

The Beaver

The Newspaper of the LSE SU

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The LSE has purchased the building on 24 Kingsway at a cost of £18 million. After a refurbishment, it is rumoured that it will eventually house several lecture theatres and classrooms, along with a bookstore and restaurant.

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Any questions?

The Question Time society, once one of the most active on campus, has been thrown into chaos amid allegations of incompetence and mismanagement. Several committee members have been called to account.

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The LSE Volunteer Centre has a great number of opportunities for LSE students, to help out in schools, hospitals and the local community. It is also possible to intern in parliament while at the LSE.

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Read an exclusive interview with former Ash guitarist, Charlotte Hatherley and find out why she made the decision to go solo.

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Aramark ousted from halls

Prashant Rao
News Editor

The LSE has terminated its contract with international catering giant Aramark after the company submitted a revised offer to the School which was deemed unacceptable.

Citing increasing costs to the School and deteriorating quality, an assessment based on numerous complaints from students, the LSE made the decision to stop doing business with Aramark on 10 June.

Under contractual guidelines, Aramark was to have continued to operate at Bankside, Rosebery and Carr-Saunders halls for a further three months, with the LSE taking over on 10 September.

Aramark, however, stated its preference to vacate the halls earlier, and requested an audience with the School to enter into discussions on the issue.

The LSE, however, while stating their openness to such an arrangement, did not enter into any such negotiations with the company.

Failure, in Aramark's opinion, on the part of the LSE to enter into these negotiations fast enough led to the company leaving the three halls on 13 August, nearly a month before their contractual obligations allowed. Since then, catering has been handled by LSE's Central Catering Services without interruption.

According to David Tymms, the School's Director of Residential and Catering Services, "There were concerns from an early period about [Aramark's] pricing and the quality of food as well as the number of students that were availing of the service."

Indeed, as Henry Choo, former President of the Bankside Hall Residents' Committee, put it, "As

last year progressed, the quality of the food got worse and by the end, the canteen was basically empty."

The so-called 'final straw', however, came when Aramark submitted a revised offer to the LSE, hoping to restructure the agreed-upon contract which was to run for five years, with an option to extend it for a further two years, beginning in January 2003.

The original contract called for a yearly payment to Aramark of £177,646 to cater to all three halls, over and above any revenue the company would generate through sales. This was nearly £80,000 less than what Everson Hewitt was charging to cater only for Bankside.

Actual costs, however, in the original Aramark contract totalled closer to £246,000 after additional subsidies were included.

Aramark's new offer, however,

started at nearly £197,983 with an additional £39,986 for projected shortfalls in 2004's vacation trading, as well as £38,308 to cover shortfalls in 2003's vacation trading.

In effect, taking the £20,000 increase in term-time costs to the LSE, the £40,000 increase in vacation costs, as well as the £40,000 extra for 2003 vacation trading, Aramark, which has reported global sales of US\$7.6 billion in the first nine months of this year, came to the LSE demanding an additional £100,000.

After Aramark submitted this offer, the issue was raised at the School's Finance Committee and, after what has been described as an "impassioned plea" from former LSE Students' Union General Secretary Elliott Simmons, the committee decided to terminate the contract.

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A throng of students clamour to sign up to societies at Freshers' Fair, described by some as the "best ever". / Photo : Matthew Sinclair



Demand plummeted in Bankside's hall canteen after Aramark took over.

Aramark ousted

Continued from page 1

Despite the marked rise in demands however, Aramark's proposed contract was, according to Tymms, "financially, very good news."

"If they came back and asked for this kind of money, and people were lining up to use their service, then we would have more than happily engaged in discussion with them," he said.

"It wasn't about the money."

Complaints against Aramark, which also serves numerous prisons and correctional facilities, were voiced by the presidents of both Bankside and Carr-Saunders, as well as the acting President of Rosebery, towards both Tymms and Andrew Farrell, the Director of Finance and Facilities.

Rishi Madlani, LSE SU Residences Officer commented that: "[The LSE] was advertising

halls that were catered, but the food wasn't what we wanted to provide, or what our students expected."

"Fortunately, the committees in all three halls have worked very hard to get around the problem, but there's no doubt that [the poor quality of Aramark catering] had some impact on the social environment of individual halls," he continued.

"The food was highly priced and not particularly tasty...If Aramark wasn't going to provide an acceptable service, then the LSE should."

According to Tymms, the current arrangement, with catering for all three halls now run in-house, will continue for the foreseeable future.

Though final forecasts have not been compiled, he does not believe the LSE will bear costs that will be greater than what it would have paid Aramark.

Tuns price hike amid rising costs

Chris Heathcote
News Editor

Drink prices at The Three Tuns have risen marginally this term.

Students' Union Treasurer Gareth Carter insists, however, that the move is not an attempt to recuperate the hundreds of thousands overspent on its recent refurbishment.

Though the increases have been limited as far as possible, some of them are above the rate of inflation and will affect all the drinks and snacks served at the bar, though not in equal portions.

The most marked rise will be on Worthington, which sees a rise of 15 pence up to £1.40, whereas Carling which will rise by 10 pence to £1.60.

Stella Artois meanwhile will take another step towards the £2 mark at £1.95.

A drink and a mixers will now cost £2 and soft drinks 55 pence. Bags of crisps and peanuts will cost 55 and 60 pence respectively.

Bottled water, an essential to remain hydrated when out having fun, becomes a rather more pricy 80 pence.

Tap water will remain free, though.

Carter, who made the decision to raise the prices, explained that the cost of purchasing drinks stocks rises each year and as such the added cost had to be passed on to the customers.

He stressed that the aim had been keep all drink prices below £2 and insisted that the increases had nothing to do with covering the cost of the Tuns refit.

The real motive, he said, was to hold the same profit margin, currently at 57 percent.

"It's not as good as most high-street pubs, but that's because we want to keep prices low for students," he said.

Carter, who will earn £24,680 this year, added wryly, "I'm going to be drinking there...so I don't want to price myself out."

And in a further move away from the atmosphere of the old Tuns, this week will see the once traditional pub begin to serve contemporary meals such as chicken goujons, beef bourguignon, sausages and caramelised apples and even wild mushroom tortellini.

For the less exotic eater, burg-

ers, chips and pizzas will also be available.

The announcement will be welcomed by those who dislike the canteen-style atmosphere of the Brunch Bowl and will hopefully encourage more students to use the Tuns during the day, rather than simply a place to drink alcohol in the evening.

The Tuns has also seemingly begun to discourage its customers from bringing their own food, a policy similar to Central Catering Services.

Such a move could arguably hurt Tuns revenue, as several eateries are all in close proximity to the bar.

Carter, however, disagrees, telling *The Beaver*, "There aren't enough places to eat in and around Houghton Street."

"Serving food should hopefully only serve to increase our revenue," he continued.

It had been feared that the new design of the venue might not be as popular during the day because it lacked the cozy atmosphere of its predecessor.

Editorial Comment, page 7

Student loan struggle

Nazir Hussain and
Kheng Lim

An estimated 25,000 returning students in the UK will receive their loans late due to computer glitches in the Protocol software used by the Student Loans Company (SLC), according to an article in *The Guardian*.

It was announced during induction talks that students with such problems could see Financial Support at the Student Services Centre for discussion.

Mark Maloney, Head of Student Administration told *The Beaver*: "All our advice led us to believe beforehand that few if any students would arrive without their student loans."

"None of our students came through Clearing, so the only delay would have come if they applied late."

Sian Errington, LSE Students' Union Education and Welfare Officer, said that she was assured only a few weeks ago by Sean McNally, Fees Manager, that the processing of student loans would go smoothly.

However, *The Beaver* was informed last Friday by McNally

that loan cheques were still arriving every day. He did not give any indication of whether this constituted a delay.

One third year Government and History student who has experienced delays said that when he registered last Wednesday, he was told that his loan had not yet arrived.

However, he also added that he was not too worried yet. This was because he lived at home and worked part time, although he did admit that he would probably start to feel the bite if the loan did not arrive soon.

As advice to students undergoing such problems, Errington said: "If students are experiencing difficulties receiving their Student Loan cheques, or any financial difficulties, they should contact the Fees and Finance Division immediately."

"Students should also be aware that there is a drop-in session for financial advice in the Student Services Centre between 1pm and 2pm every day. Myself and the Advice Centre are also available for anyone experiencing problems."

Sabbaticals strike it rich: pay-rise on the cards

Mark Power
Executive Editor

The Students' Union's four sabbatical officers are to get a significant pay rise despite SU Treasurer Gareth Carter having promised during his election campaign to freeze sabbatical wages.

Carter placed his promise to freeze wages at the centre of his election campaign during the 2004 Lent Term elections, which saw him facing previous Treasurer Jo Kibble, who had budgeted for a deficit year.

Carter undertook to freeze sabbatical wages in order with the aim of recovering some of the

roughly £80,000 deficit Kibble had run up.

Explaining this apparent u-turn, Carter distanced himself from the decision by pointing out that the School's review of its Academic-Related (AR) pay scales was responsible.

The revision was made after negotiations between staff and the School, and was prompted by strike action last year.

The SU pay scales were linked to the School's AR-1 pay rating, which was abolished after the revisions.

This means that all junior academic staff now start on the AR-2 scale of £24,680 per year.

Sabbatical salaries were pre-

viously set at £22,053.

According to Carter, the Union is obliged to stick with the School's pay-scales because giving Sabbaticals control over their wages would make it a political decision.

"The idea behind the AR pay scales is to keep it out of political and sabbatical control," he said.

"Advice given to me by staff suggested that it is not a realistic option to come off the pay scale."

Carter explained that political control of pay scales could mean that it would be easy for future sabbatical officers to raise their own pay beyond reasonable boundaries.

When asked as to how the new

pay deal would affect Union finances, Carter said that it would be covered in the short term, and that the School's next review of its funding contributions to the Union would take staffing costs into account.

As such the block grant from the School to the Union would partially reflect the increased salary costs.

The rise comes at a time when Union finances are already stretched after the expense of refurbishing the Union bars.

Work on The Three Tuns and the Underground bars were considerably over-budget.

Despite this, Carter remained confident that the Union would

be able to absorb the costs and forecast a balanced budget in Week 9, when his budget submission is due.

When asked as to whether his campaign promise represented a naiveté regarding the responsibilities of his office, Carter explained that the increase "has been largely imposed on us by the School's pay review."

He added that he was looking into further financing from the School to cover the costs of the increases before the review of Union finances.

When questioned as to whether he felt he deserved the increase, Carter joked, "if you pay peanuts, you get monkeys."

LSE purchases building on 24 Kingsway, extends hold

Owen Coughlan and
Sati Nagra

The LSE campus is set to increase in size by more than a tenth following the acquisition of a new property at 24 Kingsway.

The massive £18 million investment will see not only new teaching areas and lecture theatres, but also a bookshop, new catering facilities as well as new communal and atrium spaces.

The purchase is due to be finalised next Tuesday as the two parties involved need only exchange contracts.

The 120,000 square foot building increases the LSE's floor space by around 12 percent, and increases the School's capacity to 9,000 students, according to Richard Taylerson, an Estates Director.

Initial appraisals indicate that refurbishment of the building will cost approximately £30 million, and will not be complete for another three years.

The building will go out to an architectural competition with all participants reporting back in February, at which point the costs of refurbishment will become more definite.

Previously, the building housed the Public Guardianship Office, a government office and it is understood that the School was able to purchase the property successfully despite strong interest from several other government departments.

Though the purchase of 24 Kingsway is not considered part of the School's Estates master plan, articulated in Issue 595 of *The Beaver*, it does give the School additional space which will allow it to better go about redesigning the campus.

The original goals of the Estates master plan remain, however.

Outlined earlier this year, it proposed the replacement of the St Clements and St Phillips teaching areas.

LSE Students' Union General

Secretary Will Macfarlane told *The Beaver* that the building would also provide the school with an important "comfort zone" during the demolition of other School buildings that are in need of redevelopment.

Designs for the building's interior so far include plans for a bookshop, communal areas

The main purpose of the building, however, will be to increase the LSE's teaching facilities with several classrooms and at least three lecture theatres with capacities between 150 and 200, according to Taylerson.

The existing building already boasts a particularly large basement, suitable for halls.

New catering facilities also play a large part in the plans for 24 Kingsway.

These plans would be particularly beneficial as they would create a more easily accessible ground floor catering area, in contrast to the fourth floor Brunch Bowl in the Old Building.

The possibility of re-locating some of the School's larger academic departments in new, purpose-built, long-term locations is also considered a major benefit.

A process of consultation over the next six months will determine which departments will move.

Whilst some definite plans for the building, which will be accessible from Lincoln's Inn, have already been made, all construction plans are likely to be finalised within the next three to four months.

What is certain though is that the acquisition will give the School its first foothold in Lincoln's Inn Fields, as the building is likely to open out into a plaza in this area and because it is situated away from the main campus, disruption from building work will be minimised.

The renovation work will be so extensive that the finished product will be almost 'purpose built' for university use, in stark contrast to other properties.

Macfarlane, believing this was



24 Kingsway will be the School's first foothold on Lincoln's Inn Fields. / Photo : Chris Heathcote

a positive move by the School and would be a long-term benefit to students, also said that "this purchase of 24 Kingsway and the plans for it are extremely positive; it is an investment for students in the campus, academic

facilities and also in catering."

The School is, according to Taylerson, constantly looking at properties surrounding the campus, but 24 Kingsway was the only one that fit the bill.

It would seem therefore, that

despite its price tag, the opportunity to purchase 24 Kingsway was one the School could simply not miss out on.

Editorial Comment, page 7

Time for answers from Question Time Society

James Upsher

The future of the Question Time society, once one of the most active on campus, has been called into question after their failure to provide a programme of events last year.

Over 300 members each paid £2 to join the society at last year's Fresher's Fair on the promise of the previous years celebrity-backed activities. Concerned members have now brought to the attention of *The Beaver* the failings of the society's committee.

Throughout last year the committee only organised one event, a debate on the future of art, organised by the outgoing committee as an introduction to the new team of officers.

This debate consumed a large amount of the money from membership fees and sponsorship with expenses such as flying

debate guests from mainland Europe, costing over £400.

After this debate the new committee met only twice, firstly to create a plan of events and then once more, for ten minutes, to discuss progress. On both occasions contact information was not exchanged between all the officers.

Simon Rees, the Sponsorship Officer, then produced a proposal with Chairperson Amber Grewal. At this meeting they planned four debates and one special event.

This was presented to their sponsor, the international accountancy firm KPMG, who agreed to fund the society to the sum of £1,500. This money was received in November, but no events ever followed.

Sara Reading, Head of Graduate Recruitment at KPMG and the society's liaison, contacted Rees around Christmas to

enquire on the progress of the planned debates.

Reading was told that planning was in progress for two debates in the Lent term, one on the London Mayoral election and another on the future of television. Neither of these occurred.

The society was left with over £1,000 which, unspent, would have been impounded the Students' Union at the end of the year. The Union contacted the Society Treasurer, Joe Chan, on the last day of the society's financial year to warn them.

To prevent this the society purchased two video cameras, at a total cost of £789 and over two hundred pounds worth of giveaways for Fresher's Fair. One of the camcorders has since been sold to the SU.

The purchase of the video cameras was only brought to the attention of several society offi-

cers during the course of *The Beaver's* investigation.

As Fresher's Fair approached, the society had not been re-registered for this year, a detail that was only discovered with two days to spare, and no room has been booked for the AGM.

Chan stressed that he "was only a first year and not sure of the processes involved." Other first year society officers also blamed older members of the committee for a lack of training, whilst knowledge of their individual tasks were passed on there was a lack of overall coordination and understanding.

Chan did concede that "we could have done better," thoughts echoed by Media Officer Jimmy Tam who told *The Beaver*, "we should have done more events and we take responsibility for that."

Members of the committee did

not contact the Students Union, however had they done so Will Macfarlane, former societies officer, would have proposed to "use the constitutional tools available to sort out the situation."

Macfarlane also told *The Beaver* that "we are relying on well-intentioned and conscientious committee members, especially in the bigger and more financially 'heavyweight' societies."

The current Societies Officer Angus Jones told *The Beaver* that "There is not a huge amount I can do... to keep track of every society would be far too much work for one part time officer to do." However, Angus did say he would try to speak to the committees of every society of significant size to ensure they understood their responsibilities.

Changes at the top for library catalogue

Sarah Taylor

The British Library of Political and Economic Sciences (BLPES) has changed its management system for the new academic year.

Introduced this summer in time for Michaelmas term, the changes follow a two-year consultation described as a Library spokesperson as an "exhaustive evaluation".

This follows the library's seven-year cycle of consultation with students through the library user committee, and replaces Unicorn, the previous system.

The preferred suppliers were Endeavor Systems Inc and Serials Solutions. The new system, as reported in *The Beaver* last academic year, is used in several other academic libraries including Edinburgh and Hertfordshire, and by the Open University.

The online catalogue, accessible from anywhere on the web, has been redesigned with a new

and better interface according to Henty.

The changes are not only cosmetic: searches may now be saved provided users sign in with their library PIN.

However, the location finder, which previously directed students to the correct floor or section for their search result, is temporarily offline, due back by the end of term.

Any students, and particularly freshers, wanting to get to grips with the new catalogue can follow the WebCT tutorial, attend a training session during the month of October, or alternatively click the Help button.

The electronic library and journal portals have also been affected by the changes.

Whereas previously links to electronic journals were somewhat scattered around the library website, now a single hub lists all journals available online.

The new system is able to cut by the hour, meaning that the



The library, which has changed its cataloguing system in time for the new term. / Photo: James Upsher.

library will be able to enforce its new four-hour loan time for set-texts. The old software worked by the day and could not have coped with the changes.

Further ahead, it is planned

that extra enhancements and developments will continue to be added throughout the academic year and will be advertised to students through the library website and messages in the library itself.

Report accuses the LSE of lacking sufficient 'inclusivity'

Mike Fauconnier-Bank

The LSE is one of seventeen universities currently reprimanded for failing to be sufficiently socially 'inclusive'.

The Government's Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) has officially listed the LSE as being guilty of admitting too many pupils from independent schools, too few from the lowest socio-economic groups and too few from disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

Other universities suffering similar sanctions include Oxford, Cambridge, University College London (UCL) and Imperial College London.

Although only 7 per cent of pupils are educated by independent schools in the UK, 33.1 per cent of all students commencing their studies at the LSE in the

2002/3 academic year were privately educated. This resulted in the School missing its allocated benchmark for state school entrants by over 13 per cent.

An LSE spokesman defended the School's admissions policy, stressing that offers were "based on academic excellence and potential in so far as it is possible to assess it. The standard offer made was ABB or higher, regardless of which school a student may come from."

She continued, "66% of those admitted to LSE are from state schools and colleges and LSE has been working to widen our activities with state schools to encourage a wider range of applications for some years."

"The key question is how to encourage a broader range of students to apply for these places."

The issue then would appear

to be less a problem with admissions policy than the make-up of applicants to the School. Indeed, *The Telegraph* newspaper reported in 2002 that the LSE was actually accused by the independent sector of discriminating against privately educated pupils, in a bid to meet Government admissions targets.

Many have predicted that the problem is only likely to worsen in the 2006 academic season, with the introduction of top-up fees, which are likely to discourage those from the lowest socio-economic groups from continuing into higher education.

However, as the majority of the LSE's student population is made up of international and postgraduate students, the problem is likely to have less of an impact on the LSE less than other UK universities.

A number of the universities criticised in the HESA report have hit back, accusing the Government of introducing increasingly unrealistic benchmarks, year after year.

Warwick University was set a 76 per cent benchmark in 2001/2. Despite exceeding this the following academic year, it found that its new goal had been set at 81.9 per cent, leaving it open to further criticism.

A spokeswoman for the university was quoted in *The Times* newspaper, accusing the Government of "moving the goal posts."

"If we continue to be asked to improve our intake by six percentage points a year, we will need to recruit 106 per cent of our students from state schools by 2008. We look forward to being asked to meet that benchmark."

Professor professes plagiarism at Harvard

Simon Chignell

The LSE has warned its staff that it takes plagiarism "very seriously" and indicated that severe cases could lead to their dismissal, following last week's admission of 'lifting work' by leading Harvard law scholar Lawrence Tribe.

