

EDUCATION UNDER SEIGE

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The Beaver

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LSE marchers 700 strong

Chris Rogers

Over 700 LSE students brought the Students' Union's anti-cuts, anti-fees stance to the National Union of Students' (NUS) demonstration last Wednesday.

The students, who adopted predominantly anti-Conservative slogans and chants, were part of the 50,000-odd demonstrators who participated in the London march, which also received support from the Universities and Colleges Union (UCU).

The LSE's feeder march was led by the Education Officer Ashok Kumar, who shepherded students from Queen Mary and Goldsmiths colleges, as well as the LSE, down Houghton Street. The marchers, armed with placards denouncing the education cuts and rises in tuition fees, entered Aldwych and marched towards the Strand.

A cheer went up as LSE students joined forces with numerous other groups already present. Protesters took up characteristic chants of "no ifs, no buts, no education cuts" and "they say cut back, we say fight back", as they marched through campus.

Joe Pearson, a first-year Environmental Policy student, noted: "the atmosphere was great, even people in their vans [we] re supporting us". Several drivers were reported to have honked their horns in support of the demonstration. The demonstration moved slowly towards Trafalgar Square filling the entire Strand and bringing traffic to a standstill. At this point a group of students began playing loud drums, attracting further attention to the march. The movement ground to a halt several times, waiting for traffic to leave the road. Many students were seen to directly breach police advice, occupying all lanes of the road.

Students commented that the protest, as a whole, was unorganised, and stated that they were not sure what was happening at these routine stops. One LSE protester Conor Fulham stated: "The LSE part of the march was very well organised and we felt very much included in the



Photo: Rosie Coleman

demonstration. Once we joined the larger protest the enthusiasm seemed to die out, especially since we didn't know what was going on."

During the protest several hundred confused students stopped at branches of McDonald's along the Strand until the march resumed. The demonstration gained momentum once again at Trafalgar Square when protesters were joined by another group of students and turned in the direction of Whitehall. Another cheer went up as Parliament and Big Ben were sighted by demonstrators.

Anger was clearly running high, with explicit anti-Conservative chants such as "Fuck off back to Eton". First-year undergraduate Antony Neal declared: "The Tories are scum and always will be". This was not the only anti-Conservative chant heard during the protest. One first-team rugby player from LSE who, having just played a match, was wearing a suit with a poppy attached to the lapel, in support of Remembrance Day, was accosted by a protester who accused him of being a Conservative supporter.

The Liberal Democrats were also the subject of much of the rally's ire. Nick Clegg was criticised for breaking the election pledge made to the NUS, to vote against any increase in tuition fees. All Lib Dem candidates were signatories of the pledge, which is said to have been crucial in winning the party several Parliamentary seats in constituencies with high student populations. Many protesters shouted repeated chants of: "Nick Clegg, shame on you, shame on you for turning blue". Ashok Kumar, criticising the party for breaking their pre-election promise, declared: "If I was a Lib Dem MP right now, I'd be hiding in my basement".

Paul Farrelly MP, who led the back-bench campaign against variable tuition fees in 2003, told the Beaver that the Lib Dems had failed "the test of trust" - the first test of government in his opinion.

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Education Officer refuses to condemn Millbank violence

Sachin Patel

Confusion has emerged surrounding the stance of Education Officer of the Students' Union on the student-led violence at 30 Millbank last Wednesday.

The Beaver has learned that several LSE students were involved in the actions which took place at the headquarters of the Conservative Party, including the Education Officer Ashok Kumar.

Kumar was initially a principal signatory of a statement released by representatives of the National Union of Students (NUS) and the Universities and Colleges Union (UCU), issued in solidarity with those "victimised as a result of the protest". The statement "defended" the occupation of the building and referred to a media "witch hunt".

At a press conference organised by Goldsmiths, University of London which was held on Friday, Kumar spoke in a personal capacity in further defence of the violence. By Saturday, his signature had been removed from the statement, and at time of going to print, his name remains

absent from the list, though he denies having retracted his support, and stating, "I was the first person to sign on to it."

Kumar added, "there has been some confusion... I'm still a supporter, but I think that some of the organisers [of the petition] were confused about who had retracted their names".

Earlier on in the week, Kumar said to a member of the Athletics Union that he had been "smacked in the back by a police officer" while at 30 Millbank.

The Education Officer was greeted



with a mixed reaction at the UGM on Thursday, where he spoke in front of a photograph of a student smashing a window at the Millbank building, which had been chosen by members of the Democracy Committee. Members of the audience were heard chuckling at this juxtaposition, but some students were left puzzled by his statement, which neither condoned nor condemned the violence. Following a request for clarification from the Disabilities Officer Polly McKinlay, General Secretary Charlotte Gerada spoke on behalf of the other Sabbatical Officers in condemning the violence, to which Kumar eventually registered assent, remarking, after a pause, "Sure".

Kumar was asked by a postgraduate who had taken part in the Millbank occupation if he would reject the notion that the students "represented a minority". Responding to Robin Burrett, the Education Officer confirmed that those present at the building "were not a small minority" in his opinion, and that their actions showed "genuine anger" rather than a desire to act provocatively. Kumar echoed these sentiments at the press conference at Goldsmiths. When a journalist in the

audience asked if he would admit that the violent actions were "misguided", Kumar declined to offer an answer.

The NUS/UCU Unity statement is unequivocal in its reaction to media reports about the Millbank protest, which have dominated coverage of the day's demonstrations. It states: "We reject any attempt to characterise the Millbank protest as small, 'extremist' or unrepresentative of our movement". The statement has attracted over 2,000 signatures, including: Mark Bergfeld of the NUS National Executive Committee (NEC); the ULU President Clare Solomon; the activist and author Naomi Klein; and at least 16 other members of the NUS NEC.

In a debate aired on the BBC's *Newsnight* programme, current NUS President Aaron Porter denounced the "acts of criminal damage and violence", calling them "despicable" while clashing with Clare Solomon. Additionally, a survey conducted by the London Student newspaper has found that a majority of students opposed the condoning of violence as expressed by Solomon and other students' union leaders.

Former NUS President Wes Street-

ing was similarly dismissive of the value of the statement. In a tweet registered on 12th November, Streeting said: "NUS officers who've signed letters in support of the rioters are not 'leading figures'; they're on the margins and largely irrelevant."

Kumar also appeared on the ITV's *Daybreak* programme, where he was interviewed by the presenter Adrian Chiles. On the show, he said, "We reject the premise that this was a violent protest", adding that "the masses were there to occupy the headquarters of the [Conservative Party]". Chiles questioned the merit of "saying things like that", and suggested that students would "lose the support of people like us" if the rhetoric favoured by the anti-cuts movement was perpetuated. In response, Kumar said, "If you tell people they're going to be alienated, they'll get alienated".

When asked for further comment on his stance regarding the violence at Millbank, the LSE Students' Union Education Officer said, "the true vandals occupied Millbank long before November 10th. Broken windows can be fixed, but a generation which cannot afford to study cannot be so easily repaired."

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Graphic: Marion Pierfite

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The Mob policed or the Police mobbed?

While dodging the falling fire extinguishers this week, you will have noticed the protest which took place on Wednesday afternoon. Fifty thousand students walked on Whitehall to campaign against the government's proposed changes in higher education funding. The bulk of those present were peaceful campaigners, but a small minority stepped beyond the bounds of reason and the law when they broke into Tory HQ at the 30 Millbank building. Windows were smashed, furniture was burned, and one infamous piece of fire prevention equipment was hurled into the crowds from the summit of the building. Press space previously assigned to a mature debate on the merits of fee hikes was quickly replaced with tirades against violent youths and op-eds on the limits of acceptable protest. What should be a period of considered reflection is in danger of being demoted to a verbal brawl. More concerning still has been the response of some to the events on Wednesday. Several elected leaders of the student community have leaped at the opportunity to start assembling barricades; they do their cause more harm than good.

That's not to say that the protest

wasn't impressive. Co-ordinating the largest student march since 1985, and the largest march since the Iraq War, is no small achievement. But the mob has a darker side. There is a very real danger that the loudest voices are drowning a large body of students who broadly support the government's proposals (known as, the economically progressive). It is a scandalous misrepresentation to suggest, as Claire Solomon the ULU President does, that student opinion is universally behind the protest. No scientific polling has been carried out to survey student opinion; rather, isolated sign-up sheets are held to distill the mood of our community. Even more comic are the overblown comparisons between modern students and oppressed minorities. Students may do a lot of sitting around, but Houghton Street is no Tiananmen Square. From the rhetoric being thrown around in the media at the moment, one would never guess that education is set to remain free at the point of consumption and that those graduates who go on to earn less will actually be asked to cough up a smaller amount than they currently do.

The stance taken by the Students' Union's Sabbatical Officers towards the violence last Wednesday also sticks in the gullet. This newspaper stands

totally opposed to the thuggish damage of private property and the protesters' flagrant disregard for public safety. When cajoled to at last week's UGM, the Sabbs admitted that they were not willing to condone vigilanteism. Yet the Students' Union's elected representatives struck a different pose earlier in the week. Their criticism of the violence would have carried distinctly more weight if it had been more unequivocal. In totalitarian systems where representation is nil and the people's wants go unheard, violence may be the answer. In the democracy of 21st century Britain, it is not.

That said, it is refreshing to see a more open-minded approach taken by those (peerless?) individuals who brought us the 'Freeze the Fees' campaign. This week came the news that those who opposed the bid to fix student fees at their current levels were not all "Tories". Such open-mindedness comes as part of the Sabbaticals Officers' bid to create a dialogue with the students, that their views on the fee hike may be better represented. This newspaper tentatively suggests that dialogue should in the future precede the creation of Union policy rather than follow it. ☞

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Hot Chip - I Feel Better

Heaven 17 - Temptation

LCD Soundsystem -

Get Innocuous!

Union Bashō

Armistice

United today,
the Director and the Sabbs:
remembering them.

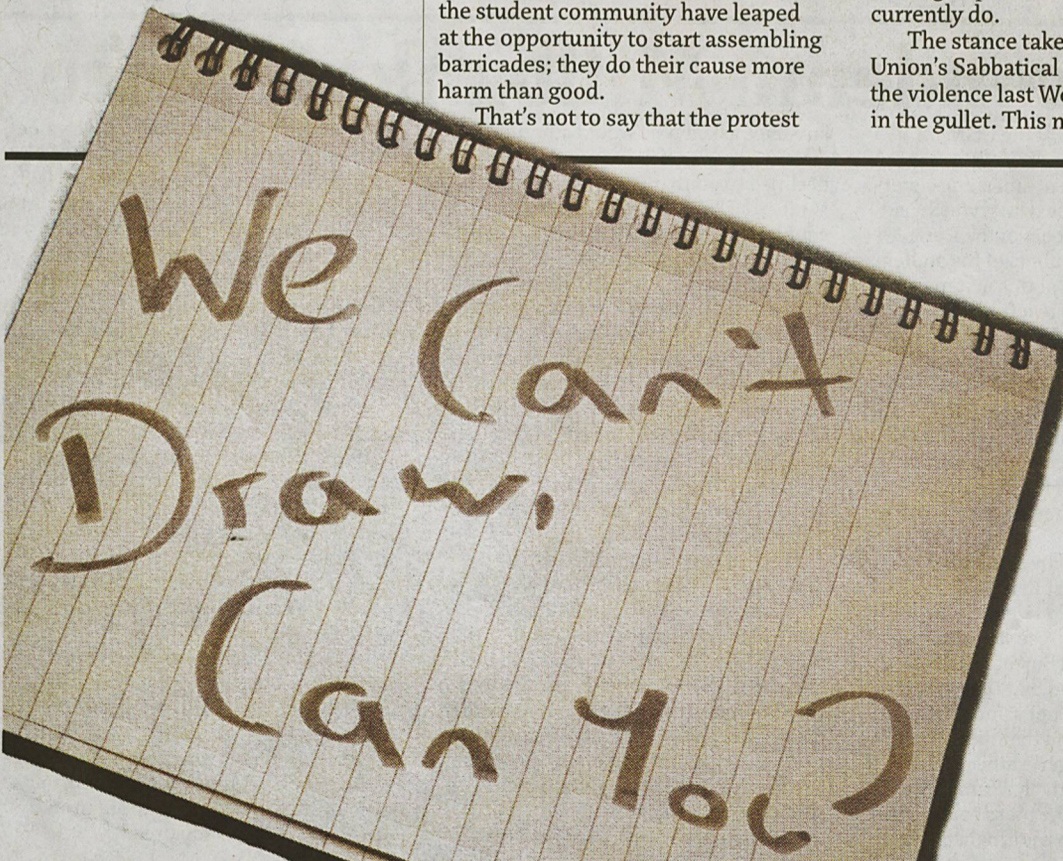
Bashō is the Beaver's evasive haiku poet, who is dragged around campus by his choleric brother-in-law Jack

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Sparks ignites entrepreneurial spirit

Shrina Poojara

Last Thursday saw LSE's first ever entrepreneurship conference attended by over 200 students and entrepreneurs from the UK, US and continental Europe.

The Sparks conference, organised entirely by LSE students in cooperation with LSE Entrepreneurs Society, included lectures and panel discussions as well as networking opportunities, and was led by prestigious entrepreneurs from a range of different industries and backgrounds.

Ben Wigoder, President of the LSE Entrepreneurs Society and founder of the Sparks@LSE entrepreneurship conference commented, "we were hoping to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs by showcasing a broad variety of successful entrepreneurs... and I think we certainly achieved this."

The schedule boasted a host of high-profile names; Lord Karan Bilimoria, the Founder & Chairman of Cobra Beer, a brewery, gave the opening keynote speech, emphasising that "anyone from anywhere can get anywhere, despite the odds against them," and highlighted the importance of having a positive attitude and the value of education as a "passport for your future".

Edward Wray, the co-founder and

chairman of Betfair, an online betting exchange, outlined the value of passion for the business: "when you set up a business, it will consume your life... If it consumes your life, it has to be something you enjoy doing." Nik Adhia, a third-year law student at the LSE, and founder and CEO of the youth-led volunteering initiative Inspower, said, "I think Ed Wray had some great advice with the 4 P's: Passion, Professionalism, Perseverance and People. That was one of the best tips I took away from the day, especially for structuring what I want to do with Inspower."

For many, the highlight of the day was the talk by the rarely politically correct John Bird, founder and Editor-In-Chief of the Big Issue. The audience was kept both entertained by his witty comments ("the first principle of entrepreneurship is when you meet somebody with money, you stick with them!"), and inspired by his frantic enthusiasm when discussing the importance of social enterprise. Adhia added, "John Bird really showed that one can develop a business and make a profit whilst serving a social function... I thought that was quite inspiring."

Mike Clare, the founder and president of Dreams, a bed retailer, closed the event, outlining the motivational story of the growth of his business, the importance of setting yourself "daring and

audacious goals," practical advice about how to keep employees and customers happy and the need to have "something that inspires you". The day also included two panel discussions, which debated whether entrepreneurs are born or made, and how young is too young to become an entrepreneur. The panels included prestigious speakers, such as John Pluthero, the Executive Chairman of Cable & Wireless, a telecoms company, and Lance Uggla, the founder and CEO of Markit Group, a financial information services company.

Regarding the event, Reza Merchant, recent LSE graduate and co-founder of student-dedicated lettings agency LDN Student Rent, said, "the hospitality and hard work of the Sparks team was remarkable, and their selection of speakers was spot on. As a young entrepreneur, I feel the best form of education is to hear the success stories of others." Pardeep Kuller, co-founder of location-based social network LikeOurselves, said, "some of the speakers at the conference were leaders of companies with billion dollar market caps and it was a sign of mutual respect that they took the time to speak in front of a new generation of young entrepreneurs."

LSE already plays host to a range of successful career-aimed conferences, including the annual LSE Alternative Investments Conference, the world's larg-

est student conference on hedge funds and private equity. LSE Entrepreneurs Society hopes that the Sparks conference will achieve a similar level of prominence in the future among LSE students.

Ben Wigoder said, "the conference far exceeded my expectations. That said there are lots of things we would like to do next year to build on the event: live Twitter feeds, publishing attendee lists and stalls for young entrepreneurs to name a few." Sir Howard Davies, the LSE's Director, who came straight to the conference having stepped off a plane from Singapore to welcome conference attendees, said, "I hope this will become a regular event... It is nice to see that LSE students know that there's more to life than Deloitte and Goldman Sachs."

The Sparks team donated all profits from the event to the Microloan Foundation, which provides women in Sub-Saharan Africa with small loans to help them establish and run their own businesses.

A defence of South American socialism

Conor Rushby

Last Thursday, LSE welcomed Alvaro Garcia Linera, Vice President of Bolivia. His public lecture came as second of a series, titled "2010-2011 International Peace and Security in Latin America," organised by the LSE IDEAS Latin America International Affairs Programme.

Mr. Linera titled his lecture, "The Contemporary Bolivian Post Neo-Liberal economy," and the lecture had the aim of providing "brief comment on some of the features of the revolutionary process which is happening in Bolivia." Mr. Linera pointed to the changes in Bolivia since 1950, describing the move from state capitalism to neoliberalism, and the recent return to state planning under Evo Morales, the current President of Bolivia. In the 1980s oil, gas, telecoms, airlines, electricity and mines were all privatised. Mr. Linera considered neoliberalism to have led to an "externalisation" of profits, causing among other things, railways and the state airline to close and "two decades of agricultural breakdown."

The MAS Party under President Evo Morales, made famous by his trademark sweater, swept to power in December 2005. The MAS immediately began a programme of nationalising "strategic areas," in particular the energy and telecoms sectors. The MAS Party, as Mr. Linera alluded to, partly owed their electoral victory "to American pressure in Bolivian lowlands to stop cocoa leaf production," which many farmers depend upon, and moves to privatise the state water company. Morales, himself of rural peasant background, was re-elected in 2009 polling 64 per cent

of the vote. Mr. Linera, having studied Mathematics at university, was a founding member of the Tupac Katari Guerrilla Army in the early 1990s. After being caught attempting to blow up electricity pylons in La Paz, Linera was imprisoned and tortured. Here he developed an interest in sociology, and threw himself back into politics upon his release.

Evo Morales is a close ally of Hugo Chavez, President of Venezuela. Chavez has described the New Latin Left, (Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, Ecuador and Nicaragua) as an "axis of good," as opposed to the United States and its allies whom Chavez describes as an "axis of evil." This comes in response to decades of CIA intervention in Latin America, which served to limit the progress of leftist movements in various countries. This is of particular interest to students of International Relations, as American influence in the region appears to be on the wane.

In the lecture, Mr. Linera was keen to stress his point, "being left and revolutionary does not mean being irresponsible or crazy with public finances." He pointed to the economic successes of Morales' regime. GDP has increased in the last four years from US \$9.5 billion to \$18 billion, inflation has been reduced from 8000 per cent in 2005 to the current 4 per cent, and an increase in growth to 4.8 per cent annually has been achieved. Indeed in August 2009, the OECD reclassified Bolivia as a "middle income" country as opposed to a "low income" country. Furthermore, Mr. Linera claimed, "direct foreign investment is no longer the engine room of the economy," as it had been from 1980-2005, but rather the state is. Commenting on the 35 per cent GDP generated by the state, Mr Linera said: "we believe this is the correct

amount."

Emphasis was also placed on efforts "to transfer resources from modern sectors to traditional sectors," helping to strengthen the community and traditional lifestyles. With low interest loans, Linera stated that 17,000 new companies had been created since 2005. He also pointed to the figure of 60 per cent, as a proportion of investment which is now decentralised and in the control of local government.

Accompanying this economic revival Mr. Linera also spoke of the social transformations achieved by his administration. One million people in the last four years have been raised above the poverty line, whilst urban unemployment

has shrunk from 8.2 per cent to 6.3 per cent. The Bolivian government has also introduced a minimum wage, a universal rent rate for over-60s, and now distributes grants to school children so their families can afford them being in full-time education.

In closing, Mr. Linera, concluded with the idea that "Bolivia had tried to imitate other countries in terms of development and modernisation," but this hadn't worked. Instead, he said, progress has been achieved through following a trajectory that is compatible with Bolivian traditions, and narrowing Bolivian inequality.



Photo: David Bass

Law Society "blacklist" threat

Aimee Riese

Members of the LSE Students' Union Law Society received a disturbing Facebook message this week, warning that members may be blacklisted by prestigious corporate law firms, such as Slaughter and May, if they fail to attend society events.

The message, which was sent by the society's Careers Officer, claimed that recruiters from law firms would be able to check the names of those registered against the names of those who actually attended, stating: "if you do not turn up you are immediately blacklisted". The message went on to offer "words of advice" to those who did not turn up to events they had registered to attend, to "not bother applying for that firm in the future" and to "take these firms down

from their wish-list." The three law firms mentioned were Slaughter and May, Simmons & Simmons, and Clifford Chance.

It appears that the abrupt message was sent out following poor attendance to several society-organised careers events. The events operate on a first come, first serve basis, and places for them were limited in number. Some society members were reserving allocated places, but not turning up to the event.

Many Law Society members were upset with the message they received and were fearful of the consequences outlined. Chu Ting Ng, second year law student, and member of the Law Society, said that she found the message "really bizarre". She continued "I was quite alarmed by the message, because it seemed quite uncharacteristic when you consider the Society as a whole. I think it was probably just a rogue message, because, aside from this

one incident, the society's been great. I've been to a few of their career events, and they've all gone very well."

The President of the Law Society, Alexander Wicks, emailed the entire society membership on Tuesday regarding the Facebook message. In the message, he informed members that it was in fact not the case that they would be "blacklisted" from these three law firms if they had registered but not attended the careers events.

He stated, "the lists that we pass on to the Law Firm have no bearing on their application process, and consequently your application." He added, "we completely understand that students may have last minute deadlines or commitments that clash with an event and there will be no repercussions if you are unable to attend." Wicks apologised for any inconvenience and distress caused by the Facebook message.

The Beaver has since learned from the society's Communications Officer that "the Society is investigating why the message carried the particular tone it did. However, regardless, the underlying message still applies: while we accept that students may well have last-minute engagements, we would urge members to register for events only if they are fairly certain that they can attend. There is high demand for the limited places allocated for these events, and it is unfair for people to miss out on valuable opportunities, because others have booked a place and not turned up. Having high levels of absenteeism at these events does not reflect well upon the LSE in the eyes of potential recruiters."

News in brief

ULU BACKS MILLBANK PROTEST

A statement supporting the Millbank protests has been signed by representatives of the University of London Students' Union (ULU). The statement condemns the arrests of students at Millbank saying: "at least 32 people have now been arrested, and the police and media appear to be launching a witch-hunt condemning peaceful protesters as 'criminals' and violent. A great deal is being made of a few windows smashed during the protest, but the real vandals are those waging a war on our education system." The statement was signed by ULU President, Clare Solomon, along with representatives from other unions including the University and College Union and the National Union of Rail, Maritime & Transport Workers.

TAKEOVER DATE PENCILLED IN

University of London Union (ULU) President, Clare Solomon, has announced that 24th November will be the next day of action for the campaign against education cuts. She hopes for waves of occupation and "maximum disruption and resistance" on the day, which has been called for by many student groups. Solomon added that she wanted students to "take over universities" and wished for "all universities across the country [to be] occupied".

ARABIAN NIGHTS

The LSESU Arabic Society hosted their annual society dinner last Monday evening with a turnout of over two thirds of their members. In an impressive feat, the Arabic Society team sold tickets to 60 out of a total of 87 members. Attendees praised the evening, held at Lebanese restaurant Al Dar on Edgware Road. According to Shakira Chanrai: "The dinner was absolutely delicious and the atmosphere was amazing. It was a lovely opportunity to meet new people - clearly this is a very sociable society." Dina Fahmy, President of the Arabic Society was pleased with the success of the evening saying: "I was delighted with the turnout and pleased to see everyone getting involved, especially with the belly dancing!"

RALLY TO RESTORE SANITY - LSE

Last Thursday at noon a rally to restore sanity was held at the LSE on Houghton Street. The rally was organised by Scott MacDonald who is chair of IMPACTS (Irritated Moderates and Progressives Against Crazy Trade-unionists and Socialists). The intention of the rally was included in an open letter to all LSE students: "It is time for students at LSE to reclaim the streets. For too long extremist factions have misrepresented the views of LSE students, wasting our time and money on unachievable campaigns. The event was attended by around 25 demonstrators and was a counter-protest to the NUS-UCU national demo held last Wednesday."

FREEZE THE FEES FLASH MOB

Last Tuesday a flash mob occurred on Houghton Street as part of the LSESU's Freeze The Fees campaign. Over ten volunteers stood frozen on top of chairs across the whole of Houghton Street. The flash mob was promoting the NUS-UCU national demo which was taking place the following day. LSESU Education Officer, Ashok Kumar, used a megaphone to promote the event and leaflets were handed out to interested passersby.



Photo: Duncan McKenna

GOT A SCOOP? BRIEF US...

The Beaver welcomes all students to contribute to the News in Brief section of the paper. If you feel that there is anything noteworthy on campus please contact us at news@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Millbank demolition dominates day of protest

Luke Smolinski

Last Wednesday's NUS demonstration saw LSE students and the Education Officer of the Students' Union join thousands of protesters in storming Conservative Party headquarters.

Students from universities across the United Kingdom smashed windows, lighted fires and sprayed graffiti on the walls of 30 Millbank.

As a crowd gathered, chanting in protest to the government's proposed spending cuts, many protesters illegally climbed onto the roof, waving red banners and spraying fire extinguishers into the air. One student, who is yet to be identified by the police, dropped an empty fire extinguisher from the roof, which narrowly missed two Territorial Support

Group officers on the ground.

The student demonstration, organised by the National Union of Students (NUS), was a direct response to government proposals which will slash Higher Education funding and may treble student tuition fees. As 50,000 demonstrators marched through Westminster in peaceful protest to the government's plans, others assembled outside 30 Millbank, where the Conservatives campaign headquarters are based. Most continued on the planned march, but several thousand watched as effigies of David Cameron were burnt.

Police were unprepared for the proceedings and few arrived to calm student anger. The violence escalated as missiles were launched by the students occupying the building and students attempted to overpower the line of officers. To cries of "Tory scum", protesters broke the glass at the front entrance and surged into the

building. Others found an open fire exit and illegally marched onto the roof.

The Prime Minister David Cameron condemned the riot and praised the "extremely brave police officers trying to hold back a bunch of people who were intent on violence and destruction." Aaron Porter, President of the National Union of Students, blamed a "small minority" of students for hijacking the march and described the violence as "despicable".

