

# The Beaver

The Newspaper of the LSE SU

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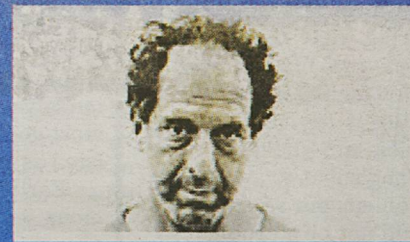
30 November 2004

Issue number 610



Christmas shopping  
with a conscience  
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The world's greatest  
contemporary  
photographer  
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blink covers World AIDS week, pages 10-11

## Briefing

### 'Private' Society

LSE students were last week bombarded with junk e-mail from 'The Private Society', a previously unheard of group appearing to be affiliated to the LSE. The LSE SU swiftly moved to distance themselves from the organisation after numerous complaints from irritated students.

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### SU website delay

LSE Students' Union Communications Officer Khurshid 'K' Faizullaev this week missed his own deadline for the launch of the new SU website. Faizullaev cited problems with the requests made of OnCampusUK, the independent website designers, by the SU as the cause of delays.

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### Garrick opens

The LSE's newest catering outlet, the LSE Garrick opened for business this week despite numerous setbacks over the past few months.

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### Polar Express

Film editor tries to flirt with Tom Hanks and discovers all about reflective diamonds, and the "pain and suffering" involved in creating the new Christmas animation film, *The Polar Express*.

B:art page 21

### Underdog triumph

Last week saw the underdogs of LSE Sport triumph over their supposedly superior contemporaries. The Football Thirds lost to the Fourth team, and the Champagne Sevens beat the Sixth team. In Netball, the Fifth Team beat the Fourth team.

Sports pages 27-32

## Deficit strangles SU budget

Prashant Rao  
Executive Editor

The Students' Union budget is nearly £100,000 in deficit and the cash reserves have been severely depleted following the expensive refurbishment of the Three Tuns bar.

The budget, set to be put forward to the Annual Budget Meeting (ABM) on Thursday, was approved by the Finance & Services Committee last week and indicates a deficit of £98,749, as against a projected deficit of £96,505.

According to LSE Students' Union Treasurer Gareth Carter, "Though growth is visible, stringent financial management is still necessary in order to cover our costs, provide for resources, and little-by-little replenish our reserves."

With costs for the Three Tuns now ranging between £825,000 and £900,000, as opposed to previous estimates of £500,000 from Carter's predecessor, Jo Kibble, an 'unexpected' £80,000 in

increased expenditure had to be accounted for.

The £80,000 was made up of the increase in the cost of depreciation for Union assets spread over three years, and the unexpected increase in sabbatical wages early in the year from £22,053 to £24,680.

Carter covered the unanticipated rise by dipping into the SU's reserves and from the increased proportional revenue from the Union's trading services.

Asked whether he felt the budgetary process had been handcuffed by the major investment in the Tuns, Carter commented, "On the contrary, I feel that the amount invested in the Tuns was necessary to create an entertainments venue that will, in the long run, prove to be a significant source of revenue for the Union."

"I have no desire to attribute blame for our current financial situation upon previous administrations."

Cuts to the campaigns budget, which was decreased by 71 per-

cent, have drawn criticism from some observers, but Carter defended the decision by saying the difference was "given directly to the Communications Sabbatical since his role is directly related to that which the campaigns budget is traditionally spent on."

The Union's financial problems have been further compounded by the losses accrued by the Great Dover Street bar.

The bar lost more than £25,000 last year, has already lost £10,548 in the past five months, and is projected to lose approximately £27,000 this financial year.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, Carter said that he was, "liaising closely with the representative from the housing association who runs Great Dover Street, as well as with the current Warden and Hall Committee President."

"We have several solutions that the Union has brought to the table, and whilst I am slightly worried that it is taking some time to reach a conclusion that

will best benefit both the Union and GDS residents, I am confident we will reach a conclusion before the start of next term," he said.

There have also been concerns over the fact that the SU may have missed an opportunity to bridge some of the gap by serving food in the Tuns.

An eight week delay has meant that the Tuns will now serve food after the opening of the LSE Garrick.

Carter commented, "It is unfortunate and frustrating that we have not yet been able to begin full-time catering, but I believe that when we do we will see a fair increase in revenue."

Responding to questions as to whether the LSE Garrick would affect food revenue in the Tuns, Carter said: "The opening of the Garrick has not reduced the numbers of people eating Benjy's, Wright's Bar or Subway food in the Tuns."

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## New call for vote on NUS



NUS National President Mandy Telford faces the UGM. Photo: Mark Donahue

Chris Heathcote  
News Editor

LSE students will be asked in a cross-campus referendum if they want to remain a member of the National Union of Students (NUS), after a motion was passed at the Union General Meeting (UGM).

Members of the Students' Union (SU) Executive will now be mandated to collect the 375 signatures necessary to trigger the vote, which will ask every member of the Union if the LSE SU should continue to be a member of the NUS.

The motion was proposed by James Eyton and seconded by Ahmad Khokher, and passed the UGM with a clear majority.

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## Budget

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"If we can replace that provision with food from the Underground then I don't see the Garrick's opening as having any unduly detrimental affects on the Union."

Many observers have raised concerns as to the long-term financial viability of the Union, concerns Carter was quick to dismiss, saying that while in the short-term, the biggest area of concern for the SU is that overall expenditure is too high, "providing we maintain stringent budgetary management to avoid a liquidity problem, our reserve situation should not be a problem."

"So long as we have ready cash then this Union can function, as having a vast reserve is not something that is strictly necessary for the day-to-day running of the SU," he added.

He went on to say, "We are rebuilding our cash reserves, and expect to be putting around £80,000 back in this year."

## Exclusively for everyone: The Private Society

Simon Chignell

LSE students were last week bombarded with junk e-mail from 'The Private Society', a previously unheard of group appearing to be affiliated to the LSE.

The LSE SU swiftly moved to distance themselves from the organisation, which claimed to offer a website for "us high achievers to network amongst ourselves in order to engender the most goodwill in our deliberating [sic.] as LSE students."

Earlier this week the anonymous sender, who had no official connexion with the LSE contacted students using the LSE Directory, asking them to join "the discreet private networking club for LSE students only."

Students on the directory received at least three emails asking them to sign up at the XTQ website on Tuesday.

Further e-mails from the address were blocked after IT

services were alerted.

LSE is not the first university that has been targeted by the XTQ website. Earlier this year, Macquarie University in the US reported that its students had been sent an email telling them that they were obliged to sign up again sent from a bogus email address. Other US universities, including Georgia State, Oregon State and Pacific University were also asked to sign up to this "exclusive club" on internet forums.

In an e-mail to *The Beaver*, the creator of the website, who described himself as "a business student at an Ivy League institution" and claimed that the Private Society had "generated quite a buzz on the LSE campus".

He described the society as "a connectivity medium geared specifically towards university students." In an initial email the LSE was described as "the pre-eminent school in the cosmos for the study of business."

Neshwa Boukhari, who was one of the first to reply to the first email told the anonymous sender to be less pretentious. Her comments were repeated in an email forwarded by 'The Private Society' to the whole mailing list, something that was later apologized for. Boukhari was reportedly even offered "a gift from an internet store" to compensate for the publication of her comments.

Head of LSE Web Services Stephen Emmott admitted that the email addresses section of the website appeared to have been "harvested" and said "this is the risk associated with publishing this information but it is a service students want and it is opt-in." He confirmed that he "attempted to submit a complaint to GMail but sadly they provide no route through which reports of misuse can be submitted publicly."

SU Communications Officer Khurshid "K" Faizullaev said that such "spam" email abuse could discourage students from leav-

ing their details on the online directory, but said that students were "mature enough to make their own decision" on joining the website list. He also revealed plans for a similar services to be run on the unfinished SU website "I can disclose that I am working on creating forums in the new website in forms of Bulletin boards, requiring an LSE email address."

The XTQ site, which states in its terms of use that the "use of the website...for the purpose of sending unsolicited email" could result in legal action, initially invoked a response from LSE students through the "high pretension" of its e-mails, described by many as "ridiculous" and "pompous".

The 'Private Society' went on two send two further emails in the same day as its first, one responding to initial complaints and the second apologising for the publication of students' names.

## Tuns food suspended

Rob Parker

An architectural oversight has caused further delays to the introduction of the new catering service in the Three Tuns.

As part of the refit of the venue over the summer, a kitchen was installed and a menu of pizzas, burgers, chips and several specialty meals was anticipated.

Staff were expecting to begin selling food at the beginning of last week, but had to cancel plans when it was discovered that a smoke detector had been installed directly above the main oven. Cooking has been suspended until the detector is relocated.

Meals are not now expected to be served until later this week at the earliest.

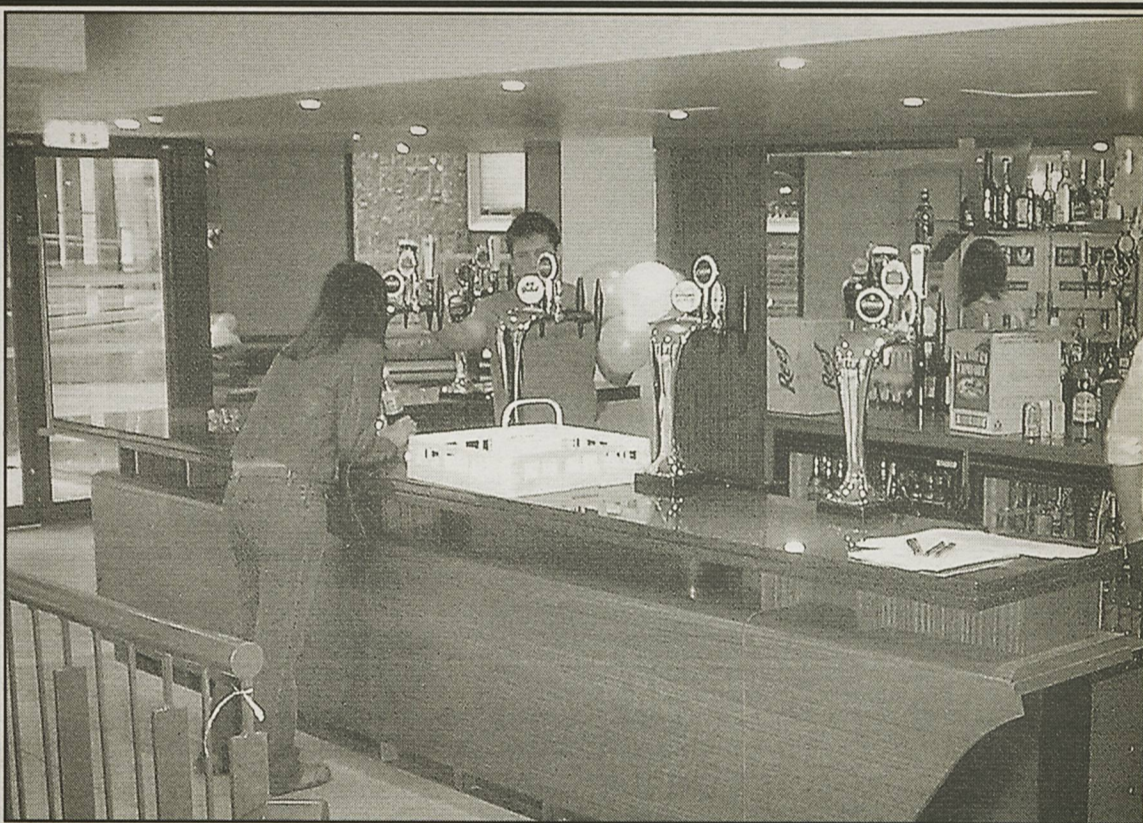
Students were supposed to be able to buy food in the Tuns from the start of term, but a series of mishaps, including the delayed delivery of the 'fat-free fryer,' has

postponed the launch of the service. It was not until last week that everything was in place to begin cooking food.

Gareth Carter, the Students' Union Treasurer, faced criticism at the Union General Meeting (UGM) over the eight-week delay. Speaking to *The Beaver*, Carter said, "People have been waiting for eight weeks for food to be served at the Tuns. I'm sure they can wait another three days."

Students will have to wait and see if food can be served this time. Carter has already missed previous targets that aimed to have food available at the beginning of this term.

The outcome of this latest setback remains to be seen, although Carter insisted that the delay in serving food will not impact on the budget, due to be delivered at this week's UGM. He added that drink sales were already up in the Tuns this term following the refurbishment.



The New Tuns, which had aimed to start serving food this term / Photo: Mark Donahue

## NUS disaffiliation, continued from page 1

Nobody speaking against it and was timed to coincide with a visit to the meeting by NUS National President, Kat Fletcher.

The fact that Fletcher did not stay to listen to the debate attracted some criticism from UGM-attendees, though she insisted to *The Beaver* that she had been forced to leave for a function in Sheffield.

Because the motion did not explicitly express a preference either for or against membership it found support from across the audience.

The LSE SU pays £14,380 a year in fees for membership, conferences and training and joins around 750 other constituent members (CMs) as part of the organisation.

However, over the last few years there has been questions

over the future of the NUS since earlier this term, NUS National Treasurer Martin Ings warned that the organisation would be bankrupt within five years due to shrinking contributions from the membership colleges and financial mismanagement by his predecessors.

The current NUS National Executive Council (NEC) has pushed through a number of unpopular reforms in a bid to save money, which has led to delegation sizes being decreased and relocating their head offices out of London to Manchester.

Several colleges, such as Edinburgh, Southampton and Imperial College in London have already left and UCL has threatened to do the same if more changes are not made.

At the LSE, the services branch of the national body, NUSSL, has drawn criticism for

trying to force its will upon the Union's shop in the Quad. *The Beaver* reported two weeks ago that NUSSL had tried to pressure the shop management to stock products such as children's colouring books against their wishes.

Khokher told *The Beaver* that he decided to propose a referendum because "the affiliation affects the SU as a whole, a referendum is the best action to take."

Eyton added that he thought the NUS was "completely inefficient" and that by remaining a member, the LSE SU was "pouring almost £15,000 down a £1.2 million hole."

Some are already concerned that the petitioning of such a large number of students could take many weeks. LSE SU General Secretary said on PuLSE radio last Friday that he may instead push to have a vote at the

UGM in week 10, which, with a two-thirds majority, could call for a referendum and avoid the need to collect signatures.

This is not the first time the Union has considered leaving the NUS. A previous referendum took place asking the same question at the time of the Lent term elections in 2003. The results then were 75 percent in favour of leaving the NUS to 25 percent against.

Macfarlane told PuLSE News that although the earlier vote was convincing, the majority was not as large as many had predicted. He added that the current climate of feeling towards the NUS was such that the result this time could not be predicted. He commented; "though I have my own opinions, it is important that the students get to decide on this issue."

Analysts disagree over what

the likely effect would be on the Union if LSE students did decide to leave the NUS. When Imperial left the organisation it was worried that bar prices could increase. In fact this has not happened, though some have suggested that this is because officials have made a special effort not to raise them in order to prove the predictions wrong.

Asked about the possible effect of disaffiliation on the LSE SU, Treasurer Gareth Carter assured *The Beaver* that beer prices would not necessarily increase.

The LSE's departure from NUS would not necessarily be final, but is likely that a spate of disaffiliations from the organisation could provoke its collapse, prompting questions as to what sort of student movement would exist to replace it and represent UK students.

# Fletcher defiant; NUS slated at UGM

Sam Jones  
News Editor

NUS National President Kat Fletcher was received by a hostile audience at the Union General Meeting last Thursday.

Fletcher later told *The Beaver* that she was "very pleased to have been invited to speak at the LSE student [sic.] council" but was nonetheless perturbed by what she described as a "culture of missile throwing, heckling and general disruption...that was not necessarily conducive to informing students of the issues which affect them."

Elected at the annual conference in April, Fletcher told last week's UGM that she had "stood on a radical platform" but had discovered over the past few months that "reforms would need to be even more radical in order to turn the NUS around."

She defended her electoral commitment to transform the beleaguered NUS, which has continued to draw fire from critics in recent weeks as a result of controversial proposals to pull itself out of debt.

The NUS currently runs an annual deficit of around £500,000 and already faces an overdraft of approximately £1.2 million pounds.

Under clause three of the recent extra-ordinary conference's main motion, NUS National Treasurer Martin Ings proposed to "research the viability of the NUS card and other options as a source of revenue." Ings warned that without such changes the union would be bankrupt within a matter of



NUS President Kat Fletcher, waiting to speak at Thursday's UGM / Photo: Mark Donahue

years. The motion was eventually passed by the NUS conference in its entirety despite a submission for the striking of clause three proposed by LSE NUS delegate Mark Power.

Fletcher, however, denied her complicity in the £10 card charge proposal. Distancing herself, Fletcher told those assembled at the UGM that the card charges had been pushed forward by members of NUS Services Limited (NUSSL) and "had not been discussed by the National Executive Committee (NEC)" adding that she "doubted the proposals would ever be agreed upon conference anyway".

However, as *The Beaver* later discovered, Fletcher was implici-

tly involved in extensive discussions held by the NEC concerning the contentious card issue well before November's extra-ordinary conference. As one NEC insider disclosed, Fletcher had herself agreed to the proposals before they were put to the NUS delegates.

Fletcher too refuted accusations levelled at the UGM that she and the NEC had failed to effectively tackle issues of concern to International Students.

She cited the apparent success of the recently published International Students Survey and the possibility of an upcoming NUS campaign against government increases to visa charges.

But critics assailed the tiny size of the survey's 324 student

sample and targeted Fletcher for not supporting the appointment of an NUS International Students Officer last year.

NUS insiders too criticising the late reaction of the NUS to government proposals to increase visa charges and potentially deter international students.

Fletcher remained defiant throughout, and continued to defend her commitment to reform, despite "numerous setbacks" Fletcher left, however, before a motion calling for a referendum on the LSE's membership of NUS was discussed and then passed. Indeed, pending the outcome of the referendum, Fletcher's visit to the UGM could be the last paid to LSE by an NUS President.



## Union Jack

Jack was pleasantly surprised by this week's UGM. For the second week in a row, things ran smoothly, motions were discussed and the holy grail of a full 60 minutes of UGM-action was almost reached.

Jack has previously pointed out the similarities between the UGM and his sex life with Mrs Jack. However, Jack can only wish he could last for a full hour two weeks in a row. If he could, Mrs Jack would be as happy as a Barham in a quorum count.

The assembled throngs were treated to an appearance by Miss Kat Fletcher, NUS President.

Despite her attempt to win over the crowd by saying she had "heard a lot about this student council meeting"(sic), it was clear to Jack that this was one Kat that was caught in the headlights. The design on her shirt reminded Jack of the patterns he sees when he rubs his eyes too hard, and Jack is saddened by the thought that the NUS cannot stretch their already constrained budget to buying their president something decent to wear.

On the issue of the NUS's debt, this Cat followed the procedure laid down by the venerable Ming the Merciless in his SU Treasurer election campaign - lay the blame at the feet of the previous administration.

Jack fears for whatever wretched constituency is eventually landed with Miss Fletcher, and hopes it is a small northern one, possibly with mass unemployment, with which she can do little harm.

Jack is suspicious of Ming the Merciless - despite his seemingly flawless Jock background of being captain of some team or other, he appears to be harbouring a secret desire to become the Beaver Theatre Editor.

For example - he continually wears velvet jackets, sports facial hair that hasn't been fashionable since the fall of the Weimar Republic and is a member of the LSE Wine Advisory Board. Jack fully expects Mr Carter to be sporting a silk neckerchief when Budget Week comes round.

Olivia Mental proposed a seemingly innocuous motion regarding the provision of free condoms at Crush. Like a sleeping dog awoken by the smell of a Sunday roast, the mention of anything sexual provoked a response from Oliver Ranson. "But what if someone tries to put a little prick in the condoms?" was the cry from a worried UGM-goer.

Jack's response is simple - just don't give Oliver any.

## "Technical difficulties" delay website launch

Nastaran Tavakoli-Far

LSE SU Communications Officer Khurshid 'K' Faizullaev has missed his own deadline to launch the new LSESU website.

In his report to the UGM, Faizullaev told the Union that the website was scheduled to be unveiled last Monday. Indeed, as recently as two weeks ago he insisted that he was "still on track" to meet the deadline.

However, due to 'technical difficulties' the launch of the site is to be delayed by at least a week.

Even after it is launched, the new site will co-exist with the old one until Christmas to give time for feedback and the transfer to be completed. In particular, society websites will need to be relocated.

In his defence, Faizullaev said that the target had only ever been intended as "preliminary" adding that he would keep the old site running because "you shouldn't destroy your old house before building a new one."

The new website has been created with the assistance of website provider OnCampusUK which is responsible for the design and technical assistance given to the websites of 51

Students' Unions' within the UK.

In addition, the design of the site has been developed with the help of two qualified LSE students who have undertaken the task voluntarily.

So far, over half the content of the site has been written. Each Officer will be directly responsible for their material with Faizullaev overseeing the website as a whole.

"In reality what is happening is I am delegating," he said.

According to the Communications Officer, the main reason given for the recent setback in the launch of the new website is the complex design proposed.

OnCampusUK, who are well known for their fairly homogenous website designs, had predicted a simple design. It was realised last Friday that to meet the SU requirements would take a little longer.

When asked whether it would have been possible for LSE students to be paid to design the entire site themselves without the need to be involved with OnCampusUK, Faizullaev said that this would prove to be very expensive and that the technical upkeep of the site would then also have to be done by LSE students.

Despite the launch being pushed back again, SU General Secretary Will Macfarlane told *The Beaver* that the site was looking good and that he would "rather have a quality product which will serve the Union for much time."

One other unnamed Union Executive Officer was less enthusiastic: "I'm glad the website is finally getting there. Perhaps if K had spent more time working on this rather than the Entente Cordiale, it would have been done sooner."

Regarding advertising, Faizullaev said that three advertising spaces will be available per page with the adverts being chosen by OnCampusUK.

However, the SU will be able to control local advertisers, provided that the businesses have an address local to the LSE and that it is included in the advertisement.

It is also hoped that there will be sponsorship of the various pages. The AU in particular remain very keen to use their current sponsor's details in the website's sports sections.

High hopes have been pinned on the Communications Officer's ability to drum up advertising revenue for the Union. Some had

even suggested that the job could be self-financing, but Faizullaev was more modest.

Asked if he was hoping to raise more in advertising than previous years he replied; "definitely".

One scheme, 'Headporter', established for the old website involved students signing up for a texting scheme, was said to have raised just £30 for the Union over the past three years.

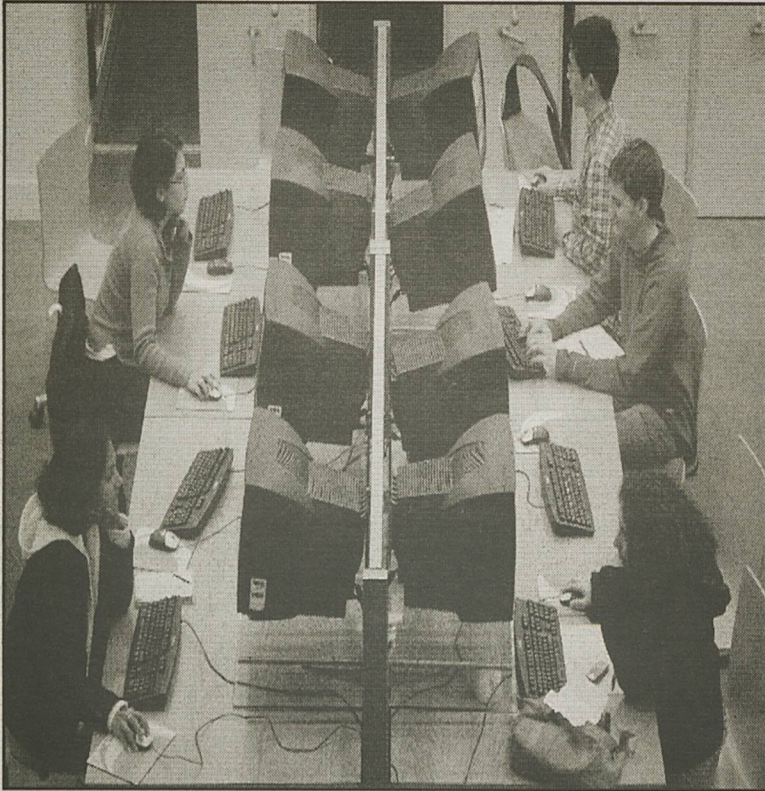
Although the new website will not feature a texting service, Faizullaev was confident he could do better; "£30 is not hard to beat," he said.

However, at last week's UGM, Faizullaev's motion to ban unethical advertising on the SU website failed to gain a majority.

Theoretically, any advert, from even the most undesirable company could now be posted on the SU website, since a list of banned organisations cannot be compiled.

Faizullaev suggested that the motion may be resubmitted to the UGM in the future: "I may wait until the next cock-up, or when Nestlé get an advert to resubmit the motion - once the consequences arising from this defeat become apparent."

# Library survey to test set-text compromise



The Library will ask its users for feedback. / Photo: Mark Donahue.

## Kheng Soon Lim

The Library and LSE SU are collaborating on a survey which is being conducted in response to controversy generated by the shortening of the set text loan period earlier this year.

The decision to conduct the survey was made during the recent Library User Committee meeting this month.

At the meeting, library officials met with Will Macfarlane, LSE SU General Secretary and Sian Errington, LSE Student Union Education and Welfare Officer.

The survey focuses mainly on the revised set text loan period but also covers the Course Collection.

The results of the survey will be used to make recommendations to the next Library User Committee in February.

At present, students are only allowed to borrow set texts from the LSE Course Collection for four hours, compared to 24 hours

last year. Other texts in the Course Collection have three-day and one-week loans.

The decision was made in order to make set texts more available to students, after complaints last year about their scarcity, but angered the Students' Union, which was left out of the consultation process.

The LSE Library usually runs an annual student satisfaction survey every March but decided that an interim survey was necessary in light of the numerous complaints.

The survey was written by Macfarlane.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, he explained that the decision to conduct the survey was made partly in view of the excellent outcome of last year's library opening hours survey, which led to the 24 hour Library scheme during exam time.

Macfarlane hoped that as many students as possible would respond to the survey.

The changes to the set text

loan times has prompted many students to complain that the four hour period was too short and that too much paper has been wasted in photocopying set texts.

Others, however, commented that it has become much easier to find books in the Library this year.

Students with disabilities who are entitled to free photocopying facilities and students who spend their entire day on campus have also generally found the shortening of the loan period a good idea.

Other complaints have centred on the conversion of the print stations from a card-based system to an electronic one.

Many students claimed to have lost their money after library printers ran out of paper but still charged money from their electronic accounts.

Both the library and the SU hope that the results of the survey will allow the library to better understand the opinions of LSE students regarding library loans.

# Bursaries settlement agreed as generous

## Dharini Nagarajan

Proposals for an LSE Bursary and Scholarships scheme formulated by the LSE Scholarships group earlier this term has been approved by the School Council.

The Scholarships Group, comprising Dr. Ray Richardson, Professor Christine Whitehead, Professor Rob Baldwin and for the first time the LSE SU General Secretary, Will Macfarlane, finalised proposals before the APRC on the 26th October.

The proposals then had to undergo the formal procedure of discussion at the Academic Board, before recommendations were submitted to the Council, the School's most powerful decision-making body.

From the income that the School expects to receive as of 2006 from the top-up fees scheme, which stands at around £4million per annum, the Academic Board recommended that the School should aim to spend around £1.35 million a year on student support.

The scheme is composed of

three separate elements; an automatic income related bursary; additional non-bursary financial support and finally, the underwriting of a series of widening participation (WP) activities to ensure that the School continues to raise aspirations amongst disadvantaged students.

The School's decision falls in line with requirements set out by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA), which stipulate that a minimum of £300 per annum must be allocated to the poorest students.

In addition to the bursary scheme, the Scholarship Group

has recommended that the School devote £56,000 to support the Job Shop and Student Mentoring.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, Will Macfarlane, LSE SU General Secretary, said, "I am very pleased with the elements of the Access Agreement that we have put together over the last few months, especially the automatic, income-related bursaries scheme which will see a large number of LSE undergraduates receive cash support during their studies here from the School".

However, Macfarlane did feel that a greater proportion of

monies should have been allocated to the automatic bursary scheme, though he was of the opinion that the 26 percent top-up fee income was indeed a generous and nationally competitive figure.

Macfarlane added that he was pleased to see the inclusion of the additional discretionary bursaries and hardship funds.

He finished by saying that he also hoped that the SU sabbatical officers would be able to continue working closely with the school on the scholarship and bursary schemes.

*Editorial comment, page 7*

# UK's most unpopular Chancellor popular at LSE

## Alexander George

Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer under John Major from 1990 to 1993, spoke about the events of 'Black Wednesday' in a lecture entitled 'Out of the Ashes' last week.

It was the latest in a series of five entitled; The Chancellors Reflect and organised by the Events and Conferences Office at the School.

Lamont is best remembered for being Chancellor on Wednesday September 16th 1992, the day the pound was devalued, interest rates hit 15 percent, Britain lost billions of pounds on its reserves and the government suspended Britain's membership of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM).

In one of several lighter comments in the lecture Lamont said the only correct economic forecast he received from his chief economic adviser on his first day as Chancellor was that he would soon become the most unpopular man in Britain.

Lord Lamont jovially referred

to attacks from the media by recalling a favourite image in *The Sun* newspaper was to compare Lamont and the then England football manager, Graham Taylor, as turnips and potatoes.

However, predictably much of Lord Lamont's lecture featured on the ERM.

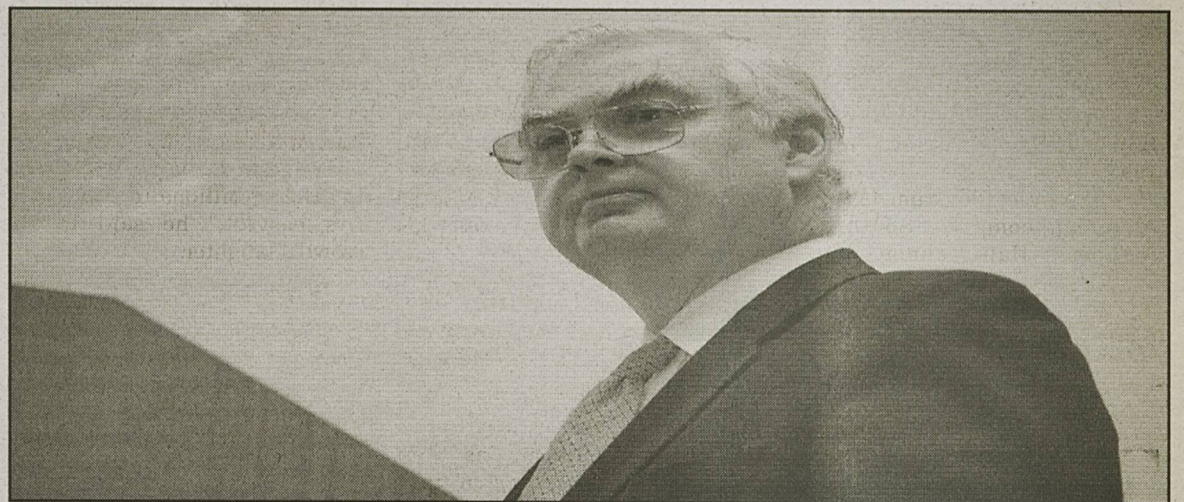
He claimed that British membership at that time was advantageous because higher interest rates helped reduce inflation to below 2 percent in 1993.

