

# the Beaver

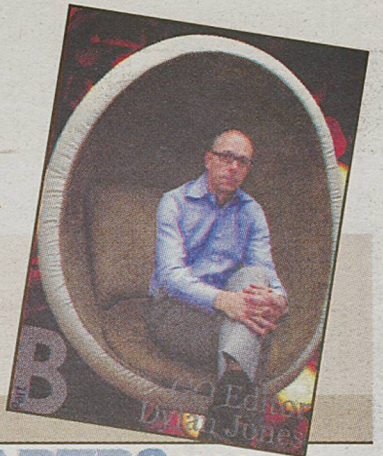
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## THE FUTURE OF OUR UNION

- LSE SU ELECTION SEASON KICKS OFF
- RACE FOR GENERAL SECRETARY DIVIDES OPINION
- RECORD NUMBER OF CANDIDATES

Chris Lam  
News Editor

This year's Students' Union (SU) Lent term elections are proving to be some of the most exciting and intriguing to date. Since nominations closed on Wednesday, there has been widespread campaigning, with candidates presenting their policies at six separate hustings, posters placed across the School and e-mails sent to societies in order to receive their backing.

This week will see the start of street campaigning, a tradition of the SU and scene of many significant events during past Lent term elections.

In there are two candidates in the race for General Secretary; former head of PuLSE FM Stacy-Marie Ishmael and Societies Officer Jimmy Tam. Both of their campaigns are in full swing and by today each will have attended six separate hustings. At the first hustings at Thursday's Union General Meeting (UGM) both presented their manifestoes, and explained why they should be elected.

At the UGM, Ishmael, speaking first, outlined three

things that she wanted to focus on: sexual health issues, inclusiveness and representation, and environmental issues.

On sexual health she stressed that a "safe, secure and confidential" service had to be provided. She said that there was still the problem of addressing "the 'L' in LGBT."

Regarding inclusiveness, Ishmael explained how post-graduates - who make up half the LSE student population - were still not being looked after. She also stated the fact that "there is no recycling in the Tuns, or Garrick" as a problem that needed to be solved.

Jimmy Tam explained that he was the "approachable candidate with experience and ideas." He said that he would have three aims as General Secretary, "to support student empowerment, to promote student development, and to foster a student community."

On 'student empowerment', Tam said that he would work to make sure more student surveys were provided in order to collect the views of students. Regarding the promotion of student development, Tam brought up the National Student Survey. In order to combat the School's low scores for 'personal development' he

proposed a "skills handbook" to be provided by the Careers Service. He also promised to push for Wednesday afternoons to be kept free and to "name and shame" departments who schedule classes at that time.

Tam said that he wanted to conduct a "Jamie Oliver experiment" and to make the School offer "healthy and organic food at a low price." He said that he wanted to work with the Art Advisories Group to have student's artwork placed in "at least fifty classrooms."

Asked what the difference between the two of them was, Ishmael said that she had "more experience in all aspects of the Union." She mentioned that she had been part of AU societies, the Media Group, and was a "UGM hack." Tam countered this and said that he had been in more positions and was "more able to communicate with students on a one to one level."

Speaking to *The Beaver* about her policies, Ishmael said that "what I really want is the Union to be defined by inclusiveness and representation." She continued, "the Union is much more than the Media Group and UGM'S." She expressed her desire to treat postgraduates and PhD students bet- >>4

## Sabb review 2005-06

Tanya Rajapakse  
News Editor

The present LSE Students' Union (SU) Sabbatical officers Rishi Madlani and Natalie Black have received mixed reviews regarding their performance over the past year.

Madlani, the LSE SU General Secretary, conducted his election campaign by pledging to hold a Refresher's

Fair, increase budget accommodation, halt growth in class sizes and provide Halal and Kosher food in halls and at School.

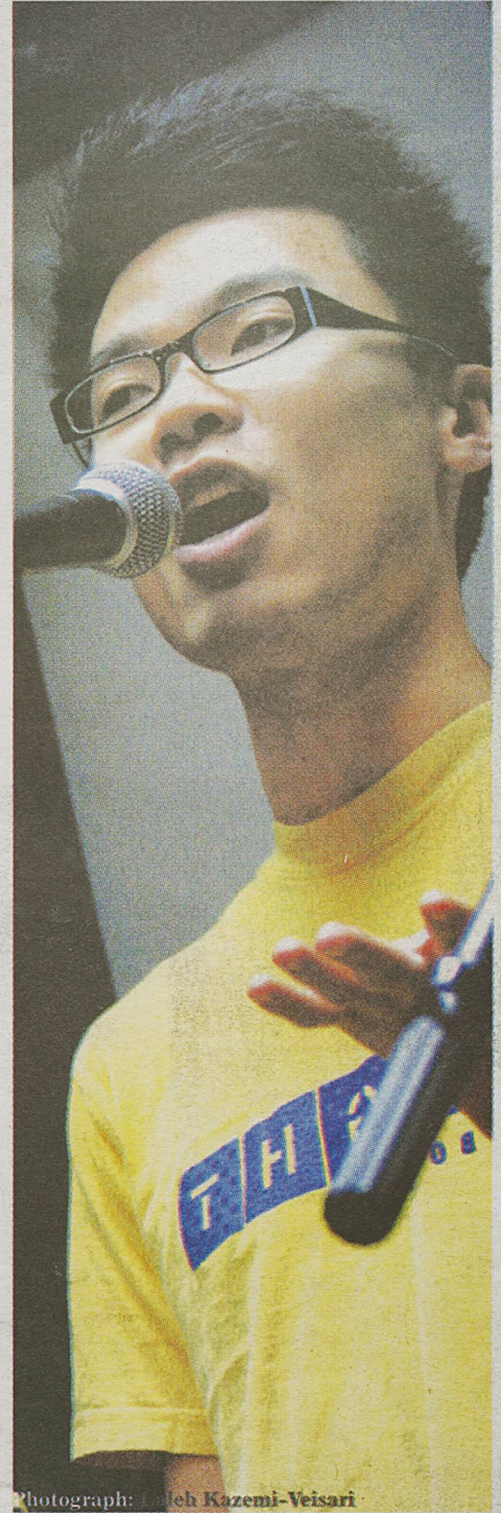
In a statement to *The Beaver*, Madlani noted that Refresher's Fair had been held successfully, leading to a proposal to continue it in future years, and that the Affordable Accommodation Working Group had been "launched as a result of the Union's work". He also mentioned that his prom-

ise to halt growth in class sizes had led to an Academic Planning Resources committee paper which would be discussed next term while SU food outlets had seen a "vast improvement" in terms of the Halal and Kosher foods offered.

Amongst other achievements he listed were, the freeze on general course fees for 2007-08, the 24-hour library trial 2006-07, >>5 lobby of parliament



Photograph: Ash B



Photograph: Meh Kazemi-Weisari

### Scientology

An undercover investigation of the controversial religion



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### In defence of Israel



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### Women's Hockey

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# Comms candidates speak out

Patrick Graham  
Senior Reporter

The race for the election of the next LSE Students' Union (SU) Communications Officer began in earnest last Thursday, with the four candidates contesting the position taking part in hustings during the Union General Meeting (UGM).

The initial candidates were Ali Dewji, Alex Hochuli, Elaine Londesborough, Hanne Thornam and Ranil Jayawardena. However Jayawardena withdrew after the initial candidate list was announced. The remaining candidates are all third-year undergraduates.

At the various hustings, candidates placed emphasis upon their shared belief that there is a need to encourage more students to become actively involved within the SU, especially at the weekly UGM.

Thornam, who is the Chair of People and Planet and also UGM Vice-Chair, said that the "cliquey culture" currently in existence within the SU must be penetrated and stated that she would organise "motion-writing workshops" in order to encourage more people to participate if elected.

Founder and President of the Secular Society, Hochuli, promised to establish a "campaigns committee" which he believed would mobilise ideas and discourage apathy leading

to an era of "proud and steadfast" politics at the LSE.

Londesborough, People and Planet committee member and former News Editor of *The Beaver*, said that she was standing on a platform of bringing campaigning back into the role of communications officer. Londesborough spoke of the SU as "having the potential to be a real force for good

"Sabbs write letters, but campaigns should be so much more than that."

She told *The Beaver*, "I would do so much more to support and encourage student run campaigns. I will be on hand to write letters, press releases, and publicise campaigns to the student population. I'm also pleased that the issue of campaigning is so high on the agenda of two of the other candidates."

Dewji - the President of the Debate Society - said that, if elected, he intended to promote the SU by having the executive officers present at society Annual General Meeting's (AGM) speak about the SU and inform society members of the SU's role. He believes this would target those most likely to attend the UGM.

Candidates also shared their views on issues such as the number of state-school students being admitted to the LSE each year, and ways in which they proposed to improve the School's environment for students currently

studying at the LSE.

Thornam who ran for International Students' Officer last year told *The Beaver*, "As an international student, it took me a little while to believe that I could participate in the Students' Union and break through the existing circle of people. I am now aware of the difficulties involved and I am passionate about getting more people involved. I have been successful in encouraging several members of People and Planet to stand for election."

Thornam spoke of the need to make SU campaigns more prominent. She went on to say, "In addition to campaigning, I will ensure that the Communications Officer is more involved in changing the LSE's social environment." She wishes to increase the role of societies within the SU, suggesting that they should be allowed the opportunity to present themselves at student induction events at the beginning of the academic year, as well as encouraging more 'society awareness weeks' throughout the year. Thornam also believes that *The Beaver* should be made available online.

Dewji, a Societies Officer candidate at last year's elections, mentioned the need to increase SU sponsorship. He also addressed the issue of SU charitable donations. Dewji told *The Beaver*: "We should choose fewer charities that we donate to and, for example, think of sponsoring a village.

This would help to create a tangible goal as well as a feeling that we are having a direct effect."

The Communication Officer could contact the press and highlight these events to ensure that they get the recognition that they deserve." Dewji believes that the Communications Officer should become fully involved with SU campaigns, such as those against visa charges, and that this in turn would relieve some of the pressure on the General Secretary. He went on to say, "I think that we are going to have a very amicable issues-based campaign."

Londesborough also pledged to ensure a more balanced approach to advertising in the Union. She proposed offering preferential rates to charities and the public sector and said she would more actively approach such groups.

Alex Hochuli emphasised a life "beyond lectures" saying that "the AU provides a model" for this. His policies include providing transport from the LSE to Berrylands for some important sporting events and initiating an "exchange of knowledge with sister universities."

Hochuli's policies on community include shortening Freshers week to one week, make it the 'best week'. He proposes more inter-halls events, better daytime activities and dedicated postgraduate events.



"CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE LSE"

- ALEX HOCHULI, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE SECULAR SOCIETY



"I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT GETTING MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED"

- HANNE THORNAM, CHAIR OF PEOPLE AND PLANET SOCIETY



"I WOULD DO SO MUCH MORE TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE STUDENT RUN CAMPAIGNS"

- ELAINE LONDESBOROUGH, FORMER NEWS EDITOR, THE BEAVER



"BETTER PRESS FOR SOCIETY EVENTS AND MORE SPONSORSHIP FOR THE SU"

- ALI DEWJI, PRESIDENT OF THE DEBATE SOCIETY

# Education & Welfare race shows experience and ideas

Saabira Chaudhuri

The race for the position of Education and Welfare Officer is set to be an interesting one, with five diverse candidates - Simon Bottomley, David Cole, Peter James Emms, Fabian Joseph and Alexandra Vincenti - all competing for the post from very different platforms.

The full-time, year-long position of Education and Welfare Officer requires the person in charge to be respon-

sible for all aspects of student welfare. These include the co-ordination of welfare rights and advice services, welfare campaigns of the Students' Union (SU), and ensuring the fair distribution of the Union's welfare funds. The Education and Welfare Officer must also liaise with the School and academic departments on all issues concerning welfare, education, and equal opportunities.

Simon Bottomley - the current LSE SU Lesbian, Gay,

Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Officer - described his major policies as the provision of more Kosher and Halal food, spreading awareness about the existence of good-quality services, continuing with cross-subsidisation of halls, effective feedback on exams and class work, and ensuring re-sits which "should not only be a right for students whose achievements are undermined by circumstance but a possibility for all of us in order to best ensure we reach

our full potential".

In a statement to *The Beaver*, Bottomley said: "Much of the [Education and Welfare Officer's] time is taken up by case work - during my three years as the Union's LGBT Officer I have dealt with cases ranging from academic issues to discrimination to terminal illness. This job is about qualities and not just policies."

Candidate Dave Cole told *The Beaver* that his headline policies are summer exam re-sits, a Mental Health Week and

Campaign, and saying no to £6,000 fees for home students. During last week's Union General Meeting (UGM) hustings he said, "Had there been exam re-sits I would have left LSE two years ago and the Union would have been a much better place for it."

Cole explained that his motivation for running stems from the fact that "the past year, dealing with the School for deferment and interruption, getting support from the SU and so on have brought home the value of an effective Education and Welfare Officer [as] something I think I can do - and have given me ideas that I think can best be implemented from the Education and Welfare position."

Meanwhile Fabian Joseph's primary policies appear to address issues of student costs, promotion of extra-curricular activities and improving teaching quality. He advocates a printing and photocopying allowance, the continuation of lobbying against top-up fees and a push to increase awareness of grant opportunities.

In a statement to *The Beaver*, Joseph explained: "Students should vote for me initially because I'm basically giving them about ten pounds through an allowance for photocopying etc. This makes LSE life a little less stressful and also means that no-one has an excuse, other than a hangover, for not getting involved in extra-curricular activities."

LSE SU Womens Officer, Alexandra Vincenti, pledged to ensure more course packs, more study and computer spaces, year round 24-hour library access and free Wednesday afternoons as well as more focus on mental and sexual health problems.

At the UGM hustings, Alexandra also promised to continue the fight against visa charges, increased top-up fees and spiraling postgraduate and international tuition costs. She stated, "I have the experience to ensure that our diverse multi-cultural community, so important to our character, continues to be celebrated and to send the message that discrimination has no place on campus."

In his UGM hustings speech, candidate Pete Emms stressed "widening participation at LSE". He told the audience that he believed the Education and Welfare Officer must be "caring, considerate and sensitive to other people's needs" and that he believed he was the right candidate for the job.

Emms also invoked the theory of sociologist Emile Durkheim - regarding society as a collective consciousness - to emphasise his point that the healthy functioning of individual groups is necessary for effective working of society as a whole. He explained that his involvement in the Drama Society and PuLSE FM have helped him develop a sense of responsibility.



From left to right: Dave Cole, Fabian Joseph, Simon Bottomley and Alexandra Vincenti



Photographs: Marta Skundric

# Race for Treasurer post heating up

Patrick Cullen  
Senior Reporter

Last week, the five candidates to replace Nat Black as Student Union Treasurer unveiled themselves to the UGM. In no particular order, they are Joel Kenrick, Douglas Carlson, Kanan Dhru (the only female candidate running), Thomas Groarke and Richard Holden. Presenting themselves at the UGM, the five spoke for two minutes each.

All five candidates briefly outlined the reasons they felt students should vote for them, with previous experience and policies taking centre stage. Kenrick stated that he had the "experience and knowledge" to spend "responsibly" and that the SU budget would be spent "in the proper way." He would, if elected "actively seek sponsorship" for the SU, and would increase "society funding."

Groarke declared that he would spend "more on societies," and hold a "budget review in the first term" while also providing "more money for hardship funds". He would also make "catering more competitive," and would focus on ensuring good "financial welfare" services for students.

Dhru made much of her degree in "accounting and finance," pointing out that she



From left to right: Kanan Dhru, Douglas Carlson, Thomas Groarke and Joel Kenrick

Photograph: Laleh Kazemi-Veisari

was the only candidate to have such a qualification. Further, she said, "I have the courage and competence to do the job well."

Carlson emphasised what he saw as a "personal development crisis" about which he felt the Union "should be worried." He would address this through a number of means, including "capital investment in societies ... funding a better Barrel that will be stronger than last year" and would attempt to increase "sponsorship for [the] SU."

Questions from the UGM began with one asking where the funds for the candidate's

policies would come from. Carlson replied that "sponsorship" would raise "tens of thousands of pounds to be reinvested in societies."

Holden also referred to "sponsorship and advertising" but also talked about "self-funding" and an "evaluation [of the budget] to make savings." He also maintains opposition against fees for UK students and opposition to an increase in Visa Charges.

Dhru answered that "sponsorship" alone would provide the money needed.

Kenrick argued that there would be "£8,000 from the fact that Sabbs will be paid less

next year," and pointed out that he "got £120,000 from the school" and would get "as much support" from the LSE as he could.

When asked which of the current Sabbatical Officers they felt supported them, Carlson declared to *The Beaver* "To be honest, I'm not sure if any of the sabbs are supporting me. I haven't asked them."

A source close to Kenrick declared that he thinks he "clearly has the most support of any candidate among both the sabbs and the executive." Kenrick himself states that "I have worked closely with our

current and previous Sabbatical Officers over the past two years in my role as Environment & Ethics Officers and they have been very supportive of me."

Groarke refused to be drawn on the issue, stating that "I think that all sabbaticals should be neutral when it comes to elections." This attitude was not shared by all the others, including Dhru, that at the very least, "all the union officers have been absolutely great in encouraging and supporting me to go for the post." Holden, meanwhile, said that he hopes "Chris Heathcote supports me."



## Union Jack

Jack shimmied up the stairs to the Old Building, with a spring in his step and a twinkle in his eye. The staid old UGM hunted aside for a sneak preview of Week 8's election action, and left Jack salivating.

With every candidate desperate to make their mark on the electorate (yes the 2.3 people that attend the UGM) and also try and wheedle their way into Jack's widely read, universally worshipped column, theatrics were guaranteed.

Rasta-Marie true to her name, gave Action Man the Hasta-Lo-Vista treatment and would have wiped the floor with him had Jimmy not revealed his trump card - he has experienced it in more positions than her.

While Jack is not easily affected by crude sexual terminologies, it did seem slightly inconsiderate of the self-styled Action Man to inflict upon the OT details of his private life.

Meanwhile Dog 'oleinthe-wall strove to exert authority, straining his vocal chords for the deaf OT crowd, and using his nanosecond accurate stopwatch to cut off every candidate he saw fit.

The Treasurer race interested Jack immensely especially after Tom GoArk?! Quaark?! Bwearrrk?! showed off his favourite impression - a shivering man.

Dick Hold went on his medieval Tory rant again, so nothing new from him.

Jack actually dosed off during the Treasurer speeches, assuming that anyone running for a position of an ill-qualified and badly paid accountant isn't worth listening to.

Jack woke up to the ferocious exclamations of Alibaba Jedi, reading the speech from his palm. Cheeky, but it did fool most.

Although, at the speed he was going, Jack wondered whether he was in fact trying to recite War and Peace in his three minutes.

Eloquent Elaine Londerbra did the old 'you-should-elect-me-for-three-reasons' speech. Needless to add, this electoral trinity was a vice of many candidates.

Ed&Welfare promises to be entertaining on the street, with the Bottomless Gayman proudly explaining how he failed a year just to continue to be on the Exec.

And not just for himself, but to gain enough "experience" to be the best Sabb officer this Union has ever known. Almost as good as Vincent the Femalotariat.

While the Caveman managed to rattle off his speech without falling off the stage, AU man IAmSoFabulous Joseph was kind enough to at least pretend to possess some semblance of humility.

Jack left the UGM thinking he should be paid to listen this.

Judges do, right? Elections don't change year to year, country to country - anything that is promised never gets done.

Good luck to all, and to all a good night!!

## Residences & Environment Societies, International & Anti-racism

Fatima Manji

This year's campaigns for Residences, Women's and Environment and Ethics officers are dominated largely by first-year students. In the residences race all candidates have appealed to the 'progressive' vote resulting in an overlap of policies.

Louise Robinson, Andy Hallett and Kevin Heutschi promised policies of renewable energy and recycling.

All three have pledged extra support for students trying to find private accommodation and a commitment to lowering rents, whilst Hallett and Heutschi also both committed themselves to a minimum 'London Living Wage,' for all halls staff.

However all the candidates seem to have formulated new and innovative policies, Hallett's being a 'Residences Show' on Pulse FM, Heutschi's a pledge to modernize all hall facilities and Robinson's a commitment to providing health care facilities within halls.

Many have argued that there is little political choice between candidates. Two of the candidates are from Rosebery Halls. All three are arguably appealing to the 'left-leaning' voter base, and so campaigning on Houghton Street looks set to prove crucial in deciding next year's Residences Officer.

The political lines are more traditional with the campaign for Environment and Ethics Officer, as Conservative Alkesh Woods faces Green candidate Aled Fisher. Fisher believes he is likely to get the backing of the 'progressive bloc,' at LSE and is known to be backed strongly by James Caspell, a high profile and experienced

political figure in the Union. Woods meanwhile maintains he is "not a tree hugging hippy, but a Conservative," and is likely to rely upon the right wing bloc vote.

Fisher and Woods will however both compete for the 'People and Planet' endorsement, as both are committee members of the society. Fisher has pledged to make the LSESU world-renowned for its sustainability and progressive conscience, something which he hopes will be achieved through creating expert consulting groups to formulate policy, strengthening awareness through events and UGM motions, as well as extending recycling, ethical purchase and energy reduction facilities.

Woods however suggested Fisher has "good intentions," but his goals are not practical enough. His own campaign is focused around policies producing visible results with Fair-trade and recycling and also on broadening the ethical aspect of the post, to include issues of ethics in business, religion and human rights.

The election for Women's Officer, sees the entry of Hillen Francke a newcomer to SU Politics. Francke says she has no agent or notable endorsements; rather she aims to focus on personal interaction with individual students on Houghton Street this week. Her rival Zoë Sullivan has already witnessed success during the Michaelmas term elections, where she secured a place on the Court of Governors and has also been involved with both RAG and Women's Weeks. As a hockey player she is also likely to secure endorsement from the Athletics Union.



From left to right: Master, Haque and Laurence

Photograph: Laleh Kazemi-Veisari

Nazir Hussain

The positions of Societies, International Students and Anti-Racism Officers are all being fiercely contested.

The contest for the position of Societies Officer between Arthur Krebbers - former President of High Holborn residence, former Constitution and Steering (C&S) Committee Member and active member of the Media group - and Shayaan Afsar - Chair of Stop the War Coalition and Finance and Services (F&S) Committee Member - is expected to be one of the most intense.

Sources from both camps approached by *The Beaver* were confident of their candidates success. Krebbers enjoys the backing of several European cultural societies such as The European Society and French and Luxemburg Societies, as well as the LSE Runners, Geography and Environment (GAIA) Society and the High Holborn residence vote, having been its President last year.

Afsar has the support of the "progressive societies" including the Greens, Amnesty, Student Action for Refugees (STAR), besides the Debate Society, Islamic Society, and cultural societies such as the

Society for the Promotion of Indian Culture and Ethos (SPICE) and the Afro-Caribbean Society. At Friday's hustings speech, Krebbers stressed his experiences with societies and his capabilities, while Afsar stressed the need to bring international students into Union life and making it easier for societies to deal with the Union.

The position of International Students Officer is being contested by Eddy Fonyódi, Fadhil Bakeer - Markar and George Meng. All three candidates are heavily involved in societies - Fonyódi, besides being the student representative on the Court of Governors, is Treasurer of Grimshaw Club, Secretary of the Scandinavian Society and Vice-President of the Central and Eastern Europe Development Society (CEEDS).

Bakeer-Mark, the Treasurer of High Holborn residence, is also the Treasurer of Model United Nations Society. Meng is the Vice-President of China Development Society, and is believed to have the backing of East Asian national societies such as the Thai Society and Japanese society. All three candidates spoke during the hustings of how much more could be done for international students.

Fonyódi promised that he would speak to different banks to speed up the setting up of international student accounts whilst Bakeer - Markar promised that smaller national societies would be given help in putting together joint events as their small budgets prevent them from hiring SU venues. Meng focused on doing more to help international students such as ensuring that they are able to get the language support needed.

Whilst last year's Anti-Racism race was won uncontested, there are three candidates this time - Shanela Haque, Pratik Master and Charles Laurence.

At Friday's Quad hustings, Haque emphasised her experience in anti-racism campaigns including being co-founder of LSE Students' Union (SU) Student Action for Refugees (SAAR) as well as being a volunteer in the Unite Against Fascism campaign and the Mayor of London's anti-racism festival for the past four years. Master mentioned the lack of awareness amongst ethnic minorities of opportunities at the LSE, while Laurence highlighted his experience of volunteering with a youth helpline and noted that encouragement needs to be given to get victims of racism to speak out.

# Raising And Giving Week expected to beat previous totals



Abseiling down the Old Building Photograph: Marta Skundric

James Bull  
Senior Reporter

This year's Raising and Giving (RAG) Week is expected to raise nearly £20,000 in aid of charities.

The week saw a variety of events ranging from a 120-hour broadcast by PuLSE FM to the LSE's version of Big Brother, aptly titled 'Big Beaver'. A wide range of LSE SU societies participated this year to raise money for the SU supported charities - The Disasters Emergency Committee, The Stroke Association, St. Mungos and Water Aid.

Phil Hutchinson and Kayt Berry of PuLSE FM conducted the 'Charity Broadcast-A-Thon', a 120-hour long, continuous, live broadcast, whilst living in the Quad throughout the week in order to raise sponsorship money.

PuLSE FM also organised 'Gunk an LSE Celebrity', an event in which students donated money towards each 'celebrity' resulting in those with the least donations coming face to face with a bucket of Brunch Bowl leftovers.

The line-up of volunteers included LSE SU Communications Officer Chris

Heathcote, LSE SU General Secretary candidates Jimmy Tam and Stacy-Marie Ishmael, Constitution and Steering Committee (C&S) member Simon Douglas and former C&S member Arthur Krebbers, all of whom were gunked as they did not raise enough money. Union General Meeting (UGM) Chair, Vangelis Livanis, and Executive Editor of *The Beaver*, Sam Jones, also participated but avoided the leftovers by receiving the most donations.

The sale of RAG week merchandise was carried out on Houghton Street whilst volunteers also held a jumble sale in the Quad. Students showed their support and generosity by purchasing RAG week t-shirts, mugs and glasses as well as hunting for bargains at the jumble sale. The Knitting Society contributed £220 to RAG week by holding a 24-hour knit in the Quad. They aimed to collect as much money as possible by getting students to pay a pound to guess the final length of the scarf.

Heathcote organised a sponsored abseil on Thursday, which took place on the walls of the Old Building despite gloomy weather conditions. The students involved raised £30 each for the SU's charities.

Thursday evening saw the presentation of "The London School of Dance", a dance show organised by the Dance Society. The show, held in the Old Theatre, featured a spectacular array of different dance styles including Cheerleading, Classical Ballet, Jazz, Bollywood, Hip-Hop, Swing Dance and Chinese Fan Dancing. Expected revenue from the event is about £1000.

Friday saw a high-spirited RAG week Crush which began with music from PuLSE DJs Alex B, Julia D and Kash Patel to finish off the Broadcast-A-Thon.

However, both speed-dating and the pub crawl were cancelled for lack of participants.

Halls also contributed to the total with Bankside Hall raising over £500 with date auctions, hot chilli eating contests and kissing booths. Carr-Saunders Hall took part in the Circle line pub crawl challenge, with students paying an entry-fee and collecting money along the way.

Heathcote, who is also the Chair of the RAG week taskforce, commented on the success of the week by telling *The Beaver*, "I'm immensely pleased with how well RAG has gone this year. It was very stressful to organise and has

taken a lot of planning but judging by the feedback from people it has been a great success."

"The taskforce and I tried a number of new ideas this year with events such as the jumble sale, PuLSE 'Broadcast-A-Thon' and of course Big Beaver, all of which increased the visibility of RAG week and re-kindled the spirit of RAG Week. Together with the generosity of the library and central catering I hope we will reach our target of ten thousand pounds."

He continued, "Not all of the new ideas have worked out and we had to cancel the speed dating event as we only sold ten tickets one of which was to me and having rag so close to the elections meant that a lot of people were unable to give time to volunteer hence the pub crawl had to be cancelled."

"I also have lots of t-shirts and mugs left especially extra large sizes but I hope to sell these at a discounted price. There are a couple of lessons to be learnt and next year we should probably avoid 'Ethical Thread' as their T-shirts were too large to sell and we should move RAG earlier before election time."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ter since she believed the "SU was not looking after them" and that regarding post-graduates and PhD students, she believed the School and "SU was not looking after them" and that they were being treated as if they were valuable in strictly economic terms.

Pressed on his policy on improving food provision at the School, Tam told *The Beaver* that there needed to be "more scientific analysis." The General Secretary sits on the Catering User group. Tam said that in general "consultation and focus groups" had to be used more in order to get a bigger survey of students so that one can "take it and tell them."

Asked by *The Beaver* about their views on the future of the AU Barrel, which appeared in doubt after the disruption and vandalism of King's College this year, Tam said that, "Banning the Barrel could potentially cause uproar. The Barrel is an event that a lot of people enjoy and remember, across the whole School, and even Howard Davies goes."

"What happened this year was very unfortunate. The barrel is something that should go ahead but with better communication about what is not allowed, including better communication to freshers. A lot of them this year didn't know what was allowed. After this year people should have got the message," said Tam.

Separately, Ishmael said, "The LSE does not have many traditions to which students feel attached. However, the Barrel is one of them and for most members of the AU it is the highlight of their year."

"The AU should be given another chance. However, the SU has got to make sure it facilitates it properly, to know what's going on during the event, and making sure there is

security and its properly policed. At the same time the AU have really got to step up because they deserve the Barrel but need to show it."

The *Beaver* also asked the candidates about their views on the banning of paper-throwing at UGM's. Stacy Marie Ishmael said that she supports the ban, but thinks that "there are three things that would have made it easier to support the ban at the time; the School had said it was illegal, then it would have had to go; if the Students with Disabilities Officer of the SU had said it definitely had to go; if the UGM had passed a motion to ban it, because they are the sovereign body, and you have got to respect students."

Tam said that he was unsure about the ban. He thought that the Constitution and Steering Committee (C&S) had made a "mistake of not consulting the executive committee, the students at the UGM and students in general." He said that he does not think "banning it outright" will work, and that such a decision needed to be based on "student survey and consultation", a lack of which was part of the problem.

Each candidate has been very active in their election campaigns, with support being gathered for both of them from numerous societies. Both have also spoken at hustings held by different societies.

Ishmael is most widely known as being the former head of PuLSE FM and is argued by certain members of the Union to have their 'political' backing. She has also been a Graphics Editor of *The Beaver* and a prominent member of the Brazilian and Grimshaw societies.

Jimmy Tam was elected as Societies Officer last year and has been overall well received by the student population. He also sat on the Court of Governors and has been a president at Passfield hall.

## Longford Scholarship Debate: 'Youth and the Criminal Justice System'

Charlotte Rhodes  
and Chris Lam

Last Tuesday the LSE hosted the penultimate Longford Scholarship Debate. These debates are designed to raise awareness of prison life today as well as to promote the Longford scholarship, which was set up two years ago to help rehabilitate young offenders by getting them into higher education. The motion "this house believes that the criminal

Justice System is failing British Youth" was proposed by the ex-prisoner and Tory minister Jonathan Aitken and Paul Carter-Bowman, a former young offender. On the opposition side was MET officer Brian Paddick and the head of the Prison Reform Trust Juliet Lyons.

Jonathan Aitken focused on the deficiencies of the prison system. He said that "ninety percent of young released prisoners get in to trouble again within two years or less" and the fact that one

third of prisoners are illiterate, meant that there was "no surprise that they can't get a job." He said that "eighty percent of prisoners are on drugs" and that this was a "huge failure."

However Brian Paddick pointed out that prison is not the only part of the criminal justice system. He said that the majority of British youth were "honest, decent and high spirited... only a tiny minority are caught up in the criminal justice system." He said that if the system was failing the youth in

any way at all it was in "contact with the police and custodial sentences."

Paul Carter-Bowman said that "prison was not a safe place" and that when he was in Feltham Young Offender's Institute, "none of the prisoners ever expressed remorse or regret." Of the Criminal Justice system he said that it was "pro punishment and not pro-reform."

Juliet Lyons described how for some youths, for example with suicidal tendencies they would be better off in mental health hospitals. She said that she believed that there were other "solutions in the community", and that with regards to putting youths in prison "we are failing them because we are putting them in the wrong place at the wrong time and marking them for life."

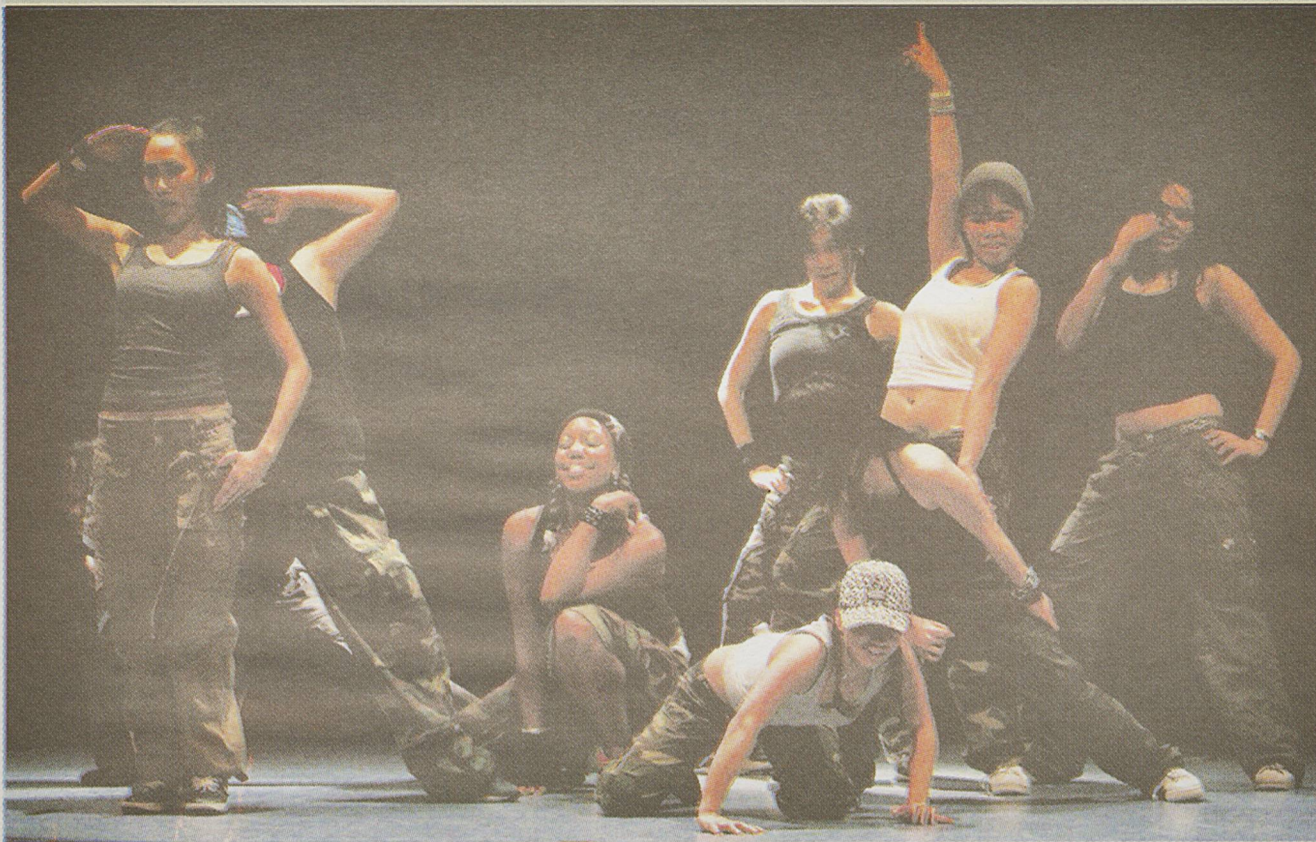
Some of the highlights of the following round was Aitken defending his prison centred speech saying that "court room procedures very often fail". He continued, "the criminal justice system should not be sending them there at all."

