions up for grabs included: Postgraduate Students' Officer; Honorary President and Vice-President; positions on the Constitution and Steering Committee; NUS delegates; and positions on Academic Board and the Court of Governors.

After a close-run race, Mani Das joined the Executive Committee as Postgraduate Students' Officer, while Jamie

Corley was elected as General Course Representative.

Excitement punctuated what was a rather low-key evening in the count room as votes were counted for the positions of NUS delegate. This was a fiercely contested race in the context of the varying positions candidates have taken to proposals of NUS reform. By the end of the night, the two vote difference between two candidates resulted in a decision to recount the race.

Louise Robinson, Ziyaad Lunat, Doug Oliver, Ashley Tan and Farid Butt all gained positions of the Court of Governors, one of the more highly contested races. Emmanuel Akpan-Inwang, Nada Mansy and Michael O'Keefe gained positions on the Academic Board.

Many candidates were absent for the majority of the count and campaigning for LSE students' votes throughout the week varied between candidates. The lack of hustings for some positions and the reliance on posters and flyers have led some to comment on the impersonal nature of the elections.

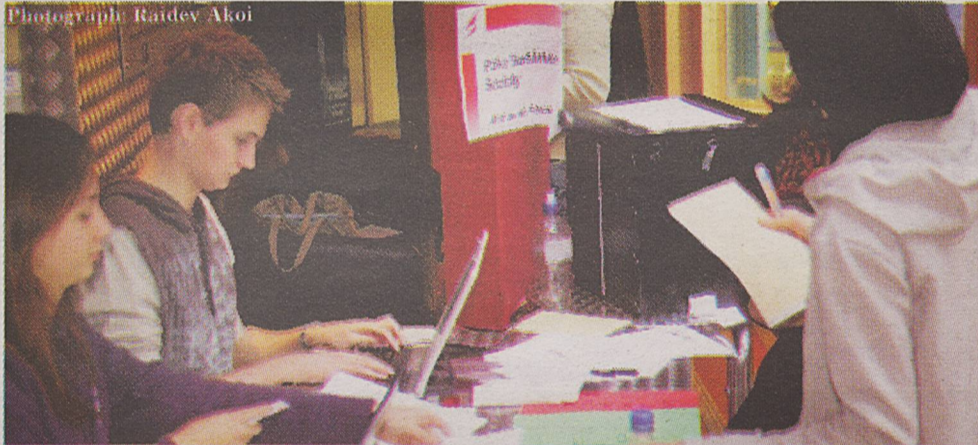
However, the Returning Officer has pointed to the new online system of voting as a way of increasing student participation in the Union elections. This year, students could vote from any computer on the LSE network (Halls and on campus) via the LSESU website. According to figures released by the Returning Officer, online voting outstripped paper voting, with 633 people voting online compared with the 512 cast in the Quad.

Talking about the online system, Bacon said, "Online voting was exceedingly successful with over 50% of votes cast being through the online portal." He added that the elections overall had been "very successful".

Despite the overall increase in votes cast and the initial success of the online system, reviews will be put in place to analyse the way in which the Union regulate elections.

"I'll be looking at online voting and its place in future SU elections," said Bacon. "I'll certainly be investigating possible changes the electoral regulations prior to Lent Term."

Photograph: Raidev Akoi



Students voting at the Quad last week

Jewish Society event calls for peace and understanding

Rajan Patel
News Editor

"Lack of political will on both sides" is the key obstacle to resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, according to Professor David Newman of Israel's Ben Gurion University.

Speaking at an event organised by the LSE Students' Union (LSESU) Jewish Society last Tuesday, Newman noted that hopes for resolution were much higher in 1993, when the Oslo Accords were signed, than they are now.

The Oslo Accords were considered at the time to be a major breakthrough for the peace process, with Palestine publicly acknowledging Israel's right to exist for the first time. Israel also agreed to the withdrawal of its forces from parts of the West Bank and Gaza.

Since then, sustained debate of the practicalities of any settlement (concerning cooperation over infrastructure, water and energy) has meant that a mutually acceptable solution could certainly be agreed upon. However, internal divisions within the Israeli and Palestinian governments and

the lack of visionary leadership on both sides has undermined any hope of peace.

Newman drew attention to the internal rifts within Israeli politics. Those on the right of the spectrum oppose territorial renegotiation on principle, asserting that no Israeli soil should be given up on any terms, while the left believe that the opportunity for a comprehensive settlement has been squandered.

Acknowledging that each side's ignorance of the other's cultural history and traditions had been a major block to progress, Newman noted that creating a "shared narrative" on the Middle East was an impossible task. He argued that it is necessary to move away from old arguments and focus instead on a pragmatic approach to conflict resolution.

The role of the international community was also touched upon. Members of the audience questioned recent US commitment to a settlement and Newman suggested that America was "preoccupied elsewhere in the Middle East". Greater pressure on both sides was needed to prompt real progress.

The address attracted a

large audience and was well received. Daniel Jason, Political Officer of the LSESU Jewish Society, said, "Being free from useless political rhetoric and polemics, the talk actually served to increase understanding between parties of divergent political views. To this end, the Jewish Society is making it their aim to increase essential dialogue on campus by establishing friendly debate workshops for students to air their views on this difficult conflict."



Whereas the professional agitators continue to use their unparalleled skill in creating hostility and spreading enmity, the stuff of peace is understanding.

Daniel Jason
LSESU Jewish Society



Results in brief

Position	Person elected
Honorary President	Aung San Suu Kyi
Honorary Vice-President	Khaled Al Mudallal
General Course Representative	Jamie Corley
Postgraduate Students' Officer	Mani Das
Academic Board	Emmanuel Akpan-Inwang, Nada Mansy, Micheal O'Keefe
Constitution and Steering Committee	Joseph Brown
Court of Governors	Ziyaad Lunat, Louise Robinson, Doug Oliver, Ashley Tan, Farid Butt

Research metrics cause concern

Jamie Mason

The LSE has performed poorly in the latest assessment of the UK's universities, alongside other social science institutions. A new study on research metrics has ranked the school in a lowly 51st place, behind universities such as Sussex and Swansea.

The data compiled by the *Guardian* newspaper compares how universities are fairing in research impact, spending and PhD completion.

Under research impact the LSE performs particularly badly. The School is ranked 84th in this area, which indicates how many times work by LSE academics is cited in peer-reviewed journals. Institutions with higher ratings included Greenwich and City University.

The statistics also reveal that Oxford and Cambridge individually receive over ten times as much research grant income as the LSE.

In terms of PhD completion the School also performs badly in comparison to other London universities such as UCL and

Kings College.

Institutions without 'traditional' science departments all fare very badly in the study. SOAS, a social science institution like the LSE, performs exceptionally poorly, ranking 90th place.

An LSE spokesperson told *The Beaver* that "positions in league tables vary greatly according to the methodology used. That used here appears to favour the 'hard' sciences".

"When compared to other institutions which do not focus on hard science, such as the London Business School and SOAS, LSE places more favourably than it first appears."

The spokesperson went on to state that it is inevitable that as a small institution the school will be outputting fewer students with doctorates than larger universities with medical departments. They also pointed out that the LSE attracts more funding from Economic and Social Research Council than any other UK institution.

In response to the poor research impact result the

School argued that the Thomson Scientific Index used did not include much of the work that academics of the school do, such as publishing books.

The Government is planning to replace the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) measure of assessing universities after 2008 with a new metrics based system. However, it is likely to be significantly different to the methodology used in this study.



When compared to institutions which do not focus on hard science...LSE places more favourably than it first appears.

LSE Spokesperson

LSE and the competition

University	Impact	Number of papers	Number of completed PhDs
Oxford	1.91	21629	3712
Kings London	1.59	12281	1750
LSE	0.59	1872	742
SOAS	0.15	239	389

Last week, the *Guardian* newspaper produced statistics on UK universities' research output. 'Metrics' - statistics on research impact and PhD output - will be used more heavily to assess the quality of research in future Research Assessment Exercises (RAEs). As suggested by these results, metrics from 2002-2006 do not favour the LSE and other social science institutions.

Former head of MI6 harassed at LSE

Estee Fresco

Sir Richard Dearlove, the former Head of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), gave a lecture entitled "Intelligence and the Media - Can we Trust Journalists with Public Security?" last Wednesday.

It was, at times, a bad-tempered affair: the former head of the SIS, also known as MI6, was confronted with a number of questions from audience members who were openly hostile towards him. He later left a drinks reception at the School following a confrontation with angry protesters.

The event was organized by POLIS, an organisation affiliated with the LSE and the London College of Communication that serves as "the forum for debate, research and teaching of journalism and society."

In his speech, Dearlove contended that the British government had depended too much on intelligence in order to gain Parliament's support for the war in Iraq. He suggested that the UK government had overemphasised this information in order to receive the support necessary to invade Iraq. When asked to comment on this statement, POLIS Director Charlie Beckett wondered why MI6 failed to hold the government responsible for its overemphasis on intelligence.

Dearlove noted that that the SIS and the media have fundamentally different interests. Keeping secrets is essential to the protection of the SIS. Conversely, probing secrets is



Sir Richard Dearlove at the Old Theatre

crucial to the operation of the media. In order to make the relationship between these two parties work, journalists need to follow a code of conduct that respects MI6's need for secrecy. While most journalists understood the sensitivity of the relationship between journalism and secrecy during his time as head of MI6, Dearlove stated that there were a few notable exceptions who "will probably remember who they are."

Charlie Beckett said, "A lot of what Sir Richard said was...very useful to remind us of the limitations that you can expect in the relationship between the media and the intelligence services." However, Beckett noted that Sir Richard's appeal for the media to show good manners "was

something of a rhetorical flourish."

According to Beckett, the event on Wednesday night exemplified POLIS' main goal, which is to bring the public and public figures together to discuss key issues concerning the media's relationship with society. Beckett claims that POLIS "is not trying to create a harmony" between different groups. Rather, the organisation encourages debate between different members of society.

The disharmony between certain members of the public and Dearlove was very clear on Wednesday night. Some audience members questioned the official version of the 9/11 attacks, while others implied that MI6 was complicit in the

Dearlove on trial

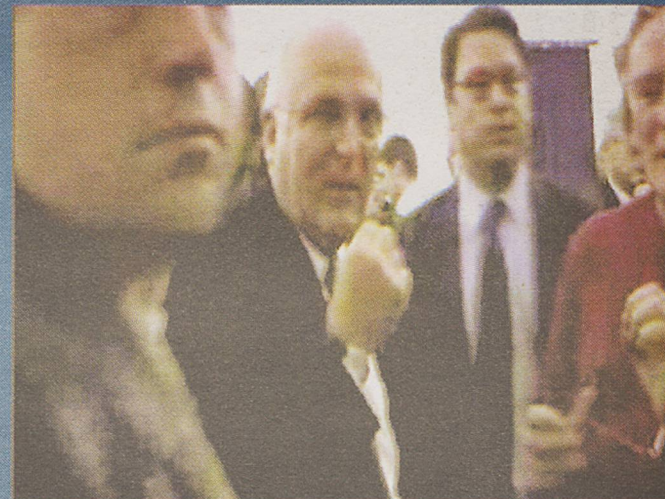
Sir Richard Dearlove, former Head of MI6, faced an interrogation of his own last Wednesday at the LSE. Here are some of the questions he fielded over the course of the evening.

Question: "It's been reported on Fox News that that the mastermind behind the 7/7 bombings, Haroon Rashid Aswat, is an MI6 agent. What's your response to that?"

Answer: "That's just ridiculous, I'm not going to comment on that. It's not a sensible question, it's just rubbish! Let's try and talk about the real issues."

Question (on Iraq): "What about the war crimes tribunal, Sir Richard? What about cluster bombs? What about depleted uranium and all the dead people?"

Answer: "I came here on my own terms, not yours. I could walk off the stage right now, but I don't want to do that."



At a post-event reception, Dearlove was accosted by filmmakers from "Elephant in the Room" - see the full clip on YouTube. After further questioning, an irate Dearlove stormed out of the reception.

Question: "Why was there no official enquiry into David Shayler's allegations of MI6 funding Islamic extremist terrorism in an illegal plot to assassinate Colonel Gaddafi?"

Answer: "I'm at a drinks party, I'm having a chat, would you please leave me alone?"

7/7 bombings.

One woman claiming to be a former intelligence officer in MI5 said, "In the mid 1990s there was a section in SIS called IOPS which was designed to place fake stories in the media and manipulate the coverage of stories in the media on the part of the SIS. I was wondering, is there still such a section?"

Sir Richard refused to

answer these allegations, claiming they were "rubbish." However, this response was not received kindly by some members of the audience, who heckled him for failing to consider their questions. At one point, Sir Richard threatened to leave the event early, saying, "I came here on my own terms, not yours and, you know, if you want me to walk off the stage, fine." Ultimately, he stayed

until the lecture officially came to a close.

If you are interested in becoming involved in POLIS, the organization offers internship opportunities to students. POLIS accepts interns from a wide range of academic disciplines and allows students flexible hours to work on their projects, which range from working on policy papers to organising events.

Stop The War Coalition AGM

David Osborn

Last Saturday, the Stop the War Coalition held their annual conference at the Friends Meeting House in Euston. The Coalition was created in September 2001 and has organised opposition to the invasion and subsequent occupation of both Afghanistan and Iraq.

Over 300 delegates representing groups from all over the United Kingdom came together to decide the way forward for the Coalition.

This year, the prime preoccupation of the conference was the possibility of an attack on Iran. In recent months there has been a steady escalation of bellicose rhetoric and allegations from the United States, and many fear that the likelihood of an attack is steadily increasing.

The concern was emphasised throughout the conference and demonstrates the evolving nature of the Stop the War Coalition as it adapts to meet novel issues beyond Iraq and Afghanistan.

During the conference, there was some disagreement over whether the Coalition should adopt a critical stance toward the Iranian regime. The resolution on this issue failed as the Coalition deemed it more important and appropriate to focus on the UK government and preventing its support or participation in any hostilities

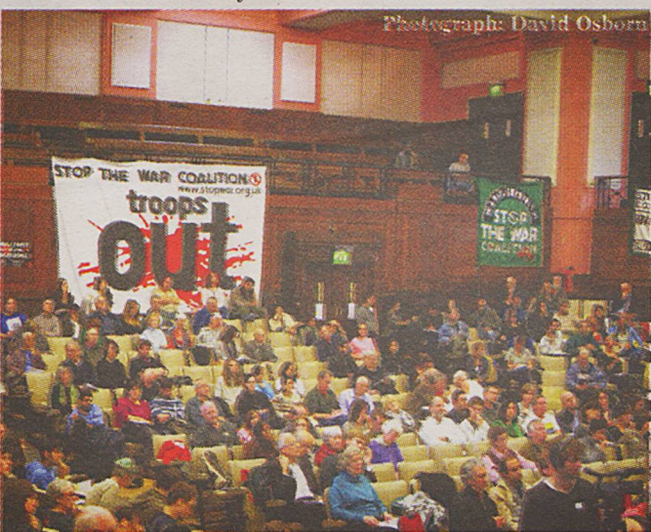
against Iran.

John Rees, a founder of the Coalition, elaborated on this rationale by drawing parallels to the debate leading up to the invasion of Iraq: "We say again today that every word that the critics of the Iranian regime say may well be true but it does not license an attack by the United States, it does not license an attack by Britain."

The conference engaged with many other issues during the day, including the occupation of Palestine, the tensions with Turkey in Kurdish Iraq, issues of torture and detainee abuse by British soldiers in Iraq, and opposing the United States missile defense system.

The conference ended with a call to pressure the Brown government to withhold support for US aggression towards Iran through demonstrations in late November and to build an international peace movement partly through a conference to be held in December.

After the conference ended, students from around the UK met and exchanged ideas and organising strategies towards building the student anti-war movement. It signified the rejuvenated attitude and increased organisation of the anti-war movement in response to the escalating tensions between the United States and Iran.



The conference in full swing

PhD computers off limits to frustrated undergraduates

Rajan Patel
News Editor

Frustrated undergraduate students in the Government Department have resorted to using PhD students' computer facilities.

The Government Department's new home in Connaught House has a number of computer rooms which only PhD students may access. The Undergraduate Common Room in the department has no computers and undergraduates have to use the School's computer rooms.

In an email sent to all undergraduate students in the Government Department, Hannah Wood, the Government Department's Undergraduate Programme Administrator, stated that the School "provides the department with resources for PhD students" but provides no budget for computers for undergraduate students.

Some undergraduates have told PhD students that the Government Department endorsed their use of the computer rooms at a Staff-Student Liaison Committee (SSLC) meeting held on Tuesday October 23. In her email, Wood emphasised that "this is not what was agreed at the SSLC

meeting".

However, it was decided at the SSLC meeting that Nicole Boyce, the Government Departmental Manager, would raise undergraduate students' concerns at School level "if the students provide some text for her to do this".



Every year the school has been over-recruiting students...study spaces [have] become severely limited

Om Dhumatkar
Third year LSE Student

Dan Sheldon, an undergraduate representative on the SSLC, is currently writing a letter outlining students' concerns and is seeking the signatures of as many students of Government as possible.

He said that the issue "has irked some undergraduate Government students, given the increase in student numbers this year by 400, the lack

of computer spaces, and that our common room is next to an empty PhD computer room".

Alex Leveringhaus, a representative for PhD students in the Government Department, said, "If these rooms were opened to the (potentially) large number of undergraduate Government students it is likely that problems will arise. For these reasons...we will not tolerate any use of PhD facilities by undergraduates."

S08, a room in S building with 43 computers, is temporarily closed to students. With all other rooms in constant use, students have access to around 800 computers on campus - the number of undergraduate students alone is now nearly 4000.

Om Dhumatkar, who raised the issue of computer availability at a recent Union General Meeting (UGM), said that the School's perennial over-recruitment of students is the root of the problem.

"Every year the school has been over-recruiting students, each time saying that 'it's only a few more hundred'", he said. "Although the School has expanded facilities it is still very difficult to find a computer...and if whole computer rooms are not opened then study spaces become severely limited."

St Clements cordoned off

Photograph: Anna Mikeda



St Clements building was cordoned off as a crime scene for over twelve hours

Ruchika Tulshyan
News Editor

One of the entrances to the St Clements building was cordoned off as a crime scene last Friday.

The set of doors between the building and St Clements Lane were closed off for over 12 hours by LSE security after

a lower panel was found to have been removed from the door.

The security breach was identified on Friday morning at 3 am, leading to the scene of this entry point being secured and cordoned off by security staff, "while an investigation was conducted as to whether

any further offence had been committed inside the building," said an LSE spokesperson.

By Friday afternoon, there was no evidence of further offence or criminal damage within the St Clements or any other connected buildings and the cordon was removed.

The door that was damaged is in the process of being repaired.

An LSE spokesperson further commented, "It is normal in these cases to isolate the scene of a forced entry in order to preserve evidence in the event that the incident-requiring police involvement."

UGM Motions 1 November 2007



Bring Back Bankside Kitchens



Support Campaign Against Climate Change Demonstration

Academic's essay misrepresented

Rajan Patel
News Editor

National press coverage has "wildly distorted" the account of an LSE academic on human evolution.

Dr Oliver Curry, an evolutionary theorist at the LSE, was commissioned by the men's satellite TV channel Bravo to write a fictional essay on the future of human evolution. He described it as a "science fiction way of illustrating some aspects of evolutionary theory".

However, his essay was presented as "science fact" by BBC News, the *Daily Mail* and the *Sun*. National media based their articles on a press release disseminated by Bravo, which falsely portrayed Curry's essay as genuine research.

BBC News reported Curry's suggestion – that humanity would split into two sub-species in around 100,000 years' time, in line with HG Wells' predictions in *The Time Machine* – as fact.

Curry's fictional essay spoke of the emergence of a genetic upper class of alpha specimens and an 'underclass' of goblin-like, "dim-witted" creatures, similar to Wells' Eloi and Morlocks.

In the nearer future, the prospects for humanity were portrayed as being more promising.

Humans would become a race of giants by the year 3000, standing between six and seven feet tall, while interbreeding would iron out racial differences and give rise to a uniform coffee-coloured skin pigmentation.

Of par-

ticular interest to the tabloid press were Curry's predictions' for human appearance. His essay suggested that men could expect to be more athletic and will be blessed with squarer jaws and larger penises. Women would develop large clear eyes, glossy hair and pert breasts.

This prompted the *Sun* newspaper to opt for the headline: "All men will have big willies".

The essay also noted longer term problems. As technology improves, passivity among humans might become more prevalent. Social skills could be lost and over-reliance on medicine might cause the human immune system to weaken. As humans live longer, diseases linked to old age – such as cancer – might become even more widespread.

The conclusion was that sexual selection of prime examples of the species may cause a genetic gulf to spring up between humans, eventually solidifying into a coexistence of two human sub-species.

What had been intended as a fictional account of evolutionary possibilities was eventually broadcast by the media as solid research. Curry said, "I do not endorse the content of these media reports."

The appearance of articles on this issue in the *Daily Mail* and the *Sun* prompted many bloggers and online commentators to savage Curry and his 'findings', with the majority assuming that his account was intended as genuine research.

Dr Ben Goldacre, a science columnist with the *Guardian* newspaper and a contributor to www.badscience.net, picked apart Curry's 'conclusions' on skin pigmentation and "sympatric speciation" (the species split at the centre of the press storm). He suggested that "empty 'science' stories are being generated by public relations companies, who team up with academics, and commission some spurious piece of 'research' that will be attractive to the media".

Dr Curry, who is affiliated with the Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Sciences and the Darwin@LSE, received his PhD in 2005 from the LSE's Department of Government for his work on the evolution of human moral sentiments. He continues to research in the field of evolutionary thinking and its impact on human nature and culture.

A GUIDE TO THE COUNCIL

Each week *The Beaver* profiles a different part of your Students Union. This week, we take a look at the Council and the SU representation on it

The Council is the governing body of the school. Meeting three times per term, its 25 members are responsible for the overall strategy and direction of the school. Apart from the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, who are appointed by the council and also the Chairmen of the Court of Governors, there are four types of member of the Council; Pro-Director, Academic, Lay and Student members.

There are two student representatives on Council. The General Secretary of the Students Union, who is elected in Lent Term, automatically gets a place. The other representative is chosen by an internal vote from the five student representatives elected to the Court of Governors in Michaelmas Term.

There are a series of committees of the Council, the most important of which is the Finance and General Purposes Committee which advises about financial matters, scrutinises the Strategic Plan, and is responsible for risk assessment.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES



Fadhil Bakeer Markar, General Secretary of the Students' Union Originally from Colombo, Sri Lanka, Fadhil is an International Relations graduate. He took the Union by storm last year with his high profile elections campaign and now works full time for the Students' Union.



Second student representative One from Ziyaad Lunat, Louise Robinson, Doug Oliver, Ashley Tan and Farid Butt, the student representatives elected to the Court of Governors at Michaelmas Term elections. The five will choose the representative among themselves.

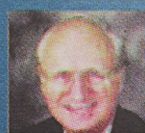
KEY MEMBERS



Howard Davies, Director The Oxford graduate has been Director since 2003 and will remain in place until 2013. Notable previous appointments include Deputy Governor of the Bank of England and Chairman of Financial Services Authority.



Lord Grabiner QC of Aldwych, Chairman A Deputy High Court judge since 1994 and Chairman of the Arcadia Group who own Topshop and BHS. Lord Grabiner was made a life peer in 1999. He is due to be replaced by BP Chairman Peter Sutherland in January.



Sir Anthony Battishill, Vice Chairman Sir Anthony played a large role in the creation of the Student Loans Company. Former Chairman of the Board of the Inland Revenue. Chairman of the Gaming Commission Board, the gambling regulator.



Professor Janet Hartley, Pro-Director Professor in International History and specialist in Russian History. Recently authored a report into teaching quality at the LSE. Plays a major part in the review of teaching currently taking place.



COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Migrant voices



Sam
Causton

Undocumented individuals are not necessarily undesirable elements of society, and are entitled to their rights as contributors to the economy

We do benefit from immigrants but will only continue to benefit from them if we get [immigration] under control'. However unwittingly, Damien Green MP may have cottoned on to an integral deficiency in the present government's approach to immigration: its un-sustainability. There are, according to the latest estimates, 500,000 undocumented individuals in this country.

You may well know or have seen some of these people. They are likely to be found, contrary to popular belief, not committing crime or benefit fraud, but working in our offices, cleaning our hallways, serving the community, worshipping in our churches or more generally seeking to make a decent law-abiding life for themselves and their dependents.

The question then is what to do with them. Do we follow the scent, hunt them down and then thrust them out on to a

boat, compass set for the nearest 'far away island'? This would likely be the opinion of 'Worcester woman', yet such an appraisal makes neither



All working people in the UK ought to have access to basic rights

economic nor political sense, nor amounts to a sensible strategy for even the most weak-willed of 'compassionate conservatives'. Indeed, whilst such an approach might catch digitalised headlines, in the editor's office, on the ground

the only thing captured by this policy would be hot air: self-evidently, this is not a viable strategy for the twenty-first century. The Strangers into Citizens campaign, being run by the London and Birmingham Citizens organizations, has its own answer: for undocumented migrants who have lived in the country for over 4 years, can speak reasonable English and do not have a criminal record, i.e. who have become full members of the UK community, to be able to earn a pathway into citizenship.

As even Damien Green would agree, immigrants - in all their manifestations - have a pivotal role to play in the new global era in which we all live. Moreover, as the National Crime Intelligence Service has summarised, the total loss to the Exchequer from undocumented workers in unpaid tax and national insurance contributions could amount to as much as £3.3 billion. The

Treasury is missing a trick, especially when compared with the alternative - the Home Office's own figures show the deportation of the 'shadowy 500,000' would take 25 years and cost in the region of £5.5 billion.

Current policies are morally unsustainable and a humane alternative is required. All working people in the UK ought to have access to basic rights - the minimum wage, fair employment conditions, basic healthcare, education for their children, the ability to call on the police force if they are in danger. Undocumented migrants are left open to the worst forms of exploitation. The deserved regularisation we are calling for would improve the cohesiveness of our society, make the economy more effective and is the only decent option we have. The House of Commons should build upon, rather than shy away from, the legislative foundations of a fourteen-year residency threshold currently in place: a one off earned regularisation must be granted to those who speak English, have no criminal record and have resided in this country for four years or more.

LSE students, through the Citizens for Social Justice society, are joining the national campaign for earned regularisation of these thousands

of exploited members of our society. The first thing we are doing is gathering signatures to add to an 8,000-strong national petition to lawmakers.

Such a policy is not fantastical. Liberal Democrat Nick Clegg has supported a similar approach whilst three of the Deputy Leadership candidates for the Labour Party - John Cruddas, Harriet Harman and Alan Johnson, as well as over 100 MPs through an early day motion - have expressed their support. So yes, Mr. Green, the country might well choose to

bring immigration back under 'control'. But at the same time, don't forget what is perhaps more important: the contribution of undocumented migrants must be officially recognised through citizenship, thereby giving these people, people who help to make London and the country what it is, a chance to take control over their lives again.

If you're interested in joining the campaign, join our Facebook group or e-mail Sam Causton at s.j.causton@lse.ac.uk



All the Gen-Sec's men



Alex
Teytelboym

The misuse of powers by the General-Secretary is not only a case of procedural failings, but more importantly, an abuse of trust

On October 4, Fadhil Bakeer-Markar, the LSE Students' Union General Secretary, wrote the following in a Facebook message to me: "It was a collective decision taken by the last year's Sabbs along with the twinning taskforce to add this to the mailout so all students will be aware of this initiative." He

was talking, of course, about a letter, which informed Fresher students about the twinning of Students' Union with An-Najah University in Nablus.

But I believe this turned out to be the first in a series of lies told by the Bakeer-Markar to the student body.

As I showed in my article in *The Beaver* three weeks ago neither was last year's sabbatical officers, nor the twinning taskforce were consulted over the letter. Two former sabbatical officers said that they would never have allowed such a letter to be sent out.

This proof wasn't enough for Bakeer-Markar. He lied again in a statement issued by the LSESU Executive Committee in response

to the inquiries put forward in an open letter in the October 16 issue of *The Beaver*: "Previous sabbaticals had agreed during their term of office to place a section in the handbook dedicated to the issue." This is simply not true - the only former sabbatical, who was actively involved on the issue was Joel Kenrick, who chaired the Task Force until July.

But the lies don't end there. The statement said: "Part-time Executive members made no changes to the draft [letter]." That's not surprising because the current Executive Committee was never consulted over the letter either. I asked every member of the Executive Committee twice in the last two weeks to provide any correspondence regarding the twinning letter. I received four negative replies and was ignored by the rest.

It also turned out that the Twinning Task Force never did agree on the wording of the letter. They did decide that the student body should be informed about the twinning and agreed to add a text, which would be within the original motion (passed during a Union General Meeting last January), to the Freshers' handbook. In the statement, Bakeer-

Markar finally admits that he lied to me two weeks before: "The letter was at no point distributed to members of the ad-hoc Twinning Task Force due to this not being within their mandate."



The General-Secretary has managed to skip clear procedures and lie over and over again in order to push the agenda of a single political group

The motion clearly states that the Executive Committee is empowered to inform the student body about the original motion. It is not surprising that the Bakeer-Markar decided to side-step this when he sent out the twinning letter. Earlier this summer, a letter regarding the Israeli academic boycott was drafted by a current sabbatical to National Postgraduate Conference organisers for failing to conduct a proper debate on the

issue. The letter was circulated around the Executive committee, widely scrutinised and its language was finally toned down.

The twinning letter was written by Ziyaad Lunat, the President of Palestinian Society and the Mature and Part-time Students' Officer. He seems to have pressured Bakeer-Markar to send this letter to the sabbaticals only to avoid any potential confrontation. The letter was obviously rushed: it missed the contact details of the General Secretary and contained numerous inconsistencies and mistakes. Ruhana Ali, the Education and Welfare Officer, is said to have commented on the letter, although Kayt Berry, the Communications Officer did not ask to make changes.

Bakeer-Markar needs the Treasurer's explicit approval to send out any such letter. It would appear that Libby Meyer was unaware of this and Lunat and Bakeer-Markar did not bother to inform her. They simply made her believe that it had been widely approved. How convenient.