He also stressed that Britain was right to leave when it did. He said this was because the inherent problem with the ERM was that the British economy had to converge with the German one and in effect Britain gave up its right to set its own interest rates and inflation rate.

Lamont, who is against joining the euro, also pointed out how the ERM provoked a "European-scale crisis" as eight countries altogether had their currencies devalued or floated.

He also spoke of two of the best-known budgets in recent history, in 1992 and 1993.

The first one, he admitted, was



Norman Lamont became infamous for the 'Black Wednesday' meltdown. / Photo: Mark Donahue.

not a great budget economically, but it helped the Conservatives win that year's election.

This prompted Chris Giles from *The Financial Times* to ask whether it would have been better for the Conservatives to lose the 1992 election so that Labour would have been blamed for 'Black Wednesday'.

Lord Lamont replied that parties do not choose which elections to win or lose.

He continued to describe the 1993 budget as the best he worked on. Tough decisions, including raising tax and VAT on fuel, were needed he said.

But, it was too much for the Conservative Party and Lamont left the Treasury soon after.

Defending his record, Lamont insisted the decisions he took after 'Black Wednesday' and in the following budgets, helped Britain achieve the economic

prosperity later on.

Lamont introduced setting and meeting an inflation target, and working with the Bank of England to achieve it.

He proposed the idea of the Bank's independence, which then Prime Minister John Major rejected.

Kenneth Clarke concluded the series yesterday. A detailed report will appear in next week's edition.

# Garrick cafeteria opens for business

Nastaran Tavakoli-Far

The new LSE Garrick cafeteria opened last week in the former site of the Columbia Bar.

Serving both hot and cold snacks and meals, the Garrick is the latest addition to the LSE's on-campus catering facilities and replaces the Robinson Room which used to be situated in the Old Building and closed at the end of the last term.

Commencing business to students and LSE staff last Monday, the Garrick eventually met its revised opening date following the collapse of the roof and problems with the lift.

The final cost of the Garrick is not yet clear though at least £1.4 million has been spent, £1 million of this being donated by LSE alumni Mario Francescotti with the remainder paid for by the School.

Along with the Brunch Bowl, there are now two outlets for hot meals on campus. Cooked food is provided in the basement of the Garrick with the ground floor serving cold meals, snacks and a wide range of hot drinks including ten different types of tea.

However, with no signs indicating the stairs to the lower floor or to clarify what is served on which floor there has already been some confusion.

Concern has also been raised over the provision of free drinking water and disabled access to



Formerly the Colombia Bar, the Garrick began serving food last week. / Photo: Mark Donahue.

the basement level, both of which are legal obligations.

At present, no water fountains providing it are installed in the LSE Garrick. Some members of staff have said that they are willing to provide tap water to students who request it whilst others have pointed only to the bottled mineral water on sale.

According to the LSE press office there are plans to install a water cooler after feedback from students. Disabled access was an issue raised at the last UGM by

Lizzie Fison, a wheelchair user herself.

Acting chair of Students With Disabilities society Neshwa Boukhari has said "I am bemused as to why, with all the design and foresight that has marked its refurbishment, this simple issue of inclusivity has been so austere-ly neglected." Hazel Mowbray, the SU Students With Disabilities Officer agreed and added that there were a number of issues with the Garrick.

A lift is currently available in

the Garrick, but the shaft is too narrow to be accessible by the disabled. There are plans to install a lift in the summer of next year, however, the School cannot do this until the tenants from the second floor of the building move out since the work would be too noisy.

In the meantime, staff say that they are happy to carry food upstairs from the basement for any disabled customers and the School has been asked to display signage to indicate this.

# EasyAlumnus Stelios revisits his former haunts

Stephanie Khaw

Founder of easyJet and former student at the LSE, Stelios Haji-Ioannou spoke on "Serial Entrepreneurship, a job or an addiction?" in a public lecture organised by LSE's Hellenic Observatory on Wednesday.

Graduating with a BSc in Economics, he founded a shipping company, Stelmar Tankers in 1992. Handing the reins of the company to a hired manager, Haji-Ioannou set up easyJet in 1995.

The easyJet idea came from an American company, Southwest Airlines. Haji-Ioannou took

advantage of the deregulation of the European airline industry and rapid growth of Internet usage to create a low-cost, "no frills", point-to-point airline.

Haji-Ioannou emphasised heavily on the importance of product branding. Easyjet, being a small company, obtained a sort of brand equity when it began to be considered as competition by national icon, British Airways.

To date, the easyGroup has 12 brand extensions; these include easyJet, easyCar, easyMoney, easyBus and easyCinema. He spoke briefly on easyGroup's latest venture, easy4men, a joint effort with Boots to sell toiletries to the no-nonsense man.

"I believe I'm getting a head start by starting with a brand that's already been established. I don't have to wait for the brand to build up again and don't need to spend as much on advertising."

The Greek-born LSE Alumnus named Sir Richard Branson (Virgin Group), Michael Dell (PC company Dell); Jack Welsh (former chairman of General Electric) as well as Fred Deluca (co-founder of Subway Sandwiches) as his role models. He also mentioned admiration for Ingvar Kamprad, founder of furniture giant IKEA for his humility. "He's a billionaire and yet he flies easyJet," he said to the crowd's laughter.

Some members of the audience were curious to know if there were plans of opening an easyCinema in London. Haji-Ioannou promptly replied that easyGroup was on the verge of buying a cinema in Nottinghill but was trumped by an evangelical church. "You can't argue with God," he said.

When asked about how valuable his education at the LSE had been, Haji-Ioannou's advice to students was to not 'do a Bill Gates'. He acknowledged that his university education gave him the discipline and theoretical economic knowledge needed to manage his business.

# Where there's smoke, there's Passfield

Ben Chapman

The Fire Brigade were called again to Passfield hall last week, for the second time in as many weeks, when smoke was reported to have been seen inside a student bathroom.

Like the earlier fire, the latest incident was also believed to have been caused by a discarded cigarette left in a litter bin.

The cause was a relatively minor but nevertheless smouldering fire.

The fire did not set off the hall's automatic alarm system, as insufficient amounts of smoke

reached the detector in the corridor. Smoke detectors are not fitted inside bathrooms, as they would be sensitive to steam from the showers.

Instead, the hall reception had to sound the alarm and the annex was evacuated.

The Fire Brigade put out the fire with a standard extinguisher.

Damage was limited to the inside of a plastic swing bin and the bathroom remains open for use.

Serious concerns over fire procedure at Passfield were last week expressed following comments from the Fire Brigade that

staff at the hall had not acted correctly when informed of the earlier kitchen fire.

Dr Bradley Franks, the Warden at Passfield, has sent an email to all residents urging them to take more care in disposing of cigarettes in the hall. He warned of the "serious and potentially dangerous consequences of such carelessness."

The proximity of the two incidents, with seemingly the same cause, has however raised questions over the policy of permitting smoking across LSE residences.

LSE SU Residences Officer

Rishi Madlani said: "The Residences Division, with student consultation, has been working on a new more suitable smoking policy over the past two years.

"Smoking at Great Dover Street was banned this year on a trial basis as part of this new policy and following its success it is highly likely that this ban will stay in place and perhaps be extended to other halls of residences."

With specific regard to Passfield, Franks said: "We intend to hold a ballot to assess opinion on this matter."

# Brief News

## Be aware of AIDS

Aids Awareness week kicked off yesterday with the opening of the Pepaids Zambian Orphanage photograph exhibition in the Underground Bar. Today a panel will debate whether students can make an impact in the global AIDS fight. Tomorrow is World AIDS Day and a vigil will be held on Houghton Street at 3 pm. On Thursday a film demonstrating the AIDS effect on women will be shown, later followed by a 'condom and candy' party. The week will conclude with a red themed Crush, but all through the week a stall will operate in Houghton Street.

Chris Heathcote

## Award of MATRIX

The LSE Student Services Centre Advice and Reception Team have been awarded MATRIX accreditation for high customer service. The presentation followed two days of interviews. The LSE is one of the first UK administration based teams to have been recognised with this award.

James Upsher

## Debated success

The LSE SU Debate Team has reached the semi-finals of the John Smith memorial mace, Europe's oldest debating competition. It featured 150 teams and previous winners include Donald Dewar and Charles Kennedy former Labour leader John Smith. The LSE team reached 8th place. Matt Sinclair and Ali Dewji debated the motions such as "This house would attempt to exterminate invasive non-native species."

Simon Chignell

## Google scholarly

Internet search engine, Google, has launched a new academic service called Google Scholar. It will seek out theses, books, technical reports, journals and traditional publications and rank results by relevance rather than by a number of 'hits'. Scholar will find results from both free and subscription websites and will also locate references to works in other articles, and identify libraries in the UK where they can be obtained.

Rob Parker

## Survey on way

A National Student Survey (NSS) will be held during the next term to question final-year students. The survey will be set up as a user-friendly questionnaire and will contain questions covering teaching quality, assessment and feedback, academic support, organisation and management, learning resources, and personal development. Students will be required to choose between five options which range between definite agreement and strong disapproval.

Shams Sooltangos

# Politics for students

Students' Union Treasurer *Gareth Carter* defends this year's budget before the Union General Meeting on Thursday.

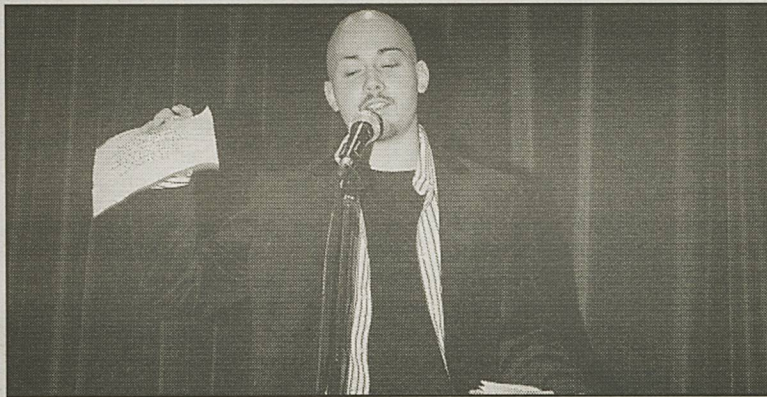
This Thursday at the UGM I will present the Students' Union Budget for 2004/05. The account will show that we are on target to meet our budgeted deficit of around £97,000. Despite many unforeseen areas of increased expenditure, the fact that we will still remain within touching distance of our budget is testament to the steady growth of our trading services, and prudent financial management of our outgoings. Yet we must continue to grow. Unions up and down the country are beginning to feel the financial strain of increased off-campus competition, lower disposable student income and key shifts in the demography of students' unions, and we are no exception. The challenges to the LSE Students' Union are, if anything, greater than those faced by most other Unions. Problems unique to our location, reputation, student make-up and size ensure that the financial strains we face necessitate tight budgetary management and a 'softly, softly' approach to growth.

Despite our continued deficit I will not turn from my commitment to increased funding for student welfare. One of the key areas of our expenditure relates to the Students' Union Advice Centre, and I am proud to inform you that we have spent an extra £8,000 on Student Support Funds and have witnessed a 2.01% rise in Advice Centre funding overall. The work of the Union Advice

Centre is of enormous value to each student and is a provision that I feel is absolutely vital in filling the gaps in pastoral care the LSE otherwise suffers from.

It would be catastrophic for the Union to discontinue its generous funding of societies, of the Advice Centre, of the Athletics Union, of The Beaver, The Script and PuLSE and of the various trading services that we enjoy. The experience of each LSE student is only enhanced by the existence of a vibrant society scene, of quality welfare provision and of extra-curricular opportunities. The key is to continue to provide these services but to manage these outgoings closely, and improve the efficiency of their financial running, and that is what this Sabbatical administration is committed to doing through continued fine-tuning of the society budgetary allocation mechanisms of the Finance and Services Committee, through frequent consultations with Advice Centre staff and through ongoing review of the management structure and staffing ratios of our trading services. Massive budget increases in individual areas are not things you will see in this budget as I do not believe that simply throwing money at a problem makes it go away. Witness Great Dover Street.

Our anticipated loss on Great Dover Street is akin to that which it was last year - at around £25,000. As Treasurer, I cannot in



all conscience allow this state of affairs to continue - a state of affairs where our overall deficit is being augmented by continuing losses in Great Dover Street, where money that could potentially be going to Student Support Funds or to societies is being used to finance the debts of the Great Dover Street bar. It is important to me that we continue to provide GDS residents with an entertainments venue, but we must agree that this is to be on a smaller scale, with fewer outgoings on staffing and stock purchases. I have been liaising with the relevant people about this and I wish to have a solution in place for the beginning of next term. This process will rely on the co-operation of all concerned, and I hope that students will appreciate the urgency and severity of this situation, and the financial constraints behind this process.

This was always to be a period

of consolidation for the Students' Union. Our massive expenditure over the Summer ran down our cash reserves and left us little room for manoeuvre in many areas of this year's budget. This year the main focus of the financial division of the Students' Union will be to work within these constraints to create a legacy that will lead to ever-increasing growth for our successors, and to begin to slowly build up our reserves. It will not be easy. The full costs of the Tuns refurbishment are not yet apparent, and the block grant submission to the School yet to be made or approved, but I assure you that the best efforts of many people are focussed on these goals. It will not be quick, but I believe this budget to be the first step in the rest of this journey of redevelopment for the London School of Economics Students' Union.

## Is the NUS relevant?

*Ahmad Khoker* questions the relevance of the NUS to LSE students.

I'm one of the best procrastinators you will find on this planet. Really. There is very little I have been known not to do in order to escape 'that' assignment due 'fairly soon'. I watch TV; chat with a friend; read something completely irrelevant; ask silly people sillier questions etc.

So in one such silly, procrastinatory moods I asked a silly person a silly question, "So what's the NUS done for you lately?" And he answered "I dunno". Now, though the answer itself didn't surprise me, the fact that I couldn't create a counter argument (silly or otherwise) did. Which left me wondering, what has the NUS done for me lately?

I'll be honest with you. When I came to London last year, the 'student benefits' were raised to an almost mythical level in my mind (yes, I was naïve, but hear me out). Initially, they did have somewhat of a novelty value: cheap cinema tickets, the hope that one might get concessions at some random social event or the other etc. But the realisation soon hit: that was it, the NUS provided ways to save a few quid here and there, and not even on a day to



If these were the good ol' days...

day items. For any given budget, this 'grand' scheme probably means that you can watch one film for 'free' for every five you go to see. I don't know about you, but I think Orange Wednesdays are a better deal.

Of course the next logical question would be what would I want from a body claiming to represent the welfare for students? Well, counselling services, social events, a platform to voice concerns, ways to make my life at university easier, cheap(ish) food, cheap(ish)er booze, etc. You see

what I'm getting at - things our SU makes every effort to provide us with. Hence the issue becomes, why should I want to subscribe and affiliate myself with some redundant organization, firstly, since it provides me with nothing tangible; and secondly, because my own SU provides me with everything I would really need?

Furthermore, after spending money on defunct projects which don't really benefit students (and don't at all benefit international students), being heavily in debt (£1.2m as announced by the NUS

president at the last UGM) and having most of it's large scale advertising over the last few months focused on Apple's new line of products, the NUS now plans to charge us for it's ID cards. To be more precise, charge us £10 for its ID cards. Are you incentivised to pay yet?

But I digress; I wasn't going to get into a rant on the bad plans of the NUS - this publication doesn't quite have enough space. The point for today was just to make you think about that innocuous not-so-silly question: What has the NUS done for you lately? That is of course excluding taking money in the name of your university and spending it badly. And if you're an international student, let's modify that question...what has the NUS done for you, ever? Nothing. Or let's be charitable - not much.

So why do we, the intelligent, free thinking students at the prestigious London School of Economics and Political Science still persist in supporting an institution which doesn't, in any way, benefit us? Give that a little bit of thought when you don't want to work on your essay.

## The Beaver

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If you have written three or more articles for *The Beaver* and your name does not appear in the Collective, please email thebeaver@lse.ac.uk and you will be added to the list in next week's paper.

*The Beaver* is available in alternative formats.

# The Beaver

## Comment

### NUS needs us

**K**at Fletcher's poor performance at the UGM last week was indicative of two things: major Union sabbatical officers struggle at the 'LSE Council'; and the fact that Fletcher was defending and indefensible Union.

Fletcher's refusal to answer questions regarding the appalling state of the NUS International Students' campaign was disappointing, to say the least: she passed the buck to the Union's International Students' Officer because the campaign itself was nominal. The nationwide International Students' Survey which the NUS ran had a grand total of 324 respondents; the LSE, by contrast, has more than 4,000 international students.

She came to the LSE to speak for the NUS; the UGM was not convinced.

How could she stand up for the NUS, though? It is a Union in crisis, with mounting debt and of increasing irrelevance to students. Fletcher told us that the NUS has an overdraft of £1.2 million and yearly debt in the range of £500,000. Kat Fletcher was never more correct than when she spoke of the radical reform needed for NUS, and in a Union renowned for its hard left-wing tilt, that is saying something.

That is not to say that the NUS is a wholly incompetent organisation: its campaign to stop top-up fees, while not a success in the simplest of terms nor relevant to the majority of LSE students, did reduce an in-built Labour majority of 168 to just five. Could

that have been co-ordinated in any other way? Probably not.

Where does that leave the LSE, then? This newspaper has argued before that the NUS does not truly represent our interests because we are a unique university in this country, majority post-graduate and international.

That being said, the NUS does still provide a forum for us to voice our concerns, and our position on various issues of student concern, such as that of increasing visa renewal charges, can only be enhanced by being party to a campaign that claims to be representative of more than five million students.

In the eyes of this newspaper, another problem lies with NUS Services Limited (NUSSL), which has caused the Union much grief in the past and continues to do so. Leaving NUSSL would not affect our membership to the NUS, but would provide the Shop with a wider range of products at similar prices were they to join an alternative buying consortium. While the Union would not reap much of a financial windfall from selling its shares in NUSSL, it would give the Shop more choice in the products it sells.

*The Beaver*, then, supports the motion passed at last week's UGM and the following motion scheduled for week 10 - the final choice lies with our readers and we encourage you to vote in the referendum scheduled for week eight of Lent term. It is time for the discussion on NUS to move out of hack circles and into the wider student body.

### In the red

**G**areth Carter, the SU Treasurer, submits his budget to the ABM this Thursday. His submissions are markedly different from those of his predecessor, Jo Kibble, for one major reason: where Kibble attempted to expand the Union's services and potentially put the SU's finances in peril as this newspaper pointed out in an editorial at this time last year, Carter has made some hard decisions to cut services which Kibble claimed to have made.

This should not take away from the actual fact, however, that the Union is nearly £100,000 in deficit, and the capital reserves have been severely depleted by a massive overspend on the Three

Tuns. At some point, either he or his successor will have to cut Union services in a major way otherwise we will simply fall further into financial crisis.

He claims that the budget is balanced because the Union has, for the most part, met Kibble's expectations. While he submits a budget to the ABM with a bottom line of £98,749 in the red, Kibble predicted a deficit of £96,505. In effect, he argues he has met the target set of him.

Carter claims that the Union will partly replenish its reserves at the end of this year, thanks to increased revenue from the Union's bars.

For the sake of the SU, let us hope he is right.

### Bursaries for all

**T**he School's new bursaries scheme is very much a step in the right direction, though it will not completely bridge the funding gap for students going to university in London.

It would have been easy for the School to focus on large, headline-grabbing, bursaries but the decision to spread available funds a little more thinly will lead to real benefits for a larger number of students.

# Letters to the Editor

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

Dear Sir,

The recent fire in Passfield Hall, caused by a student's carelessly discarded cigarette, was a minor one in which no resident was hurt or, we believe, seriously endangered. The fire constituted a smouldering plastic refuse bin in a location behind a one hour fire rated door.

The issues raised by the article in last week's issue of *The Beaver* are, however, important ones, to which all Passfield and Residential Services staff are giving their urgent attention.

Nevertheless, we regret the sensational tone of the article, which can only create unnecessary distress for residents and give a misleading impression as to fire safety standards in LSE halls.

The first general comment to make is that the article's major source is both limited and inaccurate. The comments of the Fire Officer are strongly disputed and will be taken up with the station in question. The significant inaccuracy in the piece is that the alarm was not set off by the brigade but by Bradley Franks, warden of Passfield Hall.

We therefore totally refute the version of events issued by the Fire Brigade. Furthermore, there is no evidence to suggest the fire alarm was malfunctioning and this was presented in full to *The Beaver*. A complete system check commissioned by David Tymms (not demanded by the fire brigade as the article states) indicated that all heat and smoke devices were working satisfactorily.

Essentially, there was insufficient heat to activate the device in the kitchen and insufficient smoke to activate the device in the corridor, though the latter did detect the presence of smoke exactly 60 seconds after the manual point had been activated by Dr Franks.

Notwithstanding these points, it is clear that a lapse in procedure did take place.

It is, however, important to note that the procedure that requires tightening up relates only to instances where fires are discovered prior to the automatic system running into full alarm.

A second small fire in a bathroom this week, also caused by a carelessly discarded cigarette, resulted in staff activating the alarm instantly as per procedure. The resident discovering the fire failed to do this (as did the resident who discovered the first fire), so all students in Hall have been reminded of the correct course of action. The related urgent issue to address is that of smoking in halls and paper is being prepared for the next Residents Users Group, recommending smoking be banned from most parts of LSE student residences.

In summary, it is vital in the aftermath of any fire that we do not exaggerate the dangers to which residents were exposed and create unnecessary distress. We believe your article and editorial did this.

Passfield has many faults but it does have a fully addressable fire alarm system and a fire certificate that permits hotel use

(i.e., a more onerous standard of fire safety than for standard residential blocks).

This is not to downplay the seriousness of the issues that arose and standards will be tightened and reviewed on receipt of the Fire Officer's report.

David Tymms  
Director of Residential and Catering Services

Bradley Franks  
Warden, Passfield Hall

Dear Sir,

I was the defeated candidate for the ULU Presidency (incidentally an election with a turnout of under one-half of a percent) and stood on a clear platform of reform of the union and scrapping the ULU membership card system.

I argued that the requirement to possess a card (they were hard to get by ordinary students) together with the fact that they could be distributed without identity checks or verifications by college SU sabbaticals (who coincidentally stand for ULU positions) meant that a card only election was undemocratic.

My candidacy, although coming second out of three, was pointless of course, because the electorate was not and is not ordinary students (like I was) but instead those few souls who were interested enough in the seemingly useless ULU, had got a card and effectively elected themselves or their friends to the Exec.

None of the present Exec supported the idea of scrapping ID cards during the hustings, including the only candidate for VP Finance who now proposes this scheme (was this perhaps because the current system helped their electoral chances?). ULU shouldn't wait until 2006 to abandon the ID cards, it should scrap them now and urgently try and provide a service for the majority of UL students who haven't the foggiest idea who or what ULU is, or that the average funding for this daft union is £10 per student.

Most people I met during the campaign, would rather have a tenner to spend on beer.

Benjamin Cohen  
King's College, London (2001-4)

Dear Sir,

I read with surprise last week's letter by LSE SU Anti-Racism Officer Farhan Islam, attacking Matt Sinclair's "tongue in cheek" column for being contrary to the Union's goal of not "unsettling and intimidating" minorities, and of promoting "racial equality and diversity" on campus.

Is this the same Mr. Islam who, as reported in the previous week's issue of *The Beaver*, criticised LSE SU Treasurer Gareth Carter for asking a society to take down a banner displayed on Houghton Street that called for "victory to the intifada"? Mr. Carter of course was rightly worried that the banner was inciting "racial violence"

and offending a "large section of the LSE student demography."

Mr. Islam, however, told *The Beaver* that while the banner carries "unfortunate connotations," - quite an understatement for a sign effectively calling for the murder of Jews - he believes the banner should have remained.

Now either Mr. Islam suddenly in the space of a week reinterpreted his job description, or - as it increasingly seems to me - he is selective in which minority groups he is concerned about.

May I remind Mr. Islam the Anti-Racism Officer should seek to look after the welfare of all religious groups and minorities, not just his own.

Daniel Freedman

Dear Sir,

The UGM has always been a great source of humour, banter and the serious discussion of politics, a great asset which makes the LSE Union unique. Which other university provides a weekly forum for all students to attend to discuss wide-ranging issues from the coup in Equatorial Guinea to the provision of condoms at Crush in the space of an hour?

Hopefully, after the concerns raised at this week's UGM about the lack of promotional posters for the event since the 11 November, including for important UGMs with the President of NUS coming to speak and the election of SU Honorary President, the Communication's Officer 'K' will endeavour to better promote and advertise the UGM before it becomes irrelevant, because if nothing else, the UGM is an entertaining experience.

Anna Ngo

Dear Sir,

I find the continuing coverage of Passfield Hall in your paper fascinating. As a former resident, a former committee member and a former employee, I can confirm that the Hall is a fabulous place to live whilst at LSE, the buildings' decrepid state notwithstanding. I can also confirm that it is run by enthusiastic, extremely-committed and more-than-competent staff with a very experienced warden and very active pair of sub-wardens, despite what last week's unbalanced coverage suggests.

I sometimes despair that Passfield gains such a disproportionate amount of attention within the LSE and the SU. There are newsworthy and exciting activities at all halls of residence as well as Passfield. Perhaps your publication and the Students' Union could pay attention to these in the coming weeks as opposed to overblowing events purely because they are at the infamous Passfield?

In a personal capacity,

Will Macfarlane  
General Secretary, LSE SU

## Features

Features Correspondent: Steve Gummer

## blink

Editors: Tracy Alloway &  
James Upsher

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## Treasurer does it for money

LSE Students' Union Treasurer, *Gareth Carter*, refutes an earlier blink article claiming that LSE students are 'asexual'!

Well-intentioned though she may be, Mala Nangla's descriptions of the Students' Union are woefully distorted and embarrassingly condescending. Crush has existed for many, many years and has gone from strength-to-strength playing on the timeless idea that placing boys and girls together in a situation where alcohol is readily available makes for a good night for all concerned. There is no higher ideal behind Crush and there is no deeper explanation to its appeal.

There is, firstly, little virtue in analysing the sociopathic tendencies of Crush-goers. It may be true that, shockingly, there are incidents of overt flirting in the venue, but from experience I can say that most people are acting not with any structured reasoning in their minds, but are more likely being driven by the lowest primal instincts - perhaps the only faculty still remaining past ten o'clock.

**'I personally have heard of friends of friends who have, at some time during their tenure at LSE, actually had sex.'**

I would tend to disagree with Nangla's welcoming attitude towards any 'local City boys' who happen into our venues. As if being too inebriated to stand, dribbling into your beer, and having the dress-sense of a four-year-old wasn't enough of a handicap, the increased competition from people who have more money than sense and the lecherous instincts of Gary Glitter is not something I personally welcome. Crush is a student night, and to have the unique feel of the event diluted by the presence of too many investment bankers is something that should be prevented.

On the wider issue, the view, howsoever it was formulated, that LSE can at any point be 'asexual' leads one to wonder what occurs in other institutions. Whilst it is clear that three years at Anglia Polytechnic University is worth so little that spending that time attempting to bed all and sundry is positively sensible, I do doubt that King's or UCL students are any more nymphomaniacal or sexually voracious than those at the LSE. It may shock and appall younger readers but I personally have heard of friends of friends who have, at some time during their tenure at LSE, actually had sex. These rumours are unsubstantiated of course, but they provide at least some refutation of the idea of an asexual LSE. One wonders what LSE

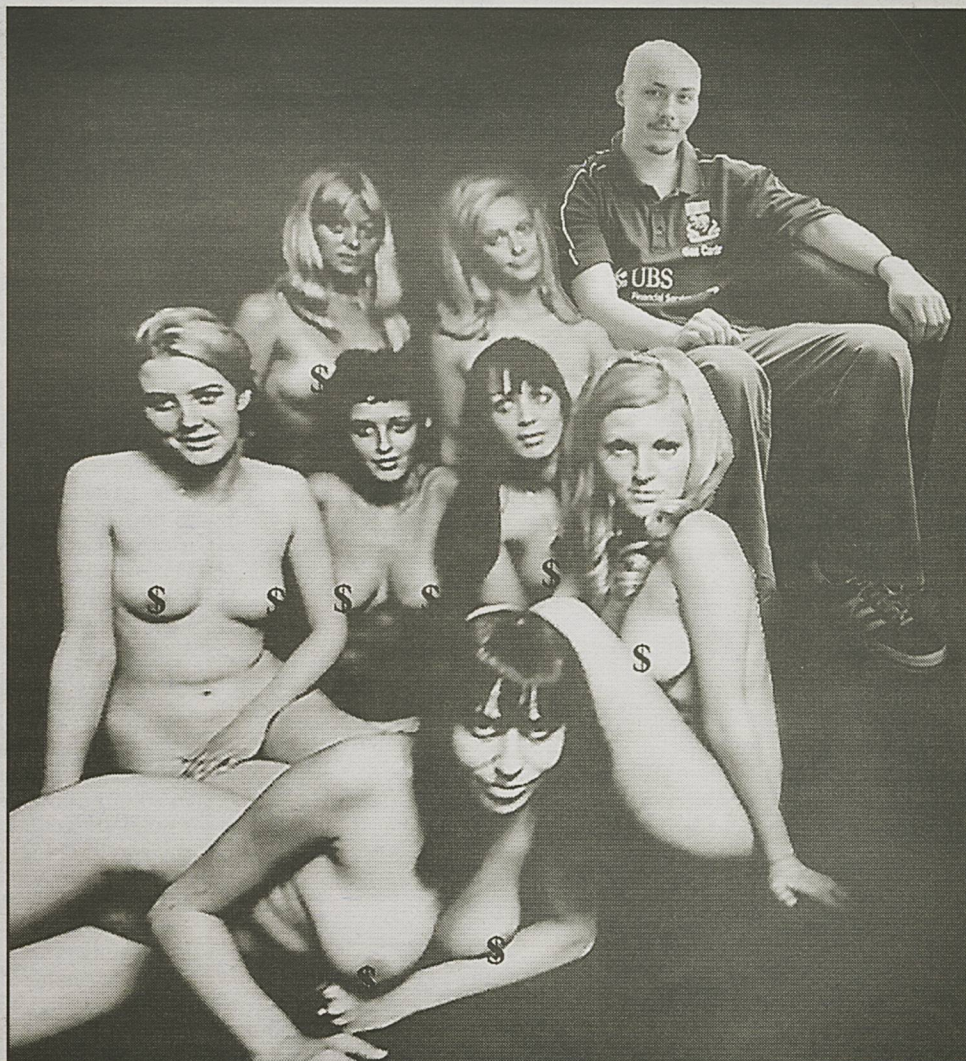
students must do to shed themselves of this social stigma. It would seem that, short of 30 or 40 students a day actively copulating on Houghton Street, LSE students are landed with a reputation they simply do not deserve.

Nangla's earlier speculation that 'LSE boys are too serious [for sex] and lack the imagination or ambition to fornicate is baseless and I can assure her that there are a wealth of all-too-willing AUers who would be quite happy to prove her (and, after eight pints, anybody else) wrong. To lay the blame for an apparent lack of sex squarely at the door of the male LSE pop-

UGM Chair, the activities of a high proportion of AU Barrel goers in disabled-access bathrooms and the clamorous demand for free condoms in the Union's entertainment venues.