By contrast, other union leaders appeared to have more sympathy with students' actions at 30 Millbank. The President of the University of London Union (ULU), Clare Solomon, said that she "understood the students" and that "there is an argument" for criminal damage, though she stopped short of condoning "violence towards people". Additionally, Solomon claimed that the students were "goaded" by the police, and that

she "[didn't] think anyone broke into the building... the door was open."

In a discussion broadcast on the BBC's Newsnight programme, Solomon clashed with the NUS President on the subject of the violent actions witnessed at 30 Millbank. She said: "A few smashed windows cost nothing, but it's not easy to replace students' rights which have been smashed by an illegitimate government". Aaron Porter countered this by asserting that "there is no need to resort to breaking the law to make a sound issue."

Other students defended the protest, with one undergraduate saying: "It raised awareness and just showed that students are really angry about events and are not keeling over." Jess, a student at Queen Mary, University of London, said: "People want change and this is what things like this are all about." Emir, an LSE student, criticised how the media reported events,

saying: "Students there were not lost in the moment: they were passionate about cuts."

ULU has called for a continuation of action against the cuts, with Solomon stating: "I support all causes for occupations [in universities] across the country. I will be backing them, I will be calling for them."

» **Eyewitness**
page 5
From our reporter
at the scene

"the Tories are scum and always will be"

» continued
from page 1

He added, "It is up to every MP who signed the NUS pledge to search their conscience whether or not to vote for an increase in fees. The Liberal Democrats' promises look like electioneering opportunism".

Passing Downing Street, LSE demonstrators and those around began aggressive anti-government chants such as "Build a bonfire, build a bonfire! Put the Tories on the top, put the Lib Dems in the middle and burn the fucking lot!" International Relations undergraduate Christy Roma described the march as "an active demonstration of student power, with people coming down from all over the country".

As the march approached the Houses of Parliament, the demonstration stretched the length and breadth of Whitehall, with estimates putting more than 20,000 people on the route. However, the protest ground to a halt after students launched an unofficial sit-down protest in Parliament Square, with police still blocking off sections of the road. At this point, the demonstration could be seen backing up all the way from Parliament to Trafalgar Square and even circling round Horseguards Parade.

Loud music was played as the protesters marched and several flares were set off down Whitehall; otherwise, the march passed on without incident. Attempts by police to keep the students on one side of the road were thwarted as students dragged the railings apart all down Whitehall. Protesters surged over all the lanes, blocking the street, while rally officials desperately attempted to contain the crowd and allow pedestrians past. Several demonstrators even climbed on top of bus stops and received cheers from the crowd. As the march progressed, the LSE demonstrators began to sing a variation on a popular song, chanting: "Hey hey, David, I

wanna know, if you'll pay my fees".

For the LSE Students' Union the march proved successful in making a national point on the 'Freeze the Fees' campaign. On the way down Whitehall, LSE students dispersed throughout the crowd, with pockets forming up and down the street, noticeable by orange posters on the back of their placards demanding "Howard Davies, freeze the fees". General Secretary Charlotte Gerada tried to rally LSE students around the Students' Union banner and began leading chants of "LSE 1 2 3 we don't want the Fucking Fees".

Government and History student Josh Still remarked that the march was about equality of opportunity, stating: "all we're saying is give fairness a chance".

After a long protest at Parliament Charlotte Gerada ordered a return to the LSE for the official after-party. LSE students splintered, with a number led by Gerada leaving Parliament via Westminster Abbey and returning to Trafalgar Square, while others moved with the remaining demonstrators in the direction of 30 Millbank, where some Conservative Party offices are located.

Gerada described the demonstration as having an "incredibly energetic, united and high-spirited atmosphere". She said she was "incredibly proud of the LSE students that came, who showed their support and definitely made their point". In a statement released jointly by the Students' Unions of the LSE and the University of the Arts London (UAL), Gerada added that "David Cameron and Nick Clegg can be in no doubt about where the public stand on Higher Education Funding."

» **Comment**
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All the views
that matter

Political Theatreland

Over 700 LSE students followed the Students' Union's banner from Houghton Street to Whitehall. Their peaceful protests were overshadowed by reports of violent conduct and arrests at 30 Millbank, where a splinter group of protesters stormed Conservative Party headquarters. Windows were smashed, Territorial Support Guard officers were summoned, and a student may be charged with attempted murder for dropping a fire extinguisher from the roof of the building.



Union Bashō

Coda

The blue flag is raised; placards salute. At the rear, the red flare is lit.

Chapters coalesce - no raucous chants; dulcet tones in concert, hating.

Ranks break. Smoke rises. Glass breaks. Gravity's tested. 'Paris, not Jarrow'.

Bells toll; sirens wail. Placards are dropped. Many leave slowly: funeral.



Photo: Saffan Qadir

After-party a "welcoming atmosphere" for student protesters

Benjamin Butterworth

Last Wednesday saw a successful national after-party take place at the LSE Students' Union following the National Union of Students' (NUS) demonstration. The party featured live music and dance, including a live performance by boys and girls of the Athletics Union Dance Club.

The event had been billed as the 'place to be' following the demonstration earlier on in the afternoon, which had been attended by more than 50,000 students and staff. Concerns had been raised that the LSE, one of London's smallest universities, would be unable to cope with the

numbers that could attend. Fortunately, the Students' Union's modest sized package of The Three Tuns, the Underground and the Quad coped well under the pressure.

Commenting on the party, former NUS President Wes Streeting said: "LSE has done an absolutely fantastic job and provided a really welcoming atmosphere for everyone", adding, "you should all be very proud of Charlotte Gerada; she's done a fantastic job here."

Staff at The Three Tuns reported very high takings for the evening, with the after-party being attended by more students than a typical Friday night at Crush. It is believed that the Students' Union was

its most full since Orientation Week.

Not all revellers were left convinced by the entertainment on offer. One student, who wished to remain anonymous, commented, "The live band was the same as at Monday's 'open mic' night. They were bad on Monday, and they were still bad today." Furthermore, by early evening space became an issue - one student wearing a King's College hoodie was heard shouting "There are no seats! Get me a seat now."

Later on in the evening one student told the Beaver, "It'd be far better if Wagner were here. In fact, if Wagner were Prime Minister we wouldn't even need to march. Wagner wouldn't dream of charging us tuition fees."

The meeting after the march before

Konrad Hughes

The LSE Students' Union's position on the violence at the NUS demo last Wednesday dominated discussion at last week's Union General Meeting (UGM).

Additionally, the controversy surrounding the now-axed 'Liam, Chris and Henry Show' on Pulse was also raised.

In an open forum which concluded the meeting, students discussed ways in which attendance at UGM might be improved.

In contrast to the previous week's meeting the Old Theatre was almost empty with many of the rows left empty or with just one or two people in them. The UGM began in an irregular fashion with Jack Tindale, Chair of the meeting, declaring a 'Happy Remembrance Day',

to which some members of the audience questioned the appropriateness of such a comment. However, once the Sabbatical Officers walked onto the stage there was a respectful two minutes' silence to mark Remembrance Day.

The reports from the Sabbatical Officers were overshadowed by their comments about the Freeze the Fees march at LSE and the subsequent national demonstration against the rise in tuition fees and the Coalition government's cuts. General Secretary Charlotte Gerada announced that the demonstration at LSE had been a success with between 600 and 700 LSE students turning up and roughly 1,000 in total if other universities which started their marches on Houghton Street, such as Queen Mary's, were included.

Gerada said that the violence at the Millbank Tower was a shame, claiming it "skewed the perception of the protest" and that people will not remember 50,000

students peacefully protesting against the cuts. Ashok Kumar, Education Officer, claimed that the march was "amazing" and that the peaceful and violent protests were both manifestations of the same underlying anger and frustration. Charlie Glyn, Activities and Development Officer, thanked everyone who took part in the march, especially those who made the banners.

When the Sabbatical Officers were asked by a member of the audience to clarify if they condemned the violence during the demonstration and any LSE students who took part in it, Charlotte Gerada repeated her views that it was intolerable and undermined the demonstration. However, when the rest of the officers were asked for their opinion many students felt that Kumar appeared reluctant to express an opinion; after a moment's pause he said, simply, "sure". Kumar also admitted that he was present

at the Millbank Tower part of the demonstration and stated that "4,000 students outside of the Tory Party headquarters was great."

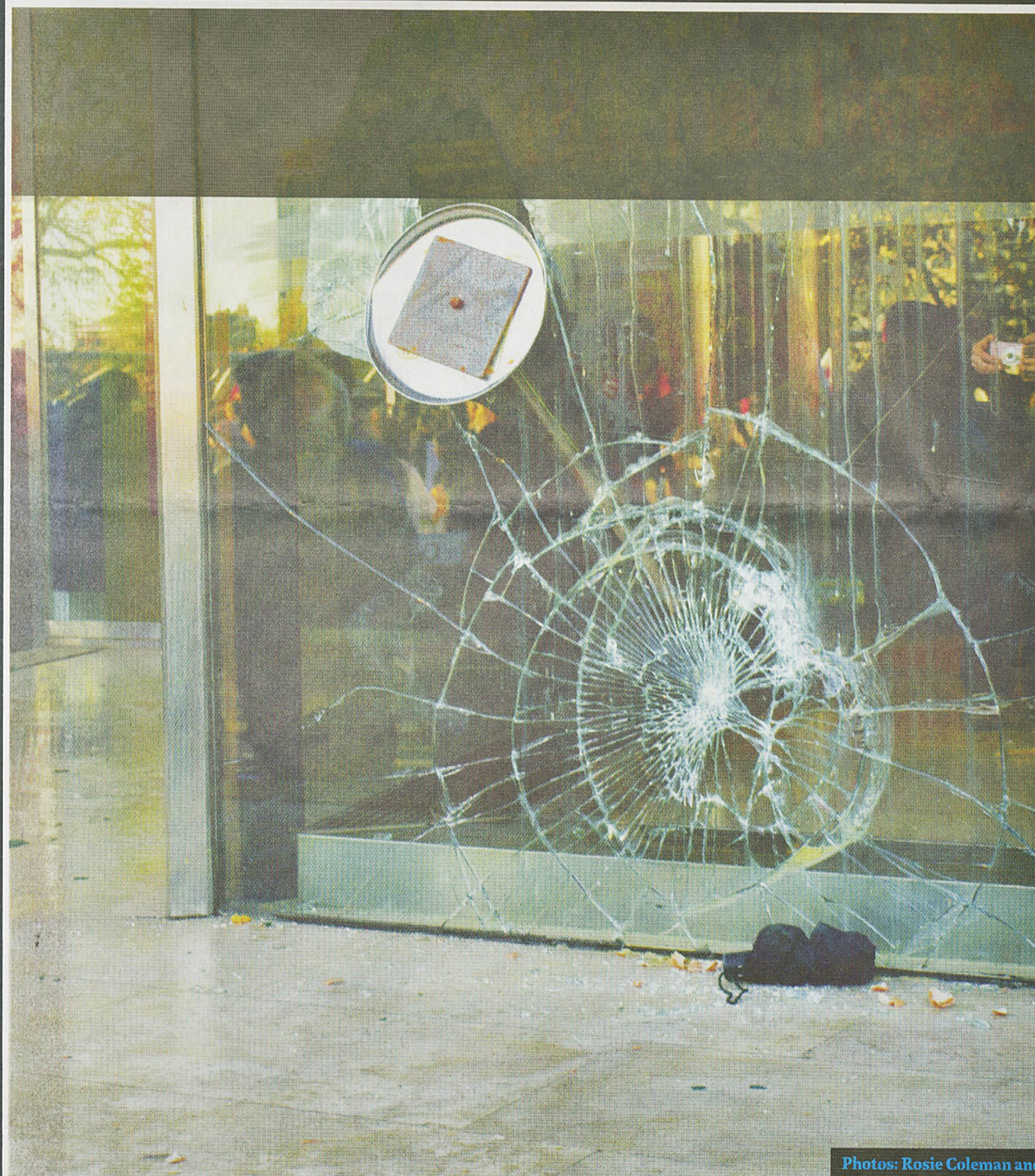
A question was also asked by a third-year undergraduate to Kumar, regarding whether it would be appropriate for Sabbatical Officers to be calling students who did not agree with the Freeze the Fees campaign, and did not participate in the march, "Tories". In response, Community and Welfare Officer Hero Austin claimed that this had not occurred, she recognised that students were entitled to different views, and that a debate could be had without coming to such conclusions. The questioner, Benedict Sarhangian, asked if Kumar was able to give a response since the question was to him, but the Education Officer declined to comment.

The next set of reports started with Stuart McColl, the Station Manager of Pulse Radio. He apologised for the con-

troversial show hosted by students Henry Adefope, Liam Goy and Chris Liu, which had received several complaints regarding its misogynistic content, and mentioned that the show has been axed from the station as a result of further feedback from Students' Union officers.

Once the reports were finished UGM Chair Jack Tindale authorised several questions from members of the audience regarding the low turnout at UGMs this term and how the Students' Union should adapt to deal with it. The issue was raised that online voting for motions might be a cause of the low turnout, but no substantive response was given. Some contributors to the discussion claimed that many students did not actually know what the UGM was and that the event itself was not advertised enough.

There were no motions considered this week.



Photos: Rosie Coleman and Duncan McKenna

THEY MARCHED, WE TWEETED.

The NUS Demo, in 140-character form, courtesy of our most eager Beavers

Beaveronline The Beaver

'Today's the day we shut down London' Ashok Kumar

10 Nov via Twitter for BlackBerry @ Favorite Reply Delete

NB: 'are you going to work for goldman sachs?' Boos aplenty

10 Nov via Twitter for BlackBerry @ Favorite Reply Delete

Guy that looks a bit like John Peel with a woolly hat on chanting with megaphone. You want the details, we're providing them

10 Nov via Twitter for BlackBerry @ Favorite Reply Delete

Favourite banner so far: "No more of... this sort of thing."

10 Nov via Twitter for Android @ Favorite Reply Delete

Some subversives from LSE are munching on noted anti-capitalist nourishment, courtesy of McDonalds. Renegades. #nusdemo

10 Nov via web @ Favorite Reply Delete

For anyone interested, demo slowed down outside house of parl because students have decided to, well, sit down in the middle of road.

10 Nov via Twitter for BlackBerry @ Favorite Reply Delete

Millbank: three 20ft windows have been smashed, police outnumbered and are evacuating the building, CCTV cameras being destroyed...#demo2010

10 Nov via Tweetie for Mac @ Favorite Reply Delete

Retweeted by rainsc and 4 others



For more digestible updates, visit twitter.com/beaveronline

Union Jack



Not since the 12:30AM Tuesday showing of *Sex Lives of the Potato Men* at the Basildon Cineworld has Jack seen so few people in a theatre. I was lost briefly amidst the 1970s damp of the Old Theatre's burgundy carpet, marooned on a desert of emptiness looking for a peopled archipelago to call my own. Adrift in a semantic diaspora of braindead nothing, it was as spacious as the inside of Sarah Palin's head and just as windy. Like some great chasm in the very soul of our social science centre of excellent there was a distinct lack of something. In short, it was empty.

But like all the best performers the Sabbatical Officers don't need an audience to put on a show. The Futile Four bestrode the stage, colossi in our time, the few attendees drew in an awed intake of breath in preparation of their dulcet tones. Ashok, ring leader extraordinaire, king vigilante, the most nuanced rebel leader since Che Guevara took crack, marshalled his shock troops in the war against economic rationale and the fee-hike bandits who dare to call themselves a government. Flanked by Somerset Cindy and the Walking Emoticon, Houghton's Street leading Action Man compelled his audience to pursue the most aggressive and vindictive form of non-violent protest imaginable since Gandhi met empire. All four condemned the now infamous airborne fire-extinguisher incident. In the most critical terms anyone who had actually participated in the Millbank violence could muster with a straight face.

Events took a turn for the more fierce when an incendiary audience member and drinking companion of Jack asked the Sabbs to stop calling him a 'Tory cunt'. Fortunately the LSE's answer to Kofi Annan, Ashok Kumar, was quick to calm the situation offering level-headed diplomacy in the face of militant aggression. Thank God for common sense.

Somerset Cindy lifted the mood when she fumbled girlishly with the mike. There were charmed smiles all around and the limited audience congratulated itself on its Edwardian politeness. How jolly!

Outside the UGM, guests were also surprised to find a quaint stall offering would-be buyers a concoction more potent than the Pope's Viagra, christened Ashok's Militant Mojo. Just a few drops of this emotional liqueur and the most tepid protester will be transformed into an education-conscious Rambo. Exactly how Ashok extracts his own ooings wasn't mentioned, but having imbibed this unique vitamin supplement, Jack can wholeheartedly give the product three thumbs-up.

Glasses were raised at the event's conclusion. Yes, it was over, but there are only 7 glorious honey-coated LSE days to go until we get to assemble once more in the Old Theatre, our eyes aflutter at the titillating intellectual insight on display. Until then Jack will spend the lonely night hours thinking of his synthesiser and awaiting his chest wax appointment next Monday. Jack is out for life and all it can offer - hence the UGM cravings.

Violence at Millbank - a first-hand account

When I first walked past 30 Millbank, it was empty. It didn't take long for the plaza to go from that emptiness to having more than a plaza-ful of people. My initial thought of nipping to the café next door (later to become refuge to all forms of media) waned fast as it became ever more interesting to see what was unfolding. A small bonfire was lit (ironically with copies of Socialist Worker as initial tinder) and grew, occasionally exploding loudly as fireworks or flares were tossed in. Early on, getting into the building was as easy as walking through the push door. Which many people did.

Fire or none, the masses were largely peaceful, at least to the extent that you could stand in the middle without a mosh-like battering. Two employees watching from the roof were greeted with a chant of 'jump, jump'; an offer they

didn't take up. Another was booed ferociously until he pointed out his red tie, after which cheers erupted. Drummers (and a lone clarinet player) appeared, their music immediately controlling the crowd's own tempo. For a long time, the only real sign of damage was a cracked window (and a fire), and it remained that way until more determined and prepared elements appeared; with scarves over faces and strong motivation, they quickly flooded inside, bringing down both panes of Plexiglas. It was only then that atmosphere changed as police appeared with riot gear and equipped their fellow officers, some of whom had lost caps to the heads of students or to the fire. Meanwhile, the courtyard was paradoxically sympathetic to police, parting to allow them to reach their colleagues at the front. A broken placard of Howard Davies

lay behind the crowd.

The lobby was 'one big party', music systems appearing from nowhere with few intent on criminal damage. Some windows were broken from inside, stairs flooded by fire hoses and graffiti drawn over the walls. Newspapers and toilet roll drifted from the sky.

The crowd below didn't always approve. Contrary to Sky News, predictably helicopter-panning over the entire march with a voiceover to the tone of 'everyone's smashing everything!', when a fire extinguisher was thrown from the roof to the ground landing inches from officers, the crowd reacted instantly, booing and initiating a chant of 'stop throwing shit'. Go to <http://goo.gl/D041x> for a video, by an LSE student, of the crowd's reaction to the throwing of the fire extinguisher. Many of those on the roof condemned

this action too. Reports later revealed that it went down the back of one policeman, grazing the knees of two more.

Many mobile phones in the Millbank area appeared to stop working despite strong signal; nevertheless, word travelled quickly and ways were found around the police who were blocking Parliament Square, so that anxious protesters could see the action. The most prominent people occupying the building flew anarchist flags and banners, but students were clearly among their number, including Clare Solomon, University of London Union President, an outspoken advocate of direct action. By the end, police had surrounded all entrances and exits and in order to leave, those inside had to charge at riot officers before dispersing into the crowd behind the building.

Michael Veale



INTERNATIONAL WEEK



**Stalls and Exhibitions @Houghton Str daily
First-ever International Assembly**

Full details and schedule: www.lsesu.com

Monday 15 November – Europe Day

Hungarian Luncheon, 4th Floor Restaurant, 12.30-2.30pm

International Music Open Mic, Underground 6:30pm

Tuesday 16 November – Oriental Day

Chinese lunch, 4th Floor Restaurant, 12.30-2.30pm

Asian Careers Week

Wednesday 17 November

International Assembly, Tower 1 U8, 2pm

Polish Vodka Party, Quad, 8pm-late

Thursday 18 November – Global Day

USA lunch, 4th Floor Restaurant, 12.30-2.30pm

Baltic Film Night, H208, 6pm

Friday 19 November – Asia Day

Indian lunch, 4th Floor Restaurant, 12.30-2.30pm

LSE STUDENTS'
UNION
www.lsesu.com

Comment

Why I don't heart the LSE Library

Incurring extortionate library fines is just too much; what are they for?

Rimmel Mohyidin



Yeah, yeah, yeah, it's one of the biggest social sciences libraries in the world. It's really pretty in its own Metallic Y2K kind of way and has lots of mouldy, leather-bound books which document everything from Utterly Pointless to Who the Hell Cares. And although the spiral staircase obviously seemed like a much better idea in the architect's head, it does lend a nice oh-look-at-us-and-our-un-Oxbridge-ways feel to it. The bean bags are a pretty sweet deal as well. But, for God's sake, since when did you have to be a millionaire to get a book out from the damn place?

Essay Time hit those of us who are tied in with the 'Political Science' bit of the LSE a couple of weeks ago and that obviously entailed much painful neck-craining to get that elusive book from the top shelf and taking an hour to punch in JX something something in those absolutely ridiculous silver keyboards. Having resolved to part ways with procrastination this year, (Ha. Ha.) I decided to be super efficient and check some books out way in advance. For the first time in all the time I have been acquainted with our delightful university, I managed to find all the texts listed in the required reading. As testament to why being greedy is generally considered a bad thing, I thought, let's take a look at that bit I've never looked at i.e. Further Readings. The books were right there, the sun was shining and I had slept for longer than 6 hours and, much to my shame, I took one and I felt like king of the world.

And there I was, on my merry way back home where I opened up Facebook, perfected Study Avoidance Behaviour and took a nap. Good times, so far.

Obviously I pulled in the standard all-nighter, barely got through the required



LSE Library
Photo: Shawn Shariati

texts and to hell with the Further Reading. Not going to lie, when you manage to write a 3,000 word essay the night before the deadline and still manage a decent mark, you feel all the smugness of having beaten the system, overcoming the biological necessity of sleeping and just being so awesome. Accessorized with my eye-bags and cocky smile, I swiped my card through the Course Collection and put those books to bed. Done and dusted. Or so I thought.

My love-hate relationship with academia is directly manifested in my attitude towards Moodle. So when they first started putting up Little Library Reminders I thought: that's cool. Now you can feel really studious for not only Moodle-ing instead of Facebooking/YouTubing but also by having your Library Activity documented on the side. Regardless of how much of a break you deserve after Essay Night, you need to login eventually, which I did. Lo and behold, what do we have here, a £47 fine? EXCUSE ME?

The one good thing I can say about the rage that followed is that it saved me money to buy coffee because there is no better wake-up call than nearly £50 leaving your bank account without you getting, at the very least, a pair of shoes in return. I marched my way back to the library and asked them how this had happened.

I knew I hated the colour orange for a reason...

Set Text, Ladies and Gentlemen, are two words I would prefer to never hear again. And yes, while I may be reprimanded for not having the good sense to open my eyes and see the gigantic, head-ache inducing fluorescent label, the book that I returned 94 hours later was the ONE Set Text that for some reason had the old red sticker on it which looks remarkably like the week long loan. My fault? WITHOUT A DOUBT, according to the idiot at reception.

And as Lady Luck would have it, LSE seem to have run into some copyright issues and half the readings are no longer available online so we're back to basics (just as I had finally managed to master reading off a computer screen...). So it

was either paying the fine or being a mute fool in class (although I can't blame the library for that phenomenon entirely).

As students in London, we're already kind of in over our heads when it comes to the M-word. We're poor and in the desperate hope that all this will pay off one day when we have our office in Canary Wharf, mansions in Zurich and a boat in Monaco. So why the library will not adjust its rates to make room for human error, stop expecting us to function like clockwork and JUST LET THE LSE STUDENT CLICHE GO is beyond me. £47 is a ridiculous amount to pay considering I could have just bought myself the books in that much anyway (Or at least a couple of good nights out and err...charity, maybe?).

What's more is that I know for a fact that this is hardly a blanket policy because a very good looking friend of mine has indeed batted her eyelashes, charmed her way out of the £56 she owed and went to Topshop instead. Granted, my yelling and psychopathic outburst probably didn't help my flirting with the staff (or the fact that she was a woman anyway) but we're talking about a principle here! It was a very If-I-don't-speak-up-who-will-moment. And as is the case with most of those moments, I got nothing except a stress spot and an enemy at the Library Help Desk.

Now, what I'd like to ask them is that when they embarked on this campaign to "create the nicest possible Library environment", did they take into account that maybe they need to buy more books with their twenty something digit surplus so you won't need to have a Set Text System? And even if you have one, why is the fine so exorbitant? What exactly is this little fun fine fund even used for? Seriously, librarians, it's bad enough that I spend half my evenings there already, do you really need to rob me for not having a life too?

So no, LSE Library, go buy your love elsewhere. After all, I know you're £47 richer anyway. ☹

A Cruel Angle's Thesis

The Tea Party Revolution across the pond from a British viewpoint

Jack Tindale



America is not Europe. It seems a rather blasé statement to make but with the liberal fall-out from the recent mid-term elections in the United States one could be forgiven for thinking that the Republicans have rigged the vote, so vocal has been the umbrage that the record gains made in the House of Representatives have been.

However, it may be of interest to note that very few British, French or German people actually have a vote over the Atlantic. To understand why the electorate in America have chosen to support a party that, to use a barrage of European clichés, are nothing more than a bunch racist and ultra-conservative troglodytes, it is obvious that this has been an election fought on one area: jobs.

It is fair to say that President Obama could not turn around the moribund US

economy in two years, indeed, I personally doubt that the Democratic Congress could have done it in four. Despite this, for those people who have been left on the scrapheap by a failure of neo-liberalism, anger against the state is to be expected. Two years is a long time for anyone to be out of work, especially in a nation where making the best of your skills is such a vital part of the national psyche. What many American citizens have seen over the past few years is a President who seems to have been disengaged from their plight, choosing to concentrate on nominally partisan or irrelevant issues, such as healthcare and cap-and-trade rather than getting the employment cycle back into gear.

Clearly, this is unfair in many respects to the President. Whilst he has been dreadfully lacking in many areas, such as the highly discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that can and should have been abolished months ago, it is true that the stimulus package has made the loss of employment far less pronounced than it would have been otherwise. The same Republicans decrying the 'socialist' tax-and-spend forced through Congress have been some of the biggest exploiters of the pork barrel. The former Governor of

Alaska, Sarah Palin, took almost as much in federal spending as Harry Reid, yet has managed to make herself the darling of the Tea Party's grassroots. Facts have become a side issue in American politics as of late, the wave of anger of middle America has become a tsunami.