Paddick said that it was "society that was failing British youth" rather than the criminal justice system. He suggested that it was the rise in broken homes, the British drinking culture, and even videogames, according to Brian Paddick, which are the issues that really need to be addressed.



From left to right: Jonathan Aitken, Paul Carter-Bowman, Ali Dewji, Alex George, Brian Paddick and Juliet Lyons

Photograph: Magnus Aabech



"The London School of Dance" was one of the many RAG week highlights

Photograph: Dimitris Kallergis

## SU Committee races hotly contested

Laura Deck  
Senior Reporter

The election campaigns for the Students' Union (SU) committees are heating up with 15 candidates competing for seven spots on the Constitution and Steering Committee (C&S) whilst 13 candidates are running for the four available positions on the Finance and Services Committee (F&S).

Candidates for C&S include current members Simon Douglas, Carys Morgan and Jefferson Marshall Courtney. Present F&S member, Shayaan Afsar, is also standing for re-election.

Candidates reported that they are campaigning with traditional methods of putting up posters and handing out leaflets. Amy Williams who is running for F&S says that she will be handing out some "lovely stickers" and F&S candidate Daisy O'Brien reported her plans to hand out home-made biscuits on Houghton Street with "Vote for Daisy"

written on them. Courtney stated that he was hoping to use the "recognition and respect I might have gained from winning the C&S by-election two weeks ago," and also commented that posters use a huge amount of paper and are sometimes ineffective. Other candidates emphasised that their policies should be more important than their posters.

C&S candidate Daniel Sheldon observed that his fellow candidates represented a "good mixture of old and new faces, male and female, progressive and otherwise" while Morgan worried that "as the only female candidate, it would be sad to return to a difficult male-dominated committee." Williams expressed concern that her fellow candidates were "using F&S as a back-up plan if they don't win higher prizes".

Of the ten C&S and F&S candidates who responded to *The Beaver's* inquiries, the majority either identified themselves as members of the Labour or Progressive parties,

or else did not affiliate themselves with a specific political party.

Not all C&S candidates gave firm opinions on the controversial issue of paper throwing at the UGM. However, Douglas - a former chair of C&S - spoke against it at the time of the no-confidence vote on C&S, and Courtney also reported that he is against paper throwing. Courtney reported that his policies to "interpret the constitution in the spirit of the constitution and to make the UGM inviting to those who attend" have led to this stance.

Meanwhile F&S candidates emphasised the trust that is placed in the F&S committee to ensure effective budgets. Candidate Ju McVeigh reported that she wanted to "work with societies to plan budgets better, make them more cost-effective." Another candidate, Arthur Krebbers, agreed that "F&S is pivotal in facilitating societies and other Union bodies with the funds they need." Candidate Rebecca

Stephenson proposed a policy arranging F&S meetings at times more convenient for society members as well while

At present, society support for candidates varies. C&S candidates James Kanabar reported to *The Beaver*, "I'm not one of those people who need to be backed by every single society in order to vindicate my existence!" Other candidates gave detailed accounts of their support from SU societies, such as Krebbers who reported that he enjoys the support of "a variety of societies, including international, cultural ones as well as sports teams."

All candidates encouraged students at the LSE to go out and vote in all of the elections this Thursday and make their voices heard. F&S candidate Megan Gaventa encouraged students to vote saying "the results of these elections do affect the Students' Union and students' experiences."

## 'Find The Time' Appeal comes to LSE

Tanya Rajapakse  
News Editor

The 'Find the Time Bone Marrow Appeal' took place at LSE last week resulting in the successful registration of 225 donors.

Over the week, 25 student volunteers worked together with *Find the Time* (FTT), the *Anthony Nolan Trust* (ANT) and the *African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust* (ACLT) to register students on the ANT Bone Marrow Register. The Register aims to provide a list from which leukaemia patients can find a match in the event a transplant is required.

A major goal of the initiative was to recruit people from Oriental, African, Middle Eastern and Asian descent. This was due to the fact that marrow matches depend on ethnic background and a shortage of donors from ethnic minorities has adversely affected ethnic minority patients.

Hoang, a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Economics student who registered along with a group of his friends said he chose to do so because of "the feeling that I can help someone".

In addition to the student volunteers a wide range of per-

sons from across the LSE offered their support, including lecturers and departmental managers who addressed students and agreed to send out emails about the appeal respectively.

FTT, ANT, ACLT and the volunteers expressed their gratitude towards everyone who came forward to register. "It's been a pleasure coming back at LSE. The support and commitment of the Medical Centre, Mr. Sam Gaid, Mr. Harry Edwards, Academic and Administrative Staff, and volunteers has resulted in a success wherein potentially lives may be saved. We look forward to coming back in October" said Mrs. Nilufer Nasser, director of FTT.

Madeleine Warren, one of the Lead Volunteers, commented on the changes observed, "Having been involved with FTT during their first visit to LSE, I was really pleased that many more students were aware of the appeal this time. It was encouraging to talk to people and see how the message was being passed on, although I still think that more people could make time to come to the clinic as it really is so easy! I want to say thank you to everyone who registered this week."



From left to right, 'Big Beaver' contestants Kwame Sarfo, Annie Minter, Hannah McAslan and Ben Biggs. McAslan emerged from 'the house' as the winner.

Photograph: Chris Colvin

# VOTE!

## LSE SU Lent Term Elections

1st and 2nd March

(Wednesday and Thursday)

in the Quad

Watch the count in the Old  
Building after 7.30pm

Visit [loosetv.co.uk](http://loosetv.co.uk) to view clips of  
candidates

## Review of Rishi Madlani and Natalie Black

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on International Student Visa Right of Appeal, lobbying for resits and the launching of the first ever Arts Forum.

Madlani's work on residences was met with approval by the SU Residences Officer, Simon Chignell, who said that he had been "excellent on residences".

"He is a consensus leader and this has created a united Executive on pretty much everything, and there have been no real Sabbatical fall-outs," said Chignell. However, Chignell did believe that Madlani's role was weighted down by committees. Madlani also received praise from SU International Students Officer Farhan Islam who said, "I felt that the Executive was less presidential this year than in previous years."

However not everyone agreed, with prominent student and active Union General

Meeting (UGM) member Azan Marwah calling Madlani a "mediocre" General Secretary. He accused Madlani of acting against 24-hour library openings as well as saying that he had "failed and halted genuine student initiatives".

Meanwhile Treasurer Black told *The Beaver* about her work over the year, highlighting achievements in terms of her election pledges. Concerning her promise to provide societies with pre-budget consultation, Black noted that this year, for the first time, she had organised two budget explanation meetings for societies as well as increasing the societies budget by £5,000. She also proclaimed success with regard to her pledges to increase recycling facilities on campus and obtain more money for the Student Support fund. "Substantial recycling bins are now available on Houghton Street and all SU offices have

paper recycling facilities.

She continued, "I increased the Student Support fund by 19 percent this year. In addition, together with Sian, I have created a new hardship fund as a consequence of monies

**"I INCREASED THE STUDENT SUPPORT FUND BY 19 PERCENT THIS YEAR. IN ADDITION, TOGETHER WITH SIAN, I HAVE CREATED A NEW HARDSHIP FUND AS A CONSEQUENCE OF MONIES RECEIVED FROM THE ANNUAL FUND."**

**- STUDENT'S UNION  
TREASURER NATALIE BLACK**

received from the Annual Fund." Her fourth promise of resolving the issue of providing food in The Tuns was also mentioned, with Black acknowledging that more could be done to "diversify the offering."

She also highlighted her work on Freshers' Fair - which resulted in new students being presented with a choice between NatWest and Barclays, her role in increasing the transparency and accountability of the Finance and Services Committee as well as endeavours to improve female representation within the SU and professionalism in the Union.

This was supported by Women's Officer Alexandra Vincenti who said that Black had brought "a sense of professionalism and efficiency" to the SU. Former Constitution and Steering Committee (C&S) member James Caspell told *The Beaver*, "I think Natalie Black has proved an extremely competent Treasurer, despite our political differences." Marwah continued, "Nat has tried hard to produce results, and with a great degree of energy she has pursued changes."

## COMMENT &amp; ANALYSIS

## Ballot Ballad

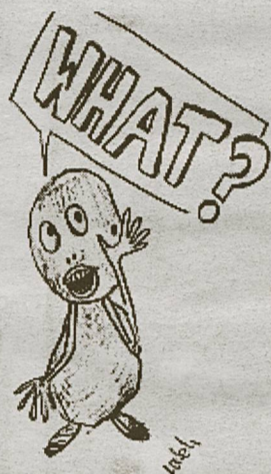
Steve Gummer casts a tired eye over the elections



Steve Gummer

Having been asked to write a sabbatical review for 2006 and compare our out-going representatives to some of their potential successors it is safe to say that Sunday morning was not the best time to be either hung-over or excessively exhausted. Brimming with personal bias on who I'd like to win each race, and being inconveniently over-whelmed by apathy on the subject of the success or the respective inability of our soon to be lame-duck officials, it seemed highly likely that anything I sought to scrawl would somewhat resemble the efforts of a dyslexic chipmunk on a heroin high. Indeed had I attempted the serious feat of a true, yet witty account, it seems likely that no greater crime would have been committed

against an art-form since Heff's brutal offence against music, 'Hooked on a feeling'. Taking that into account it seemed imprudent to offer a genuine and heart-felt account, something I'd be unable to do without offending everyone (A problem my doctor diagnosed as AU syndrome), hence I decided to offer this on last year's election drama and the inevitable drama to come:



Just for 1 night  
Let the people decide;  
Who will fall flat  
And who will preside.

The ballots will be counted  
With enthused shock and awe.  
So it seems such a pity  
That the nominees are this poor.

Gained by the winners,  
The wage of sabbats  
For the losers a useful phrase:  
'Do you want fries with that?'

For such is the price  
Of the run at the prize,  
To sacrifice your degree  
For voters and lies.

They persuade us they care  
About the Union; what's right  
But come Michaelmas next year  
They won't give a shite.

'I won it on the street,'  
Was the traditional boast.  
Bollocks you did!  
No one loves you the most.

Never the man of the people,  
Neither the wisest nor best,  
Just not quite 'an empty shirt';  
More a half-filled up vest.

For what kind of person  
Craves such clap-trap?  
Men built for genius?  
No, someone utterly crap.

A year of such meetings,  
Being ignored where it counts,  
25k the sole bonus  
And even that's been renounced.

The meetings aside,  
Though that's what the job  
seems to be  
Surely the greatest pain of the  
job:  
Tolerating the other three?

The election says all,  
The weird stares; the looks  
For what type of battle  
Is fought on Facebook?

Surely not one  
For those of cunning and guile  
But the lowest stoop of low  
For the depraved and puerile.

And so to our retirees;  
Sian, Chris, Rishi, Black  
What will the future hold  
For these out-going hacks?

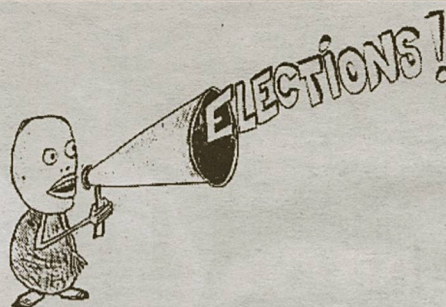
Likely nothing of any merit  
I'd suggest or lampoon:  
Between the dole or the dol-  
drums  
Or joining Carter at Spoons.

Especially for the comms sabb  
The future looks pretty grim;  
Another year studying  
Before life can begin.

Another year of essays  
Of problems and sin  
Of last minute Wikipedia  
And filing late for hand-ins.

So here's to the Sabb,  
Never feared nor adored,  
Once in awhile cheered  
As we're utterly bored.

All on this Thursday  
End the electoral stunts.  
The people have chosen  
And no doubt they'll choose...



## SU elections frustrate

First-year student Adela Gjorgjoska gives her take on the SU elections



Adela Gjorgjoska

As the SU elections are approaching I am starting to wonder whether it is worth all the fuss. I often think what difference could they possibly make to my personal experience of University Life or the functioning of the LSE? No matter who wins the elections I will still have to walk 30 minutes to School, I will have the same workload, same social life, same routines. Many first years whom I know show equally indifferent attitudes. The possible reason for such thinking is that students are not made aware of what the Union can do for them and also how they can influence it themselves. This is the Student Union's fault because it fails to engage students adequately through poor communication and low accessibility. Apart from election-time no one really hears about the Executive Committee that they have elected. Even during elections many students are disconnected and have no idea

of what is going on. If you are not a regular UGM attendee, then how can you find out what is going on in the Union. The LSESU website has helped to increase the Union's image to a certain extent, but even that cannot overcome the severe lack of communication between most of the student body and its Union.

As a first year, the Union seems unfriendly and unapproachable. For those of us who are interested in student politics but don't have the kind of self-promotion skills of other students, it can become frustrating to see and hear other people rising the ranks of what seems like, to most, an institution detached from most of those whom it serves. I would like to get involved in student politics but often feel unwelcome.

Possibly, the only students who truly care are those running. And then I begin to be skeptical again and wonder what could possibly motivate the candidates? The words Curriculum and Vitae immediately spring to mind. If this is the only motivation, I would hesitate whether to vote at all. However, leaving all the negative skepticisms aside I can recognize LSE as a place with great potential in students

who do not run only because of selfish reasons but also because they are obviously enthusiastic about being part of a community. It's just that at times, it seems that very few of the candidates are like this.

If we want to feel as part of the LSE community as well we should go and vote. Although possibly the communication with the SU is not perfect it can be improved and that is what depends on who we elect. Such similar frustrations and

suggestions can be put forward during the student elections. Who better to talk to about our concerns with aspects of University life than other students who also know what it is like to actually BE a student today? Things don't change on their own and if we do not vote students should not be expected to see a change. Despite my criticisms of the SU, the only way to change it to the way I would like to see it run is to become

involved, and the best way to do that is to vote. If we feel that we have the right to have a say in the running of LSE then we should go and vote! I hope whoever is elected at these elections can help all students at the LSE, from first years to post grads, to feel part of a Union which truly represents them. So in this first year, I may not be quite as disillusioned as I had first thought.



**Hacks, voyeurs and the politically curious; welcome to Hacktivist - your one stop shop for superior spurious rumour, gossip and hearsay. This is the filthy grease that keeps the Houghton Street Circus oiled.**

**Communication Officer, Chris Heathcote, has developed an unusual rash.** It has been widely speculated that the rash was caused by his promiscuity within the inner circles of the Beaver editorial board. Other sources told us that the rash was from frost-bite. Apparently, Chris was trying to communicate with the nozzle of a fire extinguisher as a telephone and pulled the pin, thinking he was re-dialling.

Chris himself claims that he was sprayed in the face with CS gas by his 'friend', a policeman. He said it was a practical joke that went wrong. It couldn't have gone any better.

**General Secretary, Rishi Madlani, has decided to take most of the Monday off.** A Beaver editor noted that 'he doesn't get paid to see his wife when he's got a flu'. Rishi, who was recently, bought by a Russian oligarch to spend time with him on a Shaw Library chair for £200/night, denied claims of prostitution. The editorial board got hold of the oligarch, who promised to take Rishi out to dinner in the Savoy

**Off the record, on the QT, and very... hush hush.**

in the near future. His details cannot be disclosed.

**An inter-union intercourse was spotted last Friday.** UGM Chair, Van, orally penetrated an innocent female member of the C&S, Carys. Crush was chosen as the venue for this intimate act of love and affection. Various sources hinted that Van has long waited to see a female member on the C&S and, even, considered getting off with anyone if male dominance of this institution persisted.

**A very close resemblance has been spotted between AU Andy B and a liberator of Jerusalem.** The parenthood has not yet been established.

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.editor@lse.ac.uk

and you will be added to the list in next week's paper.

*The Beaver* is available in alternative formats.

# the Beaver

Established 1949 - Number 639

## It's your right LSE student should vote

This year's Lent term elections have seen a record number of candidates put themselves forward for positions. This increased participation in the Union, by a refreshingly diverse range of students, can only be a positive thing, and is something that this paper wholeheartedly supports.

However, it is the voter turnout that will be truly indicative of whether our Union can embrace the vast majority of students, or simply provide a distraction for the hacks and the UGM balcony boys.

That Union politics can be tedious is a given, even for the most dedicated student politicians. But to reject your chance to participate in a process that encompasses all of LSE life, from Houghton Street campaigners to the price of coffee in the Quad, for the sake of saving five minutes this Wednesday or Thursday, is beyond apathetic, it is doing yourself a disservice.

Quite simply, if you forgo your right to vote, then you forgo your right to complain about the services that the Union provides.

## Representative Union Increased female participation is welcome

Last week, the Beaver reported the election of three women to C&S. The significant presence of female candidates in this week's elections makes it even harder to believe that, up until a couple of weeks ago, C&S was an all boys club (although it is somewhat sobering that only one female candidate is running in the new C&S race).

The increased participation of women in SU politics is an essential step towards building a genuinely inclusive and representative Union, and it is reassuring to see at least one woman standing for each of the sabbatical positions. Most heartening of all is the presence of a woman as a strong candidate in the two-person Gen Sec race, which at this stage could seemingly go either way.

Thanks to the efforts of the Union to increase female participation, the LSE student body now has a more diverse range of candidates to choose from - it is now up to you to decide who deserves your vote.

## RAGs to riches Success at RAG week, but poor timing

Over £7000 has been raised by RAG Week so far, with enough money due to be collected over the next few weeks to push the total over the £10,000 target. Once again, the week was an all round success.

However, RAG Week's traditional proximity to the Lent term elections, which kicked off on Thursday, is something that needs to be reconsidered if the Union, and wider student body, is ever going to be fully mobilised behind the cause.

The fact is that many of the same dedicated hacks who are willing to tirelessly campaign during RAG Week, often through noble displays of public humiliation, are likely to be turning their attentions during the latter part of the week to campaigning for themselves or their friends in the Union elections.

Moving RAG Week away from the elections would allow the Union to concentrate all of its efforts on increasing participation and fundraising on a major scale.

# 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. All letters must be received by 3pm on the Sunday prior to publication. The Beaver reserves the right to edit letters prior to publication.

## What Jewish nation?

Dear Sir

Answering the question Charles Laurence left us in his last column, "why must the Jewish nation be denied what's the birthright of every other people, a land of their own?" Laurence forgets that Israel is brutally and monstrously occupying Palestinian birthright land and denying that same land to the refugees it massacred. References to a "Jewish nation" bring uncanny resemblances to South African "white nation" Apartheid. For example, Israel implements a classification system to Palestinians, confiscates Palestinian-owned land, restricts freedom of movement and segregation of West Bank roads, amongst many other discriminatory oppressive policies.

Hendrik Verwoerd, the South African prime minister and architect of the "grand apartheid" vision of the Bantustans, said "The Jews took Israel from the Arabs after the Arabs had lived there for a thousand years. Israel, like South Africa, is an apartheid state". Desmond Tutu remarks "I have seen the humiliation of the Palestinians at checkpoints and roadblocks, suffering like us when young white police officers prevented us from moving about" The now repealed UN 3379 resolution asserted that 'Zionism is Racism'.

So much for Laurence's staunch confidence in Israel. Adding to that, Laurence's questioning of the legitimacy of Palestinian nationalistic roots in past columns can be discriminatory towards LSE Palestinian students.

Your sincerely,  
Ziyaad Lunat

## Peace in Middle East

Dear Sir,

The minute I read Mr. Hallett's article, I knew someone would accuse him of being an anti-Semite. That is, after all, the usual response the moment anyone criticizes Israel in any way. I personally found most of Mr. Hallett's points to be true - because I lived through the water shortages, saw a Palestinian boy with a toy gun get shot, and have seen ambulances barred at checkpoints.

Mr. Hallett's comment about Israeli leaders also has some significance. One reader mentioned Menachem Begin. Might I also add Ariel Sharon (the Sabra and Shatila mas-

sacres) and Ehud Olmert (if you've seen Munich, he was the Mossad agent disguised as a woman in the Beirut assassinations.)

Regarding Mr. Laurence's response, the whole of Israel, from the left to right, certainly does not recognize the need for a Palestinian state. Yahdut Atorah and NUP are just two parties that oppose the formation of a Palestinian state. I'm also wondering - Israel gave up 2/3 of what land mass for peace? As it happens, the Palestinians are living on less than a quarter of their original land mass, and they don't even control that portion!

Why didn't Palestinian Arabs negotiate in the 1940's and 1960's? Perhaps because at the time, they didn't want to give up any land! Is that such a hard concept to grasp? The Jewish people had 'the right to a land of their own', which they took through force. Yet the Palestinians didn't have the right to demand and fight to get it back?

The wonder is that despite all the horrible history which Israelis and Palestinians both took part in, the average Israeli wants to live in peace, just as the average Palestinian does.

Yours,  
Nadia Awad

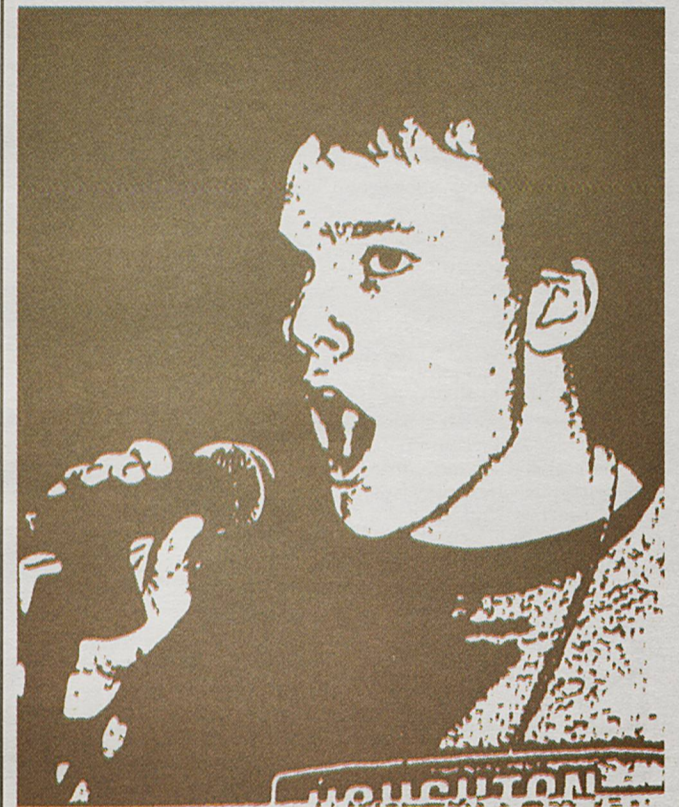
## RAG week

Dear Sir,

I am writing at the end of RAG (Raising and Giving) Week 2006 to thank everyone who helped me with the organising of the week, to those who volunteered throughout the week and to those who got stuck in with the events. In particular I want to thank Phil, Kayt, Alex and Natalie at PuLSEfm for the 'broadcastathon' (and for gunking me with Brunch Bowl custard), Tom Eshalby for 'Big Beaver', Wanyi for the Dance Show, Nick and Nick for the Luxembourg Football tournament, Zuhura and Shams for the Jumble Sale and Reema and everyone at the Development Society for adding £7,000 to the RAG total from the auction. I want also to mention Ju and Gabi for the Speed-dating and Zoe and Jeff for the Pub Crawl, even though things didn't quite work out. The Library and LSE Catering deserve special mention for offering to donate library fines paid over the week and a cut of all transactions from catering outlets to RAG, this will make a massive difference.

I feel that this year's RAG Week has been a real success

## The Rogue's Gallery No. 11 : Election affection



in terms not only of raising money, but of being far more visible and of rekindling the spirit of RAG. It was always my aim and that of the RAG taskforce that RAG week should aim to involve as many students as possible and that our events be on view to all, rather than happening behind closed doors. In the Quad with the broadcastathon, in Houghton Street with the change collection and t-shirt stall, in the Old Theatre with the Dance Show, at Berrylands with the Football tournament, in halls with co-ordinated parties on Thursday and in the Student Salon with Big Beaver, RAG 2006 has had a real feel right across campus. There are of course some lessons to be learned in time for next year. First of all, we should reconsider the Union policy that mandates us to use only Ethical Thread t-shirts for RAG, which through their larger-than-average sizes has left us with around 100 large, extra large and extra extra large t-shirts unsold. Secondly we should move RAG week away from the SU elections as it is hard for both the candidates and the Communications Officer to balance their commitments to both and often leaves RAG in second place once the elections kick off on Thursday. Thirdly, though, more can be done to make RAG even bigger and better by extending it from one week of events. This is how King's College and var-

ious others regularly raise many times the total that we as LSE do.

There are many interesting ideas for RAG Week coming from the candidates for Communications Officer and whoever wins, I hope RAG 2007 is bold in its attempts to make more of RAG Week.

Yours,  
Chris Heathcote  
Communications Officer and  
RAG Week Chair

## Unchallenging

Dear Sir,

I found the crossword in PartB this week too easy. The 'very hard' sudoku was quite limp, too.

LSE is an intellectual establishment and the pullout section should challenge students a lot more with its riddles. I would like to suggest to the superb pullout editors that they introduce a difficult cryptic crossword, perhaps alongside with the simple quick one. Lastly, a compiler of a quick crossword shouldn't have a Latin-sounding name, as intriguing as Bibendus sounds. I look forward to more brilliant features in the pullout.

Yours,  
Gita Dhaliwal

## FEATURES

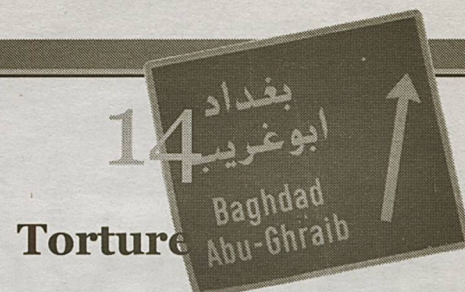
Politics/Law/Business/Careers

thebeaver.blink@lse.ac.uk



## In defence of Israel

## Careers in Asia



Torture

theBlog 28/02/06

## Eyes to the left



And so we find ourselves approaching the most exciting date on the LSE hacks' calendar: the Lent elections. Whilst we all gorge ourselves on a diet of poor catchphrases and easily broken promises, it is worth reminding ourselves that politics can, and does, change the world for the better, however tacky SU hackery can, at times, appear. Politics is to many people a discredited profession, and yet a quick glance through even just British history shows us just how inspirational and life-affirming the quest to better the human condition through legislation and the like can be.

This year, for example, happens to be the hundredth anniversary of the Liberal Party's crushing election victory and the first year of parliamentary representation for the Labour Party. The Liberal Government in the years after this wholehearted rejection of Conservatism in all its forms was one of the three greatest, alongside the 1940 War Cabinet and Attlee's administration just after. It accomplished so much in the field of social reform, introducing labour exchanges, the state pension and slum clearance, so that Britain was no longer a Victorian sweatshop for the rich. Much of their pioneering work was completed by the great heroes of the Left (Attlee, Bevan) after the Second World War, with the introduction of the NHS and an end to much means testing, alongside education reforms that meant the many could improve themselves through education. When progressive parties get into government (an all-too-rare occurrence in the UK), with sufficient majorities they can change the country for the better.

Indeed, it is remarkable how much the Left has managed to accomplish considering the fact that the Tories were in power, in one form or another, for more than four-fifths of the twentieth century. The Left decriminalised abortion and homosexuality in the 1960s whilst the Right once again showed their backwardness by foaming at the mouth over imaginary "rivers of blood" and governmental sex scandals. Equally, in the late forties the Conservatives were dead set against the wonderful idea of a comprehensive medical service free at the point of need, to the extent that they mobilised their allies in the civil service and the British Medical Association to try and kill the NHS before birth. Clearly the poor are not entitled to the same standard of health as the rich, just as they are not entirely to the same level of education.

It is thus the ultimate shame that Blair, in the years following perhaps the Left's greatest hour, squandered two terms with an enormous parliamentary majority compared to what his predecessors managed to achieve. The frequently uttered cry in the spring of 1997, which now sounds so quaint, was "things can only get better." Whilst true, Blair and co. have hardly been radical, even if there is not as much to do thanks to Lloyd George and others. It is never easy for the Left to gain power, particularly in a

small-c conservative country like this, but what Attlee in particular realised was that it was a near once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – and he took it. We all have so much to thank those talented individuals who saw that Britain could be improved and dared to break the laissez-faire orthodoxy thus prevailing. Labour had it right in 1945 when it asked voters to "now, win the peace." Having effectively saved the world from Nazi tyranny, the British people were not willing to re-elect a party of unemployment and appeasement, the Conservatives.

Indeed, has anyone ever considered what the UK would be like if the 1906 and 1945 governments did not win their respective elections? Tory hegemony would have meant the agony of the 1980s to the exponential, with no safety net or health service, massive inequalities in wealth and opportunity and the poor sacrificed to the altar of The Market. If this is the nightmare, what about the dream; a Britain where the Left did not split post-WW1, and thus allow the Right to govern so frequently, and with such devastating consequences. Indeed, it is my hope that a new Lib-Lab coalition will be formed after the next general election, with the Tories having lost yet another general election. This would be especially satisfying as the Left all over the world tends to fragment, to no one's benefit but their enemies. With that in mind, I hope you use your vote wisely, both in the Lent elections and in the real world, where politics can, and demonstrably has, changed the world for the better.

## The right approach



If you were to dig deep under the surface of any European town you would find something archeologically extraordinary. For 200 years between 500 and 700 AD the people of Europe got poorer and poorer. At the beginning of this period those on a modest income could afford good quality housing, clothes, education. However, this same class was slowly reduced to poverty and degradation. What happened? Well, as the historians among you will have already guessed, 500 to 700 AD were the dates, as Gibbon would call it, of 'The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire'. Whilst before military might and efficient administration meant that corn growers of Egypt could trade freely with the wine fermenters of France, the loss of political control meant small groups increasingly has to fend for themselves as the world became divided by tribalism, wars and weak and transient empires.

I would like you to honestly think about what an archaeologist 1500 years from now would see if the EU, our current aspirant empire, were to end tomorrow. Chaos, poverty and war apparently, if you listen to the army of European plutocrats. The EU in its current state is bad for democracy, bad for the economy and bad for security. It needs immediate change to salvage any of its redeeming features. It is undemocratic for two reasons: it ignores the wishes of the people, and is led by an elite. Those in power are sure that they

have the solutions to Europe's problems (despite all evidence suggesting that using Tarot Cards to select policy would have done a better job) and that voting is merely a convenience to validate their decisions.

Remember the Treaty of Rome? All countries that rejected it were made to repeat the referendum as many times as it took for the to get the 'right' answer. The idea that politicians serve the people was grossly turned on its head. And now with the rejection of the European Constitution, it seems that the powers that be have simply given up on democracy.

Europolitix.com reports that, 'in the aftermath of the referendum, France has lost prestige on the EU stage and Paris is eager to regain European legitimacy.' And to do so they are going implement the constitution bit by bit despite the clear rejection by the French people when they were asked.

The more subtle point about democracy is the sheer heterogeneity of Europe. Great democracies like India or the United States may be made up of every race, creed and colour under the sun, but there is a sense of togetherness as a country. Their laws are the will of the people, and thus respected, European Union regulations are imposed and resented. The United States Constitution fits on three pages and starts 'We the people ...', the EU constitution ran to over 800 pages and is a turgid book of compromises between nations from beginning to end. That is not to say that we may not all feel European in the future and Brussels will not become the cradle of our democracy, but it has not happened and it is futile to try and impose it from above.

The EU is bad for the economy. Of course the free movement of goods and labour is key to economic strength, but the EU has ceased to do this. It has become a protectionist club of inefficient producers, so poor families in Britain have to pay more for their clothes, food and other essential in order to protect unproductive farmers and factories in other countries.

And as for the free movement of labour, this does not currently happen, since the expansion of the EU, Britain is one of the few countries to accept migrant workers freely from eastern Europe. Nearly every other country has either a partial or total ban, despite the fact that this is blatantly against the professed ideal of the organisation.

But apart from being bad for Britain to be stuck inside a protectionist club, it is even worse for those not invited to the party. Those in sub Saharan Africa, for whom production of the basic staples is their only route out of poverty, have to contend with grossly unfair trade barriers. There is no justice in this, but you wont hear politicians making a fuss because our trade is now controlled centrally.

And finally, security. Our defence procurement and integration is currently being changed bit by bit from a NATO integrated system to an EU one. Whatever you think of the United States, we are choosing to ditch the most powerful alliance in human history for a the group that brought you the Euro fighter (£18 billion and years late) and stood by whilst the massacres in Kosovo were in full swing. If we want to save the limited benefits of the EU we must be honest about why so much of it is failing us.

Last week, one of my classmates was wearing a jumper with a picture of a building, with a sign describing it as a "stupid factory." The caption below announced that it was the place "where boys are made." While I was in conversation with her, she added that she had also heard of one which says "boys are stupid – throw rocks at them."

I wondered if men would find that jumper either offensive or threatening. If I had worn a jumper which read "women are ditzy – shag them from behind before they figure out it was you" or "women are stupid – hit them if they don't cook you dinner," you can image the result (I even winced when writing those phrases, such is the power of self-censorship). So why is it that women can get away with what men clearly cannot?

My friend told me she once overheard some office colleagues say that they would love to have a man in a thong pleasure them and then clean up after them. My friend was exasperated. "How would they react if a man said that he wanted a bikini-clad woman who would give him head and then do the dishes while he sat around drinking beer?" She asked if I was bothered by what she perceived to be a double-standard. "How can women demand equality and then use it to act like sexists?" she sighed.

I replied that I wasn't particularly bothered by such comments. I told her that so long as men are socially privileged and economically dominant, they will not be offended by such remarks. I pointed out that there is nothing women can say that can threaten male command over a system that caters to their needs and looks out for their interests. Only when women start to gain meaningful control over the reigns of power will such comments strike a chord with men – partly because the women will have the power to actually follow through and do it.

"But," you are already shouting, "women already have that power! Any women with enough money could pay and hire a man to do exactly that." You would be right, of course. Except that 99 times out of 100, it is men who hire women in bikinis to go down on them, men who beat their partners, men who traffic women with impunity, men who get fat bonuses for "doing business" at strip clubs, who are the CEO's with the big bucks. Women will not be able to challenge this dominance merely by "throwing rocks at stupid boys."

As women gain more power, they will increasingly be willing to use it. But the system from which they will gain that power is still one created and reproduced daily by men. When men start being offended by images on jumpers which depict them at the receiving end of abuse, it will be because the system will have stopped privileging their needs over those of women. When men start to take notice of sexist remarks made by women about men, it will be because men can no longer rely on the system to protect and insulate them.

Hopefully, many years and many more jumpers down the line, men and women will both be equal participants in a system that is truly egalitarian. If the price to pay for that equality is that the "stupid boys" jumper factory will close down, then I think that is a price that most women are probably prepared to pay. The real question is whether or not men will be willing to accept that new reality.

