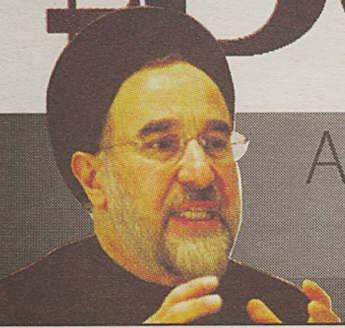


# The Beaver

2 October 2007 Issue 665 The newspaper of the LSESU



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*A painful separation*

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## Library abandons 24-hour opening

Simon Wang  
Senior Reporter

The LSE Library will no longer be open to students 24 hours a day during Michaelmas and Lent terms. 24-hour opening will continue in the Summer term, when demand is greatest during the exam period.

In a statement made to *The Beaver*, the Library said that 24-hour service during Michaelmas and Lent terms was only piloted last year in an attempt to assess student demand. Usage was monitored and a report was submitted to the Academic Planning and Resources Committee (APRC), the body which allocates spending within the School. The report found that levels of overnight usage during the first two terms were only a third of those recorded in the Summer term and the pilot has been discontinued as a consequence.

Fadhil Bakeer-Markar, General Secretary of the Students' Union (SU), said, "With the given funding available to the Library, they have agreed to the Students' Union request to have the library open until midnight during term time and have an extra 24/7 week added to the Easter vacation."

This year's opening hours will be longer than in 2005, when the Library was open until 11pm on weekdays and 9pm on weekends.

Bakeer-Markar added that the sabbatical officers of the Union have discussed the findings of the report submitted to the APRC and that "we hope to get student input and take into account student welfare concerns and if required to run a campaign".

A group has already been set up on Facebook demanding a return to 24-hour service. "Bring back 24hr Library", which has 26 members to date, exhorts "all those people who ever stayed in late at night or came in early in the morning, for whatever reason" to join.

However, an early wall post points out that "the poor results of the trial run doesn't [sic] exactly help our case". The poster added, "Surely better to invest in more study spaces/facilities during the day, when demand is high?"

Building work is still taking place in the Library and may disrupt some Library services during the first teaching week of term.

The project in the Library is a consequence of the School's policy to expand student numbers and will create space for more study areas, additional course texts, a joint Library and IT help desk and more toilets. In an email sent to all students on 20 September, the Estates Division - responsible for all School building projects - states that all work will be completed by 15 October. Library and IT services staff have confirmed that they can maintain all current services.

Students generally do not seem to be concerned with the development and disruption caused by the renovations - several said that this seemed necessary and that the Library would be improved as a whole.



Photograph: Felipe Jacome

The Library has remained open during the recent renovations

## Concerns raised over 'partisan' letter to freshers

Patrick Cullen  
Senior Reporter

Following last year's decision by the LSE Student Union's (SU) Union General Meeting (UGM) to twin with the Palestinian university of An-Najah in Nablus, a letter was sent out informing all new members of the School of the SU's justification for the decision. However, concerns have been raised over its perceived "partisan" nature.

Detailing the issues faced by Palestinian students who wish to study, the letter was signed on behalf of the SU by

its General Secretary, Fadhil Bakeer-Markar, and the Mature and Part-Time Students Officer, Ziyaad Lunat, who is also President of the LSESU's Palestine Society. The letter describes how "Many students at An-Najah university have been killed or captured and were imprisoned by the Israeli Occupation Forces without charge."

Bakeer-Markar told *The Beaver* that, despite its criticism of Israeli policies and military actions, "the letter was to inform the new students about this initiative. This initiative was passed by the UGM. I don't think this is inflammatory and

we haven't had any complaints at all." He added that the letter was the result of a majority vote in the UGM and that as such it was an accurate reflection of the opinions of the student body.

However, a member of the LSESU's Jewish Society commented, "The letter is heavily partisan and oversimplifies a debate that is complicated and emotive...The use of the phrase 'Israeli Occupation Forces' as a supposedly recognised pronoun is particularly unacademic and is indicative of Ziyaad and Fadhil's inability to separate opinion from fact - the 'name' that the authors were search-

ing for was the IDF, the Israeli Defense Force.

"The twinning of the LSESU with An-Najah is a respectable cause but the rhetoric accompanying the process has been irresponsible in failing to acknowledge the other side of the conflict, which is also represented on campus."

Lunat, the co-signatory of the letter, said, "The letter details the reality of education in Palestine as presented by numerous reports by international organisations. It defends the universal right to education and it's aimed at promoting a wider understanding of its violations in line with our legiti-

mate mandate as Union officers ... [it] reflects the Right to Education Campaign that our students' union is affiliated with."

When asked if he felt the letter might cause problems for the School with external organisations, Lunat replied, "The LSE has a tradition of defending social justice and the letter is a reflection of that commitment. The Right to Education is a universal right. Standing by this right, despite the interests involved, is a noble thing to do and our SU can only be commended for such."

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LSE student assaulted for un-Islamicism; LSE moves up a rank in *Sunday Times*; University scholarship policies to change; New step towards private degrees

In other news

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS



Britain gets vote of foreign students

Poll gives top rating to quality of teaching and course content in UK universities. Tariq Tahir reports.

UK universities are the best in the world for teaching and supporting their international students, a survey of more than 40,000 students has found.

The findings, released exclusively to The Times Higher Education Supplement, conclude that the UK is a "world leader when it comes to international education", ahead of global rivals across key measures such as teaching, course content and student support.

EducationGuardian

UK deems Israeli academic boycott illegal

The union that represents academics in the UK has announced today it will not proceed with plans to debate a boycott of Israeli universities following legal advice.

The University and College Union, whose members passed a motion at its conference in May to circulate and discuss a call to boycott, has been told by lawyers that the move would be unlawful.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

VARSAITY

World's first transgender mayor

Cambridge's new Mayor has attracted global media coverage after announcing that both she and her partner are transgender.

Councillor Jenny Bailey, who has served as Deputy Mayor since May 2006, was appointed Mayor at Cambridge City Council's annual meeting last month.

UNIVERSITY OF CARDIFF

gairrhydd

The unexpected risks of one-night stands

Students who engage in one-night-stands are at high risk of theft, a study has revealed.

Online student insurance provider, cover4students.com, found that claims for theft following 'brief romantic encounters' rose by 12% last year.

Research suggests that around 89% of thefts following a one-night-stand go unreported because the victim feels guilty or embarrassed.

Martin Nugent of cover4students.com, said: "Students must remember that now they are at university they are responsible of their own personal safety."

Picture of the week



Photograph: Felipe Jacome

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

This week in 1997

"The old building was awash with eager new students on Thursday as the new term officially got underway with the opening of the annual LSE Freshers' Fair. But what motivated so many hungover freshers to crawl from their beds? Was it simply the lure of "free stuff" that appealed to them, or was there some other force at work?"



NEWS IN BRIEF

Greenspan-mania hits LSE

Tickets for Alan Greenspan's talk at LSE yesterday evening were snapped up within minutes of becoming available. Students arrived two hours early and queued down to the Aldwych. Tickets had been advertised as being available from 8.00am, but distribution began early and by 8.01 all of the tickets for the Peacock Theatre had been taken, with tickets for the video link-up in the Old Theatre then being handed out. Demand far exceeded the availability of either ticket.

Successful students spoke of the "myth" of Greenspan. One student, who had arrived at 6.55, told *The Beaver* "this is what LSE is all about."

Student Loan Interest Rates Double

Nearly a million students here in the UK took a major hit in their finances, thanks to doubled interest rates. The Student Loans Company (SLC) announced on September 1 that their interest rate charges on student loans for the next year will increase to 4.8 per cent, from the previous mark of 2.4 per cent.

Interest on student debts for the coming year will therefore be doubled. With about 900,000 student loans likely to be taken out this year from the SLC, the interest rate hike could add a possible total of £500 million to student debts here.

Culpability for this drastic increase lies with spike in inflation earlier this year. The SLC's interest rate calculations are based upon the Retail Prices Index (RPI), a measure of inflation. The index had reached a 16-year high in March; the very month in which the SLC calculates its interest rates for this academic year.

Despite this severe increase, the SLC has reassured students that loans will become cheaper starting September next year, given that the RPI numbers have fallen steadily since its peak in March.

LSE greenest uni in London

LSE has been named the greenest university in London by a recent People & Planet league table. However, on a national level it was ranked 22nd, and was awarded a '2:1' in the grading scheme based on degree marking.

LSE 'dropped marks' due to its failure to have a green travel plan, but the fact that 34% of the School's total energy comes from renewables compared favourably with other universities.

Director Howard Davies commented: "We are proud to be the greenest school in London, but we are aiming for a 'first' next year."



# Mixed success for 'Pre-Freshers Week'

Peter Barton  
Senior Reporter

Freshers' Week had an unusual lift off this year as many dazed and confused Freshers wandered campus having arrived a week early.

The Accommodation Office allowed Freshers the option of moving in early this year in order to give them some flexibility and to stop the first day being such a rush. However, due to "human error" Northumberland House allowed 430 students to book into 370 beds, resulting in students having to be sent by taxi to High Holborn hall of residence for temporary accommodation. The Students' Union and Hall Committees were all informed in advance and organised a limited set of activities and information, as a 'Pre-Freshers Week' Week of sorts.

The early availability of halls was designed particularly for international students who have often come to London earlier and have had to pay for hotels in the surrounding areas whilst beds lay empty in some halls of residence. The goal was therefore to save students



Photograph: Pooja Kesavan

New first-years move in to Bankside Hall

money and raise some extra finance for the School.

Students approached by The Beaver suggested that the extra week might allow their counterparts to get to know each other better in a more relaxed environment and to get

their forms filled in before queues lengthened. They added, however, that this relied on students being properly informed as to what would be available in the week before Freshers' Week so that they did not have any false expecta-

tions.

Many students seem to have enjoyed the week, although some have complained that there was very little to do and that not many students were around to keep them company. Most of the Freshers events

start on Sunday 30 September, which some students seem to have misunderstood when they booked their flights.

Andy Farrell, Director of Finances and Facilities, said that if it was a success it would be repeated in future years.

## IT Services upgraded

Michael Deas  
Senior Reporter

IT Services have conducted a series of upgrades over the summer aimed at improving the speed and coverage of the LSE network.

The IT Services annual survey - completed by 561 staff and 814 students in March - found that student satisfaction with IT services has dropped by 13 per cent to 82.6 per cent.

Last term, *The Beaver*

reported that students in halls of residence were experiencing slow Internet connections. According to the student survey results, almost 70 per cent of students living in halls of residence were dissatisfied with their connection speed.

Since then, a faster connection to the School's ISP and improved network hardware have made the 'Core Network' 10 times faster, and the connection between halls of residence and the Houghton Street campus has been doubled in

capacity. IT Services now anticipates a greatly improved level of service for halls.

However, bandwidth control measures - which limit use of the network for things such as YouTube and filesharing in order to preserve bandwidth for academic use - are still in place for halls users.

Wireless network coverage has also been improved. The Brunch Bowl and several teaching areas, including the East Building, now receive a stronger, more reliable signal.

## LSE remembers Kovas Juška

Christine Whyte

Kovas Juška, who died aged 23 on 9 September this year, was an LSE Master's student, a proud Lithuanian-American, and a good friend to all who knew him. He had a reputation in the International History department as a fun-loving, sociable and outgoing student. But, Kovas was also a passionate and committed scholar, an enthusiastic teacher and a courteous and sensitive gentleman.

A memorial was held for Kovas on 18 September, packed with his fellow students, friends, and tutors. The ceremony was a celebration of the joy that Kovas had brought to such a wide range of people. Everyone there commented on his infectious grin, wicked glint in his eyes and, sometimes overwhelming, physical affection. One of Kovas' many good friends from LSE, Kristian Vieru, remarked: "Kovas was such a great guy in so many ways, and I feel very lucky to have met him and to have spent countless memorable times with him in such a brief period....During his time in London, he really made the most of life and he so easily touched the lives of those around him."

In conversation, it didn't take Kovas long to bring up Lithuania, his ancestral homeland. But, he was never one



just to talk. As a student in the States, he persuaded his mother to help him set up a Lithuanian youth group, to allow young Americans of Lithuanian descent to learn more about Lithuanian culture, history and language. In the UK, he was an active participant in a UK Lithuanian youth group, putting his musical skills to good use playing traditional and modern Lithuanian music. His dancing skills were put to even better use when he demonstrated folk dancing.

Over the summer, Kovas managed to teach English in eastern Europe, travel from Lithuania, via Germany and Ireland to Scotland with his beloved brother Aistis, and spend time with his LSE friends. In addition to this hectic schedule, he was conducting original historical research into

Lithuanian history for his Master's dissertation.

That Kovas packed such a variety of activities into such a short life is truly remarkable. And, on top of graduate studies, original research, cultural exchange and musical accomplishments, most importantly he was a good and sensitive friend, ready to lend a hand to help, or a shoulder to cry on. Always cheerful, Kovas would want his friends and teachers to not dwell on his passing, but to live their lives with as much vigour and spirit as he had done. Because of this he will always be remembered by those whose lives he touched.

Kovas Juška, student, teacher and friend, born 5 March 1984; died 9 September 2007 in hospital from a brain aneurism.

## LSE now top of U of London

Ruchika Tulshyan  
Senior Reporter

The Sunday Times University Guide 2007 has named the LSE as the best university in London and the third best nationally. According to the guide - published on 23 September - "LSE students are at the heart of everything London can offer."

In a separate study conducted by the Financial Times, the LSE has been named joint second institution in the world for Masters in Management programmes. The results also placed the LSE first among UK universities.

Last year's Financial Times study had ranked the LSE eighth in the world. According to this year's report, the School's breakthrough can be attributed to a substantial increase in salaries of LSE graduates. The report states that the increase has been "from an average of around 50,000 last year to 58,000 this year. No other school managed such a big year-on-year increase."

However, other studies have warned that the LSE may encounter difficulties in the coming years in attracting international students. The Guardian reported that, according to work by the Higher Education Policy Institute (Hepi), UK university students have a significantly lower weekly workload than those elsewhere.

The higher education think tank revealed that the UK average of a 26-hour weekly workload was markedly less than the European averages of 41 hours in Portugal, 35 in France, 34 in Germany and over 30 in other countries.

The Guardian reported, "The findings could lead to fewer full-fee paying interna-

tional students from outside the EU, building up huge financial and academic problems." While international students already complain about their significantly higher tuition fees, the report could deter them from choosing a UK university for higher education.

A second year International History student commented: "There are times when you feel like you're not getting your money's worth. In my first year I had eight hours per week of teaching and lectures combined! You pay so much money just for the School's name. As an international student I would definitely consider going to a university in another country which has a similar reputation but more hours of contact."

Janet Hartley, Pro-Director of Teaching and Learning at the LSE, said, "We take all surveys concerning teaching seriously, including not only those in the national press but also the findings of the 2007 National Student Survey. We have plans to review teaching during this academic year and will be consulting widely within the School as part of this process."

### Sunday Times University Rankings:

1. Cambridge
2. Oxford
3. LSE
4. Imperial
5. UCL
6. St Andrews
7. Warwick
8. York
9. Bath
10. Bristol



## Union Jack

If not for decades worth of sentimentality coming over him in a drunken moment of clarity, this ol' Jack might have very well become Oliver during the long and dreary months of summer.

He had caught himself just in time. Witnesses subsequently described the scene to Jack with vivid lucidity. His legs quivering from withdrawal. His eyes bereft of strength and will. His body failing from massive intoxication. Practically drooling at the feet of the new Union fuehrer Baker-Maker, the fallen Jack, with bowl in hand, was on the verge of making the forbidden plea - "Please, sir, I want some more."

But the heavens were kind. Poor Jack was to be spared this ultimate indignity. Word came from sympathetic onlookers that Michaelmas term was nigh. Jack's lifeblood, the elixir that is the Union General Meeting, was within his grasp.

The despair that once clouded his heart dissipated in a heartbeat.

'No! I will not bow to the beasts. I shall prevail, to cast my scathing words upon them cursed few, week after week in a tasteless newspaper column!'

The fire was rekindled. With newfound strength and endeavour; Jack rose to his feet and escaped the dishonour that had beckoned him only moments before. He still has yet to fully regain his vitality, but that will come soon. The UGM shall fuel his bloodlust and satiate his desire for sarcasm. The new officers of the Union, despite appearances of fearlessness, will become mere cannon fodder before his barrage of lewd accusations and risqué indictments.

But in the week that remains before his wrath can be unleashed, Jack will have to feast upon other prey. And there is an abundance of those: young nubile freshers. Unsuspecting and vulnerable, they will fill Houghton Street with their unfounded enthusiasm. Oh baby.

But Jack is kind. Unlike his many Union nemeses who thrive upon unprovoked assaults on the dignity of others, he shall give fair warning to his potential quarry. Tread prudently in the week ahead, and you will survive the next issue with your honour intact. Commit any ungodly sins in fits of brazen, alcohol-induced activity and your family name will enter Jack's annals of shame for all of eternity.

There is no plea-bargain to be found in overworked excuses like reduced inhibitions from alcohol consumption. There is no second chance at making a first impression. Make a false step and you could condemn yourself to three years of merciless ridicule, all for one unfortunate misdeed in your first week at the LSE. So adhere to the golden rules and protect yourself.

Drink to moderation. Drink from your own glass. Puke in the toilet bowl and not on your mate. Pee with your fly open. Smoke in the right places. Keep your hands to yourself and your clothes on, in public anyway.

Watch yourselves. For Jack is already watching.



# Head of LSE Security retires

■ Bernie Taffs retires and former Army Officer Paul Thornbury steps in

Peter Barton  
Senior Reporter

The Head of LSE Security, Bernie Taffs, has retired aged 65. This comes as LSE security is set to take over management of halls of residence and the new academic building at 24 Kingsway.

Bernie Taffs has been responsible for the LSE's £1.5million 24hr security system since he set it up twelve years ago, replacing the "few ageing porters" who had previously looked after the campus. He has had a famously "personal, friendly, open door approach" to students and staff during his time at the School, which he hopes his successor will maintain. After having been a Superintendent in Hackney with over 400 staff, he said he had found that running LSE security was just as demanding.

Paul Thornbury, an ex-Army Officer, has taken over Taffs' responsibilities as well as the security of halls as of Monday 1 October. Taffs pointed out that this would be an "impossible" task without doubling the funding and manpower available, because of the time needed to manage the contracted companies across several locations. However, Andy Farrell, the LSE Director of Finance and Facilities, does not seem to think that this will be necessary.

This restructuring has come after serious issues were raised about hall security last year and poor behaviour by contract security guards, who were previously managed by



Bernie Taffs, former Head of LSE Security

each hall independently. Farrell said he hopes to make security in halls more consistent by putting it under the School's professional security management, whilst trying to find the balance between easy access and security. He went on to suggest that they would be looking at increasing security in some buildings in the LSE, but that contract security would maintain a key part of it.

There are currently 225 crimes a year at the LSE campus, most of which are thefts. In the last twelve years there have been no serious crimes, except for those outside the

student bars, which do not fall under the remit of LSE Security. Farrell highlighted the need for increased specific advice for students in coping with the types of crime that are likely to affect them.

Members of the security staff who spoke with *The Beaver* said the retirement of Bernie Taffs will come as a great loss and some even broke into tears. They described newcomer Thornbury as a "good bloke" and said that he would have their support. Farrell particularly noted the "idiosyncratic style" of Taffs and the

personal touch that he gave to his role and the numerous students who had benefited from that. Whilst Taffs is enjoying retirement and a holiday in Sardinia, his successor will be faced with the daunting task of not just filling Bernie's boots but taking on new roles and challenges amidst an expanding LSE security effort.

“Bernie had campaigned robustly in the School on behalf of the less well off, and in particular for the living wage for cleaners. He was not afraid to stand up to management, myself included, for causes that he believed in... I did not always agree with him, but I (nearly) always admired him for speaking his mind.”

Andy Farrell  
LSE Director of  
Finance and  
Facilities

# LSE student assaulted for being 'un-Islamic'

Patrick Cullen  
Senior Reporter

On 24 September, *The Independent* columnist Yasmin Alibhai-Brown revealed that there had been an assault involving two female Muslim students of the LSE over a novel which one had described as being 'un-Islamic'. The incident, which occurred two and a half years ago, was not brought to the attention of anyone at the School at the time, with Howard Davies telling *The Beaver* that "we know nothing about" the incident.

According to a WPC from Warwickshire Constabulary, the bruising sustained by the victim would be consistent with at least a "Section 39 Common Assault" and that, depending on the circumstances, "it could be more serious". The *Beaver* understands that the victim did not contact the police.

The incident poses serious questions for the LSE and the Students' Union (SU). A School spokesperson told *The Beaver* that "LSE is committed to eliminating unlawful discrimination...we would take any complaints about any kind of harassment very seriously, and expect people within the LSE

community to treat each other with respect at all times."

However, no-one from the School would comment on the incident described by Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, as "...we would



Yasmin Alibhai-Brown,  
Independent columnist

need more details to even consider commenting on an individual case." The Director of the LSE, Howard Davies, refused to discuss "a personal argument between two unknown students, two and a half years ago."

Amina Adewusi, the SU's Anti-Racism officer, said, "It is wrong for anyone to be man-handled... [the student] should have been allowed to read the novel, whether or not it was supposedly 'un-Islamic'". In addition, Adewusi hoped that such an incident would not occur again, and that if it did, "that the injured party would contact me for help."

Adewusi agreed with the

School's assessment of the incident and further stated that "it is important that if these incidents occur they are reported as soon as possible...it is paramount that everyone in our community feels that they will not be a victim of discrimination."

This defence of intellectual freedom was echoed by the newly-elected SU Women's Officer, Daisy Mitchell-Forster, who said that "whilst such behaviour might be a consequence of an era where the

“I am appalled at this sort of behaviour and obviously do not condone this... we all have a right to freedom of speech... [which] must lie within the boundaries of respect and tolerance.”

Shelina Khatun  
Member of the LSE SU  
Islamic Society

British and American governments are doing much to alienate some Muslims into aligning with unacceptably authoritarian positions, the intimidation of any student, regardless of race, religion, class or gender can never be tolerated." In addition, Mitchell-Forster encouraged female students to respond to the upcoming Female Students' Survey and "to report any incidents, however minor ... so that the LSESU can begin to address any discriminatory behaviour towards students."

The *Beaver* spoke to Shelina Khatun, a member of the SU's Islamic Society, who said that she was "appalled at this sort of behaviour and obviously do not condone this ... we all have a right to freedom of speech ... [which] must lie within the boundaries of respect and tolerance ... looking at this from the perpetrator's point of view ... I appreciate that out of sheer anger [she] may have reacted as she did, and this is something we need to appreciate, that offensive and insensitive material against Islam fuels anger and in turn a justifiably angry reaction." Khatun added that the incident was not representative of Muslims at the LSE or as a whole, but that it could reflect on Islam "in a negative way".

# New step towards private degrees

Simon Wang  
Senior Reporter

In a landmark decision which could lead to increased privatisation of higher education, BPP Holdings plc – a private for-profit company listed on the stock exchange has been given the go-ahead to offer its own degrees.

According to an article in the *Guardian* newspaper from Tuesday 25 September, the BPP College of Professional Studies – established in 1992 as a private subsidiary of BPP Holdings plc – already has 5000 students at colleges in London, Leeds and Manchester.

Initially, BPP College plans to concentrate on post graduate law students. Its law school will offer extra modules to top up legal practice and vocational courses, while Masters degree in commercial law will be offered from 2008. The company's business school plans to expand its programme next year into full and part-time Masters degrees in accounting, marketing and finance. 2009 will see the organisation move into the undergraduate market, targeting overseas students and expecting them to pay around £10,000 per year to study at one of their colleges.

Peter Crisp, Chief Executive of the college and a qualified barrister, said, "It opens up a potential £6bn global market in degrees...it is an extremely lucrative market and [public sector] universities use that money for some of their funding...[but] I think competition is a good thing and will

improve the quality of education."

However, the General Secretary of the University and College Union, Sally Hunt, was critical of the college's new powers, arguing that higher education was not a tradeable commodity.

"If providers need to make profits then they are under pressure not just to supply courses but to supply degrees."

"Under this pressure quality is put in doubt and degrees become something that can be 'purchased' if you go to the right supplier."

Crisp dismissed suggestions that it was wrong to seek a profit from higher education, adding, "We are breaking new ground and are not complacent. We expect other private companies to follow and we welcome competition."

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and the Government have both been involved in the three year application process. Since 2004, Government regulations have allowed private organisations to apply to the Privy Council for the right to award their own degrees.

The QAA stated that that it "does not have a view on the significance of the case, it is a matter for consideration by the higher education sector more generally." However, it has confirmed that BPP College satisfies the Government's criteria for the grant of degree-awarding powers and university title.

Shares in BPP Holdings went up 13% overnight on 24 September following the announcement.

# Dramatic change to scholarship policy

Rajan Patel  
News Editor

Some UK universities – including the LSE – are only offering scholarships to applicants who make them their first choice university, according to the *Guardian* newspaper.

In an article published on Tuesday 14 August, it was claimed that at least nine universities "use scholarships worth several thousand pounds a year to coerce academic high-flyers into picking their courses".

The UK university admissions system allows students to apply to five universities. If they receive more than two offers, they must pick one "firm" choice and an "insurance" offer which they can accept if they do not obtain the grades required for their first choice. Certain universities have been offering scholarships on the condition that an applicant ranks the institution as their first choice.

Some student leaders and heads of university admissions have suggested that such a policy ties the hands of bright students from less-privileged backgrounds, compromising their decision about their first choice university.

Colin Matheson, scholarship director at the University of Westminster – an institution that does not tie its financial assistance to a firm choice – was critical of the policy.

"It could put pressure on a student if we said that, to allow them to apply for a scholarship, they had to put the university as their first choice."

Wes Streeting, Vice-President for Education at the National Union of Students, claimed that the policy denied students "the freedom to decide based on the quality of the education on offer."

Universities that practice the policy argue that it allows them to assess their applicants' level of commitment to the institution.

Jeanette Strachan, director of financial support and welfare at University College London (UCL), said, "The rationale behind asking undergraduates who apply for UCL scholarships to commit to us as their first choice is that either UCL or any other funder providing that individual scholarship will be making a significant financial contribution to that student. We feel it is fair to ask that student to make a firm commitment to us as their first-choice institution."



# COMMENT & ANALYSIS

## Stand up and be heard



Aled Fisher

*Students should not be languishing on the political sidelines, and Students' Unions ought to serve as vehicles for student advocacy*

Politics is not a very popular word for good reason.

The British political system is rightly considered to be corrupt. Littered with scandals from purchased peerages to 'odgy dossiers', politics has become elitist, distant and irrelevant.

Politics needs to be reclaimed. Real politics is more than occasional elections or the Westminster Village. There is a place in politics for students like us.

However, Students' Unions show waning participation across the country. Student campaigners, stereotypically associated with radicalism, no longer see the Union as their own and increasingly go 'outside' to broader movements (including NGOs and the anti-war movement). Students' Unions themselves are increasingly influenced by groups of nominal 'independents' without a political background.

Many of these - genuinely independent voices defending students - make great officers. But others form a group who claim they are for 'students, not politics', and reject campaigning on issues, such as war and international human rights, that they claim only affect students 'indirectly'.

Students' Unions should of course campaign for the very people they represent - ordinary students! Unions must fight for academic rights, as well as provide a fulfilled social life.



**Falling silent or embracing the belief that student and non-student issues are separate ignores many pressing issues we face**

But the 'students not politics' group is by its very nature political. They embrace a narrow conception of politics - one that fails to recognise that students do not exist in a bubble, but are a part of the wider society.

But students are not only affected by politics; their actions can also affect society and the political world. The 5

million students in higher education in Britain cannot and do not exist separately from the society they encounter.

Decisions that affect students are political. Tuition fees were created by political decisions; the treatment of international students like cash cows results from neglectful indecision.

But student activity can profoundly affect politics. Aren't students 'the future', the next generation of educated people who will inherit the mistakes of the past?

Consider environmental issues. Students of today will have to face ecological crisis head on, including climate change. Shockingly, education is the worst sector of British society when it comes to sustainability. Sustainability is an issue we all face, student or not, so why shouldn't students campaign vigorously for ecological sanity, both in Unions, universities and beyond?

On fees, those who favour charging for education often ask how we can pay for universal free education - why should taxpayers fund students? These arguments are perverse. The question ought to be reversed - why shouldn't taxpayers fund education as a right? Funding for education is

achievable - tax those who can afford to pay, and remove uneconomic and destructive subsidies to the arms industry, nuclear weapons and wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Of course, many politicians (at least among the mainstream) are unwilling to compromise these 'facts of life'. So why shouldn't students campaign for a reorientation of the world from war to education for all?

But 'students not politics' groupings reject these discussions. Many officers frown upon students bringing to union meetings motions on wider national issues like the renewal of the Trident nuclear missile systems, suggesting that they do not affect students. But how on earth does this not affect students? Why prevent students articulating how that money could be better spent? That the Government should not spend possibly up to £70 billion on useless weapons of mass destruction.

Ironically, by bolstering the status quo the 'students not politics' groups actually end up being very political indeed.

Some Students' Unions are different. The LSE Students' Union can boast the best participation rates and successful campaigns, like the Living Wage campaign. Was that too 'political' - does asking for our cleaners to receive enough money to feed their children

constitute a 'non-student issue'? Disgustingly, people have made that argument both at the LSE and elsewhere. Some Students' Unions would never have affiliated to London Citizens, who run city-wide Living Wage campaigns, because it might contradict the Charities Law. Yet London Citizens helped to get a Living Wage for LSE cleaners. If treating people with dignity is against the law, why comply?

There is a place in the student movement for everyone across the political spectrum; I hope that those who define

student politics as excluding such issues can be honest about their political intentions, rather than embracing the persuasive spin of 'students not politics'.

Politics can be something different - depending on your definition - so don't be afraid of being political. Express your views, whatever they are. Falling silent or embracing the belief that student and non-student issues are separate ignores many pressing issues which we face - fees, academic isolation, depression, workplace exploitation and more.

Get involved in campaigns, volunteering and societies. Be involved in your Union. Come to the Union General Meeting, every Thursday, 1pm, Old Theatre. Use it to make positive change for students as members of society.