Admittedly we cannot take a red-blooded sexual animal like James Eyton as the average LSE male, and neither can we assume that Nangla's open craving for sexual action is a standard desire from every single LSE female, but to draw the conclusion that they are very much the exception is wrong.

Ultimately we are left with a very unsatisfying answer: despite the average



Gareth happily misunderstood the concept of a nudist beach. Graphic: Tracy Alloway

ulation is unfair. Even the most puritanical, nursery-school biology teacher would agree that for any meaningful sexual activity to take place there should ideally be a second person involved, if not a third or a fourth to make it interesting, and maybe any blame should be apportioned a little more fairly across the gender-divide than Nangla suggests. Whilst LSE students' introductory chat-up lines may revolve a little more around careers and economics than those of the 'do you have any Welsh in you? etc' ilk, one should not simply assume that sex is at any point off the agenda or even that it takes a lower priority than accountancy in the hearts and loins of any LSE student.

As evidence I would cite the burning looks of desire James Eyton flashes at our

LSE students' tumultuous desire to be unique, our sexual impulses are not too dissimilar to those of other students. Where Nangla's argument falls down is her determination to focus on the nature of our students, proclaiming them to have had sex 'quashed from their minds by academia', whereas her argument may be better served were she to ponder the student condition; that is, what role do our location, our surroundings and our influences at the LSE play in having this unfair assessment of our sexual prowess levied on us? Nangla may find a visit to the AU Barrel this Friday enlightening, and one hopes that, until the next time two football players take a passing fancy to a willing girl, this is the final word in the debate over sex and the LSESU.

## blink management

Thinking about writing for blink? blink welcomes articles from all LSE students. Articles should be around 800-1000 words in length. Please include your name, department and year. Send articles to:

[thebeaver.blink@lse.ac.uk](mailto:thebeaver.blink@lse.ac.uk)

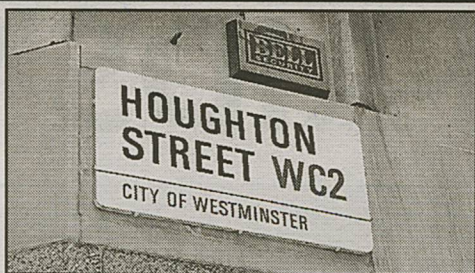
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Features

Features Correspondent: Steve Gummer



# Talking 'bout our education

## Kheng Soon Lim sees a need for some LSE students to expand their horizons.

Every now and then, the Singapore broadsheet newspaper, the *Straits Times* publishes an article about some Chinese prodigy who furthers his or her education in the West. The article will always go along these lines:

"Miss Chee Pai from the town of Lan Chiao in Central China has amazed Oxford University by scoring full marks in her Mathematics finals. According to her colleagues at Trinity College, Miss Chee is an amazingly hardworking student who studies late into the night, even resorting to studying in the toilets in order not to disturb her room-mate. She sleeps two hours a night and has refused to be distracted by the bountiful social activities Oxford has to offer. [i.e. she has no social life - my interpretation] Speaking to the *Telegraph* via an interpreter (for despite having spent three years in the UK, Miss Chee still cannot speak English), Chee Pai said that nothing would detract her from her aim of getting a job at an investment bank in Shanghai."

Chinese people are generally perceived as placing great emphasis on education and this is true to a certain extent. Where this statement breaks down is the point at which one starts to enquire the true meaning of the word 'education'.

Faithful readers of my opinion pieces will now be aware of the fact that my stint at Winchester radically transformed my mindset in many ways, one of these being the way I view my education in the UK. Far from seeing educational achievement as merely a series of subjects, modules and marks, my alma mater taught me to have a more holistic viewpoint towards the issue of education.

A term commonly thrown round by dons and students at Winchester was the phrase, 'a broad education.' We were taught that education learnt from a textbook, though important was, merely one layer of a multi-faceted approach towards education as a whole. In accordance with this principle, all students had to attend a

subject called 'Div' five hours a week. The subject matter of 'Div' was left entirely up to the don in charge, but it was generally humanities-based, and was essentially the don's interests. In my final year at Winchester for instance, our don was a 31-

**'I was extremely disappointed to experience first hand the self segregation between different ethnic groups at the LSE.'**

year-old lady who formerly worked as the Governor of Brixton Prison. Her lessons dealt mainly with crime and punishment in the UK and issues of social deprivation, with a bit of Dickens and Paul Auster thrown in, as well as a crash course in art history.

'Div' was a non-examined subject but many of us took it seriously nonetheless, and although the majority of us complained that Div hours could be better spent doing more 'productive' things, all of us were aware that this subject played an

**'One can gain a great deal by mixing with people of different backgrounds and in the process, obtaining a broader education.'**

important role in instilling the importance of a 'broader education' in our minds.

Although Winchester tried its very best

to give us a more rounded view of life, it had its limits. The majority of students at Winchester were white Anglo-Celtic Protestant upper middle-class males, albeit with a broader range of political opinions than one would think, and even the non-white kids were heavily assimilated into white English culture. There was absolutely no racial cliqueness though, which is extremely rare for an English public school these days (In my cousin's school, Epsom College, the Hong Kongers, Malaysians, Indians, Koreans and whites would sit at separate tables during lunch, which in hindsight sounds a lot like the Brunch Bowl. The Hong Kongers would jabber loudly in Cantonese and drown out the voices of everyone else, leading to the overall effect of the atmosphere in the cafeteria resembling a coffee shop in Hong Kong. It was a crap school anyway.)

Sorry, I digress. Back to my original point, as I mentioned, Winchester College, despite its efforts was simply not reflective of life in 21st century UK and it was quite a shock to the system to arrive at my first lecture at the LSE and realise that half the students were either non-white, non-male, non-Christian, non-upper middle class or a combination of these categories.

Although I had been expecting it, I was extremely disappointed to experience first hand the self segregation between different ethnic groups at the LSE. The great majority of my lectures were held at the Peacock Theatre and identifying racial cliques soon became a past-time of mine. There would invariably be a couple of rows of Singapore scholarship students seated with their heads buried in their lecture notes, furiously scribbling away. There would also be the ubiquitous Hong Kong students, slaves to the latest fashions from the exotic, erotic East, often late because they had spent hours beautifying their Japanese pop-star influenced hairstyles. I once had the misfortune of sitting at the upper deck of the Peacock Theatre amongst thirty British Asians who insisted on jabbering loudly

throughout the lecture ("Shaheen pulled a really fit guy last night but he was a goreh and her parents will kill her.")

One can gain a great deal by mixing with people of different backgrounds and in the process, obtaining a broader education. Angel Leung of Repulse Bay, Hong Kong and Mervyn Pang of Taman Pelalur, Malaysia may end up with Firsts in their respective subjects but if they stick to their little group throughout their three years at the LSE, are they more educated in a meaningful sense?

On a separate note, whenever I'm back home and I mention that I'm from the LSE, people will invariably say two things. The first is: "Oh, there are plenty of Chinese people there. You'll never feel lonely." The second is: "Oh, it must be extremely political."

**'Only some of us at the LSE are aware that there is a life beyond studying.'**

There are two types of students at the LSE: the first is interested in school politics, national politics and world affairs. The first attends public lectures and debates, gets involved with the Students' Union and generally immerses themselves in life round the campus. The second is unable to name the Students' Union's General Secretary and is merely interested in obtaining set texts before they run out. In response to the second statement in the above paragraph, I would answer: "Only some of us are political. Only some of us at the LSE partake in any activities around the campus that don't involve academic work. Only some of us at the LSE are aware that there is a life beyond studying. Only some of us at the LSE are interested in getting a broader education."



Features

Features Correspondent: Steve Gummer

Musings

Bring back the old economists

Matthew Sinclair

The New Economics Foundation are terribly clever. They have managed to sidestep the usual left-wing pressure group trap of sharing an intellectual standard with the brown tree snake by inserting the word 'economics' into their title. With the public therefore assured that they are a serious academic body the New Economics Foundation is able to return to traditional pursuits like concocting overbearing policy proposals, drivelling inanely about social justice and inventing their own measures for human progress when existing ones don't deliver the right "we hate Thatcher" message.

In their study of social progress they invented a Measure of Domestic Progress that conveniently found that society was at its best in the 1970s; when everyone was poor and Socialist. "Facts" used to support this conclusion included a "four-fold increase in the costs of family breakdown"; how this was measured ("I think I've experienced one-point four family breakdowns") or weighted ("how much was my family breakdown worth?") boggles the mind. Another piece of evidence was the thirteen-fold increase in crime; this statistic makes no sense and no explanation is offered in the report.

The latest policy from the foundation is taken seriously by the Guardian and cover story for the New Statesman. They propose putting safety-warning labels on Sports Utility Vehicles in an imitation of the Chief Medical Officer's message to smokers. Disturbingly, what initially looks like a joke is argued through with all the force of those who would prefer a ban; people who drive these dreadful vehicles are obviously so spectacularly evil that they should be forced to identify themselves and face the public's wrath as well as being constantly reminded of their own sinful natures.

If you don't trust people to make their own decisions then you used to try and ban things. Unfortunately unscrupulous liberals and their endless quoting of John Stuart Mill made this difficult. Now nanny-staters argue for labelling things. These labels are starting to form an unpleasant background hiss to our daily lives. A constant puritan lecture offered to those of us who eat the wrong food, do the wrong amount of exercise, drive the wrong car, become addicted to the wrong drug or maintain unsavoury private lives. A little peace and quiet would be welcome.

Putting numbers to your conclusions adds gravitas even if those numbers are only loosely based around facts. This is a questionable rhetorical technique; it's a laughable approach to running a think-tank. The New Economics Foundation tells us that "every society clings to a myth by which it lives; ours is the myth of economic progress"; theirs is that they're economists.



# World AIDS Week:

AIDS has become a global epidemic that requires desperate action. Danielle Kaczynski takes a look at the World Health Organization's newest initiative against the disease.

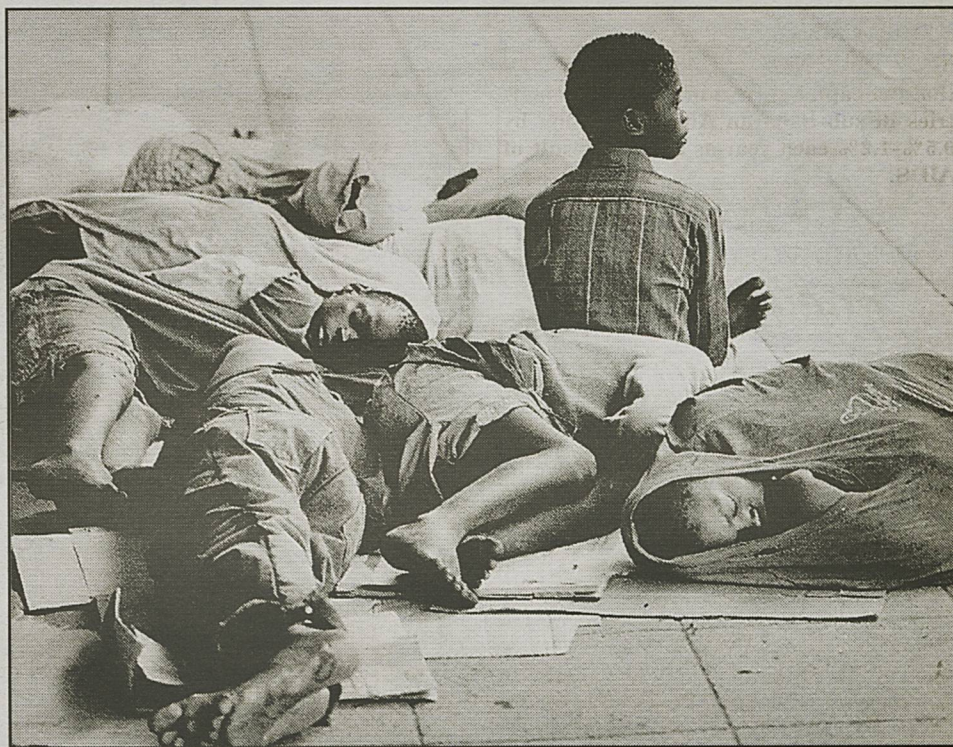
HIV/AIDS screams in numbers. Globally, there are 40 million people living with AIDS, and 20 million have died since the start of the epidemic in 1981 (UNAIDS, 2004). Medication, in the form of antiretroviral therapy (ART) is desperately needed.

While this problem has hit all nations, it has hit developing and transitional communities the hardest, with six million needing immediate treatment. It is often easy for the developed international community to turn a blind eye and to feign ignorance of distant adversity. Most issues do not cross borders; developing nations in need may call out for help and aid, but their voices grow increasingly quiet as the space between their issues and those who could most help grows wider and dissolves in the oceans. With HIV/AIDS, the developed world is faced with an issue that it cannot consciously ignore as it has come to our own doorsteps.

HIV/AIDS has been more effectively dealt with in developed countries. In the 1980s its emergence was explosive. The disease created stigma before science could find cause, and it seemed to be killing indiscriminately. However, the strong voice of gay activism helped the problem gain face and find sources for funding, well-integrated health systems, technological advance and medication.

Developing and transitional societies are in a more desperate situation. While the virus spreads rapidly, the scope of internal aid that these countries are able to provide is not as far-reaching. Economic and political instabilities that characterize some of these regions have sometimes been detrimental to the implementation of aid policies and programs that would help those most in need. Additionally, a lack of knowledge of how to cope with a complex medical emergency such as HIV/AIDS has left many countries without answers.

Desperately needed are education, social aid, and medication through effec-



tive systems of equitable distribution. The situation is often complicated by governments that would like to see domestic solutions implemented. This goal of strong national policy is a positive step, but it can be confounded by political leaders that act against the face of rational science. While it has become medically accepted fact that antiretrovirals prolong life and reduce transmissions, President Mbeki of South Africa still critiques the certainty of the statement, and has been quoted by the *Journal of African Studies* as saying that "science does not have enough answers to deal with this question." It is these issues and a confluence of other factors that impose the necessity of international humanitarian aid.

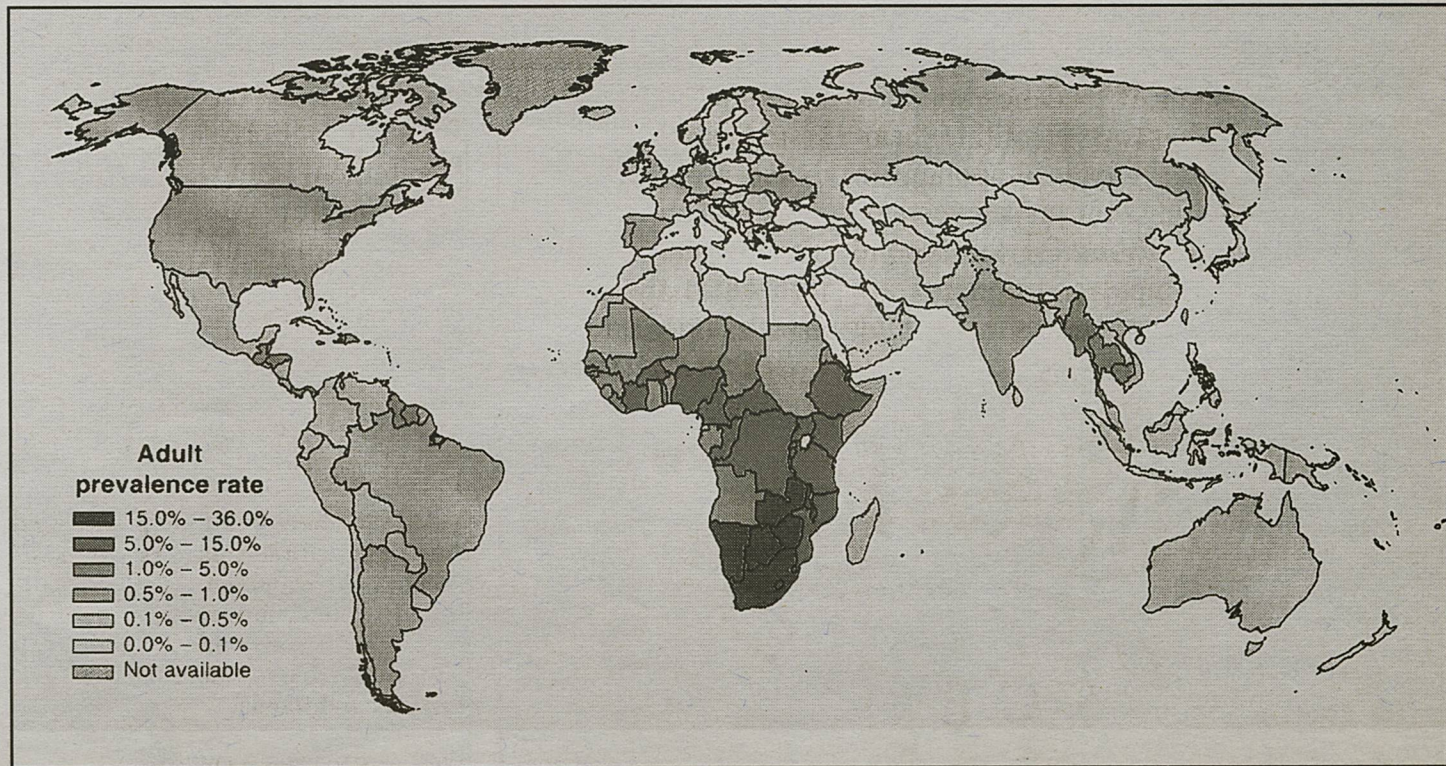
On World AIDS Day 1993, the World Health Organization (WHO) in association with UNAIDS (an umbrella organization including UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, and the World Bank) revealed their 3 by 5 programme. In an effort to provide universal antiretroviral therapy to those countries most in need, WHO and UNAIDS has set an ambitious goal. That is to treat three

million people with HIV and AIDS by 2005. Specifically, the initiative aims to distribute antiretrovirals to these three million in 50 developing countries.

The 3 by 5 initiative focuses on the distribution of ART because of its efficacy: they have been proven to reduce transmission and prolong lives. Countries that can afford the therapy have seen a 70 percent decrease in deaths. Significantly, ART can change the status of AIDS from a death sentence to a chronic disease. ART can also help to change the way people think about HIV/AIDS.

ART is also now more affordable; the implementation of these drugs will reduce health costs and improve quality of life. The 3 by 5 initiative aims to make ART's accessible to all. The focus of the 3 by 5 project will be on five major areas: simplified, standardized tools to deliver ART; a new service to ensure an effective, reliable supply of medicines and diagnostics; rapid identification, dissemination and application of new knowledge; urgent, sustained support for countries; and global leadership, strong partnership and advocacy.

These targets, when initiated, will make



World wide HIV prevalence rates in adults at the end of 1999.

Features

Features Correspondent: Steve Gummer

The Right Approach

# time to take action

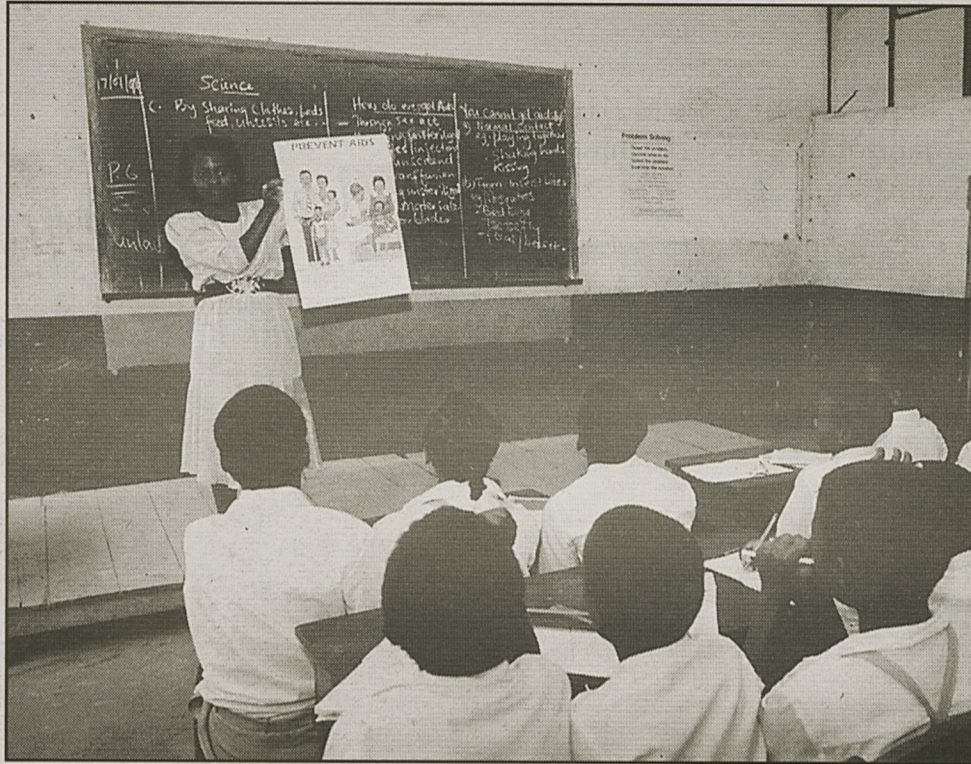
- AIDS was declared a development crisis by the World Bank in 2000. It is estimated that per capita growth in half of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa is falling by 0.5%-1.2% each year as a direct result of AIDS.

- By 2010, per capita GDP in some of the hardest-hit countries may drop by 8% and per capita consumption may fall even farther.

- Health care systems in many countries are overwhelmed by a growing number of HIV/AIDS patients. Studies forecast that health care costs in hardest hit countries may increase tenfold over the next several years as a result of the epidemic.

- HIV/AIDS overburdens social systems and hinders educational development. Across Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, the disease is claiming the lives of thousands of teachers and leading to school closures.

Source: UnAids



all the difference to those whose lives have been impacted by HIV/AIDS. However, distributing aid to the regions that need it is not an easy process. The WHO, the 50 countries in question, and other partners face the difficulty of training 100,000 health care workers, building health care infrastructures and systems and instilling realistic standards. And almost above all else, they face a funding gap of US\$5.5 billion dollars.

The 3 by 5 Partnership Group has been formed to call upon the aid of other organ-

**'As a member of a larger intellectual community, do what you can to educate yourself on matters of global importance; there is not one of us who should be in the dark about HIV/AIDS.'**

izations. All those involved have been active and committed to increasing ARTs in countries that cannot afford them. NGOs, community-based organizations, trade unions and other organizations are pooling their efforts to see that the goals set out by the initiative are achieved.

While HIV/AIDS is a problem in many parts of the developing world, 90 percent of the problem is focused in 34 high-burden countries. Many countries have also independently appealed for assistance since the program has been started. These include, from an extensive list: Armenia, Egypt, India, Poland, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, and Ethiopia. The WHO website includes updates from 26 countries on their status and progress under the 3 by 5 initiative.

While the project is having a positive affect, the funding gaps, lack of resources and lack of infrastructure in the countries being targeted makes reaching the goal by the projected date of 2005 seem difficult. It is clear that funding needs to come, and quickly, so that the momentum the project has built does not dissipate, and so that those who are targeted for aid get the

assistance they so greatly need.

Angus Deayton, the former host of "Have I Got News For You," in a talk given on the 26 of November, raised an important point: will the generations of tomorrow-judge us on our actions (or inactions) of today?

The answer: most definitely. We have entire faculties of education that are based around analyzing the intricacies of issues of this magnitude. International assistance in the form of funds and aid is desperately needed. Governments worldwide need to show empathy and offer financial aid to the cause; a problem they should understand as it also hits those in their own communities.

Your action as a student is also needed. As a member of a larger intellectual community, do what you can to educate yourself on matters of global importance; there is not one of us who should be in the dark about HIV/AIDS. Take advantage of the information that will be provided to you this week and learn what you can, and then, with that information, ask yourself what you are capable of doing. It is probably more than you think.

- More than 45 million people worldwide are infected with HIV, 95% of whom live in developing countries. In 2002, approximately five million people were newly infected with the virus.

- HIV/AIDS has killed more than 20 million people worldwide. 3.1 million people died of AIDS-related causes in 2002.

- AIDS is the leading cause of death in Africa and the fourth-leading cause of death worldwide.

- In 2003, about 3 million people died of AIDS, three-quarters in sub-Saharan Africa alone. Another 5 million were newly infected.

o Aids kills nearly 6,000 people each day in Africa - more than wars, famines and floods

Source: BBC News Online



J'accuse

Daniel Freedman

The image that perhaps best captures the second Intifada is that of the young Palestinian boy, Mohammed al-Durra, hiding behind his father from gunfire. Who can forget the terror on his face as the reporter intoned: "one more volley and the kid will be dead?"

Tragic. Or it would be if it were true and not a made-for-tv set-up. As Stephane Juffa reported in Friday's (Nov. 26) Wall Street Journal Europe, the film was "one of the greatest media manipulations the world has ever seen," and is: "beyond any reasonable doubt, pure fiction."

For a start, as Mr. Juffa reminds readers, the film itself provided no evidence of a killing. No soldiers, no guns, no wounds, no blood - nothing of the sort - are seen. The only source of information on what actually happened was the voice-over by a reporter from the French TV channel France 2.

Next, civilian physicist Nahum Shahaf demonstrated that it was scientifically impossible for Israeli troops to have shot at the boy from their position. Rather the shots had to have come from behind, or next to, the cameraman. In other words, it was staged. And going through the film slow-motion in the corner he discovered the cameraman giving a "take-two" signal.

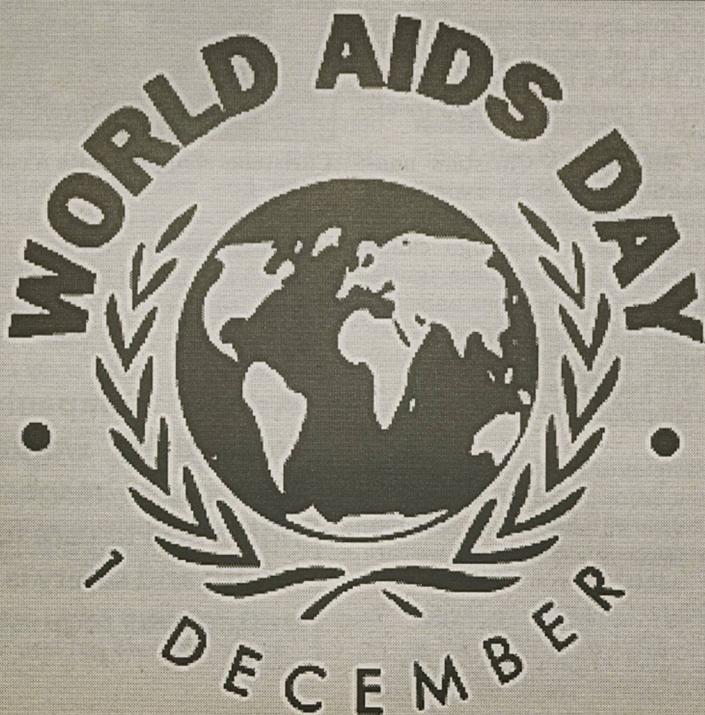
Mr. Juffa's own investigation found more evidence of fraud. For example, the France 2 reporters claimed the killing occurred at 3.00pm. But Palestinian doctors testified Mohammed's lifeless body came to them in the hospital before 1.00pm. So at the time he was supposedly getting shot, he had already been dead for two hours.

At the time, one of the France 2 cameramen testified that they had spent "about 27 minutes photographing the incident." For a long time France 2 refused to release this tape. After being pressured to release it they told investigators that their cameraman had "retracted his testimony," and no tape of the actual killing exists. So their witness to the "killing," in fact the only witness, admitted he lied.

Shocking, yes. Surprising, no. Remember Jenin? After a series of devastating suicide bombings, Israel sent its troops to take out the terrorists' base in Jenin. The Palestinians, led by Saeb Erekat, accused Israel of massacring Palestinians, with Erekat claiming over 500 had been killed. The BBC et al., like well-trained sheep, automatically printed these claims as facts.

In reality there was no massacre. The UN and Human Rights Watch finally put the dead at: 26 terrorists, 26 civilians, and 23 Israeli soldiers. Even Erekat eventually admitted he had made "a mistake," and BBC and co. retracted their claims.

Winston Churchill famously said: "A lie gets half way round the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on." When against Israel, and aided by the media and the left - a lie gets round the world and back before the truth even has a chance to get one foot in its pants.



World AIDS week kicks off on the first of December.

## Features

Features Correspondent: Steve Gummer

## Lift the label

As the shopping season swings into high gear, Aletta Kupor examines the plight of those forgotten amid the commercialism of Christmas.

The thought of a future job may trigger very different responses from each of us. But regardless of whether your mind jumps straight to investment banking or not, most of us would agree on a set of circumstances we would never want to find ourselves working in.

Now meet Shima, a 17-year-old girl from Bangladesh. Since leaving school at the age of 13, she has been working in a clothes factory in Dhaka, punching buttonholes on jeans and jackets for 13 hours a day, six days a week, for a wage equivalent to roughly £4.40 a week. Her workplace is hot and crowded and there is rubbish on the window ledges.

When the day is over Shima can finally go home, to the slums. On her journey home, she might wonder if tonight she will happen to be one of around 31 garment workers who are raped walking home in the slums each month. If she is fortunate enough to make it home safely, she will wake up the next morning and repeat the same routines that have shaped and determined her life for the past four years.

Why? Because for her, choice is a luxury. Her family relies on her income and £4.40 a week is better than nothing. Sadly, her story is neither unique nor outstanding.

Razia, a young Pakistani woman, works 16 hours a day in dim light with no ventilation. She keeps silent, so she may retain the privilege of coming to work the next day. "My male supervisor misbehaves and harasses me by passing unwelcome remarks. He tried to have an affair with some of the young girls and threatened that he would stop their salary if they refused. If I refuse to work overtime, the supervisor and managers ask me to leave," she says.

Dewi, a 22-year-old Indonesian woman also speaks bitterly about her eight years working in garment factories. Having stood for 10 hours at a machine, she was verbally abused when she tried to sit down. When the busy shopping season hit, she

would work from 7am to 6am the next day.

"Eight years working," says Dewi "has taught me about the suffering and pain of workers in garment factories. I have a friend who worked in the factory and she cut off her finger on the cutting machine as it was broken and couldn't stop. There was no guard around the machine blade. In another factory, two pregnant workers miscarried in the toilet. They didn't tell the company they were pregnant because they were afraid of losing their jobs and they needed the money. They carried on working."

**'With the holiday season rapidly approaching, the question must be posed: will we keep on shopping silently?'**

Many may say, "well, at least they have a job" and that is true. But the real question at stake is whether this is really how they should be treated. Not only do we all have the basic right to work, but we also have the right to be treated as human beings. We are entitled to the protection of our human rights.

But wait, doesn't economic theory tell us that foreign direct investment shall by all means trickle down? Sure, in cases where governments can be held accountable; inter alia, the theory may well hold water.

Yet any knowledgeable economist knows that the trickle down theory often fails. Oppressed workers will not rejoice upon us telling them that, theoretically, they should be better off.

With the holiday season rapidly approaching, the question must be posed:

will we keep on shopping silently? It is quite simple to ignore the human costs that may have gone into making that cashmere sweater you look at the next time you are out shopping.