The scale of the Democratic defeat in the House of Representatives cannot be understated - the loss of 60 seats is equitable with the losses suffered by Herbert Hoover at the nadir of the Great Depression; even 1994's 'Republican Revolution' was less successful. Despite this, there is some succour for the Democrats. They have kept the Senate by more than many polls predicted. Although the loss of numerous talented Senators is a shame, most notably of all Russ Feingold of Wisconsin, they retain a reasonable majority. The same radical candidates that did so well in the House failed to make an impact in the Senate - both Christine O'Donnell and Sharon Angle failed to win in Delaware and Nevada respectively - and if the current shares hold, it seems likely that incumbent Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska will become the first candidate since Strom Thurmond to win as a write-in candidate.

Indeed, talk of President Obama moving into one-term lame-duck territory are clearly pre-emptive. Only last year, Time Magazine had a picture of the Republican elephant captioned 'Endangered Species'. Talks of the G.O.P.'s collapse have been pre-emptive, so too will these talks of Obama. He still enjoys approval ratings around those that were enjoyed by President Reagan during the 1982 midterms, and both Harry S. Truman and Bill Clinton were able to enjoy successful second terms despite losing out in the Congressional vote. If the Republicans want to be taken seriously, then they need to start working with the White House, not simply being the Party of No.

Finally, this brings about the starting gun of the race for the 2012 nomination for President. Whilst it is possible that President Obama may face a primary challenge, the chances seem slight at best. Far more open is the Republican nomination which will most likely see a bust-up between traditional fiscal conservatives, such as Mitt Romney, with the Tea-Party candidates. For many in the G.O.P establishment, this will no doubt turn into a "Stop Palin" movement: very few think that the original "Mamma Grizzly" has much of a chance of

victory, either in the primaries or the election, but she will play a key role in deciding the face of the eventual winner. Current Tea Party favourites such as Florida Senator-elect Marco Rubio may put their name forward, but they are most likely too junior at this moment to have much hope of victory. More likely candidates are establishment figures who have the ability to span the gulf between the Republican and Tea Party movements, such as Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty or South Dakota Senator John Thune, but both have some way to go in order to build up enough name-recognition to gain the nomination and no candidate can be assured of victory short of the President being found praying in the general direction of Mecca.

The Tea Party phenomena is an easy one to dismiss - clearly, a reasonable proportion of their supporters are loons and conspiracy theorists, but those people would never vote Democrat anyway. Far more important is for the President to win back the Independents who propelled him into the White House. If he can do that, working with Speaker Boehner or not, then the Democrats may finally start to win again. ☹

'Demolition'

Let's restore some sanity to the Fees debate

John Collins



Allow me to immediately shuck all claims to expertise in this area. My academic career is mostly spent in the company of historical texts and, when I have some spare time, the occasional newspaper or weekly. In this sense I claim no superior understanding of the intricacies of British tuition costs or fees, nor do I offer a concise solution to the current problems. I am instead coming to this issue as a concerned student and an LSE alumnus. With those personal baggages declared I'd like to make two immediate observations.

Firstly, having watched the debate play out on campus over the last term it seems quite apparent that the level of wonkish understanding on this issue is usually inversely proportional to the volume of a person's voice. I realise that this is a transparent analogy with the recent upheavals playing out in America's political dialogue since 2009. However, having witnessed this phenomenon first hand while living in Washington D.C. last year, it is a comparison I feel comfortable making.

Secondly, I think this is a debate that is being infused with an unnecessary and counterproductive level of negative rhetoric and aggressive campaigning. Furthermore, and this I shall make no bones about, I believe that the fault lies almost squarely at the feet of our LSESU. I use the term "our" somewhat ambivalently here, given that for the last two months the union has most certainly not spoken for me.

At my very first meeting on campus this year, our education officer stood up and declared that the School had (I'm not joking) "hundreds of millions of pounds of surplus" and that it should not only freeze the fees, but also increase GTA wages. Regardless of the veracity of the claim, it still struck me as an argument not quite grounded in reality and I refused to accept a Freeze the Fees campaign flyer after the

meeting.

This type of rhetoric seemed to set the tone for what has been, from the very outset, a consciously aggressive and confrontational campaign. I was to later cringe when I read a quote in the Beaver, from the same education officer, accusing Howard of "cowardly hiding" in his office because he had thus far failed to accede completely to the SU demands. Perhaps this will betray my ignorance of management sciences, but I'm fairly sure that's not the way negotiations or decisions are conducted in any organisation.

I say this not for my own iconoclastic satisfaction, or to contradict the notion that students are going to be severely and unfairly hit by the Browne changes. They are. But there must also be a level of understanding on our part for the situation the School finds itself in. It is in many ways as much a bystander in the upcoming changes as we students are. So to accuse the management of trying to destroy the School merely for responding to changing circumstances does not wash with me.

As a onetime alumnus of the School I can also strongly identify with the long-termist perspective being argued. I paid my fees when I was here before and survived the tribulations of a one year MSc (which I continue to believe was value for money). So I may be forgiven for having a keen interest in seeing the LSE remain on a solid future footing. Furthermore, I can view sympathetically the notion that a freeze on fees might indeed amount to an inter-generational transfer of school money to current users at the expense of past and future students. Such a move would certainly strike me as inequitable, particularly if some of those students can meet their funding obligations quite tidily.

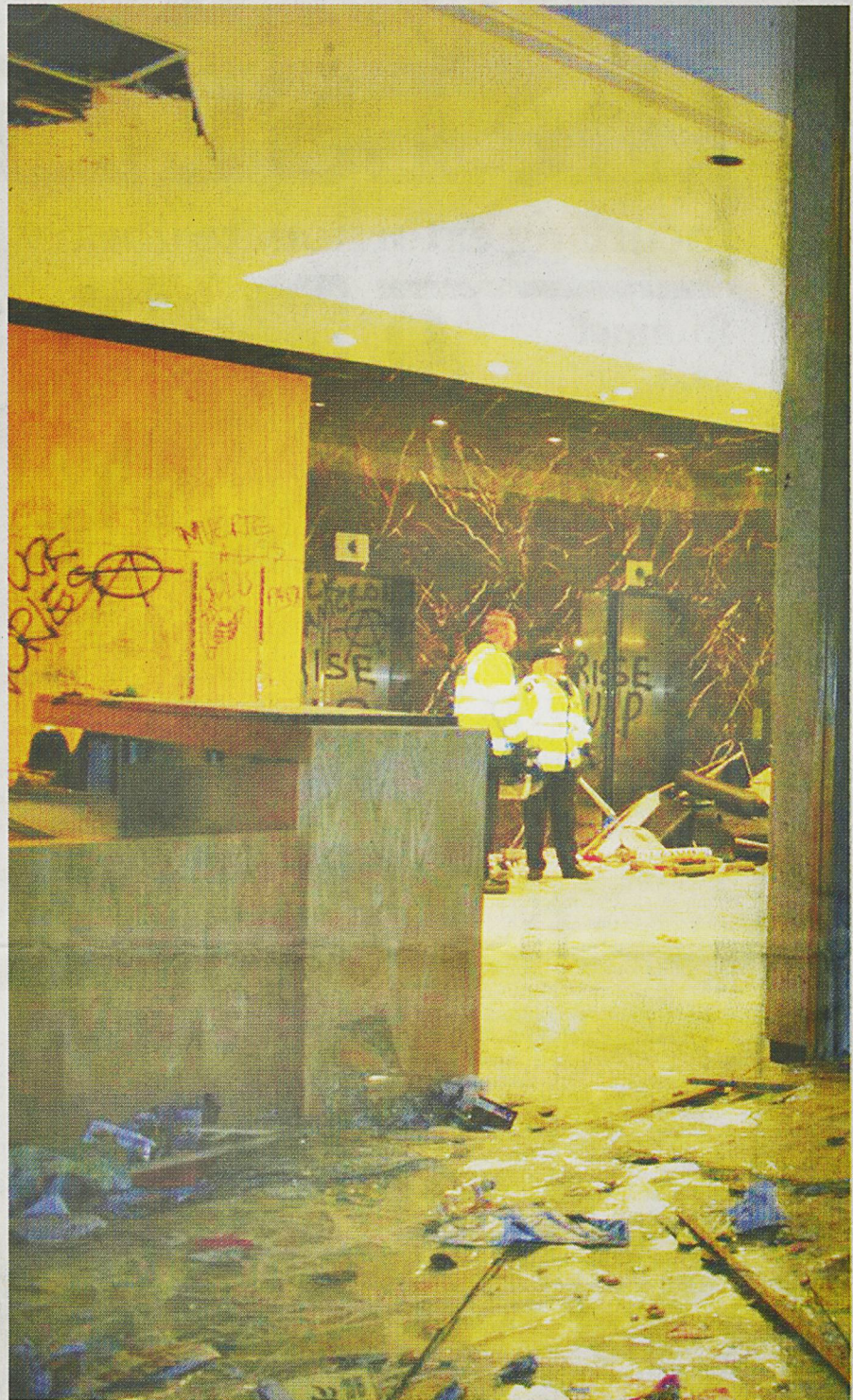
As to whether such an argument renders me a coward, the judgement can be your own. I believe there is always and everywhere a balance to be struck between progressiveness and practicality. Of course the LSE and society benefit from allowing the most qualified students to attend, regardless of their financial means. But this then requires us to find practical ways to pay for such a system. We live in a world of constraints and just because something is desirable, or even right, does

not always make it doable.

I am also forced to think on my own experiences with the Irish university system. As someone who benefited from an ostensibly free third level education, I came out thinking that our universities had become both a breeding ground for mediocrity and a playground for the better off. The abolition of fees had merely represented a massive transfer of wealth to the middle classes and in turn the private secondary schools. Today the universities retain their character as elite hang outs, just with a lower level of funding per student being squeezed from the government each year.

And then we come to last Wednesday's violence. I might be forgiven for finding a lack of irony in the fact that a rally sporting banners entitled "demolition" resulted in just that. Even if it was just the work of an anarchic few it was, and will remain, a scar on the British student body. And if such tactics attain some or all of our goals, it will be a victory that I want nothing to do with. Any equivocation on this matter has absolutely no place in sensible and reasoned debate and if we as students haven't learned this, then there is a far greater problem with our school system than just the mechanism with which to pay for it.

So with a concern over the direction this debate has taken I would, as a student of the School, urge the SU to step back. This does not involve an ignominious caving in to power, but it does involve a unilateral moderation on its part. I think the time has come for a radical rethink of the current strategy, starting with an outstretched hand to the School management to begin a dialogue. The SU should then work out a practical framework with which to forward our goals as students. The alternative of escalating confrontation will merely damage the SU and damage the School. Being an effective advocate of students' demands and a guardian of the LSE's interests requires a union that is willing to sit down and thrash out a set of policies, not merely stand up and shout out demands. I continue to hope that they can rise to this challenge. ☛



The voice of one student protester

Jamie Morgan Evans



After witnessing the window whacking off-screen, two postgraduate students from the London School of Economics marched to the end of the line only to hear the chants of 'You say Tory, I say scum'. This seemed about right, but the two students felt like they had a different take on things. They thought, what is implicit in policy making should speak for itself. They had lost sense of the common cause; the only cause of any significance.

Enormous screens stood tall beside the representative speaker from the UCU as a generation of students hissed at any hint of rising fees and cursed the faces of Clegg and Cameron who, as two men craving power, find no sympathy from this writer. But along the way, and with each step, what seemed like the real deal of civic protest diminished with a vast individual impertinence silencing the core message of the protest: Freeze the Fees.

One protestor, playing King of the Castle on the Millbank Tower, caused disbelief after 'losing grip' of a fire extinguisher. People are calling this attempted murder. People are offering substantial rewards for their identification. In that very instance, the march shifted ever so slightly from a symbolic demonstration against education cuts to one symbolised by a red,

inanimate object flying way over its head as a humble fire extinguisher. Such was the unconventional correlation of objects at this moment, that it is unsurprising that the march appeared to dissatisfy its justification and decontextualise any minor hope of organised political affect, beyond the pre-existing organisation of various student unions.

The crowd responded with chants of 'Stop Throwing Shit! Stop Throwing Shit!' But this was no zoo. This was the scene of apparently like-minded protesters regulating each other's behaviour and admiring the irony of their own collective refuse. It would first indicate that the crowd divided along these lines. But as the jeering eased out, the imagination turned a corner: it could have been me picked out of the crowd by that falling object. It could be me, just a thousand times over.

Speaking as one voice and as one student protester, it appeared that self-protection was perhaps a theme running through much of the march. Solidarity was spoken for by the number of people, but questioning how unified these people were, would appear a significant question. Further up the road, one girl protesting solo shouted 'No ifs, no buts, no education cuts'. Nobody joined her. 'You're on your own love', said a student in and amongst his friends. 'No ifs, no buts, no mother fucking cuts', he exclaims. Laughter and cheering colluded. It seemed like coherence came from competition with a sexist undertone. Who was louder? Who was the funniest? Who was this person mocked by a protestor? A protestor. Exactly.

Two particularities down, two gen-

eralities assumed. But there's a reason for picking at straws in this context. The snapshots experienced by individuals, like the thin slices of media focus poured into the public eye, deeply affect the purpose and the integrity of the message. As this protest was about two primary objects: the termination of state funding for the arts, humanities and social sciences and the potential trebling of university entrance fees, then the prospect of promoting social cohesion from inside the academy is severely reduced. To create a cohesive stand is required, to tell a clear story unstained by idiosyncratic behaviour is valuable. One's own desire to be heard or seen above that of other people is not a performance validating the authenticity of protecting the aforementioned subjects. And maybe 'Cameron is a wanker, Cameron is a wanker, na na na na, na na na na.' But is 'just a laugh', a worthy anchor for solidarity? Is this pseudo humorous contribution putting the collective first?

If you are defending these subjects you have to demonstrate the reasons why they are worth keeping. But there is a paradox in our generation of students studying the arts, humanities and social sciences, which needs resolve. Us students, if I dare, have been introduced, at the average age of eighteen, into a savage educational world that naturalises money-exchange for the pretence of intellectual freedom in higher education and the intrinsic use that this will have for employment opportunities. Across the country, graduates are desperately seeking 'good' work and hanging on to deep debt. They say that eight in nine graduates find employment these days, how many of these graduates use

the ideas and skills learnt in a university human science degree in the workplace? How transferrable are ideas? A degree has a price tag, because a degree has been made exchangeable. Cutting funding from the state intensifies the trend of making private property out of intellectual ambition. This hardly advocates the values of sincerity and commonality amongst our generation. Rather it reeks of self-optimisation and a ruthless competition between students to promote the self above the social. This is our paradox.

Add to this the risks of the Big Society for impoverished demographics, the power of conglomerate media, the survival of public libraries, the bioethics of pharmaceutical companies, the green movement and any other number of debates which require academic teaching and research then it becomes more convincing why these subjects are worth saving and why what we can offer the debate is only ever second to the debate itself. An education without this social concern might be the roots for quite different concepts. This notion was not made explicit with nearly enough conviction on Wednesday. From debates on class, to debates on gender equality, to the commercialisation of art and the treatment of the disadvantaged, we wish to freeze the fees because, in and of itself, the argument requires creative and intellectual students from all backgrounds undeterred by the reality of low wages and high debt.

But unfortunately, Cameron and Clegg soaked up the anger of this protest, as they were explicitly vilified by the protesters this week and were turned into the projections of the protest's real anger,

thus becoming, like the fire extinguisher, the symbols of many other repressed and significant arguments. Individuals fighting individuals, using aging narratives of combat and war to protect and to justify subjects strictly opposed, on the whole, to antagonism and conflict. This was the method, and this was the contradiction. If we are talking about fights, then we have to perform our hostility effectively in ways that do not simply hold a mirror up to the consciences of ministers toying with citizens' right to free education. Freezing the fees is the objective, getting hot and bothered over Eton and Oxbridge, wankers and bankers is not going to spark much change from people who rarely need to worry about their roots except for ephemeral political appeal.

And so, as Cameron smiles at the 'Tory Scum' slogans decorating his headquarters and as Socialist Worker placards exclaiming 'Fuck Fees' pile up below a fire extinguisher falling from the sky, it would seem that those academic subjects promoting awareness, defending the defenceless and challenging the ethical contradictions of the social order are losing their status behind the protesting 'I' and the entitled 'me'. Exactly the self-congratulatory phenomena that makes creativity and intellectualism synonymous with an individual identity. Like water dripping onto a stone, our subjects' are drying up in the face of these policies and although we remember that cuts to higher education affect us all, we should never act in a way that divides one another and the fundamentals igniting our protest. ☛

at Millbank



Entrance to Millbank Tower, Wednesday evening
Photo: Jaynesh Patel

Why Millbank should be defended and built on

Jennifer Izaakson



Last week, 52,000 students, more than double what the NUS publicly predicted, took to the streets to protest against education cuts and the impending rise in fees. When the protestors broke through barricades, impatient of waiting on Whitehall, it was an indication of anger brewing. If individuals climbing lamp-posts and bus stops occurs within 30 minutes of a demonstration, you know the atmosphere is clearly not the usual dull "down with this sort of thing" student demonstration. The most popular chant was 'Tory scum', the rising militancy palpable and highly visualised with the numerous 'fuck fees' placards held high.

Within an hour 5,000 to 10,000 students surrounded Conservative Party headquarters, blocking the road outside. As we're all aware by now, windows were smashed and through them poured hundreds, but just who were these occupiers? If the right-wing press are to be believed simply 'masked anarchists' and 'jobs' (a term that shows the Tories are definitely back in town). Yet footage of the action shows few with covered faces and being there on the day I can give a very different account. At one particular point (the area was so crowded mobility was impossible at times) those around me consisted of rugby boys, kitted out in matching team sweatshirts shouting "who are yer, who are yer" at the police, macho-stand off ensuing. Waif-like arty-looking Roehampton students in bright blue anti-cuts T-shirts, groups of school-blazered teenagers, and a few fully uniformed cheerleaders dancing around to a boombox they'd brought. These were just a few identifiable 'student types' but overall the majority were very young, most looked under 18 and it seemed the younger their appearance, the greater their anger. These after all, school pupils and college students, are the very people who

will be paying six to nine grand a year to attend university (if they manage without EMA of course).

Where was the violence? I was there, I didn't see any, apart from police hitting sixth formers with batons. There was civil disobedience, people were venting their anger at the Tories directly. These actions represented the anger felt not just by students but other sections of society fac-

I didn't see any violence, apart from police hitting sixth formers

ing cuts and also ensured media coverage for the next 72 hours. We need to redefine violence: violence isn't the smashing of a few windows; violence is the total decimation of our education system. Violence is the cuts imposed on those young people at Millbank, and they reflected it by tearing Tory HQ apart once inside. Was this useful? Not really, it was irrelevant, but we should not stand with the Murdoch press and the ConDem coalition in condemning those fuelled by rage and broken hopes. We should follow the sentiments of the Goldsmiths lecturers, LSE lecturer Paul Gilroy, Billy Bragg and John McDonnell MP who have all signed a statement in defence of those at Millbank.

Millbank was a spark, a signal, that people are willing to resist and however we feel about certain acts (the fire extinguisher stupidity for example) if we want to fight the cuts we must build on the day's events. The radicalism signalled a break with the usual script, as the Independent headlined the next day, 'the era of consensus over cuts' has ended. No one expected what happened - we are the 'iPod generation', 'Thatcher's little children', hyper-individualised and too young to remember the struggles of the 1980s. Yet, these same MTV-pacified youngsters took part in collective action not seen since the poll tax riot, full of 'righteous anger', we're finally finding our voice (in a way that doesn't include phone-voting for X Factor).

Whether you marched peacefully that day or cheered as Millbank was taken over, we're on the same side and want the same things: an end to the cuts and no fee increases. On the 24th November a day of action has been called and we must act together. There are many ways to demonstrate, peacefully banner-waving or occupying - whichever we choose we must be united as students. The intended cuts will savage the working class of this country, hitting our generation the hardest: we have the most to lose. I'm proud of what happened on November 10th, both the peaceful and 'violent' elements and it might just lead to a wider movement that can seriously challenge this government. ☘

Letters to the Editor

Sir - This article isn't about my views on the proposals to raise tuition fees but rather the individuals who broke away from the wider protest on the 10th November to break windows and occupy the roof of Millbank House. These individuals hurt the cause of the wider protest by associating all students with their destructive actions. The continued defence of their actions by student leaders - including Clare Soloman (President of University of London Union) and Ashok Kumar (Education Officer at LSE) - bleeds public sympathy from the movement and discredits them as reasoned voices at a time when students need effective representation.

Although the protesters have talked about the need for resistance, they have failed to grasp that protest movements only ever work when they are highly organised, disciplined and non-violent. Breaking a few windows without the support of a wider movement or political strategy to back it up is naïve and suggests that those who did so just wanted to break windows and didn't want to work for a wider cause. Moreover, allowing the protest effort to be characterised entirely by "anti-Tory" action (through the location of the violence and the chanting of "Tory scum") deprives it of the opportunity to advance a positive message about the benefits of university funding and fails to deal with today's political reality.

What happened at Millbank was a violent deviation from an otherwise peaceful protest, trying to pretend that it served a broader purpose increases the harm those individuals' have done to the movement, rather than seeking to move on. Clare Soloman, in her pitiful appearance on Newsnight, wasn't able to justify their actions beyond it was 'making their voices heard'. However, what is clear in Wednesday's aftermath is that students' voices are not being heard; diverse and articulate voices within the student movement have been drowned out as news reports have focused on the violence. Even now, most of the attention focuses not on the upcoming protests but on police searches for whomever threw a fire extinguisher off the roof, which was just stupid on too many levels to count.

The destruction at Millbank succeeded in grabbing the attention away from the majority and allows many members of the public to write-off the wider protest as lacking a reasonable objective. This is especially easy if people assume that students are of one mind on an issue - it makes it easy to ignore them as unwilling to discuss issues in a rational fashion or work towards a compromise.

It is now that the words and actions of student leaders are particularly important. This is one reason I was upset to see Ashok Kumar was an early signatory to the 'Coalition of Resisters' open let-

ter 'Defend the Millbank Protesters'. By signing up to this, he is hurting the wider cause of stopping the rise of tuition fees by perpetuating its association with the actions of a few whom the vast majority do not support.

Although the letter states that the individuals all signed 'in their personal capacity' this is clearly not the case. Ashok's title as 'Vice-President Education, LSE' immediately follows his name; if he is acting in a 'personal capacity', then his title shouldn't matter. But even if this was only a personal act, Ashok must be aware of how his actions characterise the broader perception of students and the protest movement.

As an LSE student I take issue with this and believe that it undermines his ability act effectively for the rights of LSE students on campus. It is untenable to present oneself as a reasonable voice that stands for working with the university to get the best deal for students and to support the violence that occurred at Millbank. Last week he encouraged students to throw snowballs at Chris Huhne.

He has repeatedly demonstrated his inability to use dialogue as an effective means for change and these are not the actions I, and many others, expect from their elected representatives. If he wants to protest, he needs to lead not follow a violent minority, and most importantly not discredit himself as a student repre-

sentative when the time comes for talking after the shouting is over.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Mattina

Sir - Osborne and the Coalition are right to ring-fence foreign aid.

The cuts will hurt, but, as we move to cut the deficit and face pain at home, I am proud that we haven't run away from our responsibility to the world.

We have done the right thing by honouring the promise that we made to the world's poorest people in terms of aid. Fighting poverty overseas isn't a luxury, it's the just and right thing to do.

I'm a supporter of the poverty education charity the Global Poverty Project, who last night premiered the film 1.4 Billion Reasons to 500 people in London. I'm one of thousands of people around the country doing my bit to fight poverty overseas, and today I'm proud that my government has kept its promise to help the world's poorest get out of poverty.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Gregory

All being well with the weather, the Comment and Features Editors will be on Houghton Street on Tuesday 9th, between 12 and 2 PM. If you have any questions, please drop by.

comment@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Photo Needs no introduction...



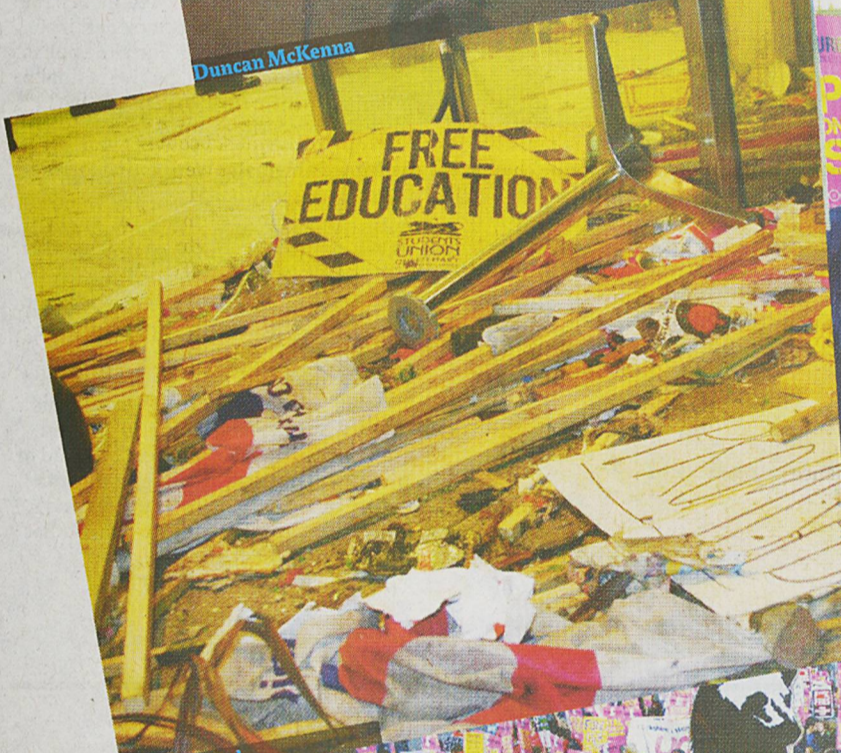
Duncan McKenna



David Bass



Duncan McKenna



Jaynesh Patel



Saffaan Qadir



Liam Brown



Saffaan Qadir



Duncan McKenna

Want to join our photography team?
Contact us at
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Social

LSE's Muse

Maria Rosala's calling all writers

The Muse is an annual publication produced by the Literature Society at LSE since 2006. It showcases student and staff creative writing, and is supported by LSE's Student Union. It has been a success for the last 4 years, with last year's theme evoking some popularity with the contemplation of sin.

