

The Beaver

6 March 2007 Issue 662 The newspaper of the LSESU

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Election marred by racial politics

■ **BAKEER-MARKAR ELECTED NEXT STUDENTS' UNION GENERAL SECRETARY WITH 808 VOTES OVER SULLIVAN'S 545**
■ **MORE THAN TEN PERCENT VOTE FOR NEITHER CANDIDATE**

Chris Lam

After an election filled with much controversy, Fadhil Bakeer-Markar was elected as the LSE Students' Union General Secretary for the next academic year, by a large majority.

Bakeer-Markar polled a total of 808 votes, to Zoe Sullivan's 545. Sullivan was the only other candidate in the race. A total of 163 people, or 10.4 percent of the turnout, voted to re-open nominations.

Following the result, Bakeer-Markar told *The Beaver* that he would be "the Gen Sec for everyone" and whilst being critical of the SU's handling of the Sutherland protest this year, he said his first goal would be to improve School-SU relations.

Zoe Sullivan said of Bakeer-Markar: "I think for the most part Fadhil ran a great campaign."

The race for General Secretary was not without controversy, as complaints and allegations of racism emerged. At one point, Bakeer-Markar made a complaint to the Returning Officer, Adrian Beciri, about current SU Communications Officer Ali Dewji, who was working on Sullivan's campaign. He said that Dewji had made comments to him regarding race and his campaign.

Bakeer-Markar alleged that he had been told by Dewji that his supporters present at a hall hustings were "brown" and that he will "get their votes anyway."

Bakeer-Markar said, "At the time I took it as racist and I was very upset". He has since told *The Beaver* that he is confident that Dewji was not making racist comments and will not be taking the matter further. He also said that he

received a formal apology from Dewji.

Dewji, initially unaware of the complaint made against him said, "it was a total miscommunication and it wasn't a big deal."

He also added, "Given that Fadhil is extremely, extremely popular among brown students and that most of the eight or so audience members at High Holborn hustings were brown, I didn't think it was controversial to imply that they would probably vote for Fadhil. However, I have since apologised and would like to make clear that I no longer believe any candidate has ever been particularly popular or unpopular with any group of students in any election ever."

In a further twist, witnesses have alleged that they heard Bakeer-Markar express similar comments at last year's election

It was a total miscommunication and it wasn't a big deal
SU Communications Officer

count night. Bakeer-Markar, ran against George Meng, a Chinese student, in the race for International Student's Officer.

Two witnesses at the count alleged that they overheard Bakeer-Markar say a number of times that Meng had "got the whole Chinese army to come



Photograph: Liam Chambers

Dark side of the moon: The lunar eclipse over LSE

out and vote for him".

Bakeer-Markar, who went on to win last year's election, denied that any of his comments regarding Meng's campaign were intended to be racist. He also denied using the phrase "Chinese army".

He told *The Beaver* that his comments "could have been seen as racist, but I didn't mean it. Straight off that night I apologised...I was under so much stress...I have worked very closely with George Meng, and used his ideas. I have also personally encouraged members of the Chinese community to get involved in SU politics". Both Meng and Bakeer-Markar have worked on the International Students'

Taskforce this year, and Bakeer-Markar has supported Chinese societies.

When asked about the separate incidents of possible racism in this year's elections, one LSE student, Hasit Savani, said that "such comments on race are absolutely not befitting of a member of the SU Executive." On the Meng issue, Savani said, "even under pressure I don't think he [Bakeer-Markar] would have made such comments had George Meng been black."

In a separate incident, the Sri Lankan society received a joke email regarding Bakeer-Markar from Adrian Wong, one of its members.

In the email, Wong stated

that Bakeer-Markar was "a racist towards Chinese people". The Returning Officer, Adrian Beciri said that he would not be taking the matter further and was satisfied that the email was an in-joke between Wong and many members of the society. Wong has since sent a formal apology to Bakeer-Markar.

This year's elections for General Secretary appeared to polarise the Union between the different national communities at the LSE. Sullivan took endorsements from a range of student societies which included Labour, Liberal Democrats, Debate and the Feminist societies. On the other hand Bakeer-Markar took endorse-

ments from many national societies, including the Sri Lankan society, the Indian Society and the CSSA.

Simon Douglas, a candidate for Communications Officer said "I think it would be naïve to suggest that there is not a racial element in voting, because it has been observed many times that that is the case. I think some of the society endorsement ideas lend themselves to a racially segregated vote."

Although there were no explicitly racist comments made, several Union commentators have argued that the comments have highlighted the difficulty of discussing important matters related to race.

Sports: *Extreme Ironing*



Page 27
Good chores

PartB: *Music*



PartB Page 10
Dan Sartain
interview

Features: *Student support*



mental illness:
Living in a
different
world in the
same
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NEWS 4 LSE MODEL TOLD NOT TO EAT 5 MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS 6&7 ELECTION DRAMA

Bouncers fill role of police; Paris School of Economics opens; Support for Davies' re-appointment; Cockroaches in High Holborn

In other news

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS



Lecturers pilloried online

Students are using social networking websites to pan universities and lecturers, say Phil Baty and Amy Binns.

Academics are increasingly being singled out for abuse and harassment by their own students on the web, an investigation by The Times Higher has found.

On hugely popular social networking websites, with potential international audiences of millions, lecturers have been attacked as "useless" and have been subjected to personal insults over their professionalism and appearance, as well to sexually explicit abuse.

EducationGuardian

MP backs Oxford professor in free speech row

An MP has defended the rights of academics' free speech after students called for an Oxford don to be sacked because of his links to a migration thinktank and a charity devoted to the selective breeding of humans.

Evan Harris, Liberal Democrat MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, said provided the views of the don were "legal and delivered lawfully he had every right to express them without fear or retribution from his employer."

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

VARSAITY

Milk and four rickshaws

A group of Cambridge undergraduates plans to undertake an expedition from Calcutta to London by rickshaw, traveling ten thousand miles in an attempt to trace the cultural history of the British cup of tea.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Cherwell

Graduate college in bomb plot

Animal rights extremists are suspected to have attempted a bomb attack on a graduate college. The plot is the first to directly target an Oxford college.

University Security Services alerted police to the threat at 11.50am after a post on the Biteback website, a forum for animal rights extremists, claimed two devices had been planted at Templeton College.

Picture of the week



Photograph; Sung Soo Hong

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

READER OF THE WEEK



If this is you, email secretary@thebeaveronline.co.uk for your prize



I.U.S - "Antithesis of Democracy"



THIS WEEK IN 1950

"Communism has many ways of spreading its creed of racial hatred and class warfare, but few can be more unsavoury than the so-called 'International Union of Students.' This body, nominally dedicated to a policy of bringing together the students of the world, is in reality one of the least subtle of the Moscow controlled organisations designed to cause the most possible amount of discontent and unrest in any country which its loathsome roots succeed in entering."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kennedy named Roman chair

Professor Paul Kennedy, author of The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers and current J Richardson Dilworth Professor of History at Yale University, will become the first holder of the LSE's Philippe Roman Chair in History and International Affairs.

The Chair will be based in the LSE's Cold War Studies Centre. Co-director of the Centre Professor Arne Westad said: "Professor Kennedy's presence at LSE next year will be of key importance in our ambitions to launch the School as a meeting place between the study of history and present-day international concerns."

The Chair has been made possible by a private donation to the School.

Kennedy earned his BA at Newcastle University before he obtained a DPhil at Oxford University. He is the holder of multiple honorary degrees and is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Tong wins Guy Medal for Stats

LSE Statistics Professor Howell Tong has received the prestigious Guy Medal in Silver by the Royal Statistical Society.

He receives the award for his work on time series analysis, and in particular for his paper Threshold Autoregression, Limit Cycles and Cyclical Data, which laid the groundwork for a major body of new work.

Tong said: "It is a great honour to be awarded this medal.... I feel that I am particularly lucky in being able to benefit from two cultures in more sense than one, and having a wonderful group of young collaborators and colleagues both inside and outside LSE as well as a most supportive wife."

Students reliant on league tables

The most ambitious students are being increasingly influenced by unofficial newspaper rankings when choosing what universities to apply to, a study carried out by an expert in "reputational analysis" has found.

BBC News reported that the research, carried out by David Roberts of the Knowledge Partnership, found that the influence of league tables is greater than had been previously recognised.

Applicants from wealthier backgrounds are more likely to use league tables to make their decisions.

The LSE is generally ranked below Oxford and Cambridge and interchanges with Imperial College London for the coveted third position on the tables.

Roberts told the BBC that it can take up to a decade to change the reputation of a university.

Students expect too much

■ 2006 LSE STAFF SURVEY REVEALS MIXED RESULTS

■ RESULTS SHOW IMPROVEMENT WHEN COMPARED WITH 1999 STAFF SURVEY

Ruchika Tulshyan
Senior Reporter

LSE revealed its 2006 Staff Survey last Tuesday, highlighting generally positive responses, and also suggesting some disturbing trends, particularly concerning discrimination and pressures placed on staff by the School and by students.

Eighty-two percent of 1077

“Students ... aren't very good at doing things when they are supposed to, such as reading before their classes and handing in their essays on time.”

Teacher International History Department

members of staff are satisfied with working at the LSE. Following on from a survey conducted in 1999, the 2006 survey focused on “what LSE is like as a place to work today

rather than what was salient in the last millennium”.

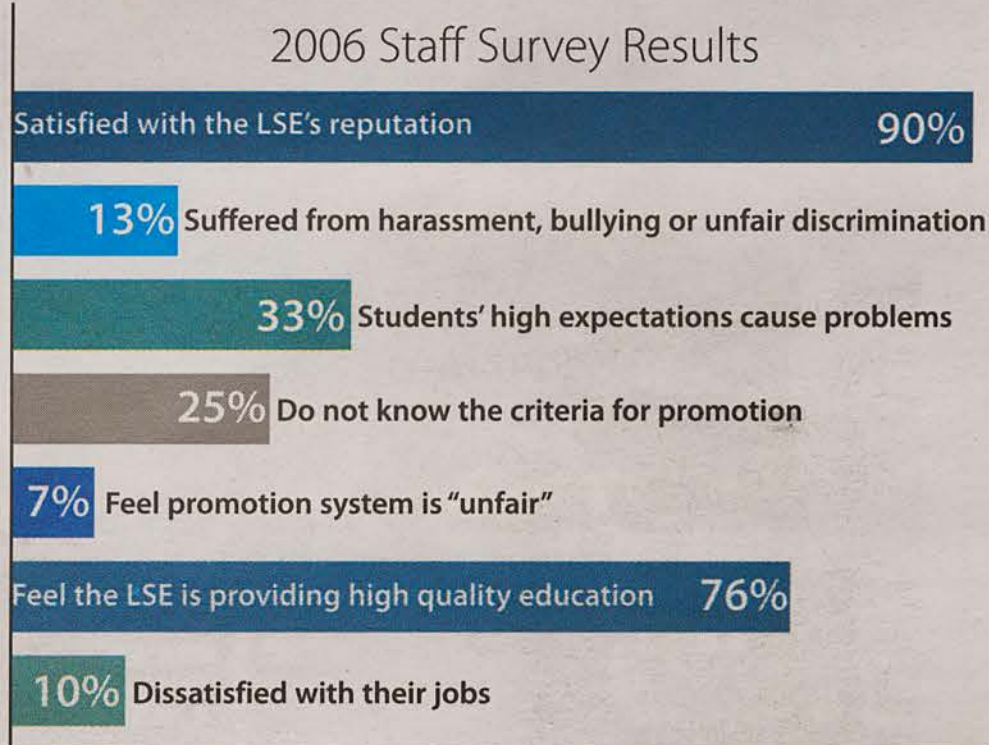
However while there were some positive outcomes, the survey revealed a few dramatically negative statistics including 13 percent of respondents have personally suffered at the LSE within the last three years from harassment, bullying or unfair discrimination. Of these, 14 percent have suffered from gender discrimination, 11 percent from ethnic discrimination and 5 percent due to a disability.

In addition, 33 percent of those surveyed believed that students' high expectations were causing them problems. One teacher in the International History department said: “In general the problem is that the students at the LSE are very bright but they aren't very good at doing things when they are supposed to, such as reading before their classes and handing in their essays on time.”

Of recent hires, 15 percent complained that they did not get an induction process into the LSE. Opinion was divided on bureaucracy and decision making, with more than two in five feeling there are too many layers of management.

One of the issues that came to the fore from the survey was that LSE staff feel a general pressure to increase revenue for department heads. “The pressure's to earn more and more megabucks...there seems to be a constant need to increase revenue,” commented one LSE academic.

Seven percent of staff feel that the promotion system at LSE is “very unfair” while 25 percent admitted not knowing



what the criteria for promotion is.

A member of staff in the audience at the presentation raised the issue of the digital age as a hindrance to building positive working relationships with colleagues. “Because of email, you don't even know who you're communicating with anymore,” she stated. Indeed, 58 percent feel that the LSE feels like a number of different organisations with a lack of cohesion between departments.

“It is also very important to mention one of the LSE's special advantages - the existence of very strong role models.

When you interact with staff which are both extremely distinguished in their work and at the same time renowned for their respect for their students and colleagues, the least that you as a teacher can do, is put into your teaching as much effort as you can and to strive for betterness,” commented Panos Papoulias, a Government class teacher.

This sentiment is echoed strongly in the survey: 76 percent of respondents believe the LSE is providing good quality education for students.

90 percent of responding staff members were satisfied with the LSE's reputation

while 31 percent of staff that had been at the LSE for over five years had stayed on because of a positive relationship with their colleagues.

The presenter from IFF Research repeatedly emphasised how these results were “better than a lot of the organisations from the private sector” that the firm had researched.

Authorities claimed the results were more positive than the 1999 survey results given the fact only 10 percent of respondents are dissatisfied with their jobs.



Union Jack

JACK'S FAVOURITE TIME OF THE YEAR: SU ELECTIONS

Jack wasn't the only one intoxicated on election count night, but it didn't take long before the accusations of racism, sexism and all-round skulduggery sobered up proceedings. Having said that, the party atmosphere had already been dampened by Erie Beciri and his campaign to stop anyone enjoying themselves when the ballots were finally moved into the counting room at ten to twelve.

Fortunately for Jack, there is plenty of enjoyment to be got from watching a grown man cry, especially for those of us with a vicious streak. Jack has been pondering the effects of democracy on the fragile egos of those who run for office, and when university's biggest popularity contest (outside of Facebook) came crashing to a close, it was inevitable that the night's losers would be weeping like babies, but at least most of them had had the decency to show up. Zany Zoe was nowhere to be seen before midnight, but when the witching hour struck the magic wore off, and she returned to her normal self in time to forfeit the Gen Sec's position to Passing Fad-hil.

Next year all of your union's money will be in the hands of Libby Meyer. If the effects of the booze hadn't worn off yet, this thought alone should be enough to bring the world around you into razor-sharp clarity.

I'd warn you against seeking professional help for your trauma from your future sabbaticals however, considering that Not-So-Super Ru is already having her superhero credentials doubted for claiming that she doesn't know what the words “Pro Life” even mean. This didn't stop her romping to a comfortable victory over Kaspellite Ketts. The only man more upset than Ketts was disgraced former Beaver news editor Mousse-savvy, who is rumoured to be considering shacking up with Ketts now that his girlfriend is leaving the school. They aim to continue Caspell's one-man-crusade to discredit the left by annoying the fuck out of anyone who shows a lefty leaning.

And bringing the night to a climax, the mad dash for Comms was won by Berry, who struck a blow for feminism by getting her tits out for the votes. Or at least so claimed one of the bitterest of her defeated rivals, no doubt whilst salivating over the thought of Kayt's Cherry.

So these are the Sabbs, the leaders of our union. For one, the Passing Fad has promised that he will govern for everyone, not just the hacks who populate UGM. Jack for one will believe it when he sees it.

State school target missed again

■ 13 OUT OF 16 RUSSELL GROUP INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING LSE MISSED TARGET OF 76.4%

■ LSE STATE SCHOOL ACCEPTANCES UP TO 66% AFTER FOUR YEARS OF DECLINE

Erica Gornall
Senior Reporter

A damaging new report from Channel 4 News has outlined the overall decline in acceptances of state school students at the UK's top universities. This comes amid encouraging new figures specific to the LSE.

According to the report, of the 16 institutions that make up the Russell Group, the group of the most prestigious UK universities, 13 have failed to reach their government-issued targets for state school acceptance percentages.

Only 7 percent of students in the UK are privately educated. Yet these students still occupy a higher proportion of available places at the top universities, when compared to their state school counterparts.

The LSE's performance in the four years leading up to 2006/07 has shown a consistent decline. In the 2002/03 academic year, 66 percent of students accepted were from state schools. This declined to 64 percent in 2003/04 and 62 per-



cent last year, though these figures have yet to be verified by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

However, figures from the LSE for this academic year,

that were not included in the report, suggest that the percentage of state school students accepted has risen to 66 percent. LSE Director Howard Davies has hailed this as a suc-

cess. In his recent e-mail to the School, he said, “The proportion of entrants from state schools rose last year from 62 percent to 66 percent, following a number of initiatives we

applications.”

This therefore implies an unprecedented increase in acceptances.”

The School argues this has largely come about as a result of new measures made possible by the introduction of tuition fees in 2006. Catherine Baldwin, head of student recruitment and admissions at LSE, said, “The School decided when top-up fees were introduced to set aside a third of this income to be put back into financial support for students and access projects.”

The LSE is still falling far short of its target of 76.4 percent, however. In addition, the 66 percent figure is not in line with the percentage of total applications from state school students, who represent 73 percent of all UK applications to the LSE.

When compared to many of its competitors in the Russell Group, the LSE also falls short. Though Imperial and UCL have even lower figures, neighboring Kings College accepted 71 percent in 2005/06, and Warwick 76 percent in the same year.

New Russell Group head

- WENDY PIATT CHOSEN TO REPRESENT TOP UK UNIVERSITY VICE-CHANCELLORS
- DECLARES POTENTIAL SUPPORT FOR LIFTING THE CAP ON TOP UP FEES

Katy Pittman

Wendy Piatt, the former Deputy Director of No. 10's Strategy Unit, has been appointed Director-General of the Russell Group.

The group of top UK universities, which includes Oxbridge, the LSE, Imperial and UCL, has previously been run by the vice-chancellors of the UK's major research universities.

Piatt is returning to higher education having previously acted as an adviser in the Department for Education and Skills when the top-up fee bill was passing through Parliament.

Now, Piatt seems to be most concerned with globalisation, one of her "four key strands", which include the impact of top-up fees, civic responsibility, and research.

She aims to raise awareness about the concordance of European higher education, particularly following the establishment of the European Institute for Technology.

Beyond the Continent, Piatt has expressed interest in overseas campuses and joint degree courses, and seems particularly attracted to links with China and India.

Piatt's perspective on the



Photograph: Guardian Unlimited

impact of top-up fees will be of particular interest to students and vice-chancellors. While she said, "We wouldn't necessarily want complete deregulation", she indicated that "Lifting the cap is of interest to the Russell Group" and that "we might seek to raise the cap to a higher level".

Whilst applications to UK universities have risen by 6% this year, the impact of higher fees is still inconclusive. Piatt has stated her intention "to

look at elasticity of demand" by conducting evidence-based research: "My job primarily is to make sure that we have policies that are underpinned by solid evidence," she says.

However, seeking to lift the cap could be detrimental, many argue, widening the gap between the Russell Group and other universities, creating a two-tier higher education system.

It remains to be seen whether Piatt's former

involvement in shaping government policy on tuition fees will aid her current agenda for the Russell Group, or whether her appointment will be well-received by students. As the government's recent proposal to include metrics in the research assessment exercise has highlighted, there is also currently dissent amongst the Russell Group vice-chancellors, a problem she will have to effectively work around.

LSE model told to starve for 3 days

Peter Barton
Senior Reporter

An LSE student model was told not to eat for three days by her agent in the lead up to an LSE society sponsored fashion show last week.

There have been two such shows in the last two weeks: Profitunity Fashion and an event as part of the Epoch Entrepreneurs competition.

your BMI drops to 16 it becomes very dangerous, inducing the symptoms of anorexia.

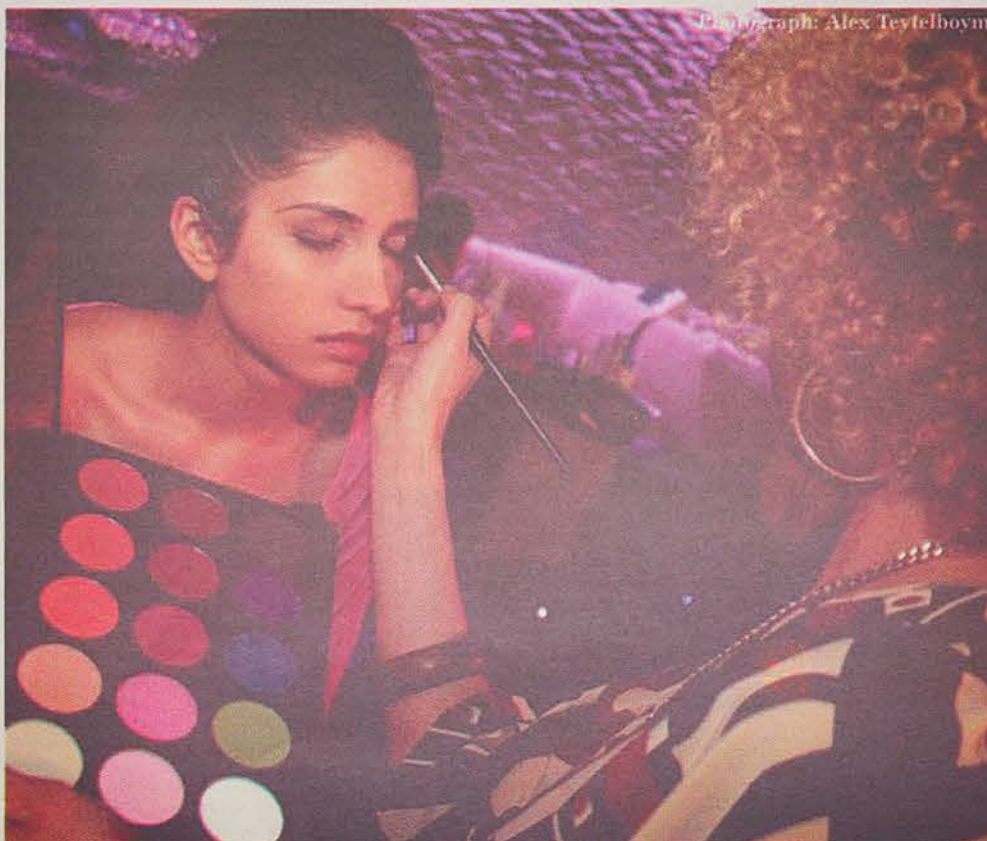
The fashion industry has been under significant pressure recently following concerns over the medical harm suffered by underweight models and the increase in anorexia in girls trying to compete. The anti-size zero campaign has created further attention on the issue, with some shows refusing to use size zero models.

Having been modelling on and off from the age of five, the student, who chose to remain nameless, realises that this type of pressure is common. "Most people don't say it out loud but it is always there", she said, "and when you're overweight and they don't tell you in advance you will just be rejected at auditions". Comments like "fat legs, we don't want you" she said are common.

The student said that she had dieted to as little as six

stone when she wasn't getting as many contracts. At 5ft 8 she would have had a BMI of 12.8.

Having won a contract from the fashion show, she is now considering rejecting it because of the damage to her body and her studies. Although she said that she eats well when compared to other models, she often only has one meal a day, and has difficulty concentrating and constantly feels tired when she is keeping in shape for modelling.



Photograph: Alex Teytelboym

A model preparing for the runway at the Profitunity fashion show two weeks ago

Davies on how UK unis compare globally

Daisy O'Brien

Howard Davis, Director of the LSE, has suggested that international competition is only going to increase for UK universities.

In a lecture last week titled "Universities in Global Competition: How Well is the UK Doing?" Davies told the audience that the UK will have to address its low levels of funding to meet international competition, and started by rejecting league tables as a basis for international comparisons.

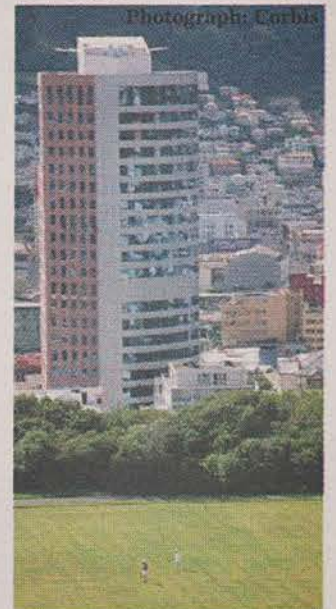
In terms of expenditure the UK spends only 1.25 percent of its annual gross domestic product (GDP) on higher education compared to the OECD average of 1.4 percent, and the US level of 2.75 percent. This has resulted in British universities not receiving sufficient funds per student.

For example, British students at the LSE are educated at a deficit of between £1600-£2000, which is funded by higher international student fees. Davies argued this was a "structurally unhealthy" way to finance universities and was partly responsible for the relative decline in academic wages.

On the topic of increased fees he said he wanted to see the outcome of the three-year trial before making decisions, and said that if the LSE raised fees for domestic students they would not rise above £6000 a year and would reflect the cost of educating a student.

Although British universities are currently very competitive, attracting about 10 percent of the international student market, Howard warned that this could change. Australia and New Zealand's universities are becoming increasingly attractive and the recent opening of the Paris School of Economics is a little close to home.

On a more positive note



New Zealand universities are increasingly attractive

Howard pointed to the good things about the British higher education system.

Completion rates in the UK are much higher than most other countries, with over 80 percent of students finishing.

Returns to investment are extremely high, with female students of British universities seeing the highest return out of all the OECD at 19.7 percent overall return, and men getting a 3 percent better return than in America with 16.8 percent.

Similarly, there is a good record of employability for students in the UK with only 35 percent of graduates still in non-graduate jobs a year after they finish.

On the LSE specifically, Howard said he worries about the narrowness of degrees and the lack of room for experimentation or exploration. He praised the role of the LSE's societies and he argued that the LSE is well set to face international competition in the future with a new building and good international foundations.

Paris welcomes new School of Economics

Zhu Song

The Paris School of Economics (PSE) opened last week, which France hopes will rival top world institutions such as the LSE and Harvard.

The institute aims to draw top researchers to the country and give Europe new weight in international economic debate.

Formed by a collaboration of six research institutes, and drawing on public funds, private partners and its own endowments, it will be capable of hosting 900 postgraduate students and 350 research staff.

Opening the school on Thursday, Dominique de Villepin, the French Prime Minister, said that the school would allow "the construction of a French and European economic doctrine", and could add a European voice to the current monopolisation of academic debate and production of economic knowledge by American universities.

Its structure is a break from convention in the French higher education system in which the elite *grandes écoles* cling fiercely to their individual traditions. The selective PSE will

draw staff from four *grandes écoles*, the Paris-I University and a national research centre.

Thomas Piketty, the School's Director, has indicated that there are doubts even among its backers, telling *Le Monde* newspaper that it was "like setting up Microsoft in the Soviet Union". However he argues that in order for French higher education to compete in international rankings, it is essential to give the PSE flexibility in choosing what research to finance and what pay to give researchers.

The School has little prospect of matching US academic salaries, but it hopes to set a European standard. Recent successes include tempting economists such as Philippe Aghion back from Harvard for a six-month sabbatical, and developing an advisory council headed with Nobel Prize winners, including Joseph Stiglitz, a development economist, and Amartya Sen, a philosopher.

Even with this pedigree, the PSE will have its work cut out to win the international recognition of the American business schools, the LSE or of France's own top-ranking economics school in Toulouse.

“Not eating for three days would have a seriously detrimental effect to her health”

Sarah Wilow
Nutritionist
St Philips
Medical Centre

She already had a body mass index (BMI) of 17, significantly below the medically safe level of 18.5. Sarah Wilow, a nutritionist at the St Philips Medical Centre, said "Not eating for three days would have a seriously detrimental effect to her health and if it is done repeatedly would do long term damage." She added that if

Bouncers fill enforcement role

Vishal Banerjee
Senior Reporter

A recent study by an LSE professor shows that bouncers are becoming the chief law-enforcers in areas where police are too stretched to cope, prompting an inquiry by *The Beaver* into the practices of bouncers at the weekly student night Crush.

LSE Professor Dick Hobbs told *The Independent* newspaper, "We found that the police are utterly overwhelmed. In some cities you could have up to 30,000 people being policed by maybe a dozen police, but there would be a couple of hundred bouncers there."