Features Editor Joshua Hergesheimer



# Compassionate Conservative

Beaver Editor Sam Jones meets the Conservative Party's answer to Gordon Brown

**G**eorge Osborne is a newcomer to politics. He has been an MP for just five years. Educated at St. Paul's school in London, before winning a place at Oxford to read History, Osborne rose through the ranks of the Tory machine, working first as a political researcher and eventually becoming speech writer for William Hague. In the ascendancy of the youthful Osborne and his latter day Granita-esque partner, David Cameron, 'Compassionate Conservatism' saw its genesis. Osborne is now at the forefront of a movement which plans to rejuvenate the Conservative party, reinvigorate parliamentary debate and topple Blairism as the nation's political *modus operandi*.

"I want to bring Conservative principles into power. That's what I came into politics to do"

George Osborne is wearing a slightly crumpled suit and a dark blue silk tie – reclining after a forty-five-minute chat with the LSE SU Conservative Society, a meeting in which Osborne came across as the moderate. "There is a caricature about the Conservatives that we are only interested in the richest in society," he says, in his plummy Etonian accent – an irony not lost on New Labour plaudits.

"But I think we have to show that we are interested in all people in society," he continues. Such is the mission statement of Compassionate Conservatism: an hybrid to challenge the new Labour government at its own game.

"Conservative politics needs to help those with drug and alcohol addiction, those in poor housing, and those with no educational achievements or poor aspirations." Strong words from a party whose matriarch once proclaimed that any man who found himself using a bus past the age of 26 was a failure.

The ascendancy of George Osborne and David Cameron has sent ructions through the Tory party almost as profound as those felt by Labour in 1994. 16,000 new members have joined since Christmas – a meteoric growth by any standards. "I was at university the last time a big shift in politics



Photo: Magnus Aabech

happened, and that has led to 13 years of Labour party rule. I think the next big shift is happening right now," Osborne tells me. So is the Tory party to survive this change?

Where Euroscepticism failed and the quiet man stumbled, Compassionate Conservatism is enjoying a rare popularity as the current cause celebre of the media set. As frontmen, Osborne and Cameron play the situation well. Charismatic, charming and possessed of a silver tongue in his mouth as well as a silver spoon, Osborne could be equally at home with a directorship at Saatchi and Saatchi as the Shadow Chancellorship. Not for nothing do the Tory pair draw comparisons to the youthful Brown and Blair.

"We're still committed to the same Conservative principles, but we're also excited and enthusiastic about a new, modern Britain. Compassionate Conservatism is about tackling issues which affect people, but in a manner consistent with our principles as Conservatives." Therein lies the dilemma facing Osborne and co. The Tory party needs to move forward and shake off its old image, yet remain committed to its ideological roots. Previous leaders have failed miserably to reconcile the two dynamics. David Cameron and George Osborne seem to be charming their way through.

"David and I are in our thirties – we were at university when Thatcher came to power – the world has changed since then. The

issues the party faces are different now, so we need a different approach." Charm does not always wash, however, and often the blue rinse shows. "The state doesn't always have the right answer. What we're about is making sure individuals have the skills and abilities to do well in a prosperous and competitive economy," he says. Osborne certainly lacks Thatcher's bile, but still borrows from the Thatcherite lexis – competition and individualism remain high on the agenda. Same old Tories? The Brownite spin machine will be keen to say so.

Osborne and Cameron have certainly breathed life into the Tory movement. For the first time in nine years it is again feeling like a political opposition which

may be worth voting for. After nine years, many Tory members are pleased to feel momentum in the party again. "We're not nostalgic about the past," Osborne says. I wonder if this is something he thinks the majority of his membership would be pleased to hear. "Perhaps not – but we have to become a modern, outward-looking party. We can't keep on looking back."

"Conservative approaches to issues like crime, drug abuse, social exclusion and poor education are more likely to succeed. Under a Labour government social mobility has actually got worse."

Is the change merely cosmetic? "I don't think so," Osborne quickly retorts. "We allowed ourselves to be pushed out of the mainstream of British politics – we drifted into the margins. We've dragged it back to the centre ground – not by abandoning anything or making mere cosmetic changes, but by applying enduring Tory principles to modern situations and issues which affect ordinary individuals." Where New Labour is failing, the Compassionate Conservatives are gaining ground.

"We're all seeking the same thing – a prosperous country which can compete against nations like China and India effectively and efficiently. In order to stay ahead, we need to stay competitive." According to Osborne, this hasn't happened under Labour. Indeed, as he would have it, Labour are even failing their own traditional constituents: "under Labour, the poorest quintile of the population have got poorer."

"We have to equip people with skills and educate them in a way which is productive. We should be thinking more about introducing a national school-leavers' scheme and fostering initiatives like The Prince's Trust. We can't just follow New Labour's approach of throwing money at people and hoping for the best."

But all that Osborne promises may not be gold. Indeed, the Conservative Party faces a far bigger challenge than merely making itself credible. Most of all, it needs to prove itself as an alternative to New Labour, not just more of the same.

It will need to do more to win an election than simply re-brand itself. Labour may be in trouble, but they are a long way from being brought down.

"I don't just want the Conservative Party to contribute to debate, or be an effective opposition – I want to bring Conservative principles into power. That's what I came into politics to do."

# Changing the world

To mark People and Planet Society's Ethical Student Week, Features explains why we can't rely

When we think of the big problems the world faces – such as global warming, poverty and resource-depletion – who do we think should provide the solutions? The government is probably at the top of most people's lists, perhaps followed by companies and NGOs. Yet can we really rely on them to do this and, if not, who should be solving these problems? Perhaps our reliance on the government to provide the answers is more than a little misplaced.

You may have heard the worrying statistic that if we don't reduce carbon emissions by 90% before 2050, there is no way we can stop global warming killing millions of people. If you need any more proof that global warming is happening, look at the large amount of freak weather and natural disasters that have happened in recent years, from the tsunami, the south-east Asian earthquake and hurricane Katrina, to snow in Australia and Istanbul. More importantly, you might think that, after this, governments, especially in the West, would be doing a lot to prevent global warming. You might think that this would mean at least some substantial change in policy. You would be wrong, however.

The most important thing that governments have done to try and reduce carbon emissions has been the Kyoto Protocol. It has taken almost six years for it to finally come into force, and even then it excludes the country with the highest carbon emissions, the US. True, governments have done other things to reduce carbon emissions, but nowhere near enough to meet the target in 2050. More importantly, for every time one government puts legislation into effect to cut carbon emissions, another is producing more power stations or cars that increase them. At this rate, if we leave it up to governments to solve global warming, in a few centuries the human race may be extinct.

Then there are the problems of the developing world. Most students at LSE will have at one time have encountered development issues, from sitting in Economics lectures on the Pareto Principle, to walking down Houghton Street and having a leaflet forced into their hand on the "horrors" of export subsidies. If you've studied it just for a short amount of time, you'll know that the governments of developed countries have done one of two things: either they haven't done enough, or when they have done something it hasn't helped anyone. Often the real-

ity is a bit of both.

For example, look at the G8 summit last summer. It took two weeks of talks, eight live concerts and a million campaigners for the G8 to promise \$50 billion of aid to developing countries. That might sound a lot, but it is less than a hundred thousandth of world income. One man, Bill Gates, has said he will donate the same amount of his own money that the 8 major world powers put together have.

The most well-known cases of

**'It is true that companies and NGOs are part of the solution. However, we cannot expect them to change things all by themselves.'**

governments actually doing something substantial to help development have been the Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) of the 1980's. Some look at the few success stories and claim that SAPs played an important role in stabilising developing economies, particularly after the debt and inflation that had been brought on by the 1973 oil crisis. Others claim that the SAPs failed, being symptomatic of the IMF's 'one size fits all' policy,

whereby economic liberalism, successful in the West, was applied everywhere, with mixed results. Yet one thing is clear about them: in the long run, for most countries, the impact has been negligible. In many countries where they were implemented the liberalisation policies were reversed, whilst in general debt continues to be extremely high with GDP growth and living standards very low.

Finally we come to the problem of resource depletion. As the oil crisis of the 1970s or Britain's petrol crisis in 2000 has shown, we are utterly dependent on crude oil. Yet the reserves are running out, and even if it takes fifty to 100 years before they run dry, we can already see prices rising, which will soon make oil so expensive that we cannot feasibly use it. What has the British government actually done to find alternatives to non-renewable energy sources? The best it could come up with were windfarms, a good idea, but one that not only destroys the beauty of the English countryside but provides us with just 6% of our energy at the moment. Instead, most of its attentions are focused on nuclear energy, not researching into renewable energy sources.

Similarly, at this rate the rain-forest is being cut down, there will be no forest left in 40 years. We will have destroyed an entire ecosystem and sped up global warming even more, since the trees will no longer be there to convert the carbon dioxide into oxygen. Yet what has the government done? 23% of our waste is recycled, which is one of the lowest rates in Europe.

I don't think governments should have to spend a penny on aid. Surely the job of the British government is to run Britain and, though the Bush administration may disagree, the job of the American government is not to run the world. Indeed, as recent events have shown, when governments do try to do this, things only get worse.

So who should be solving these problems? At this point you may turn to companies and NGOs. It's true that these bodies are part of the solution. However, we cannot expect them to change things all by themselves. After all, not many companies will be willing to do things that may reduce their profits, unless someone else provides the initial drive to do it, and we cannot expect the government to do that. Similarly, NGOs can only do their if they're given resources, be it money or volun-



teers or a second-hand sweater for a charity shop, and these resources come from elsewhere.

So what's the conclusion? Bad things are going to happen and no one's going to save us. Yet this would be to forget the most important, and all too often forgotten, superheroes: us! As responsible citizens, we should be the ones to solve these problems. We should be out there reducing the carbon emissions we produce each day, or giving to aid to developing countries, or recycling our waste. In fact, as students of one of the top universities in the world, we are best placed to make even bigger changes: to be bankers that invest money ethically, to own companies that implement social responsibility schemes, to be the next Bill Gates and give our billions to those that need it.

Of course, you may be saying to yourself at this point, why should I do all the work? What's in it for me? Well, I'm afraid I'm going to be a little controversial

# one

here and suggest that life isn't all about doing things for yourself. Just because we live in a free society where we can do as we please with only limited restrictions, doesn't mean we should exploit that for our own game. We should realise that this freedom gives us the chance to act responsibly and ethically, something a large proportion of the world does not have.

So, how do you go about saving the world?

Firstly, let's look at what you can do to do reduce your carbon emissions. Six trillion kilos of carbon are emitted by us each year, and the typical LSE stu-

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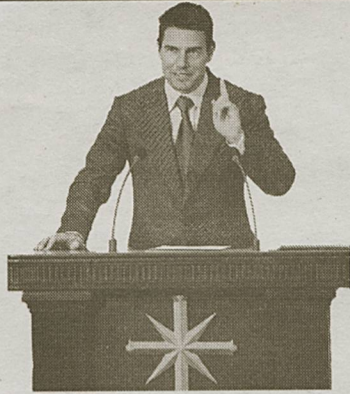
GQ Editor  
Dylan Jones



# INSIDE THIS ISSUE AROUND LONDON

## Features

PartB conducts an investigation of Scientology, the preferred religion of Hollywood



## Music

The politics of Paul van Dyk; The Arctic Monkeys in Brixton



## Film

The tragic fate of a troubled man who sought comfort living with grizzly bears



## Travel

Berlin, the alternative capital of Europe, seems dirty but sexy

## Tuesday

**Panic at The Roxy**  
3/5 Rathbone Place, W1  
7pm till late  
Admission: £3 with NUS or free on mail list

**Movimenti** - A dance photography exhibition by Ottavia Castellina and Marina Spironetti  
The Place, 17 Duke's Road London WC1H 9PY  
10am - 6pm  
Admission: free

**Haute Couture**  
Ardean Gallery, Lower gallery, 23 Cork Street, London W1S 3NJ  
10am-6pm, Private views 6pm-9pm  
Admission: free

## Wednesday

**The Elbow Room**  
Pool Hall - cum - bar - cum - club  
103 Westbourne Grove, Notting Hill, W2 4UW  
Admission: £6 before 6pm, £10 after

'The Weather Man' London Film Premiere  
Odeon, Leicester Square  
Crowds begin together from 4pm  
Admission: free

Double-bill of **Italy's cutting edge jazz talent**  
Pizza Express Jazz Club, Dean St, London  
7.30pm until 12am  
Admission: £15

## Thursday

**Cheese Tasting with Wine for Coram's Fields**  
Kennards Good Foods, 57 Lambs Conduit Street, London, WC1N 3NB  
7.30pm - 9 pm  
Admission: £10.00 per person. Half of the ticket price will go to Coram's Fields

**Five In The Morning**  
Bullion Theatre, (Hackney Empire) 171 Wilton Way, Hackney  
7.30pm  
Admission: £12/£8

## Friday

**Cookies 'n Cream at Teatro**  
93-107 Shaftesbury Avenue, W1D 5DY  
Dress code: Funky/Glam  
10pm till late  
Admission: £10 all night

**Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band**  
(with support from Joan Coffey)  
Millfield Theatre, Silver Street, Edmonton, London. N18 1PJ  
8pm  
Admission: £10 with NUS; 1 free for every 10

**Popstarz @ La Scala**  
Pentonville Rd, Kings Cross, N1  
Tube Stop: Kings Cross  
10pm-5am  
Admission: £8, £5 with flyer

## Saturday

**Duckie @ The Royal Vauxhall Tavern**  
372 Kennington Lane, SE11  
Tube Stop: Vauxhall  
9pm - 2am  
Admission: £5

**Electric Ballroom**  
184 Camden High Street, LONDON, NW1 8QP  
10.30pm onwards  
Admission: £8 with NUS

**La Boheme**  
Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7  
7.30pm  
Tickets from £34

## Sunday

**BBC Symphony Orchestra**  
The Barbican  
7:30pm  
Tickets from £8

**The Purple Turtle**  
Bar and Club  
12pm till 1am  
Entry: Free

**The Comedy Store Players**  
Comedy Store, 1 Oxendon Street, SW1  
8 pm  
Tickets from £13

## Monday

**Chris Addison's Civilization**  
Hampstead Theatre, Eton Avenue, Swiss Cottage, NW3 3EU  
Doors open at 6pm  
Admission: free, early arrival strongly advised

**Mad Busy Mondays at Moonlighting**  
16-17 Greek Street, W1D 4DR  
9pm onwards  
Admission: £1 with NUS

# EDITORIAL

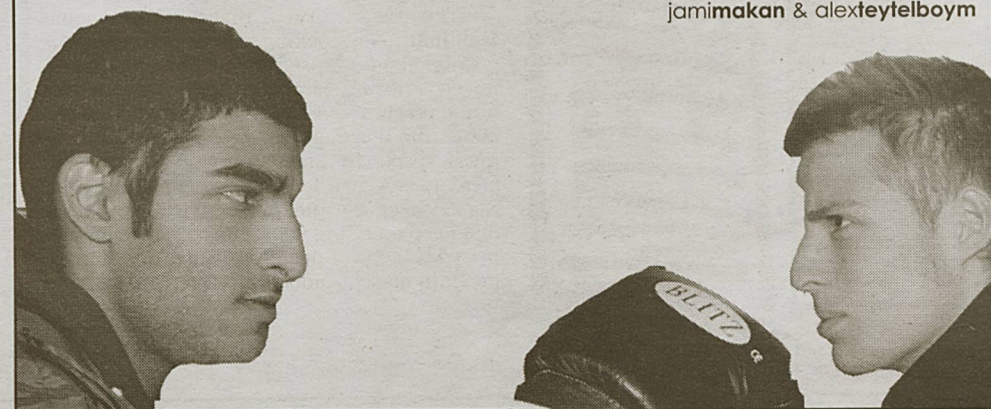
As citizens rioted in Iraq, bird flu reached Southampton and Chelsea lost to Barcelona, three members of the PartB team visited the Church of Scientology on Tottenham Court Road. Together, they orchestrated an undercover investigation of the notorious cult that seems to be preferred by scores of celebrities and businesspeople. The article is absolutely superb.

We, in turn, interviewed GQ Editor Dylan Jones. During a quick tour around the office, we noticed that there were only about 15 people working on the magazine itself. According to one of the editors, that group represents everyone directly involved with writing, editing and designing the publication. We became depressed, since there are about 15 senior editors at *The Beaver*.

On a more positive note, bird flu is not really going to kill us all, although the normal kind of flu might. SU elections might. In fact, SU elections represent a caricature of real life. Candidates take them incredibly seriously, voters hardly care and nothing that has been promised ever gets done.

If you are looking for something you will never find in a 'real' newspaper, read the Film and Travel sections. Travel investigates alternative cultures in what is now perhaps the capital of a modern Renaissance. Film reviews an unconventional documentary about one man who thought that grizzly bears were nice enough to share a bed with. Sounds almost like *The Jungle Book*, except that in *Grizzly Man* Mowgli would have been eaten alive.

jamimakan & alexteytelboym



# HEY YOU!

## Big, Hungry Eyes

By Anonymous

I have a girlfriend and you are single. You asked me to organise your birthday, but you cancelled everything at the last minute and went to Walkabout. I didn't go. Then you got off with my friend. Why should I care? I am taken, right?

It isn't working out with my girlfriend though. One night, I see you downstairs in the bar and we smoke on the couch together. Soon we are having these late-night conversations in my kitchen; I talk, you listen. You are an amazing listener. You always want the light off, so we sit in the dark. You leave the room when my girlfriend calls; you do everything right, I get embarrassed. I love smelling your hair.

You are beautiful, funny, unusual. And you live on my floor. It's perfect already, but we aren't going out. Over Christmas I missed the smell of your hair.

Suddenly, I am single. To be with you. It was awkward at first. You smile when you see me early in the morning coming back from work. We do Valentine's Day three days later and watch *Garfield* together. You love the number eight and green; you hate custard and any introduction to the legal system.

And you smile.  
And your hungry eyes shine.  
From a huge photograph of us on the wall.

Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations -changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent- to [thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk](mailto:thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk) with 'Hey You!' as the subject line. Hey You! inspired by the OC Weekly of Santa Ana, California.

# Black death?

## BIRD FLU

Bird flu is spreading and cases have been reported in seven countries. The media portrays it as the next Black Death, which will wipe out a third of Europe's population. But it won't and, if you live on this island, there isn't much to worry about.

If you mention the big one to any media commentator whose salary doesn't depend on telling you how many Christians, I mean chickens, the Indonesian government killed last month, the response will be laconic, 'Oh, bird flu... It's, like, so dull. I'm not scared of it at all...' This leaves those of us, who take media hype at face value, at something of a loss as we're confronted with a rather frustrating dislocation between what Government virologists tell us on the evening news: 'You're all in loads of trouble. You should give my department more funding before it's too late' and that of press columnists who display their well developed sense of post-irony by being gloriously unperturbed by the impending apocalypse and cracking tired jokes about ducks phoning in sick for work. 'Let it come,' they say, 'then you'll see it's only those uppity farmers that should have any concern.' I, too, invite the onset of the dreaded disease, to wash off but more so that the decadent chaff of our post-industrialist world, leaving only a hardened cadre of ex-TA soldiers heating tins of beans somewhere in Epping Forest, whilst they plot how to take over the last remaining bastions of the old era (probably a News Corps skyscraper presided over by a staple-gun wielding Rupert Murdoch, complete with three-day growth, bare feet and a Manchester United club tie bound around his temples).

My case, though, isn't substantiated by the rapid change of events in the past few months. Fortunately, the turgidly dull progress of bird flu across the world from Laos to London has been revved up recently

as the dishy Christian Democrat **Angela Merkel** announced that a 'serious' outbreak of bird flu had occurred in the north of her country. Finally, I thought, my girlfriend will stop taking me to task about the contamination suit I bought after 9/11! For months survivalist nutters, like myself, have had to console themselves with honing their machetes and calculating the number of litres of drinking water that could be garnered from their toilet cistern in the event of nuclear war, zombie outbreak or containment failure at a Millwall match. So, get out the box of red pins, stroll to my Mercator projection map, and stick the tungsten tipped steel into... an island in the Baltic sea? Man, I knew I shouldn't have booked those flights to the Hebrides!

Regrettably for those of us who take notes during *Dawn of the Dead*, 'Hmmm, carbine more effective than bolt action...' the discovery of the lethal H5N1 strain has been on Ruegen, an island in north Germany linked to the mainland by an all too containable bridge. Typical, I thought, a simple deployment of some civilian grade stinger traps is going to stop any contamination there. Then, as I was considering selling my water purification tablets on eBay, our old allies across the pond came to our rescue for a change, as 'French officials confirmed that a wild duck found dead near Lyon had the lethal H5N1 strain of bird flu.' Now British newspapers are carrying stories of pigeons being found feeling peaky, in our nation's beloved capital. You, feeble Islington-ites! You just keep shovelling Pad Thai into your smug faces



whilst I pack my Bergen with glucose tablets. End draws nigh.

Well, no, unfortunately. Despite being irredeemably wrong over Mukluks and the Atkins Diet, the press intelligensia do have a point on this issue, however party pooping it may be. You see, bird flu is still just that, flu that affects birds, and the unfortunate souls who have to work with them. It's only if it mutates into a variety that can pass between humans that you need to start investing in canned food. And even then, it's only men that would be at risk from catching the flu; women would come down with at worst strong cold. Sorry, no tired jokes. Still, as far as world oblivion goes, it's not even up there with Y2K or Thatcher taking power again.

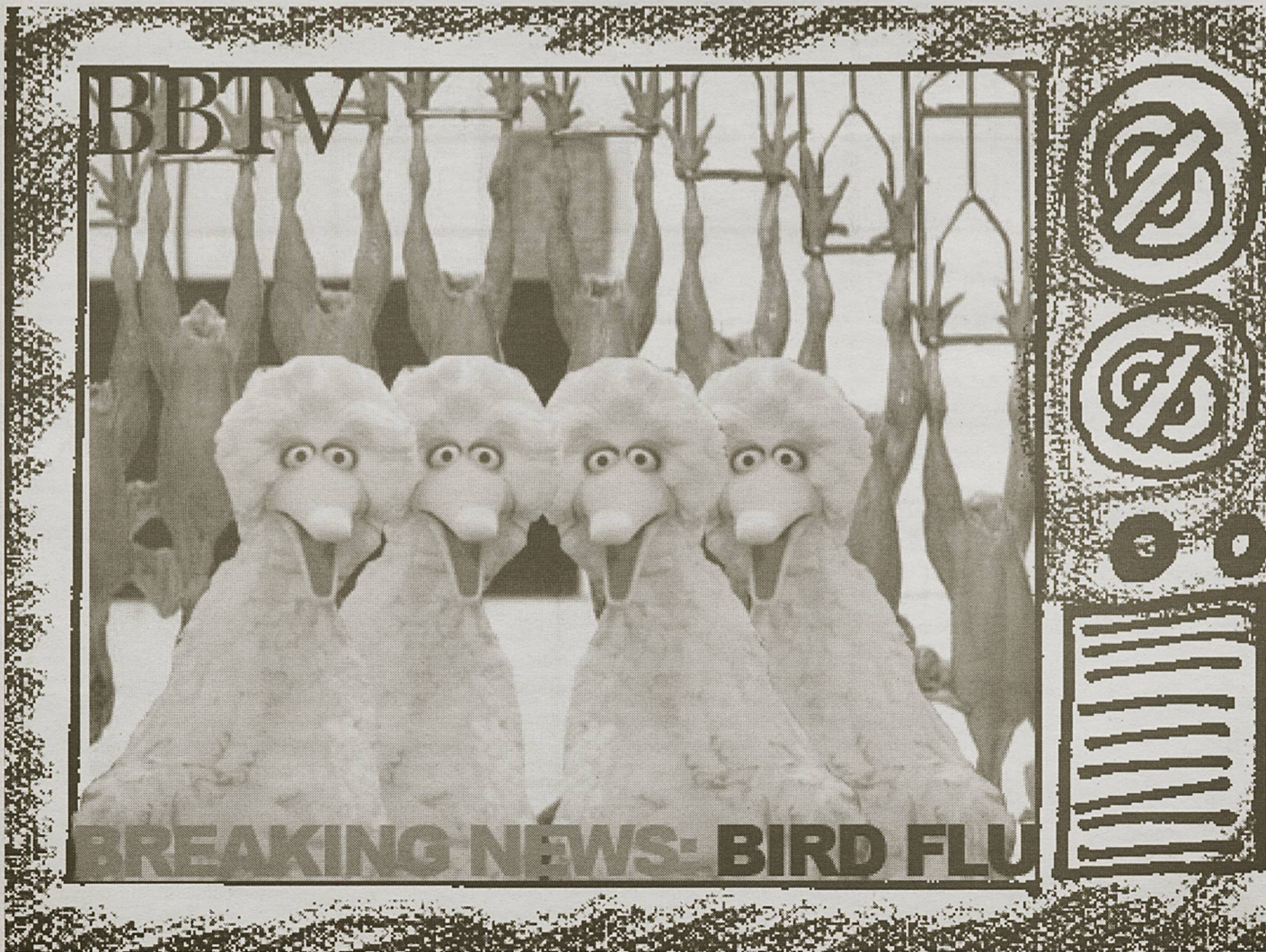
Therein lies the problem with the whole bird flu non-story. Unless you're a Vietnamese subsistence farmer or you take the term, 'bird-fancier' too seriously, you're

not really going to be that at risk from what is portrayed as a world engulfing disaster. Damn. Happily, the great British public have refused to let any rational evaluation of the facts get in the way of their interpretation of the bird flu spread, leaving me free to quote Deliverance on end to my ever diminishing circle of friends. On the BBC website **Lindsay Keswick**, a concerned dog owner, from Bury St. Edmunds asked, 'I'd like to know whether the bird flu can spread to dogs - my labrador is constantly picking up dead birds and eating them. I would like to understand (a) the risks of her catching bird flu, and (b) the chances of her then passing it on to us.' **John Oxford**, professor of virology, usefully informed Lindsay that the real threat was that the dog brought back an infected swan or bird to the house, rather than ingesting it on the spot. Memo to self: conduct SWOT analysis of guard dog ownership.

Unfortunately the real issue with bird flu is, as ever, a crushingly dull economic one. When bird flu first materialised in Hong Kong in 1997, the nation's poultry industry was devastated. European governments are already drawing up contingency plans that involve moving stocks indoors, abolishing outdoor feeding, banning holding fairs and exhibitions. I think I might start weeping tears of boredom if I have to read any more reports from farmers' unions as to how bird flu is going to affect the industry, necessitating loads of extra money. Sorry, farmers are a vital part of the UK economy and what affects them affects us all. Not to mention the fact that farmhouses are a good place to pillage for shotgun shells when the revolution comes. On a lighter note, the hunting of wild birds is also going to be banned, so some lives might be saved from keeping **Dick Cheney's** mitts away from his firearms. Maybe that's the real reason for the quail shooting incident a few weeks back. In a terrifying *28 Days Later* style standoff, Cheney faced the agonising choice between risking flu outbreak or saving his friend's life. 'But, Dick, what about all the party donations I made?' 'Party donations? Ha! Where's the party donations here, Harry? You've gone infected, Harry, and I'm a-taking you down...'

The sad reality is that all my combat training, food stocking and U-turn practice will be about as useful as an Andy McNab's novel is to a Basra combat unit when the virus reaches our shores. All you can do about the onslaught of bird flu is enjoy the press spectacle, and hope that the government gets a two for one deal on Tamiflu at SuperPfizer. For the time being, dear readers, just keep on oiling your .45, and don't be surprised if the LSE decides to move our beloved penguin mascot indoors.

petercurrie



# GENTLEMAN'S QUARTERS

In his lush office at Vogue House in Hanover Square, Dylan Jones discusses his erratic career path, the GQ Editor lifestyle and fashion for students

In the first issue of *GQ Style*, the new bi-annual title launched by *GQ* last year, Editor Dylan Jones recounts several notoriously difficult celebrity interviews. He tells of the time when Gwyneth Paltrow sat quietly and coldly, offering nothing but disinterest and monosyllabic answers. When PRs imposed certain restrictions regarding the types of questions that could be asked, when Bowie refused to do interviews unless the other members of his band were present, Jones then describes several techniques often used to extract from celebrities the precious and prized sentiments that often remain concealed under thick layers of makeup, designer clothing and PR protection. He takes readers through various 'tricks' that, properly employed, carve through memorised statements, lure celebrities out of their caves and capture them as real human beings who are capable of answering difficult questions and sometimes gushing controversy in the process.

As I am led through the *GQ* offices at Vogue House in Hanover Square, I realise that Dylan Jones has become the inadvertent celebrity. I am now the star-struck journalist who fumbles words and yields unwieldy questions to be delivered without any trace of tact. It will be an odd masterclass, interviewing a brilliant interviewer, writing about a brilliant writer. Of course, I do not expect daunting PRs to hover over my shoulders. I do not expect Jones to recite memorised paragraphs or conceal personal views. And in any case, trying to use any of the techniques detailed in his *GQ Style* piece would be as hopeless as teaching Elton John music theory, photographing Mario Testino or using the Force against Yoda.

Not that Dylan Jones brings Yoda to mind when I first meet him. He walks into his office wearing a Billionaire Couture shirt designed by Angelo Galasso and baby puppy-tooth check trousers made by Kilgour. I later discover that he favours Savile Row-tailored suits, that Tom Wolfe is his favourite author and that he enjoys watching the first two *Godfather* films. I will soon find out that he condones the use of 'GQ' as a casual adjective and possesses an unconditional affection for music. But at present, I simply tell him that, as a student of journalism, I deeply admire the sophisticated and engaging content of *GQ*. Then I thank him for granting an interview and indicate a hungry desire for journalistic feedback and advice. 'Always start off with flattery. It always works,' he jokingly responds.

\* \* \*

During my long walks down Kingsway towards the London School of Economics, I inevitably pass Central Saint Martins, fronted as always by stylish hipsters outfitted in home-made shoes and painted denim. Some believe the physical juxtaposition of the two schools invariably defines the career paths of their students; one school moulds investment bankers, while the other customarily fashions designers. Nothing could be less accurate. One only needs to look at individuals like fashion photographer Mario Testino, who studied Law (Universidad del Pacifico), Economics (Universidad Catolica) and International Relations (University of California, San Diego) before moving to London to work behind cameras. When Dylan Jones starts to describe his education, it becomes clear that his path to *GQ* was equally erratic.

Jones, whose father was in the air force, attended dozens of schools as a child. At age 16, he left home and worked for a year before doing a foundation course at the Chelsea School of Art. He then studied photography and graphic design at Saint Martins and originally intended to be a photographer. However, he soon abandoned that ambition. 'My heart wasn't in it and I wasn't particularly good' he says. When I ask whether he still keeps it up, he replies, 'No, I don't even own a camera.'

After leaving Saint Martins at 21, he spent the following two years running nightclubs, organising various promotional events and doing sporadic photography: 'kind of mucking about' as he puts it. He even went to Tokyo as a model after two people who resembled Oompa Loompas and Boy George approached him at a nightclub called White Trash, took his photograph and later followed up. They flew Jones, together with 12 of his friends, over to Japan for a couple weeks. When he got off the plane, people bowed and offered an envelope, full of more money than he had ever seen before, as two weeks' spending money. 'I had a mad time in Tokyo' he fondly recalls.

One day, a photographer friend who worked for *i-D* magazine asked Jones to conduct an interview. He agreed and submitted his piece without thinking anything more of it. As he was preparing to leave for New York for some nightclub-related business, he received a call from Terry Jones, the founder of *i-D*, who offered him a job for four months as a staff writer. He became deputy editor and, six months later, found himself at the helm of the publication. 'Terry basically picked me up and gave me a career,' he says. 'I owe everything to Terry Jones.'

After four years at *i-D*, Jones spent another four editing *Arena*. He later helped *The Observer* re-launch *The Observer Magazine* and worked on and off for *The Sunday Times* for about six years. He arrived at *GQ* in 1999.

\* \* \*

I ask Dylan Jones what it takes to get to the top. 'You need to work fantastically hard, you need to be very lucky. You also need a very clear idea of what it is you want to do as well' he responds. He tells me that he feels fortunate that his career has moved very quickly, and that his experiences continue to be exciting and engaging. As *GQ* Editor, he has an extremely varied daily routine. His day might start with an 8:30am circulation meeting, during which he might present the next three or four covers of the magazine to senior management. That might be followed by a breakfast meeting with someone at a nearby restaurant. Then there could be a planning or logistics meeting internally or else an external meeting with a PR, celebrity, photographer, agent or anyone else involved in the various aspects of *GQ*, which include fashion, music, politics, sport and film. 'In the course of a working week you meet a great deal of people from lots of different areas,' he says, 'so that's fascinating and great and really invigorating as well. You get a lot of input; you are not just working in one particular channel.'

But, he continues, 'of course there is a lot of boring stuff' as well. That includes 'a lot of accounts, a lot of management: all the prosaic stuff that goes into actually producing the magazine.' I ask Jones what his most pressing responsibilities are. 'The most important thing is that we are custodians of the brand. The important thing is, when you leave the job, to leave the magazine in as healthy a state, if not healthier state, as it was when you found it. Because it is not our magazine, it is a magazine we are taking care of for the company.' The company he is referring to is Condé Nast, a private American publishing company. It publishes around 20 magazines in the United States and about a dozen in the United Kingdom. He explains that the company offers considerable freedom and flexibility, but only if editors are 'producing the right magazine and having the right success.'