We've recently got together our group of editors and we're now embarking upon another year of creative ambition. As a first year student with little experience in editing, I found myself faced with the exciting prospect of being this year's editor and it's proving to be a fantastic experience. Finding some creative outlet to become involved in is a nice retreat amongst those first essays that have been systematically and laboriously tackled and ticked off my checklist.

This year our theme is 'Creation' which I think fits in nicely with the objective of the publication: for students to seek inspiration, get creative, and display their talent.

Since I'm new to the battlefield of editing and publishing I asked two people to answer a few questions on the importance of the Muse and the process of putting it together. These are: Jonathan Weir, last year's editor and Chu Ting Ng, poetry editor in the editorial team last year.

What would you say the Muse's vision is?

Weir: It's about giving people a chance to get involved in that wonderful process, the publication of a book. From start to finish, anyone involved has a chance to control everything about it, from the art work to the layout to the paper it's printed on. It's a platform for creative writing which is sorely missing at a school which can so often feel like a factory for bankers.

Ting Ng: I think the Muse vision is essentially to shake LSE students out of their daily routines. There are a lot of banal or short-term worries that we all have day to day, and a publication like the Muse not only gives students an opportunity to remind themselves that they have a creative side (be it writing or just an appreciation of it), but also lets them know that there are other like-minded individuals out there.

What was exciting about working on the Muse last year?

Weir: Everything. To have my own project which I could work on from its creative inception through to hauling DHL boxes down Houghton Street. I suppose though the most satisfying part was seeing the author's faces when they realised their work was in their hands, published, for hundreds to read.

Ting Ng: I think the most exciting bit was about meeting the people who made the Muse happen. Everyone came from different courses and were all interested in different aspects of the publishing and creative process, so that diversity was fantastic.

Were there any challenging aspects to editing or putting together the Muse?

Weir: Choosing what to publish. When there's so much good work in front of you, and only limited space in the magazine, it's hard to know where to start.

Ting Ng: Time is always an issue, but I would say the entire editing process is a huge struggle simply because we have so many submissions. It's hard to cut things out and say no to people who have written genuinely good pieces.

Lastly, what would you say the Muse achieved?

Weir: It's become a small exciting project that gives secret writers a chance to be heard.

Ting Ng: I think the Muse has definitely lured the hidden talent in LSE out into the open, and that's very important because the objective of having student publications is to provide artists with a platform for expression. The quality of writing is something to note as well, and knowing that you've been a part of this entire proper, actual anthology-type publication is very rewarding. It gives you something to call your own, really.

So for this year's theme we would like writers to consider the following questions:

Why is Creation so important to the human race, and to individuals?

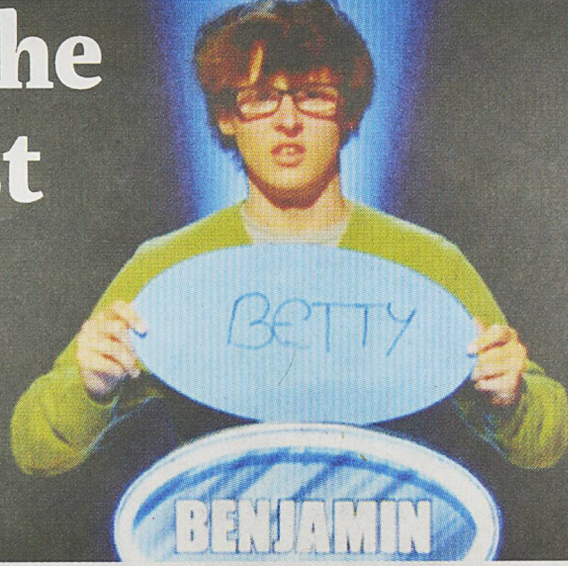
What is the significance of creation in society/outside society?

Who creates? Why? Where? When?

In an age of scepticism about our economy, lifestyles, health, education, politics and our planet this year's theme really breaks with the trend. Creation is a positive act; it introduces something new, optimistic and innovative into the world. I believe this fits in with the LSE's vision; students at the LSE work hard in order to shape the future. Therefore, creation is a relevant and exciting topic for those who have the ambition to produce change, development and innovation. The Muse this year will reflect the creativity of students from the LSE and hopefully reflect a new age of optimism.

Submissions should be sent to musesubmissions@yahoo.com
Any questions or queries, you can write to the Muse editor, m.rosala@lse.ac.uk

Being the weakest link



Benjamin Butterworth goes behind the scenes

"You are the weakest link. Goodbye!" Those had been the words I'd been dreading for the last 24 hours. My every effort had been put into escaping Ann Robinson screech her catchphrase at me, whether that be through bitching, lying, manipulating or just plain cheating. I was dead set on winning the Weakest Link.

The whole façade had begun the day before filming, on August 19th, some hours after I'd received my A-level results. As the train pulled into Glasgow - home to BBC Scotland - I'd noted down a series of pointers to help me squirm through the rounds, avoid detection of my painful lack of general knowledge, and ultimately be crowned winner.

Regrettably, nowhere on my list of tips to win was the word 'revise'. I had done a quiz entitled 'embarrassing answers to Weakest Link questions' while on holiday in Italy, but that hadn't boded well.

The list did include a few basic rules for any game-show goer, which having been through the experience, I stick by. Firstly: lie. I lied about my 'A' level results, lied about my father's job, and lied about my ambition to win. Nobody likes a smart-aleck, or a posh-boy, and sadly I'm often inclined to be both of those. A grades became B grades, 'property developer' became 'decorator', and 'yah darling, yah' was simplified to 'yeah, innit'.

The second pointer was, essentially, more lying. But for the sake of argument I referred to it as 'manipulation'. Even before meeting my fellow contestants, I assumed they wouldn't be much to look at. This proved astonishingly true. For this reason image based compliments were a key component in my master-plan. From the moment we first met in the hotel lounge, right up to the point we were actually on the set, I made it a point to pay each female contestant a minimum of two compliments. As a gay man, lying to a woman about her appearance came naturally. Generally 'that colour suits you!' and 'I wish I was as slim as you!' were the most used. This worked a treat, and is something I've since taken to using in more situations than just TV shows.

After that the plan became a little more spontaneous. I dined, on much appreciated BBC expenses, in the hotel

restaurant with a few other contestants the evening before. This let me get in a few compliments, as well as play up to my role as the poor, fresh-from-school, baby of the group. Shortly after dinner one member of the 'team' suggested going to a local pub, which posed a dilemma: I could build alliances within the group, but it would be at the expense of sleep and mental prep time. The choice between bitching and sleeping was a simple one though, and so myself and the majority of the group headed for a Glaswegian pub.

It was in this stinking piss pit of Scotland that the - now infamous - 'Betty pact' was formed. Betty was a 78 year old wheelchair-bound contestant on the show raising money for her church roof. She'd leaked this nugget to another fossilizing contestant earlier on in the day, claiming she wanted to win the show in order to pay for a new roof at her Geordie church, but didn't want the rest of the contestants to know. When news broke of her God-grabbing secret plan, there was an uproar. 'Fuck her church roof! I want a Louis Vuitton suitcase' one contestant was heard shouting.

An opportunity born of my wildest dreams had occurred: group divide. The night rolled on, and I made every assertion to talk meaningfully to all the other contestants. It didn't take long before alliances formed, and it took even less time before they were taken advantage of. A suggestion was made, by a team member who shall remain anonymous, that we gang-up against backstabbing, unable to walk, Betty. After much beer and hilarity, the plan was ironed out as: 'If any one of us have a shoddy round, if we're in trouble and on our way out, nod and wink and we all vote Betty'. Little did I know how useful this plan would be.

Filming day was a tough schedule; up at 5:30am, in the BBC studio at 7. The contestants were herded into the back of two people carriers - blacked out, needlessly, but it did add a degree of excitement to the whole thing. From 7 until 10am we underwent health and safety, outfit selection, make-up (some needed considerably more than others) and nervous green room chitchat. I even offered my only croissant to fat-Lisa before the show, having marked her as my main rival on the programme.

Shortly after 10am we walked onto the set. This experience can only be described as the greatest orgasm of my life. It was so good I almost lost my master-plan cool, doing a little leap of excitement as I climbed behind the podium so beautifully labelled 'Benjamin'. Ann Robinson emerged shortly after, accompanied by three workers who went on to adjust her hair, outfit and disjointed face between each and every round. I'd like to claim Ann was lovely off-camera, but she wasn't. She screamed at one contestant for missing a cue, and referred to the team as 'nit-wits' after another filming faux-pas. I grew very fond of her.

Many rounds passed by. The previous evening's lies and manipulation solidly supporting me, I received not a single vote in the first two rounds. It had also become apparent that, whilst I couldn't look at who my team-mates were voting for, the sound of squeaky board pens made it obvious. I waited some time before voting in numerous closely-fought battles, ensuring best chance of voting off the strongest players. This was a risky strategy, but fortunately no producers picked up on my outright cheating.

Round five almost saw my death. I didn't get a single answer correct - including the embarrassing error of not being able to name 'what H is the Scottish parliament'. Enveloped with fear, my only hope was Betty. The studio lights came up, Ann Robinson asked who was the weakest link, and the overhead camera swung round. The first contestant, a 30-something Bristolian man who I'd declined to sleep with the night before, voted against me. Thankfully, he was the only one. Poor preaching Betty got the axe. She didn't quite manage the walk-of-shame, instead being subjected to several minutes screaming from producers who demanded she stand up, until they eventually realised she couldn't and had to use some careful editing.

In the next round, I really did get voted off. It wasn't pleasant, I wasn't even the weakest link, and I did feel very resentful. The man that had been the weakest link was a thoroughly dense, but truly lovely man called Michael. Michael went on to win the show.

To this day I ignore Michael's friend request on Facebook.

Open for business

Jason Reinin and MindsBridge consultancy



Harvard, HEC Paris, Stanford and UC Berkeley have it. A student-run consulting firm is, in essence, a fully functional management consulting firm just like the big names, but completely operated and staffed by students. Now, with MindsBridge Consulting, we at the LSE can finally add our name to the list. Marc Brunssen, the chairman and co-founder, explains his ambitions for MindsBridge; "Our vision is two-fold. First, we want to bridge class and board rooms. Our students profit from working on real business problems, and our clients benefit from bright, creative people who bring new perspectives to combat their companies' challenges. Second, MindsBridge is a social business. Our net profits will support scholarships at the LSE, which will

be very relevant given the potential rise in tuition fees."

The first student-run enterprise was launched at the ESSEC business school in the 1970s. A decade later, the concept spread across Europe and gained in popularity. Germany introduced these firms at over 30 universities. The 1990s saw their development in the US. And in the last decade student run consulting firms earned a global reputation for excellence, and the idea that an intelligent group of students could come together with fresh ideas and new solutions for businesses became widely accepted. This model has worked, with great success, for other schools including Stanford (revenue of \$2.5 million in 2009) and ETH Zurich (a turnover of CHF 1 million in its first year of existence).

For whatever reason, this concept never really took off as much in the UK. What is perhaps even more curious is that it had not yet emerged at the LSE, given our business-minded student body. One would think that our school would be an obvious place to undertake this given both the quality and diversity of its student body and academic programmes. If you throw in the fact that London is one of, if not the only, financial centres of the world, it starts making less and less sense. How much longer would students at the LSE sit on the sidelines watching other schools profit from such an immense market? As of this month, this has all changed. Since last year, LSE students began to put together the pieces to create what is today a fully functional student-run consulting firm, just like those at world-class institutions. LSE will now be the first and only school to have a student-run consulting firm in the UK offering services to a wide range of industries, including the financial sector.

From its inception, MindsBridge has gained a lot of attention from the business market. For example, Freshfields

Bruckhaus Deringer, a leading law firm, has agreed to support us as a pro-bono project, by setting up the legal framework. It is easy to see why MindsBridge will be a great practical learning experience for students and an amazing source of fresh strategy for businesses. The best part, of course, is that the better MindsBridge does, the more money will go towards funding student scholarships for the LSE. And as far as gaining net profits is concerned, being the only player in a new and very lucrative market provides unlimited opportunities for the firm. MindsBridge, while new to London and the LSE, has followed the proven model of older junior enterprises by using a highly selective process to tap creative and intelligent students from the LSE. These students are able to come up with innovative, modern solutions to the problems businesses currently face. MindsBridge received many applications from students willing to take on the paid job of consultants, but only 10 per cent of the candidates were accepted, many with prior work experience in prestigious consulting firms. MindsBridge's consultants will work with a variety of

different businesses, dealing with matters of strategy, marketing, public policy and finance. As MindsBridge grows, it will most likely want to expand its team.

While MindsBridge is 100 per cent student created, operated and run, we have attracted top-name firms to help advise and guide us via a corporate advisory board. Members also include LSE staff, such as LSE Director Howard Davies. The student consultants will also gain high-level professional training from some of these corporate partners, such as Greenhill & Co (NYSE: GHL), to help them develop their skills in preparation for real-life practice.

Now that all the homework has been done, the relationships built and the student consultants selected, MindsBridge Consulting is excited to open its doors. With the future looking bright for yet another example of LSE entrepreneurship, chairman and co-founder, Marc Brunssen, says, "It is great to see the enthusiasm both in our consultants and our clients. The London market is just perfect for our service, leading to fantastic momentum on both sides."

LSE Diary

Angelina Castellini's Parisian adventure

Oh Paris, city of love. While most people visit Paris with a significant other, I too had a perfectly valid reason to visit the city; it seemed like a good idea at the time. And it was! I must admit that, though being single in Paris is an adventure in and of itself, it can also be frustrating at times. But this is not my diary in which I assess my relationship status, this is about the Paris you see when you actually leave the hotel, go past the café on the corner of the street, and walk at a reasonable speed to get the full on tourist experience.

Overenthusiastic about the three weeks of French experience that lay ahead of me I spent my first day in Paris walking down the entire Avenue des Champs-Élysées from the Arc de Triomphe to the Louvre. For those few of you who have never been to Paris, this avenue beats Oxford Street in every possible way. It is bigger, busier (yes, this is possible), more expensive, actually scenic, and a lot more tiring to walk down. Needless to say, one walk down the entire street was more than enough. Paris is surprisingly warm during Easter and with the sun burning down on me I was relieved when I finally got back to the 19th arrondissement, away from the hustle where I could sit down on a bench with a view of Paris that included the Sacre Coeur and the Eiffel Tower. And what a view that was!

I spent the next three weeks exploring the city together with my friends. I made a great error of judgement by going grocery shopping right before paying a visit to the Sacre Coeur on Easter weekend. The two bags full of vegetables made the crowd of tourists seem even more dense than it already was. I am not religious but I do enjoy the quiet of an almost empty church, not to mention the photo opportunities. The architecture of past centuries always

intrigues me, especially when it accommodates musical instruments and the velocity of sound. If, like me, you enjoy music you should not miss mass in Notre Dame. I did not need my MP3 player in Paris, the many street musicians already played the soundtrack of my visit.

We all know that when in Paris one has to pay two visits to the Eiffel Tower (once in the day time and once at night when it is lit up), a visit to Versailles to prove that one is a true student of history, to Père Lachaise Cemetery to see the graves of Jim Morrison and other celebrities, and as many museums as one can squeeze in. But what does one do with all of this culture? The key here is to select. To avoid a selection bias I chose to just walk around and get lost. As chance had it, I ended up seeing more than I ever expected. And so I was taken aback by the volumes of silent words spoken by the Holocaust memorials project in Père Lachaise, the beauty of the ceilings of the Louvre, the eeriness of the catacombs that are packed with the bones of dead Parisians, the magnitude of the 67m pendulum of Foucault's clock in the middle of the Panthéon, the beauty of the parks and gardens that are hidden around corners, and the craftsmanship of Rodin. Opinions about Sarkozy's other policies aside, in passing the law that all national museums should be free for European students under the age of 25, he ensured that my holiday was filled with culture that is normally only available to people who can afford the entrance fee.

The intriguing alleyways

and quaint old cafés delight just as they do in "Amélie" and if vinyl records really were made like crêpes I would probably try to eat them too. A true French croissant is also a delicacy. I treated myself to one every morning and became a regular at a small bakery run by an old couple that patiently taught me French pastry vocabulary. I highly suggest finding a small local bakery rather than one on the high street. Nothing tastes better than a fresh croissant in the morning after pulling an all-nighter. Staying awake until sunrise is a wonderful thing to do in Paris not only because of the bustling nightlife but also because you can watch the city wake up in the early hours of the morning. While I was yawning, sleeping beauty Paris was being kissed awake by the rays of sunlight.

I am glad I visited this legendary city and no, je ne regrette rien!



WiB

LSE SU
WOMEN in BUSINESS
SOCIETY

How I Made It in Marketing

Tuesday 23rd November

7pm – 9pm

NAB204

Our second 2010/11 'How I Made It' event for those who might be interested in Marketing or PR. The speakers will discuss their roles, their career progression and how to succeed in the marketing industry during the panel discussion. Afterwards, an informal networking session will be held with the speakers and other representatives of their companies.

Speakers:

Katie Lee, Client Service Director and Deputy Head of Account Management - Leo Burnett
Jo Charlottes, Client Executive, Corporate - Burnson Marsteller
Heleana Quartey, Senior Associate, Digital, Design and Brands - Burson Marsteller
Carla Webb, International PR Manager - Chivas Brothers

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Teach First. Decide Later.

Jessica Carter wants you to be part of a top rated movement, while **Alice Pelton** shares her own experience at the Teach First assessment day



When I told a fellow LSE student I was going to be a high school teacher, his first reaction was surprise, followed by a comment about being 'too overqualified' to enter the teaching profession. Little do people realise that the Teach First mission is to address educational disadvantage by transforming exceptional graduates into effective, inspirational teachers, and leaders in all fields.

Put briefly, its aim is to find graduates, who otherwise would not have gone into teaching, and put them into the classroom. This is how Teach First is revolutionising education.

It is a unique two-year graduate scheme in which you partake in a Leadership Development Programme, with the opportunity to gain credits for a funded Master's qualification. You are trained to be a leader in all fields through being a leader in the classroom.

So, as of September 2011, I will be

a real teacher, in a real school, with real kids. This is arguably the most difficult job training you can undertake. After the two years you become an Ambassador to the programme. It is estimated that 50 per cent of Teach First-ers continue to teach, and the scheme is a springboard to leadership roles within schools. However it is not just "Teach First to teach" but also "Teach First to open doors", and the programme is highly regarded and supported by top businesses and firms. Eight years since Teach First began, it has built a series of unique relationships with market-leading companies in a number of fields; so much so that Accenture, Barclays Capital, the Civil Service fast stream, PWC, and Proctor and Gamble offer deferred entry schemes to applicants who wish to be part of Teach First.

Teach First has done pretty well for itself in recent years, and it's proud. Walking into its immaculate offices in London Bridge, one is not in the slightest bit surprised that this is the charity that has made teaching 'cool'. Anyone who manages to nab 8 per cent of all final-year Oxbridge graduates must be doing something right.

After spending a summer holiday shepherding foreign students up and down the country, followed by two more summers teaching kids at an American summer camp how to sail, I began to detect a trend. I loved teaching children, talking to them, earning their respect. My rebellious side found it hard to tell them off with great conviction, and their attitudes sometimes reduced me to tears, but they were great fun.

After a one-to-one at the careers service halfway through my final year at the LSE, the advisor told me I'd be a strong candidate for Teach First. I applied this

September, jumping through all the hoops necessary on the (fairly straightforward) application form to somehow get a place at the assessment centre in October.

I have a slight distaste for things called 'assessment centres'. I was scared I'd be asked to do some horrendous 'ice breaking' throw-a-bean bag-around-a-room-and-say-your-name-whilst-clapping exercise. But besides this connotation, the day was excellent and there were no bean-bags.

I spent the day with some of the most intelligent and employable people I've met since graduating. There were about 30 of us, of all different ages and degree subjects, some with jobs, some looking for jobs and some with jobs they desperately wanted to leave, housed in a smart 'relaxation' area - with a plentiful supply of Capri Suns and food, for about 6 hours.

The assessment centre consists of three stages; the interview, the group exercise and the mock lesson. The interview was a little formulaic, but I anticipate this is the only way to ensure equality over thousands of applicants. The interviewers assure you that all they are doing is 'writing down word-for-word what you say', which, as it turns out, is actually all they are doing.

As well as checking that you have a fair idea of what you're letting yourself in for - whether you're tough enough to withstand the realities of teaching in an underprivileged school - they ask you for examples of leadership, team work, successes and failings. It's not scary, just what you'd expect from a charity that are sending hundreds of graduates into hostile classrooms up and down the country.

The group exercise felt a bit like a bizarre acting class, as you and another 4 or 5 candidates get together to solve a problem. People can squabble Apprentice-style, as two assessors watch and listen. I would tell you what happens in

the group exercise, but then I'm afraid I'd have to kill you.

I will however tell you that I was sat opposite a rather dashing boy who I recognised immediately as I sat down. We spent the whole day trying to figure out why we recognized each other, until half way through a presentation he wrote 'football' on a piece of paper and pushed it towards me on the table. Turns out we used to play together back home - and he wanted to teach English too. I then spent most of my breaks for the rest of the day musing about how well read our children would be.

Anyway, as for the mock lesson, that's the fun part. You are given 7 minutes to give your pre-prepared lesson to two 'students', or Teach First assessors, who try to give you some sense that you are in a real classroom. 7 minutes really is no time at all, but I assume that's enough time they need to figure out if you have the presence, attitude and confidence to actually stand up in front of 30 students every day.

The best part about the day is after the group exercise and mock lesson you have a chance to give them feedback and tell them what you would have done differently. So after admitting that my lesson was a complete shambles and that I'd clearly said nothing of any particular help in the group exercise, I left the building feeling as though I'd given an honest and accurate portrayal of myself and my abilities, and it was up to them to decide if I was up to the job. And they did.

To find out more please visit the Teach First website at graduates.teachfirst.org.uk, or attend the Millround presentation on Tuesday 23rd November, 6-8pm in room STC. S221. For more information on this event email j.carter@lse.ac.uk and look out for posters around campus.



PART B

STUDENT PROTEST SPECIAL

MUSIC

LCD Soundsystem:
live music's loss

FILM

Sheffield
Doc/Fest

TELEVISION

BBC is back in
irate Iran

Documenting

Exit Through the Gift Shop

★★★★☆
 Director: Banksy
 Runtime: 86 minutes Year: 2010

Illusive street artist **Banksy's** first foray into filmmaking is an interesting flick, chronicling the rise of street art from the point of view of Thierry Guetta. It is essentially a mishmash of taken footage from Guetta's hundreds upon hundreds tapes crafted, with the help of some essential interviews, into a surprisingly gripping narrative for a documentary. Compulsive videographer Guetta, inspired by his street artists cousin Space Invader, one day decided to finally devote his camera to one subject in particular; street art. What follows is some wonderful footage of some of the great street artists of our time doing what they do best, slapping up their art all over the place. As a perpetual chancer, Guetta's access is outstanding. From Shepard Fairey to Banksy

himself, he manages to capture the essence of this elusive movement. Through his experiences, Guetta decides it a good calling in life to enter in to this world, forging the Identity of Mr. Brainwash and setting about bringing forth his, at times, infuriatingly ambiguous message to the general public. Banksy has claimed that he and his editing team sifted through around 10,000 hours of footage to make a film this worthwhile and it's a very good job that he has done. Street art is a movement that is both highly misunderstood and highly overrated. It is, nonetheless, an important movement of the 21st century and does deserve to be documented. An interesting side not to this film is the cries of chicanery being heard all across the land. It's been alleged that this whole film is just some elaborate hoax constructed by Banksy for reasons unknown. I'm here to categorically tell you that this film is not a hoax. Well, that's just my opinion. My objective opinion.

Ollie Little



Artist or mugger? Banksy (we think)

Player Hating: A Love Story

Ahmed Peerbux

★★★★☆
 Director: Maggie Hadleigh-West
 Runtime: 95 minutes Year: 2009

Player Hating - Someone else is about to shine, and you'll do anything to keep that motherfucker from getting his cheese - it can be as subtle as negative flow (lyrics) or as extreme as trying to clap (shoot) him.
 - Trent Bond, Half-a-Mill's Manager and former NYPD Detective.

Hip Hop today is a gaudy affair. It's all Cristal and Hummer limousines. 50 Cent might talk about the 'hood', but he lives in Connecticut. But **Player Hating: A Love Story** is different. It taps hip hop at the source - not the magazine, but the

street; an endlessly rich well of poverty and desperation - the stuff of angry social commentary. It didn't come easy, either. During filming, the director, Maggie Hadleigh-West, was robbed of all her equipment at gunpoint.

Our subject is Half-a-Mill, a 26 year old rapper from the Albany Projects in Brooklyn. He's good. His 'rhymes are tight'. Working on a new album that's sure to launch him, Half is determined to emerge victorious. Trouble is, so is everyone else in the projects. That's what player hating is - a parasitic industry of jealousy, resentment and competition, afflicting those striving towards success.

Hadleigh-West's hard-hitting documentary displays a remarkable unwillingness to pander to two-dimensional portraits of young black men in the projects as simply "bad people". The film is peppered with the testimony

of Bloods members, crack-sellers, and others engaging in nefarious activities. Yet while nothing of the sort is condoned, there is an admirable attempt to understand what drives people to do the things they do. The result is disarmingly human - to put food on the table and to make ends meet.

In one particularly harrowing exchange, a young boy explains how he woke up to a loaded gun in his mouth while sleeping over at a friend's house. This is what Player Hating does; it shocks you into submission, offering unprecedented, intimate insight into a world we often see (in the Wire and the like), but very rarely see. You don't want to see it, but you certainly won't be able to look away.

You can find the trailer on YouTube by searching 'Player Hating: A Love Story'. PartB is currently working on organising a screening of the film here at the LSE.

Maggie Hadleigh-West

By ignoring those less fortunate, we are partly culpable, says the director of **Player Hating**



In one of Half-a-Mill's songs, he talks about his parents being junkies, and burning cigarettes on his testicles when he was a baby. Imagine that, your parents stubbing their cigarette on your balls. It's like you've lost three limbs before you're even out of the gate.

A lot of player hating goes on in the music industry. From my perspective, I was looking at it where it breeds: poor black neighbourhoods. Player hating is about not having enough, not having faith that there's going to be enough food, enough money, enough glory and enough talent for everyone. It manifests in the neighbourhood through people getting killed. There's isn't room for everyone at the top, but everybody wants to get to the top.

When filming **Player Hating**, I interviewed this kid in Brownsville, another housing project. I asked if he carried a gun, and he said: "of course! It's my responsibility to carry a gun". He was really young, only 19, and the way he said it was so unequivocal, like it was a stupid question. That was just naivety on my part really, because I was this white chick going into a place that I'm not accustomed to. Fifteen minutes later I was robbed by kids much younger than him. And I thought: "holy shit, it's my responsibility to carry a gun here too". That's player hating. That was a player hating move. They were like: "you think you're the shit in Brownsville? You're being filmed? You are not the shit in Brownsville".