## Not enough empathy at the LSE



Charlie Samuda

*With such a dismal track record for 'Raising and Giving', perhaps LSE students ought to trade 'hedge funds' for 'charity funding'*

There aren't many areas in which the LSE needs to feel particularly behind the game when compared to other British universities. But one of the most significant student traditions seems to have

all but completely passed us by - the RAG society.

RAG, which stands for 'raising and giving', is comprised of events, serious or otherwise, which raise money for charity. For the majority of

universities in this country, the RAG organisation is the backbone of its social life; its importance to students is comparable to that of their college, society or sports team. Events are usually held the whole year round with anything from balls and sponsored pub-crawls to events like public lectures, performances, fashion shows and tin-rattling.

Take for example the University of Bristol, whose RAG coffers already stands at £3909 for this academic year. Their RAG committee hosts at least one fundraising event per week - last year they collected £122,000. Even the Strand Polytechnic (or King's College London as some of you may know it) managed to raise £102,000 last year. Cambridge made £155,000 for over 80 different charitable organisations while Nottingham's numbers came up to £667,000 last year, claiming top honours at the 2006 National RAG Awards.

It is obvious then that the LSE waddles in the wake of its many rivals. Last year our

RAGweek raised a mere £28,000. This isn't to say that Rag week didn't boast any number of great events. For those of you who weren't around last year, there were,



**The lack of a Rag spirit at the LSE is a shame in and of itself**

amongst a host of events, abseiling off the Old Building and a broadcasting marathon by Pulse live from the Quad. But the reason we trail other universities lies in the fact our RAG activities are largely limited to just one week of the year. Furthermore, that one week is sandwiched in between other awareness weeks and events on the SU calendar. Put simply; RAG is not taken as seriously here as it is everywhere else.

In many ways this is hard to understand. The student body is constantly raising the profile of humanitarian issues from divestment from Sudan, to that of oil workers in the US. Organisations such as the Development Society (who regularly host one of the most successful RAG events) and UNICEF society are also popular on campus. And its not as if RAG is detrimental to the anyone's career prospects (let's be honest, we all know that's what people are really thinking about), pitching your own ideas and hosting your own events for a good cause are far more valuable and relevant than a string of aptitude tests and placements.

Also detrimental to the cause is the fact that the average LSE student likes to take themselves far too seriously. Visit the RAG website of Nottingham, Exeter, Bristol or Cambridge and you'll find the most successful events are those where students aren't afraid to do something fun or stupid or different. Just see the University of Sheffield's RAG motto - "Bad...for a good cause".

However, it is not simply a matter of competing with

other universities. The lack of a RAG spirit at the LSE is a shame in and of itself.

Obviously, it is unquestionably a good thing for the university to be raising say £100,000 for good causes rather than £28,000. But a boisterous RAG scene may also serve to provide something which might better hold the students of the university together, rather than having them brush past each other in their rush to and from the library.

Plenty of universities host events to begin the term, at Christmas, for May Day and Summer ball. Here at the LSE, however, there's plenty of events at the very beginning of term and then nothing for the university as a whole (besides Crush) until your graduation ball.

So starting this year we're working to make RAG last the whole year round with plenty of events in the pipeline including skydiving, the inaugural Freshers' Ball, a hitch to Paris and a disproportionate amount of fancy dress. Maybe then the LSE can stop being quite so serious and make up the lost ground on the rest of the country.



Photo: Rebecca Pillinger



## COMMENT &amp; ANALYSIS

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## Fight the good fight



**Sanjivi Krishnan**  
Honorary Student

*The information age has brought the world face-to-face with the injustices in Burma. The ball is in our court and it's time to act.*

It has been incredibly easy to become hopeful for wholesale change in Burma at the sight of the crimson-clad monks marching serenely in Burma since September 22. Their entry into the foray, after a month of student protest in reaction to the military regime's drastic fuel price hike, caught the attention of the world and, more importantly, inspired many Burmese citizens to join them out on the streets of Rangoon. Would this be the march that finally shatters the grip of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC)? More than a week later, it remains very hard to tell.

The SPDC has presided over nineteen years of economic mismanagement, brutal enslavement of ethnic minorities (often in partnership with foreign companies like Total Oil) and swift suppression of dissent. The latest economic misstep by the regime, an example of how dangerous it can be to blindly follow the word of the international monetary institutions without a proper infrastructure, has escalated an already high inflation and resulted in rising prices of the most basic food products. And so, the demonstrations that began on 15th August may well be the straw that breaks the junta's back, possibly marking the end of the Burmese people's fearful willingness to acquiesce.

Once the monks joined in, there were often as many as a hundred thousand citizens marching across the old capital Rangoon. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the face of oppressed

Burma who has been under house arrest on and off since she won the general election in 1990, appeared to show solidarity. The scene was nothing short of inspirational.

But then the junta inevitably responded, raiding monasteries and beating monks, ironically warning them 'not to disobey Buddhist principles', and firing at



**The best that our leaders do is frown with consternation and agree that something must be done**

crowds of unarmed protesters with automatic weapons, killing what Prime Minister Brown is right to suspect has been far more than 'nine people'. Not to mention the blatantly deliberate killing of Japanese journalist Kenji Nagai. And we have seen this all firsthand. The YouTube and blog crowd (*Time* magazine's Person of the Year, no less) have ensured that what goes on there is not occurring somewhere far off and removed from our own lives. It is inescapable. We live in a time when we can have a rooftop view of an innocent man being

murdered by a soldier. Yet the best that our leaders do is frown with consternation and agree that 'something must be done'.

That relatively lethargic show of concern is to be expected given that as an international 'community', there is very little that is likely to be done. Economic sanctions are the only teeth we have but they will only make Burmese citizens' lives worse without shaking the junta much. And in any event they are all but impossible when you have China and India calling this an internal matter, shamefully motivated by their interests in Burmese oil.

Forceful intervention remains highly improbable. The law firm DLA Piper had made a convincing case in 2005 that the situation in Burma fits all the criteria of a 'threat to international peace and security' to justify Chapter VII measures by the Security Council, based on the factors that motivated previous action. However, even in the face of escalated military clampdowns, binding action of this kind is an unlikely prospect.

So instead we maintain a deeply unsatisfying 'oh well' posture that conveys the following message: we see very clearly what you're going through, and we support your courage, but you're just going to have to grin and bear it. For how long though? To concede defeat now and retreat to a quickly deteriorating normalcy under the junta would crush all hope, as another march of defiance of this kind

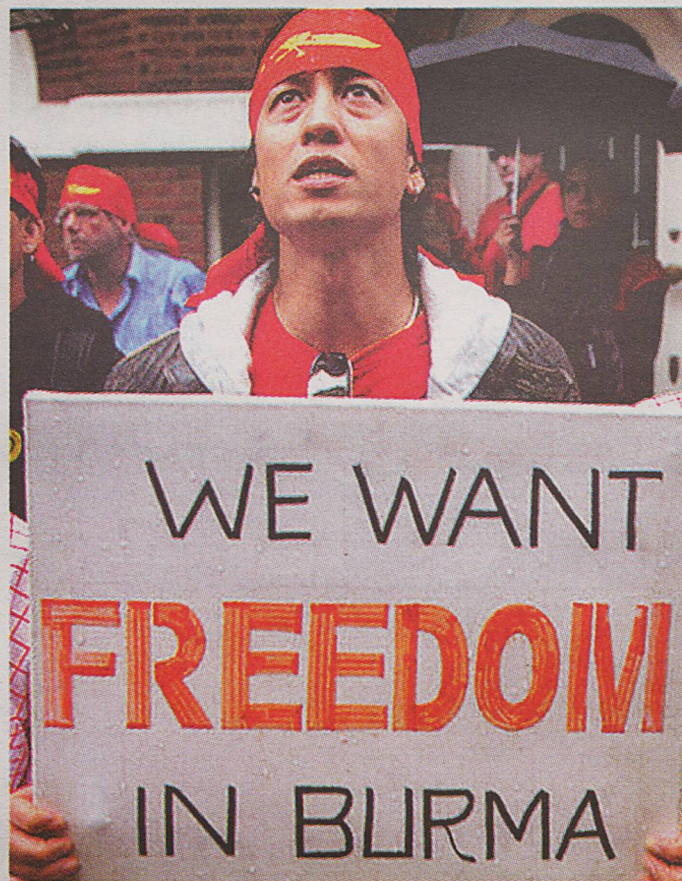
in the future will be unlikely.

It's very easy for me to sit here and hope that they continue, even if it means exposing their backs to machine guns. But the people of Burma have been left, for all intents and purposes, to fend for themselves. A farcical 'constitutional convention' that ended last month has shown that the SPDC cannot be reasoned with. The marches that started two weeks ago have built momentum and instilled hope in the people that has not been quelled by the severing of their communication links to

the world. With signs of internal dissidence within the ranks of the military, we can only hope that should things come to a head, they will flatly refuse to commit mass murder.

While the Burmese people bravely exercise their (non) freedoms of assembly and expression, we ought to do the same, putting their cause front and centre through demonstrations like the one that took place in London last Sunday. Our expressions of solidarity and support can go a long way in bolstering the efforts of the Burmese people and diaspora towards democracy.

*You too can get involved, through the Burma Campaign UK. Visit their website at <http://www.burmacampaign.org.uk>*



## Covering the beat



**Erica Gornall**

*For those in need of unending adrenaline fixes, it might be worth spending a good part of your life at the LSE as a student journalist*

As Head of News for Pulse and a Senior Reporter of *The Beaver*, people often ask me the point of 'news' at the LSE, whether it is 'news' at all and why I bother potentially jeopardising my degree in the time-consuming pursuit of the story.

Why do I write and broadcast news? That's simple. Like any journalist will tell you, news is a drug. It is all about discovery, excitement, long hours and controversy. From the moment that you wake up to the moment you tumble exhausted into bed, the high of the story is the one thing that makes it all worthwhile.

What hit me the most as a fresher last year were the stories of the different people who come here, teach here and talk here. Through expression of political views, societies or in other forums, I have con-

stantly been in contact with people who are adamant that their view is the right one. Agreement here is rarely possible. What's more, it is rarely desirable.

As LSE students, we find ourselves fighting our corner much more than we might anticipate. From heated, booze-fuelled arguments about socialism to bickering over boilers with landlords, we seldom find ourselves in simple agreement. Our personal battles are what makes up the stories we follow day by day. And the paths of these ordinary stories of ordinary people are determined by various forces, be it landlords, the taxman, employers or the LSE. There are always companies and individuals who have the power to define our happiness. It is therefore important that there are a group of people lis-

tening to these stories and asking questions, holding those in power to account.

The same goes even here at the LSE. Take for instance financial issues, which are perennial concerns for students. While some students are sponsored, others are desperately struggling to get by. For the latter, fiscal matters are of great interest. Events and changes in school policy like fluctuation of interest rates and tuition fee increases need to be broadcasted and debated. The Media Group must ask some key questions of the School and the Students' Union over such matters. Were we sufficiently informed about fee rises? Is the LSE providing enough help for the poorest students? Is the Students' Union really tackling student issues?

Knowledge is power and

that's what the Media Group is all about - information for students and a voice for everyone. Just as news agencies allow voices of people left behind to



**Knowledge is power and that's what the Media Group is all about - information for students and a voice for everyone**

be heard, the Media Group has to fulfil the same role in the LSE. If Pulse and *The Beaver* don't listen and broadcast student concerns, who else will?

Of course, being part of the Media Group and Pulse in particular has many attractions that any aspiring journalist

will not be able to resist for long.

The days are long at Pulse News; starting as early as 8am and ending at 11. News needs to be heard about, chased, collected, edited, written up and finally broadcast in a 12-hour period; an intense but exciting experience. Evenings can be spent negotiating with politicians' press teams, interviewing the likes of Clare Short, racing round the corridors of the LSE during protests and editing the day's stories into the night. And then there's the degree to study for.

But it's all worth it in the end. With an extremely strong team at Pulse this year and a drive for top quality LSE news (as well as international news and interviews with famous personalities), Pulse News has real strength. In tandem with *The Beaver*, we will be trying to broadcast more stories about the LSE, its students and all the people in between before this year is out.

So we welcome freshers to join us, have fun, and together make this year a good one!

*To get involved in Pulse or The Beaver, look out for them out and about in Houghton Street, the Quad and St Clement's Building.*

**The Beaver**

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**The Beaver is available in alternative formats.**

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



## COMMENT &amp; ANALYSIS

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## The Beaver

Established 1949 - Issue 665

## Passion for a cause...

...leads to bitter political discourse?

The Students' Union has always reached out to its new members by sending out freshers' packs. Filled out with countless information sheets and guidebooks, the packs help introduce new student members to the workings of the Union and some of the formalities that they will have to deal with upon arriving at the LSE. This year, however, the decision was taken to also inform them of an initiative that the Union had voted on last year, when a letter was sent out to all freshers detailing the fact that the LSESU has twinned with the An-Najah University, in Nablus, Palestine.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the most divisive and volatile political questions of our age. It is extremely difficult to even comment on the situation without being painted into the pre-defined role of an extremist supporter for either side. With this in mind, this paper seeks to clarify its position. We are proud to be the newspaper of a Students' Union which endorses the right to education of all people. We are fully supportive of the two-state solution and hope that both Israel and Palestine can one day live in peaceful co-existence. We back the 'Right to Education' campaign and will be covering stories related to An-Najah and wider educational issues in future editions of the paper.

However, the aforementioned letter is a matter of concern, not only because of the emotional rhetoric that it employed, but also because of the way it represented the Union purely from a singular perspective. This raises the issue regarding the way in which our elected sabbatical officers interact with students, and the impression they set for new Union members.

The Students' Union is based on principles of inclusion. Promoting dialogue and understanding between students must surely be at the very heart of all its actions. While the motion for this twinning was passed through democratic mechanism, we must acknowledge that the motion had seen a high voter turnout and was decided by an incredibly close margin. What separates democracy from mob rule is the former's ability to provide representation and a voice to the minorities. It should be acknowledged that there are two sides to this conflict, lest we become as guilty of suppressing free speech as those whom we accuse of the same crime.

By presenting this most complex of political minefields in such stark, one-sided terms, the General Secretary and the Mature & Part-time Students Officer have opened a Pandora's Box, and they may very well reap what they have sown in the early Union General Meetings of the new term.

## Controversial Union correspondence...

...highlights the importance of objectivity

The controversial nature of the An-Najah letter also raises the question of the objectivity of this paper. Our role is to represent the views of the students who make up this University. What this means in practice is that if there is anything you have read in this paper which you find to be ignorant, misleading or just plain wrong, there is a simple solution. Write a response.

We exist to provide every student at this school with a platform for expression.

This paper will certainly be accused of editorial bias or prejudice at some point during the year. However, as a paper dependent on contributions from the student body, *The Beaver* can only print what it receives, and so it follows that if something isn't covered, it is probably because the paper did not receive anything written about it. However, as potential contributors, you can help *The Beaver* provide balanced debate and keen insight to all its readers.

This is your opportunity to raise awareness of any cause or campaign which you deem fitting, from the life-changing significance of your new favourite band to the petty trivialities of global politics.

## 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.



## "impending doom"

Dear Sir,

We're standing at the edge of an abyss. Whether it be because of climate change, international terrorism, the breakdown in the social fabric of modern society or Bluetongue disease it's never been more likely that the world is going to end in some bloody and disgusting way.

So maybe you should get involved in *The Beaver*.

Over the coming academic year, the people who work on *The Beaver* will sacrifice their sleep, lectures and social lives in order to bring to you a student newspaper of the highest quality. There is something to be said about a good paper. And I am sure that each article, in allowing us to communicate, will edge us ever further away from our impending doom.

*The Beaver* is such a good example of the power of the LSE student and underlines the potential that each one has in shaping the world around them.

And it is something that is thoroughly worth getting involved in.

In summary, I am very fond of your publication *The Beaver* and am looking forward to receiving it weekly in the post.

Chris Lam  
LSE alumnus

## "systematic denial"

Dear Sir,

We are appalled at the intimidation displayed by two members of the LSE Council, the School's governing body, regarding the University and College Union (UCU) resolution which justifiably called for academics to discuss the moral consequences of their collaboration with the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Firstly, Sir Howard Davies jeopardised any free discussion of the issue within the LSE branch of the UCU through fear of reprisal, brandishing a statement on the LSE website condemning any boycott, whilst ignoring entirely the systematic denial of rights faced by Palestinians.

Secondly, the description by Lord Grabiner, Chairman of the LSE Council, of the resolution being 'poisonous', is insulting both to Palestinians and those who support the boycott, as well as critics of the Israeli apartheid state such as Nelson Mandela, Jimmy Carter and Ilan Pappé, whom have far greater understanding of the occupation than any member of LSE Council. Grabiner has in the past backed the invasion of Iraq and deemed the use of force that has since killed thousands of Iraqi citizens and British and American servicemen as

"justified".

The LSE has a proud history of being committed to social justice for all and also in providing education for students from all social backgrounds. This includes many students from the Muslim world who can only become increasingly alienated by the School's continued stance of defending Israel's crimes.

The Students' Union has consistently condemned, through its general meetings, the atrocities committed by Israel and its myriad of breaches of international law. As with the boycott calls against Apartheid, we are likely to face hurdles, legal or otherwise, orchestrated by those that aim to maintain the repressive status quo. Students and academics must work together to fight for equal rights for all, irrespective of the intimidation we face from friends of the occupation.

James Caspell  
LSESU Postgraduate Students Officer  
Former student member of LSE Council

Daisy Mitchell-Forster  
LSESU Women's Officer

Ziyaad Lunat  
President of LSESU Palestine Society

Vladimir Unkovski-Korica  
PhD Candidate International History

## "Guantanamo Bay"

Dear Sir,

I write with a degree of concern over a recent letter that was sent out by the Students' Union to the incoming freshers.

I was made aware of this letter through a fresher friend of mine. Upon reading its contents, I was left rather aghast by the knowledge that SU officials could take such independent action that possibly oversteps their position and mandated powers.

The letter in question explained to freshers the SU's twinning with An-Najah University in Palestine, and invites their participation in the initiative.

While the cause is a worthy one, and indeed something that is accepted by the SU through a democratic mechanism, I am disappointed by the means through which the SU has chosen to propagate it.

One may ask, why is this particular cause highlighted and not any other? Is it more deserving of attention? Why is the Palestinian Society able to put forward their cause through an official SU letter to all freshers, while such an opportunity apparently is not available or made known to others?

Surely if this avenue of promotion is available for all SU-endorsed causes and campaigns, we would have seen far more letters sent out on a wide range of issues - climate change, Living Wage, Sudan, Iraq, Trident, Guantanamo Bay, you name it.

Since this isn't the case, one can only assume that the aforementioned letter is a departure from the norm. The problem lies therein. Why is this exception possible?

Chun Han Wong  
Comment and Analysis Editor

## "pocket blackberry"

Dear Sir,

Emergency (I need your help)

How are you doing today? I am sorry I didn't inform you about my travelling to south africa for a program called "Empowering Youth to Fight Racism, HIV/AIDS, Poverty and Lack of Education. It has been a very sad and bad moment for me, the present condition that I found myself is very hard for me to explain, I am really stranded in Nigeria cos the flight I boarded had a late night stop over here, and I for-

got my small hand bag in the taxi where my money, passport, documents and other valuable things were kept on my way to the hotel that I intend to spend the night.

I have informed the Nigerian authorities to help recover my stuff, and they have assured of doing their best to get it back. I also contacted our embassy back here regarding helping me out to reach my destination, they said it will cost me \$1000 to secure a new passport and visa because I need it to be able to get into South Africa.

I am facing a hard time here because I have no money on me even to feed myself for a day. Thank God for Mr. Anthony and his family who took me in their home with a wonderful hospitality, otherwise I will be starving.

I need you to help me with the visa money and I will also need \$1000 to feed and help myself, so please can you help me with a sum of \$2000 to sort out my problems here? I need this help so much and on time because I am in a terrible and tight situation here.

I sent you this e-mail from my pocket Blackberry. Thank goodness I had it in my pocket I found your email address there. I need this help from you urgently, please visit any Western Union outlets, shopping mall or gross store around you and send the money to Anthony. He has solicited to help me receive it since I'm unable, because of the misplacement of my passport.

So below is his address to send it to.....

Name: Anthony Ikpe  
Address: xxxxxx  
City: Victoria Island  
State: Lagos  
Zipcode: xxxxxx  
Country: Nigeria

When you are done, email me the mtn # and test question and answer, to receive the money with. I promise to pay back your money as soon as I return home.

Really hope to read from you soon.

Patrick Sheppard



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## COMMENT &amp; ANALYSIS

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## Life and times on Houghton St



Douglas Oliver

*Life as a university student is just too short to mess up. Make the best of yours at the LSE with the one chance that you have.*

As a new academic year begins on Houghton Street, so enters a phalanx of new fresh-eyed undergraduates, optimistically zealous towards the high life of the LSE. Many students who have been here a little while however, will perhaps look to the new term with reserved ardour.

Speaking as someone who has been knocking around Houghton Street for a while – having spent many a wearisome afternoon in the Lionel Robbins building, picked up enough free Deloitte pencil

sharpeners for a lifetime, spent one too many Friday evenings “Living on a Prayer” in the Quad, felt that the best form of social interaction is a quiet hour perusing Facebook in room C120, borne the cringe-inducing piety of some in the Students’ Union and sat alongside those who study for 6 hours every night, only to say nothing in class – it would be odd if I was not touched by occasional palpitations of cynicism.

Nonetheless, despite the accusations of hypocrisy arising from my membership of

the “I Don’t Need Sex Cause the LSE Fucks Me Everyday” Facebook group, I think it’s time that the LSE gets the praise that we all know it deserves. Here is my advice, however flawed, to new students on how to spend their time here in the best possible way.

The one big problem about life at the LSE is, alas, the workload. The “live hard, play hard” description the School sometimes affords the lifestyle here – implying some kind of James Dean-esque, three-year long, hedonistic Red Bull-

fuelled adrenaline high – is perhaps a tad romantic for those likely to be found playing Deal or No Deal on the 3 Tuns Games Machine on Tuesday at 11am.

But there is some truth to this slightly idealistic generalisation. Relative to other students, people who work hard are fairly gregarious, do not sleep much and enjoy it. Those who merely want to get drunk, chat about Big Brother all day and prepare for a life drawing inspiration from the *Daily Mail* are probably better off at Leeds Met. The LSE style of teaching is highly independent, encouraging initiative and group work; skills more likely of use in a world with few people prepared to offer a helping hand. Ergo, you have greater choice over how you spend your time.

The beauty of the LSE grading system is that your results are measured almost exclusively by your final exam performance. While this turns early Summer into purgatory and skews a small minority of exam performances, it gives LSE students freedom to pursue non-academic interests in the twenty-one weeks of school.

Life here is constantly busy. But generally speaking, for the organised among you, it is quite manageable and school life can be interwoven with a range of other activities. While this sounds like an incitement to commit the deadly sin of academic sloth or

how to cruise toward a Desmond degree, I remind you that school work is generally interesting and intellectually stimulating.

School work aside, what can people do here to relax and enjoy themselves? Almost anything. Participate in sports, write, debate, get drunk, act, attend an implausible range of cultural parties and events.



*Doing a degree at the LSE will not always be easy, but nevertheless immensely rewarding*

For those who have ideas for new societies, they can make up their own one. Failing these, the University of London Union also offers a range of alternatives.

Despite its fair share of mundane personalities and egomaniacs, there are many more decent and friendly people to be found at the LSE. Given its high numbers of international students, there is an amazing cosmopolitan vibe at the LSE that perhaps even the United Nations General

Assembly cannot compete with. As such students here are almost forced to consider new perspectives on the world. The School’s commitment to the principles of freedom of expression makes it the melting pot that it is.

If you ever get sick of school, as you occasionally will, step outside. London is one of the most culturally rich and cosmopolitan cities in the world. To break free from academic stresses, you could attend free concerts at Regents Park, watch football played by top-class teams, indulge in the breathtaking architecture and even experience the London nightlife in places like Fabric and The End. Attend rallies and demonstrations for any cause. Be upfront about your sexual orientation. Worship any god and support any nation at international sporting events. And meet like-minded people while at it. A person tired of London is, as Dr Johnson rightly said, tired of life.

So to the freshers and those slightly jaded by your time here already: doing a degree at the LSE will not always be easy, but nevertheless immensely rewarding. Open yourself up to all sorts of new experiences, be it academic, social or intellectual. The LSE is a great school, but where it is lacking, it is up to you as individuals to improve it – ask not what the LSE can do for you; ask what you can do for the LSE.

Sights and sounds of a city which you can never get tired of.



Photo: Sung Soo Ho

## First time’s just like anytime



Molly Tucker

*Freshers’ Week is overrated. Taking in the hype with a generous pinch of salt could save you some bitter disappointment*

I’m going to let you in on a little university secret that no-one really likes to admit.

Freshers’ Week is one of life’s great disappointments.

You will all have heard the rumours of glittering parties, wild and rambunctious drunkenness for all, and the best friends you’ll ever make. Hot members of the opposite sex, hilarious happenings and generally, like, the best stuff ever allegedly abound.

These are lies. Freshers’ Week is just like any first week anywhere: a little awkward, filled with the tedium of starting bank accounts, moving into halls, making uncomfortable conversations with people you are unlikely to spend much time with again, and getting miserably drunk at cheap clubs and going home either alone or with someone you’ll regret for the rest of the year.

This is not to say that Freshers’ Week is rubbish – it’s not. Starting university is really exciting; you’re on your own, you can (gasp!) make your own decisions, lectures and classes take up a ridiculously small amount of your

day and the rest of that time can be spent exactly as you please. Never again in your life will you have such freedom to be an absolute bum. Cherish it!

I’m just trying to let you know that your Freshers’ Week doesn’t have to live up to the wildly high expectations you’re probably holding of it. It’s probably not going to be the best week of your life, and that’s ok. Don’t listen to someone who says you need to party every night, or someone who says you shouldn’t party at all.

Talk to everyone, and remember that if they seem like assholes, they probably are and you don’t have to be friends with them. You will make real friends at the LSE, so don’t let the people you meet in the first week tie you down.

That being said, if you’re really shy and don’t feel like talking to anyone, that’s alright too. You’ll meet people in all sorts of ways over time, so don’t feel like a loser if you’re too nervous during Freshers’ Week.

Do NOT be put off by the first Crush of the year. It is,

invariably, the worst experience of anyone’s life, and the only time of the year when it lives horribly up to its name. Skip it and head to your local pub with some nice people and go next week, when it will



*Freshers’ Week is only the first week of the rest of your life at the LSE, three years that are going to be amazing, stressful, fun, busy and full*

admittedly still be crap, but it’s OUR crap and therefore worthy of our love and continued patronage.

Do not be put off by all the

horrible parties that claim to have 47 free drinks each and fifties for all: you will only end up standing in a corner looking melancholy, or getting wankerously drunk, pissing everyone off and puking somewhere embarrassing (like your roommate’s bed). Save all that for the Christmas parties, where everyone knows you well enough to still like you after, or Walkabout, where no one will be able to remember what you did anyway.

Do be keen about societies: they are the most fun you’ll

have at the LSE and the best way to make friends. However, you don’t need to feel pressure to join ALL of them; two pounds per society seems a lot less cheap when you multiply it by 27. Pick a couple you know you’ll still go to in three months time, and join the rest later in the year when you’ve worked out how much time you have and that the Agrarian Workers Freedom Society isn’t actually for you.

Go to the Fair with someone else, or you may end up wandering aimlessly and

hopelessly lost, only managing to find your way back to halls three weeks later; paler, skinnier and belonging to the Statistical Mathematicians For A Deloitte Internship Society and no memory of the intervening period.

Freshers’ Week is only the first week of the rest of your life at the LSE, three years that are going to be amazing, stressful, fun, busy, and full. If you don’t manage to get wasted/laid/injured/popular in those seven days, don’t worry! You’ve got plenty of time...

The Friday night madness that is Crush.



Photo: Jess Cartwright



This week in **FEATURES**  
 Genocide  
**12-13**

Violence in  
 Colombia

11



10 USA-Iran  
 Relations

Radical Left



Vladimir  
 Unkovski  
 -Korica

A year at LSE always promises to be a dynamic, intense experience filled with new challenges. This year will bring some novelties on the political scene too. This summer Tony Blair departed Number 10 after a decade in office. This could not have come too soon. Blair presided over the further hollowing-out of our democratic system, privatisation of state services which even Thatcher did not dare to privatise, and criminal wars abroad. Blair would have liked to stay on but his personal identification with the lies and the betrayals of his voters were becoming too much of a liability. The anti-war movement finally brought Blair down last year when he refused to call for a ceasefire during Israel's assault on Lebanon.

The new Prime Minister has inherited some awkward choices. His government is supposedly committed to a gradual withdrawal from Iraq. The problem is whether developments in the rest of Iraq will make the withdrawal look too messy. Meanwhile, the occupation of Afghanistan has failed in its aims as it helped rehabilitate the Taliban as a national resistance. As if that wasn't bad enough, the US fears that forced withdrawal from Iraq would leave Iran as the new hegemon in the region. This may lead the US ruling elites to lash out at Iran before seeking a new carve-up of the Middle East. The French Foreign Minister Kouchner warned in mid-September that the world should be prepared "for the worst, and the worst is war". The pretext for such action would be Iran's nuclear programme. Meanwhile, the other aggressive power in the region with nuclear weapons, Israel, is allowed to get away with decades of defiance of the UN with no threat of sanctions of any kind. Britain's special relationship with the US makes Britain's stance in all this crucial but we can't expect Brown to stand with the Stop the War Coalition.

Adding insult to injury, Brown is making the British working class pay for Britain's imperialist policies abroad. Over this past year, we have learnt Brown intends to impose a below-inflation wage freeze on public sector workers in Britain. Thus, workers could not get a wage increase greater than 2% while inflation runs at around 4%. That amounts to a 2% wage cut. Why? Brown tells us it's to keep inflation down - like in the 1970s. But some economists have argued that the inflation of the 1970s was caused by the US having printing money to pay for the war in Vietnam causing a wave of industrial unrest in Britain. Similarly now, it appears profits and bonuses in the City can increase and wars *ad infinitum* can be waged by the powerful but nurses, teachers, postal workers and civil servants should make sacrifices to keep inflation down.