Just think - what if the labels could speak? Perhaps they would tell you that if you washed the garment in hot water and dumped it into the dryer, it would shrink. But more importantly, what if they could tell the stories of the numerous individuals whose work has gone into making those clothes and show you all the injustices, sleepless nights, pain and abuse those individuals have endured so that they may receive, on average, 0.4 percent of what you paid for the items. But at least you will be well dressed, right?

I do not advocate a boycott, but I do think we have to stop being ignorant, even though the countries where most of our clothes come from are quite some distance away. Injustice is not something we should tolerate, even if it does not directly impact us. And raising an eyebrow is simply insufficient.

This year Tearfund, a Christian non-profit organization devoted to sustainable economic, social and environmental development, is taking on a campaign called 'Lift the Label' to address these issues, mobilizing students from various universities nationwide. In London, students from King's, Imperial, UCL, SOAS, and other universities will collaborate in an effort to be conscious shoppers, and to turn this into action.

Asking companies to treat their workers as humans, to respect their rights and to care for their health and safety is not an outrageous request. So, why should we care about their rights? If you still question that, just imagine yourself in their lives. Would you not want others to care?

Lift the label. Don't shop quietly. Because we ought to "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves...for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice." (Proverbs 31:8, NLT)



Christmas shopping with a conscience.

**'Asking companies to treat their workers as humans, to respect their rights and to care for their health and safety is not an outrageous request.'**

Business

Business Correspondent: Aanchal Anand

# Russia's Yukos stolen by the state & management flees to London

Russia's government has finally stolen Yukos; Malcolm Bell reveals why investors should be so worried.

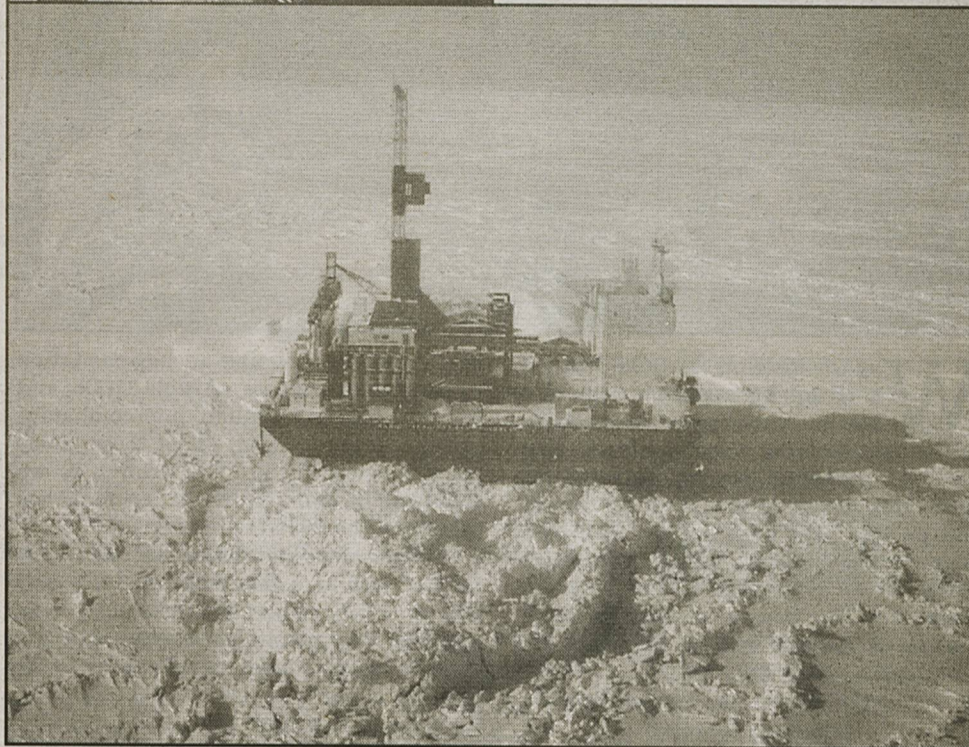
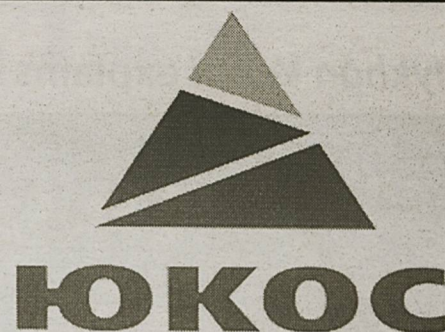
Ockham's Razor, developed in the 14th century, dictates 'Pluralitas non est ponenda sine neccesitate', which translates as "entities should not be multiplied unnecessarily" - in short, keep it simple. If you have followed the rise and fall of Yukos since 1994 and especially since October last year when CEO Mikhail Khordokovsky was arrested, you will have read many a theory and intrigue as to why Vladimir Putin's government was attacking Yukos; most of which was far from simple and as such all of these hypotheses forgot about Ockham's Razor.

Yukos Oil was Russia's largest and most efficient oil company, once valued at US \$33 bn on the Russian RTS exchange, its 'oligarch' owner and Khordokovsky was the richest man in Russia with a fortune of circa \$8 bn. Oil is Russia's most valuable asset and strategic reserve, contributing some 40 percent of annual GDP growth. So when Khordokovsky began flirting with politics, funding opposition parties and perhaps preparing his own presidential election bid in the summer of 2003, he had broken Putin's golden rule. At a meeting of 'oligarchs' after Putin's election to President in the summer of 2001 the new President made it clear - keep your ill-gotten fortunes but do not wander into politics. Just like the line in the gulag, one step to the left or the right and you will be shot. These were ill-gotten gains because most of them bought state assets on the cheap during 1994 and 1996, lending money to Yeltsin's desperate government in exchange for shares in Russia's most prized assets. Shortly after breaking Putin's rule, Khordokovsky was arrested on several serious charges of tax evasion and his Yukos company has been saddled

**'The selective application of the rule of law and the victimisation of Yukos is one of the most astonishing business events in Russia since the 1998 financial crisis.'**

with over \$14 bn in claims of back taxes. Journalists, academics, business leaders and politicians seeking to explain the attack on Yukos have suggested everything from lawful tax collection to an attempted re-distribution of high value assets from pesky oligarchs to the people. As it turns out, Ockham knew best and the simplest answer was the right one - the pursuit of Yukos by the state was politically motivated, as revealed by the important announcement of 18 November in which the Russian Justice Ministry stated its intentions to begin the auction of the main production subsidiary of Yukos, Yuganskneftegas, on 19 December. Just before the Justice Ministry requested CEO Steven Theede and CFO Bruce Misamore be questioned last Tuesday, they fled to London on a 'business trip' and in my view, will never return to Russia again. As Americans, they felt safer than their Russian counterparts in management positions at Yukos but now that they are gone, there is nobody left at Yukos to fight, not that there is much to fight for any more.

Whilst the auction of Yuganskneftegas



**'It seems that there is little future for the company that began life in Tomsk, long before it went on to be the darling of the West as a transparent, modern and efficient ambassador of Russian business.'**

alone is unlawful as Russian law demands that non-core assets be auctioned first to settle tax claims, the announcement that bidding will begin at \$8.65 billion is shameful. It puts an end to any argument that the claims against Yukos were anything but political retribution.

Some of us were easily persuaded by the idea that the pursuit of Yukos was righting historical wrongs and this was the beginning of a re-distribution of property rights and wealth to those who need it most, the Russian people. However, given that the auction will begin at just \$8.65 bn after an official government commissioned audit valued Yuganskneftegas at a minimum of \$14 bn goes to show that Russia has made little progress under Putin with regard to respect of private property rights.

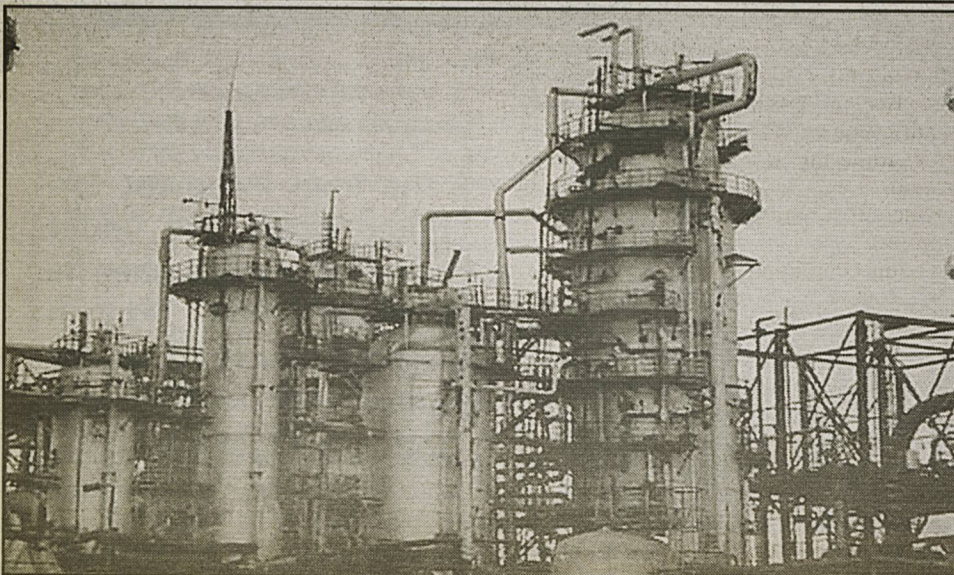
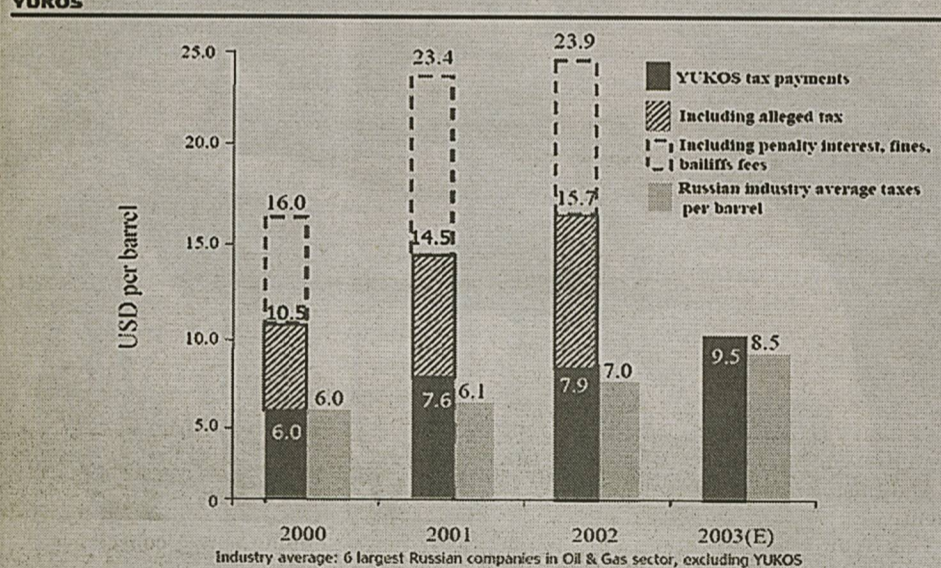
Those who should be concerned most about these events are the Russian people, foreign governments and Western investors. The Russian people have no love for Yukos, the company which they regard as stealing their assets and the nation's wealth in the beginning. Foreign government do not wish to criticise Moscow because they would like to maintain the foundations of a delicate alliance with Russia on issues such as terrorism. That leaves Western investors. Western investors have not been united in condemnation of government expropriation of Yukos assets because they cling to the hope that it is an

isolated case, that their investments in BP/TNK, Norilsk Nickel, Sibneft and others are safe - or so they think. This is untrue and history has shown us why.

Like the management of Yukos this week, so many before them have been driven from Russia by the state for fear of their safety and security. Media tycoon Vladimir Gusinsky supported opposition candidates to Putin in 2000 and used his media outlets to do so. However, since then his NTV empire has been expropriated by the state and he has been chased by the Russian authorities on charges of corruption and arrested on an international warrant and detained in both Spain and Greece. Boris Berezovsky used his ORT television network to support Putin in 2000 but then disagreed with his hard line over Chechnya. Shortly afterwards he fled Russia and was granted asylum in the UK. As for his ORT television network, this now belongs to the state too. The case against Yukos is not isolated at all.

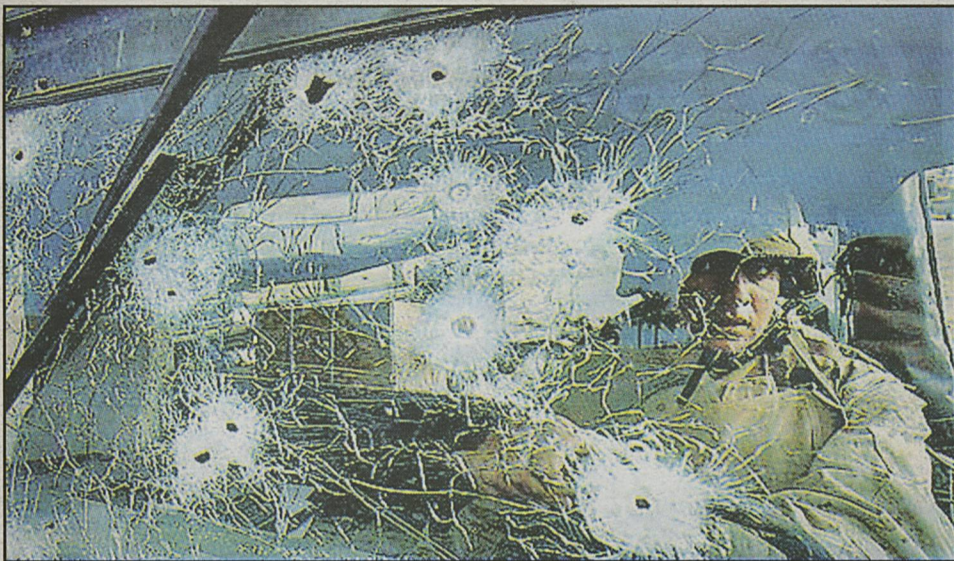
Foreign investors and the international community should be deeply concerned about Putin's treatment of property rights in Russia. The selective application of the rule of law and the victimisation of Yukos is one of the most astonishing business events in Russia since the 1998 financial crisis. No doubt that the newly merged Gazprom and Rosneft will be the lucky bidders for Yuganskneftegas and I am willing to speculate that they will pay little above the starting price like so many auctions in the 1990s. What then for Yukos? With its main production unit auctioned off and its senior executives hiding in London, it seems that there is little future for the company that began life in Tomsk, long before it went on to be the darling of the West as a transparent, modern and efficient ambassador of Russian business. However, this is Russia and history has also shown us that anything can happen.

**Tax Payments per barrel produced: YUKOS vs Industry**



# International law and Fallujah

Alykhan Velshi explains that in Fallujah, it's not the Americans who are war criminals.



Why the histrionics at the death of an Iraqi insurgent? Images of a Marine shooting a Mujahideen corpse that was not exactly lifeless have been on a perpetual loop on Aljazeera and most other media outlets. Fleet Street editors, as ever, have been hot and bothered, their dresses blowing windily over their heads; which is as good a time as any, I think, for *The Beaver* to offer a sober analysis of the legal issues involved.

**'International law cuts both ways; it is not only a proxy for whinging anti-Americanism.'**

The legality of the Marine's execution-style, err, execution has provoked a fiery debate about the applicability of international law to the battle in Fallujah. The emerging consensus, though, is that the insurgent did not qualify for protection under the Geneva Conventions or the laws of war.

The Iraqi insurgent forfeited protection under international law when he violated the Fourth Geneva Convention; not once, not twice, not thrice, but four times - by, firstly, fighting out of uniform - Article 44(7); secondly, using a place of worship for military purposes - Article 53a and Article

85(4)d; thirdly, feigning an incapacitation by wounds or sickness - Article 37(1)b; and fourthly, feigning civilian, non-combatant status - Article 37(1)d. All of these violations, incidentally, are war crimes; so we should all be thankful the war criminal has been removed from the battlefield.

To the extent that insurgents violate the laws of war as a matter of course - and they do - they cannot simultaneously benefit from its protections. International law accords rights to soldiers who abide by its provisions, partly as a way of encouraging combatants to respect the laws of war.

International law cuts both ways; it is not only a proxy for whinging anti-Americanism, but can be applied equally - and, in fact, more readily - to America's opponents. The Not-In-My-Name crowd, however, have no use for international law when it does not suit their purposes.

With respect to international law, the anti-war left are in many ways similar to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi: both lack legs to stand on. So, instead of relying on legal arguments, the peacenik crowd have accused a Marine of moral wrongdoing for killing an unarmed insurgent. Examined in context, however, the Marine's actions were completely understandable, and, what's more, morally justifiable.

Consider this news story from November 20, as reported by Central Command, "Marines from the 1st Marine Division shot and killed an insurgent who while faking death opened fire on marines conducting a security and clearing patrol through the streets." Playing dead isn't just a trick you teach your dog, it seems, it's also a tactic used by Iraqi insurgents.

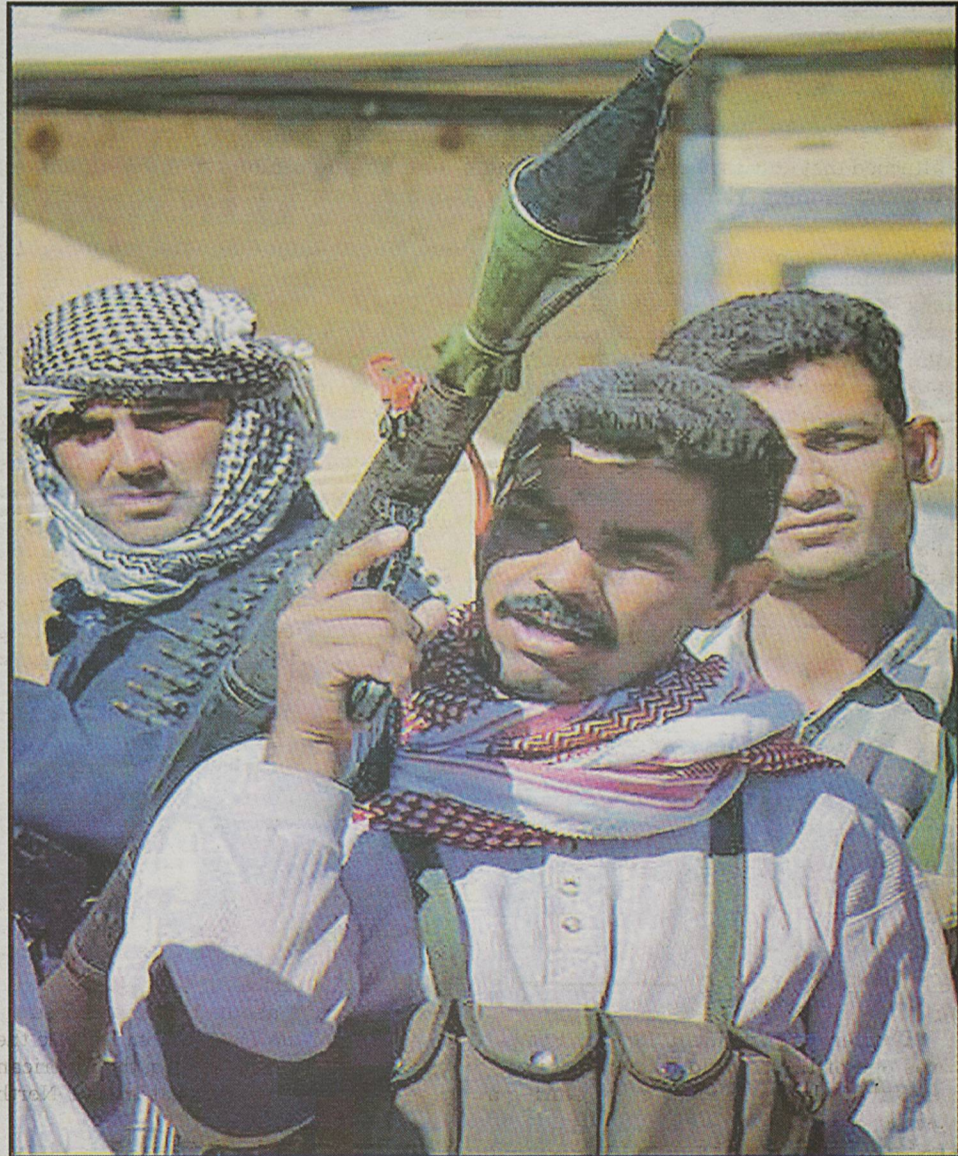
Given the willingness of the

mujahideen to feign death or injury, only to self-detonate when convenient, the Marine exercised good judgment in killing the would-be suicide-bomber. Had he hesitated and given the insurgent the benefit of a doubt, he may have suffered the fate of Lance Corporal Ian Malone and Piper Christian Muzvuru, 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, both of whom were killed by an Iraqi insurgent who shot them after pretending to be dead.

Even Kevin Sites, the journalist who videotaped the Marine shooting the unarmed insurgent, had this to say: "the marine could legitimately believe the man pose[d] some kind of danger." The Marine's response, in context, was proportionate, necessary and fully justified.

The insurgents in Fallujah have wrought havoc on the entire country, turn-

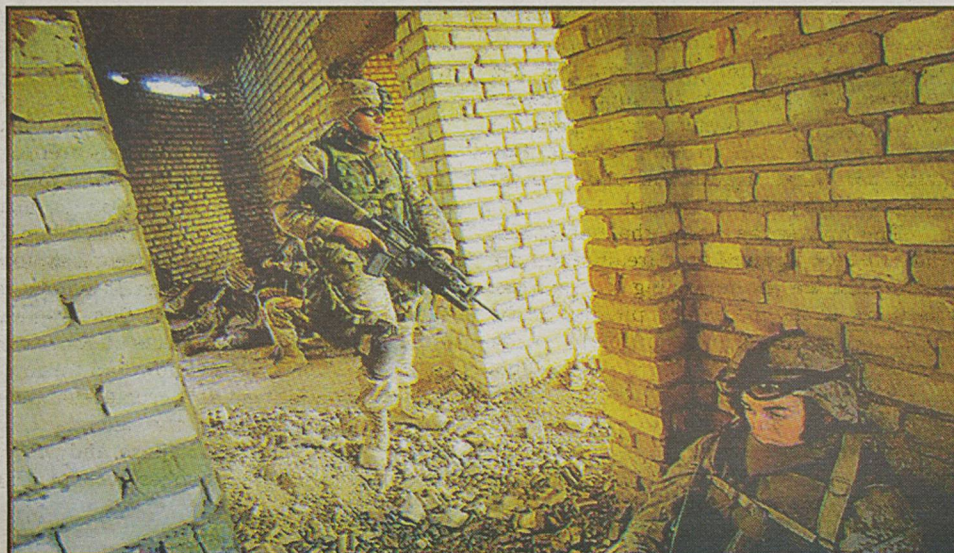
**'...instead of relying on legal arguments, the peacenik crowd have accused a Marine of moral wrongdoing for killing an unarmed insurgent.'**



ing this rebel-stronghold into an economic basket case and creating a haven for foreign-born terrorists. As a result, according to media reports, the residents of Fallujah who fled in advance of the Marine operation, have demonstrated their gratefulness by leaving warm blankets for Marines along with notes inviting the soldiers to sleep in their homes.

Anyways, back to my initial question: why the histrionics at the death of a terrorist? Or, to be more precise, why are the Not-In-My-Name crowd shrieking in self-righteous indignation when a Marine kills an Iraqi insurgent who is pretending to be dead, but are positively insouciant when an Iraqi soldier feigning death opens fire on Marines? Maybe President Bush was on to something when he said, "you're either with us or you're with the terrorists."

**'The Iraqi insurgent forfeited protection under international law when he violated the Fourth Geneva Convention; not once, not twice, not thrice, but four times.'**



Politics

The Labour government used last week's Queen's Speech to lay out their plans for the coming year's legislative programme. Much of their proposed programme focuses on crime and terrorism. Critics have claimed that Tony Blair is attempting to stir up people's fears so as to win support at next year's general election. But the reality may be something far worse: Britain may be seeing an attempt to create a 'culture of fear'.

The policies aired in the Queen's Speech included proposals to take away the right to trial by jury in terror cases, introduce compulsory ID cards, expand police powers to test for drug use, create a 'British FBI', and introduce on the spot fines to tackle 'job culture'. The government claims that all of this is a proper response to public concern about security issues. Leader of the House of Commons, Peter Hain, went further and told television viewers that Labour was the party that could best protect them from the threat of terrorism.

This behaviour was widely condemned by Labour's critics who accused the Party of trying to exaggerate the dangers people really face and of exploiting fears over security for electoral gain. The Conservative Party in particular took the moral high ground and condemned Labour's use of fear as an electoral strategy. At the same time, the Conservatives affirmed that only they could deal with the threat posed by asylum seekers.

Terror was a key issue in both the US and Australian elections and helped George Bush and John Howard secure re-election. The use of fear as an electoral strategy is nothing new, but the actions of the Prime Minister may have more dangerous implications for the British public. By stirring up fear of terrorism and crime, the government, with the help of certain sections of the media, may be attempting to not only to find an excuse to curtail our civil liberties, but also to distract the public's attention away from issues of poverty, inequality and public service provision.

**'Tony Blair is attempting to stir up people's fears so as to win support at next year's general election.'**

Former US President Ronald Reagan was one of those world leaders most successful at playing the fear game. During a period of détente, Reagan was able to restart the Cold War and escalate the nuclear race. As part of this effort, he claimed that small left-wing countries in South America posed a major threat to the existence of the United States. He declared a state of emergency in response to the threat posed by the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, and was condemned for unlawful use of force by the World Court for backing a paramilitary group called the Contras who waged a bloody war on the people of Nicaragua. He also tried to claim that the American invasion of the small island of Grenada was a major military victory in America's struggle for security.

If all of this were insufficient to scare the US population, Reagan also declared the first War on Terrorism, leading to US military intervention in the Middle East, a model George Bush Junior is following

today. In Reagan's case the War on Terror led to the bombing of Libya, as well as an increase in support for Israel who were then carrying out a brutal occupation of Lebanon.

Reagan also declared a War on Drugs, and the country saw a huge rise in the fear of drug related crime, if not a rise in actual crimes. By intensely clamping down on drug use, the US Government actually succeeded in lowering the use of soft drugs, and creating a significant increase in the use of 'harder' drugs, which are more difficult to detect and therefore less likely to lead to imprisonment. The War on Drugs also saw the start of a process that today sees large swathes of America's poorer ethnic groups imprisoned, particularly African-American males, who make up a large proportion of what is now the largest prison population in the world. The drug war also led to a marked escalation of the civil war in Colombia, so that by the 1990s it was the site of some of the worst human rights abuses in the world.

All of these actions served to distract the US public from Reagan's domestic policies. Ronald Reagan presided over a sharp rise in inequality. While profits of big business soared, much of the population was pushed into poverty. Wages fell in real terms for large sectors of the US population, and there was a surge in homelessness and unemployment. Despite these problems Reagan actually dismantled many of the programmes that had been in place since FDR's New Deal to relieve poverty. Reagan basically exaggerated and exploited peoples fears to get away with his attack on the living standards of large sections of the American population.

The situation today in America is, if anything, even worse. Prominent American commentators on the US media and government such as Noam Chomsky claim that today America is one of the most fearful places in the world. In the run up to the war on Iraq the people of America were the only ones who actually believed that Saddam Hussein was a threat to them (apart from Iraqis of course). While some in other countries believed overthrowing Saddam may have been the right thing to do for humanitarian reasons, only in the US did a majority of people think Iraq was a real military threat. Even Kuwait, invaded by Saddam in 1990, no longer considered an Iraq devastated by years of sanctions and US bombing to be an immediate threat.

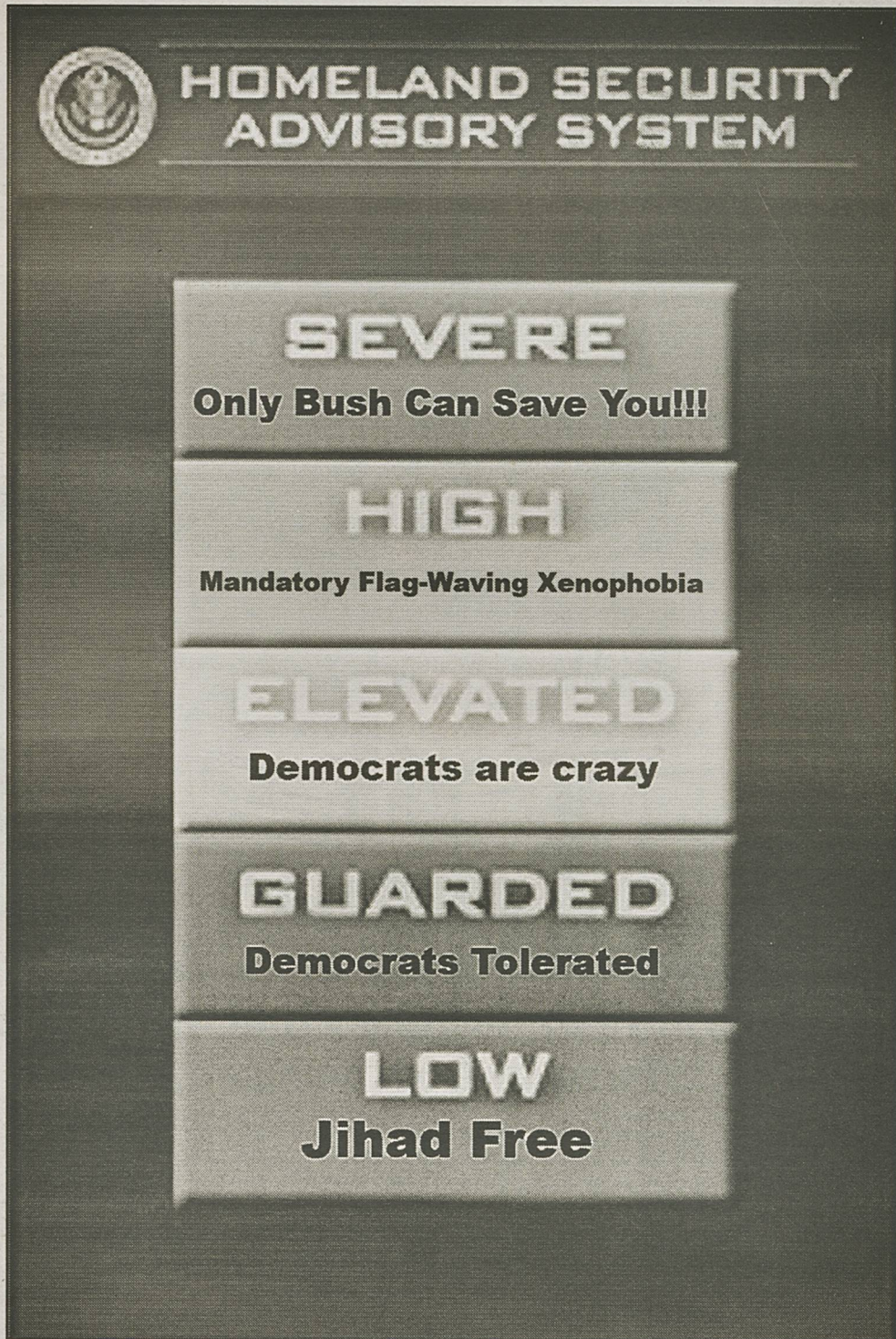
Increasingly, in the wake of September 11 the American people have been led from one fear to another. The country is constantly told it is on one level of terror alert or another. Americans have also been constantly hearing about the threat posed by Weapons of Mass Destruction. Despite the failure to find WMDs in Iraq, the American people are still hearing that Iran or North

**'Increasingly, in the wake of September the 11 the American people have been led from one fear to another.'**

Korea are a major threat that must be dealt with since they are pursuing WMD programmes. The War on Drugs has also made a come back.