One anonymous West End DJ told *The Independent*: "It's all down to the doormen. It makes sense, really. How else can they search everyone at the door but still have people getting in with drugs and guns and stuff?"

Crush generally adheres to most policies employed by major clubs within London.

Door staff admit there is no specific pattern to searches. However, they insist that most people are asked for forms of identification, and that they try to search anyone entering with a bag, in addition to patting most people down.

Incidents of assault have arisen many times at Crush, and the bouncer on the door

admitted that he had called 999 in response to this "quite often".

Crush will now prosecute people who have assaulted someone or have damaged something within the club.

SU general manager Gethin Roberts said, "the door staff have the authority to act on behalf of the licensees and to do any of the things that licensees can lawfully do [other than authorise the sale of alcohol]."

"Essentially this means they can grant or deny access, require someone to consent to

[We eject anyone who] is too rowdy, had too much to drink, is a danger to themselves or others and/or is rude to the staff

A Crush bouncer

being searched as a condition of access, confiscate drugs or offensive weapons...intervene



as necessary to prevent unlawful or disorderly behaviour, use reasonable force to do this and if necessary to eject persons from the venue."

Some of the problems in Crush have been known to spill out onto Houghton Street after the closure of the club, or when people have been forcibly removed from the club. This has caused the SU to step in and ask the bouncers to clear problems outside as well.

Students from many universities attend Crush, and one of the doormen at Crush told *The Beaver*, "It's a mixture [causing the trouble]. In the past it's been LSE kids as well."

He added that bouncers will generally eject any person

who is "too rowdy, had too much too drink, is a danger to themselves or others and/or is rude to the staff".

The bouncer went on to say that they would crack down on persistent offenders.

In addition to this, the Westminster Council, the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority and the Metropolitan Police can make regular, unannounced inspections at the LSE to check that all security rules are being met at any SU event.

Crush usually has 14 bouncers in the area, easily meeting the minimum legal requirements, and police are rarely required to regulate situations that arise at the weekly event.

Cockroaches invade High Holborn hall

Simon Wang
Senior Reporter

There has been a continual cockroach problem in the LSE's High Holborn Hall of Residence that is yet to be resolved.

Although surrounding buildings have also been affected, a particularly large number of cockroaches (students have been calling it an 'epidemic') have been discovered within High Holborn.

According to an email sent to High Holborn residents by Dave Newnham, facilities manager for three LSE halls, a recent price quote given by pest controllers was "rather larger" than the School had hoped. He

said, "under LSE financial regulations, we are forced to seek alternative quotes due to stringent financial authority limits."

According to Tim Forsyth, Warden of the Hall, although the cost of treatment is high, the LSE is going to use a toxic gel to sort out the problem. A company will be in the Residence this week, and will be treating the Hall over the next five to six days.

However, an anonymous source has expressed concern to *The Beaver* that the LSE is trying to heavily cut costs in LSE halls - one of these costs being the money spent on controlling pests - which is why there has recently been an increase in the number of pests in halls.

Photograph: Jess Cartwright



A captured cockroach in High Holborn Hall of Residence

UK faces dementia crisis

LSE PROFESSOR PREDICTS 1MILLION+ SUFFERERS BY 2025

Laura Deck
News Editor

A major study on the impact of dementia in the UK, led by LSE Professor Martin Knapp, predicted a massive increase in the number of people suffering from dementia within the next 45 years.

The report was commissioned by the Alzheimer's Society. Professor Knapp, of the LSE's Personal Social Services Research Unit, led the research with Professor Martin Prince from the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London.

The findings of the report, which focused on the economic and social impacts of dementia, were presented to officials from the Department of Health and the Treasury last week.

The report concluded that the government had failed to properly support people with dementia and their families, and also found that dementia costs the UK £17 billion annually. The government has since said that dementia care is already a priority.

Currently 700,000 people in the UK suffer from dementia, and two thirds of these people are women. By the year 2025, the number of people who have dementia is predicted to exceed one million.

This is largely due to the fact that people are living longer, and the proportion of people with dementia doubles with every five year age group. One third of people over the age of 95 have dementia.

Families that provide home care for relatives with dementia save the UK more than £6 billion every year.

700,000
people in the UK have dementia

Two-thirds
of these people are women

£17b
spent annually on dementia

15,000
are young people (likely underestimate)

[To decide that] its worth spending more money on Alzheimer's or more money on breast cancer or more money on cardiovascular disease? Those are very difficult decisions....

Martin Knapp
LSE Professor

15,000 younger people are documented with dementia in the UK, and it is suspected that this number is significantly underestimated because the data is dependent on cases being referred to services.

Effective medication can greatly reduce the cost of care for people who have dementia, however the cost of prescription drugs is another source of contention.

In an interview on *BBC Radio*, Knapp discussed problems of National Health Service funding for drugs to treat dementia versus drugs for diseases such as cancer: "We don't have enough resources to

go around and so somebody has to say it worth spending more money on Alzheimer's or more money on breast cancer or more money on cardiovascular disease? Those are very difficult decisions..."

In response to the report, The Alzheimer's Society is calling for dementia to be made a national health and social care priority. It is also asking for research funding to be increased, support for caretakers to be improved, and a national debate on who should pay for the caretaking of dementia victims.

Stress season begins as exams loom

Patrick Cullen
Senior Reporter

The LSE's mental health provision has been criticised by disaffected students as internship application season ends and exams begin, with a corresponding rise in stress levels both on and off campus.

680 students used the School's Student Counselling Service (SCS) last year, and 294 have been seen by SCS in the first five months of the current academic year, indicating that stress and mental health is a considerable strain on many students.

However, authorities feel that not all stressed students take advantage of the LSE's considerable support network.

The Medical Centre is sometimes the first resource stressed students turn to. One second year student who sought help told *The Beaver* that "the Medical Centre [was] very unhelpful, it was an emergency appointment and the doctor patronised me, hinting that it was just me overreacting, getting overemotional. He told me it was just PMS."

The same student said the "LSE needs to be more welcoming...there needs to be support for people who aren't [yet] breaking down."

Daisy Mitchell-Forster, newly elected Women's Officer argued that the School's counselling sessions are "insufficient" and are many people's "last port of call." She said that newly proposed support groups would "address the gap between taking medication and counselling...they're for all. Mental health is a very stigmatised issue."



Internship and exam stress overlap in March and April

Mitchell-Forster said that groups will "focus on the positive" as well as attempt to reverse the "severe neglect" of mental health issues among "women of ethnic minorities and young men who feel unable to talk."

Adam Sandelson of SCS told *The Beaver* that the School is aware of the high levels of stress on campus and said

they are offering individual counselling and support groups for people having difficulty. He added that the School is "increasingly taking a proactive approach in helping students cope with stress, through workshops and widespread publicity on stress management for students."

In addition, said Sandelson, "these workshops included presentations for new students at the start of their degree course, as well as workshops looking at coping with stress and dealing with psychological issues involved in preparing written assignments."

He said that more than 200 students have attended these workshops.

The School said that the LSE's mental health adviser and the School's health and safety adviser were working with the SU and other departments to increase the well-being to staff and students.

Many students still remain unaware of the full range of assistance on offer to them. Others continue to not come forward due to the stigma that surrounds mental health.

The doctor patronised me, hinting that it was just me overreacting... He told me it was just PMS.

An LSE student

Ali wins EdWelfare amid gender tension

■ RUHANA ALI WINS EDWELFARE RACE OVER JAMES KETTERINGHAM BY MARGIN OF 344 VOTES

■ KETTERINGHAM RAISES CONCERN OVER FEMALE DOMINANCE OF THE POSITION

Rajan Patel
Senior Reporter

Ruhana Ali defeated her opponent James Ketteringham for the position of Students; Union (SU) Education and Welfare Officer with 802 votes in what had been a hotly contested race during the week.

Ali said she was excited before the count last Thursday, and felt that she deserved to win because she is "confident, committed and prepared to push for change".

Her opponent, Ketteringham said he was "nervous" and felt that things were "looking bad" during the vote count.

Ali said that her landslide victory by 344 votes "really surprised" her.

Ali's "SuperRu - supporting you all the way through" slogan was accompanied by her campaign for affordable education, including campaigning against fees increases as well as "arguing for more structure of teaching" and "making pastoral care work for you through better tutorial support".

Ketteringham was pressing for "equality, opportunity and justice", and wanted to be "an approachable first point of contact for students to find solutions to their problems, academic or personal".

New controversy surround-

ed the position of Education and Welfare Officer, however, with Ketteringham's claim that he is "growing increasingly concerned that the role is

I am growing increasingly concerned that the role [of EdWelfare] is becoming perceived as suited only to females

James Ketteringham EdWelfare candidate

becoming perceived as suited only to females". Ali is the sixth consecutive female Education and Welfare Officer after Priya Parkash started the trend in 2002-03.

"I can understand why it seems like the position is geared towards a female. But I think a competent male could do the job just as well as a female Education and Welfare Officer," Ali said to *The Beaver*.

Ali shared her own con-

cerns over campaigning techniques. She said that she was "shocked" when she found out that current Sabbatical Officer Alexandra Vincenti campaigned for Ketteringham; "I was upset and disappointed. I think Sabbs should be neutral in these races."

Vincenti replied saying: "Being a sabbatical officer in no way bars me from exercising

my political and democratic rights especially in my free time or when I have booked time off work."

Ketteringham said he was "disappointed" by his defeat and he thought he campaigned better than Ali because he focused on "talking to students about their concerns" rather than aiming for high visibility.

He said Ali would make a "competent" Education and Welfare Officer.

Ketteringham and Ali also had different responses to questions asked by *The Beaver* during the election count. In response to "what would you do if a teary-eyed first year approached you after she had been drugged at Crush and

could not remember anything?" Ali said she would "support the girl and refer her to the necessary advice centre", while Ketteringham stated that he would refer the girl to the police, call for date-rape drug tests and get in touch with campus

I think a competent male could do the job just as well as a female

Ruhana Ali EdWelfare Officer-elect

Photograph: Liam Chambers



Ruhana Ali celebrates her election as the new SU Education and Welfare Sabbatical Officer

security.

Candidates also responded differently to the question of whether or not they were pro-life or supported pro-life policies. Ali initially said that she did not know what the term meant, and Ketteringham told *The Beaver* he would have to think about it.

Berry takes Comms

Michael Deas
Senior Reporter

The race for Communications Officer was the most tightly contested of this year's elections, with candidates and supporters stayed in the count room until 4am to learn the final Sabbatical election result.

Kayt Berry won the election with 659 votes over Dan Sheldon's 469 votes, after reallocation of votes for eliminat-

I thought Kayt would win because she is very popular, good looking and had lots of friends working on her campaign team.

Dan Sheldon Communications Officer candidate

ed candidates.

Berry explained to *The Beaver* that although she didn't like competition, "I decided at Christmas to run because the Union has given me so much I



Berry hugs a friend after Comms election results were announced

wanted to do something for the Union."

The relationship between the SU Media Group and Sabbatical Officers was a big issue during the campaign, and Berry, an established media group figure as the head of PuLSE Radio, said that repairing this damaged relationship "is the first thing I want to change".

Asked if he thought Berry's relationship with the Media Group worked to her advantage, second place Dan Sheldon said "It was actually to my advantage. I think it helped me differentiate myself from the other candidates and dominate the agenda."

Sheldon appeared disappointed at losing; he told *The Beaver* shortly before results were announced that Berry

would win "because she is very popular, good looking and had lots of friends on her campaign team".

He also said that he thought that his was the best campaign of the race, and possibly the whole election.

Simon Douglas echoed this sentiment, saying "It was a very friendly race. All of us were able to agree times to finish early when it looked like campaigning was pointless, and I felt there was very little bitchiness in the campaign in general."

While bitterness was mostly lost on the losing candidates, one Sabbatical candidate said that he had "never seen Kayt wearing low-cut tops before she wore them at several key hustings. Need I say more?"

SU "aims higher with Libby Meyer"

Ruchika Tulshyan
Senior Reporter

In a nail-biting race for the LSE Students' Union (SU) Treasurer, student voters chose Libby Meyer with 694 votes over her opponents Tom Davey and Jefferson Marshall Courtney.

Meyer ultimately beat Courtney by 146 votes. Absent from the elections count night, Davey trailed further behind with 245 votes. After highly

visible campaigning for the coveted post, Meyer says she is "Looking forward to working with other Sabbatical Officers...and looking forward to new challenges." She has handled over £100,000 in her previous experience of working at a boarding school, and believed she deserved to win due to her "previous SU experience and knowledge."

SU Returning Officer Adrian Beciri told *The Beaver* that he found the race of Treasurer to be amicable and "in the spirit of cooperation".

Many considered Meyer's "aim Higher - vote Libby Meyer" slogan catchier than Davey's: "for an efficient Union, vote Tom Davey for Treasurer" and Courtney's: "Reliable. Passionate. Experienced. Vote Jeff #1 for Treasurer."

Third year Philosophy and Economics student Charles Laurence commented: "it doesn't seem like there are very many personalities in the elections this year. The SU is like a faux democracy with no accountability."



Libby Meyer celebrates her win at 2.15 in the morning

Photograph: Liam Chambers

Students favour Davies' re-appointment

■ GLOBAL E-MAIL AND ONLINE VOTING DELAYED BY CONCERNS FROM THE SCHOOL AND THE PRESS OFFICE

■ RETURNING OFFICER REPRIMANDED FOR USING THE TERM "ONLINE REFERENDUM"

Laura Deck
News Editor

During the Students' Union (SU) elections last week, students voted in favour of the re-appointment of LSE Director Howard Davies in a non-binding poll of student opinion on the issue.

Students voted "Yes" or "No" in response to the question "Do you support the re-appointment of LSE Director Howard Davies?" and had the opportunity to write a brief explanation for their answer. Students could vote online or in the Quad.

Access to online voting on the issue was delayed by the School due to concerns about the text included on the voting website.

Online voting was accessed through the SU's Global E-mail, which usually is mailed to students at the start of the week. Last week the e-mail was not sent until 4:35pm on Wednesday, more than seven hours after voting commenced.

The Global E-mail was delayed due to requests from the LSE Press Office that an article from *The Beaver* be removed and that Davies' manifesto be included on the voting webpage.

SU Returning Officer Adrian Beciri spoke to IT Services on Wednesday afternoon about the delay, and the Press Office subsequently contacted him and requested a private meeting to discuss the Davies vote.

The Press Office told Beciri that the vote might not be constitutional and said that they needed to consult Davies'

932
voted in favour of
Davies' re-appointment

“The result shows that, by and large, students see Howard Davies as a great, all-around asset to the School.”

Arthur Krebbers
Former SU Societies Officer



311
votes against Davies' re-appointment

“He's already priced many of the people who would have opposed him out of the LSE.”

James Caspell
SU Postgraduates Officer

advisers before allowing the e-mail to be sent.

Beciri told *The Beaver* that he was reprimanded for using the words "online referendum" on the voting site, he was told to change the text of the voting webpage and he was also prevented from sending a second e-mail on Thursday linking to the voting webpage.

Louise Robinson, a student member of the Court of Governors, said, "It is frustrating that the polls opened and the e-mail didn't get sent out

until the afternoon. If [the School] had those grievances they should have been raised before voting effectively started."

However, Robinson added that "the School's reaction showed that they are taking students' views seriously," and she said that the fact that the vote went forward was "a remarkable achievement."

Davies sent out his Lent Term 2007 "Director's Letter" to all LSE students on Tuesday, the day before voting com-

menced.

Beciri called the letter "timely" and said that he felt that it was "unfair that Davies could send an e-mail out to everyone" and none of the people who oppose his re-appointment had the same ability.

Beciri added that the School said to him that the section on Davies in the election pullout in *The Beaver* had the same effect as a School-wide e-mail opposing Davies.

He said he thought the delay of the e-mail had a nega-

tive effect on online voter turnout, but did not affect general voting in the Quad.

The vote was a result of student campaigns for greater input into the appointments of high-level positions at the LSE.

Supporters of Davies' re-appointment cite his experience in the business world and in the public sector. In his Lent Term "Director's Letter," Davies said that he would like to continue as Director to push forward a five-year plan to renew

the LSE's curriculum among other initiatives.

Another member of the Court of Governors, Arthur Krebbers, said: "The result shows that, by and large, students see Howard Davies as a great, all-around asset to the school... I trust our representatives on Council will therefore vote in favour of Howard's reappointment."

Eddy Fonyodi, also a member of the Court of Governors, told *The Beaver* that the result of the vote showed that Davies' "strategic programmes for the School is thus perceived to be serving [students'] interests."

Opponents of his re-appointment argue that tuition fees have increased and applications from state schools have declined under Davies' tenure.

SU Postgraduate Officer James Caspell opposed Davies' reappointment in light of rising fees. "One of the reasons the Davies referendum fell is because he's already priced many of the people who would oppose him out of the LSE," he said.

A candidate for the SU Communications Officer position, Simon Douglas, told *The Beaver* he thought that "the majority of the people who really know what is going on in the Students' Union and the School voted against him."

Beciri said that he was unsurprised by the result of the vote because it was a "yes' or 'not sure'" decision for most students. The final vote, including both online and paper ballots, was 932 in favour of Davies' re-appointment, 311 against it, and 360 spoilt/no vote.

RON loses every race

Michael Deas
Senior Reporter

There was an increase in the number of votes for Re-open Nominations (RON) this year after a controversial campaign by some students to raise awareness of the option to vote for RON.

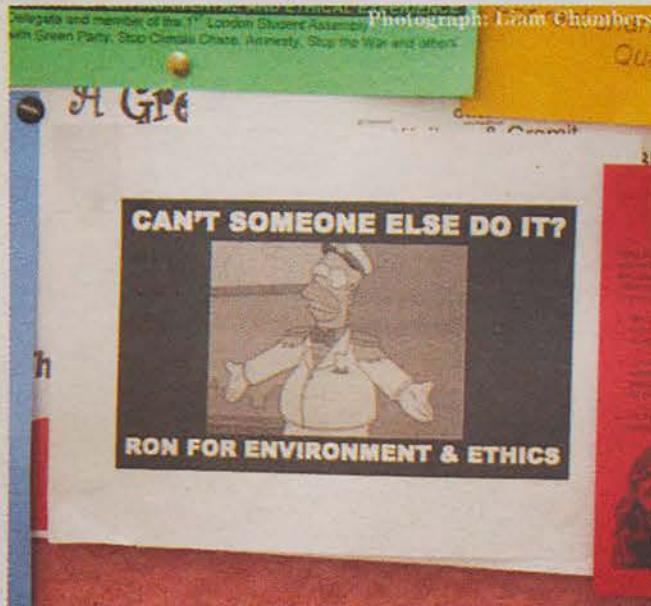
Ross Allan, the main organiser of the campaign, took out a paper allowance on RON's behalf for all positions up for election. Posters were put up around campus and in halls of residences with slogans such as "Don't let career politicians run your union" and "Vote for RON - He has a mind reading machine".

Allan also advocated voting for RON at a number of election hustings.

He told *The Beaver*: "I thought it was important to inform students that just because they are unhappy with the candidates on offer they should still vote and register that opinion. Many students are fed up with the usual elite of hacks running the union - it's undemocratic."

But Allan did concede his campaign had attracted criticism. "Some candidates were unhappy, but the campaign definitely wasn't personal."

One such critic, Communications Officer candidate Simon Douglas, told *The Beaver*: "I think it was disingenuous, superfluous, massive-



The RON campaign targeted several SU election races

ly over-resourced, and unconstitutional."

Some students also claimed that the campaign had been a waste of resources, especially given that large paper allocations were taken out for all races.

Residences Officer re-elect Louise Robinson said "I think its excellent to raise awareness that there is an alternative. But because campaigns were run for all races this has been a massive waste of union resources - literally £180 worth of paper out the window"

Allan was banned from

campaigning on the street for an hour after throwing campaign leaflets and posters out of a top-floor window of The Old Building down onto Houghton Street. When contacted he refused to comment on the incident.

Elections for non-sabbatical executive positions received the greatest number of votes for RON, with more than 250 votes for RON for the Residences Officer, LGBT Officer and Returning Officer elections.

Jewish Society apologises for "Islamophobic" endorsements

Michael Deas
Senior Reporter

The LSESU Jewish Society issued an apology to its members last week, after receiving complaints about an e-mail sent to it members endorsing candidates in Students' Union elections that said there was a "very real threat of an Islamic society sweeping of the board causing dangerous UGM motions next year that are detrimental to the interests of Jews/Israel."

Many students, especially Muslim students and candidates, were offended by the e-mail. A member of the Islamic Society told *The Beaver*, "Their actions were Islamophobic and this is a sensitive issue for Muslims at the moment. Many Muslims I have spoken to feel victimised by this. I find it a shame that they equate the interests of Israel as being the interests of all Jews, many Jews don't support some of Israel's actions."

Deborah Hyams, a member of the Jewish Society also expressed her concern: "They seemed to be openly telling people to vote against those they saw as affiliated with the Islamic Society, and speaking of the prospect of the victory of

those associated with I-Soc as a 'threat'."

Communications officer candidate Simon Douglas, who was not endorsed in the e-mail, said, "I thought it was disgustingly one-dimensional," when

“Their actions were Islamophobic.... Many Muslims I have spoken to feel victimised by this. A member of the Islamic Society”

asked about the Jewish Society's endorsements.

Hyams said that the endorsements could contribute to a larger problem of discrimination: "In the context of the anti-Muslim discourse and Islamophobia that is too all common in the UK, where people are considered potential

"security threats" simply because they are Muslim, we should be even more careful not to make statements like that."

The Jewish Society President did not respond to questioning by *The Beaver*.

SU Returning Officer Adrian Beciri said that he had spoken informally to some members of the society about the e-mail and that he believed that the matter would best be dealt with after elections were completed.

In the e-mail apologising to their members, the Jewish Society said "We of course have nothing against the Islamic Society, we admire it greatly for the many great events it offers on the LSE campus. Our intention was only to encourage you, the JSoc members to use your votes to support Israel, but we accept that we may have addressed this in the wrong way and thus sincerely apologise for any offence caused."

While many societies endorsed candidates in the SU elections, some chose to abstain from this practice. Residences Officer Louise Robinson told *The Beaver* that she was pleased that societies such as the Literature Society and the Amnesty Society chose not to endorse specific candidates.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

c&a@thebeaveronline.co.uk

C&A: Response



All we are saying, is...



Aula Hariri

Support for British military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan is non-existent amongst the British people and for very good reasons

The Back Our Boys campaign, launched by Charles Laurence in last week's *The Beaver* asking LSE students to send letters of support to overseas British troops, is rampant with contradictions, ethnocentrism and political myths. The campaign is

based upon two fictitious premises.

The first premise is that British troops in Afghanistan and Iraq merit our support for their bravery in defending Britain's national security. This idea of a pre-emptive war to crush the terrorising capac-

ities of these two countries is a political myth that only serves to satisfy the insecurities of a patriotic imagination. It is a lie. While many British troops deployed in Afghanistan in 2001 or Iraq in 2003 may indeed have harboured the patriotic ideals of defending

"the nation", it has become all too clear that the war was fuelled more by Blair's concerns over the countries' natural resources - oil - than a threat to Britain's security. This explains why US soldier serving in Iraq in 2003, Tim Predmore, described the war as "an act not of justice, but of hypocrisy" since "oil...seems to be the reason for our presence". The underlying task of US and British soldiers is not to protect Britain from the threats of dreamt-up weapons of mass deception, but the protection of oil fields. Concerns over a viscous liquid, not national security, is the reason why British troops are scattered around the globe. Like any other neoliberal strategy, the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan are merely pawns of Blair and Bush's imperial board game.

The second false premise of the campaign is its assumption of British support for the wars. This premise ignores the fact that the Iraq and Afghanistan wars not only lacked an evidential base, but also a consensual one. The war in Iraq was not only in breach of the UN, but also ignored the

voices of the British population. Even before the bloody and destructive consequences of Blair's lies were revealed in Iraq, one of the largest ever anti-war political demonstrations in British history was held in February 15, 2003. An

put forward by Laurence is the idea that "the distinguished conduct" of British troops is reflected in their "good relationships with the local Iraqis". How exactly does Laurence define "good relationship"? The footages released in 2006 of the abuse of four Iraqi teenagers by eight British soldiers, or the general ill-treatment of Iraqi civilians in British custody, the macabre stories of rape and bloody abuse - all reflect a very different "relationship" with Iraqis. This macabre side of the war has been marginalized by the blind-patriotic zeal of the campaign and the only mention of death in Laurence's launch, is that of a British soldier. The over six-million Iraqis who have also been killed in the war do not, apparently, warrant a mention. Perhaps the campaign should consider writing letters to the millions of bereaved Iraqi families showing them our solidarity and disassociating ourselves from the imperial ambitions of Blair and Bush? Or perhaps writing to the British troops to inform them of the declining British support for the war, thereby pressuring them to demand the end to this war? Instead of supporting the victims of this war or trying to end it, this campaign is supporting the very myths that legitimise it.

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Instead of supporting the victims of this war or trying to end it, this campaign is supporting the very myths that legitimise it

estimate of over two-million people gathered in London to protest against the looming invasion of Iraq. The deployment of troops overseas never had the strong support of the British public and - as last week's anti-war protest illustrates - still does not.

Finally, a deeply unsettling justification of the campaign



Courage under fire



Molly Tucker

Theirs not to reason why, theirs but to do and die. The common soldier should not shoulder the blame which rightly falls upon their government

I found the campaign launched last week in *The Beaver* by Charles Laurence very interesting. I don't disagree with it in the main, but there points I felt needed to respond to.

Fighting a war is never a simple, safe job; I think there are very few people who would claim that soldiers have it easy. The life they lead is one of danger and discomfort, homesickness and heartache; far from family and friends and all that is familiar and constantly putting their lives in harm's way. I have absolutely no problem with being reminded of this, and furthermore, have complete respect and admiration for them, although I do not support the war and never have. The war is not a soldier's fault. Soldiers enlist to serve their country; in doing so, they often see it as an ideal construct, which allows them to sacrifice themselves with honour and be a part of something bigger than themselves. You cannot blame young (often painfully so) men for the actions of a government over which they have no control and which they are bound by law to serve. Most of the soldiers currently serving in Iraq had probably joined before the war had begun, implying that it had nothing to

do with their reasons for enlisting. Personally, I resent the people who attack soldiers on ideological grounds, when they have no concept of their life there or the risks they face.

That being said, I did resent Charles' Laurence's tone and certain aspects of his idea. For one thing, the very title of the campaign strikes me as vaguely offensive. This is an article published in the LSE SU's newspaper; we as an institution have one of the most international and diverse student bodies in the world, and the notion that we should only back OUR boys (that is, only British servicemen) strikes me as more than a little exclusive. This especially considering that not only have a number of our students fought in the armies of different countries, but some of them against the British army itself. Why should we support only Brits? It bears consideration that this war is not one fought on a national scale, but is a truly international effort and therefore it is an insult to the other nationalities that fight in it. Not to mention the fact that we're apparently only backing the boys here, not the hundreds of women who also risk their lives.

Some comments were a little hard to stomach. I have no

problem with the idea that the role of the soldiers in the war should be apolitical, but Laurence is then inconsistent. He politicizes his campaign by implying that the support of 'our boys' is an issue of supporting the war. His comment, "Their dedication does not weaken as our political resolve

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You cannot blame young men for the actions of a government over which they have no control over

does, and in these uncertain times it is even more important to show our solidarity with the army." was quite inflammatory to those whose political resolve hasn't weakened at all since we went to war. I was against the war then, I'm against it now; my political resolve is just as strong now as it ever was and the idea that it is weaker just because it does-

n't happen to be the same as his political resolve is, quite plainly, bullshit. Notwithstanding the fact that my opposition to the war has nothing to do with my solidarity with the troops. I actually feel that I have their interests much more firmly at heart because I was completely against sending them to a pointless war that did far more harm than good. I firmly believe that the war is in no way being fought to defend me or my country, but rather the hidden agendas of a government I don't support. I fully understand that the soldiers' families need to believe that the war had purpose so that they can think that the danger their children face everyday is not in vain. That doesn't mean I think the war does have purpose, or that the danger isn't in vain. Every time I see a soldier crippled or dead, it makes me ache for them and their families, but I can't justify the war in order to justify the horrors that result from it. The thing I find most unethical about the war is the way it devalues those that die for it; the one thing joining the army gives them for their risk is the promise of a death that means something, and our government has stripped them of that right. The soldiers that survive come back to a country that has all but forgotten them and will rarely appreciate

what they have done and experienced.

I think the idea of showing our support for the troops (and all of the troops, not just the ones who happen to share the same patch of land with us) is a good one, but I would appreciate it if Charles Laurence could show a little more sensitivity in future when dealing with an issue so contentious and complex.