But I wanted to share with the world the wonderful human beings they are despite their circumstances, despite the things they've done - not condone the illegal or mean things they've done, but to understand them. People walk by the projects, and pretend they don't know what's going on in there - or they don't want to know,

which is probably more the case. By choosing to ignore it, and by pretending they're bad people, we absolutely play a large role in perpetuating that kind of life.

Clearly the projects are not a point of pride in the United States. When I was there, it took an ambulance twenty minutes to get to the Albany Projects. It wouldn't take an ambulance twenty fucking minutes to get to a white person in Manhattan. And that's just so indicative of who matters and who doesn't.

Half's parents were junkies, stubbing cigarettes out on his testicles as a baby. Imagine that.

I knew people were gonna be pissed off about me making the film. What I heard from a number of black middle class people was "we've heard just about enough of these people. People will think that this is what the whole black community is about." But I really don't believe that's the case.

While the US isn't the only place that this happens, from what I see, life in Europe seems to be more integrated. In the US, we're a country that's built on a fantastic foundation of democracy that is very often not lived out. But breaking stereotypes is one of the easiest things you can do. All it takes is a hello.

You can visit Maggie's website at yomagie.com

Interview by Ahmed Peerbux



Brooklyn rapper Half-a-Mill in the studio

the Doc/Fest



Comeback queen: Joan Rivers

Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work

Ollie Little



Director: Ricki Stern, Annie Sundberg
Runtime: 84 minutes Year: 2010

Joan Rivers – Without doubt, the greatest comedienne to have picked up a microphone. During her 40-plus years on the comedy circuit, her rapier wit and scathing tongue have seen her cemented in to the very foundation of comedy itself. Her truly groundbreaking work has paved the way for all female comedians since. Just don't tell her that.

The film opens with a shot of Rivers' 75-year-old plastic surgery disaster. Just one short glimpse of it tells you everything you need to know about the woman. She's been through some stuff in her life and boy, does she

have stories to tell. The film essentially follows a year in the life of a comedy legend whose candle is slowly burning to the nub, much to her consternation. It shows Rivers from an angle seldom ever seen by people outside of her inner circle of friend; an intense workaholic who refuses to accept her waning public image. The overtone of this film is really quite depressing. Her working life seems more akin to that of a D-list Big Brother wanker as opposed to an internationally recognised comedy legend (a point I cannot possibly stress enough). We follow her through her gigs at dingy clubs, playing to handfuls of people while, all the time, she strives for more. There's one particularly harrowing scene where we see Rivers practically begging to get a spot on an advert, showing just how far her career has slumped over the past 40 years. That being said, this is far, far away

from your typical has-been story. This lady still has a lot to give and she's not afraid to let people know.

It isn't all doom and gloom though.

A bittersweet morsel of a picture, handling the life of a fading star with great skill

The misery is seasoned with more than a pinch of the brand of humour Rivers has become synonymous with throughout her illustrious career. Even at the bleakest points, she's always there with a tremendous quip to lift

the situation. A film like this can't exist without little rays of sunshine, and it arrives in abundance with the arrival of a position as a contest on *The Celebrity Apprentice*, an opportunity that helps to put her career on the right track. What's really interesting here, story aside, is the great insight we finally get into her psyche. She regales us with the story of her marriage, which she admits was far from perfect. Yet you still feel the sense of sadness permeating her every word as she speaks about it. She's clearly been through a lot in her life and the filmmakers have done exceptionally well in showing her as a real, three dimensional character, instead of the harsh Hollywood ice queen she most commonly portrays herself as during her live shows. We also find out more of her great love of acting. While the majority of her career has been forged on her legendary

stand-up, we become aware that it isn't really her true passion. She considers herself to be a writer/actor, as opposed to simply a comedienne and during this year of filming manages to take her new play to the Edinburgh Festival and get a standing ovation. However, heartbreak strikes again when she takes it to London only to get thoroughly lukewarm reviews.

This film, then, is a bittersweet morsel of a picture, handling the life of a fading star with great deal of skill and a huge amount of respect. Along with the events that happened in the charted year, this film may well provide the boost to Rivers' career that she so desperately craves. Just don't call it a comeback.

Scenes From A Teenage Killing

Ollie Little



Director: Morgan Matthews
Runtime: 120 minutes Year: 2010

Scen^{es} from a Teenage Killing documents the worryingly long list of teenage deaths throughout the UK in 2009. While it endeavours to try and chart all of the deaths, it pays special attention to one case of a young man in Bristol who was

senselessly killed outside of a pub. The Bristol case serve as the overall narrative, with the rest of the film telling the stories of a few of the other cases.

It would take an incredibly large amount of work to make a film on this subject not come off as patronising and, unfortunately they've not been able to steer clear of this. One of the major problem is the unrefined schmaltz prevalent throughout the film. It makes no bones about the fact that it wants you to cry. It gets tedious

after 20 minutes, but after an hour, it's downright infuriating. They also seemed to have a problem in regards to the end of the film. Though the main story is completely told by around the 1 hour 45 mark, it's annoyingly padded out to a full 120 minutes. Though, considering it is a BBC production, I'm not sure the director can be solely at fault for this. I wouldn't tell you to rush to see it when it hits BBC, but don't go out of your way to avoid it either.



Memorial of Shevon Wilson, murdered in Bristol in 2009

Straight 8

Ollie Little



Director: Various
Runtime: 90 minutes Year: 2010

The premise of *Straight 8* is an interesting one – thirteen filmmakers are given a three-minute cartridge of super-8 film and are told to make a short documentary. The twist? They're not allowed to see or edit their pieces before they're screened. The resulting films are surprisingly well executed, for the most part, though the audio often-times runs a little over the video (the perils of recording on film, unedited). The films range from the truly wonderful (*Santa Maria Madre Della Powidenza* is particularly good) to the outright pretentious. Some of the entrants, however, seem to have misunderstood the concept, opting to make completely scripted short films. Whether based on factual events or not, the way in

which they are constructed completely detracts away from the feel of these shorts as a collective, to its detriment. All in all, certainly worth sifting through the chaff to find the wheat, because

The premise? Thirteen filmmakers are given a three-minute cartridge of super-8 film

what's left behind are some brilliant examples of what this experiment can achieve when given the due thought it deserves.

Sheffield Doc/Fest is moving to June in 2011

for more information, visit <http://sheffdocfest.com/>

I think I'm turning Japanese, I really think so

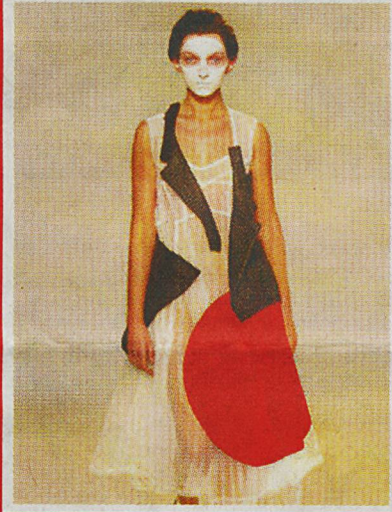
Alice Leah Fyfe left her heart in Tokyo

FUTURE BEAUTY: 30 YEARS OF JAPANESE FASHION

Chu Ting Ng visits the Barbican

Future Beauty takes you through the evolution of Japanese design visually, first contextualising the clothing with a touch of fashion history. In the early 1980s, Japanese designers shocked the industry by advancing an aesthetic that defied prevalent Western trends. Following the fame and success of Kenzo and Issey Miyake, Rei Kawakubo - founder of Comme des Garçons - and Yohji Yamamoto sought to conceal the body through large, flowing geometric shapes in a variety of fabrics.

The feminine shape was disposed of and deconstructed to make way for androgyny, drawing attention to design by obscuring the distracting and less aesthetically significant human form. Kawakubo introduced the world to her surprising vision in 1982, and the ensuing reaction was coined the "black shock". Her protégé, Junya Watanabe, expanded the range of Kawakubo's definition by shaping black fabric of different textures and weight. The emphasis of each garment was structure without frills, to the point of being almost architectural. As early as 2001, Watanabe's textile innovation and use of modern synthetic materials earned the label of "techno-couture", sparking



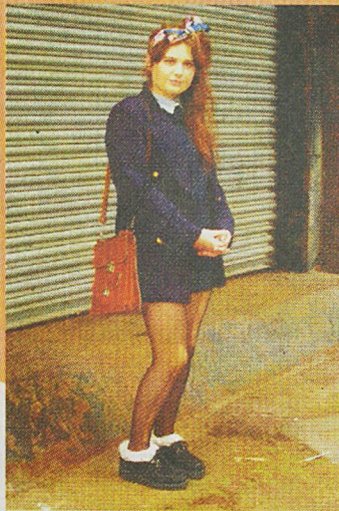
yet another design branch. Today, this unique and highly specific philosophy has certainly left its mark on newer designers such as Margiela and Ann Demeulemeester. Both designers hold the same reverence for deliberately clean and clear palettes, abandoning colour in favour of emphasis on design.

In one section, Future Beauty highlights Rei Kawakubo's desertion of tailoring and the sculpted silhouette. Exploring the concept of flatness, Kawakubo opposed the conventions of gender-specific dressing and defied the narrow expectations of Western culture. This was preceded by Issey Miyake's 1976 work, "A Piece of Cloth", featuring a figure in a single length of fabric hung in geometric shapes. This experimental work was a statement of "ma": the Japanese notion that voids between objects are not merely empty, but rich and energised spaces. The focus on negative space and spartan lines reveal the cultural preference for an unadorned aesthetic that speaks for itself without unnecessary distractions. Challenging norms and tradition was another feature of Japanese design that the exhibition raised. For a culture so rooted in tradition, Japanese designers addressed taboos and trod new avant garde ground. Yamamoto encroached on kimono culture, but not without careful thought and deliberation as he formerly considered it taboo.

Future Beauty rounds off on a youthful note by devoting the tail end to Ohya and ZUCCA, labels embraced by a younger demographic. Instead of embodying pure beauty, these modern labels spawned from the hokoten ("pedestrian paradise") of the now famous Harajuku populated by students and young people. Amidst the chaos and sensory overload, Ohya and ZUCCA turned to a simple and judicious incorporation of classic manga icons, such as Hello Kitty and Astro Boy. International icons were also featured with the architectural feel, the patterning and shapes of the folds were inspired by the Wizard of Oz.

Check it out! **FUTURE BEAUTY: 30 YEARS OF JAPANESE FASHION** is on at the Barbican until 6th Feb.

Japanese fashion is one of extremes; the militantly minimal, to the bizarrely clashing, some may find the Japanese style too harsh or busy for their own tastes. But really, it is a culture which pushes the boundaries in all aspects of design, embodying the techno-centric environment of Tokyo in the precise and innovative garments constructed from an untainted simplicity which only the exceptional visionary can execute. On the other side, we have the fatastic imagination and expression of the youth culture; a phenomenon which has topped all other street fashion worldwide. While Uniqlo and Muji provide an excellent source of simple structured styles, the clashing contents of Camden Market and basics from highstreet lamé king, American Apparel will certainly get you somewhere in terms of the bizarre. Make up is a vital part of the look: Barry M is a great brand for glitter. Of course, a little taste creativity wouldn't go amiss. There is potential for some awful combinations, but essentially, anything goes...



Katie, 2nd year social policy

The saying goes that 'cheap is cheerful'... Well, cheap is undoubtedly rather fashionable too - as Katie has proven with this quirky homespun ensemble! It's true: the best things in life are indeed for free. Are the

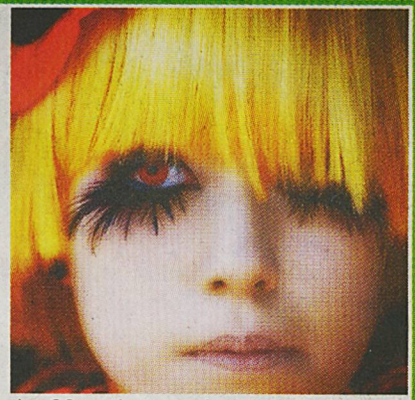


Maaik Mossel & Yan Giet scout Houghton Street's best dressed

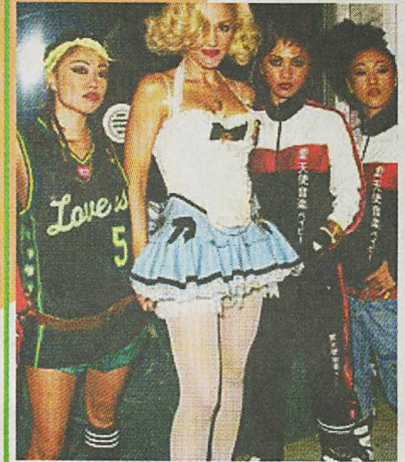
Harajuku Girls, You've got some wicked style!

by Selena Shen

The heart of Japanese street fashion. Here, you can find distinct Japanese styles such as Gothic Lolita and Visual Kei. Cosplayers in fancy costumes, as well as upmarket shops like Chanel and Prada. All these styles are somehow perfectly meshed up in Harajuku, where fashion has no barrier, boundary or limit. Young avant-garde designers based in Harajuku are worshipped for their unique and exciting designs; their shops are always packed with the dedicated followers of street fashion. The history of Harajuku traces back to just after WWII, when American soldiers and their families occupied the area. The culture of the place was completely different from the traditional and depressing after-war atmosphere elsewhere, so it attracted all kinds of curious young people to settle in too. The 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo developed the area further, and the vague concept of 'Harajuku' as an alternative culture slowly began to concrete. The status of Harajuku as a fashion Mecca finally solidified in



the 80s, when weekend gatherings of teenagers occurred. Over the last 30 years, the area has seen the rise and fall of different Japanese and Western styles, but the Harajuku spirit of pursuit for authenticity has always remained. Due to geographical reasons and the limit of street fashion, the majority of designers are only famous in Japan, Korea and China. However, some have sought international fame, and the names include Issey Miyake and Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons. Kawakubo has also recently guest designed for Louis Vuitton and H&M, and both were big commercial successes. Another international trend is Harajuku's link to the hip-hop industry. Most notably, Gwen Stefani was inspired, and formed the Harajuku Girls dance troupe consisting of four Japanese American hip-hop dancers, who had stage names deriving from Stefani's 'Love. Angel. Music. Baby.' brand. The Harajuku Girls helped greatly in promoting the Harajuku brand internationally. What is the future of Harajuku? A week ago, Tommy Hilfiger has just announced its plan to open its Asia Flaship store in Harajuku. Harajuku is an amazing place; it is energetic, creative, fun, and at the same time, all embracing. It is where street fashion blends, instead of fights high fashion. In this highly materialistic world we live in, it remains a haven for creative fashion spirit.



next best things for us mere mortals charity shops? In particular, Katie champions hometown Sheffield's charity shops where prices have not yet been subjected to the London inflation effect. Describing her own style as 'eclectic', it is phenomenal how a well placed lop-sided bow on the head can speak volumes about a person's individuality... immediately we are subconsciously thinking more 'dollface' than 'dullface'! Katie also employs the

use of one tool when it comes to clothes - scissors! That's right, scissors to chop and crop to your heart's content until you get the perfect hem length that you have always wished for - (or even laddered tights in Katie's case!) Charmed by Katie's style? Then be sure to tune in to her LSE Pulse Radio Show 'Afternoon Delights' Friday 1-2 pm, where you will be treated to a verbal slice of 'things you don't wanna know about!'

Farce or Farsi?

Simon Chaudhuri on the return of the BBC to Iran

In what could come to represent a thaw in relations between Iran and the West, the BBC is set to resume broadcasts from the country after a hiatus of almost 18 months.

After the civil unrest which followed Iran's presidential election in June 2009, all correspondents of the BBC's Tehran bureau were unceremoniously expelled. Jon Leyne, the bureau's last correspondent to leave, was even accused of planning the murder of Neda Agha-Soltani so that the young woman's death could be captured on camera and used as fodder for anti-Iranian propaganda. The bureau has since remained open at a cost of £15m to the British taxpayer, relying on poor quality footage filmed by locals on their mobile phones. The bureau also broadcasts popular BBC programming dubbed in Farsi.

The expulsion of correspondents last year was the latest in a series of inflammatory actions by the Iranian government. Before the launch of Persian TV, the name of the Corporation's Iranian channel, the government had already criticised the "suspicious and illegal channel working against the interests of the Islamic republic", accusing the BBC of engaging in "espionage and psychological warfare". During the brief period in which the channel was broadcasting in 2009, it was the target of systematic jamming by the Iranian government. More recently, Iran's police chief has claimed that the BBC is an "arm of MI6" as the project received its funding from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, rather than the licence fee. It is therefore easy to follow his logic that the BBC is doing the bidding of the British government,

despite its worldwide reputation for fierce editorial independence. Similarly, Voice of America, funded by the US Congress, is deemed by the chief to be the CIA's brainchild.

What shall follow now is what BBC executives are referring to as a "period of confidence-building" according to

What counts is not whether the sentiment stoked by the BBC in Iran is pro-West, but rather, pro-democratic

the Guardian. Jon Leyne is likely to be replaced by James Reynolds, a highly-experienced former Beijing correspondent. While Reynolds will not be stationed in Tehran for the foreseeable future, he is expected to make frequent trips to gauge the atmosphere and attitude to the project. While this development implies progress, we must wait to see whether the Iranian government is willing to compromise on the BBC's content. Before the Corporation's coverage of the post-election protests, the government saw fit to jam regular programming which included material such as culture, art, cinema and cooking - hardly the stuff of

anarchic propaganda. The fact is that the government recognised the power to influence that even soft programming possesses, which is precisely why the BBC must persist with the project, even if it is limited to what may seem like weak journalism to the executives of World Service.

In much the same way that Radio Liberty was used during the Cold War to bolster and embolden those without the luxury of free local media, the BBC must resolve to continue the projection of its influence in Iran. If news programming is deemed acceptable by the government, then programming should be repackaged in a sympathetic way, while still presenting an accurate and impartial view of events. If the government vetoes such coverage, Persian TV can still be influential in its cultural programming. In such a situation, one can hope that Iranians would still be able to glean unbiased news reports by circumventing the government's internet censorship protocols. It has already been shown that in some ways the Internet was more effective in revealing the protests in 2009 than conventional media. The fact is that while £15m may sound like a lot during these times of savage cuts, the reopening of the BBC's Tehran bureau reflects good value for money. Arguably what matters most is not whether the sentiment stoked by the BBC in Iran is pro-Western, but rather, pro-democratic. If the BBC encourages the application of gentle pressure for regime change in this dictatorial nuclear power, the rest of the world could save so much more than money in the long run.

Attention writers!

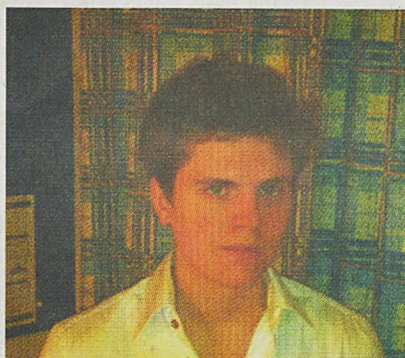
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Books: NON-REQUIRED READING

MILES KERSHAW
BSc Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method

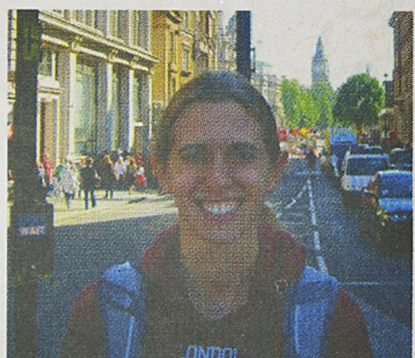
JESSICA DELL
MSc Global Politics



Favourite Non-Required Books: *Shantaram* by Gregory David Roberts; *Animal Farm* by George Orwell; *The Meaning of Things* by A.C. Grayling

Currently Reading: *Racing Towards Excellence* by Muzzafar Khan and Jan Sramek. Ex-LSE students' academic and career advice - insightful and inspirational.

Favourite Fictional Character: Patrick Bateman.



Favourite Non-Required Books: *Cakes and Ale* by W. Somerset Maugham; *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* by Milan Kundera; *On Beauty* by Zadie Smith; *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Currently Reading: I just started Doris Lessing's *The Grass is Singing*, and I suggest you head to one of the lovely used bookshops on Charing Cross Road and get a copy.

Favourite Fictional Character: Sherlock Holmes

Behind the ampersand: Dimpleby & Capper

Laura Bettinson talks to Masaya Tanikawa about the darker, tribal shades of her electro-pop



Photos courtesy of Polly Harvey at Polstar Photography

Dragonette, Marina & The Diamonds, Ellie Goulding and of course, Lady Gaga among countless others... Out of the many styles dominating the music industry at the moment, electro-pop may be here to stay. A lot of what's out there is nothing you haven't heard before - so **Dimpleby & Capper** turned the heads of many with their darker, electro-tinged tribal beats.

There's been nothing but praise for the act - after a string of successful gigs over the past year including a Maida Vale session for Huw Stephens at Radio 1, a slot at Glastonbury on the BBC Introducing Stage and an intimate performance at Latitude, the future looks bright. 22-year-old Laura Bettinson is the core of D&C, born in Rugby, Warwickshire.

"I spent my whole childhood there in the countryside where we had chickens on our farm. It was beautiful and very relaxing. It gives me a break from people and places," she says. "It was a really small town where everyone knew pretty much each other, so as soon as you started to do anything alternative everyone would go wow."

Though she took piano lessons in her younger years, Laura didn't take music seriously until she was at least 16, living a life "far removed from Rugby".

"I entered this teen idol competition that ran in the Midlands when I was 15. I won it playing a cover of 'Natural Woman', and then I started to have a look at the industry. I did a few demos since I didn't want to sing someone else's songs all the time," says Laura.

"I did very private gigs on piano. I would be going around the Midlands

doing acoustic venues and stuff alongside theatre acting. If I hadn't done music I probably would've done art," she says. "My dad is a theatre director in the West End, so art has always been in there somewhere. He didn't have anything to do with music and my mum was a physiotherapist, but I kind of knew music was the thing for me. I was always in that art world, dabbling in everything. I knew for sure I didn't want to go to a classical conservatoire, though."

Naturally, she moved to London to study Popular Music at Goldsmiths, attracted by their practical approach. "It was my first time in the South-East end of London, which was a big shock for me. I'm very much used to the glitzy tourist side of London because of my dad's musicals and theatre shows, so it took a while to adjust to," she says. "I really enjoyed the course, and I came to love it down here. It's one of those things where you've gotta put in as much to get stuff out of it."

"I couldn't carry a piano to every venue, so I took a month thinking how I can take traditional melodies and put it over something that'll fit into a suitcase. That's where my electronic stuff comes in," she says. "And now I've brought in a band as well, including a drummer that stands. All of us wear masks on-stage, too."

"I do the odd show where it's just me on stage, doing purely improvised stuff. It can be a little bit... Well, you do fine, but when you look back you think 'Oh no, I shouldn't have sung about that for so long'. It's really frightening," says Laura.

"It's too easy with a band to focus on weird little things, but when you're going solo there's room to do things,

samples to make up. It brings me back to the reason why I started doing music - to be creative, to be who I am." Indeed when she first started, she sang under her own name.

"After I started messing around with electronic samples and such, I decided to pick a name for myself. Dimpleby & Capper was drawn out of a hat really," she says. "It was inspired by a series of photos I found of my grandfather and his friend who kept appearing in the most random places. One time you would see them standing on a cliff in 1940s suits, and in another they would be holding a

I always do multiple vocals so there's an army of me

massive fish up by the sea. I liked the idea of following them around and giving them a fictional story. I like writing stories. I quite enjoy stepping into someone else's shoes."

Laura's appearance on the stage clearly reflects that idea, with DIY outfits often made of naught but tape and heels. "I like that sort of extreme customisation, and I'm definitely going to start making more. The fashion I make will certainly be expensive and exclusive, but it'll be a bridge between fan merchandise and high street fashion. My friend was saying 'bloody hell, you'll be making your own perfume'," laughs Laura.

"I also wear stuff that my friends make like jewellery. There's amazing people out there without the kind of PR they need, so I try to give them a leg up by doing things like that. I think

it would be cool to have an outlet to promote each other's works."

Her relationship with art is an ambivalent one, though. "It has such weird energy. There's very little reward for so much input. You have to put up with the crap and believe you'll get your big break," Laura says. "I mean coming out of uni with a degree in music, you find yourself in this weird world where you're bright enough to get a full-time job, but you find yourself doing part-time work at a used vintage clothes shop in Deptford while trying to do whatever your passion is."

It's easy to see how passionate she is about music; when not gigging or recording in her home studio, she does remixes for various artists on the side. "I was recently commissioned to do one, so I pumped all the money into a music video for 'Want This' since I thought I needed one. It's me in three different costumes that I designed, and the central thing is this white mask with a black strip across the mouth, kind of like being trapped in your own eccentricity."

Becoming trapped as an artist is one of the biggest challenges Laura has had to face. "When I did a demo with producer Liam Howe (Marina & the Diamonds) called 'Beautiful But Boring', it was played a lot on the radio and everyone loved it. I had to come to terms and say 'it's just a demo, I don't want to do that kind of stuff for an entire album'. There's pretty no much room to go anywhere when you've worked with a producer who has such a strong style," she says.

"It made me go 'you know what: I'll do it myself.' So I did an EP, slammed my fist down and said *THIS* is what I'd be, because if I didn't then

it would be like 'oh, right we'll just send you around to ten other producers and bash out an album', kind of like what happened to Little Boots. People would listen to her for a month and then say it's bad. Someone should've just told her to ease off the hype. I feel bad for a lot of people that were swept into the hype machine. I mean, they're human beings."

Laura's determination has clearly paid off with positive reviews of her Slick Maturity EP released in January this year. "I'm far from well-known, but I think it's different from what's out there. If we had the budget I'd love to get a junkyard kit for our drummer. I always do multiple vocals so there's an army of me. I'd love to have holograms of me in different costumes on-stage, maybe even cardboard cut-outs. You don't mind if I put those on do you, chaps...?"

Laura recently held a 'DIY night' at Counter Culture, a pop-up venue in London Bridge centered around a 99-day multi-art project full of plays, live performances and art. "It was brilliant. Everyone showed up with outfits they made themselves; at one point I had 15 dancers with me onstage, I really do hope this becomes a regular thing."

Look out for a new studio album in the coming year, described by D&C as having an even more darker feel.