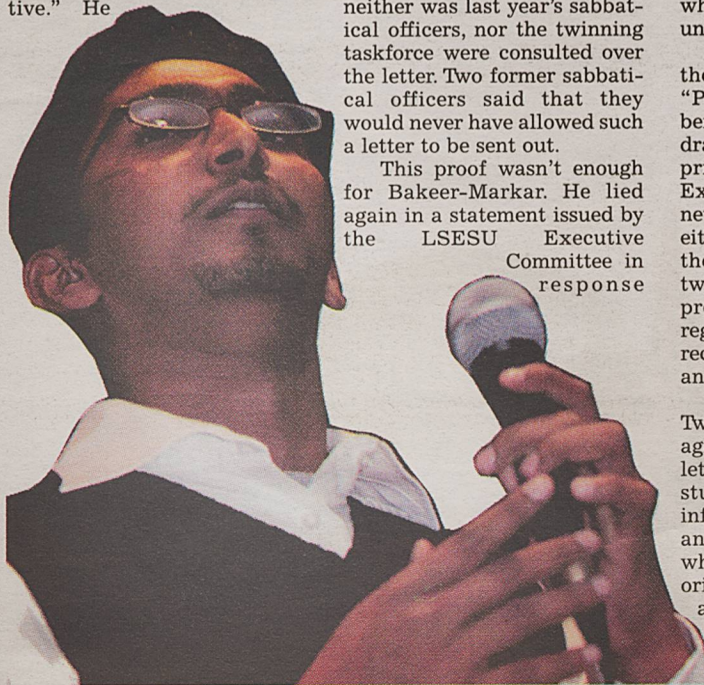
It would be difficult to deny Bakeer-Markar and Lunat are companions in a cause. However, a current sabbatical officer has told me that Lunat often pressures Bakeer-Markar into pushing his agenda through. Lunat is said to have shouted at Bakeer-Markar for suggesting apologising for the offence caused

by the content of the letter.

The reaction of the twinning group to the potential uncovering of their means to pursuing their agenda has been disgraceful. They occupied the meeting of the LSE Council, condemning the Director's 'implicit support for the Israeli occupation of Palestine', attempting to gain revolutionary support for the academic boycott and other anti-Israeli causes. They are using last-resort methods to salvage their reputation.

Bakeer-Markar has known that this was planned, but he kept silent about it. Was this also pressure from the same group? It has put our Students' Union in a hostile position towards the School. This is completely unnecessary in the current situation. Every reasonable member of this Students' Union agrees to Palestinianians' right to education. We differ in our opinions on the political conflict in the Middle East, and so far the Students' Union has not agreed on a clear position. It would be a real shame to take either side in this complicated debate.

This letter has set a bad precedent. The General Secretary has managed to skip clear procedures and lie over and over again to the student body in order to push the agenda of a single political group. The statement said the Executive committee "reject[s] claims that Union policy has been devolved to a third party". It is ironic that Union policy wasn't even devolved to an educational charity, which the Students' Union approved, but to the General Secretary's friend.



COMMENT & ANALYSIS

c&a@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Wag the dog



Chun Han Wong

Everyone loves a good conspiracy theory. It is the panacea for righteous citizens who spend their lives helplessly frustrated at the shameful overtures of their government. The chicken soup for an activist/pacifist/anarchist's soul. The perfect antidote for the limitless void left in my heart when my soul was so brutally ripped out over a decade ago when vicious MI6 agents snuffed out 'the candle in the wind'.

As a young and impressionable teenager, I regaled in the brilliant and lucidly illustrated tales of fantasy and science-fiction. Being the black sheep that I was, and indeed still am, J. K. Rowling's random ramblings on the prepubescent adventures of a scar-faced wizardry protégé just didn't quite cut it with me. Instead, my bedtime stories would feature a selection of prose from

To believe in anything, one must first doubt everything. But it's a fine line between rational doubt and the fanatical pursuit of elusive "truths"

NASA-bashers of the likes of Bill Kaysing and Bart Sibrel. My MSN nickname reads 'Loose Change' and I ritualistically greet strangers with Freemason handshakes.

Conspiracies fuel me. My lifeblood. My soul.

So when I learnt that a former 'C' was dropping by the LSE to deliver an impassioned defence of the recent sex-laced escapades of Agent 007, there simply was no chance I could pass up on attending this lecture of a lifetime. A grand opportunity to watch fellow conspiracy theorists at their shameless and glorious best, firing questions of derision and queries of accusation away with brazen impunity. And a chance to seek some belated justice for our beloved Lady D.

For all the hullabaloo that preceded this day of reckoning, the audience was strangely hushed when the

Abomination himself, Sir Richard Dearlove KCMG OBE SOB, stepped into the arena. Perhaps they were cowed by the prospect of unseen marksmen, with fingers on the triggers ready to blow any dissident away to kingdom come. I myself would like to believe that everyone present were in awe of the fact that, for the next hour and a half, the Old Theatre would become Conspiracy Central. That the mayhem that was to follow would not be recorded or podcasted by the School was damning – the former MI6 honcho was indeed hiding unspeakable truths up his sleeves.

The content of the lecture was irrelevant. It merely set the stage for the deluge that followed – the hailstorm of indictments, once unleashed, never let up. I was in for a conspiracy theorist masterclass of inane sarcasm, shameless catcalls and mind-boggling logic leaps. Barely minutes into the verbal crossfire, I realised that I was way out of my depth.

Their intricate knowledge of the complex realities behind political facades was remarkable. Their veracious, scorn-laced exposés left nothing to the imagination. The revelations were out of this world. *Mossad agents were seen leaping for joy during the 9/11*

attacks. The chief planner of the 7/7 London bombings was actually an MI6 agent. The CIA is the world's largest drug-trafficking organisation. Dearlove was a member of the secretive high cabal known as the Bildeberg group. The dodgy Iraq dossier was fabricated to justify invasion. Courtney Love killed Kurt Cobain. Paul McCartney did die in 1966. Confronted with the finest in the business, I finally realised that it was with great naivety that I had believed in my own omniscience as a conspiracy theorist.

integrity he may have had, 'C' beat a hasty retreat to the Senior Dining Room. Victory was at hand.

We've done it again. The conspiracy theorists have struck another blow against our fascist leaders in the name of democracy and freedom. With another political puppet master heckled into submission, the world has become just that bit safer a place for us informed global citizens. A euphoric sense of achievement emanated across the Old Theatre, as the victorious armchair whistleblowers exchanged congratulatory handshakes. Another laurel to add to past glories – the likes of Flat Earth, Roswell, Bermuda Triangle, 'Magic bullet' at Dealey Plaza, Hollywood Moon landings, *Novus Ordo Mundi*, the *Da Vinci Code* and the Downing Street Memo.

But sadly for me, this hour of glory was also time of pensive self-reflection. Nothing except a government crony escaping scot-free can be half as melancholy as a government crony exposed. For all my conspiracy credentials, I was merely a wishful pretender to the throne – the proverbial frog in the well. I should have known; saving the world at the frontlines of conspiracy forums and internet blogdom is the prerogative of seasoned conspiracy warriors. A sabbatical is in order, during which I shall commit the entire Wikipedia list of conspiracy theories to memory. Only then can I face down the dreadful lies of our politicians with scornful contempt and shed light on the darkest secrets of our time. I shall not be denied. For the truth is out there.

With another political puppet master heckled into submission, the world has become just that bit safer a place for us informed global citizens

Pelted with stinging accusations from all fronts, the once-haughty Dearlove was reduced to a hapless heap in his chair, retorting lamely with meandering rhetoric and outright refusals to answer pointed questions. Denial by denial, refutation by refutation, his credibility was slowly eroded by the caustic truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Stripped bare of any



Colbert Nation



Molly Tucker

Come next year, America shall once again plunge into indecision. But this time, comedians shall lead the way in negotiating this electoral mess

There is increasingly little to laugh about in American politics. You'd think that, with the advent of an exciting wildcard election and the end of a universally disastrous Administration, that the American people would be over the moon. For the first time in many elections, the primaries are packed with interesting, viable candidates, ensuring a neck and neck fight to the end. For many, the end of the Bush era symbolizes a new dawn for America, seemingly (and incorrectly) imagining that a new election and a new government will be able to put the country to rights just as easily as Bush put it wrong.

It is interesting, then, that in an arena so full of potential, the candidacy which has generated the most public interest and controversy, and mobilised a whole voting block that had long been given up for lost, was Stephen Colbert's, a comedian and would-be politician who announced his candidacy (only in South Carolina) on both the Republican and Democratic ballots. Mixed

reactions greeted his decision in both the Democrat and Republican camps, ranging from indignation to downright confusion. However, the nation's neglected young liber-

In actual fact, young Americans are far from indifferent in their opinions, and more importantly, in the way they live their lives

al voters embraced his 'joke' candidacy with open arms and belly laughs. Sadly, their excitement was short-lived, as the Democrats have refused him from the ballot and the Republicans priced him out with a \$30,000 candidacy fee;

both parties agreeing for once that what they both wanted was to label Colbert's attempt as a farce, and one that was vaguely offensive to his more 'serious' opponents. While it was clear that Colbert never expected to win, it is less easy to dismiss his campaign as a joke outright, especially in a political climate viewed by many as a mockery.

Stephen Colbert is probably best known for his hugely popular spoof political punditry programme, 'The Colbert Report', and his role on the even more popular 'The Daily Show with Jon Stewart', a show made famous by the fact that more 18-35 year olds watch it to get their daily dose of news than any other network news station. What the American politics of both sides fail to understand is that a fact like that is serious; more serious than any opinion their candidate has on Iraq, and has more to tell us about America's political future than any current Presidential candidate could. The 18-35 age bracket represents a huge chunk of

the US population, of whom a majority don't vote and are viewed as 'apathetic' and uninterested; this is a perception which most politicians are happy to subscribe to and a situation they seem to view as beyond their control. To admit that young voter apathy is symptomatic of a much larger problem, that American politicians don't represent their citizens and that a country where only a third of voters bother to turn up is having serious problems selling democracy to its own people, would be opening a bigger can of worms than either Republicans or Democrats are willing to face.

In actual fact, young Americans are far from indifferent in their opinions, and more importantly, in the way they live their lives. America is the birthplace of the blog, the podcast, and YouTube, all bastions of the opinion of the individual, and more importantly, evidence that the indi-

vidual cares. For the most part, these 'individuals' are young, and their numbers are growing. Forget Gen X: this is Generation Xbox, and politicians should start listening to them. For the first time in decades, young people have a voice, and what they're saying is that the reason they don't vote is because there isn't anyone to vote for.

Until Colbert. It seems that his campaign has faltered, but the positive public reaction to it is no joke, and showed millions of American voters that they aren't the only ones who think the Presidential race is ridiculous. In a country where comedians read the news and are deemed by the next generation to be more trustworthy than newspapers or politicians, is it so strange that a comedian should run for President?



the Beaver
2nd Floor, East Building
LSE Students' Union
London WC2A 2AE
email: thebeaver@lse.ac.uk
Published since 1949.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Kevin Perry

MANAGING EDITOR
Aditi Nangia

NEWS EDITORS
Michael Deas;
Rajan Patel;
Ruchika Tulshyan

C&A EDITOR
Chun Han Wong

FEATURES EDITORS
Joseph Cotterill
Al Mansour

PART B EDITORS
Aba Osunsade;
Daniel B. Yates

SPORTS EDITORS
Matthew Partridge
Josh Tendeter

PART C EDITOR
Meryem Torun

PHOTOGRAPHY SUB-EDITOR
Anna Mikeda

COMMISSIONING SUB-EDITOR
Ben Lamy

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Chloe Pieters

THE COLLECTIVE:

Chair: Lucie Marie Goulet
collectivechair@thebeaveronline.co.uk
Fadhil Bakeer-Markar; Wil Barber; Peter Barton; Ramsey Ben-Achour; James Bull; Sam Burke; Jess Cartwright; Victor Figuero-Clark; Owen Coughlan; Patrick Cullen; Peter Currie; Hollie Eastman; Aled Dilwyn Fisher; Estee Fresco; Erica Gornall; Andrew Hallett; Shanela Haque; Ayla Hariri; Josh Heller; Kevin Heutschi; Tahiya Islam; Felipe Jacome; Lois Jeary; William Joice; Pooja Kesavan; James Ketteringham; Sadia Kidwai; Arthur Krebbers; Laura Kyrke-Smith; Ben Lamy; Bea Long; Ziyad Lunat; Kim Mandeng; Jamie Mason; Jessica McArdle; Nitya Menon; Ifran Meralli; Libby Meyer; Daisy Mitchell-Forster; Ali Moussavi; Rachael O'Rourke; David Osborn; Douglas Oliver; Erin Orozco; Laura Parfitt; Danielle Priestley; Joe Quayle; Dominic Rampat; Gareth Rees; Ricky Ren; Sacha Robehmed; Louise Robinson; Charlie Samuda; S a n g k h a p h a n t h a n o n ; Saurabh Sharma; Daniel Sheldon; Rebecca Stephenson; Alex Teytelboym; Angus Tse; Molly Tucker; Vladimir Unkovski-Korica; Subash Viroomal; Simon Wang; Greg White; Christine Whyte; Chris Wilkins; Amy Williams

PRINTED BY HARMSWORTH PRINTING LTD

If you have written three or more articles for *The Beaver* and your name does not appear in the Collective, please email: 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.

The views and opinions expressed in *The Beaver* are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors at the LSE Students' Union.

The Beaver

Established 1949 - Issue 670

Sutherland revelation...

...brings back familiar questions

The revelation that Peter Sutherland will in fact remain as the chairman of BP represents yet another example of the student body being misled over the nature of the appointment of one of the most important positions at the LSE. When protests against Sutherland were at their peak during the last academic year, the fact that he would not simultaneously hold positions at BP and the LSE was used to placate concerned students.

It was last November when students had stormed Peter Sutherland's public lecture in the Old Theatre as protests surrounding his appointment as Chairman of the LSE Council intensified.

There has been unhappiness with his appointment ever since it was announced back in March 2006. Protests centred around a number of issues. Firstly, his less-than-exemplary record as chairman of BP. Unhappiness has grown with Sutherland's links to environmental disasters and human rights abuses. These concerns were so apparent that, at the end of last month, *The Financial Times* reported that many of BP's own major shareholders want Sutherland to go sooner rather than later, citing the fact that he is "too closely associated with BP's problems in the past two years." These include fines totaling \$380m over violations linked to Texas City oil refinery explosion in 2005, oil pipeline leaks at Prudhoe Bay and fraud in energy trading.

Meanwhile, further question marks were raised over the very fact that the School is appointing yet another business man to a top position. It is being seen as a significant statement of intent that the School is aligning itself more to the business world than to the world of academia.

This newspaper has consistently expressed its concern with the commercialisation of education, and unfortunately Sutherland's appointment, not to mention the smokescreen and mirror tricks used to disguise his true position, represents serious strides away from our Fabian roots and towards the altar of Mammon.

Wear a white poppy...

...for peace, as well as remembrance

As we approach Remembrance Day on Sunday, many newspapers are wearing the red poppy of the British Legion. *The Beaver*, however, is wearing the white poppy of the Peace Pledge Union, as a symbol of our belief in peaceful alternatives to war.

The White Poppy is a symbol of the belief that war is not the answer, and that there are better ways to resolve conflicts than killing strangers. The PPU works, primarily in education, to draw attention to and work against the social values and habits which make continuing violence a likely outcome.

The White Poppy dates back to 1926, not long after the introduction of the Red Poppy as a fundraising tool. A member of the No More War Movement suggested that the British Legion should imprint 'No More War' in the centre of the poppies instead of 'Haig Fund'. When this was not done, a decision was made that pacifists should make their own flowers.

The Co-operative Women's Guild produced the first White Poppies in 1933, to be worn on Armistice Day. The Guild stressed that the White Poppy should not be seen as an insult to those who had died in the First World War - a war in which many of the women had lost husbands, brothers, sons and lovers. In 1934, the Peace Pledge Union joined the Co-operative Women's Guild in the distribution of the poppies and later took over their annual promotion.

White Poppies have also gained support because of the fact that they embody the notion of remembrance without the glorification of war which so often goes hand in hand with the militaristic rhetoric of the Red Poppy Appeal. Furthermore, the strange bedfellows kept by the British Legion have discouraged many from supporting them. According to their website, "BAE Systems is committed to supporting the armed forces and their families", this from a corporation that has purposely targeted the world's trouble spots in an attempt to boost arms sales. Meanwhile, in Northern Ireland the Red Poppy is seen as a symbol of Unionism and of the marshall superiority of Britain.

White Poppies represent an alternative viewpoint in a culture where wearing a Red Poppy is seen, particularly by those in the public eye - as a duty rather than a choice. They represent a break from the dogmatic glorification of conflict, and a simple reminder that war isn't worth fighting for. They are available from SU reception.

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 received by 3pm on the Sunday prior to publication.

The Beaver reserves the right to edit letters prior to publication.



"diversity people"

Dear Sir,

In last week's op-ed 'Bridging the Divide', Anjali Raval asked why Britain had a problem accepting diversity. Ms Raval states that "the native British population is not one that knows how to assimilate or adapt" - but why should the native British population have to assimilate in their own country? Are the attitudes of the population in Britain really that different from countries which had no imperial past, such as Switzerland?

Perhaps countries which were colonies rather than colonisers can also lack hospitality and tolerance, as descendants of British soldiers who tried to visit their ancestors' graves in India discovered this year when they were faced with violent protests, threats and the desecration of cemeteries. To take the example of India further, as the article suggested 'living the Indian way of life' as a solution, thousands of Sikhs were killed after the assassination of Indira Ghandhi in 1984, and hundreds of Hindus and Muslims were killed in sectarian violence in Gujarat in 2002. Nothing like this happened in Britain after the London bombings in 2005, however. Perhaps the Christian teachings of 'love thy neighbour' and 'love thy enemy' still have some influence.

Ms Raval claims that "Britain is happy to use the skills of its minorities yet it refuses to give them any real power". Are there not members of minority groups in the cabinet, and representing all three major parties in Parliament? It may come as a surprise to some that Britain's first non-white MP (a Liberal) was elected in 1892, and the second (a Conservative) in 1895 - both from India. Ms Raval also claims that "the media is a perfect example of a monocultural and white institution", a claim which a look at any newspaper or TV channel would prove to be false, leaving aside the use of the word "white" as some kind of accusation.

Perhaps the British people are unenthusiastic about celebrating diversity not because they are uniquely intolerant, but because they don't buy the idea that before multiculturalism Britain was some kind of cultural wasteland, an idea that any look at the history books will prove to be wrong. Perhaps they are tired of the denigration of British history and traditions, the double standards and the moral relativism which has accompanied the ideology of multiculturalism. Perhaps they don't understand why newcomers are told to celebrate their culture while British identity should be 'rethought'. Perhaps they can see the transformation of parts

of British cities into ghettos, the arrival of organised criminal gangs from all over the world, the rise of Islamist extremism and the constant terrorist threat - all aspects of the diversity people are constantly told to celebrate. Perhaps it is time we stopped celebrating diversity and started dealing with its consequences.

Peter John Cannon

"black panthers"

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to Peter John Cannon's letter of October 30. His response to Vladimir Unkovski-Korica's inimitable and well-researched column suggests a lack of understanding of popular revolt and class struggle. The Russian Revolution, in freeing the Russian people from the yoke of imperial rule and dictatorship, was one of the most significant and admirable steps forward in humanity's struggle against oppression and exploitation. Vladimir's columns are consistently well-written, researched and enjoyable; and display a depth of knowledge and experience in political activism that Mr Cannon clearly lacks.

His ignorance of the realities of life under the oppressive capitalist system is displayed in his scoffing dismissal of Mumia Abu-Jamal's status as 'political prisoner' in the US. Whatever your personal belief about Mumia's innocence or guilt, it remains a fact that he should have been granted a free and fair trial, untainted by racism and attacks on his political activities. Mumia's role as an active member of the Black Panthers was brought up again and again at his trial, and clearly had a decisive effect on the almost all-white jury. What clearer definition of a political prisoner is there than that of a man imprisoned for a quarter of a century, threatened continually with state-sanctioned murder than that of a man convicted on the basis of his membership of a political movement? And one that rightfully struggled against racism and inequality?

I have every sympathy for the family of Daniel Faulkner; but their ongoing struggle to make Mumia the 'patsy' for Officer Faulkner's death does them a disservice. Their energies would be better put to questioning the improper procedures and political manoeuvring surrounding Faulkner's death. His death was done the utmost disrespect by being used as a political 'football' by an unjust and 'criminal' justice system.

Christine Whyte
PhD Candidate, *International History*

Graphic: Chun Han Wong



"deliciously obscure"

Dear Sir,

I would like to object to the blatant misuse of words in this newspaper.

The English language is a beautiful beast, but no matter how aesthetically pleasing or deliciously obscure the word, it cannot be used for its own sake but must actually make sense within the context of the sentence. The dictionary is a wonderful resource: please throw one at your writers.

I refer you to www.dictionary.com.

Kimberley McAddams

"banning freedom"

Dear Sir,

I would like to congratulate the LSE SU for electing Khaled Al-Mudallal as our Honorary Vice-President. Khaled is a victim of Israel's collective punishment of the Palestinian people. Like hundreds of other Palestinian students, Khaled is trapped in Gaza unable to return to his studies abroad. Many human rights organisations call Gaza the world's largest prison; with 1.5 million inmates. Israel controls all of Gaza's borders banning freedom of movement and restricting basic humanitarian supplies to its desperate population. 80% of Gaza's residents are refugees, brutally expelled from their homes by Israel in 1948, when over 500 Palestinian villages were ethnically cleansed and destroyed. Today, Israel refuses their right to return to their homes in contravention of humanitarian law, UN resolutions and basic human rights.

Khaled's democratic victory sends a strong message to the 'friends of the occupation' at the LSE. Democracy has spoken loud and clear: LSE students overwhelmingly support the Palestinian right to education. In the past weeks a minority of LSE students have tried to undermine democracy in our SU by attacking the universal principles of equality and human rights. Israel's racist policies towards the Palestinians do not have a space amongst us and we shall continue to stand firm against these bigoted ideas. It is our duty as students to ensure that everyone has the right to education by opposing any form of racism and racial discrimination.

Ziyaad Lunat
President of the LSESU
Palestine Society

"reading more"

Dear Sir,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate your news editor, Rajan Patel, on his front page article "LSE shamed by students surveys". I felt that the Patel's reporting was both fair and accurate, which made it a great piece of journalistic writing. I am sure that both students and staff are now aware of the exciting new plans to revamp teaching at the LSE and I look forward to reading more articles of this quality in *The Beaver* in the future.

Ruhana Ali
LSESU Education & Welfare
Officer

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

c&a@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Michaelmas Term Elections



Hear us when we cry to thee



Lucie Goulet

Online voting may have done its bit in boosting the ballot count, but there remains some niggling problems in the efficacy of the system

From my experiences in previous years, after every election, there is a general apportioning of blame

or praise to the Returning Officer and his performance. Following in the long line of critics over the years, I have some mis-

givings to offer regarding the conduct of this year's Michaelmas Term elections.

The elections were marked by the use of electronic voting, taking it one step further on from what the previous Returning Officer, Adrian Beciri, had started last year.

First of all, let me clarify that I have no clue how successful this online voting scheme was, but that from what I heard, there were more people voting online on Wednesday than in the Quad. Apparently this phenomenon was confirmed after the closing of the ballot boxes. I guess that if online voting encouraged a greater number of people to cast their votes, then the operation was a success. However, I think that the fact that voting had to be done from a network computer (i.e. you had to be on campus, in halls or on your remote desktop to vote) was a bit

of a disappointment.

Having had to fight against an essay deadline on top of my part-time working commitments, I was not able to come into the LSE on either Wednesday or Thursday. Since I was far from being well-versed in the art of setting up my remote desktop from home, I wasn't able to vote.

According to a couple of members of the SU Executive Committee whom I spoke to, online voting could only be done on computers with access to the LSE network due primarily to concerns over security. But surely if you can check your email, look up your exam results and even pay your fees online, then you should also be able to vote online as well? A quick search on the internet shows that various Students' Unions in the UK, such as those of Cambridge and Imperial, allow online voting from anywhere. Network-based voting made this initiative, just like so many others in this SU, a mere half measure.

Online voting provides a

great alternative for people who, for whatever reason, are unable to be present on campus to vote. I'm not only thinking



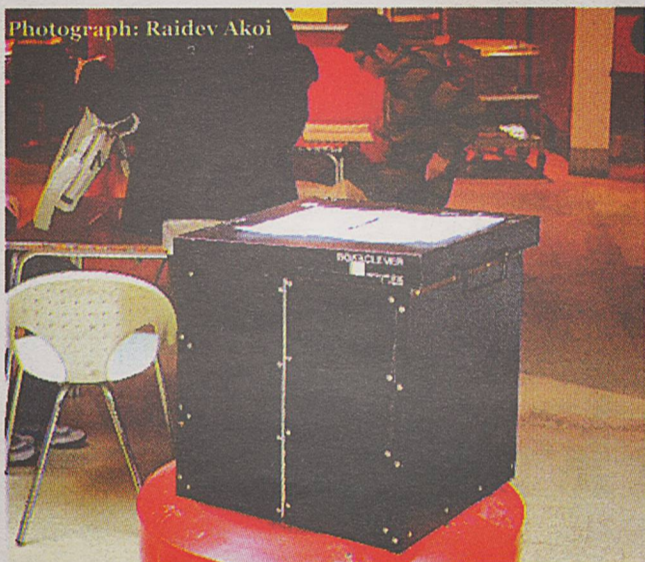
But surely if you can check your email, look up your exam results and even pay your fees online, then you should also be able to vote online as well?

about students who have to work on ballot day, but also about those who are away doing research, such as PhD

students, who are full members of this Students' Union, albeit less involved in its running and activities. Having to be on campus to vote online defeats the purpose of the exercise. The whole point of extending voting to the internet is to encourage greater election turnouts. The 1,145 ballots cast in this election are still far from the extremely ambitious figure of 40% participation set last year in the SU's strategic plan, even though it's a first step in the right direction.

Another downside to online voting is the repercussion it has on street campaigning. Having heard from friends who were present on campus on voting days, there was significantly less campaigning on Houghton Street for this election in comparison to the past. Candidates generally relied more on their manifestos. Even though Michaelmas Term elections largely tend to be a dress-rehearsal for the Lent Term elections, the candidate hustings and leafleting is usually part of the election festivities and where all the fun is.

Photograph: Raidev Akoi



Living up to the good name



Joseph Brown

The traditional LSE stance on social justice has survived through the ages, and it continues to manifest in the student activism of today

George Bernard Shaw, Graham Wallas and Sydney and Beatrice Webb would certainly be proud of us today.

The founders of the LSE had looked to change the world, but not in some Irish-rock-band-never-takes-his-shades-off kind of way. These visionaries wanted to create an arena where students and professors alike would engage in critical, thorough and forceful searches for the answers to society's greatest woes. This would be achieved, not by simply investigating the actuality of the world like many institutions of the time, but actively making normative judgements and analysing the most effective means of applying their research and themselves to the world. While counting ballots at last week's election night, I realised that their vision still lives on.

For Honorary Students' Union President, we elected Aung San Suu Kyi, the world-renowned Burmese prisoner of conscience and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, whose struggle for democracy has led the Burmese dictatorship to place her under house arrest for much of the last two decades. As for the Vice-Presi-

dent, LSE students again followed in the School's tradition of social justice and chose to elect another victim of an unjust imprisonment, Khaled Al-Mudallal.

Khaled's case is the less familiar of the two. The Palestinian student from the University of Bradford has been trapped in the prison that has become the Gaza Strip and been prevented from resuming his education here in the UK since Israel began its siege of Gaza in June. While the Israeli government claims Khaled can leave whenever he wants, this has been shown not to be the case by groups like the Israeli human rights group Gisha: the only shuttle bus service out of the Gaza strip has been stopped since September 6 and current waiting lists to get out of Gaza are controlled by the Israelis. They would keep Khaled (Number 4845 of 6400) trapped and deprived of his studies for another year and a half - by which time he should have graduated.

Our justice-seeking founders would probably be triply proud of us as the Student's Union has stood up for the rights of Palestinians in three separate democratic declarations of solidarity in a sin-

gle year. Khaled's predecessor as the Honorary SU Vice-President was Huda Ghalia, the 10 year old who watched her father, step-mother and five siblings die in Gaza after a barrage of Israeli shells slammed into the beach upon



I am proud to say that the LSE is still the home of those who want to build a better world and use their school to do so

which they were picnicking. More recently we have seen the twinning of our School with An-Najah University in Nablus on the West Bank, and an expression of support for Palestinians' right to education. The question now becomes: where should we go next to honour our university traditions and

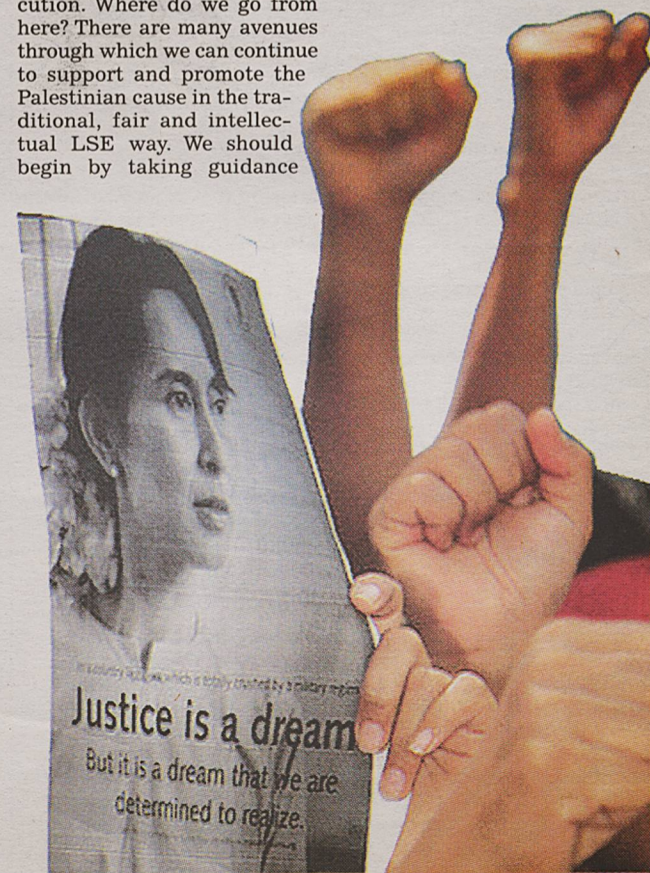
the people of Palestine with whom we have thrice democratically decreed we stand beside?

First things first, we must understand that we are not to give in to the demands of the small minority of students at the LSE who reject our foundations of social justice and seek to support the occupation of Palestine at our university by any means necessary, be it fallacious procedural complaints or illegitimate claims of victimisation. Take, for example, the demands for an apology over a statement by the Union to our incoming freshers regarding the restrictions against Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. The supporters of the injustices of the occupation first claimed the letter was sent unconstitutionally. Once the fact that the letter was sent under a secure mandate from the democratically passed UGM motion was made clear, the anti-justice movement shifted their stance - they claimed they were 'offended' by the 'partisan' letter and demanded an apology for the offence. Such a request is ridiculous. Apologising for making a political statement would leave politics in an unending spiral of saying "sorry", leaving no position a firm base on which to act.