COMMENT & ANALYSIS

c&a@thebeaveronline.co.uk



Lent Term Elections

'We hold these truths to be...'



Fatima Manji

Despite its diversity and nominally international status, the LSE has underlying currents of intolerance which surfaced during the SU elections

"There is no racism at the LSE. Why do we need an anti-racism officer?" say many-a-student. "Diversity, Diversity, Diversity" say many-a-hack. "International university" says the School's website. On the surface of it all, there is no place for discrimination at this university. Yet last week's Students' Union elections began to reveal some of the deep and underlying prejudices held at the LSE.

In my time here, I have been extensively involved with Students' Union elections as a candidate, agent and campaigner. Elections are a nasty touch and there is always a touch of viciousness. Everyone is 'in it to win it,' (except Joel Kenrick), so it's only natural there will be some bitching, backstabbing and of course tears. I'm certainly no 'softie' when it comes to experiencing "the politics." Yet last week, there were times when even I was personally upset by the tone "the politics" began to take. Slowly and silently, the politics of discrimination began to emerge.

Firstly, the Jewish society sent out a mass email to all its members claiming it was "vitally important" to "vote for those strictly listed" in their

endorsement because of a "real threat of an Islamic society sweeping the board." The endorsement list then removed every Muslim-sounding name, regardless of whether these candidates were backed by the Islamic society or not. Such an email is an overt discrimination campaign against a group of people, purely on the basis of their faith.

The claim made in the email that Muslims being elected would somehow be "detrimental to the interests of Jews/Israel" is entirely unfounded. As an active member of the Islamic society (ISoc), I know that its members hold different views on the issue of Israel and that there is no mass conspiracy to act against the interests of either Jews or Israel. In fact the ISoc has worked actively with the Jewish society in holding joint events. Furthermore, had the sender of the email bothered to look through the policies of the ISoc-endorsed candidate for Anti-Racism officer, they would have noted her commitment to stopping both anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

When I spoke to several members of the Jewish society, I found that many of them not only disagreed but were also disgusted with the email.

Those who agree with the email are probably an extreme minority. The point however is that there are elements of the student body albeit a small minority, who believe faith-based discrimination is acceptable.

Racism can rear its ugly head during tense times in the SU, both overtly and covertly

Next was the white, middle class, liberal. Those who are always first to point the finger at others and yell racism, who love the rhetoric of diversity, but when it comes to taking action their passion doesn't quite prove to be so strong. One such character particularly aggrieved me last week by indirectly suggesting a candidate for Education and Welfare was not on board with the LGBT campaign. How did he reach this conclusion? Based on the fact she appears to be a practising Muslim; therefore she must hate gays. Right? Wrong.

Perhaps this character had not noticed Ruhana Ali's election policies where she clearly

stated her commitment to working with all diversity officers. Perhaps he was also unaware that several active members of the LGBT society were supporting her. Had she really been homophobic, would Ruhana have won with a staggering 802 votes? Clearly Ruhana's support came from a large group of students, the majority of whom I am sure do not believe it is acceptable to elect someone who believes in discriminating against homosexuals.

Before anyone points it out - yes, I was working on Ruhana Ali's campaign and she is a personal friend. It is because of this that I know that Ruhana will be the first to tell you that discriminating against someone because they are homosexual is not acceptable. And I use her example, not to sing her praises, but to illustrate that it is all too easy to assume something of a headscarf-wearing Muslim woman, based on a stereotype, rather than taking the time to find out what she really stands for.

Perhaps to some extent we are all guilty of this. Too often we make a judgement on someone based on their appearance. But it is these very assumptions that can lead to intolerance. 'Difference' is something to be celebrated and to do this, we must commit to diversity through our words and deeds, not just our mani-

festos pledges.

Yet, despite all the upsets, in the end last week's elections were a resounding success for the anti-racism project. Those who tried to employ the tactics of racial intolerance failed. In fact, Houghton Street was filled with new faces; students who had never before taken an interest in Students' Union politics were out campaigning and adding fun to the proceedings. More than ever international students from different backgrounds became involved, proving that SU politics can be about more than just a struggle for power between white, British, middle class, male hacks. And the newly elected Students' Union sabbaticals, executive and committees are composed of a diverse group of people. The student body overall, proved that it rejects discrimination.

Is racism rampant at the LSE? Thankfully not. But some of the incidents during election week showed just as it does in 'real' politics, racism can rear its

ugly head during tense times in the SU, both overtly and covertly. Politics should be about the discussion and critique of policies, principles and ideas, not discrimination of a candidate because of the way he or she looks.

The duty to stop intolerance begins with the candidates we elected. They must work actively to ensure that stereotypes due to ignorance are countered and to ensure that discrimination has no place in this Union; regardless of race, faith, gender, sexuality or nationality. And they must prove that their professed commitments to diversity are not just popular rhetoric, but genuine commitments to bringing about equality and stamping out the politics of bigoted discrimination.



A brave new Union



Sanjivi Krishnan

The Students' Union has lost some of its colour recently, but the newly-elected sabbaticals can go a long way in bringing back the Union of old

Two days a year, time slows down on Houghton Street. At least that's what it felt like last Wednesday and Thursday as the polls opened and would-be Execs paraded around Clare Market Building with capes and flags, dummies and drag. Whether it was because campaigners knew I was busy organising LooSE TV coverage, or maybe I just smelled, I was 'hounded' far less than in

previous years. So I was able to step back and watch it all. Time decelerates when you're not sure what's next. And what I saw on Houghton Street on Election Day was a less forceful, more muted Union-to-be that isn't sure of itself. It is not hard to see why.

This year, more than the previous two in my time, has been a year framed by a big question, and ultimately the success of next year's exec and

Students' Union depends on answering it - what, really, is the purpose of the union. We can almost call this the Kenrick-Sullivan debate. Take their Union General Meeting (UGM) General Secretary speeches. Joel's inspirational swansong called for a campaigning internationalist Union and a return to the 'strong and radical unionism' of old. With an all-but-obvious reference to Palestine, and

veiled criticism of Jimmy Tam's response to the Sutherland issue ('more interested in managing relations with the School than fighting for our students'), his address has left a lot of students wishing he were our new Gen-Sec. If Joel were not the Union hero he is, it's not clear that he could have given a speech like that as part of an actual cam-

Ask anyone what the Gen-Sec does, and they'll say 'sit on various committees...' and go silent.

campaign for Gen-Sec. Zoe Sullivan fell on the opposite end of the spectrum, with a set of practical, uncontroversial (though completely valid) goals that address students' needs here. The winning candidate Fadhil Bakeer-Markar seemed to come somewhere between, advocating very local changes with the loudness, if not the genuine ferocity, of a reformer. Fadhil reached out to the disenchanted and promised to make the union 'inclusive and responsive'. Students feel disenchanted because

they associate the SU with the bloated UGM and the aura of hackery, forgetting the very real services the SU is meant to and does provide and coming to regard it as 'ineffective, irrelevant and irreparable' (the words of a former-Exec member!)

'Students, not politics' is not a new sentiment by any means. Zoe Sullivan is not the first Gen-Sec candidate to have emphatically promised a move from political hot topics to practical student-oriented motions, nor will she be the last (and nor could she have stopped the torrent of ideological motions the UGM will vote on for the rest of its existence). But the Union you see during election week, and the Union you see over the rest of the year, are never the same. Is it because candidates lie? No. It's because we choose people to fill certain defined roles to provide defined services and they tell us why they're best for that. Except for Gen-Sec. Ask anyone what the Gen-Sec does, and they'll say 'sit on various committees...' and go silent. That's not the point. If the Union is embodied by the UGM, it is almost certainly personified by the General Secretary, the 'leader' of the Union.

It follows that rather than deliberately trying to put down and marginalise the UGM and pursue an indeterminate body of disillusioned students out there somewhere

by appealing to a lowest common denominator of consensus and talking almost completely with vacuous procedural terms like 'diversity' and 'inclusive', it's time a leader accepted that the only way to make students care about the Union is to lead by example. Time to make a stand for what the students who do care have declared they care about by whatever representative channels we have set up, especially the UGM. Having shot and edited dozens of UGMs, I know it just as well as anybody and I think that if Fadhil wants to promote what is unique about this Union he simply cannot discount the UGM. Demystify it and give it more appeal, by all means - this is surely a huge element of the Communications officer's job and Kayt Berry has promised to focus on it. And don't lose faith that beyond the careerist 'hacks', students do care - just look at how we had a second year in each sabbatical race, and even a first year in one. These are people who have ideas and want to realise them right now. Filming candidate videos for the last two elections, I am always fascinated to meet new faces running for the Exec and for the committees, with genuine commitment and desire for change often motivated by personal experiences. It's all there. Start enjoying your Union and stop apologising for the fact that not everybody else does.



COMMENT & ANALYSIS

c&a@thebeaveronline.co.uk

The grim reality that is the summer term exams draws ever nearer, and perhaps some advice in good time is in order

The twelve labours of LSE



Melissa Knight

Final year undergraduates, I sympathise... Imagine me, when finishing my degree last year, my ex-boyfriend gave me such a hard time that I decided to begin the break-up process in March alongside my dissertation. I thought that if I just split with him, that would be one less source of stress in my life. I found myself back at my



Avoid all casual sex over the exam period

mum's, unable to eat or sleep. In a twisted way, I made it so hard for myself to pass that I had to rebel against not letting anything come in the way of my grades. It worked! Top of the class. First-class degree.

But many of my final-year friends are not experiencing enormous upheaval, but instead something far worse. The 'I Really Can't Be Arsed With This Degree Anymore' syndrome.

Without a doubt, now is the hardest part of the academic year. Adrenaline from exam pressure has yet to kick in. The joys of the festive period are well and truly over. Deep down you know if you do not pull some motivation out from somewhere, come April till June, your life will be twice as hard.

Initially this was an email to stressed friends. I have now been told to circulate it to the masses.

So here, fully revised, my Top Twelve Degree Survival Tips as you make your steady decent into the last months of the all important milestone that is your undergraduate degree:

1. Avoid making life-changing decisions. (Unless you work best under pressure - then now's the time to get a second job whilst re-decorating your bedroom and helping pre-arrange your grandparents' funerals)

2. Avoid all emotionally-fuelled-indulgence (at this stage, i.e. pre-Easter holidays - this excludes casual sex). You'll regret lost hours you could have been spending on your work if the person you've been fantasising about does not reciprocate, or does but dumps you or goes home over the summer. If they do fancy you, let them do most of the running about around your timetable. If you're both stu-

dents, don't study together unless you will study. Focus on your work - especially if you are a border-grade student. Once exams are over, spoil them rotten for putting up with your lack of devotion.

3. Exercise regularly - even if just ten minutes a day. Getting your heartbeat up really keeps your mood regulated. This includes casual sex, unless you've just necked five pints. If getting sweaty does not appeal, try swimming or yoga.

4. The Healthy Trinity. Try to take one multi-vitamin, one omega-3 oil, and one Echinacea capsule daily.

5. Regulate your sleeping patterns. Sadly this omits sleep-ins. Getting to bed at roughly the same time each night will ease stress levels.

6. Avoid all casual sex over the exam period. Casual sex takes up crucial mental and emotional strength. So from April till June, make your hand your best friend.

7. Enjoy your degree and re-inspire yourself. Avoid turning your degree into the worst thing that could ever have happened to you. Instead, consider it an extension of your self. Speak positively about your specialist subjects. Treat your degree like a boat you own instead of viewing it as the vast ocean of knowledge you'll never tackle by exam time. You command it. You

steer it. Read or listen over your best works to date. It will remind you of your capabilities, the process you went through, and how pleased you were with your efforts.

8. Love your tummy. Treat yourself to lots of fresh fruit and vegetables and drink water. Now's the time to spend your pint money on Salmon and Steak three times a week. Though being healthy doesn't have to be expensive. Eat porridge every morning and buy canned or frozen bags of fruit and vegetables for soups and smoothies.

9. When you feel the stress levels rise, sit up straight, breathing a comfortable 4 seconds in, 4 seconds out rhythm for about two minutes.

10. Set yourself a time limit for online-mooching about on places like Myspace

and Facebook. Just imagine if some of those half hour sessions were swapped with reading an online academic journal.

11. Know when to stop. You cannot push yourself too hard. If you find you have read the same paragraph seven times, now is the time to go to the pub, have an all-night bender and write off the following day. The night out will ease tension and the day off will make you feel guilty enough to get back on task the following morning.

12. Book at least one holiday for the moment you finish. The prospect of some relaxation will help you realise how short-lived this degree is. It'll be over before you know it.

Ok, I'm hopping off my pedestal now. I hope some of that helps. Good luck!



In the wake of an election week of high drama and controversy, it is time to consider the future that beholds the SU

Leftward Ho!



James Caspell

Last week's elections provided mixed results for the Left, but every reason to be positive for the future.

Firstly, it is certainly disappointing to lose such competent and dedicated sabbatical candidates as Jeff Courtney and Simon Douglas to the real world, whilst many on the Left would have relished continuing students Ed Chevasco and James Ketteringham to cause an upset.

Instead, we are left with sabbaticals whom, whilst apparently competent, definitely lack the campaigning edge that was provided by Joel Kenrick and Alexandra Vincenti, the political heart of the current sabbatical team. Nevertheless, there are many successes to be acknowledged and lessons to be learnt for an extremely important year ahead for progressive students at LSE.

Firstly, the re-election of Aled Dilwyn Fisher in an extremely hotly contested Environment and Ethics race was arguably a battle for the new political heart of the Union. Whilst the margin was

close, Aled's emphasis on ecological understanding as a whole provides him with a mandate to initiate and lobby for an agenda to reduce, reuse and recycle, continuing work he and other Greens have carried out in recent years. Building on this year's success - such as introducing automatic double-sided printing and lobbying for more ethical investment - Aled will fight for environmental and social justice on campus and beyond and campaign for the real and effective improvements.

Similarly the expected re-election of Louise Robinson allows her to continue as one of the most competent and vocal officers within the SU, lobbying for safer, more affordable and sustainable residences and her role will hopefully prove pivotal in extending the Living Wage to the cleaners who fall under the residences contract. This year, Louise has proved an extremely principled, effective and vocal voice on the SU Executive, supporting an increase in student consultation regarding School governance and lobbying for an Executive that is not afraid to stand up to the School when it is in the best interests of students.

Of the new faces on the Executive, the undoubtedly

shining stars will be new Women's Officer, Daisy Mitchell-Forster, Anti-Racism Officer, Amina Adewusi and Mature and Part-time Students Officer, Ziyaad Lunat.

Daisy brings both a wealth of experience and the more radical and broader approach to women's issues that has been lacking of late. Her campaign pivoted on the notion that gender equality and empowerment does not depend on one week of awareness but is an ongoing struggle throughout wider society. She will also bring a necessarily synergetic approach to feminist issues including environmental and social concerns, including introduction of sustainable women's products such as moon cups, women-only self-defence classes and a greater emphasis on queer rights and identity.

Ziyaad's election brings another experienced campaigning voice to the Executive Committee and his commitment to encouraging the SU to demonstrate solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine is unrivalled. His dedication to environmental and social justice will again strengthen the SU's campaigning edge, whilst he will no doubt be implementing policies to benefit Mature and

Part-time students.

Amina Adewusi possesses a great amount of experience in opposing racism and promoting cultural understand and students can expect to see a more energetic commitment and vocal opposition to racism on campus that was perhaps lacking last year, especially witnessed by the lacklustre SU response to the racist and sexist Kanazawa research.

Finally, C&S, comprising of the likes of James

stand. This is no more demonstrated than by the positive and principled campaign of Adrian Rogstad, who despite being relatively inexperienced, produced impressive, progressive policies that inspired a surge in support for clear Left issues, such as targeted scholarship support for students in conflict areas and universal language course subsidies. Despite his defeat, Adrian received more votes than many more well-known left candidates in other races who unsuccessfully sought to tack to the centre-ground by shrouding their progressive politics.

However, the real challenge for the Left is not relying on 'representative' democratic institutions that so often prove ineffective and have compromised self-ascribed 'progressives' throughout the years. Instead it is imperative that the Left continues to galvanize student movement, both in the UGM and on Houghton Street, to stand up for the interests of students across the world. This involves opposing all forms of discrimination, including the systematic class discrimination that increasingly permeates British society, as well as opposing occupation and exploitation overseas. If students are to reclaim the LSE from the pro-fees marketing cabal that currently convene in the Vera Anstey Suite, then we must continue to advocate our radical vision today if we are to ever achieve a fairer, more socially just and sustainable LSE for tomorrow.



It is imperative that the Left continues to galvanize student movement, both in the UGM and on Houghton Street

Ketteringham, Rachael O'Rourke, Elle Dodd and Andy Hallett, is yet again replenished by those who will seek to uphold equal opportunities for all and make the Union and UGM more inclusive in the face of recent attempts to make a mockery of it, with racist, sexist and homophobic motions which have occasionally reared their head this year.

However, one important lesson for the Left is not to shy away from the progressive principles upon which we

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COMMENT & ANALYSIS

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The Beaver

Established 1949 - Issue 662

Racial and religious intolerance surfaces...

...from beneath troubled waters of elections

Elections are always a hotbed of controversy, and this year's Lent term elections are no exception. In a culturally diverse institution like the LSE, it is almost inevitable that fault lines of race and religion would surface under contentious circumstances. Controversial candidate endorsement emails, unguarded remarks and racial innuendoes are but some of the unpleasant occurrences that marred the run-up to this year's elections.

Newly-elected Students' Union General-Secretary Fadhil Bakeer-Markar is no stranger to such controversy, having found himself in a such a predicament exactly a year ago during the International Students' officer race. Having fallen victim to accusations of racist remarks himself, it is hard to miss the irony in Bakeer-Markar's complaint against the ill-advised comments of Communications officer Ali Dewji. While inflammatory racist intent can be safely discounted in this case, the avoidance of the potential backlash is not a given for every case of careless talk.

Apart from the spat over racist commentary, the controversial and divisive nature of the Jewish Society's endorsement email, along with a 'racist' in-joke within the Sri Lankan society present a disturbing picture of the unseen discrimination that lie latent within the student body. The political correctness with which many students approach the subject may reflect a general consensus over the sensitivity of racial and religious issues, yet at the same time may mask underlying currents of ignorance and intolerance.

The trouble therein is the difficulty of detecting such sentiment, given that they usually remain well-hidden until triggered by moments of great tension and high emotional stakes. Nevertheless, there are both positives and negatives to be drawn from the revelations of the Lent term elections. It is regrettable that racial and religious intolerance still exist within the campus, yet we can be thankful that such sentiment is limited to a small number of students. The Anti-Racism officer still has an important role to play in the LSE SU, despite recent suggestions of the superfluous nature of the office. Complacency is the first step towards failure, and the newly-elected members of the SU Executive committee should heed this timely reminder of the unseen dangers of intolerance.

Is the Lent term elections the coming of a new age...

...or simply yet another false dawn?

The annual 2-day frenzy has come and gone, and even before the dust can settle on the trails of our newly-elected SU executive committee, observers are already scrutinising their every move. Since the moment they declared their political aspirations on stage two weeks ago, these freshly-minted Union officers already committed themselves to a thankless job in which results are taken for granted while mistakes are mercilessly picked upon.

Hitting the ground running is important. With such short terms of office, the amount of time available for the officers to make their marks on the Students' Union is limited. Getting off to a bad start will only bode worse things to come.

As with any elections, the sabbatical positions are the focal points of student attention. One can only hope that Fadhil can galvanise the Union like never before, that Libby can emulate the remarkable Joel, that Ruhana will prove her worth in the coming year and that Kayt will demonstrate her media group pedigree in her Communications position. Come week 8 of Lent term next year, judgment shall be passed on these four; will pledges be fulfilled? Or prove to be empty promises?

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hear from you.**

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The Beaver offers all readers the right to reply to anything that appears in the paper. Letters should be sent to thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk and should be no longer than 250 words. All letters must be received by 3pm on the Sunday prior to publication. The Beaver reserves the right to edit letters prior to publication.



"is free"

Dear Sir

I applaud *The Beaver* for finally publishing an article that defends Israel. After countless articles viciously criticizing Israel, the publishing of Daniel Jason's "A tolerant rule" finally brought some balance to debate and discussion on the conflict. Kudos to Daniel on a well-argued piece! Hopefully, this is an indication that *The Beaver* has learned that the only way to promote healthy discussion is to publish articles from different points of view.

Our campus must recognize that the conflict is extraordinarily complicated and neither side is free of blame for its continuation. The LSE is a university that prides itself on its intellectualism and on its diversity. Let us continue to hold our student body to high standards and conduct discussion on the conflict not angrily or emotionally, but in a civil and intellectual manner. Let us be open to hearing from people of different perspectives.

Zach Seeskin

"quite happy"

Dear Sir

So Tony Benn claims that he is not protesting against war and the replacement for Trident but demanding that we bring troops home and abandon Trident. Wow, it is really clear from this what made him such an effective and worthwhile minister. Although Benn has missed two rather large points. The troops are being brought home, what he means is that he wants them brought home now, which means that protesting against the war is exactly what he is doing. And he wants to abandon Trident. He should be quite happy then because at the end of its life it will be abandoned, what he means is that he doesn't want it replaced with a more up to date nuclear weapons delivery system. With such garbled and meaningless platitudes being dished out by this mob those of us with a more realistic outlook on the world can take comfort from the fact that policy makers won't be listening to them.

Will Joce

"harsh prison"

Dear Sir

Sam Burke's 'The Right Approach' column last week patently failed to grasp the point of Cameron's stance on

drugs. While not usually one to applaud the line of the Conservatives, I find Cameron and his supporters refreshing in their recognition that neither incarceration nor marginalisation is helpful for drug users or society as a whole. Prohibition does not curb the use of drugs, while denying them the right to hygiene and safety standards not only endangers those who choose to inject drugs, but anyone else they share bodily fluids with. Cameron's endorsement of 'shooting galleries' in which users can inject drugs safely without fear of infection is an encouraging sign that he recognises this. Sadly, Burke mistook this endorsement Cameron's ignorance of the negative health impact of heroin; it is unlikely Cameron is this stupid. Furthermore, Burke asserts that 'cannabis is as addictive as other drugs', simply because it too affects (and I love the GCSE biology tang to this phrase) the 'pleasure centre' of the brain. This is factually incorrect and misleading; cannabis is not physiologically addictive, as heroin or cocaine are. It is habit-forming, but then so is exercise.

Cameron's call for the legal classification of cocaine to be downgraded also heralds a new era for the War on Drugs that, finally, realises that the threat of harsh prison sentences does little to dampen both supply and demand, while offering little hope of reform, redemption or better health for those who do choose to take drugs. Cameron's stance recognises that while some negative sanctions must stay in place, the fact that people take drugs will not change. The destruction wrought on society by drugs is mostly the result of the ill health, finances or skills of drug users (some related to their social background or educational standards, others the result of their drug use) and it is only with attention to these areas that those destructive elements might be eliminated; not by some ridiculous and unsupported notion that labelling them as criminals might lessen the damage done to themselves and society.

Sophie Knight

"Jacobean secularist"

Dear Sir

I enjoyed your New World Order coverage and it was surprising that a Fabian university could cover the subject but I have a number of issues which I want to raise.

Of course you know that some of your professors are recruiting the brighter students to be initiated in to the great enterprise?

I was discussing this sub-

ject with one student on the first day and I asked her if she remembered in 1990 when George Bush addressed Congress and spoke of the New World Order? She said she didn't as she was only four years old at the time. Before that Gorbachev spoke of the New World Order and in his biography he credits the Pope John Paul II with bringing down the Berlin wall.

The key question is this, was there a revolution in Eastern Europe in 1989? According to the media we had one, but it was only in Romania where people were killed. In Eastern Germany and other states Gorbachev ordered the leaders to resign because they were going to implement the "great plan."

If you were serious about expelling Sutherland, you could ask him why he attends the Bilderberg group meetings. These are secret meetings held each year with prominent leaders from industries, academia, politicians from both the left and the right. Sutherland is in demand by a Fabian university but he was in Goldman Sach's (is he left or right?). Hegel spoke of using conflict between opposites to implement change; the distinction between left and right is just for public consumption..

When Tony Blair was asked about his appearance before the world's shadow government he lied and said he never attended the meetings; there is proof of his presence in 1993. David Cameron has attended to be anointed the next leader of the country. In my estimation it is impossible to become Prime Minister without the approval of the Bilderberg group. Lord Healy openly admits in his autobiography that he was the co-ordinator for the British contingent and that this is the most powerful organisation in the world.

As a Christian I have to say that the Bible tells us of two New World Orders. The first one being organised by the Ethiopian genius Nimrod known as the Tower of Babel which God destroyed and scattered men over the face of the earth (Genesis: 11), confuses the languages and stopped them making a name for themselves.

Ever since, mystery religions have organised themselves in secret societies and cults to try for one world government and make a name for themselves (Ezekiel: 8). If you look at the Book of Revelation 13, we have one world dictatorship (anti-Christ) and no one can buy or sell unless they bow to him or take their mark in their right hand or in their foreheads - many say it will be a micro-chip and that technology now exists. (*The Beaver*, stop calling for more CCTV cameras).

This is a huge subject, but if anyone doubts whether this plan is being implemented, get a book written in 1952 by Battersby called the "Holy Book of Adolph Hitler." It foretold every political change which has occurred in the last 50 years. "Utopia" by Plato is

not a bad place to start. For a historical treatment try James Billington's "Fire in the Minds of Men: Origins of the Revolutionary Faith" which exposes the cultic origins of every revolution since the French Jacobean secularist Terror. It is available in the LSE library.

By the way do you know that the symbol of Fabian Socialism is a wolf in sheep's clothing? What could they mean that socialists might not be that nice after all?

Just study the seal on the American dollar bill. It says Novus Ordo Seclorum (New World Order), which is also a title of a book by a Fabian Socialist philosopher H.G. Wells. The LSE has an Institute for Global Governance, I wonder who would want to fund that?

The term 'conspiracy' is too loaded. Antony C. Sutton, the author of "Wall Street and the Bolshevik Revolution" and "Wall Street and the Rise of Hitler", calls it 'establishment studies.' Let us all agree there is an establishment in Britain and let us identify them and what they plans are.

It is a two minute walk from the Mother Grand Lodge of England and the birthplace of the First International to the Obelisk (phallic symbol) between Waterloo Bridge and the Hungerford bridge. Welcome to the Spiritual-Military-Industrial-Complex. And I thought the west was not spiritual? No, it is very hard to get away from Egyptian religion. And beware of what wolves in sheep's clothing teach you. Why do they not teach us that it was Marx who first called for a world central ban? Was the LSE not the centre for Austrian Economics at one point, how come they are no longer in the curriculum?

Anonymous

"some space"

Dear Sir

As you may be aware, there is a proposal from the Government to give an extra £1 for every £2 raised by universities from alumni and philanthropists up to a cap of £2 million. This represents £2 million extra that the LSE had not budgeted for. The Students' Union should put in a bid for a portion of this money earmarked for particular proposals.

I trust that *The Beaver* will dedicate some space in its final issue of the year to some ideas that the Sabbs can develop over the Easter vacation for approval in the first UGM of the summer term.

Dave Cole
Hack, 2001-2006

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

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Like a breath of fresh air, SU Arts Week is blowing across the LSE. Arts enthusiast or not, there is an event for every student to participate in

Much ado about arts



Rothna Begum

In light of the recent controversy over nothing happening with arts at the LSE, it is somewhat ironic as this year of all years there has seen a real gearing towards the enhancement of an arts culture. It has however at least served to prove that students are interested in the arts. The question as to whether there is an arts culture at all, I can only respond to with a resounding yes.

Art at the LSE is not a contradiction. It is true that the LSE faces a disadvantage as we don't have an arts or music department, and undoubtedly it is the reason

why other universities seem to be more 'arty'. There are a number of staff and students who are dedicated to the enhancement of an arts culture. I sit on the Arts Advisory Group, which is made up of committed people who, despite the fact that they are very busy as the heads of their own centres/departments, are taking the time out to discuss what they can do to enhance arts for the students and the LSE as a whole. The LSE is using its essence as a social science institution to have links with art exhibitions and initiatives despite not having an actual arts department.

This year, the position of Arts Co-ordinator was created which was to oversee a number of arts initiatives, take responsibility for art exhibi-

tions and manage the Arts and Music website. As a student this was ideal for me to pursue the arts and having founded the Literature Society during my undergraduate years I was aware of the importance in getting involved in order to change things. There are others out there who also see a need for arts at the LSE, including those who think there is no arts culture. But the question that needs to be asked then is 'Why am I not doing anything about it?' If you are wondering why there are no arts activities at the LSE, first really look to see if there is nothing. But if what you want isn't there then do something about it; get involved in a society, take the initiative to start something. It is always difficult, but there is more support now in place for arts that there wasn't before and if you're passionate enough you can see it through.