Visit www.dimplebyandcapper.blogspot.com for free music and wallpaper downloads. Her own line of clothing is also available for purchase.

Gig: LCD Soundsystem, Alexandra Palace 10.11.2010

Sachin Patel reflects on the end of James Murphy's 'extended joke'

James Murphy has made the prospect of **LCD Soundsystem's** farewell tour mildly less upsetting with the inclusion of Hot Chip on equal billing.

These South London favourites have grown and grown over the years with their songwriting chops and instrumental adaptabilities - and they now fill the stage with an array of toys and harmonies.

LCD Soundsystem's performance, meanwhile, receives no greater gimmickry than the casual release of white balloons at the gig's conclusion and their traditional out-sized disco ball; yet, it is still poignant, stunning and professional in an entirely ramshackle way.

I have seen this band three times in the last year, and though their shows never exactly surprise (no Hot Chip/LCD Soundsystem collaborations, sadly), their brand of consum-

mate artistic integrity and an intrinsic understanding of the point of live music ensures that the joke never wears thin.

Certainly, Murphy's unapologetic dependency on steroids and alcohol (whisky and champagne mixed together, anyone?) gives the gig a certain punk-like unpredictability.

This set leans more heavily on recent LP *This Is Happening*, ticking into being with the deceptive "Dance Yourself Clean". Enchanting percussion and Murphy's best impressions of Kermit the Frog give way to a colossal, monolithic bass-line and equally brutal drumming courtesy of Pat Mahoney.

Within minutes, a troupe of variously overweight, sweaty, balding, even druid-like (Google 'Gavin Russom') musicians is executing their dance/punk crossover with maximum attention to both halves of the equation.

Every time the beats threaten to become too metronomic, Mr. David S. Scott Stone's guitar will weigh in with a searing, eardrum-perforating violation.

One song, "Movement", ends in a wilfully brutal cacophony. Another, "Yeah (Crass Version)", turns Alexandra Palace into a seething, slithering nightclub, no longer bathed in washes of creamy light, but instead bombarded with green lasers and epilepsy-inducing white lamps.

The band does not play James Murphy's breakthrough debut single, "Losing My Edge", and nor do they oblige the crowd with several other favourites, but perhaps that's the point.

By continuing to tread their own singular path, LCD Soundsystem has become one of the world's most potent live acts (and all this without click-tracks, computers and the like). Inevitably, what began as an extended

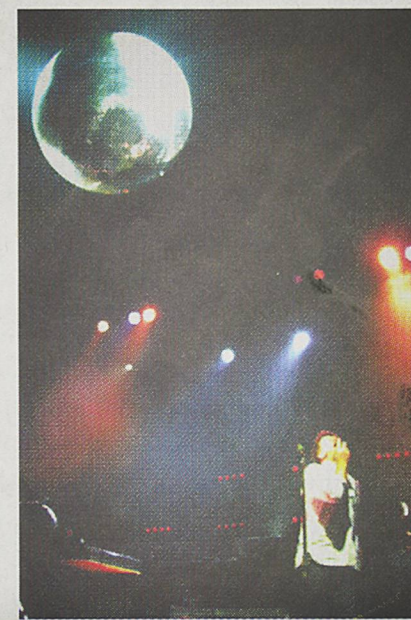
joke - which was never supposed to turn into a full-time concern - must now end.

Lucky, then, that Murphy chooses to hang his boots to the tune of "Home" - the sunniest slice of disco this side of an In-N-Out Burger concession.

The song's lyrics are entirely appropriate - Murphy admits that "You might forget / Forget the sound of our voice," but pleads all the same that we "don't forget / The things that we laughed about."

I will certainly miss this band - the band that was never supposed to be; the band that played Daft Punk to the rock kids; the band who was there in Jamaica during the first sound-clashes...

You get the idea: any more praise and I'll be sending my marriage proposal in the post.





STUDENT SIGNAGE

A selection of our favourite placards from last week's protest

'Don't blame me, I voted Labour'

To be fair, there are a thousand things we could blame you for. But OK.

'Dave is a nob'

Simple and concise. They've opted to spell nob without the 'k', which is a matter of preference, I suppose.

'I STILL HATE THATCHER'

You weren't even alive to hate her the first time round. The person who did this one *most definitely* went to public school. He also permanently keeps his Reading/Bestival wristband on.

'Osborne cut my poster budget'

Wit.

'Educate don't Segre gate' [sic]

See? This is what happens when education becomes too expensive.

'I'm gonna put a cap in your ass if you don't put a cap on fees'

Street and smart. For those who don't understand this (I'm looking at the Tarquin's and Teddy's), 'cap' means bullet.

'COLEGG-BANG! And the funding is gone'

Makes you want to YouTube Barry Scott, which is never a bad thing.

'Remember the Irish students'

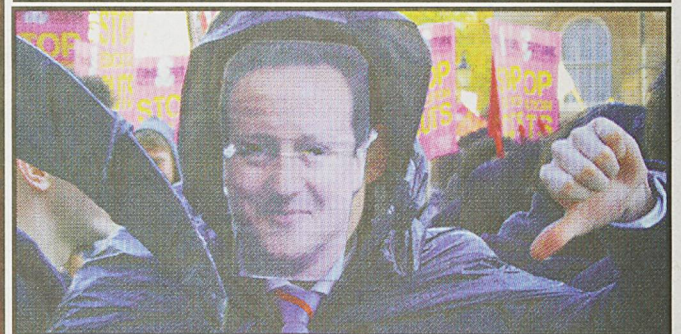
Am I missing something here?

'We don't need no education...cuts'

Someone's been listening to daddy's old records.

I don't break election promises ...LOL jk, I'm Lib Dem.

Last week, in a fit of anger and despair, students took to the streets of London. And so did PartB.



Photos by [unreadable] and [unreadable] for PartB.co.uk for more

Features

Anthropology Outreach is an exciting new programme launched this summer to reveal the less conventional passions and aspirations of certain LSE students. Thanks to the generosity of the LSE Annual Fund, a good friend of mine from the Northern Film School and I made a documentary film about a Himalayan tribe living in the district of Darjeeling, India. Other Anthropology students went to Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh in India, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan and Italy to delve into the heart of the Anthropological discipline; qualitative research through human interaction. It was a bold and exciting move for LSE's Anthropology department which has historically favoured more traditional library-based learning methods. Students were given the opportunity to go anywhere in the world to carry out a short research project of their choice. As the lucky recipients of funding, we want to share our experiences with you in the hope that they will highlight the diversity of students' interests here at the LSE and move on from the stereotypical image of the LSE student who looks to pursue an Economics- or Law-based career. We are currently campaigning to enable the annual fund support to continue into the current academic year as it is not guaranteed at present. We believe, as a result of the richness of our own experiences, it is imperative for other undergraduate Anthropology students to have the chance to engage with such a unique and rewarding opportunity in the future.

DARJEELING, INDIA

Jenn Lambert, a friend from the Northern Film School, and I returned from a five-week shoot in India clutching fifteen hours of footage with a view to making a forty-minute documentary film about the Lepchas, an Indian hill tribe. We hope to show it at film festivals in the UK and perhaps even beyond. The footage focused on one family in a remote Himalayan village as well as Lyangsong Tamsang, the head of the tribe. Our goal was to capture on film the role of the Lepchas' own language, as a means to preserve the identity of this ancient tribe. We also aimed to expose how learning the English Language was understood as a tool to surviving in the contemporary world. This seemed of particular relevance for the younger generation, many of whom aspire to break away from their families' traditional agricultural lifestyle and enter into professional employment in Indian cities. Interestingly, many of these young people also look to return home after pursuing their career, signalling a strong loyalty for the Lepchas and their "traditional" way of life. The reality we encountered was oozing with nuanced complexities and possible contradictions that, contrary to popular thought, did not show the English language to be an all-conquering global force.

Alongside our objective of relating to the impact of language on the hill tribe, I also harboured a strong desire to capture on film a quality of living which I have never experienced in a westernised context. This trip was in fact my second visit, having previously spent six months living with a family in one remote village tucked away in the foothills of the Hima-

ayas when I was eighteen. At the time I had immersed myself in the Lepchas' simple joy of living life, full of laughter and fun, despite the physical hardship of their agricultural existence. The question that plagued me – could this be captured on film? This was the tension I lived with initially. Would Jenn share my pleasure in the Lepcha spirit? At first, we faced numerous challenges: the struggle of bringing out the cumbersome equipment; the disappointment of losing the third member of our team (our cinematographer returned to England after only one week of shooting for personal reasons); finding methods to film and not offend the Lepcha culture. Luckily, it soon became apparent that Jenn wanted UK audiences to feel the heart of a place as much as me.

The sheer beauty of the Out-

horse-herders. They stayed in yurtas between June-October at an altitude of 3000m, keeping various grazing animals. The family derived daily dairy and meat products from their livestock, their favourite product being koumys – the mare's fermented milk. This close reliance on animals for subsistence made it very interesting to investigate how people perceived the environment around them and how it inspired their cultural and material traditions, such as highly praised singing about the beauty of landscape and elaborate handcrafted yurta decorations. ☛

Joanna Bojczewska

KENYA

As Maa-speaking people, the Maasai are as much the face of Kenya as the Big Five. Tourists travel to experience the myth of the

shuka-wearing Maasai man is at home with a Coke, watching the news just like the urbanised man from Nairobi City. The eyes of the tourists must be tinted so that they see a tribe caught in a time warp. Culture can mean different things to different people. It can be seen as a commodity to be made money out of emasculated to the point where the Maasai have the same camera value as a buffalo. It can be seen as a source of pride, a constantly changing fusion of a people's way of life, an expression of their totality.

We hope this initiative is something the Annual Fund will sponsor again, not only because it encourages Anthropology students to actively engage in their discipline, but also as it helps to spread a message about LSE students, as proactive and engaging members of society. ☛

Antonia Savvides

ational sense; I forged some great friendships due to a truly great opportunity from the LSE Annual Fund. ☛

Megan Davis

RAJASTHAN, INDIA

I was researching the Jain custom of Santhara – the voluntary fast unto death – undertaken by elderly members of the Jain community, for whom death is fast-approaching, usually due to a terminal illness. The process involves a gradual shedding of personal relationships; severance of food, water and medication intake; and an ascension to salvation (Moksha) through liberation and freedom. Studying both Law and Anthropology at LSE made me interested in examining the parallels between Santhara and suicide. Many Western critics of the custom have deemed it unconstitutional, and seeing real Jain families speaking about the custom gave me a fuller and interesting insight into the cultural aspect of the fast. Undertaking Santhara gives the deceased a saintly status not to mention propelling the recognition of the surviving family. To compare the custom to suicide is, in my opinion, a gross undervaluing of the cultural ritual and undermines the significance of the custom as a feature of Jain pride and dignity. Spending a few nights in various ashrams surrounded by Jain Saadhvis (nuns) who had undertaken Diksha (The Vow) was equally fascinating, giving me a insight into Jainism as a lifestyle rather than a religion. Indeed, they do not believe in a God and rather focus on how to live as a human being. Had it not been for the Annual Fund, I doubt that I would ever have been able to experience travelling through rural Rajasthan on a journey of self discovery. Alongside a brilliant and intellectually enhancing education offered by the LSE, this particular opportunity has given me a chance to develop as a woman, an adult, and an anthropologist. I would definitely recommend it to any student who has not yet identified their passions and is willing to make the most of a brilliant and life changing experience. ☛

Sohinni Sanghvi

ROSIGNANO, ITALY

In Rosignano, Italy, I explored alternative medicines in a biomedical context, in this case yoga practiced by pregnant mothers instead of using traditional painkillers before and during labour. Interviewing around 60 women I noticed how their view on the body had changed: a new sense of identity, empowerment, and the inseparability of mind and body. Even if yoga has not yet been accepted as a valid prenatal course, the benefits these women gained were substantial. It was inspiring to find a situation where the body was not treated like a commodified entity and women were taught how to listen to their body. This experience allowed me to question certain medical aspects; therefore I would highly recommend it be funded again not only because it provides a way to interpret anthropological theory in the field, but also because it helped me to grow as an individual. ☛

Arabella Ciampi



Outreach to the ethnic

Six anthropologists put theory into practice across the globe

reach project lies in the academic freedom that it offers to students. The topic of study refreshingly stemmed from our own gut instincts as opposed to a conventional academic syllabus. More students need the chance to experience this. Extraordinary projects were carried all over the world which enabled students to learn a vast amount about what it takes to be an anthropologist in the field. Watch this space for details about the London premiere of our documentary. ☛

Steph Linsdale

SON-KUL LAKE, KYRGYZSTAN

During my fieldwork I lived and worked alongside a family of 7 semi-nomadic pastoralists living in Kyrgyzstan. The project aimed to explore notions of 'radical otherness' and relationships to animals through the eyes of highland

Maasai in its natural habitat, when in reality the roots of this myth stem from the Kenyan Government, sold through its tourist offices. Glamourised and gift-wrapped with exoticism, the eco-tourist buys an irresistible package of palatable lies that culture is a commodity to be bought and sold in the open market.

The Maasai on their part have learned to take advantage of their commodification. They turn out in front of their manyattas (huts) as if in Hollywood. For a small fee, the tourist can both see this timeless creature, photograph it, be invited into a prehistoric hut and witness an age-old tribal dance. The value of this project for me was that it showed me in the field how culture is fluid, not fixed. Culture is dynamic and the Maasai are not exceptional to that rule. The

DHARAMSALA, INDIA

I spent five weeks living in Dharamsala, Northern India, which for the last fifty years has been the political and religious centre of the Tibetan refugee community. I was interested in looking at how Tibetan culture was upheld in this Indian hill station and the importance of tourism in Dharamsala for elevating the Tibetan movement onto the international stage. I managed to find work as a volunteer at an online newspaper run by two Tibetan refugees whose aim was to provide Tibetans in exile with relevant and impartial news. This gave me much insight into the political underpinnings of life in this town and allowed me to become far more involved in the community. The project I established was extremely rewarding and not just in an edu-

Dr. Stanley Fischer is the current Governor of the Bank of Israel. Dr. Fischer began his career teaching at the University of Chicago, before moving on to MIT, where he served as head of the economics department. From 1988-1990, he was chief economist at the World Bank. From 1994 to 2001 he served as the first Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. Prior to joining to Bank of Israel, he was a Vice

of policy, first as the Chief Economist at the World Bank from 1988-1990 and then as the First Deputy Managing Director of at the IMF from 1994-2001. After the IMF, I decided wanted a change from academic life and to experience something new, so I went to Citigroup. Then in 2005 I was offered the job of Governor of the Bank of Israel. I had been involved with Israel for quite some time and knew the economy reasonably well, but was nonetheless surprised at being offered the position. I

thing to the country and this seemed like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so here I am. When I took over I thought that Israel had a stronger economy than most Israelis would expect, and it has turned out to be that way. The Israeli economy grew very rapidly between 2003 and 2008. Subsequently, we came through the global recession very well relative to other countries, and currently we are in a good macroeconomic situation. Our per capita income is roughly \$30,000, we have a budget that is

buying some longer-term instruments. The greatest concern, however, is the impact that QE2 will have on exchange rates. The thinking behind this is that it will weaken the US Dollar against the rest of the world. There are now many complaints from countries that as a result will be hurt by the appreciation of their currency. Israel has a problem with currency appreciation, and it may get worse with QE2. My attitude is that if we have to choose between an American economy

beautifully, and the great moderation is in full swing. Then something comes along to change that. Now we're all busy trying to put the financial sector into our models, in ways that enable us to think more coherently about financial crises, how to prevent them, and how to deal with them. Nonetheless, I think Economics, relative to what I studied at the LSE almost fifty years ago, has come a very, very long way. Economics is extremely useful and it's very difficult to make judgments and good

Interview with Stanley Fischer

Dominik Nagly and Richard Dewey speak to the Governor of the Bank of Israel

Chairman at Citigroup. He earned a BSc and MSc from the London School of Economics.

Q. What initially attracted you to the LSE? Can you talk a little about the atmosphere and what the LSE was like when you were a student?

SF: I grew up in Rhodesia. At the time, the ambitious thing to do was to go to England. So I applied and was accepted at the LSE. I became interested in Economics during sixth form; it really captivated me. Prior to arriving in London, the only other university I had visited was Cape Town's, which became my idyllic vision of what I thought a campus should look like. When I arrived at the LSE, I was a bit shocked to find that it looked like an urban office building. I really enjoyed my time there and it was a terrific formative training in economics.

Q. Could speak of your work as the Governor of the Bank of Israel?

SF: After I left MIT, I went into the world

had always wanted to contribute some-

Our poverty rates need to be reduced improved and we also need to focus on our educational system where grades have been falling relative to other countries on PISA exams

in good shape, our balance of payments is in surplus, inflation is low and we have vibrant a high tech sector. One of the challenges of the job is operating against the backdrop of geopolitical uncertainties, even though those uncertainties don't seem to have a noticeable impact on the economy. We do have economic problems to solve, but they are more micro in nature. Our poverty rates need to be reduced improved and we also need to focus on our educational system where grades have been falling relative to other countries on PISA exams. Israel is an extremely lively democracy, and public debate is very interesting, so we always are aware of and involved in the burning issues of the day.

Q. Turning to current economic issues, how do you see the global economy shaping up in the short to medium term especially with regard to the second round of quantitative easing?

SF: It is likely that QE2 will lower long-term interest rates, as the Fed will be adding liquidity to the market and possibly

that is growing with added pressure on our exchange rate or an American economy that grows much more slowly while we benefit from having less pressure on the exchange rate, I would choose the former. I think each country can deal with its problems while the US, which is a critical anchor of the global economy, comes back into shape. QE2 will only sow the seeds for future inflation if the American policy makers go on autopilot. If inflation rears its head, the Fed has many instruments available to deal with it, and will certainly have the will to do so. And if we see inflation in the US, it will probably be a good signal, because we will know the economy is recovering.

Q. Can you discuss inflation expectations in the developed world in the light of monetary policy effectiveness?

SF: In the developed world, those countries where interest rates are close to zero – such as in the US or the UK, or in Europe or Canada – are countries that are still not out of the crisis. They still have high unemployment, so inflation expectations are moderate. There are concerns that long term inflation expectations will rise, although recently they have actually been decreasing in the US and appear to be under control. What would be inflationary is a rapid recovery, but as I said before, there would be room for monetary policy to respond with higher interest rates. They are unnaturally low at the moment, and so I'm sure the time will come when they will be raised.

For Israel our target inflation range is 1 – 3 per cent, and right now inflation expectations are between 1 and 3 per cent. At the moment, we are at the top of the range. This complicates our monetary policy decisions. It is uncomfortable for us, because if we raise the interest rate, we increase the gap between our interest rate and the US and Europe's. This results in capital inflows and pressure on the exchange rate. We export over 40 per cent of GDP; a significant decline in exports would thus cause a slowdown in growth. Whenever we make an interest rate decision we have to weigh the trade-offs very carefully, and try to influence them, including by intervening in the foreign exchange market. We have to continue to study these trade-offs and intervene in the foreign exchange market to moderate these changes. It is a very complicated situation, but making these careful judgments and decisions is what a central bank is meant to do.

Q. What is the state of economics, especially neo-Keynesian macro models, and where do you see them going forward?

SF: Well, I think you have to be careful with this. Everyone tends to pronounce on economics – but then soon after you may find yourself having been too confident about your beliefs. If you had would have asked most macro-economists four or five years ago, they would likely have said that thanks to advances in theory and policy, monetary policy has been refined down to a fine art, inflation targeting works

decisions without the analytic tools that economists now have.

Whenever the IMF is in good shape and the situation is good, the IMF doesn't have any real criticism, and the country report tends to conclude something to the effect of complacency should be avoided." Economists, like everyone else, should always avoid complacency. Economists can draw a lot from what they learned, but reality doesn't always present itself in a format that matches precisely with a particular

Economists, like everyone else, should always avoid complacency

model or article. Rather, we learn ways of thinking and setting up problems that help us deal with situations that are similar to, but not identical with, models that we have developed and studied. Knowing a particular model in an article will help, but it will not provide a solution, it will provide a way of thinking that will help to arrive at a solution.

Q. Could you talk a little bit about what you see as the most interesting areas of Economics?

SF: Since we are now confronting a number of developing countries that seem to be making the breakthrough to much higher and sustained growth, the standard of living for a huge percentage of the world's people will be changed for the better. Understanding how that happened and how it will continue to develop, and figuring out which parts of the success story can be passed on to other countries, I think, is a huge challenge. From the macroeconomic perspective, those of us who think about monetary and fiscal policy have a lot of work to do to re-examine the way we think about the financial sector. We need to think about its role, how to supervise it and what an optimal financial sector looks like. I also think there remains a lot of work to be done to figure out what the optimal international financial system would look like and what type of exchange rate systems can be made to work.

Q. Could we see a professor Fischer at the LSE anytime soon?

SF: When I was in the job market after leaving MIT, I was told never to accept a job that I hadn't been offered. I hope you won't mind if I defer that question. For now. ☛

Flickr user: International Monetary Fund



CV CHECK

- Born in Zambia in 1943
- Earned a BSc and MSc at the London School of Economics, graduating in 1966
- Obtained his Ph.D. in economics at MIT in 1969
- First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, 1994-2001
- Vice-President, Development Economics and Chief Economist at the World Bank, 1988-1990
- Vice Chairman of Citigroup, 2002-2005
- Governor of the bank of Israel since 2005. Nominated for a second term in May 2010
- Editor of the NBER Macroeconomics Annual



Flickr user: Regent's College

Shopping for a Degree

Paula Vanlaningham discusses the implications of for-profit colleges across the UK and the US

For-Profit Higher Education in the UK? It's already here. When the Browne Review was released in October, outrage primarily centred on the 200 per cent university fee mark-up. As the report was studied further, however, it became increasingly obvious that many of the recommendations proposed by the Government would fundamentally change the nature of the British education system.

In his 4 November article in *The London Review of Books*, Stephan Collini said that Browne was suggesting that "we should no longer look at higher education as the provision of a public good.... Instead we should look at it as a lightly regulated market in which consumer demand, in the form of student choice, is sovereign in determining what is offered by service providers (i.e. universities)."

Vincent Cable and the Government have made no secret of their vision for more private competition within the UK university system. In July, the *Guardian* quoted David Willets, the universities minister, "[It is] healthy to have a vibrant private sector working alongside our more traditional universities".

The general consensus is that the Government sees an increased role for privately-funded universities within the UK higher education system, more along the lines of an American free market model. Private universities do not rely on public funding for operation, instead making up for the funding shortfall with private grants, tuition fees, savvy investment, and other sources of non-public income. In the United States, as elsewhere in the world, many of the most highly regarded education institutions are classified as private, including the majority of the vaunted Ivy League system.

Additionally, universities in many countries have faced increased competition from private "for-profit" higher education options. Generally, these schools offer flexible education options for working professionals either in a classroom or through online tutorial.

The British education system does not fit easily in to a traditional private vs. public classification system. The majority of higher education institutions in the UK are publicly subsidized institutions that maintain their own governing boards relatively free of government influence. Currently there are only a handful of private university options available in Great Britain. The University of Birmingham is by far the oldest and most established private higher education institution in the country. In July this year, the Privy Council accredited the UK's first private institution in over 30 years, the BPP College of Professional Studies. The BPP model differs from the University of Birmingham in that it is a for-profit private institution in the style of the American DeVry's University, which Birmingham is not.

With UK higher education facing drastic financing cuts, there has been increased speculation that many institutions will be forced to privatise, which would make them less subject to government oversight on student quotas and fee caps. The *Beaver* learned back in October that the LSE Council had discussed the costs and benefits of privatising the school, although Howard Davies has subsequently made it very clear that the school would not consider privatising. Oxford, Cambridge, and a number of other UK universities have also indicated that they have no intent to privatise. Indeed, the University and College Union (UCU) remains sceptical about privatisation in general.

However, the Government has made it quite clear that private institutions – particularly those that offer two-year and professional degrees – will play an increasing role in British higher education, and this is likely to include additional competition from for-profit institutions. This change comes at a time when the for-profit system in the United States is facing increasing scrutiny from Congress and the media who allege that the system exacerbates the problem of student debt, particularly among low-income students, and leaves graduates without adequate qualifications to effectively compete in the tight jobs market. A 9 November article in *The New York Times* presented a bleak picture of a business model that frequently targets disadvantaged students and promises unrealistic gains.

In fact, the low job prospects for many graduates from for-profit institutions has led the US Department of Education to propose cutting off federal financing to programs whose graduates consistently have high debt-to-income ratios.

It is important to note, however, that not all for-profit models face the same criticisms. Indeed, advocates of for-profit education argue that the flexible teaching schedules are ideal for working adults. Additionally, they are particularly well-suited for professional training degrees because they offer not only class flexibility, but also teaching staffs that are generally practicing professionals.

Furthermore, many for-profit colleges provide education opportunities for low-income students. The Post Company, which owns the Kaplan Group of test-preparation fame, began investing in for-profit higher education roughly a decade ago and now owns 75 small col-

leges in the United States; in 2005 they purchased Holborn College, just down the street from the LSE.

The *New York Times* quoted Post Company President Donald Graham, "We purchased colleges that mainly served poor students, and we have embraced that role... For students with risk factors, older working students with children, Kaplan has dramatically better graduation rates than community colleges."

Indeed, for-profit colleges account

The Government has made it quite clear that private institutions will play an increasing role in British higher education

for only 11 per cent of higher education students in the US, but receive nearly a quarter of all federal funding, indicating a higher proportion of low-income students. This disparity does not sit well with many members of Congress: recent government inquiries in to the Kaplan Group determined that over 91 per cent of their funding came directly from the federal government in the form of Pell grants, Stafford loans and veteran's grants.

What does this suggest for the future of higher education in the United Kingdom?

Well, with the much maligned increase in fees, there has been growing concern that low-income students will be discouraged from pursuing higher level education, particularly at the nation's top colleges and universities. "The Government claims that the new funding system will be more 'progressive'" LSE Student Union President Charlotte Gerada told *The Beaver*, "But there is a very real possibility that the increase in cost will have a deterrent effect for the low-income students." The UK's top universities already have difficulty attracting low-income and minority students.

"This has the potential to entrench inequality across people and across institutions," Ms Gerada added.

The Government and other advocates of private sector participation argue that private competition could alleviate the

current strain on University placements. Unfortunately, if the fee increase disproportionately discourages low-income and minority students as many critics fear it will, however, existing inequalities within the university system will only be augmented.

The Browne Report recognized the deterrent facing low-income students and made a number of suggestions to help alleviate the financial burden caused by an increase in fees. "Unfortunately," Ms Gerada said, "they have been less than effective at communicating what financial support options are likely to be available to students."