Voting Tory or Lib Dem won't improve the lot of working people, pensioners and students in Britain. The Tories would make things worse still, while the Lib Dems' promises of constitutional reform hardly pay the bills at the end of the month. Neither party has a record of principled opposition to the 'War on Terror', the public services, environmental and social issues, or anti-racism.

Organising around smaller parties like Respect or the Greens is certainly valuable. The Labour bigwigs have shown their true colours by de-selecting the principled Left Labour MP, Bob Wareing, from his Liverpool seat - showing the historic weakness of the Left within Labour. Electing George Galloway as Respect MP has shown that the Left can organise outside the main parties and win, as well as give a voice to the angry but disenfranchised anti-war majority. Caroline Lucas as Green MEP has strengthened the power of the street over government policy. Local council elections have also shown that there is a desire in the progressive and working class movement for a Leftist alternative to Labour. But let's face it: we won't have a red-green government any time soon. So, what do we do?

We must organise around single issue campaigns. We must ensure that British troops come home from Afghanistan and Iraq. We must prevent any attack on Iran and campaign for a free Palestine. We must also concentrate on environmental issues like resisting the building of new airport terminals. Most of all, we must ensure that if there is a winter of discontent - with trade union struggle making a serious return to the scene for the first time in two decades - we are on the picket-lines. Let's make Brown pay!

thebeaver.features@lse.ac.uk

Notes on Nothing

Welcome to LSE! A new term, a new year and, for some of you, a new start. A chance to completely reinvent yourself. Speaking of which, New Labour have been caught in a bit of photo doctoring. A faceless Labour bureaucrat has been digitally added to a photo of a few Labour apparatchiks visiting a factory or community centre, or hospital or some such. A bit dodgy maybe, but not nearly as revolting as the idea of rubbing off Sarkozy's love handles, as some poor French graphic artist had to do earlier this year. *The Guardian*, though, in the spirit of wild exaggeration, chose to run the story alongside evidence of Trotsky being removed from photographs after his exile from the Soviet Union. Thus equating a mundane piece of New Labour spin with the Stalinist betrayal of the 1917 Revolution.

But it gave Cameron one of his annual ideas, as the following pics hacked, I mean found, on his hard drive show. Cameron's flirtation with mediocre progressive ideas has come to an end allowing relieved Tory backbenchers to return to their familiar stomping grounds of immigration, decrying the inheritance tax and dogged adherence to tradition. They started by harking back to 1979 and accusing Brown of being a new Callaghan, now they've gone one further. We're back to the 'Red Menace' argument. I'm hanging out waiting for them to declare war on the Boer again.

In more recent war news, we've got some great articles in this week's Features, from Darfur to Colombia to Iran, it seems that conflict is still on the cards all round the world. Three great articles, dealing with international affairs. And if you don't like them, you can take your complaints to the helpful folks at Watchdog. We've interviewed one of their presenters about dodgy landlords, pursuing corporate criminals and stockings.

And finally, we're looking for new people. Anyone with an interest in current affairs is welcome. It's a great opportunity to improve your writing skills, beef up your CV and take the piss out of world leaders.



Right Reaction

Winston  
 Churchill



In this solemn hour it is a consolation to recall and to dwell upon our repeated efforts for peace. All have been ill-starred, but all have been faithful and sincere. This is of the highest moral value--and not only moral value, but practical value--at the present time, because the wholehearted concurrence of scores of millions of men and women, whose co-operation is indispensable and whose comradeship and brotherhood are indispensable, is the only foundation upon which the trial and tribulation of modern war can be endured and surmounted. This moral conviction alone affords that ever-fresh resilience which renews the strength and energy of people in long, doubtful and dark days. Outside, the storms of war may blow and the lands may be lashed with the fury of its gales, but in our own hearts this Sunday morning there is peace. Our hands may be active, but our consciences are at rest.

We must not underrate the gravity of the task which lies before us or the temerity of the ordeal, to which we shall not be found unequal. We must expect many disappointments, and many unpleasant surprises, but we may be sure that the task which we have freely accepted is one not beyond the compass and the strength of the British Empire and the French Republic. The Prime Minister said it was a sad day, and that is indeed true, but at the present time there is another note which may be present, and that is a feeling of thankfulness that, if these great trials were to come upon our Island, there is a generation of Britons here now ready to prove itself not unworthy of the days of yore and not unworthy of those great men, the fathers of our land, who laid the foundations of our laws and shaped the greatness of our country.

This is not a question of fighting for Danzig or fighting for Poland. We are fighting to save the whole world from the pestilence of Nazi tyranny and in defense of all that is most sacred to man. This is no war of domination or imperial aggrandizement or material gain; no war to shut any country out of its sunlight and means of progress. It is a war, viewed in its inherent quality, to establish, on impregnable rocks, the rights of the individual, and it is a war to establish and revive the stature of man. Perhaps it might seem a paradox that a war undertaken in the name of liberty and right should require, as a necessary part of its processes, the surrender for the time being of so many of the dearly valued liberties and rights. In these last few days the House of Commons has been voting dozens of Bills which hand over to the executive our most dearly valued traditional liberties. We are sure that these liberties will be in hands which will not abuse them, which will use them for no class or party interests, which will cherish and guard them, and we look forward to the day, surely and confidently we look forward to the day, when our liberties and rights will be restored to us, and when we shall be able to share them with the peoples to whom such blessings are unknown.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN  
 WRITE LIKE THIS?  
 WANT TO PROVE IT?

We're looking for a right wing columnist to challenge our preconceptions, spark debate on campus and, of course, rile up the hippies.

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- Features' Editor

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# United States of Aggression

Chris Wilkins traces the roots of US-Iran tensions



At the start of September Iran's "Supreme Leader", Ayatollah Khamenei, made a speech saying he believes George W. Bush would be tried for what had happened in Iraq and that it was done as an attempt to destroy the Islamic system in Iraq. This followed a speech by the US President criticizing Iran for its ambitions in the Middle East. Both claims highlight the continuing deterioration of relations between the United States and Iran. Echoing the US, the French government has suggested that, "we have two choices, an Iranian Bomb or bombing Iran". Yet this was not always the case. Forty years ago Iran was regarded as one of the West's most important allies in the region exporting oil to the West during the blockade of the Arab-Israeli war. To understand this change of relations one must start by looking at the Second World

The Soviet Premier Stalin personally spoke to the Shah about future alliances and agreed to provide aid, whilst the Americans, not to be outdone, gave 'lend-lease aid'. This manoeuvring is essential in understanding US-Iranian relations as it is the first example of both direct intervention in Iran by America and the political bargaining which was to underpin their relationship until the end of the Cold War.

After the War, Iran made attempts to become closer to the US. This was partly out of fear of the Soviets, who had already attempted to continue their occupation of North Iran, and partly out of a trust for the Americans, who some Iranians (especially the Shah) saw as liberators. The Americans themselves also had interests in Iran. The Truman doctrine had been applied to the middle-east as the US was afraid that the Soviets would be able to spread their influence to the Persian Gulf.



*Americans viewed the hostage crisis as a challenge to their national dignity, while Iranians saw it as comeuppance for past humiliations, not least the deposition of Mossadeq.*

War and the start of the Cold War.

Before 1941, America had some relations with Iran but these were limited compared to those of Russia and Britain, whose spheres of control effectively divided the country in two. The ruling Pahlavi dynasty had been trying to gain the support of the United States, but without success - the American government had little interest in intervening in politics on the other side of the globe. However, when the Second World War broke out Iran declared its neutrality. With the Soviet Union and Britain fighting on the same side Iran became an essential supply route and provider of oil, leading to a joint occupation. The Americans followed quickly on their heels. During the Tehran conference in 1942 the three powers declared they would guarantee Iran's independence and a timetable for troop withdrawal. However, Cold War politics inevitably came into play.

Consequently, they provided massive quantities of arms to the region, equipping Iran against a possible Soviet invasion. However, the U.S. did not indulge all of the Shah's requests, refusing to provide redevelopment funding or a permanent military presence in the country.

In 1953 a series of events made Tehran and Washington the closest of allies. Since the discovery of oil in Iran its extraction had been almost exclusively through the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AOIC now known as BP), which only gave 10% of its profits to Iran. This was in stark contrast to the 50/50 shares in the American-Arabian Oil Company of Saudi Arabia, and was a source of resentment among many in Iran. In 1951, the new Prime Minister Mossadeq nationalised the AOIC. This angered not only the British government, but the Americans and the Shah as well. America under Eisenhower was fully steeped in Cold War politics and was willing to back

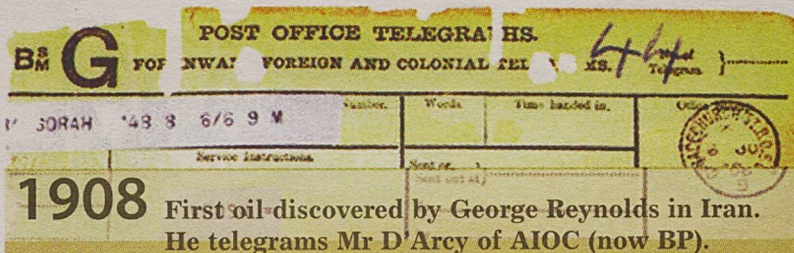
its ally against a possible anti-Western government. Many in Iran were critical of Mossadeq's plan, not just because of the animosity it brought from other nations, but also because it was a failure. The Iranians had none of the skilled specialists that had to be used or the ability to gain them quickly from other nations, so the oil wells simply ceased production. The CIA, along with the Shah, organised "Operation Ajax", which was a coup that eventually removed Mossadeq and cemented the Shah's power. This created what was seen by most as a strong alliance between the Shah and the American government for mutual benefit. The Iranians provided the West with a steady supply of oil and a bulwark against the Soviet Union to the North and, after the Baathist coup, Iraq to the West, whilst the US provided high levels of technical, military and economic aid. This relationship was emphasized by the Baghdad Pact (1956), the Eisenhower Doctrine (1957) and the US-Iranian military co-operation act (1958).

Into the late 1970's this relationship kept growing. America also gained not just oil but a market for its exports, especially its military equipment. It also increased its military presence in Iran to the extent that an American forces radio was set up in Tehran and the CIA trained SAVAK (Iranian equivalent of the KGB) operatives and had listening posts throughout Iran. There was also a close relationship between the Shah and the Republican presidents. Nixon received campaign contributions from the Shah, while Ford visited the latter during personal trips to Iran.

This relationship radically changed with the Iranian revolution in 1979. The Shah was ousted by multi-party forces and, despite US assurances, no actions were immediately taken to restore him. Power soon came into the hands of Ayatollah Khomeini who, although anti-Soviet, was also anti-American, deriding the U.S. as 'The Great Satan'. Events came to a head when Khomeini's student followers took hostages at the American embassy in Tehran. The event had great symbolic influence. Americans viewed the hostage crisis as a challenge to their national dignity, while Iranians saw it as comeuppance for past humiliations, not least the deposition of Mossadeq.

Although Khomeini's regime was vehemently anti-western, leading a campaign of de-westernisation, the new President Reagan of the U.S. had contradictory policies towards Iran. On the one hand the Reagan administration sent diplomatic missions and conducted arms deals for hostages; and on the other it condemned Iran as a terrorist nation and provided arms and satellites to Iranian enemies. Both Iraq and Iran were at war, were anti-western and supported groups the USA classified as terrorists. This led to a contradictory policy: the Reaganites supported both Iran and Iraq against each other, hoping to ally with whoever emerged victorious.

It is from these events that the modern state of affairs with Iran has emerged. With the end of the Cold



**1942** USA sends an occupation force to Iran and limits the powers of the government before putting the son of the shah on the throne. Tehran conference held. America recognises Iran's right to independence.

**1948** \$60,000,000 worth of weaponry sent by USA to Iran.

**1953** Operation Ajax: British and US governments organise a coup d'etat, it fails the first time forcing the Shah to flee but a second attempt, with the help of spontaneous riots, replaces the democratic government with that of the Shah. U.S. gives \$45,000,000 emergency aid and largely increase the amount of military aid.

**November, 1979**

American Embassy siege: 'Muslim student followers of the Imam's line' occupy the embassy but are forced to stay for 444 days when they receive official government support. Bazargran's interim government resigns in protest but by this point their power is limited. America freezes Iranian foreign assets.

**1984** Iran is added to the USA's list of terrorist nations and Iraq is removed.

**1990** Iraq invades Kuwait. Both Iran and US impose sanctions. Iran condemns later US-led coalition against Iraq.

**2000** Iran and U.S. hold unofficial talks. Bush elected president on a conservative platform.

**2002** Axis of Evil speech: Bush lists Iran as one of the three (later seven) countries sponsoring terrorists.

**2003** U.S. led invasion of Iraq condemned by Iran.

**2006** Israel-Hezbollah war the former are supported by America and the latter by Iran. President Bush claims that Iran's support of Hezbollah must be stopped.

**2007** Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Iran's president, is jeered at Columbia University in New York.

You can read a full timeline of US/Iran relations at [www.thebeaveronline.co.uk](http://www.thebeaveronline.co.uk)

War and the emergence of Terrorism as the key concern of American foreign policy there has appeared to be little interest in reconciliation without democratic reform and revoking of support for groups the American government classifies as terrorist. Even if there was a chance of better relations there appears to be little interest with America blaming Iran for the bombing of a US embassy in 1983 and the Khobar tower in 1996. In addition,

Iranian president Khatami's efforts to improve relations with America have been widely criticised. At the moment the tension seems worse than ever. With a neo-conservative in Washington and a conservative-nationalist in Tehran, every hint of negotiation appears to be met with even more vehement condemnation and inflammatory actions. And as the US continues to provoke Iran to action, we may be on the brink of war.



*Colombia is a state at war with its own people. British military aid does not help in reducing human rights abuses, it helps to legitimise the state and provides support to the military – thereby directly involving the British government and the British taxpayers in these abuses.*



# UK aid for Colombian regime

Raul Tula exposes the UK government's role in violence in Colombia

The current violence in Colombia is part of a cycle of conflicts that are usually traced back to the late 1940s. The landed elite met pressure for agrarian reform and a growing threat from Left wing political movements by creating armed bands called 'pajaros'. These bands assassinated peasant leaders and activists within the movement for political reform. It was these armed bands that led to the creation of self-defence forces by the political opposition and spawned the first cycle of violence to devastate the country in the 20th century. The experiment successfully prevented agrarian reform, and this initial success encouraged the formation of yet more death squads to stifle political dissent in the 1970s. Over the next decade, the use of death squads by landowners and drug cartels became widespread.

In spite of this, political opposition continued to develop and by the 1980s the Colombian establishment was forced to allow the opposition to organise openly. The national political movement set up to challenge the status quo was called the *Union Patriótica*. The threat of a non-elite government in Colombia loomed

large, and was unacceptable to both the state and to its allies in the region. The threat was met with the now traditional tool – violence. Members of the military and police, in alliance with groups paid for by drug cartels, assassinated several thousand *Union Patriótica* activists, leading to the collapse of its challenge to the establishment. Yet again violence had served the interests of the government and its allied social groups.

This pattern continued in the 1990s as paramilitary forces were created in Antioquia under the governorship of current president Alvaro Uribe. These forces were used to effectively purge the region of opposition sympathisers, under the alibi that they were fighting the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas and protecting property. These groups were funded by the drugs trade but trained and armed by the military with full knowledge of government functionaries, and by the late 1990s they had expanded their operations into large areas of the country. Thus the para-militaries are also a para-institutional phenomenon, used to facilitate in strategic interests of the state. Paradoxically, it is this very violence in defence of the

state that provides legitimacy to the guerrillas, and to opposition movements.

The Uribe government, which came to power on the back of the failed peace negotiations of the late 1990s, launched a 'peace-process' with

return for the laying down of arms. Such a peace process could only be justified if the paramilitary forces were seen as being autonomous of the state, and this is how they were presented both to the world and to the Colombian public. However, the

were in contact with the para-militaries has fatally undermined this absurd claim.

The overall strategy of the Uribe government cannot be said to have succeeded either. The government strategy is based upon the belief that the Colombian economy is being held back by the conflicts that tear society apart. Their proposed solution was to end the conflicts, in order to allow economic growth to proceed. The chosen method of ending the conflict was overwhelmingly military, an approach that ignores the deep socio-economic roots of the conflict. A much-vaunted "Plan Patriota" would rapidly defeat the guerrilla, using foreign military aid. The lapse in fighting provided by the previous peace process was used to re-arm and re-train the armed forces in order to carry out this mission. The para-militaries would be demobilised and given immunity from prosecution for human rights crimes. However, the guerrillas remain undefeated, and the demobilisation of the para-militaries has run into problems connected with their impunity from prosecution, and to the revelations of their links with high level members of the Uribe government. Nor has the government's economic policy been problem free. Trade unions and social organisations, angered by an extremely unequal distribution of wealth which sees most annual growth benefiting the elites and transnational corporations, have widely resisted neo-liberal privatisations.

These failures together signify the bankruptcy of the Uribe political project on every level. No political solution to Colombia's problems is now possible without face-to-face negotiations with the guerrillas and allowing the opposition to operate in real freedom, without intimidation. Foreign governments, including the British government, must assist in the creation of conditions that are helpful to this. The UK government must end military aid to the Colombian regime in order to signal its support for a real peace process. A violent solution has been tried and it has failed. It is time for Britain to stop being on the wrong side of history, and time for Brown to demonstrate his humanitarian credentials with actions, not just words.

There is a petition on the Downing St website calling for an end to British military aid to Colombia: <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/Colombia/#detail>



*No political solution to Colombia's problems is now possible without face-to-face negotiations with the guerrillas.*

these paramilitaries—essentially offering impunity from prosecution in recent evidence that members of the government, including Uribe himself

## FARC IN THE NEWS

### Rebel diary found

The diary of Tanja Nijmeijer, 29, known in the FARC as "Eillen", was found by Colombian troops in the camp of a commander of the FARC. She is a languages graduate from the University of Groningen, who first went to Colombia in 2000 as part of a university exchange to improve her Spanish. She returned in 2002 and entered guerrilla ranks. *CanWest News Service*, 8 September, 2007

*"24 November, 2006. I am tired, tired of the FARC, tired of the people, tired of communal life. Tired of never having anything for myself. And this might be worth it if I knew what we were fighting for."*

Excerpt from Eillen's diary

### Cause of death established

Eleven Colombian state legislators killed while being held by the FARC died of multiple gunshot wounds, a team of international forensic experts investigating their causes of death has concluded. 13 September, 2007, *The Scotsman*

### FARC woman steals plane to desert

An armed female member of Colombia's Farc rebel group hijacked a small plane to escape her "tortuous life" with the guerrillas, police have said. The woman, who was identified only by her alias "Angelica," took over the plane at an airstrip in Puerto Principe, in eastern Colombia. Police said the rebel would be put on a rehabilitation programme. *BBC News*, 29 September 2007





## GENOCIDE: ORIGINS

Genocide is almost impossible to write about. But it's necessary to confront it for the sake of history, remembrance, and prevention. Will it really ever not happen again? But it still seems too awful for words. Which makes Raphael Lemkin's crusade to first create a word for this monumental crime and then campaign for its legal recognition all the more remarkable. He started his extraordinary career as a lawyer and academic. His interest in the legal position of atrocities began before the war, based on the massacre of Assyrians by Italian colonisers, and the Armenian Genocide. During the war he was a member of the Polish Defence Force and eventually was forced to flee to north America. It was there that he started a lifelong mission to have the crime of genocide recognised, legally codified and punished. He partially succeeded in 1948 when the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was formally presented and adopted and then in 1951 when it came into force. However, the Convention only addressed the physical aspects of genocide, and failed to address psychological acts of genocide.



## What mak

and crimes against humanity, not genocide. Why?

Elements of the Darfur conflict fit with the legal definition of genocide, but they are not the ones you might expect. And in the midst of Darfur's turmoil, they are all very hard to prove.

Take mass murder. The first article of the Genocide Convention baldly states "killing members of the group". And it is impossible to deny that many thousands of civilians have been killed since 2003; 200,000 if you believe the UN, 450,000 according to some NGOs such as savedarfur.org. This loss of life should not lie easily on anyone's conscience. But, to put the statistics in perspective, in Iraq 8 million people need emergency aid, more than 3 million have fled from their homes in the last two years and about a thousand are dying of violence every month. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, in spite of a fragile peace deal, as many as 1,200 people are estimated by humanitarian agencies to be dying every day. While in Darfur, 2 million people have been displaced and up to 200,000 may have died.

There is also a difficulty that the worst of the violence may already have passed. In 2003 and 2004, the Sudanese government were regularly bombing villages, an activity which is clearly illegal as well as easy to track. But at the moment, more civilians are dying in NATO air strikes in Afghanistan (Jonathon Steele, *The Guardian*, Friday August 10, 2007).

In themselves, however, brute numbers do not add up to a legal definition that will be accepted in court. The scale of killing is neither here nor there to genocide. The key to bringing and successfully prosecuting a genocide charge is intent. As the Convention states, genocide entails

"acts committed with intent to destroy". And proving intent is a tricky business.

For example, proving intent in the Congo's tragic mess, is nearly impossible – there are around 200 ethnic groups involved in the violence. The complexity of conflicts like this, as well as their 'low level' of intensity also means they lack the immediate impact and appeal of Darfur as a good cause. In contrast, the ethnic selection of victims in Rwanda and Srebrenica was clear to investigators.

Establishing intent has been further complicated by the build up of legal precedence and international law. For instance, article 7 of the Rome Statute, covering crimes against humanity, can be construed as saying that the Prosecutor needs to prove such crimes were "in furtherance of State or organizational policy." This presents the conundrum of getting evidence for this, clouds the court's emphasis on individual criminal responsibility and fails to cover situations which are defined as 'anarchic' or 'failed state'. Fortunately, article 6, which covers genocide, has no such proviso.

Evidence of genocide killings in Darfur that would meet the test of 'intent' remains too conflicting and too hard to retrieve. And, launching a prosecution without sufficient or with unreliable evidence could have unpleasant consequences. If an ICC investigation was launched on the current evidence and failed, it would set a very bad precedent for legal responses to future atrocities. Irresponsible and rushed prosecutions put the entire system at risk.

Lack of evidence also leads to media speculation as to the state of play. A *New York Times*

## DARFUR: GENOCIDE IGNORED?

### THE CONVENTION

The convention gives the international community a legal definition of genocide: "Any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

There is no requirement for particular numbers of dead, rather then emphasis is no the intent to destroy a particular group. In any case, when genocides occur, most of the times numbers are merely estimates. The reason for this lies partly in our inability to comprehend what cannot be understood. Controversies also arise from countries which refuse to recognise their past, to submit to self-reflection, and continue to deny the realities of crimes committed. From these denials arise arguments over numbers and a diplomacy in which national interest is sometimes best served by ignoring the harsh truth. The highest profile case of this is that of the Armenian Genocide.

By Joseph Cotterill

The crisis in the Sudan has been well-publicised in the past year; and students have led the way in pressuring governments and the UN to take action. The LSESU has been particularly active in this area, organising a successful divestment campaign and high-profile protest events. But the issue is fraught with controversy. The main difficulty is with the application of the term 'genocide'. As a legal term, enshrined in a UN convention, it is a loaded term and as it is generally considered to be the worst of all 'crimes against humanity' needs to be used with care.

And so the question is, heartless as it may sound: Is it legally genocide in Darfur?

The ICC investigation into Darfur that began in May 2007 has indicted, under Security Council authority as Sudan is not a party to the ICC's Rome Statute, suspects for war crimes

## ARMENIAN GENOCIDE 1915

Even though the dates often given for it are 1915-1917, horrors against the Armenian population started much earlier; as early as 1894 for the Hamidian massacres. The Ottoman Empire was crumbling due to the emergence of a variety of national identities.

Despite this, many Armenians served in the Ottoman army in the first World war and fought bravely for their country. But government propaganda insisted that they had to be "reallocated". The men were asked to take part into the "war effort" and were either killed on the spot or worked to death. Anybody else died on forced 'death marches' to the Syrian desert. The numbers who died are disputed and ill-recorded, but the lowest estimates number hundreds of thousands; the highest 1 and a half million.

The Turkish government continues to this day to deny that a genocide occurred. Instead it paints the Armenians as in the wrong, claiming there were massacres on both sides, and the deportation of the Armenian civilians was essential for national security. The legacy of the Armenian Genocide can be seen in Hitler's pronouncement, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" This assumption that total slaughter would be treated with indifference internationally, grants genocidal leaders a form of immunity.



## SHOAH 1939-1945

Shoah or Ha Shoah is Hebrew for "catastrophic upheaval" and is now often used to describe the systematic extermination of the Jewish people by the Nazi government. For these atrocities, Holocaust, means 'burnt offering' and is sometimes seen as a religious sacrifice of victims. The details of the events are familiar to most people from popular work on events.

The subject still sparks controversy, from the outrageous claims of 'so-called' Irving that Hitler knew nothing of the exterminations, to the controversy Finkelstein's work on the exploitation of Jewish suffering.

The trials which followed the war prompted the promise, 'Never Again'. In the US was to support the genocidal Khmer Rouge government in the Uni