A number of art societies and people who are carrying out arts initiatives are very displeased with the idea that their hard work and efforts are going unnoticed. For instance, RAG week saw Dance Society go all out, Global Week had a great exhibition of performance art, and Discover Islam Week with a display of Islamic art including calligraphy

classes and an aerial photo shoot of the word 'SALAM' (peace) made up of more than a 100 students. On top of which, the Music Society have extended their number of shows as well as the School's

The LSE needs a creative outlet and that can only be fostered if people are willing to come forward

Music programme that has an incredible set of LSE Lunchtime Concerts. Literature Society have gone all out on poetry at the UGM, poetry nights and the annual literary journal 'The Muse'. Film Society along with their great number of film screenings have seen the World premier of 'Zalzala' which was put on just last week. Drama Society will be holding their first ever musical 'Into the Woods' at the end of this term in Week 10. There are plans being drawn up of having an 'Arts ball' at the end of the academic year.

The Arts Advisory Group held the first ever LSE Photography Competition this year which received an overwhelming 400 entries, 100 of

which are soon to be displayed in classrooms around the LSE as well as 24 selected photographs up for the last week in the LSE Photography Exhibition in the atrium. The sheer response to the competition was evidence enough that there is a huge creative buzz that can be tapped into. This will soon turn into an annual competition and the School is trying to build up an arts and music programme that will be put into place for the coming years.

'ReCollect: Creative Explorations of the LSE' is a new arts initiative taking place by Heather Barnett (artist), which seeks to artistically explore the diverse histories, events and personalities that have shaped what the LSE is today. One of the upcoming performances is the "What's What?" An Evening with George Bernard Shaw which presents a multimedia promenade performance bringing to life Shaw's personality and wit, his era and links to the LSE. This event will be taking place on the 26 and 27 April 2007 and there is a call for participants to get involved through acting or behind the scenes.

The SU Arts Forum along with Arts Advisory Group are holding the first ever LSESU Arts Week, which seeks to highlight the wealth of artistic activity that appears to go unnoticed. If you are someone looking to get involved there is no better

time to do it, this will become an official week for the coming years and will hopefully serve to again enhance the arts culture.

There is a growing arts culture and it is good to demand more, but the best thing to do is to get involved in some way or form. At the very least don't let the great art events and experiences just pass you by. This year may be the first for a number of things, but it lays the foundations for all things to grow. We need more people to get involved, the LSE needs a creative outlet and that can only be fostered if people are willing to come forward.



The handy digital camera is an indispensable travel companion, yet its alluring convenience may cost you a wholesome travelling experience

From here to eternity



Zheng Gong

How many photographs did you take with your digital camera the last time you visited an interesting place? A hundred, two hundred or even more? When feeling satisfied with taking all the beautiful sceneries back home, you have to be careful that it might bereave you from the most precious part of the tourism experience - enjoying the splendour in person.

The digital camera is a wonderful invention that makes everyone a photographer. A small memory card can easily store several hundred pictures. The images can be displayed on computers, without the trouble of film rolls or developing photographs. Computer software can transform even the most mediocre of photographs into masterpieces.

The danger is that taking pictures

of beautiful scenery becomes the central issue of the trip.

Standing before the greatness of Mother Nature, we can not stop pressing the small button on the magic box. Indulged in the amazement and happiness of discovery, we are too eager to capture all the beautiful scenery, forests, rivers, scenic buildings, mountains... The limitations of plastic film are not problems any more. The smallest pocket on your backpack can easily hold twenty digital storage cards, which allow you to take almost as many pictures as you want.

Surrounded by masterpiece paintings in a hundred-year old great gallery hall, we let the flashes on our cameras glitter throughout our tour. Da Vinci, Van Gogh, Monet, Renoir ..., all the famous names spins our heads. Why not take photographs of their works and enjoy them any

time we want back home? No need to go to photography shops, digital photos can be easily transmitted and displayed on personal computers or televisions almost instantaneously. It is not necessary to read the captions in a hurry, either. Just take a picture of the text and read it later on the screen.

While viewing artifacts of ancient heritage dating thousands of years in great museums, we can hear digital cameras' going 'click', on and on throughout a visit. Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Indian..., every artifact is worthy of a digital photo. No worries about weak light. We can always make adjustments with Photoshop. Bad image composition can be reframed at will and improper exposure can be compensated automatically.

Our tourist experiences becomes more or less a photography contest. The winner is the one who takes the most pictures, because he or she "captures" the

greatest number of interesting things with their magic box and brings them home. The side effect is that we easily succumb to impatience. How many of us still choose to sit down on a lawn and feel the peaceful earth beneath us, or stand in front of a portrait and scrutinize the stroke and hue, or stare at an ancient jar in its glass case and visualise its long history. By pressing the digital camera button, we tell ourselves: "I've got it." Since we can look at it later, what is the point in sticking to one spot?

After we return from our travels, we do not really look at our digital photos anymore!

The greatest irony is that, more often than not, after we return from our travels, we do not really look at our digital photos anymore! On the Internet, there are many high quality photos, taken by professional photographers, on the same things we saw. Almost all the great galleries, museums and interesting places run their own websites, offering tons of fine feature pictures. Compared to those works, our own photos are blurry, and of low quality. Most of our own photos were saved in our hard disks and

left untouched forever. The only ones that we look at are those containing ourselves and our friends. However, we do not actually notice the beautiful backgrounds; we only notice the people in the pictures.

So why do we spend so much time, energy and money to travel to those famous tourist destinations? We looked upon the great scenery, paintings and ancient sites only through the small frame of our digital camera, coming

back home with a few hundred photos which we do not want to look at any more. The splendour that we are after is lost!

If you are a big fan of digital cameras, please be aware of this danger. And the next time when you visit an interesting place, after taking your digital photos, remember to slow your step, take a breath, look around, and concentrate on the beautiful things before you for a while. Real-life interaction with your surroundings makes the trip complete.

HACKTIVIST!

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

The Eyes of Hacktivist were extremely busy this past week running around Houghton Street and the Robinson Rooms* trying to keep track of every Hack and his or her tantrums. It was a nasty one indeed...

It all kicked off with uproar in The Daily Mail office as Supreme Commander Kim Jong-Kamath made an official decree against democracy. The Chair Collector Man-Basher-ji stormed out screaming something about patriarchy, followed closely by the Scandalised Security Stories Editor... although Hacktivist reckons Moo's resignation had more to do with his being pally-with-a-certain-sabby.

Hacktivist since received many a complaint from Hacks over Moo and Mother Centi's all too public canoodling, with some Hacks claiming it was the reason for ordinary students avoiding of Houghton Street. Hacktivist advises them to get a room. Preferably not Mother Centi's office... unless of course they would like their exploits documented in next week's Hacktivist.

Meanwhile at the Count, Eerie Beciri was in his prime, imposing Shariah law - complete with his very own version of the Mutaween - in the form of Kreepy Kreebbers and Barry Bacon who were ready to crack the whip against any Hack caught with alcohol.

Poor Dolly looked ready to Doug-imself-into-a 'Ole as the Gruesome Greens celebrated Caspell Clone's scrape to victory. Lou-Lou Gobinson and her very own curly haired clone (who smElles ODDly of

Petroleum) were in tears of joy at the thought of their beloved Baby Dilwyn being able to save trees for yet another year.

Tears all round from the Comms Candidates - of course this was to be expected when they were all faced with the prospect of having to live up to the great can't Do-ji-it's legacy. And more tears from Cactus Morgan as she finally fulfils Hubby Heath-cock's dream and takes control of Society.

Meanwhile the Exec continues to try and produce its very own Erotica. Hacktivist hears reports of yet more in-breeding amongst the Greens; this time between the Noble Leader himself and the Women's officer elect. Hacktivist can confirm Comrade Caspell is courting Crazy Feminist Forster - and NOT former UGM chair Crazy n'O'Brain - contrary to popular rumours. So much for Devil-ji's claim that it's the Media Group who sleep together...

But Hacktivist hopes His favourite Comms officer isn't too down in the dumps over his failure to win the position of GenSec. We love you Drool-ji... and don't worry you'll get your revenge soon - as Flyk StrawBerry Blonde leaves the dark side to take your place, no doubt she too will experience the wrath of the media group. After all its tradition to wage war against the MisCommunication Officer...

* Hacktivist thinks the name of the counting room could be a Green conspiracy. Abuse of Exec power? Perhaps censures are in order? No doubt Heath-cock will be ready to oblige...



This week in **FEATURES**



The Vladical Left



Vladimir Unkovski-Korica

Reform or revolution? This question has plagued the left in the 20th century. But for many the issue seems distant. Europe may be going through mild slumps and the legitimacy of the traditional parties may be dissipating, but it sure as hell does not see the same incidences of extreme and mass poverty as Africa or Latin America, or despotic regimes such as those in Asia or the Middle East, or indeed the levels of turbulence that could lead one to argue that we can have (let alone that we need) fundamental change. What problems there are can surely be attributed to the inherent trouble of organising complex societies, of eliminating vested interests and, simply, of badly executed policies. Respect the complexity of the world and ditch the illusion that we know better than past generations! For utopia leads straight to the Gulag.

Still, some of us believe in dreams and demand the impossible. For us, there is still relevance in debating revolution even at the centre of the world system. Yet we are consciously a minority: it is rare that revolutionary ideas win a mass audience. In advanced capitalist societies, the market delivers for most people, most of the time. There are problems but they appear as a minor motif in the general course of affairs. That's why the majority of working people in twentieth century Western Europe remained loyal to social-democratic parties.

But if revolution is to occur, it requires mass action. There must be some connection between our daily activity and that goal, however indirect. Revolution cannot be the forcible seizure of power by a minority with the ambition of changing consciousness later. That's the same argument used to justify Russian tanks rolling into Eastern Europe after 1945. So, to use an overly abused cliché, what is to be done?

In practice, there is no need for constructing concrete walls between reform and revolution. To mount a struggle for reform is not the same as to be a reformist. Revolutionaries have to immerse themselves in every struggle against injustice or exploitation. They have to be the most energetic and effective wing of any concrete battle, and they have to try to connect every concrete battle with a network of other battles. While reformist leaders seek to isolate the issue at hand and set limits on the movement, we try to find ways of taking it ever further, broader, deeper. We refuse to accept the need for a permanent division between leaders and the led and we refuse to remain within the boundaries of the acceptable. We argue, always, for involving more and more people and for intensifying the control of the rank and file over every aspect of the conduct of the struggle.

As such, we seek to raise people's awareness of their own collective strength harnessed from below. Every step forward is a step forward in confidence and in self-organisation. But no step is ever final. Neither is the movement of reforms. For we argue at every stage that further reform is possible in theory but not in practice: the vested interests of the powerful will at some point be threatened and they will refuse to allow further reforms. Sometimes, their hold over the situation will fail. In a world built on blind competition and exploitation, this is bound to lead to a meltdown of things as usual. These are the times for which all previous struggles have been preparation and training. The powerful can no longer rule as before. Such moments involve the interlock of reform and revolution.

At these points, things start to develop a dynamic of their own. The masses become frustrated that incremental improvements that they are used to are suddenly being removed through no fault of their own: they are just as diligent, law-abiding and motivated as before – but they are now faced with cuts, discrimination and deception. This pattern is evident across the world and at different times in the 20th century: from Russia in 1905 and 1917 to Germany in 1918 and Italy in 1920; from France in 1968 or Poland in 1980. By way of principle, these movements start as movements that demand a return to a more just and more efficient status quo ante. Sometimes though – where struggles for reforms had been led by revolutionaries – the vast majority has the experience and the confidence to make the leap beyond the possible: to demand a world based on need not profit. And dreams start to become reality.

features@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Notes on Nothing

David Davis, that's the Shadow (and probably future) Home Secretary, has been in the news this week getting very worked up about some government proposals. In his words "This failed project which has cost the taxpayers millions of pounds without providing a single benefit is a striking example of this government's sheer incapability to deliver IT-based projects on time, on budget and in working order." As serious as this sounds Davies was discussing the demise of possibly the silliest government initiative for some time (and there have been plenty to choose from) – youth bonus cards. The idea was to take juvenile delinquents, hoodies, and ASBO types and give them 'reward cards' whereby every act of good behavior would store up credits which could then be exchanged for up to £25 in cash. The government had already spent £2 million piloting the scheme in ten different regions before declaring that "the costs far outweigh the considerable risks and uncertainties". The suggestion that problem teenagers can be transformed into model citizens overnight through bribery (and quite frankly not very generous bribery) would be almost amusing if it weren't being seriously considered as government policy.

As embarrassing as this must have been for the government they are not the only ones to have made themselves look ridiculous this week. Delivery company DHL issued an apology on Sunday to a husband and wife in Grand Rapids, Michigan USA for sending them a parcel intend for someone else. This would have been a harmless mistake except that the packages contained a liver and a 'partial human head'. Whoops. The items had been intended for a medical research laboratory. Even more shocking is the further admission by state authorities that "28 more bubble-wrapped human organs could have been dispersed across the country". I'm not sure whether this or the youth bonus cards scheme constitutes the bigger screw-up.

Multi award winning musician Kanye West is expecting a parcel of his own this week and should be hoping that it doesn't contain too many body-parts. The singer placed an order for the mother-of-all-takeaways when he paid £2,000 for a curry to be delivered from a restaurant in South Wales to his home in New York along with the chef. Quite why he felt the need to do this is unclear. But then what is the point of being a celebrity if you can't piss away your money for no good reason? And speaking of pissing away money:

THE ECONOMICS OF CONFLICT

In 2007, the UK will give £1 billion in aid to Africa, and spend from £12.5 billion upgrading Trident submarines



Online this week

Find out more about the issues in this week's Features by searching for:

50 Years of Ghana's Independence

www.ghana50.gov.gh



Timeline of Myanmar History

The Shan Herald Agency for News reports in Shan, Burmese, English, and Thai, featuring politics, literature, human rights reporting and opinion columns.

www.shanland.org



Rwandan Genocide

The only video of a murder in Rwanda is available on Google. It was never shown on TV in the UK.

www.youtube.com/results?search_query=rwanda+genocide



The Right Approach

Sam Burke



Men and women risk their lives everyday in Iraq and Afghanistan for our liberty and the liberty of others. We recognise their great service and owe them our steadfast support. However, there is another aspect of Britain's defence policy, which attracts much less attention, and yet it is just as crucial to the liberty of our nation and others. It provides protection, diplomatic clout and remains at the heart of Britain's role in the world. We gave it a name: Trident.

Trident is the common name for the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent. The Vanguard Class submarines or SSBN (Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear) to give them their proper name, provide the United Kingdom's strategic and sub-strategic nuclear capability. The first Vanguard class submarine was launched in 1993 carrying Trident II D5 missiles and shortly after followed the launching of HMS Victorious, Vigilant, and Vengeance. Together they comprise the cornerstone of our defence policy and a significant contribution to the Alliance's deterrent forces.

Although the set of Vanguard class subs were commissioned in the the Cold War, the origin of the United Kingdom's nuclear weapons goes back far further. The 1945 Labour government contained few enthusiastic Cold Warriors. Unlike our modern politicians of spin, image, and message, they had seen nuclear weapons used. At first the Government resisted advice that the USSR was irrevocably hostile and hoped international control of nuclear weapons by the United Nations might work as the ultimate deterrent to war. But, in January 1947, it was Labour, under Clement Attlee, that committed this country to manufacturing and deploying its own bomb. Why? Because he knew, as we know today, that when the chips are down, you cannot rely on usual safeguards. Attlee wouldn't rely on the UN as the newborn organisation then, and we shouldn't rely on it as the awkward adolescent, which it is today.

Today's world of increasing turbulence requires the United Kingdom and her dependents to retain a nuclear capability. In the face of threats from Iran, North Korea, Russia and the giant pink elephant that is China, the United Kingdom must remain a powerful military force. We must remain strong so that less benign regimes do not take advantage of the sort of complacent attitude of the simplistic "No Trident" campaign. I do not doubt their honourable intentions (well, most of them) but there is a child-like naivety in their "march and shout" advocacy.

People who support Trident can oversimplify the situation as well. Some talk about an "independent capability" with the same ignorance of security issues. The truth is we depend on the Americans to sell us the missiles, to keep them serviced, to provide satellite guidance and to allow our submariners to practise on American firing ranges. One day the US congress may decide to withdraw these facilities. It would certainly do so the moment we fired off a missile without American permission. The point remains, however, that we have a first shot – but more importantly the threat of a first shot (and more if necessary) to safeguard our country in the event of a nuclear stand-off.

The logic of 1947 remains impeccable. The reality is the same; the science of atomic weapons will never be eradicated. But one might say the circumstances are more precarious in that nuclear weapons are increasingly accessible to unsavoury nations such as North Korea with its power-crazed egomaniac Kim Jong Il. And we are all too aware of Iranian designs on a Nuclear capacity – strictly for energy purposes, and yet given half a chance they would "blow Israel off the face of the earth". I don't mind the odd bet, but somehow I don't think I'd take my chances.

There is a cost to this, of course. The Prime Minister estimates the new submarines would cost between £15bn and £20bn over 30 years. It sounds like – and it is – a lot of money. But this would only take up 3% of the entire defence budget each year, vastly out of proportion to its relative importance.

The only plausible guarantee that Britain will not fall prey to nuclear blackmail is if we continue to possess the means to pre-empt, defend and, if necessary, retaliate. Quite simply: nothing else will do. In the timeless words of Vegetius: "Igitur qui desiderat pacem, praeparet bellum: If you want peace, prepare for war."

FEATURES Credits

- Head of Politics Desk: **Charlie Dougherty**
- Head of Society Desk: **Rosamund Urwin**
- Head of Business/Careers/Law Desk: **Soumya Gupta**
- Political Correspondents: **Greg White, Ben Gianforti**

Gender equality across the continent



Number of girls per 100 boys in primary school - 2001

- 97 or more
- 97 - 90
- 90 - 80
- 80 - 70
- Less than 70
- No Data

The former colonial powers

- France
- Britain
- Portugal
- Germany
- Belgium
- Spain
- Italy
- Independent



The New Scramble

Abdul-Malik Adam accuses global powers Ghana in celebration of its 50th Anniversary

The Ghanaian capital, Accra, is hosting over fifty world leaders, diplomats and foreign ministers from around the world in celebration of its independence Golden Jubilee today. Independence celebrations in Ghana usually go unnoticed around the world. But not this time. The anniversary provides an opportunity to reflect on the evolution, development, achievements and drawbacks of the whole continent over the past 50 years.

On March 6, 1957, the Gold Coast (now Ghana) became the first country in Sub Saharan Africa to gain independence from British colonial rule. Its first President, Kwame Nkrumah (an LSE alumnus), declared that "the independence of Ghana is meaningless unless it is linked up to the total liberation of Africa". For Nkrumah, attaining political and economic freedom was necessary in preventing continuous foreign domination. While modest success has been achieved on the political front, the continent can not boast any appreciable level of autonomy in relation to its economic resources five decades after self rule.

History is repeating itself. The first scramble for Africa was the proliferation of conflicting European claims to Africa through military influence and economic dominance. As a result, the continent was successfully divided up as if it were a cake torn apart by greedy Eu-

ropean leaders, and the effects are still felt in communities across Africa. The continent is again experiencing the 18th century rush for its valuable natural resources. This "new scramble for Africa" is the continuous foreign extraction and control of the

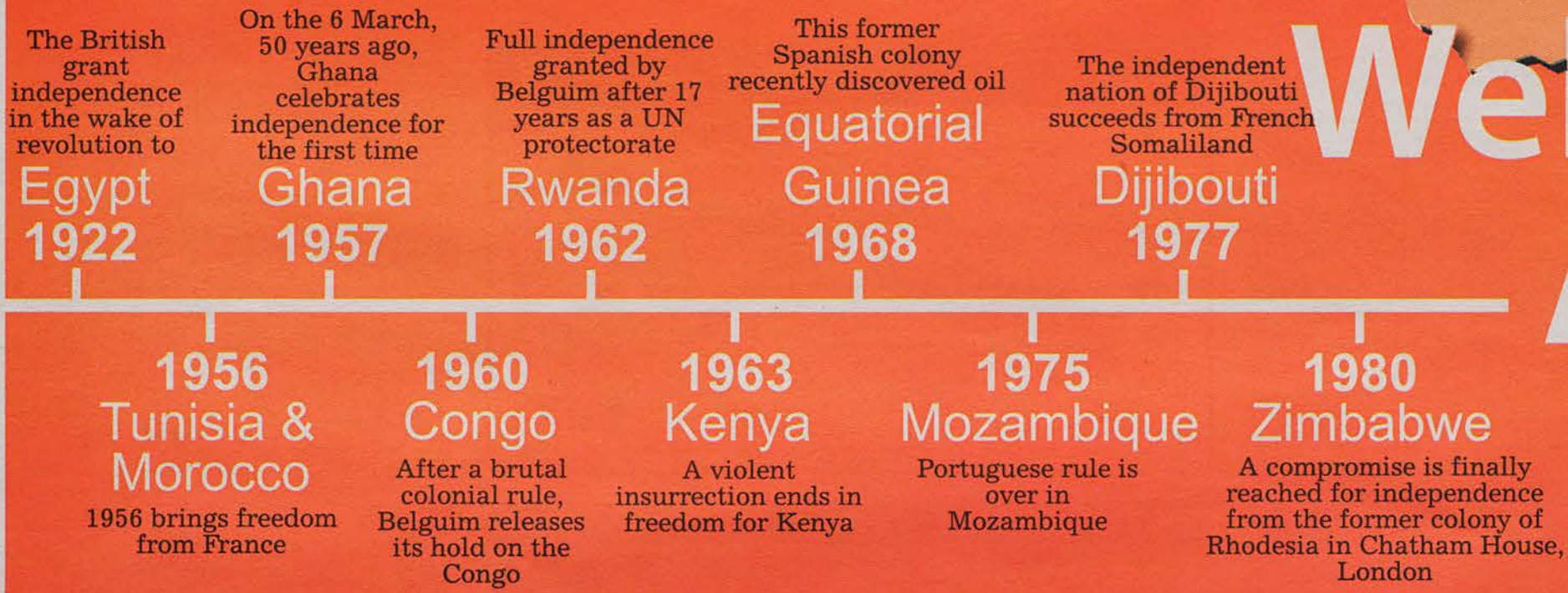
History is repeating itself. The continent is again experiencing the 18th century rush for its valuable natural resources

continent's resources.

Does the new scramble share any resemblance with that of the 18th century? I think the levels of control may

Karib
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Welco
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LONG WALK TO FREEDOM



B.

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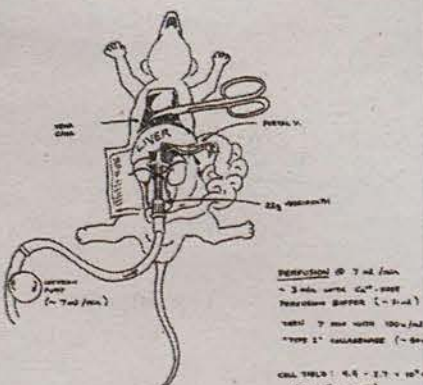


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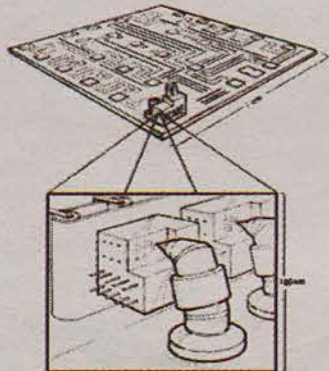
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Aldgate.

Aldgate takes its name from an old gate. It was called Aldgate. It was the eastern gate into the City of London. Nowadays it closes down at the weekend, so don't bother going then. Unless you want to pop over to the nearby Spitalfields market, to pick up some "retro" (broken) furniture, or Brick Lane, London's premier location for buying curries and bikes. The Bangladeshis who run the curry houses have replaced the traditional population of Jews. They were evicted from the 'Old Jewry' in 1290 before Olly Cromwell invited them back in. They built Bevis Marks to celebrate, which is the oldest synagogue in London and the oldest in the UK that is still in use. Nowadays, Aldgate is home to sky-scrapping architecture such as Norman Foster's (the guy who built the library) Gherkin and that one that looks like the Natwest logo from the sky. Its full of slightly wanky bars that cater to the after-work crowd, although leave the main roads and there's a pretty decent chance of you finding an old school East End boozier, or a mugger. There is an excellent fresh fish stall called Tubby Isaacs behind the roundabout which sells crabs, king prawns and, for a genuine taste of the East End, jellied eels. These are fucking disgusting.

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I fucked stgkt my sister

fair trade vs free trade

francesrayner is green and black timothyroot is white

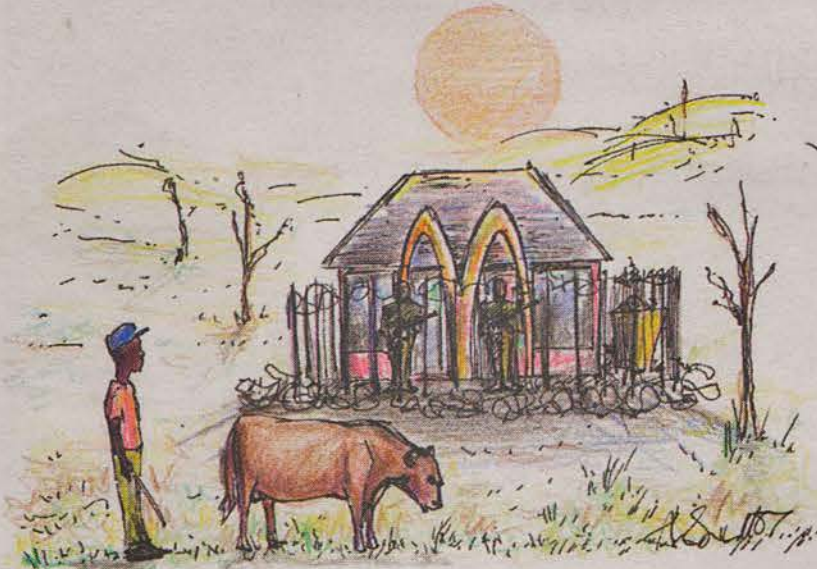
It's always a difficult moment for me when a new squeeze offers me a cup of tea. I know I shouldn't but we've chatted away about favourite Japanese electronics and I want to check that the man of my dreams is giving me a Fairtrade cuppa. As feared, he's getting out the Twinings. My instinct tells me he's an utter bastard and to run like the wind. Instead I quiz him. Predictably he tries to fob me off with the argument that "How do you know it really makes a difference?"

This is easy. Producers who aren't certified Fairtrade can get away with anything from forced labour to using pesticides that make farmers sterile. Fairtrade producers are guaranteed a fair price for their product. In addition they are given a premium to be invested in development projects for whole community, like facilities for sport, education, sanitation and health facilities. It's not just money though, they get rights too! This empowers people, which is a good thing, right? The lovely people at Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International check all this stuff rigorously. By buying Fairtrade you know that the people who made your product were paid a decent amount and have better a better chance of health, education and political empowerment. Surely you can't argue with that?

The Economist wrote about "Fairtrade being a subsidy that interferes with markets and impeding growth." This sounds big and clever but actually it's a cop out. The South isn't on a level playing field, and it's not as though Fairtrade is subsidizing bad products or inefficient industries, its simply giving existing producers a fair deal and ensuring workers rights. The experience of Fairtrade so far has shown that extra funds raised by higher prices go into improving the product and into diversifying production, so farmers

become less reliant on one crop. It's also really important for development, which is surely as important as growth. Ok, so it's interfering in the market, but complete economic liberalism has so far failed to lift the South out of poverty. Buying Fairtrade means a whole community has a better quality of life. What's the market alternative?

What could be more utopian than a world in which the West was free to exploit all countries at will? We Westerners have earned that right...Europe developed fastest...natural selection, and good white men have shed blood overseas attempting to reinforce what ought to be patently obvious. With free trade



Said man looks stumped. Maybe it's too expensive or he just can't be bothered. As Fairtrade products become more widely available, fall in price and companies increasingly develop their own Fairtrade products, this ambivalence becomes increasingly difficult to defend. Fairtrade is an easy way to improve people's lives in a tangible way. And if you just don't care enough, do it to make yourself feel good, or just to get laid.

economic theory, however, we now have scientific justification for exploit.

It's simple. People all over the world want things, and because we're better in the West, we generally want more things. Someone has to make these things. Obviously we don't really want to do it. Making even really low-grade goods like cars without four wheel drive involves horrible produc-

tion processes. People have to sit in factories and put pieces together for a living, getting grease under their nails and sweating a lot and all sorts of horrors. Personally, I'm not really up for it...and neither are you, my like-minded Western friend. That's why we have to make use of the fact that we are richer to get other people to do this stuff for us. And guess what! Because their lives are worth less, non-Westerners will make things for less. This means lower prices for us. So not only do we get to not have to make things, but we get to buy things cheaper. Welcome to free trade.