I am proud to say that the LSE is still the home of those who want to build a better

world and use their school to do so. It has consistently offered its support to the plight of the Palestinian people and fairly beaten back those who support their continued persecution. Where do we go from here? There are many avenues through which we can continue to support and promote the Palestinian cause in the traditional, fair and intellectual LSE way. We should begin by taking guidance

from Shaw when he tells us that "the people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and, if they can't find them, make them."



CHRONIC YOUTH

B.

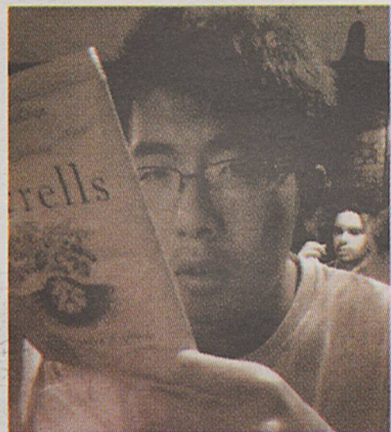


I STOLE
MY HONCHO'S
BOYFRIEND.
IT WAS ALL
WHIRLWIND,
HEAT, AND
FLASH. WITH-
IN A WEEK
WE KILLED
MY EDITOR
AND HIT THE
ROAD.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE AROUND LONDON

Simon Wang is found in Group One in the Periodic Table. Tucked neatly between sodium and potassium, he creates an exothermic reaction when he comes in contact with water. On the 8th of July, 1639 the mayor of London established the Society for the Promotion of Simon's Wang, in honour of the beneficial traits of this unique element. The society disbanded in 1724 when a timebomb exploded in its headquarters. Simon introduces the new Tech section with console reviews on page 10.

Anon is a regular mushpea, a sordid pancake, a steaming cold flambe, a tin of embarrassment in the cupboard of shame. Holding down a fragile role as a random and sometime contributor he upsets us with his absence and lack of interest. Yet we are dependent on him and his like, those who never respond to emails, get their copy in later than the world's latest bendy bus, and generally dick all over us. If you want to write you can get your articles published all over the paper, just email thebeaver.partb



TRANSIENT

Like watching Titus Bramble play football, being homeless just ain't much fun. Nowhere to go back to for a few hours kip after my three hours of stats on Friday morning, nowhere to keep my collection of burnt matches and, worst of all, nowhere for *ahem* "Michael Time".

Instead, I've pissed off all the friends I actually like by overstaying my welcome, proved to my girlfriend that I am as undomesticated as a flatulent puppy when I stayed at hers for a week and taken to shaving and brushing my teeth in the Library toilets.

However, I'm not sleeping in doorways just yet so to anyone who's hosted me in the last six weeks I'm truly grateful. But it did of course get me thinking about the 1,000 people who sleep rough each night in Britain. I've caught a cold and gone a bit nutty because of my nomadic lifestyle but as winter draws in, I can only imagine the mental and physical health risks of living on the streets.

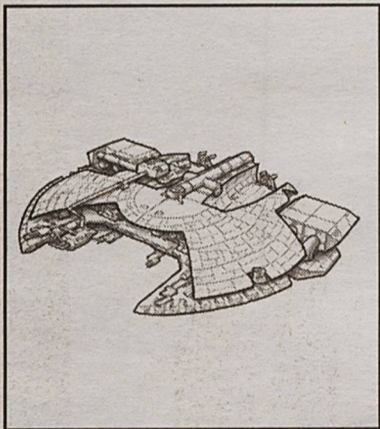
There's a big contrast between my current situation and the lifestyle of the parentally funded penthouse dwellers here at the LSE. But the contrast between the truly homeless and the judgemental middle class homeowners who walk straight past them is simply unacceptable, in a nation that has for centuries thought itself to be the most civilised place on Earth. Whilst I might not have found myself in a sleeping bag outside Tesco, not having a place of my own has been horribly unsettling. I've not been in a room alone for over a month and there's a (moderately) painful sense of detachment from the real world that comes from being without a place in which I feel at ease in such a big city.

MICHAEL DEAS

CONTRIBUTORS

PARTB HONCHOS

literature honcho erinorozco	style honcho hollieastman	
music honcho loisjeary	straw boss mollytucker	rant honcho joshheller
theatre honcho tomwhittaker	travel honcho willjoce	
film honcho bernardkeenan	gaming & tech honchos simonwang & hasibabber	



Aisha Hyder floats like a butterfly but stings like a bee. She's too hot to handle but too cold to freeze. She's also allergic to purple and sneezes with her eyes open. As a political organisation, she was founded in the future by the lovechild of Paris Hilton and Barack Obama, with a view to bringing peace and prosperity to endangered species of the New York disco scene. The organisation goes from strength to strength, with plans to launch a range of calendars. Read her praise of Live Music soc in Music on page 8.

Nilanthi Sangarabalan is a part-time wizard-maker, silicon miner, quality journalist and minute-taker in a seriously low-rent but rather high-brow brothel where the staff read out Proust and Danish existentialists in well-modulated tones to scruffy academics and other intellectual perverts. Despite being remarkably beautiful she is often stopped and asked whether she is related to Bobby Davro. According to her she is, quite definitively, not. Read her article on vodka and mushrooms in Poland on page 10.

Aba is a figment of your imagination. Daniel rotates at right angles with scepticaemic blood flowing through his veins. There are rumours forming that a dictatorship at PartB is nigh. Whilst Daniel polishes his sceptre, handed down from Leviathan himself, Aba prepares her departure. But not before bellowing out one last long rallying cry for freedom from the brilliant, sordid creative vessel that is Daniel's mind. Madness, the madness is upon us. We dive into the Thames to cleanse our souls, but crawl out onto the banks reeking of regret and bursting with memories. Memories of days that never happened. An elusive stream of words circles us unreachable, and still we tap away at the keyboard, still we click away at the mouse, in the hope that through this beauty of PartB the words will reveal themselves, and assume a form we recognise and adore. On another note, it seems we have gained celebrity status. We beat down paparazzi with our magic stick, and explore "celebrity", amongst other things, in this issue. Take pains to Enjoy.

<3 Aba und Daniel



waxin' off

waxin' off is the new feature from your friends at PartB, in which we will cut to the burning heart of the issues of today, dissect them, and toss their entrails to the four winds.

All hail the Spice Girls reunion! After much anticipation, the fabulous five are back, and what has changed? Scary Spice showed us she's truly scary by having a baby with Eddie Murphy, and fighting to confirm his paternity (You go, girl - claim that alimony!). Ginger

Spice has gone from fat to thin to fat to fit. Baby Spice - well, she was the one you hoped would get hotter, but has stayed pretty much the same. Sporty Spice, the only one without a child, may or may not be a lesbian. Then of course we have the ubiquitous human mannequin, Posh, who since leaving the band has established herself as a brand. A worryingly thin, over-dressed, try-hard, famous for being famous, brand. Rumours abound that the girls are already on the road to repeating history when Posh refused to reduce the size of her entourage for the upcoming tour to the other girls dismay. Then Sporty, being the only non-mum suggested no children on the tourbus. Splitting up again so soon, ladies? Thank God, Backstreet's Back to give me my 90's fix.



THE BLOGBOARD

as we all know, the internet is an alternate, scary world. let the kind folks at PartB take you to a happier, more hilarious place with our new feature, the Blogboard, where we highlight the best the interweb has to offer.

<http://www.vampirecultures.wordpress.com>

if you thought you knew a lot about music, make space for a bit more enlightenment. bernard, colin and mark knows where it's at and he kindly share their knowledge with you. test your diversity by embracing all this blog offers, from lost '70s jazz-prog to freak disco mixes. eat it all in and enjoy.

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=Q5im0Ssyyus>

watch charlie the unicorn and his friends on this magical adventure through the forest as they go in search of the mystical candy mountain. i would like this even if i wasn't a big fan of unicorns. i do, however, recommend you watch this when under the influence of something - like many YouTube comedy clips it's not quite as hilarious when sober.

Got a transport nightmare you want to share? How about a favourite bus route? You write it, we'll print it: thebeaver.partb@lse.ac.uk

CLEAR YOUR TUBES

Ode to the bendy bus by *Aba Osunsade*

Oh bendy bus,
How I love thee,
You are so good to me,
When my oyster is on zero pence
You let me ride for free.

Oh bendy bus,
You are so great,
The way you twist around,
Navigating tough corners and
Knocking cyclists to the ground.

Oh bendy bus,
You are understanding,
You are so generous to me,
You're a great sport when I'm drunk
Cos in the back of you I pee.

Oh bendy bus,
How I love thee,
The greatest bus under the sun,
In the world of public transport and
My heart, you're Number One.



Ms. Rubella Valve reviews porn

I was unaware of the fact that one of the few movie channels I am entitled to on my limited Sky contract, Movies 24, showed X-rated adult thrillers at night. Happy I was then, late Tuesday night, to be flicking through channels and be greeted by the sight of an erect penis, preparing to enter the soft, wet darkness of a busty blonde. I clicked the information button to find out more - turns out the owner of the boner, David, has come to LA with hopes of starting up a successful massage parlour. Things get tricky, however, when all his clients keep shagging him, and their suspicious husbands catch on to his game. Does this paltry storyline redeem what is essentially plain, old porn, into the "Adult Thriller" category? I question whether a slightly bigger budget, and a lack of cheap cum shots equates quality viewing. Sex devoid of emotional content is still porn, so I think I'll give Movies 24 a miss for the time being.

Mr. Wleff's top recipe

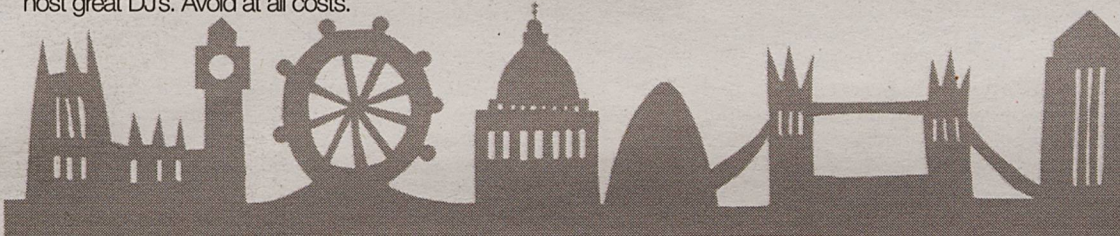
Hey you crazy kids, it's me again! Coming to you from your favourite campus cook-slot. I was at my mate Carlos the Squirrel's flat the other night, cooking up some simple pasta with green pesto, when Carlos (or 'Ed' as he's known to his parents) decided to add a secret ingredient. I had never seen spices that come in the form of little tabs of paper, but who am I to question a friend? Anyhoo, ten tabs in, we were ready to eat. That was two days ago. The fusili are still dancing and the pesto jar looks just like Notorious BIG. There's a dead tramp in my bathtub and this keyboard feels like liquid. Has anyone seen Ed?



London Appalling

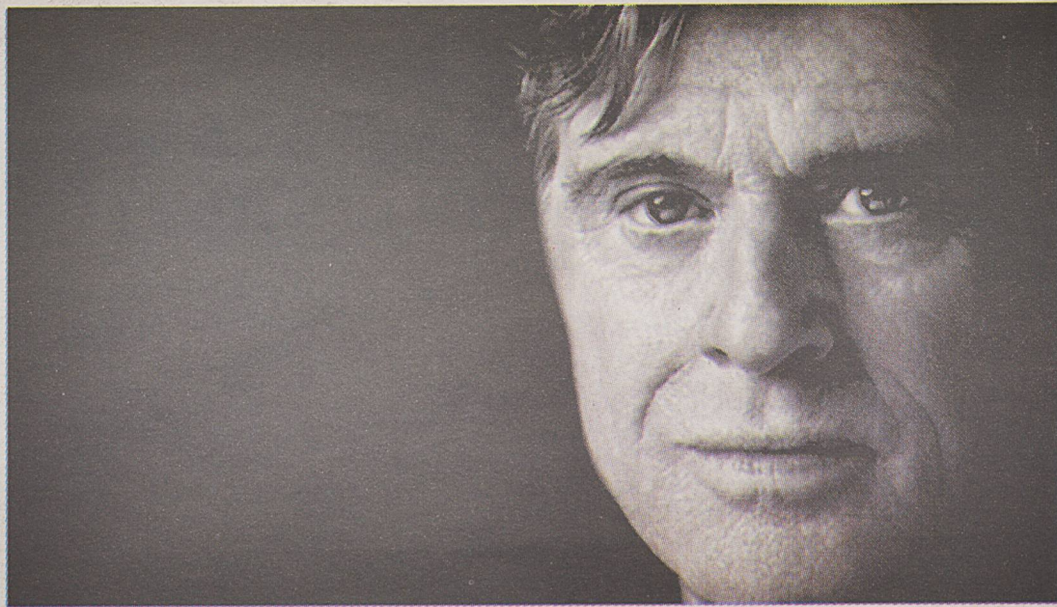
As great as our LDN is, it is also a big tourist-loving whore, selling its soul to millions of visitors throughout the year. Here PartB helps you avoid them by pointing out what not to do in the Big Smoke.

Leicester Square on weekend nights: this is a serious no-go area for any self-respecting Londonder over the age of sixteen. Leicester Sq clubs are full of Essex-reared louts and ladies in search of a big night out that will inevitably end with a fight in Burger King. Plus the overpriced clubs targeting tourists don't even host great DJ's. Avoid at all costs.



CITIZEN REDFORD

benlamy talks to the sundance kid ahead of the London premiere of *Lions For Lambs*



There are certain people in the world who, when they walk into a room, make the air crackle in anticipation. Robert Redford, the Sundance Kid, has just walked into a suite at the plush Dorchester Hotel in a pair of Levis and a blue shirt exposing most of his chest. Clearly he has had little exposure to the British weather.

Redford, along with fellow cast members Michael Peña and Andrew Garfield, are in town to talk about their new film *Lions For Lambs*, which had its World Premiere in London, of all places, but more on that in a minute.

It has been seven years now since Redford's last film as a director, *The Legend of Bagger Vance* starring Will Smith, Charlize Theron and the beautiful Matt Damon. It would be a radical understatement to say that the world has moved on a little since then.

Lions For Lambs is a provocative story set among three loosely linked narratives. The first is focused on toothy US Senator Jasper Irving, played unnervingly well by Tom Cruise, as he offers an exclusive story on new US foreign military strategy to political journalist Janine Roth (Meryl Streep). Yet Cruise's character, as is made clear rather quickly, is turned into a rhetoric machine with a warped moral outlook honed after years of working in US politics. It seems obvious after only a couple of minutes that Redford is portraying him as a villain in a shiny veneer, and in fact he does not deny this: "The point of that character, the thing that would make him dangerous is that he would just be a better dressed version of what we have now. The idea was to present him as someone that could be popular, attractive, articulate, tough-minded, strong and dangerous, but if you made him a moustache twirling villain he wouldn't be."

Redford himself plays out-of-touch Professor Stephen Malley, a war veteran who tries to help his star students find a comfortable and rewarding life on the career ladder, but is thwarted by the very values which he has inculcated in them: "His job is to inspire young people to aspire to greater things and then they go do whatever that is." Yet this goes horribly wrong when Ernest Rodriguez and Arian Finch (Michael Peña and Derek Luke), two of the brightest in Malley's class, having fought their way up from poor circumstances, develop a strong enough idealism to fight for their country - the very thing Redford's character wants them to avoid, given his own experiences. Todd Hayes, on the other hand, is a completely disaffected, though intelligent and engaging student, who is encouraged to a more idealistic point of view through the eyes of Rodriguez and Finch, whose stories are intertwined throughout the film.

This brings us nicely back to the message of the film and the staging of the World Premiere in London. Surely it must be a message to the US Administration, a critique of all that has gone wrong?

"It would have been very easy to really just talk about this administration, talk about this President and so forth, but to me that would have been shallow, there's a deeper way to look at it, that we all have some responsibility all of us, the public, students, media, we should look at this in a much deeper way. Every character in the film has to have a point of view that's acceptable...until it turns back the other way."

Given that the three lead actors are well known supporters of the Democratic party, there's an obvious danger that the film will be simply dismissed as a PR coup, wrapped in a film about a PR coup.

"Yes, I just assumed that would happen. I can only speak for America, but considering where we are and all the bloggers, I mean all the bloggers are already out there, the right-wing bloggers are out there condemning the film, they haven't even seen it, they just assume it's a left-wing film. You just accept that".

There is a slight pause.

"I've been an activist but not to the extreme of Michael Moore or some other people or you know not out there slashing away, I've been focused more on the environment, I have very strong feelings about that. I wouldn't have been interested in making a film that just smashed the administration, smashed Bush. That would have been too easy".

Back in the seventies, a number of films addressed the big political issues such as *All The President's Men* and *The Candidate*. It seems today that there is an obvious parallel, what with the US embroiled in an unpopular war that it seems to be losing and anger over an unpopular administration's use of its power.

"I don't think you can ever really return to the times before. It's a little easier now in my country to be critical of the administration because the administration has tanked in terms of its popularity, (it) makes it a little easier whereas five years ago, four years ago you were labelled as unpatriotic if you said anything against what the administration was doing but now with the exposure of the truth to a lot of things it's easier so there are going to be a lot of films about Iraq, but that did not interest me, I was not interested in making a film about the Iraq war because I knew that would be well covered by films and documentaries. And I think it will. This film was not ever intended to be something about the war it's about something different that contains the war as a kind of

“I can only speak for america...”

element.”

Instead of preaching, Redford hopes the film can stimulate debate.

"The problem is how to look at a situation through the eyes of where education is today, where our politics are today, where our political administration is today, where the media is today.

"[The film] is meant to look at the broader situation through those eyes, and ask what is the role of the citizen today? I want to get a debate going on so the audience or the public can just look at it and say, well how do you feel about it?"

The cynical amongst you may look at the timing of the film and the rhetoric used as Tom Cruise enlightens us as to the Republican mindset as evidence that Redford is not perhaps as neutral as he makes out. On the other hand, quite a large portion of the film is unrelated to events abroad, instead focusing, as Redford says, on the role of the citizens in a democracy - including us students. The apathy of youth is something that he is all too familiar with.

"I couldn't care less when I was a kid. I grew up in Los Angeles and Richard Nixon was my State Senator and he was so boring. I thought if that's what politics is I don't want to be part of it. I was asked to leave school because I was a very bad student and I wanted to come to Europe to experience other cultures and other histories. So when I came to Europe I was challenged politically and I didn't have a clue. They would ask me questions about the Algerian war and I was humiliated that I didn't know anything about my own country's politics. And so that challenge made me start to learn about it. I realised that the European point of view was very different from the point of view I had been raised with. So when I came back to America a year and a half later I was much more focused on my own country, culturally and politically. I realised that we were really blessed and so I'd be very critical if we began to trash those blessings."

Finally, we move on to talk about Al Gore and the environment. Redford has been an environmental activist for many years, once bringing Soviet and US scientists to his Sundance ranch in Utah to discuss global warming. He had discovered that both sides were essentially discussing the same environmental issues after being invited to a Soviet conference while working in the USSR on a film. Of course it made sense to bring them together. The result was a conference called 'Greenhouse Glasnost' that produced a report showing the startling effects that greenhouse emissions were already causing.

"This was a serious issue in 1989. I thought there you have it, it's indisputable, how can our government deny that when you have the scientists of the two most polluting countries in the world at that time agreeing on something? So I was so proud of it, but we made the mistake of sending it to George Bush Senior. He says thank you, and it goes into one of the lower drawers. So it never got out, but even had it gotten out, it was too early, Kyoto hadn't come yet and when it came we didn't join. Only now in the last year and it's because of two things: Wall Street realised there was money to be made by going green and two it finally came home to roost, the health issues were becoming clear. And so those two things created a tipping point, and that tipping point came about a year and a half ago and then Gore came in right at the right time with that film [*An Inconvenient Truth*]. He was able to get funding for a film that I don't think he could have gotten

five or ten years ago."

Should Gore have run again for President?

"Why would he, unless he felt a call to duty? He's making a lot of money; he's having a belle époque. He suffered enormously, and it's partly his own fault, I mean he didn't run a good campaign; but I don't think that Bush won, I never believed he actually won. I think there was stuff that went on. But whatever it was Gore was treated very badly and part of it was his fault that he presented himself wooden, stiff and George Bush went in like a regular old guy, a guy you could drink with. I don't know if that's what you want for your President, but because our country is very focused on cosmetics, it's like what makes you feel good.

"I would have to imagine that if he got a huge call then it sits with him: what's the most important? Do you want to be a hero to your country? Do you want to be the guy on the white horse that rides in by popular demand, or do you want to be happy and rich?"

And Redford himself?

"Would I have gone into it [the political scene]? No way, no I'm much better doing what I'm doing. I'm not good at compromise."

Who would he like to see in the White House in 2009?

"Just somebody different from what we've got. I don't get involved on the national stage, at the moment there isn't anyone terribly inspiring."

Perhaps then *Lions For Lambs* is an attempt to provide that inspiration to students, or to the politically disaffected. It is a film that will surely divide the nation - both in the US as well as here at home and, by adding a bit of controversy to the mix, get people talking about the important issues of the day.

So... what do you think?

Lions for Lambs opens on November 9th



war stories

cinema is our common cultural language. at its best it provides new ways for us to understand ourselves and the world we live in. recently, that world has seemed pretty bad. **stuartpowell** takes a look at the new wave of uk/us films trying to come to terms with the war on terror

In the next few months, a series of films documenting the Iraq war and the U.S 'War on Terror' will be released in cinemas. The London Film Festival and other festivals across the world have all shown at least one or two films addressing the conflict. The big question is: why? Aren't people sick of the war and the lies and deception that have been entangled with it from its conception?

The answer, it seems, is no. The impulse to financially support Iraq war films has been felt by the independent filmmaker and the studio big-wigs alike and has been motivated by both artistic and financial considerations. There has been a clear sense, especially in the U.S, that these are films which should be made and will make some money too. Early signs are positive: *Grace is Gone*, the story of a husband (John Cusack) struggling to come to terms with the death of his wife in Iraq, has recently won the prestigious audience award at the Sundance Film Festival and both *The Kingdom* (focusing on U.S - Saudi relations) and *Rendition* have had reasonably good box office returns.

There are clear indications that for filmmakers and audience alike, these films are filling a void left in the coverage of the war by other media. The Iraq war is one of the great issues of our time, and yet, despite the multi-media world we live in, the true human cost of the conflict is obscured, original perspectives largely absent, and problems seen unremittingly black and white. The unparalleled popular frustration both with the conflict itself and its coverage has overwhelmed protests that the films are

too topical or that the scars of war have not yet had time to heal.

Nick Bloomfield, director of *Battle of Haditha* (the story of the massacre of 24 Iraqi civilians by U.S marines) claimed that it was the repetitive and emotionally numbing news coverage which encouraged him to make a film which gave the audience an Iraqi perspective. Brian De Palma's *Redacted* (the story of the rape and murder of a 15 year old Iraqi girl by U.S soldiers) similarly tackles directly the de-personalisation which occurs through media coverage. John Cusack too stated that it was the decision not to show the bodies of dead American soldiers being brought home which compelled him to make a film [*Grace is Gone*] about the personal cost to those left behind. *The Valley of Elah*, starring Tommy Lee Jones, also tells the tale of those left behind, this time a father desperately seeks to find out what happened to his son in Iraq.

It is a striking feature of all these films that the U.S soldiers are not 'the bad guys'. They are corrupted through war; both films concerning the rape and massacre of Iraqi citizens highlight the extent that the psychological pressure and distress suffered by soldiers has led to loss of humanity. This is not 'Bush bashing' or anti-Americanism: war itself is the greatest evil. There is a circle of violence portrayed on screen which is shown as making the conflict intractable - the U.S 'War on Terror' is seen as leading to yet more death on both sides. There is a consistent pessimism which marks all the films and immense anger that U.S policymakers have put young American men and

women, and the Iraqi nation, through such turmoil.

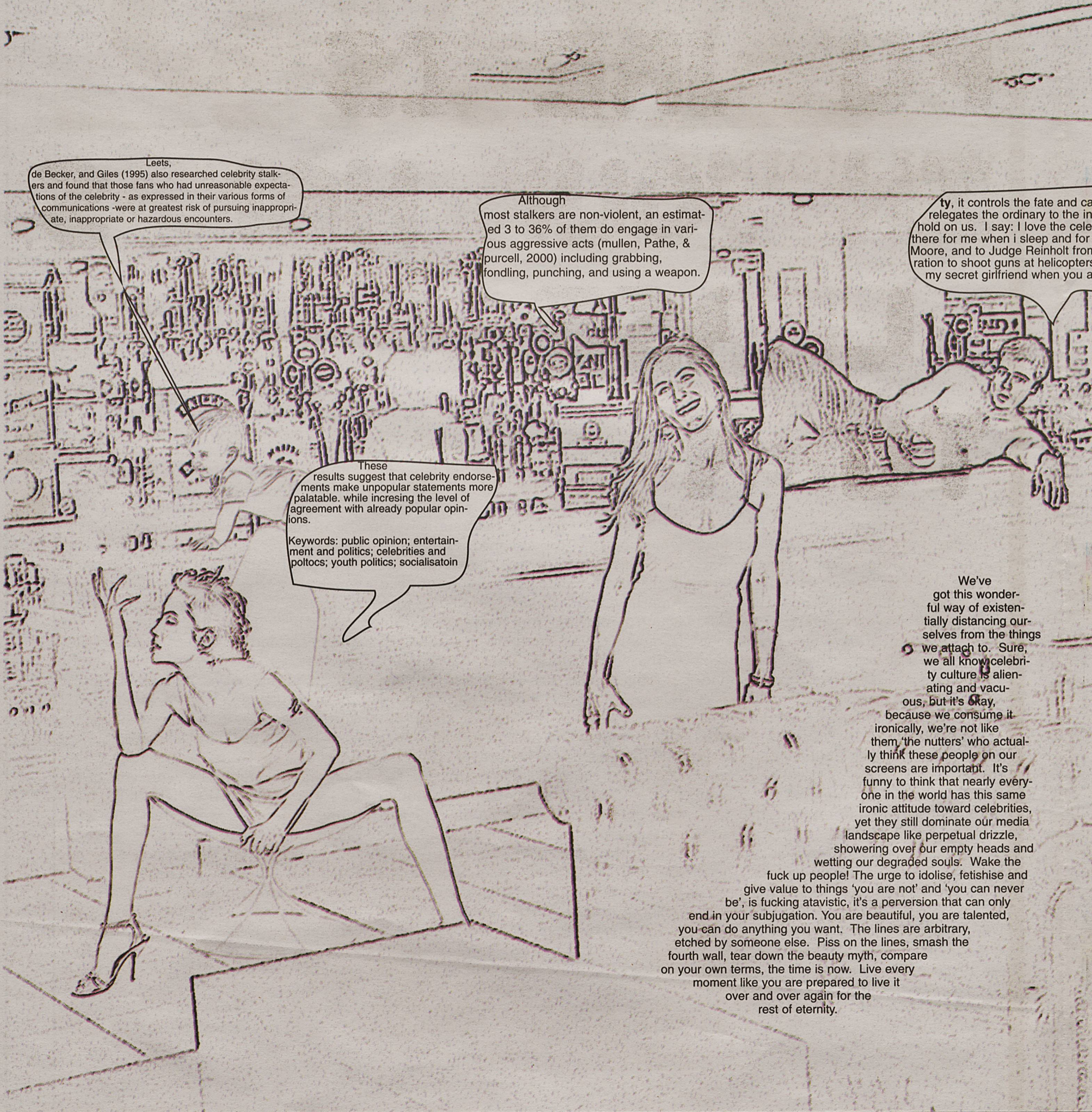
Lions for Lambs directly contrasts the plight of American soldiers in the field with the careless rhetoric of hawks in Washington. *Battle for Haditha* also shows how the institutionalised ethos of the U.S marine as a 'killing machine' is imposed from high levels, and *Redacted* emphasises the extent to which illegal acts are ignored by ranking officers for the sake of the reputation of the unit. For all the filmmakers, these actions are indicative of a carelessness with life (Iraqi and American) - the results of which they have felt compelled to show with often graphic horror on screen.

All these films are addressing the American (and British) conscience. They ask whether we have fought the wrong war in wrong ways, and by deviating from our principles, have we created a world less safe than before? They are films born of profound self-doubt.

In *Grace is Gone*, a grieving father answers his daughter's criticisms of the Iraq war - "we need to believe in something, otherwise we're lost" he says. These films try to remind us what we should believe in, even when contaminated and sullied by the hell that is war. They want to remind us not only of the humanity of the Iraqi people, but of our own humanity. As such, despite the criticisms of some pro-war neo-cons, they actually are patriotic and ultimately pro-American.

The 'War on Terror' has left many lost - these films are a part, albeit a small one, in providing a compass to navigate our way back to safer shores.

Celebrity Corner



Leets, de Becker, and Giles (1995) also researched celebrity stalkers and found that those fans who had unreasonable expectations of the celebrity - as expressed in their various forms of communications - were at greatest risk of pursuing inappropriate, inappropriate or hazardous encounters.

Although most stalkers are non-violent, an estimated 3 to 36% of them do engage in various aggressive acts (mullen, Pathe, & purcell, 2000) including grabbing, fondling, punching, and using a weapon.

ty, it controls the fate and careers relegates the ordinary to the inauthentic hold on us. I say: I love the celebrity, there for me when i sleep and for when Moore, and to Judge Reinhold from the ration to shoot guns at helicopters and my secret girlfriend when you are ne

These results suggest that celebrity endorsements make unpopular statements more palatable. while increasing the level of agreement with already popular opinions.

Keywords: public opinion; entertainment and politics; celebrities and politics; youth politics; socialisation

We've got this wonderful way of existentially distancing ourselves from the things we attach to. Sure, we all know celebrity culture is alienating and vacuous, but it's okay, because we consume it ironically, we're not like them 'the nutters' who actually think these people on our screens are important. It's funny to think that nearly everyone in the world has this same ironic attitude toward celebrities, yet they still dominate our media landscape like perpetual drizzle, showering over our empty heads and wetting our degraded souls. Wake the fuck up people! The urge to idolise, fetishise and give value to things 'you are not' and 'you can never be', is fucking atavistic, it's a perversion that can only end in your subjugation. You are beautiful, you are talented, you can do anything you want. The lines are arbitrary, etched by someone else. Piss on the lines, smash the fourth wall, tear down the beauty myth, compare on your own terms, the time is now. Live every moment like you are prepared to live it over and over again for the rest of eternity.