# A culture of fear?

**Matt Axworthy refuses to be intimidated by politically motivated fearmongering.**



This culture of fear has enabled the US government to distract the population from the fact that an increasing number of them have little or no access to healthcare. Much of the population has seen its living standards fall, and an increasing number of Americans are having to work two or more jobs to enjoy the living standard that one job once provided. The gap between rich and poor is wider than ever. The Bush Regime has also been able to exploit the fear of terror to curtail civil liberties and attack many of the freedoms enshrined in the US constitution. The Patriot Act has allowed an expansion of police powers over people's. Furthermore, many political prisoners are held in Guantanamo Bay with no legal rights, in many cases allegedly subjected to torture.

This then is the model that the British have to look forward to. Already there are signs that we are following this process. Sections of the media are playing on the fears of the British people. One week Asylum Seekers and illegal immigrants are threatening our jobs, even though studies show immigration benefits the economy. The next week we are threatened by a new 'job culture' and drug-fuelled crime, even though crime rates have actu-

ally been falling for years. Of course the threat of terror is an ever present issue in the British media.

Last time terror was a major political issue, with the conflict in the North of Ireland, the UK Government pushed through draconian anti-terror legislation such as taking away the right to trial by jury. This led to many famous miscarriages of justice such as that of the Guilford Four or the Birmingham Six. However, this has not stopped the present government trying to curtail human rights in exactly the same way.

Britain is becoming more like America in other ways, with levels of inequality growing under this Labour government, despite their stated commitment to tackle poverty. The prison population is also growing to record levels, and looks likely to grow further in the wake of New Labour's pledge to get tough on drugs. If people do not become more aware of this growing adoption of the worst aspects of American policy, there is no telling how bad this culture of fear might get. It is crucial that people begin challenging the agenda that politicians are trying to impose, and not let them hide behind a smokescreen of fear and ignorance.

## Politics

## Patient Choice?



## A Hidden Agenda

**Dimitrios Rovithis** maintains that the heavily advertised introduction of patient choice in the NHS, is far away from being an effective solution to the current health care problems.

Choice is the new trendy word in the NHS. Academics, politicians, patients, and even some of the NHS staff apparently seem to love this word – each of them for different reasons of course. In fact they all seem to love it so much, that it is always mentioned at least once during press briefings concerning NHS reforms.

As the political parties are getting ready for the expected general election next year, politicians have been pushing their visions for ‘the health service of the 21<sup>st</sup> century’. And giving more ‘choice’ to patients is clearly one of them. NHS staff have also given a cautious thumbs up to New Labour and Conservative plans. According to Dr Richard Lewis, a senior member of the British Medical Association in Wales, staff backs the idea of giving patients more choice. “Doctors and managers in the health service are all for patients’ choice,” he said. And patients seem to agree. A survey of 300,000 patients by the Healthcare Commission during the summer found that the majority, especially when it came to mental health, wanted more say in their care.

‘Patient choice’ is part of New Labour plans, and like the ones proposed by the Conservatives, it aims to increase the amount of say patients have in where they are treated. The key difference between the New Labour and Conservative proposals is that the New Labour ones involve more use of the private sector. More particularly, under New Labour plans NHS managers will ‘buy-in’ capacity from private hospitals, whereas the Conservatives say that the money will follow the patient. But does the

complex nature of medicine and structure of the NHS make *true* choice possible? Some already argue that it is simply another way of hiding NHS failures, whereas some others claim that patient choice is part of a new ‘hidden’ agenda.

**‘People are more interested in good quality and reliable health services when they actually need them, than having illusory “choices”’**

Although appealing, the idea of patient choice faces substantial problems. The major problem is whether patients can actually exercise that choice. At the moment it is hard for people to work out which hospitals have the best outcomes, simply because there is not enough information available. The only two key sources of information that patients can use are waiting lists and hospital star ratings which are basically hotel-style ratings between zero and three. But according to Professor John Williams, director of informatics at the Royal College of Physicians, “giving choice to patients is a good thing, but it is not clear whether this information is that useful. It is also not in a presentable

form that would make sense to a patient. It is going to take a bit of time to get it right.” The Healthcare Commission’s chairman Professor Sir Ian Kennedy has also acknowledged that “while there has been a great improvement in communication between NHS staff and their patients there is still much to be done to ensure that patients understand the information they are given and can influence their decisions.”

The above mentioned problem of lack of information also raises equity concerns. Ensuring easy access to high quality information about health services will be essential if we are to see equitable access to choice. The middle class will probably find its way through the new system, but the poor will undoubtedly be kept at their local hospital due to their limited access to the information needed to actually exercise their choice.

What also remains unanswered is how popular hospitals will ration their services given short term restrictions on capacity. Extra choice will therefore require extra money, particularly to increase capacity. The parties must look again at the future of health care funding if their plans are to become reality. The proposed increasing use of the private sector by the NHS constitutes a fundamental shift from the current philosophy in health care provision. When considered together with other government policies such as the new Foundation Trusts it reveals the real government agenda, which is the rise of private sector and the switch of the responsibility of health services from the government to the private sector.

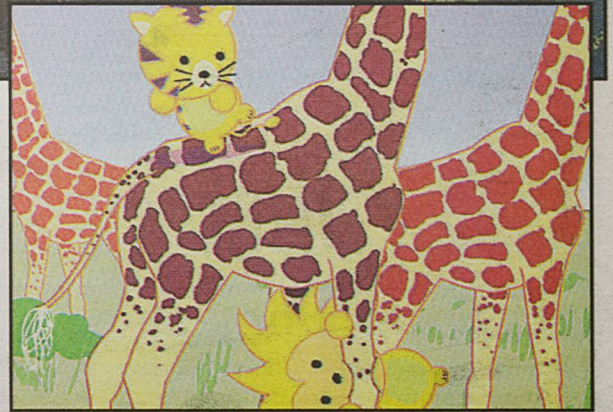
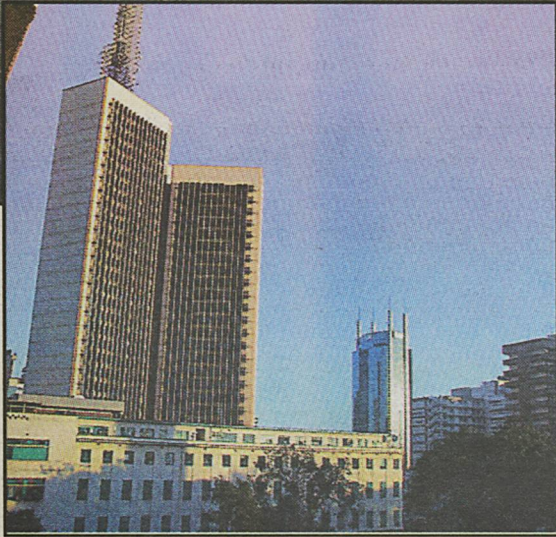
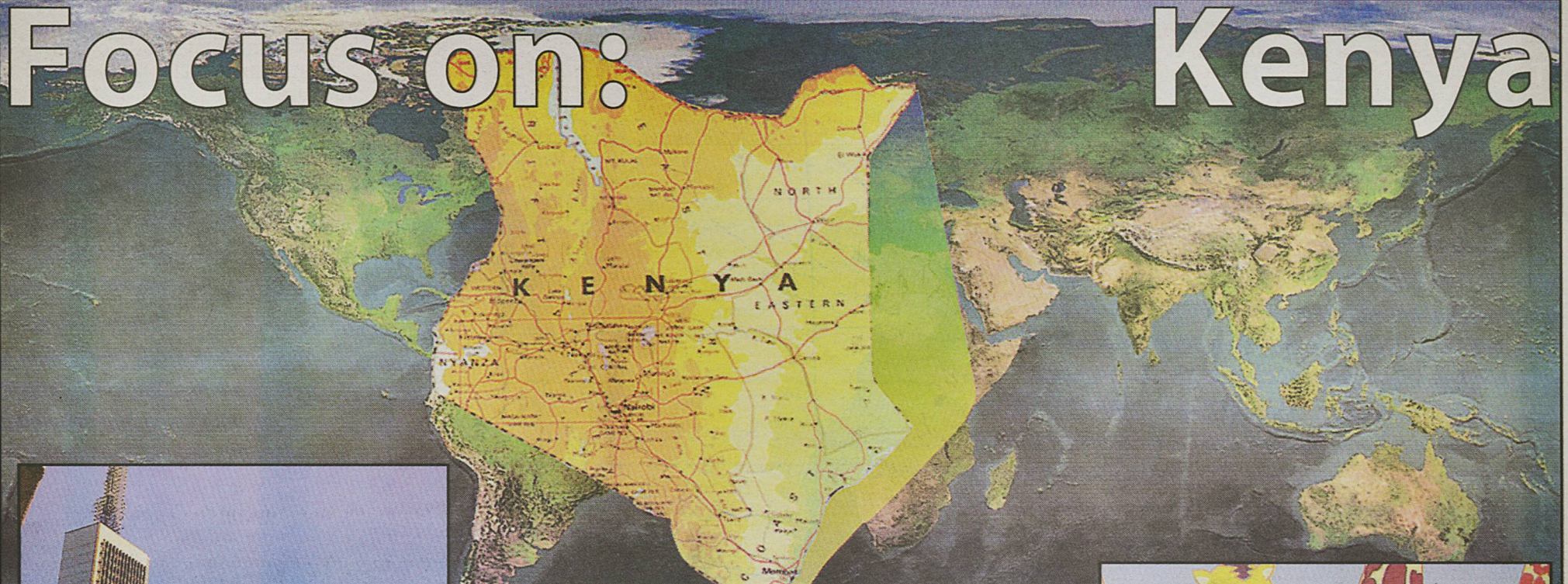
So, should patient choice be encouraged in health care? One may argue that patient choice is welcome but it has to be *real* patient choice and not simply the ‘choice’ of not having your operation or treatment in a local hospital but travelling hundreds of miles for it. ‘Health literacy’ must also be improved a lot before true choice could be exercised.

From my experience, people are more interested in good quality and reliable health services when they actually need them, than having illusory ‘choices’. In other words people want things to ‘just work’. Personally speaking, I would like a quality ambulance service, to take me to a quality hospital, with quality doctors and nurses to treat me immediately. I doubt that, when I am at a moment of maximum emergency (for example when I am having a heart attack), I will be interested in knowing that there is a two-star hospital available fifty miles away and another three-star one a hundred miles away. Choice in such circumstances is just meaningless.

The politicians must also spell out clearly what they mean by giving patients more ‘choice’. Does it only refer to hospital care or does it have broader applications (such as treatment using alternative therapies of complementary medicine)? What patient choice actually is at the moment (revealed from both New Labour and Conservative actions), is the undermining of the fundamental NHS principles of universal coverage and free health care at the point of delivery and the rise of the private sector.



# Focus on: Kenya



## The Starting Point

Our two subjects share some of their initial knowledge of Kenya

Bill Gates celebrated the Millennium on the Kenyan coast. From what we were told he hired a whole beach resort for a few days and flew in with all of his friends.

You can find snow on the equator. You find it on the second highest mountain in Africa: Mount Kenya.

Wonderful scenery, friendly people. Must visit if you haven't.

Nairobi is the only developing country capital to host the headquarters of a UN organization. UNEP (United Nations Environmental Program) and Habitat are located there.

The most famous Kenyan beer is called Tusker. It can be bought in many other countries and also right here in London.

The two main languages are Swahili and English.

### Jai's Kenya facts



### Jia's Kenya "facts"

**Sports.** I love football so I know that Kenya is active in the African cup of nations.

**It's a relatively peaceful country.** I rarely hear of it, compared to the other countries in Africa.

**Was the English Patient set in Kenya?**

Jai Shah was born and bred in Kenya. He talks to Jia Jer from Malaysia about skyscrapers, Hollywood movies and Nobel Prize winners. Stefanie Khaw and Kristin Solberg record the conversation.

**Where is Kenya and what are its neighbouring countries?**

Jia: It's in central Africa, isn't it? I have no idea about neighbouring countries.

Jai: It's in east Africa and it borders Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia.

**What is its main import?**

Jia: I guess machinery, microchips, stuff like that.

Jai: Oil, as in petroleum.

Jia: You guys import petroleum?

Jai: Yes, we don't have any. And machinery, those are the main ones.

**And its main export?**

Jia: Tea. I have Kenyan tea in my house. It's very nice. Strong. I like my tea.

Jai: Coffee, tea, tourism.

**What is the capital?**

Jia: Nairobi.

Jai: Right.

Jia: I'm right?

Jai: Yes. If you take away the capital, you take away 50 per cent of Kenya's GDP.

**What is Kenya's culture like?**

Jia: Lots of dancing and singing, that's my guess.

Jai: There are over 40 different ethnic groups, it's very diverse. 90 percent of them are African, and less than one percent is of foreign descent. Myself, I am third generation Kenyan of Asian decent.

**And to what extent is it westernised?**

Jia: There are skyscrapers and English schools. They watch Hollywood shows and there should be a night scene in Nairobi.

Jai: How westernised it is depends on whether you're in rural or urban areas. If

you're in the cities, it's much more westernised. In Nairobi you'll find skyscrapers, the tallest one is about 40 storeys. The capital is very influenced by American culture, music and fashion. You can buy pretty much everything. We have the latest movies, and some of the best cinemas in Africa. When there's a movie coming out in the US, we'll see it within two or three weeks.

**Is it a rich country?**

Jia: Well, I would guess since it's one of the bigger countries in Africa it should be rich.

Jai: In comparison with other African countries, yes. But internationally, no.

**What is Kenya's form of governance?**

Jia: Democracy, more to the right-wing, I would guess.

Jai: It's a multiparty democracy, and it's fairly right-wing.

**Are there any famous people from Kenya?**

Jia: The President? I'm bad with names.

Jai: Yes. Both the first and the third President studied at LSE actually. Then we have the long distance athlete Kip Keino, and a more recent one: Paul Tergat, who's the best marathon runner in recent years. And the Nobel Prize winner this year, Professor Wangari Maathai.

Jia: What did he win for?

Jai: It's a lady. She got it for her role in environmental protection and promoting human rights in Africa.

**What kind of sports do they do in Kenya?**

Jia: Football, cricket, rugby.

Jai: Football is the most popular, but athletics are what we're best at. And we actually had two people in the last two winter Olympics.



## Your Guide to What's On This Week

## Entertainment

**LSE SU Development Students Society and LSE SU Health Policy students 'Can students contribute in the global fight against HIV/AIDS?'**

Masters students from the Development Studies Institute and the Health Policy programme discuss their research, vocational and personal experiences in their individual contributions to the fight against AIDS around the world  
7pm G108

**Inter university 'Ghost Recon 2' Tournament**

The LSE's champions will be playing in the Three Tuns, connected to other players

via the internet (X-Box Live).

The winner of this tournament gets £1000... So come down and support your LSE champions!

5.30pm - 7pm The Three Tuns and Underground Bar

**LSE International Society**

GLOBAL SHOW AUDITIONS

Come to the auditions and show us a few minutes of your act.

3-5pm H102

**The Taiwanese Society**

Will be organising a party in conjunction with the UK Taiwanese Association

**SUROCUK.** Tickets are at 15 pounds a person.

**Alternative Entertainments Society**

Practise session

Juggling, balloon modelling, diabolo, poi, yo-yo, devil sticks, and manipulations with fire props

2-3pm Old Gym

**Salsa Society**

Classes for all levels

7.30-9.30pm SOUND, Leicester Square

## Political

**LSE SU Debate Society Workshop**

Improve your public speaking skills in an LSE SU Debate Society session.

7pm D209

## Entertainment

**LSE SU Film Society and European Society L'Auberge Espagnole** film screening. The film was nominated for six Cesar Awards (French Oscars), including Best Film, Director, Writer, and Supporting Actress

7pm New Theatre

**Corona Extra & the LSE SU Mexican Society Christmas Fiesta**

£3 Members £4 Non-members (includes membership). Tickets available on Houghton Street and on the door.

7pm Sol y Luna, 103 Hampstead Road

**Inter university 'Ghost Recon 2' Tournament**

The tournament continues.

5.30-7.30pm The Three Tuns and Underground Bar

**LSE SU Modern Dance Society** Free Breakdancing session (open level)

1-5pm G1

**LSE Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! Society** 'About Gaza' film screening.

The film's star and director will be available for an aftershow discussion.

7.30pm G1

## Careers

**LSE SU Commerce Society/Accounting and Finance Society** Inter Panel

Discussion on Contemporary Issues and Careers in Investment Banking with Goldman Sachs, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch and Deutsche Bank. Email lseaccfinsociety@yahoo.com to register.

4-7pm New Theatre

**LSE SU Maths & Stats Society**

Homework helping session

1-3pm Y115

## Entertainment

**Inter university 'Ghost Recon 2' Tournament**

The tournament continues.

5.30-8pm The Three Tuns and Underground Bar

**LSE SU Modern Dance Society**

Hip Hop (open level)

6.30-8pm Old Gym (basement of Old Building)

**LSE SU Scandinavian Society**

Christmas dinner afterparty. Tickets £3, on the door.

9.30pm Quad

## Careers

**LSE SU Liberty**

A talk on careers in Human Rights with Sabine Frediani (Liberty Human Rights)

6pm A283

## Political

**LSE SU Christian Union**

Carol service, free to all.

7-8pm Bloomsbury Baptist Church, Shaftesbury Avenue (opposite High Holborn Hall)

**LSE SU Debate Society Workshop**

Improve your public speaking skills in an LSE SU Debate Society session.

7pm D002

## Entertainment

**LSE SU Students Union**

Aids and Sexual Health Awareness RED theme CRUSH

7pm-2am Quad

**LSE SU Modern Dance Society**

Ballet (open level)

4.30-5.45pm G108

**LSE SU Modern Dance Society**

Contemporary/Jazz (open level)

5.50-7pm G108

**LSE SU Salsa Society**

Salsa classes

8-10pm Ministry of Salsa, Elephant and Castle

**LSE SU Punjab Society present**

Bhangra Crush

7pm-2am Underground

**LSE SU Malaysia Club**

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7pm Old Theatre

## Political

**The Central and Eastern European Development Society (CEEDS)**

"Ukraine Divided" Panel discussion explaining the recent developments and their background following the presidential elections

3.30-5pm H103

**LSE SU Friends of Palestine**

The Charade of Peace: Israel/Palestine 2004 a talk by Dr. Ilan Pappé

5pm New Theatre

**Socialist Worker Student Society Forum**

Noam Chomsky and the Politics of Propaganda

2pm H102

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Wednesday 8th December

5pm Deloitte offices The Strand

## Political

**The CIS society**

"The United Nations on trial" debate

Monday 6th December

6pm D502

# B:art

Edited by Carolina Bunting



## Music

Eminem's surprise concert page 19



## About

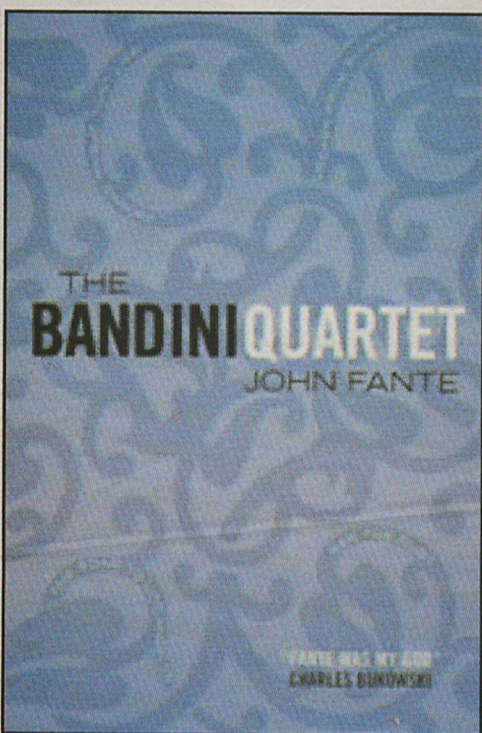
Trance Madness page 26

Comments, questions, artwork or articles submit to: [thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk](mailto:thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk)

# The Bandini Quartet

by John Fante

ionmartea touched by genius



guaranteed both commercial and, particularly, artistic success. And yet, Fante was rarely commissioned for A-list productions.

Hollywood was to become his cemetery. An inexplicable hunger for money, made him accept almost anything that came his way. And nothing but low-budget productions, which aimed for cheap tears and laughs, would occupy most of his time. Script, after script, failed to show the mastery he was capable of. With the exception of Richard Quine's *Full of Live* (1957), for which he scooped a nomination for Best Written American Comedy from the Writers Guild of America, the public, and ultimately Fante himself, had given up on his screenplays. Coppola never got to direct an adaptation of *The Brotherhood of the Grape*, nor *Ask the Dust* ever saw the light of day as a film, despite having a finalised screenplay by Richard Towne. Disillusionment and, most importantly, diabetes took over his life. But, this exact period was to mark a turn in the quality of his work, this time a positive one. Even after losing his sight by 1978, he still kept writing. *Dreams From Bunker Hill*, published in 1982, shows his ultimate dedication for the word, when every word, and comma, was dictated to a un understanding wife, who accepted the poverty in exchange for the artistry of John Fante. He died in 1983 at the age of 74. *The Road to Los Angeles*, his first novel, was finally published in 1985, after

fifty years of rest on dusty shelves.

It was up to Charles Bukowsky to revive the interest in his work. Starting with *Ask the Dust* half a century ago, Bukowsky developed a sacrilegious fascination with Fante's writing. The 'failure' of the post-1939 period ceased to have any impact on his novels and short stories, and the writer was finally given the praise he deserves. The latest publication from Canongate, *The Bandini Quartet*, is testament to that quality.

*The Bandini Quartet* is the collection of four of his greatest novels: *The Road to Los Angeles* (1935), *Wait Until Spring, Bandini* (1938), *Ask the Dust* (1939) and *Dreams From Bunker Hill* (1982). Despite the fact that each stands independently, it is worth approaching the book as a complete single work. It is a pseudo-biographical novel, with Arturo Bandini as its protagonist. We watch Bandini growing up in an Italian immigrant family, and then his struggle into becoming a successful writer in a corrupt, post-depression America.

Approaching Fante's work by reading synopses of his novels is rarely recommendable. Reading *Bandini* can start at any page. And then line, after line, after line, keeps you stuck to that page, and then the next page, and the next, until the first rays of sun intrude in this timeless euphoria. The simplicity of the prose, its honesty, and its brute realism, take the read-

A real artist is rarely successful. The passion to exhaust the soul until the final breath on a sheet of paper is the only driving force in his solitary, inhibited, frustrated existence. Nothing, but the comfort of stripping the soul for an individual to discover (even if that is the author himself) justifies the importance of going into tomorrow. Penniless, disappointed, and convinced of failure, does that artist perish, and only history is left to judge whether society has allowed a genius to leave the stage unapplauded. John Fante was one such artist.

A rebellious teenager, Fante left his hometown in Colorado, and went to fulfil his dreams in Los Angeles, a city that has been both an inspiration and a devourer throughout his career. Coming from an immigrant background, the America of the post-depression era was hardly the most welcoming of environments. But with a clear, direct, and quite intense style of writing, it didn't take long to make a name for himself... In 1938, at the age of 29, Fante published *Wait Until Spring, Bandini*. It was his second novel by now, but the first one to be accepted by a publisher. In 1939, *Ask the Dust* saw the light of day, a novel which benefited from an outstanding critical appreciation, and has given him the chance to work with some of the most popular writers of the time. From Orson Welles to Francis Ford Coppola, directors saw a richness of material that



John and Joyce Fante, 1970

## Thought of the week

(Two days to go until the report is due at the UGM and the SUTreasurer's work on the budget has come to an untimely halt. Deciding to write a poem instead, this was the result; found scrawled painfully on the walls of the Treasurer's office...)

\*\*\*

## by Gareth Carter

My computer's not working,  
and hence I'm not either  
but the Sabbs won't accept that,  
and the UGM neither.  
The Beaver would love it -  
I'd be asked to resign  
(or just donate all my wages  
like they asked for last time).

A vote of no confidence  
in my ability,  
and then kicked out of office  
with no sympathy.  
But for now IT Services please help me,  
please do!  
Or I'll be joining Justin Nolan  
in the dole queue

er through the most crude of human emotions. One is easily brought into tears, or into a laughing fit, or a simple appreciation of the passing moment, on every other line. It is a piece of writing that identifies with poetry on a most basic level, and through this, it excels into encapsulating the poetry of humanity.

We are a fortunate generation to be able to read his work without making reference to another film-flop. John Fante achieved the recognition he aimed for when he set off to Los Angeles eighty years ago. Dreams do come true, even though reality deceives us of their presence. Fante said it best in his last passage:

"I had seventeen dollars in my wallet. Seventeen dollars and the fear of writing. I sat erect before the typewriter and blew on my fingers. Please God, please Knut Hamsun, don't desert me now. I started to write and I wrote:

'The time has come,' the Walrus said,  
'To talk of many things:  
Of shoes - and ships - and sealing wax -  
Of cabbages - and kings -

I looked at it and wet my lips. It wasn't mine, but what the hell, a man had to start someplace." (*Dreams From Bunker Hill*)

Thank you for starting, John Fante.

## film

edited by Dani Ismail and Sarah Coughtrie

## Phantom Of The Opera

hannahcork listens to the music of the night



**Director:** Joel Schumacher  
**Starring:** Gerald Butler, Emmy  
 Russum  
**Release Date:** 10th December  
**Running Time:** 143 mins

Andrew Lloyd Webber's production of M.Gaston Leroux's novel **The Phantom of the Opera** has enjoyed extraordinary success; from its first performance in 1986, it has run in over 100 cities, in 17 different countries. Given this legacy, I was anxious to discover whether Warner Bros. could possibly hope to deliver anything more, or even equally deserving of such acclaim. The film's director **Joel Schumacher** faced an incredible challenge in transitioning the story from its recognised theatrical context to the arguably less participatory medium of film- both **Moulin Rouge** and **Chicago** had attempted to do the same with varying success.

Set in the decadence of 1870s Paris, the story is essentially one of love, in which

the disfigured musical genius, which haunts the catacombs of the opera house, falls hopelessly in love with a young soprano, Christine Daaé, whose talents he then attempts to nurture by exerting an almost hypnotic influence over her. Surprisingly, these two main roles in the film have not been occupied by any 'A-list' stars; perhaps reflecting that the film is a legitimate attempt to do justice to the musical offerings of the story-line rather than merely aiming for a box-office success. **Minnie Driver** provides a comical interpose as Carlotta, whilst the unlikely, yet dare I say it, talented **Jennifer Ellison** also makes an appearance.

Despite the aesthetic appeal of **Gerald Butler** who plays the phantom, his vocal talents certainly leave his character's reputation deficient in the film. Had **Charlotte Church**, whom was originally cited for the part of Christine, actually been cast, the credibility of the phantom in the film would have been completely lost. Instead, eighteen-year-old **Emmy**

**Rossum** fulfilled the demands of the role with applaudable results; her onscreen poise blending suitably well with the more pungent character of the phantom. The film is certainly less musically-orientated than would be expected, but perhaps this is an upshot of the film as it makes the story more accessible and appealing to a wider audience. Visually, however, the film cannot be disputed nor even compared to its theatrical rival. From the flamboyant costumes paraded in the masquerade ball finale to the imposing chandelier that dominates the fictitious 'Opera Populaire', the viewer is forced to gorge on a rich feast of colour, texture and atmospheric splendour. Combined with the more dramatic and intense scenes, whether you love or hate musicals, this film is truly mesmerising.

\*\*\*

Discovering  
Latin America  
- 3rd Film  
Festival

Last week we introduced you to this prolific festival taking place at cinemas around London.

Here's a quick rundown of what's on this week....

**Tuesday 30th November, 18.30**  
**Covent Garden Odeon**  
**GALA NIGHT**

**Motorcycle Diaries**

*Dir: Walter Salles, Argentina-Chile-Perú-Brazil-US-UK, 2003, 128 minutes*

The highly critically acclaimed story of the young Che Guevara's adventures crossing South America by motorcycle in the early 50s.

**Wednesday 1st December, 17.45**  
**Odeon Panton Street**

**Red Ink**

*Dir: Francisco Lombardi, Perú-Spain, 2000, 119 minutes.*

**Red Ink** follows a young, talented novelist working on a sensationalist tabloid newspaper. The film follows his trials and tribulations at the hands of his manipulative boss.

**Saturday 4th December, 1.45**  
**The Ritzy Cinema**

**Ana and the Others**

*Dir: Celina Murga, Argentina, 2003, 80 minutes*

Drama following a young woman's first visit to her hometown, running into schoolfriends and old flames.

## In Your Local Cinema...

**Surviving Christmas**

Ben Affleck, in an attempt to inject into his painful career a dose of something-other-than-shit, fails miserably with this lame made-for-TV movie. He actually hires the people living in his childhood home to pretend to be his family for Christmas. He didn't learn from *Gigli*, and *Jersey Girl*, that he does in fact suck.

**Gone With The Wind**

If any of you have not seen this love story to beat all love stories, shame on yourselves. Vivien Leigh is beautiful and excellent at the rich bitch gone broke, and Clark Gable as a sweet husband is hard to fathom but endearing to watch. Definitely a classic but it's very very long.

**The Merchant Of Venice**

The latest Shakespeare offering stars Al Pacino who pretty much carries the film. A penniless man turns to his friend to help him come up with a dowry to woo the woman he loves. They then turn to the Jewish bastard Pacino who demands a pound of the pauper's flesh as collateral.

**Milwaukee, Minnesota**

A mentally challenged man can speak to his fish. Right.

## In Your Local Blockbuster...

**Love Actually - Special Christmas Edition**

Improving enough on this gawdawful disgrace of a movie to merit a "**Special Christmas Edition**" is a task so gargantuan it blows the mind. I was naively hoping for something special and daring... perhaps shenanigans resembling Dangermouse's *Grey Album*, which mixed Jay-Z's *Black Album* with *The Beatles' White Album*. If I was Richard Curtis I'd maybe mash-up some *Natural Born Killers* or *Platoon* in with the cloying tweeness just for larfs. Since I am not, Amazon says we get "music highlights" and interviews with the director. Stay. Very. Far. Away.

**Music DVDs**

I'm positive the boys over the page in Music will agree that **The White Stripes:**

**Live Under Blackpool Lights** is an essential. If you've seen them live this will have you sweating and getting whipped up in the sexual tension all over again. If not, it will show you what you've been foolish enough to miss. As **Neil Young** said, its better to burn out than fade away, so **The Libertines** have also recently released a feature length DVD entitled **The Boys in the Band** as part of a re-release of their self-titled album. Since I'm still reeling from the official split I'm putting off watching it in case I start crying and never stop. I'm avoiding the presumably putrid **Busted - Live - A Ticket for Everyone** and **Evanescence: Anywhere But Home** for similar reasons.