Of course, the world is not an ideal place. A lot of the time non-Westerners just aren't clever enough to make sophisticated things properly, so we have to do it ourselves. In time, however, the rest of the world will become as intelligent as us and then they can even make the clever things. At that point, though, we'll probably be even cleverer so it'll probably work out there'll always be a bit we have to do ourselves, but the point is we have to minimise that.

Also, some people are claiming that non-Westerners deserve some kind of leg up to our level, and that defending local production against exploit will do this. Bollocks. It's not our responsibility to bail out the developing world just because we're better at everything than them. Free trade just allows for the world's economy to function naturally, as it should. We have the capabilities to exploit the non-Western world for our own gain, so we should. It's human nature. Nothing can stop us from realising this utopia, so long as free trade prevails. So do your part to help the West, avoid Fair Trade goods.



Vote for the winner of Rant at:



The winner will probably receive a really nice prize.

If you would like to write a Rant and win a prize email:

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last week's Rant winner:

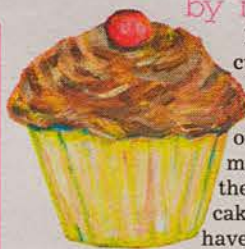
lauraparfitt
drew drawing

she wins an apple tree



things that are great cupcakes

by mollytucker



I've always been a cupcake girl. Judge me if you will, but they are so the best kind of cake. Strong words, maybe, but I stand by them. I don't mean fairy cakes, for all that they have the better name; they are the cupcake's bland sad little cousin. I don't mean muffins either, with all the breakfast-y, low-fat options they imply. I mean the glorious, icing-bedecked Cupcake, soft and moist but still weighty in your hand, like semtex.

Cupcakes are simply better than normal sized cakes. For once thing, they are neat—all the satisfaction of a slice of cake without the crumbly mess, or the need for a plate and fork. I used to live or die by my lunchbox cupcake; biscuit or jaffa cake days were depressing. I'm not saying I was miserable when I got a cake slice, but trying to unwrap it from the cling-film when the icing had gone all squidgy, and getting horribly sticky (if lacking in fork) just made the lack of cupcake all the more painful.

Cupcakes offer significantly greater creative scope as well. Your average pie is tasty, no doubt, but where do you go with it? A cake can only have more layers, or decorations. A cupcake can exist in its pure and simple form, or it can be stacked; my beautiful birthday cake this year was 25 cupcakes spelling out a message and I nearly wept at the glorious sight of it.

The dark side of cupcakes is that they are small enough to be dangerously moreish. If you have one, you want another, and another until you are lying sick and bloated in a cupcake coma. Yet what a wondrous coma it is: if that be my death, then I welcome it with open arms.

Saturday morning, settling down to watch the cooking show with that fat ginger bloke and then maybe a bit of rugby. There's no finer accompaniment to such weekend fare, no greater tradition, than sucking back a great big cup of coffee and sitting back with a great big weekend newspaper, supplements spilling from its entrails.

Why read the paper? Because I'm a news junkie, and because I want features. FEATURES - articles about cool new bands, interesting new films or T.V. shows, cutting edge avant garde artists. Not, if I may say so, because I'm interested in what Henrietta Hoity-Toity has to say about the sorry state of her life. Who gives two fingers if her son Oscar is a possible dyslexic, or if her daughter Maya will eat only organic sprouts? The suburban lives of bourgeoisie parents "trying to keep up with the Joneses" - or, in this case, trying to actually be the Jones, is of as little interest to me as Applied Principles of Macro Economics. One can only hope that some weekly trauma will indeed one day be the death of her, and then she'll just piss off. Cos after all, what the hell are newspaper columnists for?



things that are rubbish newspaper columnists

by sarahhiggins

the devil makes work for idle hands

loisjeary talks to scottish rockers **idlewild** about award ceremonies, the pitfalls of the music press and getting authors to write their lyrics

Idlewild's drummer Colin Newton is flicking through the copy of *The Beaver* which I brought along to the interview and exclaims, "It's the most professional looking student paper I've ever seen", which is nice, since it is often the interviewer who flatters the artist and not the other way round. He reaches the centre spread - "When are the Oscars? It's award season, our schedule has been packed, the Grammys, the Brits!" I detect a hint of sarcasm in his voice and reassuringly suggest that they don't look very fun, prompting the matter-of-fact response, "No, well we've never been invited. We have to watch them on TV" - a surprising revelation since Idlewild are embarking on their twelfth year together as a band and have long been established and respected in musical circles.

'Heavier, Rocking Origins'

In the period since 2005's 'Warnings/Promises', the band have been working on new album 'Make Another World', which sees Idlewild return to their heavier rocking origins. "It's definitely something different from what we have done before, but it is also us going back to how we've done it in the past - the band in a room, standing around and playing together and seeing what comes out. Twelve years ago that was how we wrote songs, so we just went back to that. On 'Warnings/Promises' a lot of it was acoustic based - songs that Rod and Roddy had started to write and then we got together and made it in to an Idlewild song. This time we made the decision not to do it that way - to get Gareth involved."

Gareth Russell replaced bassist Gavin Fox a little over a year ago and gives the impression of being both a member and a dedicated fan of the band. "It was weird for me, coming in to a band just as they were about to start writing their new album. But the process that I saw going on in the room, within two or three days I felt like part of it. Everybody was pitching ideas in together and you could hear the songs taking shape from everyone's suggestions. It was a fun way to write and a good way to keep everybody focussed on the music because everyone has got a stake in it."

Colin agrees, "That's why the album sounds like it does and why the band are still together and everyone is happy. Everyone wins their own little battle." I remark on how harmonious it all sounds and am quickly corrected. "It sounds it but it's not. It is fun though. If it wasn't, it would just be another crappy job that you hate and it's definitely not that. I think we all still enjoy it." Quietly Gareth confesses, "It's a privilege to be able to do it."

'Studio in a Church'

'Make Another World' was recorded in Fife, which Colin admits has a considerably different vibe to Los Angeles and New York where 'Warnings/Promises' was completed. "We've got a little studio in a church and that's where

we practice and where all the songs were written. Dave Enriga, who we worked with, has got loads of old desks all wrapped up in blankets that he puts in the back of a van and drives to where we are - it makes it sound really good wherever you want to record. Not being in a studio, having your own space, feels much more natural and relaxed than being in a really expensive studio where you have never been before."

I ask whether it is intimidating working in studios where other great albums have been crafted. Guitarist Rod Jones, who is lurking at the back of the room, pipes up "No, it's fucking brilliant" but Colin admits, "I find being in a studio like that intimidating, because you know that that's your chance and it has to be done then and has to be done right. But it's more fun staying in Los Angeles than driving to Fife every day."

Again Gareth chips in, "I'd have liked to have gone to L.A.," which is met with Colin informing him that he was just too late and a discussion ensues as to the practicalities of rebuilding their church on a movie set and persuading Dave Enriga to fly his dusty mixing desks over the ocean.

'Literary Influence'

As well as working on the new album, Idlewild have been the catalysts behind the up-coming 'Ballads of the Book' album - a project which was the brainchild of singer Roddy Woomble. The album is the result of the collaboration between prominent Scottish authors and poets, such as Ali Smith and Ian Rankin, and Scottish musicians including King Creosote and Vashti Bunyan, where the writers penned lyrics which were then interpreted and recorded by the musicians. The members of Idlewild are very proud of project, which they describe as a "great achievement" and talk enthusiastically about the record and the motivation behind it.

"On 'The Remote Part' album Roddy got Edwin Morgan to write some lyrics for some songs and he enjoyed that process. He genuinely liked meeting Edwin and was really happy with what they did. We have always had a literary influence in our song writing - it's not just 'I love you' and 'na-na-na'. We've always tried to get some point across. I think Edwin then sent Roddy the lyrics for two songs unannounced in the post, with a letter inviting him to use them. Roddy then tried to get all these other bands involved, at which point it all became a bit too much and he decided to get [Scottish Record Label] Chemikal Underground's help. It's a lot of work getting 18 bands and authors in to a studio."

How did they decide on which artists to include on the album? "It is people that we genuinely admired," says Gareth. "There are some great bands on there - Sons and Daughters are a fantastic band [although he would have to say that since Roddy is married to the band's bassist, Ailidh Lennon] and Aerogramme are one of the most outstanding



it's more fun staying in los angeles than driving to fife every day

it's just the same shit and the same crap bands

live bands I've ever seen."

Colin agrees, "It wasn't just like 'you're my mate, you're on the record'. There is a merit for every single band on there. If you hear the record everyone can see that they're all good bands and they're all good songs."

'Flavour of the Week'

During Idlewild's early years they were championed by Radio 1 DJ Steve Lamacq; however, judging on their earlier response to the establishment's award ceremonies, I get the impression that Idlewild are not big fans of the music press.

"I guess when a band is starting out you need somebody, like Steve Lamacq, to get you out there so that people hear it. It's just the nature of it - it's unlikely that anyone is going to hear you if you just do it yourself, there has to be support from somewhere. The press is important in that respect, but it can also be your worst enemy as well. Flavour of the week one week and then the next it's just on to the next new thing. We were all quite cynical at the start but I think now, as the band gets older, we're even more cynical. We've never really played the game, so to speak, now I don't think there is any need for us to and we know we don't want to."

Gareth offers his insider-outsider perspective, "I've always watched what happened with Idlewild because I've been interested in the band myself. It's never been a scene sort of band."

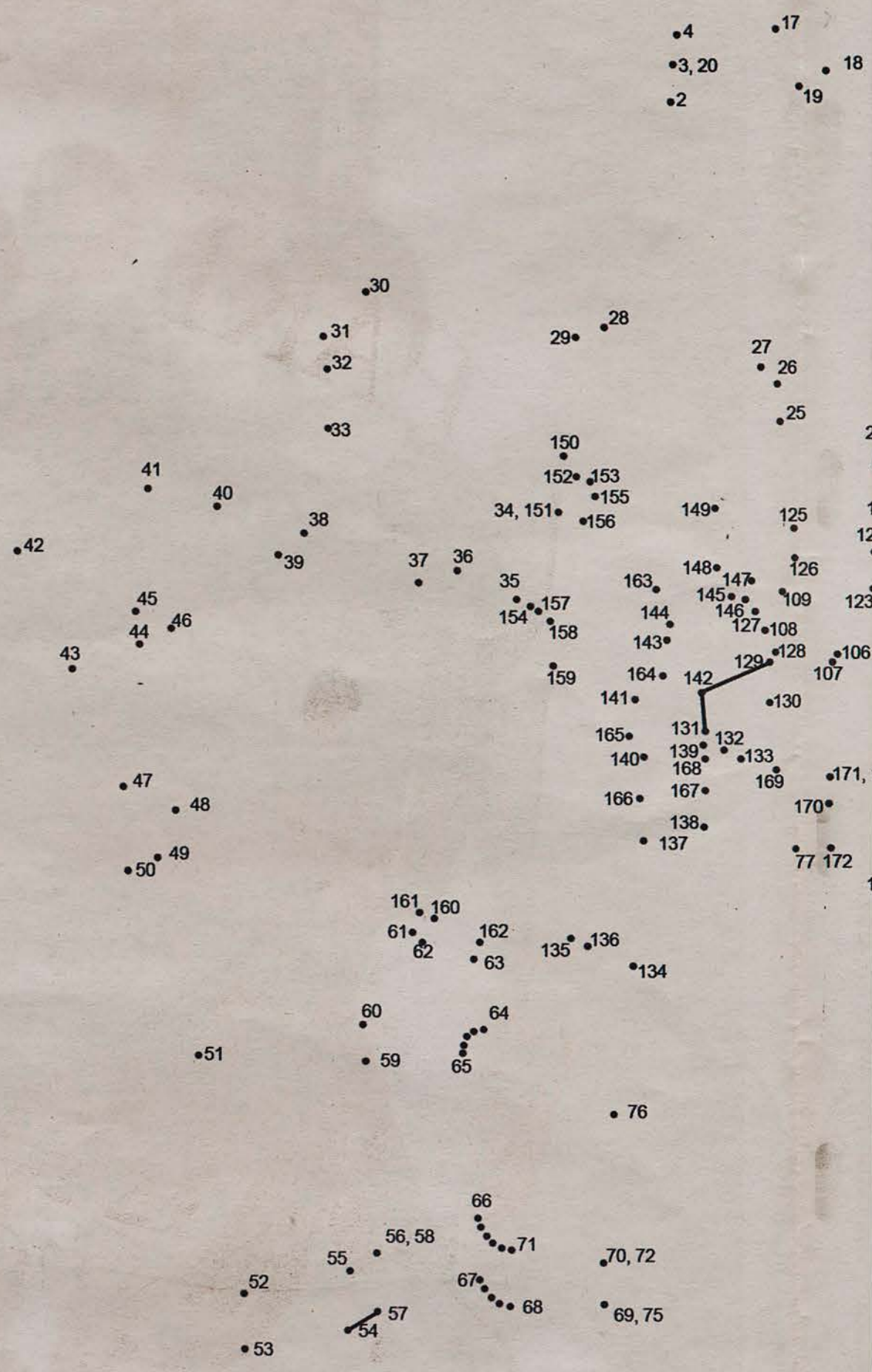
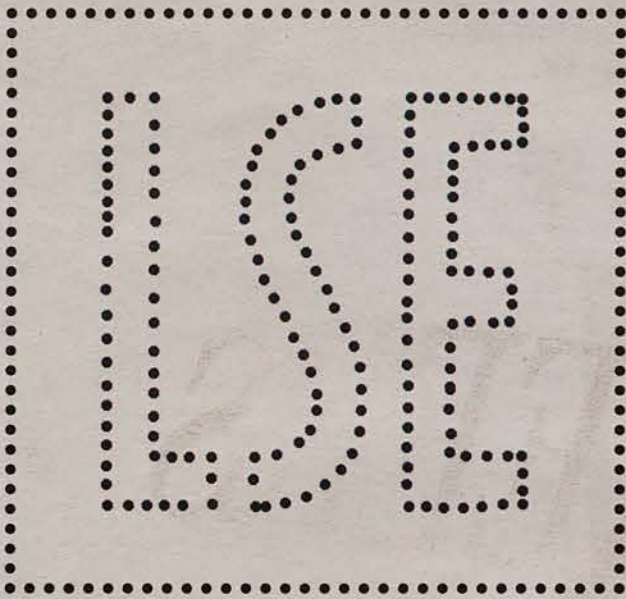
"We've never been cool, flavour of the month," says Colin, doing well to mask his bitterness.

"I thought what was cool about the band was for that very reason - it wasn't stereotypically cool, it was just Idlewild and a good band. That's what I thought and there, I've said it in an interview!"

But Colin isn't stopping there. "I used to read the NME and Melody Maker. Now it just makes me angry when I read it because it's just the same shit and the same crap bands but just packaged differently. I mean look . . ." he jabs his finger at a copy of one of the better-known music weeklies sitting on the table in front of us, where a generic indie band, barely out of nappies and with only one album to their name, looks up at us from the cover " . . . Seriously! It's just rubbish, it's a shame, but it is" and with that burst of anger he throws himself back in his chair and shakes his head sadly.

Luckily for him, this feeling is not mutual and the music press continue to celebrate and applaud the band. A band as diverse as Idlewild is unlikely to please everyone all the time, and those who were drawn to the folkier side of the band may not be overly keen on the harder tracks on 'Make Another World'; however with 'Ballads of the Book', Idlewild have injected some much needed innovation and vision in to the music industry, for which they are to be admired.





PART **C**AREERS



The eBay way of getting rich

Meryem Torun says don't waste your time buying when you can sell

It's hard to write about eBay without feeling like you're repeating what has been said in the business section of every newspaper over the last few years. This is a business that has certainly received its fair share of accolades, not to mention incredible popularity (at least in the few countries it operates in). And for the most part, this all seems well deserved. It's a great website to find almost anything, usually with the option to either to bid or buy immediately, providing the ultimate second-hand market, and increasingly a forum for small businesses. Obviously not everyone agrees. As with any technology there are fans and there are haters. Popular though it may be, there are flaws to be picked out.

Clearly, putting so many people with dubious identities in contact with each other has one or two problems. Every now and then we get reports of various scams. Even without these scams, you can't always be sure whether you're really saving

any money. This is probably because eBay isn't really as big a market as it seems if you factor in the fact that most of the people you would buy from are within your own country rather than worldwide; that's assuming you don't want to pay extortionate amounts of postage and packaging and wait a week to have the product delivered from Hong Kong.

Whether these flaws are enough to condemn eBay as a waste of time is up to personal judgement. The website itself has done all it can do cramp down on the not-so-good aspects, with things like insurance and seller ratings that exist to give buyers and sellers a peace of mind. So even with these problems, it seems too soon to give up on eBay just yet.

However, there's an angle we're missing here. The question to be asked here is how as students can we capitalize on what eBay offers? We can use it to satisfy our impulse shopping needs of course, but a better idea would be to make some

money to augment our student budgets. Being students, we're trained to be lazy so initially this seems too much effort to be

to set up a traditional business. There are almost no sunk costs, you don't have to leave your house to do work, it doesn't re-

quire full time attention. You can make your business as big or small as you like and you can stop at any time without having incurred massive losses.

already cottoned on to this idea. We know that it's a good place to go if you want to flog your unwanted belongings and make extra cash. More impressively, there are some who have made thousands of dollars worth (of business) out of it by buying items in bulk and selling them. This is quite an ambitious aim for the average student, but there's no reason any ordinary person (provided that they put in the time and the effort) shouldn't achieve reasonable success. After all, this is eBay: you can sell pretty much anything. This has in the past included anything from misshapen vegetables, to wisdom teeth, to a UFO detector and vampire killing kits. You can sell your labour or sell your head as ad space. These are obviously not the foundations of a money-making business but they make you realise the potential of such a big market. You can really focus on something you like doing, put in as many hours as you want to put in and make something out of it. After all, who wouldn't want to graduate from university having started their own business?



worth the extra cash. This is exactly why online business is handy: it doesn't require you to deal with loans and rents and all the other stuff that has to be considered if you had decided

To a degree, students have

You can make your business as big or small as you like and you can stop at any time without having incurred massive losses.

The screenshot shows the eBay homepage with the following elements:

- Navigation:** Home, Buy, Sell, My eBay, Community, Help, Search, Advanced Search.
- Search Bar:** "What are you looking for?" with a search button and search tips.
- Buy Section:** "Place a bid or Buy It Now" with instructions on how to purchase.
- Pay Section:** "Pay for your item" highlighting PayPal as the preferred payment method.
- Featured Items:** A list of items for sale, including "Sterling silver 999 Initial Necklaces with chain", "MISSOURI OZARKS 6.12 ACRES POWER/PHONE", and "CBS WEIGHT LOSS WINNER 'THE GREAT WEIGH-OFF' CHAMPION".
- Global Sites:** A dropdown menu to shop around the world.
- Footer:** Copyright information and various links like Feedback Forum, Downloads, and Gift Certificates.

...So here are top tips for a wannabe eBay-buff

As with any business you need to find a niche and decide what your business is going to be all about – this can be something you buy cheap or put together cheap, then sell at a higher price

If you're completely new then build up your positive feedback by buying items first to show your customers that you're trustworthy

Size up your competition before you set your prices – you can search for all the completed listings to see how much your good was sold for and take a cue from the sellers whose products sold for the highest prices (i.e. What was the item description like? What were they offering that others weren't?)

Be professional. Have a good line of communication with your buyers, always leave them feedback, make sure your items are sent off in time – basically make your customer service top notch. As always this is key.

Get familiar with the spate of services that eBay provides for sellers. There are a lot of tools and tips if you know do your research (including statistics on what sort of listings bring in the most cash).

Deadline Watch

Internships

- PWC : **31st March** Finance /Law /Consulting
- Reuters: **April 2007** Media /IT /Finance /Law
- Government Legal Service: **30th March**
- Government Economic Service: **Mid March**

Graduates

- Nestle UK Ltd: **9th March** Finance
- Teach First: **30th March**
- Careers in Africa: **18th March** Graduate opportunities across Africa
- Zurich Financial Services: **31st March** Business Analysis
- Abbey: **8th March** Talent Development Programme
- Secure Trust Bank: **12th March** Trainee Manager

In defence of banking

Roger Lewis explains why we should love the banks

Banking gets a bad press at the London School of Economics. Despite the hoards of students who will hop on the Central Line to Bank (1/8 of LSE students applied to Goldman Sachs alone last year) there is a core of anti-banker sentiment which permeates everywhere in the school. I'm sure we can all imagine it. Sat with a liberal friend who's just about to dash off to flier the world with anti-Peter Sutherland or living wage leaflets, the issue of internships rises: "I can't believe you want to go in to banking" or "The City?!" The look on their face seems to imply that even working for the devil would be preferable. The banks are attacked as a career path on two fronts: first the lifestyle and then the services they provide.



1987: This is the year of the Yuppie and the height of the Thatcher boom. Money is everywhere and its get rich quick, arrogance and obnoxiousness to hand. Times have changed but the City lifestyle is still real alpha male stuff with early rises, fitness regimes, lavish lunches and champagne-fuelled evenings. My cousin, an executive analyst at Deutsch Bank, once spent £2,000 on a lunch. Fast cars, flash flats and massive bonuses are the aim of the game: for women its power suits, Dolce and Gabbana and Harvey Nichols. Almost £9 billion has been distributed in the City this year - the approxi-

mate market value of Sainsbury's. It's for reasons such as this that Peter Hain, a leading Labour politician, recently suggested bonuses should be shared out to the needy and Charity. But what you have to remember about is the amount of hard work that's put in. Those early rises end in late nights and even requirements to work weekends. Tough deadlines and the pressure of competition build up to provide a pretty stressful job. Which is precisely why the bonuses are

justified. Of course (to coin a phrase) greed is never good and it is true to say the community should always be supported. Those with a conscience should, and do, support these in any case. Ultimately the high incomes earned in the City spread throughout London and everyone benefits, even if pricy sandwiches are what us students get left with.

According to most, the banks are bastards. Personal debt is at record levels, recently climbing over the £1 trillion fig-

ure, and the banks with their massive profits are to blame. One friend was saying to me the other day: "How could you do it? The banks ruin so many people's lives". It's always tough coming back on this one. Well, I said, yes when people take on too much debt they do walk in to difficulties. But firstly they should be mindful of avoiding excessive debt and then remember the vast majority of ordi-

nary people who get a loan and are thus able to re-decorate or extend their home, buy a new car or take a special holiday. Entrepreneurs can start their new business or develop a product, resulting in longer-term job creation and investment. Investment banks perform a similar function. Companies that gain economies of scale through mergers become more efficient, whilst successful companies create jobs as their equity shares rise from investments. Every consumer product we buy come from companies depends on a vibrant financial services sector, whilst most of us would probably be without a roof over our heads in the absence of mortgages. Besides support to industry, London as the financial capital of the world contributes so much to the country's income and makes up for our ever-escalating de-industrialization.

So enough of this 'selling your soul then?' or a gleeful 'enjoy your eight 'til eight day!' The fact is that banking generates massive wealth and employment for both Britain and the world. The success of all our livelihoods really depends on it, not to mention the personal benefits of a high-flying banking career. Don't knock it.

The banks are attacked as a career path on two fronts: first the lifestyle and then the services they provide

Last minute internships

Sadia Kidwai shares the secret to finding a last minute internship.

So you applied to Goldman Sachs weeks ago. You wore your best suit, brushed your teeth, gelled your hair and knocked them dead at the interview (figuratively speaking, of course). But, alas, they rejected you. Now what? Months wasted? Chance of a lifetime, gone?

Alternatively, having been the diligent LSE student, you have succeeded in spending two terms submerging yourself in a) the Course Collection of the Library; b) The Wright's Bar; c) Facebook. However, those incessant emails from the Careers Service are starting to nag at the back of your mind. Eventually you decide to put down your copy of the Beaver and start applying for internships at all those hotshot banks, to find out you've left it too late.

Never fear - the Beaver is here! I'm no Auntie Shaw, but I can impart a few pearls of wisdom. First things first; it isn't the end of the world if you don't get an internship Goldman Sachs. Keep your options open. So what, you didn't get to do an internship at a highflying investment bank? Then apply to a lesser known one. In many ways, this makes more sense. Firstly, the competition is much less fierce, and you're more likely to gain a place. Secondly, they are much more likely to make you an offer for full-time employment, which will im-

press future employers far more than a failed Citibank application form.

Question is, where do you find all these unknown banks? The LSE Careers Service, for all

...it is vital to make an impact on employers that is not entirely based on your grades.

its irritating emails, is probably the best place to start. The website is murder to navigate, with enough links to make you suicidal, but at least the information is there. Make a checklist of the companies on there, and dedicate time to check each of their websites. Many companies don't

have information on their websites regarding formal internships for undergraduate

week unpaid internship, but showing a willingness to work will result in glowing refer-



students. In that case, the best thing to do is ring them up. Take the unofficial, informal route, and show some initiative. It might be slow and arduous, and you might not get that 8 week paid internship that you wanted, but employers will be impressed by your persistence. You may only be offered a 2

ences, which is essential to finding a good job once you graduate from the hallowed halls of Clement House.

Besides which, the skills which you will learn in any internship will be invaluable to you when you finally do apply for full-time employment,

Quick Job Find

Looking for jobs? Here are some opportunities listed on the LSE careers website that you might find interesting. For further information <https://careers.lse.ac.uk/lse-website-main/student/searchForPositions.html>.

Employer: Opinion Leader Research

Position: Research Executive

Description: You will need to be able to: Write concise, sharp reports that offer recommendations and not just reportage Conduct interviews, focus groups and workshops with confidence (post training) Confidently analyse data Communicate effectively with a broad range of people - from the socially excluded to Chief Executives

Salary Range: Salary negotiable

Closing Date: 9 May 08

Employer: Creativevents

Position: Bar Staff

Description: Work on a range of bars at many different events from the Ideal Home Show to Razorlight, Royal Ascot, Lords, Henley Regatta and Art and Fashion Shows!! Be serving coffee one day and champagne the next - there's something for every skill to suit everyone!

Salary Range: £5-10 per hour

Closing Date: 15 Apr 07

Employer: Cadbury Trebor Bassett

Position: Field Sales One Year Placement

Description: Our Sales Executive Placement Scheme will give individuals the opportunity to gain valuable work experience whilst providing a basis of study as part of their further education. They will perform a real sales executive role from day 1 and will be taken through a thorough training programme in order to build their skills.

Salary Range: £15-20k per year

Closing Date: 11 Mar 07

Employer: Cambridge Place Limited

Position: Real Estate Fund Analyst

Description: Undertake the analysis of Real Estate acquisitions and asset management initiatives and ongoing monitoring and internal reporting of such transactions across a pan-European portfolio. Backed by sound analytical work, provide advice on strategy relating to proposed and existing projects.

Salary Range: Salary negotiable

Closing Date: 30 April 07

Employer: McLagan Partners

Position: Analyst Internship

Description: Candidates will work alongside senior consultants in the development and execution of consulting projects and annual compensation studies.

Salary Range: £300-400 a week

Closing Date: 28 February 07



The

Ali Moussavi interview

Referred to as "captain" by the Director of the London School of Economics, Stelios Haji-Ioannou is no newcomer to the LSE. A frequent guest, the Greek-Cypriot born British entrepreneur is sat in the Green Room behind the Old Theatre. The walls are covered in images of the great speakers our venerable institution has hosted in past years.

The 40-year old LSE alumnus has become a legend in corporate circles. Known endearingly as Stelios, his Mediterranean charm epitomizes the easyGroup attitude to business. He has appeared on billboards and television and radio advertisements.

"Within the business world, you have to make a distinction between the often called corporate animals – people who would try an internship with Goldman Sachs and then work for Goldman Sachs – and entrepreneurs – people who want to start their own business." Stelios attracts the latter to his public lectures.

He paints the distinction as an animalistic instinct young university graduates possess. "Some say that if you have not started your own business by your twenties you probably will not do it."

The big firms at the LSE – the so-called "patrons" of the careers service attract much advertising revenue. The School has almost become a conveyor belt for the high-flying graduate. Goldman? JP? Morgan Stanley? Merrill? Graduates, take your pick. The recent development of LSE departments such as Management, Human Resources, Industrial Relations, Accounting and Finance, have added to the flavour of an institution which prepares its graduates for a narrow world of work.

I asked Stelios if he thought that this culture was unhealthy for the freedom of an entrepreneurial culture. Does the LSE graduates' conveyor belt remove the incentives for a free exchange of ideas and entrepreneurship?