YOUR

FUTURE IS

IN YOUR HANDS,

PLEASE

TURN OVER.

**part
careers**

news

One in six employees lie to cover up mistakes

A survey reveals that 16 percent of employees will lie to cover up errors when they give incorrect information because of poor computer file management. However, 67 percent of employees at middle management or below think their business has presented the wrong information in some way. A further 10 percent say the information was re-used elsewhere.

The report from content management company TOWER Software claims men are more embarrassed about lying than women: 35 percent of males compared to just 13 percent of females. (Source: Milkround)

50% of new graduates' earnings will be taken by the tax man

A report claims a typical graduate will face a tax burden of 49 percent on their annual earnings by 2012.

Independent economic think tank Reform has assessed the financial burdens facing young people. It dubs them the IPOD generation because they are Insecure, Pressured, Over-taxed and Debt-ridden. (Source: Milkround)

events

Baker & McKenzie on campus presentation

An Exciting Career in Beijing, Hong Kong and Shanghai with Baker & McKensie. If you have Chinese language skills and are looking to either join our office as a trainee solicitor in September 2010 or join our Beijing / Shanghai office as an entry level lawyer in September 2008, come to our presentation.

Date: 9 November

HSBC Insight Day

Global Markets Operations Insight and Assessment Day has been designed to give you an introduction to HSBC.

The day will consist of presentations, interactive workshops and two competency-based interviews. To be considered, please complete our Global Markets Operations full-time online application form at www.hsbc-net.com/ibcareers.

Date: 9 November

Vodafone on campus presentation

Come along to our presentation to find out more about Vodafone and the opportunities available on our Finance Graduate Scheme. All degree disciplines welcome. Sign up by emailing financegradscheme@vodafone.co.uk.

Date: 12 November

APPLICATION FORMS

QUICK TIP

Before you attempt to fill in an application form it's really important that you do some research on both the organisation and the role you are applying for.

Interests and achievements

Give details of your main extra-curricular activities to date.

I was in charge of organising Raising and Giving week during February 2006. I worked with a team of volunteers to organise fundraising events and raise £5000 for charity.

I am also the founder and president of the Money Society. During the last year I organised two large events which attracted over 500 people, as organising regular talks and initiating the Money Newsletter.

To answer questions on interests and achievements:

- Emphasise how they helped you build your skills

Make the example specific, focusing on a single project rather than the whole internship, for instance.

Provide as much detail and evidence as you can in order to substantiate your point.

Use your previous experience and any extra-curricular activities to prove your interest and competency for the role. Show your determination.

To answer motivational question:

- Do in-depth research and demonstrate this in your answer
- Show your interest by mentioning any employer presentations you may have attended.

Competency questions

Tell us about a time when you had to use your problem-solving skills. How did you apply them and what was the outcome?

During my internship at the BBC I was asked to manage some of their business contacts. I realised that there was no integrated system or database which tracked the business contacts and relationships. In order make the process more efficient, I designed a database which would do this.

Motivational questions

Explain why you are interested in a career in media.

I am interested in a career in media because I am attracted to the creative and dynamic work environment that it provides. I am particularly drawn to Reuters because it focuses on information and news provision. My internship at BBC helped me understand how information gathering is crucial to media operation. I was given a variety of research projects which I greatly enjoyed.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Sometimes you may be asked to 'provide information in support of your application'. In this case:

- start by providing clear purpose and direction in your introduction
- use the middle section to make statements about your skills and achievements
- conclude positively, showing your enthusiasm for the role

QUICK TIP

Use the Propects website (www.prospects.ac.uk) for useful advice on completing application forms.

To answer competency questions:

- Give a brief background
- Specify what you had to do
- Give detail on what you did and the skills you used
- What happened at the end?

QUICK TIP

It's a good idea make a list of all your past activities and decide which ones to use to provide evidence of:

- communication skills
- teamwork
- leadership
- problem-solving
- organisation/planning

Graduate Deadlines

Morgan Stanley	Finance	11 Nov 2007
MarketClusters Limited	Consulting	11 Nov 2007
Schroders	Finance	21 Nov 2007
John Lewis	Retail	30 Nov 2007
Corporate Executive Board	Management	30 Nov 2007

Internship Deadlines

Dresdner Kleinwort	Banking/Finance	08 Nov 2007
Lazard	Banking/Finance	16 Nov 2007
Goldman Sachs	Banking/Finance	28 Dec 2007
Credit Suisse	Banking/Finance	30 Dec 2007
Merrill Lynch	Banking/Finance	31 Dec 2007

you're studying: law

Take this quiz to see where a degree in Law can take you.

When I'm working on a new idea with a group of people:

- I end up doing a lot of talking
- I give my input only when asked
- I'll speak up when I have an especially good idea
- I just blurt out my ideas as fast as they come to me

Most of the time, your workspace is:

- Fairly tidy. I can find everything I need quickly.
- Immaculate. Everything is in its proper place.
- Somewhat messy, but I know which piles to look in when I need to find things.
- Messy. I keep a lot of clutter around me.

If I have a problem or conflict with someone I work with:

- I speak up right away
- I probably wouldn't say anything
- I wait to see if the problem persists, then eventually say something about it
- I wait for an appropriate time, then bring it up

How closely do you

What do LSE Law graduates do?

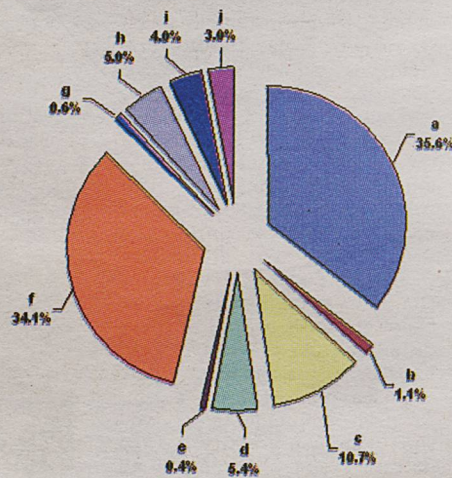
Becoming a solicitor or barrister are common routes after a law degree, consequentially the majority of undergraduate leavers were completing the Legal Practice Course, Bar Vocational Course or overseas equivalent after leaving LSE.

Other job sectors included:

- local and national government
- banking and other financial service
- the media and publishing

What do Law graduates do nationally?

- In UK employment 35.6%
- In overseas employment 1.1%
- Working and studying 10.7%
- Studying in the UK for a higher degree 5.4%
- Studying in the UK for a teaching qualification 0.4%
- Undertaking other further study or training in the UK 34.1%
- Undertaking further study or training overseas 0.6%
- Not available for employment, study or training 5.0%
- Believed to be unemployed 4.0%
- Other 3.0%



Types of work included:

- Legal Professionals (15.8%)
- Commercial, Industrial and Public Sector Managers (11.4%)
- Business and Financial Professionals (4.9%)
- Other Professionals, Associate Professional and Technical Occupations (3.4%)

track your finances?

- I usually have a fairly good idea of what my account balance is
- I always know my exact account balance
- I don't really pay much attention to my balance outside my monthly statements
- I don't really know my account balance

When solving a problem, you:

- Focus on the short-term results
- Focus on the long-term results
- Take both into account
- Do not think about the results

Your friend has invited you to a weekend getaway but you have a huge deadline on Monday. You:

- Decline the invitation. I need to stay home to make sure I get my work done
- Decline but try and reschedule it for another time
- Go, but come home early so you can work on Sunday to meet your deadline
- Go anyway. You'll get your work done in time somehow.

When making a tough decision that will hurt other co-workers, you:

- Make my decision based only on the facts presented to me
- Make the best decision for the company, but talk to those I impacted negatively
- Focus on minimising the negative impact on my colleagues
- Make the decision that comes closest to pleasing everyone

You'd rather be described as:

- Ambitious
- Realistic
- Imaginative
- An optimist

When do you allow your feelings to help guide decisions?

- Never, if I can help it
- Only when they are logical
- Only when they help me achieve my goals
- Always. Feelings are always valid guides.

Imagine your company just instituted a new policy regarding travel expenses - no reimbursements without a receipt. You're in charge of enforcing it, but an employee forgot the new

rule and threw away a £100 receipt. Would you reimburse them?

- No. Rules are rules
- Probably not. It's unfair to make exceptions to the rule.
- I might, but I'd remind them of the rule change
- Yes. This is a new rule so it's natural for people to need some adjustment time

When faced with difficult choices, what helps guide your decision?

- Logic
- Justice
- Harmony
- Empathy

When you receive a special offer in the post you:

- Read the letter immediately, then either throw out the offer, or order the product
- Read the letter immediately, but throw out the offer or order the product in a few days
- Put the letter in a pile, and look at it in a few days
- Put the letter in a pile until I open it and realise the deadline has passed

What comes first for you, work or play?

- Work comes before play
- Work comes first, but I schedule in play time
- Play time comes first, but I get my work done around it
- Play comes before work. You only live so long.

RESULTS

Mostly a)s

You should consider:
Being a barrister or solicitor
Banking
Financial services

Mostly b)s

You should consider:
Accounting
Tax consultancy
Insurance
Legal advisor

Mostly c)s

You should consider:
Local or national government
Publishing
Media
Prison service

Mostly d)s

You should consider:
Education(teaching, lecturing)
Volunteering
Advice work
Human resources



Who employs Law graduates?

These are some of the employers LSE Law graduates went to work for:

- ABN AMRO Bank
- Addleshaw Goddard
- Berrymans Lace
- Mawer
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Dresdner
- Freshfields Bruckhaus
- Deringer
- Holborn Grays Inn
- Linklaters
- LSE and BPP Law School

- Mayer Brown Rowe and Maw
- Media Planet
- Ministry of Defence (UK)
- Pricewaterhouse-Coopers

- Roschier Holmberg
- Royal Bank of Scotland
- Siemens
- The Law Agency
- United States Federal Courts
- W.S. Kane & Co, Advocates & Solicitors

jobs

Frenger International M&A Research analyst

1. Assist the team in the corporate finance projects handled on behalf of clients: mainly acquisition or disposal projects.

2. Research, analysis and presentation of information relating to potential acquisition or disposal targets on behalf of Frenger's clients.

3. Marketing of Frenger's M & A services to new potential clients in France and the UK.

Closing Date: 1 January
Reference Number: 10385

BMW Financial Services Internship

The successful candidate for this position will assist the responsible country manager in all activities related to the market entry in the Baltic States.

In addition, he or she will support the team of "New Markets Europe" of BMW Group Financial Services in Munich in all strategic, conceptual as well as operational topics (business development, strategy, marketing, controlling).

The scope of the team's activities extends to all Central Eastern European markets within the European Union, making this internship a multifaceted, challenging assignment.

Closing Date: 15 November
Reference Number: 9584

The International Centre for Security Analysis Research Assistant

The Research Assistants will carry out research on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction from open sources for a research project at ICSA, Department of War Studies, King's College London.

Ideal candidates, in addition to having a keen interest in international affairs, should be able to read either Vietnamese, Malay, Indonesian or Thai. They would be asked to work for two days a month, under the supervision of ICSA's full-time research team.

Closing Date: 10 November
Reference Number: 10235

West London Law Solicitors

Part Time Paralegal

We are a busy new firm in West London and we require a part time paralegal placement to work in the litigation department, mainly dealing with High Court litigation and debt matters for both publicly funded and private clients.

You will receive excellent legal experience by assisting the principal lawyer. The candidate will need to be dedicated, focused, motivated and have a genuine interest in the law.

Closing Date: 23 November
Reference Number: 10383

MTM London

Business Analyst

We're looking to recruit Business Analysts with 0-2 years of industry, marketing and/or consulting experience.

Closing Date: 7 November
Reference Number: 9989

Visit the LSE Careers website for further details and other opportunities.

a closer look at The interviewer's advice

Meryem Torun speaks to a leading recruitment advisor about CVs, interviews and ways of impressing employers

Andy Gibb has been in charge of Selection and Head of Global Recruitment for Shell, and has recently written *Get That Job!*, a guide to the recruitment and selection process.

What is the first thing you would look for in a candidate?

We would approach it in a fairly analytical way, the first thing we would see would be a CV or an application form. Then we would look for three things: we would look for analytical ability, the ability to get on with people, and the drive. We develop these three from an analysis of the most successful executives we have at Shell.

How would you deal with CVs that were sent in speculatively?

Big organisations tend to work out, up to a year in advance, how many people they need to recruit. And so they are

looking well in advance. When they get a resume or a CV, what is usual is to ask them to fill in an application form. All too often nowadays companies tell individuals - these are the questions we want to ask you so you've got to structure your application in this way. They've then got a more or less structured scoring system and helps them decide who they interview.

Which candidates do better at interviews?

It is partially a matter of who has done their homework beforehand and is therefore confident. Someone who has worked out, just as a barrister or a politician might, what sort of questions the interviewer might ask, has worked out in their own mind what evidence they want to give to the organisation.

What happens when you are asked an unexpected or unusual question?

It then comes down to who has the confidence. If you have prepared to deal the 60% of questions, then you are confident enough to deal with the remaining 40%.

Is there any way to tell how well your interview's going?

Obviously eye-gaze, and this also comes across as confidence. We tend to think that someone who is not confident will typically look down, will not look at the interviewer and all too often misses the clues that the interviewer is giving them in their facial expression. It can't be much more than that.

There is one other point



it is partially a matter of who has done their homework beforehand and is therefore confident



about confidence that is a very common misapprehension which is that it really matters what clothes you wear. In practice, the interviewer will be looking much more at the candidate's face, not what they're wearing. And if you can project an air of confidence, plus you've know you've done a lot of preparation, that's far more useful than worrying for several hours about what to wear. Wear something that you feel comfortable in, that makes you look smart, but after that don't give it a second thought. It is far more important to have decided what evidence you are want to present to the company. As if you were a barrister presenting the case to a court.

A lot of large organisations also expect you to do psychometric tests as part of the recruitment process. How important are these in determining whether the candidate will be hired? Should students be worried if they can't do all of the questions?

To be quite honest, the best way to look at it is that you're on a no-lose basis. Do as best you can, the worst someone can say is 'We're not inviting you back for an interview' so it doesn't really matter. It sounds awful, but get on with it. Enjoy it. Worrying

about how you're doing, whether it's doing an interview or doing a psychometric test or it's something in your application form is not going to help particularly. You think of the right thing to do and you get on and do it. Then you'll come across as much more positive.

Employers obviously look both at a candidate's grades and their extra-curricular activities. Which weighs in more heavily? Should candidates be spending more time revising or getting involved in various activities?



It obviously depends, but in big organisations very often we running at 100 applications for every place, and in almost in every case, the organisation has a minimum cut-off of 2:1. So they will have out of those 100 applications, they'll have 90% of the people getting 2:1s. So it's difficult to make yourself stand out by your academic record. It's a real diminishing returns when you start to look at business. Obviously if you've got Rhodes Scholarship, that would have an impact. If you get a first class that might make a difference. Not a huge amount of difference. So think about what they're looking for, two-thirds of that is all to do with the character of the individual rather than analytical ability. If you think about it, organisations have got lots of people to analyse things and what's much more difficult in some ways, people who've got the character to really drive things, negotiate with people who are different from themselves perhaps or create business where there was none before.

And coincidentally, you should enjoy university, try and do things that you enjoy. By all means work hard try and get a 2:1 if you can but not slave away to get a first to the exclusion of other activities. You'll not only lose the enjoyment but I don't think it will have that much impact.

Do you have any advice for students who may not know which jobs to apply to or which industry they want to work in?

How should their make their choice?

There's a number of different ways and in the book I developed a process precisely because so many people were asking me these sort of questions.

What I think is first of all you need to be clear about what you enjoy, what you really are interested in, what your underlying motivators are. There's a couple of exercises in the book, not psychometric tests, just a way of looking at the things you might consider. And then digging down

to find out what really it is that's common to all of those to help you work out what you might like to do. Once you've got that you can practically put it into Google if you like.

By the way, it's always worth applying for 4-5 of the less well known names. Because very often you find there are a number of extremely good organisations that are slightly smaller, aren't household names who are really just scraping around trying to find people.

This is in part why I wrote the book. A lot of people were putting a massive amount of effort into doing their academics but were coming straight out of lecture and jumping straight into an interview or filling an application form without really having thought through what they wanted why they wanted it, what the organisation was looking for. And consequently were then going through a number of interviews, or not even getting the interviews and wondering why. The answer was they haven't actually done preparation before the start of the application, trying to figure out what you really want. It will help you enormously to fill out your CV and help you enormously for the interview. Pretty soon you can turn that interview where you end up interviewing the interviewer - because you're saying why should I work for you. I've seen it happen and it's marvellous when it does.

books



Get That Job!
by Andy Gibb

Synopsis: Choosing your career, changing your job, and getting selected by the organization that's right for you are amongst the most important decisions of your life. You need detailed practical advice - on career choice, on what organizations look for in the people they recruit, and on tips and techniques to get you through the stages of their selection process.

What it includes: The usual sections on CVs, interviews and cover letters as well as sections on making career choices and understanding cultural differences between organisations.

What it's good for: If you are applying for jobs and need a step-by-step guide to get you through the selection process then you'll find this book helpful.



The Graduate Career Handbook
by Shirley Jenner

Synopsis: Demand for graduates is increasing and for the potential high-flyers amongst them, fast-track career prospects have never looked so good. The Graduate Career Handbook is an interactive, fully web-referenced career guide and job-hunting companion for university students and recent graduates, providing inside information about the whole recruitment process.

What it includes: The book comes in three parts. The first part deals with making your career choice, the second looks at the employment market, the third walks you through the selection process, including CVs and interviews.

What it's good for: A very through guide, useful if you're completely clueless.



at recruitment

Banking is the answer

Saurabh Sharma explains how to deal with banking interviews

Far from its left-wing roots, LSE has arguably become a hotbed of capitalist thought with so many of our students looking to carve out careers with Wall Street/City firms. Whether this be a good thing or a bad thing is the subject of an entirely different debate, but as graduate deadlines fast approach and the 2nd years direct their thoughts towards internships, PartC is here to help you get past that first round of interviews.

As banking fever spreads through the campus every word of the FT is carefully read and reread, Wikipedia is scoured for information on valuations, bonds, and options, and of course competencies are practiced again and again. Let's assume for a moment that you've nailed those online questions and are facing the prospect of interviewing with a bank... Here is a quick guide to make sure that you walk away happy, and more importantly, that the interviewer walks away dazzled by your talent.

Introductions

Have an effective opening. The last thing you want is to walk into an interview room and begin the conversation with an awkward silence. Very often this can be a small story or anecdote on what brings you to that bank or a random experience you may have had on the way there (which probably didn't happen, but let's be honest, they'll never

know that). Worst comes to worst, talk about how miserable the damn weather is and how you would much rather be in

“Have an effective opening. The last thing you want is to walk into an interview room and begin the conversation with an awkward silence”

Australia - they'll probably agree!

Competencies

This is the bread and butter

of any interview, so make sure that you have practiced the standard competency based questions fairly well. I can't stress how crucial it is to know yourself for these interviews. It's important that you know which area of the bank you are applying to,

about this summer's credit crunch and sub prime issues. In terms of yourself, prepare in advance some answers that highlight several key personal characteristics including leadership, teamwork, attention to detail, innovation and

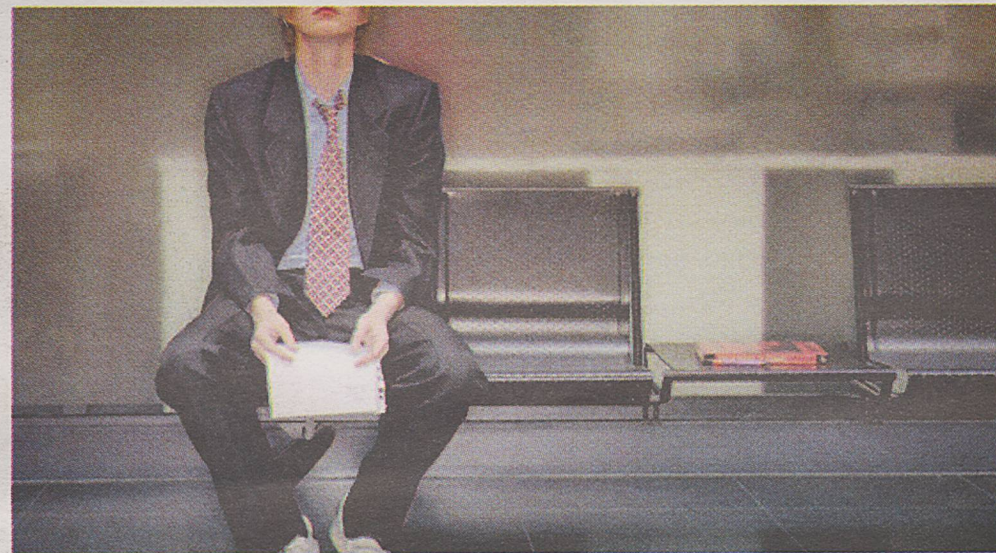
Have at least two stories researched and prepared fairly well. Obviously the most common source of these stories include the FT, BBC News, the Economist, as well as other broadsheet journals. To get an idea of what to research, you

a question about any topic, try to take a stance on it and defend it to the best of your ability. Remember that they don't know the answer to these questions any more than you do, so if they ask you if oil is going to hit a \$100/bbl then you can take either stance and you could be perfectly right. Have faith in what you say.

Technical knowledge

It is important to understand the basics of bond valuation (research net present value), share valuations (price to earnings ratio etc), and company valuations (looking at earnings before amortisation, taxes, interest, and depreciation etc). The interviewers know that you are not fully versed in this field, but any knowledge you demonstrate will impress them to no end. They also have somewhat of a knack of throwing Maths questions at you from left field, so don't be overly surprised if you suddenly get asked what the square root of 400,000 is!

These interviews can be nerve wracking and difficult, but they are a necessary part of getting into any bank. Hopefully, with these rough guidelines, several offers will fall into your lap, allowing you to choose whoever you feel the most comfortable with. Remember that although you are the one being interviewed, it is also your chance to see whether you want to work for them.



why you are applying there, some general information about the bank (when it was founded, the recent share price, any big news stories happening... there is plenty happening right now). On the off chance that you have a non-HR person interviewing you, make sure you are clued up

entrepreneurial spirit, but also make sure you know examples of a time you have failed, times where you have had friction within a team environment, and your own weaknesses. And no, the fact that sometimes you work too hard isn't a valid weakness! **Commercial awareness**

could look at the fluctuations in oil, gold, and copper, especially if you are researching fixed income and commodities. For equities, the current volatility of the markets is certainly a hotbed for discussion. By far the most important thing is to be opinionated! If the interviewer asks you

on the subject

Brilliant Interview

by Ros Jay

Synopsis: What do interviewers really want from a candidate? Why do they decide whether to hire you or someone else? What can you do to make it you? Who better to advise interviewees than interviewers? This book tells you what they want and teaches you how to deliver. Find out what works in the real world and put it into practise through text features such as tips from the experts, shining examples, horror stories, questions and quizzes to get you thinking.

What it includes: It covers everything from preparation to tough interview questions and second interviews. There are also sections on assessment centres and psychometric tests.

What it's good for: Thorough interview preparation.

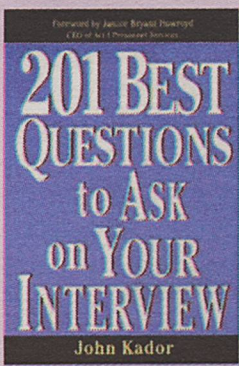


201 Best Questions To Ask On Your Interview

by John Kador

Synopsis: Asking the right questions can help job seekers ace the interview and land that job. A powerful resource for vast and growing numbers of job seekers, this book fills readers in on the pivotal questions they need to ask to ace the interview. "201 Best Questions to Ask on Your Interview" not only supplies readers with the right questions for virtually every context but also coaches them on the right ways to ask them.

What it includes: There are three sections. The first section explores when to ask questions and how to prepare them, the other two sections tell you which questions to ask depending on the circumstance. **What it's good for:** A detailed book that covers a lot of different material.



Writing in Style

Ben Lamy has a chat with Tiffanie Darke, the editor of the Sunday Times Style magazine

As the editor of a widely recognised fashion magazine you have a job that many people covet. How did you make it to where you are?

Work experience - working for nothing on newspapers, The Independent and Observer, then got lucky and a junior researcher job came up. I worked my way up the features ladder on various papers, then at The Sunday Times I was on the news review section and they asked me to take over the Style magazine. I had little magazine experience, but I wore nice clothes and could commission a good feature - so they gave me the job!

What is the most enjoyable aspect of the job?

Working in a team of brilliant, dedicated, passionate people who I learn from every day

Have you always wanted to work in the fashion industry?

No - never. I regard it with deep suspicion!

What advice would you give to LSE students looking to make a name for themselves in fashion journalism? What are the key skills required?

Objectivity. So much fashion 'journalism' is quid pro quo fluff in return for advertising. Get a

training on a paper where you write what you really think - not what the advertisers want you to think. You also need to

work hard and not be afraid to go out of your comfort zone. Keep your mind open and listen to people who are commission-

ing you - do not go into things with preconceptions.

Being a magazine editor must be a stressful job at times. How do you cope?

Breathing and the odd well-timed vodka martini.

Typically how many hours a day do you work? Have you ever pulled an all-nighter?

Roughly 50-55 hour weeks. Regarding all nighters - if you call going out partying with interesting people as research for the job, then yes!

Since it is the start of term, students will now be receiving their student loans. Should their first purchase be on textbooks or on the new Apple iPhone?

Definitely the iPhone. Appearance is everything.

If there was one thing you would change about the fashion industry what would it be?

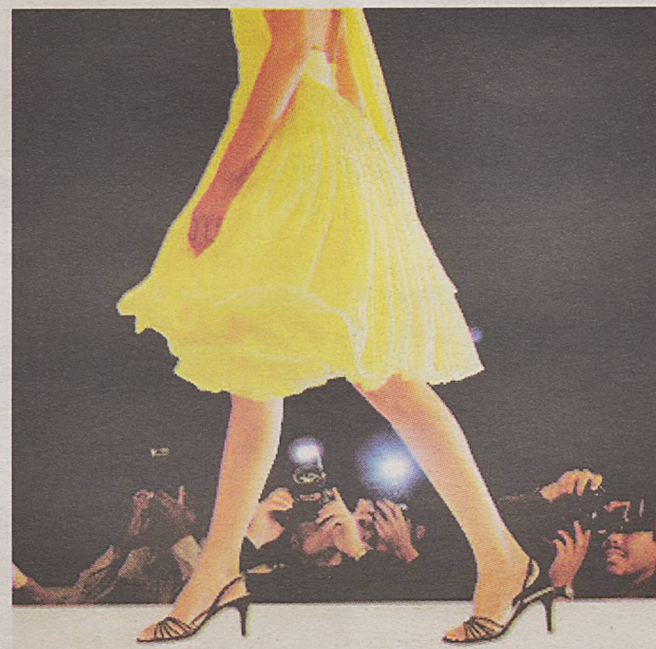
Snobbery.

Do you think British consumers are being over-charged for designer labels?

Nope. The labels should charge what they can get away with - its business, and good business means more jobs for everyone.

How would you describe your taste in fashion?

I aim to please.



INTERNSHIPS

Spend time in a Think Tank

Rajan Patel decides to work in the Social Market Foundation

Without a clear idea of what to do with my Economics degree, I decided to explore my options last summer. Although the pre-occupations of your peers might lead you to believe that banking or finance are the only valuable paths out of the LSE, a summer spent working for a think tank might lead you to reconsider.

Think tanks are non-governmental organisations that produce independent research on policy matters. In many cases, research is commissioned by private backers: however, firms and organisations only commission studies, not results. The output of the research process is not theirs to predict and think tanks operate on their own terms.

I applied to a number of think tanks based in London and decided to spend August and September working with the Social Market Foundation (SMF), an organisation based a stone's throw from the Palace of Westminster.

Before applying, I read about the research outputs of various think tanks and was particularly interested by the work of the SMF. The organisation tackles a wide spectrum of issues from a choice-led, pro-market agenda, applying itself to policy problems such as returning to work, information failure in insurance and financial markets and the shortage of housing in the UK.

Unlike more right-wing think tanks, such as the Adam Smith Foundation, the "social" aspect of the SMF is prioritised. The SMF looks at how greater choice and a range of service providers can improve service users' welfare, giving them greater control of their use of public services and encouraging greater personal responsibility. The choice agenda has become particularly important in health

care and education, but much of the SMF's work involves looking at new applications for the theory.

I submitted a CV in March and was called for an interview in May. The interview took the form of a general discussion about current issues in politics and economics and I was en-

health, education and transport policy.

It's important to prepare well for the interview, especially by getting to know the research of the think tank you're applying to. Having read about the SMF's research into Personal Employment Accounts – a virtual budget for the unemployed

length during the interview, something which I later found was thought of favourably by the organisation.

Interns are expected to do a mix of administrative and research work, with the balance – theoretically – in favour of research. However, I found that it's very easy to be overwhelmed

search tasks. It's important to pester a few of the researchers for work on a daily basis: there are often other interns around and you're all competing for relatively few interesting tasks.

“interning at a think tank certainly provides a good alternative to work in the financial sector for people with a keen interest in public policy”

I found myself focusing on two main projects, relating to housing and choice and voice mechanisms in public services. The second of these kept me busy for half of my time at the SMF and proved to be an extremely interesting project. Working alongside three other interns, we were given sole responsibility for researching 'best practice examples' of individual budget systems in public services. As well as finding the examples, we evaluated the reasons behind the success of some

schemes and considered how the less successful might be improved.

Our work will be included alongside that of senior researchers in an SMF pamphlet on the subject, which will with hope be published next year.

My time at the SMF coincided with the Party Conference season, one of the busiest times of year for think tanks. Many of the administrative tasks I had to do involved preparations for 'fringe events' hosted by the SMF, at which prominent speakers would address audiences of the party faithful – envelopes were stuffed and numerous phone calls fielded. At times, the amount of administrative work that had to be done was disappointing, but it's a necessary evil – without a commitment to doing some admin, researchers never give you any of the more interesting tasks.

As well as the work, the SMF also provided other diversions. The researchers – all Oxbridge or LSE graduates – played football every Wednesday by the Houses of Parliament and, by the time I left, had formed an inter think-tank league to play against rival organisations in the Westminster village. The researchers were all incredibly friendly and approachable on any issue – one researcher, who completed his PhD at the LSE and had served as a class teacher in the Government Department, was even happy to help with some of my classwork.