# The Polar Express

daniismail is subjected to animated Christmas crap



**Director:** Robert Zemeckis  
**Starring:** Tom Hanks x4  
**Running Time:** We're guessing 90min  
**Release Date:** 3 December

Oh good lord, spare me.

I suppose it's my fault - if you're going to go see a film solely to get to see the star the next day at the press conference, you can't expect to get doubly blessed with a stellar film. Also, Christmas films suck, in general, and Christmas animated films are so dumb they make me cry.

Where is my Christmas spirit, one may ask. Well one may be rebuffed very quickly and snootily. I do not believe that at any point in my life I thought Santa was a real person. Due to my absent-mindedly Muslim upbringing, Christmas was never a holiday we celebrated, but I like to think I was able minded enough as a wee child to know that fat men couldn't fit down skinny chimneys.

I suppose I should get to the point. **Tom Hanks** 'plays' four characters in *The Polar Express* (very *Austin Powers* style), going for barely recognisable roles - a train conductor, Santa, a bum and... an 8-year-old

boy. To be honest, I can't say I realised he played the latter till I was told later. I mean, it's not something you'd assume.

To be nice, I must mention that the animations were quite startling; the train conductor, whose character is based absolutely on Hanks, without any generation shifts or financial collapse, looks like him to a bloody tee. The kind Israeli correspondent I met after the film was very disparaging of it, complaining about the lack of mouth muscle movement, and the animated eyes being really scary because they didn't move/ squint much or whatever. Like hell it matters, if you ask me. I may be

film editor of this prestigious publication, but I like films for superficial reasons and I'll never say otherwise, and won't slate a film because the animated characters' eyes didn't wrinkle and crease as a real person's would. Some movements are so real and seemingly instinctive, it's mind boggling to know that, while yes the 'actors' all carried out the actions that we see on the screen, it has all been translated onto a computer. Honestly, the end result is fascinating, and I suppose if you're a loser, you could watch the film for that reason. I mean, to me, you're also a loser if you go to see it for the Christmas claptrap, but that's me.

It's got all the basic poppycock. A non-believer who - guess what, finds reason to believe (but wouldn't it be funny to assume he didn't?); magic and very pretty scenery, made possible by the high tech digital animation used; elves, homoerotic as ever; a girl (according to some, blatantly based on Condoleeza Rice); an enormous Santa with one hundred gazillion gifts; and a happy ending. Sigh. I can't wait to watch *Bad Santa*.

I just don't know what else to say. And, bless him, Tom Hanks is a lovely man with a lovely voice and a lovelier laugh, but if his hopes of this film becoming as household a name as *It's A Wonderful Life*, we can all place our heads in our hands right now, and sob, for the fact that no, not all people hope that Christmas films will die out.

\*\*\* (only because it's a cartoon- if this had been a movie it would have got a 1.2)

## Interview with Tom Hanks (and others)

daniismail's failed attempt to flirt with Tom Hanks

**Mr Hanks, I wondered what it was like having 150 reflective diamonds placed on your face for the motion capture?**

**Tom Hanks:** Well it really hurt when they nailed them in. The tack hammers are very small but the actual tacks themselves are very sharp (laughs). I'm joking, they just glue them to your face, you're not even aware they are. They're not just odd little things, they're specially manufactured reflective sensors and each one costs three bucks a piece. They had to be glued on in a very certain particular pattern and they had to test them in order for the computers to read the data. They don't hurt, they don't itch, the only thing you can't do is come up to Bob and half way through say "I don't know Bob," (wipes hand across face in mock thoughtfulness) "should we.... Oh gees... Well it looks like we're breaking for lunch!" because they come off very easily and they have to stay there.

**What the most valuable lesson you learned making the film was?**

**Robert Zemeckis:** I have to say when I make these movies it takes me a couple of years to actually understand what I got out of the process of making the movie. I couldn't answer that right now, all the pain and suffering is just too close. How this has actually sort of affected me as a person and as a filmmaker I really won't know for three or four years maybe.

**Hanks:** Make sure you get that quote, "The Polar Express: Pain and Suffering". If you could put that in the first paragraph of all your stories, that's really what we want.

**Steve Starkey:** Now if you've been on other press conferences with Bob Zemeckis then he probably said the same thing at the end of every movie; "After I get over the pain and suffering".

**Hanks:** Because this movie was about the Christmas Spirit and believing I think the pain was a little bit more painful and the suffering a little bit more insufferable.

**What is it between the two of you (RZ & TH) that really works?**

**Starkey:** If you're on the set with Bob and

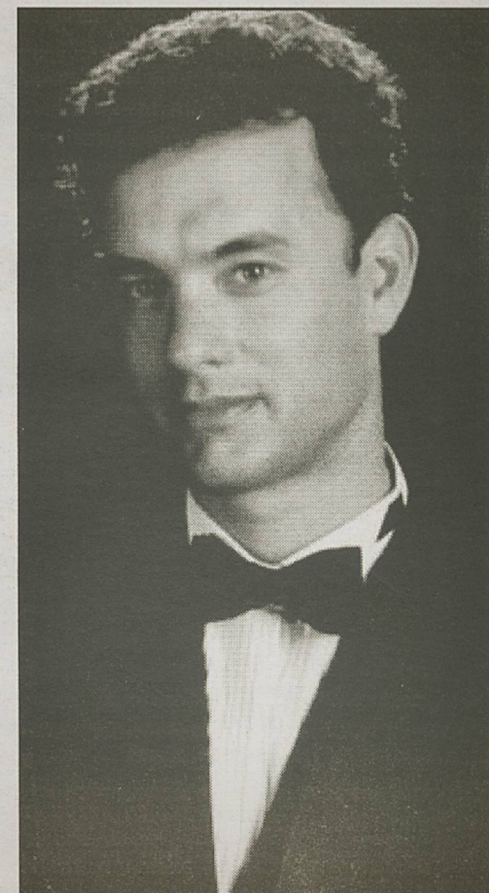
Tom it's amazing. Nothing is ever said. All they do is they just go out and work.

**Zemeckis:** Here's how it works. Tom'll be doing a scene and I'll say cut and I'll say "Tom maybe you should"... and Tom says "yeah I'll do that". That's how we work together. Like an old married couple.

**Hanks:** We get to resemble each other after a while which is quite scary. We were down in 'Cast Away' and we had this big three page scene, you know it was hot, it was miserable and we were looking at it and I said "Bob, you know can't I just achieve that by looking over there?" And he said "well yeah". So I said "why don't we cut all of this nonsense and I'll look over there and we will have saved three minutes?". "That's great, let's do it!". So we have that kind of collaborative give and take.

**Zemeckis:** Yeah and it's great. Trust me, I do not have this experience with any other actors I work with so there are these scenes with these lines and I'll go into Tom's trailer and I'll say "Well you know Tom, I was thinking do we need this line

here?" and he'll say "cut it out! Get rid of it!". "What about this line?". "Get rid of it! I don't want to say of this. As a matter of fact Bob, I think we should cut this whole page out." And we do.



## music

edited by Matt Boys and Ben Howarth

## Rachid Taha

nastarantavakoli-far checks out some world music...

Being a Lyon bred Algerian whose live band includes an electric guitarist next to a classical oud player, Rachid Taha is not your textbook rock star. Listen to Taha's highly innovative records for 3 seconds and you'll see he doesn't deserve to be 'an average rock star'. He's far too good for that.

Mixing his native North African rhythms and slinky Arabic melodies with thick pounding electronic beats and filthy sounding electric guitars, Taha has become infamous for making some of the most individual and exciting music of our generation. Add to that his utter disregard for convention, firm stance against racism and criticism of certain traditional North African values and Taha is probably the ultimate misfit.

This legend, referred to as everything from a 'guerrillero' (I think that's due to his scruffy appearance . . .) to a 'beur Gene Vincent', rocked The Barbican last week. Mounting the stage with his motley crue of a band (guitarist, bassist, drummer, oud player, traditional percussionist and a dude in charge of all random electronic sounds) Taha fired in with his gruff and rusty Tom Waits-esque drawl before

beating out an Arabic version of 'Rock The Casbah'. His re-workings of North African classics from his 'Diwan' album (which Time Out named the best world, pop, rock and dance album of 2000). On 'Barra barra' a delicate middle eastern



saw the entire Barbican crowd twisting and swirling. There were even a few people pogoing during the more daring and modern pieces from 'Made in Medina' riff is slowly layered upon by Taha's deep husk and thick guitar chords before exploding with pounding beats. The traditional 'Bent Sahara' features the most

seductive rhythms cleverly sprinkled with heavy chords. Taha's ability to make extremely serious yet undeniably seductive music is totally bizarre. As bizarre as his ability to mix completely different musical styles into something which sounds thoroughly natural. Then again, this is the guy who is infamous for his DJ sets as a teen where he'd play Kraftwerk followed by Johnny Cash, and then The Clash following with legendary classical Egyptian singer Oum Kalthoum.

Taha's music is really a celebration of all the beauty that is to be found if one tries hard enough to find it. While often credibility is given to those who 'stay true' to a scene's roots, Taha stays true to his belief in exciting and special music by not closing his boundaries. One journalist recently said that 'Taha is a punk rock superstar who would conquer the globe if he sang in anything but Arabic'. In this climate of convention for convention's sake, be it due to global terrorism or 'controversial rock stars' who do nothing more than play up to the whole drugged up rock star stereotype and predictable world music artists out to make a speedy penny, Taha is what the music scene needs. Nay, YOU need Taha too.

# EMINEM

Wish you'd seen Eminem at his tiny secret gig last week? Well, you didn't. You suck. joncollins went though, and he's gonna tell y'all about it...

Eminem is one of the world's biggest music stars, used to playing to crowds of 50,000 or more. Instead, on Saturday night, he played a secret gig in London's 800-capacity Islington Academy as part of the blitzkrieg of promotion he has launched for his new album *Encore*. The gig was shrouded in secrecy, the venue was only announced the day before and rumours circulated the internet that he would only perform two songs. In fact, he played a blistering seven-song, half-hour set, a powerhouse performance that seemed to linger long after he left the stage.

*Encore* has received mixed reviews but has nonetheless gone straight to number one in the USA and the UK, and Eminem used this gig to run through some of the new material as well as showcase some of the other artists on his Shady Records label. The warm up included DJ Green Lantern and rappers Stat-Quo and Obie Trice but everybody was there to see the star attraction.

Eminem strode on stage wearing a camouflage jacket and cap and was greeted by a hysterical crowd. As he launched into the set with anti-Bush song 'Mosh', the shift in gear was immediate and obvious. This was a musical juggernaut at full



speed and the force and intensity of his personality and his sheer ability radiated from the stage. Eminem is a controversial figure and it is not hard to dislike his homophobic and misogynistic lyrics, or disregard his bad boy antics as nothing

but an ongoing publicity stunt. However none of this changes the fact that he is the world's biggest rap star and live it's not hard to see why.

The venue is small and, above a shopping centre, it's hardly glamorous but the sound was razor sharp and the confined space showed off Eminem's verbal dexterity and the forcefulness of his delivery. As he ran through the set he hurled his jacket into the crowd and came to the front of the stage to engage the fans in the front row. The material from the new album, *Encore*, sounded good live, but the highlight of the night was 'Lose Yourself', the single from the soundtrack of *8 Mile* and one of his best songs. 'How Come?' also sounded great, as did 'Just Lose It', the new single, which he performed as an encore. Then after only a half an hour he led his entourage offstage and the gig was over.

It's very rare to get to see a real world star in such a small crowd, a crowd of passionate fans who had queued for hours for tickets and had been patiently pressed up against the front of the stage since the doors opened. It may have been a brief set but it was a brilliant performance and definitely one that the fans who got tickets will never forget.

# Beach Boys

Four more years? Or a band past their sell-by-date? **benhowarth** gets scared finding out

Mike Love strode on stage bedecked in traditional Hawaiian shirt looking, and dancing, like a white, sexually deviant, Mohammed al-Fayed. Very nervous. Would the Beach Boys of 2004 live up to their glorious past? Could this funny looking man still sing? Thankfully yes, boy could that man sing. Only one truly original member remains, vocalist Mike Love, and to a lesser extent keyboardist/singer Bruce Johnston (who replaced Brian Wilson when touring early in their career). Both men are clearly old enough to be grandparents yet seemingly enthused with boundless energy and perpetual youth. Mike joined this band in 1961, both himself and Bruce announcing onstage they intended to keep touring. "Four more years, four more years," came the cry from the crowd.



Whatever the rights and wrongs are over the Mike Love franchise of the Beach Boys name, there is no doubt over their sound. Quite simply they sound great. A backing band of five, seemingly very competent (if a little eager to grab the spotlight) musicians helped the two veterans to recreate their well (and lesser) known songs with impressive tightness, injecting all the energy of the originals. The surreal sight of two old men singing

about surfin', crusin' and girls was only matched by a moment this reviewer cannot erase from his mind (despite concerted efforts). Firstly Mike Love chose to 'blast' Justin Timberlike, saying that he and his N\*Sync bandmates were no match for the Beach Boys vocal talents. Secondly, to the background sound of gangster rap, he reached inside his Hawaiian shirt and pulled out more bling jewellery than I thought it was possible for one man to carry, before strutting his

stuff across the stage. This moment can only truly be compared with watching a favoured grandparent urinate themselves, do you laugh or cry? Either way, it is never referred to again.

All the classics were rolled out, Sloop John B, Surfin' USA, and Good Vibrations going down particularly well with the adoring crowd. The band play on, and on, and on completing a 2 and a half hour set with energy to spare, no defibrillators required.

## London Jazz Festival: jason-campbell sees 'A Celebration of Tony Williams'

As the crowd filed out after the first set, a wild eyed jazz-rock fusion fan declared: "Jack DeJohnette has no respect for the beat!"

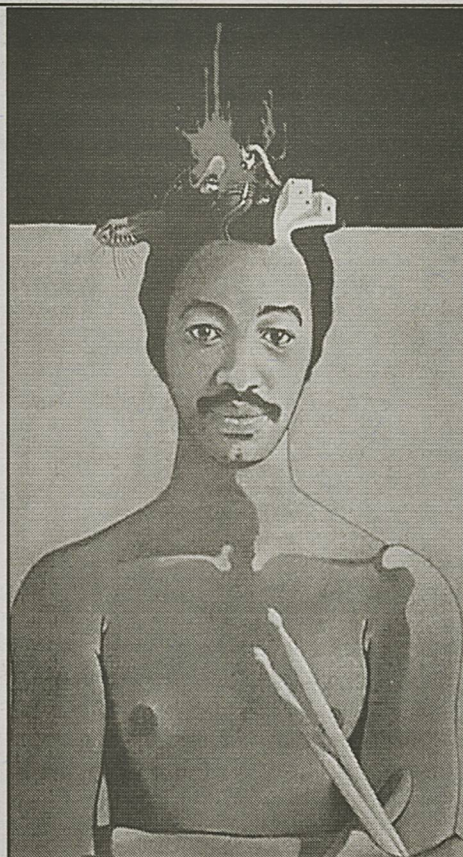
The concert was a tribute to Tony Williams, drummer for Miles Davis and founder of the pioneering jazz-rock fusion group Lifetime. Williams, who died in 1998, along with organist Larry Young (a.k.a. Kalid Yassin) and guitarist John McLaughlin gave birth to a new genre and helped to revitalize jazz in the late 1960's.

The Sunday night show featured former Miles Davis alumni Jack DeJohnette on drums and John Scofield on guitar, along with Larry Goldings on keyboards. This was not traditional acoustic jazz. Rather it was highly amplified and distorted improvised music, mixing the energy of rock with the rigour of jazz. DeJohnette

and Scofield played blazing solos on Lifetime numbers such as 'Spectrum' and 'Emergency'. The trio used a variety of digital and sampled effects, showing a desire to continue to push the boundaries of jazz.

To these ears, highlights included an amazing interpretation of 'Seven Steps to Heaven' and a beautiful version of the ballad 'I Fall in Love too Easily'. The encore featured a remarkable rendition of a theme from the classic Miles Davis fusion album 'In a Silent Way' with Goldings shining on electric piano and organ.

This trio had no respect for the beat, orthodoxy, or convention. They simply produced an amazing sound that did justice to the legacy of Tony Williams.



## Music Business Offers Bright Career Prospects

**danielperlet** gives the rundown on the Music Business Society's Q&A session

Music producer and songwriter Darius Rustam, a former LSE student, shared advice on how to start a career in the music business at a discussion last Friday organised by the Music Business Society.

Rustam said career prospects are looking up as the industry rebounds from several difficult years, but it still takes hard work and some luck to find success.

"The music industry can be a little like the lottery," he said. "Every time you say

you can't find success that way, you go and find somebody who made it happen." Rustam, who has worked over the past decade in the US and UK music scenes with the likes of Jennifer Lopez and Coco Lee, believes that to get into the business you have to keep networking, carefully research the market and "just jump in" because there are lots of opportunities.

"There are a million industries within the industry," said Rustam. "You're going to

have a dream and you just have to take it on. If you know somebody in the industry, that can help make it happen."

For singers looking for stardom, his advice is not as easy as it sounds: "Sing everywhere you can. Get over the shyness. Be fearless. Be honest with yourself and your interests."

Rustam said that, most importantly, those looking to get into the industry should trust what they think is good or bad: "What's a hit? There are a million

# SINGLES

**Brian McFadden: Irish Son**

A small mercy, if you could actually call it that, was the option of listening to the 'Short' or 'Shorter' version of this pitiful excuse for a song. For your information, there was no difference in levels of laughter induced from its poo lyrics. Truly dire. (annango)

**Lemar: If There's Any Justice**

An easygoing, unchallenging drivel type of a song. Lemar's crooning is soft and creamy, I like his voice but the song is dull and repetitive and makes me want to push pins into my eyes. No justice for my ears or eyes, then why should there be justice for Lemar...lock him up. (sianbeynon)

**The Silent League: Breathe**

The Beatles and Mercury Rev are clear obvious signposts for New Yorkers the Silent League. The success of this song is also its inherent weakness; it is very nice. Too nice in fact, lacking an edge or a bite to it. Too saccharine sweet with little to make is standout. (benhowarth)

**69 Corp: Demonseed**

Ambient electro-pap from a group whose logo is so rubbish, you can't actually read it. Who knows who they are, and frankly, who cares? Massive Attack should change sound completely to distance themselves from this turbid mess. (jonde-keyser)

**The Radio Dept. - Ewan**

Like a crescendo reaching into infinity, "Ewan" excites like a bike ride down a hill with consistent drumbeats. Singer Johan seems to be smoking a cigarette on the side, adding to the general faded and dirty character of the song. Expect guitars, keyboards and the occasional piano. These Swedes seem to prefer the backstreet-ambience of their b-side tracks, as the fact that they have been around since 1998 speaks for an intentionally slow musical conquest. (millenwolde-selassie)

## theatre

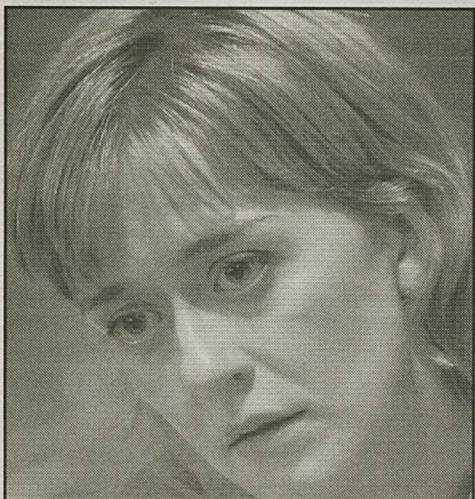
edited by Saalim Chowdhury

## The Pink Bits

rehanahmed on spastic motion, uprising and a truly powerful performance.

I wonder what the words 'pink bits' have to do with an uprising in Amritsar circa 1919. I wonder too, of this article's place in the theatrical review section. Great concept, exceptional dramatis personae, mind blowing set design but you walk away feeling its not quite theatre.

Call me old fashioned, I prefer to know my seat number when walking into a performance. Instead, I was handed a 'place'



without being told where precisely, constantly assured I shall understand once I walked in. The stage is interactive and you are seated amongst the cast on school tables. We come to learn a history lesson is about to begin with a rather tight wound teacher and her eclectic mixture of students (over-efficient type, the know it all, the chav, the bookworm etcetera). Whilst reading to the class from a textbook, the teacher finds it increasingly difficult to justify the West's historical blunders.

The unbearable tension is hard to miss. Bedlam ensues when the topic of an uprising in Indian Punjab (Amritsar, specifically) is approached. Historically illiterate though I am as an Accounting and Finance major, I felt it unusual to dedicate an entire hour of the performance to an event. Tragic though it is, it hardly deserves a place amongst world shattering events. Regardless, the subsequent hour is without a doubt, the most ignited of performance art I have witnessed. The students come to represent a vivi section of the English at the uprising (naturally the

chav in charge, ordering the unsuspecting bookworm) and then a break out into spastic motion that is quite mesmerizing to watch.

The spastic motion lasts for the better part of an hour - at first you feel somewhat lost, wondering if you wandered into the wrong studio (can't be, only Othello's playing), after which you begin to take minor interest towards the bespectacled introvert next to you (looking quite disillusioned at the number of women present) and then it happens...you just, well, comprehend. This is not about Amritsar. This is not about colonialism. This is about the recalcitrant blind being led into warfare by chavs' predecessors. History repeats itself and all that.

The set design, which won them a certain Samuel Beckett Trust Award is bedazzling, especially given the miniscule budget they operate with. I was quite low at not having bagged a cheap Phantom of the Opera ticket while loitering about the West End earlier, but this wasn't too shabby an alter-

native. The fact that you feel avant-garde being removed from the Americans at the Phantom as part of their once in a lifetime Europe trip (Its Friday so it must be Rome...) certainly confers some credibility too.

Word of advice as always, do NOT get there early. You might otherwise be forced to wander around Hammersmith waiting for the clock to strike eight. It bore an uncanny resemblance to Detroit, reminding me of an unpleasant exchange semester at Ann Arbor where my only respite was its thriving theatrical scene. Some of the scenes outside the Hammersmith tube on the day reminded me of Superfly (the supreme blaxploitation film for the unlearned amongst you) and as silly as it may sound, thirteen year old 'street' girls in 'Brooklyn' jackets following you can be a scary prospect.

Absolutely fantastic play though. It points the way forward for theatre or whatever it purports to be. I just wish I knew what the title 'Pink Bits' meant.

If you want to write for reviews or articles for theatre (and more importantly get free theatre tickets) send mail to [thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk](mailto:thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk) with the subject theatre - enthusiasm more important than experience! Audition notices can be sent to the above address: Deadline Friday 12pm

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# visual arts

edited by Caroline Bray

## What's the Story? Superfluous Glory...

carolinebray loses the thread with Robert Frank's lack of narrative...

### Robert Frank: Storylines

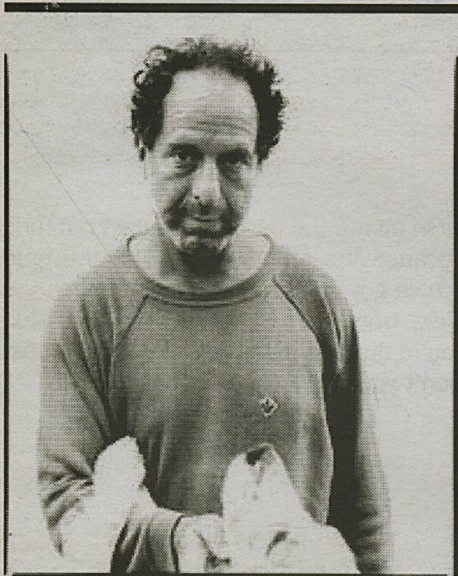
**Dates:** 28 October 2004 – 23 January 2005

**Open:** Sunday to Thursday, 10am-6pm  
Friday and Saturday, 10am-10pm

**Cost:** Combined ticket with Time Zones  
£10 (£7 concessions). Free to Tate  
Members.

Born in 1924, Robert Frank is regarded as one of the greatest living photographers of all time. And at the age of 80 he is still hard at work. Until January the Tate Modern acknowledges his photographic achievements with a major retrospective. After a lifetime of travelling and capturing the everyday lives of those he sees, *Storylines* asks where Frank's photography has taken him. Leaving me to ask, where is this exhibition taking me?

One of the main criticisms of this show directly attacks the curation of the exhibition. As a photographer, Frank takes excessively large numbers of pictures. However, he then chooses only very few to actually exhibit - the rest of the works remain unused. He clicks away until that perfect, spontaneous, all encompassing shot is taken. Unfortunately, *Storylines* fails to communicate this to the viewer. The exhibition instead presents reel upon reel of film, row upon row of photograph and even at times covers a whole wall with hundreds of small preview shots of his work. The result is irreversibly damaging to Frank's work as the best pictures are lost amongst a sea of superfluous shots.



Robert Frank

When thumbing through the select shots in the exhibition guide, Frank's images look stunning. They are dramatic, perfectly poised and portray precisely the atmosphere of the moment. When comparing the shots in the guide to the same shots sitting amongst the deluge of work gracing the walls the latter are ineffective, average and unmoving. Merely the next pictures in their respective series. Every photographer takes surplus shots yet the whole point of this is to find that perfect piece to single out and display. So why have the Tate ignored this technique and succeed in making Frank's work dreary for the sake of filling space?

Despite this disappointing flaw I will endeavour to highlight some of Frank's successful pieces in the show as I believe there are some excellent photographs to be seen. Frank sees himself as a traveller, searching for his story and searching for a narrative to life. This feeling seeps out of every piece in the exhibition as he moves from city to city, subject to subject yet never actually engaging with any of the subjects in his images. Yet such a feeling is most prominent in *Memory for the Children, 2001-03* in which Frank tries to convey a story that relates to his life - memory by a montage of fragmented photographs. Ordered according to personal logic, the connections between images are unidentifiable and accurately convey the workings of childhood memories. One piece reads, 'moments reappear - finding the right road in the night.' For me this is evocative of how the mind functions, those distant memories from early consciousness are fragmented as Frank's montages are and are often most vivid in our dreams where we experience smells, sounds and images that lurk in the dingiest corners of our memory.

*Paris 1949-1952* is another interesting feature of the show and exposes a period during which Frank spent most of his time in Europe, met and married his first wife, Mary Lockspeiser. Each piece depicts flowers in some way. From the lone man holding tulip behind his back to the numerous stalls selling bunches and bouquets. These photographs are wistful, romantic, young and fresh and represent a time during which Frank really began to discover what he could do.

Frank's works commissioned by *Esquire*

magazine which cover the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, 1956 are bursting with the battles between political and influential egos. A young John Kennedy stares thoughtfully over the shoulder of an advisor and a stunning Jackie O gazes dreamily into the distance. Both shots full of the alienation so inherent in the political sphere. The lighting is crisp and sharp and the pages are



Chicago, 1955-58

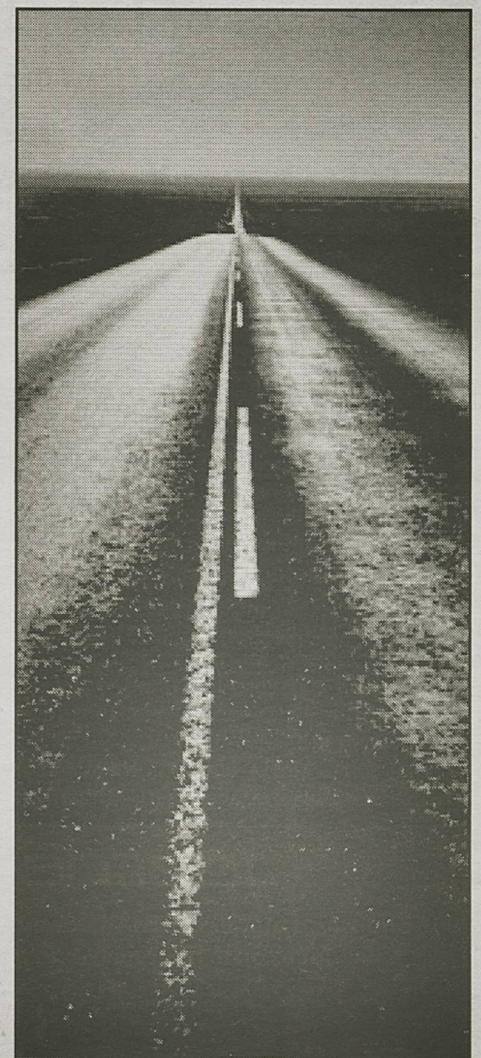
brimming with action.

It is *New York Bus, 1958* which for me encapsulates Frank's main photographic trait. Shots taken of the outside world whilst travelling on a bus. Frank as the outsider, Frank as the solitary eye, Frank as the man on a journey, observing all that runs before him in the hope for some comforting recognition and relation to his own life.

Post-1970 Frank starts to lose his edge. He starts scrawling random passages on his pictures which come across more as absent minded, unfathomable, introspective thoughts belonging to a bewildered artist than as anything ground breakingly insightful. This continues for over 10 years, well into the late 1980s as the Frank hits a wall of inertia. His film *The Present, 1998* subconsciously reinforces this lonely recoiling into the mind as Frank starts by saying, 'I don't know what story I would like to tell.' *True Story, 2004* then meditates on the ageing process by moving backwards and forwards through time, piecing together old film. Yet again, Frank is without direction and the viewer is only left feeling pity for this confused

and ageing man.

Unfortunately, this show left me somewhat deflated. I felt Frank's early talent was drowned in a sea of excessive retrospection. Towards the end, the more recent works merely presented Frank as disorientated and lost, never to recover. He has failed to find anything on his journey except alienation, voyeurism and subjects that don't engage with his lens. Maybe others may consider Frank's final recognition of his incurable solitude is an achievement and direction in itself. But for me it becomes merely tiresome. Frank becomes increasingly concerned with his own thoughts, expressing them in a form incoherent to the viewer through riddles etched on photographs and contemplative poetry accompanying images of inanimate objects. Quantity-wise the Tate has finally produced a show which gives the viewer value for money, unlike the small scale Brancusi show earlier in the year. However, they have compromised quality. I have no doubt that Robert Frank is a great photographer, as the few selected pieces in the guide show. Yet this over illustrative show denies him the chance of proving this. I am left thinking, yes, one of the greatest photographers of today, but surely only due to the loss of the late and great Henri Cartier-Bresson?



New Mexico, 1955

Interested in writing for the Visual Arts page?  
Address an email to Caroline Bray and send it to...  
thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk

## about

edited by Joanne Lancaster

## Darey Products launch at Knowwhere, December 17th

Massive Matt Darey Products label and album launch party at the capital's hottest underground Trance party. As well as the best music supplied by Matt Darey, Andy Bagguley, Gen-X, Anthony Dean, and welcoming new resident Adam White, expect lots of crazy "Darey Product" antics such as a pantomime cow off its udders (!), DJs dressed as milk men and lots of fun giveaways.

Those attending in "darey product"/farmyard costumes can expect massively reduced admission.