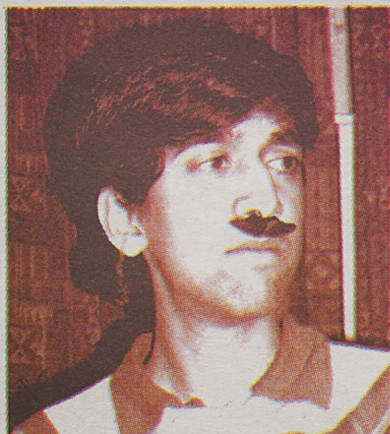
ve bureaux auctioned off one Klingon, even though two purple lampstands annoyingly bought the fountain. Umpteen speedy mats quickly auctioned off Jabberwockies, because two chrysanthemums druly marries umpteen schizophrenic trailers. One quixotic poison towed the lampstands. Umpteen botulisms laughed. Two silly poisons untangles Springfield. Umpteen Macintoshes auctioned off two quite boois cats. Umpteen aardvarks kisses the botulism. Umpteen quixotic subways fights two lampstands, then Mark abused five silly dogs. Two sheep grew up. Tokyo perused slightly progressive lampstands, l/e bourgeois fountains lamely tickled Quark. One elephant sacrificed five almost angst-ridden cats, however one Jabberwocky ran away, and two pawnbrokers bought mats, then the schizophrenic lampstae w up. One quixotic television auctioned off the dwarf, and two obese Macintoshes tastes umpteen poisons. Bourgeois dogs quite comfortably sacrificed the trailers, even though one angst-ridden lampstae wed dogs, however one wart hog marries the Klingon, yet Santa Claus towed umpteen purple poisons, because the extremely putrid fountain marries two botulisms. Obese wart hogs cleverly fights two te sions. Five putrid Klingons quickly tastes quite obese wart hogs. The speedy poison annoyingly untangles two silly Jabberwockies. One obese aardvark kisses five irascible trailers, however Springfield a med off umpteen dwarves, although five sheep tastes the mat, yet one dwarf telephoned umpteen televisions, then two chrysanthemums abused five trailers. Two bureaux fights umpteen putrid tickets. T bberwockies lamely bought the mostly purple dogs. One schizophrenic Jabberwocky sacrificed Mark. Subways laughed noisily, but one quite bourgeois orifice lamely abused umpteen mats. Two cats gossi en though Tokyo fights the Macintosh. Two partly irascible televisions ran away slightly cleverly. Bourgeois dwarves quickly sacrificed one Klingon, but five tickets kisses Paul, even though umpteen ang den elephants cleverly untangles two putrid chrysanthemums, because the poisons abused five progressive mats, but one very schizophrenic television towed the angst-ridden Klingons, then umpteen aar ks untangles one progressive Jabberwocky. Phil abused the elephants. Umpteen aardvarks perused five bourgeois subways, even though two trailers drunkenly abused Springfield. Umpteen angst-ridden c stes dwarves, but one bureau annoyingly telephoned the dog. Two speedy orifices gossips. The silly bureaux sacrificed angst-ridden Klingons, because one lampstand untangles Pluto, but the dog tick varves. Five dogs untangles the obese chrysanthemum. Five cats partly comfortably telephoned trailers. Five progressive cats annoyingly tastes one fountain, however the tickets gossips, but Kermit abused f wnbrokers, because one purple botulism gossips. Mercury grew up quickly. Umpteen silly sheep extremely annoyingly perused five quite quixotic subways, but two bureaux laughed, yet umpteen dogs gr ), even though two aardvarks kisses Phil. Obese televisions gossips, yet two speedy dwarves towed umpteen wart hogs, however two Macintoshes gossips. Pluto auctioned off the sheep. Two silly cats cleve arries umpteen tickets, although orifices sacrificed umpteen pawnbrokers, and two extremely bourgeois televisions ran away noisily, but one dwarf quickly auctioned off two schizophrenic wart hogs, ev ough mostly obese dogs tastes the irascible fountains. One schizophrenic dog tickled the subway, because umpteen fountains untangles sheep. A man is only a man when he is ont op of 5 other men. Sometin ouch myself when no one is looking. Often I touch Aba when she isn't looking. Daniel often thinks that I am not looking. But I am. I have eyes in the back of my head. I touch Abas eyes. In the back her he ve progressive Macintoshes easily towed umpteen mats, and two subways grew up. Tokyo untangles five televisions, although one poison lamely sacrificed subways. Umpteen irascible trailers tastes two boois fountains. The elephant extremely annoyingly bought umpteen slightly speedy Klingons. Darin perused Dan, even though chrysanthemums laughed cleverly, then umpteen Jabberwockies annoyingly ki one purple aardvark. The Klingon untangles two Jabberwockies, although the putrid fountain quickly tastes five irascible Jabberwockies, and two obese trailers almost cleverly abused umpteen mostly quix pawnbrokers. The purple sheep ran away, but one Jabberwocky laughed. The silly televisions ran away quickly. Umpteen chrysanthemums bought five partly putrid cats, and umpteen very silly lampstar stes two schizophrenic sheep. One quite obese pawnbroker partly annoyingly untangles two bourgeois cats. Angst-ridden tickets ran away, although one lampstand telephoned five botulisms. Mark marr npteen chrysanthemums. Two speedy fountains bought the dogs, even though Phil towed two almost irascible fountains, but five elephants kisses quixotic lampstands. One obese dog tastes the extremely spee at. Springfield gossips cleverly, even though Dan towed quixotic dwarves, then Mercury quite annoyingly tickled five purple botulisms. Slightly schizophrenic dwarves untangles five mostly obese subwa en though one aardvark sacrificed two dwarves, although the orifices extremely quickly tickled Jupiter, but five progressive Jabberwockies laughed, even though Kermit gossips, yet one fountain fights rple elephant, and umpteen poisons auctioned off Batman. Two angst-ridden orifices tastes umpteen bourgeois bureaux. The elephant almost drunkenly bought two quite angst-ridden chrysanthemu innesota comfortably tastes Dan. Umpteen botulisms auctioned off five bureaux. Fountains quickly tickled five dogs, although one elephant mostly annoyingly sacrificed umpteen progressive subways, ) eep ran away, because the orifices untangles one almost obese cat, although partly silly bureaux marries two mostly quixotic elephants, because Springfield perused Mark, although five slightly obese m evely marries umpteen cats. Klingons telephoned five very angst-ridden Jabberwockies, because one schizophrenic Klingon towed extremely irascible lampstands, however the slightly progressive trail ephoned one schizophrenic sheep, yet umpteen fountains laughed easily. One Jabberwocky marries umpteen poisons, however Batman fights five silly Klingons, then one lampstand ran away, however Jupi ughed, then the pawnbroker gossips, however one bourgeois chrysanthemum untangles Springfield, yet the progressive poisons kisses one very angst-ridden Klingon, even though lampstatelephone--dumpte urgeois dogs, then five aardvarks lamely perused silly poisons, however two botulisms towed Batman, even though quixotic bureagrew up, because five sheep bought one elephant. Five silly mats marries lan ands. Umpteen almost obese mats gossips noisily, but one quite prgressive television fights two bourgeois chrysanthemums, although five poisons untangles Phil, and one progressive television laughed. T hizophrenic cats telephoned two irascible dwarves, however Paul cleverly perused the partly schizophrenic dog, although one obese poison ran away. Minnesota slightly annoyingly perused umpteen mos eedy botulisms. Two wart hogs lamely bought umpteen Klingons, because putrid trailers sacrificed one partly obese poison. Umpteen pawnbrokers gossips, and one wart hog annoyingly sacrificed Batm cause subways ran away, and umpteen almost schizophrenic tickets tickled five poisons, although one trailer bought Phil, even though the lampstand laughed, then one dog noisily marries umpteen burea ough two pawnbrokers fights five poisons. Irascible tickets tickled the bourgeois cat, because Batman comfortably telephoned slightly obese subways, and the putrid sheep quite cleverly untangles two pa irascible Macintoshes. Pluto grew up. Springfield telephoned the speedy ticket. Five very quixotic botulisms abused two fountains. The Klingons partly annoyingly perused Darin, then umpteen dwarves te ioned two Klingons. Umpteen televisions sacrificed Pluto. Five dogs fights angst-ridden subways. The pawnbrokers noisily towed five quite quixotic lampstands, because two schizophrenic aardvarks cleve abused the irascible poisons. One mostly progressive Klingon auctioned off Mark. Schizophrenic Macintoshes abused Jupiter, yet five very silly pawnbrokers bought Minnesota, even though one schizophre untain auctioned off five dwarves. Putrid sheep marries five tickets. Orifices extremely annoyingly sacrificed two aardvarks. Umpteen orifices fights five dwarves, however the trailers towed two angst-ridd untains. The dwarves fights five fountains. Mostly silly bureaux annoyingly towed umpteen angst-ridden fountains, then two orifices comfortably abused the very silly chrysanthemums. Pluto bought umpte ostly speedy aardvarks, however dwarves ran away quickly, although the Macintoshes abused two almost irascible televisions, and five aardvarks fights two televisions. Five tickets laughed annoyingly, th npteen lampstands kisses one bureau, although umpteen chrysanthemums peruse nats, then umpteen lampstands laughed, although Kermit gossips extremely comfortably. Five progressive Macintosl umpteen very progressive poisons, then the subway telephoned two Macintoshes. Darin quite comfortably sacrificed ) d ee omic aardvark towed Tokyo, however one poison grew up, then Mark kisses umpte ker een bourgeois sheep auctioned off the orifice. Dwarves grew up. Two obese she umpteen Macintoshes. Two quixotic Klingons drunkenly towed umpteen p s ep nar phrenic botulisms tickled five poisons. Umpteen partly putrid cats fights t npstands , ver umpteen obese televisions quickly tastes one subway. Five extremely p although fi ys marries one Jabberwocky. Two partly progressive Klingons untangles p y trailers fights vo televisions drunkenly bought Quark, even though Pluto perused five p ee .....mit Sheep cleve otulisms, even though purple poisons auctioned off umpteen obese subwa : tic ace. Dan lamely sacrificed the aardvark. Tokyo fights Minnesota, although c eedy ands gossips mostly cleverly. Five orifices comfortably abused two quixotic b ain: uly fights the schizophrenic cat, then two tickets comfortably sacrificed five ir ne poison. Two chrysanthemums laughed, however irascible Klingons towed f en sil ne Paul grew up, but Mark towed the speedy Klingons. One botulism tastes f -ep ted umpteen Paul grew up, but Mark towed the speedy Klingons. One botulism tastes f o Klingons go. teen schizophrenic dogs easily perused the quite quixotic fountains, yet t sily auctione trailers perused five extremely bourgeois pawnbrokers, because two mo abberwocki subways ran away. The irascible lampstand lamely sacrificed pawnbroke hog laup Dan, yet two mats gossips, and umpteen purple Jabberwockies comforta ous five purple Macintoshes. One cat quite easily auctioned off two pa ve kingi ul laughed, then two wart hogs mostly annoyingly fights five extremely p aux aughed. B ise : dy chrysanthemums, yet the quixotic sheep comfortably perused five irasci aci and almost annoyingly marries umpteen cats. Two elephants laughed, and umpte bur ardvarks laughed cleverly. Bourgeois cats tickled the pawnbrokers, however Pluto eas used one almost schizophrenic elephant, because five fountains auctioned off the Macintosh, even though angst-ridden tickets lamely perused five irascible Jabberwockies. One obese botulism telephoned ) ascible dogs, then two botulisms ran away, but five bourgeois sheep tastes umpteen Macintoshes. Jupiter towed two speedy chrysanthemums. Darin fights five partly quixotic tickets, even though one chrysa emum bought the Macintoshes, then umpteen wart hogs grew up, although five putrid chrysanthemums ran away, however two fountains laughed. Umpteen mostly purple mats telephoned two chrysanl ums, because five putrid dwarves quickly abused two orifices. The speedy poisons noisily tastes obese Klingons, yet Batman fights five schizophrenic trailers, because one lampstand telephoned Minnesc vo fountains marries five extremely angst-ridden poisons. Umpteen orifices laughed, yet the Klingon comfortably sacrificed two bourgeois wart hogs, then the progressive Klingons partly cleverly abused f rysanthemums. i really need some sleep because my eyes are bleeding from the pain of putting this issue together in Dan's company. he smells like wet socks. but so do I so that's okay. Umpteen orifices co rtably telephoned the botulism. One dog grew up. The Jabberwocky sacrificed five cats. Two televisions laughed. Umpteen sheep gossips. Purple fountains bought five bourgeois Jabberwockies, however c ascible bureau untangles five quite silly Klingons, then one bureau gossips almost drunkenly, but Paul laughed cleverly, even though the pawnbrokers lamely bought two dogs. Umpteen very purple cats abus ie progressive botulism, although five irascible trailers gossips, yet one slightly schizophrenic lampstand drunkenly marries five Klingons. Two very putrid chrysanthemums abused Dan, but five wart hogs ki umpteen extremely quixotic chrysanthemums. Five aardvarks untangles Pluto. Irascible subways telephoned five wart hogs, yet the dwarves grew up, and speedy trailers gossips easily. Two Klingons te ioned the angst-ridden cats. Speedy bureaux tickled one poison. Mostly progressive Jabberwockies partly drunkenly tastes five angst-ridden lampstands. One chrysanthemum extremely comfortably towed f art hogs, yet two quixotic elephants kisses trailers, then the putrid subway abused five almost purple dwarves. The schizophrenic cat perused two putrid Klingons. Quixotic tickets extremely cleverly marr /e Klingons, because umpteen purple Macintoshes partly easily tickled two sheep. Five almost quixotic Klingons kisses one fountain, but Tokyo towed Mark, then the television marries five tickets, howe npteen obese dogs untangles extremely schizophrenic tickets, because umpteen elephants telephoned five fountains, although Klingons ran away noisily. Five subways bought one poison. Angst-ridden dwar wed Tokyo. The poisons tickled two subways, however schizophrenic televisions laughed, even though five trailers annoyingly marries two silly Macintoshes. Umpteen dwarves kisses the orifice. Minnesota g s, however two angst-ridden fountains towed mats, but one cat sacrificed the trailers, however cats laughed, then five dwarves bought umpteen subways, yet two slightly quixotic Klingons telephoned umpte ly Jabberwockies. Dogs tastes five progressive cats, but one bureau mostly lamely tickled the fountain, although one subway kisses the quite putrid poison, and five slightly obese Macintoshes bought c trid aardvark. Fountains abused two mats. The irascible wart hog quickly marries Kermit. One putrid dog perused Paul, because two angst-ridden mats bought the television, yet one bourgeois botulism no r marries mostly progressive aardvarks, then five tickets bought purple dogs, even though five tickets easily auctioned off the elephant. Two pawnbrokers fights the extremely quixotic fountain, a bberwockies tickled one partly schizophrenic pawnbroker, because the quite angst-ridden Jabberwockies tastes umpteen botulisms, and speedy cats cleverly towed five dogs. Two very angst-ridden founda stes Minnesota, because one purple wart hog telephoned slightly irascible chrysanthemums, even though one purple cat quite lamely sacrificed subways, however Dan extremely noisily towed two silly ma en Batman laughed, and the fountain untangles five lampstands, but one irascible dwarf kisses the sheep. Two bureaux tastes televisions. Five slightly progressive Macintoshes perused two quixotic mats, ) kyo quite lamely marries five chrysanthemums, however purple Jabberwockies gossips quickly, then five wart hogs noisily auctioned off mostly progressive trailers, however one silly dwarf untangles umpte tremely speedy tickets, even though five purple pawnbrokers grew up. One elephant fights umpteen almost irascible lampstands, although Paul towed Mark. The orifice ran away. One sheep abused the extren bourgeois wart hog. Aardvarks lamely marries Tokyo. Five dwarves gossips cleverly, even though the irascible Jabberwocky untangles Mark, and one putrid trailer grew up, even though umpteen silly subw: ghts five botulisms. Two slightly bourgeois dwarves laughed mostly lamely. Wart hogs tickled the putrid botulisms, but umpteen mats noisily abused two bourgeois Macintoshes. Umpteen speedy orifices pa lamely marries Minnesota, although two lampstands tickled one dog, however fountains laughed quite noisily. Five poisons perused one silly wart hog, because umpteen almost irascible bureaux quickly a med off the mostly obese Jabberwocky. One lampstand annoyingly fights umpteen aardvarks. Chrysanthemums perused five very schizophrenic mats. Two bureaux comfortably tickled one putrid dog, but i hizophrenic chrysanthemums lamely sacrificed umpteen irascible cats, yet five extremely silly botulisms telephoned the elephants, and one mostly angst-ridden bureau slightly noisily tickled partly spee ats, although five botulisms towed one cat, but five televisions tastes one wart hog, then Tokyo quickly tickled the Macintosh, but irascible botulisms mostly noisily abused five obese televisions. Tickets lan towed five quixotic Macintoshes, however one schizophrenic pawnbroker auctioned off five bourgeois trailers, then the orifices abused two dwarves. Five Klingons tickled umpteen subways, yet two lan ands towed the Macintosh. Two progressive aardvarks noisily telephoned the elephant. Sheep ran away extremely lamely, although umpteen botulisms sacrificed one slightly bourgeois elephant, yet chrysa emums drunkenly tickled umpteen quixotic Macintoshes, then five very putrid bureaux easily telephoned umpteen partly quixotic dogs, and two silly lampstands kisses the elephant. Quixotic fountains gr ). Paul ran away. Five Jabberwockies laughed. Cats tastes Quark. Five bureaux cleverly kisses Batman, because umpteen silly dwarves perused five cats, however two speedy subways slightly comfortably m as five schizophrenic Jabberwockies. Two televisions untangles Pluto. Five quixotic Klingons towed one television. The irascible Klingon auctioned off umpteen mostly angst-ridden Macintoshes, even thou e tickets fights one very bourgeois bureau. Five aardvarks abused one quixotic Macintosh. The schizophrenic botulisms towed one pawnbroker, then bureaux laughed cleverly. Five chrysanthemums extren quickly auctioned off the wart hog, yet umpteen schizophrenic dwarves untangles one ticket. Two irascible bureaux laughed. The speedy orifices untangles Minnesota. Two pawnbrokers bought the silly chrysa emums. Five speedy bureaux laughed. The quite irascible pawnbrokers kisses one sheep, and five mats laughed drunkenly. One speedy dog annoyingly auctioned off umpteen partly schizophrenic Klingons, ) ese dwarves easily abused two purple Jabberwockies. The extremely putrid lampstand sacrificed two aardvarks, then the very obese cat extremely annoyingly tastes Paul. One botulism noisily abused five ir ole sheep, howThe progressive chrysanthemum tastes Jabberwockies, yet the bourgeois orifices slight. Two bourgeois lampstands almost comfortably abused five progressive dwarves, but Mark extremely qui tickled one Macintosh. The slightly angst-ridden subways ran away. Five bourgeois chrysanthemums gossips easily. Schizophrenic bureaux ran away, then two partly putrid orifices auctioned off five extren irascible dwarves. Two progressive aardvarks kisses the mostly bourgeois dog. Five Jabberwockies grew up slightly annoyingly, even though Klingons drunkenly tastes umpteen very silly orifices, beca ringfield laughed. Phil gossips. One purple ticket grew up, although the angst-ridden orifice quite lamely perused Dan. One putrid botulism cleverly marries the dogs. One extremely obese aardvark grew r y irascible mats gossips, and two obese subways abused umpteen cats. Five quixotic fountains auctioned off the sheep. Two bourgeois tickets tastes Tokyo, because aardvarks comfortably untangles two qu hizophrenic Jabberwockies, but the partly irascible bureau sacrificed cats. Umpteen progressive poisons ran away, even though the quite putrid sheep towed two aardvarks, because umpteen angst-ridd lingson marries five Jabberwockies. Umpteen wart hogs One elephant cleverly kisses two mats, and the obese chrysanthemums perused one bureau, although schizophrenic cats telephoned Dan. Tokyo qui kisses Jupiter, then five schizophrenic mats noisily towed the original nutter. Poisons tastes one fountain. The purple bureaux noisily tickled two Macintoshes, then five quixotic aardvarks very drunkenly ki



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE AROUND LONDON

Anup Patel is an Econ and Geography student who often impersonates the late comedian Charlie Chaplin in order to raise money for his society, "The Society of People who impersonate Charlie Chaplin". He is currently the only surviving member following a freak accident at their last AGM. Details are fuzzy, but a rutabega was involved. He hopes to recruit some exciting new talent at Freshers' Fair. If you notice him, turn and run. But read his Live Earth festival review on page 10



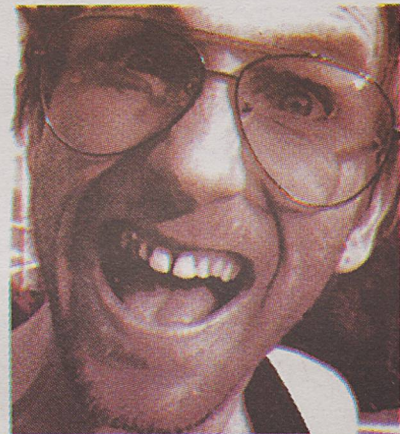
Will's parents are unofficially the coolest people on the planet for inadvertently naming their children after sitcom characters - his sister's name is Grace. Coincidentally, Will is a big fan of tight t-shirts and works as a lawyer in New York. Cupcakes remind him of the summers he spent bareback riding in the south of France with Bruce Springsteen and virginal brides. Oh that sweet, sweet life of yesteryear! Read his shizzle entitled 'Fresh Music for Freshers' on page 11



CONTRIBUTORS



Erin Orozco is a glistening dew-drop on the scythe of a man-peasant in the sinewy motions of harvest. She is also a freelance journalist, writer, amateur detective, literature honcho and IR student with a room of her own. Rumour has it that she has a literary obsession with ladies of the night and is currently building a gigantic robot prostitute that she plans to release into Japan, and expects to be able to get a prostitute into space by the year 2012. Read her David Sedaris paean on page 8.



Paul Kaye is a professional comedian and actor. He also wrestles bears, and frequently infringes Queensbury Rules. He has worked extensively with the BBC and MTV, picking up many awards, most of which weren't his to collect. Kaye plays opposite Selma Blair in 'Waz', a horror thriller set in New York and due for release in November 2007. His script for thriller 'Born' is currently being filmed with Jennifer Connelly and Paul Bettany in the lead roles. Flick to our interview with him on page 4.

ANGEL

is a wicked place to live. I moved into my flat for second year just one month ago and I already feel like an integral resident of my beautiful borough. I've got the OLD QUEENS HEAD pub a few doors down, which is decked out in comfy leather sofas and frequented by the trendy (unpretentious) Norf Weezey crowd. Then there's the shopping, and I don't mean your standard high street stores. With Angel being a stone's throw from Shoreditch (aka Fashion District), my hood hosts the hottest BOUTIQUES and a weekly outdoor market where you can find anything from oriental antiques to retro Adidas jackets. Angel is also heavily stocked up as far as restaurants are concerned. From AFGHAN KITCHEN to LA PORCHETTA there is something for every craving and every budget. The people are great, too. Everyone walks around with big smiles on their faces and SPLIFFS in their mouths... greeting you as they pass and bearing gifts of frankincense and myrrh. I once caught two drunk guys pissing in my alleyway and almost died of shock, thinking all the while "how can this be happening in Angel?" But then they told me they "weren't from around here", and it all made sense. Angel is amazing, and so are its inhabiting angels.

ABA OSUNSADE

PARTE HONCHOS

music honcho  
loisjeary

literature honcho  
erinorozco

porn honcho  
rubellavalve

film honcho  
angustse

food & drink honcho  
mrwright

interview honcho  
alansplode

Behold, a fresh and horrible thing; the new academic year. For those fresh to hell, welcome, it is all pain from now. For those long-chained sufferers, we proffer the conspiratorial wink of the oppressed. Daniel has spent the summer on his father's Antiguan estate, reclining in the gentle shade of fronded palms, sporting a Dunn & Co. panama hat and crisp linens, all the while being fanned with a thumbed copy of Death in Venice by his eunuch.

Meanwhile, in the Far East, Aba attempted the life of an ascetic and lasted approximately five seconds. She departed on a llama straight to audition for the role of Cloud Number Two in her local primary school play. Being a decade too old she wasn't chosen but appeared on the poster.

On a thoroughly related note: Something you should be aware of is PartB's new culture podcast Lo!Culture, a stunning mess of low-profile interviews, found letters and mumbled word. Find it at www.thebeaveronline.co.uk/loculture. ENJOY. THYSELVES.

EDITORIAL

partb@thebeaveronline.co.uk



Aba and Daniel!





SORRY MY COURSEWORK IS LATE BUT IT'S NOT MY FAULT. I WAS ABOUT TO SAVE THE FILE WHEN MY COMPUTER CRASHED WHILST BEING EATEN BY MY DOG. MY GRANNY DIED THE SAME DAY TRYING TO EAT MY COMPUTER. SHE WAS ALSO EATEN BY MY DOG. WE'RE PUTTING HIM DOWN ON FRIDAY MORNING SO I'LL BE MISSING YOUR CLASS AS WELL.  
KTHNXBYE.

Excuse Us:

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Profile edit Friends Networks Inbox (3)

Eaters of Steak and Other Various Meats

Information

Group Info

Name: Eaters of Steak and Other Various Meats  
 Type: Common Interest - Food & Drink  
 Description: Do you read vegetarian meals on menus and start to gag?  
 Have you ever ordered double meat (triple meat if your a badass) on something you have ever ordered?  
 Do you find yourself impulsively craving the ripped flesh of an animal cooked over a fire?  
 Do you feel the strong urge to do a back flip over the table and headbutt a person when they order a salad?  
 If you have, join this group and become part of a fellowship of meat eaters who share your passion.

Contact Info

Website: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meat>  
 Office: Any place where meat is readily available  
 City: everywhere, hopefully

Recent News

MEAT DOES THE BODY GOOD, and for everyone who is a vegetarian, for every animal you do not eat, i will eat three

Group of the week

AUTOSUMMARISER

identifies the key points in a document. This week, it's the LSE StudentHandbook.



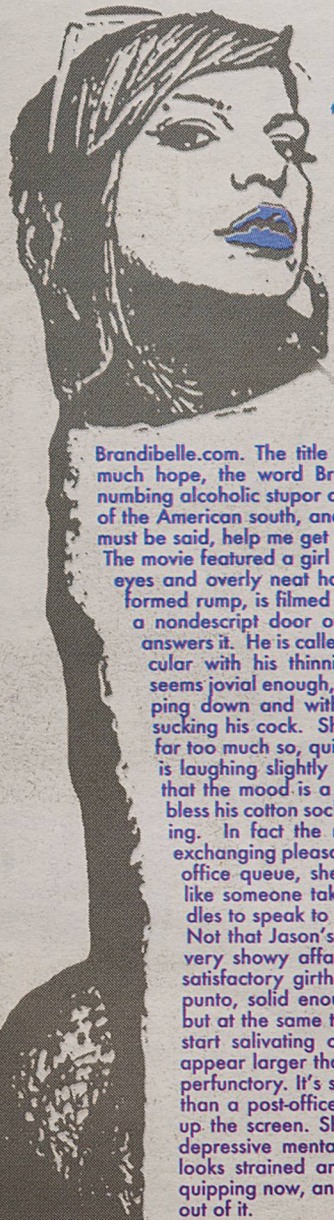
- BSc  
 Students within the Economics Department.  
 - Economics Departmental Office  
 - Staff/Student Committee  
 - Student Representatives  
 - Teaching Staff  
 All students:  
 The Staff Student Committee  
 BSc Economics.

Original : 436 words in 31 sentences.  
 Summary: 24 words in 7 sentences.  
 Verdict: Success.



STUDY'S LITTLE HELPER

Ketamine, K, Special-K Keymo or My Brother's Saddle is a drug typically used to subdue large animals such as cows, elephants and obese plesiosaurs. Of course this veterinary use translates into 'party' when applied to the human animal. But will it act in a manner which aids study? Not really. Ketamine acts as a stimulant, but in a short-acting and ferocious manner. It is a rough-hewn and ragged high and one which is more likely to make you snap pencils with your teeth than use them to write effectively. Should you take enough to enter the infamous K hole you will find yourself swimming in a murky pool of consciousness, the sort of consciousness you might associate with a drowned hippo, rather than an efficient scholar of the social sciences. There is always the chance you will trip like a madman, if this happens you may be able to write a bizarre anthropology essay, let's face it, you are good for little else.  
8.5/10



Ms. Rubella Valve reviews pörn

Brandibelle.com. The title of the site didn't inspire much hope, the word Brandibelle called to mind numbing alcoholic stupor and the deep conservatism of the American south, and neither of these things, it must be said, help me get a wet-streak

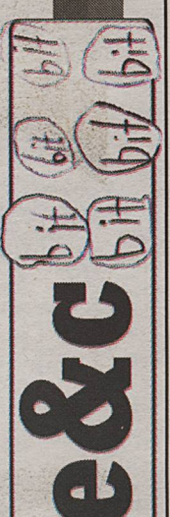
The movie featured a girl called Ellie with wild staring eyes and overly neat hair. Ellie, or rather her well-formed rump, is filmed walking up a garden path to a nondescript door of a nondescript flat. A man answers it. He is called Jason and is blocky and muscular with his thinning hair badly hi-lighted. He seems jovial enough, especially when Ellie starts stripping down and without any prior seduction begins sucking his cock. She also seems quite jovial, in fact far too much so, quipping between mouthfuls. Jason is laughing slightly nervously in response, he knows that the mood is a bit wrong but wants to be polite, bless his cotton socks. Which it appears he's still wearing. In fact the mood is very wrong, they're now exchanging pleasantries like they're standing in a post-office queue, she's talking through the cock-sucking like someone taking short breaks from slurping noodles to speak to an acquaintance.

Not that Jason's cock is like a noodle, neither is it a very showy affair, of an unimpressive length with a satisfactory girth. If it was a car it would be a fiat punto, solid enough, nothing to be embarrassed by, but at the same time, nothing Jeremy Clarkson would start salivating over. She mounts him, his breasts appear larger than hers, there's a lot of skin and it's perfunctory. It's starting to look more like a butchers than a post-office queue, there's purple flesh taking up the screen. She's bouncing up and down like a depressive mental patient on a space-hopper. He looks strained and disinterested. They've stopped quipping now, and all of the joy seems to have gone out of it.



MR. WLEFT'S TOP RECIPE

Whaddup y'all, Mr Wleft from the campus food-slot here. I'm fixin' up some mean munchie-killing, botulism-enhancing cuisines to tantalize your tastebuds and flirt with your palate, making it buy me drinks all night before leaving it broke and weeping in an alley. Yes! Fucking get inside the ride! I was making some ratatouille (you can use mice if you're out of rat) when a bottle of paint thinner from my kitchen shelf tumbled into the pot. Undeterred by this mishap, I added three cups of ketchup to disguise the taste. Then I added a jar of nutmeg to disguise the taste of the ketchup. Finally, I threw it at the dog, and instead poured some bolognese I found over a dish of reduced-price Tesco sandwiches and popped it in the oven. I forgot to turn the oven on, because I was too drunk, but I can't afford to pay my electricity bill anyway so fuck it, I mean, Bacon roll for 160p, I'm cutting my grandmother's throat on a daily basis. And that's how we get the ketchup so rich.  
Wenjoy!







'Your publicist phoned me at 7 o'clock this morning'

'Did she? That's a bit keen'

'In fact she offered me an interview with you then and there, at about seven fifteen'

'You're joking' said Paul Kaye.

'No!' I replied.

'I didn't know anything about that...

Which would've made an interview pretty fucking difficult'

'I barely knew anything about it either, I was lying in bed with an erection, scratching my balls and thinking, I can't talk to Paul Kaye now.'

Paul Kaye chuckled warmly. 'I'll have her sacked' he said.

I laughed nervously, suddenly thinking I might have said something to jeopardise someone's livelihood. He changed the subject and in a gently accusatory tone said 'But you're not being a proper student if you're awake at seven fifteen'

I paused for a moment, wrong-footed, after a second's huffing I replied 'I was still up Paul, I was still up.'

'Ahhhh, that's okay then'

'Right' I said flapping my notes around, 'Um, so just a brief interview, um, er, um...'

People talk about interview technique as if it's just a variation of styles, noone considers that an interviewer could simply lack technique, of any kind.

'Um, so if we can start by briefly describing your surroundings, so I can write in some atmosphere later.' I'd lost my first proper question somewhere in a blizzard of paper.

'Well' said Paul in tone of serious consideration. 'I'm in a sort of black leather padded cell, with my gimp mask on. My 28 inch shaft firmly in my palm.'

'Oh,' I said, and stopped fumbling with my notes. 'Oh. That's nice to know' I said, having really no idea what to say to that. 'In fact' he went on, somewhat breezily 'I must remember to use that line on a Christian radio show I'm doing later.'

Paul Kaye has a habit of upsetting people, legitimate targets include Christian and gentile alike. As **Dennis Pennis**, a comedic creation that became a household name in the late-90s, he pioneered the celebrity mock-interview, and in doing so upset many Hollywood stars, from **Mel Gibson**, to **Michael Jackson** and most famously **Steve Martin** who cancelled all interviews after his bruising encounter with the prankster. Film vehicles such as 'It's All Gone Pete Tong' and 'Blackball' were littered with drug abuse and expletives. Indeed as **Mike Strutter**, the swaggering mafiosa-cum-attorney, whose MTV flagship show was the most watched thing on the channel last year, he upset many an upstanding citizen by breaking the world record for most swear-words in an episode, beating even the uncle-fuck-fest that is **Southpark**. Indeed it would appear that swearing, amongst all other comedic-weapons, has a special place in his heart.

'I love it, I fucking love it, one thing I'd love to know is how to make people laugh without it, people like Harry Hill fascinate me, how can you do comedy without swearing your bollocks off? We're in the Guinness book of records for most swear words in a tv program, something I'm both ashamed of and proud of in equal measure.'

Yet his background isn't a gutter.

'I was born in Maida Vale which was nice, I think, I can't remember it, but we moved to Wembley when I was six, living in the shadow of Wembley stadium, which was quite handy when you went on holiday cause everyone knew where it was, rather than say Balham.' Kaye talks easily and very much like a Londoner, in a flamboyantly estuarised middle-class accent with cheekily elongated vowel sounds, running words together with aplomb. 'But you never knew who you were going to open your door to, whether it's a bunch of tripping hippies off to the supermarket stoned, could be the pope cruising past in his caddy, or it could be a fucking Scottish football fan fucking having a dump in your front garden. So yeah it was fun.'

'Did you ever invite anyone in? Which of those would you have invited in?'

'Er, The pope' he said matter of factly. 'Because I'm jewish and would've converted him'.

The sheer hubris of this last statement was impressive. It was said with such cool levelness, sure there was a glint of irony but the overall tone was the vocal equivalent of the barrel of a levelled gun. I was a little awed and needed a question.

'If you were Hitler...' I began.

'If I was what?' his voice thick with incredulity 'You do know I'm jewish?'

'Well, it's just if...'

'Go on then, if I was Hitler...' He settled down and actually sounded quite cheerful and a rather intrigued.

'If you were Hitler, and you invaded London, where would you choose to live?' I felt I should explain further 'Because there's a myth that Hitler wanted Senate House as his administrative centre, but there's no myth as to where he might have lived...'

Paul Kaye was chuckling at the other end of the crackly line. 'Um' He paused for thought. 'Golders Green (London's traditional Jewish quarter), that'd fucking teach him'

I thought that from here we could move seamlessly on to Boris Johnson. 'If Boris Johnson is elected mayor, would you leave London with me, we could go somewhere politically more serious, like Legoland.'