In all, interning at a think tank certainly provides a good alternative to work in the financial sector for people with a keen interest in public policy. The pace is relaxed, the scope broad and there's something out there to interest everyone: definitely give it a try!



couraged to give my thoughts on the Labour Government's achievements (and failures) in

which can be 'spent' on purchasing return-to-work services – I was able to discuss this at

with tedious data input and routine admin unless you're proactive about taking on re-

how do I research companies

Keep checking the Careers Service website for the latest news about their employer events and fairs. Go to employer presentations organised by the Careers Service on campus or by the company on their own premises. Attend skills sessions, which are designed and run by companies in order to help you develop a skill set.

- Careers Fairs - meet the company representatives and former interns
- Employer presentations on campus and on company premises
- Employer-led Skills Sessions - Wednesday afternoons in Michaelmas and early Lent.
- Vault online careers library - good for company information and forums
- Company websites
- National press - particularly good for interview preparation
- Business Press and Journals



where to start looking

Deadlines for popular schemes with very structured application processes often occur during Michaelmas term. Many deadlines for banking are in October. There will be lists of deadlines dates on the Careers Service website but information is normally available first on company websites first. It is wise to do research and begin preparation in the summer prior to term beginning, as this allows time to focus on academic work and to be efficient and targeted in applications.

The advice from the Careers Service, academics at LSE and from the employers is that you must not sacrifice study through internship applications. Target a few, select companies which you have a specific interest in and hone the applications to each company. This will be more time-effective and may well result in a higher chance of success.



Investing in summer work

Sof Yiannakas tells us what it's like to be an intern at Deutsche Bank

If you're an LSE second year student, Michaelmas Term can be the most stressful period of your academic life. Interning in the Telecoms Division at Deutsche Bank over the summer, I've come to understand the difficulties associated with staying on top of your studies, attending presentations and networking events as well as commencing the internship application process. As a first year my knowledge of investment banking and life in the city was rather limited like many other students. The priority of every student should be to decide what business division they feel most comfortable in. For me this was investment banking.

At the LSE we are blessed with a high level of exposure to the corporate world. The career focused societies are particularly helpful. Through membership to these societies active students can easily attend over three presentations a week! These events not only provide an educational platform but also represent an ideal opportunity to gain inside information about prospective employers and tips on the application process. Having attended company presentations on DCM, sales and trading and a M&A case study by Lehman Brothers I decided the investment banking division was for me.

Applying for an internship position is a time consuming process which occupied much of my Christmas holidays. All students should aim to have their applications submitted by the end of December. Most of our counterparts from the con-

tinent will have submitted their applications by the end of November. A common query for any student is how many banks to apply to and the answer is simple: as many as possible. Spread your exposure and limit your risk of not gaining a place.

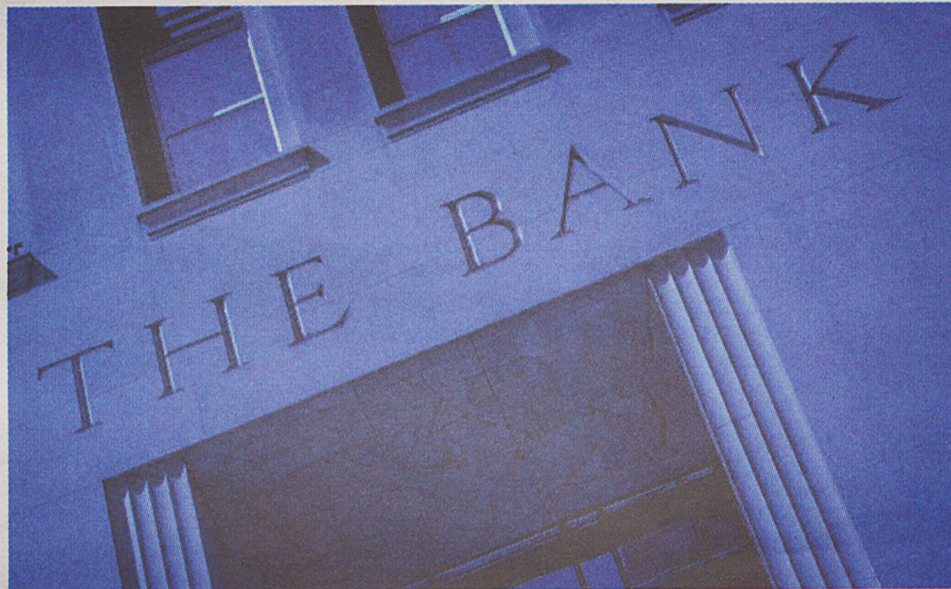
rejected is to copy and paste the wrong company name into your application. Successful applicants spend a large proportion of their time doing research ensuring each application is tailored to the relevant company. It is essential not to be disheart-

ened by rejections; everyone gets them. Look for the positives and plan for the interviews. If you want to stand out, do your homework, read the vault guides (they can be a real asset) and make sure you religiously read the financial papers everyday for at least a month. The interviews will be a mix of business awareness, competency and technical ques-

tions. I found out during my interviews that the occasion provided a great chance to get to know more about the culture of the different banks. After all, your interviewers will become you colleagues if you are offered a position in the summer. It was weeks in length with the first week of my internship dedicated to training and socialising with my fellow interns. Being from an Accounting and Finance background, I found the training more useful as revision of the basic accounting and valuation techniques. Ultimately,

operated was a difficult task. I was encouraged by my team to ask as many sensible questions as possible and having attained the trust of my team I was given my first financial model two weeks into my placement. The internship experience is all about taking your opportunities, showing your capabilities and exceeding expectations. My chance came in the fourth week of my placement. The senior Analyst being promoted to Associate was to jet off to New York for training and it was me, the intern, who was to take over on his projects. Taking on the role of a senior analyst was the highlight of my internship. I was responsible for completing the valuation behind an LBO model and bringing together the final pitch book for the client. Additionally, Deutsche Bank arranged a weekly Speaker Series on each division which really helped get a better understanding of all the functions of the bank. The whole process was a great educational experience and great exposure in preparation for full time employment.

Overall, undertaking an internship is a great way to get a head-start in your desired career. My ten week placement enabled me to confirm my interest in becoming an investment banker once I leave the LSE and helped me meet some really interesting people. The LSE is a great platform if you want a career in the city so don't waste it. Do your research, submit your applications early and don't miss out next summer.



Remember, any internship is better than no internship.

The application process can be daunting and the questions tricky. I found that setting personal deadlines for applications was very useful. More often than not the questions asked will be similar and once a few applications have been completed the process should become easier. A sure way to be

enriched by rejections; everyone gets them. Look for the positives and plan for the interviews. If you want to stand out, do your homework, read the vault guides (they can be a real asset) and make sure you religiously read the financial papers everyday for at least a month. The interviews will be a mix of business awareness, competency and technical ques-

through this logic that I came to choose Deutsche Bank as my preferred investment bank - the culture was professional, the people friendly. To this day, I have remained in contact with and occasionally go for coffee with my interviewer.

My first day at Deutsche Bank was very exciting, very much like my first day of school. The programme was ten

“I found out during my interviews that the occasion provided a great chance to get to know more about the culture of the different banks”

the greatest opportunity to learn was during your placement at your desk. I found that the first few weeks of my internship were the hardest. Having to learn how all the systems worked as well as how my team

Being a part of development

Shahalom Rahman spends his summer with the Department for International Development

As their website puts it, 'the Civil Service is a whole new world you never dreamed existed.' Or so I found out when I did my summer internship at the Department for International Development.

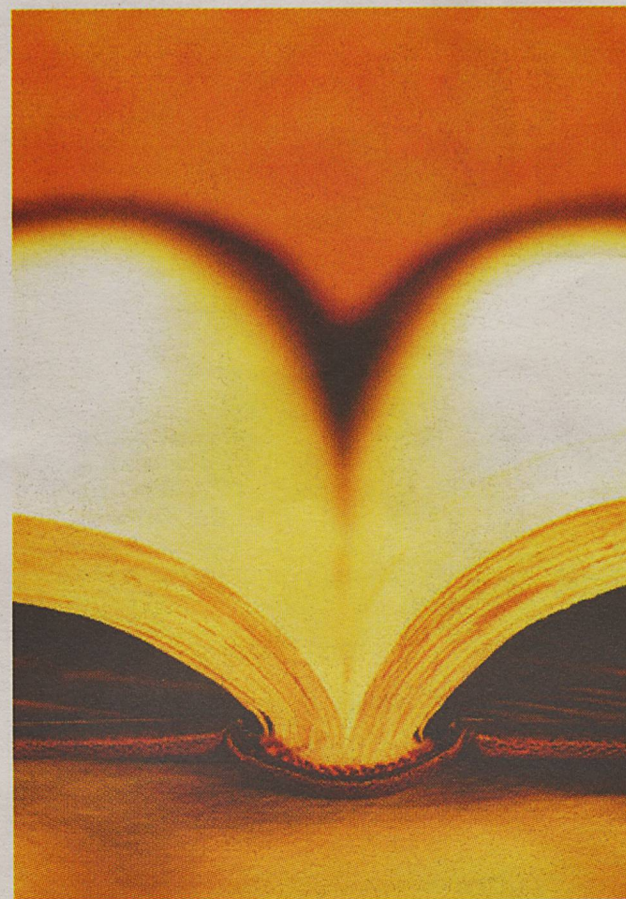
I was placed in the Middle East and North Africa department (MENAD) and worked alongside some of Britain's most senior politicians, international governance advisors and development economists. It was an exciting time to be at DFID. Tony Blair had just left office as I arrived, and along with me a batch of young Ministers and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries began their careers at DFID - Alexander Douglas, Gareth Tomas, Shahid Malik and Shriti Vadera.

My induction schedule was hectic and I was thrown straight into the deep end on my first day. In true bureaucratic fashion I had a flurry of meetings to attend - with the Deputy Director of Iraq and the Head of MENAD - and a stack of DFID reports to read. My schedule for the first day included a talk by the former leader of the Liberal Democrats, Paddy Ashdown, an extremely influential politician and an expert in international politics.

After a hectic first day familiarising myself with the department it was time to meet my team and attend one of many introductory meetings.

“my team was not only scattered throughout the country but throughout the world”

Funnily enough, my team was not only scattered throughout the country but throughout the world. Some had their desks opposite mine in London. Others,



however were based in Scotland and as far afield as Baghdad, Jerusalem and Damascus. It was weird at first trying to have a serious conversation via videoconference, but I soon got used to discussing issues ranging from Blair's appointment as head of the Quartet on the Middle East to the Iraq Commission findings with my colleagues.

By my second week projects were piling up and there were deadlines to meet. My first assignment was to write up an article on a Palestinian village, Azzun Atma, outlining the impact of the Israeli wall on the local community. It was challenging, to gather all the information within such a short period of time, but in an office full of United Nations statistics, World Bank reports and an abundance of specialists, you are expected to know your region and be equipped with the knowledge as and when it's required. Other assignments included writing a brief on the AIDS/HIV situation in the Middle East and researching governance systems in Yemen.

However my main assignment, which lasted throughout my 11-week placement, was to create a 15-page analytical report on the changing position of Iraqi women since the fall of the Ba'athist regime in 2003. This

meant looking at how Iraqi women's access to education, healthcare, their representation and maternal mortality changed since 2003. It was by far the most important project I have ever undertaken because it provided staff with the most up-to-date source of information on the situation of Iraqi women and could potentially influence their policy decisions.

Working at DFID over the summer was an exceptional experience. It complemented my studies and put me in a position of serious responsibility. At times it felt surreal being considered a government official, but the privilege of being one for 11 weeks opened many opportunities. I attended a hearing of the International Development Committee Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territories in Houses of Parliament and was also invited to the launch of the government's Bulls-Cunliffe report on economic aspects of peace in the Middle East at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office chaired by the Foreign Minister himself. Many of the attendees at the report launch were directors of the most influential international development charities in world. I even managed to catch some tea with the director of Oxfam!

Get there faster.
Start here.

Oliver Wyman is a leading global management consultancy, combining deep industry knowledge with specialised expertise in strategy, risk management, organisational transformation, and leadership development.

You can apply to either or both of our distinctive career tracks with one application:

- General Management Consulting
- Financial Services Consulting

Application deadlines:

Wednesday 14 November 2007 for late November and December 2007 interviews
Sunday 16 December 2007 for January 2008 interviews

Please apply online at www.oliverwyman.com/careers

Get there faster. Start here.
40 offices, 16 countries, 2500 employees.

Oliver Wyman is a leading global management consultancy.
Visit us at Oliverwyman.com.

MMC MARSH MERCER KROLL
GUY CARPENTER OLIVER WYMAN

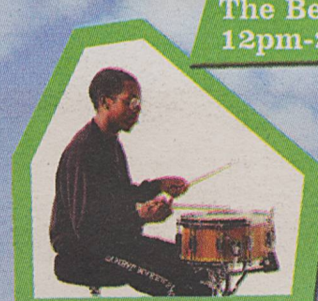
YOUR **pulse!** RADIO SCHEDULE!

Here's what you can expect on Pulse,
Weekdays 10am to 7pm...



Pulse Talks!
10am-11am

If it's talking, it's on Pulse! Bringing you all the best news, literature, business and politics discussion at LSE.



The Beat!
12pm-2pm

Entertaining you throughout your lunchtime daily. Great music, banter, competitions and much, much more!

Pulse Unplugged
3.30pm-5pm

Our music boffs scan the city to deliver some stellar tunes and live performances from music's elite.



Pulse Loves...
11am-12pm

Here's where we talk about what we and you love! Whether it's sport, shobiz, women, film...or even the LSE! Here's where to get filled in on your passions...



The Offbeat...
2pm-3.30pm

Get your radio fix with a twist? Tune into the Offbeat to here the slightly more zany side of the LSE...



Specialist...
5pm-7pm

The last two hours of the day are dedicated to specialist DJs who really know their stuff. Listen in and get some music education!

GET THE FULL SCHEDULE
AT WWW.PULSE.DJ

TUNE IN AT WWW.PULSE.DJ

FR

Side at the Three Guns

celebrity-
 the fate and careers of our public figures, it
 ordinary to the inauthentic, it has a powerful theological
 r: I love the celebrity, and thankyou celebrities for being
 i sleep and for when i wake and i weep. Thankyou Demi
 ge Reinholt from the Lethal Weapon series for the inspi-
 ns at helicopters and to Jody Marsh for the being of
 end when you are never there.

I
 do not speak to you. I speak
 at you. Speak back... go on, then
 I don't hear you. HAHAAAAHA. I
 used to kick a football for money.
 Now I stand here. Thanks.

Robert
 Redford is
 part of my
 imagined
 communi-
 ty. We all
 talk about him
 together as if he is
 a mutual friend. Then I
 go home and touch his
 poster on the mouth part with
 my other part.

I'M
 BOBBY
 DAVRO

The cult of
 celebrity has led to a
 separation of art from
 creator. This means that
 work created by a celebrity
 carries more weight than work
 not created by a celebrity -
 allowing authors, artists and
 musicians to rest on the laurels of
 previous work, as well as encourag-
 ing artists to change mediums, supported by a
 public who will ignore shortcomings for the
 sake of their name, or 'brand'. One of the most
 striking examples of this is in literature. Jordan, a
 woman famous only for appearing in men's maga-
 zine displaying a surgically enhanced chest, recently
 released a ghostwritten novel 'Crystal', which has
 sold 159,407 copies. The entire shortlist for the
 Booker Prize sold 120,770 copies, 110,615
 copies of which are made up by Ian
 McEwan's 'On Chesil Beach'

You
 fucking muppets. I take
 your money home and
 piss on it. I shit fivers into
 my toilet made of federal
 reserve gold. Do you know
 how much I earn? Everytime
 I check my bank balance I feel
 so disgusted at the enormity of
 my wealth I puke. Then I buy a small
 country and displace thousands
 of peasants to make up for it.
 Why do I get all this you
 ask? Well I perform mind-
 less dances and sing insur-
 ferably banal songs, whilst
 the media use their powers
 and technologies to make
 me shine and to make your
 own life seem a drab-fest of
 colourless misery in com-
 parison. And yet you still lap
 it up. I get treated like royal-
 ty, no fuck that, I get treated
 like God, a God that fucks
 women and gold and power
 in the power-hole, and drags
 from you your thinking minds.
 HAAAAHA I FUCKING WIN, I
 WIN YOU FUCKS, I FUCK-
 ING WIN THIS GAME...
 thanks.

er-
 en-
 our-
 things
 ure,
 ebbri-
 en-
 it
 qual-
 ur
 very-
 me
 ities,
 edia
 e,
 and
 he
 and
 ver

THE MIST DESCENDS ON TOUTS

anuppatel examines ways to beat the greedy bastards

Go to any concert and you will be greeted by masses of ticket tout, hanging around outside and mumbling 'buy or sell' like some dodgy drug-pusher on Camden high street. In the last few years, the black-market industry for gig tickets has grown rapidly, and the internet has meant it is now possible for anyone to buy and sell tickets at what ever price they wish. However, this has meant more and more of us are being affected by higher prices and fewer tickets available for sale. Now the majority of people who can actually afford to get tickets to most concerts are not lowly students but office-dwelling investment bankers trying to relive their youth.

Yet it is not just fans affected by the touts: bands, venues and concert organisers also recognise the problem of ticket touting. In the current climate of falling record sales, the largest income bands get are from gate receipts at gigs, but they never see the inflated revenues from tickets bought on the black market. Although this may not impact the U2s of this world, small upcoming bands are becoming worried about the threat of touts tarnishing their livelihood.

Ebay has led to more 'ordinary' folk becoming ticket touts as the ease of selling over such a secure network has meant that touting has become a viable career option available to the masses. Often people re-sell tickets online not because they are money-grabbing bastards but because they simply cannot attend something they have brought tickets for. However, there are ways to get round this problem without making money illegally.

Scarlet Mist is a website which was set up to combat ticket touts and to provide an ethical marketplace for tickets to be exchanged at face value. As its mission statement poetically says - 'Say NO to the rip-off whores and mercenaries!' It is a simple process to advertise and buy a ticket, but is nowhere near as secure as Ebay. Scarlet Mist operates on trust and there is no way the website can regulate buyers and sellers. The problem with Scarlet Mist is that it is just as easy to sell spare tickets on Ebay at a profit, and unfortunately there is no way you can change people's greedy minds about this. The ideas of Scarlet Mist have been replicated on other websites. For example, supporters of Chelsea FC can exchange tickets at face value on the website Viagogo.

Ideas that have been explored by ticket agencies and promoters include limiting the number of tickets one person can buy for a concert, requiring people to register their details before buying tickets, and using a ballot system to allocate tickets to popular shows. This has been used for the upcoming Led Zeppelin reunion gig, whereby people registered for the ballot and lucky winners were given a special access code to buy a pair of tickets. However this still hasn't stopped touting - a friend of mine decided to pay in excess of £300 just to get access to the code to buy the tickets with.

The war against ticket touts will continue. Long gone are the days where music was one of life's great freedoms. The 1960s have come and disappeared, and we are now in the Noughties, where music is being forced to join the corporate machine it used to sing out against.



THE LISTINGS WAR

judged by loisjeary

6TH NOVEMBER

Emmy the Great
King's College

vs.

Elvis Perkins
Bush Hall

Emmy's songs have a charming anti-folk quirkiness, whilst Elvis is the son of the actor who played Norman Bates! If that's not cool then nothing is.

7TH NOVEMBER

The Shins
Hammersmith Apollo

vs.

!!!
Koko

The Shins are the musical equivalent of a heroin high, whilst !!! are better suited to the pill-heads amongst you.

8TH NOVEMBER

Dizzee Rascal
Astoria

vs.

Sex Pistols
Brixton Academy

I saw Dizzee Rascal once and he made me feel proper ghetto, blud. I cannot help but fear that the Sex Pistols will be like your embarrassing uncles doing karaoke.

10TH NOVEMBER

50 Cent
The O2

vs.

Beirut
Roundhouse

In Beirut 50 cents would get you about 750 Lebanese Lira. Good to know.

MUSIC

Kaiser Chiefs
Love's Not a Competition but I'm Winning

12th November

Kaiser Chief's new single sees them abandoning their pub-pomp-rock ethos and opting instead for something more on the melodic side of acoustic. The catchy refrain runs throughout this sweet little love song, giving the song a pleasing continuity. It seems that this band can do no wrong as they cement themselves as indie giants, and with this track the band have a definite hit on their hands. That Ricky still looks like a cock-end though.

romy@aweekinnmi



Wallis Bird
Spoons

22nd October

Twenty four-year-old Irish singer-songwriter Wallis Bird's *Spoons* is a blend of acoustic, contemplative folk and bright, melodic pop. Nearly every song on the album is a love story, narrated in the first person, often featuring some absent lover. This theme appears so consistently throughout *Spoons*, it almost feels like a concept album. One line in 'Bring Me Wine', the brooding final track, confirms that this is the case: "I'm singing about my life/ about the one I thought could be my life," she sings before screaming for someone to "bring me wine." I know the feeling love.

charliecumow



The Thirst
Ready to Move

5th November

What happens when a group of guys from Brixton decide to play rock music as their day jobs? In one word - magic. This debut single delivers on the title big time. First you move your toes, then the head jumps in, and then if you're feeling adventurous, you can get a bit of a groove on with the shoulders and hips. The vocals are tight; the drums are bang on, the guitar and bass more than do their job. I don't know what one calls this style of music - ska-emo-punk rock, perhaps? I'm sure there's a term for it, but at the moment I couldn't care less. I'm too busy trying to figure out when I can see them live.

rocheteburgess



NEW RELEASES

To the uninitiated, the Live Music Society is host to some talented singers, poets, musicians and music lovers/gig attendees. Many of these musicians display their wonderful skills at our Open Mic nights in the Underground Bar.

The night was opened by a jamming session of rock favourites. Keen to demonstrate their instrumental dexterity rather than singing talents, the band opted for an all-instrumental version of the medley. It was felt singing can often deflect from an appreciation of the music and this was certainly a bold choice which worked brilliantly. In addition, there were the usual Open Mic favourites: a female capella duo, a boisterous jazz unit, as well as two poetry readings on love and sex by the Literature Society and the ubiquitous guitar-clad students strumming away to Enrique Iglesias's 'Hero'. Other performers were more experimental; one

singer delivered a melancholic but entertaining version of country singer Dolly Parton's 'Jolene'.

The Live Music Society acts as a platform for bands and performers across London to showcase their talent. The great thing about the society is that you don't have to be a musician to enjoy its benefits; many of the members are simply ordinary talentless folk who listen to music constantly and voraciously and want to meet like-minded individuals. You have the chance to sample some great acts for a very small amount of money. Where else will you get to see bands perform great music every few weeks?

The next Open Mic nights are on Tuesday 6th November (week 5) and 27th November (week 8) in the Underground Bar.

For more information email Su.Soc.Livemusic@lse.ac.uk

alshohyder admires the talent in live music soc

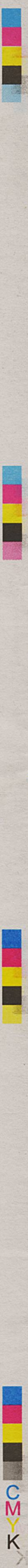
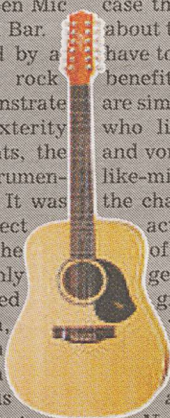
MUSIC ON CAMPUS

eniceng reviews violinist jennifer pike

In this day and age when any child who can so much play in tune is touted as a prodigy, it is refreshing to see someone actually live up to the praise. Jennifer Pike opened her programme at the Gala concert with the 'Debussy Sonata', proving from the first note that she's already developed a distinctive voice on the violin, as well as impeccable technique and an understanding of the atmosphere of French music. Next came the Beethoven 'Sonata No. 7 in C minor', which showed Pike's masterful balance between theatrical performance and control. The phrasing was intelligent, and the dynamics wonderfully nuanced, and it was one of the most intelligent interpretations of Beethoven I have heard - all the more impressive given that Ms. Pike isn't even eighteen yet.

After the intermission, it was the Ysaye 'Sonata No. 2 in A Minor for Solo Violin', and if there had to be one low point of the performance then this was it. Somehow, there wasn't enough of the blistering clarity of tone that I associate with Ysaye; however, Pike's technique and her

ability to carry the piece was impressive. Her spirited performance of the Elgar 'Sonata in E Minor' more than made up for the disappointment as her playing was bold, dignified and a delight to listen to. The Elgar was, quite simply, magic in her hands. Throughout the programme, her pianist, Daniel Tong, also gave excellent accompaniment, and there was an evident camaraderie between the two that only enhanced the quality of the performance. For an encore, Pike performed a touching rendition of Kreisler's well known 'Liebesleid'. Overall, I came away impressed. Jennifer Pike, at age seventeen, has the stage presence of someone much older. Never once did she fall into the trap of letting the piece carry her away. Throughout her performance, she always managed a balance between passion and quiet control. All I can say is: if Pike can give such a good show at seventeen, I look forward to attending her performances when she's thirty.



A Novel with Cocaine

the book by M. Ageyev is reviewed by Tom Warren

This is a special and rare novel that has endured adulation, scorn and intrigue with almost equal amount. Amongst its admirers are Will Self and J.G. Ballard, both noted for their own rich and unconventional literature, and amongst its detractors Vladimir Nabokov, who criticised it as a foul novel of degeneracy. The origin of the novel itself is also a great source of interest to its readers. Written by a supposed Russian émigré after the revolution it was sent from Istanbul to Paris where it was published in a journal of Russian literature. It was celebrated upon publication and was subsequently lost for many years until a fan of the original publication stumbled across it in a second hand Parisian bookshop and set about translating it; it then enjoyed tremendous success for the second time, first in its French translation and later in other tongues. Of the author little is known. The name Ageyev is a pseudonym, and speculation about his identity has been rife. Some say that Ageyev was in fact the nom de plume of the enigmatic Nabokov, who later denounced the work, adding to his mystique. Others believe that the unknown author returned to Russia and was condemned to a gulag for the remainder of his life. It is also said that the man was named Marc Levi and had sent his passport to Paris with the manuscript, only to return to Russia where he died in the 1970s. This story too remains uncorroborated. Regardless, the writer had

an obvious wealth of experience with cocaine, which in the early part of the last century was beginning to proliferate as a drug of choice for many. As one reads the account, it also becomes apparent that the writer also had experience with addiction, as he richly describes the ritual of its insufflations and the enervated languor that comes with smoking a cigarette after partaking of the drug.

Cocaine however, does not represent the totality of this fine novel. It is concerned with an unscrupulous youth named Vadim who blithely follows sensual pleasure, wherever it may be found, and often at the expense of others. He consorts unhappily with prostitutes and knowingly passes his syphilis on to an innocent girl whom he meets, to his malicious amusement. He scorns his mother for her poverty and pretends not to recognise her, spurning her unconditional love, and equally scorns his classmates for their affluence. This is important, given that the novel is set against the backdrop of the Russian revolution, though it is only mentioned directly once in the entire novel. For Vadim, the politics of his age can hardly distract him from his growing proclivity towards degeneracy, which eventually leads to the futility of cocaine addiction. The one moralist in the story is his fellow classmate Burkewitz, who preaches humanism and derides their school pastor

for hypocrisy. Burkewitz's progression in the novel mirrors Vadim's, for as Vadim's lust for pleasure leads him down the path of addiction, Burkewitz's morals drive him to become a successful member of the Communist Party, on whom Vadim's fate rests at the conclusion of the novel. It is often argued that the novel echoes Dostoyevsky's nuanced reflections on human psychology, although in many ways Vadim is merely a lost adolescent who follows his callous caprices to their catastrophic ends. He has no restraint and his lack of ethics lead him to a state of addiction, from which he dreams of redemption yet finds none.

The style of the novel is also quite unique. It is lean prose yet also has a withheld tendency to the absurd, not unlike Gogol. The prose juxtaposes Vadim's cynicism with his few sentiments of adolescent love, and ultimately the majestic and exultant rush, and following low, of cocaine with a delicacy that is seldom found in literature dealing with drugs. The primary reason for this is that it is not simply a novel about drugs but a study of the human character in the best traditions of Russian literature. On these grounds, I recommend this novel to anyone, for whilst paying homage to the Russian literary tradition the novel also foreshadows later transgressive literature by such luminaries as Easton Ellis and Burroughs in its ability to shock and awe, yet with a subtlety and resonance that many established writers lack.

"Life, living, all is Death's"

anup Patel reviews the royal ballet's production of romeo and juliet

Visiting the Royal Opera House is one of the must do things whilst living in London. Having been last year to see the ballet of Swan Lake, this year's choice was Romeo & Juliet, a story that is much easier to follow than that of Swan Lake. Seeing a production at the ROH has to be done in style, so naturally I went suited and booted, had a nice 3 course meal before, some drinks on arrival and an ice cream in the interval. It is just part of the experience. But this, as strange as it may sound does not come at a price, us humble students can have the pleasure of the ballet or opera for a very cheap rate. The seats we were in only cost £15 each and were slightly restricted but only if you were very short, the view was just as good as the one from the seats behind us which were £45 each. However a word of warning, you have to book very early to

see the popular events for cheap, I booked mine in June of this year. Admittedly dinner at the ROH is very expensive, so it's best to go to a restaurant near by, many offer good set menu's for around £15, our choice was Rock Garden on the piazza at Covent Garden, nice food, not amazing but a good fast service. On arrival into the ROH the modernised atrium section with its bars and restaurants overwhelms you with its grandeur and once you take your seats in the auditorium the nostalgia of the place really hits you. As for the actual production itself it was perfect. The story follows that of the play quite closely and the major scenes are well mirrored. The dancing was quite exceptional and well worked, I don't know much about the technicalities of ballet but it always amazes me at the things they can do. As this was an adaptation of a play there was less dancing than in Swan Lake but the quality was just as high. The musical score by Prokofiev is very dramat-

ic and the dancing was well choreographed to it. During the Ball Room Scene the score is 'Dance of the Knights', more commonly known as the Apprentice theme to you and me and immaturely I half expected Sir Alan Sugar to come out and say, 'You're Fired!' The fight scenes are the best in my opinion, well choreographed and at a high tempo. The ballet goes on to wind itself into a tragic end, the curtains close and the audience erupt in a flurry of applause and admiration. Visiting the ballet or opera is an experience you won't forget, and in most cases will make you want come again. It certainly did for me and before I came to London I never saw myself going to the ballet, but here we are. It makes a change from all the usual student entertainment on offer; one I hope some of you will get the chance to experience.