Stelios disagrees: "The world needs both investment bankers and entrepreneurs. Not everybody is [going] to be an entrepreneur. [Investment banking jobs are] not a bad way to get some training/experience."

"People say that Bill Gates walked out of Harvard to start Microsoft and who needs formal education? I disagree." He suggested that the bright-eyed graduate pool take their formal education and get a few years of experience before they considered the lone path of the entrepreneur.

Stelios graduated in Economics from the LSE and went on to the Cass Business School at City University to take a Masters degree in Shipping Trade and Economics. His Greek/Mediterranean heritage placed him in a fortunate position to pursue the industry where his family held stakes. Working for his father was valuable pre-entrepreneur experience for him. Stelios admits that

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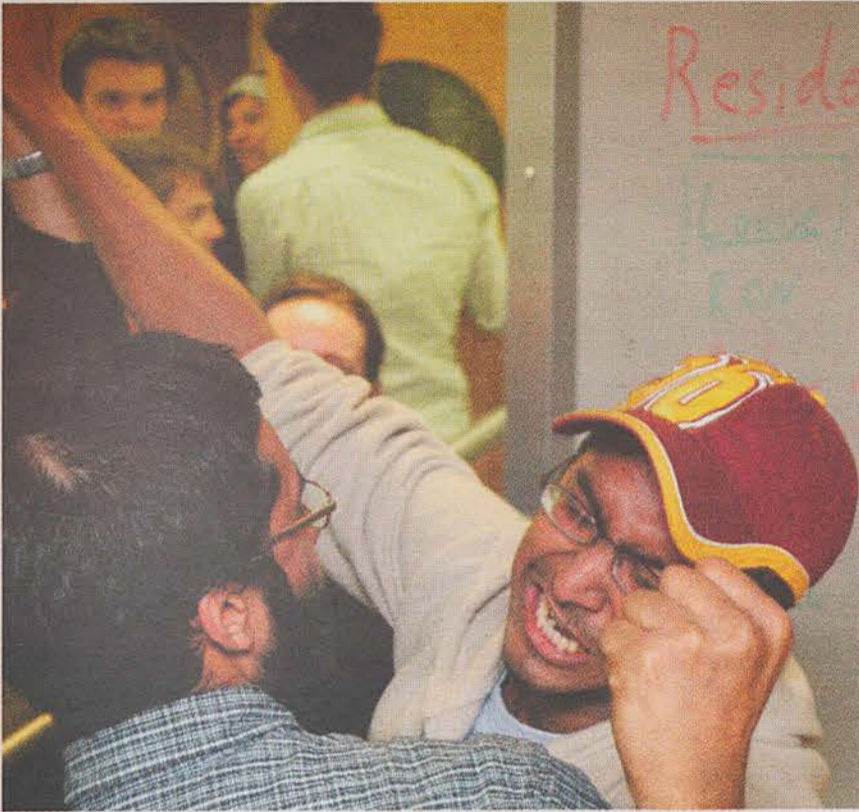
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POST ELECTION pullout



In the early hours of March 2nd, the LSE Students' Union Officers for the 2007-2008 academic year were elected after an intense campaign season. In spite of allegations of racism, sexism and negative campaigning, the Lent Term Elections were hailed as a success by many of those involved. In this post-election pullout, *The Beaver* looks back on count night and looks forward to a new year with a new Executive Committee.



Sabbatical Officers



Fadhil Bakeer-Markar	808
Zoe Sullivan	545
Spoilt	47
Re-Open Nominations	163

Election Pledges

- Standing up for affordable education and better student support, while improving the quality of teaching
- Lobby for exam feedback and summer re-sits and against visa charge rises
- Greater SU-School consultation
- Better quality food on campus
- Better Media Group facilities
- More environmentally sound LSE

General Secretary: Fadhil Bakeer-Markar

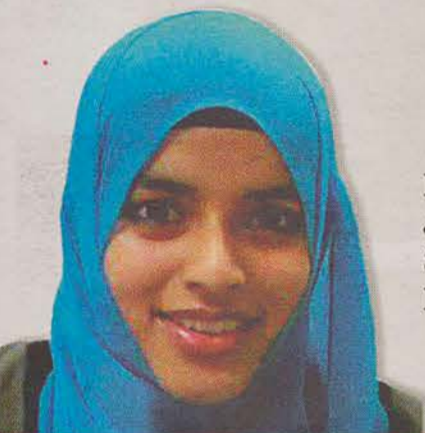


Libby Meyer	694
Jeff Courtney	548
Tom Davey	245
Spoilt	324
Re-Open Nominations	60

Election Pledges

- Encourage use of SU facilities
- Train Freshers Fair volunteers
- Greater Fresher accessibility to AU clubs
- Replacing existing Parish Hall floor to be more accessible to AU teams
- Induction evening for society officers at the beginning of the year
- Greater communication with societies regarding their budgets

Treasurer: Libby Meyer



Ruhana Ali	802
James Ketteringham	458
Spoilt	179
Re-Open Nominations	130

Election Pledges

- Campaigning against fee increases and proposals to lift limits on under graduate fees
- Pressing for an end to visa charges for international students
- Lobbying against fees for postgraduate applications and for more bursaries
- Ensuring easy access to lecture notes and course packs
- Improving tutorial support
- Termly welfare student forums
- Improving disabled access to union buildings

Education and Welfare Officer: Ruhana Ali



Kayt Berry	659
Dan Sheldon	469
Simon Douglas	296
Ed Chevasco	250
Spoilt	431
Re-Open Nominations	78

Election Pledges

- Build a bridge between student government and the Media Group
- Encourage evolution of the Union General Meeting (UGM) with simple measures designed to increase overall student participation
- Increased use and development of web resources
- Refining an SU news feed
- Creating personalised calendars

Communications Officer: Kayt Berry

Retiring Sabbatical Officers



Jimmy Tam,
General Secretary



Joel Kenrick,
Treasurer



Alexandra Vincenti,
Ed & Welfare Officer



Ali Dewji,
Communications Officer

Part-Time Executive Officers

-Retiring-



Carys Morgan
Om Dhumatkar
Andy Hallet
Spoilt
Re-Open Nominations

611
562
284
211
103

Election Pledges

- Will share best practice between societies that self-finance and those that don't, to more equally spread money to those niche societies that need more help with funding
- Will massively increase society involvement in RAG
- Will encourage community between national groups, and maximise use of joint budget. Encourage events at halls
- Will consider societies' needs, from publicity to storage space

Societies Officer: Carys Morgan



Arthur Krebbers



Louise Robinson
Spoilt
Re-Open Nominations

1,029
236
293

Election Pledges

- Will remain committed to Living Wage and will secure from the School on campus and in Halls
- Will continue to work with SU Green Party to demand a greater commitment to environmental sustainability
- Will improve information available to prospective and current students; will support students moving into and within London
- Will make Halls bars work for students, improving common space use
- Will support Halls committees in order to effect the changes that residences want in individual halls
- Will work towards improved bandwidth

Residences Officer: Louise Robinson



Re-elected



Lizzie Fison
Shayaan Afsar
Spoilt
Re-Open Nominations

668
508
272
107

Election Pledges

- Promises to raise diversity of disabilities and well-being issues
- Will publicise resources available, including explicit references in Freshers' info
- Will increase awareness and motivate disability friendliness with articles, posters, workshops and SU recognition awards
- Will continue to co-operating with Disability and Wellbeing office and Circles

Students with Disabilities Officer: Lizzie Fison



Emma Hallgren



Ziyaad Lunat
Michael Blackwood
Spoilt
Re-Open Nominations

617
463
329
151

Election Pledges

- Will work with careers service to address career requirements specific to post-grads and ensure equal opportunities for mature graduates
- Will campaign to reduce tuition fees and work for the establishment of specialist support groups
- Will lobby for extra academic support, different office hours for PT students, and extension of administrative and academic deadlines

Mature/ Part-time Students Officer: Ziyaad Lunat



Michail Retsinas



Firoz Noordeen
Adrian Rogstad
Spoilt
Re-Open Nominations

649
505
408
158

Election Pledges

- Will increase representation and make residence international representatives more effectual
- Will improve LSE induction by encouraging familiarisation of London, via pioneering cultural events
- Further develop the international students handbook and work towards General Course guide
- Expand SU diversity, by encouraging diverse intercultural events through increased mutual co-operation among societies
- Will enhance welfare, by lobbying against fee rises, visa rises, work permit restrictions and push for more bursaries. Will work with anti-racism officer to fight discrimination. Will work with Environment & Ethics officer to form a more eco-friendly and healthy LSE

International Students: Firoz Noordeen



Fadhil Bakeer-Markar

CONTINUED>>

Count Night

2.20 AM: Fisher re-elected as E&E Officer



3.00 AM: Bakeer-Markar elected GenSec

Thursday, 1 March
7.00 PM: Voting closes

2.08 AM: Morgan wins Societies Officer



1.50 AM: Adewusi wins Anti-Racism Officer

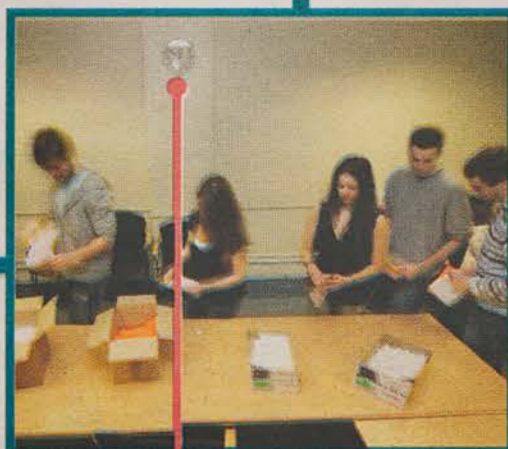


"The ballots were kept in exclusion zones."
SU Returning Officer
Adrian Beciri

Friday, 2 March
12.10 AM: Howard Davies re-appointment votes counted



3.47 AM: Ali wins EdWelfare Officer



Thursday, 1 March
10.05 PM: Ballots being separated



"Jimmy's a nice guy. There have been some ups and downs. I consider him a close friend. There have been issues, but there have been issues. Gen Sec-elect speaks about his

nt Timeline



**15 AM: Meyer
ected Treasurer**



“Concentrating on my degree and hopefully a Masters for next year.”
Gen Sec runner-up on her post-election plans

**4.10 AM:
SU Returning
Officer Adrian Beciri
offers a free ride
home to anyone
who will stay to
count C&S and
F&S...most people
head home**



**3.56 AM: Berry
elected as
Communications
Officer**



**3.30 AM:
STV voting system
takes the
Communications
race into a 4th
round of counting**

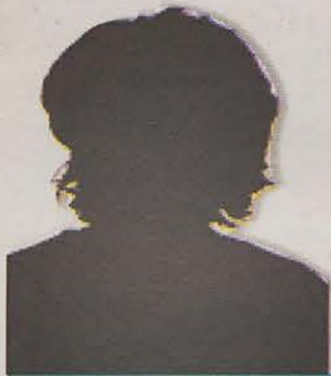


been ups and
d even though
s.”
predecessor





PART-TIME OFFICERS CONTINUED



Dominic Rampat
Spoilt
Re-Open Nominations

963
370
251

LGBT Officer: Dominic Rampat

Election Pledges

- Will encourage higher levels of participation within the society for all, regardless of sexuality
- Will work closely with Womens' and International students officer to ensure fair representation
- Will support lesbian rights campaign
- Will ensure better advertising of office hours and LGBT counselling services. Will integrate more with welfare sabbatical to ensure those seek help who need it
- A truly integrated LGBT society within SU. Fighting both homophobia and exclusivity within LGBT
- Will ensure that LGBT Awareness Week is high profile; try to facilitate LGBT career fairs and health workshops

RETIRING CONTINUED



Alex Finnegan



Aled Dilwyn Fisher
Doug Oliver
Spoilt
Re-Open Nominations

673
627
260
78

Environment & Ethics Officer: Aled Dilwyn Fisher

Election Pledges

- Will ensure another Climate Change Awareness Week; Environmental careers fair; Freshers' environmental induction
- Will campaign to extend TFL student discount
- Will achieve Gold Class In Sound Impact Environmental Awards
- Will reduce Houghton Street postering using notice boards and electronic advertising
- Will encourage ethical investment



Re-elected



Amina Adewusi
Emmanuel Akpan-Inwang
Abul 'Abz' Hussain
Spoilt
Re-Open Nominations

581
553
208
415
94

Anti-Racism Officer: Amina Adewusi

Election Pledges

- Will work with national organisations to tackle racism, and celebrate diversity through joint cultural/ethnic/religious inter-society events
- Will work for increased representation for an inclusive union that is both approachable and appealing to all students
- Will try to ensure that important topics concerning anti-racism are debated and discussed throughout the LSE



Shanela Haque



Daisy Mitchell-Forster
Helen Roberts
Spoilt
Re-Open Nominations

721
422
275
144

Women's Officer: Daisy Mitchell-Forster

Election Pledges

- Will defend a woman's' right to choose and make sure fuller information regarding all options is available, as well as set up support groups
- Will provide free-defence workshops in halls and on-campus; and buses home from Crush
- Co-ordination with local gum clinics and St Phillips to safeguard confidential access to healthcare, advice and promotion smear testing
- Will provide more sustainable and healthy products, such as mooncups and glycerine-free lubricants
- Will campaign continuously for gender equality and related issues



Zoe Sullivan



James Bacon
Spoilt
Re-Open Nominations

906
392
264

Returning Officer: James Bacon

Election Pledges

- Will ensure election campaigns are run fairly and to strict guidelines
- Will intervene where necessary to ensure free and fair elections
- Will encourage under-represented sections of student body to participate in SU elections by utilising all forms of campus media to its' best effect
- Will push for electronic voting system, and raise awareness of STV and AV voting systems
- Encourage campaign reform to allow for internet campaign options and improve current elections documents



Adrian Beciri

Constitution and Steering

James Ketteringham
Andy Hallett
Rachael O'Rourke
Helen Roberts

Elle Dodd
Tony Luo
Huuda Khaireh

Finance and Services

Shayaan Afsar
Daisy O'Brien

Ken Wang
Sadia Najma Kidwai



Success of electronic voting



Thank you to everyone who took part in the elections and particularly those who decided to make use of our new online voting system to register their thoughts on Howard Davis. I would like to mention a special thanks to Ron Riley, a senior programmer from the LSE. With his guidance and hard work we have built the framework to move to a unique system of voting on paper and online concurrently. I strongly urge all readers to attend this Thursday's UGM and support a Codes of Practice amendment that will allow the use of electronic technology in forthcoming elections.

Adrian Beciri
SU Returning Officer

Election Night Live

Nothing, absolutely nothing, beats the adrenaline rush, the lunatic frenzy, the pulse-pounding excitement of producing a live event broadcast. Even the voyeuristic thrill of the ballot count pales in comparison. The endless email exchanges with IT services, the fruitless dry-runs in the days leading up to the count night, the pressure cooker atmosphere in the final seconds before the programme goes on air, all culminating in the satisfaction of a successful live stream of the unfolding drama in the count room out to the world.

From late hours of Thursday night into early Friday morning, the election count which gripped the attention of the SU hacks were irrelevant. The usually tranquil classroom that is A318 transformed instantaneously into a war room; the command information centre of the LSE

SU media group. The live coverage, for the next 7 hours had become the be-all and end-all for the gung-ho mob of LooSE and PuLSE, the all-consuming obsession for the SU media group.

Somewhat ironically, for the physically-drained production team, the true drama of the night had little to do with the elections count which they were covering live. The edge-of-the-seat affair revolved instead around the series of crises within the studio; crashing of the streaming server, malfunctioning of broadcasting software, technical difficulties with cameras and audio hardware. In a heartbeat, the seemingly successful broadcast fell to pieces, cueing mass hysteria. A flurry of remedying action restored temporal calm, but the cautious amongst them reckoned the next pitfall was just around the corner. The cycle soon repeats, but cool heads

prevail.

Putting in almost Herculean efforts, the likes of PuLSE extraordinaire (not to mention former student) Phil Hutchinson and El Presidente of LooSE Sanj Krishnan eventually tided the motley gang through the emotional roller-coaster. As the multitude of technical troubles fell by the wayside, order was gradually restored. The production effort quickly slipped into a clock-work-like operation, and the viewer count of 30 a priceless remuneration for tireless efforts. As the count night wound down to its inevitable conclusion, the triumphant candidates drown in booze and adulation, while unsung heroes exchange pats-on-the-back for a job well done. The next adrenaline fix? Election Night Live 2008.

Chun Han Wong
LooSE TV



Non-Sabb Rundown

Many of the elections for the Students' Union (SU) non-sabbatical executive positions were hotly contested, while some candidates were unchallenged.

The Societies race was a closer and more hotly contested race, with three candidates up for the position. Carys Morgan was elected to succeed the present societies officer Arthur Krebbers.

Daisy Mitchell-Forster was elected as Women's Officer with 721 votes over her opponent Helen Roberts' 422 votes.

The most hotly contested race for a non-sabbatical position was that of Environment and Ethics officer. Doug Oliver challenged incumbent officer

Aled Fisher for the position, and failed to take it away from him by 46 votes. The final result of the race stood at 673 for Fisher and 627 for Oliver.

The anti-racism officer proved to be quite close as well, with Emmanuel Akpan-Inwang losing out on the position by just 28 votes. The final result for the position was 553 for Akpan-Inwang to Amina Adewusi's 581.

Candidates who were unchallenged, except for the option of re-opening nominations, included Louise Robinson who will return for a second term as Residences Officer, James Bacon who was elected as Returning Officer, and Dominic Rampat who was elected as LGBT Officer.

The results for the non-sabbatical elections were announced at the beginning of the night, and predictably raised speculation over which of the winners will run for a sabbatical position in the following year. Societies Officer-elect Morgan said that she didn't know if she would pursue the path to General Secretary next year.

Fisher suggested that this path will not be followed by himself. Asked whether he would be running for a sabbatical position this time next year, he replied, "Absolutely not. It's my last Lent term election."

Erica Gornall
Senior Reporter



Seen and heard

ON HOUGHTON STREET

Vote for Zoe: Be happy
Ali Dewji, SU Communications Officer



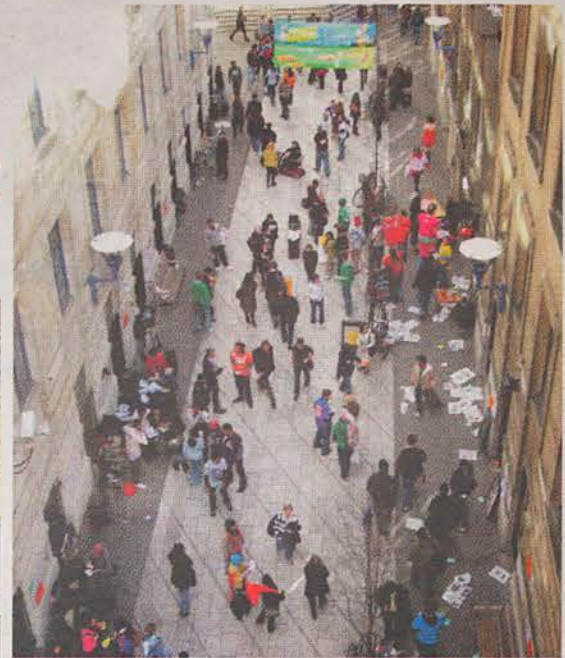
Vote for me because English is my first language!

Unidentified campaigner reported in a complaint



SuperRu-- Supporting you all the way through!

Ruhana Ali
Education and Welfare Candidate

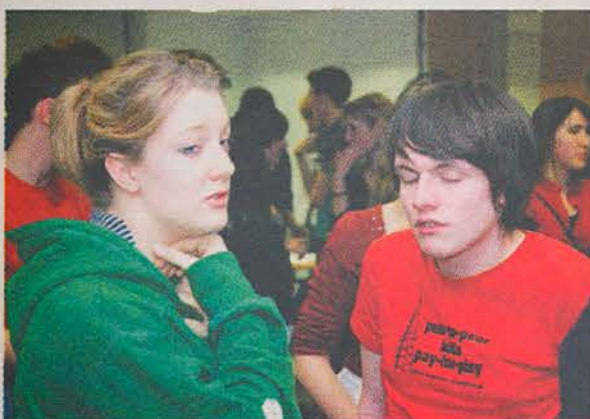


Berry can Communi-Kayt!
Kayt Berry, Comms candidate

Express your apathy--Vote RON for General Secretary
Unidentified campaigner



ON COUNT NIGHT



I have a wet ass
Dan Sheldon, Comms candidate

I hope to not be humiliated and get really drunk!
Edward Chevasco, Comms candidate



The integrity of the ballots was maintained

Adrian Beciri
SU Returning Officer

This is the most dictatorial count I have ever seen. Takes all the fun out of it. Adrian is a killjoy!

Steve Gummer
LooSE TV Presenter



We have still won the moral victory because we haven't used any negative campaigning

Doug Oliver, Environment and Ethics Candidate



The easy entrepreneur

interviews the man behind the easyGroup empire

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hosted

he was fortunate.

"If you haven't got a rich father, you have to consider an outsider to finance [your entrepreneurial project]. They will need to see more than four or five years of experience. So spending a period at Goldman Sachs is not a bad way to prepare yourself for entrepreneurship."

Stelios' philosophy suggests that the amazing thing about entrepreneurship is that it comes in all shapes and sizes. There are always the A-level dropouts who stroll down the high-street to start Amstrad and Virgin (Sir Alan Sugar and Sir Richard Branson respectively). However, there are also those who have put themselves through LSE and Harvard Business School and landed up at Goldman Sachs and McKinsey.

lies a lot on being willing to risk business to get a higher return.

"The classic trade-off that people have to make is: Do I work for Goldman Sachs and get a salary or do I transfer a business and make a lot more than a salary? And that's about risk taking: which risk to take at what stage."

"If you really want to promote entrepreneurship, you should promote a culture where non-fraudulent business failure is actually tolerated. If you're stigmatized for trying and failing then fewer people will try in the future."

As Howard Davies indicates that the public lecture is about to commence on the stage of the New Theatre, Stelios put his Blackberry in his jacket and hurries over his philosophy; how do we promote entrepreneurship?

promoted peace in the Middle East and some had brought Europe into an ever-closer union. "How many of the people on that wall are actually entrepreneurs? George Soros, maybe? That's about it."

The LSE students who dream of Wall Street and Liverpool Street should look beyond the city skyline. Some are destined to make a salary and some are destined to make a whole lot more.

"If you haven't got a rich father, you have to consider an outsider to finance [your entrepreneurial project]. So spending a period at Goldman Sachs is not a bad way to prepare yourself for entrepreneurship."



Student enterprise

Andrea Kreideweiss discusses how you can improve your CV by starting your own business

Not sure whether the world of traditional employment is for you? Then you may want to consider running your own business. Whilst running your own business is very much about making a financial profit, it does not necessarily mean you that you are only working towards generating economic value. Instead, you might want to look into finding a commercial solution towards a social need. This type of venture is called a Social Enterprise and has substantially increased in popularity in recent years.

Putting together a Business Plan

Regardless of whether it is a commercial or a social enterprise, there are a few basics that you will need to get your head around if you are interested in starting an enterprise. It is easiest doing this in a structured way, by compiling a business plan. It is possible to be self-employed or start a business without a business plan, but producing one will help you putting a structure around your idea and help you formulate medium to long-term objectives. It helps you to ask yourself the right type of questions, communicate the objective and nature of your business to other people and is essential if you require external funding. A business plan would normally include a description of your business expertise so far, a description of the business opportunity or social need you plan to address, information on your

product or service, your marketing and sales strategy, operational details, financial forecasts and details of the funding you need. Templates and help with business plan writing is available from a number of sources, including your local Business Link (www.b141.co.uk) or Shell Live Wire (www.shell-livewire.org). You might also

commercial mistakes in somebody else's business! However, entrepreneurship is not just about having a letter from Companies House saying you are the managing director. It is about hands-on involvement, leadership, commercial awareness, thoroughness, creativity, hard work and eagerness to learn - lots of things that you can work

tion run by the Careers Service & LSE Entrepreneurs, offered a prize of £9,000.

As a bonus, participating in activities related to entrepreneurship and small business planning will allow you to develop the much sought after commercial awareness that graduate recruiters will most definitely grill you about in an interview. Once you have participated in a competition, and have had your business plan critically evaluated by a jury, you will find yourself better equipped to for a job interview. So you won't have to dread all those questions about "team working" and "presentation skills".

Getting Started

Whilst you're trying to come up with that money-making idea, you might want start preparing yourself for entrepreneurship.

Sign up for the www.startquest.net start-up course

Try to take part in at least one business plan competition whilst at LSE. Check www.pitchit.biz

For more information on London's social enterprise sector visit www.sel.gov.uk



"Within the business world, you have to make a distinction between the often called corporate animals - people who would try an internship with Goldman Sachs and then work for Goldman Sachs - and entrepreneurs - people who want to start their own business."

Technical and practical education is no fault; neither are Masters degrees. If anything they give the future entrepreneur a more solid foundation.

But prior to that foundation, there is an even more fundamental one - attitude. You have to take risks. Entrepreneurship re-

We celebrate success for encouragement and tolerate failure to avoid discouragement.

He points at the photos on the walls of speakers at the LSE: they had all changed the world in some way. Some had worked to end apartheid. Some had ended the Cold War. Some had



want to refer to the LSE Careers Service as they offer courses in business plan writing as part of their annual Entrepreneurship Master Class seminars.

Improving your CV

It is quite likely that for a number of reasons you may not want to start your own business just now. After all, it might be advisable to make your first

while you are studying at the LSE.

One way of doing this is to participate in a business plan competition. The advantage of this is that there is no risk of losing any of your own cash, but you will get valuable feedback on your idea and have the chance to win some serious prize money. For example, *Pitch It!*, LSE's very own business plan competi-

STELIOS FACTS

He was educated in Athens at the Doukas High School and in 1984 continued his education at the London School of Economics

He has established has more than 17 ventures and created easyJet Plc when he was 28

In November 2006 Stelios received a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II for services to entrepreneurship

easyJet, valued at £1.6 billion, is the biggest European budget airline

My Best Job

Saurabh Sharma prefers to teach

Long long time ago, in a place far far away (well, Australia...), before the stresses and pressures of university, exams, internships and careers, I remember a time when I actually did a job because I was sincerely interested in it. I understand that teaching might not lie in the career paths of many students who go to LSE, but those who do want to go that direction have my utmost respect. Of all the jobs that I have done (ranging all the way from the glamorous highs of a paper boy, riding my bike from door to door at 5am, to spending this summer in the offices of Goldman Sachs) this was simultaneously the most interesting, frustrating, and satisfying. My job entailed going in every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday after school to go to a Church basement (for anyone who ever goes to Perth, it's on Princess Drive; you can add it to your scenic tour of the city!) where I taught primary school kids everything from Maths and English to Chemistry. I know it doesn't particularly sound like the most interesting job, to sit for four hours going through examples of how to do multiplication and helping write essays, but to see the proverbial light bulb turn on was satisfying.

Admittedly, being a tutor didn't pay spectacularly well and after a handful of months at the job I decided to go pursue a more lucrative part time job, which involved working as a university professor assistant: interesting but exceedingly dry. But even doing fieldwork that challenged university professors was little challenge compared to trying to teach a 6 year old how to do basic maths and trying your very best to comprehend how someone could not understand how to add 6 + 7! That being said, I also had the chance to teach some kids who were incredibly smart and were far brighter than I was at their age.

More than the academic side of it, tutoring gave me the chance to forget about being a teenager and act like a kid again. It was fun when I quietly indulged in producing distinctly average crayon drawings and doing all the things I hadn't done since I was young, except this time I could appreciate the utterly simple pleasures of drawing stick figures, and I got paid for it as well!

To be honest, I have never understood the point of doing a job, even a part time one, if it is really rubbish and you are doing it purely for the money. I've been lucky in the sense that all the jobs that I've done have been interesting or fun in some way, but if you had to ask me what one of my favourite jobs was, I'd say teaching!

Journalism: the ideal career?

Meryem Torun interviews LSE alumnus and former Beaver editor Mark Power, who is now a Channel 4 journal-

When you first arrived at LSE, did you think you were going to go into a career in the media, or did you have an idea what career you wanted to go into?

I think I thought about being a journalist, it was one of the strong things I wanted to do but I wasn't set on it necessarily. There were lots of things crossing my mind really. I was as you are when you're a first year undergraduate; you're hapless. I wasn't a determined journalist from the outset, I think probably actually I wanted to be a diplomat more than anything else.

You became an editor of the Beaver eventually, how much did that prepare you for what you're doing now?