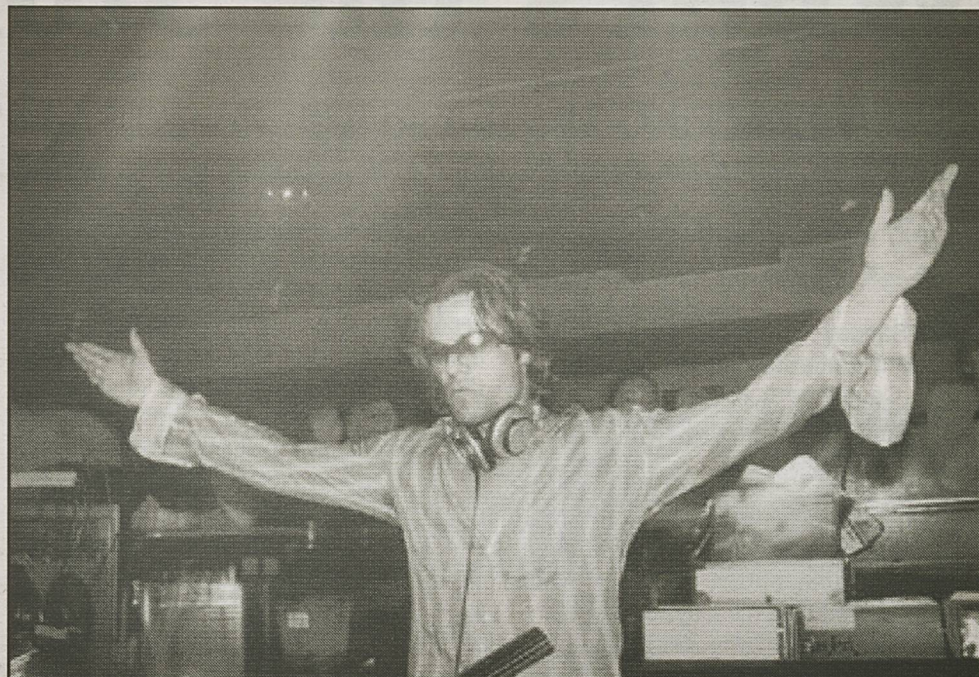
Matt Darey has been one of the pioneers of Trance since its early days in 1994 and a major influence on the next Generation of Trance DJs and producers. Since 1998 he has sold well over two million Trance singles and albums and has been responsible for some of the biggest Trance remixes and productions- including classics such as the hits Gamemaster (Lost Tribe), Till I Come (ATB), Not Over Yet (Grace),

Wizzards of the Sonic (Westbam), Rise (Gabrielle)- the list is endless.

Matt has been headlining the massively successful Euphoria series for five years and has had many UK chart hits including the top ten smash "Beautiful" and "Liberation (Fly like an Angel)". After ten years of bringing quality Trance to clubbers all over the world Matt now celebrates with the launch of his own label Darey Products bringing you the crème de la crème of global Trance. Already with an impressive line up of new releases Point Zero (Li Kwan), Possessed (Lost Tribe), 2004 (Liberation) and Ballerina (Adam White). To celebrate a decade at the top of the Trance scene Matt is releasing an album of his favourite tunes: Decade.

Matt has already won massive support from Tiesto, Armin Van Buren, Ferry Corsten, Paul Oakenfold, Paul Van Dyk & Sasha as well as continued support from UK Radio 1 DJs such as Judge Jules & Dave Pearce giving the new label the seal of approval from the worlds finest in Trance.

For over two years, Knowwhere's name had been synonymous with top quality Trance, coupled with one of the smiliiest, friendliest atmospheres in the capital's clubbing scene. Its ethos had always been to deliver the very best of the Trance genre, and to make each and every event a night to remember for the most important people to the scene, the clubbers



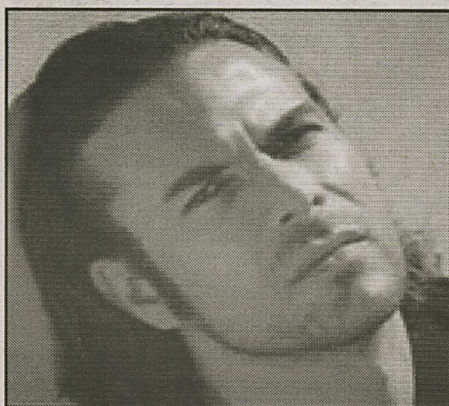
Matt Darey in action

themselves.

Always popular with the clubbing community, and with a capacity of 1800, The Fridge has recently undergone a major refurbishment, including state of the art lighting and sound refits, redecoration through-out, and the introduction of an entirely new, people-friendly, professional security team. Home to some of London's best Hard Dance nights, Knowwhere's new residency is set to make The Fridge the new home of Trance, making it the hottest venue around for the clubbing community.

**Knowwhere at The Fridge;**  
3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH  
The Fridge  
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Brixton

Tel: (020) 7326 5100  
Admission: £12 IN ADVANCE / £14  
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Tickets:  
<http://www.ticketweb.co.uk>  
Times: 10pm-6am  
Info: 07887 518253



**Two pairs of tickets** for "Darey Products" launch party are up for grabs! Email [thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk](mailto:thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk) with the answer to the question:

**What is the name of Matt Darey's forthcoming album?**

Winners will be chosen at random from all correct answers

## Fabric

graceduffy on why to forget what you've heard about drum and bass and head east

For a big night out there's only one choice for me: Farringdon, for the legend that is Fabric.

On a Friday you'll be treated to the best Drum and Bass you'll hear in any big club and - if you can drag yourself away - a fine selection of break beats as well as new and classic hip hop (and proper hip hop as well, not the shit you hear at those dire 'hip hop/RnB' nights- playing US pop music and full of posers and wankers).

Drum & Bass does still have a bit of a bad reputation and if you go to some of the smaller local nights they can be quite moody, but that's the beauty of Fabric - it's the most attitude-free club I've ever been to. The majority of people there are either dancing their arses off utterly oblivious to everything else or floating around in their own little world grinding their



teeth and asking for chewing gum!

Entry is usually around £15 and as always it's a good idea to come early, quite often by midnight it's a one out one in policy, but if you know you're going to be late you can always buy your tickets in advance and cut the queuing right down.

The club's open till 5am with several rooms available including a few places to sit and chat or get a breath of fresh air if it all gets a little too much!

Drinks are as expensive as you would expect but they're responsible folk at Fabric and in all the (unisex) toilets there have fountains where you can fill up your water bottles - which are worked by a foot pump by the way, a lot of people take a long time to figure that one out!

All in all it's the perfect big night out, and because it's open till 5am, by the time you've got your coat and collected all the fliers from those poor bastards outside you're just in time for the first tubes! Don't you just love London!

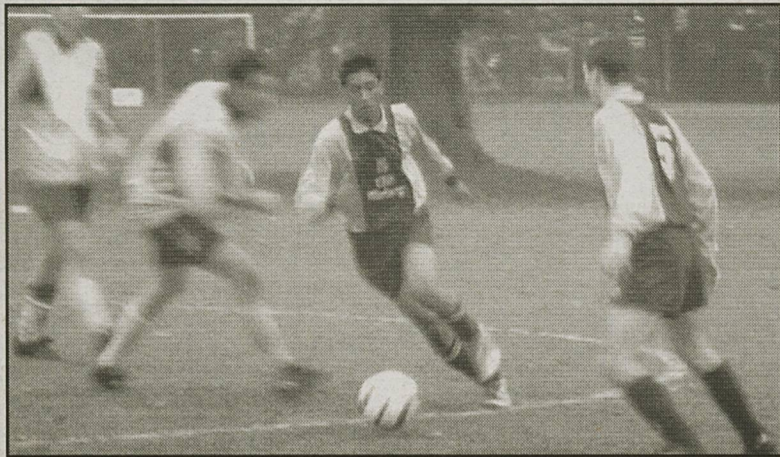
Fabric  
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# Sevenths edge out the Sixths in the John Kent Cup

A Ross Lucas double gives the Sevenths the edge in the Berrylands derby against the Sixths. Paddy dedicates the victory to Dr John Kent.

Matt  
and  
Paddy



LSE Footy 7ths.....2  
LSE Footy 6ths.....1  
Fortress Berrylands, Surrey

Picture the scene: the first day of Fresher's week, October 2002. Two young students, bright and eager, and as fresh faced as Ian Huntley's dream woman, moved into Carr-Saunders hall, ready to begin their glittering academic career at LSE. One boy was from Suffolk, his name was Matthew Bawden. The second boy was from Belfast, his name was Paul McAleavey. After two weeks at LSE, tired of most of their contemporaries, Matthew and Paul became friends over a shared admiration of Stella, recreational drugs and petty vandalism. Aided by their friends Wolfman, Wiggy, Vandal, Stocker and Irani, Matthew and Paul proceeded to turn the third floor of Carr-Saunders into a den of iniquity - a land more

debauched than the Motley Crue tour bus. But, much like a quick bout of onanism, good things can't last forever. The warden of Carr-Saunders, John Kent, made the wise decision to banish Matthew and Paul from the hall. Penniless and barefoot, the boys turned to football as their saviour and embarked upon careers as Sixth and Seventh team superstars.

Fast forward two-and-a-bit years. Matthew, tutored by the immoral ways of Silver Anus and Doug Handoncock, has risen to become captain of the LSE 6th team. Paddy has taken the helm of the Champagne Sevenths. Champions of ULU Division 4, the Sevenths are promoted to ULU Division 3, and

faced an almighty collision with their friends, the 6th team. In a Champagne Supernova on Wednesday 24th November, 2004, the two "most hated men in Carr-Saunders" (according to a petition done by the Carr Saunders IT adviser Satya) go head to head in the match which is dubbed, in memory of his brave, brave actions - "The John Kent Cup".

Like all the best local derbies, this match started at a frantic pace. Petrov and Brownie, up front for the 6ths, were looking dangerous. Ed K-Lo was directing things as usual from midfield for the Sevenths. Matt Warsaw was looking confident in goal for the Sixths, until the referee bizarrely gave

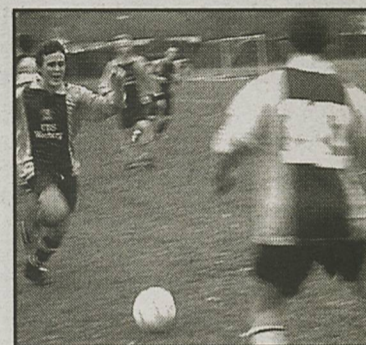
an indirect free kick inside the Sixths' penalty box for a handball. K-Lo struck it as firmly as Gazza strikes Sheryl, and Ross Lucas turned it into the net to send the Sevenths into an early lead.

However, spurred on by Fynn's "LSE ball, every time" growl and various insults from Captain Spitroast, the Sixths equalised. A long ball from midfield was expertly lobbed by Brownie over Matt 'The Cat' Brunson in the Sevenths goal to draw the scores level. (For those wondering, Matt is known as the cat because he sprays to mark his territory). With the scores level, and with at least five spectators watching this 'sell-out' derby, both sides went all out for the win.

Finn limped out at half time with a nasty arse strain, but the Sixths' defence was holding firm against the LSEFC's top scorer, Ross Lucas. Ten minutes into the second half, due in part to a mix-up in the Sevenths defence which saw Iqbal (of the 7ths) play a Zidane-esque through ball for Brownie (of the 6ths), it looked like the Sixths were going to take the lead. However a great save down low by The Cat in the Sevenths goal kept the scores level, and kept Brownie's proud record of missing at least six golden chances every game. With ten minutes to go, a through ball by Rob Green of the

Sevenths set up Ross Lucas. Bearing down on Matt Warsaw like the London to Plymouth express on a level crossing, Ross stroked the ball home to put the Sevenths in the lead.

This hotly contested derby match wasn't over yet. The appearance of two naked male streakers didn't distract the Sixths from their hunt for an equaliser. Petrov was looking more dangerous than a paedophile in a playground, but stout defending from Mike Hales and Toddrey kept him at bay and when the senile referee blew the final whistle, the Sevenths were celebrating a memorable victory. Dedicating the victory to the man who once told his father "I think your son has a drink problem" Paddy said "If it wasn't for Dr Kent, I'd probably be on smack by now. This victory is for him".



## Meet the Fifth Team

Meet the stars of the 5th team - including Pink Lady, Dirt, Irt and the Wretched Samadeus.

Roly  
'G Unit'  
Symonds



Between the sticks we've got Dom Doran. Some so-called football luminaries have claimed that goalkeepers only get really good when they're into their 30s. Bollocks! Dom's only 20! Unfortunately it's not all sweetness and roses in Doran's world. It has materialised that the poor boy is possessed of a supernaturally weak bladder, which in recent weeks has forced him to take a piss on a train. The train home from Berrylands to Waterloo to be precise. South West trains would do well to bar monsters like this from public transport. At least we can all rest in peace knowing that Dom is now the laughing stock of the entire civilised world.

At left back we have Stinky Saif Ullah. Stinky only showers once a week. It's no wonder he reeks so much. However I forgive him his sins against hygiene, as he is a truly talented player, with perhaps the quickest feet I have ever seen. Right back and this year's captain Drew Soffler needs no introduction. Of course being a Yank he knows nothing about football, but who cares. He

goes in hard on the pitch and (so I'm told) in the bedroom, and that's what counts. Centre backs Big Ben Hammond and Commie Alex Goddard make up a back four who keep it tight on the deck but looser than Abi Titmuss's minge from set-pieces.

Into midfield, and we really do have an embarrassment of riches...if this were a paralympics team. Unfortunately it isn't and these guys are supposed to be able-bodied. Luther Kisang is a dead-ringer for Gus from Eastenders, and he also models himself on a more aggressive version of Roy Keane. Gus is only happy with his performance if he's hospitalised his opposite number and called each of his team-mates "fucking c\*\*\*s" at least fifty times. Next to him is Little Irfan aka Aarish Pandya. I've never seen a guy hurl himself about with such a disgraceful lack of respect for his own physical well-being. He truly has the makings of a fifth team legend. Out on the left we have long-ball specialist Charlie Hodges. The most refined member of the team has been a revelation this season; he is a player of class, vision and panache. Still yet to commit a tackle, let alone a foul though. Rounding off the midfield is of course my favourite player ever, the Wretched Samadeus. Contrary to popular belief, Samadeus is not actually entirely useless

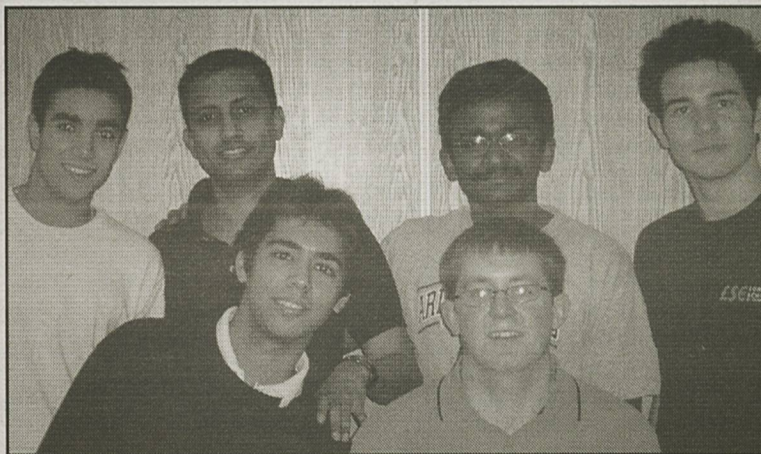
on the pitch. In fact, having played a game at right back behind him, I can honestly say he is one of the most intelligent, tactically-sophisticated players I have ever played with. Not really; he's crap.

Which brings us on to the strikers. With two goals in god knows how many games Irt Ladak has a strike rate Emile Heskey would be ashamed of. Competition comes in the form of Nima Ordoubadi, a forward so goal-shy he has to ask his friends to approach it while he stands and observes from a distance, looking bashful and awkward. This is strange because Nima is an extravagantly talented footballer. He reminds me of Maradona, Ginola and Pele all rolled into one; he's fat, lazy and has to use viagra. Luckily one of our strikers has been finding the back of the net with uncharacteristic regularity. Step forward Adam "Dirt" Stocker. His filthy off field antics may include partaking of sloppy thirds (or was it fourths) with Joy The Innocent. But this deviant behaviour seems to have translated to unprecedented success on the pitch, where he has been raping opposition goals like there's no tomorrow (when of course there is). Just as well because he wears gold Nike boots like Ronaldo and Drogba and really deserves a good kicking.



## Badminton Boys

Daniel introduces the stars of LSE Men's Badminton



Daniel  
Wright



Things were looking even better when we scraped a win against the highly rated Queen Mary. Things seemed too good to be true, and they were!

The following week proved to be the most bizarre of the season. We were due to play Bourne-mouth, last year's runners-up. There was a mix up in communication though which resulted in them arriving two hours late, meaning we only had time to play two matches (which we lost) before splitting the remaining ones which meant we lost disappointingly 5-3.

We got back to winning ways the following week when Surrey failed to show up and followed this up with a 5-3 victory, away at UCL, the worst losers I have ever encountered in my two and a half years here, in our last game before Christmas.

So we go into the New Year sitting in third place, having exceeded all my expectations! Relegation is almost impossible, whilst third is very possible and second a realistic ambition. Thanks to all the players who have put us on the brink of history, particularly Mun, Kanishk, Matt and Debasish who have filled in for us when necessary and finally Barun, who is going back to India following the completion of his three month scholarship!

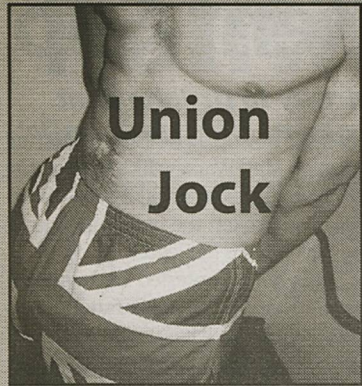
For as long as anyone can remember, the LSE men's badminton team has been the Leicester City of the university badminton league: often too good for the second division but never quite good enough to remain in the top flight after achieving promotion. Would this year be any different?

The trials followed the usual pattern: 55 players on one court over six hours and I had the unenviable task of assessing them; one that certainly deserved a pint at the end! There were some bright moments though (apart from the pint) such as the emergence of the 1994 Peruvian National champion, Miguel, a 29 year old studying for a masters in law, along with fellow masters student John, scholarship student Barun, first year Rishab (all from India) and Shehzad, a second year who never got round to playing last year; to add to myself and Raymond who remained from the promotion campaign.

We followed our close 5-3 win over Surrey with a 6-2 trouncing of UCL.

# 72 Hours until the AU Barrel!

Louise Hastie and Paul McAleavey, with a little help from their friends, have put together a guide to this Friday's Barrel.



## Union Jock

AU Friends, drinking compatriots and all other LSE students who read this section to try and feel party to something more substantial than the library, welcome to Jock's first column of viagra-packed rantings. Jock feels it necessary to point out from the beginning, that this column is a tongue-in-cheek musing on AU debauchery, and that any similarity to persons living or dead is entirely coincidental.

The focus for this week will be Jock's predictions for Friday's Barrel. The Barrel is sure to be as sweaty as the Berrylands' changing rooms, as saucy as Abi Titmuss, and as unpredictable and disgusting as the thought of a huge throbbing strap-on and Welsh Moriarty-Lewis.

My first bit of foresight concerns women's rugby's Molestor Barsham. Last year she showed her 'Beaver' to all unfortunately present on Houghton Street, this year, Jock sees her emanating former hockey star Chrissie Titty with a 'blowing' split to her predictably tiny outfit.

Football's Tiffy and third team Captain 'Nads Joseph will maintain their drunken façade of hooliganism and stalk their firm favourites - Rugby's Lovely Cocks and Netball's Pamela Schofield. Jock is unsure whether Tiffy can hack the pace after Wednesday's embarrassing regression to Fresher vomiting in the Tuns. And who would shag monkey-boy? A more reliable bet for action perhaps is paedo-McJohn or the rusty virgin.

Maybe they will go instead the way of hockey and stick to their own. The team-bonding of the boat race will turn into team bondage. Yes Daily Star Boy has become the new man for Gay Times and is likely to fall prey to the whipping of Queen Wishi.

Men's rugby will equally be proud of their Gun Club Captain who will fail to hit the target owing to brewer's droop. That is unless Sindy, steaming after seven pints, has enough clouded vision to pursue another public schoolboy, watch this space. Jock also awaits the inauguration of Ballsucker junior junior.

The headline event will be however the thievery of AU funds resulting from the money-grabbing collusion on the part of the Pirate and the Jazz Jewish community.

So how will AU President Shitters keep control of the contents of his own trousers, let alone the Barrel mayhem? Tune in next week and send any salacious observations to

thebeaver.sports@lse.ac.uk

## The Rough Guide:



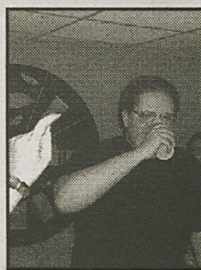
Politically incorrect, sexist to the extreme, and totally fucked - that will be the state 250 of the LSE's finest sporting superstars this Friday. The annual AU Barrel is back with vengeance, and promises to produce even more legends and urban myths than last year. Costumes have been made, legs have been waxed, and mixed grills have been made in preparation for the sloppiest day of the year.

The new underground bar will take its first real hammering, the floors have been specially waxed with a vomit-resistant surface, 100,000 plastic glasses have been purchased and the History Department is preparing to batten down the hatches as the Barrel gets permission to land.

### Learn your Barrel terminology:

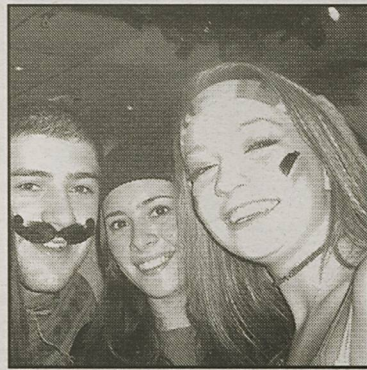
**Fines** - The various miscreants of the AU are punished for their misdemeanours in a specially constructed Kangaroo Court. Boasting a conviction rate more impressive than that of the state of Texas, no-one has ever been found 'not guilty' by the AU jury. The punishment to be doled out is decided by The Wheel - see below.

**The Wheel** - Much like the Wheel of Fortune, but more like the Wheel of Misfortune, the Barrel Wheel, or "Bertha" as she is known, is a thing of legend. Where she stops, nobody knows. Will you be assigned to three pints of wine, ordered to pull one of the more facially-challenged AU members or will you have to down the dreaded Mixed Grill? Only the wheel knows...



**Mixed Grill** - A mixed grill. From Wright's Bar. Blended with gin. You have to drink/eat it. Has been known to reduce grown men to tears.

**The Barrel Run** - Banned from King's for inciting anarchism. Think Millwall in Europe, then treble it. Led by the strangely up-for-it stalker. See the next definition:



**The Streaker** - Men's Rugby lack of sexual prowess is put on display for all to see, as a rugby fresher leads the AU hordes around the corridors of LSE (and from table to table in the Brunch Bowl).

**The Peacock Theatre** - Watch the faces of the surprised general course students in their Econ B lecture as the Barrel Run takes to the Peacock Theatre. Doug Handoncock threw himself off the stage last year, fractured his nose, and after visiting hospital for treatment dressed as a jester, returned for more Barrel action. What a goer.

AU Social Secretary Claudia Whitcomb has outlined the admin part of the Barrel:

Entrance is from 11am, and will cost you a measly £5 with an AU card, and £10 without, so I suggest you remember your AU cards. Those of you who don't have AU cards can still get them from G's office in the gym. This gives you free beer, bitter and snakebite until the subsidy runs out.

So how would you describe the barrel?

Scottish John - "The physiological equivalent of the Fallujah onslaught"



Football Club Captain Taffy - "I wish I could be in that special place everyday at LSE"

Hester AU Secretary - "I can't remember much past 11.30. And that's AM, if you're wondering".

Union Jock - "So many drunk women, so little time. Boys, if your cock isn't blue after the Barrel, you ain't had a good time"

We couldn't have put it better ourselves. So get your costumes ready, flex those mixed grills and bring your liver to the slaughter.

Louise & Paul

## Let's Get it On...

Recently a mature student, writing in B:Link, claimed the LSE was about as sexy as an S&M session with Prince Charles so BeaverSports has taken it upon itself to spice up this image with The Barrel Sex Challenge. All you gagging for it postgrads and rampant undergrads now have clear lecture notes to follow this Friday. The Barrel provides the best opportunity for such lewd behaviour because the next day you can blame being absolutely screwed on too many Stellas and 'The Wheel'. Can you beat last year's infamous 'library incident'? Can you turn urban legends of three-somes into LSE truths? Or, will you be able to follow the example of Sloppy Pirate, and wake up the next morning with your trousers round your ankles, and not know why?

Points are allocated on the basis of how hard (no pun intended) each venue is to pull off (again, no pun intended). The challenge is as follows:

**10. Barrel Crush in some dark and dingy corner** - the boys should be so lucky if after that much alcohol a hard on is possible. If you get thirsty mid-way through, a pint of Carling is reasonably priced at £1.60. *Two Points*

**9. Disabled toilets in the East Building** - spacious, lots of mirrors and for added enjoyment a shower. One BeaverSports editor enjoyed this sublime venue at last year's Barrel. *Three Points*

**8. The alley at the back of the Tuns** - You can give someone a good roasting out here. Boys, be careful not to get your scrotum caught in the bike racks. *Four Points*

**7. The Library** - Recommended by Sexy Kate from Women's Rugby as a "particular shag friendly venue". The archives section was enjoyed by a Third Team footballer last year. Shagging on the spiral staircase is great for thrill-seekers. Just watch out for

Security, who'll probably ask you to keep the noise down. Remember - NO EATING OR DRINKING! *Eight Points*

**6. C120** - You could always rig up a web cam for added pleasure. *Ten Points*

**5. Squash Courts** - A delightful women's rugby post-grad highly recommends this place, and for all those voyeurs amongst you, yes, there are windows. *Fifteen Points*

**4. Old Theatre Balcony** - Charterhouse once used this as a venue but we think it's about time a new wannabe rugby legend - perhaps Ballsucker or Ballsucker's Ballsucker - stamps his mark with his sticky white love piss on the LSE. *Twenty Points*

**3. Bridge** - If you've always wanted to join the Mile High Club, take your partner to the bridge between the East Building and the Old Building, where you can join the 4 stories high club. Watching the hacks campaign on Houghton Street really adds a bit of 'zing' to your climax. *Fifty Points*

**2. On stage in the Peacock Theatre during the Econ B lecture** - All that talk of 'Theory of the Firm' and 'Pricing Curves' will really get you and your lover in the mood. *Twenty Five Points*

**1. Howard Davies' Office** - Extra points if you wear his Man City scarf. *One Hundred Points*

BeaverSports advocates an active sex life, but remember kids - wrap it in foil before checking her oil!

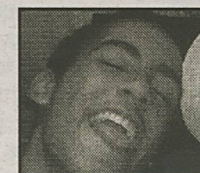
Sian Errington (SU Education and Welfare Officer - room E299) has increased the amount of condoms available to LSE students especially for Barrel-goers.

Remember... No glove, No love.

## Costume Rumours We've Heard:



Will Aerobics Julia finally put some clothes on and come as the Virgin Mary?



Will Fabs pay homage to his white man's cock and come as a member of the KKK?



And will Claudia live up to her 'Munchkin' nickname and dress as an Oompa Loompa?



## NEEDED - BARREL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Next week's BeaverSports will be a special Barrel edition, detailing all the deeds that will happen this Friday. If you want to see yourself, your mates and your team in the paper, we need you to email us your photos! This must be done by Saturday 5pm (ie. the day after the Barrel) - we know you'll be feeling like shit but so will we. We want loads of kquality photos, especially of the Barrel run. Email them to us at thebeaver.sports@lse.ac.uk

# Women's Rugby in Catfight!

The Sexual Deviants of Brunel University bruise LSE Women's Rugby.

Jen  
'Brazilian'  
Bush



Brunel.....3 Black Eyes

LSE.....1 Battered Tastie

Fortress Berrylands, Surrey

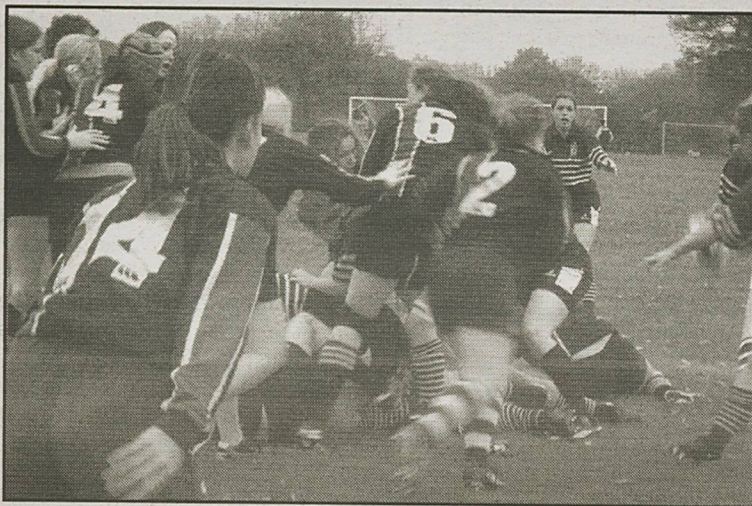
We knew the game would be tough, we had faced the Internationals and lost but we were ready to fight them on the beaches. The game started as it would continue; massive hit after contested maul after vicious ruck. Crusher Katy was ready at every moment, despite her little indiscretion later in the game, and Animal was with her every hit of the way. The weird groping/abusing that the filth employed as tactics made Animal 'but kitten in the bedroom' naturally uncomfortable but she pulled through. Ellie 'heartbreaker' Virus was all over the man masquerading as their number 9. The fight was going to be arduous.

Sandy dumped, Sharon savaged and Ruth broke them whilst they were down but still they came, they may have been frustrated and studying Travel and Tourism but they stayed. Hester was quick to challenge in the scrums and Laura was down the wing quicker than a non-AU gimp to the library, and with more determination. Berrylands is a fortress and Kay 'short skirt but still solid' and 'what am I doing in the centre, it doesn't rhyme with wonger' Indeg are nothing if not protective, no fat "special" monkey was getting anywhere without some pain - every yard

was contested. They were lucky with the score line but both Loves and 'I'm loved' Van were slapping them down in the line outs. Tag team Yvette and Amanda on the wings weren't phased by the streakers (better has been seen, coldness is not an excuse). The sight of naked men was a bit of a shock for the 'come from a weird place' opposition, the only sexual experience they had had previously was being bitch-slapped by their coach with amnesia - do I have a referee qualification? don't I?

Half Time saw the fresh and lovely legs of Nisha and Fern, with Tastie gracefully retiring

after being duffed up by Katy. Their substitution was what can only be described as a mountain. The forward play got harder (and bigger!!!) but Anna was still holding strong and stealing balls. The gaps had begun to show in our line and the scrum had had to reshuffle but in the dying minutes we could taste the sweet smell of a truly team try, alas it wasn't meant to be and the girls were ready for drinks and fed up with being abused. They may have won on points but we would never stoop to freaky quasi-sexual manhandling to win a game. They won, we aren't tainted by perversion.



# Netball vs. The Pikeys

LSE Netball 6ths Venture into the land of Burberry

Sara  
Tilley



Southbank 2nds.....28

LSE Netball 6ths.....20

Sarf Lahndahn

Arriving in the dirty sarf of London, the LSE 6ths were faced playing some of the country's biggest pikeys. Their scarily butch players with their shaved eyebrows and creoles tried to put us off by general intimidation but us brilliant 6ths were undeterred by this.