Where: Royal Opera House
When: Until 25 November 2007

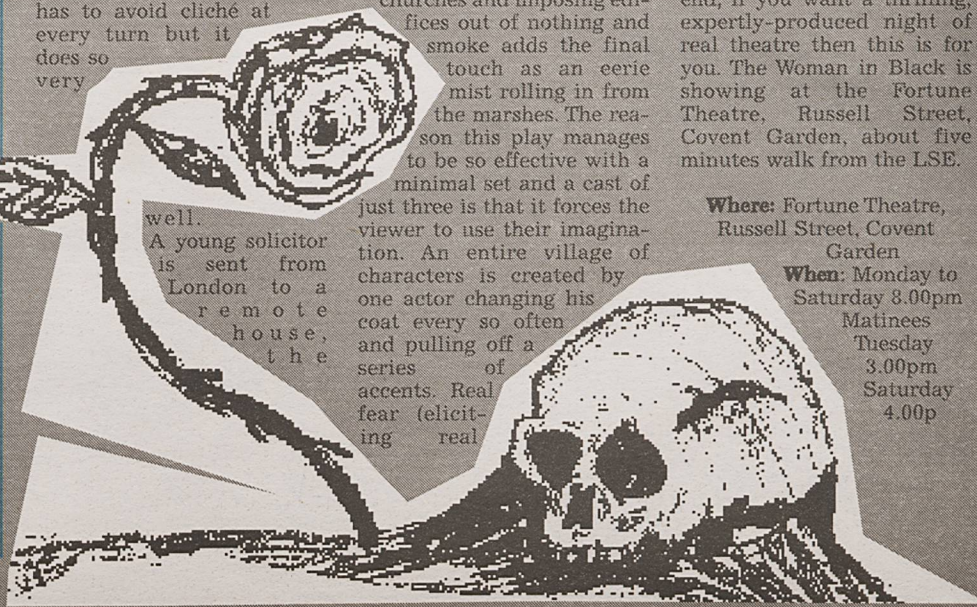
Willjoce reviews the woman in black

The Woman in Black describes itself as a thriller, which does it little justice. This simple, well crafted gem meanders from the merely creepy to the utterly terrifying and provides a completely satisfying evening out. The essence of the whole thing is simplicity. The story follows a path so well trodden that it has to avoid cliché at every turn but it does so very

locals are grim faced and unforthcoming and lo and behold very shortly ghostly happenings are scaring the wits out of everybody involved, especially the audience. The staging of this play is very clever, minimalist and for that, all the more scary. The sets are simple and yet effective, packing cases double as desks, carriages and railway coaches. Lighting effects create cavernous churches and imposing edifices out of nothing and smoke adds the final touch as an eerie mist rolling in from the marshes. The reason this play manages to be so effective with a minimal set and a cast of just three is that it forces the viewer to use their imagination. An entire village of characters is created by one actor changing his coat every so often and pulling off a series of accents. Real fear eliciting real

screams) is created through a door opening and a rocking chair rocking. In my opinion the art of theatre is suggestion, not showing the audience what you want them to see but allowing them to create it in their own head, and the Woman in Black is a masterpiece of this. If flashing lights and loud noises are what you need to entertain you then stick to the blockbuster musicals in the west end, if you want a thrilling, expertly-produced night of real theatre then this is for you. The Woman in Black is showing at the Fortune Theatre, Russell Street, Covent Garden, about five minutes walk from the LSE.

Where: Fortune Theatre, Russell Street, Covent Garden
When: Monday to Saturday 8.00pm
Matinees Tuesday 3.00pm Saturday 4.00p



LAND OF VODKA MUSHROOMS

nilanthisangarabalan trys out arts and crafts on a Youth Exchange in Poland

In summer 2006, thanks to the good folks of the Kingston upon Thames Rotary Club myself and a fellow classmate, Emily, were offered a free trip to Poland as part of a Youth Exchange programme. We would spend the week with representatives from France, Germany, Poland, Brazil and even Canada. Of course we wouldn't be staying at a five-star hotel in the middle of a city. We were going to spend a week in Funka, a camp in the middle of a forest, in the middle of nowhere, a rather long drive away from Bydgoszcz. On Sunday morning I joined Emily and another representative for the UK, Cyril, at Waterloo, along with three French boys - Sylvain, Yves and Jerome. Upon arrival in Funka we were joined by Franek and Marta, the Polish participants, along with Cheebi, Phillip (Germany), Leo (Brazilian) and Adam, the lone Canadian. Each person brought something to the group: Sylvain's legendary card tricks will not be forgotten, Cheebi's guitar playing provided much entertainment with Eduardo's tambourine and everyone wailing along and Cyril spontaneously came up with lyrics to what became the much loved song "Poland, Land of the Mushrooms".

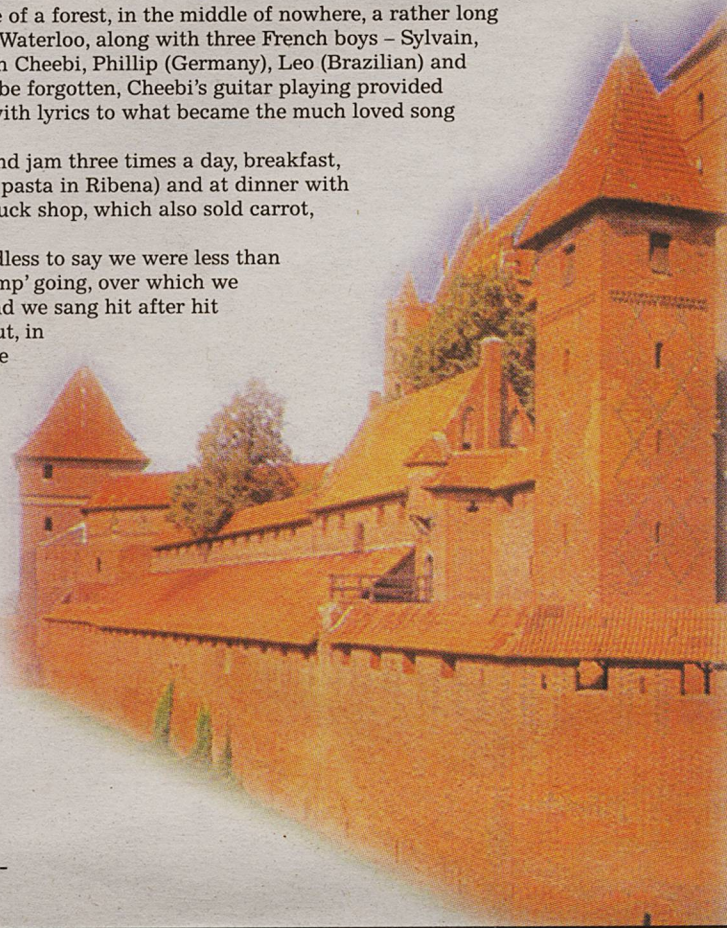
The food was an experience in itself, and one that won't be forgotten in a hurry. We ate bread, cheese, ham and jam three times a day, breakfast, lunch and dinner. This routine was only broken up at lunch time by mysterious soups (one appeared to be fusilli pasta in Ribena) and at dinner with various casseroles, meatballs, etc. Meals were interspaced with chips and chocolate from the little café and the tuck shop, which also sold carrot, orange and lemon juice disguised as orange juice.

On our first evening in the camp we were all instructed to go and hunt for firewood in the damp forest. Needless to say we were less than successful, but someone dug a few logs out of a cupboard somewhere so we eventually managed to get a 'fire-camp' going, over which we cooked our sausages. After a strenuous effort and with our 'fire-camp' blazing away, Cheebi got out the guitar and we sang hit after hit by Oasis, the only songs Cheebi could play that everyone knew the words to. This trend was to continue in the hut, in the bedrooms, in the hall and throughout the week. In fact, it was during the evenings that we tended to have the most fun, whether it was singing, chatting or simply learning 'typical' English phrases from Cyril, which included 'Cor Blimey' and 'Don't get Cocky!'

In the middle of the week we had our major excursion to Malbork Castle and Gdansk. Malbork is the world's largest brick castle, and was extremely impressive even though our guide threatened to lock us in the dungeons. Gdansk is Poland's largest port and is also famous for its amazing architecture, although myself and Emily were also impressed with the shopping, and wonderful prices of silver and amber jewellery. It was also in Gdansk that we discovered the strange Polish fascination with knee high stockings, which we did not try to understand.

The wicker workshop was one of the more artistic activities we participated in: even the boys got involved making wicker rings, chains and other more inventive sculptures. Later on in the week, we had a clay modelling workshop. It was the horse riding, however, that was possibly the most embarrassing experience. Under the impression that we would be romantically galloping through the dense forest, hair loose and flowing in the wind with shiny riding hats and matching boots, a group of us set off one afternoon to the paddock to get our horses. However, we were greeted by four children who got each of us up onto our steeds, tied into our reins, and then proceeded to lead us around the paddock, slowly but surely. Our romantic ideals were shattered, but with hindsight, it was probably better that way as I was clinging on for dear life as we walked at about 3mph.

Although it was not the kind of holiday I was expecting, I left Funka having thoroughly enjoyed myself and having made friends for life, as well as gaining foreign accommodation. Since that summer many of the participants have met up with us in England and last summer Emily and I went back to Bydgoszcz to catch up with the Polish participants. I owe a lot to the people of Bydgoszcz and hope that future Youth Exchange participants have as much fun as I did.



TRAVEL

ALL SYSTEMS GO?

SimonWang is fed up with all the fighting

However casual a gamer you are, you still ought to be an informed one. So with this in mind I thought we could kick off this spanking new section with some contemplation of the Console Wars - the endless ongoing conflict between 'the big three' in the console industry, Nintendo, Microsoft and Sony.

We are in our seventh generation of moaning, backstabbing and general controversy, and in terms of gaming unrest nothing seems to have changed since the NES was spitting on the Mastersystem all those years ago. However the consoles themselves have, quite obviously, changed a great deal.

For example, the shiny, tiny and darn right confusing Nintendo Wii. It isn't a huge surprise that the ickle Wii is doing gosh-darn well for itself, just recently overtaking the Xbox360 in terms of sales of consoles because novelty sells. As we all well know, the biggest thing about the Wii is that it has motion sensing capabilities, and beyond that, little else. It's true that motion sensing is a big step to removing some imaginative skills need to play a game, but to be honest with the current range of games (which is fairly thin, it must be said) the developers haven't been particularly imaginative with using that capability. The remote wagging abilities of the Wii have - rather than revolutionising how games are played - merely replaced the constant A-button pressing. So instead of

ripping apart a controller, you end up wagging a stick in a very dodgy way instead.

In direct contrast to Nintendo's tiny ickle shiny demon is Sony's predictably named, predictably powerful behemoth the Playstation 3. The fact that the thing costs as much as half of Mexico doesn't help, especially since the justification of the price is due to the fact that it features many technologies which would only be useful when the technologies are sensibly priced (in several years time) such as 'Blu-Ray' and eight processors running at the same time causing the machine to be as hot as

Mexico in summer. But of course, the Playstation 3 isn't just a video games console, it does all these other magical things as well such as playing high definition movies and playing music and surfing the internet and all the rest of the media stuff, but the whole idea of Blu-Ray is stupid anyway since I don't think me watching Generic Science Fiction Film XVII would be significantly improved on my tiny 17 inch monitor on Blu-Ray rather than regular old DVD to justify me spending several hundred pounds on either a Blu-Ray player or a Playstation 3. Incidentally, with the console itself being so powerful and expensive, this leads to users expecting

extremely well-put-together and graphically excellent games, which in turn leads to development costs soaring to uncomfortably high levels.

In between the mainstream housewife-targeting Nintendo Wii and the extremely narrow minded and extreme geeky-targeting Playstation 3, we have Microsoft's Xbox 360, whose target audience is essentially swearing and pitiful teenage boys, due to the fact that the majority of Xbox 360 games are essentially about BIG MEN with BIG GUNS shooting aliens or robots or zombies or bees or flowers or something. People who play it seem to be (If Xbox Live Arcade, the Xbox's online chat service, is any indication) at that age where you really really want to drink, but just are not old enough yet, so you need to vent your anger elsewhere. Don't get me wrong, the console is great fun, it would just be nice to have some VARIETY, y'know, a game that doesn't involve a helmeted guy shooting down seven thousand aliens while holding two sub machineguns?

Ooh, and of course there's the PC, where the only real problem lies in the fact that if you want to buy a computer to play any of the newer games half-decently you could, for the same price, buy all of the consoles just mentioned, as well as Mexico. Three times.

TECH&GAMING IS LOOKING FOR WRITERS! TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST PLEASE EMAIL THEBEAVERPART@LSE.AC.UK AND WE WILL GIVE YOU LOTS OF FREEBIES!



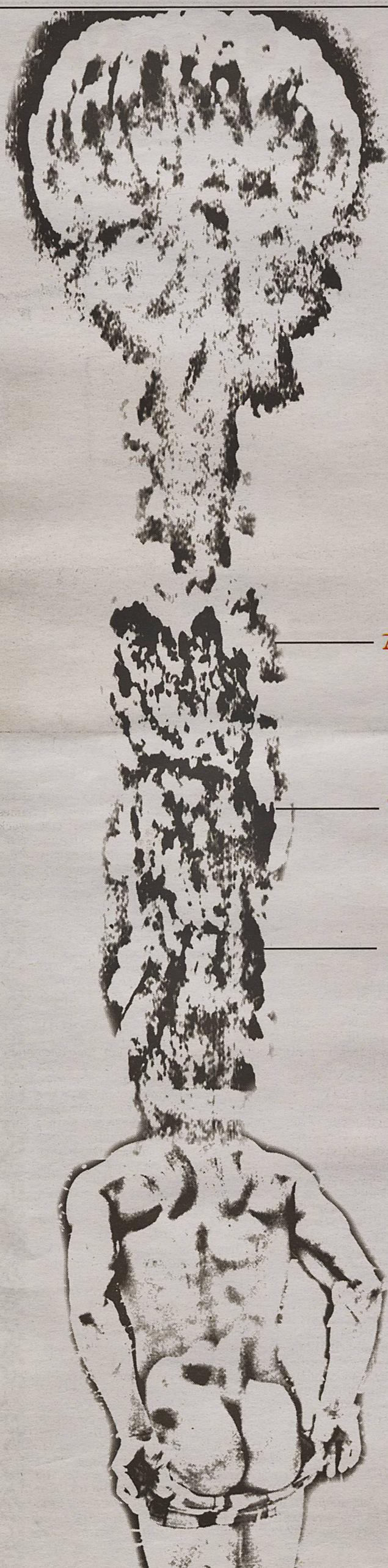
At the center of the London Games Festival last week was something completely unexpected, a little concert in the heart of the city called Video Games Live. This concert event has created

large ripples in geeky circles in the two years that it has been in operation, where large famous orchestras around the world play music from some of the most popular video games of all time. So it was with huge anticipation when I walked down to the Southbank Centre on a windy Thursday evening to attend Video Game Live's UK stop at the Royal Victoria Hall. and the London Philharmonic Orchestra did not disappoint. There was a very wide plethora of tracks played ranging from Final Fantasy to Mario to retro soundtracks from Tetris and Frogger played by the full orchestra, while a large screen projected the game in real time. It was really interesting to see how the 8-bit blips and bleeps of retro games of old were converted and interpreted to full orchestral piece, but it was also great to relive recent games that I had played recently such as Bioshock's soundtrack, which is also performed (I completed the game on the same day!).

The event was splattered with some really fun additions, such as getting people to play computer games such as Frogger and Space Invaders on the large screen, while the orchestra coordinated the game music and real time. There were also fantastic solo performances as well as videogame actors onstage performing while songs to their videogames were being played, I couldn't help but laugh when a box (containing who else but Solid Snake) wandered up onto stage, but the best part of all would of course be the atmosphere itself - thousands of DSs pictochatting across the concert hall, hundreds of cosplayers showing us how Master Chief really should've looked, but best of all, me getting hit round the head by a tentacle by a big, purple, misshaped tentacle monster.

TECH AND GAMING





Part B needs friends :

Positions Available :

Assisant Editor (Straw Boss)

duties = write up features, steal freebies, touch the famous, eat food.
committment = some hours a week, not more than 5.
perks = love, bylines, interviews, CV building and discreet love, campus-wide celebrity, some good times indeed.

Interview Honcho

duties = harass the famous, get to know the PR business, enjoy life.
committment = a few hours a week.
perks = love, interviews, CV building and overt love.

Secretary

duties = some admin, heading a task force or two, helping Daniel smoke.
committment = only a couple of hours a week.
perks = CV building, satisfaction, an easy route into TheBeaver.

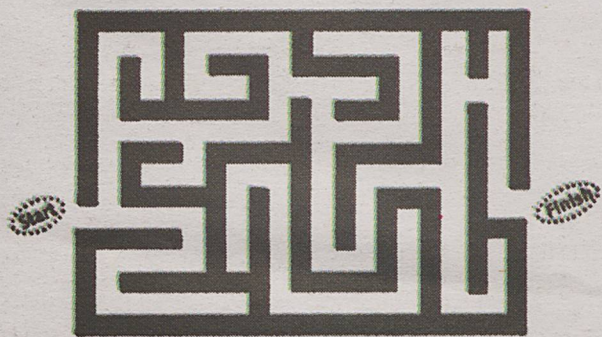
to apply for any of the positions simply
email us at thebeaver.partb@lse.ac.uk
and we will come back at you with offers.

C-Word

PARTB SUDOKU

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

PARTB MAZE



Last Issue:
Email thebeaverpartb@lse.ac.uk for a personalised list of solutions

LSE in
Email thebeaverpartb@lse.ac.uk

LOVE

I saw you in the Brunch Bowl. You had baked beans, but you used your hands, not the spoon, then wiped your hand on the sausages. You thought no one saw but I did.

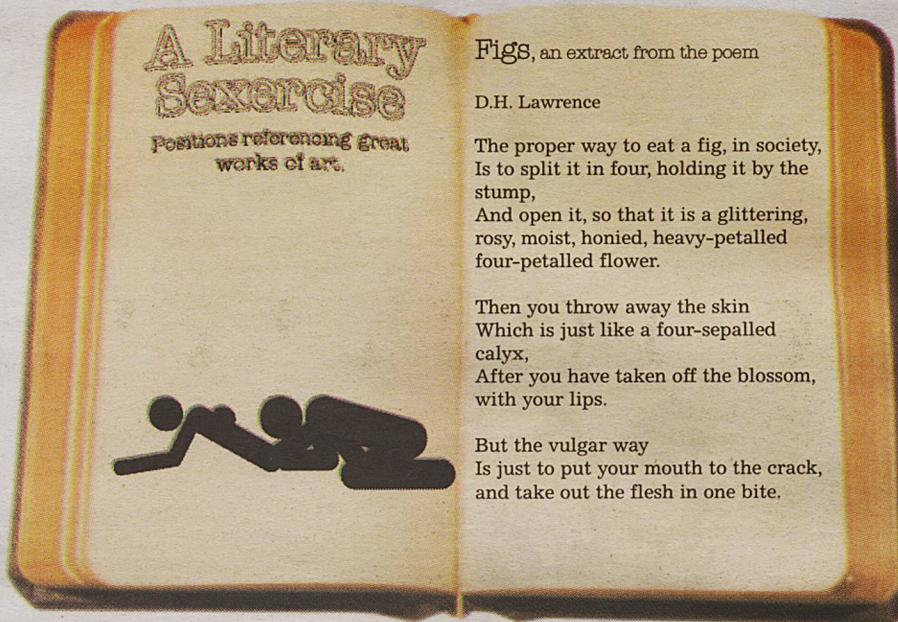
Have you gone to prison? I waited on the corner of the Garrick for two days just to score some of your nasty soapbar. There's a shaking and withdrawn market here, come and serve.

Your initials are L.B. and you have eyes that the Carey Brothers have written a song about. I think you're the greatest person in the world. My initials are M.L.

I generally tend to fondle in dark corners, a bible strapped to my back, both for spiritual protection and handy advice on clean-up. (Isiah 10-23).

The way to my heart is copious amounts of alcohol and brute force. You knew that at Crush! and took advantage. The test came back positive.

The disabled toilets have been out of order for a month after what you did in there. I am on a ventilator and am being treated for PTSD. You ruined my world. Let's do it again.



Figs, an extract from the poem

D.H. Lawrence

The proper way to eat a fig, in society, is to split it in four, holding it by the stump, and open it, so that it is a glittering, rosy, moist, honied, heavy-petalled four-petalled flower.

Then you throw away the skin which is just like a four-sepal calyx, after you have taken off the blossom, with your lips.

But the vulgar way is just to put your mouth to the crack, and take out the flesh in one bite.

Ask Auntie Shaw REMIX



Hello again, my dears! As you know, this academic year began with me starting a voyage of intellectual discovery as I pursued my new career in the field of Anthropology. My journey so far has transported me deep into the minds of individuals who both fascinate and arouse me. This week, I venture to the east of our fair city, and catch wit my homeboys. I'm a Grime MC! So hit me up with your letters - and be quick, I'm going to a grime rave tonight and writing responses can be long. Safe, bluds. Brap!

Dear Auntie,

I feel funny. The symptoms are: loss of appetite, profuse sweating, tightness of the jaw, uncontrollable urges to hug people, bursts of physical energy and a new found addiction to any music with a fat bassline. I am beginning to think what I found in my medicine cabinet is a lot more than proplus. Please advise!

Sincerely,
Up All Night
1st year Government

Mandem, you've been messin' with those magic beans, haven't you, bruv? You best watch out, nothin' good comes from drugs, man. Unless its draw, in which case I am all for it. But it ain't a drug, ya get me? It's a herb, bruv - naturally occurring. I'm well up for that shit. And always remember, pass the dutchie to the left!

Safe, blud.
Shawty

Hey Auntie,

I really need some advice. There is a boy I really, really like. I've known him for months as a

friend, and we get along really well together. We go to the same kind of clubs, have the same great taste in music, and we make each other laugh. And even when we disagree, it just sparks up a passionate debate we both enjoy. On top of it all, I'm also really attracted to him. And I think he's attracted to me. How do I know? Well, the other night we all went out for our usual weekend antics. At the club, the two of us were taking a break from dancing, sitting on the sofa, chatting and laughing as usual, when one friendly slap turned into a caress, and before you know it, we were making out! Great recipe for love, right? Well, one thing I didn't mention is that this guy has a girlfriend. What do I do?

Secret Love,
2nd year Econ History

Daaaaaaaamn, girl. You're what a brother like me calls jailbait - you get mandem in deep trouble. I bet you're mad buff, as well, with huge baby-lons. Listen babe, as for messing with another chick's man, it should be avoided as much as possible. Standardly. You can't mess with shit like that unless you are prepared to deal with the consequences. Make sure mandem is worth it before you make any decisions you may regret, cos bruv sounds doug to me. And for your sake I hope his bird aint batty cos when she clocks on you'll be bruck up!

One love,
Shawty

Auntie, I AM SO BROKE. Like, broker than broke. I'm so bad with money I've forgotten what it's like to not be in my overdraft. What do I do? Screw budgeting, I need a sure fire way to make some quick cash. I'll do any-

thing, Auntie! Help me out!

Cheers,
FC Boy
3rd year IR

Damn son, I know it's tough to be a student. All those late nights, missed morning classes, discounts at shops - almost as tough as life in my ends where kids get shanked on the daily and mandem ain't safe at night unless he's got a whip or he's the biggest guy on road, ya get me? My man was chattin bare fraff about dis yatty he was lipsin, about how she was cris an dem ting dare but when I clocked her my girl was buss still, ya get me?

Dear Auntie,

It seems as though you have the answers to everything, so perhaps you can help me out with a little problem I'm having in one of my courses. Basically, I have an essay due next week and no time to write it - how does 1,500 words on rational choice theory sound to you?

Love,
Cheeky Bastard
2nd year Gov & Econ

Rational theory? Mandem, I'm as rational as they come. See, when a hoodrat gets merked bre crease but tapping that wastegash or sket gets even a serious cat rinsed, ye get me? Easy, bruv, that's rationality.

Well, time for me to get back to my usual self, and continue with my journey. Who knows where I'll be next week? Send your lovely emails to the thebeaverpartb@lse.ac.uk, or befriend me on Facebook and remember, I've seen things you people wouldn't believe, so don't be shy!



Features:

Minorities and Establishments

Red isn't Dead

South America should take its cue from Chavez, not Kirchner

Vladimir Unkovski-Korica



Blue is True

Unfettered free speech? It's elementary, my dear Dr. Watson

Annette Pacey



Last week, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner became the first woman to become president of Argentina. Her husband, Néstor, came to power in early 2003, towards the end of the deepest depression in Argentine history. This was caused by successive IMF-driven neo-liberal reforms. His term was used up employing various shades of repression and co-optation to defuse the widespread social protests and factory occupations that resulted from the economic crisis.

More than that, Néstor Kirchner united with Brazil's Lula da Silva against the anti-imperialist resistance coalescing around the Cuba-Venezuela-Bolivia axis. He and Lula threw cold water on the revolutionary mobilisations in Bolivia in 2003, and in 2004, sent troops to Haiti to legitimise the US-backed coup against Aristide. Both leaders are more interested in doing business with the G8 (and Washington in particular) than regional co-operation with Hugo Chávez and Evo Morales. This tension explains why Argentina and Brazil shun joint action by debtor nations against the G8, and stall any real customs union in Latin America.

Never a radical, Kirchner played the model moderate counterweight to the continent's leftist fight-back. His wife will be more of the same. Latin America's neo-liberal crisis can only be solved by applying – more neo-liberalism!

That this is patently not the case is illustrated in Venezuela. Ever since the world's sentinel of democracy supported a failed coup against the democratically elected and re-elected socialist president of Venezuela back in 2002, social pressure for change has been pushing Venezuela to redistribute wealth, rather than accumulate it for the small elite. For instance, while the revolutionary Bolivarian government has spent less of its GDP on arms than previous Venezuelan governments – 1.3 to 1.4 as against 1.6 to 1.8 per cent. Almost 15 per cent of GDP has gone into social programmes. Chávez has also offered sanction-constrained Cuba oil in exchange for world class doctors. Oil for the poor, not blood for oil – naturally, the G8 hate Chávez's guts!

The trouble for the Bolivarian revolution and Chávez's declared project of 'Socialism for the 21st Century', however, is that these social reforms are indeed based on high oil prices. In part, this is related to a far more deep-seated contradiction: the struggle between what the American socialist Hal Draper called 'the two souls of socialism' – socialism from above, and socialism from below. Chávez's government cannot just be about doling out goodies from on high. In the words of Marx, "the emancipation of the working classes must be conquered by the working classes themselves."

This clash has manifested itself in the revolutionary process both in Venezuela itself and in the rest of Latin America. No one should have shed any tears when Chávez closed down one of Venezuela's most rabidly pro-coup and pro-neoliberal private television stations (RCTV) in early 2007. One could take a good laugh at the USA for emitting its hypocritical howls of indignation. But the genuine radical left should have gone beyond the false dichotomy of deciding between private corporate media or state-controlled top-down outlets. Community-based radio stations – some of which were popularly created to counter the coup in 2002 – are viable self-managing alternatives. Similarly, while agreeing with Chávez that the revolution must spread if it is to escape its oil-dependence, we must accept that buying \$5bn of Argentine bonds to rescue the country from its indebtedness is no more socialist than when Soviet tanks 'liberated' East Europe after the Second World War.

While the rich retain control of the resources of Latin America, the dream of Simon Bolivar and San Martín to unite the continent cannot be fulfilled. We should support the Bolivarian process across the continent – but also fight for its extension from below.

When scientist and co-discoverer of DNA Dr James Watson suggested to a Sunday Times interviewer that the intelligence of black people was inferior to that of white people, I was reminded of an old Eddie Murphy stand up routine. As I recall, Eddie complains that white people are always going on about being equal. "Why does the white man always say we are equal?" he demands to know. "Who the hell is he to be equal to?"

Dr Watson's embarrassing comments highlight the uncomfortable fact that even the keenest scientific minds are not immune to nasty and irrational prejudices. Although he quickly tried to take it all back, and pointed out there was no scientific basis for such a belief, it was too late. The Science Museum had already cancelled his lecture, saying that he had gone beyond the point of acceptable debate.

This mini-scandal raises the question of how we cope as a society with opinions that we don't like, ranging from the mildly politically incorrect to the bigoted and the outright wrong. The approach of the Science Museum is typical. Freedom of speech is fine up to a point, but there is a line you just can't cross. To offend someone these days seems to mean that you should be silenced.

This is not just a vague hunch, it is written into the law. In my pre-LSE days I worked for a company which trained all its managers in the basics of employment law. One point that was hammered home was the definition of harassment: if someone feels offended by something in the workplace, then they can effectively claim they are being harassed. We managers were warned to avoid anything that might cause the slightest offence – which, in the context of the extremely diverse workforce we managed, seemed close to impossible in practice.

By contrast, philosopher John Stuart Mill argued in his classic work *On Liberty* that the only justification for restricting an individual's freedom would be to prevent harm to others. Mill was famously vague about what constituted harm, but he did make clear that mere offence did not count. That is to say: I may find your views offensive but being offended is not the same as being harmed, and there is therefore no justification for you to be silenced. One of Mill's best cases for this is the dead dogma argument: however true an opinion might be, if it is not fully, frequently and fearlessly discussed it will be held as a dead dogma, rather than as a living truth.

Mill's dead dogma argument is worth remembering in our politically correct age. We have little to fear from extreme and eccentric views, even when they cross the line of the racism, sexism, and homophobia that most people find unacceptable. Indeed, the more vile and intolerant views are, the more important it is to get them out into the cold light of day where they can be refuted for good. Wouldn't it have been better to allow Dr Watson's Science Museum appearance to go ahead, so that he could be publicly questioned and humiliated by his peers over his plainly racist views? Cancelling his lecture let him off the hook too easily.

It may feel instinctively right to restrict freedom of speech when the views expressed contradict the standards of equality and tolerance we value in our society, but politically correct censorship can prevent the most repugnant views from being contradicted and shown to be wrong. The existence of freedom of speech necessarily means that people will sometimes be offended, but that is not a good enough reason to designate some topics as off-limits for discussion. The best defence against offensive views is cold, hard scrutiny and deft counter-argument. This is only possible when freedom of speech is not limited by the bounds of political correctness.

Notes on Nothing

“Society itself will be broken into so many parts, interests and classes of citizens, that the rights of individuals, or of the minority, will be in little danger from interested combinations of the majority.”

Or, to paraphrase US Founding Father James Madison, lots of minorities mean no overarching majority means free government. Madison's grand design for the American republic may explain why there are now more World of Warcraft players in the US than farmers. Or perhaps not. At any rate, in an age obsessed with integrating troublesome minorities, it is easy to forget the sheer democratic benefit of value pluralism.

All the same, what do we do when minorities have been pushed beyond the pale of the state, as in *Egypt* and *Mexico*?

What if minorities want their own Establishment, as Britain's Celtic fringes now demand of Westminster, including *Scottish independence*?