Of course, anyone who has read *GQ* can tell you that its editors currently produce the right magazine. Jones explains that 'it is very important for us that the magazine is a beautiful artefact. That it is very luxurious' and charac-

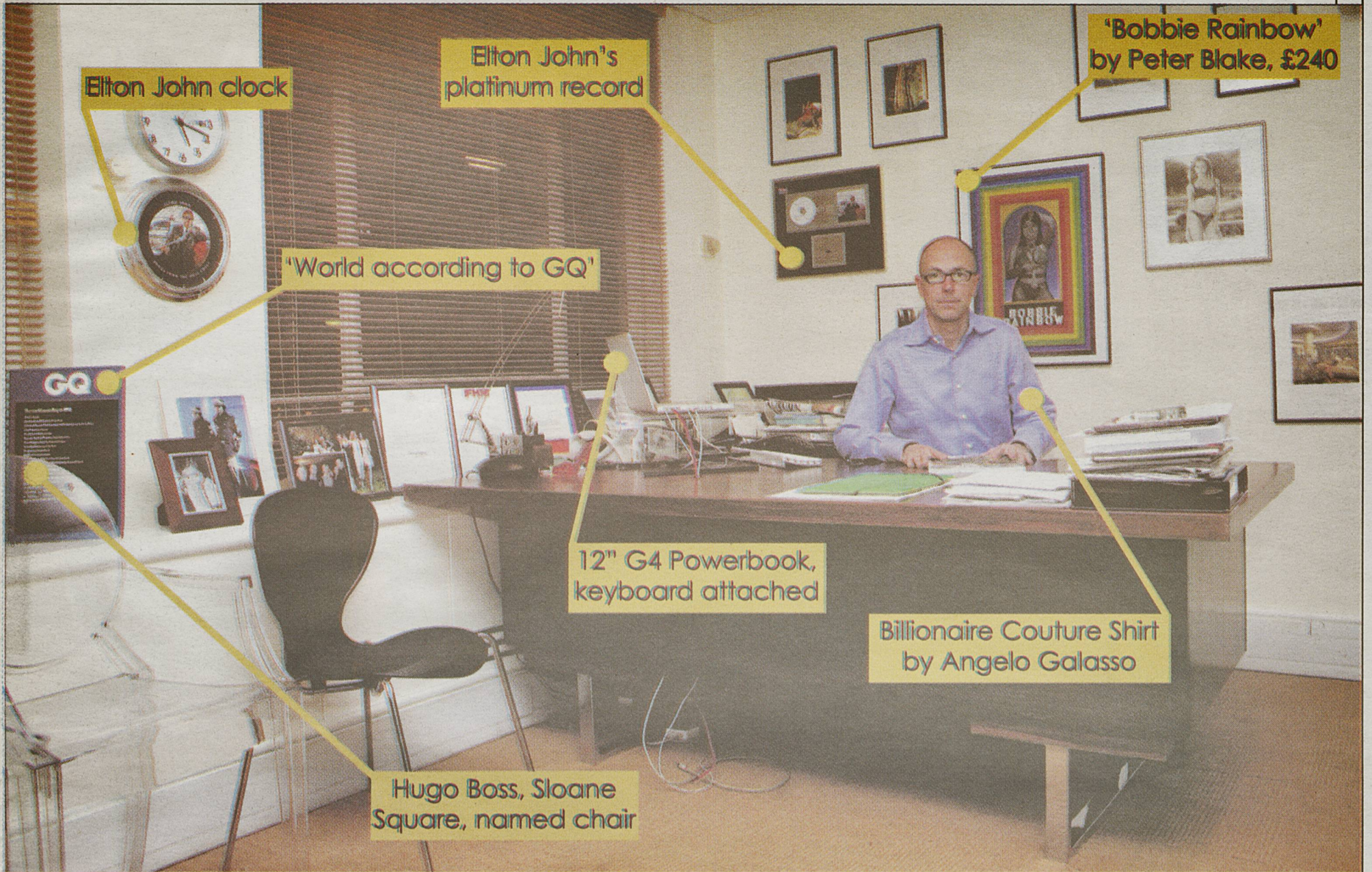
terised by beautiful photography and design. But to Jones the written content seems equally important. When he arrived, he made it a firm policy to hire only the very best writers. As a result, *GQ* has some of the most talented writers in Britain contributing every month. The recent 200<sup>th</sup> issue listed Piers Morgan, *Sunday Times* star AA Gill, *Times* writer Giles Coren and *Spectator* editor Boris Johnson as some of them. To retain high-profile reporters and columnists, Jones has set the highest of standards for the magazine in addition to paying well: 'It's a mixture of the two. Good writers want to be paid properly, but good writers also want to be flattered by their environment,' he states. 'We pay people properly, we respect people.'

\* \* \*

In every issue, advertisements from Louis Vuitton and Gucci complement editorial on brands like Prada and Brooks Brothers. Hence, one easily understands why Jones suggests: 'By their very nature, a lot of students and their incomes might be quite resistant to the *GQ* ethos because it is a kind of Madison Avenue view of the world.' The magazine was never always that way; instead, it used to be more of a mass market title before Jones arrived in 1999. He has succeeded in capturing the top end of the market, and notes that nowadays most activity in the men's market takes place at the mass-market, low-brow end. As evidence, he cites the successful launch of *Nuts and Zoo* as well as the plethora of downmarket weeklies that have enjoyed tremendous success but have cannibalised downmarket monthlies like *FHM* and *Maxim*. 'Apart from *Esquire*, we don't really have any competitors for the top end of the market.'

But, to call *GQ* exclusive and elitist would be misguided. The publication also includes more accessible brands like Diesel, Gap and Topman. And Jones does note that *GQ*, the most upmarket men's magazine in the country, is aimed at both those who earn considerable amounts of money and those who *aspire* to do so: 'It is for people who care about not just high-end consumption but also everything of interest to a young man going places. In a non-pejorative way we're aimed at the 21<sup>st</sup> century yuppie.'

I ask him what he thinks of Topman, a brand that has been heavily marketed towards students: 'I think Philip Green had done an amazing job with all the Arcadia brands.' He also admires shops like H&M and Zara: 'You go



Elton John clock

Elton John's platinum record

'Bobbie Rainbow' by Peter Blake, £240

'World according to GQ'

12" G4 Powerbook, keyboard attached

Billionaire Couture Shirt by Angelo Galasso

Hugo Boss, Sloane Square, named chair

We pay people well, we respect people

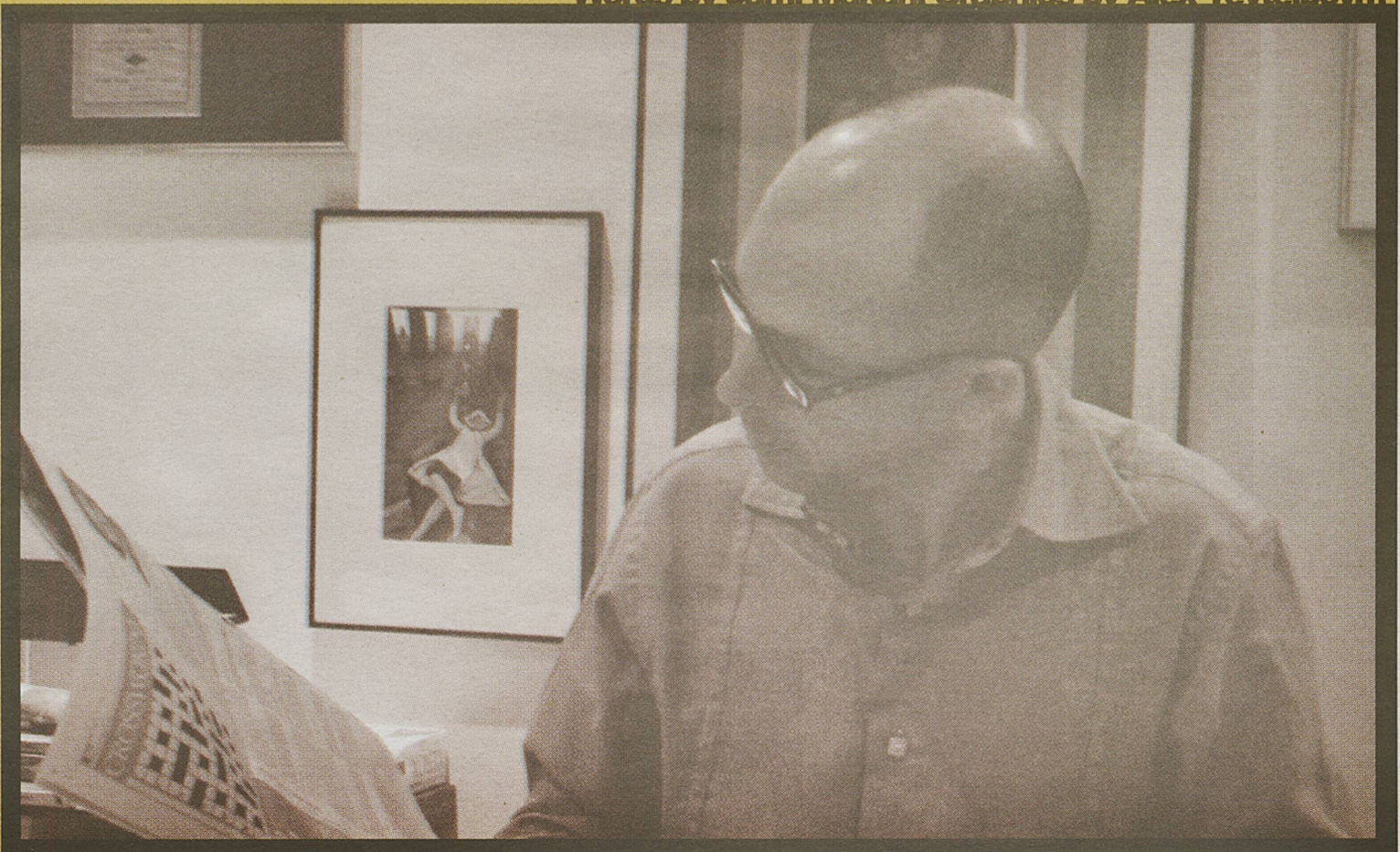
The GQ ethos is a kind of Madison Avenue view of the world

In a non-pejorative way we're aimed at the 21<sup>st</sup> century yuppie

Words by Jami Makan. Graphics by Alex Tevteboym

to the Zara around the corner and you can get a fantastic velvet suit for 100 pounds. It is not going to last you forever, and it is not the cutting edge of design, but it is fantastic value, it's great. There are a lot of really good things happening on the high street.'

As the interview concludes and photographs are being taken, I feel the temptation to run to Zara for that velvet suit. Dylan Jones already has draft copies of the style pages from the May issue of GQ on the back wall of his office; he is a man that knows trends before anyone else, so I fear taking his words lightly. My eyes wash over a copy of the next GQ Style sitting on his desk, and he kindly shows me the cover. It seems difficult to imagine the words and images printed inside, waiting to be read next month. In any case, I remain convinced that the contents are more than mere pictures of models and Versace ads. Indeed, as Dylan Jones notes: 'Hopefully a magazine like GQ offers so many things. It's a service manual in a way, not just for cufflinks but also for ideas. Whether it's the semiotics of a restaurant or whether it's a particular political notion or how someone wears their trousers. I mean, I think the great thing about GQ is the fact that it allows you to be so many different things. You can be trivial, you can be cynical, you can be shallow, you can be investigative, historical. You know, it's only words and pictures and you can put anything you like in them.'



# Scien<sup>✦</sup>tology: re

The religion of choice for those characterised by wealth, power and Scientology seems shrouded by captivating mystery and fierce secrecy. I went to the office of Scientologists on Tottenham Court Road to investigate L. Ron Hubbard's

The astronomical rents for commercial property on Tottenham Court Road, some of the most expensive in the country, are typically paid for by the vast turnover of higher-end electrical goods. One premises, however, situated immediately adjacent to Goodge Street tube station, appears to be selling nothing. It has a minimal window display, a handful of books with dynamic-looking covers neatly arranged and some large displays bearing glowing humans in catalogue poses. My target, the lair of the Scientologists, is indeed unassuming, but who knew what potential vileness lay within?

## The Plan

Armed with a digital Dictaphone, a mind for subterfuge and the vestiges of a school acting career, my plan was thus: to appear to them as a first-rate candidate for Dianetic recruitment and be carried untrammelled through the echelons until the desks were replaced by altars, the suits by white robes and I was squirming under a ceremonial dagger wielded by John Travolta. It was paramount that I be methodologically sound. I had created a mental scheme gleaned from various published accounts of ex-

scientologists, and fortified by extrapolations from the assorted regions of social activity the Church were engaged in: drug-rehabilitation, self-help, mental health issues and other areas of societal difficulty. The problem I faced was that this scheme demanded that I adopt the role of a disabled junky widower, hopelessly dislocated from society, suffering from a mental health deficit and using their incapacity for reflexive thought to ask 'what it's all about?' I then had to evince an engagement in some kind of existential blundering until I could find a suitable cult to provide pat answers and in the process of doing so, steal my labour, money and individuality. Under these parameters I soon realised that subtle interaction with the interrogators, exhibiting all the characteristics of a discarded *South Park* creation, might prove somewhat difficult, and instead decided to wing it.

## How It Went Down

As lost as a biblical lamb, a look of vague curiosity plastered over my face. It didn't take more than a few seconds of loitering outside the 'shop' for a short, rotund woman to approach me. In a hurried voice that could have come across as eager had she not sounded as depressed as several FMCG markets, she offered me a stress-test. 'Sure, why not?' I replied and was immediately shepherded inside. The shop floor was an unoccupied space. Two rows of wooden cubicles lined the walls, at the end of which lay a clutch of sofas flanked with leaflet stands. The only other furniture was a desk upon which lay a black boxy apparatus with dials and switches. Looking like something between a Milgram prop and a pre-industrial lie detector, its faux-scientific appearance was characteristic of

what was to come. Putting my fingers on some shiny finger pads I was told to relax. Strange mood music was playing in the background. The lady flicked a switch and immediately the needles in the dials jerked back and forth with frankly alarming alacrity. 'Is that good?' I asked anxiously. She tutted. Apparently my stress-levels were higher than most, this could be proven by the actual scientific fact that my electrical impulses were, and I quote 'high,' and also dangerously 'out of synch.' I can admit to feeling suitably pathologised. She asked me whether I ever felt stressed or tired. I wanted to answer in role so, adopting the identity of any human living under late-capitalism, I replied in the affirmative. This seemed to be the right answer as she then went on to offer me a free personality test. To appear normally sceptical I asked her how it was different from what you might get on the internet. 'You can get your results now' she said. Ignoring the absurdity of this qualification I, albeit stutteringly, accepted.

The sheet was large and the questions seemed to go on forever. There were about 300 of them, the standard mixture of DSMIV (psychiatrist's handbook) symptom-spotting and post-Jungian character analysis, nothing different from anything you might find on the net. Do I prefer the organised to the unpredictable? Did I feel that my opinions were worth anything? Surely I have trouble sleeping? Having whiled away enough time on these previously, it soon became apparent what axes the test was working on, and I went about trying to cast myself as a type. I was going for a nervous introvert, dependable but suggestible, with a healthy amount of neuroses and a monumental amount of depression. In other words: irresistible bait. Once finished, I was gently informed by the lady that my results couldn't be obtained immediately. Contrary to what I'd been told I would now have to travel to the 'new building' to collect them and I was handed a map. It would appear that I had attained the next stage. The prospect of arcane ceremony, mysterious sacrament and Tom Cruise in ritualistic ecstasy wielding a disembowelled virgin was getting nearer to becoming a reality.

The new building was situated on a street just parallel to Tottenham Court Road, between two imposing police buildings: an excellent location for any venture with a need to appear legitimate. The reception was large and decked out in the kind of upmarket travel tavern-affected plushness that only serves to suffocate the mind and hint at the unreal. The two guys behind the desk wore well-tailored suits and had that unnatural polished air of L.A. Grotesque hyper-reality abounded. I asked for Ann and was immediately taken, past a modern lecture theatre, to a large room with an assortment of comfy chairs and sofas demarked into various areas. The far corner led to another section, full of desks over which some people seemed to be engaged in deep conversation. The whole atmosphere was one of slightly-forced normality, the studied casualness of the kid who offers you drugs whilst fully knowing they might be sketchy. Clusters of armchairs were arranged to look slightly irregular but after looking a while and noting the symmetry, their irregularity was framed in a suspiciously regulated fashion. Something was quite wrong here.

Ann was going to be a minute but would I like to watch a video whilst I waited? Yes, please, aside from investigation I needed something to hold onto. A massive plasma screen set into the wall sprung into life. I took a seat in a nearby armchair and looked for guidance. 'Before I found Scientology I felt life was tough' said an alpha-male representation from his trendy office. 'Things used to be an effort, but now I feel free' burred a manicured guy ensconced in perfect home-show domesticity. According to the video, the source of all our ills is the reactive mind. We store up negative events in our reactive minds, in the form of images, and these express themselves in eruptions of violent and irrational

behaviour. 'Let us show you the lulling truth. Think of a birthday party. It looks something like a kid's birthday party. I a dialogue had convinced in images. I was more authority on the mind.'

What came next was pictures of a man's head, ominous and molten, red whilst on the other side, an aura of rationality. This was what we should do, Scientology, if properly to. 'Jesus H Hubbard' I grotesque pseudo-scientifically crude psycho-logic purpose than to appeal induce submission to it working for the Hull using a grant from a could come up with secret alien history of than this babbling. I d Ann was ready with my

We sat at the one room. In front of me lay diagram on it. 'Your re studied the graph. E labelled with a charac strued as good. Sadly, n ly near the lower end. with a reasonable scor an encouraging smile s

'I suppose I have' I 'Let's go back into mind we could try som

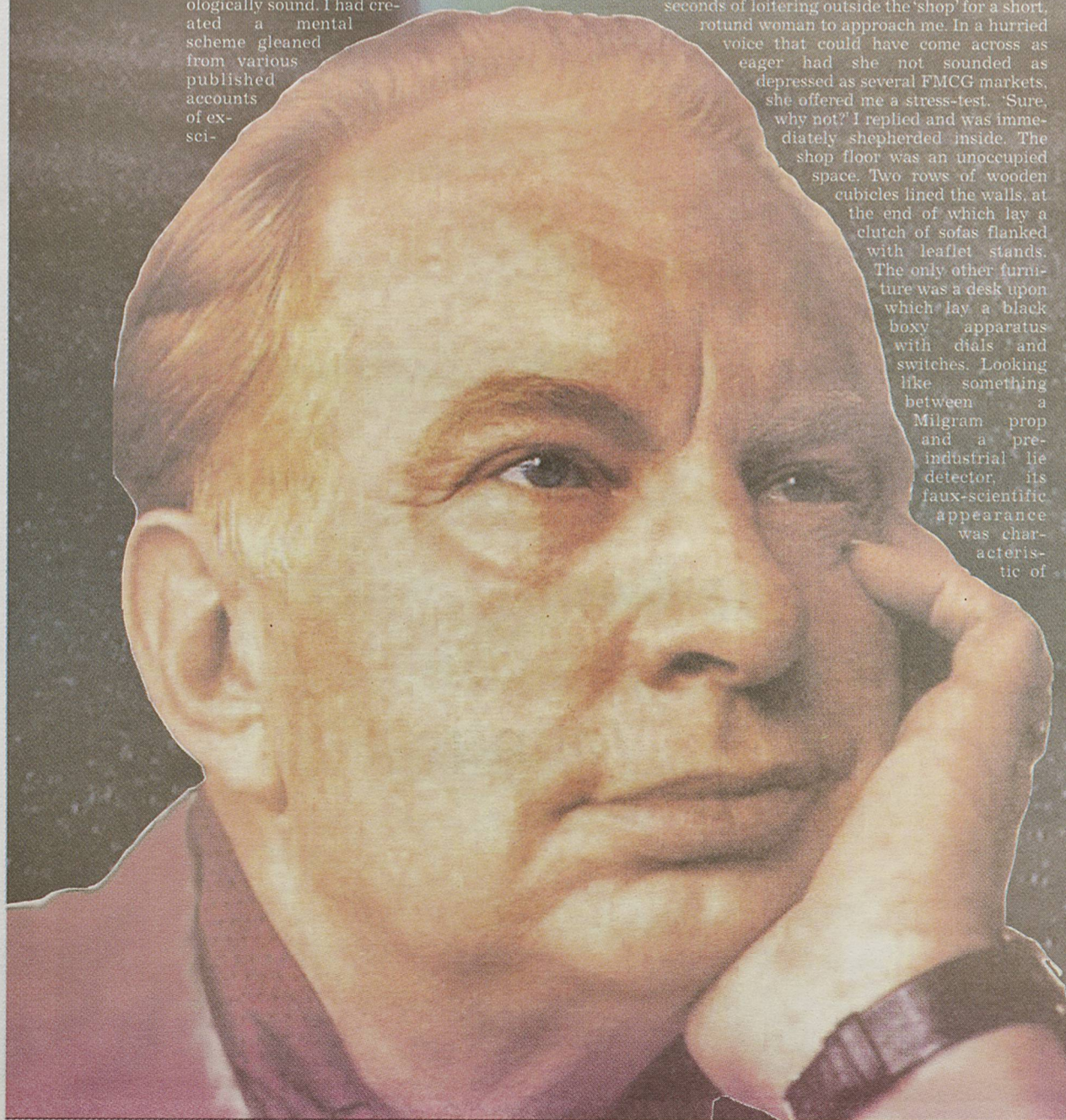
At this point, the co follows: me telling them built me a playpen out fictitious abusive mum- liness I was feeling, ur to offer a job at the Ch

In reality, it did go d tie less colour. I invent nodded and consoled u book (£6.99) that woul refused to buy the lea presumably save my li time, or perhaps start t racted by some mor through. It seemed tha was not going to get a with her hand on the b was time to leave, but quick sniff around.

## Off-Limits

Ann was a slow mover wasn't too hard. I got a sight into an alcove a fashion, she walked on where to go and doub locking double doors. Through them I was c operations room, stra film, if it had no budget empty of humans, but around LCD computer. On the walls were empt with printed charts, charts; but before I e door opened behind m alien-coiffured men wh from reception.

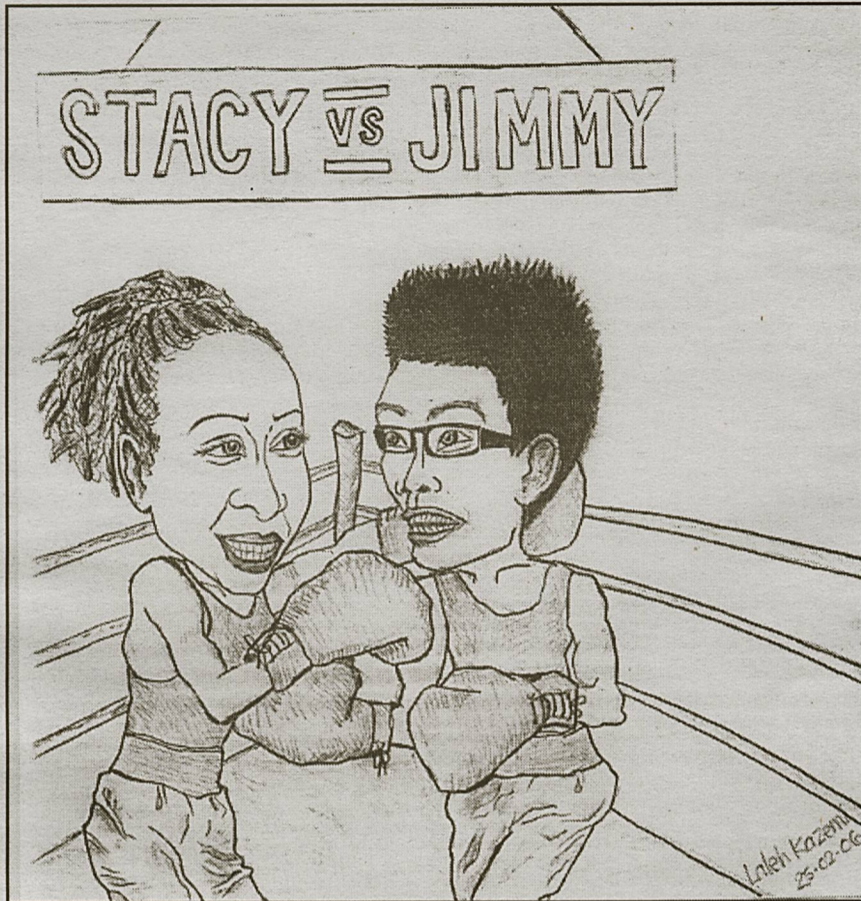
'Hello, you're not s' 'I bought a book.' 'Oh, excellent. It rea life' he replied with a s 'Wow that's great.'





# the Beaver

28th February 2006 Issue 639 The newspaper of the LSESU



## election the Beaver punchout

EDUCATION & WELFARE

COMMUNICATIONS

TREASURER

GENSEC

Voting

where : **QUAD**

when : **Wednesday &  
Thursday**

# General Secretary

stacy-marie ishmael



My name is Stacy-Marie Ishmael. I want to be your #1 preference for General Secretary.

I am committed to bringing you an SU for You – an SU that is diverse, inclusive and tolerant. An SU that understands the needs of international students. An SU that reaches out to and represents the views of post graduates, PhD candidates, general course and mature and part time students. An SU that supports societies. An SU that opposes visa charges and rising tuition fees. An SU that is committed to raising awareness of sexual health

on campus. An SU that is environmentally and ethically sound. An SU in which each and every one of you plays an important part.

I have been involved with every aspect of the Students' Union – in societies, the AU, the Media Group and the UGM. Whether as a Grimshaw Society Committee member or PuLSEfm Station Manager, I have a proven track record of achievement. I will ensure that your concerns are heard and acted upon. Vote Stacy #1 if you want a committed, decisive, passionate General Secretary dedicated to you and your SU.

## Jimmy Tam #1 for General Secretary

Support your current Societies Officer and 'Action Man' An approachable GenSec with experience and ideas... "I want a Union that students remember; a peer-to-peer Union focused on sharing; a Union with events, like the People Auction and Global Show, that students talk about for years to come..."

### >Supporting student empowerment

**More consultation** - eg student-wide survey to get YOUR opinions on the SU

**Course rep campaigning** - SU campaigning on issues as a stronger united voice

**Making the most of NUS** - create taskforces for NUS campaigns and link these to our campaign weeks and societies; working with Coalition 2010 on

fees cap

### >Promoting student development

**Personal Development Skillsbook** - creating a tool for students and tutors

**Continue campaign to keep Wed afternoons free** - naming and shaming the departments with lectures/classes

**Resits and exam feedback if you fail** - resits as a right, feedback so you can improve

### >Fostering a student community

**The "Jamie Oliver Experiment"** - auditing food services in LSE to ensure a choice that is healthy, nutritious and low price

**Private accommodation** - creating a database of landlords

**Improving student experience** - 24hr relaxation room in exam time, student artwork in classrooms, more recycling bins

Jimmy Tam



# Treasurer

I'm Doug Carlson, and I want to be your treasurer because there is a personal development crisis at the LSE that the Student's Union must address. In order to do this, we need to foster a community of well-rounded students. We need effective and effervescent societies that offer something different from academic life. I want to establish a fund for societies to buy large ticket items they need but can't afford, and I want a separate joint events fund for national societies that want to work together. Given the extra space that will be provided by 24

Kingsway, we deserve more arts facilities such as better music rooms and a dance studio. The AU is vital to the sense of community at the LSE, and I want to make it stronger. We need shuttles to take players and spectators to the major games at Berrylands, and I want a bigger, better, and safer Barrel. I also want to have blanket sponsorships of the Student's Union with accountability to the student community. So if you want a Student's Union that will tackle the personal development crisis, give Doug a hug, and make me your #1 choice for treasurer.

douglas carlson



Kanan



## Kanan Dhru, #1 for Treasurer

My name is Kanan Dhru and I want your 1st preference for Treasurer.

**I am the only candidate with significant financial experience and a degree in Accounting and Finance.** The success of chairing India Week and launch of the Water campaign shows that I can make a positive difference and make diverse voices of the student body heard in the union.

The following are some of my enthusiastic and relevant policies:

### - More budget allotment to societies

Offering more money to societies at the time of initial application and advice on raising funds for future events.

### - More funds for joint budget

Encourage more joint events and bring people closer! ?

### - More resourceful Career Service

Lobbying for SU taking on additional responsibility by organising career-related events with a wider range of job-opportunities offered. Lobbying for SU executive member on the committee of Careers Centre.

### - Fairer banking facilities

Lobby for more banks at Freshers Fair and assisting new students in setting up of accounts.

### - Reducing AU Membership fee

Lowering down these fees through subsidies and sponsorships. Provision of more transport facilities.

### - More transparency and accountability

Continuing to publicize the minutes of

My main policies are reviewing budget finances, Increasing bursaries and improving catering.

**Budget Finances-** I would like to do this through continued consultation with societies and an end of term review to remove any misallocation of resources among them. Also, I would like to encourage societies to gain sponsorship and will help them to do this either through trying to find interested companies or helping them apply once they know what company they are targeting.

**Bursaries-** I want to increase the number of bursaries and hardship funds that are available, and make sure that they are well publicised and that anyone who

is entitled to get one of these does so.

**Catering-** My policy is to review the financing of SU catering. I want to make sure that they are able to compete with food establishments in the local area, in both costs and product range.

Another policy is that I would like to increase advertisement of the AU especially at freshers fair and try to get more people involved through sample sessions and coaching.

I want to continue to campaign for more advertising and sponsorship for the SU and try to set up sustainable links with companies.

thomas greaves



Richard



## STANDING FOR THE INTERESTS OF ALL L.S.E. STUDENTS

- Continued and forthright opposition to fees for UK students and campaigning for fair fees for overseas students, also opposition to increase in Visa Charges for those wishing to study in the U.K.

- An end to the unfair and unjust policy of cross subsidisation of halls which all students pay regardless of circumstances

- Total evaluation of current expenditure on non-student services. Currently the S.U. spends over £258,000 on Administration and Management (excluding Sabbatical Officers), this is more than twice the amount spend on the A.U., Societies, The Beaver and PulseFM combined.

- Fight to continue the admission policy based purely on academic merit and simultaneously encouraging students from all types of school to apply to the L.S.E. in order that standards of academic excellence are maintained.

- Continue the Environmental Audit policy so that S.U. goods and service are ethically and environmentally sound.

- Ensure that all societies which have a positive account balance at the end of a year can have a proportion carried over to help fund future activities, this move should end wasteful spending.

- Encourage increased sponsorship of Societies and AU teams.

- Campaign against excessive

Vote Joel # 1 for Treasurer - the experienced choice for an ethical, inclusive Union!

More Money and Support for Societies:

- Double joint society event budget
- Proper storage space for all societies
- Affordable catering for parties and events.
- Bigger Freshers and Refreshers Fair

An Inclusive Union,:

- Celebrating diversity, supporting cultural and awareness weeks.
- Better environment including more recycling & water fountains.
- Catering for students needs - increased Fairtrade, Organic and Halal & Kosher food.
- An accessible Advice Centre, supporting students with health problems or in hardship.

Campaigning for Students:

- support for international students, advice for students new to London, opposing visa charges

- Wednesday afternoons free for all students.

- a better deal for students - affordable accommodation, extend Travelcard discounts and free medical prescriptions.

Experience to deliver for you:

- Finance and Services Committee 2004-6

- Environment & Ethics Officer 2004-6.

- Representative on LSE Court of Governors and Council, 2004-5

- Experience on society committees - People and Planet, Grimshaw Club and Development Society.

- A track record of success in securing school funding, including £120,000 for the environment. I will ensure Union services are properly funded.

Choose Experience

Joel Konrick



Ali Dewji - Comms can be something more.

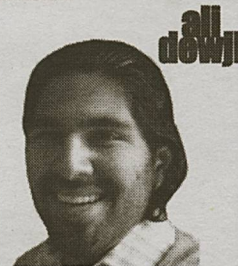
Instead of flowery prose about activism, or empty assertions about how great I am, let me just tell you some concrete ideas that I have to make the union better if I am elected.

Better press for society events - Many society events have comparable quality of guest speakers and attendance of official "LSE events", but don't get coverage in the press. I will contact the press and get these events the coverage they deserve. More sponsorship for the SU - I have a proven track record of raising £4000 in

sponsorship for the debate society this year, including hosting the only British debate competition that is completely free for students because it is funded entirely through sponsorship.

Raise more during RAG week - Targeting one or two charities that offer tangible, marketable goals, like 'adopt a village', raises more and reduces dependence on a separate 'RAG week' brand. A big ticket event, such as a charity dinner, secures larger donations and can raise a lot of money quickly.

Make PuLSE more relevant - I want a 'listen now' link put on every LSE desk-top, to help increase the online listenership.



alex hochuli



**Manifesto - Alex Hochuli - Political Unity and Community Politics**

- Campaign to promote democracy and human rights at the LSE and beyond
  - Create a 'campaigns committee' to lobby and mobilise support
  - SU-sponsored policy debates with societies to spark interest
  - Debates published on lsesu.com
  - SU to encourage and support applications from disadvantaged Greater London schools
  - More details on UGM debates in advance - on website and by email
  - Regular series of meetings with other SU's, with government, and with academics to lobby and share ideas
- Community**
- Sports: celebrate AU successes; publish all results on website
  - Provide transport to big matches

- Lobby for free Wednesday afternoons for all
  - Freshers: shorten to one week, and make it the best week
  - More inter-halls events
  - Better daytime activities
  - Dedicated postgraduate events
  - Ents: more responsive to your desires, more accountability
- Media**
- 'Journalist-exchange' programme with other leading universities
  - FM licence for PuLSE
  - Publish Alternative Prospectus
  - Establish Media Group Intelligence Unit
  - Expand RAG week size and participation
  - An LSE arts week and a dedicated space for students' art work
  - Advertising: ethical and unobtrusive

Elaine Londesborough; **Communication: Loud and Clear**

**Balanced advertising:**

In addition to the big banks, I will encourage the public sector and charities to advertise by offering preferential rates and contacting them rather than waiting for them to come to us.

**Effective campaigns:**

I will support campaigns on student, welfare and social issues through press releases, letters, parliamentary briefings and promotion to students.

**Widening participation:**

Taking the lead on involvement: encouraging state-school students, wider range of candidates in SU elections, better access to information for all.

**New approach to communication:**

Screen in the quad showing society events to reduce the need for postering. More useful information on the website about welfare, campaigns, support funds and careers, clearly linked and well presented.

**Why me?**

- Whoever's elected needs to chair RAG week: I've been on the taskforce for two years.
- They have to produce handbooks and posters: I've been Beaver News Editor.
- They need to run campaigns and have a voice in the wider world: I've campaigned on campus and for a national charity, lobbying MP's and talking to the national press.

Vote **Elaine Londesborough #1 for Communications**, for next year to be about communicating and campaigning, **Loud and Clear**.

elaine londesborough



hanna thornham



**A More Approachable Union**

- I am passionate about making the **Student union less of a British clique**. I will do so through workshops on **motion writing**, **UGM report** on global email, **encouraging first time proposers**, and limiting the use of abbreviations and codes.
- More support with **running/setting up a society**
- Engage **academic departments** in union activities

**A Better Social Environment**

- **Helping freshers meet people and societies recruit** by for example putting together treasure hunts, competitions and sightseeing tours.
- Make better use of the **mentor scheme**.
- **Support department socials**.

**A Campaigning LSE**

- Make official union campaigns **more prominent**.
  - **Real support for awareness weeks**; Use the **experience** I have as **People & Planet chair** of running the AIDS, Climate Change, Environment, and Ethical Student weeks
  - Use my **campaigning experience** from People & Planet to organise **Global week and RAG week**. **Continue involving societies**. Coordinate with societies as early as possible, and use my campaigning experience to produce **fun and visible campaigns**.
- Environmental communication**
- Support an **online Beaver**.
  - Work for a solution to **recycle posters**.
  - **Limit poster plastering**.

Education & Welfare

I am the most experienced and capable candidate, with 3 years Executive experience as LGBT Officer. I have supported Union-led opposition to university tuition fees and visa charges, and externally have actively campaigned against the BNP. I am committed to equality for all students and an active, inclusive union. I have been a member of the RAG week and Constitutional Review taskforces and held the positions of Chair and Treasurer of the LGBT Society. I will work with the School to achieve the best deal on:

- **Re-sits** - rejecting any imposition of a grade cap
- **Feedback** - reducing disparity in the quality of feedback between departments

- **Fees** - opposing rising costs, including all course fees, visa charges, hall rents
  - **Service** - promoting what already exists
- The Union needs to be the centre of students' experiences at LSE. I want to:
- Send Union Officers to Departmental Welcome Meetings
  - Increase cooperation between Residences' Committees and the Union
  - Improve information students receive before they arrive at LSE
  - Further develop support available regarding sexual and mental health issues
- Promoting Equality, Promoting Services, Promoting Welfare**
- Vote **Simon Bottomley #1 for Education and Welfare. Putting Students First**

simon bottomley



**Summer Resits:**

The benefits to students are obvious. We can make this happen by showing the school those student benefits and by showing that the time taken is justifiable. Less people would have to resit years, freeing up space for the School.

**Mental Health:**

40% of students will experience depression, stress and anxiety disorders at university. The big problem is awareness - people aren't familiar with these illnesses. Through a high-profile week and year-long campaigns with mental health charities and advertising of the services the SU and Health Centre offer, we make the

situation better.

**Fees:**

I will campaign with supporters on the Court of Governors and Coalition 2010 to stop a rise to £6K for home undergrads. I will seek to peg fee rises for everyone else in line with inflation.