A problem usually associated with students, the plagiarism spotlight has now been turned upon Professors at top universities around the world after Tribe was forced to apologise for using another author's work without giving due credit in an article for the American news journal the *Weekly Standard*.

In a statement last Monday, scholar Tribe, who was an unsuccessful representative in Al Gore's lawsuit over the 2000 pres-

idential election result, confirmed that his book "God Save This Honorable Court" plagiarises from fellow law scholar Henry Abraham's 1974 book "Justices and Presidents" including one full nineteen word passage. Harvard has released a statement saying that the issue is under investigation.

In his statement Tribe defended himself saying that his "failure to attribute some of the material" only came from a "well-meaning effort to write a book accessible to a lay audience through the omission of footnotes or endnotes." Abraham did accept Tribe's apology but also said that he felt "betrayed" and said that the plagiarism was "inexcusable."

Unfortunately for Harvard this incident is not alone, with three further cases of plagiarism

exposed by the *Weekly Standard*. Such incidents have turned the focus on to top Professors who, under pressure to have articles and books published, may turn over some of their writing to their research assistants.

However, Professor Christopher Greenwood of the LSE condemned such practises, saying: "I think plagiarism can never be justified or excused, no matter what the pressure to publish. I have never delegated to a research assistant the writing of anything to be published over my name and am not aware of anyone else at LSE who does so."

Meanwhile the LSE sought to confirm its firm stance on plagiarism by students and staff alike, saying: "The School has procedures in place to deal with allegations of staff misconduct, includ-

ing plagiarism, and should an allegation of professional misconduct be made, would investigate each case individually and act according to the findings."

The statement also added that the most serious cases could lead to dismissal.

Coincidentally, during the summer recess, Dr Edgar Whitley of the LSE, in collaboration with two other Professors, was awarded £215,000 of funding from the Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning (FDTL) to research 'grey' plagiarism amongst overseas students studying business and management.

The project will investigate emerging forms of plagiarism using information technology as well as new digital sources and focus on the perception of plagiarism from overseas students.

LSE bring war in from the cold

Adrian Li

A new Cold War Studies Centre will be launched at the LSE next week with a public lecture by Professor John Mearsheimer.

Professor Mearsheimer, who is co-director of the Programme on International Security Policy at the University of Chicago, will discuss Why the Bush Doctrine Crashed and Burned in Iraq.

The lecture is first of a series to mark the launch of the centre, which is the first of its kind in Europe.

It aims to bring together scholars from around the world in an ambitious project that will study the many aspects of the conflict, including an exploration of the several ways in which the rise and fall of the 'Great Contest' continues to shape the modern world.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, Professor Michael Cox, co-director of the Centre, said, "LSE is wonderfully well placed to build a real bridge to scholars in the UK, Europe and the USA and show that there is a big role to be played in looking at the Cold War from a wider European perspective."

"The other contribution we hope to make is to show how the Cold War and the way it ended continue to impact on the modern world in general and the so-called war on terror in particular," he continued.

"The Cold War might have come to a formal end, but its largely baleful influence lives on in so many critical ways. To this extent, we still live in the very large shadow cast by the past: history is the present."

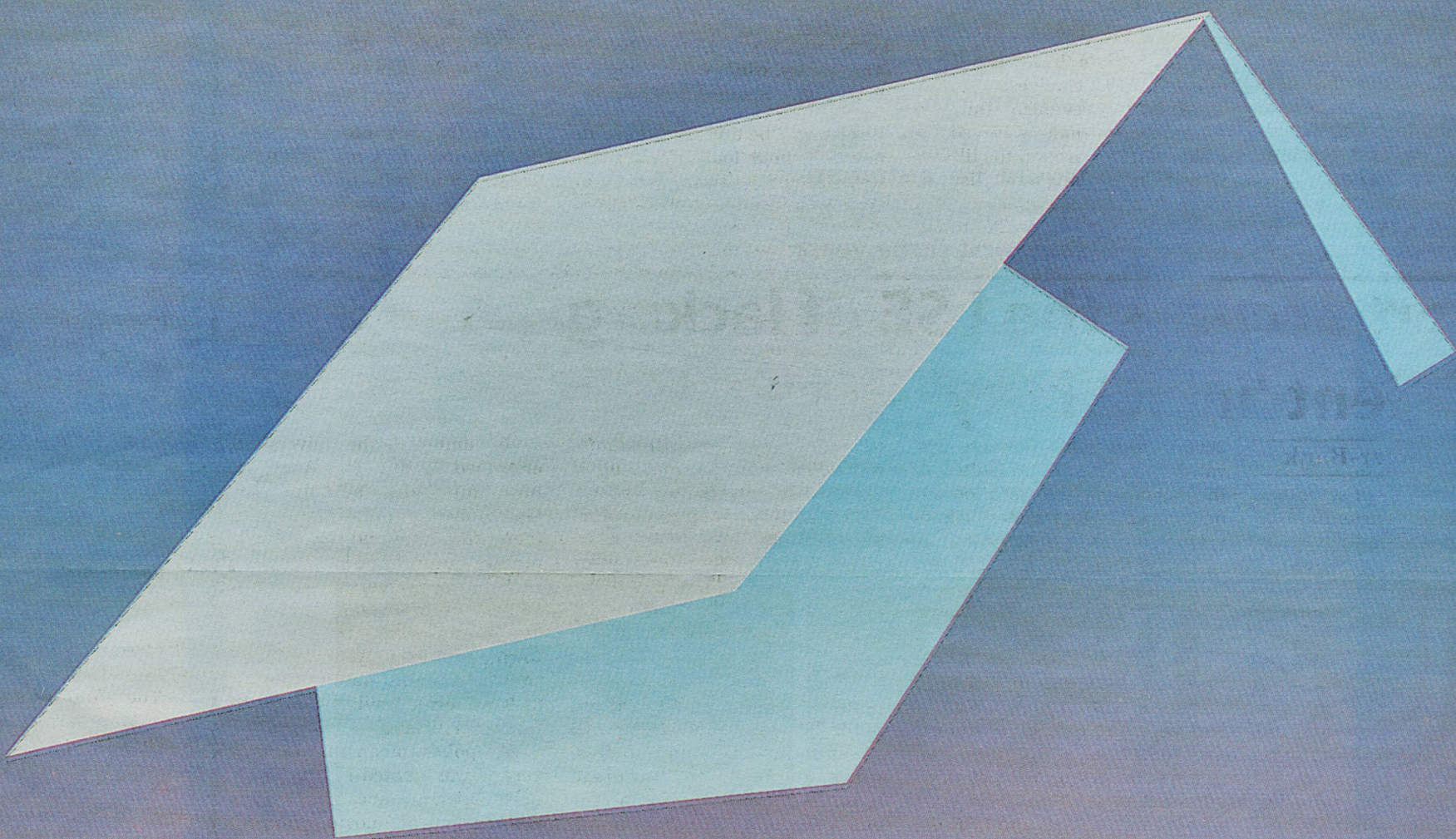
The Cold War Studies Centre employs LSE's unique potential for the study of international affairs to investigate the creation of the contemporary world through the prism of 20th century international history.

The lecture series continues with speakers including Professor Fred Halliday and G John Ikenberry of the LSE, and Peter F Krogh, Professor of Geopolitics and Global Justice at Georgetown University. The Centre also plans further public lectures by Professors Mary Kaldor, Margot Light, Michael Cox and Arne Westad. In 2006 the centre will be involved in an international conference with other European scholars in France and Italy on the end of the Cold War in Europe.



Soon the Cold War will be revisited at the LSE's new Centre.

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BARCLAYS
FLUENT IN FINANCE

Less work all round: a radical new approach to Freshers' Fair

As the stalls, sign-up sheets and free stuff are packed away for another year, *Eliot Pollak* thinks outside the box.

I must admit I was most surprised to hear about Tony Blair's recent heart problems. Not for the reasons you may think however. I just never knew he had one.

What a week on campus it has been. Freshers' Fair - hundreds of excited newcomers push and shove around Clement House, eagerly signing up to numerous societies, all for the right to have emails sent to them around March time with instructions of who to vote for in the Lent Term sabbatical elections.

Being behind a stall this year, the one aspect that truly infuriated me was those freshers who agonised for hours over whether to join my society.

"Listen mate/love, you ain't buying a house here. Just give us your pound, and if you're not happy by Christmas, write to us with a stamped addressed envelope and we'll give you a full refund."

Several things did interest me however at this year's Fair. Firstly, did the 'People and Planet' society really have to hand out that many leaflets?

Second of all, how many people went up to the Kazakhstan society stall, just to shout 'why not' in their best Borat accent?

Thirdly, is it acceptable for me to join

the Peruvian society purely because of my love for Nolberto Solano's sweet right foot?

But credit where credit is due and a big well done to all who ran stalls, and in particular, a big pat on the back to Sir

Each student would be assigned, at random, three societies which they would be automatically attached to for their first three years of study.

Gareth of Carter. Carter, having seemingly forever forsaken his abeyance as miscreant pirate, rushed with alacrity all over Clement House, up and down like a bride's nightie.

Yet if I may Gareth, I believe I have an idea for you that will spice up next year's Fair, and an idea that fits snugly with the LSE's commitment to diversity, tolerance

and PC crap like that.

Every member of the School should pay £3 on entry to the LSE SU, whereupon their name would be entered into a giant hat. (I would suggest using Mark Power's as he has a very big head but I would probably lose my job as columnist.)

In an equally vast hat, all the names of the societies would be put in and each student would be assigned, at random, three societies which they would be automatically attached to for their three years of study. Students would be constitutionally bound to attend at least two societal events per year for each of their aligned societies. This would have many obvious benefits.

It would increase the budget for those societies who lack members (mentioning no names Swing Dance) as well as encouraging all students at the LSE to partake in a greater variety of extra-curricular activities.

Perhaps most importantly, such a scheme would increase things such as interlocutory interdenominational discussions, which don't happen enough at LSE. Possibly because it's very difficult to say interlocutory inter-denominational discussions.

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The Beaver

Comment

Aramark out of halls

The School's decision to ditch Aramark and return to School-sourced catering provision is to be applauded.

The case against Aramark was clear. Over the course of the last academic year the complaints about the quality of the company's catering mounted from each of the halls it was involved with.

The decision to discontinue the contract, after complaints from the hall committees were forwarded to the Students' Union and relayed to the Finance Committee by then SU General Secretary Elliot Simmons, is a sound one, which places the concerns of students central to the provision of catering in halls.

The committee, and in particular Andrew Farrell and David Tymms, are to be commended for a sound decision that will hopefully improve the culinary experience of halls students.

Aramark, on the other hand, have provided another string in the bow to those critical of further expanding the School's involvement in Public Private

Partnerships (PPP), which often do not improve service provision and offer questionable value for money. The fact that Aramark requested more money from the School for its contract because custom had dropped is symptomatic of the flaws of the concept.

Thankfully, they were stopped this time, but the drop in custom is surely an indication that Aramark was doing a poor job, which is not something the School should be asked to financially compensate for.

Hopefully the Aramark experience will provoke reflection on other PPP projects the School is considering, such as the controversial Passfield renovation. In halls, experience shows that private companies provide less communal space and worse quality service provision than university-managed facilities.

The simple truth is that private companies require intensive regulation to ensure they are providing services in the student interest whereas university management tends to do so more instinctively.

More space, hopefully

The School's acquisition of 24 Kingsway is a fortunate and timely addition to the campus which will provide the LSE with much needed space to improve and upgrade its existing facilities and build upon existing improvements.

The new building will dramatically improve the LSE and facilitate other campus improvements by enabling departments to decant to the new building whilst their own is being renovated.

It should, however, be noted that the School must be wary of seeing this as an opportunity to expand numbers yet again. There are still many facilities in

the School which are under pressure because of the recent increases in student numbers, and some inadequately-designed facilities.

The Library, mired in controversy because of recent changes to the set-text system is one of these facilities. The design of the current building, which in many respects is good, is seriously flawed in both its use of space and the allocation of that space with, for example, the Course Collection being far too small for its purpose. Until these and other pressures on LSE resources are resolved, there can be no question of increasing student numbers.

Prices rise with Tuns costs

The price rises of drinks in the Tuns may be justifiable, but it is unfortunate that they come at the same time as the costly new refurbishment. It is understandable, and indeed responsible, that this administration should seek to recover the significant costs of the refurbishment, even through a modest increase in bar prices. It would seem necessary for the bar to increase prices in order to recoup costs, and it is perhaps by mere coincidence that this comes at the

same time as a rise in bar prices.

It would be a good idea for SU Treasurer Gareth Carter to look for further ways to increase the Tuns profitability.

Carter can not be held responsible for his predecessors' mistakes but he should do his best to mitigate them. It is important for the Union's continued viability that the new bars and other trading services arrest the decline in their profitability. Drink for the future of the Union.

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@lse.ac.uk, and should be no longer than 250 words. Letters may be edited prior to publication.

Dear Editor

Your story (LSE to charge maximum level of top-up fees, 28 September) was factually incorrect. No final decision concerning variable fees has been made as yet by the School's governing body Council.

There has been a broad debate within LSE concerning the Higher Education Bill, which has involved the Academic Board, the Academic Planning and Resources Committee, the Court of Governors and the Council. Student representatives have been involved at every stage of discussion.

Last term the Academic Planning and Resources Committee made three recommendations to the Academic Board:

(i) that the School should introduce variable fees of £3,000, starting in 2006-07;

(ii) that, in the first instance, this fee should be charged for all our undergraduate programmes;

(iii) that we wait until the autumn to determine the details of our bursary scheme and the rest of our Access Agreement but that we actively explore these in the meantime. It was also recommended that, during these explorations, a member of the Students' Union should join the Scholarship Group.

The Academic Board agreed the first two recommendations of the APRC but stipulated that their approval was subject to the Board's endorsement of a satisfactory bursary scheme and recorded their view that one third of the additional income should be spent on student support. Council noted and endorsed in principle, the recommendations of the Academic Board but determined that practical proposals about implementation should be considered by Council in the autumn.

The Scholarships Group, including a member of the Students' Union, is currently considering proposals about implementation. This group's proposals will be considered by the Academic Planning and Resources Committee and the Academic Board prior to being considered by Council in November.

Adrian Hall
Secretary and Director of School Administration

Dear Editor

I am writing in response to Alykhan Velshi's article entitled:

"Human Rights Lawyers: Neither Lawyers nor Human". It is always amusing to see such fine journalism in print but perhaps Velshi could try actually having a coherent and factually accurate argument next time.

There is a serious case to be answered over Iraq as the report commissioned by Adam Price MP entitled "A Case to Answer" demonstrates. There needs to be an investigation into possible wrongdoing over the way the war was sold to the British people and to members of parliament and over the use/misuse of intelligence information. A normal inquiry headed by a Law Lord is not enough as the famous Hutton Inquiry shows rather too well.

Impeachment may be an "anti-quoted parliamentary tradition" as Velshi puts it, but it is the only real mechanism available to hold a full debate on the issue of Iraq. Blair's actions have undermined the UK's global reputation, made a mockery of Parliament as representatives of the people, destroyed the infrastructure of another nation and led to too many deaths, on both sides, to even count. It is not a question of whether the war in Iraq was legal or not, although it is interesting to note Velshi fails to mention that Professor Greenwood was one of the only senior lawyers to speak out for the war and his justifications are based on a rather creative interpretation of UN resolutions.

This is a question of how the decision to invade Iraq was taken and its constitutional consequences. Everyone, regardless of your position on the legality of the Iraq war, should be behind this attempt to bring some transparency and accountability into the decisions taken by a major global power.

Anna Protano-Biggs

Dear Editor

In response to your article "Set texts now 4-hour loans" and your Editorial Comment, we would like to reassure students that we don't just provide Set Texts in the Course Collection but books with a range of loan periods. Library policy is to allocate one Set Text copy per title, except where academic staff ask us to allocate more than one. The majority of books in the Course Collection have either 3 day or 1 week loan periods. So students

who have enjoyed these loan periods can continue to do so. As far as students with disabilities/dyslexia are concerned, we already make special arrangements on an individual basis to extend loan periods when necessary and this will not change.

Over the last year there have been strong requests for Set Texts to be changed from 24 hours to shorter loan periods or "reference only" copies - from representative bodies. We believe the new 4 hour loan period will fulfil this need for a "copy of last resort" and maximise availability of titles in very heavy demand.

We regret that we did not inform the SU sabbatical officers of this decision during the summer. Normally we would discuss this sort of change with the Library User Committee (LUC) and the SU officers. However, we were faced with making the decision on loan periods quickly when setting the parameters on our new Library Catalogue, installed during the summer to a very tight timescale. We felt we had enough evidence from student feedback to be confident this change would be welcomed and wanted to get it in place for the new academic year. With hindsight we should have taken the time to run the proposal past SU officers and LUC members, and we apologise for not having done so. The next Library/SU meeting is scheduled for November. However, in light of the concerns raised in your article we have contacted SU officers to bring forward the meeting to discuss this and any other issues of concern.

We are sorry that the SU Freshers' Guide is now shown to be incorrect, but the Student Library guides have been updated, together with counter notices and bookmarks, to ensure that students are aware of the change. It is difficult to get the balance of loan periods right to suit all library users. However, we do keep them continually under review, and strive to meet the needs of the majority and maximise access to books in heavy demand. We will monitor the situation during this term and we encourage feedback about the new arrangements via the Feedback Forms available in the Library and on our web pages.

Jean Sykes
Librarian and Director of Information Services

Corrections

The Beaver apologises for the caption that accompanied LSE SU General Secretary, Will Macfarlane's photo in last week's interview (*The Beaver* 601). The caption, which appeared to convey the impression that Macfarlane objected to cancer sufferers appeared due to an editorial oversight. *The Beaver* apologises unreservedly for any offence caused to Mr Macfarlane for this impression and would like to reiterate that is in no way representative of his opinion on this matter.

The Beaver apologises for conveying the impression that the LSE had announced it would be charging the full level of top-up fees (*The Beaver* 601: 'LSE to charge maximum level of top-up fees'). This decision had in fact, not been made, and was mistakenly reported as such. *The Beaver* apologises for this misleading impression.

The Beaver would like to correct an article credit in last week's issue (*The Beaver* 601). The story 'Over 1/3 of graduates out of work' was written by Mike Fauconnier-Bank.

Carlos the Jackal: An LSE Legend Debunked

Among the LSE's famous alumni Carlos the Jackal looms large. But can the LSE lay claim to this most mysterious of figures.