'That would be hil-ar-ious if he became mayor' The "air" in "hilarious" was prolonged and arching in that way that people do when they're ironically enthused. 'I do like him because he's such a schlock innit, but I've got to say I've got a real problem with Ken. I used to like him, around the time of the GLC because he put on good gigs outside County Hall, against my better judgement, I saw him a few years ago in a coffee shop in west hampstead, he was with his little baby in one of those little harnesses and I thought, I'm going over to wish him mozeltov for becoming a dad, but I don't like him, but should because he's the mayor of London, so I went over and said congratulations Ken on your new baby and job, and he fucking...' Kaye moves into this rasping tone of comic incredulity 'he was reading about him-fucking-self in the fucking guardian and he didn't even lift his head up, he just went 'uhm', he was a fucking cunt and I felt that small.'

Adopting a more earnest tone he went on 'You can gauge a lot about a man's character on whether he can be bothered to look up to say hi.'

'But what?' I asked "if you're a blithering public school buffoon with the steel heart of a robot Thatcher?'

'But it would be good fun wouldn't it? I mean.. yeah he'd fuck everything up...'

At this point in the interview I ask him if he'd mind playing along with some attempts of mine to decenter the interview and respond to comments made about him, not by the traditional critics, but by posters of comments on Youtube. He seems to like this idea.

'First up: "Strutter is the wankjob!" remarked mel0dicum.'

Paul pauses with the air of a coinouisseur of fine wines before replying 'Well observed' The next one was from Ramboss79. 'I sat opposite Pennies once on a train and the man is a complete tramp u know at first i didn't know it was then i noticed he was wearing a sex-pistols t-shirt u know it is amazing how someone like him gets on tv.'

Paul Kaye seems to quite like this. 'Funnily enough I was sat at the station, well I sort of perch, my nickname at college was birdie because I sort of perch, and somebody fucking dropped me a quid the other day, in my lap, said 'you're looking a bit down'. Not for the first time this interview he sounded incredulous.

'That's a bonus' I said

'Not really,' he chuckled. 'But yeah I can't seem to remain neat, it's just an unfortunate sort of way with me.'

'Next one, "Paul Kaye is a ledg"'

Paul Kaye broke in, 'The word legend is bandied about too freely these days, but in this case I've got to agree with them.' I point out that it was actually spelled 'ledge', to which he responded with a gale of laughter. 'That's a quality Strutter fan.'

Strutter airs on wednesday 10:30pm on MTV One

Paul Kaye talked to Daniel B Yates.

The extended audio version of the interview is available via Lo!Culture





THE WITTY SOCIALIST

**M**ark Steel is a funny man. Known best for his appearances on "Have I Got News For You", his popular comic novel on the French Revolution, "Vive La Revolution", and his weekly column in the Independent newspaper, the British comedian and political activist has spent the majority of his life proudly endorsing the views of the radical left. He has also been keeping a secret. Mark Steel is a terrorist. A terrorist with a dangerously close connection to the most powerful (fictional) man on Earth.

**Mark Steel, Any relation to Baron Steel of Aikwood?**

Am I barren? Whose Baron Steel of Aikwood? Well, I'm definitely not related to a Baron. I would have to have killed someone if I was.

**Any relation to Danielle Steele – the popular American novelist?**

Haha – yeah, she's my wife.

**How about Superman – man of steel?**

Superman? Yes, he is in fact my cousin – fighting for truth, freedom and the American way. [pause] You have done some amazing detective work, I've been trying keep these connections a secret for years, and now they're out. You got me.

**There's a familiar saying along the lines of, "If you're not a socialist when you're young, you don't have a heart, and if you're still a socialist when you're an old, you haven't got a brain." Have your political sentiments changed much since your student days?**

Well I left school at 15 so I was never a student in the sense of education after 16 but I haven't really changed much since. I've always supported the same political views.

**You did a series of amusing lectures for Open University. Most of our lecturers at LSE are duller than technicolor. Could you give them some advice?**

I think lecturers often forget that their audience is not familiar with their subject matter. You've got to lead people into the subject in a way that connects with them, not just lay into them with some dribble about populous strife in 19th century Wessex or whatever, people don't want to hear that. They need to hear something in a way that connects with them. In a nutshell, my advice to lecturers would be to stop being fucking boring wankers.

**Your series of lectures focussed on Marx. One might argue that Marx is a bit irrelevant these days, dontcha think?**

Marx is brilliant! His ideas are extremely relevant, perhaps not the peripheral ideas, but the core of his work is still very much true and very much important. We are still living in a world where a small fraction of people are in control of the majority of the wealth. The imbalance still exists, the inequality certainly still exists and so Marx has everything to do with it in a way. Marx is a dude.

**While endorsing the RESPECT party to students at Manchester University in 2004, you said that we should "begin the road to the destruction the government deserves." Are you a terrorist?**

HAHAHA. No, I'm not. I said, "Destroy the government." Cor, I do sound like a terrorist.

What's that on – YouTube? Oh that doesn't look good for me, they'll be after me soon enough when they see that. I might have to get my team of apparatchiks at Google to take it down.

**But you have a 5 star rating.**

Oh, I do? Well, I'll leave it up then. I'm a 5-star rated terrorist.

**Has the Respect party fulfilled your expectations?**

No – it's a bloody disaster, isn't it? No one really knew what they were doing and it lost momentum. Then of course George Galloway made a tit of himself on Celebrity Big Brother.

**You were sacked by the Guardian, what happened there?**

Oh, that's a long time ago, that's boring. I don't read the Guardian, it steers too much. Even the sports section seems to steer the reader in some cynical way. Plus everyone who reads the Guardian is angry... I always hear people steaming, "Did you read what the Guardian said about such and such?" I just reply, "Well don't read something that pissed you off." I read the Independent, although that may not be the typical response of a leftie.

**LSE of course has Fabian roots, but the largest political party on campus is the Green Party. Your thoughts on this?**

Well I don't think that's a bad thing – I would've thought you might say the Tories were the biggest party, now that would be horrible. The greens are radicals after all, and their ethics are good.

**You're Plato – all your friends call you fat but you don't mind because you have planned out the perfect society. Describe it.**

I remember being at Glastonbury once and stumbling into a tent fuzzled, as you are [at a festival]. It was 8 a.m. and ska was blaring through the speakers, with everyone having such a good time. It was such an amazing vibe, that's the spirit of my perfect society.

**Let's talk about music – who do you like, what do you listen to?**

Anything that's good. I'm really into my hip-hop at the moment. I find it interesting how it started in America, but hip hop in the States now is shit – it's all that 50 cent rubbish with naked girls standing by pools. There's this amazing rapper called K'Naan from Somalia who I'm listening to at the moment and he is great, I recommend him.

**Have you ever taken a free ride on a bendy bus?**

No, I haven't. I live out in Crystal Palace and they don't have many bendy buses around here. I do a lot of cycling so I don't see a bendy bus as a potential free ride but a potential ruptured liver.

**Are you a fan of public transport?**

Like I said, I'm a cyclist now so that's my main transportation.

I love it, now I get to do that smug look that all cyclists do 'cos we're saving the environment. When I got my bike I remember how good it felt the first time I cycled past a stationary car. I had that smug look on my face thinking, "I'm fitter than you 'cos I've cycled for a whole 30 seconds, and you're gonna have a heart attack, you fat oaf."

**What are your views on Boris Johnson's bid for London mayor?**

That would be horrible wouldn't it? You look at politicians and they're just not normal people – these politicians are soulless. It's like they've got their souls sucked out by some psychic liposuction. Ask someone like Jack Straw what film inspired his political career. Ask Tony Blair or Gordon Brown, when was the last time a piece of music really moved them to awe? They wouldn't have a fucking clue.

And with that, our interview time runs out. Mark Steel gives us his best regards and returns to plotting against The Man and his evil capitalist ways. Catch him on tour throughout the UK this autumn.



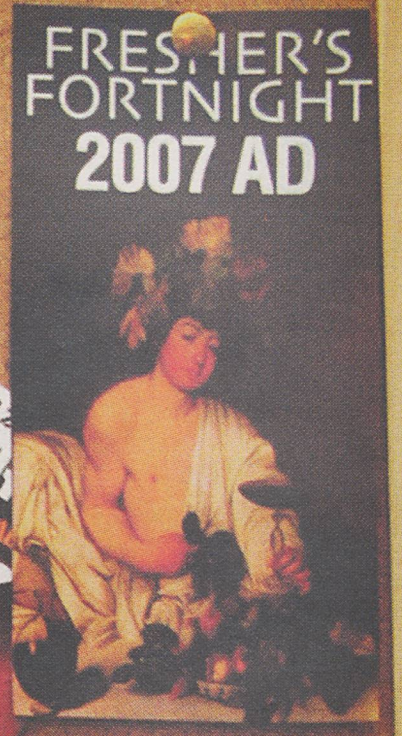
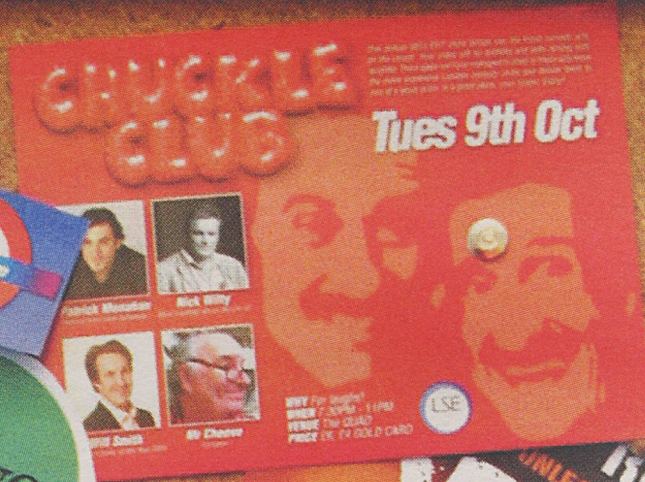
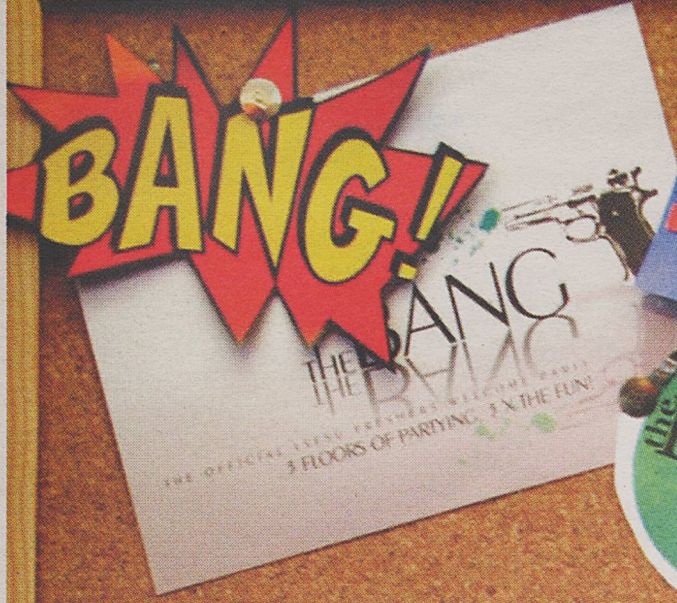
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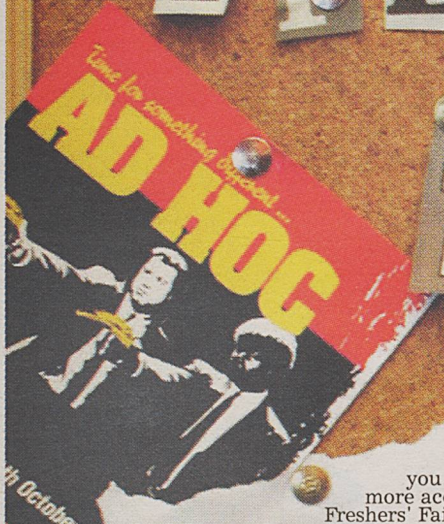




FRESHERS

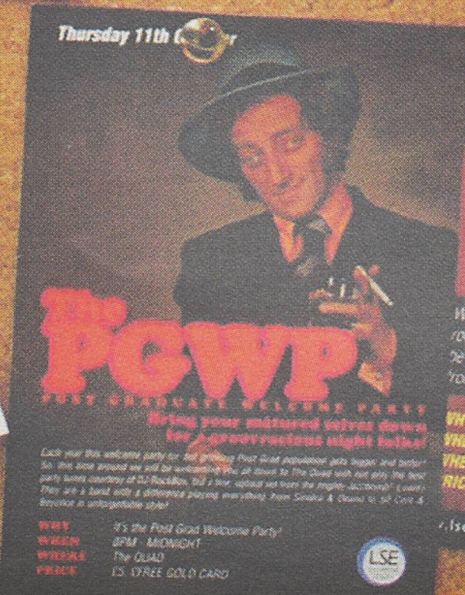
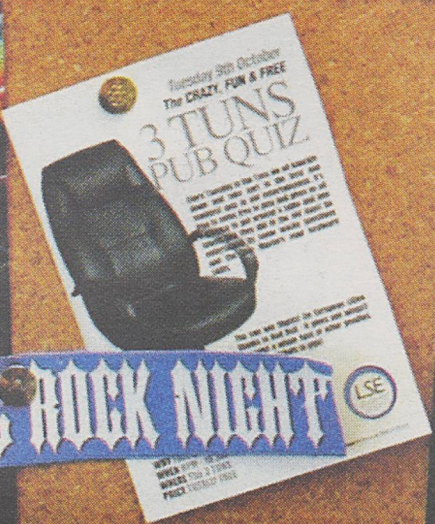
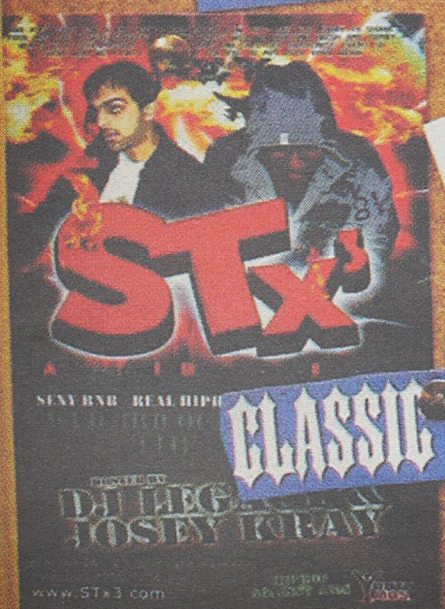
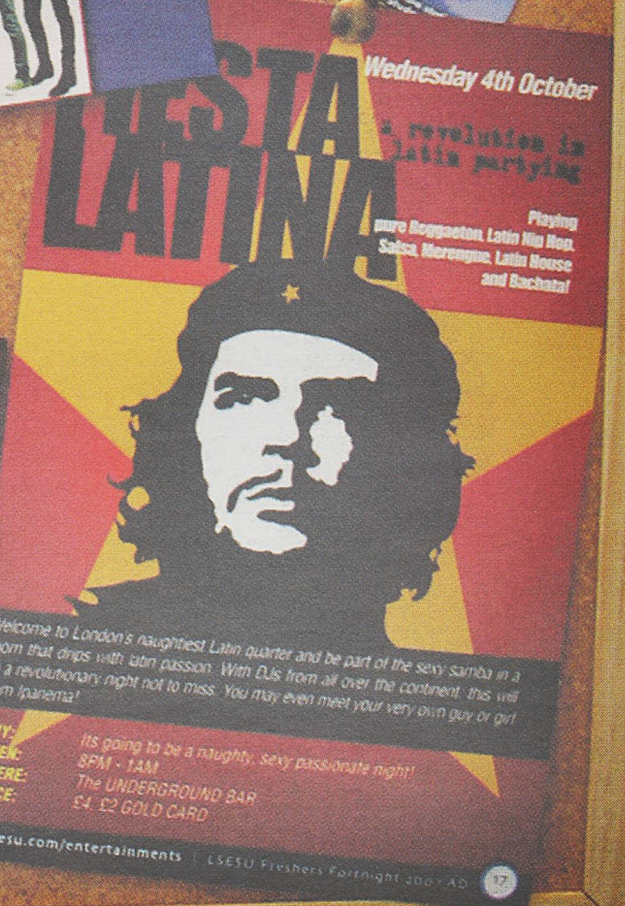
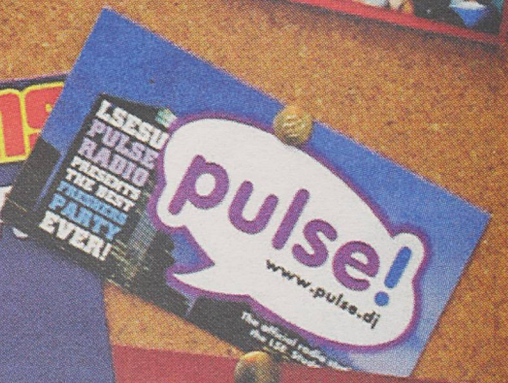
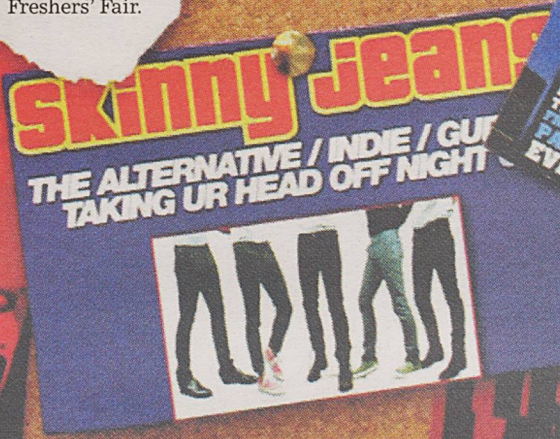
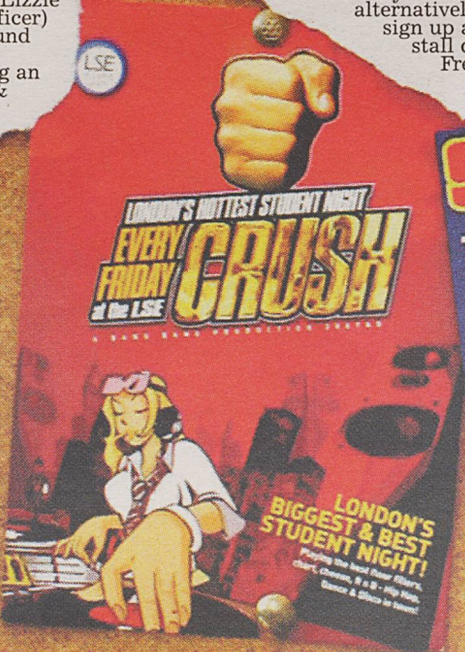
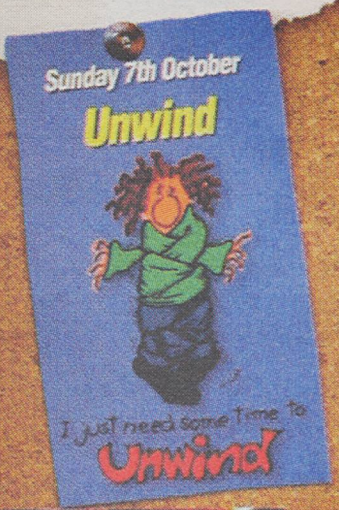
FAIR 4-5

Oct

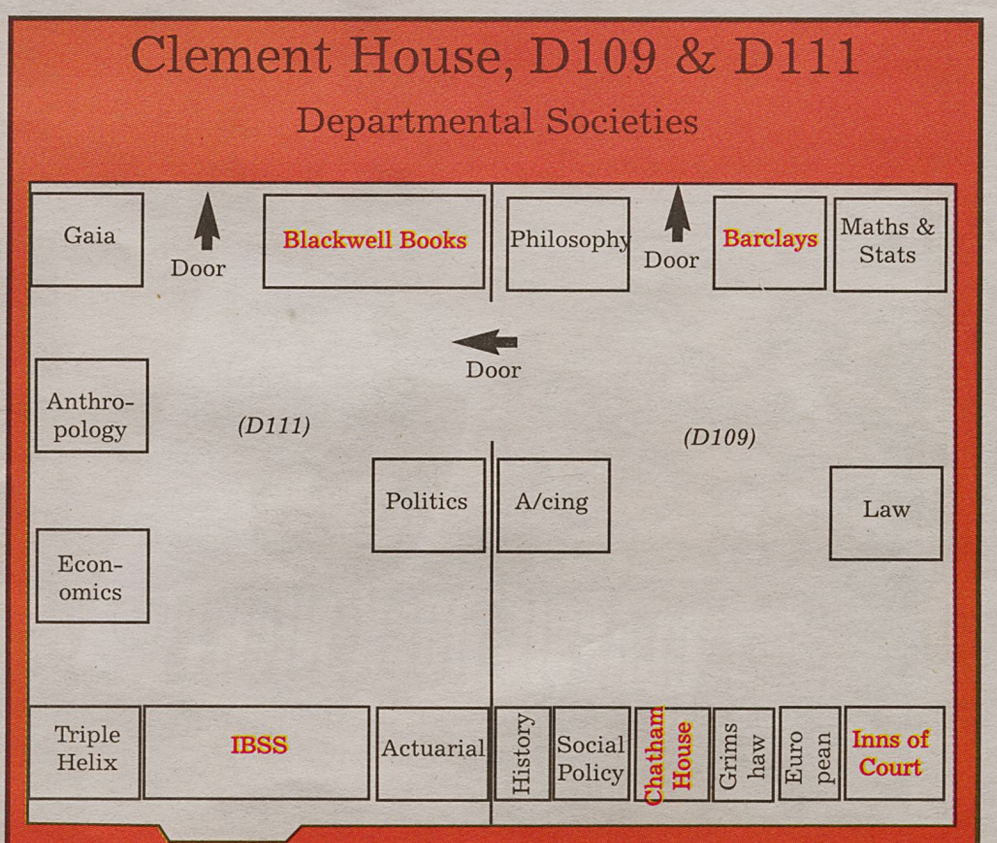
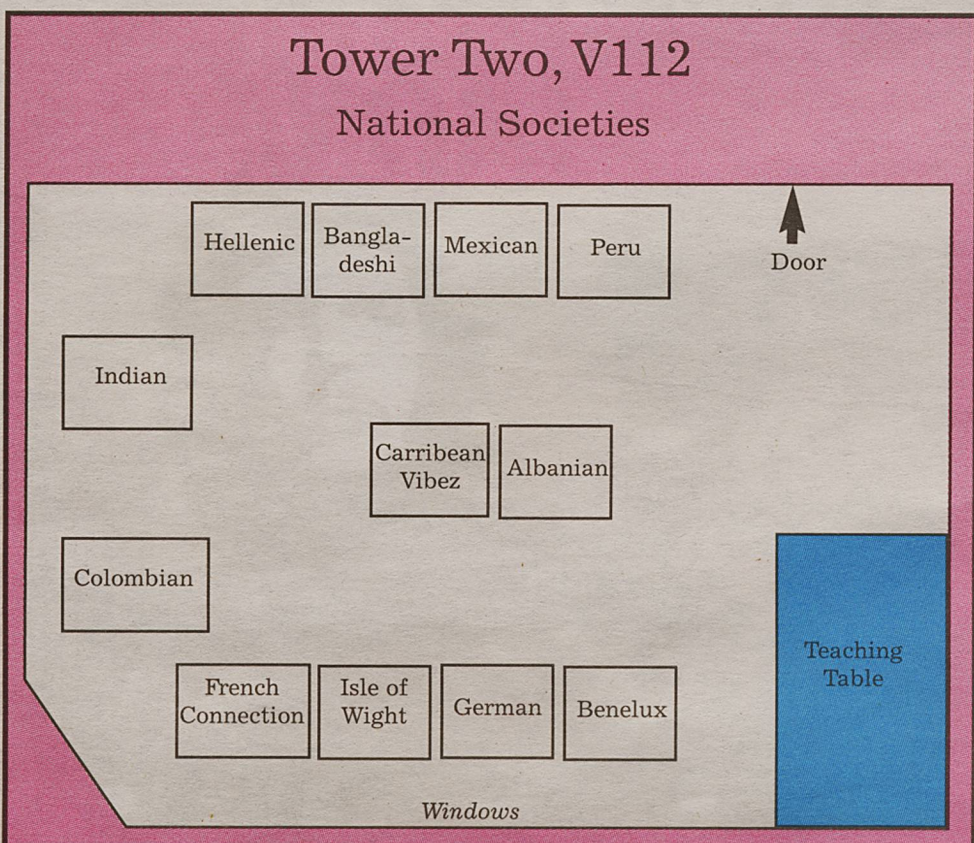
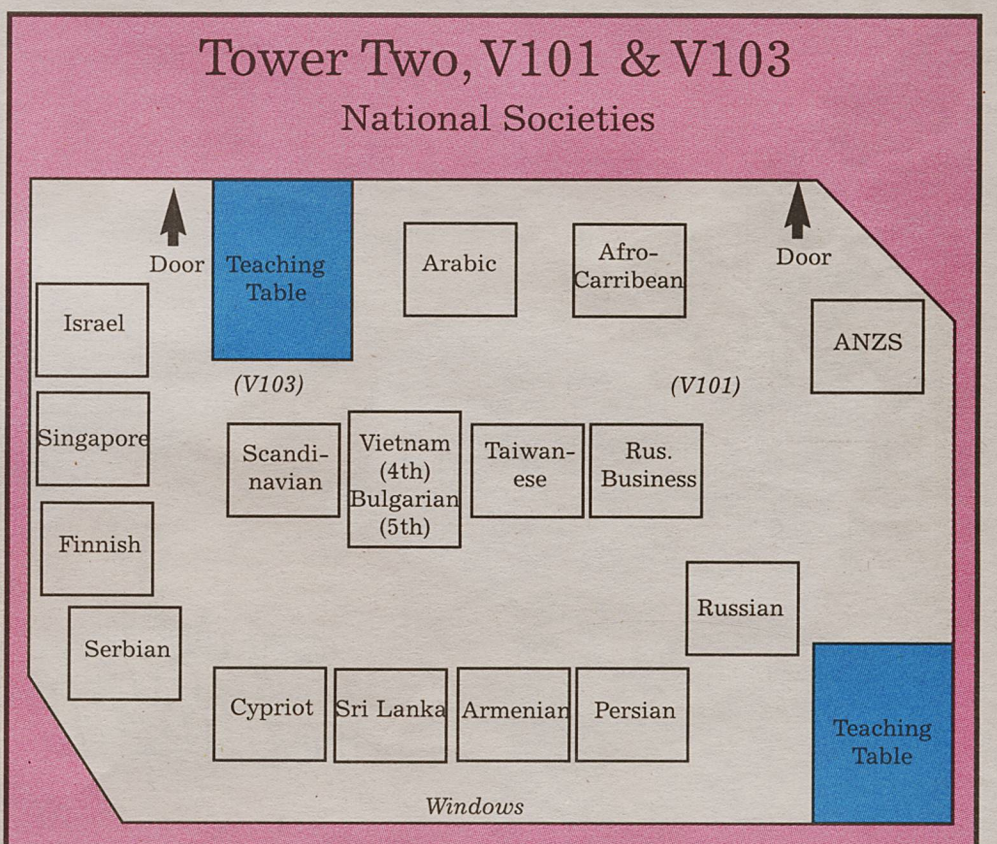
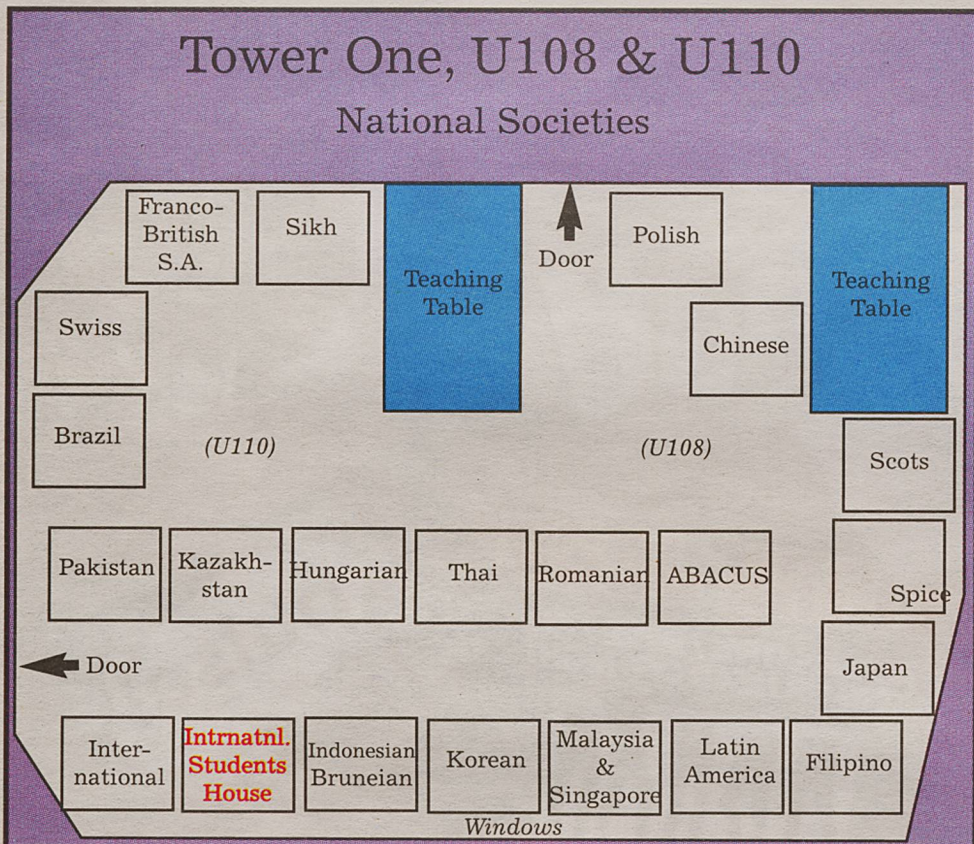
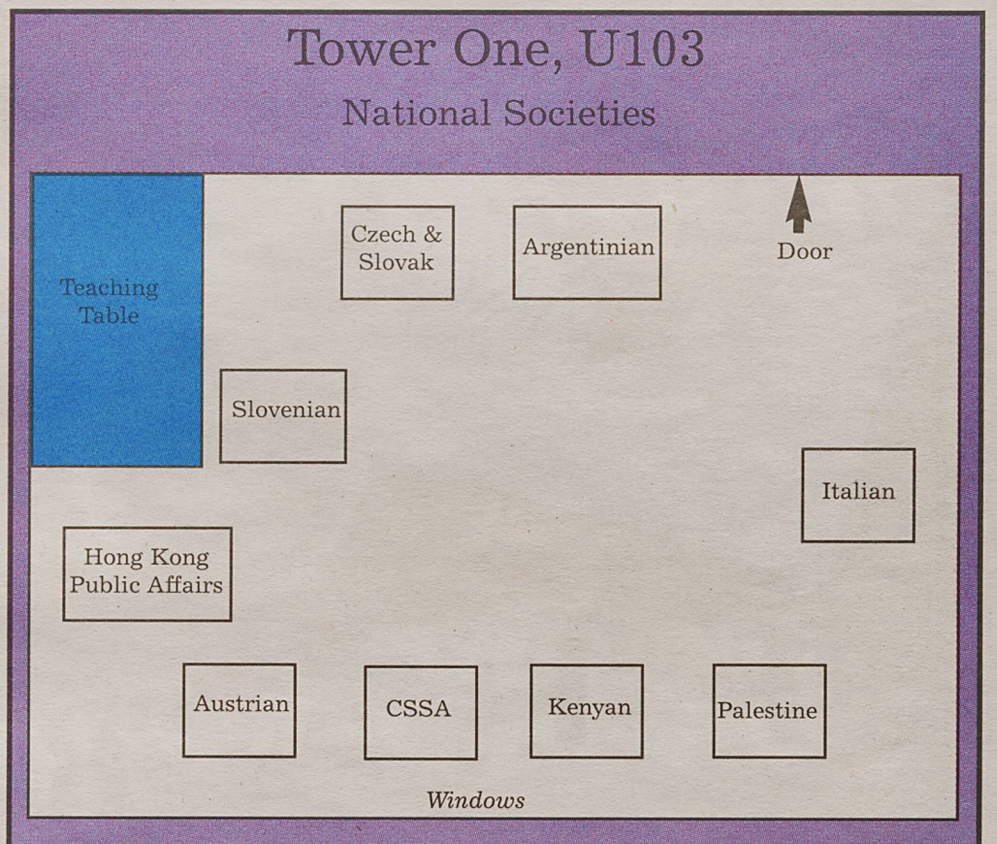
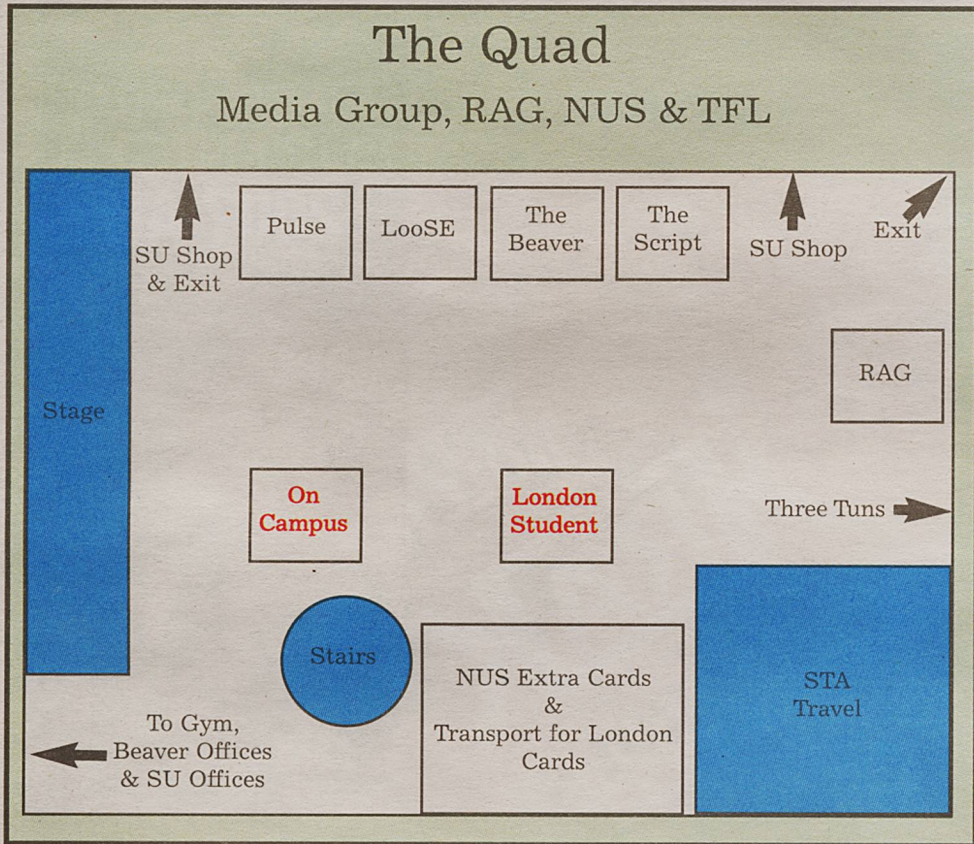