Finally, how do you solve that classic integration problem? How do you entice minorities back into the Establishment? This week, Features looks at the work of economist *Roland Fryer* to find out.



The Lib Dem leadership contest

The strange rebirth of liberal Britain?

Leadership hopeful Nick Clegg is a rising star in the new generation of British politicians. He should watch his language, though

Joseph Cotterill

What a fucking weird question. I genuinely don't think about myself in those terms. If I was a woman, would you ask me that question?"

All I did was ask Nick Clegg whether he thinks he's good looking. Since the Liberal Democrat leadership contest – triggered by the resignation of Sir Menzies Campbell in October, voting will begin in December – is currently Clegg's to lose, he had better get used to answering stupid questions. Clegg would much rather we concentrated on his new grand narrative for Britain's third political force. Clegg's campaign slogan is 'Britain's liberal future', and he can wax lyrical about the country's liberal past – not just of the great reforming administrations of Gladstone and Lloyd George at the last century's turn, but of figures like

one, of securing our entry into the European Community" in 1975. Most Tory MPs would opt for the almost obligatory genuflection before Margaret Thatcher; very few of them would share Clegg's impressive Eurocrat credentials. Much more importantly, as the Liberal Democrats' Home Affairs spokesman, Clegg has staked out supremely liberal positions on prisons policy and the immigration debate. Along with civil liberties, these themes drive his leadership campaign. No Tory would be seen dead proposing an amnesty for illegal immigrants, as Clegg has, on practical grounds – "because, if you think about it, no one has an interest in having six hundred thousand people living invisibly, in a twilight world of exploitation and illegality."

It is a fair, reality-based point. At the same time, Clegg never once rais-

the rest of the authoritarian measures that this government has run through with Conservative support in recent years."

Two Internationalisms

Despite his insistence that their "utterly different ideological directions" date back to the legacy of Thatcherism, from listening to Clegg it becomes obvious that the dividing line between the two politicians really comes down to two different types of internationalism, as the post-Blair generation of UK politicians comes to grapple with globalisation. Cameron's is an austere, competition-minded and security-obsessed vision, a world of border police where "we're all in it together". Clegg's vision seems brighter, greener – and more liberal. When I put it to him that his advoca-

the twain shall meet. That's the agenda of an integrated, liberal approach."

Labour "Authoritarianism"

In any case, when it comes to the Tories "I'm going to make damn sure that they don't get away with appropriating the word 'liberal' when I think it's become meaningless in their hands." There goes that language again.

So vituperative has Clegg become on the subject of Cameron's Conservatives that I am emboldened to ask him a question which beforehand I felt sure he would deflect with barely the bat of an eyelid. If it came to a hung parliament in 2009 or 2010, (as it well might) and Clegg was leader, would he cleave to Labour?

"No! No, no. I feel just as put off, if you like, by Labour's authoritarianism as I do by Cameron's phoniness on issues like social justice. If there was ever a perception that I was going one

way or the other, I would be all the keener to maintain equidistance." Clegg would indeed be foolish to nail his colours to any mast right now; especially when his sole challenger Chris Huhne has warned against turning the Liberal Democrats into "Britain's third conservative party" – a clear dig at his rival's past flirtation with small government and strong law and order. All the same, "equidistance" seems a modest goal given Clegg's stated aim of breaking the Liberal Democrats out of their third party prison.

On the other hand, making a deal with Labour as it is now might prove to be a pointless pact, far less a Faustian one. Labour has become "completely hollowed out as a political movement. I think they are in a bit of a crisis with Gordon Brown, who we were told had these great, dark thoughts that would be revealed one day – who's actually emerged as a strangely empty politician."



"If they're so keen on drawing red lines in Brussels, they should be drawing red lines in Washington"

"No one has an interest in having six hundred thousand people living invisibly, in a twilight world of exploitation and illegality"

Keynes and Beveridge (the LSE guru who had a hand in both National Insurance and the NHS).

Ugly Business for Show People

Looks nevertheless remain an issue for Clegg, 40, who in 2002 left a successful European career as civil servant and then MEP to fight in the bearpit of British politics. They're one reason he has been called a Cameron Clone, after the (not unattractive) Conservative leader. Much more seriously, Tory commentators allege that Clegg is also an ideological clone, a liberal of a decidedly classical and free market cast. In the words of Iain Dale, Clegg is "one of us".

This is not a very convincing claim, however. Clegg is only mildly flustered when I ask him which Conservative leader he most admires. His answer, Ted Heath, is a characteristic one. "He took that momentous step, which was a brave and difficult

es the key issue of public services in our interview, other than in a throw-away criticism of Tony Blair's "haphazard reforms" on the matter. For a man who wants to be one of Britain's top three political leaders, this is bad news. Getting the right formula on health, education and pensions is a big deal, both for stalking the crowded centre ground of British electoral politics and for keeping the country buoyant in globalisation's surging tide.

Clegg's omission blunts an otherwise excoriating attack on the hypocrisy of his political contemporary David Cameron, whose own scanty public services agenda looks almost statesmanlike by comparison. "You can't be a liberal and talk about the environment, and then cut yourself off from the European Union, which is the only way to deliver environmental sustainability. You can't be a liberal campaigning against ID cards and cast an uncritical eye over

cy of a "Kyoto Two" might constrain our other policy choices, Clegg is reasonably flexible. "If there are better ones, which are workable, which can claim international support – yes, of course. I'm not fixated on the method. If people want to use different means to get to the same destination, that's fine. But a lot of capital has been invested, and a lot more needs to be invested, in getting China, the Americans and others on board Kyoto: a lot of them are slowly edging towards it. I'd rather hold their feet to the fire than start the whole rigmarole of reinventing a different approach."

Past Liberal Democrat leaders have had trouble striking the right tone on Britain external relations. Sir Menzies was limited by his fusty, if well-respected foreign affairs expertise. So far, however, Clegg seems different. "For me, it's all part of a continuum. I don't divvy up policy worlds into things which are international, things which are domestic, and never

"I'm not of a generation where distinctions between social democrats and liberals mean very much."

The Freedom Bill

Clegg however shies away when I ask him whether Labour's quandary is permanent – whether we are witnessing the strange death of Labour Britain, much as historians talk about the strange death of Liberal England a century previously. The traditional fear with Labour was always that it would legislate itself into obsolescence, and indeed Gordon Brown's rhetoric of fighting deprivation rings odd in what is after all an increasingly prosperous country. Incidentally, Clegg clearly intends to jettison the social democratic remnants that still hang on the Liberal Democrats, though he cloaks it in the formula that "I'm not of a generation where these distinctions between social democrats and liberals mean very much. And increasing numbers of MPs within the party think like this, and increasingly that's how the public think about us. I think it's a little bit self-indulgent to start splitting hairs on for what most voters seems a distant event." (The Social Democratic Party merged with the Liberals in 1988.)

Clegg's own diagnosis of Labour's fortunes remains much darker. If anything, Labour's legislative splurge has been on restricting liberty as much as on improving social outcomes – drafting twenty-three Justice Bills over the last decade, for instance. "We've got to show big, bold and alternative ways how we can set about restoring the balance in government, which I think is important in any mature democracy. I think we've lost genuine ground in our prerogatives and our privacies as citizens to the powers of the central state." Clegg thinks the Liberal Democrats have long been pioneers in this area, "as far back as 1997 when Gordon Brown made the Bank of England independent – we were the only party in British politics who actually made the argument for that before they did it." Now he wants a Freedom Bill to mop up and repeal unnecessary laws.

Slave to a Superpower

"The pendulum has swung so far to an authoritarian direction, in favour of government interference and in favour of centralisation, and so in favour of a lop-sided pro-American foreign policy, that the Liberal seems pulling in the opposite direction are starting to come into their own again." Clegg almost spits out "pro-American". Does he want Britain to make a decisive strategic choice between America and Europe? "Yes. I would like to see a choice made in favour of a club over which we have some influence, the European Union, rather than this slavish attitude towards a superpower over whom we have minimal influence." Clegg is just getting started. "And I have to say one of the most shameful acts in recent months took place on 25 July, when Gordon Brown smuggled out by way of a written statement a commitment to make Britain a fully integrated part of the Son of Star Wars system, Bush's advanced anti-missile shield, with no debate at all. Which is just unbelievable! We've become a vessel state of the Pentagon, and there's no debate!"

Once again, Clegg's lack of rhetorical restraint is striking, especially when I had expected him to be as smooth and suave a political operator as any of his generation. No British politician with an eye on capturing the mainstream would ever pompously call his country a "vassal state of the Pentagon". Sometimes Clegg's

colourful language meets its target, as when he lays into the government's "penal populism" and its "outrageous policy of mass incarceration." His American jibe is surprisingly petulant, however. The outburst does not make any particular grand strategic sense, either. A clever liberal, surely, would set out to lull the United States back into multilateral institutions, binding its immense power to the world bodies that will magnify future British influence out of all proportion to our island's geopolitical clout.

Outside his transatlantic comfort zone, Clegg is noticeably weak on his wider vision of a Liberal foreign policy. Though he considers himself "quite a hawk" on standing up to a resurgent authoritarian Russia, Clegg dissolves into a puddle of more rhetoric when it comes to dealing with Putin. Are the renegade Russian President's recent actions based on a legitimate Russian fear of "encirclement", as Clegg claims? Will containing Iran simply be a matter of encouraging amenable developments in its "internal domestic politics"?

In the final analysis, Clegg has a rhetoric problem to overcome. This is a shame, because Clegg's big idea – liberal internationalism – is one British politics desperately needs.

"We've got to show big, bold and alternative ways how we can set about restoring the balance in government, which I think is important in any mature democracy. I think we've lost genuine ground in our prerogatives and our privacies as citizens to the powers of the central state."

Mexican Minorities



A new kind of revolution?

The destitution of Chiapas and the rise of the new Zapatistas **Ossie Fikret**

On New Year's Day 1994, the city of San Cristobal, in the Mexican state of Chiapas, found itself besieged by an army. Dressed like bandits, this army was the Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN) – better known as the Zapatistas. Styled after the revered hero of the Mexican Revolution, Emiliano Zapata, these 'freedom fighters' clad in balaclavas and bearing AK-47s were a different breed of revolutionary. Their voice (although not their official leader) is the philosophical, pipe-smoking Subcomandante Marcos, the antithesis of the traditional Latin American freedom fighter.

Marcos speaks of the 'Mexican problem' in a hushed tone – the country has, over the course of a century, gone from Socialist bastion (and the resting place of Leon Trotsky) to an emerging market economy. The Zapatistas' big gripe is the ensuing alienation of Mexico's indigenous ethnic minorities such as the Mayans of Chiapas. Mexico's 1917 constitution guarantees land ownership rights to its indigenous people, but only so long as it is land held in common. Unfortunately, this is usually the worst type of land, infested with bogs and isolated by difficult hillsides and dense forests.

The indigenous population which makes up the majority of the Zapatistas are all from Chiapas, which is one of the most resource-rich states of Mexico, and one of the poorest in terms of healthcare, education and capital per head. 55 percent of hydroelectric energy comes from Chiapas, along with 20 percent of Mexico's total electricity. Yet in a cruel twist of fate, only one third of the homes in Chiapas have electricity. One third of Chiapanecos (as they are called) are illiterate, a further third of children do not attend school, and over ten thousand members of the state die of malnutrition or curable diseases annually. Based on these statistics, it is evident that the uprising of the people of Chiapas was a foregone conclusion. What it does not tell, however, is the story of a deeper Mexican problem.

The Zapatista movement claims to be a national and international movement. According to some, such as the former Mexican President Vicente Fox, they are fighting over nothing more than a regional dispute. But this view misses the point entirely. The EZLN are a symptom of the malaise of Mexico: systematic corruption, chronic unemployment and the millions of Mexicans who fled their home country to seek a better life in the United States are all symptoms of a more profound crisis within the foundations of the Mexican society. The indigenous Zapatista clenching his AK-47 and the teenage Mexican fleeing the border patrol in Texas are both demanding the same thing – a

better quality of life, or, more often than not, just an adequate quality of life. This is what makes the movement that sprang forth from Chiapas distinct from many other 'minority' movements. Not only do the demands of the revolutionaries and the desires of the average Mexican overlap, they are one and the same. Yet this is not a revolution that will be fought with bullets. This is not a revolution in the Latin American tradition but a move-

the day when, many would argue, the Mexican economy surged forward. Yet, NAFTA was devastating for the peasants of Mexico, especially those in Chiapas. The lack of investment in infrastructure by the Mexican Government left peasants in a marginalised state, unable to compete with the newly liberalised market. NAFTA has brought no benefits to Chiapas. In fact, the lack of investment, coupled with the constant military presence (evident not only in Chiapas, but across Mexico) has left the state in a worse position, arguably, than it has ever been in.

So what for the future? Are the Zapatistas to struggle onwards? Their movement is faced by threats from all sides. The ever-increasing number of Mexican soldiers in Chiapas, placed strategically alongside 'Zapatista autonomous zones', are bound to escalate tensions in the region. In addition to the official forces of the Mexican government, 'Pro-Government paramilitary organisations' are able to operate without accountability and carry out atrocities that are too politically damaging for the government to get directly involved. These groups function outside of the already frail margins of the law and are able to freely manoeuvre through the area, occupy local settlements and murder in defence of their 'nation'. Chiapas is a state on the edge. Similar to the 'powder keg' that Malcolm X spoke of – Chiapas is on the verge of an explosion. Only time will tell whether the modern Zapatistas will be successful in realising their goals, or like their historical inspiration witness their movement fade into the footnotes of history.

The indigenous Zapatista clenching his AK-47 and the teenage Mexican fleeing the border patrol in Texas are both demanding the same thing – a better quality of life

ment which has more in common with the 1989 fall of the Berlin wall. A battle of words and ideas, whether they are graffitied on walls, uploaded to Youtube or symbolised in the march on Mexico City – a march not unlike that of Martin Luther King's on Washington almost forty years before.

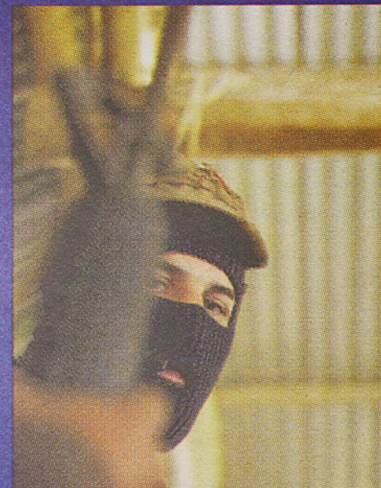
The date of the first official action of the EZLN is vitally important – the 1st of January 1994 – the day when the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) came into effect,

3 000

EZLN Insurgents

70 000

Mexican troops and police stationed in Chiapas



Subcomandante Marcos

Blackonomics



Acting bright

Profiling Harvard economist Roland Fryer

Jameel Kheraj and Joseph Cotterill

Young, dynamic and socially conscious: not the classic attributes of an economics professor. However, with an intriguing past and a likely illustrious future, Dr Roland G Fryer Jr was never going to fit the ivory tower stereotype.

Fryer's academic credentials are certainly stellar – having become a Harvard professor at the ripe old age of twenty-five, he was just one year off Friedrich Nietzsche's all-time professorship record – but they are not really the source of the intrigue. Nor, on the face of it, are Fryer's research interests all that controversial. Applying the arcana of institutional economic theory to reveal the counter-intuitive incentive structure of everyday life – so-called "freakonomics" – is now a popular and crowded field. Despite minor scandals, such as the work of Fryer's Harvard collaborator Steven Levitt linking rising abortion and falling crime rates in the US, investigating the persistent social immobility of Black America belongs well within the purview of this sparkling branch of the dismal science. The difference, of course, is that for Roland Fryer, it's personal.

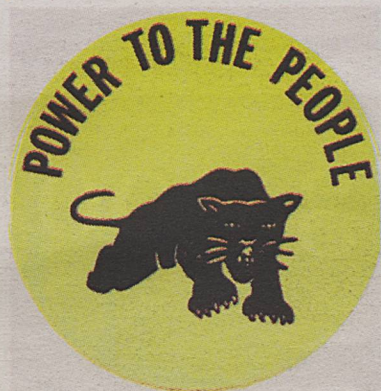
Young, gifted, and black

Fryer's whole life story provides a rather apt accompaniment and counterpoint to his research interests. Many of his close family are either in jail or dead. Fryer's father was convicted of a sexual assault in 1993. Absent throughout his son's childhood, he left jail only recently. As a teenager, Fryer himself had run-ins with the police. He became a full-time, gun-carrying gangster, selling marijuana on the street. Fryer's early biography practically epitomises the strange stalling of African-American economic achievement after the big bang of the Civil Rights era. As data Fryer himself collected point out, attending traditionally 'black' universities had a worse effect on career prospects in the nineties than in the seventies. Black America had gone backward. In an extensive 2005 New York Times interview with Freakonomics author Stephen Dubner, Fryer confronted his troubled past with honesty. "I always think I'm

supposed to be dead, not alive, much less at Harvard." Except that Fryer did get to one of America's best universities, after winning a whirlwind two-and-a-half year economics degree at the University of Texas.

Incentivised

In the same interview, Fryer distinguished between geneticist and environmentalist explanations of the differences in black and white social mobility. As far as Fryer is concerned, his past is a backhanded compliment to the power and complexity of nurture, as opposed to nature. Fryer's rocketing to the Ivy League, however, is proof of some environmental complexity indeed. So is the story of his own father, who, Fryer was shocked to learn in 2005, was a high school maths teacher before falling off the rails. Just as environmental factors can saddle children with significant disadvantages very early on in life, Fryer is sure that the same factors – a lucky break, or the right incentives – can rescue them. Bluntly, he has staked his academic career on rebuilding and liberalising the entire incentive structure of Black America.



Or not

This first of all means cataloguing and rooting out so-called perverse incentives, such as the social penalty placed on black children 'acting white' by achieving high grades. Fryer has already done plenty of that, in a series of academic articles. These have covered the effects of the nineties crack cocaine boom on black

Americans' welfare and prospects. (Homicide rates for black males aged 14 to 24 doubled from 1984 to 1994, with the number of black children in foster care also doubling over the period.) Fryer has also courted controversy criticising affirmative action policies for their "corrosive" effect on incentives for black students to succeed.

In that case, creating new incentives – the second part of the puzzle – must be immensely difficult. Since 2004, Fryer has been trying his own solution

Fryer's alternative to affirmative action is radical, simple, cold-blooded – and so far, reasonably successful: cash for grades.

– this time as a "field experiment" – in the same nub issue of education. Whether it is "corrosive" or not, affirmative action starts far too late. Black children enter kindergarten already behind their white peers, and the differences only get worse as the years of school wear on. Fryer's response is radical, simple, cold-blooded – and so far, reasonably successful: cash for grades. Working with the public schools system in New York, Fryer has taken to paying black students up to \$500 for good test results. In June 2007, he became the system's Chief Equality Officer. It is a long way from the pizza Fryer doled out for high scores at the beginning of the programme, but it is catching on. Earning-for-learning schemes are now operational in public schools in Dallas and Boston. Is it really so surprising? As Fryer has noted, white parents in America reward their children for As all the time.

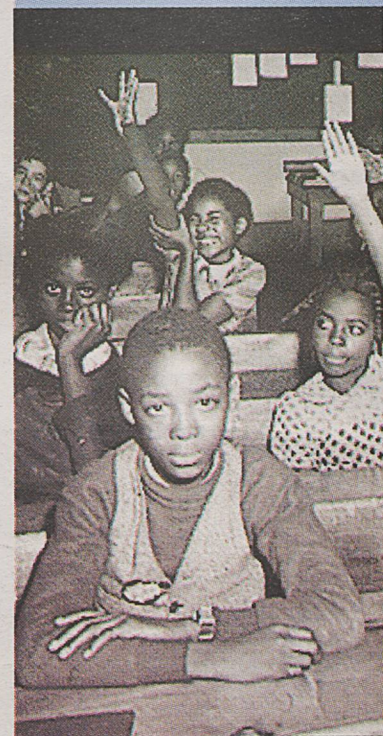
A wonderful anomaly

As he is an economist, not a sociologist, Fryer's interest in environment, culture and identity (and the contingency thereof) is cheering. Fryer has always said that he would never flinch from a geneticist explanation of black-white inequality if it had greater explanatory power than the alternative. Indeed, he has himself dabbled in this area, but with little cogency. Fryer wrote on the alleged

sensitivity to salt of modern African-Americans, which (he further alleged) constitutes the most important factor in the six-year gap in life expectancy between black and white males, thanks to hypertension and cardiovascular disease. On the slave ships that brought most black Americans' ancestors to the New World, salt retention was key to retaining nutrients and thus survival in the ships' inhuman conditions. Poor African-American social outcomes in the present, Fryer argues, are therefore due to

a selection process of the past. The analysis is, at best, tenuous, and it remains a rare chip in Fryer's crown. Environmentalism, then, remains on the agenda: the great institutional "incentivising" work continues.

It is hard, though, to escape the suspicion that Fryer's own trajectory represents a wonderful anomaly rather than a blueprint for others' success. For all his passion for change, Fryer's story may be about the irrelevance of the African-American context, rather than about defying it. After all, even extremely and unfairly well prepared white students have a hard time getting into Harvard, and very few of those of who do will go on to have an academic career as glittering as Fryer's, including membership of the elite Harvard Society of Fellows and a research fellowship at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Secondly, it is always wise not to make light of environmental factors, especially when these are expressed in an institutional economic setting. Fryer's field experiment risks being a drop in the ocean. His ideas are a shot in the arm for education reform in deprived areas, but minority integration is a tougher nut to crack. History plays a much larger role. In particular, he should beware of classic and malignant feedback effects such as path dependence in the story of Black America. Combating those is going to take some incentive structure.



The good bad old days?

The poorest pay the most

Does the imbalance in class structure lead to institutional racism in the justice system?

Christine Whyte

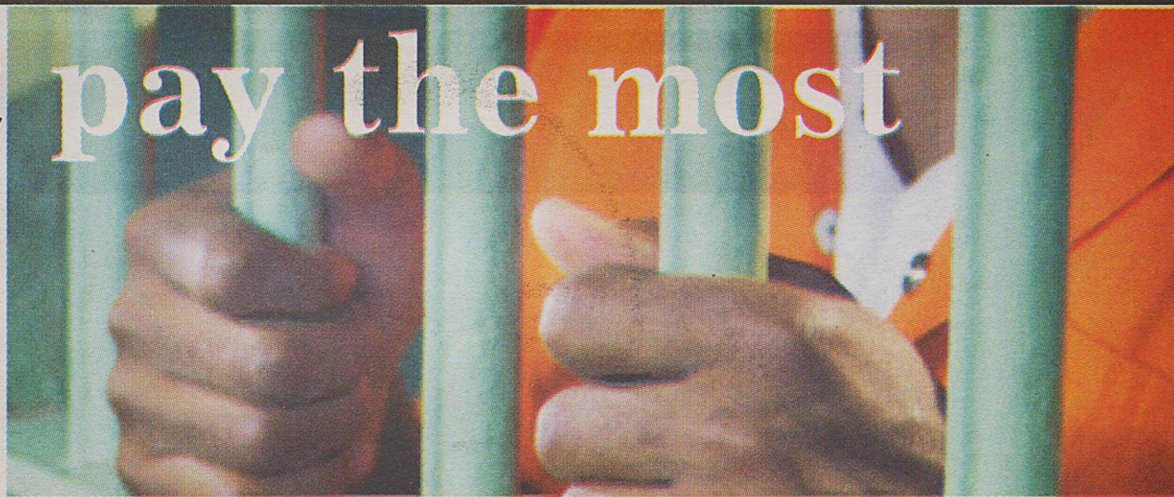
Two separate incidents, two decades apart, tell us much about the criminal justice system in the US and have important lessons for justice in the UK...

Mumia Abu-Jamal was convicted of murdering police officer Daniel Faulkner in 1982. He had lived on death row for the 25 years since. His life depends on the vagaries of a politicised and frequently biased criminal justice system. His original trial was marked by contradictory evidence, poor application of proper procedures, and blatant racism on the part of the judge; he was not only overheard saying, "I'm going to help them fry this nigger" but also allowed prosecutors to question Mumia about his association with the Black Panthers. These circumstances have led Amnesty International (AI) to declare the trial "in violation of minimum international standards." (A Life in the Balance - The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, AI Report, 2000). Mumia's appeal, however, is based on a racially-biased jury selection process. Assistant District Attorney McGill used 11 of his 15 peremptory challenges to remove black jurors that were otherwise acceptable. The result was that, while the population of Philadelphia is 44% black, the jury was composed of ten whites and only two blacks (Black Information Link, September 1, 2007). This was not a personal vendetta against a campaigning black journalist, nor a one-off case. Rather, Mumia's case sheds light upon the way the criminal justice system is itself a tool of racism.

Asst. DA McGill's professional record indicates that he is no stranger to 'jury-loading'. The National

Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) cites a survey of homicide cases tried by McGill from September 1981 to October 1983, which show that the odds that Mr. McGill would challenge a potential black juror were 8.47 times greater than for non-black jurors (Statement of the NAACP to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, 2007). The juridical system weighs considerably heavier on the lives of black people in the US. An African-American male between the ages of 18 and 35 has an inordinate likelihood of encountering the criminal justice system at some point during those years (Jerome Miller, Search and Destroy, 1996, CUP). This manipulation of the system to prosecutors' ends serves as a microcosm of wider society. Todd Gordon argues: "Race is not a contingent thing that merely facilitates the modern logic of categorisation and classification; it is at the heart of capitalist social relations, and is thus part of the form of the capitalist state." Gordon's thesis, that race is at the heart of this issue, strikes at the very roots of the inequities of the system.

A recent murder tragically illustrates Gordon's point. On 2 August this year, a prominent black journalist, Chauncey Bailey was murdered just after breakfast on a street in Oakland, California. Less than 24 hours later a local black organisation, Your Black Muslim Bakery had been raided and a suspect apprehended. The suspect was DeVaughndre Broussard, who had been working as a handyman for the bakery. Within a day, Broussard had confessed to smoking crack, then assassinating



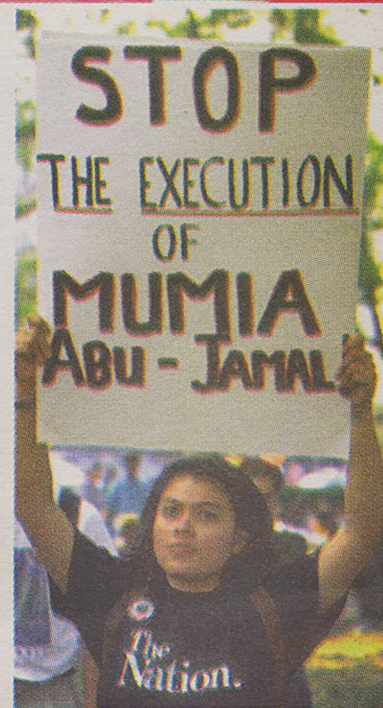
Bailey. The Bakery had been the centre of drug-dealing, violence, prostitution and protection rackets in the neighbourhood since 1968 (The Observer, 28 October, 2007). It was only with Bailey's murder that anyone except the campaigning journalist himself had paid any attention to the ravages of this criminal gang. After all, it was affecting the poor, black neighbourhoods of Oakland, not their rich neighbours in San Francisco.

...the degree to which justice is implemented pertains to the relevant degree of power and position of the individuals dealing with the criminal system.

In the sixties Oakland was the birthplace of the radical Black Panthers group which protested the racism and inequality that still exist today. The city, however, is undergoing changes. When it was the poor, the ethnic minorities and the oppressed,

police presence was minimal. "As long as the underclass was being killed no-one cared," an Oakland writer, Ishmael Reed observed. Once the young families of San Francisco started moving where property was cheap, Oakland gained a newfound urge to improve its image. To keep these young rich families, Oakland needs to be seen as secure and protected. Therefore, when a professional man, a high-profile and popular member of Oakland's establishment, is killed all possible resources are summoned to find and punish the killer with extreme urgency.

This week in London, the police were found guilty of 'health and safety' infringements in the case of the De Menezes in the UK. Evidence suggested that the police force dissembled, prevaricated and downright lied over the circumstances of a young man's death at their hands. However no-one will be punished, no-one will go to jail, and no gunman will be forced to endure, as Mumia has, years in high-security institutions. Yet at almost the same time, an expensive trial is held around the corner from LSE to determine if a member of the royal family died because her servant was drunk or just a poor driver. It seems that the degree to which justice is implemented pertains to the relevant degree of power and position of the individuals



dealing with the criminal system. In the words of Mumia, commenting on the prison systems, in our society it is "the poorest who pay the most."



The one year anniversary of blogger Abdul Kareem Nabil Suleiman's imprisonment, presents an appropriate moment to take a broader look at the state of human rights in Egypt, and reflect on the British government's continued relationship and persistent support of President Mubarak's government.

Abdul Kareem is not the only secularist to face persecution in Egypt. Ayman Nour, the revered liberal secular politician, and former leader of the El-Ghad party was imprisoned for three months in 2005, one of the last victims of the government's routine campaign of silencing voices of dissent. He was released only after intense international condemnation. Later that year he was positioned as the runner up against President Hosni Mubarak in the presidential elections. Sadly, in December of that year, he was again imprisoned, and remains so till today. In reality, however, few of

Egypt's secular activists are as lucky as Ayman Nour who had the opportunity to publicize their cases through international exposure. The majority of Egypt's imprisoned secular activists are little known, and thus largely forgotten except the occasional Amnesty International appeal. The government's repression of opposing views does not discriminate across the political spectrum. Islamist factors and activists, such as the Muslim Brotherhood face equally harsh treatment by the authorities, with its members facing periodic mass arrest by the thousand, and restrictions on standing in elections. Those Islamist activists are less likely to garner international support than the secular activists and continue to perish in obscurity.

Since the first Arab-Israeli war in 1967 the Egyptian public has been living under an 'Emergency Law'. Aside from a short 18 month break in

On the first anniversary of the blogger Suleiman's imprisonment, we look at the general state of human rights in one of the West's closest allies in the 'War on Terror'

James Pugh & Al Mansour

1980, the law has been re-introduced every three years to extend the government's authority. Under the law, police powers are extended, constitutional rights suspended and censorship legalised. The law stridently restricts any non-governmental political activity. It is estimated that some 17,000 people are detained under the law; estimations of political prisoners run as high as 30,000. The charges made against individuals arrested under the law are often deliberately vague, relating to "defamation" of figures of authority, or "spreading false rumours". From a legal stand-point, the imprecision of such charges is a direct attempt to make the defence of such allegations an extremely hard task. Claims of various methods of torture while in custody include beatings, electric shocks, prolonged suspension by the wrists and ankles in

foundationally similar laws in other countries, the Egyptian authorities have been inspired to repackage the contents of the law and reintroduce it into the constitution under the pretext of anti-terrorism provision.