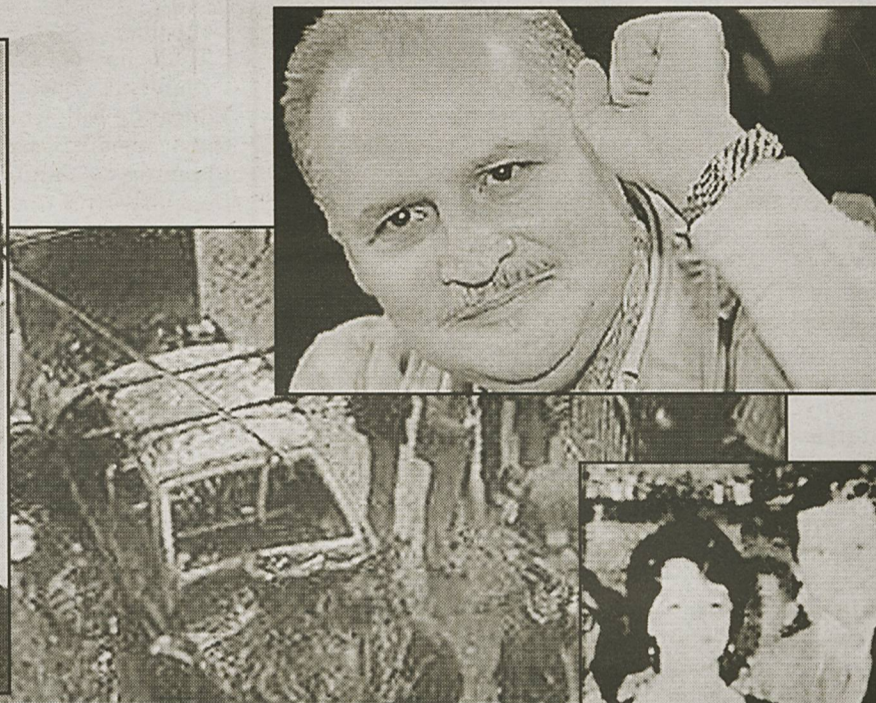
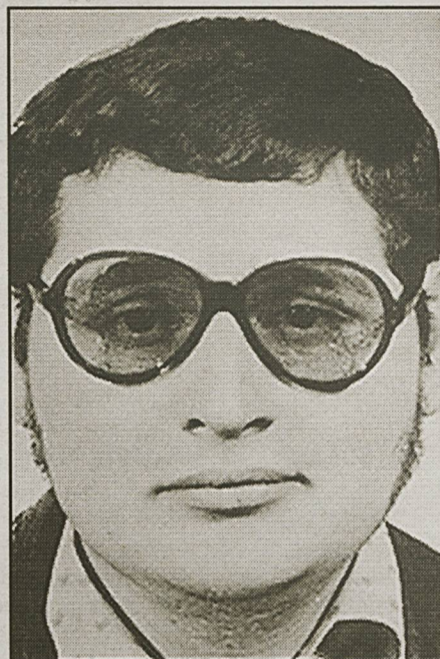
Tracy Alloway
Features Correspondent

Every year hundreds of innocent, young freshers flock to the LSE to follow in the footsteps of its most famous luminaries. Alumni such as John F. Kennedy, Mick Jagger, George Soros, and Carlos the Jackal are just a few of those who have, supposedly, meandered the halls of Houghton Street. However, those of you seeking a career in criminality may be in the wrong institution (we recommend Imperial if that's what you're going for). Though numerous encyclopaedias, university guides, students and staff will tell you that the internationally renowned terrorist, Carlos the Jackal, attended our beloved institution, ground-breaking new research (a letter sent to a French prison) has proved them all wrong! What follows is an informative account of our most infamous non-Alumnus and the truth behind an LSE legend.

Until that pesky Osama bin Laden knocked him off his pedestal, Carlos the Jackal was arguably the most famous international terrorist the world had ever known. Born Ilich Ramírez Sánchez in Venezuela 1949 (named, you guessed it, after Vladimir Ilich Lenin), Sánchez showed an early interest in Marxism. By the time he was seventeen he was already involved in Venezuelan revolutionary groups and, showing a knack for guerrilla warfare, was sent to Cuba to study the field. Rumours remain that he also received training from the KGB - though my persistent emails to Russian security agencies have yet to confirm this (they have however, succeeded in getting me placed on a list of globally-monitored subversives).

In 1966 the trained guerrilla-warrior followed his mother to London and attended Stafford House Tutorial College in Kensington. His teachers there remember him as an intelligent, though somewhat lazy and opinionated student - which it was thought, would have made him a perfect candidate for the LSE.

In 1970, after befriending members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Sánchez was invited to attend a terrorist training camp in Jordan. It was in Jordan that Sánchez, for unknown reasons, picked up the name Carlos. After a successful education, Carlos was appointed as the PFLP's representative in London. Somewhat counter-intuitively however, they did not send him to the LSE, but to another institution to be revealed, in an attempt at suspense, in good time.



The many faces of Carlos the Jackal.

The 1970's would see Carlos' sudden rise to notoriety despite a somewhat inauspicious start. Carlos' first attempts at terrorism, the attempted assassination of a Zionist businessman (who survived even after being shot in the face) and bungled bombings in London and Paris were not quite as revolutionary as Carlos had hoped. It was not until 1975, after murdering three policemen and an informant who had come to arrest him, that Carlos was catapulted into infamy. Incidentally, it was during the media sensation which followed the murders, when a copy of Frederick Forsyth's novel *Day of the Jackal* was found among Carlos' possessions, that he incurred his famous *nom de guerre*.

Carlos the Jackal's most famous attack occurred in 1975 with the kidnapping of over sixty hostages, including prominent oil ministers, at the OPEC headquarters in Vienna. The hostages were flown from Austria to Algeria, and eventually freed after a multimillion dollar ransom was paid on their behalf. Carlos was forced out of the PFLP soon after the OPEC attack because he had ransomed the Saudi and Iranian ministers instead of killing them and was suspected of keeping part of the ransom for himself.

Thus by the late 1970's Carlos had already earned a reputation as a mercenary. During his career Carlos would be commissioned by the governments of Romania, Syria, and South Yemen for various terrorist-related activities. As the end of the Cold War approached however, and more and more Middle Eastern countries were eager to achieve good relations with the West, Carlos was finding it increasingly difficult to locate safe refuge. In 1993 he was forced out of Syria and into Sudan. Syria, hoping to garner some appreciation from the US, informed the CIA as to his whereabouts, who in turn told French security agencies.

Still groggy from testicular surgery (insert obvious joke here) Carlos was drugged, put in a sack, and flown to France. Though the French operation was technically illegal (there was no extradition agreement and the arrest warrant was invalid outside France) the French were

'Until that pesky Osama bin Laden knocked him off his pedestal, Carlos the Jackal was arguably the most famous international terrorist the world had ever known.'

'He appears to have had little trouble switching allegiances from Marxism to Islamic Fundamentalism.'

able to brush legal details aside by claiming that Carlos had drugged and put himself in a sack (which doesn't seem that implausible, if you've been hanging around the LSE sports teams).

Today Carlos is serving life in prison at a maximum security jail in France. Recent 2004 news items see him undertaking hunger strikes in protest of his confinement and showing up to court hearings in his underwear (in protest at trouser confinement apparently). He appears to have had little trouble switching allegiances from Marxism to Islamic Fundamentalism, and now voices his support for Al-Qaeda, Saddam Hussein, and various other "revolutionary groups" in his book, *Revolutionary Islam and the French weekly, La Vérité*. So far it seems, as Carlos himself notes, "In the battle for liberty and the sovereignty of nations, I will be participating with my pen."

It was of course, Carlos' sudden prominence in the newspapers, which led me to write a letter requesting an interview for his Alma-Mater's student newspaper. So imagine my surprise when I received a reply from Carlos that read "I did not read economics at the LSE, but at the Central London Polytechnic" (now the University of Westminster). The mistake apparently arose, when a post-graduate LSE student suspected of being Carlos' mistress, was arrested for a year in the early 1970's for suspicion of terrorist activities - which I suppose, puts to rest the notion that post-grads never do anything interesting.

And there you have it. The "Carlos the Jackal went to the LSE" legend has been debunked. And unless Mr. Jackal is lying about his attendance at the LSE (the only motivation for doing so I could think of is that he too, has a dispute with the Fees Department), we can all breathe a sigh of relief knowing our treasured university's halls have yet to be defiled by an international criminal - unless you count George Soros of course.

Tracy Alloway is a 3rd Year International Relations student and blink Features Correspondent

Features

Features Correspondent: Tracy Alloway (t.alloway@lse.ac.uk)

The Czech Republic has made enormous strides in modernising its economy and political system since the Velvet Revolution, culminating in accession to the EU. However, there are problems a weak civil society and nearby states that have not made similar progress towards democracy.



The Czech Republic? That way.



I second that Mr President.

Funk soul brother, Czech it out now

Michal Sarapatka

If you draw a line across Europe from West to the East, stretching as far as the Ural mountains where the European continent geographically ends, half way across you will find the heart of Europe - Prague. The Czech Republic, that "far away unknown country of which the [British people] know nothing", as infamously coined by Britain's war Prime Minister Chamberlain, was the destination of CEEDS's week trip in March 2004.

Even today, the country situated in Central Europe, spiritually belonging to the West and ideologically victimized by the Soviet sphere of influence, bears little importance in the minds of most people, perhaps due to the veil of mystery and mistrust that still pervades towards post-communist countries, especially against immigrants. The aim of this article will, therefore, be to shed some light on the coasts of Bohemia, Czechia, Czechoslovakia, Cesko or Tesco.

The week long trip involved a marathon run of governmental institutions and embassies, culminating in an audience with the Republic's president, Vaclav Klaus, trips to Karlsbad spa city and Pilsen - the home of Pilsen Urquell beer. Now, beer and the Czechs could inspire an article on their own; there is no denying that Czech beer is the best.

And where else would you find Kafka, Dvorak, Havel or even Mozart than in the country of the "bohemian" lifestyle? Not only do we consume more beer per capita than anywhere else in the world, but buy yourself a bottle of Asahi Japanese beer in

'Buy yourself a bottle of Asahi Japanese beer in Soho and you can read "Made in Czech Republic" on the back of the sticker. Not too bad for a country, where blue jeans were a luxury and people lined up for bananas some fifteen years ago.'

Soho and you can read "Made in Czech Republic" on the back of the sticker. Not too bad for a country, where blue jeans were a luxury and people lined up for bananas some fifteen years ago.

The recent EU accession hopefully marks the end of an era of historical traumas for the Czechs, starting with Nazi occupation, through the era of Soviet "normalization" that 1989 democratic Velvet revolution brought back to "normality". Signs that western democracy had historical roots in the Czech Republic include the 1992 partition of Czechoslovakia by negotiation, in contrast with the violent separatist purges in the Balkans. But one of the

soon-to-be-felt side effects of this historic reunification of the continent is that the banana will change from a symbol of sweet liberty to an emblem of a spoiled rotten trade policy way past its sell date.

Intelligent LSE students on the trip could see that over a decade of capitalist transition may have created a market economy and a more or less functioning legal system, but it will take another twenty of thirty years for a democracy and social structure to mature. There is a Russian joke: "What is worse than socialism? The things that come afterwards!". Czechs were given "too much shock, too little therapy", where civic virtue only starts to outgrow corruption and other socialist vices.

On the other hand, wild capitalism demonstrates a lack of responsibility towards civil society and money, for many, is the new master. As the result of an over-exposure to market dynamics, it is not unusual to find sex shops situated right next to a bank or bakery as you pass through the streets of Prague. With freedom comes responsibility; yet, flawed as the society is, genuine elections, free speech and the right to travel are achievements that make the old days feel like another century.

Once betrayed by the British and French at the 1938 Munich conference, the good news for the Czech and Eastern European students is Britain's decision to open its labour market for the new members, not to forget home student tuition fee status. In this respect, it will be interesting to watch LSE's recruitment policy change towards these new students.

The political geography of freedom is blurry again. The era of communism and the "capitalist recovery" was brought to a close with EU membership in May 2004, but as much euphoria as this may spur, real concerns are again surfacing on Europe's eastern border, where poor countries such as Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova or Russia are still firmly in the East, struggling with destitute economies or half-totalitarian regimes.

If these countries ever join the EU, it will not be for decades. Churchill's iron curtain may be over, yet another "crystal" barrier slices Europe between greyness and poverty on one side and relative prosperity on the other, as if they were frozen out by the kind of treaty that divided the continent for half a century. History, you may say is coming to an end, but politics in these parts of the world still has a long way to go.

Michal Sarapatka is a 3rd Year International Relations student and was last year's president of CEEDS.

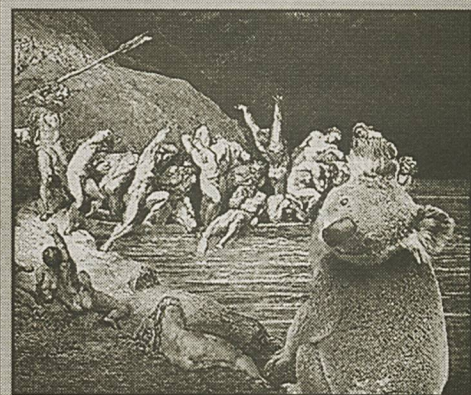
Musings

Can a Koala know sin?

Matthew Sinclair
blink Editor

During the twenties Koalas were hunted for fur and their numbers crashed. They then faced huge problems due to the destruction of the eucalyptus forests that are their home; around 80% of their original habitat has been lost. Poor little guys.

In some areas, however, conservation has proved exceptionally effective. The Victoria state government's environment minister, John Thwaites described how the large number of koalas now present in the state will cause environmental degradation as their insatiable diet chews up local plant life. Overpopulation has led to the need to find a new way of managing koala numbers; culling was felt to be too harsh.



Contraception for koalas is therefore on the cards. Two thousand female koalas are to have a slow-release hormone implanted that will prevent fertilisation for up to six years. This should reduce koala birth levels to something more sustainable.

This raising an interesting theological question. CatholicInsight.Com cites the Catechism of the Catholic Church as saying "By its very nature the institution of married love is ordered to the procreation and education of offspring" and "Every action which, whether in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible is intrinsically evil". Contraception is therefore sinful; the question is whether Koalas can be sent to hell, or have their stay in Koala purgatory extended for our mistakes.

At first glance it would appear that the answer is simple. The Koalas do not choose contraception, it is implanted into them without their consent or understanding.

However, this raises questions over such practices as the last rites. Whether the last rites are read over your corpse is largely out of your hands, you are dead after all and can play little part in the process. Why then should your immortal soul suffer for the failures of a priest?

Clearly people can sin for you. Suicide is another example of where you might sin but not exactly enjoy the experience. Do people choose to commit suicide?

Also if not understanding is an excuse does that mean that the stupid can get away with things? If you've been excused from sex education for religious reasons and don't understand the contraceptive process does that excuse you from punishment?

It's all rapidly becomes clear that the Koalas can't be let off lightly. All dogs may go to heaven but some koalas will never be let near.

Hacktivist



Friends in low places

Tracy Alloway
Features Correspondent

Last week Jack Straw encountered some trouble after shaking the hand of controversial Zimbabwean leader, Robert Mugabe. Personally this doesn't seem like a huge deal to me (What was he supposed to do - smack his head and kick him in the groin?), most politicians appear to be on automatic pilot when it comes to social interaction anyway. This incident however, brings up the interesting subject of politicians and their chums, especially the unsavoury ones. With that in mind let's take a look at the tangled web of politicians and their bestest buddies.

Let's start with the UK's very own Tony Blair. Most of you are probably aware that Blair has ties to some mega-companies and their dubious owners. Among them is News Corporation, the media conglomerate run by Blair's good friend, Rupert Murdoch. Murdoch meets with Blair regularly and once called Labour Party policies "more Thatcherite than the Tories. But they'd kill you if you said that." News Corp operates at the extremes of proper business practice and journalistic integrity and includes media powerhouses such as Fox news, the Times, the Sun, the New York Post, and numerous others.

Rupert Murdoch is in turn, friends with none other than George Bush Jr. It's no secret that Fox News (the self-pronounced "fair and balanced" news coverage) is decidedly pro-Bush (despite this, 25% of the American population believes Fox News to be the most dependable cable network). In return for a pro-Bush slant, the President has sent advisors such as Condoleezza Rice, for numerous meetings with Murdoch.

Bush in turn, has also befriended Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, a man labelled by The Economist as Europe's "most extreme case of the abuse by a capitalist of the democracy within which he lives and operates." Berlusconi is rich, controversial, and most importantly, supports Bush - three characteristics which seem to qualify many for a "special friendship" with the President. Most importantly, Berlusconi, thought the war on Iraq was a molto buono idea.

Berlusconi incidentally, is also a media tycoon who controls a large segment of Italy's media. The lion's share of the remaining portion is controlled by none other than Rupert Murdoch. In fact, some of the largest contributors to the coalition forces in Iraq (namely, Australia, Britain, and the US) have a majority of their media controlled by Murdoch's very own News Corp. Funny how these things work out isn't it?

Now if Jack Straw is blasted for shaking hands with an unsavoury character, shouldn't somebody be criticizing this tangled web of media bias and political corruption? Oh wait, I forgot; the world's media is dominated by a hawkish right-winger, never-mind then....

Features

Features Correspondent: Tracy Alloway (t.alloway@lse.ac.uk)

While you're at the LSE...

Why Ambassador... you really are spoiling us

Kanan Dhru

The Student Ambassador scheme is an umbrella programme for many smaller projects. Most of these projects are focussed on raising awareness of Higher Education in London state schools. Ambassadors are involved in leading Student Shadowing, facilitating Year 9 "Aiming for College Education" (ACE) workshops, mentoring GCSE pupils on ;pca; schools, visiting schools and talking about university life and leading campus tours. For the most part Student Ambassadors is a voluntary scheme, although certain projects are paid.

Ambassadors have the option of accrediting their voluntary hours toward the nationally recognised, government sponsored Millenium Volunteer Award.

Ambassadors are also provided with a certificate at the end of the year documenting the number of hours put into the scheme.

There are a number of information sessions for anybody who is interested in finding out more about the scheme. These will be held on:

Tuesday 5 October 12pm - Graham Wallis Room, fifth floor of the Old Building.
Wednesday 6 October 1pm - D602
Thursday 7 October 1pm - D602

blink talked to Anna Protano-Biggs, a participant in the programme.

What are the qualities required of a student to get involved in the scheme?

Basically a student needs to have the right

approach. There is no experience required to get involved. You should basically know how to deal with people. But then you also get support from the people who run the scheme. Enthusiasm and willingness are important aspects as well.

What have you learnt from the scheme?

It has taught me how to talk and deal with students from different backgrounds. This whole experience helps you in your career immensely, even get you your desired job!

What message would you like to give to those who would like to get involved with this programme?

Get involved! Do try this out since it's a great learning experience and a lot of fun!



How to Become a Student Parliamentary Intern

Patricia Bartolemu

With nearly 50% of British school leavers now going into higher education, it's up to the individual student to ensure that they graduate with an edge to their CV. The intention here is not to rain on your parade but to point out that there are ways in which you can graduate in 2005 with a clear advantage in the job market.

It could be worth considering a part-time internship, and more specifically an internship at Westminster, especially if you're hoping for a career with a government department, think-tank or a non-government organisation. You don't get paid for interning, but it can provide a valuable insight into the workings of British Parliament - plus allow you to make some great networking contacts. Whether you are doing more mundane back-office tasks (like photocopying and making coffee), or conducting research that will directly affect public policy in the UK, the experience of working in this hallowed setting will prove invaluable.

Competition to gain a Parliamentary intern placement is still fierce, especially if you want to work alongside a front-bench MP, a peer in the House of Lords or a well-known think-tank. There are a number of preferred routes for those interested in interning at Westminster. Of course, you can speculatively send your CV to MPs or political organisations that you are interested in, but if you do decide to take this route it is imperative you do your research before you approach anyone. MPs generally like to surround themselves with people

who have a similar political outlook.

The LSE Public Policy Group also runs a successful Parliamentary Intern Scheme. Set up in 1998 with the aid of Labour MP, Barry Sheerman, the scheme aims to help LSE graduate students across all LSE's disciplines and departments gain first-hand experience of Parliament and the wider British political process. Feedback from the students has been positive. For example, one student outlined his experience as a Parliamentary Intern thus:

"Providing a needed respite from the daily grind of study, the Parliamentary internship scheme afforded me an opportunity to participate in the inner workings of one of the world's greatest democracies. Couple that with the aesthetic splendour of Westminster Palace and the long-entrenched pomp and circumstance of Parliamentary tradition, it makes for one of the most memorable student experiences.

This year all the MPs (of all the parties) sitting on the defence, international development, foreign affairs, public administration and finance Select Committees have been contacted to ask whether their office can facilitate an intern.

If you're an LSE graduate and decide that an internship may help you get closer to your chosen career, or you simply want to experience the British political system first-hand, then the PPG Parliamentary Intern site is at www.lse.ac.uk/dept/ppg/interns/index.htm. All the details about the scheme and application details can be found here and we'd advise getting your application in as promptly as possible. Last year PPG was

inundated with applications. We received over 200 CVs for around 70 internships. However, this highlights the importance of doing your research and making sure that you give yourself every chance of taking part in such a prestigious programme.

Patricia Bartolemu manages the Parliamentary Intern Programme for LSE Public Policy Group e-mail her on: lse-ppg@lse.ac.uk

for more information visit...

www.epolitix.co.uk details all MPs and Lords interests. The official Parliamentary website

www.w4mp.org Is updated daily, and lists all available internships with MPs and political organisations.