I have the experience, the policies and the history of getting results to be able to make a difference next year. I would ask for your support.

Dave Cole #1 for Education & Welfare Officer. Questions? D.I.cole@lse.ac.uk

Vote Fabian Joseph #1 for Education and Welfare

I am the most approachable candidate and most dedicated to getting realistic immediate results. Vote Fabs #1. I propose a printing/photocopying allowance for all students, this will hopefully be progressive based on either loan amount or entitlement to funds so as to benefit poorer students. Vote Fabs #1. I propose that teachers deal with your work, PERSONAL tutors should be dealing with your welfare alongside myself. Vote Fabs #1. This will also create connections

between students and the school that will be beneficial in later years when thinking about employment after university. Vote Fabs #1. If the students really want a 24 hour library, I'm behind it. Vote Fabs #1. I propose that cross subsidisation of Halls be amended to cater for students with already higher costs of living, such as disabled students. Vote Fabs #1. I know how hard university can be juggling a job, work and fun whilst living in the toughest urban environment and can guide students to quick, effective resolutions for their issues. Vote Fabs #1.

fabian joseph



alexandra vincenti



**Alexandra Vincenti**

**Experience**

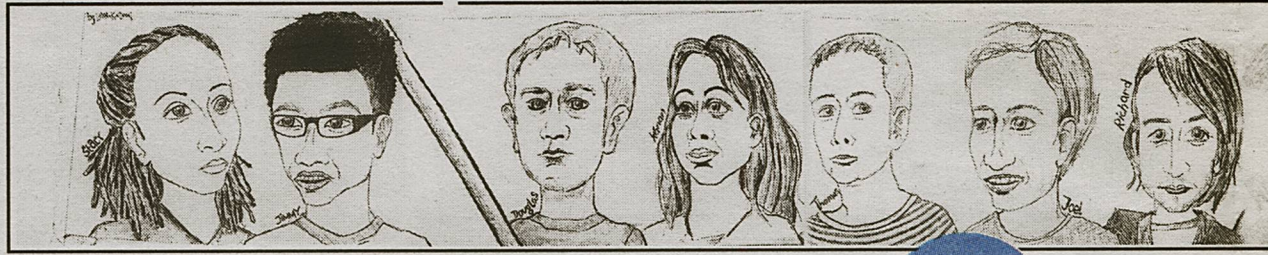
Women's Officer 2004-2006 - Experienced in running confidential weekly advice sessions, worked on safe transport at night.

- Campaigned against top-up-fees, racism, and for RAG week.
- Student tutor

**A healthy Union....**

- Demand improvements from the **Medical Centre** on mental health
- Greater Union role on **sexual health**-MOT sexual health testing, partnerships with local clinics.
- **'Fit in Mind, Fit in Body'** - stress workshops, relaxation groups, positive body image, -collaboration with new Mental Health Advisor.
- **Money Matters seminars** - advice on debt, foreign banking transactions.
- Protect **Wednesday afternoons** - essential escape from study!
- Celebrate our multi-culturalism and **fight racism**.

- Campaign **against all discrimination** - working with LGBT, Women's, Disability and anti-racism officer.
  - Avoid **exam and study clashes** with faith events.
  - Monthly meetings with **hall welfare officers**.
- Fighting for You.**
- **Against all higher fees**.
  - Against increasing **visa charges**, protect the right to appeal.
  - Co-ordination, support and training for **course representatives**.
  - **More course packs and WebCT**.
  - **Increase study and computer spaces**
  - **24 hour library** - whole academic year.
  - **Exam re-sits and feedback**.
  - **More language support** for international students.
  - Keep **smaller classes**.



## International Students'

**aditya**  
**toliyil**



The LSE has one of the most diverse university campuses around – in cultures, religions and nationalities. These traditions are represented by a number of different interest groups and societies, often working for their own individual goals and needs. If elected, I would ensure to be the medium for all these traditions and needs, helping the various nationalities help each other in ways that all too often are neglected. I would do this both on the individual level, by ensuring that diverse food, religious needs and other issues are safeguarded for ALL international students – undergraduates, master and PhD students included, and on the group level, by promoting joint events between the national and international societies and establishing a profound culture of mutual support between them. Through these means, I hope to help in the creation of the *community of nationalities* we all deserve to experience at the LSE.

International students are what make LSE the hub of diversity that it is. There is a pressing need for them to be heard. Currently only 3 of the 14 Executive members here originate from the international community and this trend cannot continue.

I plan to encourage mass mobilisation for all cultural events, in recognition of their contribution to LSE. In practise this means greater participation in, and advertisement of, events such as Global Week.

Language is the key to the integration and well-being of international students. I will seek greater linguistic support and encouragement of multilingualism.

I oppose tuition fee rises and will combat plans to reduce the right to appeal regarding visa applications.

My drive for the post stems from my foundation of Sri Lanka's first interfaith society, membership of the Model UN and UNICEF and leadership of a World Leaders Summit delegation.

**Liberty – Solidarity – Equality. That's my LSE.**



**aditya**  
**toliyil**

**george**  
**meng**



My name is George Meng, from China. I'm running for the International Student Officer.

### Why stand for this position

Being the Vice-President of China Development Society made me understand the pain of not being able to realize good ideas due to lack of necessary supports. Because of this, I'm motivated and determined to put in my personal efforts to make a difference. I served as the international student prefect at college. I want to be your voice in the Student Union. I will listen to what you want to say, and say it for you.

### No impractical promises

1. **More supports** for international student groups, especially under-represented ones, by providing **more financial aids**, more events to **raise people's awareness**.
2. **More cooperation** between cultural/national societies
3. **Better language support**. Free grammar check for essays/dissertations (currently costs £23/essay)
4. **Better financial support** and easier access to financial-aiding information

## Societies

Vote Shayaan # 1 for Societies!

Aims:

- Facilitating more joint events!
- Aiding creation of themed weeks on Art, Music and Food!
- Developing societies party and awards ceremony!
- Helping societies to get involved in Freshers' Week!
- Working with Alumni groups to help societies!
- Helping societies with their budget applications!
- Help in event organisation, promotion and exposure!
- Assist societies in getting their members actively involved!
- Expand ReFreshers Fair!
- Be available for individuals to approach with their concerns!
- Hear suggestions on how to make LSE a more fulfilling experience for all, including International, Postgraduate, Mature, Part-Time, Disabled and Female students!

Experience:

- F&S member!
- Involved in Student Action on Refugees and Corporate Responsibility Societies
- 'Living Wage' group
- Attended the Climate Change March
- Supporter of Make Poverty History
- Volunteer for the Student Union Rise against Racism week

### 11 Reasons to vote Arthur Krebbers

1. **Experienced** Hall president, Society president, member C&S, Media group reporter, Court of Governors
2. **Dedicated** Ran successful series Pub Quizzes, editor award winning website PuLSE FM

### Stands for:

3. **More funding**, both for new and established societies
  4. **Better reimbursement facilities**
  5. **Better society websites** more online space for societies, additional options such as forums and contact forms
  6. **Society Handbook** containing all useful LSE and external contacts for new committees
  7. **Improved promotion**: multi-media society show, special events posters around campus, tv screen ads
  8. **More inter-society projects** working together, rather than colliding
  9. **Better communication** online forum and Q&A for questions
  10. **More storage space**
  11. **More room** for YOUR creativity and input!
- Arthur Krebbers: Dedicated to YOUR Society!**



**shayaan**  
**aisar**



**arthur**  
**krebbers**

## Anti-Rac

As the SU Anti-Racism Officer, I hope to achieve three things: a) increase a and all forms of discrimination b) maintain LSE's vibrant and on the whole c) expand LSE's tolerant attitude further into the wider community.

The role of the anti-racism officer is extremely important. Whilst ensuring I would like to use our university as an example to the community. I want to bring seats in London and descending London's multiculturalism.

By proactive campaigning, holding more events such as RISE and Global w facilities and consideration for all faiths, I hope to achieve all of my object. However, all this will only happen if there is an enthusiastic, hardworking, rienced person to front this work. I know I tick all these boxes - it's now up right person.

**charles**  
**police**



Vote for me as the candidate wh is about who has the ideas, pers with the fresh ideas to facilitate gious society promote understand and I will ensure those that lag ence working with troubled you tims of racism coupled with the clear SU rules. I have the credit the Exec. For the victims of racism

This candidate did not send in a manifesto.



## Residences

I'm running as the Progressive candidate for Residences. This means that my promise is to fight unceasingly against higher rents and any privatisation of halls, whilst striving to further Simon Chignell's great work by getting more and better recycling facilities in all halls. All staff should be paid the London Living Wage, improving services, whilst I shall implement minimum standards in social and freshers' events so no students' halls are left behind in these areas. Priority in halls will, if necessary, be given to poorer students, and I promise to help students every step of the way if and when they move into private accommodation by providing advice and information. I will also set-up a PuLSE show where students with residences complaints can "name and shame" their hall and get my help and the power of the SU behind them. So vote Andy Hallett No. 1 for Residences Officer.



**andy hallett**

**kevin houtschi**



If elected, I will push for a number of policies. My primary focus will be on ensuring that living in halls remains affordable. I will therefore push for prices to be frozen, especially in those halls charging less than £100 per week. It is essential that the LSE continues to offer such places if it wants to attract students from all social backgrounds. I also believe that the accommodation office must do more to support students leaving halls in their search for private and affordable accommodation. In addition to that I will work for more flexible contracts. Halls should all offer either 33 or 40 week contracts and be more flexible as to when students can leave in the summer term. A common environmental policy for all halls is also necessary as is the fair and dignified treatment of staff in accordance to the demands set out by London Citizens.

**LOUISE ROBINSON FOR RESIDENCES**  
Green Party: People, Planet and Progress

- People:**
- Bringing residences, more importantly residents, together
  - Affordable accommodation - viable short- and long-term solutions, including cross-subsidisation, energy efficiency
  - Active lobbying - improved health, welfare & education in halls
  - Increased enrichment in a diverse community (societies involvement)
  - Sports, Open-Mic Nights, Festivals
  - Supporting Hall Committees
  - Improved communications - halls and RUG/RMC (website, Beaver, Residences Report)
- Planet:**
- Massive experience - forum member for ethical, economical and environmental groups
  - Recycling, reduced wastage and renewable energy sources
  - Healthy environments
  - Review catering (Quality, cost)
  - A global community, reflecting LSE
- Progress:**
- Building on success, extending fresh ideas
  - Aiding transitions into private accommodation - focus workshops next term
  - 'Louise's Lovely London' - tour for new and international students
  - Listening and approachable
- For People, Planet and Progress - Remember ROBINSON for RESIDENCES.



**Louise Robinson**

## Women's

**Zoë Sullivan**  
**Experience**  
Court of Governors, Member of Amnesty, UNICEF, People and Planet and RAG Week Task-Force, Involved in Women's Week '06, Amnesty campaign against people trafficking, Regularly attended Womens Forum.

**Increase Representation + Participation**  
Ensuring women are heard on issues that affect them; Work with national organisations and initiatives i.e. equal pay; Increase female participation in all areas of SU i.e. Elections, Womens Forum; Expand Women's Week.

**Campaign for Equality for All**  
Work closely with EdWelfare, LGBT, Anti-Racism and SwD officers; Campaign against all discrimination; Increase involvement in active campaigns for equality.

**Expand Well-being, Safety Resources**  
Work with Halls' welfare officers: promote safe transport, self-defence classes, alternative advice drop-in sessions, improved distribution of free attack alarms.

**Promote Social + International Justice**  
Support initiatives for a green & ethical Union; Support the emancipation of all women: Engage with global debates (defending a woman's right to choose, de-stigmatise sexual assault).

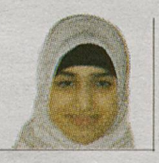


**hillen francke**

**Hillen Francke - Liberal, Approachable and Ready to Represent!**  
**Liberal** - I believe in equal opportunity regardless of gender.  
**Approachable** - I am ready to deal with any problem of specific concern to women, from sexual harassment to unexpected pregnancy.  
**Ready to represent** - Only 23 percent of last year's SU Lent election candidates were female. I will change this, by informing, supporting and not least leading by example.  
**Role models**  
Make women in top positions more visible.  
- More women on reading lists and as lecturers, especially in first year courses.  
- Initiate a mentor programme where selected third year undergraduates are assigned female professionals as mentors.  
**Power**  
More women in leading positions in the SU.  
- Get more women actively involved in societies.  
- Provide training sessions before elections.  
**Support**  
Support women in need.  
- Women's forum.  
- Weekly drop-in sessions.  
**Awareness**  
Raise awareness about gender inequalities.  
- Women's Week.  
- Campaigns.

## Racism

Increase awareness of racism  
the whole tolerant atmosphere  
y.  
Ensuring equality within LSE,  
I want to stop the BNP gain-  
Global week and improving  
y objectives.  
working, dedicated and expe-  
s now up to you to choose the



**shanola naqo**

andidate who can get the job done. We all hate racism; this election, however,  
eas, personality and credibility to stamp it out. I am the only candidate  
facilitate the pressing need for change. I will make every cultural or reli-  
understanding of it's group across LSE. I will help spread best practice  
that lag behind are accountable to you, the students. My years of experi-  
bled young people gave me the understanding manner needed to help vic-  
with the determination to pursue perpetrators: using, not ignoring, the  
ne credibility to drive through my ambitious reforms, hand in hand with  
t racism and for the future of LSESU you must make me your #1.



**pratik master**

**zoë sullivan**



## Returning

There's more to the role of the returning officer just than organising elections. LSE is a forward looking university and the most multicultural in the world. Sadly this isn't reflected amongst our electoral candidates. There aren't enough women, freshers or ethnic minorities standing. My primary aim will be to change this. We must tackle the problems that stand in the way of these capable and talented students from standing up and making a real difference to the SU. I will address the need to increase voter turnout. Ridiculously small numbers are electing people with huge responsibilities, this must be stopped. I want to improve turnout by piloting electronic voting through LSE for You, making it quicker and easier for you to vote. I will supply more information to students about how the voting system actually works so fewer are put off voting.



will barber

adrian beciri



**Apathy kills!** Under a quarter of the LSE voted in last year's election and even then most of those people would have wondered what their vote translated into. Further, if hardly anyone votes then it's unlikely they'll take an interest in the Union. My way around this would be to actively go out to societies and hold forums explaining the intricate details of the Union and its election practices to make it **more accessible**. I want to attract people to vote. People often complain and sideline the importance of a vote. I will change that. I will facilitate a new abstention vote. The Student Union should be as representative of LSE as possible and if people are apathetic then they should at least turn up and express that.

**Don't let Apathy kill:** take a stand for some AAA - Action Against Apathy .Vote **Adrian Beciri #1** for Returning Officer.

## Environment & Ethics

Environmentalists are either pessimists, who see the world as doomed, or optimists, who propose positive alternatives. By electing me, you will elect an optimist who believes that people have the potential to better their lives. To raise awareness, I will form an Environmental and Ethics Group of societies and individuals to focus campaigns. I will make Environment Week even better and promote events around London. To increase sustainability, I will follow the rule of reduce, reuse and recycle, increasingly recycling in SU buildings. I will run an energy efficiency campaign to reduce costs. I have the experience of campaigning for the Green Party and many NGOs. I am a member of the LSE's first ever student consulting body on sustainability. I want LSE to be a world leader in environment and ethics. LSE has improved - but it is part of the problem. I will make it part of the solution.



alkesh woods

alkesh woods



You should vote for ALKESH WOODS because of experience; I was Fundraising officer for Development Society where £7000 was raised for charity, and on committee for People & Planet. If you vote for me I will do much, much more. As LSE students it is important to help the rest of the world and I will do all I can to help you do that. More recycling bins around LSE and in halls, Fairtrade products provided as standard and developing on LSE's environmental-friendly policy are the more obvious steps. However, I want to broaden the role to encompass more than 'Green' issues but all ethical concerns in student life such as: development in all continents (not just Africa), the ethics of religions, ethics in business, and human rights. Most importantly, I will do practical things with visible results. Vote ALKESH WOODS. Putting ethics into practice.

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender

Alexandra Murphy for LGBT officer:

- Work closely with the LGBT society: to help organise more events, both formal and informal
- Encourage all the constituent groups of the LGBT to get involved within events. This would mean increased female and bisexual participation and representation
- "Icebreaker" sessions at the beginning of the Michaelmas and Lent Terms
- Provide aid and advice for those who are confused about their sexuality
- Provide aid, advice and a forum to meet others for those who aren't formally "out"
- Potential for regular drop-in sessions, and accessibility through email
- Promotion of awareness of sexual health
- Work towards eliminating all homophobia, biphobia and transgenderphobia at LSE



alexandra murphy

## Students with Disabilities

emma hangren



The facilities for disabled students at the LSE are already very good, but more can be done. If elected, I will work towards more ramps around campus, more computers specifically assigned to disabled students and better lift access for students who need it. In addition I feel more could be done to help students with disabilities in applying for careers; to highlight the specific opportunities available as well as the special considerations when applying. Obviously I will also work to promote awareness of students with disabilities specifically through awareness week, this year highlighting 'invisible' disabilities, concentrating on Mental Ill Health which is not widely spoken about but affects one in four of us. My priority will be to not only represent but also increase participation of students with disabilities, especially by working with the SU and the Disabilities Office to produce the LSE Disabilities and Equality Scheme.

## Mature & Part-Time

This candidate did not send in a manifesto.



olchall roshas

## Academic Board

natalie black



This candidate did not send in a manifesto.

With student debt spiralling and fees ever-increasing, it's time to fight back. I will demand: re-sits as a right, not an exception; exam feedback and support if you fail; better quality teaching and support from personal tutors; more optional continuous assessment; that Senate House Library access is defended; never more than one exam per day.

For fewer exams, less stress and better teaching, vote James "JJ" Caspell #1 for Academic Board.



James Caspell

# Finance & Services Committee

**Aims:**

- \* Facilitating more joint events!
- \* Aiding creation of themed weeks on Art, Music and Food!
- \* Developing societies party and awards ceremony!
- \* Helping societies to get involved in Freshers' Week!
- \* Working with Alumni groups to help societies!
- \* Helping societies with their budget applications!
- \* Help in event organisation, promotion and exposure!
- \* Assist societies in getting their members actively involved!
- \* Expand ReFreshers Fair!
- \* Be available for individuals

**alsdair barr**



If elected I aim to deliver on three key policy areas:

- AU Transportation - After discussion, I feel I can deliver Team Buses for the AU.
- Environment and Fairtrade - Despite all the major success in the LSESU, I believe we can improve the basics e.g. Recycling of Paper and Bottles in the SU.
- Improved Accountability - I promise to hold the SU Treasurer accountable, voicing the views of all students at the LSE.

**shayaan alzar**



For a green, inclusive, active union, with more emphasis on environmental sustainability, strong anti-discrimination policies and greater assistance for poorer students. All societies should get the money they deserve - I will encourage and support new societies, provide budget-formation workshops and lobby for more joint events funding. I want a transparent, accessible F & S with online reports, clear decision making criteria and more feedback opportunities. For an experienced, thoughtful, committed candidate - vote Megan Gaventa.

**rehan islam**



This candidate did not send in a manifesto.

F&S. It's not the most exciting committee is it...but it is an important one. I want to ensure societies are allocated as much as possible to ensure they can put on some great events in the coming year. I also want to work with our next Treasurer and Ed&Welfare Sabbs to ensure we have proper funding for all services. I'm Forthright & Sound, I'm Real & Relevant. Vote Ranil #1 for F&S.

**arthur krebbers**



**EXPERIENCED & INVOLVED:** Hall president, Society president, reporter media group, Court of Governors

**Stands for:**

- MORE MONEY for Societies, Sports and Entertainment
- Close and Impartial scrutiny of the Union Budget
- Funding the Creativity and Enthusiasm YOU put into the union!

- I believe in being **fair** to **all** societies in distributing their money within the Union.
- I am **enthusiastic** about working with societies to **plan budgets better**, becoming more cost-effective.
- I look forward to **expanding** the Union's services like the Quad to make it a real buzz area.
- I seek to provide a cheaper option at LSE that competes with the popular "Wright's Bar", catering **for all tastes and budgets.**

**mcvoigh**



**daisy o'brien**



I intend to campaign on Houghton Street by baking biscuits and writing 'vote for Daisy' on them, then giving them to people as they walk past. As a first year and a new face in the union I feel I can help improve it's accessibility and image within LSE. Campaigning It should be cold but interesting. I am a moderate and unbiased candidate with no political affiliation. The F and S's role is to allocate

The Finance & Services Committee provides an essential regulatory facility regarding finances. If elected I would ensure that this provision is as reliable and useful as possible. I would also promote a balanced budget that represents the interests and values of all students.

**louise robinson**



**Green Party: People, Planet and Progress**

People and Planet Treasurer - experienced in ethical financing! Active member of many societies, vocal representative of students.

**FINANCE:**

- Capital funding
- Ethical banking
- Society workshops
- Encouraging participation, and new societies
- Clarity, accountability and ease

**SERVICE:**

- Improved services for all students: LSE and surrounding areas
- Lobbying on national level for improved access to health, welfare and education
- Accountability and student liaison

**My aims:**

- Advertise meeting dates to encourage students/societies to attend
- Give more support and help for society treasurers when submitting their budget application
- Regularly update the F & S section on the SU website
- More funding in Lent term for society events
- Improve the performance of SU services (shop, bars, cafe etc)
- Vote Rebecca for Finance and Services Committee
- Committed, reliable, and working for you!

**quratul ain zamil**



**Fighting for Funding,**

**Increasing & Improving Efficiency Support for Societies!**

**Bet your bottom dollar on me!**

- Support for joint events, More funding for societies!
- Work for international students & increase their involvement the union.
- Improve efficiency of union services -high profile publicity & monitoring to provide service YOU want!
- Opposing the rising cost of education.
- Greater transparency & accountability of F&S to UGM.

**Vote Amy Williams Number One for F&S!**

I am committed to a financially secure Union with fair funding for all societies and services.

- I will ensure that F&S reflects the diversity of our students.
  - I believe F&S should be more accountable and visible.
  - I want an F&S that will consult students to provide the services they want and need.
- I am a BSc Government student, currently a sub-editor on The Beaver and a member of the Labour Society. Vote for Amy as a progressive, professional and dedicated candidate.

**amy williams**



# Constitution & Steering Committee

Hi, my name's Ali Alobaidi and I'm running for C&S. If elected I have three goals. The first is to be the voice for the majority of students who don't have a clue about what goes on in the Union and to get them more involved. The second is to increase the transparency of the committee. The third is to be a voice of reason and impartiality in a committee filled with individualistic aims.



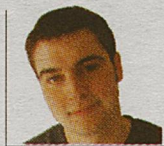
**ali alobaidi**

**fadihl  
hakeer  
markar**



International students are what make LSE the hub of diversity that it is. There is a pressing need for them to be heard. Currently only 3 of the 14 Executive members here originate from the international community and this trend cannot continue. I plan to encourage mass mobilisation for all cultural events, in recognition of their contribution to LSE. In practise this means greater participation in, and advertisement of, events such as Global Week.

I am Jefferson Marshall Courtney: 2nd year Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method Student. I was elected to C&S in the recent by-election; since then I have had a 100% attendance and voting record. I believe the Constitution and Codes of Practice need to be interpreted in the correct spirit and that the UGM should be a welcoming, informative and enjoyable event. Re-elect Jefferson Marshall Courtney! He is doing a good job!



**jefferson  
marshall  
courtney**

**simon  
douglas**



C&S needs at least one experienced member to effectively - no other candidate has as much experience as me. I was elected to C&S from March 2005; I was C&S secretary for 2 months; I was C&S chair for 2 months. Vote Simon Douglas #1 for C&S for efficiency.

If elected, I will push for a number of policies. My primary focus will be on ensuring that living in halls remains affordable. I will therefore push for prices to be frozen, especially in those halls charging less than £100 per week. It is essential that the LSE continues to offer such places if it wants to attract students from all social backgrounds. I also believe that the accommodation office must do more to support.



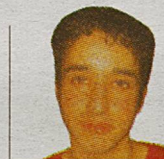
**kevin  
houtschi**

**ranil  
jayawardena**



Let's be honest. The only reason that C&S wanted to ban paper throwing was to stop people throwing it at them! And to use disabled people as an excuse for their ban was simply despicable. Let have some Common Sense for C&S this year. C&S should be there to offer helpful advice - UGM is supreme, not C&S. I have experience in constitutions - I reworked the constitution of my last SU. Vote Ranil #1 for C&S.

I'm a liberal and progressive candidate who has consistently stood up against discrimination of all forms: gender, sexuality and race. I believe that the student union should be far more inclusive and not run in a nepotistic way by a small clique of hacks, in under-publicised meetings- thus making it more representative of and accessible to the entire student body.



**james  
kanagar**

**james  
kottoringham**



I will work to solve the complicated and controversial problems facing the Students Union through considered and well informed discussion. I will strive to ensure C&S properly consults and researches to ensure that pragmatic solutions are found. I understand the constitution and I've attended C&S meetings, I will uphold principles of fairness and equality amongst students. Ensuring that policy encourages all students to be fully involved in our diverse Union

As Chairperson of Bankside and Secretary for the current C&S committee, I believe I stand in good stead to continue as a member next year. As the only female candidate, it would be sad to see a return to a difficult male-dominated committee. Electing me would help maintain the balance and rationality experienced in the first meeting with the new committee, which incidentally, I have heard being described as 'The most bearable C&S meeting for



**carys  
morgan**

**richard  
morrow**



This candidate did not send in a manifesto.

- I am committed to the spirit of our constitution for a politically active, accessible Union.
- I pledge to make common sense, progressive decisions in the interests of our Union.
- I believe in the sovereignty of the UGM.
- I will allow political motions of any kind, except when racist, sexist, xenophobic or homophobic.
- I want a fair C&S committee that consults before it acts and sticks to its remit.



**daniel  
sheldon**

**tim  
windle**



As a typical student voted on to the C&S I will be representative of the average student, committed and taking the position as seriously as it needs to be taken. It's important to remember that the C&S exists not to wield power itself but is elected to act as a check on those positions that do and ensure the constitutionality of the SU, for this reason the C&S should be more transparent.

The old C&S made two big errors: it didn't interpret the law correctly or seek legal/ UGM advice before banning paper throwing. The UGM is something LSE should be proud of and should be in safe hands. I will read the constitution carefully and, if I'm unsure, seek advice before making important decisions. Vote ALKESH WOODS.



**alkesh  
woods**

C  
M  
Y  
K



# religion for the stars?

er and Hollywood stardom,  
e secrecy. We visited the Church  
Hubbard's controversial creation.

r. 'Let us show you' said the narrator, inton-  
the lulling timbre of deepest-Hollywood.  
a birthday party you enjoyed as a child, did  
something like this?' Up flashed a picture of a  
nday party. I admit at this point the Socratic  
had convinced me that our memories work  
s. I was more ready to accept them as an  
on the mind.

ame next was a theoretical non-sequitur:  
of a man's head with a volcano on one side,  
and molten, representing the reactive mind,  
the other side sat a cool blue orb, the sooth-  
of rationality. Apparently this rational mode  
t we should strive for and this is what  
gy, if properly applied, will give us access  
H Hubbard' I thought. It was clear that this  
pseudo-science, constructed upon incon-  
erude psychoanalytic lines, had no other  
han to appear as a blanket 'authority' and  
bmission to its rigour. Not even a researcher  
for the Hull School of Metaphysics.com  
grant from a tiger and a mad millionaire  
me up with anything to justify this. The  
en history of the world was more plausible  
babbling. I didn't get to see any more as  
ready with my results.

at at the one of the tables in the adjoining  
front of me lay a glossy sheet with a scatter  
on it. 'Your results have been interesting.' I  
he graph. Each dependent variable was  
with a character trait that might be con-  
good. Sadly, most of my dots were hopeless-  
e lower end. She fingered the only column  
asonable score marked 'certainty' and with  
raging smile said 'you've done well here.'  
pose I have' I replied uncertainly.

go back into your childhood. If we don't  
could try some Thetan regression therapy.'  
s point, the conversation could have gone as  
me telling them about a fictitious daddy who  
a playpen out of Jack Daniels bottles, or a  
abusive mummy or about the fictitious lon-  
as feeling, until they abruptly interrupted  
job at the Church.

lity, it did go on like this, perhaps with a lit-  
olour. I invented an absurd childhood. She  
nd consoled until I had refused to buy the  
99) that would 'save my life' and similarly  
o buy the leaflet (a mere £3) which would  
ly save my life slightly less than half the  
erhaps start to save my life but then get dis-  
y some money and not quite carry it  
It seemed that unless I bought something I  
going to get any further. Ann just sat there  
hand on the book looking at me. Surely, it  
to leave, but not before having a  
ff around.

its  
a slow mover so giving her the slip  
o hard. I got ahead, ducked out of  
o an alcove and, in best thriller  
he walked on straight past me. I knew  
go and doubled back to the promising  
double doors we had passed earlier.  
them I was confronted by some kind of  
s room, straight out of a James Bond  
had no budget and surfeit of paper. It was  
humans, but with many desks scattered  
CD computer monitors sitting atop them.  
alls were empty whiteboards interspersed  
nted charts. I approached one of the  
ut before I could start to decipher it a  
ned behind me and in walked one of the  
fured men who I immediately recognised  
ption:

o, you're not supposed to be in here.'  
ght a book.' I ventured.  
xcellent. It really did seriously change my  
plied with a sickening earnestness.  
that's great.' How baffling.

'Hey, erm, what's this?' I asked pointing to the  
largest of the two boards dominating the most  
expansive wall, upon which a screed of type and dia-  
grammatic lines were intricately combined. It was  
evidently some kind of typology, of what was impos-  
sible to say. 'The room you're in is the Operation  
Theatre and I'm not entirely sure you're supposed to  
be in here' he said and made a move to escort me  
toward the door.

'It's deeply inspiring, and this...' I gestured again  
at the wall chart, 'is immense.' I tried my hardest to  
feign being impressed.

He replied 'I know' dream-  
ily and his plasticized features slowly lit up.

'Look I'm really interested in this whole organisa-  
tion' I said, 'I picked up a job application on the  
way in and I'd love to know a bit more about how it  
works'. He thought for a few seconds then relaxed all  
over the board. This board was the crux. Basically  
there were seven divisions up there, presented in  
carefully formatted type, each division filtering into  
numerous sub-divisions. Some were innocuous  
sounding: 'Admin Office' and 'Public Relations  
Office'. Some were a little scarier: a 'Corrections  
Division' and a 'Cramming Unit'

replete with Cramming  
Supervisor and three Cramming  
Unit Secretaries. 'What's a  
Corrections Division?' I asked.  
Apparently it was just there to  
act as an overseer to other  
departments. Suddenly I  
noticed that amongst the liter-  
ally hundreds of positions there  
were only a handful of  
actual people's  
names, type-writ-  
ten on metallic  
tape and glued  
up around the  
board. 'Why  
are these  
named?'

'The  
beauty  
of the

organisation is, that if necessary it can be run by only  
a few people.'

I interjected, 'so there are only,' I counted, '8 peo-  
ple working here?'

'Well the idea is to get more and more until all  
this fills up, and it's filling up quickly.' He massaged  
the board with sweeping gestures. 'Last year we had  
seven people working for us, this year we have over a  
hundred.'

I had to push: 'Dude, you say that, but the board  
says something slightly different.' 'Oh...' He looked  
confused for a second. 'Well this board,' he pointed to  
one nearly identical and on the other side of the  
room, 'is the night contingency. The board I just  
showed you works from 9 till 6. Then this contingent  
take over.' For some reason he pronounced this as if it  
was something really quite special. I felt sorry for  
him and went over to the night board. There were  
only three names.

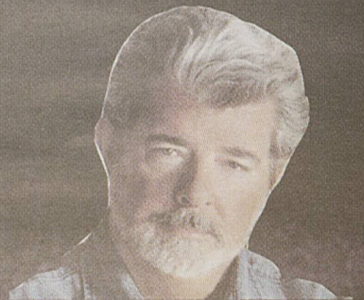
## Reflection

Outside and breathing the cool sane air, I reflected.  
Had I not been engaged in the noble pursuit of inves-  
tigative journalism, the whole affair would have been  
a colossal waste of time. Certainly, I felt a pang of  
pity for those poor souls that give their lives meaning  
from this bureaucratic fraudulence, but as a secular  
agent, in the market for religion, there was nothing  
for me to buy. As a spiritual experience it was akin to  
going to ASDA, or better yet going to Waitrose and  
not being able to afford anything. Rather than being  
introduced to a Jesus I was confronted with a bunch  
of traders in the temple. For them Saul's Damascene  
revelation would have been a loss leader. Buddha  
undersold the path which ought to have been  
lined with bookstalls, Muhammad should  
have presented the mountain with a con-  
gestion charge upon arrival. It was New  
Religious Movement as pure cynicism. It  
had no ethical doctrine, no apparent cos-  
mology. It was half-baked and wholly  
absurd. It would take a good few  
drinks, a random act of contrition  
and 17 hello dolly's to exorcise the  
idea that I'd been taken for a fool.

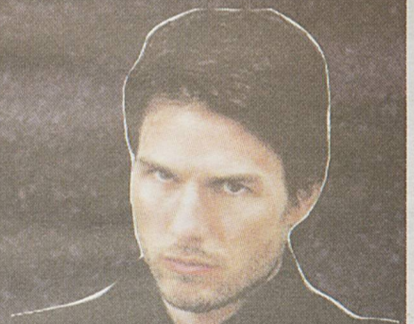
danyates  
garethrees  
petercurrie



Sky Dayton, billionaire, 34



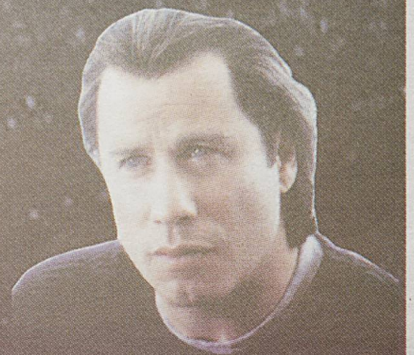
George Lucas, director, 61



Tom Cruise, actor, 43



Katie Holmes, actress, 27



John Travolta, actor, 51



# NME Awards Tour

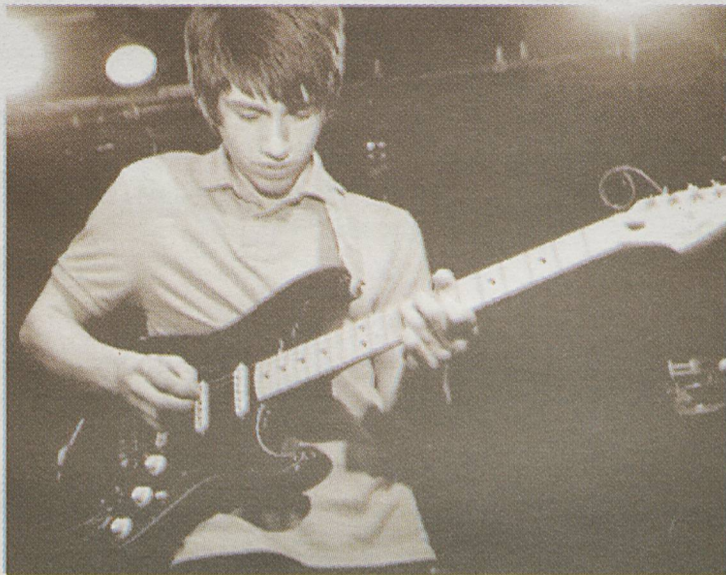
Crowds watched Maximo Park, We Are Scientists and The Mystery Jets wow Brixton but wondered why The Arctic Monkeys were not headlining

There was only one reason why the capacity Brixton Academy crowd watching the NME Awards Tour was joined by a minor splattering of celebrities: **The Arctic Monkeys**.