Additionally, there is the concern that a private higher education system will not be as subjected to government oversight and could lead to a decrease in education quality within one of the world's most highly-respected university systems. After BPP was accredited in July, *The Telegraph* quoted UCU General Secretary Sally Hunt, "Today's news could mark the beginning of a slippery slope for academic provision in this country. Encouraging the growth of private providers and making it easier for them to call themselves universities would be a disaster for the UK's academic reputation."

Higher education reform in the United Kingdom is in the early stages, and while the Browne Report does contain suggestions for maintaining quality, the details have yet to be ironed out. The BIS refused to comment directly about the specific regulations the government is considering regarding private sector education and the for-profit system in particular. The Government is currently using the White Paper process to provide suggestions for solving the specific, longer term regulatory issues that may arise with an increase in private sector participation.

Currently, the UK University accreditation system requires that all institutions issuing degrees must first be approved by the Privy Council, and while there is some speculation that the rules will be changed as reform proceeds, the current regulations and procedures remain in place.

"All higher education providers have to conform to a set of standards," Dr. Stephen Jackson, the Quality Assurance Agency's Director of Reviews, told *The Beaver*. "All universities go through a rigorous process to achieve degree awarding powers."

Private education providers in the UK also currently face an additional hurdle: private institutions are required to renew every six years, a caveat not required of those institutions that receive public funding. Dr. Jackson stated that some private institutions have protested this distinction

and have lobbied for a level playing field, but the current remain in place and are likely to for the near future.

"I believe there is a clear case for more intensive scrutiny of the newcomers in higher education," said Dr. Jackson. "They simply have not yet acquired the track record demonstrated by the older members of the system."

BPP College of Professional Studies is the only for-profit provider currently accredited in the United Kingdom, having been granted the title of "University College" by the Privy Council in July. While there are other private education institutions within the UK, degrees issued by these institutions must be recognized by accredited universities. For example, Holborn College's programs are recognized and accredited by the University of Wales, Liverpool University and the University of London.

How the Government chooses to regulate the private sector will be instrumental in determining how effective it will be at providing high-quality higher education for students. Both the Browne Report and subsequent statements by the BIS office have shown awareness of the issues currently under scrutiny in the United States, and have expressed a desire to avoid similar problems.

Furthermore, the situations are not identical.

First and foremost, the strict accreditation system in the UK ensures that all private providers, including for-profit ones, are subjected to quality assurance guidelines. Additionally, there are much stricter limits on funding for for-profit education.

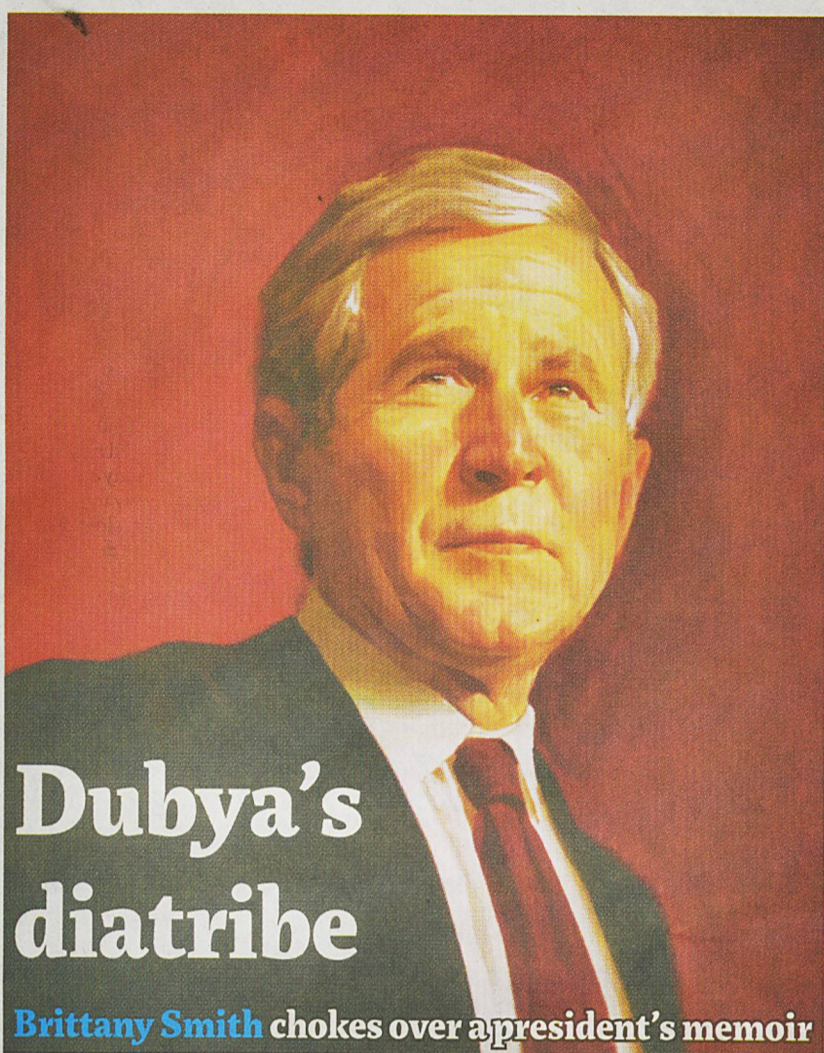
"Some for-profit providers in the United States have been able to exploit the federal funding system," Dr. Jackson said. This has to do with the nature of many for-profit models in the US, which have been accused of targeting populations with statistically higher drop-out rates. Given the stricter approach to higher education regulation in the UK, this type of targeting is far less likely.

Regardless of the ultimate outcome regarding the for-profit system, the nature of British education will change substantially. The move towards a free market system where higher education is no longer a right guaranteed for those who wish to pursue it fundamentally alters the nature of the British welfare state.

"There is an engrained expectation in this country that university is the next step, both among students and employers," Ms Gerada said. "Employers expect that degree. Essentially, the Government has raised expectations only to effectively take that support away."

Former United States President, George W. Bush is back on the scene with his latest book, *Decision Points*. From this book comes a poignant pictorial image of the

former American president from his own vantage point and not that of his critics. In *Decision Points*, Bush gives his own accounts of what went wrong and what went right during his 8 year stint as President.



Dubya's diatribe

Brittany Smith chokes over a president's memoir

Like his book though, his promotion tour for *Decision Points* has certainly challenged existing assumptions that have been made about his opinions on controversial issues.

During President Bush's interview with Oprah Winfrey and Matt Lauer on *The Today Show*, and even on his promotional video for *Decision Points*, the public persona of George Bush is different to the one the world is used to. When I listen to the interview, in which Bush claims that "the only fair way to judge [economic performance] is the debt, relative to the economy" - this in response to Lauer's assertion that his administration left the US with a \$10.7 trillion debt - it seems that the negative image he picked up during his presidency remains.

With *Decision Points*, President Bush is planting a seed into the minds of his readers that addresses the social fabric that is weaved into his character, that goes beyond the political spectrum. He speaks candidly about his relationships with his mother, children, wife and cabinet colleagues and how these personal relationships have inspired his decision-making framework.

Decision Points has created an international conversation about the psychology of the "why" and not the "how." Bush exposes for his readers the boardroom, shifting the media attention from what his political record showed to the own personal benchmark he used to measure his presidency. The book speaks to the criteria that he uses to measure his successes, with one of them being his judgement of character.

Both the left and right can probably agree that his sense of judgement is questionable. Also not up for dispute is the amount of grace and respect that he is showing his predecessor and his awareness for the obvious - that he was going to be blamed for the financial crisis. When Oprah probed him to speak on the job the current

President Bush is doing, he remarked, "... there's going to be plenty of critics and he doesn't need me criticizing him. I don't think it's good for the presidency." Bush's memoir may be what is needed to revamp his image. Like this comment, including the accountability that he is

In Decision Points, Bush gives his own accounts of what went wrong and what went right

taking for partially contributing to the financial crisis, *Decision Points* uses the course of American History as a vessel to judge the decisions he made against his own personal values.

In *Decision Points*, President Bush shows a clear understanding of the criteria by which his administration is being judged. From Hurricane Katrina to 9/11 to the Wall Street Bailout, President Bush is aware that his administration was in power during a series of painful moments for American Politics. Seemingly, he understands this because of the fact that his decisions make him one of the most controversial figures, if not the most controversial, in American politics.

While it seems that either he has done a lot of maturing within the past 18-20 months, or his integrity is being revealed for the very first time to the public, for some, readers should expect a sense of consistency from Bush in his memoir. Similar to his presidency, President Bush does justify his policies on Guantanamo Bay for instance. Even in the face of unsuccessful policy-making, such as his tax cuts for small businesses, that were aimed to create job growth within a struggling economy, he still believes this policy to be successful, though the United States unemployment rate currently hovers a near 10% rate.

President Bush states in his book that "when I entered politics, I made a decision, I would confront problems not pass them on to the future generation." During his interview, when Matt Lauer questions the honesty behind this statement amidst current economic turmoil, he instinctively replies by remarking that his debt to GDP, tax to GDP, and his spending are "amongst the lowest in modern presidency." So, for some, we get the same Old George in *Decision Points*. But others, though, may be pleasantly surprised to read that the image that President Bush constructed for himself during his presidency is much more complex than what met the eye.

If a charity project benefits both individuals and society enormously, everybody with common sense would say that charity should be supported and promoted. Project Prevention is a charity like this, but receives unjustified criticism. Let me tell you how it works perfectly and brings welfare.

Barbara Harris, who funded Project Prevention, pays alcoholics and drug addicts to be sterilized. It may sound rather uncomfortable first hearing it, but do think it through before becoming so judgemental. It is scientifically proven that children of drug addicts are much more likely to die during the labour. Even if the child is lucky enough to be born, they are more likely than most to suffer from lifelong mental and physical disabilities. Even if the baby is born healthy, they are more likely than most to be neglected or abused by parents who struggle to look after themselves. Clearly, preventing drug addicts from giving birth stops both the

children and parents from suffering. So Project Prevention should be endorsed, as it brings happiness. Actions should be judged on the extent to which they promote happiness. By happiness I mean both pleasure and the absence of pain, which certainly applies to this case.

So far in the US, Harris has signed up more than 3,000 drink and drug addicts to her programme. In the UK, Project Prevent has already received £20,000 in donations and hundreds of people have called its helpline, seeking to enrol. Numbers never lie and reflect people's thoughts. The popularity of this project speaks of the happiness of those who receive the benefits.

It isn't just societies who benefit from the scheme, individuals benefit too. Many criticise Harris' work by saying \$300 will obviously be spent on drugs, which discourages addicts from rehabilitation. Even if \$300 is not provided, drug addicts will always find ways of getting drugs anyway.

Rates of robbing and stealing are definitely likely to increase, causing more social unrest. Economically, for babies born both mentally and physically unhealthy, millions of pounds need to be spent on them every year. This money could well be spent helping many others in need. The solution to this problem is offered by Harris, it's just people are so reluctant to open their mind. It is not true that all unwise people are conservative, but most conservatives are definitely not wise.

Critics somehow associate the Nazis' programme of eugenics with Harris' Project Prevention. Whoever drew this comparison clearly did not pay any attention in History classes, since when did Nazis ever give the subjects of their eugenic policies the choice or any sort of benefit?

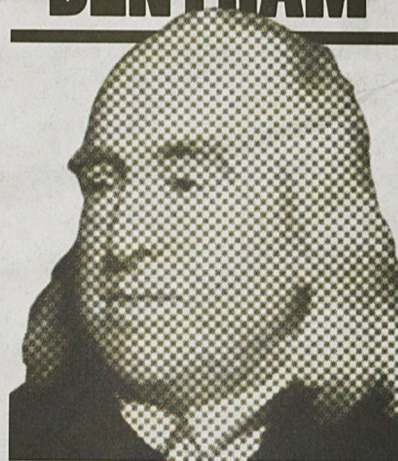
Surely individual should have the right to choose what they want; we are rational enough to make decisions for our own well-being. And Harris in no way forced drug addicts to be sterilized, but provides

them with an alternative that could benefit both themselves and people around them. It is true that financial support acts as an incentive, but it drives people to do good, rather than a black hole leading to eternal damnation, which many critics seem to suggest. In fact, few argue that the number of unhealthy babies born because of their parents' addiction need to be reduced. Since the end result is justified, so should the method that helps achieve the result.

So why would you ever oppose a charity project that provides individuals helpful opportunities which lead to a happier society with happier people?

Did you find this interesting? If so, it could be you writing *Knockout* next week. Email us at features@thebeaveronline.co.uk with your 'Knockout' ideas

Heather Wang is... BENTHAM



KNOCKOUT

Is it right to offer drug addicts money to be sterilised?

Calum Young is...

MILL



Sterilising people, whatever their addictions, is deeply wrong. The individual is sovereign over all events in their own life. No human capacity is more important than the ability to shape our own lives, to plot our own course through existence, to make our own dates with destiny. Any attempt to circumscribe the individual's freedom to choose, must be viewed with scepticism.

There are multiple reasons for this empowerment of the individual. Firstly, those making decisions about their own lives are far more likely to get them right than the indirect perceptions of surrounding members of the community. When a state or charity dictates ways of living to the individual they are seldom right.

Very well, you might say. In this case it is the individuals choice to surrender their freedom and be sterilised. But consider for a moment what is being sacrificed here - the opportunity to have children for a life time. Students of Philosophy will note

that John Stuart Mill argued the individual should be free to do almost anything except to abandon our freedom. We are not at liberty to sell our futures selves into slavery. That is what sterilisation means, it revokes the freedom of our future selves and anchors them to a viewpoint in the past. Choosing to surrender the human right to have kids, chips a bit of our freedom away, thus it's a bad thing.

Secondly, the attempt to sterilise those deemed unsuitable to raise children is a move towards uniformity. Those who do so claim there is one right and best way to father infants, all other experiments of living must be jettisoned. This is nonsense. The history of earthly progress, is the history of difference. We learn so much from viewing alternative ways of living. The drug addled parent may well develop new ways of caring for his or her children which the clean parent might have missed. Drugs may offer new perspectives on how to raise kids.

And of course even if we discover that

those parents on drugs are bad at caring for children, their failures will foster debate amongst the rest of the adult community around what makes a good parent. Were all children raised in exactly the same way, there would be nobody to challenge modern pretensions about how to bring-up children. People who reject our fundamental beliefs challenge us to think about them, to reexamine why we hold certain views, and to abandon the elements within our thinking which are incorrect. Debate itself about something so complex as parenting is in itself a good thing.

Those who seek to sterilise bad parents are in themselves tacitly claiming to know what makes a good parent. Who is to judge what makes a bad parent? It certainly shouldn't be some smug do-gooder who claims moral supremacy over the members of society who enjoy more liberal living habits. What qualifications do these charities have to judge parenting? is it even right to think of a definite

mode of parenting which is 'good' in the absolute form?

Consider the drug addict who has children and raises them badly. I would argue that the action of choosing, even if it yields the wrong choice, is exceptionally important for the accomplished individual. Does not the human benefit from the process of decision making? The intellectual capacities of individuals are intertwined with the act of making decisions, to remove decisions is to impose an intellectual half-life on those who do not think as you do.

Give people choice, let them make errors, learn from their failings and benefit from their successes. That's the nature of progress.

Discrimination in the courtroom

Bianca Nardi looks into accusations of anti-African sentiment at the ICC

Last week, the President of the International Criminal Court urged the international community to increase efforts to arrest eight people sought for alleged crimes against humanity. What is odd about this list is that it consists only of African citizens - the president of Sudan and commanders of the Ugandan militia Lord's Resistance Army included. All five investigations carried out by the ICC since its creation have been into African nations: Northern Uganda, the DRC, Sudan, Kenya and the Central African Republic. Is the Court being selective and using double standards, prosecuting only African leaders? Is the ICC 'anti-African'?

The International Criminal Court came into being in 2002, when the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court - its founding treaty - came into force. The Court was created to have jurisdiction over 'the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole'. The ICC can exercise jurisdiction only in cases where the accused is a national of a state party, the alleged crime took place on the territory of a state party or if the situation is referred to the court by the United Nations Security Council. A number of key states such as the United States, Russia and China have not ratified the Rome Statute, making it difficult for the Court to function to its full potential.

The ICC represents a major achievement in human rights law, making it possible to bring a claim against an individual in an international court for crimes against humanity - genocide, ethnic cleansing and war crimes. It differs from regional courts and from the International Court of Justice in the sense that the former are region-specific and the latter rules on disputes between governments and not individuals. The ICC intervenes

only when the national court is unable or unwilling to prosecute, respecting its member's national sovereignty.

Although the founding idea of the ICC embodies the ideals of justice and human rights, it seems strange that this 'international court' has so far only prosecuted African personalities and leaders. So far the court has been activated by the very states in which alleged crimes falling within the Court's jurisdiction have occurred, through 'self referral'. In the case of Sudan, the prosecution was referred to the ICC by the United Nations Security Council - as Sudan is not a member state and would not otherwise fall within the Court's jurisdiction.

The ICC is a Western creation, based on the latter's concepts of human rights. Is international justice a neo-colonialist enterprise? Are African countries infringing on Human Rights genuinely incapable of dealing with in a domestic scale? It is said that Africa is not given enough responsibility to show that it takes the ideas of human rights seriously, and that this could be done through an 'African Court of Justice' rather than through a Court controlled by the West.

The argument is that the world around us is full of hotspots where conflicts take place and heinous crimes are committed. The ICC, as a global institution, should treat all continents equally and enforce its jurisdiction everywhere where people are being subject to mistreatment by individuals holding authority. The ICC is to some extent influenced by the UNSC, and does not investigate into accusations towards Western leaders for war crimes in Afghanistan or Iraq. This happens as the very nations who commit these alleged crimes have some control regarding

who should or shouldn't be prosecuted. Nobody can dispute the fact that atrocities of major scale have been taking place all around the world, in Iraq, Chechnya and Sri Lanka. The problem is that the ICC does not have jurisdiction in these areas as these countries have not ratified the Rome Statute, or the UN has not transferred these cases to the Court.

Is the Court being selective and using double standards, prosecuting only African leaders? Is the ICC 'anti-African'?

Sudan is not a member of the Rome Statute, and has had its President submitted to an investigation and prosecution through a request by the Security Council. According to critics of the system, the ICC should be binding only to those who are members - to try to impose resolutions to countries that are not is selectivity and double standards, as well as breach of international law. What critics should take into consideration is

that the ICC acts as a 'complementary' court - only handling cases when the domestic courts fail to do so. If the African nations undergoing investigations were able to handle their own domestic issues effectively, the ICC would be irrelevant.

Alice Ukoko - founder and CEO of 'Women in Africa' - was asked what she thought of such a thing as an 'African Court of Justice', to settle domestic

crimes without a western interference. She laughed at what she considered an absurd proposition and said 'there is no law in Africa. There is no respect for human beings in Africa. Africans are being impoverished and enslaved by other Africans.'

How justified are the actions of the ICC in Africa? Instead of condemning the selectivity of the Court towards African nations, the question should be of expanding the ICC's jurisdiction to wherever people are being abused by individuals in power. Inevitably, this is more challenging, as it is difficult for an international body to condemn giants such as the United States, Russia or China. Genocide, war and ethnic cleansing are

ably wrong, regardless of anyone's background or tradition. Hiding behind culture and principles of non-interference should no longer be an option for any government accused of such crimes.

By prosecuting leaders who murder and disrespect their own people, the ICC, if anything, is 'pro-Africa.'



WHAT IF...

Lenin was Assassinated at Finland Station? Pt. I

Jack Tindale

Vladimir Illyich Lenin, hero of the working man and revolutionary blowhard in equal measure, arrived from exile in Switzerland on April 3rd 1917 to a vast crowd of supporters and ideological rivals. As he mounted the makeshift podium that had been hastily hammered together from the little available lumber left in Petrograd, he could have been forgiven for allowing himself a small smile. Lenin's return to the war-ravaged Russia was a personal triumph for him. Documents released twelve years ago reveal that he had already sketched out plans for a revolutionary uprising by the Bolsheviks on the long, slow train ride, plans that he may well have decided to announce that day.

That is something that historians will never know for sure. All that is known is that a matter of seconds after mounting the steps to the ramshackle lectern, a single shot had been fired and one of the founders of Russian Marxism lay dying slowly in the watery spring sunshine.

The reaction from the revolutionary intelligentsia was real and immediate. Some accused the anarchists for the action, others right-wing elements of the Provisional Government. A select few even whispered rumours that the assassination had been masterminded by Nikolai Bukharin, Lenin's friend and rival, who assumed leadership of the shell-shocked Bolsheviks in the days following the incident. Despite this, the furious reaction of the revolutionary left-wing was a unifying factor for the anti-war movement, the Petrograd and Moscow Soviets both calling for general strikes on the 13th April.

By this time however, the true benefactor of the assassination had risen to prominence. Alexander Kerensky, the interim Minister of Justice, assumed the mantle of leadership following the surprising resignation of Prince Lvov and declared the formation of a Republic with himself as Prime Minister. Orthodox history has traditionally viewed Kerensky's actions as motivated by the lack of attention accorded him owing to the strike action, but more revisionists theses have proposed that the Social Revolutionary leader was driven by a desire to end the war with Germany by any means necessary, actions that would be best taken place whilst the left-wing opposition was still in disarray.

The Declaration of Lomonosov on May 1st, International Labour Day, ended Russian involvement in the Great War, nominally at least. Kerensky had already informed both Paris and London that such an announcement was only interim, intended for the country to recuperate and stave off civil war whilst military and economic reforms were completed. Flanked by the new Minister of Defence, Lavr Kornilov, Kerensky also announced that the Russian army would retreat for the duration of the summer. Whilst humiliating on paper, the vast Austro-German force that would be required to police the newly independent nations of eastern Europe would only increase the pressures on the Western Front.

For Jozef Pilsudski, the interim-Prime Minister of the newly and nominally independent Kingdom of Poland, the peace was only an "interim one, a vast intake of breath by the Russian bear, steady to blow down all before her...". Pilsudski's words, now immortalised in his diary at the Royal Museum in Warsaw, today seem highly prophetic.

Continued Next Week...

Persecution and protest

Anushka Shah recounts the story of Irom Sharmila

This year, Irom Sharmila entered the tenth year of her fast - the longest undertaken in history. Lying on a cold hospital bed in Delhi, her broken voice slowly chisels at your conscience. "How shall I explain? It is not a punishment, but my bounden duty..." The moral weight of the words - 'my bounden duty' - nails your feet hard to the ground. You want to walk away and think it's another story, another act of resistance against the state - one of the many spread around a country of one billion people and infinite problems. Yet, her story slowly begins to take shape, and you realise this is no ordinary political protest.

In 1980, the Indian government imposed the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (1958) in the East Indian state of Manipur. The Act permitted the army to use force, arrest, or shoot any suspect without warrant, simply on the belief that someone was committing a cognisable offence. Furthermore, the Act prohibited trial against army personnel without the prior sanction of the Central Government. On 1st November 2000, in response to insurgent violence, the 8th Assam Rifles gunned down ten innocent victims at a bus stand. A 62-year old woman and an 18-year old girl, who ironically who was the National Child Bravery Award win-

ner, were both victims. The local paper published grisly pictures of the bodies, and Irom Sharmila, like many other locals, was extraordinarily stirred. She began her fast as a means of peaceful revolt the following day.

It has been 10 years since that day. Not a drop of water or morsel of food has passed her lips. She moved her protest from Manipur to Delhi, realising the true battle lay in the capital. There she was arrested by the Indian Government on attempted suicide, and is now forcibly kept alive on a drip thrust down her nose. She cleans her teeth with dry cotton and her lips with spirit, resolute not to vilify her fast. She removes the tube whenever she can, and says with that haunting resilience that her bounden duty was to protest in "the most reasonable and peaceful way."

Both state and citizens have been oblivious. The new age has heralded lists, and plans, places to go and things to do - too busy to pause and take a look. One woman is too small a number in a world where only numbers have begun to count. Yet, her single voice is the sole representative of even these numbers - since 1992 over 5,600 people have been killed in insurgency related violence, and since the act was imposed in 1980 the number of insurgency groups have risen from four to forty. It has become a ghoulish society

with the insurgents, army, police, and politicians rife in corruption, pretence, and worst of all - indifference to the value of a life. This is not happening in a 20th century where tyrants rule and dictatorship is still a valid form of government, neither is it happening in a dusty village severed from the world victim to tribal tradition - it is happening in modern, booming, media savvy, IT expertise India. Plasma TVs line the house walls, glass buildings dot the landscape, and shiny cars cruise the roads, while blameless people are shot in the back alley.

It took Iranian Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi to give Irom's fight the attention it deserved on a trip to India in 2006. "If Sharmila dies, Parliament is directly responsible," she thundered at an assembly of journalists. "If she dies, courts and the judiciary are responsible, the military is responsible... If she dies, the executive, the PM and President are responsible for doing nothing... If she dies, each one of you journalists is responsible because you did not do your duty."

Four years since then, the movement has gathered some momentum, but nothing close to the retort expected of a responsible democratic society or international community. Little has changed with the government's response and nothing with the legal review. On 23rd July this

year, a young former rebel Sanjit was shot dead by the police in broad daylight in a crowded market place, in one of Manipur's busiest areas. Rabina Devi, standing on the pavement at the time, five months pregnant, caught a bullet in her head and fell down dead as well. Russell, her two-year old son was with her. Many others were injured simultaneously.

In such a multifarious world, often the answer lies in a single act of conviction. One that makes us question the real value of living and the purpose of morality. Irom Sharmila's story, reminiscent of Gandhi and his ways, is what ideals are written off. She has responded to extreme violence with extreme peace, every single day for ten long years. Not part of any group or political movement, she has stood for the voice of an entire state. Does it need a movie made about her for her to get her voice heard over the busy age of information excess? Can we not read of her story in a local journal or college paper and feel the awe-inspiring depth of the act? If the story of Irom Sharmila doesn't make us think and pause between our work schedules and evening plans, it is unlikely that anything ever will.

Measured musings



I'm no public economist. Seven weeks of EC100 hardly warrants such a claim. Nor am I anything approaching a political philosopher - my paltry Politics A-level probably made this aspiration less likely. So with no relevant credentials whatsoever, I intend to question an assumption that permeates debates over the funding of public services.

The answer to the question 'why should the state fund university teaching?' tends to focus on the fact that a well-educated work force and population

Public ends by private means

are a public good. This is the received wisdom with which we are all inculcated. This logic does not appear to apply in all like cases. One cannot disagree that a ill-fed population is a public good and a starving one a public bad, but no serious or relevant commentator would suggest that the government stump up 50 per cent of the cost of a middle class family's dinner. Most would sensibly propose the government provide nourishment when individuals fail to do so.