Internships and jobs in Brussels, European Union institutions and international organisations are advertised on www.eurobrussels.com

Features

Features Correspondent: Tracy Alloway (t.alloway@lse.ac.uk)

do something different

Student tutoring is a scheme to put expensively educated university students into under-funded inner-city schools. blink talks to two former student tutors.

Matthew Sinclair
blink Editor

So, how did you both become involved in the student tutoring scheme?

Rishi Madlani: It's nice to give something back to the London community. Often in the LSE we don't go much beyond Covent Garden.

Simon Rees: I wanted to find out whether inner city schools were really that bad.

What have your feelings been about the way the scheme is run?

R: The scheme has grown phenomenally. I've been involved in the scheme for three years now and I've seen it expand. Recently we've seen great interest from LSE students; the New Theatre is always packed.

S: That's what has led to the scheme being capped this year.

If the scheme has been capped should this put students off applying?

R: There is a limit to numbers and all this means is that people will be chosen through a screening process.

S: The application process gives you a

chance to explain how motivated you are and if you have any relevant experience.

What were the students you worked with like?

R: I went to one of the best schools in Camden but it was still scary compared to my posh school in the Home Counties.

It was interesting to see how much talent was going untapped; they weren't being challenged to achieve. By the end they become quite attached to you.

S: I was at the Walsworth High School in Elephant and Castle. It was circled by a 10 ft. high fence. Initially it was difficult to get the students' respect.

I was working with the learning resource centre which had desperately limited resources. Most of the children there had very severe conditions; Tourettes or worse. The scheme is set up so that you're never left to work with the children on your own though; you will be supported when you're working. I loved it.

You seem to have had very different experiences in the scheme, are students matched to positions that will suit them?

R: The scheme is very flexible. You're a fantastic resource as an enthusiastic volunteer and they'll make as much use of you as they can. I taught sport; something that

was on none of the programmes. Teaching hockey on an uneven concrete pitch was quite an experience.

S: I often escorted students with learning difficulties to science lessons - without my help they would have been unable to do practical science.

What benefits have you felt from your involvement in the scheme?

R: At both of my last two banking interviews I have been asked about my work on this scheme. They seem to like it.

Involvement with the scheme was a huge eye-opener; I escaped from the LSE ivory tower.

S: When I left one of the students told me "Everyone always leaves me"; you can become very important to them. This is why I would say not to go for this unless you're committed. Everyone who drops out of the scheme hurts its reputation and creates a mess for the school.

The day they stop calling you "You" and start calling you "Mr. Rees" is hugely satisfying; you've earned the respect of someone from a completely different background.

R: This is one of the most rewarding ways of volunteering at the LSE. You can really make an impact in people's lives.

An interview with Rebecca Milton: student volunteering programme co-ordinator

Kanan Dhru

What is the history and what are the aims of the student volunteering programme?

The student volunteer centre opened at the LSE in January 2004. It was started with the help of funding from the government. The main aim of the programme is to get university students engaged in local community activities. Projects include visiting hospitals, schools, assisting elderly people in old-age homes, giving help to victims in the courts and loads of other such projects. It is affiliated to 50-60 local organisations and the pool is still growing.

Volunteering is not only for sandal wearing hippies but is for everyone who wants to do something different. There are neither regular timings nor any particular schedule. It is entirely up to a student as to how much time he or she wants to devote to the programme. It can be once a week or once every six months. Of course it is unpaid activity but all out of pocket expenses are paid back.

Volunteering is not just for those who want a career in charity. Recently J.P. Morgan has shown interest in the programme. Every big organisation has a charity centre of its own as they are all interested in helping the community in the best possible way. Also, the skills that you acquire during this programme are transferable to so many other activities and can help you in any walk of life. Involvement in such programmes looks extremely good on your CV and can help you differentiating yourself from other students in getting an internship or job.

What qualities does a student require in order to get involved in the programme?

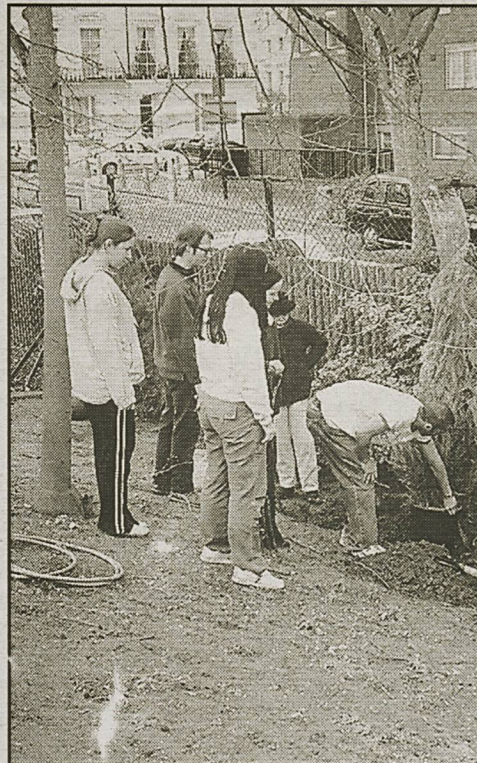
Just enthusiasm. Since you are involving so much of your time in the programme, it should be something that you really enjoy doing. One needs to be quite open minded about the programme. Even when you are not sure what you want to do, this is something that you must try out, since you learn so much out of the whole experience. So many students have described the programme to be an 'eye-opener' for them. Even if you want to find out something about the British culture and lifestyle, this programme gives you quite an insight into British culture and communities.

What do the local communities have to say about the programme?

People have been extremely grateful to the volunteers and to the whole programme. For example, the association of Jewish Refugees said "Thank you for my volunteers - first class standards and lovely people. I would just like more."

What has been the response from the students so far?

The response from the students this time at the Fresher's Fair has been absolutely overwhelming. Around 440 students signed up in just two days and showed some great interest in the programme.



The Right Approach

No Surrender to the U.S.A.

Daniel Freedman
blink Columnist

George Bernard Shaw is said to have quipped, "England and America are two countries divided by a common language." Working with Americans over the summer I experienced this first hand when I was forced to drop many of my native Britishisms and learn some words anew. I discovered a billion is a million million not a thousand million, and I now know you don't hint to a colleague that the air conditioning should be turned up by announcing, "I'm hot." I didn't mind adapting my dialect, but one word I refused to surrender was "liberal."

I had watched in shock as Democratic Party presidential nominee John Kerry was labeled the "most liberal senator" of 2003. I was impressed by his campaign's political honesty when they rushed to downplay the title--although running from such a compliment seemed quite out of character. I then became very confused when the Bush-campaign started using the label "most liberal senator" to smear Mr. Kerry, as if being a "liberal" is an insult. If anything, in my mind, President Bush is the liberal.

Acknowledging that my interest in John Kerry's policy positions only really began when there was a possibility he'd one day be president, and noting his notorious "flip-flopping" on policy, I conceded that perhaps in 2003 he really was the most liberal senator and by 2004 had completely reversed his positions. So I investigated the policy positions that earned him the label.

I discovered one is a "liberal" in the U.S. if you support the erosion of personal freedom by increasing the size of the government. You are a "liberal" if you are against letting people keep their own money by opposing tax cuts. And you are a "liberal" if you choose special interests over economic common-sense by supporting a protectionist trade policy.

In my language to be a "liberal" is to stand for the opposite. A liberal places the individual and their rights ahead of the alleged "common good." (A noble-sounding term that has been hijacked by special interest groups to guilt-trip the public into accepting their wishes). For a true liberal, personal and economic freedoms are paramount. And government is, to quote Thomas Paine, a "necessary evil" whose raison d'être is to protect the individual from others.

I can forgive Americans for over time mixing up the true meaning of words such as "jam" and "jelly," but the word "liberal" is part of the nation's heritage. The great liberals, John Locke, John Stuart Mill, Thomas Paine, Adam Smith et al inspired the Founding Fathers. The central phrase in the Declaration of Independence of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" is perhaps the best summation of liberal values. For a nation that revels in celebrating its creation, how could all this have been forgotten?

On this side of the Atlantic politicians of the left are called "socialists" or the softer-sounding "social-democrats"--more fitting names for Mr. Kerry. To be called a "liberal" should not be slur, it's an honor. This is one word Americans should relearn from the British.

Politics

Hunt Protestors: How Unspeakable

Hunt Protestors claim to be defending British traditions but they undermine proud democratic traditions in order to safeguard a distinctly unsavoury past-time.

Kheng Lim

Having spent two and a half months away from the United Kingdom, I turned on the television one night, eager to get back in touch with British news and current affairs. I was greeted by the sight of a seething mass of humanity, marching in protest through a town. The protestors were clearly livid and were waving slogans, chanting and shrieking. Fanaticism blazed out of their eyes and spit flew out of their mouths. What was this bizarre protest I was witnessing? Was it an angry mob of Palestinians marching against the Occupation, or perhaps a group of Hindu fanatics on their way to burn down a few mosques and slaughter a few Indian Muslims? No, it was none other than the Countryside Alliance, marching through the streets of Brighton during the Labour Party conference in protest against the British Parliament's ban on hunting. One word passed through my mind when I saw the protest: "Weirdos!"

I am neither for or against hunting and, frankly, the welfare of foxes is hardly an issue that excites me. However, this video footage of the pro-hunt protestors managed to inspire a bizarre mixture of emotions in me, ranging from anger and disgust to amusement and puzzlement. I don't think that there is any one word that describes my opinion of the Countryside Alliance but the terms 'sad, pathetic and deluded' come to mind. This article will deal with the reasons why the Countryside Alliance inspires such feelings of disquiet in me.

To begin with, the entire *raison-d'être* of fox hunting is to kill animals for pleasure. Pro-hunt activists often argue that fox-hunting is a form of pest control and helps to prop up the local economy. While this may be true, the nasty fact remains that the chief motivation behind fox hunting is fun. It is this particular aspect of fox hunting that makes me uneasy; not sympathy for the poor foxes but, rather, the attitudes of the hunters themselves. Rather than killing out of necessity, such as to obtain food or to protect themselves against predators, they chase foxes across the countryside and tear them to pieces with hounds because they get a kick out of it. I hate to imagine what these people would be like if they worked in abattoirs.

"Hello, Rupert. I killed ten pigs today and, my God, their squeals of pain and terror were music to my ears. Oh, how exquisite!"

"Well, Basil, I killed a big cow this afternoon and her blood splattered everywhere. Killing cows is so much more fun than slaughtering sheep although chickens do sound quite amusing when you wring their necks."



"Hello, Rupert. I killed ten pigs today and, my God, their squeals of pain and terror were music to my ears. Oh, how exquisite!"

Moving swiftly onwards, what I also find astounding is the contempt that these people have towards the rule of law and democracy. Let's get this all into perspective. From what I understand, the British Parliament, rule of law and democracy are integral parts of the British national identity. It is these principles that bind all Britons together, regardless of race, religion or ethnicity. Yet, we have a situation in which these pro-hunt protestors actually invade the House of Commons and disrupt the workings of British democracy. It is true that the invasion of Parliament was harmless and that no one was killed or injured, but nonetheless, as Polly Toynbee of the Guardian puts it, such invasions are little more than treason. Why does the right-wing press have constant debates over whether ethnic minorities adhere to 'British values' when it is clear that these strange people of the Shire counties do not?

Moreover, even if one argues that these Parliament invaders do not represent the entire Countryside Alliance, how does one explain the countless protestors who state time and time again in front of the television cameras that they would continue to hunt regardless of a ban? If I were to steal an eraser, the Home Office would deport me straight away but these people seem to have a blasé attitude towards the rule of law. If you have such a passion for hunting, then go on a peaceful protest or vote Tory in the next General Election but don't

break the law! I personally believe that marijuana should be legalised but you don't see me walking round London smoking weed, do you?

Finally, I find it amusing that these people can be so passionate about an issue that no one really cares about. The Countryside Alliance represents a way of life that has little to do with the Britain of today. It is an anachronism, a lifestyle that the great majority of Britons find hard to identify with. Your average Briton cares more about the War in Iraq, the state of public services or their mortgages than the ban on hunting. Rightly or wrongly, the Countryside Alliance is seen as the custodian of a way of life that is backwards looking, insular and totally at odds with a Britain that is modern, dynamic and multicultural. These protestors can chant and shout until their voices grow hoarse and the Tories come to power (which is my way of saying 'never'). The rest of Britain will merely look upon them with puzzlement on their faces.

I find it extremely difficult to muster up any feeling of hatred or even mild dislike for the protestors of the Countryside Alliance. What I feel for these people is a mixture of condescension and pity, and a total lack of sympathy for their cause.

Kheng Lim is a 2nd Year Economics student.

Politics



Kate Vang

By the second week of term, most American students at the LSE will have savoured the distinct luxury not available to their peers back at home: that of not being confronted with the name, image, or penetrating spoken insights of George W. until the International News section on page 12 or 13 of your favourite daily.

Indeed, the separation caused by an ocean, several time zones and a drastically different take on the word 'welfare' lends itself to a pleasing sense of distance for Americans in London; or, at the very least, makes it easier to live in an imaginary, self-created dream world in which our president does not exist. 'What a joy,' a newly-arrived American may think to herself in week 2, 'to flip on the radio news and hear a cute British accent instead of that nasal Texan drawl!'

But, speaking to American students such as the one just quoted, consider yourself warned: at some point you, too, will be forced to face reality. This may first occur twenty minutes into a casual discussion with some international flatmates at your local. The German bloke will tentatively slip a slightly negative mention of GW into the conversation, and suddenly you'll notice that all eyes have landed on you, anxiously ready to gauge your response. 'Oh no, he's done it now...' the girl from Mexico may think. Your Pakistani next-door neighbor watches you closely for signs of defensiveness, ready to take mental notes of your sensitivity regarding 'the Bush situation' for future reference. A few minutes more of silence, and now the German boy himself is starting to get nervous.

Suddenly, you no longer find yourself happily drinking in abandon in a Bush-free Utopia, but instead feeling as if the entire responsibility of US foreign policy rests on your shoulders. Yes, there are some of you out there who will swell with pride as you realise this: how gratifying to know that you represent your country's great nuclear and economic might in this foreign land! Others amongst you may simply

Even while overseas, he's still your president: Finding solace as an ashamed American

Having to excuse a President you never voted for can be a little frustrating. Alas, this is the fate of an American abroad.

'The realisation hits you that despite how happily distant you may feel, your very nationality makes you inextricably linked to not only George Bush, but to the disasters in Iraq, American imperialism, American hegemony, the [lack of a] Kyoto Protocol, global climate change, and every salient international issue, past and present, in which the US has played a role.'

shrug off the German's comment with 'well, I'm not really into politics. I'm just at the LSE to, like, get a good job in investment banking.' This response would doubtlessly incite a few sighs of disappointment from your peers who were hoping, at the very least, for a first-hand American opinion. (Then again, an astute observer would realise that this response is perhaps the most symbolically 'American' of all).

Yet most of us, upon arriving in such a situation, will feel the weight of US foreign policy land on us like a 50lb sack of frozen McDonald's burgers. The realisation hits you that despite how happily distant you may feel, your very nationality makes you inextricably linked to not only George Bush, but to the disasters in Iraq, American imperialism, American hegemony, the [lack of a] Kyoto Protocol, global climate change, and every salient international issue, past and present, in which the US has played a role. Clearly very few people will be misguided enough to actually hold you responsible for the US's actions, but you quickly realise that your accent alone conjures images of these things in your peers, in much the same way that a Kazakh student may suddenly find himself conversing about a certain Ali G on a daily basis.

Sadly, it only gets worse: with the Presidential Elections drawing near, not only do we have to deal with the prospective guilt of subjecting the world to four

more years of GW, but also with the prospective America we'll return to when we leave the UK (and, consequently, whether or not we'll want to).

What does one do with this weight? Should we meet regularly and drink away our sorrows, or perform public self-floggings on Houghton Street to repent our country's sins? No - a solution is not so simple. Certainly, a partial absolution of this shame would be easily done by the submission of an absentee ballot (or, for that matter, as many as you can). But, more critically, we must channel this guilt into something progressive, using it as a stimulus to open our minds wider to the reality of the world. Let it be the subversive mission of all international students at the LSE: to absorb as many diverse perspectives as possible to then carry back to our home countries and share.

As for election night itself, perhaps the most comforting approach would be the one mentioned above: have enough booze on hand to drown your shame should Bush win a second term, and enough booze on hand to celebrate should he not. Or, for us tea-totalers and for those of us absolutely committed to retaining our dream-world reality, simply go to bed, wake up, and avoid all forms of media for the next four years.

Katherine Vang is an MSc Philosophy of Social Science student.

International



Gandhi is an example to modern peace movements.

Vineeta Dixit

He inspired Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and scores of unknown citizens of the world. His biggest asset: he practiced what he preached. His ultimate sacrifice: his own life for his belief in Hindu-Muslim unity.

He was the architect of India's independence, non-violence and non-cooperation were his weapon, he was called the Saint of Sabarmati who performed miracles with masses. His flame burnt bright and resolute through perhaps the most violent division of a country ever witnessed by the world.

He fought a war with strange weapons. A war in which he neither fired any bullets nor launched an armoured attack on his enemies, but this man in loincloth brought the great British Empire to its knees. He united a country full of multiple religions, castes, principalities and loyalties. Millions heeded his call, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Pathan, rich, poor irrespective of caste or creed. His magic bugle heralded a new dawn in the lives of the people of the Indian sub-continent, who had been suffering under the slavery and colonialism of the British Empire.

He was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, an ordinary man born on 2nd October 1869 at Porbandar, in the Indian State of Gujarat. Popularly known as Mahatma Gandhi, he continues to inspire millions of people the world over even today.

As we celebrate his 135th birthday this year - actually, why should we celebrate it? He's long dead and gone and although people may still quote him, is he still actually relevant? To answer this question we need not go far. Just look at the two people named above whom he inspired and take a good look around you. Non-violence and non-cooperation are still the best bet a group of people have against any regime. So if the Iraqis want Bush to leave they'd better stop listening to Muqtada Al-Sadr and start reading up Gandhi. A violent uprising can be suppressed with force more brutal than that of the protesters, but peaceful, non-violent, non-cooperation,

Alchemist

Gandhi was a great man and, on his 135th birthday we should remember the lessons in peaceful progress and self-sufficiency that he taught us.

'He fought a war with strange weapons. A war in which he neither fired any bullets nor launched an armoured attack on his enemies, but this man in loincloth brought the great British Empire to its knees.'

now that's one weapon no one really has found and answer to.

The other most important thing that Gandhi staunchly believed in was self-sufficiency, the individual and the nation. He wanted each person to learn to manufacture his/her cloth, keep at least one goat as a pet (because they are inexpensive to buy and maintain and can produce milk and cheese but NOT meat, Gandhi was a vegetarian remember), clean own home including the loo and most importantly share with those less privileged than yourself. He demonstrated this by a very dramatic movement called the Salt Satyagrah to oppose the tax levied by the then British Government on Indian citizens. He was of the opinion that if people have to pay tax on something as simple as salt and they were not allowed to manufacture the same themselves, then the law strikes at the very base of the economy - which of course is precisely what the British were attempting to do. They were already pumping vast quantities of Manchester cotton cloth into India and Gandhi found another unique solution to the same. "Burn foreign cloth in public and wear self-spun khaddar," he said, (no the khadi does not spin itself, but people used charkha or the wheel to spin khadi for their clothes!). Lo and behold! The country was full of people burning foreign fabric on the roads and what's more important, they stopped buying it too! So for all those animal rights campaigners worried about disappearing or endangered species, drill it into people's heads that when the buying stops the

killing can too! So don't buy that cut momento made from ivory (legal or illegal), or the aphrodisiac made from Rhino's horn, Cobra's blood, Bear's bile, Tiger's bone, timber from prime, virgin rain forest or any other such stuff.

I could of course go on and on about his philosophy, his strategy to bring a fractured nation together, his rather contentious opinion on the division of India and supporting the creation of Pakistan, his vow of celibacy (after being married for a good couple of decades and producing children), his indomitable spirit and belief that one day discrimination on the basis of caste in India will stop.