It was really excellent preparation. You have to think about who your students are and whose reading your paper and what they want to read and that is key to journalism, because it is communication, and its what your reader, or viewer, or listener, it's what they want to know, what they think is interesting. Those are the tools you learn, the news judgement, what's important to people and how to communicate that.

You're obviously doing TV journalism now, what made you pick that over written journalism?

I never saw myself in TV at all actually because I thought if I wanted to be a journalist, I'd be a newspaper journalist. The main thing is knowing how dif-

ficult it is to get a job. I applied for the job never expecting to get it, I'd been turned by a lot of others like the Guardian Traineeship and Financial Times Traineeship, so I didn't expect to get it. When I did get it, I thought well, it's a year, they're paying, they're training me to be a journalist, let's see what happens. And I ended up really enjoying the visual media, really enjoying the directness of the communication. It's a different skill and it's interesting and challenging. And I think maybe there is a bit more of a chance in TV to be out in the field as a junior member of staff, than there may be on papers.

Do you have any advice for people who are maybe looking for jobs in media but not finding them?

It's a really bad industry for seeking out and finding good talent in terms of its formal HR procedures - nothing like the banks. But it's changing. I think the scheme that I was on has made a real effort to try and find people from different backgrounds, made a real effort to do it fairly. And they didn't actually ask for a CV, they asked you to critique a program and to answer specific questions on a webpage application form. Things that are much more relevant and specific to the jobs rather than where you went to university, which they didn't even ask. What you learn here is what's important that you get out of this education, it's doing

things like the Beaver, if you want a career in journalism, its getting the broader experience, because this is an amazing



work experience program, it's very good, they generally get around to most people that apply. Get your applications in early, put down that you will be available for all of the following holidays. It's really important to get just a couple of weeks of work experience.

something like that. You don't have to spend months and months working for them. More than anything people want to know that you really know what journalism's like and you still want to do it. The other thing is actually, ITV do have a work experience process, which you can apply for on the ITV jobs website.

“
...[being editor of the Beaver] was really excellent preparation”

What if you just want to work in written media, do you think it's still important to get experience in radio and TV?

It's such a changing industry that it really depends. But I think a broad range of experience is probably always good. Because that shows that you have looked at papers, looked at radio, you've looked at TV and decided you liked TV or decided you liked print. Because people are looking for people who are going to stick with them.

Finally, is your career in the media what you expected it to be, is it as glamorous as people think it is?

It really isn't glamorous, it's a lot of hard work and intensely competitive, and you do have to be quite tough. But then I think any career worth having these days is like that. And its not all bad. It's great fun. We sit in an afternoon in Channel 4 News and discuss how we're going to cover a story, and it's really engaging and intellectual, because at the end of the day, you're planning an project that people are going to enjoy. It is a creative industry in that regard.

place and some amazing people come through here. Although you may not realise it at the time you're here, it's not like other universities, and its that that you get from being here, it's not the name, the LSE. Don't expect to get in because you were at the LSE. That won't necessarily open doors for you.

Apart from getting involved in student journalism, what else do you think looks good on your CV?

Work experience. BBC runs a

You mentioned the BBC, are there any other internships?

The papers are difficult, to my knowledge, they don't run formal schemes. Local papers are a great place to do it. Go and pester your local radio station, your local paper, they have loads of people on work experience. Just a couple of weeks or

Get a media internship

Lucie Goulet analyses the various work placement opportunities in the media sector

The BBC

The BBC has unpaid work placements for all kinds of people. The BBC website specifies that "Competition is fierce, so before you apply you'll need to consider what you can offer and what you'd like to achieve". To apply you have to log on the BBC website (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/jobs/workexperience/>) and chose one of the sectors you are interested in. Choice is wide, with pretty much everything from Advertising to Design, BBC News, Languages or Drama. You can also browse the work experience opportunities by location. In the application form you need to put details about your education and training, your motivation behind your application, your hobbies etc. There are also more unusual sections such as a BBC News programme critique, or a Features idea.

ITV

The ITV website is less detailed when it comes to which work experience are available. You have to browse through the various ITV regions to find out which kind of scheme is in place. To get a short placement with one of the departments,

you need to get in touch directly with the relevant department. ITV also runs a "Diversity Extended Work" placement scheme in London lasting for a

you really want to do. However, it also says that you are more likely to get in if the work experience is a part of a clear career path.

[rience.html](#)) Channel 4 offers "extremely limited number of short-term work experience placements to people with a strong desire to work in the



Channel 4

According to its website (http://www.channel4.com/4careers/4careers_new/work_experience.html)

media sector."

For General Course students: Associated Press

AP runs a 12-weeks-long

paid news internship program. It is aimed at students from US colleges. 2nd, 3rd year and graduates can apply. The application process is quite long; you have to submit among other things an autobiographical essay, samples of your existing work, take a timed news writing test and meet an AP chief of bureau for an interview.

There also is a photo internship, aiming at the same people and with the same application requirements.

Reuters

Reuters runs a graduate trainee program which is generally recognised as one of the best in the media industry. It starts with six weeks intensive training before being thrown to a news room. Among the skills required are fluency in an unusual language, an ability to move easily, and a journalistic mind.

University, life and interviews

Sidhanth Kamath gives advice on how to handle those stressful situations

University is one of the most fun periods of your life. Here you spend a few years learning, making some of the best friends of your life, and preparing yourself for the real world. A lot of the time you need to juggle your private life, social life and academic life and it isn't always easy.

The most important thing that you must glean from university however, is a job. And getting a job, involves applying for several jobs which in turn requires several hours of your time. How are you to find the time for it, in between socialising, essays, classes and lectures, and your extra-curricular activities?

Well, it's not easy. But then, you knew that. The first (and probably crucial) factor is good time management. We've all got 24 hours a day, which works out to 168 hours a week. Say you want to sleep 9 hours a day (10 is for lazy people, and 8 for average). That leaves you with 105 hours to do things every week. Eat, drink, watch a movie, hang out with friends, study in the library and go to those 13 hours of taught education a week that we have at LSE. Seems like a lot of time, eh? Shouldn't be that hard to apply somewhere for a job or two, you think.

Yet its the start of your third year, you haven't done an internship at a bank in the summer, are not sure what other industries you might want to work in and have fairly large blanks on your CV. How are you



going to get a job now?

Finding out what industry you want to be in is crucial. Research potential career paths, speak to friends and acquaintances and anyone else you can.

Use the resources that are available to you like the Careers Service. Consider spreading yourself across several industries. You may find at a bank interview, that it isn't really for you after all. That advertising job just seems so much more attractive.

Once you have decided:

-Apply early. Always. Take some time out to write up good answers to application questions. Speak to other people about what they did. Above all, make sure you get to the interview stage. Companies aren't looking for rocket scientists, all they want are interesting and intelligent people to work for them. If you come across as intelligent, articulate, insightful,

hard-working and an interesting person, then you will get that interview.

-Once you get the interview, prepare for it. An interview is exactly like an exam. Some of it tests your intelligence, your ability to perform under pressure and your ability to work in restricted time slots. The rest tests your preparation - how much time and effort you put into researching a company which you claim you want to work for. And if you think about it from an employers perspective, it makes sense. Why should they hire someone who isn't really interested in knowing a bit about the company, its culture and its people?

-Be confident. Interviewers like that firm handshake, pleasant smile and good eye contact. Don't slouch, don't do funny things with your hands and don't fiddle with things.

-Remember part of the test is to be friendly and presentable. Firms don't want to hire people who will embarrass them at client meetings. You need to be someone who they can rely on to meet clients and always come back with positive results. Be at your sociable best. Practice in the mirror before if necessary, to warm yourself up.

-Think smart and show that you are. Many of the problem questions you will be asked require a sensible practical frame of mind for you to answer them. You deal with problems everyday in real life by thinking about them sensibly. Extend that thought process to an interview problem question.

-If there are any social events as part of the recruitment process, show up to them. Dress sensibly, even if you are told you can dress casually - you don't have

to wear a suit, but trousers, shirt and a jumper normally work well. If you drink, don't overdo it. Last one out of the bar is the first one to be taken off the potentials list. Walk around, introduce yourself and mingle. Remember that everyone is in the same boat.

-Relax. Its very obvious when someone is on edge. The less you pressure yourself, the easier it is for you to perform. Alert yourself for potential signs of being under pressure. If you find yourself clenching fists or grinding your teeth, make a conscious effort to relax yourself. Deep breaths and leaning back in your seat a bit help a lot.

-Drink water. It keeps you hydrated, keeps your mind functioning, and above all buys you time. If you're stumped but don't want to show it, drink water. Take long, slow sips and ask if you can fill your glass up again if required.

-Be yourself and be honest. This sounds very cliched and everyone says it, but it is really true. You may pretend to be someone you aren't and get a job, but then you will never enjoy it. Interviewers pick up pretty quickly if you are not being who you really are, and then your name is the first to be taken off the list. And if you get the job being who you are, there is nothing quite like that feeling!

My Worst Job

Jessica McArdle hates to sell

As somebody who had a paper round when she was 13 and more recently worked as a gardener in a meadow, I have a wealth of bad jobs to draw from when somebody asks me to name my most terrible. The nastiest are the ones that make you question your value as a person, such as being a dish hand and finding yourself elbow deep in greasy water unclogging a sink and finding out that your gloves are just an inch too short. Or when you're walking door-to-door with a suitcase of random things to sell that are neither useful nor good value, such as emergency hammers for escaping from your car...?

Come to think of it, that job was definitely my worst. There's something demeaning about door-to-door sales that no amount of therapy can rectify. You may wonder how one such as I could get involved in a venture as scummy and frowned upon as this. The answer lies in their clever advertising. Looking through the local rag for a summer job back in the day, I grazed through many dull and uninteresting job appointments until I found one that read "are you a friendly, chatty, enthusiastic person? Join our fresh new marketing company" and so I did.

Warning bells rang from the moment I stepped into the dingy office, their siren muted only by my own desperation for money and my willingness to do anything to earn it. Only I didn't know what anything was back then... With the job in the bag I set about my training, which wasn't paid - a theme that ran through much of this occupation. Though I could see what I was getting into, the wild promises of "uncapped earning possibilities" roped me in like a moth to a fire. Another important point here is that apart from masquerading as "marketing companies", door-to-door sales companies operate on what is known in the business of scamming and con-artistry as a pyramid structure. Basically this means that the lowest level workers earn the least while the big cats at the apex are cashing in on your hard work. Very depressing.

As it turned out, I was a natural at the sales; all it meant was leaving your morals under your pillow with your pyjamas in the morning and putting them back on at night. Even with this moral-busting plan the pyramid system was cruel to me and I simply couldn't make ends meet. Hard-core sales take a beating not only on your conscience but your emotions, which become involved in a roller-coaster style ride of euphoria after a good day to suicidal after a donut (no sales in a day). Like a drug addict awaiting my next fix the fear of losing a sale played on my confidence and soon all I could muster were a few pittance sales.

The moral of the story is that unless you are gifted with nerves of steel and the ability to connive people in the manner of a sociopath, beware of the Marketing Company managers who talk the talk but make you walk door-to-door to line their pockets.

Student's guide to temping

Earn some money while you look for a permanent job.

If you're a third year but don't know what you're going to do after graduation, you may try out temping. Although many students have reservations about working as a temp, there are actually many advantages. So here is a quick guide to answer your questions on how to become a temp.

Why do it?

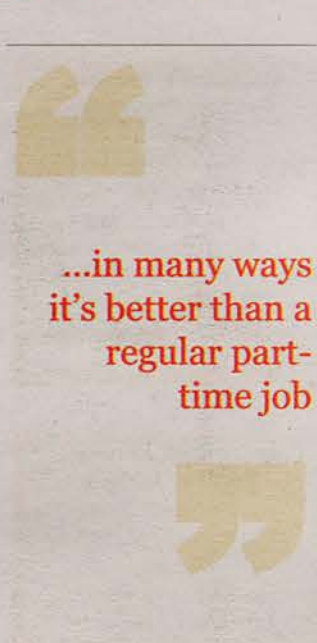
There is greater flexibility than ordinary jobs. You are not committed to work for months and months, and moving between jobs will allow you to experience different types of work. In doing so, you are also able to gain a range of skills that will look excellent on your CV when you do find that perfect job, you have a better chance of getting in. As a recent Times article suggested temping can help you have better career prospects. Not only this but it will help you get some extra cash whilst you wait.

How to get temp work?

Each agency specialises in different types of work, so do your research. You need to start by contacting as many temping agencies as possible and sending in your CV. But make sure to avoid dodgy agencies which may charge you finding work or fail to give you a statement of terms. Once you find the right agencies and get registered, you

can wait for them to find you appropriate positions.

What about holidays?



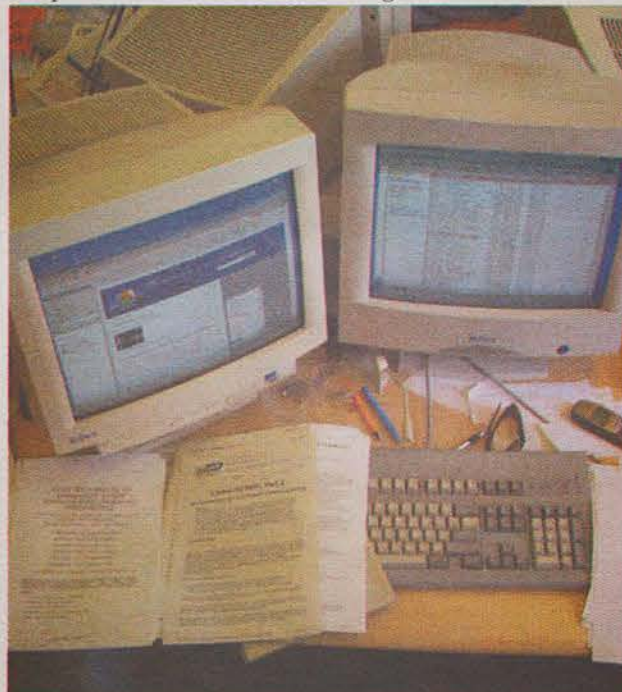
...in many ways
it's better than a
regular part-
time job

As a temp worker you are still allowed four weeks holiday every year, as well as sick leave. So in this respect it is no different from an ordinary job.

How much pay can I expect?

You will be paid by the hour, and you are likely to get more

than minimum wage. Some companies even offer a dental temping agency and great for long term work



and medical package, so in many ways it's better than a regular part-time job. It's a good idea to enquire about what they're going to offer you before accepting the job.

What are the big agencies?

Adecco www.adecco.co.uk - probably the most famous

Witan Jardine Recruitment www.witanjardine.co.uk
Brook Street - Recruitment Agency, www.brookstreet.co.uk/
Kelly Services, www.kelly-services.co.uk
Reed, www.reed.co.uk

What do I need on my CV?

As a temp you are most likely to get secretarial or administrative work, so you need to have basic computer proficiency and good interpersonal skills. You will also need references.

Are there any useful websites on this?

Some useful websites include:

<http://www.thesite.org/workandstudy/gettingajob/whatjob/temping>

http://www.cvtips.com/temping_tips.html

<http://www.jobsite.co.uk/articles/candidate/c1/s1/a2411.html>

<http://jobsadvice.guardian.co.uk/lifeandwork/story/0,,1181112,00.html>

How long should I do it for?

There is a danger that if you keep temping for too long it will eventually become hard to move onto a permanent job. It's important to keep looking for a job as you work so that you don't fall into this trap.

What if I don't have a work permit for the UK?

Unfortunately, if you don't have a UK permit you will not be able to take up temp work.

The Ultimate Career Quiz

We realise there are still those of you who are struggling to pick a career, so here is a quiz that is sure to reveal your calling in life, at the courtesy of Monster.co.uk

1. Where is your energy naturally directed?

Extraverts' energy is directed primarily outward, towards people and things outside themselves. Introverts' energy is primarily directed inward, towards their own thoughts, perceptions, and reactions. Therefore, Extraverts tend to be more naturally active, expressive, social and interested in many things, whereas Introverts tend to be more reserved, private, cautious and interested in fewer interactions -- but with greater depth and focus.

Extraverts often:
 Have high energy
 Talk more than listen
 Think out loud
 Act, then think
 Like to be around people a lot
 Prefer a public role
 Can sometimes be easily distracted
 Prefer to do lots of things at once
 Are outgoing and enthusiastic

Introverts often:
 Have quiet energy
 Listen more than talk
 Think quietly inside their heads
 Think, then act
 Feel comfortable being alone
 Prefer to work behind the scenes
 Have good powers of concentration
 Prefer to focus on one thing at a time
 Are self-contained and reserved

2. What kind of information do you naturally notice and remember?

Sensors notice the facts, details and realities of the world around them, whereas Intuitives are more interested in connections and relationships between facts, as well as the meaning or possibilities of the information. Sensors tend to be practical and literal people who trust past experience and often have good common sense. Intuitives tend to be imaginative, theoretical people who trust their hunches and pride themselves on their creativity. Intuitives tend to be interested in fewer interactions -- but with greater depth and focus.

Sensors often:
 Focus on the details and specifics
 Admire practical solutions
 Notice details and remember facts
 Are realistic -- see what is
 Live in the here and now
 Trust actual experience
 Like to use established skills

Intuitives often:
 Focus on the big picture and possibilities
 Admire creative ideas
 Notice anything new or different
 Are inventive -- see what could be
 Think about future implications
 Trust their gut instincts
 Like to figure things out

3. How do you decide or come to conclusions?

Thinkers make decisions based primarily on objective and impersonal criteria -- what makes the most sense and what is logical. Feelers make decisions based primarily on their personal values and how they feel about the choices. Thinkers tend to be cool, analytical and are convinced by logical reasoning. Feelers tend to be sensitive, empathetic, and are compelled by extenuating circumstances and a constant search for harmony. Thinkers tend to be interested in fewer interactions -- but with greater depth and focus.

Thinkers often:
 Make decisions objectively
 Appear cool and reserved
 Are most convinced by rational arguments
 Are honest and direct
 Value honesty and fairness
 Take few things personally
 Tend to see flaws
 Are motivated by achievement
 Argue or debate issues for fun

Feelers often:
 Decide based on their values and feelings
 Appear warm and friendly
 Are most convinced by how they feel
 Are diplomatic and tactful
 Value harmony and compassion
 Take many things personally
 Are motivated by appreciation
 Avoid arguments and conflicts

Extravert (E)

Introvert (I)

Sensor (S)

Intuitive (N)

Thinker (T)

Feeler (F)

4. What kind of environment makes you the most comfortable?

Judgers prefer a structured, ordered, and fairly predictable environment, where they can make decisions and have things settled. Perceivers prefer to experience as much of the world as possible, so they like to keep their options open and are most comfortable adapting. Judgers tend to be organized and productive, while Perceivers tend to be flexible, curious and nonconforming.

Judgers often:
 Make most decisions pretty easily
 Are serious and conventional
 Pay attention to time and are prompt
 Prefer to finish projects
 Work first, play later
 Want things decided
 See the need for most rules
 Like to make and stick with plans
 Find comfort in schedules

Perceivers often:
 May have difficulty making decisions
 Are playful and unconventional
 Are less aware of time and often run late
 Prefer to start projects
 Play first, work later
 Like to keep options open
 Question the need for many rules
 Like to keep plans flexible
 Want the freedom to be spontaneous

Judger (J)

Perceiver (P)

So which one are you?

Pick the box below which corresponds to the choices you have made to the four questions.

Extravert, Sensor, Thinker, Perceiver

Emergency medical technician
 Stockbroker
 Corrections officer
 Exercise physiologist
 Insurance agent
 Civil engineer

Extravert, Sensor, Thinker, Judger

Business executive
 Military officer
 Chief Information Officer
 Sports merchandise sales
 Paralegal
 Real estate agent
 Budget analyst

Extravert, Intuitive, Thinker, Judger

Chief Executive Officer
 Network integration specialist
 Management consultant
 Franchise owner
 Financial planner
 Real estate developer

Extravert, Intuitive, Feeler, Perceiver

Advertising account executive
 Career / outplacement counselor
 Management consultant
 Developer of educational software

Introvert, Sensor, Thinker, Judger

Chief Information Officer
 Meteorologist
 Database administrator
 Healthcare administrator
 Paralegal
 Accountant
 Real estate broker

Introvert, Intuitive, Thinker, Judger

Intellectual property attorney
 News analyst
 Design engineer
 Biomedical researcher
 Network integration specialist

Extravert, Intuitive, Feeler, Judger

Advertising account executive
 Magazine editor
 Therapist
 Career or outplacement counselor
 Corporate trainer

Extravert, Intuitive, Thinker, Perceiver

Investment banker
 Management / marketing consultant
 Copywriter
 Radio / TV talk show host
 Real estate developer
 Strategic planner

Extravert, Sensor, Feeler, Perceiver

Early childhood education teacher
 Dental assistant
 Chief Information Officer
 Sports merchandise sales
 Physical therapist
 Home health social worker

Extravert, Sensor, Feeler, Judger

Real estate agent
 Personal fitness trainer
 Veterinarian
 Special education teacher
 Credit counselor
 Employee assistance counselor

Introvert, Intuitive, Feeler, Judger

Special education teacher
 Alcohol and drug addiction counselor
 Diversity manager / trainer
 Speech / language pathologist
 Career counselor
 Therapist

Introvert, Intuitive, Feeler, Perceiver

Psychologist
 Human resources professional
 Physical therapist
 Researcher
 Translator / interpreter
 Legal mediator
 Massage therapist

Introvert, Intuitive, Thinker, Perceiver

Computer software designer / developer
 Legal mediator
 Financial analyst
 Economist
 College professor: philosophy, economics

Introvert, Sensor, Feeler, Perceiver

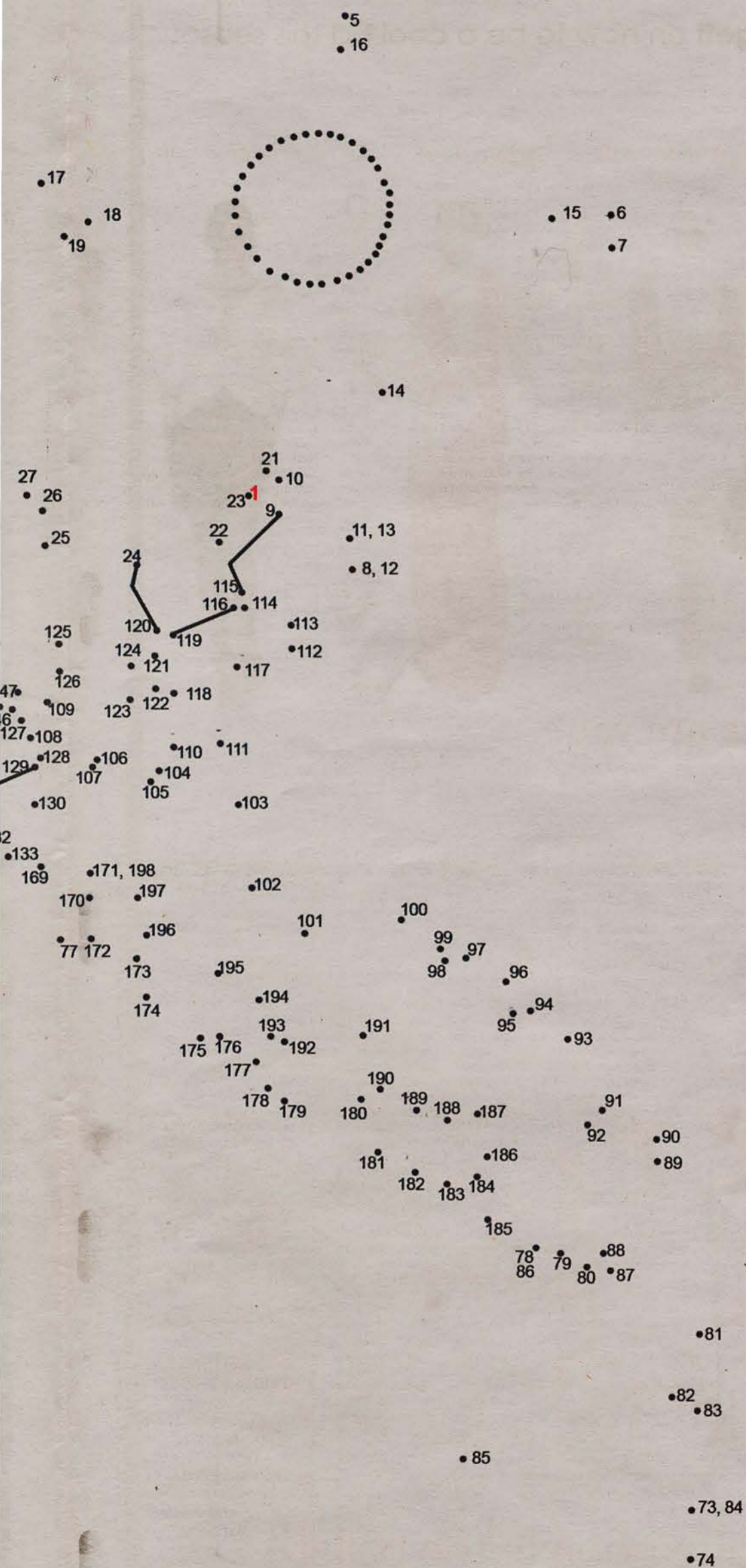
Primary care physician
 Occupational therapist
 Designer: interior / landscape
 Massage therapist
 Customer service representative

Introvert, Sensor, Feeler, Judger

Primary care physician
 Dietitian
 Home health worker
 Librarian / archivist
 Interior decorator
 Paralegal
 Credit counselor

Introvert, Sensor, Thinker, Perceiver

Computer programmer
 Commercial pilot
 Police officer
 Software developer
 Physical therapist
 Lawn service manager
 Pharmacist



bye bye winter blues

jenniferleggett on how to be a cool kid this season

Fashion week is well and truly over and the über chic have packed up their Louis Vuitton trunks and left town. So what to do now? There's no better way to spring into spring than a look at the five hottest trends for the season, showcased in our proud city only weeks ago. Remember girls, if you can't beat 'em... join 'em! And make sure you're seen in some of these essential looks...

STYLE

1 Space Odyssey get-up may sound like something you would wear to a late night star trek marathon, but you'll eat your words come summer 2007. High-shine and metallics are the key to this look, but black and white are okay, too as long as they have a reflective quality. Go the way of Balenciaga with head-to-toe glossy, gold lycra, or if that's just a bit too bold try a black plastic mac à la Lanvin. Either way this trend is sure to make you sparkle!



2 Perhaps quite the antithesis of the former is the next top trend: sporty chic. Having not made an appearance since the 1980s this look is well in need of revival. But before you dig out your sweat bands and start singing Fame - hold on. Things have changed this time around. Sporty chic of 2007 sees the return of the anorak, Marni teaming short-sleeved hoodies with flowing skirts, and trainers with three inch heels. The ballet references of Vera Wang with nude pinks and high leggings may be a more feminine way to keep up with this trend.



3 Show some leg: the third look is the continuation of what seems to be the never-ending rise of our hemlines. Shorts and skirt turn-ups are still heading skyward, keeping bare legs well on the agenda this spring/summer. Shorts were the favourite of designers such as Ralph Lauren and Carolina Herrera, teamed with crop jackets and heels to truly celebrate the amount of leg on show. Top tip: Google your nearest waxing salon fast!



4 The bubble silhouette that dominated last season has been well and truly burst by the return of the A-line. The trapeze shape has been exhibited in the form of blouses, dresses and macs, with empire waistlines giving definition to the apparel. Try billowing chiffon dresses à la Givenchy, or if you've got the heights experiment with structure, like Zac Posen.



5 The one 'must have' we can all willingly adopt is the crisp, white shirt. Simple and versatile, it was featured by virtually every designer at London fashion week. Stella

McCartney defied tradition by creating a voluminous, flowing white shirt, worn loose or nipped in with a belt whilst Prada kept androgyny alive with shirts worn tucked into high-waisted trousers. So wear your white shirt like it's going out of fashion, knowing safely that it's not.



So don't fret, as long as you hit just a few of these key trends your fashionista status will survive far longer than the buzz of London fashion week ever will!