**Maximo Park** were headlining by the way. Strange decision? I thought so too. I tried to investigate by asking some NME officials outside the gig how that happened. The official version states that the bill was announced before anyone knew the extent to which the **Monkeys** phenomenon would grip the country. But behind the scenes there was a strange vibe. The majority of the crowd certainly felt it. How about the fact that **Maximo Park** did not get a name check by either **The Monkeys**, **We Are Scientists** or **The Mystery Jets**? Or that none of the other three bands stayed to watch them from the side of the stage?

What about how the first three bands shared the stage with each other, with **We Are Scientists** helping out **The Jets**, **Alex Turner** joining **We Are Scientists** and two **Jets** members stage-diving during the **Monkeys** set? Yet no one joined **Maximo Park**. And the final piece of evidence? The big stage gathering at the end of the **Monkeys** set that didn't involve **Maximo Park**. You just got the feeling that **The Arctic Monkeys** were the de-facto headliners, and they wanted everyone to know it.

Either way, we were treated to a special night. It was almost as if a strange trance had gripped the crowd by the time the 'main act' arrived. **Alex Turner** and his band looked every bit the stars they are. Forget the shyness some of us



expected them to feel. No chance. They belong here. There was even a certain northern, working-class cockiness about them. They conducted the crowd. Allowed us to sing the intro to 'When The Sun Goes Down.' Then took over before the song kicked in. They owned us, and they loved every minute of it. The intensity of the moshpit was something not many had experienced before. For some it all became a bit too much. Earlier than at most gigs, people were being dragged out with various injuries and a general inability to cope. However, for fans who braved the whole set, it was an unforgettable experience.

The whole set was sung back to the band, and they fed off it. By the time 'Fake Tales of San Francisco' came about two songs from the end

of the set, they had been joined on stage by **Keith Murray** from **We Are Scientists**, who took over on lead guitar, allowing **Alex Turner** to stage dive into the masses, causing further pandemonium amongst an already fervent crowd. After 'Certain Romance' was played, which has become their standard final song, it felt like the end of the night. But the official headliners had not even started.

Indeed, many in crowd had taken a step backwards before **Maximo Park** arrived on stage. A fan of their album, I was pleased to be able to squeeze right to the front, but disappointed that the band would not get the appreciation they deserved. No matter. For their part, the five-piece from **Sunderland** didn't disappoint. With the usual gusto, they tore

through their set, crowd favourites 'Limassol', 'Graffiti' and 'Apply Some Pressure' particularly saw **Paul Smith** at his energetic best. With his **Bobby Charlton** comb-over staying in perfect place, and doing his best **Elvis** hip-wiggling impressions all night long, he made light of any apparent behind-the-scenes friction between the rest of the bill, closing superbly with hit single 'Going Missing.'

Earlier in the evening, **The Jets** had opened the show with a half-hour set. Not many people knew their work and, truth be told, they were made to feel it. Fair play to them though; it was the biggest night of their careers, and the relatively small group of their hardcore fans certainly enjoyed themselves whilst most of us crowded round the bar. The surprise package of the night were **Brooklyn** three-piece **We Are Scientists**. Whether they were chosen for the tour by design or by accident, there a polished vibe definitely surrounds the band. Or maybe I just thought that because bassist **Chris Cain**, who celebrated his birthday on the night, bears more than a passing resemblance to '80s brainiac **Egon Spengler** from *The Ghostbusters*. Whatever my opinions on the band's image, their music makes a powerful statement. A recent convert to their charms, I was most pleased when 'Nobody Move, Nobody Get Hurt' and current single 'The Great Escape' were played. They are a band with a big, big future.

ismatabidi

MUSIC

# Paul Van Dyk

He grew up mixing smuggled vinyl records in East Berlin and now brings political activism to dancefloors everywhere



The dancefloor represents one of a few places left in the world where ideological beliefs, religion and politics are irrelevant. Cares and troubles are forgotten, differences are put to one side and debate is inevitably drowned out by heavy bass sounds pumped out onto dancefloors around the world, night after night, picking you up out of your seat and leaving your ears ringing in the morning.

However, for one artist the dancefloor is his canvas, the super-

club his forum. **Paul van Dyk**, known affectionately as **PVD** or 'God,' is one DJ/producer who needs no introduction. The man **Muzik Magazine** once named 'Leader of the Trance Nation' is still at the top of his game; he reminded everyone by grabbing the coveted #1 spot in the *DJ Mag* Top 100 Poll from **Tiesto** a few months ago.

He is famed for his driving, uplifting sets and tracks such as 'For An Angel' and 'Crush.' (Sadly, these are not anthems at LSE

Crush.) Yet he is also characterised by political activism and charity work. His own experiences have led him to use the global youth culture platform provided by dance music to voice political opinions, such as his vocal opposition to the war in Iraq, to encourage active participation in democracy. His *Rock the Vote* Tour in 2004 represents one example of how he helps fight poverty by supporting social care networks for disadvantaged people everywhere from India's Mumbai province to New York (Ground Hero Kids) to his native Berlin in partnership with the German Red Cross (Rueckenwind). In contrast to the popular image of the 'global superstar DJ,' much of van Dyk's political work goes on behind the scenes; he has held several private conferences with leaders of the main German political parties.

Paul grew up in communist East Berlin prior to Germany's reunification. Despite extreme censorship and the illegality of Western radio during his youth, he managed to create some of his first remix tapes on borrowed equipment using smuggled-across-the-border vinyl. In 1989, after the wall finally came down, a broad club culture sprung up throughout all of Berlin. Although techno music

emerged, Paul was looking for a different, more unique sound. By March 1991, he was ready to bring his style of dance music to the public at the embryonic Berlin club **Tresor** and his first production 'Perfect Day' was released in 1992 while he was one of 12 members of **Mayday**.

The 1998 Triple CD *Vorsprung Dyk Technik* and *Out There & Back* in 2000 showed he had far more to offer than his signature club sets and remixes that had already defined him as one of the most influential German DJs and producers of all time. His first compilation mix CD *Politics of Dancing* was released in 2001, followed by *Global* in 2003, an original CD/DVD which illustrates his unique experiences travelling the world.

Today, Paul's touring diary is incredibly hectic with regular globe-trotting stops at major venues in Tel Aviv, Mexico and New York. Between all that, Berlin is always there and waiting - if not for the interviews and local club dates, then for looking after his **Vandit** label, recording studio and **Soundgarden** radio show.

billygonzalez

## Live Preview

What? *Le Nozze di Figaro*  
Where? Royal Opera House  
When? 10 February - 6 June  
The 250th anniversary of **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's** birth is being celebrated by **The Royal Opera**, which has mounted a new production of one of his most popular works, directed by **David McVicar**. 'Figaro' is loved for its many marvellous tunes and the opera has sexuality as the backdrop to a nobleman's desires for his wife's personal maid, **Susanna**. An 18th-century chateau provides the scenery for the intrigues of the French court, which follow the libretto of **Lorenzo da Ponte** based on **Beaumarchais'** second Figaro comedy 'Le Mariage de Figaro' that was later censored during the reign of **Louis XVI** for its personification of class struggle in pre-revolutionary France. A bit of its irreverent charm seems lost for contemporary viewers, but its soap-opera plot continues to fascinate: an easily fooled Count (**Gerald Finley**) is determined to hunt down **Susanna**, played by **Miah Persson**, before she is locked into marriage with **Figaro** (**Erwin Schrott**). The plot unfolds with misunderstandings, role reversals and sexual allusions. Before long, the viewer is spell-bound and captivated by this production. My highlight was **Dorothea Röschmann's** performance of 'Dove Sono I Bei Momenti' while the fate of **Cherubino**, a ladies' man in every sense of the phrase, captures the sympathy of the audience.

holgerfabiansahl

## Live Review

Who? **Brad Mehldau Trio**  
Where? **Barbican**  
When? 13 February

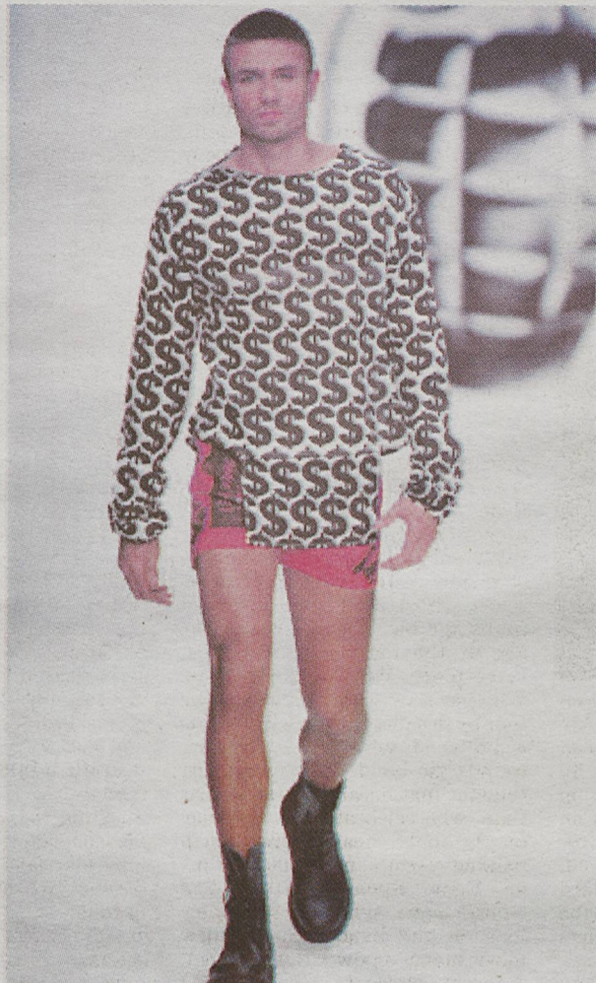
I would never have thought that **Brad Mehldau** and his trio could be so controversial. Half my friends hated the intricate improvisations of the trio, while the rest considered its reworkings of classics by **Nick Drake** and others as nothing short of super swell. Having turned **Soundgarden's** 'Black Hole Sun' from a dreary hard rock lament to a chilled-out, late-night jazz piece seems likely to boil blood and charm more mellow folk in equal measure. While other 'controversial' musicians seek to stir hype through dress or off-stage activity, **Brad** provokes by taking songs that are loved, stripping them of trademark characteristics and twisting them into pieces that sound entirely different and unexpected. By all means, go and see his genius. But only after you've left your preconceptions firmly at the door of the concert hall.

nasstantavakoli-far

# Boy George at Fashion Week

Boy George's talents reach out into music, cooking and now fashion. His flamboyant new collection, presented at London Fashion week may prove quite successful.

FASHION



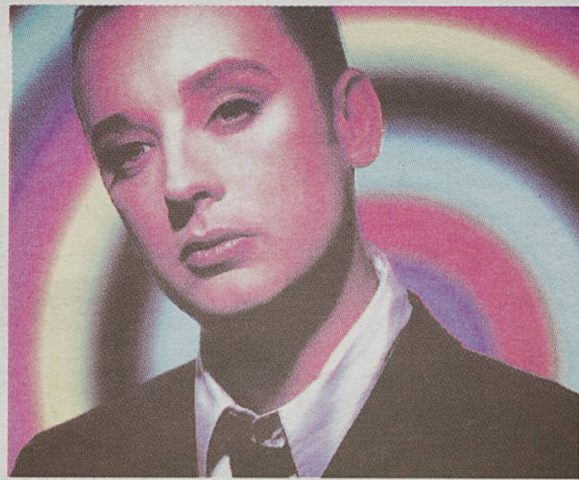
He was born George O'Dowd in London in 1961. It only took Boy George twenty years before he made it into the big time with his band **Culture Club** with whom he signed a record deal with **Richard Branson's Virgin Records** label.

After a first single, 'White Boy', did not even make it into the album charts, Boy George and group made the headlines when they gained the top spot with 'Do You Really Want to Hurt Me' which was followed up with the success of their album 'Kissing to be Clever'.

George's appeal was in part due to the colourful nature of his character and his appearance, which was seemingly inspired by singers **Marc Bolan** and **David Bowie**. After his second album proved even more successful than the first, Culture Club and Boy George in particular were feted as one of the most desired bands of the time. However, the success was relatively short-lived with the admission by George of his heroin addiction in 1985, who then took into hiding as the media pressure and campaigning became frenzied. It was all Branson could do to shelter his superstar from the irreparable damage of what had been one of the musical highlights of the '80s.

As Boy George's relationship with drummer **Jon Moss** fell apart, things went from bad to worse. In 1986 George was arrested for possession of cannabis, and later that year keyboard player **Michael Rudetski** was found dead in George's home from heroin overdose.

Culture Club was unable to come back from such misfortune and broke up in the spring of 1987, leaving Boy George to pursue a solo career which further propelled him into the musical limelight. His 1992 re-make of 'The Crying Game', a '60s song made significant inroads into the US market. Since then, George has moved more into the club scene, becoming acclaimed both here and in the US as a DJ. He produced his own cookbook 'Karma Cookbook' with chef **Dragana Brown** in 2001 which quoted him saying: 'I've always loved the way in which the Spanish, Italian and Jewish people take a real pleasure in the cooking of food and how it is a central focus in their lives. For me, food is now the best boyfriend that I have ever had.'



Now, however, George is reinventing himself again, this time as a fashion designer with a collection for his new **B-Rude** label being showcased at the London Fashion Week in February of this year. His collection was made up of a variety of styles of clothing, the most prominent of those being his t-shirts with controversial slogans such as 'Paris Hilton sucks' and 'who the hell is Anna Wintour? She asked.' The label, which has already shown twice in New York, is street wear with George's own irreverent touches of flair added to it, and was a flamboyant and well received end to the LFW.

It is difficult to predict whether this new fashion creation will survive the spring with as much goodwill as it has currently received. Nonetheless, I get the feeling that, even if this reinvention does not succeed, a career in acting cannot be too long down the line.

benlamy

## German beer hall with a twist

An amazing array of micro-brewed beers characterises Bünker, which also boasts tasteful menus, warm people and a wonderful location in the heart of Covent Garden



When **The Savoy** closed down its basement pub (elderly drunken reprobates still mention the legendary spot) and converted the space into a function room, finding venues that serve beer in traditional tankards surrounded by rotund, beer-swilling gentlemen became tremendously difficult. Sadly, **Bünker**, a German 'Bierhall' in the heart of Covent Garden, did not satisfy anyone's worryingly deep need to consume alcoholic beverages with old, bearded men.

However, despite such a dismal disappointment, the drinking spot boasts several fine qualities. While Bünker does not succumb to old-fashioned stereotypes of German beer halls (you will not encounter busy wenches handing out large steins of beer to men sporting lederhosen), it does represent a trendy bar that produces an exclusive range of beers from its in-house micro-brewery.

Indeed, the only real similarity between Bünker and any German beer hall are the long trestle tables. But even these are complemented by plenty of comfortable sofas and stools. Apparently the bar does serve beer in steins, although patrons must specifically ask for them. Nonetheless, having halves and pints seems preferable since it makes sampling the entire range of micro-brewed beverages possible.

Afternoon visits are as pleasurable as evening ones; Bünker is a great venue to unwind during the early afternoon. It starts to fill up as the evening passes, never becoming unpleasantly full. The same clueless, ambling tourists who flock to Covent Garden on weekends are thankfully absent from the clientele. On the flip side, many visitors have complained that the Bünker clientele seems all too familiar; the same crowd visits just about every other decent drinking establishment in London.

Bünker shows most of the important football matches on large screens in the bar, which has been designed to offer decent views of the screens from every corner. Staff members are polite and affable. Female reviewers have even claimed that male staff members are 'fit' and 'cute.' Lots of women turn up, seemingly as a result, which is great news for single men looking for love over a pint of well-brewed alcohol.

Bünker offers more than beer; the menu includes a

great selection of wines and cocktails. Mojitos are superbly made and demonstrate the bar staff's decent sense of mixing cocktails. However, the beers are, needless to say, the stars of the show and the main reason why you should venture down to Bunker. The range consists of Freedom Pilsner, Soho Red Ale and Freedom Organic Lager, all of which are superb. The pilsner is crisp and flavourful whilst the Soho Red lives up its legendary reputation. Food is also available at various times throughout the day; the menu mainly consists of simple classics such as beer-battered fish and chips, burgers and the like.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly recommend heading down to Earlam Street if you are in the mood for decent, micro-brewed beer or are accompanied by a large group, part of which requires drinks other than beer. Bünker is perfectly located in the heart of Covent Garden, just off **Seven Dials** and near a plethora of theatres. It is a fabulous spot to either kick off an evening of debauchery or wrap one up, since it is within easy walking distance of dozens of other bars and only a short stroll away from Leicester Square and Chinatown. The best part: it is an even shorter stroll away from the LSE, so students might find themselves squeezing in quick pints between lectures!

garethrees

ADDRESS: BUNKER, 41 EARLAM STREET, LONDON, WC2H 9LX  
TEL: 020 7240 0606  
NEAREST TUBE: COVENT GARDEN  
RATING: \* \* \* \*

ABOUT

# Grizzly Man

TIMOTHY TREADWELL SPENT 13 SUMMERS LIVING WITH GRIZZLY BEARS. ENTIRELY VULNERABLE IN THE WILD, HE LEARNED THAT HUMANS CANNOT TAME NATURE.



## Documentary

**Director:** Werner Herzog  
**Starring:** Timothy Treadwell

\* \* \* \*

*I'm in love with my animal friends. I'm in love with my animal friends! I'm love with my animal friends. I'm very, very troubled.*

Here is a man who has taken his loneliness and insecurity to an extreme. **Timothy Treadwell** spent 13 consecutive summers living in Alaska's Katmai National Park, among wild grizzly bears. He studied them with the hopeful intention of protecting them from poachers and preserving their natural habitat. Throughout the years, he developed foundations, gave famous speeches in classrooms and even became known as a minor celebrity. All of this culminated in what many have referred to as his inevitable downfall. He was taken apart and eaten, and so was his girlfriend who was with him.

Treadwell documented his experiences in the wild and accumulated nearly 100 hours of raw footage. The absolute genius of *Grizzly Man* is the way in which German film director **Werner Herzog** sifted through this footage and recounted the fatal life journey of Timothy Treadwell. First, Herzog develops him as a delightfully ambitious and altruistic character from an outside perspective, before exposing him and revealing his true nature.

Just like *Titanic*, at the beginning of this film we are purposely made aware of its tragic ending. Rather than spoiling the story, this technique has the opposite effect. The inevitable tragedy hangs over us throughout the film, and as he films himself in front of beautiful landscapes, ominous bears loom in the background, thus creating a beautifully suspenseful atmosphere. Strangely enough, we feel as though this were in fact Treadwell's intention.

At first, Herzog steers us in a direction in which we are led to believe that Treadwell represents a noble figure, a hero willing to risk his life based on the

belief that a bear's life is worth as much as his own. However, it eventually becomes apparent that this man's actions are simply a manifestation of his neurosis. Treadwell obsessively repeats takes, changes the colour of his bandana, puts his sunglasses on and off, and speaks to himself using a tremendous amount of profanity. He seems obsessive, pathological, violent and aggressive. He also puts his hand in a pile of bear excrement. He is simply irrational.

These kinds of attributes are revealed meticulously, through various sorts of 'confessions' where he speaks about his history of serious alcohol abuse, his difficulties with women and other silly, incoherent rambles. He also mocks various religions and says things like: 'I'm sure gay people have problems, too.' We are driven to the point where we no longer sympathise with him. Indeed, we start to pity him. He becomes increasingly paranoid and directs his hate towards all other humans.

Does he simply feel more at ease living in a dangerous environment? No, it's just that he prefers to live among animals because their affection is unconditional. None of them cast judgement on him and none of them make him feel alienated or self-conscious. He befriends a fox and expresses his love for it repeatedly. However, when the fox steals his hat and takes it into his fox hole, he chases it belligerently and screams, 'If that hat's in the den, I'm gonna fuckin' explode.'

We do not know enough about what happened during Treadwell's childhood to explain his psychological inner-workings, but Herzog does do some investigating into his past. His parents reveal that his downfall began after he moved to California to become an actor, and he allegedly came second for the role as the bartender in *Cheers*. All he wanted was to be appreciated, and becoming a recognised celebrity was the best way for him to validate himself.

In some of his most revealing moments, Treadwell speaks to God, in whom he denies belief. We get the impression that, subconsciously perhaps, he wants to play God. He wants to be in control of his destiny, and he wants to defy the natural order. He interferes with

nature on several occasions, attempting to rebuild a dam for instance. Those interviewed insist that Treadwell's expeditions have done more harm than good. The bear that ate him was shot dead and he subjected his girlfriend to these precarious conditions that ultimately lead to their tragic deaths.

Herzog explores the mysterious circumstances surrounding their deaths. Treadwell also foreshadows his own death quite regularly. The death itself was captured on camera, but Treadwell could not remove the cap in time so only the audio was captured. Herzog was given access to it but chose not to include it in *Grizzly Man*. Treadwell and his girlfriend were supposed to have left for home months prior to their deaths; however Treadwell got into an altercation with an Air Alaska employee and had to cancel his flight home. Other questions still do remain, such as why he turned the camera on when he was attacked. We simply do not know anything other than what Treadwell presented to us on camera and in journals.

Treadwell had a strangely idealistic view of nature, and he thought that he could connect with bears. He thought that he himself could harmonise with the group. The film does not agree with his perspective and takes a hopelessly cynical view. The director, who narrates the film, says 'I believe the common character of the universe is not harmony, but hostility, chaos and murder.' One individual who is interviewed suggests that perhaps the bears let him live this long only because they perceived him as 'retarded' and then one day thought, 'maybe it would be a good idea to eat him.'

On one hand, *Grizzly Man* represents a gripping thriller about a man on the brink of death. On the other, it is a meditative journey inwards into the mind of a lonely and pathetic person, with whom we truly cannot identify. In *Grizzly Man*, there is no hero of any kind.

caseycohen

## COMPETITION FAILURE TO LAUNCH



**Matthew McConaughey** and **Sarah Jessica Parker** star in this delightful romantic comedy, released nationwide on 31 March.

### Win a free pair of tickets

to a special screening taking place on Tuesday 7 March at the Prince Charles Cinema, just off Leicester Square at 6pm. We also have a shirt and key ring to give away. Win by emailing your worst romantic moment to:

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

If you do not win the competition, you can also go and see this film for free by exchanging two mastheads from *The Times* at the LSE shop for two free preview tickets.

# ALTERNATIVE BERLIN

A proliferation of monuments and stunning buildings testify to a dramatic past, but the Berlin of today represents a liberal, multicultural milieu that has proven irresistible to hipsters, artists and anarchists



## GAY BERLIN



Berlin is an open-minded and exciting place for gay and lesbian visitors. The fact that the mayor of the city, Klaus Wowereit, is openly gay shows how gay-friendly the city is. Berlin's official gay village is just south of Nollendorfplatz in Schöneberg, but in fact the scene can be said to be pretty widespread across the city. Obviously one needs local advice to find the hottest places to be at any given time, and this is where **Mann-O-Meter** can help. This is Berlin's main gay community centre, located on Bulowstrasse, Schöneberg, where one can get advice on everything from nightlife to exhibitions to safety and pick up one of several English-language city guides that are available. The **Schwules Museum** ('Gay Museum') on Mehringdamm in Kreuzberg houses a collection of exhibits relating to gay art, culture and history, and is staffed entirely by volunteers. Check out the kitsch **Barbie Bar** on Mehringdamm for all things pink and tacky. In Prenzlauer Berg, kick back at **Schall and Rauch**, a homey café located on Gleimstrasse.

## TURKISH BERLIN



Berlin is very much a cosmopolitan, international city. Over 13% of its population has a non-German background. There are around 132,000 Turks living in Berlin, concentrated mainly in the districts of Kreuzberg and Neukölln. This is the largest Turkish population outside Turkey itself. Kreuzberg is no longer a neglected border district. The demolition of the Berlin Wall, which used to surround it on two sides, positioned it back in the heart of the city. Known in the past as a haven for anarchist punks, subversive artists and military service refuseniks, the area is now home to a thriving multi-ethnic community. A collection of second-hand clothing and record shops, fruit markets and vibrant nightlife, not to mention doner kebab outlets, make this area unique and interesting. Oranienstrasse and surrounding streets are where one can find some of the liveliest bars and clubs in the area.

From skyline to street-level, Berlin shares the same no-frills attitude that characterises the low-cost airlines that serve its airports. Signs on the U-bahn underground system have been liberally obscured by artless graffiti merchants. Unsightly tagging is accompanied by a fly-posting epidemic which outstrips any problem faced by London councils. All this descends before night, and you realise that that 'Vorsprung durch technik' doesn't extend to ample street lighting. Germany has always been my synonym for efficiency, so why does Berlin look like another shabby Camden?

Berlin mayor **Klaus Wowereit** could have used no better slogan for the city when he declared it 'poor but sexy.' A sluggish economy has left Germany burdened by five million unemployed and desperate for World Cup-induced period of economic growth. In spite of these problems, as the morning sun gleams off the **Fernsehturm**, it is easy to recognise the Big Wurst's sex appeal.

Formerly the centrepiece of East Germany's communist dream, this television tower now represents an ironic focal point for Berlin's capitalist tourist industry. Its eagle-eye view over the Mitte area has yet to be beaten by its contemporaries, amongst them **Sir Norman Foster's** £250 million **Reichstag** building. Queuing in the rain to be repeatedly frisked allows plenty of time to appreciate the parliament's shiny precision. I should love it. Nothing is rough-around-the-edges except the overzealous security guards. But, in the shadow of the quirky **Fernsehturm**, slick new buildings suddenly look a bit middle-of-the-road.

After an ill-advised trip to **Bahnhof Zoo**, Berlin's equivalent of Oxford Circus minus the super-sized Topshop, I finally heed the lesson of the **Fernsehturm**: head east. The **Circus Hostel** on Weinbergsweg lies on the cusp of Mitte and arty Prenzlauer Berg. A hotel at hostel prices, it is the perfect base. After a lazy breakfast in their street café and a meander around the boutiques between Weinbergsweg and Kastanienallee, Berlin feels like a calmer and cleaner place. Yet it is little surprise that there is still concern about 'Die Mauer im Kopf' within the population; that is, the idea that a psychological division remains between Ossi (East Germans) and Wessi (West Germans) seventeen years after the physical Wall was demolished. At the most superficial level, it is impossible to travel around without wondering into which sector of the former city any given street, tramline or station would have fallen. This past life is fascinating at a purely academic level, but for many who lived with and without the Wall, its impact is real and unremitting. Hence those unable to speak German who visit the 'hidden' **Stasi Museum** on a rundown Lichtenberg business park may find their surroundings less than hospitable. There are better places for pidgin German squabbles about the availability of English language guidebooks than the former headquarters of the Communist East's invasive and feared state police.

Plenty of other areas of Berlin, however, have reconciled themselves with a past non-Germans seem voyeuristically inclined to fixate upon. Perhaps by living through the past, rather than merely observing it, Berliners have come to understand the comparative triviality of graffiti and fly-posters. Hence it is in Berlin, rather than Camden, that I can feel safe to navigate the wavering scaffold stairs behind a small Yamaha music school at 2am and enter the understated epitome of liberal Berlin: **Klub der Republik!**

laurarose

## TOURIST LANDMARKS

**Brandenburger Tor** - The **Brandenburger Gate** was a symbol of division during the Cold War, but has been reclaimed as one of reunification since the fall of the Wall. The Quadriga, Johann Gottfried Schadow's striking sculpture, originally representing the goddess of peace riding a horse-drawn chariot, sits on top of the Gate. The quadriga was stolen by **Napoleon** during his occupation of Berlin in the early 1800s and spent several years in the **Louvre** until it

was rescued and returned by a Prussian general. Then the statue's olive wreath was replaced by an iron cross and she became the goddess of victory.

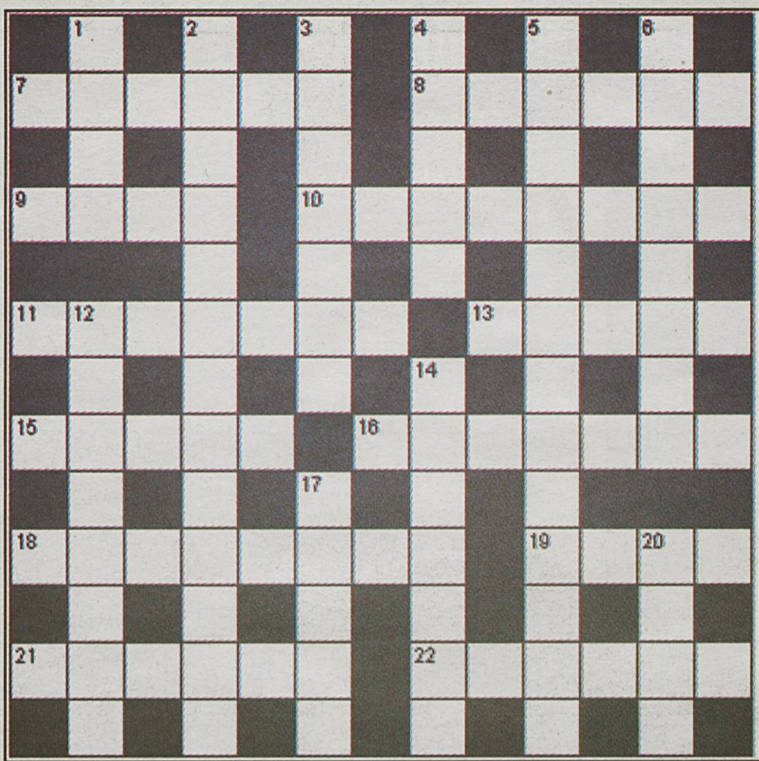
**Bebelplatz** - Located on Unter den Linden Boulevard, **Bebelplatz** is bordered by the **Königliche Bibliothek** ('Royal Library'), **Staatsoper** ('State Opera House') and **Sankt-Hedwigs-Kathedrale** ('St. Hedwig's Cathedral'). The square is famous for being the site of the burnings of the thousands of books by authors the Nazis deemed subversive in 1933. These writers included **Hemingway**, **Marx** and **Thomas Mann**. A fitting memorial is the underground room which contains empty library shelves, visible through a small window in the centre of the square. Nearby **Humboldt University**, which overlooks Bebelplatz, also holds daily sales of second-hand academic books outside the building.

**The Monument to the Murdered Jews of Europe** - **Peter Eisenman's** bleak, abstract design was completed this year to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the Second World War. It consists of 2700 concrete slabs positioned in size order along a wavy walkway. Walking through it produces a claustrophobic and unsettling effect. The Monument has been surrounded in controversy since its inception, and not just because of the design; it transpired that the company supplying the anti-graffiti agent used to treat the stones also produced the poison gas used in Nazi death camps.

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VOUS SORTEZ  
DU SECTEUR AMERICAIN  
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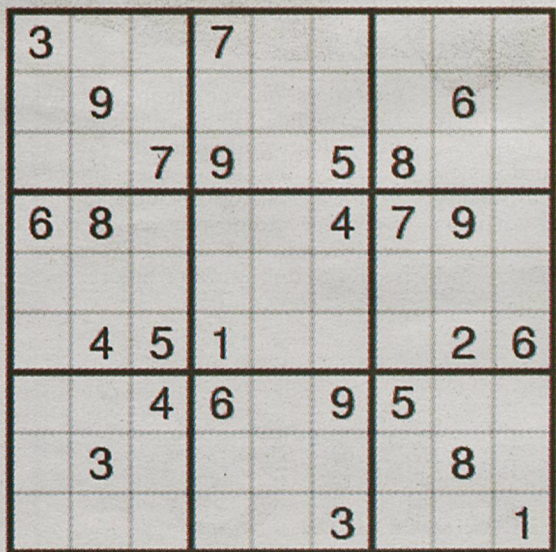
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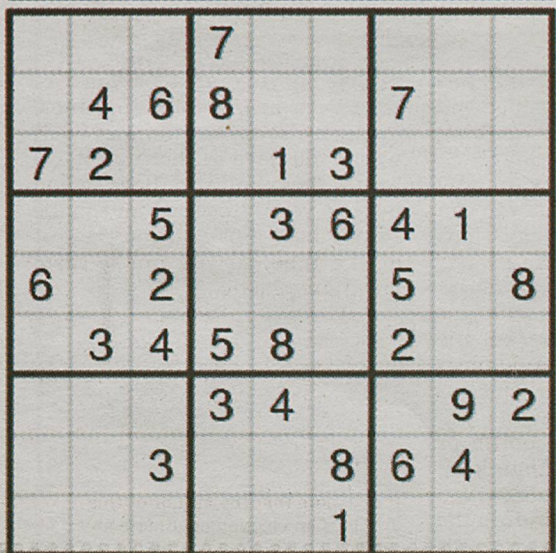


- Across**
- 7. Contaminate with disease (6)
  - 8. Complete view (6)
  - 9. Unrefined person (4)
  - 10. Neurological condition of unprovoked seizures (8)
  - 11. Time of broadcast (7)
  - 13. Nest of large bird (5)
  - 15. One that moves (5)
  - 16. In state of enjoyment (7)
  - 18. Casino capital (3,5)
  - 19. Rare web address extension (4)
  - 21. A source of guidance/signal fire (6)
  - 22. Bring to harmony (6)
- Down**
- 1. In (4)
  - 2. Agency which protects US president (6,7)
  - 3. Small rivers (7)
  - 4. Achievement (5)
  - 5. Marilyn Monroe film/tendency to late infidelity (5-4, 4)
  - 6. Light of the Sun (8)
  - 12. Locked up alone (8)
  - 14. Shoe brand - Converse (3-4)
  - 17. Excruciating pain (5)
  - 20. Company (4)

# SUDOKU10



VERY HARD



VERY LIMP

**Beaverlingus**  
'Phallic...'

A. Teytelboym on melons

# Ask

Auntie

Shaw



Hello, my strange little boys and girls! I am so glad you have been drowning me with questions in *The Beaver*, on Facebook and on PulseFM. I can barely keep up! I've asked Mr. Shaw to give me a little hand for this issue. I hope you enjoyed raising and giving last week. You're all so wonderful! As always, send me questions (thebeaver.art@lse.ac.uk), poke me, write on my Facebook wall or phone in on Pulse. As always, you can indicate your desire to remain anonymous. I hope you enjoy all the strange and lovely questions submitted this week!

Hugs and kisses,  
Auntie Shaw

**Quit poking me, bitch.**

**Matt**

Oh dear! I had no idea poking would cause such a stir. Mr. Shaw and I found you very attractive indeed and wanted to know whether you would like to join us for an evening of bosoms and giggles. I do beg your pardon if I over-poked you. Sorry dahling!

Yours,  
Auntie

There is a certain very naughty tennis coach at the LSE who has me smitten. His moves on and off the court are absolutely coach-tastic. I have been pining for his coaching for a long time now! I am sure that this Dark Horse can help me find new moves and positions to improve my game; I am particularly keen on honing my forehand strokes. But Auntie, despite numerous attempts to persuade my Hero to engage in some one-on-one action, I have been woefully rejected. Our last encounter on the lower ground floor of the library climaxed with him screaming uncontrollably: 'No! Yesss! No! I have to go *study!*' Do you think it is because I bob my head a little when I speak? I don't understand why he denies me. What can I do to make the Coach succumb to my womanly, 38DD-sized charms? I am feeling lonely and dejected.