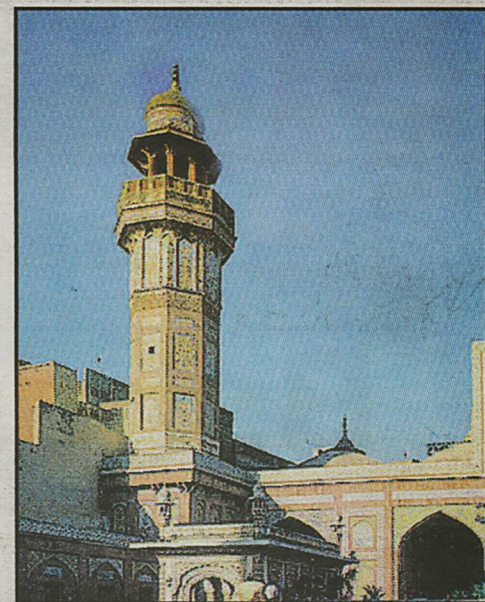
The most important thing, I believe that Gandhi stood for and we can learn from him, is the immeasurable value of true atonement and the power of forgiveness. When India and Pakistan were burning (instead of rejoicing after having achieved their independence), he was in Nuakhali (not Delhi mind you where the powers-to-be were figuring out what to do), a Hindu approached him and said, "I have killed a Muslim, what should I do?"

The Mahatma answered, "Go find a Muslim orphan child and bring him up to be a true Muslim and let that be your atonement."

In a world rife with division, the India-Pakistan divide, Bosnia, Rwanda, Israel-Palestine and many more wars, we could all use The Mahatma and his guiding light.

Vineeta Dixit is a postgraduate Social Policy student.

International



The Rights of Christians in Pakistan

Pakistani Christians are suffering on an unprecedented scale and face daily threats to their wellbeing and livelihoods. Despite this they receive very little attention in the world media.

Their plight has wider implications as tormenting Pakistani Christians is a fine training exercise for Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups.

Zimran Samuel

The world is not the same since 9/11, but we do not always hear about many of the groups of innocent people suffering 'behind the scenes' since the 'war on terrorism' was declared a few years ago. I say 'behind the scenes' because these are people who we generally don't see or hear about in the paper day to day and many of us do not even know that they are connected in any way with the post 9/11 battle against the 'axis of evil'. The Christians living in Pakistan are one such group.

It is about time that we adequately recognised the terrible situation that many Christians living in Pakistan find themselves facing today. Pakistan has an extremely small minority of Christians, about 2%, most of whom live in the Punjab. The minority is often associated with the West because Christianity is seen as a religion of the West. And so it follows that at times such as these, when hatred towards America rises amongst many Muslim fundamentalists, Christians become an easy target that can satisfy their hatred. In recent years they have been subject to shocking human rights violations and discrimination. Churches often need armed guards at the door because of the very real and constant threat of drive-by-killings by terrorist groups. Christians live as inferior citizens, in constant fear and tension in a country which is just as much theirs as anyone else's. Furthermore, under Pakistan's so called 'blasphemy law' (section 295-C of Pakistan Penal Code) which was enforced in the 1977-1988 martial law of President Zia Haq, anyone can direct an allegation of speaking against the prophet Muhammad on a Christian and, under the law, that individual can be prosecuted. The penalty for such a crime is a

'It is about time that we adequately recognised the terrible situation that many Christians living in Pakistan find themselves facing today. Pakistan has an extremely small minority of Christians, about 2%...often associated with the West because Christianity is seen as a religion of the West. And so it follows that at times such as these, when hatred towards America rises amongst many Muslim fundamentalists, Christians become an easy target.'

mandatory death by hanging. The Pakistani government has often publicly denied that the law needs to be abolished or amended despite the fact that so many innocent people have been killed as a direct result of the discrimination against

Christians in Pakistan. In the recent case of Ayub Mesih, a Christian youth was convicted under the law based on evidence gathered through torturing him into a confession. He received a trial in jail rather than court after he was shot at in the corridors of the courtroom.

The bursts of violence have continued this summer as I heard first hand from Pastor Wilson Fazal, a Christian leader who underwent a terrifying ordeal at the hands of Muslim fundamentalists. He was sent many letters this summer demanding that he pack up his work and leave Pakistan. I was shown the chilling letters from anonymous writers who had stamped a picture Osama Bin Laden in the corner. Pastor Wilson, who works in Quetta, reported the threats to the police and the Home Secretary in Islamabad, but his efforts to protect himself were going to prove a waste of time. Shortly after reporting the threats the pastor was kidnapped and taken away in a red car to a secret location to be tortured. He explained to me how he was electrocuted and beaten ruthlessly with a rod strung with barbed wire as three men asked him questions about other Christian leaders. They warned him against preaching the Bible in Pakistan and demanded to know addresses for the people who provide his resources. Throughout the ordeal he stayed faithful to his beliefs and refused to reject the teachings of the Bible.

As I heard him speak it was hard to believe that something like this had happened despite Pastor Wilson alerting the authorities at the highest level. Eventually, he managed to escape after police chased the car in which his captors were moving him in because it was speeding. During the chase he escaped by opening the door and throwing himself onto the road. If he hadn't made that jump, he might not be alive to tell the story today. Surprisingly the police car did not see him fall out onto the road because it was 'too dark' and so he had to find help himself.

What was this man's crime? He was a Pakistani citizen like those who had kidnapped him but the fact that he was a Christian meant that fundamentalists felt that they were justified in electrocuting him and terrorizing him. The pastor has shown himself to be either very stupid or very strong in his faith, as he has continued his ministry after the kidnapping, just as if it had never happened. Other leaders who

have faced the pressure of being Christians in Pakistan have not always felt able to go on, the bishop of Faisalabad committed suicide a couple of years ago as a direct protest to the blasphemy law.

For me, meeting Wilson Fazal brought home the reality of just how bad things are getting. This man was abducted, by Al Qaeda in broad daylight despite the authorities being forewarned. Mr Fazal's ministry has been increasingly successful and he has become a very influential figure among the Christians. Before his kidnapping he had several meetings with the Home Secretary and members of the National Assembly urging them to do more to protect Christians, especially those facing threats such as the ones he was. If it can happen to him then it can happen to anyone and it is worrying that more wasn't done to protect him after so many threats and warnings.

The main problem with the issue with Christians in Pakistan is still that much of the world is still not aware of the extent of the injustice that is going on. The impression is that things are not that bad and it is nothing new for the minority to be treated badly in a country founded on religion. However the severity of their ordeals in recent years has been really quiet unprecedented. And yet the issue is not seen as the escalating problem that it is. It is commonly known that the Al Qaeda network, which is of course a threat to all of us, operates, trains and recruits strongly in parts of Pakistan. By not taking this problem seriously the Pakistani government is in a way encouraging the terrorist network to grow in confidence. A church elder described the state of Pakistani Christians to me as a volcano waiting to erupt, perhaps that is a little too simplistic but indeed it may take a tragedy on a huge scale before we wake up to severity of the problem. The massacre of the Christians in the village, Shante-nager, which was burnt down by fundamentalists a few years ago certainly made international news and drew attention to the problem but then was quickly forgotten. President Musharaff has done more to support Christians in his country than we could have ever hoped for from his predecessors, but so much more needs to be done to stop things continuing to get worse. The problem of Al Qaeda is one that affects all of us. Instead of always just looking at how the large scale atrocities can be stopped, perhaps we should pay equal attention to the way the network is terrorizing ordinary people every day as this is often how they gain much of the confidence and training they need move on to bigger projects.

Zimran Samuel is an undergraduate Anthropology student.

B:art

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Edited by Carolina Bunting: A.C.Bunting@lse.ac.uk

B:music

edited by Matt Boys and Ben Howarth

benhowarth heads down to ULU to meet Ash guitarist, and now solo star, Charlotte Hatherley

I approached a tired looking Charlotte Hatherley backstage at ULU with trepidation...

Hi, how are you?

I'm alright. I'm fucking knackered today actually. The most important gig as well, not a good thing really.

Looking forward to playing then?

Yes I lurrve ULU, I haven't been for ages, but so many good bands play here.

What made you want to go solo?

There were always songs written, I'd always written songs, and I just ended up sitting on top of them for years and years. I didn't have any intention of doing any gigs or videos; I've just ended up doing them. It's been a massive challenge. It's something I'd been wanting to do for so long, I'm just proud that I've done it.

What was the reaction of the rest of the band?

Well I did 'Grey Will Fade' as a Ash b-side, and got a pretty amazing response from a lot of Ash fans, who really... really liked it. The band knew I'd always written stuff, and I'd written a lot of guitar parts with Tim (Wheeler) so I thought that I'm just going to do it.

Is there a big difference between touring by yourself and touring with Ash?

Yea it's different, but in a really good way. I'm playing with new musicians, a lot of old friends, and someone who I was in my first band (Nighnurse) with.

What is it like with the focus on you now, rather than the band as a whole?

I think the problem is exacerbated by the fact that I've only done six gigs so far. I really wish I had a longer tour to get into, because it's so short I feel that I'm being judged at every gig. I think people can see that I'm just finding my way a bit, so nervous on stage.

Any novelty cover songs on the set?

Well, yeah, I didn't want to do covers, it looks like having a lack of songs. I'm doing all

the songs on the album and also a very old Ash b-side called 'Taken Out'.

So what influenced you when you were making the record?

Bands like XTC I was listening to a lot when writing the new songs, and Kate Bush who I've always been very influenced by. I also worked with Eric Drew Feldman, who produced the Frank Black solo albums and was in Captain Beefhearts Magic Band, and he was playing me a lot of good stuff.

Was it a difficult record to make?

No not really, the recurring theme when doing this is that I'm really short on time so I only really had two months to record it and get it all together. It's the same with doing the gigs and trying to get a band together. Because I had the songs for so long I knew exactly what I was doing, so it was fun, very relaxed and... cool.



Do you have any plans to make another record?

Well I've written a lot of songs since, but it's just finding the time. I've lots of new stuff, just got to fit it around the Ash tour. If you weren't Charlotte Hatherley, who (or what) would you like to be? Ooooh, well I'd really like to be a photographer or something. I'm only an amateur but really into that sort of thing.

What have you been listening to recently?

I really like the Bees, want to go and see them. I also like a band called the Crimea, with the guy who used to be in the Crockets (Davey), they supported Ash on tour. I actually think the Crockets were a very underrated band with one of the best frontmen in the country, his new band the Crimea are one of the most refreshing bands I've heard. With rehearsing and being on tour, or recording I don't really get much time to listen to music. At the end of the day I just want to flop down and not think about music.

And finally, what is your record called and where can people buy it?

My record is called 'Grey Will Fade', and can be bought at... well everywhere that sells CDs.

sianbeynon recollects the weekend she spent drunk in a field, at Truck Festival #7

The luscious Oxfordshire countryside beckoned me from my hard city existence for one lazy, sun dappled weekend this summer. I ran with open arms and ears onto the gently sloping fields of Hill farm in Steventon for the wonderful world of Truck Seven. It's a jewel of a festival founded on a shared disgust of commercial and predictable mainstream festivals and retains its intimate charm and character sourcing most acts from underground labels. Although Hill Farm is only a little site, with five small to medium sized stages, it still manages to make a healthy profit which all goes to charity (Amnesty international and Mali redevelopment amongst other more local causes).

On arrival, with only a brief, blurb of what the acts had to offer, I felt the only way to satisfy my musical palette was to hop onto my itching feet and explore. With wine and port aplenty I wandered through the scattered, amicable crowds and stumbled upon the wonderful sounds of A Scholar and a Physician. In retrospect they were my favourite live

act and the madman at the front who danced like a loose-limbed monkey would surely agree. It was electronic, synthesiser playtime and add a lot of silly string at the end and (Bobs your uncle) I was sold. The \$hits' explosive antics, including deadpan rah-rah girls and a rabbit guitarist, were loud and rocked hard, although the crowd much preferred Captive State, a hip hop band using funky brass and bongos and offered more relaxed, infectious rhythms. Buck 65 graced the main stage to another receptive audience with his typically nonchalant, self wallowing meditations. So much jam packed onto the back of this truck I feared for its suspension. Many of the acts were hit and miss, with some dull moments demonstrated by the 80s Matchbox B-line Disaster set. Yet, I found that the music did not dictate the enjoyment the festival, it didn't feel like a list ticking type of affair where points are accrued depending on who you'd seen. Happily so, everyone just kicked back and enjoyed the atmosphere.

Straight to the point: part 2 of the B:music guide to getting your rocks off in London

Being a student doesn't mean you have to put up with cheese; demand more! London is home to some of the best club nights of every description, full of a diverse range of people. This is a small range of what's on offer: these are (for the most part) my favourites.

Monday

Trash, The End (TCR / Holborn tube)

Trash is a club you must go to, if only once (as I have done). It's an elitist cooler-than-thou hellhole full of the hottest girls & boys in town. Not one to attend if you have an inferiority complex, as their door policy is a rather draconian "if you're not cool, you're not coming in" (I kid you not), and the atmosphere is pretentious to say the least. Bear in mind, though, that from time to time they do put on some killer bands.

Tuesday

Artrocker, Buffalo Bar (Highbury & Islington tube)

Yes yes oh yay. My favourite Tuesday haunt: a relaxed club night from the lovely people at Artrocker featuring two or three small bands, usually on tour from overseas. The club's on til 1am, but most people head home after the bands have played. Best part is, the entrance is free if you're a member (sign up on their website), drinks are reasonable, and they have a pinball table.

Panic, Office Bar (TCR tube)

Poorly attended (perhaps for a reason...), but cheap entry if you're signed up to their mailing list (do so on the door) and drink specials all night. DJs play mostly 80s & 90s indie rock.

White Heat, Infinity (Oxford Circus tube)

A couple of bands play, then there's a club night. A right dive considering the Mayfair location, and also pretty expensive. However, this is probably the best place to dance on a Tuesday night.

Wednesday

Candybox, Hombres (TCR / Oxford Circus tube)

This is the only night you should even consider going to the godawful Hombres. Super cheap drinks, pool tables and eye candy make up for it though, as does the added spectacle of London's oddest DJ. Watch out for Jesus impersonations, air guitar and general twatishness...

Nag Nag Nag, The Ghetto (TCR tube)

Sleazy electro-rock with great fun polysexual crowd.

Thursday

The Bunker, Metro Club (TCR tube)

Good fun night with cheap drinks, pretty boys & girls and consistently good indie-rock playlist.

Friday

Bedrock, Metro Club (TCR tube)

As 'the bunker', but so packed you can barely move. Highly recommended.

Rock, Mean Fiddler (TCR tube)

For any (nu) metalheads, this is the place for you. For people who don't dig Papa Roach and 15 year olds, avoid. Like the plague.

Queens of Noize, Barfly (Camden tube)

Raucous club night from everyone's favourite (alleged) cocaine sluts, the Queens of Noize. It ain't cheap, but it is full of lots of pretty people. Definitely worth staying on for if you've seen a band there that evening.

Saturday

After Skool & Collide-a-Scope (Holborn / Temple tube)

Both nights are run by the same people: After Skool is right here at LSE, Collide-a-Scope is at King's union. Both are essentially the same: student indie nights, but Collide-a-Scope just beats After Skool in my opinion, as King's bar has one of the best views in London.

Frog, Mean Fiddler (TCR tube)

Fantastic club night with an up-and-coming band playing a short set around 1am. Artrocker DJs in the bar, so use your membership card (see Tuesday) on the door for discounted entry.

Sunday

The day of rest (for your liver, at least...)

mattboys

All Tomorrow's Parties 2004

Words: jamiestevens, mattboys, laurakirsop

What do you get if you take all the hipsters from the UK and dump them in a holiday camp on the south coast for a weekend? All Tomorrow's Parties of course! The intrepid B:Music team braved strong winds, rip-off cabbies and Britain's worst connected seaside resort to bring you this: the highlights from weekend 2, curated this year by Stephen Malkmus, Sonic Youth, and the ATP Foundation

Le Tigre

Jamie: Choreographed dancing is totally an ironic post-feminist statement combined with their hyper-feminine brand of pop and superficial sounds. Fuck off, it's fun.

Matt: forget postmodernity! Check your sense of irony at the door! Embrace now! Embrace each other! Embrace fun!!

Laura: I love their music; I love their politics; I love their dance routines; they are the most fantastic entertainers; their outfits are great; they make feel like a rubbish feminist for not being queer; seeing them live is life affirming

Black Dice

J: The sound of earth plugged through LOUD filters. It's the Grim Reaper's mating call, a disgustingly sinister noise of grinding keyboards and alien vocals. It's only difficult if you try and get it.

L: I was torn between thinking it was a fucking racket for the sake of a fucking racket, and thinking it was wonderful.

M: boys, toys & noise. Swirling sounds & krr! Grind! Whoop! ... where did my head go?! Get the picture?

Lightning bolt

J: Fucking hell. Literally.

L: Set up at the back of the room that Sonic Youth had just played in. The complete madness of the situation took a firm hold of me and I got a little too excited. The incessant rhythms and absolutelyfuckingamazing heavy riffs [coupled with the first 50 or so rows of people sitting on the floor] gave the whole room this strange post-apocalyptic vibe and I felt truly and absolutely stoked with life and music [... or maybe I was overtired?].

M: Ouch. It felt like a nuclear disaster site, vicious radiation sped in all directions.

Cat Power

M: She had a cheap guitar and didn't know how to play it, but as soon as she started singing, I fell in love.

J: Oh, Chan. Pull yourself together. Please. We all want to love you but you don't make things easy.

L: Has so much potential, but she is let down by her unremitting chat, silly giggling and unnecessary screaming during class... err... I mean, during concerts. When she sings her voice is truly and absolutely beautiful, trouble is that she doesn't sing enough. Her actions on stage are at first quite endearing and later very annoying. I want to know what drugs she takes, and maybe give her some Ritalin instead.

Explosions in The Sky

J: Ok, so EITS have the whole powerful post-rock sound down to a tee but it's just a bit too tight for my liking. A bit too well-suited to Constellation Records. The passion's there but it's too well articulated - I want some blind rage.

M: Beautiful, soaring, immense.

L: Everyone always says 'No! Don't mention Mogwai or Godspeed!' when talking about Explosions in the Sky. Fuck that. They sound like Mogwai and Godspeed! [well, in some senses at least]. Actually, I think they are better. They make emotional, epic instrumentals with beautiful minor key melodies, then sudden swelling and squealing guitar parts. What's not to love?



Sonic Youth's Thurston Moore, emoting violently.

Photo: mattboys

B:film

edited by Dani Ismail

Screening in the London Film Festival

Garden State

jessmcsweeney finds herself feeling right at home...



Director: Zach Braff
Starring: Zach Braff, Natalie Portman, Peter Saarsgard
Certificate: 15
Running Time: 109 min
Release Date: Very soon!

Do you ever feel like your friends get weirder while you're away? After 9 years away from home, Andrew "Large" Largeman (Zach Braff), a pill popping Hollywood actor, returns home to the Garden State, New Jersey, for his mum's funeral. Although his high school friends are eccentric in terms of their jobs (gravediggers, fast food knights) its more his family that has kept him away from home for so long.

His dad, and psychiatrist, (Ian Holm) has been creating psychological problems for Large since he was nine. However, this particular trip home persuades Large to take a holiday from the pills that have kept out the bad but also blocked out the good.

In a doctor's waiting room, Large meets Sam (Natalie

Portman), who has her own set of psychological issues and an unconventional family life to go along with them. Large shows that it is possible to have serious problems and at the same time not take yourself too seriously, while Sam says the funny things that girls think around guys they like but they never say - but don't worry this is no cheesy love story.

The cast is very eclectic (including Peter Saarsgard, Jean Smart and Method Man) and the main characters are more talented than you might actually think. Braff wrote and directed the movie and also plays the main part (so if you're not a big fan, watch out since he's in every scene). Memorable for his protagonist role in the show *Scrubs*, Braff shows an adult progression from the screwball character he usually plays and settles flawlessly into the deeply disturbed character he portrays. The movie is so focused on Braff that some of the other characters - particularly Sam - don't get their chance to shine, but Portman shows that she is definitely more than just

Queen Amidala.