Why does the same logic not apply to university funding? Like food, education

is of both public and private benefit. I benefit hugely from my education with a vicarious improvement to society. If a graduate is in a position to pay the full price of his education and values it accordingly, there appears to be little logic in the spending of government money. Rather, focusing funds on poorer students would be a more beneficial use of resources.

It is startling that a government policy that leaves the poorest 25 per cent of students paying less for their education while those who can afford to pay more

do so is painted as a destruction of our society. "A great deal is being made of a few windows smashed during the protest, but the real vandals are those waging a war on our education system," say the signatories of a statement claiming unity with all protesters violent or otherwise. I disagree.

Oliver Wiseman
Features Editor

GG gallivants with the golfers



Last Wednesday, GG was in a fine mood for a cheeky nine holes round the West End's finest brasseries. However, upon arriving at the Tuns for some well needed pre-golf lubrication, GG found himself in the midst of the bar struggling for service from the ever-alluring Tuns' barmaids. Strongbow was being drunk by the gallon. Cigarettes were being rolled at the bar. Bongo drums were on the FC's beloved pool table and dreadlocks were being compared.

UNEMPLOYMENT

These were not the well turned out young ladies and gentleman of the AU, who had hardly arrived out in full force by this time. GG was surrounded by a plethora of scruffy, desperately non-conformist characters (somehow still rather uniform in their 'randomness') with about as many UCAS points as Gonads and the personal hygiene of Stuey Whiteford. Yes, you guessed it, POLYS. Polys of a calibre so low, even Nottingham Trent turned them away. Polys who, on the day the Lord dedicated for the playing of sport, the hallowed Wednesday, were content to play bongo drums and attempt a rendition of MGMT's 'Kids' that made even the Rugby players blush. Polys who are the reason, GG suspects, that the LSE's finest pay tax.

KILL YOURSELF

Just as GG was thinking about taking the coward's way out, an inspired chant from the FC, proving they live after all, finally gave the Sport Science and Business Communications students the hint that they were not welcome. Several times. Whether they were impressionable enough to actually commit suicide (the slogans on their t-shirts suggest they may

have been), GG can only speculate. Their numbers began to dwindle quicker than their supplies of Drum tobacco, as simultaneously, the AU's finest began to arrive for a proper night out involving a healthy variety of alcoholic beverages and some provocative fancy dress. Yes, GG would be tagging along with the Pub Golfers and checking the scorecards, amongst other things.

BIRDIE

For the record, GG can boast that all ten beverages were completed in nine shots, beating even Strivlah's respectable scorecard. Her efforts were not without their side-effects, however. GG noticed her unsuccessful attempts at rekindling the flame with Jordan 'Domestic' Emery. GG hears that his rejection was based on the fact the Strivlah is simply not aggressive enough to fulfil his sadist desires. She then pointed him in the direction of the newest HR recruit at UBS.

SU.DevelopingPullingActivities

GG continued the route to compare his scorecards to the other golfers, and after passing by El Presidente making the most of Great Queen Street's urinal qualities, came across a President of a bygone age developing her own activities. GG hears that a day developing activities with Polys drove her to the drink, and by the Princess Louise was struggling to manage even half a pint of Samuel Smith's finest. By Zoo Bar the only victim the Glynger could 'develop' was a crippled FC lad on crutches. Not Mulcahy, the other one.

BRAVEHEARTS

The atmosphere in Zoo bar demonstrated the perils of mixing your alcoholic beverages, especially if you are not as hardcore as GG. The Proper-hoe turned up, sans Pitcher, having recovered from her travel sickness that suddenly hit after the eighth hole, Par 2 at the Freemasons arms. Flat-caps and visors were stolen, and male freshers began to get ambitious. 3rd team Rugby freshers continued their trend of punching substantially above their weight by pulling some fine young female golfers. GG doubts that all of the females' decision making synapses were fully functioning, but a pull is a pull.

HAYMAKER

But there is always one fresher who oversteps the mark. In a chat up line that would have made a previous Gossip Gollum (you know, the one with the upper-class guy), one brave young 1st year from the FC attempted to woo the leggy 2nd team netball stalwart that is Lydiah CaSayer, with the opening gambit of, "I'm FC, who are you?" So incensed was Ms. CaSayer with the audacious remark, that she felt it necessary to punch the young rascal square in the face in a manner which would have made Joey Barton blush. When confronted by everyone's least-hated Saffer in a high-vis, Ms.CaSayer explained the harassment that she had received from the FC fresher, and the bouncer promptly ordered him to apologise to Lydiah. He was banished from the orgy that is Zoo Bar and was spotted by GG outside, crying his poor little bruised eyes out.

FIREWORKS

Speaking of ambitious FC players, a somewhat more successful BJ used a few chat up lines that didn't involve rugby tackling and landed himself with the sole proprietor of Campbell Soups Inc. (See player profiles), a flame rekindled from the recesses of 1st year. GG will be watching to see whether it is actually, actual love. One such venue to keep an eye on will be the Fireworks party this Wednesday at Berrylands, post-England vs. Rest Of The World egg-chasing match. GG will be having a flutter on the foreigners this year, as he hears of some rather intimidating Americans who have been enlisted into the ROW team. And thankfully, after the debacle of this week, Berrylands should be completely devoid of Polys (apart from maybe Rudy on the karaoke.)

LSE SPORT RESULTS

Attach:

Share

Athl **LSE Athletics Union Rugby:**
LSE 2s 44 - 0 Imperial Medics
2 seconds ago · Like · Comment · Promote

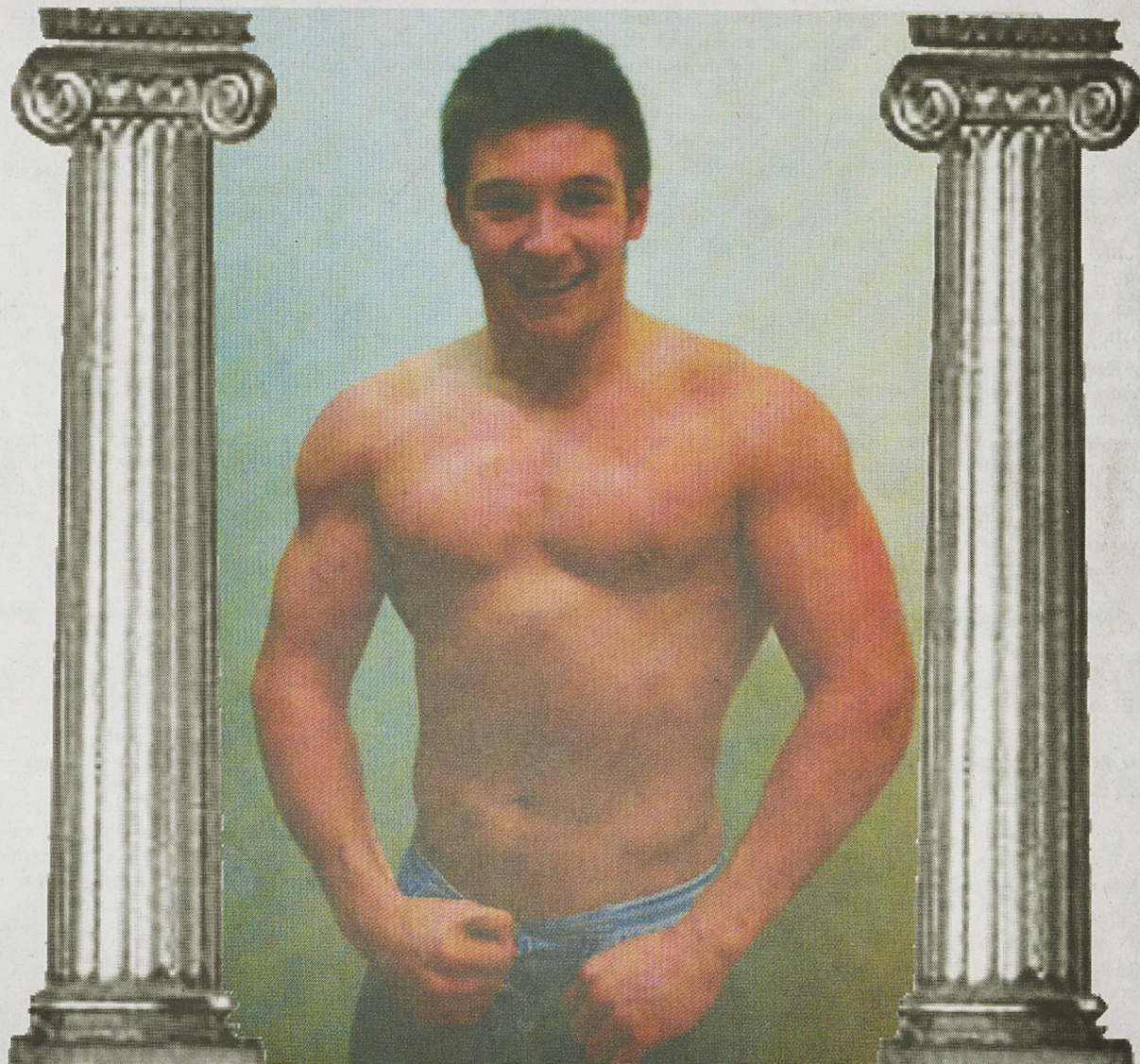
Athl **LSE Athletics Union Tennis:**
Men's: LSE 1s 8 - 4 UCL 1s
Women's: LSE 1s 12 - 0 Essex
5 minutes ago · Like · Comment · Promote

Athl **LSE Athletics Union Women's Football:**
LSE 4 - 0 UCL 2s
Women's Rugby:
LSE 61 - 0 Royal Holloway
Women's Basketball:
LSE 66 - 30 UCL 2s
6 minutes ago · Like · Comment · Promote

Athl **LSE Athletics Union Netball:**
LSE 1s 36 - 24 Imperial Medics 2s
LSE 2s 22 - 19 Royal Vets College
LSE 2s 33 - 27 Brunel 5s
LSE 6s 13 - 14 Queen Mary's 4s
8 minutes ago · Like · Comment · Promote

Athl **LSE Athletics Union Football:**
LSE 2s 0 - 0 Kings 1s aet 5-3 Pens
LSE 3s 2 - 1 Kings 2s
LSE 4s 4 - 0 Kings 3s
LSE 4s 0 - 2 LSE 5s
LSE 6s 3 - 0 Holloway 5s
LSE 7s 9 - 3 Kings Medics 5s
11 minutes ago · Like · Comment · Promote

TORSO OF THE WEEK



FIREWORKS NIGHT
AT **BERRYLANDS**
THIS WEDNESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

- * ENGLAND v REST OF WORLD RUGBY
6.30PM KICK OFF
- * FIREWORKS
8PM START

DRINKS DEALS & KARAOKE

AFTER PARTY AT ZOO
BRING YOUR AU CARDS!

Play-off Profiles: This week it's Netball vs Women's Rugby

Lizzie Bacon

Who is she?

FIRST team Rugby Captain and AU Legend=

Where is she from?

Andover

Natural Wednesday Night Habitat:

Bacon is a Zoo Bar veteran, however she tends to be found harassing toilet attendants or losing all of her belongings.

LSE Sporting Career Highlight:

Single handedly destroying an entire toilet at Salou hotspot Christies.

Profile:

Bacon has made a name for herself since her first day in the AU. She is the only person in the world to see Salou as a warm up for her local Women's Rugby tour. However in Salou she brought fear into the hearts of the Netball girls by giving Keelin the biggest wedgy known to man and chasing Deevy down the road whilst swinging a branch she had earlier casually just pulled off a tree.



Katie Campbell

Who is s:he?

Netball Vice-Captain

Where is she from?

Glastonbury

Natural Wednesday Night Habitat:

Strutting her stuff round Zoo Bar in her "babies" also known as Kurt Geiger heels, she has also been known to enjoy a cheeky roast back at 'Mount Olympus'

LSE Sporting Career Highlight:

After managing to dodge the first team rugby winger fresh out of Trafalgar Square fountain, she was taken down by the full back. However she lives to tell the tale, with nothing more than a bruised head.

Profile:

Having both parents as Olympic Swimmers leaves a large name hanging over your head when it comes to sport. Luckily Campbell has made her own name when it comes to lash. Campbell may not be a consistent performer, but when she steps up to the plate she does it in style. Last years Carol is a prime example of this when Campbell decided to take a pit stop between the Den and Crush to decorate Lewis Jones' bedroom



Hockey 1st Teammates

Luke Davies



Chris Cattermole - Most Run Over: No-one else has been run over, Cat has. After dodging a car on the way over, he tried his luck coming back... to no avail.

Dan Steene - Most Desperate: He'd tried with all of Women's Rugby, where would he go next? Obviously we ruled out school girls... shame Dan didn't.

David Beck - Angriest Award: Was looking for a head-butt as he hadn't done one in a while. If only he could score more then maybe he'd cheer up a bit.

Edward Mackenzie - Bieber Award: He has the looks and voice, claims he has the girls. Is he the real Bieber? Or the youngest looking 20 yr old ever?

Harry 'Tiesto' Ayre - Che Guevara Award: Missed the game of the season for something about being in the cold.

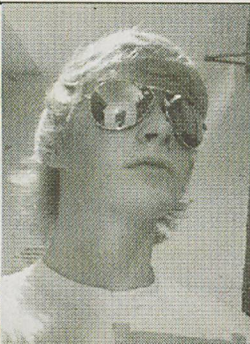
Ian Scanlon - Worst Lash Award: He claims to drink, he claims he's a lad, but those who actually know him will tell you he has never ever been out.

James Palmer - Worst Failure: Every member of the Men's Hockey 1sts who joined from 2007-2009 have failed. Except JP who got a 1st.

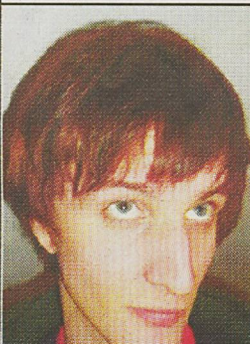
Joe Carr - God On His Side: Won't be seen in zoo bar, but who cares? When he's on the pitch you know the ball will magically go in off his stick.



Luke Davies - 'Still Here?' Award: After failing his 3rd year, he has somehow still managed to start every game in 4 years...It may be more about living with Club Captain than skill.



Oly 'Tolly' Watkins-Murphy - Most Moody: Everyday's a bad day for him, but you can count on him to cheer himself up by liking things on Facebook.



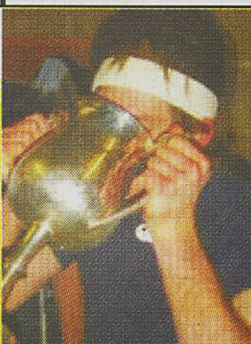
Rhys Cadman - Worst Hair: He had bad hair, his missus forced him to have a haircut. Guessing she didn't like him, coming back with just as bad hair. But now ginger.



Rob Turner - Biggest Secret Lad: He may have angelic looks, but he will not be beaten for consistent drunken behaviour, involving the police outside Zoo Bar.



Sahil Haria - Most Kenyan: He comes from Kenya, he wore a top saying "I am Kenyan" on it. He'd never played on Astro turf before trials.



Ben Battcock - Best Non-Player: The one game he played he won single handedly. Injury has ruined the rest of his season. Now there's rumours he doesn't exist.

If you would like to dish some dirt on your teammates with witty profiles, contact us at:

sports@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Sport



This week, GG tells all about who was under par, and who landed a hole in one

Bruised Egos and Black Eyes: The Story of the Poly

Joseph Watson

The supposed rivalry between LSE and Kings has been a well-documented affair. Ever since its rebranding in 1987 from 'Strand Polytechnic' to what is now known as 'Kings College London' a small club mentality has engulfed the black hole of education residing a matter of metres away.

As such it can be of no surprise that in a typically poly move the KCL FC pub-crawl descended upon The Three Tuns. Not even the stupid quotes on the wall or lack of appropriate furniture could keep them away. Naturally with Boca and Lemon on steroids, a donnybrook was inevitable. A few black eyes and a broken glass door saw the dust begin to settle.

There can be no doubt that the FC has a reputation for being a more chivalrous bunch than our overgrown counterparts. As such the true gents of the AU settled upon a strategy revolving around sporting ability as oppose to physicality.

The first stop on the mission to show

Kings they're not only largely illiterate but also shit at sport was a meeting between LSE 1s and Kings 1s. The teams approached the hallowed turf of B'lands, with some of the Kings team sporting beautiful looking black eyes; the scene was set.

A 5-1 thrashing was actually a fairly good result for the poly given the obvious disparity in quality, however worse was to follow. On Wednesday kings 1s, 2s and 3s all lost to LSE 2s, 3s and 4s respectively. The highlight undoubtedly being the LSE 4s 4-0 victory in which I (yes me) scored a goal. (not even a claim)

These dreadful results left myself and Snaville to ponder on our walk home, why are kings so bad at football? They have all the pre-requisites of a fine sporting institution a) a poly b) have a large student pool c) have a high proportion of undergrads; I mean it's not as if they have to study to pass their exams, so what do they spend their time practising?

What follows are the match reports from all three joyous fixtures, so please enjoy and have a good old gloat at our unfortunate neighbours.

LSE 2s Match Report

Sachin Mitra

With the previous Wednesday night's melee in the Tuns fresh in mind, the LSE 2s went into their ULU Cup tie with Strand Polytechnic 1s knowing that there was a lot more at stake than just three points. The game was about many things: a deep rivalry, LSE pride, Berrylands bragging rights; and with nearly all the football teams playing King's, a chance to make Wednesday a truly memorable one for the FC.

Thankfully with all the build up, the actual game did not disappoint and in the first half LSE counted themselves lucky that Rugeroni's goal line clearance, which was certainly more arm than chest, wasn't spotted by the ref. However King's were also let off the hook when Max 'two first names' Owen went over in the box and claims for what looked like a clear penalty were ignored.

The second half saw chances at either end to win the game, but a goal was proving elusive for both teams and the score was 0-0 at the full time whistle. The first period of extra time saw a flurry of chances for King's, but the second team defence stayed strong, fighting hard to go that extra inch, to use that now familiar Pacino cliché.

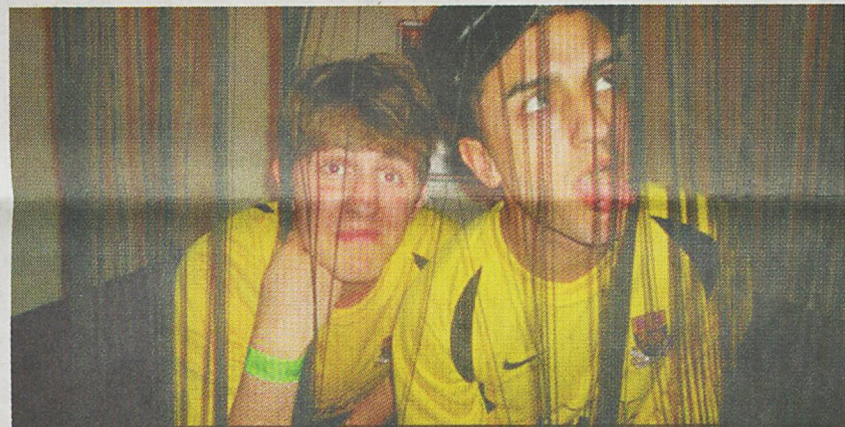
With tired legs and injuries mounting, by the second period of extra it was clear the deadlock was not going to be broken and eventually both teams looked resigned to taking the game to a penalty shoot out with darkness creeping over the now empty fortress Berrylands.

LSE went first and maverick Italian Gregorio stepped up and duly dispatched his penalty confidently in the top corner. Both sides then converted their next three penalties before goalkeeper Nikola -

self-professed ladsiest post-grad in the FC - Dizdar saved King's fourth penalty and set up Ben Williams to win it with the fifth penalty.

With great composure he thumped the ball into the roof of the net sending the entire team running (with skinny Pete Rickett just behind) from the centre-circle to the goal to euphorically celebrate a truly memorable game and a hard earned victory in the cup. Final Score: 5-3 Pens

With nearly every team in the FC playing, and beating, King's on Wednesday, There was a clear message, King's will never beat LSE - FACT!



Current lynchpins of the FC

Rumours and corruption

Stuart Smedley

Ever since the Sunday Times' expose of corruption amongst the ranks of FIFA's Executive Committee, who in just over a fortnight are set to select the host nations for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups, the British press have been in full panic mode about how what they have depicted as an unbeatable English bid is set to lose.

Now it would be lovely for the world's biggest football competition to take place on these shores, but here are some of the myths we've been flogged:

'FIFA is a corrupt body beyond repair, and other bidding nations - Spain and Portugal, Qatar and Russia in particular have resorted to underhand tactics. At the same time the English have been squeaky clean.'

Firstly, it wasn't exactly a revelation that FIFA is corrupt. Any organisation where decision making power is vested in a small band of people is likely to be so.

Second, back in October 2009 the wives of all 24 members of the FIFA Committee were given - as 'gifts' - designer handbags. Not by the Yanks, the Russians or the Qataris. But by the English bid team. While not in the same league as agreeing to offer vast sums of money for stadium building projects, it still can only be seen as a sweetener designed to butter the voters up.

Further, last week there was outrage at the perceived alliance formed between the Spanish-Portuguese and Qatari bids. But haven't the English done the same with the US? Or was it just extreme coincidence that days after the US withdrew

from bidding for the 2018 tournament, the English decided they would no longer be bidding for hosting rights in 2022?

'The World Cup could be staged on these shores tomorrow.'

It probably could - if FIFA rules allowed more than just the one city to stage matches at two venues. The main criticism of the Russian bid is that virtually all of the stadiums proposed to stage matches are currently just blueprints. The fact is the situation is not much better in England. Stadiums in Bristol, Nottingham and Liverpool are not yet built, whilst those in Milton Keynes, Plymouth, Sheffield and Leeds - to name just four - need major upgrades.

'Because the English invented the game we have a divine right to host the competition.'

Sadly no country possesses such a right. And stating this is conveniently forgetting what other bidding nations - the Dutch (Total Football) and Spanish (the most recent world champions) in particular - have given to the beautiful game.

'In no other country is there an enthusiasm for football as in England and all stadiums will be full for every match.'

As ignorant an assessment of football's popularity around the world as there ever has been. Throughout the competition in South Africa, the number of empty seats - mostly a result of the ticket pricing policy - was commented on widely by the English press. But do they really think New Zealand v Slovakia, or Algeria v Slovenia would sell out a 50,000 capacity stadium over here?

During Euro 96 stadiums were often half full. And that tournament was held, you guessed it, in England.

LSE 3s Match Report

Latif Baluch

When Captain and Vice-Captain step on the pitch the summer memories of Scouse pleading them to join his 1st team ranks are never far from their minds. Unfortunately for the former Everton pussman the lack of banter in the 1st team is just too much of an issue.

Besides allowing Kings to realise that, not only are they less intelligent than LSE men but they are also worse at sport, is a far more satisfying pursuit. With the two best wingers in the league and Jasssssoon Derulooooo at the back, 'The Sky's The Limit' for the 3rds this year.

Wednesdays first half provided a strong sun in the faces of the LSE troops. However considering the level of minge Ben Knott takes home, its unlikely this had much effect anyway. When the ball is played out to young Robert on the wing, he evidently says to himself there's only one thing 'In My Head' as he routinely skips round his opposite man and plays the ball in. In this instance Chris Liu's

beautiful fake tan and perfectly straightened hair proved just too much for them. 1-0 LSE!

The second half commenced with both Avi Hargreaves and supposed 'Fresher of the Year' James Johnson nowhere to be seen. (Apparently JJ was playing some sort of fanny game involving hitting a ball over a net with some string, 'Whatcha Say?' sounds like playing with Edouard's banjo string to me).

As the game wore on the 3s did what comes naturally and kept the ball, hoping all the while that the opposition don't realise they have a dodgy Persian in goal. Naturally Joe Cheeky is mincing around at the back is still wondering how in Week 6, he still cannot down a pint and why he is so good looking.

To the disbelief of everyone at Berrylands 4ft 11in Baluch continued to win header après header (Oliviero was just bored of dominating the aerial battle and was much more concerned on how he was

ever going to get out of the brother zone, and pull Keelin Gavaminx).

Eventually Baluch dribbled down the middle and played a Paul Scholesesce reverse ball through to Henry. 'Ridin' Solo' as always Henry sprinted for the first and last time this season to make it 2-0. The rest of the game was spent defending, 1 goal from Kings wasn't enough, 2-1 to LSE!!

The game sounds lovely but in reality it was much more dirty, "You're on the next ting fam" Ladefopes could be heard saying, "You're on the next ting fam" as he started, yet another brawl this term. At the end of the day when all was said and told Kings FC (and most women as a matter of fact) just could not handle Coppin's henchness.

LSE 4s Match Report

Chris Mayne

Wednesday saw the traditional 4th team vs. Strand Poly grudge match. Rumours had surfaced that a no show was on the cards after several 4th team members were seen to have given them a Rock-style 'smackdown' just the previous week.

Despite this the scummers managed to show their faces, although so embarrassed, they were seen sporting a colour redder than Chris A l'Oranges hair.

As the match got underway, a dull first half ensued, with most LSE players trying to overcome the disgust of having to share a football pitch with the Strand Poly. After an inspiring Al Pacinoesque half-time speech by captain Nadir "Go hard or Go Home" Gohar-Divsy, a revitalised team took to the field.

It didn't take long before 4th team wiener wizard Chris A l'Orange unlocked the poly defence culminating in a sublime

one-on-one finish. Quickly the 4's were on the scoresheet again with the wizards sleeve once again pivotal. He provided a sumptuous ball to resident 4th team Beard Sandwich Maligash "Can't chat up Gately" Stacey to slot home.

Two more goals followed with BJ "Poor Man's Joe Checkley" Watson wrapping up the victory with a bullet faster than regular paceman James Cuniffe from two yards out. Tensions were heightened however after John "bukaki" Rajajaret-nam refused to celebrate due to the theft of first love Christina Ivanova by said club captain.

To celebrate the victory Shrimp Taco Mehmet Ishmael Nozel Tov invited the team to his kebab shop. This offer was swiftly declined after it was found out that this was where he was used to giving his garlic sauce showers to certain 6th team netballers.

Special thanks go out to 3rd team Stephen Hawking impersonator and la-

dies' man Jake Mulcahy for supporting. However he was seen to be up to his usual tricks chatting up 4th team wag Nicola Saville, the pair are said to have snook off to the bushes while banter-lord-hub-fox Johnny Saville was left speechless (for once).