**Coach's Biggest Fan**

38DD?! I'm surprised you can see over those juggernauts of yours dearest! It must be like carrying two friends everywhere, how can you possibly feel lonely and dejected? By publishing this, I'm sure this man will know who he is and who you are; there is half the job done. Leave the other half up to that ample bosom of yours and I'm sure things will work themselves out. You and your friends will be all over the coach in no time. If you want to write in about your boobs alone, I'm sure our readers will be happy to hear from you. Good luck!

Love,  
Auntie Shaw

A year ago, my housemate met a man on a long train journey who she got on with very well. He was very funny and she was sure by the end of the journey he was deeply in love with her. They only found out each other's very distinctive surnames and didn't swap numbers because she is happily with a boyfriend. She continued to think about the man occasionally and told me all about him. Admittedly, I was jealous. I managed to 'find' him on the internet after a long process of elimination; I discovered which school he went to, about his brother and where he worked. We made fleeting contact which confirmed he remembered my housemate on the train and the email signature contained his mobile number. A few months

passed and the aforementioned housemate was annoyed with her boyfriend for texting to ask how to microwave rice; she replied with instructions and also sent the same text to the man to see what he would say. He replied and they had very flirtatious texting for two days. He has now asked her out for a drink. She doesn't want to go due to her boyfriend. Would it be wrong for me to go and pretend to be her? He's sure to fall in love with me as he'll think I'm the one who sent all the funny texts. And when I reveal to him about searching for him on the internet and meeting him under false pretences he's sure to love me more isn't he? I'm very loveable, aren't I?

**Confused Third-Year Female History Student**

You're confused. I had to read this a few times before I established that I too, was confused. Readers, what say you? Mr. Shaw and I dare not tamper with your questions and ruin the authenticity of this column but it must be said...hmm, how can I break it down in young person terms? W.h.f.? Or maybe it is w.t.f.? Oh dear. Well firstly, young lady, despite your spelling boo boos, here is a short summary of my comprehension of your dilemma: your friend met a man on a train and they hit it off. Your friend has a boyfriend. You are now in contact with this man and want to meet him, impersonating your friend. You are jealous and want to be loved. You lost me at microwavable rice. Sort your life out dear child, and sort it out soon. Boiling rice is a healthier option.

Ever your auntie,  
Auntie Shaw

You dirty old cow. I thought you'd had your anus sealed up after an unfortunate surgical accident?! Can you confirm or deny?! I'll only do it if Mr. Shaw isn't there. I don't want his beady eyes on my pee pee.

**Alex**

I fear you are socially incompetent. Maybe it is a lack of sleep or a lack of sex. Both perhaps? I am not aware of any surgical incident regarding my rear. It is a complete fabrication. However, I always have been, and always will be, a dirty old cow. Mr. Shaw knows all too well.

Hugs and kisses,  
Auntie Shaw

**Where were you at Big Beaver? I waited up all night!**

**Chris, SU Comms Officer**

My dearest Christopher, I'm afraid Mr. Shaw found out and I was forced to pull out at the last minute. Do you have an excuse? Maybe you, I and Mr. Shaw could arrange our own Big Beaver soon, hmm? Until then!

Kind regards,  
Auntie Shaw

**I love your beaver.**

**Joanna**

Ah it is a lovely little paper, isn't it? I hope you enjoy occasionally browsing through my section on a weekly basis. Which part of my beaver do you like the most? I am open to any suggestions! You children are just too kind, I have been left with a warm fuzzy feeling inside!

# world,

It's not rely on anyone else to save the world



course, the most important thing you can do also involves the largest sacrifice, having to forgo flying abroad. Yet this isn't all bad: for international students it is a chance to enjoy all the delights that the English countryside has to offer, and if you can't stand Britain, you can still take a train or coach or ship to Europe. Doing this reduces your carbon emissions by 2753 kilos.

Furthermore, if flying really is unavoidable, then by paying

**'To have clean drinking water, a roof over our heads, electricity, gas, a free health service, and education at one of the top universities in the world are luxuries that only a tiny fraction of people can afford.'**

just a bit extra for your flight you can "carbon offset" it. This means that the money will be used to do things, such as planting trees, that will reduce the amount of carbon by the same amount that you going on the flight emit. All

heads, electricity, gas, a free health service, and education at one of the top universities in the world are luxuries that only a tiny fraction of people can afford.

One easy way of cutting your costs may be to stop going to Starbucks and buy your tea and coffee at the much cheaper and Fairtrade SU, or to simply drink tap water instead. Another might be to shop around a bit more for your clothes - try eBay or charity shops for clothes for a tenth of the price. You could also cut your food bill by making your own meals and making use of discounts and/or buying from the economy range. This needn't be incredibly time consuming; it takes the same amount of time to buy your pain au chocolat at Tesco rather than at a cafe, yet is half the price. Even though it seems you may be dealing with petty sums of money, in the course of a year these things add up. Not buying that £2.49 mocha venti every day saves £1000, enough to supply 500 peo-

dards, or the 'Product Red' range, where a proportion of what you pay is used to treat AIDS in Africa. One of the most effective things you can do is to invest your money ethically, such as in a 'Smile' account, where it will be invested into companies that act ethically, NGOs and development projects. Since every

draught excluders on the doors, or just turn the heating down and invest in a thick woolly jumper.

Recycling is another important way to stop resource depletion. Recycling your paper, tins, bottles, plastics and compost is easier to do than ever before.

Either you have a recycling

# the step at a time

isn't you- in a do as nited n we that nce ally, on of t sav- t you os of each stu-

dent may emit 11 thousand kilos. This can be reduced dramatically by doing simple things that you should be doing anyway as part of a healthy lifestyle. For example, eating more fresh fruit not only helps you become more fit, but reduces your carbon emissions by over 400 kilos. Throwing away less food and recycling not only cuts your costs, but reduces your carbon emissions by 550 and 1090 kilos respectively. Again, by simply walking or cycling short distances, you can not only get a bit of healthy exercise, but reduce your emissions by 670 kilos each year. Of

in all, by doing these simple things you can reduce your carbon emissions by a whole 5027 kilos a year, 43% of your original emissions.

We can then look at what to do to help developing countries. One large part of it is giving aid. What with rising student loans, high rents and the cost of Valentine's Day having recently taken its toll, saving up money to give away is probably the last thing on your mind. Yet remember that most of us are well-off, even by British standards, and even if we aren't, by world standards we live like kings. To have clean drinking water, a roof over our

ple with the clean drinking water which, ironically, you will be drinking instead.

There is of course a limit to how much you can give up. Yet that doesn't mean you can't be ethical. For example, you could buy Fairtrade produce. It costs just 5p extra to buy a Fairtrade tea or coffee, but that means that the farmer gets double the price for growing it. Better still, the more Fairtrade products that are bought, the greater the pressure on the bigger companies to go Fairtrade. Similarly, you could buy 'Ethical Threads' clothes, produced by workers who get a fair wage and adequate working stan-

time you put £1 into a bank, £10 is generated, think how much you could achieve just by making even relatively small savings.

Another problem is energy usage. Many of the things you can do to reduce carbon emissions also mean that energy isn't wasted. Reducing the amount of energy you use also reduces your gas and electricity bills. Turn off the lights and electrical appliances when you're not using them. Or on those cold winter nights you could use a hot water bottle or electric blanket rather than keep your radiator on all night. You could have insulation put into the walls, floor and ceiling, and put

service in your area or you can take it to nearby recycling bins. You can also try to minimise what waste you have in the first place: re-use your plastic bags when buying your groceries and make sure to have a bag on you the rest of the time, so you don't waste any more plastic.

Please note that the author of this article is an election candidate and therefore cannot be credited.

# The case for Israel

Mark Feerick presents a defence of one of the world's most controversial states

**"The existence of Israel is an error which must be rectified"**

Iraqi President Abdur Rahman Aref, 1967

Alongside iPods and the Arctic Monkeys, demonising Israel is fast becoming the fashion these days. In the eyes of many, Israel is the ultimate pariah state. However, a comparative and contextual assessment of its history and institutions demonstrates that it deserves to be singled out for praise, not criticism. One need not argue for the legitimacy of the state of Israel, because its right to exist is beyond question. What is attempted here is a robust and frank rebuttal of the endless cacophony of visceral, unreasonable and demonstrably false condemnation often levied at Israel.

"War made state, and state made war," according to Charles Tilly. Israel, it seems, has been in this unending state of war for 58 years – its entire life. Following Israel's Declaration of Independence on May 14th 1948, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon, with the backing of Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Libya, sought to annihilate the state in its infancy. The Arab States clearly desired the birth of Israel to be of the still-born variety. Israel, it should be reminded, has never enjoyed peace within secure borders. Consequently, the map of Israel has evolved as the result of its five defensive interstate wars, and further destabilising wars of attrition with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Hezbollah and, more recently, Hamas.

It is deeply unsettling to see the increasingly vocal collection of students, academics and politicians that have delved to such depths of desperation as to define Israel as an 'Apartheid State.' Using such an abhorrent and repugnant categorisation is a deliberate manoeuvre to portray Israel as the antithesis of everything we hold dear in western liberal democracy – equality, liberty, individualism et al. Such people are guilty of either abysmal ignorance or malignant bigotry. All nations must be judged in comparison with other states facing comparable threats. When Israel has confronted these threats, she has shown remarkable restraint, minimising civilian casualties, demonstrating a willingness to take risks for peace and an unyielding commitment to the rule of law.

The Israeli Supreme Court is one of the most activist and interventionist courts in the world. It has consistently held the military to account in dozens of landmark cases forcing compliance to humanitarian rules and strict lawful codes of conduct. Even when running contrary to nation-



Graphic: Jess Brammar

al security. These have included prohibiting the military attacking medical vehicles (despite the recognition that they have been used to transport explosives and suicide bombers), overturning expulsion orders given to the relatives of terrorists, and outlawing physical pressure (non-lethal torture). In a Middle East awash with authoritarian regimes, Islamic theocracies and corrupt monarchies, Israel remains the only torchbearer for representative democracy, accompanied with a well-established tradition of judicial independence.

It seems that in this crucible of danger and conflict, Israel has attempted to forge a jurisprudence of civil liberties that can withstand the turbulence of war and crisis. In this way, adversity may yet be the handmaiden of liberty. A nation fighting for its survival does not sacrifice those national values that make the fight worthwhile.

Meanwhile, Israel's foes are often unconstrained by morality or law. Whether it's the henchman of Islamic Jihad, or the bomb makers of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (the armed wing of Fatah), they often have the luxury of operating with impunity. Alleged collaborators are killed and tortured without even a semblance of due process. These brutal non-state actors are not voted out of office, scrutinized by the

media, or held accountable to an elected legislature. There can be no moral equivalency between the two.

One of the most banal and crude means of apportioning blame to Israel has been by arbitrarily citing the asymmetry of fatalities between Palestinians and Israelis. As always, the situation is far more complex. According to the Shin Bet Intelligence Agency, since the 'Al-Aqsa' Intifada of 2000, there have been a total of 22,406 reported attacks on Israel and her citizens, which equates to ten a day. Of these attacks, 135 were "successful" and "major" (suicide bombings, mortar bombs, drive-by shootings), claiming the lives of 677 civilians and injuring a further 5,330. Harrowing as this may be, it is only half the picture.

In the same period, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) thwarted a further 431 "major" attacks, saving an incalculable loss of life. Critics of Israel's tough security policies should take heed and listen. An attempted terrorist attack carries the same moral culpability as a successful one. If murderous intent were measurable, who now would have more blood on their hands? The failure to understand – or worse, to understand but not to acknowledge – the fundamental difference between deliberately targeting civilians through terrorism, and

accidentally killing civilians in the course of self-defence, reflects reprehensible moral obtuseness.

Today the same old voices are once more trying to sell us the same old spoilt goods. A decade ago they assured us that Yasser Arafat was gradually undergoing an astonishing metamorphosis that would transform the terrorist organisation of the PLO into the builders of respectable civil governance. These voices now tell us the Islamic extremists of Hamas will do likewise following their victory in the January 25 Palestinian Legislative Council elections. With textbook Hamas rejectionism, the following day saw ailing spokesman Dr Mahmoud a-Zahar declare the Oslo Peace Accords dead and buried. If only constructing international instruments was as quick and easy as belligerently destroying them.

The result is not only a shameful debacle for Fatah but a painful defeat for Israel. The founder of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, prior to his assassination in 2004, declared that 2027 was the tentative date for Israel's ultimate demise. Make no mistake: Hamas is a very dangerous proposition. It appears that their strategy is a long term one: building up future capabilities; co-opting Fatah instead of confronting it; establishing its hegemony systematically; mobilizing

Palestinian society for the struggle; linking itself to an Iranian defensive umbrella and an alliance with Hezbollah. It is promising war, and it may keep its promise.

Israel has been shown to be a tenacious yet defensive democracy, isolated in a brutally hostile region, with high ideals and elevated values that it cannot always achieve. But to so many historically ignorant politicians, self-serving western intellectuals, or intransigent Islamic reactionaries, this tiny state is the root of all evil in the Middle East.

Slowly but steadily, Israel has fast become the 'Jew of the world': scorned, scapegoated, demonised and attacked. Militant Islamic indoctrination and state monopolised media (both so pervasive in the Middle East and North Africa) have distorted the state of Israel into the Elder of Zion: the powerful, secret, international conspirator, utilising world Jewry for its own ends. This ideology is perfectly personified by despots such as Mr Ahmadinejad and twisted Clerics such as Abu Hamza. This begs the question: where does genuine concern for Palestinians end and anti-Semitism begin? The blurring of this line leaves a chilling permissibility in the air.



# Denying the right to be wrong

Sam Lehmann examines the David Irving case and questions the role of legislation in discrediting untruths

The holocaust didn't happen. The gas chambers of Auschwitz never existed. More people died on the back seat of Ted Kennedy's car than in the Holocaust. Hitler was good in parts. It is all a massive Jewish conspiracy.

David Irving's rise to fame is an interesting tale. As a student, he studied Physics at Imperial College, occasionally writing for the substandard student newspaper, *The Phoenix*. He never completed his studies, mainly due to financial problems, and moved to the Ruhr in Germany to become a steelworker. After moving to Spain to work on an airbase, his right-wing views calcified, as well as his ambitions to become a historian.

His first book, *The Destruction of Dresden*, revealed some cruel truths about the extent of the Allied bombing campaign on the German city of Dresden. It captured the post-war debate about morality in swinging sixties Britain, showing graphic images of the destruction caused and showing that death tolls were much higher than previously suggested.

By the late 1970s, Irving had completed his masterpiece, *Hitler's War*, which was met with critical acclaim. In it, he portrayed the Nazi leader as a rational and intelligent politician, a far cry from previous accounts of Hitler as unreasonable and compulsive. Irving controversially played down Hitler's role in the Holocaust, claiming that he never personally issued

any orders for the annihilation of the Jews. Many historians praised his detailed research and brave new thinking.

Forty years on, Irving finds himself locked up in an Austrian prison for three years, awaiting both his appeal to shorten his sentence, and the prosecution's appeal to lengthen it. A very public fall from grace: one moment a bright, new star of historical scholarship, the next banged up alongside murderers, fraudsters, thugs and perhaps other 'deniers.'

The issue at hand, however, is not David Irving's downfall from brilliant writer and original thinker to someone with a clear desire to cause public outrage, but the way he has been classed as a criminal for doing so.

In some of his writings relating to the Holocaust, Irving has been wrong in the most obvious way a historian can be. His claim that there were no gas-chambers at Auschwitz is disproved by clear evidence to the contrary, notably the fact that the remains of the buildings still exist. Various documents and testimonies from both those who escaped death, and those involved in the process, prove the 'Final Solution' happened without a shadow of a doubt. His original argument that Hitler knew very little, a view which has progressed to his latterly outrageous claims, still holds some weight, but ultimately a Jewish conspiracy can be categorically ruled out. Irving has even admitted that he was wrong, especially in light of more recent evidence such as the Eichmann

papers. Facts are the essence of history; getting facts wrong means bad history.

The laws against Holocaust denial, prevalent in many European countries, are simply ridiculous. Getting facts wrong, making evidence up, twisting the truth – these are all terrible mistakes to make as a historical scholar. But putting someone in prison for getting facts wrong about a single and specific event, no matter how significant, is a clear case of double standards by these countries' legal systems.

Over the decades there have been many examples of historians who have employed shameless methods to prove their theses. Pulitzer-prize-winning historian Joseph J. Ellis, for example, stated that the fact that former US President Thomas Jefferson and his slave Sally Hemings had had a child together was "beyond a reasonable doubt." Fabricated DNA evidence was used to support these false claims, and since then Ellis has been widely discredited for his actions. There are many other examples of shoddy historical scholarship, such as Stephen Ambrose, a popular historian and biographer, whose work was questioned by many for various inaccuracies and failure to reference quotations and documented evidence.

If I used my dissertation to set out disproving the existence of cheese on continental Europe between the years of 1904-1906, and fabricated documents and facts to prove its non-existence, I would be laughed at. To lock up



David Irving for his inaccurate views on the Holocaust cannot be excused. To take such action is a drastic and misguided overreaction. The answer is to show up his

inaccuracies and falsehoods, and do so with real historical evidence and argument. Historians Deborah Lipstadt and Richard Evans are the best examples of former colleagues of Irving's who don't believe that censorship and imprisonment is the way to go, despite their clear and public outrage at his views. Richard Evans has torn apart the Holocaust denial argument with his book *Telling Lies about Hitler*, and makes it clear that there is such a thing as a historical untruth. Lipstadt agrees that "the way of fighting Holocaust deniers is with history and the truth."

Irving has made a fool of himself in recent years, and very much in the public eye. He has fought and lost libel cases which have bankrupted him, he has made racist remarks on television, and he travelled back to Austria recently knowing full well he was not welcome after previously making a speech at a right-wing rally. Browsing through his website, it is clear that he thrives on the attention – the amusingly titled "Cyber-Cesspit" shows off his various battles and witty replies to those who hate him – and, despite it backfiring, his trip and trial in Austria has earned him much media interest. He is a reckless and arrogant character, no doubt, and welcomes confrontation. And, because of this, he will never be taken seriously as a historian again.

# Shivrati

Hiral Patel and Sanjivi Krishnan celebrate the Hindu festival of Shiva

Shivrati, literally meaning 'night of Shiva,' is a festival celebrated by millions of Hindus on the fourteenth day of the Phalgun month of the Hindu calendar, which was last Sunday. The festival is in honour of Lord Shiva, one of the three major Hindu Gods.

In the Hindu view, the Divine Being transcends all human conceptualisation, but as a means of arriving at that Being, Hindus worship three principal Gods: Brahma (the creative force), Vishnu (the preserver) and Mahesh (another name for Shiva). Shiva is the lord of yogis, the lord of time and 'the destroyer.' Destruction in this context means the renunciation of all that is negative, with a view to setting the stage for a pure, innocent rebirth.

The image of Shiva as Nataraja, the Lord of the Dance, is one of the richest examples of Hindu symbolism, particularly the striking image of Shiva literally stamping out ignorance. It is

ironic, therefore, that the story of Shivrati's origin that has become most firmly embedded in Hindu folklore is one of inadvertence (albeit inadvertent worship).

A king named Chitrabhanu, when asked why he was observing a fast, claimed that in his previous life he had been a hunter. Whilst searching for game to feed his family, he said, he was frightened by a tiger and promptly scurried up a bael tree where he remained overnight, tearfully plucking and dropping the bael leaves. The next morning, it transpired that there had been a Shiva Lingam (a stone) buried beneath tree, and that in dropping bael leaves – and tears – upon it, the hunter had been unwittingly worshipping Lord Shiva. As a result, he was forgiven for his sins and, so the story goes,



reborn as the king. Relating this to what we said above, the hunter died and was given a new, pure beginning.

**'Shivrati is a festival celebrated by millions of Hindus on the 14th day of the Phalgun month of the Hindu calendar'**

And so, when celebrating Shivrati, people observe a fast for the day and night, often refusing themselves water. They keep vigil throughout the night, worshipping Shiva by washing a Lingam with milk,

honey and water. And as in the hunter's case, a crucial part of the ritual is offering bael leaves, but it is clearly done consciously, as it's accompanied by chants of 'Om Namah Shivaya.'

It is often said that Shiva is easily pleased, and it would seem that the moral of the hunter's story is that worship done in ignorance is good enough. It may seem that that could amount to saying, "do what you want, and maybe someday something you do will turn out to be a ritual, and for that you will be rewarded." However, like many of the stories that religions refer to, it should not be taken at face value. Indeed, the millions that celebrate Shivrati perform the rituals with true devotion and a spirit of conscious worship.

# Paving the road to human rights

Rishab Gupta urges the British government to reject all forms of torture

In response to the events of September 11, 2001, the Bush Administration declared a 'War on Terror,' arguing that the threat posed by stateless terrorists is so dire that it requires tough new rules of engagement. In breach of international law, individuals were separated into prisoners of war and "enemy combatants," the latter being excluded from the protection of the Geneva Conventions. Soon thereafter, photographs of caged detainees at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, or naked men in Abu Ghraib trembling in terror, flooded the airwaves. Torture and coercion was not limited to Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib. Bush Administration also endorsed a policy of contracting out torture or "extraordinary rendition" – the deliberate transfer of terrorist suspects for interroga-

tion to foreign countries, like Egypt and Syria, where torture is common.

"Extraordinary rendition" allows American government agencies to interrogate and torture suspects without intervention by civil authorities, or protection of the law. Terror suspects in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East have often been abducted by masked CIA agents and then forced onto a jet registered to a series of dummy American corporations. Upon arriving in foreign countries, rendered suspects are tortured by local authorities in order to gain valuable intelligence. A report on renditions published by the New York University School of Law and the New York City Bar Association suggests that around 150 people have been "rendered" in the last four years.

Lawyers like Alberto Gonzales, the new US Attorney General, justify the Bush administration's policy by arguing that the United Nations' Convention Against Torture's ban on "cruel, inhuman, and degrading treat-

ment" does not apply to American interrogations of foreigners overseas. However, this is intellectual nonsense. The total prohibition of torture is accepted as a peremptory norm of international law, from which no derogation is permitted. The US Government knows very well that its policy is illegal, and that is why it is outsourcing torture, away from its own boundaries.

Recently, media reports have uncovered sketchy details of a British link to the CIA abduction operations. It has been alleged that the UK Government allows the CIA's fleet of jets to come in and out of the UK airports to refuel and get other logistical support, while they ferry their captive human cargo around the

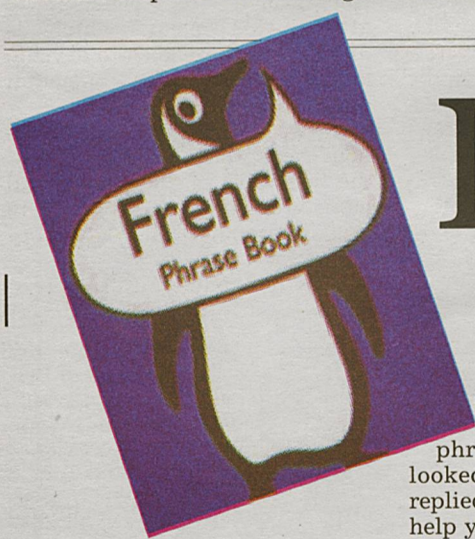
world. An article published in the Guardian reported that aircrafts involved in the operations have flown into the UK at least 210 times since September 11, 2001 – an average of one flight a week. Although the Foreign Office has denied any knowledge of the use of British airports during renditions, it has failed to carry out a proactive investigation into these allegations.

British assistance for covert CIA kidnapping operations most certainly violates international law. Under international criminal law, a state which aids or assists another state in the commission of an international wrong, is

also internationally responsible. The UK is, undoubtedly, also in violation of Article 3 ("prohibition against torture") of the European Convention of Human Rights, for its failure to take effective measures to prevent its airports or

airspace from being used by "torture flights," and for its failure to undertake a comprehensive investigation into these allegations.

It is ironic that the two countries which consider themselves as the beacon of freedom, seem unable to respect the law that they ardently preach to others. The Bush administration seems intent on engaging not only in a War on Terror, but also in a war on law. The UK, however, must not follow suit. It must make clear that torture is an affront to human dignity that can never be justified and must be opposed in every form, in every country in the world.



## Lost in translation

Features Correspondent Lisa Cunningham wishes she had paid more attention in French class

I never felt particularly ignorant until I started at the LSE. Actually, I considered myself pretty well informed. Unfortunately, it turns out that I'm not. I remember meeting all my classmates for the first time; I have never felt so foolish. In fact my seminars still make me feel shameful. This has nothing to do with my grades, what I contribute to class discussions or even my general intelligence. I am referring to the fact that I can only speak one language: English.

Before starting my Masters programme this only roused faint twinges of embarrassment, usually while on holiday. Attempting to communicate with locals often left me floundering. I remember

asking a waiter where the toilets were in broken phrase-book Spanish. He looked totally bemused and replied in perfect English, "can I help you with anything madam?" I was in his country, on his turf, yet he was the one that was able to communicate in my language perfectly. Admittedly, I rarely felt embarrassed about my inability to speak anything other than English when I was in the UK. In fact, I often felt smug about others' ignorance. Don't tell me you haven't scowled at some poor tourist on the underground trying to navigate the tube map and inevitably getting in everyone's way. Americans in particular suffered my intolerance; while at home in Edinburgh, one Yank exclaimed at me, "isn't it handy that they built the castle next to the train station?" I had never felt so cultured.

But, coming to such a continental community like the LSE

has exposed me to so many different nationalities. I have friends from Latvia, Taiwan and Catalan. When my friends around me can speak two, three, even four languages fluently, I do feel incredibly humble. Not only are my course-mates speaking in a foreign language, but they are studying in one. I find the texts we read hard enough to understand, often having to reach for a dictionary. What is more, my foreign friends are often able to write better essays than me, a native speaker.

My fellow countrymen fair just as badly. Almost two in three Britons are unable to speak a language other than English. In Europe, the average for foreign language competence is 44%, and in Luxembourg just one percent of people speak only their mother tongue. Currently, there is an EU target for all citizens to speak two languages in addition to their mother tongue, in which Britain evidently has some considerable

progress to make.

I have to accept ultimate responsibility for my ignorance. Brits are plain lazy. If I had the inclination, of course I could have learnt a foreign language by now.

**'There is an EU target for all citizens to speak two languages in addition to their mother tongue'**

There is an abundance of language schools teaching anything from Polish to Portuguese. I just never found the time for it. Secondly, our education system hardly promotes the learning of

foreign languages. I received no tuition in a foreign language until I was 12, and even then my French classes were just once a week. In schools on the continent you simply have to learn a foreign language. Even some universities in Europe require you to pass proficiency tests in foreign languages. Furthermore, I hope you don't consider me arrogant for admitting, but it isn't wholly necessary for native English speakers to learn a foreign language; everyone else speaks English. Although Mandarin Chinese has double the amount of speakers, English is spoken either as an official language or by a significant proportion of the population in 43 countries across the world.

So, after all this moaning, will I sign up for some French lessons? Perhaps. But it just seems like so much hard work. If I don't know it now, I doubt I ever will. All my friends speak English anyway, so what's the point?



# Eastern promise

Luying Gan takes her first step towards a career in Asia

I came to the LSE last year after I finished my first degree in China. As a masters student of Sociology, I had to start thinking about how and where I would develop my career after finishing university. Like most students, I attended numerous careers fairs, applied to the companies directly, and registered with a number of well-known graduate recruitment websites. However, I found that most were geared towards 'home' and EU students.

I first heard about the 'Careers in Asia' initiative at a presentation, which was held at the LSE last November by the Global Career Company (GCC). Although I had never heard about this company before, I was attracted by their unique services from the beginning - they are specialists in the recruitment of internationally-educated or experienced graduates and skilled professionals seeking careers within Asia, Africa or Russia.

In a very animated presentation, I learnt that the Careers in Asia London Recruitment Summit would be hosted between 10 and 12 February 2006. This unique event was set to become the premier recruiting event for top multinational organisations to attract and interview internationally-based graduates and

professionals for their operations in Asia. Building on the success of the Careers in Africa recruitment events, and a decade of experience in international recruitment, Global Career Company's Careers in Asia initiative has attracted leading companies such as Diageo, Coca Cola SABCO, HSBC, Standard Chartered Bank and GE Money. My friends and I decided to give it a try.

The registration process was very straightforward. It only took thirty minutes to complete a standard application form and upload my CV at [www.careersin-asia.com](http://www.careersin-asia.com). In January I received my first invitation for an interview with one of the companies. Some of my friends received up to three invitations. I was told that only the best candidates are invited for the exclusive interview and networking event, after a rigorous application-screening and selection process. Of the 4,000 applications received for the Careers in Asia event, only 568 high-calibre candidates were

invited for the recruitment

summit. Naturally, I was very happy to be among them.

Over the course of last weekend, other invited candidates and I were able to meet, network with, and be interviewed by, delegates from the 17 participating companies. At the Friday evening networking cocktail, I had a chance to interact with delegates in an informal setting before participating in both pre-scheduled and spontaneous interviews on Saturday and Sunday. Having a drink with the person who would be interviewing me the next day was a great way to get over the initial anxiety everyone feels before an interview.

Interviews began on Saturday (mine would be on Sunday with Standard Chartered Bank), and by 10am there were spontaneous interview sheets posted on the information boards in the candidate waiting area. I ended up with two spontaneous interviews as well and those that had been pre-scheduled, after leaving my CV with the company delegates at the cocktail party and visiting them in their hospitality suites in the hotel. One very helpful GCC staff member told me that, in all, over 100 spontaneous inter-

views were organised in addition to the 500 interviews organised prior to the event.

By Sunday I had met all of the delegates and a majority of candidates as well. Although they potentially were the competition for the opportunities being offered by the companies, I enjoyed talking to like-minded people from different universities, and I managed to make friends with them as well. As the event was winding down, I heard that a number of companies, such as HSBC, had made offers to some of the candidates interviewed. Of course, I wish that had happened to me. However, I'm confident that when I hear from Standard Chartered Bank, the company with which I had interviewed, I will also be taking that first step into my Career in Asia.

## Wanted: Environmental Professionals

**Event:** Environmental Futures

**Sector:** Environmental

**When:** Thursday 16 March

**Where:** Woburn House Conference Centre, Tavistock Square, London.

**How to apply:** [www.careers.lon.ac.uk/ef](http://www.careers.lon.ac.uk/ef)

The Environment Agency, United Utilities, WSP Environmental, Society for the Environment, Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, BP, Upstream Strategic Sustainability Consultancy, DTI/DEFRA and StudentForce for Sustainability, amongst others, will be giving advice on how to enter the sector, networking with future recruits at a bespoke environmental careers fair and offering an interactive workshop on how to get started on an Environmental Career.

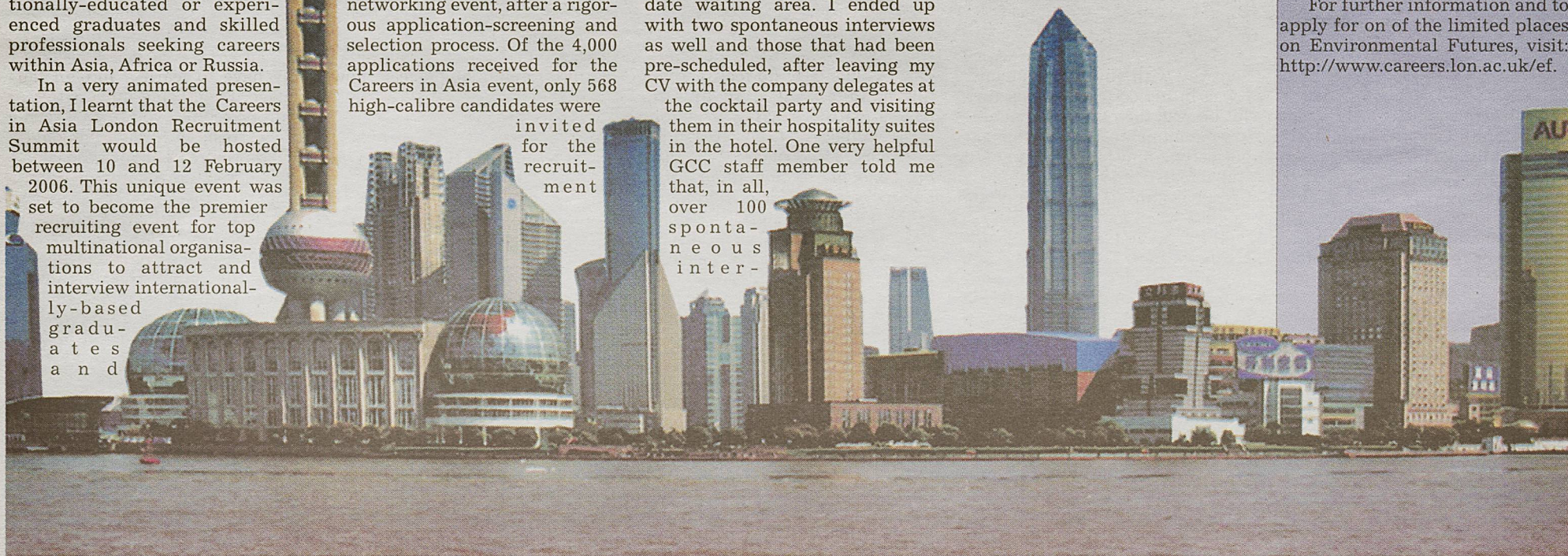
This unique event organised by The Careers Group, University of London, is open to all current undergraduate, postgraduates and graduates from colleges across the University of London and beyond.

All degree disciplines, from Engineering to Environmental Policy, Life Sciences to Geography are welcome to attend this event, which is focused on those keen to develop a career within the environmental sector.

With climate change constantly in the news and 'sustainability' the buzzword of 2006, more and more graduates are attracted to this diverse and rapidly developing sector.

Environmental Futures provides an ideal opportunity for them to learn more about the field, gain advice on entry into the sector and meet with leading recruiters.

For further information and to apply for one of the limited places on Environmental Futures, visit: <http://www.careers.lon.ac.uk/ef>.



## TUESDAY

## WEDNESDAY

## THURSDAY

**ROMANIAN Society: ROMANIAN WEEK**  
Event: Romanian Food Day  
Venue: Brunch Bowl

**11:30-12:00**  
**GREEN PARTY Society**  
Event: Weekly Meeting  
Venue: Underground Bar

**12:00-14:00**  
**KNITTING Society**  
Event: Knitting Workshop (weekly)  
Venue: Quad

**15:00**  
**GERMAN Society: GERMAN SYMPOSIUM 2006**  
Event: Communicating Germany - Germany as a brand  
Venue: D602

**16:30**  
**GERMAN Society: GERMAN SYMPOSIUM 2006**  
Event: Germany after the federal elections 2005: The new Left Party and its chances for the future  
Venue: Shaw Library

**18:00**  
**ARABIC Society**  
Event: Are There Ethical Limits to the Media? - Perspectives on the Muhammad Cartoons  
Venue: Hong Kong Theatre

**18:00**  
**SIKH-PUNJAB Society**  
Event: Rehras Sahib (Evening Prayer) (weekly)  
Venue: G215

**18:30**  
**ENTREPRENEURS Society: EPOCH**  
Event: Fashion Forward - Entrepreneurial Fashion Show  
Venue: Cafe De Paris, 4 Coventry Street W1V 7TL  
Cost: LSE £5, non-LSE £10 (includes entry to aftershow party - until 9am)  
Info: Guest speaker: Robert Bensoussan, CEO of Jimmy Choo.