Although some arty movies get lost in being arty, I felt like this one had great acting, cinematography and music. There some well known tracks by Coldplay and Zero 7 as well as Thievery Corporation and Colin Hay (who also collaborated on the *Scrubs* soundtrack). The music worked well in the movie because it didn't try too hard to make a point, but provided a good backdrop to what was going on. The film also raises some important questions: once you leave, can you ever really go home? And does where you come from ultimately determine who you are? Not only did it manage to combine abstract with reality, it also had the ending that you always hope for but rarely get.

Walking out of the movie, I felt that I could walk right back in and see it again, and come away with something new.

So if you're looking for something cute, funny and very quirky you'll find it here.

4/5

World Cinema

If you're new in London and having trouble finding films in your language then look no further - every week I will endeavour to scour the streets of London, to find cinemas playing foreign movies and anything world cinema related. First off, read on for some **French** movies in London this week..

Part of the **Raindance Film Festival** (see below for more information), the following films are being screened at the cine lumiere this week for only £5 a pop...

TUES 5th OCT - 6.30PM & 8.30PM

WED 6th OCT - 6.30PM

In My Skin (Marina de Van, Laurent Lucas)



When a young girl suffers deep wounds to her leg after a fall, she becomes obsessed with her body and skin, especially that on her wound. What starts as innocent caresses of her arms, legs and scars, quickly turns into her purposefully hurting herself with knives and razors. Her boyfriend's lack of understanding only leads her further down this destructive

road. A brilliantly haunting portrayal of self annihilation and the innermost anguish the character feels.

WED 6th OCT - 8.30PM

Tiresia (Clara Choveaux, Laurent Lucas)



In Greek mythology, Tiresius was both a man and a woman, blinded by the gods in a fit of rage, but given "a sixth sense" - that of prophesying about the future. You may recognise the name from Oedipus Rex. Tiresia is set in modern day. A Brazilian transsexual, she lives with her brother who 'kidnaps' her and refuses to let her out of his sight. Deprived of her necessary hormones, you watch Tiresia transform, and her horrified brother blinds her and leaves her for dead..

Watch this space next week for information on the **UK Jewish Film Festival**, in London for the first time.

Out This Week...

Man On Fire

Another Denzel Washington movie. A good actor, but ever so slightly prolific, no? A government official gone babysitter, this film will ooze Hollywood cheese and sentimentality.

Bride And Prejudice

Good lord save me. Just saying the title out loud makes me cringe. An Indian girl desperate to avoid an arranged marriage falls for a visiting American and trouble ensues. A light hearted take on Austen's

Pride & Prejudice, this film commits the ultimate mistake of using a terrible pun in its title.

Histoire De Marie Et Julien

Watch this space for next week's review of this film! An older clockmaker falls for a young and enigmatic girl in this art-house flick but loses the plot slightly in a shroud of pretension and airs.

Goldfish Memory

This film chronicles the ups and downs of the sex lives of a bunch of promiscuous Irish lasses, experimenting with their sexuality. Definitely sounds fun.

Taxi

Jimmy Fallon (of Saturday Night Live) stars as an inept cop who gets a ride in Queen Latifah's cab. Probably pretty funny but don't expect anything much from this, apart from the fact that Gisele Bundchen stars and is absolutely stunning.

Ladder 49

Joaquin Phoenix and John Travolta are fire fighters; the former is trapped in a fire and the latter is the fire chief trying to save him. Bound to be cliched but with good effects.. it's your call.

Goodbye, Dragon Inn

This Taiwanese film looks at the demise of the communal event that cinema once was, as we watch a Japanese tourist escape the pouring rain into a cinema playing an old classic. Most of the horny cinema goers are looking to pull, as opposed to just looking.

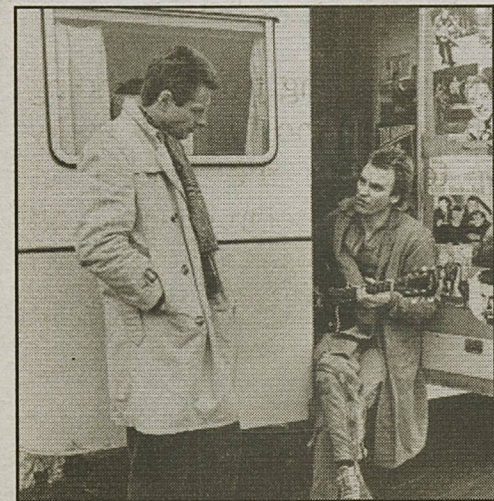
Whatever Happened To Baby Jane?

A 60's classic, a former child star is insanely jealous of her more famous, crippled sister, who she now drunkenly tortures while caring for her.

Re-release of an old classic..

Radio On

janewakiwaka and daniismail struggle to find a reason to watch this film



Director: Christopher Petit
Starring: David Beames, Liza Kreuzer, Sting
Running Time: 104 min
Certificate: 18
Release Date: 8th October

You know when you watch a movie, in another language, and you don't understand anything? It's a little frustrating. Especially when, in this case, the movie is actually British, but despite the fact that

there is very little English spoken, they still manage to squeeze in some German, without subtitles.

That Sting's name features prominently in the production notes that we glanced through beforehand also gives one the impression that he stars in the movie. A 5 minute cameo does not, in our opinion, qualify one for being credited in posters for the movie, **Radio On**.

Quoted as being a post-punk road movie, we expected more than merely a sequence of random, haphazard shots, blindly strung together, that seemed to follow no particular plot line and filled the screen for the first half of the movie.

But perhaps it was this incoherence that contributed to the loneliness and emptiness the film was trying to portray of its time and its characters. The film succeeded in emanating the alienation that the protagonist obviously felt, while making an oddly eventful journey from Camden to Bristol to learn the details surrounding his brother's death. However, you get the

feeling that this plot line was secondary to the stillness portrayed through the imagery in the film, that was almost a central theme in itself.

Whether or not it was the director's choice to use black and white to appear sophisticated and arty, it failed miserably and just served to portray London as a miserable place. But then again, maybe it was just budget, or lack, thereof. On the other hand, it was punctuated by sharp bursts of music that definitely accentuated the scene. David Bowie, Ian Dury & The Blockheads, Wreckless Eric and Sting's input made us perk up momentarily, before returning to our numb state of dragged out boredom. It's the sort of film you feel you *should* appreciate for its cult following and high standing in the road movie genre, but who cares - I want to watch a movie that keeps me interested. I don't want to have to look for a reason to continue watching.

This movie would be great for a 17th date. No that's a lie. This movie is best watched at home, while playing on your

Xbox, so that you have something to distract you during the frequent 15 minutes of silence, focussing on London traffic and smog. Another memorable, long shot was that of watching a record spin on a record player. Symbolic? Right. Why? Lord only knows.

Alternatively, this would be a great movie to watch when alone at home with a large bottle of wine to douse your sorrows with. Or just not.

2/5



Director: Allan Moyle
Starring: Renee Zellweger, Liv Tyler, Rory Cochrane, Anthony LaPaglia
Certificate: 12

B:Film Classic Review...

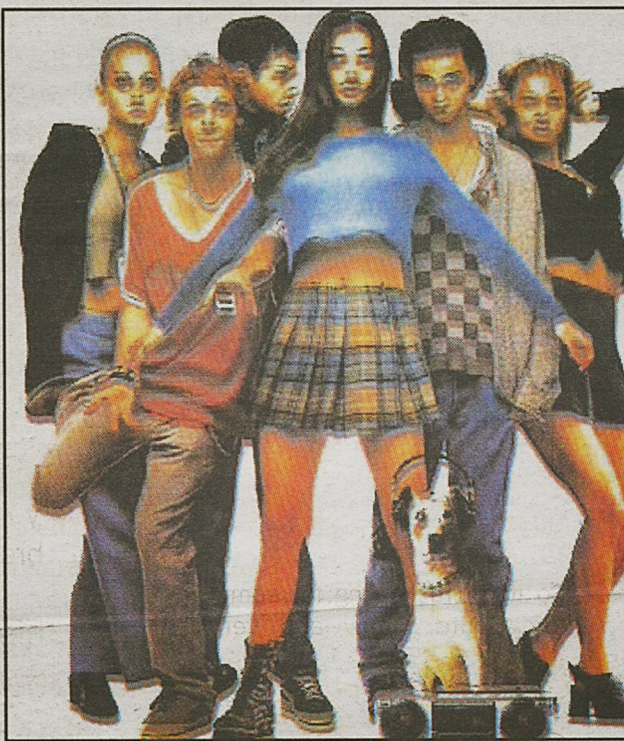
Empire Records (1995)

daniismail can only rave about this record store classic

What a movie. Fit staff, drugs, random sex with sleazy washed out stars and badge making, what more could you want? Oh wait - a song that you will be singing years down the line. And with lyrics like "say no more, mon amour.. lips are for kissing baby, so say no more!" how can you resist? This film made my childhood just that much better, so I hope it does the same for your university years.

Surprisingly enough, Empire Records is a music store going bust. It's staff are a set of friendly, teenage losers. You've got the slut, the speed freak, the manic depressive (yes it IS the girl with the shaved head), a cute yet creepy pothead, the fucked up one and the cute artist. They prance about the store dancing, making out (or devising scenarios that ultimately involve some making out), and solving all their teenage angst woes.

Here's a quick glance at the wonderful and crazy things they manage to fit into their schedule while helping to run a fun record store. They hold a wake. They ogle over above mentioned sleazy rock star. (Who is the loser-cum-biker from Grease 2. Says it all, eh?) They dust ballerina's feet and yes, again, take drugs. But no alcohol, if I recall cor-



rectly (and I could be wrong), and so we return to the oxymoron that is American culture. Just because drinking is illegal till 21, doesn't mean they can indulge in any other intoxicating substance they can get their hands on that, being illegal, has no age limit. How it's totally acceptable to show 'under-age' drug taking in this relatively innocent film is beyond me.

There is, despite the poster, no dog in the film.

The soundtrack leaves nothing to be desired, apart from the nagging feeling that "Say No More" should definitely be a song you can blast on your CD player. The AC/DC scene kicks ass in the way only air guitar can. The Flying Lizards' cover of Money will make you giggle. Also listen out for "Snake Face" by The Muses, played in the dirty Liv Tyler scene.

I can only implore everyone to watch this film. Sure, one might call it a chick flick. Sure, we all know how it'll end. And sure, Liv Tyler wears Doc Martin's but who didn't in the 90's. I personally still utilise a well worn pair from time to time. This film is great!

Out And About In The London Film Scene

Raindance Film Festival

This festival gives way to independent film makers and offers you a huge opportunity to watch films that you may otherwise never catch in the cinema, and may only hear about through third degree film suggestions. Widely recognised as being a welcome platform for first time film-makers, you're likely to discover new **Quentin Tarantinos** and **Guy Ritchies** right here.

Closing night at the UGC Haymarket Cinema may be a bit expensive at £15, but you can watch a bunch of the movies featured at the Cine Lumiere for only £5 for concessions and tickets range from £5.50 - £8.50 at the UGC Shaftesbury Avenue.

Today alone, you can watch a Russian flick (**In The Constellation of Taurus**), or watch **Christian Bale** act the insomniac deprived of a year's sleep in **The Machinist**.

Find out more at www.raindance.co.uk/festival

The Corporation

Following on from last week's introduction to the above mentioned film, which is being released at the end of the month, here are the run-up films being shown this week at The Curzon Soho..

SUN 10 OCT 12PM
Tickets £6/£5 members

Brazil (Jonathon Pryce, Robert De Niro)

Songs From The Second Floor (Lars Nordh, Stefan Larsson)

And finally..

Is there anything missing that you would like to see in this section?

Something you'd like to see more of?

I want to know. Email me at beaverfilm@yahoo.com

B:theatre

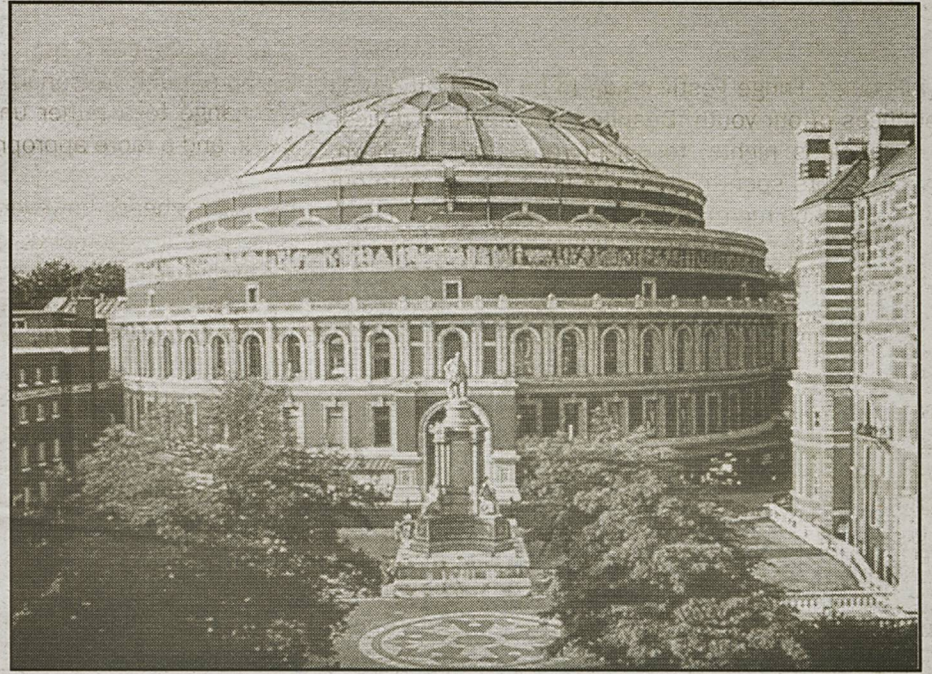
edited by Carolina Bunting and Keith Postler

London Called: The Smooth Guide to London Theatre & Performing Arts Venues

You already know about the ROH (Royal Opera House, www.roh.org.uk) from last week's article: now it's time to dig into The RAH—The Royal Albert Hall—not to be confused with the ROH, although some opera does play there. From its first concert in 1871 it has had a long and rich history as one of the world's leading entertainment venues. The website (<http://www.royalalberthall.com>) tells you more about its illustrious history and events. Although located outside the West End proper, just over the road from the Princess Diana Memorial in Hyde Park, its magnificent Victorian architecture and the acoustics of the hall itself make it worth a visit. Perhaps it is most famous as 'Home of the Proms'—a British institution and series of popular, not always populist, concerts. The Alby serves a varied menu and audience, e.g. Lord of the Rings Symphony, MOBO Awards, The Moody Blues, Rod Stewart, The International Ballroom Championships, etc. Check it out. Prom tickets on the day cost as little as £4.

The Barbican (Barbi) is also a mixed course venue: Art, Music, Film, & (mostly World) Theatre, just a 25min stroll from LSE (Silk Street, EC2Y 8DS, Barbican Tube Stn. on the Circle, Metropolitan, and Hammersmith & City lines). The Centre has 3 cinemas offering "the very latest independent, art-house and blockbuster film releases." In its two 'theatre spaces' (we don't talk of theatres anymore, my dears) - the Barbican Theatre and the Pit - you find "gritty reality to far-flung fantasy; from dance to drama; from established artists to those at the start of their careers", according to their hype. Its architecture too has its period characteristics worth seeing. Check out its offerings at <http://www.barbican.org.uk>, especially the Barbican Card (£10).

A purely theatre venue rarely noted by University of London students but a must for theatre cognoscenti is the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art - known only as 'RADA', just 2 blocks up from the British Museum, 1 block up from Senate House, and across the street from Birkbeck College on Malet Street - in our midst, a 20min walk from LSE.



It houses the Jerwood Vanbrugh Theatre, where its students, great thespians of the future, train and strut their stuff. It issues no press night tickets; thus you will never read a review of their productions in the British Press, which respect their policy of letting training actors get on with it without having some harsh review crush their tender souls and prompt them to leave the boards (as they say in the theatre). However, the public may see their performances at £7.50 a throw (cp. their website <http://www.rada.org>). When one of the two founders of the LSE - of course you know that one of them was George Bernard Shaw - died in 1950, he left 1/3 of his royalties to RADA. If you don't want to partake of their theatre, you may wish to acquaint yourself with some of the future's beautiful actresses and/or handsome actors, with whom you may hobnob, at the RADA Bar Happy Hour, Monday-Friday 6 - 7pm, select drinks only £1. Any LSE'er (Beaverite?) doing this is welcome to write a review of this experience for the theatre page of the Beaver. Theatre gossip always welcome.

You are now acquainted with the Royalty—ROH, RAH, & RADA. And that is about as likely as close as you will get to them. ROH'ho, RAH'ha & RADA'ta. Go Get'm!

keithpostler

Some Heavy Hector

Opera:	<u>The Trojans</u>		
Composer:	(Louis-) Hector Berlioz		
Epic Drama:	5 Acts	Venue:	ENO
Days:	29 Sept.; 3, 5 Oct.	Curtain Time:	17:00
Ends:	5 Oct 2004	Running Time:	5' 30; 45" interval
Performance rating:	4 out of 5 stars	Program rating:	5 out of 5 stars

So you've seen *Troy*, the movie, released May 2004 and you know it failed because it treated the characters, who are mythical, as true life human beings. So instead of waiting to waste your money when the DVD appears, get real now; get some heavy Hector. Hector Berlioz wrote over 1,000 opera reviews; supported himself as a (music) journalist although qualified as a medical doctor, the profession of his father, which he abored. He was well-versed in literature, of whose authors Virgil and Shakespeare he appreciated most. He could quote long passages from them in the original. They inspired his compositions as many of the titles of his works attest. So he was acquainted with, and thought about, literature. As a journalist, he mastered the craft of writing. He had a background whereby he could formulate and articulate his thoughts and feelings about music as well as create it. He considered opera the highest form of art because in ideally uniting literature and music it surpassed both and made a greater art form.

The Trojans (1858), of many planned, is his next-to-last of 5 operas, for which he wrote the libretto himself from Virgil's *Aeneid*, treating the Fall of the Ancient Greek City of

Troy (in Turkey) - Acts I & II, the journey of one of its defeated royal survivors, Aeneas, first to the city of Carthage on the north African coast, and then on to Aeneas' founding of the city of Rome - Acts III, IV & V. I won't bore the reader with detailing the plot, so well known to you from reading Homer and Virgil - and the film. All in 5 acts and in 5½ hours. The ENO has kindly split the acts with a 45" interval after Act II: you then eat at a restaurant you booked for the night. After III & IV you get 20". You will not get bored: you will be entertained for a good 5 hours - a bargain.

This work makes evident Berlioz's compositional technique and the integration of its overarching structure, much as his contemporary Richard Wagner practiced. All aspects of Berlioz's talent and art converge in this opera, considered one of the greatest achievements of 19th C music. It exhibits little recitative and aria in favor of freer monologues and pantomime; dialogue and narrative overlay orchestral movements. And Berlioz is one of the all-time greats of symphonic orchestration so evident in The Trojans. The music supplies an orchestral equivalent to all stage action in a mixture of mythical, sexual, and atmospheric symbolism in a Romantic vein.

Berlioz himself called it "Virgil Shakespeareanized." Go and judge for yourself. Because unfortunate publishing circumstances (the first definitive score came in 1969) forced its late entry into the operatic repertoire, it hasn't had as long a chance to establish itself as other standard works. Experience it while there is an opportunity to do so. It has only had London performances in 2003 and before that its British revival at Covent Garden in 1957. Get the program before you see the opera: it tells you everything—a model of what a program should be.

keithpostler

The show went on!

This year a group of LSE actors took a play to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Director Ion Martea gives more of the details.

The Edinburgh Fringe Festival has to be one of the best experiences of our youth. Despite the numerous difficulties - sleepless nights, technical rehearsals at dawn, countless hours spent distributing flyers to promote our show - none of us regretted taking on a project which was both inspiring and fulfilling, a project which has helped us become friends for life (hopefully!).

We are a bunch of five people from LSE: actors Steve Bond, Irina Janakievskaya and Fionnuala McLardy, producer Jonathan Maron and myself as director and actor - all going by the name of ON Productions. Our play, *Ashes to Ashes*, by Steve Lambert was about the horrors of Auschwitz. We first performed it in January at the LSE. It got good reviews, so we decided to take it to the Edinburgh Fringe this summer.