The boundaries of the governments intolerance towards opposing views does not end with political dissidents. Persecution and discrimination of Coptic Christians and Shias occur both informally and institutionally. The treatment of people of Baha'i faith is exceptionally harsh; the government refuses official recognition the Baha'i people, denying them official documentation. This prevents the people of the faith from obtaining access to the most basic forms of government services and makes employment, marriage, travel abroad, and access to education and



Suleiman - sentenced to four years in jail for "defaming the President of the Republic"

contorted positions, death threats and sexual abuse. With the emergence of

healthcare services impossible unless the individual agrees to be registered

under one of the recognised religions. The degree of persecution of Shias and Coptic Christians remains difficult to evaluate, since it is thought that leaders of both these groups politicise incidents to advance sectarian agendas. However, the recent arrest of Shias rights activists in October, and the continued harassment of converts to Christianity make it impossible to deny that persecution exists.

Likewise homosexuality remains a legal grey area. While homosexuality is technically not specified as illegal under the constitution, the increasing prosecutions of homosexuals under "debauchery" and "defamation of Islam" laws, serve as an indicator of which side of the law homosexuality lies.

The status of women in Egypt is one area of optimism. Egyptian women's groups operate with a greater degree of freedom, and push greater advances compared to other countries in the region. Female genital mutilation has been on the agenda for some years now, and was fully banned this year, though it is likely to remain prevalent. Likewise women have improved their position concerning divorce, inheritance and custody of children.

Overall, the picture of Egypt's human rights record at present is not good. One must question Britain's lack of criticism thereof. Time and time again, we have been shown that human rights are often expendable when dealing with allies who hold great strategic importance. As we saw with the last week's lavish state visit provided for King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, where oil is part of the equation, don't expect anything but blind eyes and an open hand.

A wee constitutional problem



Scottish Independence

A noble objective or a naive illusion?

Charles Hodgson

“Scotland is a nation, not a fucking state!” This was the response of a friend of mine, a Scottish gentleman, incidentally, when I suggested the possibility of a federated United Kingdom as a solution to the question of Scottish independence. His reaction reveals much about the nature of Scottish nationalism. Tony Blair’s government seemed to believe that Scottish Nationalism stemmed not from an inherent sense of nationhood, but a feeling of institutional inferiority. The Scottish, it was thought, considered themselves constitutionally dominated by the English, left out of the story of British state-building. The creation of the Holyrood Parliament in 1999 was intended to rectify this. However, those Scots who actually support independence support just that, complete independence from the United

acted as a protest party who tacked their support for independence onto a long list of populist policies that took swipes at Labour. At the heart of this ‘manifesto’ was opposition to the war in Iraq and the ‘Say no to Trident’ campaign, one of several that the SNP have launched in direct opposition to the Westminster government. The Scottish Executive has no influence on foreign or defence policy, but this has not stopped the SNP from discussing these policies. In fact it has encouraged them to embrace these populist causes because they don’t have to do anything about them other than submit largely ignored petitions to Downing Street. Although completely lacking in substance, this platform went down extremely well in Scotland, which has always been a more left-wing nation than England. This was reflected in the polls as the

enched consistent economic growth of up to 4.5% under Ahern’s regime of low taxation. The SNP believe that Scotland, a nation of comparable size and a greater endowment of natural resources, could follow Ireland’s example and become the next Celtic Tiger economy if only it was freed from the shackles of Union with England and could set its own taxes. However, the adoption of a low taxation, business friendly economic policy by the SNP simply does not square with their refusal to cut public spending. By keeping university education free and providing nursing for the elderly on the NHS as well as promising lower taxes after independence, Salmond is pandering to the perennial attitude of the British voter: We deserve everything for free but we don’t want to be taxed. The SNP is able to maintain this apparently contradictory message largely because of the ‘Barnett Formula’. This is the tax law whereby Scotland is allocated about £1000 per head of public funds more than England. This essentially means that Scotland is spending more than it is generating in tax revenue, enabling the Scottish Executive to

fund expensive public projects with no tax adjustment. Ironically then, the SNP’s popularity depends on Scotland remaining part of the UK. When and if independence is won the Scottish Government will have to choose between the Celtic Tiger model of low taxation and the generous welfare state that the Scottish seem to love so much. The Executive would simply not be able to maintain its current level of spending without help from the English taxpayer. Nationalists often cite the EU as a likely alternative source of funding for public projects in an independent Scotland. After all, EU funding has done much to improve the lives of people in poorer European nations. However, Scotland’s membership of the EU as an independent nation is not guaranteed. England, Wales and Northern Ireland (the rump UK) would retain membership as the successor state to the UK, but Scotland would have to apply for membership in the same way as Turkey or Croatia. Even then, there is no guarantee that they would get in.

The standard response to this argument can be summed up in one word: oil. Scotland has it, England does not. The SNP have claimed that if Scotland received all of the tax revenue from the North Sea oil industry, instead of it going to the Treasury’s coffers in London, then Scotland would be able to sustain a large welfare state as well as a dynamic economy. The crude implication is that Westminster has been ‘stealing’ money that is rightfully Scotland’s. This claim is patently a lie. Scotland’s creates about 6.6% of the UK’s economic output, but it receives 10% of public investment. Scotland is not only receiving its oil monies, but extra cash on top of this. In any case, the SNP should know better than to pin their nation’s future on a resource that experts say will be entirely depleted in 30 years. Scotland’s economy has been based on the investment of multinational oil companies for decades. If Salmond wants to create a ferocious Celtic Tiger, he can’t rely on the tired old mule of North Sea oil.

The SNP’s promises of a fat welfare state as well as economic

dynamism are therefore more or less baseless. The government of independent kingdom (republic?) of Scotland will not find it easy to maintain their nation’s current standard of living. But what alternative arrangements exist? A federal United Kingdom would satisfy the increasingly miffed English, who have finally awoken to the absurdity of the constitutional asymmetry created by the ‘West Lothian question’- the anomaly which gives Scottish MPs a vote on England-only issues. The creation of separate parliaments in each of the constituent countries of the UK, deriving their power from a federal parliament in Westminster, would be the most balanced solution to this problem, but this would cause an alarmingly high level of bureaucracy in a nation already swamped by layers of local government and regional quangos. In addition, the SNP and their core supporters will never be satisfied with a federal solution, leading to a possible increase in the calls for independence in the same way that the creation of the Scottish Parliament in 1999 propelled the SNP into the political mainstream.

The safest and most likely option is a slight constitutional adjustment to solve the West Lothian question (the ‘English votes for English laws’ concept currently championed by the Tories) and the granting of increased tax powers to the Scottish Executive. This, together with the departure of Blair and the withdrawal of troops from Iraq, will certainly quell independence fever for now. But even if the SNP does not retain power for long, the independence movement will remain a force to be reckoned with. After all, the stickers and posters seen increasingly in Scottish cities don’t say, “Give Scotland an equitable constitutional settlement with England to create a federated kingdom of semi-autonomous states!” they say “Free Scotland!” Whatever happens to the constitutional arrangements of the UK, Scottish Nationalists will not be satisfied with anything short of their precious “freedom”.

Creation of separate parliaments in each of the constituent countries of the UK, deriving their power from a federal parliament in Westminster, would be the most balanced solution to this problem, but this would cause an alarmingly high level of bureaucracy in a nation already swamped by layers of local government and regional quangos

Kingdom. No constitutional settlement, including the possibility of a completely federated UK, with each of the constituent states handling most of their internal affairs independently of Westminster, will pacify the demands of this substantial minority of Scots.

The Scottish National Party’s poll victory earlier this May does not mean that the end of the 300 year union is imminent. The SNP’s core vote certainly consists of die-hard independence supporters, but its election depended on the support of those Scots who merely wanted to get rid of Labour and send a message to Westminster. Essentially, the SNP

SNP scraped their way to a minority government. If the SNP are able to secure a majority at the next election, or do a deal with a minor party, then an independence referendum will be possible. However, as a poll for The Scotsman revealed last month, support for independence has dropped below 25%. The voters, having ousted Labour, have suddenly become a lot less enthusiastic about the SNP.

But what are the prospects for Scotland if it became an independent nation? Salmond has put much emphasis on the so-called ‘Celtic Tiger’ model adopted by Irish Taoiseach John Bruton and his successor Bertie Ahern. Ireland experi-



SNP leader Alex Salmond hopeful of Scotland’s prospect of becoming the next Celtic Tiger economy

Listings

www.lsesu.com

China Development Society

Tea and Knowledge Seminar

China in the next five years: challenges, threats, possibilities

Date: Thursday 8 November 2007

Time: 4pm-5pm

Venue: D602, Clement House

Speaker: Dr Kerry Brown

China has just held its 17th Party congress, making important leadership changes which will take it from the Fourth Generation of Leaders under current President Hu Jintao, to a new, fifth generation, which will be in power from the next congress onwards, in 2012. These will be the people grappling with China's internal and external problems. What are they like? What are their priorities? How can the outside world work with these new people, and understand them better? And what vision might they have for China's future global role? Dr Kerry Brown is the associate fellow at the international policy think tank, Chatham House. He is also an associate of the China Policy Institute, Nottingham University, and was a visiting research fellow at the East Asian Studies Centre, the LSE in 2007. He is the author of 'Struggling Giant, China in the 21st Century' and 'The Rise of the Dragon - Chinese inward and outward investment in the reform period'.

2 SOUND SYSTEMS, 2 DJS, 1 BATTLE!

CRUSH! Brings you a night of head2head dj battling where YOU decide who wins!

We have some of the best new MC's, DJ's and talent in the UK all locked, cocked and ready to unload a night of fun for you!

There'll be plenty of Malibu goodies and special offers throughout the night so make sure you GET THERE EARLY and don't miss out!

If its your birthday this week, email us and you will get in free and your mates can Q Jump!

PLUS: DJ LEGACY RETURNS FROM MINISTRY OF SOUND INDIA TO RE-UNITE STX3 in the Underground with the best RnB N Hip Hop!



The Beaver

Marketing & Admin Teams

The Beaver is in need of capable and reliable people to help out with the Marketing and Admin side of things.

The Marketing team will be responsible for carrying out market research as well as responsible for advertising the paper around campus and online (managing The Beaver website).

The Admin team will be responsible for seconding the Secretary in her daily tasks, which is the day to day 'administration, finances and organisation of the Beaver'.

Members of both teams should be at ease with Excel, Word, Outlook and ideally Powerpoint. More importantly, you would also need to have good time management and organisation skills, to know the School and SU organisation well and be able to conduct research quickly and effectively. This job is not very time consuming, however the secretary would expect the teams to react quickly if a task is assigned; and the work load can vary from week to week.

If after reading this email you still have questions please email Lily Yang at l.y.yang@lse.ac.uk or drop by the office in E204.

LARA

LARA Pub Crawl

7.30pm, Thursday 8th November

Starting from the King's Head on Upper Street

Literature Society

The Literature Society is looking for submissions for the third issue of their yearly magazine, The Muse. The Muse collects creative writing works by LSE students, alumni and staff members. If you would like a chance to see your words in print in practically any format (some examples are short stories, poems, articles on a literary topic, or theatrical sketches), send them to submissions.themuse@gmail.com. We'll enjoy reading them!

The deadline for submissions is the end of Week 8.

LISTINGS

TUESDAY, 6 NOVEMBER

KNITTING
Knitting
Quad, 12.00 PM

LGBT
Lecture
D302, 2.00 PM

ACS
Investment Banking Workshop
S75, 2.00 PM

LGBT
Lesbian Film Night
S421, 6.30 PM

LGBT
Sexual Health Workshop
S75, 7.00 PM

DANCE
Modern Jazz (Open)
Parish Hall, 7.00 PM

SPICE
Diwali Party
Quad, 7.00 PM

LIVE MUSIC
Open Mic Night
Underground, 7.00 PM

WEDNESDAY, 7 OCTOBER

SIKH-PUNJAB
Cha and Samosa Party
Quad, 5.00 PM

LGBT
Career Event
Underground, 7.00 PM

MEXICAN
Mexico in Motion
Motion Bar, 10.00 PM

THURSDAY, 8 NOVEMBER

LSE SU
UGM
Old Theatre, 1.00 PM

LGBT
Mini-Public Lecture Series
Underground, 7.00 PM

DANCE
Hiphop (Beginner)
Parish Hall, 7.30 PM

DANCE
Hiphop (Advanced)
Parish Hall, 8.30 PM

FRIDAY, 9 NOVEMBER

LGBT
Female only Pub-Crawl
Peacock Theatre, 8.00 PM

LSE SU
Crush!
Quad, 9.00 PM

MONDAY, 12 NOVEMBER

DANCE
Ballet (Beginner)
Parish Hall, 6.00 PM

DANCE
Ballet (Intermediate)
G1, 7.00 PM

A COMEDY BENEFIT FOR TIBET

YAKETY YAK!

PRESENTED BY JOHN HEGLEY

STARRING:

SHAZIA MIRZA

SIMON AMSTELL

AVA VIDAL

SUSAN MURRAY

ROBIN INCE

GREG BURNS, ED PETRIE

TIME: Tuesday, 6th November 7.30pm

PLACE: The Shaw Theatre
100-110 Euston Road, London NW1 2AJ

TICKETS: £20

FreeTibet CAMPAIGN

BOX OFFICE: 0870 033 2600 or
OFFICE: www.theshawtheatre.com

The Shaw Theatre

SU Executive office hours

General Secretary, Fadhil Bakeer Markar

Treasurer, Libby Meyer

Communications Officer, Kayt Berry

Education and Welfare Officer, Ruhana Ali

Thursday 2.30pm - 3.30pm, QUAD

The Punter



Matthew Partridge

There hasn't been much change in terms of the political betting markets. Although there are rumours of a sex scandal allegedly involving one of the major candidates for the Republican nomination, it should be remembered that many of these supposed 'sex scandals' either fail to materialise, are proved to be rubbish or are simply ignored by the public. After all, in an era where one of the candidates for the Democratic nomination in 2004 had to apologise for not taking any drugs in his youth and where a Republican senator can take a 'wide stance' and still remain in the Senate, the impact of such a scandal should not be overestimated. However, it may be worth betting on Giuliani withdrawing before the end of the year (not least because New Hampshire may hold their primary in December), at 0.1-5 at Intrade.com. Also, if you think that the sex scandal is a 'Hollywood' scandal, and that Fred Thompson will be forced out the race, there might be value in betting on a late entry (and consequent victory) by Newt Gingrich at 0.3-0.7.

Looking at the commodity markets, the gold markets and the oil seem hell bent on proving me wrong by breaking \$800 and \$90 respectively, though I still sticking with my idea of putting in a sell order on gold, though I would advise you to sell when it goes below \$760 (rather than \$755). If you really don't want to take a position on the price of oil you could consider putting on a spread trade between WTI and Brent Crude, since the difference between the two contracts is ridiculously large. In terms of the stock market, especially the American stock market, I am actually quite bullish. The PE ratio is now slightly below historical levels and the put call ratio shows that 'irrational exuberance' has been replaced by 'irrational pessimism'. I would suggest that you buy either funds tracking the SP500, or index futures directly. My view is that, despite the credit crunch and housing collapse, the US economy should still do reasonably well, thus enabling the SP500 to break 1600 before the end of the year.

In terms of shares I am extremely bearish about the pharmaceutical companies, especially negative about Merck & Company (MRK). If there is one theme that has come right through the election, it has been the need to rein in healthcare costs. Since the US accounts for 25% of the total amount of world spending on drugs, no emerging market growth will make up for this potential hit. In terms of UK shares I like Trinity Mirror (TNI). Trinity contains a top quality stable of titles and a strong online presence. Trinity has also fallen dramatically in the last few months, so at the very least there should be a bit of a bounce back.

Use any advice given here at your own risk and don't gamble what you cannot afford to lose. Columnist(s) may have positions in wagers mentioned. Prices quoted are correct at time of going to press.

Men's Football

Good, but still some room for improvement



STK

LSE 5ths	3
UCL 7ths	3
LSE 5ths	2
Imperial	0

Much like ITV's Saturday night line up, the fifth team is struggling to exhibit quality from start to finish. X factors (voted best live talent show at the National Television awards) performances in the opening stages are being undone by the emergence of Saturday Night Divas

at the close. The simplicity of the problem is confounding.

Against both UCL and the medics from Gimperial the football played at the outset was a wonderful concerto from both the principals and the choir, even Simon Cowell would've marvelled. The attacking fivesome of Ali, Zamir, Sapha, Knuckles and Arrnund Daartaay showed the kind of cohesiveness and synergy that Futureproof can only dream of. The UCL 7ths, regarded as the proverbial Rhyddian of ULU Div 2 simply could not handle this clinical combination, three goals to the good by half time.

A similar story against the eleven Alishas from Imperial. Zamir proved once again that scoring goals is fundamentally down to instinct, scoring his fifth goal in three games with the fifth different

part of his body. Ladak reincarnate. Then a goal of such quality that even the finest belletrist would struggle to do justice with any combination of words from the English language. A slick interchange between Jimmy 'Wayne Sleep' Conran and Nick See allowed Daartaay to gallivant down the right wing. He delivered a perfectly weighted cross to the back post where Knuckles, picturing an unnamed female's mug on the ball's surface, unleashed a volley of frightening ferocity giving their keeper no chance in hell as it cannoned in off the bar.

Despite me singing my praises, sitting writing this while at the library not on my sofa with a Kroneburg enjoying the comments of Danni Minogue, all is not well in the land of STK. While the first half against UCL was nigh on

the best forty five minutes I have witnessed as a fifth team player, the second half capitulation makes one seriously contemplate the quiddity of this team. Talent and determination or fart and no shit. Little needs to be divulged, we were as conspicuously absent as Emily Nakanda in the second half. The denial of a perfectly good goal was spurious in the face of such total ineptitude.

Déjà vu is a very strange and intriguing phenomenon. As I watched from my unique vantage point on Saturday I was sure somehow the fabric of time had been serried, one was suddenly back in Wednesday's debacle (unfortunately I didn't have Billy Piper as a side kick). Attack after attack was absorbed by a Greenall free defence as the fifths showed the kind of resolve that Same

Difference will require when their obvious incest is exposed. A clean sheet without our inspirational fuhrer is all that can be taken from another discombobulating effort.

Five games in, 10 points, a good if not excellent beginning. Yet that total could be at its maximum had we been able cure our Mr Hyde malady after the first match of the season. The answer will not be found in a Sharon Osbourne surgical procedure or a Louis Walsh fit of indignation. A ten day break provides opportunity for reflection, time to gauge where each failed to deliver. The auditions are over, it's time to deliver on the big stage. (Ps apologies to anyone who doesn't watch the X factor, you really should, it's very inspiring.)

Think that you can write about sports better than this man can talk about it?

SPORT

The Beaver needs writers for the Sportsdesk.
Contact thebeaver.sports@lse.ac.uk

The Lowdown



Robin Low

Because I'm lazy I've decided to take a format from the highly successful television series Soccer AM this week. Here are my FC Teammates.

Best Taps	Healy and Butu	Worst Conversion Rate	Andy Rogers (Actually a virgin)
Worst Taps	Peter Greenall	Most likely to get naked in Walkies	Tom Jaques
Most Prolific	Rupert Guest	Worst Dress Sense	J Saville (Silly Northern Fresher)
The Joker	Rich Morrow	Worst Taste in Women	Rupert Guest
Fastest	Robin Low (claim)	Most Similar Genitalia	The Brothers Crow
Most Intelligent	Alex O'Brien (400 A levels)	Most Underrated	Ed Frew
Least Intelligent	Luke Thompson	Most Appropriately Rated	George Karaolis
Most likely to pull in Walkabout	Nick Hammond (so pretty)	Most Overrated	Andrew "onefilm" Simpson
		And...Longest in the Showers???	Mike Maynard (16½ inches on the flop).

Rugby

Rugby 2nds cause Herts failure



Phil Burkimsher

Herts 2nds 3
LSE 2nds 32

Confidence was high ahead of the first banter bus journey of the season for the 2nds. Last weeks 45-19 thrashing of London MetroPOLYtan saw us climb the league and a win against Hertfordshire would take us to the top. The 8-9-10 axis of myself, Clem and Ollie were all showing our dedication to 2nd team rugby through carbo loading on ale in the Tuns on Tuesday evening and the Duke was to make his debut, looking to impress on the pitch this week.

We were to play in front of the Sky cameras filming Saracens Kiwi first five-eighth Glen Jackson's effort at refereeing. It appears he has come up with the cunning plan of qualifying as an English referee after retiring from playing

so that the All Blacks will not have to worry about missed forward passes costing them another four years without the World Cup.

The team had taken such an effort to remember grog for the journey home that we overlooked the need for a ball to warm up with. The option of using a bottle of Strongbow was discussed but it was felt important not to risk spillage so the warm up consisted of some stretching and a few practice lineout lifts.

The game kicked off and after some strong running from the bulky opposition pack they chose to take an early shot at goal from in front of the posts. The ball went over and Hertfordshire scored what would transpire to be their only points of the day.

Some strong pressure from LSE seemed to have ended after a knock on but a try was to come from the resulting scrum. The ball was charged down by Clem and flew back behind the try line. I judged the backspin on the ball to perfection and grounded the ball for my first try in four years at this fine institution. Ollie's kicking was to prove as suc-

cessful as Nikolay Davydenko's serving and the relatively simple conversion which would have led to us outscoring the 1st team was missed.

The highlight of the rest of the half included some fine tackling from breakaways Alex and Piers, bringing down their larger opposite numbers and turning over ball which was well used by the back line. The front five, props Leggey2 and Barrow, rake Michael (hopefully he will have invested in a watch and not be late this Wednesday night) and locks Gunther and the Duke, were also showing excellent technique in the scrum, resulting in Hertfordshire begging for golden oldie uncontested scrums. Andrew Shaw was also showing some strong running at second five-eighth and picked a fine line to go over under the posts for his first of two tries. This time the conversion was landed.

There followed a series of hold ups to the game with the ball lost over a fence and then Clem puking on the pitch after another bang to the head. This was not before he had also scored his second try of the



season to give us a 17-3 half time lead.

A half time pep talk from captain and centre Dan impressed the importance of scoring first in the second half and further tries came from Ollie, Ian and Andrew again, taking his tally to three for the season. Strong running and offloading from the backs Daryl, Avi, Alex and Campbell gained excellent territory throughout the half and the

forwards were supporting well. We should have been awarded a penalty try after John was body checked preventing a certain try having chipped the opposing winger, however Glen Jackson was taking pity with the poly and just gave a penalty.

The banter bus journey was now heavily anticipated with the RFU's complimentary 'water' bottles proving great mixing vessels for vodka mar-

tinis, which I believe the freshers seemed to enjoy immensely. All told this was one of the best away performances I have seen and things are looking very good for the club with the first and second team top of their respective tables.

15-Cummins, 14-Meyers (John), 13-Yuen (Fanshel), 12-Shaw, 11-Li, 10-Townsend, 9-Broumley-Young (Mcelroy), 1-Evershed, 2-Davar, 3-Barrow, 4-Vincent, 5-Baumgarten, 6-Cassidy, 7-Hill, 8-Burkimsher.

Hockey

LSE the comeback kings



Tim Watts

LSE 1sts 6
Kings 4

Just minutes into the second half, Jacob 'Thunder' Ammer capitalised by slamming home a goal with German precision and a Euro-sneer that would have been at home in a Die Hard film. Combined with goals from Luke Davies, Waylon Chu and Omar Fazal, the LSE grew in confidence as the game progressed.

While groin injuries struck down Rob Turner and your intrepid correspondent in quick succession late in the game (sending a jolt of fear through both the LSE defence and the female population of London), the LSE retained its composure to hold onto its one goal lead and to keep out an increasing frantic wave of

Kings' attacks.

Finally, with the clock winding down, Ian Scanlon put the result beyond doubt, making up for a number of earlier near misses by putting away an impressive backstick, tomahawk goal. He might not be much to look at, but as they say "Biceps get the girls, Triceps get the goals."

While William Ruhland made a strong case for Man of the Match for a first class display of "running while fat"; at the end of the day no one could deny Will Murphey post match kudos. No one worked harder than 'Scarface' throughout the game and the big man showed great strength in the face of

some special attention from the Kings' defence.

Three weeks into the season the 1st team is well placed to go onto bigger and better things with one win, one draw, one loss and bucketloads of confidence.

The LSE Hockey First XI broke through for their first win of the season last Wednesday, beating rivals Kings College in an exciting encounter at Battersea Park. In a come from behind effort that would have made Ron Jeremy proud, the LSE fought back from a 3-1 deficit to prevail 6-4 at the final siren.

Scarred by last week's traumatic trip to Essex, the LSE needed a win against Kings to get the team's season back on track. Things were not looking good early with the LSE defence conceding two soft goals on penalty corners. When Kings subsequently converted a penalty stroke (despite a great effort from LSE keeper Kabir Suharan), a lesser team might have crumbled under the pressure. But when the going gets tough, the tough get going, the cream rises and the men are sorted from the boys. The LSE First XI certainly proved themselves to be tough, creamy, men in this match.

After an inspired pep talk and tactical adjustment from SuperCoach™, Evan Musing, the LSE came out after the half time break breathing fire.



Keeping the faith

LSE football 5th team missing the X factor?

STK



Herts Beaten

Rugby 2nds continue winning ways

Phil Burkimsher



Sticking it out

Hockey come back to beat Strand Poly

Tim Watts

6.11.07 | thebeaver.sports@lse.ac.uk

Beaver

sports

Imperialised Medics fail to heal the wounds as fourths' colonisation continues apace



Josh Tendeter

LSE 4ths 3
Imperial Medics 1

Teddington

The LSEFC 4th team maintained their 100% record away from home this season with a fine win at Teddington Sports Ground on Wednesday. With a depleted army of just 11 men, the troops marched onto the battlefield with expectations of nothing less than all three points. Although this was to be the result, it was far from certain during a highly unimpressive first-half as Alex O'Brien's men trailed by a goal to nil at the interval. A charismatic second-half performance however ensured that Teddington was now just another colony in the 4th team empire

With no professional referee available, the match had to be officiated by the substitute players and with just 11 in the LSE ranks, this meant an immediate home advantage. The bias of the makeshift ref was to become quickly apparent. Despite this, it was LSE who created the first chance, a long throw from the right by Ash Mehta cleared the defence and Josh Tendeter's flicked backward header was tipped over the bar by the keeper. Following this first five minute period 4th team pressure, it was the Medics who took a grip of the game; looking particularly threatening from set pieces. The Imperial left-back had already proved to be a shockingly lacklustre defender (possibly related to his Inzamam-esque figure) however, his weight was proving a real asset when it came to the long throw. With 15 minutes on the clock the LSE defence failed to cope with one such throw and conceded a corner. As the resulting kick was floated in, the defensive frailties were again exploited and the home side took an early lead. Chief 4th team scout Sir Rupert Guest described the defending as "totally shambolic, an incredible combination of incompetence and mishap" although some would argue that this was a little exaggerated, it is a clear indication



that improvement was essential.

Defensively, this improvement was immediate as the back four looked far more comfortable for the remainder of the first-half. It was now however, the time for mistakes further forward. The midfield began to lose possession with misplaced passes and the referee added to the woe by handing out free-kicks to the home side for no reason whatsoever. The only positive was some half-decent link-up play down the left hand side between Club Captain Christopher Andrew Naylor, George Crow and Vik "fish 'n' chips" Nayar. This play resulted in a few chances, Nayar twice spurning good opportunities and Tendeter being hauled down by a pathetic medic only for the blatant penalty to be waved away by the incompetent referee. Based on his lamentable performance, it is no surprise there are serious question marks over the future of the National Health Service,

Anders Jensen even quipped "I think that ref is the cause of MRSA" a bold but probably accurate claim.

The half-time interval put an end to the 4ths prosaic first-half performance and the skipper's inspirational words were enough to create a stentorian reaction from the huddle. This rambunctious response immediately filtered through to the team's performance and there was instant pressure from the away side. Imperial just couldn't deal with the newly found energy of the 4ths and under the pressure their defence started to crack. Nayar again went close before he was found once more by a searching pass from Pierre Bachas, this time slotting home from a tight angle to equalise. The initiative had firmly switched and with LSE in total control the midfield began to spread the play in exquisite fashion. Despite the upturn in fortunes, goal-scoring opportunities were few and far between with the only

notable chance falling to Crow after a skilful run; his rasping shot unable to beat the keeper. The second LSE goal came from what could only be described as a half chance; a throw from John Bown drifted towards the edge of the box and Tendeter with his back to goal audaciously attempted an overhead kick from 17 yards out. The ball looped over the stranded medic goalkeeper and into the top left corner. There is much media debate as to how good this goal actually was with one reporter describing it as "the greatest goal in the history of ULU football, an absolutely stunning strike" another however was less convinced stating "he seemed to fall over more than anything, the fact the ball went in is neither here nor there" As a totally independent commentator, I would be inclined to agree with the former's opinion.

Having taken the lead, LSE tried to push on; Crow, Nayar and Tendeter continued to cause problems and Mehta

was by now totally dominating the midfield. The medics looked sullen, desperately trying to regain their grip on the game they plodded forward in an attempt to salvage something, although they already looked resigned to defeat as they showed the intent of a vegetarian hound on a fox-hunt. LSE 4th team legend and centre-back Andrew Rogers was looking deeply unimpressed by the lack of defending required and nonchalantly threw himself to the floor claiming a head injury. This seemed only to spur the medics on and the chance to equalise did arise with just ten minutes remaining as an Imperial corner found an unmarked player at the backpost (second post for any Danish readers) the free man's header thundering wide of BFG Broom's right hand side. Following this scare the 4ths raced forward once-more, pressuring the defence into conceding a corner. Bachas struck a beautiful set-piece

and it was met by the ever reliable head of Captain Al O'Brien whose flicked header found the schoolchildren behind the goal. As he held his head in self-disgust the fans began to chant "you couldn't score in a brothel" Al acknowledged that with his current sideburn growth this was probably the case. The third goal did eventually arrive and put an end to the Imperial challenge just moments before the final whistle. Bown played the perfect through-ball to Nayar who struck the ball straight at the keeper, the rebound falling perfectly for him to slot a pass across to the open Tendeter for an easy tap-in. Nayar decided against this option and went for goal himself finding the back of the net for the second time. The fat left-back (now refereeing) blew for the end of the match and the 4th team waved the home side off their own pitch, safe in the knowledge that they had taken Teddington by storm.

"Totally shambolic, an incredible combination of incompetence and mishap"