**19:30-21:30**  
**AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND Society**  
Event: Kath and Kim Video Night!  
Venue: Y115

### SINGAPORE WEEK

Event: Showing of '15'  
Date: 1st March 18.30 onwards  
Venue: E171

Event: PIE/Spoil plays  
Date: 2nd-3rd March 19.30  
Venue: Greenwood Theatre, Kings' College  
Cost: £5

Event: London Regional Games 2006  
Date: 4th March 08.30-18.00  
Venue: Bacon's College, Rothenfähr

**ROMANIAN Society: ROMANIAN WEEK**  
Event: Romanian Food Day  
Venue: Brunch Bowl

**08:30-18:00**  
**COLOMBIAN Society**  
Event: Great Transformations - Colombia: Where are we headed? (TV Annual Academic Conference)  
Venue: New Theatre (8:30am-1pm) and G108 (1pm-6pm)

**11:30-13:00**  
**CATHOLIC Society**  
Event: Open Session with Fr Ian (weekly)  
Venue: Chaplaincy

**12:00-13:00**  
**INTERNATIONAL AMNESTY Society**  
Event: Letter Writing (weekly)  
Venue: Upstairs, Quad

**13:00-14:00**  
**HINDU Society**  
Event: Vedic Lunch (weekly)  
Venue: H102  
Info: Discussion topic to be confirmed

**13:00-15:00**  
**MATHS & STATS Society**  
Event: Homework Help Session (weekly)  
Venue: D002

**13:15**  
**CATHOLIC Society**  
Event: Catholic Mass (weekly)  
Venue: Chaplaincy

**13:15**  
**HISTORY Society**  
Event: Trip to HMS Belfast  
Venue: Meet outside Peacock Theatre  
Cost: £5.25

**17:00**  
**ARABIC Society**  
Event: Belly Dance Classes (weekly)  
Venue: H102  
Cost: £3 per class

**18:30-20:00**  
**HAYEK Society**  
Event: Free Trade and Fair Trade: Taxology or Dilemma?  
Venue: D702

**18:30**  
**SINGAPORE Society: SINGAPORE WEEK**  
Event: Screening of Royston Tan's 15 (Uncut version)  
Venue: New Theatre  
Cost: FREE

**19:00-21:00**  
**SWING DANCE Society**  
Event: Beginners' Swing Dance Class (weekly)  
Venue: G108  
Cost: £2 for members, £4 for non-members (membership £2)

**20:00-22:00**  
**ROMANIAN Society: ROMANIAN WEEK**  
Event: Romanian Movie: Filantropica  
Venue: H216

**13:00-14:00**  
**UNION GENERAL MEETING**  
Venue: Old Theatre

**16:00**  
**GERMAN Society: GERMAN SYMPOSIUM 2006**  
Event: Suggestions for Economic Growth and Job Creation in Germany  
Venue: Shaw Library

**18:30**  
**GERMAN Society: GERMAN SYMPOSIUM 2006**  
Event: Panel discussion - The German paradox: Are stellar company profits and a dismal economic performance here to stay?  
Venue: New Theatre

**18:30-20:00**  
**ROMANIAN Society: ROMANIAN WEEK**  
Event: Conference: Safeguarding the EU from Romania and Bulgaria: Lesson-learning for future rounds of enlargement  
Event: H102

**19:00-21:00**  
**VISUAL ARTS Society**  
Event: Life Drawing Class (weekly)  
Venue: Z032

**19:25**  
**CHRISTIAN UNION Society**  
Event: CU Central (weekly)  
Venue: D202

**19:30**  
**ENTREPRENEURS Society: EPOCH**  
Event: Karan Bilimoria, Founder of Cobra Beer  
Venue: D402

**20:15**  
**SINGAPORE Society: SINGAPORE WEEK**  
Event: SPL Production PIE/Spoil  
Venue: Greenwood Theatre, King's College  
Cost: £5

**FLM Society**  
Event: Iranian Kiarostami's Taste of Cherry  
Venue: New Theatre  
Cost: Members FREE, non-members £1, membership £3

### ALL WEEK

**12:00-15:00**  
**LAW Society**  
Event: Annual Black Tie Ball ticket sale  
Venue: Law Common Room  
Cost: Members £40, non-members £45  
Info: Includes champagne reception, three course dinner with wine and casino entertainment.

# the Beaver Listings

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

## FRIDAY

**Daytime ROMANIAN Society: ROMANIAN WEEK**  
Event: Romanian Music  
Venue: Quad

**17:30**  
**NAKED PUNCH and ISLAMIC Societies**  
Event: The Future of Islam: Possible Paths - A Public Debate  
Venue: Old Theatre  
Info: Speakers: Tariq Ramadan & Ziauddin Sardar  
Chair: Dr John Chalcraft - LSE Government Department  
The event is FREE. Seats allocated on a first come first served basis. More information on [www.nakedpunch.com](http://www.nakedpunch.com).

**18:30**  
**GERMAN Society: GERMAN SYMPOSIUM 2006**  
Event: The Life of the Jewish population in Germany today and issues of tolerance between Germans and immigrants  
Venue: S75  
Info: Speaker: Michel Friedman (former deputy chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany)  
Chairwoman: Dr Kitty Steward

**19:30**  
**SINGAPORE Society: SINGAPORE WEEK**  
Event: SPL Production PIE/Spoil  
Venue: Greenwood Theatre, King's College  
Cost: £5

**20:00-02:00**  
**CRUSH: OKTOBERFEST**  
Venue: Trus, Quad, Underground  
Cost: Before 10pm - £2 LSE, £4 NUS; after 10pm - £4 LSE, £5 NUS  
Info: German Society's infamous Oktoberfest, the last event of German Symposium, is in the Underground (access only with Oktoberfest ticket). The free bus shuttle to the afterparty at L Equipe Anglars will depart at 12midnight and 1am.

## MONDAY

**19:00-23:00**  
**LGBT Society**  
Event: Mind the Gap  
Venue: Underground

**19:00-21:00**  
**SWING DANCE Society**  
Event: Improvers' Swing Dance Class (weekly)  
Venue: G108  
Cost: £2 for members, £4 for non-members  
Info: This class is for all you people who already know the basic 6- and 8-count patterns, can swing out, do some turns etc.  
<http://sesu-swingdance.tripod.com> for more information.

**19:15**  
**LIBERTY Society**  
Event: No Torture No Compromise  
Venue: Old Theatre  
Info: Speakers: Philippe Sands QC, Author of 'Lawless World' Martin Bright, Political Editor of the New Statesman Andrew Tyrre MP, Chair of the Parliamentary All Party Group on Extraordinary Rendition Jean Lambert MEP  
Chair: Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty

**19:30**  
**FLM Society**  
Event: Iranian Blackboards  
Venue: New Theatre  
Cost: Members FREE, non-members £1, membership £3

**19:30**  
**FLM Society**  
Event: Iranian Blackboards  
Venue: New Theatre  
Cost: Members FREE, non-members £1, membership £3

## QUAD OFFICE HOURS

The 14:00-15:00  
Joel Kenrick, Environment & Ethics Officer

The 14:00-16:00  
Ron Janjua, Mature & Part-Time Students Officer

Wed 10:00-11:00 (S067)  
Rahlan Alfaradh, Anti-Racism Officer

Wed 12:00-13:00  
Nick Salter, General Course Representative

Wed 12:00-13:00  
Kamshka Aubeclack, Students with Disabilities Officer

Thu 12:00-13:00 (D206)  
Alexandra Vincenti, Women's Officer

Thu 14:00-15:00  
Anna Morgan, Postgraduate Students Officer

Thu 15:00-16:00  
Natalie Black, Treasurer

Thu 16:00-17:00  
Simon Bottomley, LGBT Officer

Fri 12:00-13:00  
Simon Chignell, Residences Officer

Fri 13:00-14:00  
Chris Heathcote, Communications Officer

Fri 14:00-15:00  
Sian Errington, Education & Welfare Officer

Fri 15:00-16:00  
Jimmy Tam, Societies Officer

Mon 11:00-12:00  
Farhan Islam, International Students Officer

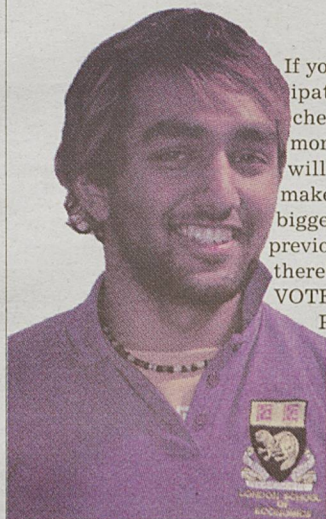
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## President

Andy Burton, Kav Patel, Laura Parfitt



Hi, I'm Andy Burton. I have played football for LSE since I started uni and have been a dedicated member of the AU since the day I stepped into the freshers fair. For many at LSE the AU is central to their uni life and like me has given them some of their best friends and I feel it is essential that we maintain this. As AU President I would: work hard with the SU to integrate the AU into uni life; increase the number of events on offer to all AU members such as an annual dodgeball tournament; increase chances to volunteer and gain coaching qualifications; adopt new initiatives to promote the AU and increase sponsorship. If elected I can also guarantee cheaper entry into crush for all AU members having already negotiated this with the SU Entertainments Manager. I am passionate about the AU and dedicated to it and ask you to vote Andy Burton for AU President.



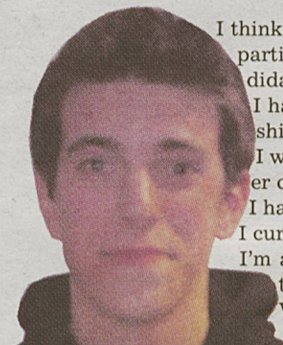
If you want more participation, more events, cheaper drinks and more fun; Vote Kav. I will do everything to make sure the AU gets bigger and better than previous years. Remember there's only one Patel, VOTE KAV FOR AU PRESIDENT.



Hi I'm Laura, this year's Events Officer - I was responsible for organising social events whilst working with the Exec, and in doing so gained the knowledge of how to run a successful AU. I managed to arrange a sell-out ball despite many venues being reluctant to take us on at the time. I know what to do to ensure the Barrel continues, especially after working with the SU Exec to resolve the fallout from the last one. I would aim to get rid of the bad image the AU has been undeservedly given whilst promoting its valuable attributes. Vote for me - Parfitt for the job!

## Treasurer

Jaimal Amin, Van



I think it's vital that the AU Treasurer is entirely unbiased, and as I have no particular affiliations with any one team, I will be the most impartial candidate.

I have a good understanding of next years restructuring of AU sponsorship, and see fundraising as the Treasurer's most important task.

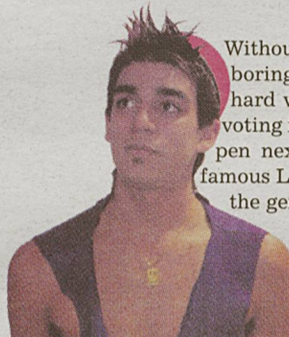
I will increase the number of large AU event's which integrate the smaller clubs. This will be funded by promotions from external companies.

I have already campaigned for greater LSE privileges at Walkabout

I currently represent the AU in my role as chair of the UGM

I'm a well known figure within both the AU and SU, and the only non-team member going to both the AU Ball and Calella.

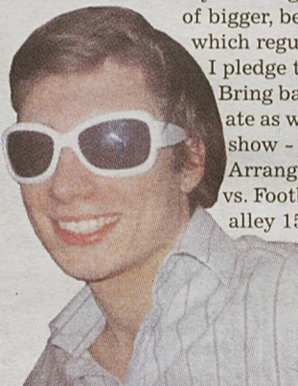
Vote Van for Treasurer.



Without the AU at LSE my life here would be ridiculously boring, as i'm sure you would all agree. This is a result of the hard work that is put in by the AU exec. committee and by voting for me I can promise you that this will continue to happen next year and only improve upon what is already the famous LSEAU! If you enjoy the banter, the heavy piss up's and the general electrifying atmosphere, VOTE JAIMAL!!!

## Events

Ed Frew, Stephanie Idicula



My life long ambition is to lead the beautiful people of the AU to the promised land of bigger, better more rampageous parties. But how to improve on a social calendar which regularly gains national press coverage?

I pledge to:

Bring back Gladiator's for RAG week - Pick your favorite Gladiator to impersonate as we run an interclub recreation of everyone's favorite spandex-clad 90's TV show - complete with Charity Sweepstake

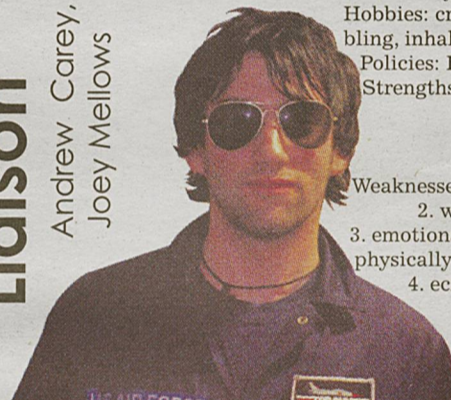
Arrange more Interclub events - Netball & Hockey 3-legged pub crawl, Rugby vs. Football Paintballing etc. Have also discussed the rental of an entire bowling alley 15 minutes walk from LSE

Get Better Sponsorship of events. With a little creativity we could do very nicely; JCB Bulldozers to sponsor the AU Barrel run 2006? I have already been promised extra funds from Deloitte if I can find something to spend it on

Reinstate the second AU fancy dress party usually held this term .

Vote Ed for Events

Liaison  
Andrew Carey,  
Joey Mellows



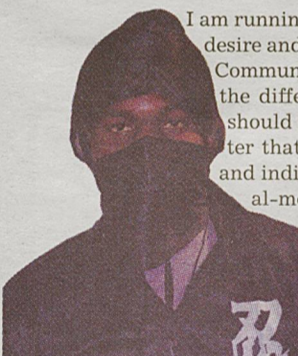
Name: Joey '2 solid inches' Mellows  
Hobbies: crying, eczema, being bullied, dribbling, inhaling petrol fumes, animal hospital  
Policies: Loads.

Strengths: 1. well nourished  
2. can go up to 2 hours without soiling himself  
3. in the AU

Weaknesses: 1. vastly inexperienced  
2. wildly unpredictable  
3. emotionally and physically insecure  
4. eczema

## Secretary

Rosie Lewis, Simbah Mutasa



I am running for the position of AU Secretary as I not only have the experience, desire and capacity but more importantly I have the vision to improve the AU. Communication is the key to unified progression between the AU and SU, the different clubs and between the AU Exec and the AU, who the Exec should represent and fight for. If elected I will introduce a termly newsletter that will improve the awareness of the achievements of all our teams and individuals that sometimes go unnoticed. I will introduce an AU general-meeting, a meeting that will give the chance for the Exec to outline their goals for the year as well as giving the AU a chance express their opinions. If elected I will achieve the above and create a platform for a better informed, organised, reliable and efficient AU. "Hakuna Matata, it means no worries when you vote for Mutasa"



Hi I'm Rosie Lewis. I've been a dedicated and reliable member of the netball 3rd team for two years, playing twice a week and training once a week, I'm also a devoted Wednesday night attendee. I would love to show the same level of commitment that I've shown to my team to the position of AU secretary. I know that the position requires a high level of organisation and I know that I'm not only organised enough to fulfill my role of taking minutes at every meeting and circulating them promptly to the rest of the executive but also to provide support for the other executive members in their roles. So please vote for me. I love the AU and would love the opportunity to represent you all by filling the position of AU secretary. Thank you.

## Comms

Josie Bamford, Gabby Herron, Gareth Fishlock



J to the O to the S- I - E  
Here's some reasons why you should vote for me:  
I'm committed and hard-working,  
on the facebook I enjoy a good 'poking'  
Most of the teams I already know,  
So at this position I would be a pro!  
Women's rugby I do play,  
I keep the butch lesbians all away  
I survived Calella every day,  
Vodka limon was the only way!  
On Wednesday, the AU, I represent  
At Walkabout, snakebites speed the descent,  
I'd like to think that I'll do you all proud,  
I'll make you stand out amongst the LSE crowd  
Some may call me crude, maybe even a little rude  
But for a bit of banter, I'm always in the mood.  
No better place to find it, then our fuckin' great AU  
So with my pink hair ablaze,  
with my communication skills, I will amaze!



My name is Gareth Fishlock and I play football for the 1st Team. Having shadowed the current AU Comms Officer James Little for the past year, I have a clear idea of what the role entails and how demanding the job can be. I also have alot of fresh ideas of my own. I feel it's vital that the AU Welcome Booklet is updated and made available to every new student during fresher's week, and a good place to start will be the halls. I also want to make better use of the AU Noticeboard and LooSE TV, both of which are rarely used and are good platforms from which to relay information regarding AU news, events and results. Furthermore I want to start a weekly AU e-mail, keeping members up to date with news, results and spectacular individual performances! Vote Fishlock for AU Comms!

As far as I'm concerned, the AU is the soul of the LSE SU, and I'd love to make sure more people know that. I want to work to increase the AU's positive profile within the LSE, boost membership to all clubs- not just the major sports, and make sure the Exec is representative of ALL AU members. I'd like to look at increasing sponsorship money for all teams, giving more students accessibility to the AU and making sure everyone knows what's going on in the AU and when. For a Hardworking, Enthusiastic and Committed Comms Officer vote Gabby Herron.



ELECTION SPECIAL ELECTION SPECIAL ELECTION SPECIAL ELECTION SPECIAL ELECTIO

In Lehmann's Terms

Sam Lehmann  
Other Editor



This week's BeaverSports contains an election special on the page overleaf. I urge you all to read it carefully before making your decision about who to vote for. The AU elections are the most important and relevant to your LSE life. The people in power in the AU will work and fight for you tirelessly and really make a difference – just ask Jimmy Little.

But seriously, remember to vote. Everyone hates apathy (what does that word mean? Oh, I don't care) and every vote counts. Plus, it can make a huge difference to someone's CV.

On a separate but slightly related note, I want to talk about impotence. To try and make Sports a little more serious and topical, I decided to replicate the News and PartB sections and do a sensationalist survey to discover the true extent of sexual health problems amongst AU men. I spoke to at least ten guys and questioned their sexual virility. The results: an astonishing 0% considered themselves to be impotent, however 90% admitted they had underperformed in the bedroom (although this was unrelated to their physical sexual health, perhaps highlighting low self esteem?).

Student sexual health is a real and relevant issue and hard for students to tackle. In the up and coming stu-

dent elections I hope candidates are turned on to this issue – I guess it's a job for Ed and Welfare to take in hand. I'll have to go to hustings and get it up.

To clarify: I do not personally suffer from any sexual health problems, merely have a family history (my mum's a sex therapist – and, no, that's not a metaphor for something else you dirty fuckers). And, whilst I of course do not want to be seen using this column for shameless self-promotion, I am both single and potent, and those who are desperate can contact me in the Tuns or at thebeaver.sports@lse.ac.uk. Articles and photos are also still welcome at this address, naturally.

Back to reality – there's a couple of things I wanted to bring to BeaverSports readers' attentions. Firstly, a news story I spotted on the BBC a couple of days ago. It was about a Sudanese man who was caught having sex with a neighbour's goat. The owner heard a loud noise at around midnight and rushed outside to find a guy with his goat, and told reporters, "When I asked him: 'What are you doing there?', he fell off the back of the goat, so I captured and tied him up". He decided to get the issue resolved by the village elders. Their solution: force the perpetrator to marry the goat. A dowry of 15,000 Sudanese dinars (about \$50) was paid, and apparently the couple are "still together." Brilliant. If only our British justice system had the same practicality and vision of a group of Sudanese elders. Although a similar punishment for paedophilia proba-

bly wouldn't go down so well. Damn political correctness, eh?

Secondly, I've spotted an amazing thing on my regular walk from Holborn tube station to the LSE. For those of you in the know, it's best to avoid the congested pavements and banality of Kingsway and take a shortcut past a fruit stall and Superdrug and then down through Lincoln's Inn Fields. However, when you've just passed the fruit stall, look out for a puddle on the floor which turns out to be an exact replica of the United Kingdom! Unbelievable, but true. Who said going to university wasn't worthwhile? I'll publish a picture next week to prove it, pending rainfall.

AU elections, erectile dysfunction, bestiality and amusingly-shaped surface water. I think that pretty much covers everything I wanted to share this week. I hope you've all been having a good time, and enjoying yourselves this week too. Remember it's the AU ball on Wednesday, plus RAG week 5-a-side football has been rescheduled for THIS SUNDAY coming (5th March) at 1pm. Teams cost £15 each and there's still time to get involved – just email President Claudia at c.r.whitcomb@lse.ac.uk with your team details.

There's also only TWO issues of BeaverSports left, so get your articles in and put that you were a sports writer on your CV! Don't forget the photos.

In the meantime, take care of yourselves and each other,

Sam

Great Debate

The great debate  
no.7: decisions, decisions

Life is littered with crossroads and in a moment of modesty I will admit no one is perfect, more often than not we take the wrong road, ending up in metaphorical shit holes such as Woking or even worse Wokingham. In a week where decisions are everything as we head to the voting booths to choose between our best mate and the 'fit one', I have chosen to debate the worst decisions ever made in the history of sport.

Poor sporting decisions aren't limited to the man in black although it's an easy place to start.

Although I was only 58 cm high at the time, with a vocabulary of three words, the 1986 England Argentina quarter final scarred me for life, literally (my father threw me

at the television as I was the nearest unattached object) and metaphorically. For those of you who are unaware of the event and obviously been in a coma for the last twenty years, Diego Maradona, in a jump with the legend that was Peter Shilton, punched the ball into the back of the net, and the Tunisian referee let it stand, aiding their 2-1 victory. Maradona has

since claimed it was the 'Hand of God' and revenge for the outcome of the Falklands war. I claim he's a fucking cheat and have boycotted all Tunisian holidays since...now that's holding a grudge.

I understand referees are sometimes badly positioned on the pitch (through no fault but their own) and therefore miss offsides, Roy Carroll quite obviously fumbling the ball over the line, the odd head butt, but when a player is knocked unconscious suffering a broken jaw

I would say that was a big neon sign saying FOUL.

The German goalkeeper hip-smashed the French striker Patrick Battison in the semi-finals of the 1982 World Cup. Not only was there no sending off after one of the most shocking fouls ever committed but the ref awarded a goal kick, and Germany went through to the final. Disgusting.

There have been other shocking decisions in the beautiful game, relocating Wimbledon half way up the M1 for example. Shearer choosing Blackburn Rovers over Manchester United.

BBC Radio 2's disregard for extra time in the 1966 World Cup final, leaving the game after 90 minutes to revert to the advertised schedule of Beethoven.

Another classic broadcasting mishap was during the BBC coverage of the 1990 England v India test at Lords. Gooch was about to rack up 300 runs when the coverage switched to horse racing and so the entire country missed seeing an Englishman scoring a treble century.

Across the pond NBC aren't too great at understanding the importance of sport either. In 1968 the NY Jets led Oakland Raiders 32-29 with just over a minute left on the clock. Instead of returning to the game after the 100th commercial break NBC decided to air a made-for-TV premiere of Heidi, leaving only those at the stadium to watch one of the greatest come backs in American Football as the Raiders scored two touchdowns to clinch the game in the dying seconds.

The thing to remember is that when it comes to sport making a bad decision does not simply have a butterfly effect but has been known to cause fatality, xenophobia, reduce sales of Heidi dolls, and make the biggest of fans doubt their faith.

The AU elections are far more important than any other, choose wisely.

Sanch



Ultimate Frisbee

Equilibrium run riot in Regent's Park



Feng Qian Ang

LSE Equilibrium 3  
Everyone Else 0  
Regent's Park

"We're gonna huck, bid, pillage and burn, we're gonna huck, bid, pillage and burn...EAT THE BABIES!!" Blood (from Wee Yang no less) was spilt on the field today as the LSE Ultimate Frisbee team (aka Equilibrium) turned baby-eaters in the spirit of the cheer, creaming the opposition in convincing fashion to emerge top of the heap. The ladder league games had looked doomed to failure, with teams that had promised to come dropping out like flies and the LSE sports-ground being unfit for play after the rain and snow, forcing us to relocate to Regent's

Park, hosting UCL, Holloway and Brunel on Saturday.

Conditions on match day: blazing sunshine, no rain, blue skies. It was the perfect picture. Well, not quite. With winds gusting up to 25 miles an hour, playing ultimate was almost impossible with hucks landing less than 5 metres away and games being decided on who managed to score upwind. In these challenging conditions history was made!

First match was against our nemesis and training partners UCL, or the UnderCoverLovers. They thought their lovin' could see the light of day, and they were so wrong. LSE had dropped behind after conceding an upwind point early in the match, and 10 minutes from time UCL thought they had the game in the bag. However, the tenacity of the team, especially Peter K, Ben L and Gordon, shone through at this point, and we clawed our way to victory with three consecutive points, invoking

the sudden death rule in the process, claiming our first scalp in the rampage, 8-7.

Next up were the Holloway Hammers. Shattered from their first loss to Brunel and the pain at having to pay 50 quid for a parking ticket, they were totally and utterly hammered by us. They were unable to score one of their downwind points after 25 minutes, even though we brandished a zone defence on them, with the tentacles of Greg "Squidey" ensuring that no disc went past him without a fight. Utter demolition took place after that and we hit the maximum point limit, blood-letting them 13-0.

The last match was truly one destined for the annals of greatness. To cut a long story short, Brunel came cocky with an all-male team, and were left reflecting on how they could fall to one which fielded two women during most of the match. Unknown to them we had one secret weapon: the telepathic com-



munication between Katie and Windel, who flew all the way in to be reunited with her – though we would like to think he flew in to play with us! Despite having a highly unfavourable start (we had to try to score upwind for the first point and ended up conceding that), the game went down to the wire; the teams matching each other and

scoring downwind until they underestimated our woman power and allowed Anna to get free, yielding the winning and only upwind point. Scalping the 2nd placed team in the region 8-7 had never felt sweeter.

The sack of the opposition was complete, and the headline cheer best summarises the fateful day:

- Oh no (from UCL),
- Oh no (from Holloway),
- OH NO (from Brunel),
- OHYEAH! LSE!

## Ladies Netball

# Netball fourths go goal crazy



Philippa

LSE 4th VII 41  
Imperial 33  
Holland Park

Last Wednesday, the fourths made their way to Holland Park for their last match of the season. Being our last match, we were eager to beat Imperial, and let Ems and Yelena leave the team with fond memories of success. At the end of the first quarter

we were all a bit baffled as to why we were 9-2 down.

The other team were playing well but we knew that we were better than them, and after a quick team chat and some motivational talk, we were ready for the challenge. We scored 11 goals in the next quarter, with Imperial only scoring 6.

In the third quarter, there was no looking back. It was close but some brilliant defence from Asha, Amy, Ems and Sara meant that when we got ahead Imperial were not able to pull back their lead. Georgie, Catherine and Yelena were working brilliantly together in the centre third and ensuring that the ball got into semi-circle with

pace and accuracy. Philippa and Yelena were using the brilliant work by the attack to increase the lead further, and we finished 41-33.

Well done to Catherine, who was nominated player of the match. All of the team would like to thank Em's and Yelena for being such brilliant team members over the last few years. Em's was a brilliant captain last year and the team will not be the same without them. We expect to see them back next year for the odd night out in Walkabout to continue the tradition!!



## Men's Football

# Cypriot circus sevenths savage hapless medics



Rupert Guest

LSE 7th XI 5  
RUM's XI 1  
Berrylands

Three months ago, the Sevens team were facing the unedifying prospect of relegation. The Champagne Sevens had gone flat. However the post-Christmas period has seen the rise of a new Sevens dynasty based on style, substance and Cypriots. After four consecutive wins against the top four, the re-christened 'Cypriot Circus Sevens' had their number of Hellenics halved for their crucial match against RUMS with freshers George Iliopoulos and George Karaolis forced out by con-

cerns over the legitimacy of their passports. Rumours were abound that captain Ed Calow stood outside the early morning flight from Nicosia hunting for replacements. Furthermore, Santiago 'The Jackal' Chaher has not been seen since mid-November. If anyone has any information on the whereabouts of the big man, I implore them to get in touch with Beaver sports. Nevertheless, the squad was bolstered by the re-inclusion of Owain 'love-rat' Bevan who made a welcome recovery after his Cheapskates-induced bout of mumps.

The Sevens dominated the early exchanges and were rewarded when Ed Calow diving header crept into a far post off a Nick Green corner. The remainder of the half was as awkward as a conversation with your parents about what you really did at Kings.

RUMS threatened little with their only chance being ruled out for a blatant offside. Indeed, they resembled a bunch of retards trying to hump a doorknob. As half-time approached, the Sevens were a crossbar width away from doubling their advantage. With one goal in the tie, there was a real need to score again.

The Sevens needed stability. They needed control. They needed a Cypriot. Enter new C&S member Adrian Beciri. Ken Chung was also brought on to the right wing for Owain. This was an especially brave decision by K-Lo as it gave the self proclaimed 'Welsh Casanova' forty-five minutes alone with our sole supporter, one Ruth Armstrong.

It didn't take long for LSE to extend their advantage; Chris 'Kamikaze' Kyriacou slotting a second, but the polytechnic foe

before us responded with a free kick to make the scores 2-1 going into the last twenty five minutes. Or so we thought it was the last twenty. The opposition referee extended the game by a further twenty, which seemed a good idea. Until we scored three more.

Kamikaze nut-megged the keeper after good midfield work from Ken, who took time out of his own personal take-over of Deutsche Bank (hope this one gets through the censors) to turn out at rain-soaked Berrylands. Chris completed his hatrick in what would have been the eighth minute of injury time after rounding the keeper and sliding the ball home.

What followed can only be described as show-boat-ing. 'Uncle' Todd Buchanan assumed the 'free role' from left back as Nick and Adrian unleashed waves of attacks upon the medic's

goal. One of their forays ended with a superb chipped goal from Raihan. By this time the poly-opposition were overawed by the intellectual and athletic superiority of the LSE Sevens team and resorted to violence. We responded

with name calling.

Next weekend the Sixes and the Sevens clash once more to complete the trilogy. They say that form goes out the window in derbys. The Sixes will be hoping that's true.

## Team of the week compiled by Dom Rustam



## Erection Special

Who's standing and what they'll do for you

AU Elections



## Decisions, decisions

The great debate tries to get it right

Sancha



## Champagne Sevenths

RUMs get taste of own medicine

Rupert Guest

28.02.06 thebeaver.sports@lse.ac.uk

# Beaver sports

## Hockey stunners are fine with nine



The glowing LSE women push forward against UCL for their triumphant final win of the season



Louise and Ju

**LSE Hockey Legends 9**  
**UCL 0**  
**Battersea Park**

Louise 'Lolly' Venables asked for eight, we gave her nine... The pathetic UCL walked on the pitch resembling a male rugby team, not knowing they were about to get an absolute thrashing. The build up to the game had been an intense one, because we needed to win with a big score line to secure ULU promotion.

We started the game confidently, controlling possession and working wonders down the wings with some penetrative runs (well in Lolly). We made it look as easy as Jade in Calella (you know it's true). With the Golden Stick closing in, all eyes were on Meenal 'Meeny' Patel and Andrea Yelly Jelic, but Kim Kimmy Ilsen swooped straight into the game with two defiant goals. The first was a magic cross from Nat Sabb Black which Kimmy effortlessly swept in. The second came from one of

many long corners, UCL doing a shoddy job of marking Kimmy, who was hiding by the penalty spot, ready to pounce. These were followed by some reassuring remarks from the UCL scum who we overheard saying, "We'll just give them a good game anyway..."

The Sabb thought she'd get in on the action by playing piggy in the middle with the defence then finally slotting it in past the comedy goalie. 3-0, 5 more girls! Our art in getting short corners was perfected in this match. All those Sunday training sessions came to good use as we managed to try out all four combinations, including 'The Big M' which Meeny was meant to score, but instead Yelly stole it - never trust an Eastern European. Shortly after the Slav put another away after intercepting a hit-out and dribbling round each defender three times for jokes. The Golden Stick was slipping away from our Meeny, but Lolly pointed out Liverpool's Istanbul half-time scoreline and her smile returned.

The half

time chat was one big smile with lots of compliments and general 'family' niceties. However, three more goals were there to be had and a plan was hatched to put Ju 'Juicy' McVeigh upfront once we had reached eight. This became the new target as the second half began. Our attack-happy defence thought they'd give UCL a ray of hope (or was it to give Zoe 'Sully' Sullivan something to do?) by permitting a one-on-one to occur. Zoe stood up tall and came out quick to cut out the angles, making a save that summed up a great first season as goalie. Soon after UCL broke a ball out of frustration, or DESPERATION as Gabby 'askGabba.com' Herron would have it. A

new ball and new determination to get to the magic eight - Lolly went on a bit of a rampage up the left and hit a blinder in, which Meeny expertly deflected into the goal with a resounding thud. The crowd (consisting our subs, Camelot house mates, one of Meeny's boyzz, a psyched, one-armed Gabba and two extra blanketed Yankees) went wild. At this point the LSEWHC witnessed Yelly's white-hot 'wit', brought to our attention by Clem Broumley-Young, as the Slav claimed it wasn't Meeny's goal, in order to keep ahead in the run-up to the Golden Stick.

Emily 'Turnips' Turner and Amanda 'Red-eye'

Borton had very little to do at the back but were playing with a lot of confidence, pushing up for most of the game. A big mention must go to Red-eye for playing half-blind. Verity 'Veritas-get-some-ASS!' Ratcliffe was strong as ever and Allison 'Yankee' Phillips really did both her families proud as she took a ball on the ass for the team. Cheers.

A classic corner, taken from the right (OUTRAGEOUS!!) and played round the top of the 'D', causing much confusion, resulted in our 7th goal. Textbook. The big number eight was rather controversial as we all looked to Meeny to reach our target. It would have been a fairy-tale ending to Meeny's best season (yet!!) as the pass came in from Sarah 'Phe' Phelan, had Yelly not swooped in from nowhere and snatched it from her! No-one is beating the Slav for the Golden Stick. With no hope of Meeny winning the home-made award, she switched to the fortress that is the defence (Jade 'Shady' Charles singing 'Moving On Up' and shaking her

mane) whilst Juicy took on the centre-forward role. Before Juicy could get goal-fever though it was Lolly's turn to finally end her drought. She latched on to a long-corner and smacked in number nine from top-D. Sweet as a nut.

A final burst of excitement came when Juicy went on a dazzling run...the rest of the team just stood and stared in awe as our left-back came so close to scoring after beating multiple players in the 'D'. Alas, the whistle came too soon and she will have to wait til next season to open her LSE account. As will Eriko 'Koko' Miyazaki-Ross who nearly nabbed one at the death.

With an average of 6 goals per match, all the LSEWHC family can do now is wait to find out if our dream of promotion is fulfilled. We sure hope so. In the mean time, cheers to the team for a massive effort all season and some really good times! It's all been "jokes" as Todd 'Toady' Todd would say. This win was tinged with sadness too as we say goodbye to both Meeny and Nat Black who have been the core of this club for a combined seven years and who will be massively missed. Thanks girls.