At first, our production seemed doomed. In May we had to recast two out of the four characters [in January our two previous cast members were Giorgia Demarchi and Ruth Austin]. We also decided to go for a recorded choir rather than a live one. On top of that, we decided to radically change the delivery of more than three quarters of the play in the last 30 minutes of the last rehearsal! All this did not add to our sense of optimism. And a ten hour overnight coach ride up to Scotland didn't help either.

By August we had enough money to ensure that the show would go on; thanks to last minute support from the Director and alumnus Ashley Mitchell, who put us in contact with generous souls willing to sponsor us.

So, to Edinburgh. It is an amazing city, and it greeted us in all its grandiosity on the first Sunday, August 15. Our venue of choice was Sweet at the Grassmarket, because of its location, and, at the time of the booking, because of the cost. Unfortunately, we got to see the wrong plans for the theatre, and were forced to move to a different venue, but one which better satisfied our needs. This, of course, affected our performance time. Originally 7.45pm, quite reasonable for a Holocaust play, we had to change to a rather uncomfortable 10.50pm for one week, and a more appropriate 12.45pm in the last week.

We went ahead, however, despite the risk of losing an audience by shifting start times. Our motto was always 'quality over quantity'. And hey, it was the Fringe! Everyone had some problems - even the production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* with Hollywood actor Christian Slater; possibly even the show with two masters of genital origami, *Puppetry of the Penis*. But if a handful of individuals left the Fringe thinking that you were the best of the bunch, then you definitely succeeded in establishing a buzz around your play.

Our tears while performing were deeply felt by our daily audience who would either leave in tears themselves, or wait for us after the show [we didn't have a curtain call due to the nature of the play] to offer their praise. We appreciated an uncomfortable clap perhaps more than frantic applause. It gave us the assurance that we might be contending for the best of the bunch, as we had moved people. One critic, Patrick Hayes, writing for *Culture Wars*, helped us spread the word, recommending the play as a must see at the Fringe. But ultimately it was the moving reaction of a Holocaust survivor and her positive criticism which gave us the 'laurels' we were looking for.

Aside from our own play, we were also of course at the Fringe. This meant often succumbing to the Fringe expe-

rience - watching from two to four other shows a day, from drama to stand-up comedy to physical theatre, as well as sweet jazz nights. We saw great plays such as *My Long Journey Home*, *No Man's Land*, *Catching Dust*, *The Real Thing*, *I Can Cry*, *1984*, *Metamorphosis*, *Poe in Pieces*, and pure trash such as *The Threepenny Opera* and *How to Philosophise with a Hammer*. The *Henmen* became our flyer-ing brothers when handing out leaflets, and the cast of *Offensive Shadows* were our main Fringe companions. Late night pubbing and clubbing was of course on the programme, as unforgettable as the Victorian house in which we all lived (actually rather spooky at the beginning!). And how can we forget the pizza lunches at 'Mamma's'!

In no time it was all over, and we had to say goodbye to a remarkable experience, taking with us priceless memories and a great number of new friends and long lasting friendships. Plans for Fringe 2005 are already under way. Next time we're thinking of taking up three productions.

ionmarte

**What have you seen lately?
Do you want to create a
buzz or bash the trash?
Write for B:theatre. Send
us an email:
bartheatre@yahoo.co.uk**

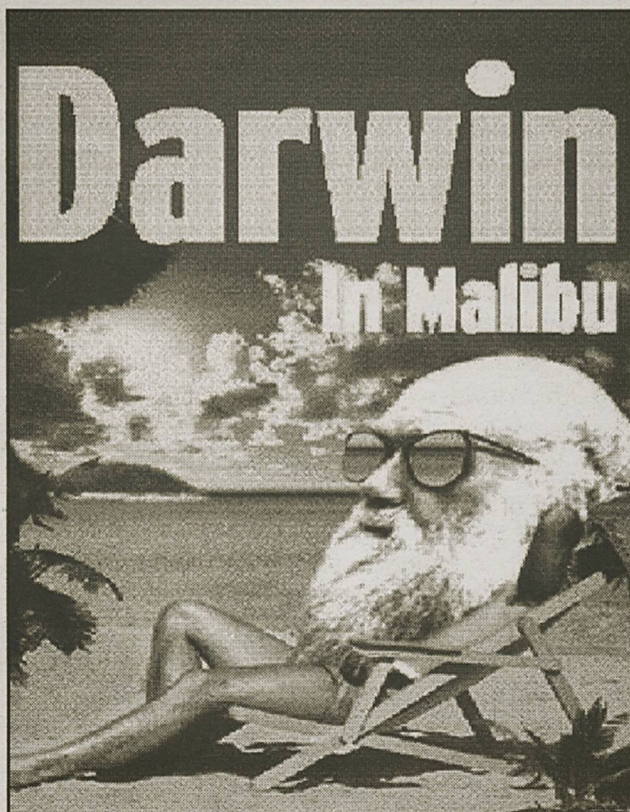
Fittest Play Survives

Play: *Darwin in Malibu*
Author: Crispin Whittell
Days: Monday through Saturday
Ends: 16 October 2004
Venue: Hampstead Theatre
Curtain times: Mon - Sat 19:45
Sat matinee 15:00
Performance rating: 4 out of 5 stars

Darwin in Malibu is busy. It recreates a more philosophical age of scientific enquiry, when debates were still settled through Socratic style argument rather than the algebraic cut and thrust that powers modern discovery. It contains a wonderful emotional pull as some of the most intriguing characters from an amazing period in history are forced to recount stories of the tragedy that touched all their lives. It forms a powerful debate on issues as fundamental as creation, faith and, of course, evolution. That it is also funny enough to sell itself as a comedy says something of this play's quality.

Darwin (Oliver Ford Davies) himself is a fine character to build a play around. He contends with Newton for the title of most important scientist in history, and there is real mystery in the details of his life, why didn't he publish *Origins of Species* for decades after its completion? How did he make the tradition from trainee priest to Christianity's greatest intellectual challenge?

Samuel Wilberforce (Nigel Planer) led a life of piety and intellectual vigour. He was superbly suited to the world he was borne into and found little but success until that world was forever changed by Darwin's



theory. From then on he tried to destroy intellectually the theory that challenged the faith he held so deeply. This reached its powerful crescendo in the magnificent surroundings of the Oxford Natural History Museum where he debated with the irrepressible Thomas Huxley.

Huxley defended *Origins of Species* while Darwin didn't feel physically able. A self-taught scientist and unapologetic agnostic Huxley was the absolute opposite of the faithful Wilberforce.

This play's plot is basically to throw these three, dead, characters in with a modern Californian called Sarah who does not share their concern for science. It then lets them bounce off each other as they attempt to discover why they have been brought together, confront some old ghosts and continue the efforts to convince each other that ended up defining their lives.

The acting is of a high standard. Nigel Planer, best known as the hippy in *The Young Ones*, pulls off a convincingly earnest Wilberforce. Douglas Henshall has the energy to do Huxley justice and has the smirk to make the comedy work. Finally Oliver Ford Davies is a composed and bumbling Darwin. He has to play the foil to the other characters for most of the play and is therefore not shown off to the same degree but when offered a decent monologue is absorbing. Cressida Whyte has a difficult job as Sarah, who doesn't get many good lines, she often seemed an unwelcome interruption to the men's pace. The exception to this is at the beginning when she tells of her regret at finding "her boy's" diary, a metaphor for Darwin's discovery of evolution; this passage is exceptional.

Towards the end *Darwin in Malibu* loses the plot a little. It has built up such an energy that it finishes in an almost incomprehensible maze of revelations and emotions. For most of the play the discussion proceeds carefully and this seems a far more elegant method of dealing with such deep and complex topics than the reckless rush of the final minutes.

Nevertheless this is an excellent play. It joins *Fight Club* (book or film) and *Dr. Strangelove* in the honoured ranks of stories that do not even attempt to duck grave topics but still remain hugely funny.

matthewsinclair

B: fine arts

edited by Caroline Bray

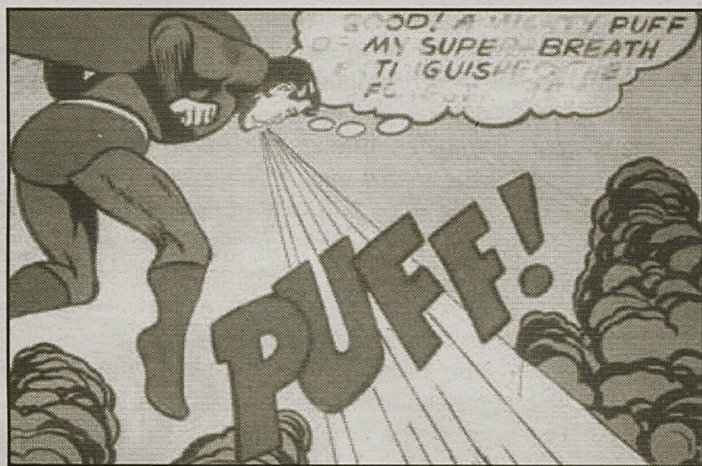
What's In A Name?

Good art sells. Good art sells and it sells for an arm and a leg. Yet what determines its value and why have there been so many inflations in certain areas of the art market over the recent years? This article looks at prices within the art market today and reveals that the criteria for determining value is somewhat ambiguous and potentially damaging.

Jack Vettriano and his Singing Butler can probably be called to mind by most as a good example of an inflation in art market prices recently. The painting sold for a record £744,800 (\$1.3 million) in May of this year at Sotheby's making Vettriano the third-most expensive living artist after Freud and Hockney. Sotheby's specialist Andre Zlattinger then claimed that Vettriano estimates had risen 50% since 2003. That is an astonishing rise, especially for an artist whom critics consider to produce work good enough only for souvenir postcards. Yet the rise in prices does not stop there, in June, Steve Cohen of the Greenwich, Connecticut hedge fund bought Andy Warhol's hand painted 1960 Superman. Rumours placed the selling price at \$30 million. Although it was latter admitted that Basel has published an over exaggerated price, the speculated cost of the work still lies between \$20 million and \$27 million. To give you an idea of the huge rate of price inflation, Gunter Sachs bought the piece in 1970 (for an unknown rate) when Warhol's auction record was then a mere \$19,000 (paid for Silver Liz, 1965).

Mark Rothko pieces are also some of the most notorious value risers in the art world and recently \$100 million was paid for a group of Rothko paintings in an unprecedented transaction by New York Philanthropists Ezra and Lauren Merkin. In addition to these large amounts, Robert Hughes gave a scathing speech at the Royal Academy this year when an immature, poor quality Picasso Blue Period sold for £17 million. Just what exactly is it that is causing the prices to rise so much?

Many believe that the name makes a paintings worth. Undoubtedly (and lamentably), a Vincent Van Gogh would sell for more than a Caroline Bray. It is this which really rattles the cage of critics such as Hughes and humble art editors such as myself. 'What's in a name?' Well apparently, an awful lot of money and not always any talent. Yet I have more recently managed to console myself,



there are indications that quality has a large part to play. Buyers have often invested within the realm of 'you can't

go wrong with a famous name'. However, recent events have put that schema into doubt. On June 21st at Sotheby's, a landscape painted by Alfred Sisley was estimated to sell between £750,000 and £1 million (\$1.4 million-\$1.8 million). Instead, the painting remained



unsold at £650,000. The piece was followed by a Renoir nude, which fetched £4 million (\$7.3 million). This may seem a hefty sum but not when you consider that it has sold in 1999 for a whopping \$12.5 million at Christie's. So why these sudden changes in price?

The two paintings mentioned were both in poor conversational condition. Sisley's painting had been subjected to far too much cleaning and Renoir's nude had peculiar lumps and bumps on the surface, with a trail of water marked around the figure. So quality does play a role in sale prices within the art market at times. Most notable with older works. I just fear that works which have not yet had time to deteriorate or decay are being sold at extortionate prices simply because Damien Hirst or Andy Warhol took a pencil to the bottom right hand corner

When such huge prices are paid for works as I mentioned earlier there then becomes the problem of over payment. The poor consignor who sold the Renoir for a mere £4 million would have lost a huge profit, especially when one considers that the Sotheby's commission amounts to approximately half of the capital invested. My research has found no indication that the Renoir was damaged in 1999. However, if it was and was bought purely for the sake of Renoir's name originally then the value of art has no way of being determined. It becomes an assessment unique to the individual viewing the painting.

Naturally, personal opinion on a painting's value will differ anyway but they should never change the value of the painting by the millions they do. I fear when Vettriano, Warhol and Rothko finally fall out of fashion the prices for their work will drop. Vettriano's work is already doing so and on September 1st this year 14 of his paintings failed to sell at Sotheby's. Does this mean we no longer acknowledge the originality of ideas and the skill in artistic creation? I wish not to point the finger merely on these artists but want to illustrate that genius is genius and talent is talent. If a piece is great then pay for it, but do not fork out a pocketful just because it's fashionable. The so-called art lover then merely devalues art and the artist himself. And what kind of art enthusiast would do that?



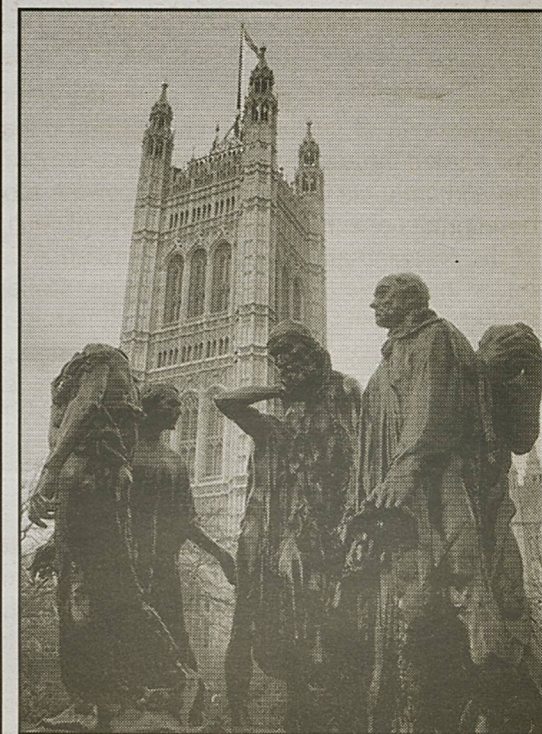
Weekly Wander

Each week I will bring you a weekly wander. A stroll through London to a sculpture, monument or artistic sight really worth donning your walking boots for.

This week take a trip to Victoria Tower Gardens, behind the Palace of Westminster to see Auguste Rodin's *The Burghers of Calais*. Rodin's texture, expression and strength are all evident in this piece, making it one of London's most beautiful outdoor statues.

Calais was taken by Edward III during the Hundred Years War after strong resistance. However, if six prominent towns people surrendered the keys to the city and offered their lives then the King agreed to spare Calais. So six volunteers fulfilled his wishes and presented themselves to Edward wearing sacks with nooses round their necks. The hostages were spared when Edward's wife pleaded for their safety.

The statue marks this event in history and was made at the request of the mayor of Calais. It shows the burghers as they set out from their English camp to face Edward. There is another statue in Calais but this was bought in 1911 from Rodin by the National Art Collections Fund as a gift to the nation. Rodin chose the site himself as he admired the Gothic backdrop of the Houses of Parliament.



Budding Art Critic??? Then I'm dying to hear from you... If you wish to write for the Fine Arts page then email me on C.A.Bray@lse.ac.uk

B:literature

edited by Ion Martea

The 2004 Man Booker Prize

ionmarteas takes you on a tour of the best of 2004

On the 19th of October one author will be honoured with the Man Booker Prize, the highest achievement a novelist can receive if published in UK. Beyond the politics of the prize, this year has presented a rather eclectic choice of novels, all worthy in their own way. So, if you want to read something new and provocative, but most importantly something that has caught the eye of the critics, then you might decide to check out some of the nominees. No recommendations from The Beaver editor, just the reaction of the British press.

The 2004 Shortlist

Bitter Fruit by Achmat Dangor (Atlantic Books)

Set in Johannesburg in the closing months of Nelson Mandela's presidency, it charts the open wounds and disintegrating relationships in a "coloured" family caught up in the "grey, shadowy morality" of an ANC government "bargaining, until there was nothing left to barter with, neither principle nor compromise"... Bitter Fruit has a shocking ability to surprise the reader with the persistence of racial feeling in South Africa. The Guardian

Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell (Sceptre)

Cloud Atlas is made up of half-a-dozen disparate but artfully interwoven narratives that propel the reader forwards through time and genre, from the distant nineteenth to the not-so-far-off twenty-second century, from giddy picaresque to cool thriller to chilling sci-fi ... Differing wildly in pitch, pacing and content, each of this novel's sections seems as eerily self-contained as a snow globe, but all are intricately, even supernaturally, interlaced. The Observer

The Electric Michelangelo by Sarah Hall (Faber & Faber)

Reeda Parks runs the Bayview Hotel in Morecambe Bay. Her son Cyril - Cy to his friends - helps look after the consumptives who holiday there, coughing up blood and phlegm into the basins it's his job to hold, empty and clean ... In prose as intricate as the designs covering any tattooed lady, as dense as the Morecambe Bay haar and redolent with a deep love of language, Sarah Hall weaves a tale of love, loss and the quest for blue ink, peopled with tell-it-like-it-is northerners, Coney Island freaks, and apartment-dwelling horses... Different. Orange Prize

I'll go to Bed at Noon by Gerard Woodward (Chatto & Windus)

Gerard Woodward, award-winning poet and vending machine-filler, has now published the sequel to August, a stunning debut novel based on his own eccentric family. What

began as a summer idyll with dark undertones, as the Jones family vacations on a Welsh camping ground, develops here into full-blown tragedy. The Independent

The Line of Beauty by Alan Hollinghurst (Picador)

The Line Of Beauty is a Daimler of a novel. On every one of its 500 pages one cannot help admiring the sheer classiness of writing that is the literary equivalent of leather upholstery and a walnut dashboard. Settling ourselves into the comfortable grip of Hollinghurst's flawless prose, we are taken on a ride through 1980s London that is smooth, unhurried and utterly captivating. And like the car Hollinghurst momentarily describes, the novel itself is a dark mirror; a perfect rendering of surfaces, leaving us to guess at what may or may not lie beneath. Scotland on Sunday

The Master by Colm Tóibín (Picador)

Tóibín has chosen the most interesting stage of Henry James's uneventful but complex career. By opening with what was arguably the unhappiest night of James's life when, unsuspecting, he was led out on-stage to face not applause but catcalls, he sets the scene for an acute portrayal of a sensitive and undervalued man who had yet to come to terms with his own sexual ambivalence. New Statesman

The 2004 Longlist

Always the Sun by Neil Cross (Scribner)

Becoming Strangers by Louise Dean (Scribner)

A Blade of Grass by Lewis Desoto (Maia Press)

Cherry by Matt Thorne (Weidenfeld & Nicolson)

Clear: A Transparent Novel by Nicola Barker (4th Estate)

Cooking with Fernet Branca by James Hamilton Paterson (Faber & Faber)

The Great Fire by Shirley Hazzard (Virago)

Havoc, in its Third Year by Ronan Bennett (Bloomsbury)

The Honeymoon by Justin Haythe (Picador)

The Island Walkers by John Bemrose (John Murray)

Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell by Susanna Clarke (Bloomsbury)

Maps for Lost Lovers by Nadeem Aslam (Faber & Faber)

Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (4th Estate)

Sixty Lights by Gail Jones (Harvill Press)

Snowleg by Nicholas Shakespeare (Harvill Press)

The Unnumbered by Sam North (Scribner)

THE Man BOOKER PRIZE 2004

Join Me

by Danny Wallace

rebeccamichael on 'the joy of sects....'

I happened to meet Danny Wallace at a country-fair in middle England, when he was doing a spot for Channel4's *Richard&Judy*. He informed me that television was just a distraction, while full-time he was the leader of an international cult called *Join Me*. Suspicious and somewhat intrigued, the following day I found myself purchasing *Join Me: The story of a man who started a cult by accident*.