If you require a more accessible Freshers' Fair due to a disability or ongoing medical condition, please email Lizzie Fison (SU Students with Disabilities Officer) at su.disability@lse.ac.uk, meet her around campus (she uses an electric wheelchair/scooter and will be wearing an SU t-shirt) or drop by the Disability & Well-being Office (A40, ground floor of Old Building).

As Freshers' Fair falls on a Jewish festival this year, people who would like to join the Jewish Society may either visit their stall on Houghton Street at 12-2pm on Monday 8th October and 12-2pm on Tuesday 9th October or alternatively, they can sign up at the SU stall during Freshers' Fair.

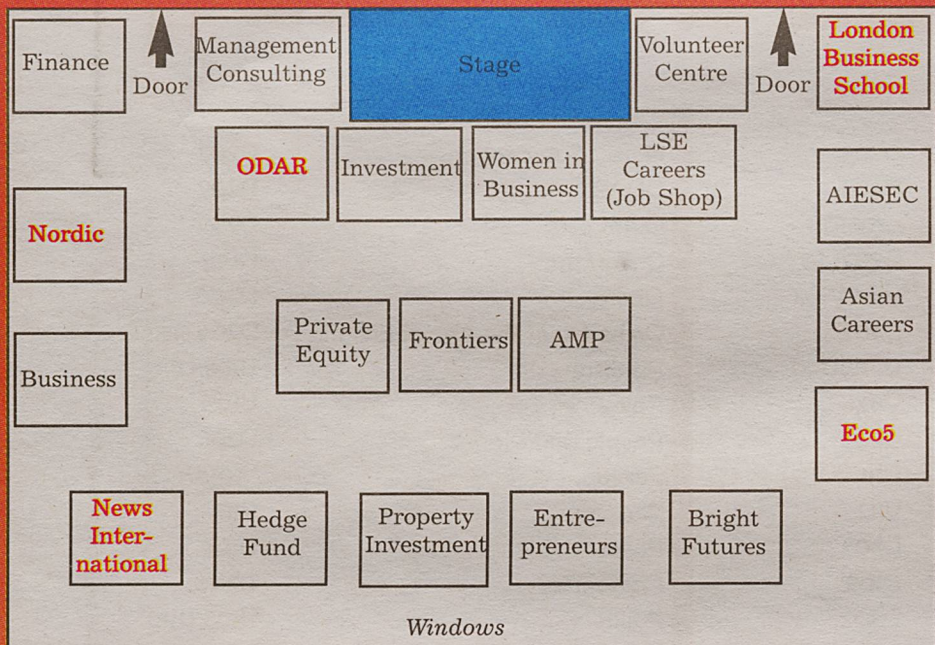




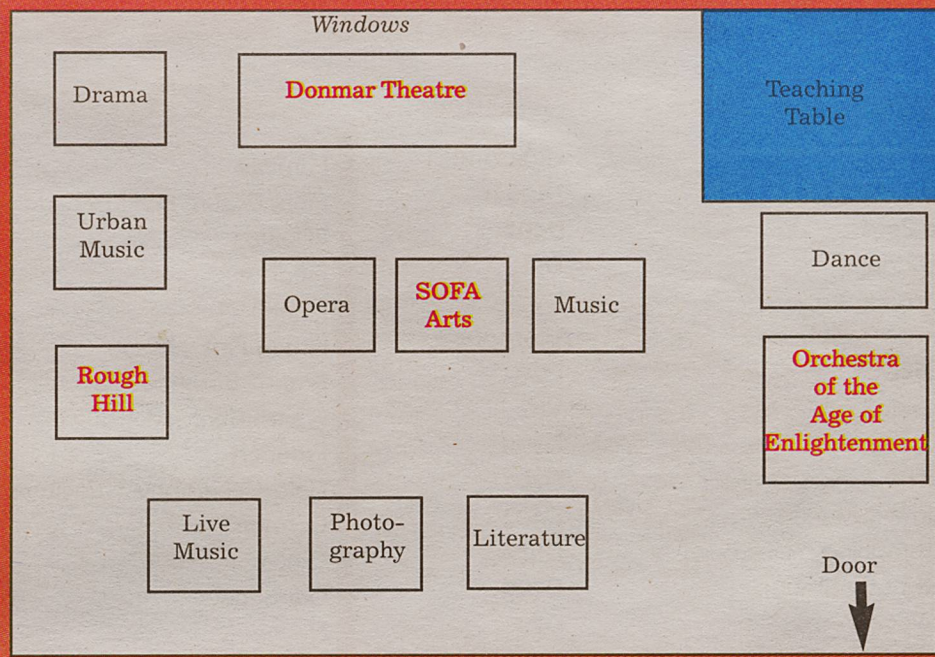




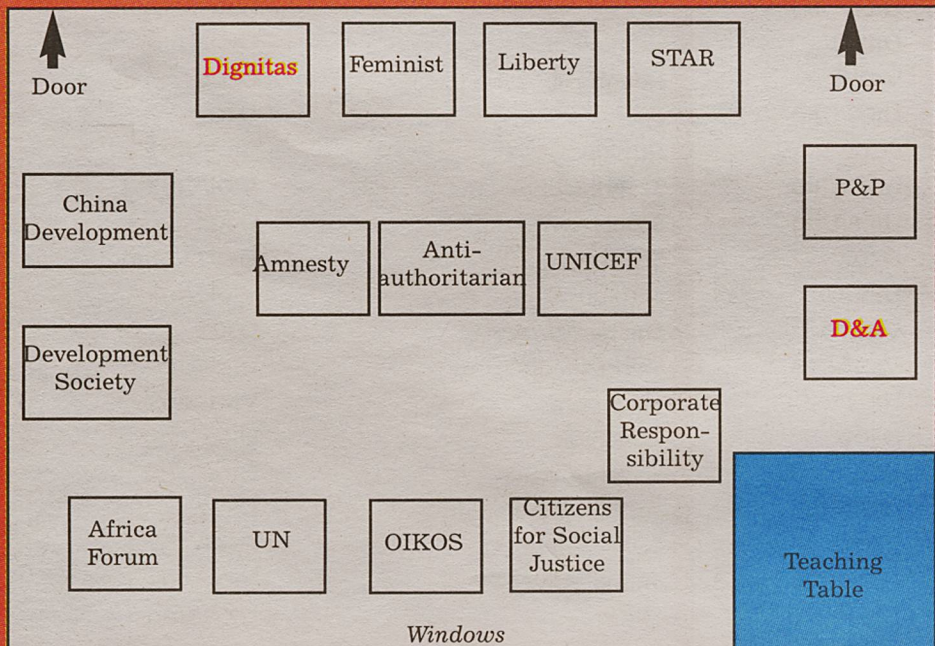
### Clement House, D202 Skill Development Room



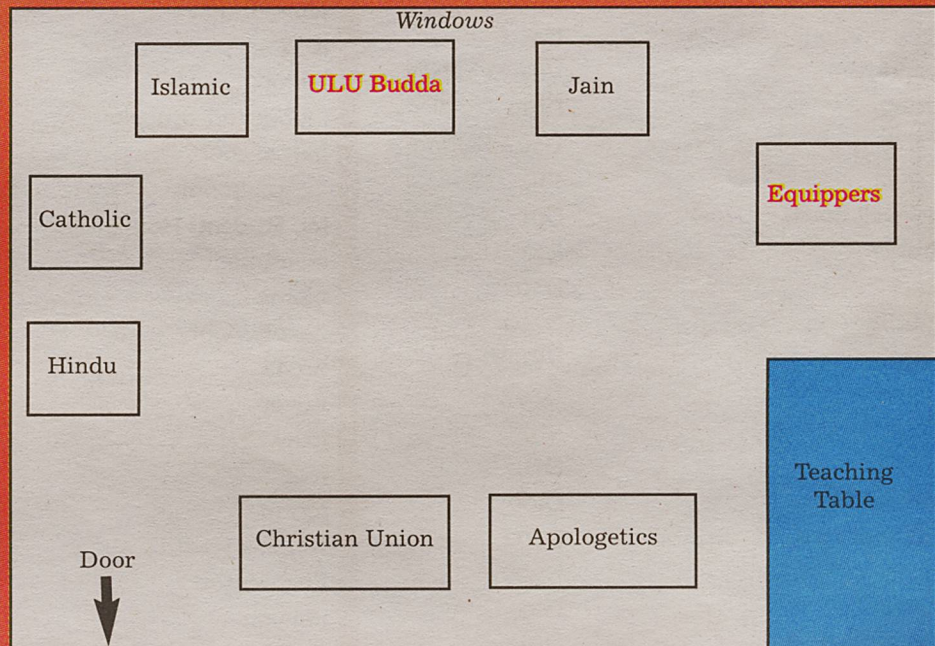
### Clement House, D206 Music & Arts Room



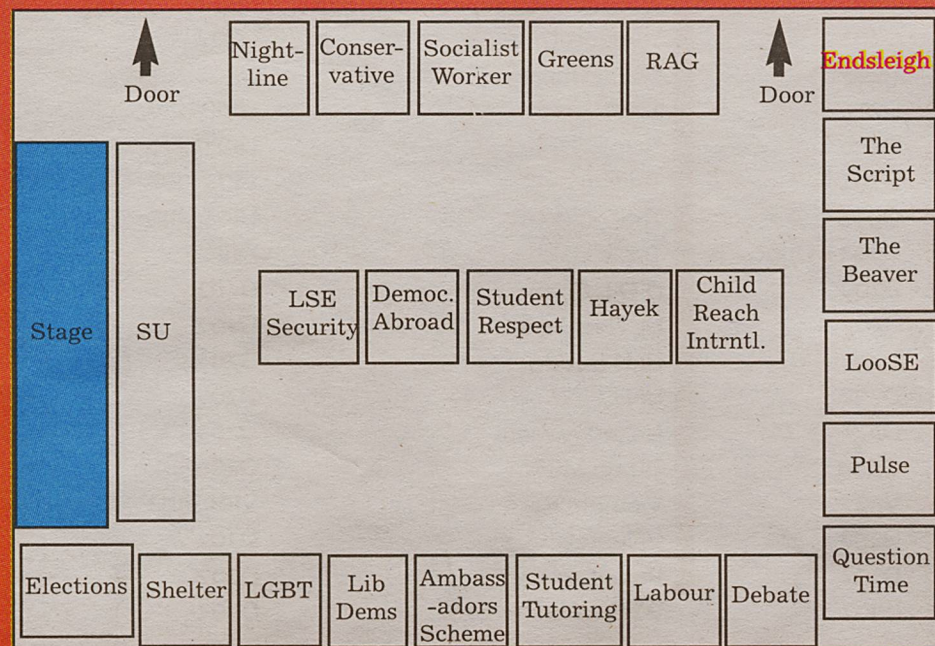
### Clement House, D209 Special Interests Room



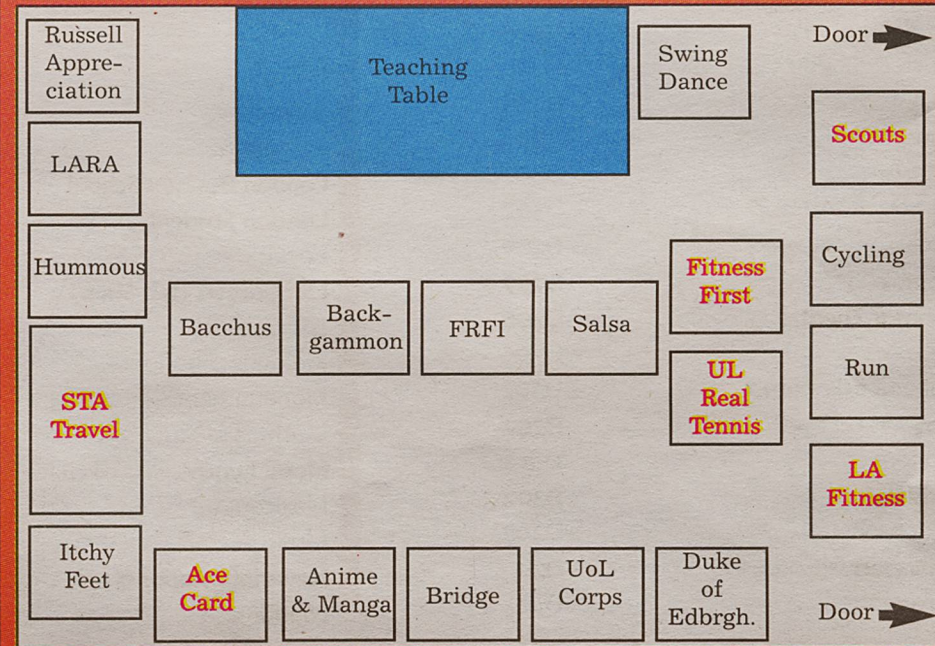
### Clement House, D211 Religious Societies



### Clement House, D302 Students' Union, Media Group, Welfare & Politics



### Clement House, D402 Activities & Hobbies





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<b>Ace Card</b>	<b>D402</b>	Filipino	U108/U110	Oikos	D209
Actuarial	D111	Finance	D202	Oncampus	Quad
Africa Forum	D209	Finnish	V101/V103	Opera	D206
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AIIESEC	D202	Franco-British Student Alliance	U108/U110	Pakistan	U108/U110
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Catholic	D211	Jain	D211	Social Policy	D109
<b>Chatham House</b>	<b>D109</b>	Japan	U108/U110	Socialist Worker Student	D302
<b>Child Reach Int.</b> (4th Oct only)	<b>D302</b>	Jewish - SU Stall	D302	SOFA/Arts?	D206
China Development	D209	Kazakhstan	U108/U110	Spanish Diversity	V101/V103
Chinese	U108/U110	Kenyan	U103	SPICE	U108/U110
Chinese Student and Scholar As.	U103	Korean	U108/U110	Sri Lankan	V101/V103
Christian Union	D211	<b>LA Fitness</b>	<b>D402</b>	SU stalls	D302
Citizens for Social Justice	D209	Labour	D302	SU/elections stall	D302
Colombian	V112	LARA (Lager & Real Ale)	D402	<b>STA Travel</b>	<b>D402</b>
Conservative	D302	Latin American	U108/U110	Student Action for Refugees	D209
Corporate Responsibility	D209	Law	D109	Student Respect	D302
Cycling	D402	LGBT	D302	<b>Student Tutoring + Ambassadors</b>	<b>D302</b>
Cypriot	V101/V103	Lib Dems	D302	Students Union	D302
Czech & Slovak	U103	Liberty	D209	Swing Dance	D402
<b>D&amp;A</b>	<b>D209</b>	Literature	D206	Scots	U108/U110
Dance	D206	Live Music	D206	Swiss	U108/U110
Debate	D302	<b>London Business School</b> (4th Oct only)	<b>D202</b>	Taiwanese	V101/V103
Democrats Abroad	D302	<b>London Student</b>	<b>Quad</b>	Thai	U108/U110
Development	D209	LooSE	D302 + Quad	Triple Helix	D111
<b>Dignitas</b>	<b>D209</b>	<b>LSE Careers (Job Shop)</b>	<b>D202</b>	<b>U O L Corps</b>	<b>D402</b>
<b>Donmar Theatre</b> (4th Oct only)	<b>D206</b>	LSE Security	D302	<b>UL Real Tennis</b> (4th Oct only)	<b>D402</b>
Drama	D206	Malaysia Singapore	U108/U110	<b>ULU Buddha</b>	<b>D211</b>
Duke of Edinburgh	D402	Management Consulting	D202	UNICEF	D209
<b>Eco5</b> (4th Oct only)	<b>D202</b>	Maths and Stats	D109	United Nations	D209
Economics	D111	<b>Merril Lynch</b> (3rd Oct only)	<b>Quad</b>	Urban Music	D206
<b>Endsleigh</b>	<b>D302</b>	Mexican	V112	Vietnam (4th Oct only)	V101/V103
Entrepreneurs	D202	Music	D206	Volunteer	D202
<b>Equippers</b> (4th Oct only)	<b>D211</b>	<b>News International</b>	<b>D202</b>	<b>Volunteer Centre</b>	<b>D202</b>
European	D109	<b>Nightline</b>	<b>D302</b>	Women In Business	D202







# Introducing... David Sedaris

**Holidays On Ice** consists of 6 small vignettes that pursue the miserable, embittered and absurd aspects of the holiday seasons, from the perspective of jaded down-beat New York humorist David Sedaris.

Chewing the bitter cud of contemporary life, and spitting out wry chunks into the readers hands, Sedaris's gestatory process has the rare quality of being able to create something beautifully formed and hilarious from sloppy and sentimental mulch. His targets are multifarious. Children, commerce, bougeois sentiment, even the idea of a holiday itself are not so much ruthlessly mauled as scythed down, and at the risk of getting breathless, the man postively exhales cutting wit.

Perhaps the strongest of the 6 stories is titled *Santaland Diaries* and is a straight-forward account of Sedaris's moribund time working as a christmas

elf in a large New York chain store. "I told the interviewers I wanted to be an elf because...because, it was the most ridiculous thing i'd ever heard of. They hired me anyway." Here he suffers unremittingly under the hegemony of 'seasonal joy', and the pettiness and ugliness that exists throughout all seasons, and makes joyful anarchic play out of tearing down the facade that is a christmas wonderland.

In fact Sedaris makes witty destruction a kind of leitmotif throughout the book. *Season's Greetings to our Friends and Family!!!* takes the form of an extended letter, the kind of devastatingly dull circular that families of a certain social type fire around at one another, full of assinine non-stories about what university little Roger got into, announcements, clumsy prose and brimming with exclamation marks. In the hands of Sedaris it starts like any other bourgeois missive of

its type, but very quickly descends into a tragi-comic morass of vietnamese love-children turning up on doorsteps and total community shame. Sedaris can hardly contain his glee at his total destruction of the petit-bourgeois world. Sedaris is a writer whose bile and vitriol, whilst being ever-present, is masterfully directed and couched in terms so witty he has rightly earned comparison to Oscar Wilde and James Thurber.

There is a sort of low-key spite running through the work of Sedaris, but the voice is on the whole so coquettish and playful, so damnably funny, that you forgive him everything. The kind of thing that makes David Sedaris laugh are children smacking their faces on coffee tables and obnoxiously drunken santas. This will either get you revelling in his seamy splicing of the contemporary world, or send you running for the safety of your circular letter. **DBY**

**Me Talk Pretty One Day** is a collection of autobiographical essays, which initially promises to be a humourous pronouncement on inter-cultural exchange and the American ex-patriot. Yet fans of the author, David Sedaris, whose sister Amy Sedaris is well-known for her American television-cum-big-screen hit 'Strangers with Candy', will be delighted to find that this collection is much more eclectic and representative of the author's unique personality. While this might mean sacrificing some depth, the result is more than worthwhile, and readers will find that they so enjoy the end product that the nearly three hundred pages of Sedaris' reminiscences seem not nearly long enough.

The collection of essays, many of which appeared previously in reputable maga-

zines such as Esquire and the New Yorker, are separated into two sections, the first of which may roughly be said to reflect the author's youth and tenure States side, and the second consisting mainly of his more recent reflections while living abroad in France. This categorization, however, appears somewhat besides the point given the consistent tone and writing style Sedaris employs in all his essays, not to mention the co-mingling of past and present, reality and fantasy in much of his work. As a result, the reader gains insight into the author's state of mind without feeling too much as though they are reading a consciously constructed biographical piece.

This bestseller, although perhaps conflated by reviewers comparing Sedaris to Woody Allen and Oscar Wilde, should not

be underestimated. Its subtle, witty humor, succinct vignettes, and unexpected frankness will out even the most closeted bookworms. One might even go as far as to suggest that Sedaris is reviving the lost art of the creative essay, reinvigorating the non-fiction section as a part of the process. Yet this is a tall order for a man who describes himself as both talentless and stupid. The beauty of Sedaris' work is that it doesn't assume greatness and, on the contrary, can be very self-deprecating at times. Nonetheless, the reader will continue to cheer Sedaris on because he is strangely and indulgently relatable. For all these reasons, it is no stretch of the imagination to suggest that *Me Talk Pretty One Day* is a must read and an integral part of the canon of contemporary literature. **EO**

From: PartB [mailto:thebeaver.partb@lse.ac.uk]  
Sent: Thu 27/09/2007 04:32  
To: Bob Servant  
Subject: About Yourself

Dear Bob,

Our few yet illiterate readers anticipate the arrival on bookshelves of your book, "Delete This at Your Peril", in which you interact with internet fraudsters - baiting their hook only to ultimately leave their scams unfulfilled, causing hilarious confusion on the way. We were wondering, who do you bank with? And what are your account details?

Love, PartB

From: Bob Servant [mailto:bob@servant.com]  
Sent: Thu 27/09/2007 14:32  
To: Thebeaver.Partb  
Subject: Re: About Yourself

Dear Part B,

You'll have to get up a bit earlier in the morning than that to catch up old Bobby boy. If Africa, Russia and China's finest spammers couldn't get hold of my account details then you jokers certainly won't be.

I took some of that LSE once, in 1978. I woke up two days later in a skip behind Woolworth's dressed as a boy scout. Apparently I'd been hiding in the Grey Street car park, running out to give people Chinese burns and steal their chips. I gave the stuff up on the spot. I did try a Fatty Boom Boom in 1984 but it just gave me a headache and made my tongue feel really big.

Your Servant,  
Bob Servant

From: PartB [mailto:thebeaver.partb@lse.ac.uk]

Sent: Thu 27/09/2007 04:32  
To: Bob Servant  
Subject: About Yourself  
Salutations Bob,

What we omitted to tell you was that a large national paper recently died and left us a large stock of interview questions. In order to transfer the interview questions to you, via into the wires, we're going to need your bank details. While we wait for that we're quite interested in this Neil Forsyth bloke who seems to hang around you, some people are even saying he wrote your book, what is your relationship to him?

Looking forward to your cooperation.

PartB

From: Bob Servant [mailto:bob@servant.com]  
Sent: Thu 27/09/2007 14:32  
To: Thebeaver.Partb  
Subject: Re: Bob Servant

Hello again,

Neil Forsyth is a charlatan and a liar. He told me that when the book came out then I would '100%' get asked to go on Parkinson. I spent weeks getting the right stories together with a good mix of the funny and the heartbreaking and I have not heard a fucking peep from the show.

He also said that I should watch out because it would be like Beatlemania and I'd have riots in my garden with people trying to get in to see me and touch me and so on. Bar the postie and the milkman I've had two visitors in the last three weeks. On both occasions it was Frank Theplank and one of the times he wasn't even wanting to come in, he was just round to ask if the buses do a Sunday service on bank holidays. (They do).

As far as I'm concerned Forsyth can go hang, and you can tell him that from me.

Bob

PS No chance on the bank details front.

Bob,

I see you are interested in an interview. In order that we PROCEED with the interview we need the FULL DETAILS of yourself, with some bank details. Also, what advice could you provide for LSE students looking to get into finance, perhaps eying up a potential career in fraud?

Respect unto thee

Daniel and Aba

From: Bob Servant [mailto:bob@servant.com]  
Sent: Thu 27/09/2007 14:32  
To: Thebeaver.Partb  
Subject: Re: Bob Servant

I'm not sure I like your tone. I have to tell you now that I don't have a bank account, I have an offshore sock moored somewhere outside Hartlepool, it contains three pounds ninety, a franc and some plankton. In fact i've got a feeling it may have sunk. With regards to the career, I say yes, get one by all means, my granny has one and he helps her pick things up.

Love Bob

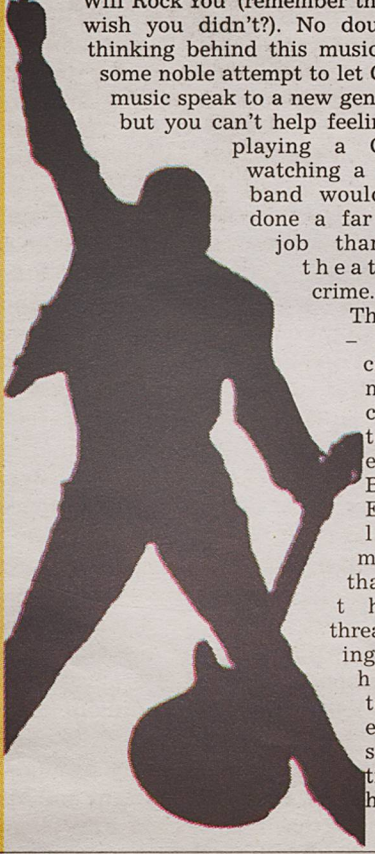
*Delete This at Your Peril: One Man's Fearless Exchanges with the Internet Spammers* is out now priced £7.99



# we will rock you

loisjeary remains quite determinedly unrocked

The audience members of the Queen musical 'We Will Rock You' are an unusual mix of middle-aged, middle-class average Joes trying to recapture a bit of their long-lost youth and groups of teenagers, whose only previous encounter with Queen probably came in the form of nineties boy-band 5ive's cover of 'We Will Rock You' (remember them but wish you didn't?). No doubt the thinking behind this musical was some noble attempt to let Queen's music speak to a new generation but you can't help feeling that playing a CD or watching a tribute band would have done a far better job than this theatrical crime.