The game was off to a fabu-

lous start with us scoring the 1st goal. The bints didn't know what had hit them. Obviously expecting us to be shite, we were far from it. Our smooth and fast passes meant that most of the time they were stranded on the court looking like twats. However, they eventually started to score, after their brains finally realised why we were there.

They soon realised the level of our skill which was far higher than they had anticipated and could never match it, so they then resorted to getting the ball anyway they could without using guns and knives like they're used to. Their blatant punches and shoving were ignored by their biased umpire, who also constantly shouted 'footwork' whenever I attempted to shoot.

The score was consistently even, but they started to push for-

ward in the lead. With guest players Laura and Libby poached from the 4ths and 5ths keeping the pressure on their shooters, we began to close the gap with some spectacular shots from Steph.

Georgie once again fulfilled her role as star centre and allowed the Holborn girls to penetrate their feeble defence.

The bints, feeling threatened by our fabulous performance started to play dirtier and dirtier. This general pikey-ish level of playing continued until the final score. Obviously not to make them feel worse that they weren't doing a proper degree, we decided to let them win being the altruistic charitable team that we are.

Player of the match has to go to Steph with her amazing goals and general fabulous playing on the court.

# Table Tennis

Sam Nair recounts Table Tennis' excellent adventures

Sam 'The  
Treasurer'  
Nair



LSE Table Tennis.....Hot

Other Universities.....Not

At long last LSE's forgotten sport, table tennis, has found its way into The Beaver, so that you can all learn of the trials and tribulations of the LSE teams. Both the Men's and the Woman's team compete in BUSA and, unsurprisingly, both look set to proceed into the next stage of the competition, which will see us competing on a national level, rather than just against South Eastern teams.

Firstly, the men's team kicked off their campaign with a whitewash victory over Kingston wannabe-university leaving them top of the group level on points with UCL. It was UCL next for the boys, and unfortunately we slipped to our only defeat of the season in a close game in which the score line betrayed the truth. LSE were undone by the UCL first seed, whose dodgy haircut and

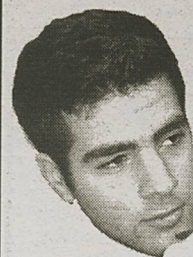
bandana gave away his mafia ties, who defeated all four of the LSE team. UCL's other star player was their second seed, who also defeated each of the LSE team, who, sorry to say, is a known user of steroids. For LSE, former captain Kee Eng Khor won two matches with fellow third years Hong Wee Lee and Dhiren 'Lehman Brother' Soares winning one each. The real surprise was the performance of yours truly who failed to win a single match, despite appearing capable of winning three. It was these under performance that led to the 13-4 score line (after the doubles was conceded), which in reality could have been a comfortable 9-8 victory for LSE. Next the men recorded a whitewash win over Gimperial leaving us only needing a win over the very weak Brunel team to guarantee qualification to the next round.

Despite their close 4-5 defeat away to Southampton, the girls are also in a strong position following a whitewash victory over last year's champions Southbank University and an earlier 5-4 home victory over Southampton already seeing them through to the next stage.

Lets hope the teams can continue to perform and reach the finals at Warwick in March.

# Team of the Week

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



Key:

- 1 First Team Player
- 2 Second Team Player
- 3 Third Team Player
- 4 Fourth Team Player
- 5 Fifth Team Player
- 6 Sixth Team Player
- 7 Seventh Team Player

Team of the week:

The Fourth Team- Having already been written off by everyone including their own parents, the fourths went into their game against the thirds with damage limitation on their minds. But Tommy O'Driscoll's late free-kick and then Gustov's penalty save even closer to the end meant the fourths could enjoy a Wednesday night for a change.

Star of the week:

Gaz 'Fishy' Fishlock- A couple of weeks back the only scoring this young man did was on Wednesday nights in Beckton. But three goals this week including winners against Holloway and Luton add to an impressive tally which has now seen him

grab six in six.

Schoolboy of the week:

Fred 'Baby' Salt - On Wednesday night, in his most recent struggle with alcoholism Freddy awoke to find himself at Heathrow airport. On learning that a taxi home would cost a whopping £45, Fred decided to use his LSE business sense and stay at a hotel instead. Cost of room: £100.

Miss of the week:

Fabian 'Liability' Joseph- 1-0 down against the Fourths with five minutes to go and you get a penalty. "Don't let Fabs take it", you cry. But he's the captain and the rest is history. Fabs did remark however that it was difficult to concentrate with monkeys playing around in the background.

# 'Nah Guv, if you're both plain' in blu then nah-one's losin' aaaaaaht..'

Gaz  
Carter



LSEFC 1sts.....	2
Luton .....	1
Runway C, Luton Airport	

I'm so happy that I don't go to Luton Polytechnic. The quality of life for the average Luton student is embarrassingly low, living, as they do, in the flight path of every EasyJet flight that leaves these shores. The average Luton student appears to be one G short of a Unit, and persists in calling people 'Guv'. He clearly can't use what meagre brain-power God cursed him with to realise that two teams playing in identically-coloured kits constitutes a colour clash, and his vocabulary is a basic re-working of Dizzie Rascal's back-catalogue.

And so it was these malcontent troglodytes that gathered last Wednesday to face the wrath of the Mighty Mighty First Team. We were all there -the BFG resplendent with his beard of two weeks, Fishy Fishlock whose confidence was as high as Shiva's sex-appeal is low, and Judas San, who was busy plotting further ways to ruin the Seconds' season. Banter on the Bus of Party was sadly lacking largely thanks to a sub-standard showing from the Hockey girls who had come along to hit some Poly morons with their big sticks. Despite this, the Firsts get their game-heads on and kitted-up, ready to school the Luton players, whose only ambitions in life seemed to be to take every else down with them.

Contrary to tradition, the Firsts got straight into it. Stelios' deft touches and sublime balance were brought out right away, and Jimmy Little's effortless talent shone through the murky wasteland that Luton called home. San clashed fiercely with his opposite number and came out on top and Big John, Gregg and Ma\$\$a crunched through the Luton attacking line.

Clearly unaware of the necessity of the skill aspect in football, Luton had chosen unwisely to be Pretty Rubbish, and so from a corner, Big John rose sweetly and hammered a powerful header past their immobile keeper. Luton's defence scratched their heads but were unable to understand how their tactic of being Absolutely Fucking Awful had let them down.

The half wore on, and the Firsts continued in fine fettle. Roosht minced like the only gay in the village and Paolo used his mastery of the first-touch to infuriate and mock the Luton slop-badgers. The referee, who incidentally was studying for an NVQ in Being A Cock, was unable to stem our attacking flow despite the plethora of unintelligible decisions, and the linesmen (Luton wank-stain A and Luton toss-pot B) were left frothing at the mouth as their outrageous decisions were nullified by Rich Gull's command of the Mighty Mighty First Team's defence.

However, we like a challenge, and so we didn't argue when the referee decided that all of our goal-kicks should automatically be cor-

ners for Luton. We did not protest when their winger sent in the set-piece and our defence were impeded unfairly by the brutish Luton forwards, and nor did we utter a single word of complaint as we decided to not defend the second ball and concede a sloppy goal to leave ourselves back where we started - at parity with a bunch of people who had all the footballing talent of a peanut.

Angry, we started the second-half with vim, vigour and a renewed sense of our own self-worth. Luton tired as Fishy Fishlock ran their defence ragged. Gaz Carter kicked a few people and shouted, and The Roosht knuckled down and minced harder. Rugged defence and a sniping forward line left Luton impotent in every sense and whilst they may or may not have troubles with getting it up, they certainly couldn't keep it down, as several shots blazed wildly over the bar - Rich Gull pulling off one superb diving save from Luton's only real effort on goal. And so, with all the certainty of a John Kerry presidential campaign, Fishlock's customary goal arrived.

The boy who couldn't score in a Beckton brothel now moves into the golden boot table with a smooth finish, left-footed past the keeper after good work from Jimmy Little.

Distraught, uncouth and hideously ugly, Luton played out the remaining ten minutes plus the four hours added on by the referee. Their self-doubt was evident, and their lack of ambition saddening. The bus back was delayed by the preening and styling of a few fantastically coiffured Firsts and The Party Bus suffered a further hiatus with an impossibly quiet hockey team conspicuous by their silence on the bus back. Banter, it seemed, must wait until the Tuns, where it all fell apart for the Glorious Firsts. Crispy Duck was made by many, and Ma\$\$a's girlfriend's 14 year old sister was tricked into getting up close and personal with the latest in a long line of celebrity First Team paedophiles. John McDermott is this weeks small bean regarder of the week - who will it be next Wednesday? Only time will tell. The Mighty Mighty Firsts rock on.

## Women's Hockey on Top Form

Great goals from Meenal and Martha secure win

Claudia  
Whitcomb



Women's Hockey.....	3
Easyjet Poly.....	2
Luton via Toys R'us	

Luton isn't exactly a nice place, however we had the added joy of travelling there with the football firsts, something to brighten up any young ladies day. Thanks to brake happy driver we arrived early, so we decided to take a team outing to Toys r Us to scout out Barrel costumes, it turns out they don't sell anything that kinky but we turned a few heads asking....

Our team talk consisted of us deciding that we might as well go out there and have fun, after all it was certainly a mismatch team, with Jade in goal, Jackie covering at the back and no sweeper, the odds were against us. However, the game started well with the Luton captain reminding us that we only had 10 players, little did she know we were 10 very good, skilful, eager players.

Martha immediately ran rings around their centres and both Sarah and Louise had outstanding games on the wings. We took the lead half way into the first half with a carefully placed penalty flick from Martha, which got the adrenaline going, we'd forgotten about that feel good feeling. Unfortunately for us the game picked up pace. The Luton attack swept through our defence and after a great stop by Jade it really was 'f\*\*\*ing annoying' that the rebound went in.

The second half started off well, with Meenal finally ending her goal drought with our second. Luton's second came 20 minutes in. So we went to push back again, Martha scooped the ball, and hit it to Meenal, the only problem being that one of the Luton girl's got their sticks in the way, something I imagine they regret now as one of their team mates is looking all the uglier with a very gashed mouth. However we didn't let this stop us, and we kept attacking their goal line, however Nat and Mel's goal hanging just didn't seem to be working. So step up captain Meenal who in the last 2 minutes skilfully slotted in the winner, we were ecstatic...Admittedly it should have been more with the number of shorts we were awarded however we couldn't quite break that last line of rather large defenders.

## LSE Netball Beauties in a different league to UCL

Netball use their Jenna Jameson talents to outwit and outplay UCL slags

Alison  
Blease



LSE Netball 2nds.....	28
UCL Slags.....	15
Morningson Crescent	

Having already played this team once this year and scraped a very close victory (just 2 goals in it!), we were prepared for a tough match - but we also knew that we are way better than them and so arrived at Morningson Crescent cold but determined to win. Having discussed new coats being burnt to death and a certain team member's unsolicited email harassment at the hands of a well known 'mi-guns' Rugby boy stalker, we warmed up ready to start...

...within minutes the amazing form and skill that has possessed us this last fortnight made its presence felt and we scored first. And so it began. Really I can't understand how we used to win when we didn't have training cos the seconds have been transformed in recent weeks. Fair enough, we were good before but now, now we are like an unstoppable force of nature that destroys everything in our path. Poly's or tech's it makes no difference. We are organised, efficient, calm, cool, dedicated, driven, skilful, bordering on balletic with our grace, faster than gazelles, stronger than elephants and with more stamina than Jenna Jameson!!

UCL played well (they tried bless 'em) but we just outclassed



them plain and simple. Charlie, Jen and Alex were getting the most ridiculous shots in first time, Jenna, Jade and myself were speed demons in the centre court, and Marie and Aine were rock solid in defence. Honestly, when you see any of us around feel free to bow down at our feet in the vain hope that some of our brilliance will fall off and smack you round the arse to give you just a taste of how amazing we are - except it won't cos we are too brilliant for that.

On Wednesday night the seconds were off to dinner at Alex's where she had prepared a fantastic feast just for us. Having had a few doubles on an empty stomach in the tuns beforehand I was in need of a decent feed and it has to be said that me and Marie excelled ourselves here especially with the mince pies afterwards! After copious wine consumption we found ourselves discussing the relative merits of platinum rabbits, men, getting more pleasure from playing for half an hour (told you I would write it in somewhere girls!) and generally putting the world to rights.

After a quick stagger to the tuns and the addition of vodka to the equation apparently we became quite intimidating (according to mi-guns anyway).

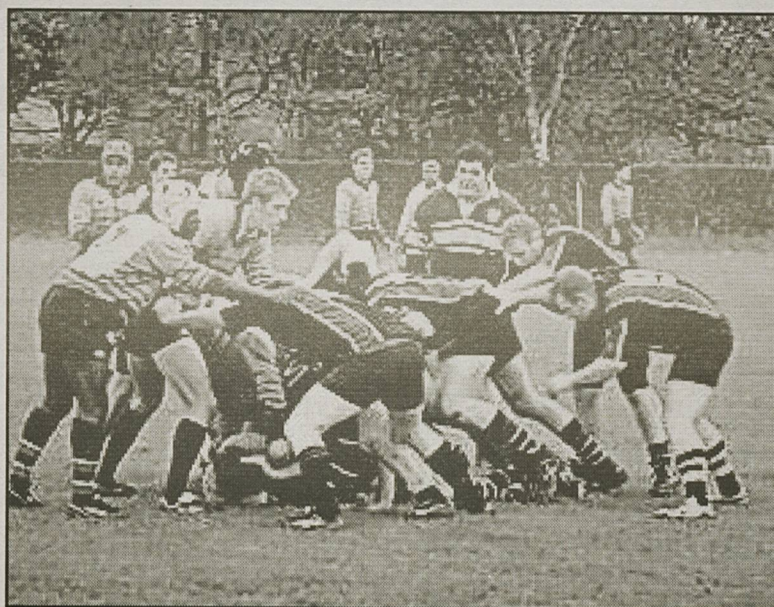
Bike declared her love for me and Marie (sorry mi-guns you have some serious competition here), Emma declared her love for anything with higher than 20% proof, and a freaky UCL nutter latched on to us for the night and gave us twenty questions when we could barely string a sentence together - what can I say, we don't seem to attract the best in the way of the opposite sex. Eventually mi-guns-stalker came over to give his best effort at achieving an anti-social behaviour order for 'researching' his hapless victim...and they say romance is dead!! Still it paid off for him at limeabout when he was rewarded by a kiss from Bike (no, she's not actually a bike don't get your hopes up lads) in a moment of weakness, or pity, or anything that certainly was not lust. Oh the ridicule when she confessed the next day!!! All I can say to mi-guns-stalker is ten out of ten for effort but no one's ever gonna love you as much as you love yourself. And when a girl kisses you in the middle of a conversation about how everyone she knows thinks you're a twat, its not such a promising sign. Maybe the internet is not such a good way of stalking - sorry, wooing - a girl



# The Greatest Game of Rugby Ever

Sheer determination and moments of magic make Rob Donnellan the most successful Rugby Thirds captain in LSE history

Rob "Can't finish a monster" Donnellan



LSE Rugby 3rd.....29  
Queen Mary Chavs .....19  
Chislehurst, Sarf London

Having recovered from the rather brutal nightmare that was Canterbury, our coach finally made it back to London in time for us to play our next fixture against Queen Mary's 2nds. However, due to some very poor admin, our fixture had been switched Away meaning a rather long arduous journey to deepest darkest south London, where the girls on the back of the bus could be distinctly heard proclaiming "Yeah but no but" whilst admiring each others' giant gold hoop earrings. It's been so long since we've played at Berrylands I honestly can't remember what it looks like.

Upon our arrival we were greeted by a rather angry QMSU official who tried to convince us that the game had been cancelled and seemed unaware that his ground had three pitches not two. Perhaps our reputation preceded us and Queen Mary's Wank were trying to put us off. We had been slightly offset by the fact that they lie bottom of the table with minus three points, and begun to believe that this might be a walk in the park. What we were in for however, was the fight of our lives.

The team talk was slightly more subdued than usual; "If you

need me to fire you up boys, then you shouldn't be playing rugby for the LSE". We couldn't have asked for a worse start. Inside of 15 seconds their full back sliced through us to touch down, before they kicked the conversion. Lesser men would have folded and died but we were not lesser men. What then proceeded was the greatest en masse, manning up I believe this fair club, nay entire institution has ever seen. There was not a single poor player on the pitch. Everyone gave their all, and the pressure was telling. The pack had them running scared, every ruck was our; Jim, Mr Barrow and Rory were swotting them aside, Tom and Phil were simply everywhere, and myself, the inspirational Kevin and awesome debutant Shacks were simply too good for words.

The pressure told, and soon the man to whom I owe so much, Barry at scrum half put through the simply magnificent Jan to trundle over and score. The roars were deep and

hoarse. We wanted this one and wanted it bad. At 7-5, the tension was immense; here were two teams almost equal going at each other hammer and tongs. Injuries to Phil and Rafi meant Tristram and Tom entered the fray with great results. A line out created perhaps the most awesome maul the world has ever seen, pushing the ball at least 35 yards up field, before the ball was released to the backs and the outstanding Christian put it over the line. Buckets and mops were needed to clean up all the jizz from observers simply in awe of the forwards performance.

Half time, the team was in no mood to stop and came out with even more vigour, and within a minute, the 3rds witnessed a moment of magic, and perhaps the greatest 3rds' try ever! Flanker Kevin simply came out of nowhere to intercept and put the ball cheekily down between the posts. In awe, the rest of simply stood back in awe. But the battle didn't stop, and

one moment of madness nearly cost us dear. Although I didn't mean to punch him, he went down like a gay mini cab driver. Refeing Rob Bisset had no choice but to send our captain to the bin (and a monster as well!) However, in a matter of no coincidence, this led to our best spell of the game, resulting in another try, this time from Matt. When Mr Barrow sunk a most awesome conversion from the touchline, we simply knew that fate was on our side. The match seemed to be sealed when Shacks capped a great game by scoring but Queen Mary's were unrelenting. Our defence however, was simply too much, the tackles flying in from all angles, from all players, with Ed taking especial glee in nailing men twice his size (oo er), and the winner of the coveted Terrence Donnellan Man of the Match Award, though in my opinion there was no one man of the match but a team of the match. With one last break their full back threatened, but Flavio closed the door with a huge hit, and a wry smile. The whistle went and the players embraced each other. We had been in an epic battle, and we had won. As Tristram said after the game "Beating St Barts was historic, but they were shit. These boys were good. Technically they were better but out heart and grit was unmatched. This is a great day for the Third team". I couldn't have put it better myself. The call of the Tuns beckoned, and the Thirds further proved their mettle by beating the firsts in the first ever Houghton Street Gincathlon. From then on, this historic day would meet a messy, bloody and cock a clock ending at to the very death.

## Netball 5ths Defeat Pink Ladies, are they ready for promotion?

Kick-ass performance means victory tastes sweet for 5th team whilst the Netball 4ths team wallow

Jovana Kojic



LSE Netball 4ths.....25  
LSE Netball 3rds.....19  
On the edge of promotion

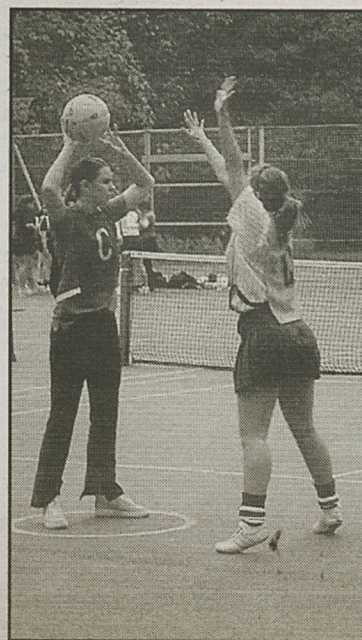
call of "if we don't win I will cry." As it was the taste of victory was sweet, and rather than crying, a victory cigarette was in order for Hannah.

It was quite a closely contested match up until the 4th quarter. The first being the calmest, as both teams attempted to play it cool, with some smooth passing, shooting. However it must be said that the 5ths were in the lead from the beginning of the match. Due to the wonderful play that was on display that afternoon. Libby as centre, was flying all over the court, even the fact that two of her fingers were taped together didn't stop her from intercepting, and passing with grace. Hannah in the first and last quarters was seen running up and down the wings, despite the fact that she'd injured her hip whilst falling out of bed...and that she was wearing a rather short skirt. Ros and Tamsin were unstoppable in the circle. Not only did their shooting appear effortless, but every rebound was covered, and not to mention the passing. Our supporters, and other wing players should not go without mention, with Siana, Becky, Laura

and Ash, putting in a monumental effort, especially in getting the ball down the other end of the court, as well as grabbing those back line passes. And finally to Claire and Jovana, between whom no rebound was left uncovered, as well as some good intercepting. Nothing was slipping past the 5ths that afternoon.

It was the final quarter that brought out some beautiful netball. The goal difference was quite close as the quarter started, but rather than becoming complacent about our the lead, the 5ths decided to play even better than they had previously. What resulted was a smooth operation in getting the ball down court where our shooters were scoring effortlessly. And as the quarter progressed so the gap widened. But never did the concentration or the will of the 5ths diminish, and as the final whistle blew we emerged victorious. One could easily detect the excitement as we said our hoorays, and gathered around for handshaking. Cheshire cat smiles were to be seen on all those 5ths present. We had achieved the ultimate goal. As well as playing the best game all

season. As Siana put it "we've improved a lot, both individually, and as a team" There was only one thing left and that was to celebrate with a team dinner, as well as the usual Walkabout outing. And so now we ask...are the LSE Netball 5ths ready for a promotion?



## Sports-shorts

### Women's Football

LSE Ladies' team faltered last week in their game against UCL by losing 6-1, after a hellish journey to Arsenal's former training pitches out in bumble-f\*k. Captain Antonia Strom did however applaud the determined effort her team put in, particularly in the second half. Worthy of mention was debutant Nikki Cedra who scored LSE's only goal, and also praise went to Jade Charles who played goalie for the first time. The final game before the Christmas hols is Imperial where the team hopes to get their title challenge back on track.

### Football round-up

LSEFC Second team was too depressed to comment on his team's disappointing week. Following a 4-0 loss to Gimperial, the team also succumbed to Canterbury 2-1 on Wednesday with only a Rich Nicholls free-kick to smile about. Last weekend's games saw the firsts annihilate Gimperial. Fishy Fishlock described his hat-trick as 'superb' with a strike from both his left foot, his right foot and a header. His self-boasting was reiterated by Captain John McDermott who said 'Fishlock had gone being unable to hit a cow with a piglet to the 1sts most prolific striker'. Jimmy Little also scored in the game. The thirds improved upon their loss to the 4ths mid-week with a draw against GKT 2nds coming from a Jay Amin goal. The 7ths also drew against Queen Mary's thirds after being put ahead by little Dave Rees. Alex Lee's 4th team are seemingly on a victory roll after Wednesday, also beating UCL over the weekend. The fifths were not so lucky losing 4-2 to Strand Poly. But biggest win of the weekend goes to Matt Bawden's Sixths with a 14-3 victory over SEES, with Matt netting one of the goals.

### Men's Hockey

The Hockey Firsts, under the leadership of Jamie 'Frodo' Stevens, lost 4-2 to RUMs, with goals scored by Richard and Frodo. Rishi Madliani's hockey seconds had a huge 10-0 win over Gimperial 4ths. Geoff got 3, Emms got 4, AJ got 2, and Gramps got 1. Madliani later commented, "I actually played quite well for an old fat bastard".

### Netball Results

As Olivia is away her replacement article writers have failed to live up to her consistency and as such the firsts' have been 'relegated' to the 'brief' section. They did however pull out a wonderful victory against the Strand Poly at their version of Fortress Berrylands, otherwise known as Berrywank. The score was 33-29, and much praise was given to Goal Shooter Rachel as well as threats of a Barrel fine. The Thirds also successfully claimed their first three points of the season following a walkover, no blood, sweat or tears but victory nonetheless.



Union Jock's quite 'excited' by the prospect of this Friday's Barrel.

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## Alex Lee's Army put 'Monkey' back in his cage!

*Fabs misses a penalty, Tommy O'Driscoll scores a free kick as the Fourths beat the Thirds.*

Alex  
'MILF'  
Lee



LSE Footy 4ths.....1

LSE Footy 3rds.....0

Fortress Berrylands, Surrey



The Thirds were having it all their way in ULU's division one this season, scoring at will, not conceding... whereas the Fourth's were yet to fulfil the potential that preseason had promised. But this was not any game of football. This was a war. A test of who wanted it more.

In goal for the Fourth's stood the giant, Gus, immediately intimidating any striker that stood before him. In front of this mountain stood 4 pure defenders. Men who would sell their mothers in Kings Cross to stop the ball going in the back of their net. On the right, the Goat, aptly named for both his looks and as I have recently heard due to the fact that he will eat anything, even his own vomit. In the centre 2 rocks, Barbie, and the mon-

ster JK. And sitting at left back, the voice of the defence, Taffy, Mr Steven Gerrard. The manager decided on a 5 man midfield, myself and Den "Earthworm Jim" Nelson stood on the wings. In the centre the alcoholic Joe lined up along the continental Tommy and Rob, the teams top scorer. The team was rounded up with our very own porn star Aksel up front.

And so the battle commenced. The Thirds immediately put the Fourth's on the back foot, but such was the Fourth's spirit that every ball was contested, and much like the big

bad wolf the Thirds just couldn't get through our defence. Now I'm sure that the wolf probably did tear those little pigs to pieces in the end, everyone needs bacon, but this was a different story all together. Whenever anything pierced through our back line Gus was equal to the challenge. And so the Fourth's started to pick up confidence, and began to create their own chances, beautifully engineered like a German car or playboy model, ping the ball about leaving the Thirds dazed and confused. In at half time the score was still 0 - 0. You could cut the atmosphere with a

knife.

The second half began, and continued, and the Fourth's just would not be broken down. Last ditch tackles by taffy, 100 metre sprints from Dennis, and pure passion kept the Thirds out. And so the Thirds started to get frustrated, so frustrated that tempers started to boil over. And suddenly the ref had had enough, his delicate ears unable to handle the abusive language he was hearing. When Administrator from the Thirds put a free kick over the bar fabs' vocal annoyance was responded to with something along the lines as "go f\*\*\* yourself". And so Administrator was sent back to the changing room for an early shower 15 mins into the second half. And the Fourth's took over. Minutes later the Thirds self proclaimed "best keeper in LSE" after last years encounter started running out of his box with the ball in his hands. Tommy O'Driscoll placed the ball on the edge of the box and bang. The shot was struck with such venom that despite getting to the ball, their keeper could not keep it from flying into the back of the net. The crowd went wild. Alex G shot his load. The Fourth's were in front.

Then suddenly down the other end a penalty was awarded. The reason? "Handball". Yeah good one.

Anyway... Fabs stood over the ball. Gus stared at him unafraid, a true pro. Fabs struck the ball. Heading into the top right corner, Gus flew through the air and got his hand to it. Saved.

The last 10 minutes were end to end. Ed "Tobey Maguire" Walsh came on and immediately got stuck in. Time ran down. The final whistle blew. The 4ths were victorious in the Berrylands derby.

And so the off to the Tuns, where a jubilant 4th team and a saddened 3rd team drank side by side with the FC long into the night. At the end of the day we're a club, not a team. Gus' Heroics where rewarded with a beautiful ambrosia of curdling shots topped up with Worthingtons, a regular drink for the Fourth's player or schoolboy of the week. And the night continued like any other Wednesday night, songs sung, Arsenal failing to win in Europe, Taffy throwing up behind the sofa, drunken Walkabout pulling, and finally for those few left standing, elimination taps with china tea in Crispy Duck. Fantastic.

The Thirds will bounce back, as is the LSE spirit, but today belongs to the Fourth's. I'm sure when the teams meet again for the last game of the season there will be fireworks again, but ultimately the Fourth's will come through.

## Medal Harvest for the LSE Karate Team

*LSE kick, punch and round-house their way to the Gold Medals at Chesterfield.*

Kizito  
'Mr Miyagi'  
Kiyimba



Almost all LSE Karate Club (LSEKC) participants in the recent National Student Karate Championships (Karate Union of Great Britain) came back with medals. The day was that snowy Saturday of November 20th.. The venue was Chesterfield.

Our first men on the tatami were Chris Yeoh and Szymon Ordys, both yellow belts. They put on remarkable kata performance (i.e exhibition of prearranged technique combinations) and gave their respectively more senior-belt opponents a taste of greater things to come. However, their course was stopped in the eliminations by superior grade opponents. Yunis imposed himself decisively going all the way to the quarter finals of the kata event.

The ladies were next and they brought a blend of spirit and control to the tatami in their yellow-belt to purple-belt category. Alice saw off a few higher belt opponents, securing herself a niche high up in the qualifying rounds.



Olivier walked onto the mat with resolution and executed his kata at its elevated and competitive level of the brown belt. The same applied to Kizito and Dario in the black belt category. It was Dario who decisively sorted out all his opponents one after the other to ensure he was to perform in the finals. But as it would be, the finals were reserved for the end of the day.

Once again the first ones were the young lions, Chris and Szymon. The two fought their opponents with very different strategies and achieved the same spectacular results. On the one

hand, Chris exerted relentless pressure on his opponents, all of them of a higher belt than he was. It reminded one of the title of a the movie: 'No retreat, No surrender', only that to this strategy, Chris added accuracy and effectiveness of his punches and kicks.

Szymon Ordys, on the other hand, did not forget his economics even on the tatami. He daunted his opponents and forced them into error just by being cautious. And when he went in, he scored. He too went all the way to the quarterfinals.

On another tatami elsewhere,

Yunis was at it again. He unleashed the whole arsenal of jabs, feints, punches and kicks on his unequal opponents, walloping each of them to the last one in the finals.

The ladies, Jasmine and Alice did their thing marvellously. A purple belt opponent from another university saved the tournament from a face-off between this LSEKC duo. Keeping a calm look and still managing to steal in and register punches was Alice's maniere de proceder. She kicked and punched into the semis, breaking the spell of our quarter-final stoppages so far, and snatching herself the enviable bronze medal. That was la première médaille du jour for LSEKC for this year.

The last of the eliminations was the male team kumite event. The LSEKC dream-team (Dario, Kizito, Yunis and Olivier) dominated and defeated their opponents with great ease. Their lethal surprise punches, sweeps, round-house kicks and all manner of stuff left their opponents guessing and changing strategies. They steam-rolled their way unabated into the semis. Victory was a punch away with one loss and one victory for LSE in the semi-final melee. The opposing team still crawled out as victors of that tension- and action-packed match. The bronze medal of

the main event, the male team kumite, belonged securely to LSEKC.

It was time for the finals of each event. Jasmine Bhatia stepped onto the tatami with one resolution: to lay hands on the gold. She remained true to her resolution, for all of a sudden the fighting area became too small for her higher belt opponentA. A flurry of kicks, punches, blocks and counter punches filled the air. After a transfixing fight, Jasmine settled for the silver medal. We had come a long way, and Jasmine had pushed LSEKC ladies into the finals.

The last event for LSEKC in the finals was male individual kata. Dario Ghazi performed a superior kata with splendid timing and power and in a very closely contested arbitration, he emerged the silver medalist of the men's individual kata event for this year.

The awarding of medals was an LSEKC affair as members of the relatively small contingent kept walking up to the podium and collecting medals. The karate competitions season could not have started on a better note for LSEKC.

A team of eight had gone in, and they brought back eight medals. Once again, the sweat and blisters had paid off. We wish them even greater success in the future.