Bored, in his flat in East London, one day Danny Wallace decides to place an advert in *Loot* saying 'Join Me - send one passport photo to...'. Remarkably, someone does. We follow Danny's mission to recruit 1000 'Joinees', taking us to Belgium, Scotland, and other such exotic places, where he encounters some strange and wonderful individuals who don't know what they are getting into, but join anyway. As Danny's pile of passport photos grows, along with the media attention, he finds himself under pressure to give his cult a purpose. And so, he comes up with The Good Friday Agreement, asking Joinees to 'do good deeds for old men on Fridays' and, eventually, old women too. Soon, all over the world, anyone over 60s who is lucky enough to find oneself in the path of a Joinee, is receiving cups of tea, bags of peanuts, and other delights.

Join Me is ridiculously funny. Recognising the publishers as the

Publisher: **Ebury Press**
Release date: **3 July 2003**
List price: **£9.99**
Paperback 320 pp.

group who gave us *Round Ireland with a Fridge* by Tony Hawks and *Are you Dave Gorman?* by Dave Gorman and Danny Wallace is the best indication of the book's genre: a self-mocking, tongue-in-cheek, drunk-student kind of comedy. It's not laugh-out-loud humour, but you are certainly rewarded a chuckle per page, providing a 'don't-think-too-hard' testimony to society's loneliness.



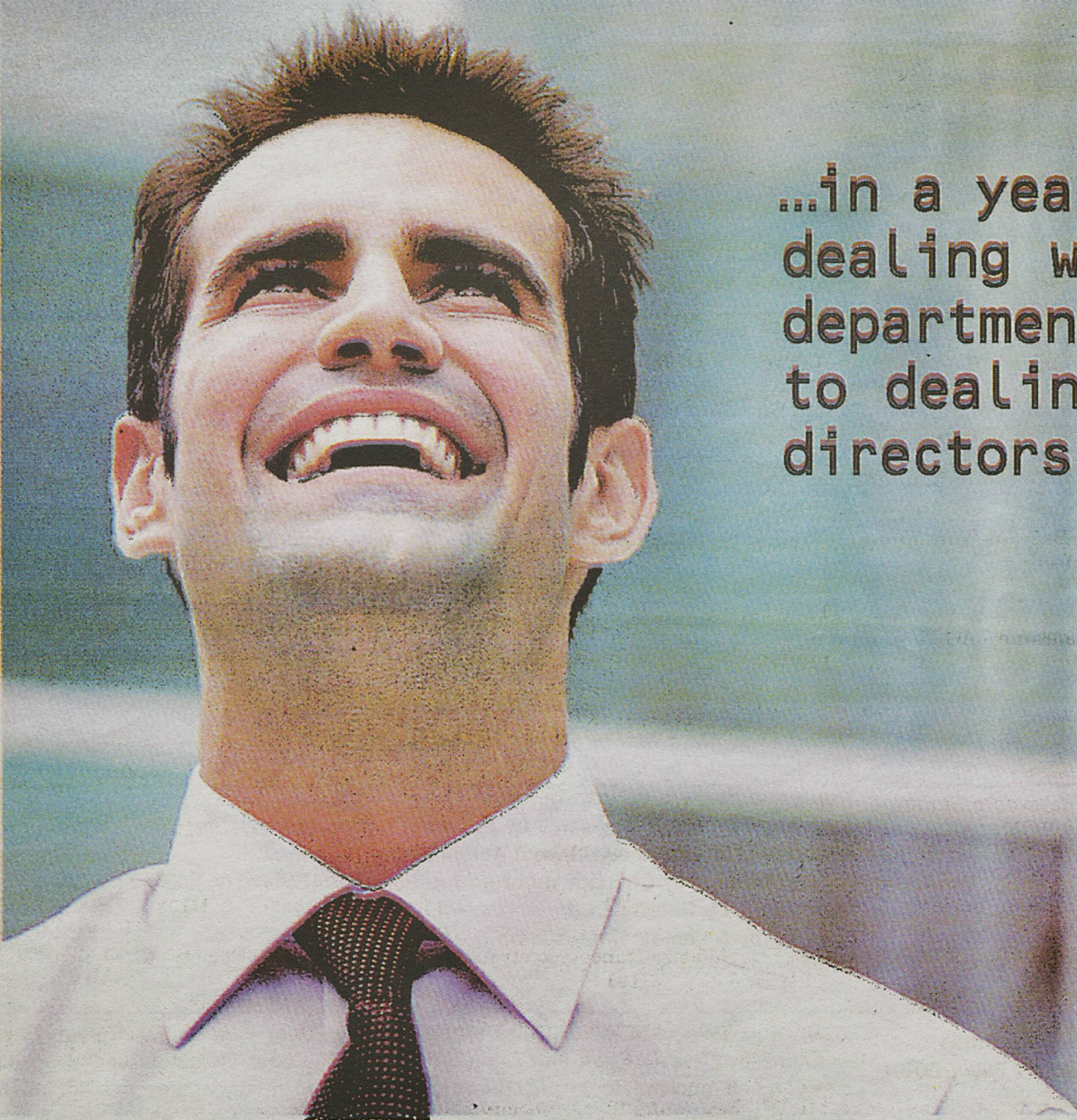
After reading it, I found myself racking my brains to come up with an idea as random and potentially ludicrous as *Join Me*. Maybe, it's time to withdraw the investment bank application, and start a cult instead. Either that, or you can join Danny Wallace 'by sending one passport photo to:

JOIN ME
PO BOX 33561
London E3 2YW'

I certainly did!

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Wireless Network

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For help with configuring your laptop to use the wireless network consult the <http://www.lse.ac.uk/itservices/remote/> web pages.



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You said... We did...

In our annual user satisfaction survey in 2004, students made suggestions about areas of the IT Services which they thought could be improved.

The computers are too slow

We have replaced over 500 PCs in the last 5 months, the latest batch being installed in C120, Library 1st floor and S175.

The Laptop surgery is always so full

We have moved the helpdesk to the Library lower ground floor and S198 is now a dedicated Laptop Support centre, running from 10am to 2pm Mon-Fri.

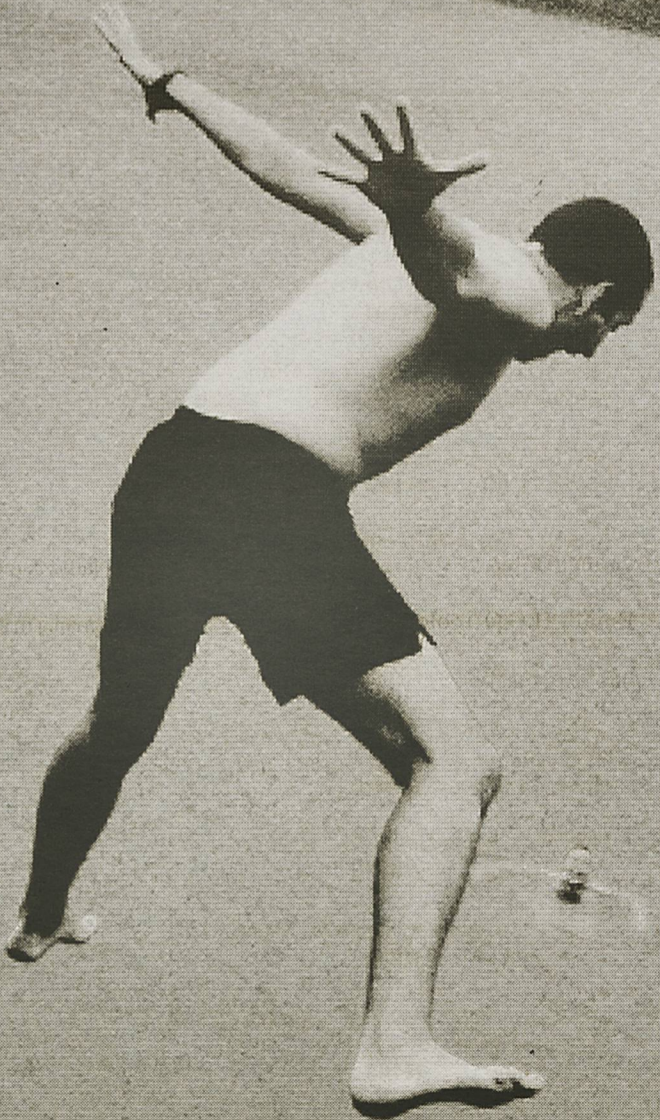
The printers are out of order too often

In addition to monitoring software installed last year, we have added hardware to the printers to provide more accurate reporting as well as taking out a contract with a printer specialist to provide on site support for all our public room computers. Please remember you can help us if you find a problem or fault by reporting it to the IT Help Desk by emailing IT_help_desk or calling extension 6728 free on any internal phone.

I can't find anything on the website

We have reorganised the home page and added a search bar to help locate what you need.

IT Services Web site: www.lse.ac.uk/itservices
Student Help Desk: www.lse.ac.uk/itservices/helpdesk
Web Access to email: <http://exchange.lse.ac.uk>



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The AU Exec promise a lot but can they deliver?



Shetters looking on top of things at Freshers' Fair.

AU President Pete 'Shetters' Davies

In my role as AU President this year I will be overseeing the work encompassed throughout the whole Athletics Union. I am also personally responsible for communicating with both BUSA and ULU so that existing relations are maintained and also improved for the future.

As a team the Exec want to ensure that all the sport teams have as much support as possible and will strive to expand the range of activities both on and off the field of play. We have got off to a great start with a superbly successful Freshers' Fair where a record 1,712 AU Members signed up on the first day and we have a Beach Party already organised to welcome you to Wednesday night madness.

Other key aims we have for the year include improved facilities for LSE teams such as the new Netball courts at Berrylands, fair representation for all teams, and unrivalled social events including the AU Colours Ball.

Our role as the Executive Committee will be to provide fair representation to all clubs whether they are large or small, loud or quiet, and to make sure that each is happy within the Athletics Union. Feel free to contact any of us with comments, suggestions, queries or problems and we will endeavour to make this a memorable and successful year. My email is p.w.davies@lse.ac.uk.

We wish each and everyone of you the best of success. See you in the Tuns on Wednesdays (and most other days),

Shetters.



Jez hopes to be more successful than his beloved Spurs...

AU Treasurer Jez Sanders

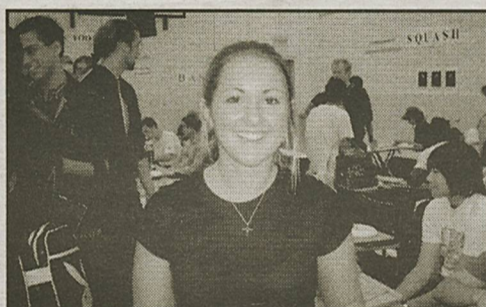
I can tell you all that the LSE AU funds are amongst the best run of all UK universities. This year, it is my job to make sure they stay that way. This will involve clarifying and building the relationships with our sponsors, investing your cash in the best way possible and helping out all clubs with any financial issues. The bottom line for all of you is to come up with valuable ways of spending the money. All suggestions are welcome and, if they are viable and represent a good investment, will be considered. You can contact me at jj.sanders@lse.ac.uk

See you at Berrylands (maybe.....)

Jez.

AU Social Secretary Claudia Whitcomb

As AU Social Sec and Party Organiser I have started this year as I mean to go on... I've lost my voice and had minimal sleep due to lots of shouting and recruiting at Freshers' Fair and also at various Fresher events, if there is something going on I'm normally there.



Baby-faced Claudia all smiles despite the crazy numbers of Freshers' Fair.



Amy, also see Beach Party handouts for full length photo.

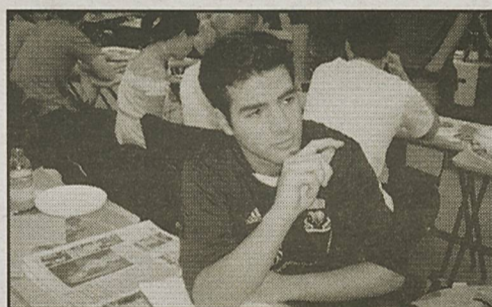
So let me tell you about what's going on this year and what you can expect as an AU member. To kick things off you need to grab your bikini and hawaiian shirt for the opening welcome party, the AU Beach Party in the Quad on Wednesday 13th Oct. Post-party celebrations will, as always, be at Walkabout where the Exec have secured some fantastic new deals: with your LSE Card you can get in free before midnight and as of 13th October, LSE students have exclusive rights to the Surfers Bar downstairs.

The next date for your diary is the infamous Barrel in Week 9, this needs no further explanation just ask current students for tales as there are always plenty - just be prepared to dress up and to be ridiculously drunk.

Finally, at the end of the Easter term we have the AU Colours Ball to celebrate LSE sporting success and round up the year. I promise that the 2005 Ball will take place in a new venue and be an improvement on the drab Connaught Rooms.

So that's the year in brief, if you have any further suggestions or questions please feel free to email me at c.r.whitcomb@lse.ac.uk, have a great year!

Claudia.



Dom - the face of the AU?

AU Communications Officer Dom Rustam

As the communications officer, some might describe me as the face of the AU. It will be my role to ensure that the AU presents itself in the best possible manner. I aim to achieve this by being in constant contact with The Beaver, ensuring that every club receives fair and objective exposure. Some might even describe me as the people's man. Any problems, drop me an email, or check the AU Communications board next to the Tuns. Contact me at d.c.rustam@lse.ac.uk

Dom.

AU Liaisons Officer Amy Mahony

As AU Liaisons Officer, I support each of the sports teams as a direct contact within the Exec for any queries they may have. I will forward relevant information to team captains regarding forthcoming events. It's not too late to still sign up for a team! Email me for further details at a.emahony@lse.ac.uk

Amy.

AU Secretary Hester Barsham

As secretary I provide a supporting role within the Exec. I am in charge of ensuring that minutes from AU meetings are available to all members. In many ways I am an intermediary between the Exec and you, the member. I am the person you should contact if you ever have any concerns about the way the AU is performing. You can contact me at h.r.barsham@lse.ac.uk

Hester.



A rare photo of Hester fully clothed and sober.

Martial Arts



Name: Michael Fauconnier-Bank

Email: m.j.fauconnier-bank@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Being beaten up by a girl

Aim for the new season: To make the club bigger and better, and not get beaten up by a girl.

Tae Kwon Do



Name: Kinar Kent

Email: k.kent@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Our instructor 'embarrassing' himself at training

Aim for the new season: Get more members, have more fun, qualify for the Athens Olympi.... doh!

Netball



Name: Helen O'Toole

Email: H.C.O'Toole@lse.ac.uk

Fave Memory of last season - Not remembering Calella

Aim for the new season: To make the team more involved in the social side of the AU

Men's Hockey



Name: Jamie 'Frodo' Stevens

Email: j.m.stevens@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Being hauled in front of the Kangaroo Court at the Barrel for my failure to get it up in a sexual encounter last season.

Aim for this season: To finally get it up.

Cricket



Name: Ed Hawker

Email: e.c.hawker@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Beating King's

Aim for the new season: To win ULU.

Men's Rugby



Name: Mat Browne

Email: m.a.browne@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Rich resigning his captaincy.

Aim for the new season: For the Firsts and Seconds to win their leagues.

Golf



Name: Lee Mellor

Email: l.s.mellor@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Beating Imperial

Aim for the new season: To beat Imperial again.

Unfortunately we don't have full details for all teams, however we do have the following email addresses:

Tennis: a.faire@lse.ac.uk
Aerobics: J.Mykhal'Ova@lse.ac.uk
Ballroom & Latin American Dancing Society (BALADS): j.a.house@lse.ac.uk
Capoeira (Brazilian Martial Arts): d.p.rees@lse.ac.uk

Copius amounts of alcohol in The Tuns during Freshers' Fair prevented us from getting photos of these people - sorry!

Louise & Paul

BeaverSports

Tuesday 05 October 2004

Issue 602



Are you a decent goalkeeper?

The LSE Football Club Want You! Contact Craig Harris now at c.l.harris@lse.ac.uk. Anyone who has played in goal for their school or local side are particularly welcome.

"You could accurately recreate BeaverSports in your own home by injecting your grandmother with bull's semen" - Matt Sinclair, page 8 of last week's Beaver.
BeaverSports: Injecting Grannies with Bull Semen since 1949.....

The Athletic Union Blasts Off at a Fun & Frantic Freshers' Fair

Women's Basketball



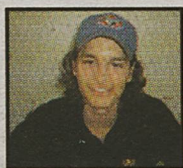
Name: Solange Chatelard-Guo

Email: s.chatelard-guo@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Winning BUSA with a complete team, great coach and great mascots!

Aim for the new season: Win ULU (instead of being finalists each year) and have fun!

Squash



Name: Michael Best

Email: m.c.best@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Beating UCL

Aim for the new season: To win the league, get drunk, have fun. Beat UCL again.

Men's Football



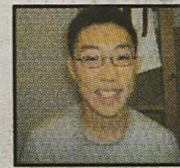
Name: Craig Harris

Email: c.l.harris1@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Bench pressing more than Matt Browne - see his gay photo on the inside page....

Aim for the new season: To win more cups to fill with gin.

Karate



Name: Christopher Yeoh

Email: c.c.yeoh@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Winning Gold at the BUSA and UK Karate Championships.

Aim for the new season: Train harder, win more medals, raise the name of LSE even higher!

Yoga



German Puentes

Email: g.a.puentes@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Having fun relaxing with Yoga

Aim for the new season: Introduce Yoga to as many LSE students as possible.

Women's Rugby



Name: Jennie Bush

Email: j.bush@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Going to the Barrel as Cavewomen and winning the league undefeated.

Aim for the new season: Win the league again and to maintain our Wednesday night female supremacy.

Badminton



Name: Mei Tan

Email: m.s.tan1@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Ladies beating the men's second team!

Aim for the new season: To keep having fun and beat the men's team again!

Women's Football



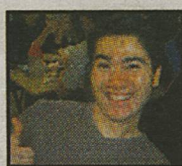
Name: Antonia Strom

Email: a.strom@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Beating the beasts of Queen Mary's.

Aim for the new season: Kick some balls!

Table Tennis



Name: Ryan McDonagh

Email: r.a.mcdonagh@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Beating a world-ranked player. Then fucking up my ankle.

Aim for the new season: To win ULU and BUSA.

Volleyball



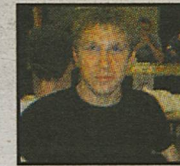
Name: Cherry Lo

Email: c.y.lo@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Promotion to the top league in BUSA

Aim for the new season: To have fun and promote volleyball!

Rollerblading



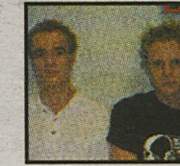
Name: Dmitry Antonov

Email: d.antonov@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: This is our first season - we're a brand new club!

Aim for the new season: Promote rollerblading to LSE students - anyone interested should email me!

Men's Basketball



Name: Hakon Saelen & Jez Davison

Email: h.saelen@lse.ac.uk or j.a.davison@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Getting rid of our dodgy coach

Aim for the new season: To have a more organised second team and win more matches.

Women's Hockey



Name: Natalie Black

Email: n.black@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Too many to mention

Aim: Win more matches, and get the sexy bitches of LSE Hockey involved in more Wednesday nights!

Rowing



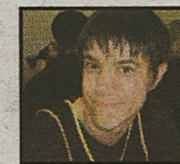
Name: Rav Chowdhary

Email: r.s.chowdhary@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: The Barrel - then racing the rest of the University of London the next day, still pissed.

Aim for the new season: Actually win a race in our third year as a club!

Running



Name: Matt Thomas

Email: m.l.thomas@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Carrying our drunk captain home after an athletics meeting in Paris.

Aim for the new season: To actually compete and maybe win a few races!

Rock Climbing



Name: Rachel Phillips

Email: r.a.Phillips@lse.ac.uk

Fave memory of last season: Our Easter rock climbing trip to Greece.

Aim for the new season: As many outdoor trips as possible.

Turn the page for more - including Men's Rugby, Netball and Men's Hockey....

If you missed out on signing up at Freshers' Fair, fear not! Email the relevant club captain for further details.