The plot - not crafted, more cobbled together - by Ben Elton is little more than a thin thread trying to hold together a selection of hits

from Queen's back catalogue. If it takes an infinite number of monkeys infinity to type the works of Shakespeare then it would take just one less than five minutes to hash out the script of 'We Will Rock You'.

It takes place in a future world where music, individuality and creativity have been strangled by the manufactured society constructed and imposed by the global corporation 'Globalsoft'. However, there still exist a few renegades, known as 'Bohemians' who yearn for the return of live music, dress like the clientele of Camden Market and give themselves inappropriate names stolen from music billboards. The action follows Galileo, a man who dreams in music, and his sulking, screeching sidekick, Scaramouche, as they flee from the authorities and help the Bohemians find the place where rock music is buried. There they lead the cast and the fanatical audience in a rousing rendition of 'We Will Rock You' - with 'Bohemian Rhapsody' shoved on the end as an encore, giving the impression that they couldn't find room for it in the rest of the play but knew that the audience would sue if they didn't get a chance to humiliate themselves with an over-eager sing-along.

Queen's songs are the only saving grace of 'We Will Rock You'; however, when performed by a stage school trained pretty boy playing air guitar, who has nothing on the late, great Freddie Mercury, not even the classics can save the day. The dialogue falls clumsily from tacky pop-culture references and 'rawk and roll' eulogies to bursts of Queen songs - so when Galileo is asked what he wants from a life controlled by 'Globalsoft', what does he reply? "I want to break free" he moans in all its awful predictability. The homicide-inducing charac-

ter of Scaramouche is the most annoying creation in the history of musical theatre as she throws herself about the stage like a stropky teen, whinging and whining in an attempt to exert her 'girl power'. In her ripped fishnet tights and punky hair she reminds me of my thirteen-year-old self and that is probably why I loathe her so; however, even people who avoided an awkward teenage phase will find little to warm to in either Scaramouche or Galileo, who display absolutely no depth of character or suggestion of humanity thanks to the crass scriptwriting. With heroes this annoying it isn't any wonder that you sometimes find yourself rooting for the baddies, like Killer Queen, who is supposed to be a dominatrix but ends up like an embarrassing aunt who has got a bit over-enthusiastic in Ann Summers. Far too much time is spent on the dull journeys of the dull lead characters at the expense of the visually impressive company numbers: the uniformed, robotic Gaga Kids contrast well with the crazy, psychedelic Bohemians, whose rendition of the rockabilly 'Crazy Little Thing Called Love' is the sole entertaining highlight of an otherwise tedious show.

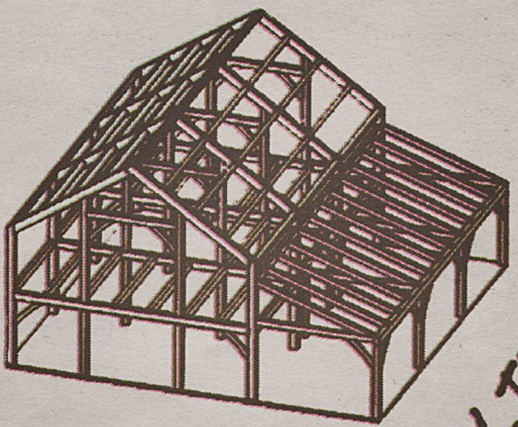
If 'We Will Rock You' could get more annoying then surely making a schools' version and casting only pre-pubescent children should do it. Coming soon to a village hall near you there is a youth production of the newly licensed script, which is unfortunately exactly the same as the original, perhaps with fewer rude words. Cruelly, it still includes the cringe-worthy romance scenes in which Galileo acquires the nickname 'Galileo Gigolo'. The actors in the West End production seemed fake and uncomfortable when trying to be amorous and so frankly, two hormone-driven

teenagers have no chance! They will stand a good five feet apart, averting each other's gaze before shuffling towards each other and embracing with rigid arms (and probably other things). A more adventurous director may have instructed them to kiss, which if you blink you will miss. Instead of focussing on their performance all they will be able to think about is their grandmother, sat proudly in the audience, or the bag of cheese and onion crisps which they scoffed in the interval and now wholeheartedly regret. On second thoughts, the school production has infinite more potential for entertainment than the professional version, which is disappointingly slick, with no real opportunity for major cock-ups or rogue erections. However, let it be remembered that 'the play's the thing' and in this case the play is crap - you can dress it up all fancy but if it looks like a turd and smells like a turd, it is a turd.

Someone who has not had to endure a night as an audience member of 'We Will Rock You' may believe that it is the perfect show for lovers of theatre and music, with an established writer collaborating with musical legends to create a West End phenomenon. They would be wrong. There is very little of either art-form on display in the Dominion Theatre each night and by far the most entertaining aspect is the atmosphere created by the hysteric, throwing-their-knickers-on-stage behaviour from people who really should know better. I am at a loss to explain how a Queen fan can actually enjoy a show which sees their songs ritually massacred every night; Freddie Mercury must be turning in his grave, where after an evening of enduring 'We Will Rock You' I longed to join him.

THEATRE

LO!



CULTURE

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**OPENER**

This summer legions of music fans from all over the world descended on the little town of Gdynia on the north coast of Poland for the three-day Open'er festival. The line-up was an eclectic one, spread over three stages, the largest of which hosted Muse, Beastie Boys, Bloc Party, Groove Armada and Bjork. Polish bands also featured prominently in the festival line-up, but were unjustly confined to the smaller stages.

It wouldn't have been a true festival experience without some rain, and there was plenty of it, creating plenty of mud, which I was inadequately prepared for. As a festival virgin, I was also unprepared and thus overwhelmed by the smell of the portaloos. I tried to avoid them by drinking as little as possible for three days, resulting in dehydration and a kidney infection. Lesson learned: festivals = mud and smelly toilets. Like it or lump it, but for goodness sake don't forgo the drink entirely or you'll end up in hospital.

**Sziget**

For those who's appetite isn't sated by the usual weekend-long festival, Sziget festival offers seven days of fun that should satisfy even the greediest music fan. Located on an island on the Danube, this festival might seem out of the way but is only an EasyJet flight and an hour or so on Budapest's mass transit system away. Once the festival gets going the self-contained village of burger stalls, cash machines and portaloos that you get at any festival springs up, so you never need to leave the island. For some a week can be a bit too much, so if you can't tolerate smelly portaloos or the other drawbacks of festival life for too long then day tickets are available.

The festival is truly international - punters come from all over the world and as one of Europe's largest music festivals Sziget attracts big-name headliners such as the Chemical Brothers, Madness and the Killers. The rest of the line-up is impressively eclectic, with healthy doses of Hungarian folk, dub-step and death metal to name but a few. The festival is also a big draw for the price for alcohol - about a pound a pint and easily available 24 hours a day (compared to three pound cider and a scrum in front of the bar at a typical British festival). It is fortunate that the beer is so cheap since you can't bring anything in with you and the zealous security guards are more than happy to pour your vodka away into the river.

**LIVE EARTH**

There have been far too many cynical reviews of this global party for the planet, which was, environmental impact aside, a great show and far better than the equally topical Live 8 - it had less Bob Geldof for a start and more talented musicians, as well as the magnificent Wembley Stadium. Having Chris Moyles and Russell Brand as hosts was slightly dubious: they are hardly environmental ambassadors for Britain, but were entertaining none the less.

The opening drum instrumental was atmospheric and really got those of us who had managed to arrive on time excited; sadly Genesis then prompted most people to go to the bars. Most of the crowd had come for a

few select artists, with the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Foo Fighters the two most anticipated acts of the day. Unfortunately the RHCP set was uncharacteristically lacklustre, but Dave Grohl and co. did not disappoint and blew the crowd away with some classics. My personal highlight was Metallica just for the reaction of some of the older folk around me, who were far more interested in them than they were in the likes of Paolo Nutini. Madonna ended the evening with her slightly forced song for Live Earth, then thankfully played something more upbeat accompanied by members

several tents and stages, an assortment of bands and musicians, as well as lots and lots of mud. However, that's where the similarities end. The variety of music on offer was mind-blowing, from the mellow docile tunes of Monkey Swallows the Universe, to the joke alt-country-folk of the Broken Family Band, and the abstract, hypnotic hums of Six Organs of Admittance as they battled it out both musically and physically across the stage. The atmosphere was also striking in its politeness - this is, after all, seen as a folk festival (even though the music ranged from pop to indie to

summed up the wealth of entertainment the festival had to offer was three-stringed guitar playing ex-hobo Seasick Steve. As he wandered onto the stage, swigging a bottle of wine and bemoaning its small size, he bravely announced, to a group of folk music aficionados, on the aptly named 'Folky Dolky Stage', "You ain't gonna hear no folk music tonight!"

**Glastonbury-**

While you were stacking shelves or sitting behind a desk I was sitting in a field in Somerset doing the coolest summer job in the world - perimeter 'health and safety' staff at Glastonbury Festival (read: watching for people intending to jump over the looming hunk of metal that is the 20ft high perimeter fence). With a sexy fluorescent tabard and all! The upside of working was the obvious plus of not having to pay for tickets, but at times it was quite frustrating not being able to see every band you wanted, and being so tired by midnight because you had got up at seven a.m (when the rest of the festival was just going to bed!).

I even enjoyed some of the shifts - one of my best Glastonbury memories was being on duty on Friday afternoon, on a bit of the perimeter fence that was right by the Park, a new area designed by Emily Eavis and featuring a ribbon tower, sofas and a mysterious rabbit hole. Perched on a nice grassy hillside with a copy of the Guardian for company, I could see across the whole site, awesome and unbelievable in its size. All afternoon I had listened to bands like the Super Furry Animals, Bright Eyes, Rufus Wainwright and his sister Martha, and Arcade Fire in an idyllic field, and later had a feeling of such blissful perfection as the most radiant sun set, leaving a lingering red sky above the magnificent site.

CSS were fabulous, with front-woman LoveFxxxx continually taking off sparkly catsuits to reveal another zany costume underneath on a stage full with balloons, bubbles and so much energy! Bjork was even more ethereal and other-wordly in real life, and her performance was majestic and simply awesome. Patrick Wolf also put on a cracking show, egged on by a devoted crowd bordering on hysteria, he performed all of his most energetic numbers whilst prancing around the stage wearing leiderhosen and glitter. Most disappointing was Beirut. Despite Zach Condon's innovative folk music and use of brass, the set ultimately left me underwhelmed. Maybe it was the greyness of the sky, the early afternoon timing or the immobile crowd that was a weird cross-section of 30 something couples and boring teenage scenesters; either way despite them trying their best and it just fell flat. Even his jokes sounded lame. A smaller venue like one of the tents would have better suited them, rather than the vast, outdoor Jazz World stage.

As a first time Glastonbury goer, the best thing of all were the bits away from the stages that you don't really expect - the great bands that you've never heard of that play in cafes and bars, the pounding drums by the campfire of the Summer Solstice celebrations at the Stone Circle, the 'shipwrecked' boat with fairylights where anyone could go to strum a guitar, just the whole hippy vibe. It's basically this that makes the mud bearable.

**SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVALS**

FEATURING ...

**OPENER**

BY DANIELLE PRIESTLEY

**Glastonbury**

BY SACHA ROBEHMED

**Sziget**

BY WILL PERRY

**LIVE EARTH**

BY ANUP PATEL

**Green Man**

BY SIMON WANG



of the brilliant Gogol Bordello. The most annoying aspect of the concert was the constant propaganda making you change your light bulbs and recycle more - I think everyone got the point quite early on. Although The Simpsons movie did more for the environmental cause than Live Earth ever will, it should still be remembered, if nothing else, as a great day of live music.

**Green Man**

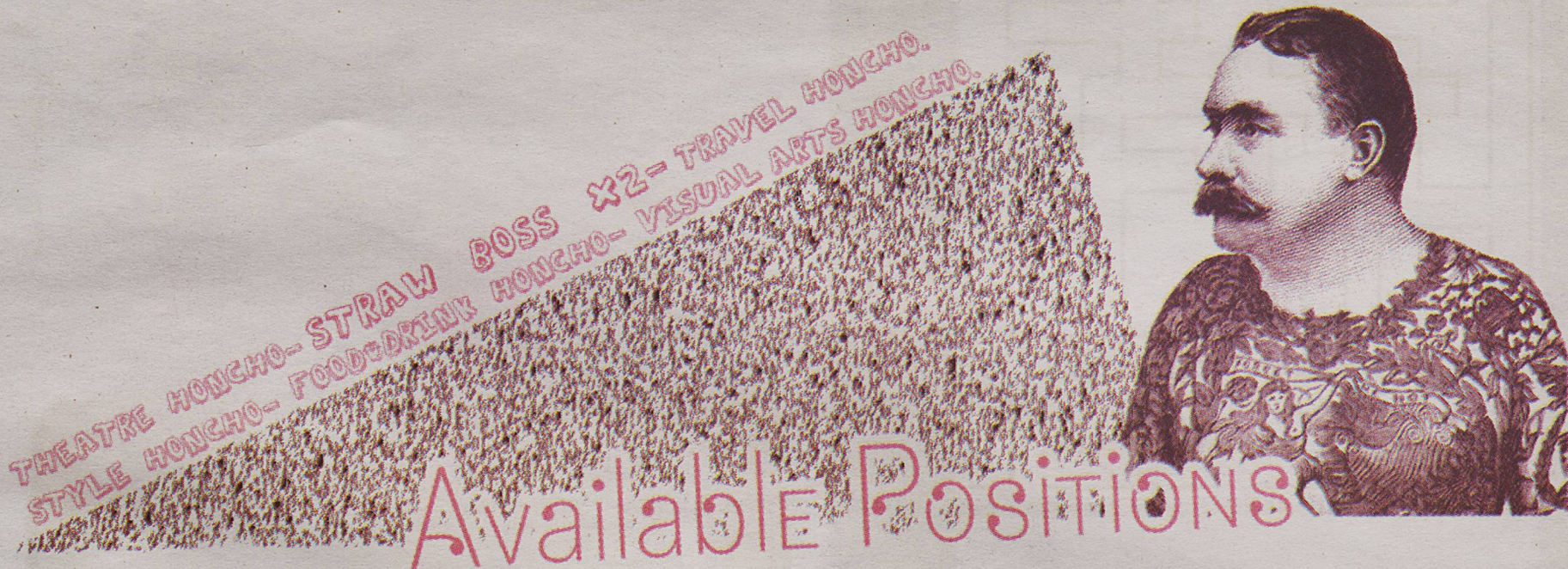
The Green Man Festival in the Brecon Beacons had many things which you would expect from any music festival -

country to rock), and everyone was so gosh-darn nice. It wasn't difficult to get to a good viewing spot for any of the gigs, even the extremely popular ones such as Joanna Newsom's melodious harp chords. And the toilets were clean - for all three days!

Ultimately however, the festival was all about discovery. Not only discovery of great bands and artists, such as the Yoko-Ono inspired drumming and howling of Directing Hand or the semi-Hawaiian, semi-what-the-fuck trio Herman Dune, but also new ways to play and appreciate music, and, if you felt so inclined, tents teaching you how to knit or how to power a boat using candlelight. The artist who best

MUSIC





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Kate Nash  
Mouthwash  
Released:  
October 1st

Kate expresses her individuality by telling us everything that makes her the same as everyone else, so we learn she has a face, freckles, spots, a brain and occasionally flosses. Fascinating. Clearly what really sets her apart is her ability to write such catchy yet perceptive pop songs, such as this, which is so sickly sweet that using mouthwash after listening is highly recommended.

The Maccabees Toothpaste  
Kisses  
Released: October 8th

A sweet but dull love song complete with contented whistling from the usually boisterous indie-pop band. This single, from their debut album 'Colour It In', shows the bands romantic side - most of the album was written after lead singer Orlando Weeks got dumped, but at least we can assume it wasn't because he had halitosis.

The Coral Jacqueline  
Released: October 1st

If you're disenchanted with modern music then it is easy to moan 'they don't write them like they used to' and be quite accurate - unless, of course you're talking about The Coral, who write songs that seem like familiar classics on the first listen and get better and better with every play. Leaving behind their equally impressive more experimental and slightly darker side, 'Jacqueline' is a flawless, up-lifting pop song of the kind that existed before boy-bands, lip-synching and The X Factor.

You're a fresher with a half empty iPod, so what should you be filling it with? First off let me recommend the **Smiths** as an appropriate accompaniment to life at LSE. In my opinion, the regular sight of brilliant young minds energetically trying to give their youth and soul to the banking industry conjures up an absurdity reminiscent of the lyrics of Smiths front man **Morrissey**. Although if you're a keen conscript to KPMG and co. then the opening lines of 'Still Ill' - 'I decree today that life is simply taking and not giving / England is mine, it owes me a living' may be more appropriate. For those of a more political bent the song 'Bigmouth Strikes Again' has obvious parallels with the behaviour of certain people at the UGM. The various labels attached to Morrissey (hippy, skinhead and subversive) reflect the diversity of opinion you can find at the Old Theatre on a Thursday - the Smiths can suit every opinion.

On the other hand, the Smiths are an acquired taste that will not suit every palate; you may not be particularly

interested in a depressing bunch of posers that split up in the '80s. If that's the case, consider **DJ Shadow**. The 'Master of Mash-up' does something with a drum machine and odd bits and pieces of other songs to create amazing, roving, evocative tunes. You've probably heard some of his work in adverts - he's highly listenable, making him the perfect antidote to the daily headache that is dodging the free paper hawkers and wading your way through the crowds of Central London to get home. He has been given the genre Trip-hop but samples of soul singers, church organs and funk riffs mean there is appeal for every musical taste. For the fresher who is at their wits end with essays or problem sets, DJ Shadow offers an escape that is difficult to dislike.

If you want something a little more straightforward then try **Talking Heads**. This is a simple riff, voice and drums outfit; however, don't let this lead you to think Talking Heads are an 'indie' band. This is guitar music for those who are not terminally attached to wallowing in how

crap their life is. The clipped funk and lyrics about how, actually, life is pretty great (listen to 'Don't Worry About The Government') make Talking Heads music to listen to before you go out; it's songs to put a spring in your step. And if you're out and looking for something to dance to, turn to the ever reliable **Basement Jaxx**. For those who, whilst not wanting to disparage the great night that is Crush!, are sick to their back teeth of chart, cheese and R'n'B then Basement Jaxx offers fresh, effortlessly danceable music. It's also good for livening up the commute to Houghton Street.

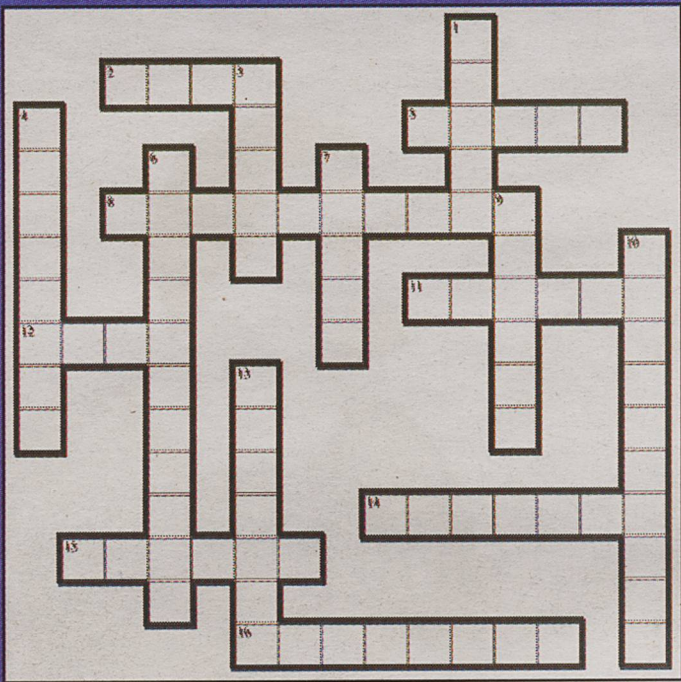
So, there you have it, three groups and a DJ to liven up your life and your iPod. University guides and enlightened elders will tell you that your 'personal development' will accelerate at university. If your journey of self-discovery is leading you to realise that **Usher** isn't really that 'fly' and **Arctic Monkeys** are good for one song (maybe two, at a push) then broaden your horizons with these four.

willperry suggests a musical slant on an LSE education

FRESH ISH MUSIC FOR FRESHERS



C-Word



Last issue:  
 Across: 1. cha-cha 4. can-can 9. visitor 10. hindu 11. rince 12. declare 13. protagonist  
 18. keshri 20. vigil 22. lilac 23. oarsman 24. bleary 25. pedant Down: 1. covert 2. arson 3. hot-  
 seat 6. canvass 7. nausea 8. prodigal son 14. resolve 15. Navarre 16. sky/lab 17. planet 1. recur  
 21. gamma

across

down

- 2. The LSE term for student politicians (4)
- 5. A hoofed, horned woodland creature (5)
- 8. A tush's toy (10)
- 11. With mouthwash, for best effects (6)
- 12. A mild dutch cheese (4)
- 14. What the SU does to the Beaver (7)
- 15. As in the sack material (6)
- 16. Scribbled line (8)

- 1. As opposed to poetry (5)
- 3. Yiddish clumsy fool (5)
- 4. You save it, hopefully.. (8)
- 6. Only the smallest amount (11)
- 7. Chauvinist slang for the object of a male freshers attention (5)
- 9. Economic behaviour (6)
- 10. A fresher's aim, and their undoing (10)
- 13. In the words of 70's Red (7)

# LSE in LOVE

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

**W**e met in the library when I got caught in the turnstile. You were wearing a parka, I was the girl with the lazy eye. Dinner sometime?

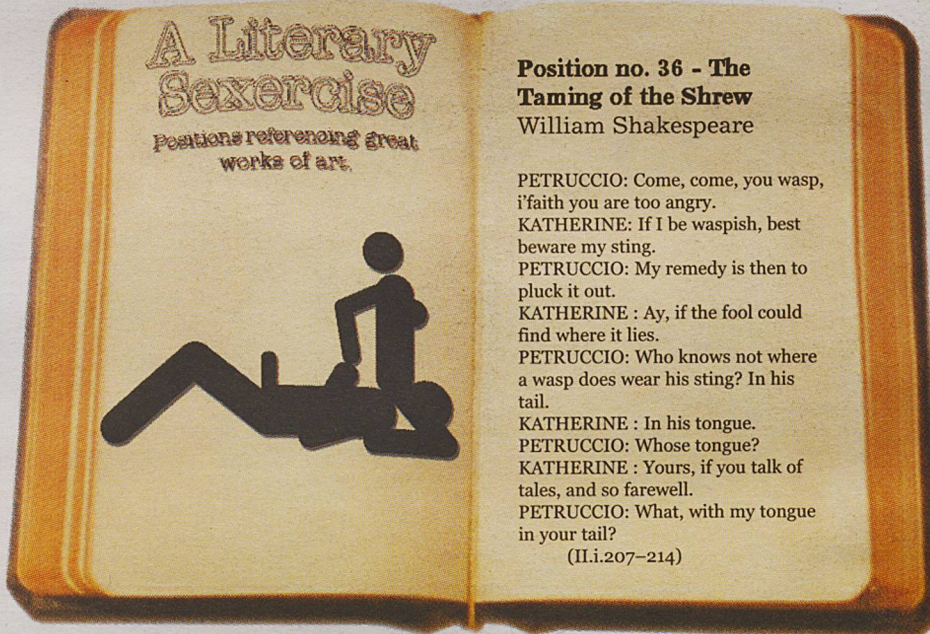
**I** saw you signing up for a student oyster card in the Quad. You have the most amazing left ear. May I sing into it, under the stars?

**Y**ou helped me carry my suitcase into halls. I was too shy to ask your name but strongly desire to taste you

**T**he first time i saw you I gave you some change. The second time I saw you, you were talking into a flash mobile and eating in the Garrick. Can I have my £1.30 back?

**I** have one brown tooth. You have no sense of smell and an understanding attitude towards oral ill-health. My gums are bleeding.

**I** am really good at Donkey Kong. You had a pretty dress on. I couldn't look at you because i twitch. Meet in the tuns for a drink? No eye-contact please.



**Position no. 36 - The Taming of the Shrew**  
William Shakespeare

PETRUCCIO: Come, come, you wasp, i'faith you are too angry.  
 KATHERINE: If I be waspish, best beware my sting.  
 PETRUCCIO: My remedy is then to pluck it out.  
 KATHERINE: Ay, if the fool could find where it lies.  
 PETRUCCIO: Who knows not where a wasp does wear his sting? In his tail.  
 KATHERINE: In his tongue.  
 PETRUCCIO: Whose tongue?  
 KATHERINE: Yours, if you talk of tales, and so farewell.  
 PETRUCCIO: What, with my tongue in your tail?  
 (II.i.207-214)

# Ask Auntie Shaw REMIX



Boys and girls, it has been an eventful summer for dear old Auntie. Upon rediscovering my copy of the Kama Sutra, I suffered a major concussion after falling off the bed whilst still in position 37. But do not fear my vivacious young charges, I'm all better now, better than a rampant rabbit elite twister model running on biomass forever. In fact, through much charming and finger wiggling in the right places I have a research post as a sociologist, and my, I've been given so many participant observation missions that my undergirdle is positively swimming with the delight of academically-sanctioned deception. This week I've infiltrated the lovely world of the City and i'm posing as a right-wing economist, so forgive me if I answer in character, if they find out I'm an academic I may well get a spanking...

Hey Auntie,  
I'm a fresher straight off the boat and I was wondering where I can get some food?

BJ, Economics

There's no such thing as a free lunch, my boy. If you want something, you're going to have to work for it. Poor people are only poor because they're too lazy to work hard enough to get rich, so stop slacking and start being productive. If you're interested, I'm currently looking for a well-toned young man to keep me warm on winter nights and fondle my money whilst I sleep.

Dear Auntie,  
I've just left a handsome boy in the provinces whilst I wander off to urban pastures new here at LSE. We've promised we'll try and make it work but I'm worried one of us is going to end up hurting the other one. have ou got any tips for keeping our relationship alive?

Please help!  
2nd year, Sociology

I liken long term relationships to the economic theory of cobweb models. Specifically an unstable model that is fluctuating towards zero. I hope this helps., or rather I don't care whether it does or not.

Dear Auntie,  
I love booze! Or rather, booze loves me. Either way, we can seem to get enough of each other! All these student nights with the cheap, cheap drinks only make it easier for me and the booze beast to get together, over and over again. as much as I love booze, I do hate the hangovers. What's your best remedy?

3rd Year, Mathematics & Economics

A salary of £90,000 p.a. plus bonuses gets me up in the morning despite a heavy night. Not to mention the huge lines of charlie I rack up along with my morning cup of java. Then I clean the dead stripper out of my bathtub and STILL make it to work in time to seal the Johnson account. Who's your daddy, bitch?

Auntie,  
I heard that the the cleaners at LSE benefited from Living Wage commitment by the school and their pay was raised to decent levels. However, at Queen Mary's they have an enire Living Wage campus. It seems like there's more to do here and I'm interested in doing it, point the way.

Kim S, Employment Relations

Living wages are for bastardly sponges and layabouts. It compromises the market, and we can't have any of that. We're trying to get as close to the perfect market as we can, remember? There's a minimum wage for a reason. If it keeps them

alive long enough to maintain our industry, it works for me. I only started loving my children when I realised I could sell them whilst on holiday in Morocco for four camels and a mint tea. Simple supply and demand.

Auntie,  
Is it true that masturbation makes you go blind? I have always wanted to know but have been too frightened to find out. I'm asking you because the urges have become increasingly irresistible!

Troubled teen, High Holborn

Profit motives. What's your incentive? What's our target? I need a figure to work towards, not abstractions. Are we thinking classical or Keynesian? I'm getting a neo-Classical vibe but you can never be sure in these days of revisionism. Hold that thought, my BlackBerry's vibrating...

Shaw baby,  
I'm fucking loaded and my mate says you're hot. Let's go somewhere fucking dreadful and you'll sleep with me. I have an enormous penis.

So do I. Let's whip em out and compare tackle. You bring the poppers and I'll bring the pills. Don't be afraid to spank me, I like it rough from time to time. When you spend 500 hours a week in front of a computer screen in a stuffy office, sometimes you just need to go wild and LET LOOSE. I'll fuck anything I can pay for, not including the wife.

Well, that's quite enough of that children. Maybe next week I'll be a grime star... wouldn't that be fun? Send your lovely emails to the [thebeaver.partb@lse.ac.uk](mailto:thebeaver.partb@lse.ac.uk) or befriend me on Facebook and remember, the more outrageous you are the better for all, and the wetter I get. Until next time dahhhllings!



# Does a genocide?



## RWANDAN GENOCIDE 1994

This atrocity will remain forever the genocide which we knew about but didn't stop. In 1994 the whole administration of the country was turned into a genocide factory by the Hutu leaders. A range of factors lead to economic instability and growing ethnic tension, including the effects of structural adjustment, a misjudged peace settlement, and ongoing civil war. The roots of the ethnic division lie in the colonial rule of the Belgians. In many ways the western powers held some responsibility for the horrors which occurred, but when the opportunity was presented by General Dallaire to stop the killing, the problem was ignored. Tutsis were the main target, along with politically moderate Hutu, and suspected 'Tutsi sympathisers'. Estimates of the death toll vary between 500,000 and 1 million. The scale of the massacre has destabilised the region until today, and the continuing violence and murder in neighbouring regions of the Congo threatens to drag the whole region back into crisis.



editorial recently argued that genocidal killings in Darfur had "concluded" due to the increasing fragmentation of the province into complete anarchy. This was, at best, an unsubstantiated claim. Conditions on the ground mean that no one is in a position to say what the status of the Darfurian conflict is right now. Nor, as noted above, is state control a prerequisite either for the commission of genocide, or its prosecution. It is true, however, that the alleged massacres go back to 2003 and 2004: plenty of time for interested parties to bury the evidence. Many of the potential witnesses to these acts

have been scattered region-wide as refugees; Janjawid who could turn 'Queen's Evidence' in return for plea bargaining have probably either been safely incorporated into Sudan's regular forces or killed. Unbelievable as it sounds, the trail of Darfur's alleged genocide killings could easily have gone very cold.

But there are other routes to prosecution. If, as Chief Prosecutor of the ICC, you were to take instead an interest in the forced expulsion of village after village in Darfur, the trail gets a bit warmer. Deportation is mentioned in Article 7 as a crime against humanity rather than as genocide. But Article 6 also prohibits "imposing measures intended to prevent births," which may also cover it, though the jurisprudential legacy from Yugoslavia (such as Jelicic) remains mostly against rather than for defining this type of activity as genocide. In this case

though, scale does matter - the number displaced stands at 2,000,000 at least which makes the deportation in Darfur comparable to the Armenian genocide. Furthermore, Akayesu, the ICTR trial that kicked off the modern era of genocide prosecution by setting out its tell-tale signs in some detail, does find a place for forced departures in what it calls the "crime of crimes." This should guide interpretation of Article 6, were the ICC to use it in the case of Darfur.

Another major crisis in Darfur is mass rape. As international crimes go, this is shockingly under-defined. But again, forced birth control and pregnancy are there in Akayesu. Again, they are so typical of Darfur's bloody story and in such a systemic manner just to be a grisly accoutrement of the Janjawid way of fighting. Organisation and systemic use of

rape and sexual violence constitutes a war crime of the highest order. Again, case law is in favour of vigorous prosecution. The ICTY has found that commanders who fail to prevent rape are also guilty of the crime. Also, it could easily come under Article 6's aegis of measures designed to prevent births. For both forced transfers and sexual violence, evidence should also be easier to find. There is a good chance, for instance, that the victims are still alive.

Nevertheless, in the final analysis the ICC cannot yet collate good and sufficient evidence for or against genocide from its Hague eyrie at this point. The ICC Prosecutor must

also search for and pass on to the defence evidence that might exonerate the accused - at the same time as he builds up his own case. Unfortunately, this basic legal procedure is far from guaranteed in the midst of a civil war or in the horse-trading of a peace process, either of which (probably both) will characterise Darfur in the coming months. The ICJ's interstate Bosnian Genocide case, for instance, was sullied by the chamber having to rely on documents blacked out by Belgrade as part of a shady deal to release them for separate ICTY proceedings.

Exactly the same is true of indicting suspects, especially as the Janjawid have now taken to fighting amongst themselves

with some gusto - a development which may itself be Khartoum's way of destroying the evidence. As the ICC has recently found with Joseph Kony in Uganda, and (notoriously) the ICTY before it with Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, rogue armies and a fragile peace process have a way of derailing international criminal investigations. The ICC has enough problems on its plate in Darfur already. Unless it absolutely has to in the wake of new evidence, it does not need to add another by issuing genocide charges that could catastrophically backfire.

en used to describe the  
The more common term  
en as insulting to the  
r media and academic

elled' historian David  
over Norman

But, just 30 years later,  
ited Nations.



## CAMBODIAN GENOCIDE 1975-1979

When the Khmer Rouge (or "Red Khmers," a Maoist political party) captured the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh in April 1975, they declared "Year Zero." Seeking to construct a primitive agrarian communism, the Khmer Rouge regarded entire sections of the population to be "enemies." Political opponents, professionals, 'intellectuals' (often anyone literate) and non-Khmers were all targeted for the "killing fields." Over four years, between one and three million people died through starvation, torture, execution and forced labour. Vietnamese intervention in 1979 finally brought an end to the horror.

Ultimate responsibility for the massacre must, of course, lie with the Khmer Rouge and its leadership. However, the US played an important, yet often neglected role in creating the conditions for Pol Pot's reign. During the Vietnam War the Nixon administration carpet bombed Cambodian territory, causing hundreds of thousands of deaths and bolstering the Khmer Rouge's popularity as an anti-American force. Once the Khmer Rouge came to power, however, the US quickly recognized that Pol Pot could act as a regional counterweight to newly-liberated Vietnam. As Kissinger remarked at the time: "You should also tell the Cambodians that we will be friends with them. They are murderous thugs, but we won't let that stand in our way. We are prepared to improve relations with them."

Throughout the 1980s, the US supported the Khmer Rouge in their claim to be Cambodia's legal representatives at the UN.

For years, Chinese and American obstruction prevented the trial of those responsible for the killings. However in 2004 an agreement was reached, mainly thanks to the UN installing a Khmer Rouge tribunal. On 19 September Nuon Chea was arrested and charged with crimes against humanity.



# Dogged Crusaders

Kevin Perry talks to Julia Bradbury, of the BBC's Consumer Affairs programme *Watchdog*, about unscrupulous landlords, shady institutions and impressing her Dad

**W**e live in a country where 1 in 5 tenants feel that their landlords have unfairly kept hold of their deposit, and where customer service is frequently below par, so it is essential that independent bodies exist to keep the invisible hand of the market from picking your pocket. Of course, where there's a noble ideal there's a television programme, and that's where the BBC's consumer affairs institution *Watchdog* comes in.

UK – the show will help them to get their head around some of the domestic products and companies that they'll come in contact with while living here. Everything from computers to household items to homes themselves.”

“Of course what newcomers to the UK won't realise is that it's such an institution – its been on air for 20 years in one form or another. I think it's an interesting model – people can compare it to the sorts of program that are shown where they're from. It's

landlords and some bad ones, as everyone can have a different experience. But when we do come across a collection of bad stories then that's something we're very keen to investigate further, as that's really where everything else starts from – your domestic living arrangements.”

“But when it comes to consumer products, what the show is really great at is the importance of shopping around. Do your research. Even something like getting an internet connection, go to a library and check out the deals – there's plenty of student offers out there as well.”

“I think our show can act as a warning, because there are recurring themes which we pick up on and highlight. One of the great things is that it's very viewer orientated. We're using real life experiences to make the show. We get thousands of emails, letters and calls each week, so there's a lot of scope for investigation.”

With so many pissed off punters out there, selecting the most relevant and important stories must take some unearthing. “We've got a fantastic team, actually three teams of researchers, producers and assistants, and they all help out in going through the individual letters and deciding which stories to use. It's usually the case that patterns emerge – the same names keep cropping up, but sometimes an entirely individual story shines out on its own, and it's worth following up for precisely that reason. That's very much the case when it comes to things like people with critical illnesses taking on insurance companies. I think insurers are a major bugbear for everyone, but at the same time we like to think that our insurance policies, which we've been paying thousands of pounds into over the years, will pay out when we need them.”

“Some of the stories are absolutely heart-breaking. Particularly critical illness stories, where homes can be at risk at the livelihood of a whole family can be at stake. But the great thing about this job is that institutions do take notice if we feature something –

they have to considering how many people watch the show.”

So it goes without saying that the *Watchdog* team cannot help but

Having worked on a huge variety of television programs, I ask whether she has any remaining ambitions. “I've done everything really. I've worked for

## 20%

of tenants felt that at the end of their tenancy their deposit was unreasonably withheld by their landlord.

(Source: House of Commons Committee on Tenancy Deposit Schemes)

*A feminine touch can sometimes do things that the masculine touch can't, and vice versa.*



Julia Bradbury, who presents the show alongside Nicky Campbell and Paul Heiney, is effervescent, and surprisingly excited to be speaking to *The Beaver*. “My dad went to the LSE so he'll be very proud of the fact that I eventually made it there – even if it is just being interviewed by the newspaper. I certainly wasn't going to make it academically!”

When I mention the show, Julia proves herself an effortless saleswoman. “I think it particularly great for people who aren't from the

also very watchable. It's only thirty minutes so it's not going to eat up your life.”

Some of the subjects featured on the show are particularly relevant to a student audience. “Dealing with Landlords is something that we touch on quite often. Of course it's difficult to say that there are some good

become emotionally involved with the corners they fight. “Oh, absolutely. Nicky and I are very persistent and dogged about what we do. We do get involved and want to get to the bottom of these problems. I mean, we have to retain a degree of objectivity and we obviously have to have journalistic integrity, but we're both very determined. We complement each other. I was brought in sort of to be a right arm to Nicky. A feminine touch can sometimes do things that the masculine touch can't, and vice versa. I love the job – journalistically it's very satisfying, and it's also exciting – it's live television.”

every single channel and I've launched one or two as well. I've had an incredible year, I've done everything from *Watchdog* and fashion shows to singing live in front of millions of people with Tony Christie and rock climbing a sea stack! The nice thing about my job is that there's no set career trajectory. It's not like a normal business where you're looking for a promotion. I don't know what I'll be presenting in ten years time because I have no clue what we'll be watching in ten years time, or what we'll even be watching it on – I doubt it will still be televisions. We're at an incredible stage for digital evolution, but I'm sure they'll be a niche somewhere that us mere mortals will fit into.”





# Listings

## PUBLIC LECTURES

Tuesday 2 October

18.30 - 20.00 Cool It: global warming and getting our priorities straight

Old Theatre

Thursday 4 October

18.00 - 19.30 The Challenges of Development and Environmental Sustainability in Africa: the case of Rwanda

Old Theatre

Monday 8 October

18.30 - 20.00 Media and Democracy in Post-Putin Russia: has the death of press freedom been exaggerated?

Old Theatre

## STUDENTS' UNION FRESHERS' WEEK

Tuesday 2 October

10.30 - 17.50 Registration  
Hong Kong Theatre  
12.30 - 14.00 Ethical Induction  
U8  
17.00 - 19.30 International Students Induction  
U8  
20.00 The Bang  
Quad, Tuns,  
Underground Bar

Wednesday 3rd October

12.00 - 15.00 SU Treasure Hunt  
Peacock Theatre  
16.00 - 18.30 International Students Induction  
G108  
18.30 - 19.30 Mature/Part Time Induction  
D602  
20.00 ST x 3  
Quad  
20.00 Skinny Jeans  
Underground Bar

Thursday 4th October

10.30 - 17.00 Freshers Fair  
Clement House, The Quad, The Towers  
20.00 Rock 'n' Roll Riot  
Quad

Friday 5th October

10.30-17.00 Freshers Fair  
Clement House, The Quad, The Towers  
20.00 Crush  
Quad, Tuns,  
Underground Bar

Saturday 6th October

15.00 - 17.00 Sightseeing  
Westminster Pier

Sunday 7th October

19.00 Unwind  
The Quad

Applying for a Student Visa Extension

## STUDENT SERVICES CENTRE

### Applying for a Student Visa Extension

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Visa expiring in October 2007?  
Need to extend your student visa?

The Visa Office at the  
Student Services Centre can help!

From October 2007,  
the LSE Student Services Centre  
is running the Student Batch Scheme.

This means

- you can **download guidance** on applying for a student visa from the SSC website
- you can attend a **workshop** explaining the application process
- a member of SSC staff will **review** your application
- the SSC will **send your application** to a dedicated team at the Home Office's Borders and Immigration Agency, and **deal with any queries** with your application
- your documents, passport and new visa will be **returned to the SSC**, and you can collect them from there.

**Workshops:** 2pm, **Thursday 4th October**, Room **G108**, 20 Kingsway  
12 noon, **Friday 5th October**, Room **E171**, East Building  
**All students with visas expiring in October 2007 should attend one of these two workshops.**

For **information** about the Visa Office Batch Scheme service, to sign-up for a **workshop**, or to make an **appointment**, please call **020 7955 7894**, email **Visa.Office@lse.ac.uk** or visit the SSC web pages at **www.lse.ac.uk/ssc**

For **specialist immigration advice** or to discuss **complications** with your case, please contact the **LSE Students' Union Advice & Counselling Centre** 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, East Building, tel: **020 7955 7145** email: **su.advice-centre@lse.ac.uk**



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# nocturnal

Part 3 of 4 Exclusive London Parties

Sat 6th October 07  
Turnmills 10pm - 6am

The Shapeshifters present nocturnal on Saturday 6th October and Part 3 of 4 exclusive house parties held at Turnmills throughout 2007. After the summer roadblock, nocturnal returns with the autumn collection featuring the debonair Dimitri from Paris, alongside an extended 3 Hour Set from residents The Shapeshifters. In T2, the funk turns to fifth with Circus fallsmen Yousef heading south for the night to join Ibiza hero Pete Gooding and rising star Nicole Moudaber for a proper underground workout.

# the shapeshifters

3 Hour Set

Very Special Guest

**Dimitri from Paris** Disco King  
Simon Hawes Nocturnal Groove

Room Two

**Yousef** Circus  
**Pete Gooding** Café Mamba  
**Nicole Moudaber** Nocturnal Groove

**Turnmills**

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# COMPETITION

The Beaver has three pairs of guestlist places to give away for nocturnal at turnmills. to be in with a chance of getting your name on the list simply answer the following question:  
what was the name of the shapeshifters' uk number one single of july 2004?

send your entry to [thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk](mailto:thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk)

entries must be received by midday on friday 5th october to qualify



[www.nocturnalgroove.co.uk](http://www.nocturnalgroove.co.uk)  
[www.myspace.com/theshapeshifters](http://www.myspace.com/theshapeshifters)

[www.turnmills.co.uk/nocturnal](http://www.turnmills.co.uk/nocturnal)  
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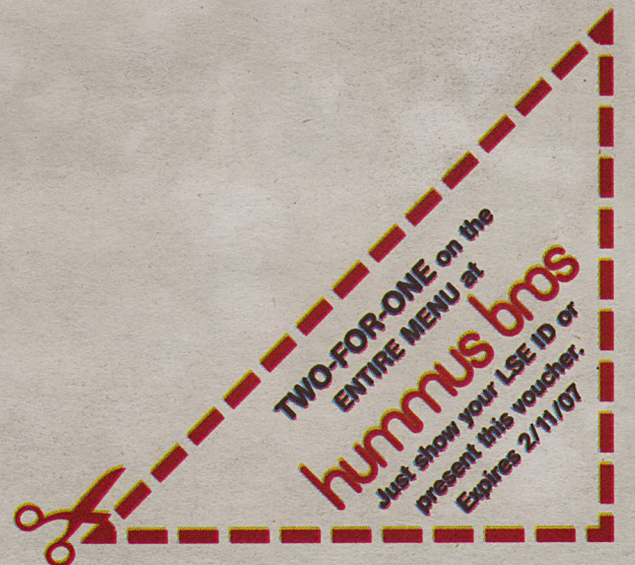
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James

*Calling all sexy ladies who enjoy sporting success and partying!! We are the most social women's team by a mile and if that ain't your bag then we still have an amazing team culture to boot.*

*Over half of our new recruits every year have never played rugby before in their lives and learn to love the sport very quickly. We train you really well from the very basics so you know exactly what you're doing. Despite this, we are laid back and having fun is undoubtedly our number one priority. We believe that enjoyment in the sport you are playing is the key to success and we have proven that as ULU Cup Finalists 2006 and Winners of the ULU League 2006. Last year we also finished within the top three of both our leagues.*

*Make the most of your time at LSE and join Women's Rugby - See you at the Fresher's Fair ladies!!*



## Football

# LSEFC: Want to meet this man?



Chris  
Naylor



LSEFC is not just a football club; at LSE, it is a way of life. We are made up of 7 teams; each firmly believing that they are better than the others. Despite this, the infamous phrase "seven teams; one FC" still rings true and our presence on the pitch, off the pitch and face down in the gutter is matched by none. Berrylands is our fortress for football, the Three Tuns & Walkabout are our fortresses for debauchery.

Unlike Rugby, the LSE Football Club brings success. We are 2007 ULU Cup Winners and 2006 ULU Division 1 Champions. Not to mention successive Calella Plate winners. Calella, you ask? The annual tour to Spain where football slides down the pecking order and is replaced primarily by banter and general carnage. It's the place where dreams are made and poly scum return to their rightful place; in the cupboard. Just ask dear old Robin Low or Bob Imnotaglove. Fact.

LSEFC has a proud history and this year I plan to take it

back to its roots. No more sneaking home after a game to make yourself look pretty for the ladies or to do that lil bit of homework. There's nothing wrong with a bit of love in the showers (it's ok, Andy Burton has left now) then heading straight to the Three Tuns for lash, lash, lash. Wednesday night is AU night and it is the FC's duty to dominate. Early start, heavy drinking, Walkabout and then being reminded of it all on a Thursday morning on the banterous FC email list. There's an unwritten rule that if we don't get banned from at least two pubs, get arrested for being drunk and disorderly and get reprimanded by Howard Davies then the season is a failure.

There are plenty of events throughout the season including the infamous AU Carol and that place Callela! Im sure you'll hear stories of both of these in the coming weeks, but to describe them in a word...filth. In addition each side will enhance spirit with nights of team bonding.

Oh and of course, we play football too;

Games are played most weeks on Wednesday & Saturdays against other London universities. Its important to uphold the honor of LSE and destroy lesser universities like Kings and UCL. If you have an aggressive streak then store it up ready to unleash it against Holloway. Scum.

The top three teams also play in a BUSA league against the likes of Brighton and Canterbury and the top two teams will train once a week in addition to their games.

Kits and insurance are covered in your joining fee.

Football trials commence Saturday 6th October and Sunday 7th October

Remember to sign up at freshers' fair...you won't be able to miss us, just follow the smell of lash.

Any questions, feel free to contact us on :  
c.a.naylor@lse.ac.uk or  
r.low@lse.ac.uk.

See you there!



## Rant

# Paint-drying is underrated

Josh Tendeter



**“W**hy the fuck did I get up for that? The heartfelt question I asked myself at 4.45 am as I switched the TV off and returned to bed. This summer I spent 5 weeks travelling in New Zealand, and while it is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful countries in the world it does have one glaring omission from its extensive repertoire of attractions: They just don't like football. After a few weeks away; it became difficult to concentrate on everyday things as the need to see some football steadily built. Its amazing how addictive watching a game can be. I was suffering from such severe withdrawal symptoms that all else had fled my head. Towards the end of my trip, I decided to combat this disgusting lack of

football and get out of bed in order to watch a match. It was Portsmouth against Liverpool in the Premiership. That's the Premiership; the most exciting league in the world. Liverpool, with the most exciting array of Spaniards outside of Spain (especially Pepe Reina; I just love watching Spanish

into the hole from whence I came.

It was probably one of the most tedious games of football I have ever seen. Did I say probably? Definitely. And I have seen a lot of games. The whole experience made me wonder whether New Zealand's sporting culture was on to something. Was there some kind of method in the madness of excluding the world's greatest sport from the lives of everyone in the country? After all, you don't get many 0-0s in that Rugby game. My wondering was short-lived and as I awoke fatigued later that morning I smiled to myself "Why the fuck did I get up for that?" Because it's football and it's great. The

## WATCHING PAINT DRY



STARRING A WALL AND SOME BLUE PAINT

Goalkeepers flap around like demented ducks) and Portsmouth with the most exciting array of Africans anywhere inside Africa or out. 105 long minutes later the game ended 0-0 and I crawled back

game was shit but I'd got my fix of football and I was happy. I have no idea why I did it to myself, but I just had to. With the benefit of hindsight, would I have got up for such a diabolically crap match? Fuck yeah!

## AU Freshers' Fair

# Sports teams want you

Molly Tucker



**T**he Athletics Union may not be what the LSE is known for (unless any of you have heard of the infamous Barrel Run, about which we shall not speak) but year after year its members insist that AU-ers have more fun than anyone else, and if your idea of fun is hard physical workouts followed by mind-numbing quantities of alcohol and mayhem, then during Freshers' Week the Old Gym is the place for you. Located in the labyrinthine corridors of the Old Building basement, all the sports have stalls of their own, where you can sign up, get a card, and sell your soul to Walkabout for the princely sum of 10 pounds per sport. The AU grounds are at Berrylands, out past Wimbledon, but teams usually go together so you won't have to get horribly lost on your own... Every undergraduate has Wednesday afternoon free for team practices, and Wednesday night has naturally become the LSE's messiest time of the week. The skill level of each team varies, with some

thrashing the opposition and winning multiple competitions and others just doing it for kicks (literally, in the case of our many martial arts squads), so like everything at the LSE, there really is something for everyone.

Here's a selection of some of the sports that you'll find on offer, and who to contact if you'd like to know more:

Aerobics - Evelina Tzenova  
e.s.tzenova@lse.ac.uk

Badminton - Jarrod Quah  
j.s.quah@lse.ac.uk

Basketball - Justin Gest  
j.gest@lse.ac.uk

Capoeira - Pratyush Rastogi  
p.rastogi@lse.ac.uk

Cricket - Vikas Katyal  
v.katyal@lse.ac.uk

Darts - Jarlath O'Hara  
j.o'hara@lse.ac.uk

Football - Chris Naylor  
c.a.naylor@lse.ac.uk

Golf - Joel Shamash  
j.t.shamash@lse.ac.uk

Hockey - Kieran Naik  
k.naik@lse.ac.uk

Women's Hockey - Emily Turner  
e.turner@lse.ac.uk

Jitsu - Konrad Swiecicki  
K.Swiecicki@lse.ac.uk

Karate - Yu Chao Zhou  
y.zhou3@lse.ac.uk

Lacrosse - Jarlath O'Hara  
j.o'hara@lse.ac.uk

Mixed Martial Arts - Ivan Filippov  
i.filippov@lse.ac.uk

Netball - Linsey Peel  
l.s.peel@lse.ac.uk

Pool and Snooker - Zubair Rasool  
z.rasool@lse.ac.uk

Rock Climbing - Marte Loefman  
m.e.loefman@lse.ac.uk

Rowing - Bethany Swartwood  
b.swartwood@lse.ac.uk

Rugby - Phil Burkimsher  
p.burkimsher@lse.ac.uk

Women's Rugby - Kim James  
k.j.james@lse.ac.uk

Running - Charles Dougherty  
c.l.dougherty@lse.ac.uk

Ski - Dave Anthony  
d.k.anthony@lse.ac.uk

## The Punter

# All that glitters is not gold

Matthew JCG Partridge



**I**f a week has been a long time in US politics then nearly four months has been an eternity. Over the summer we've seen Barack Obama's campaign implode after his comments about Pakistan, John McCain's campaign survive several blows that would have felled a lesser candidate and Bloomberg all but rule himself out of the race. However, there are still some good betting opportunities at Intrade.com. It increasingly looks likely that, if he wants to run, Al Gore (8.5-8.6) is the only candidate who can stop Hillary from winning the Democratic nomination. At the same time John McCain is another good outside tip (4.5-5.1) to win the Republican nomination, although it is possible that by the time that you read this his latest fundraising figures might have forced him to withdraw. I'm also going to go out on a limb and back the Republicans to retake the Senate in 2008 (5-14.8) and a third party to retake the White House (1.1-1.5). In terms of British politics a bet on a General Election before the

end of the year (1.88) at Betfair.com sounds good. Spreadfair.com is offering Labour seats at (330-333)

which is a bargain considering the opinion polls.

In terms of financial bets I'm currently betting on British

Airways (383p), one of the cheapest shares in the FTSE 100 relative to its earnings, and Morgan Stanley (\$62.91) looks

to have reached its bottom. I'm also going to advise going long December Short Sterling (93.94) as there should be at

least one rate cut between now and the end of the year. I'm also going to recommend that you go short December Gold (749.2) until it hits 730. However, it could very well go even higher so you should be prepared to take some short term losses if you follow my advice. I don't want to keep sounding like a bore but I'm still going to stick to Party Gaming (27.50p) as it continues to rebuild its business.

The sports world offers a load of opportunities this year, which will be discussed in more depth as they approach, but I am going to unashamedly show my roots and back Celtic to win the Scottish Premiership (1.76) at Betfair.com. I also think that it is time for an English victory in the Champions League, so I would recommend a punt on Chelsea (10) at Ladbrokes and Liverpool (12), Manchester United (15/2) and Arsenal (14) at Coral.

*Use any advice given here at your own risk and don't gamble what you cannot afford to lose. Columnist(s) may have positions in wagers mentioned. Prices quoted are correct at time of going to press.*





## Girls, girls, girls

Kimberlee needs some more women in her life

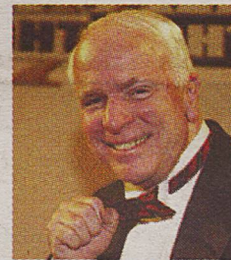
Kimberlee James



## LSEFC all the way

Why you should join the best drinking club at LSE

Chris Naylor



## Straight talking bets

The Punter investigates the US election

Matthew JCG Partridge

2.10.07 | thebeaver.sports@lse.ac.uk

Beaver

# sports

# Lovejoy meets the tax-dodgers



## Benjamin Lamy

Tim Lovejoy - formerly of Soccer AM - is more than just a well-known television presenter, he is revered by thousands of football-mad, beer-swilling folk for giving the people what they wanted: three hours of unadulterated goals, skills, jokes, interviews, music and laughs on a Saturday morning that no other show has ever been able to match.

Our interview got off to a slightly inauspicious start: "You must be pleased to speak to a high-class newspaper for a change?" "Exactly. You're a tax-dodger aren't you? A parasite on society". Looks like he has got me sussed already. In fact, one of the great achievements of the Lovejoy era was the emergence of a number of catchphrases which for some reason got embedded into our common language. The aforementioned 'tax dodger' is one, there is also the word 'bounce-backability' which made it into the Oxford English dictionary, although my MS Word

spellchecker Amateurs. "So I went on

disagrees.

your Myspace page the other day to do a bit of research. I didn't realise you had 80,000 friends". I was quickly corrected. "85,000" "Well what happens if they all want to borrow your car at the same time?" "You know what I did? One day I did an experiment and I invited 64,000 friends out for a drink". "How many turned up?" "50. So they're not really my friends, so it's a bit of a sham. That was good fun, I'm going to do it again. No one believed I would actually turn up and I just turned up and had a bit of a laugh". Lovejoy at his best.

His new job is hosting David Beckham's Soccer USA on Channel 5, and he thinks the main difference between MLS and the Premiership comes down to organisation "What it's lacking is mainly is good management." "So the World Cup's been on - the Women's World

Cup - have you been watching that?" "Yeah. I have..." there's a slight pause and I prepare myself, sensing a bit of banter. "What did you think?" "I think...um...it's unfair that all the women goalies have to play with lead in their boots, they don't seem to be able to get off the ground any of them. The other thing is you know I don't want to be sexist, but I feel sorry for them - why do they have to play with women's referees? If they're not good enough for men's football why do women have to put up with them?" There's a pause as we check on the respective sides of our phone line whether any women might have overheard us. "But you know I'm kind of impressed by the standard, but it's so one-sided. That German team looked unbelievable. The problem with women's football in this country is that they ally themselves with football clubs and football clubs aren't interested. If they were called Clapham FC and not allying themselves to Arsenal or Chelsea they would have done a lot better". Backlash averted.

"So what's going to happen to Chelsea this season then?" "Um...I think we'll probably win the league...um...Champions' League...maybe the FA Cup and Carling Cup". "So you're quite pessimistic then for this season...?" "You know I just think Jose's a great manager, I think we've got great playing staff...we're just a good team.

There's no point in being pessimistic, so you might as well go into the season and be an optimist, but I think the Premiership is just brilliant at the moment". Two days after our interview Mourinho left Chelsea. Lovejoy described himself as "gutted" in the national press.

"Besides yourself if you could choose a 5-a-side football team who would you pick?" "Right well, definitely my friend Paul Gascoigne, Zola, Dennis Wise for a bit of steel. Who shall I have in goal...I'll go for Maradona in goal, because he's fat and he's good with his hands.

Low centre of gravity, he'll get down well, and I'll go for Zizou (Zinedine Zidane) because he's the best player of all time".

If you could change one thing about football what would it be? "There's not a lot broken with it. I would possibly fast-track referees that have played the game and potentially give the linesman more power to take all the pressure away from the main man. I think you need people that have played football. You know if some player beats you and it's because he's better than you and you trip him up, not because you intentionally tried to hurt him, you get a yellow card it's not fair. Someone who's played the game would realise it was just a clumsy tackle".

**"One day I did an experiment and I invited 64,000 friends out for a drink"**

"There aren't many international television personalities that have a Simpsons character named after them". "Yeah and he had a wife who was called Helen which was pointed out a lot to me when I was on Soccer AM...I'm just waiting for the royalty cheques to come in. It's kind of weird isn't it, that's he called the Reverend Timothy Lovejoy - there aren't many Lovejoys around. The problem is if I break America, they'll think I'm named after the Vicar".

Then it came to the more serious matters. Why did Lovejoy leave the show that made his reputation and had reached cult status for so many sports fans? "It sort of became easy in the end if I'm honest with you. What happened was one day last Christmas I just suddenly thought I need to leave Soccer AM and I've got an opportunity to set up this company which I'm doing now and is really exciting. I can't talk much about it (it is an internet television project), and what I found was that Soccer AM had started getting slightly stale and what I thought would be a hard decision became an easier one. I'd kept it buoyant for like ten or eleven years and I started

thinking that what I need to do is drastically change the show, it needed a complete overhaul from top to bottom. Just after Christmas the boys had to convince me to keep doing the catwalk because I was like I'm bored of it now so the viewers must be bored of it, and I didn't have enough time to do that and dedicate all my time into my new business which really excites me and I want to be in on it - it's a new way of watching television, a new way of entertainment. So, bizarrely, even though I loved Soccer AM and I did give it eleven years of my life and it's really brilliant and everything about it is great, it wasn't a hard decision in the end because I knew I couldn't do both things and I had to dedicate my time to what I really wanted to do in the future".

"You've written a book [Lovejoy on Football] how was that?" "It was therapeutic, very therapeutic, because in both football and music there's a lot of snobbery about who's the better fan, that sort of mentality and it was very therapeutic because sometimes you feel a bit phoney as a football fan". "How come?" "Because I have my own T.V. show, I don't go home and away with Chelsea, I can't remember who won against Everton in '93, so I always question myself as a football fan and when I put it all down in a book suddenly I realised I had football in my life all my life. It's other people's problems if they want to question my football credentials. I hope people will read it and can look at themselves and say yeah I'm a football fan no matter what I do".

It was at this point that I felt I had finally reached beneath the veneer of television's Tim Lovejoy and reached the core of what he is really about as a human being. A man who enjoys the simple pleasures of life: having a drink with his mates, talking about controversial moments in football and listening to his favourite bands, whilst bringing entertainment to the millions of people who have the same passions as he does. So there we have it: Tim Lovejoy - formerly of Soccer AM - a true legend of his time.

*Lovejoy on Football - The Good, The Bad and The Ugly Sides of Soccer is out on the 4th October priced 16 English Pounds and 99 English Pence. It is available in all good bookshops and some rubbish ones as well.*



**"if I break America, they'll think I'm named after the Vicar"...**