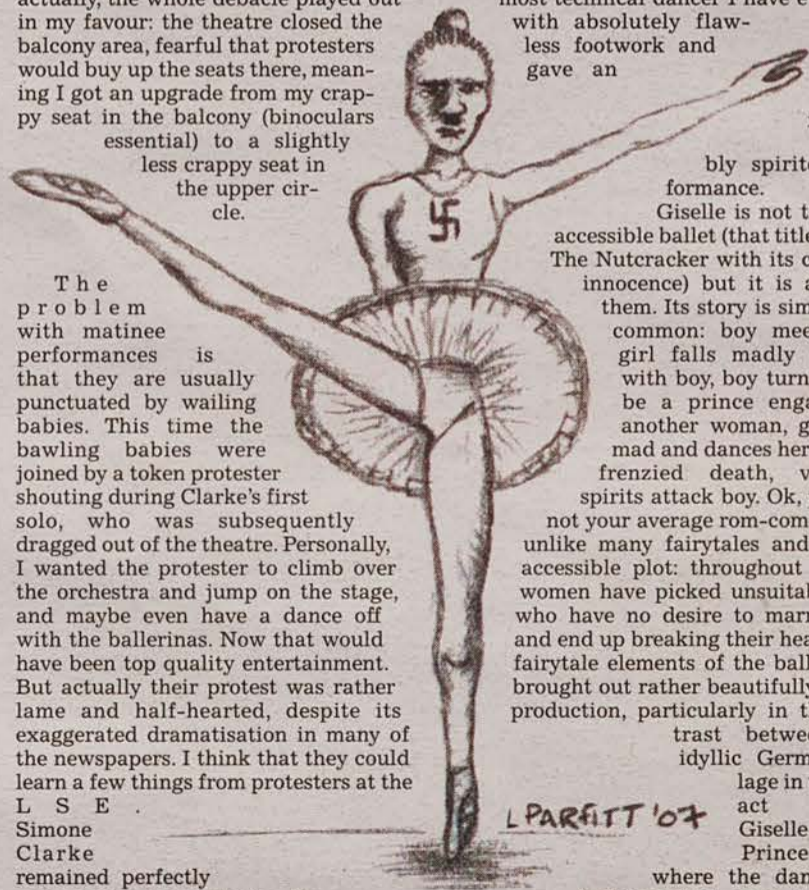
Since lovers of ballet are not that common on campus, I won't bore my few readers with details of positions, pliés and pirouettes. The major excitement of this performance of Giselle undoubtedly stemmed from the presence of the so-called "BNP ballerina", Simone Clarke, in the lead role. Giselle was actually played by a number of the principal ballerinas in the company, but rather excitingly, I had a ticket for Clarke's matinee performance, so along with the usual middle class mothers accompanying their daughters to the ballet were anti-fascism demonstrators. The resulting undesirable publicity has been rather disastrous for the English National Ballet, who up until then had had a very successful winter season at the London Coliseum, with an absolutely stunning version of The Nutcracker and a well-received Alice in Wonderland.

Since the ENB is state funded, it is obliged by law to promote good race relations, thus the problem of having a BNP member on their payroll. But personally, I think the whole thing is ridiculous: her political beliefs, objectionable as they no doubt are, are utterly irrelevant to her ability to dance, and the BNP is actually, annoyingly enough, a legitimate political party. Further, Miss Clarke was exposed as a bit of a fool when it emerged that her boyfriend, also a dancer at the ENB, was a Cuban immigrant himself and, in fact, almost the entire company comes from abroad. That there are bigoted idiots in all types of organisation, including the ballet, does not seem newsworthy to me and by drawing attention to her BNP membership, the papers gave the party a huge number of column inches. But it certainly added a

certain frisson to the performance; it was rather good fun to enter the theatre surrounded by chanting protesters. And actually, the whole debacle played out in my favour: the theatre closed the balcony area, fearful that protesters would buy up the seats there, meaning I got an upgrade from my crappy seat in the balcony (binoculars essential) to a slightly less crappy seat in the upper circle.

The problem with matinee performances is that they are usually punctuated by wailing babies. This time the bawling babies were joined by a token protester shouting during Clarke's first solo, who was subsequently dragged out of the theatre. Personally, I wanted the protester to climb over the orchestra and jump on the stage, and maybe even have a dance off with the ballerinas. Now that would have been top quality entertainment. But actually their protest was rather lame and half-hearted, despite its exaggerated dramatisation in many of the newspapers. I think that they could learn a few things from protesters at the L S E. Simone Clarke remained perfectly composed throughout the protest, as one would expect from so

successful a ballerina. She is undoubtedly hugely talented; for all her fascist tendencies, she can certainly dance. She is the most technical dancer I have ever seen with absolutely flawless footwork and gave an



incredibly

spirited performance.

Giselle is not the most accessible ballet (that title goes to The Nutcracker with its childlike innocence) but it is amongst them. Its story is simple and common: boy meets girl, girl falls madly in love with boy, boy turns out to be a prince engaged to another woman, girl goes mad and dances herself to a frenzied death, vengeful spirits attack boy. Ok, perhaps not your average rom-com but not unlike many fairytales and a very accessible plot: throughout history, women have picked unsuitable men who have no desire to marry them and end up breaking their hearts. The fairytale elements of the ballet were brought out rather beautifully in this production, particularly in the contrast between the idyllic German village in the first act where Giselle and the Prince meet, where the dancing is light-hearted and in good humour, and the supernatural

world presented in the second act. One of the best things about Giselle is that the music was written specifically for the ballet so begins frivolous and fast-moving, and ends up with the sombre woodwind and strings of Act Two. The second act is dominated by the supernatural figures of the Wilis, the spirits of betrothed women who have died before their wedding day, who force men to dance themselves to their death. The Wilis expect Giselle to join them and help kill the Prince but in an ultimate act of devotion (or stupidity in my mind, he deserved what he had coming) she saves her beloved. Basically, Giselle wins the dance-off with the Queen of the Wilis, so even if the protesters didn't deliver, I got my desire in the end.

Giselle was first staged in 1841, and being one of the older ballets, originally used mime as well as dance. This style of choreography has now lost favour, but the ENB's version bravely stuck closely to the original. Whilst this decision was laudable, it gave the production a slightly dated feel and actually at one point, as Giselle's mother acted out a ridiculously long story in mime, I did consider whether she wouldn't have been better off dressed in a black and white stripey jumper, with a painted white face and a black beret, rather than her traditional peasant garb. However, this was a small flaw in what was otherwise a wonderful production.

The ENB will almost certainly include Giselle in their next winter season in London; I implore you to go and see it, even if there is no fascist ballerina to castigate next year.

pirouettes and protests: an afternoon at the ballet

rosamundurwin sees giselle at the london coliseum

theatre

nervous breakdown

emilyding talks to janlarsjensen about going slowly mad

“You know your life has changed when you wake up in a psych ward.” In *Nervous System*, Canadian novelist Jan Lars Jensen recounts how he lost his mind after writing his first book *Shiva 3000*, which he wholly believed would usher in the apocalypse.

Set in a futuristic India, *Shiva 3000* linked the pantheon of Hindu gods to a sinister technology that would destroy the world. The author had no problem finding a publisher for his book, but during the process of its revision he grew uneasy about its impending publication. He'd flouted the golden rule of his creative writing teachers, that is to never write about a place or culture that you haven't experienced firsthand. So in last-minute panic, he does some additional research on the internet about Hinduism and as he delves deeper, fear and paranoia take over him. He starts seeing what he takes to be manifestations of the looming Armageddon in daily occurrences of his life and around the world. The word 'defamation' takes on catastrophic consequences and he becomes convinced that his novel will precipitate a huge scandal and ever-expanding lawsuits that will set the world on fire, build into an international religious conflagration.

In this personal memoir, it is Jensen's identity as a writer that takes center stage, and it is this identity that suffers a huge blow. Sometime after he'd first been admitted to the psychotic ward, he lost his ability to read or write. "The problem with reading troubled me. If I couldn't read, what could I do? Who was I, with that subtracted from the sum of me?"

If you think a book about mental illness can't be fun to read, think again. Writing in a manner that can only be described as a wholly rational irrationality laced with dark humour, Jensen's appeal lies in how he doesn't take himself too seriously, how he steers clear from constructing any link between a writer's creativity and madness.

The author's story is indeterminate. Although in his past there have been signs of his mental instability, such as obsessive hand-washing, strange fits before exams, a hysterical fear of flying and Bell's palsy, there is no real clinical explanation as to how he descended into mental breakdown, nor as to how he eventually recovered.

I spoke to him to find out more.

Your first book *Shiva 3000* was what precipitated this nervous crisis. How did the idea for that book come about?

In the mid-nineties I became interested in all

things Indian, especially Hinduism. I was writing quite a bit at that point, and it occurred to me that nobody had written any speculative or fantasy novels based on those subjects. This coalesced with a lot of other ideas I'd been playing with in my fiction, and the novel flowed from there. Someone mailed us a postcard from India of Hanuman, around the same time. It seemed like a sign. And looking at the vivid image on the card, I felt as if I was on to something perfectly suited to my sensibilities.

In the book you spoke of how you lost your ability to read and write. For a writer, that must be a blow. How did it impact on you? How did you learn to do it again?

Three things were responsible for that inability. The biggest culprit was probably the drugs I'd been prescribed during my stay in the ward. One was an anti-psychotic, and I tended to blame it over the other meds, because I suspected that whatever it did to tame the mind and prevent delusional thinking also inhibited creativity. The connection seemed plausible. But when I started taking it, I didn't have the wherewithal to make that connection, so the sudden halt in my ability to read seemed like a mysterious and ominous development. The second culprit was the affliction itself - a psychotic depression, as I've come to think of it. Depression saps you of your motivation to do things, and filling a page with words requires a lot of subconscious motivation, from sentence to sentence - motivation that you don't even realize you're drawing on, when you feel well. The final thing, I think, was that, the episode in the ward and everything bad surrounding it had been triggered by my experience finishing my novel, and I was probably "gun-shy", whether I knew it or not, about returning to writing. I just couldn't muster that carefree joy of the process, as before.

The combination of all of those things brought writing and reading to a dead halt, which was indeed a strange and frightening development for someone who saw himself as a writer. First of all, a huge portion of my identity as I saw it was suddenly carved away. I didn't know how to fill my time, without reading and writing. I also didn't know what I'd do with my life, if I couldn't write, as I'd invested so much in pursuit of a career as a novelist.

I regained some of my reading ability while still in the ward, and weeks later, after my discharge, I found with great relief that I could get through several pages at a time, again, and retain what I had read. The ability to write again took longer to return - six or seven months, I think - and corresponded with a decrease in the dosage of that anti-psychotic medication, not surprisingly.

How long did it take you after recovering to write *Nervous System*? Was it difficult to write?

Did you ever feel you had to water things down?

I had recovered by the summer of 1999 and I started writing *Nervous System* in 2003. For most of the interval between those dates, I just wanted to forget about what had happened and hoped that other people forgot about it, too. Then, in 2002, I started a website and was desperate for material to post. I recalled some of the things that had happened and wrote them up as best as I could remember, in short scenes. For the first time, I felt like I wanted to record these episodes, while I could, before I forget them altogether.

Some things I had forgotten, until prompted by my wife. For example, during the experience, I once accused her of poisoning grape juice she had brought into the ward for me. I hadn't remembered that episode since it happened, but when she mentioned it in 2003, the whole scene flooded back, vividly. If she hadn't mentioned it, I doubt I would have ever remembered it. And there were probably more scenes that I never recalled -

missed some real gems for the book! Oh well. In an attempt to prompt my memory, I went back to the hospital ward, and that visit helped fill in some blanks.

I don't think I watered anything down, per se, but anyone who writes anything autobiographical does some selecting and shaping for the sake of the book - that's inevitable.

The hardest part to write was the scene at the library, where I expected to end my shift with suicide. I found it upsetting to think about and re-create that scene in such detail. When I first wrote it out, and the first few times I read the result, I was saddened by what I described, and emotions rushed back. But, after I read the scene a few more times, funnily enough, I started to feel better about the event. It was strangely therapeutic - perhaps because I could now impose a little order over events that I had no control over, at the time. Also it may have been healthy just to force myself to consider that difficult moment, rather than bury it (my first instinct.)

In *Nervous System*, you said: "I had gone from being an atheist to deriving, on paper, an equation that proved the existence of God, and that I was an agent of his incarnation as Shiva." Being an atheist in the first place, how and why do you think that happen? And are you still an atheist now?

I'm not sure why I made that leap. One possible reason was that I'd been filling my head with religious concepts while writing the book, and certain - ahem, "issues" - had started to percolate in my subconscious. Clearly I wasn't a very good atheist. The big questions in life, no matter how much one might reject religious thinking, do not go away. You are stuck with them, one way or another. Maybe my interest in Hinduism actually flowed out of a budding discomfort with my lack of good responses to these questions, and writing a novel was just a strange coping mechanism for this friction. I was approaching 30, and had more reason to be thinking about mortality, perhaps. Maybe the spark I felt on the page when writing that novel was fed by grappling with those big issues, in a medium in which I felt comfortable, and the whole creative fervour I felt was just a gloss, or a by-product of that exploration. Writing the novel probably cracked something open in my receptiveness to ideas about spirituality, anyway, and the mental breakdown found that crack.

Religion is a common element in a lot of people's experience of mental illness. It was also a common topic in the ward. You can imagine the conversations that come up between patients. Often very painful to listen to (or worse, participate in).

It's not surprising that this should happen, however. For one thing, when people are ill and vulnerable in this way, they naturally struggle for something to hold on to, to help make things normal again and make sense of a suddenly stranger world.

Another reason for the prevalence of such thinking in the ward is that, if a person is delusional, religious topics just seem to follow. "Why am I hearing voices when there is nobody in the room?" If a person isn't well oriented to his or her illness before something like that happens, it's not surprising that he or she should look to the supernatural for explanation.

And of course, it is the same mind creating these delusions that is attempting to explain them, so, once a religious element is introduced into the cycle, it builds upon itself.

For me, once I stopped being able to step back from my situation and what I viewed as disastrous days ahead, it was a slippery slope that quickly led to the end of the world, and the end of the world meant, for me, "cosmic importance." If you lose some of the gates of logic in your thinking, it's a quick route to the supernatural.

I am no longer an atheist. Some of my thinking on the subject actually resembles the ranting hypothesizing of my breakdown, but without the catastrophic visions or egotism.

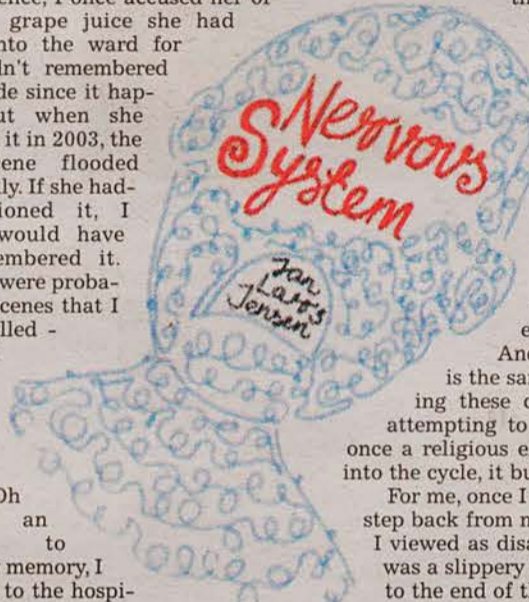
Would you say that you are primarily a science fiction writer? How do you think someone who's read your work before and someone who hasn't will approach *Nervous System*?

I think of speculation as being a superb tool available to any writer, rather than me being a science fiction or fantasy author. The problem with those labels is they are just too freighted with preconceptions, now, and I don't want anyone skipping over my fiction (or my memoir) because of them, or expecting certain things because of them. Also, I don't want to be limited in what I write, because of a label. I need freedom to explore what interests me, if I'm to keep going as an author.

I don't know what fans of the novel would, generally, make of the memoir. Would it spoil the novel to know what went on in the background? Or would it just add a new spin? I'm not sure. Some people who have liked *Nervous System* very much vow to me that they will read *Shiva 3000*, and then... I don't hear back from them on that. Others have read the two books as a double bill and purport to have enjoyed both. My sense is that *Nervous System* will have broader appeal, because it's easier to access on a personal level.

Do you still have a hysterical fear of flying?

I fly often now, but I don't like it. I've never been able to get back that glorious, carefree attitude I had about flying prior to my breakdown. When I'm flying I simply hear too many things happening in the engine sound and the metal parts of the plane; I'm often looking to the stewardesses for signs of trouble. I need distraction! Most of the new jets here have TV monitors on the seat in front of you - a great development in the history of aviation, as far as I'm concerned! Then again, the SwissAir disaster had something to do with the wiring of a new entertainment system, didn't it...?



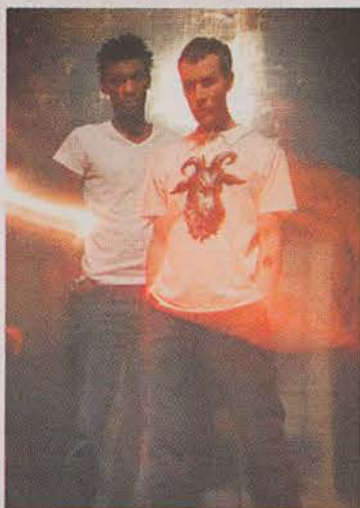
literature



massive attack

sherifsalem is massively impressed

Armed with a sound that has always balanced the menacing and the uplifting, Massive Attack can get political without seeming insincere and opportunistic (even Noel Gallagher might not have a problem with them). In fact the songs, with their distinctive pulsating rhythm section a constant for most of the two hour set, seem almost tailor-made for today's political atmosphere. The gig at Brixton Academy was a benefit concert for the Hoping foundation, a charity that provides assistance to community projects working with Palestinian children in refugee camps. By the time Grant 'Daddy G' Marshall and Robert '3D' Del Naja led the band on, the stage was filled with statistics running in red across stacks of LED displays. And although the message wasn't exactly ambiguous, Del Naja prefaced the opener by emphasizing that the intention of the night was to go beyond governments and help those in need. Not that he seems the type to mince his words; it is easy to appreciate how the band has spent much of the past twenty years in varying stages of conflict.



Thankfully, though, they were all on stage and seemingly happy to be there, accompanied by two drum kits and three brilliant guest vocalists. With no new material to promote (they are apparently working on a new album), this was pretty much a greatest hits set with a few extras. While some bands might struggle to give life to this kind of set, putting it all together here just brought out Massive Attack's range of sound; the guitar parts on their more recent tracks sitting easily beside the more electronic earlier stuff. There were some drawbacks. Despite most of the audience actively or passively becoming increasingly stoned there was little in the way of dancing for much of the night. It was also all a bit quiet; the bass here never got up to the type of level that feels in control of your heartbeat, only on 'Angel' did it come close. Those small complaints

aside and with 'Teardrop' still able to bring the room to a stunned silence, Massive Attack remain a band with a huge creative scope and a back catalogue not nearly as dated as you might think.

union of knives

sophiahatley is not convinced

The Fly has described Union of Knives as reminiscent of Kid A-era Radiohead and The Beta Band's bleepitybleep. Whatitywhat? thought I, my experience of them having left a rather different impression. As the opening track pulsed into the dirty, dirty Barfly, the only thing I could think of was 90's Euro-dance outfit Sash - specifically 'Colour the World', being covered by The Cooper. I'm being a bit tracks had nice on the drum the melodic guided draw out the musical compare this positively blas-inelegant and cringe-worthy, about Union of know my angst would have them.

The support was, by contrast, Lead vocalist Sarah strode onstage complete with unkempt Cleopatra-esque bob, hypnotising vibrant blue eyes and a voice sounding somewhere in-between (dare I say it?) PJ Harvey and Karen O. The music was gentle, electronic pop, which might have easily been bloody dull if it were not for some juicy dissonance from the guitarist and the tender, coherent vocal melodies. And to top it off they're all bloody gorgeous! Well worth taking a look, I'd say.



Temple Clause. unfair as most beefy openings machine, and tars and vocals occasional moment. But to stuff to Kid A is phemous. ever so slightly the worst thing Knives is that I 16-year-old self fucking loved from Scanners quite brilliant.

Following a stint across the UK with Ukrainian gypsy punks Gogol Bordello, 25-year-old troubadour Dan Sartain has developed a canny knack of garnering devout fans on this side of the pond to worship at his alter of Americana. Looking like Elvis before the pies and pills, the pasty-faced and pencil 'tached former gas station attendant serves up twangy, reverberated mariachi alongside rough-and-ready rockabilly, but not as we know it. With a bottle of bourbon in hand and sweat dripping from his floppy fringe and running down his gaunt cheeks, Sartain's honest and bare-knuckle lyrics transport us from his hometown of Alabama and deep into the desert at El Paso.

"We've had a real stressful day and I'm all hot un' sweaty," drawls Sartain in his distinctive southern style. "So, if anyone fancies giving me a smoke, I'll make it worth your while!"

As he plucks the strings of his beat-'up ol' guitar with his teeth to Alice Cooper's 'Second Coming', the chicks start swooning and the temperature rises to equatorial levels - leaving us guys wondering why we're nowhere near as suave as the new kid in town.

Isn't it the case that you first got into Rockabilly music as a teenager, gelling your hair back to rebel against your parents' very liberal attitudes?

"My parents like 'Crosby, Stills and Nash', 'The Eagles' and 'The Beatles' [He rolls his eyes around and takes a long drag of his cigarette, then his pasty face beams into a smile]. Everybody wants to make their mum cry when they are a teenager; I did it by becoming a greaser and getting all these old cars. When I was about 13 I started playing at the High-Note Club before these crazy, receding hair-line, hair-metal bands; their mic-checks often ended in a note like this: "Check 1, Check 1, [high-pitch, Justin Hawkins-esque squeal.] All these all ladies started buying my drinks 'cause they thought I was cute. That's when my career really began."

Your songs talk about the dangers of romance and the struggles of fidelity. Is this taken from personal experience?

"I'm satisfied with love right now and I'm listening to songs, which aren't about love. I listened to a lot of Chris Isaac, and pretty much all the best Isaac songs are about love and in minor chords; so I made my songs about love and in minor chords. I'm satisfied with love so I don't want to complain about it anymore. I'd rather write about, you know [refills his whiskey on the rocks] spacey stuff..."

Despite your age, you deliver your songs with the wisdom of a man who's lived a lifetime, taking the rough with the smooth; and you've been described back home as "more talented than a thousand talented dudes".

"I'm more talented than two thousand talented dudes. Nah. I don't know. 90% of the time when you see a band that are complete strangers: they're gonna be bad. The guy that wrote that has seen thousands of bad bands open for his band. So it was a surprise for him that one of them was good. That was my band."

You've been christened by NME as a post-punk Johnny Cash for you're energetic live performances. In fact, is it true that once you dealt with some stage invaders by shaking a broken bottle at them?

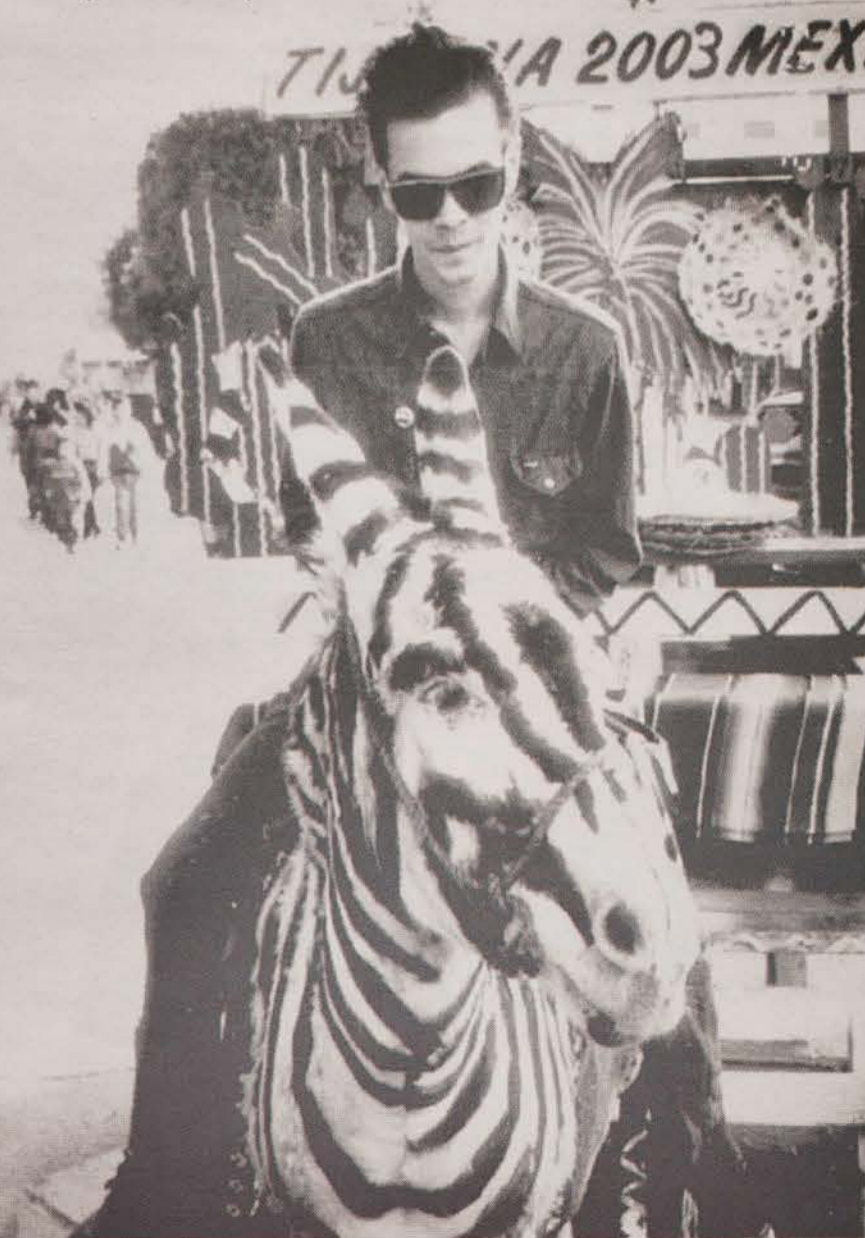
"It was a gig with well over 2000 strangers. They looked like four frat-guys and they mooned me from the stage, I turned around just in time to see it. So I ran up and kicked one of them real hard in the ass. I broke a bottle and started imitating Mike Tyson before that Lennox Lewis fight. At first I thought that it was terrible, had to sit down for an hour after the show. Now I think it's one of the best gigs I've done: I'm proud of it."

dan sartain

charliehallion talks love, violence and prostitution with the rockabilly star

Your unique looks and your pasty complexion have often been commented upon. Is it true that this is because you sleep in a coffin, or is it because you like to sit at home watching your favorite Rambo movies?

[Laughs] "Dude, I don't sleep in a coffin. You know, some people tell me I'm dark. In fact, one of the most common questions I got when I was young was "What are you?". People couldn't quite work me out, so, instead of asking something like "What's your bloodline?", they just came out with: "What are you?". I dunno! My grandmother on my mother's side was a prostitute, so I could've come from anywhere. Honestly."



kubrick's creed

femme fatales x murderous machines = kubrick + failure of men, calculates markobeney

Cinema divides into two essential eras, before Stanley Kubrick and after Stanley Kubrick. His use of music, special effects, and sectioned storytelling have indeed become embedded into the Hollywood system. But it is often overlooked how much the thematic motifs in his films have affected contemporary cinema. Coppola, Scorsese, Lynch and Cronenberg, the modern masters of human despair, all owe their freedom to Kubrick's first attempts to explore man's darker side in *Paths of Glory* and *Dr. Strangelove*. It was probably Orson Welles who first delved into the darkness with such passion and such studio funding, and even he couldn't touch *A Clockwork Orange* for its detached and amoral portrayal of its protagonist.

Kubrick, often referred to as the most objective of filmmakers, in fact accepted the subjectivity of his life when choosing his protagonists. Consider that each of the men in his films, and it was always men who were the centre piece of his narratives, were middle-class or at least affluent working-class, white and clearly existentially weary of their surroundings - in other terms Colin Wilson's *The Outsider*. Biographically, this is the director placing himself amongst the epic deconstruction of this world. If Kubrick hadn't been so shy and so opposed to fame, he would have played these parts himself.

Core to the understanding of Kubrick's works is the theme of man's inadequacy in regard to women and machines.

Women in Kubrick's world can never be taken at face value. Their apparent innocence is always torn away furiously at a key scene, as if Kubrick himself had a vendetta against his loves lost through

underestimation. Women are never unravelled slowly to us in these films- the shocking truths are revealed as explicitly and untimely to us as to our leading man. In *Lolita*, the unspoiled pre-pubescent girl becomes the man's domination by the end of the film. We no longer hate him for

way too young to be committing the sexual acts with two Japanese businessmen. When Cruise discovers her at the back of a fancy-dress shop, we are left appalled at the businessmen. But then Kubrick's alternative take on the situation appears as the girl hides behind Cruise, using him

is our downfall through manipulation. Men may be standing on the stage, but women control the curtains.

In Kubrick's films women may control man's life, but his death is decided by machines. If male competition is divided between alpha and beta males, the machine in *2001: A Space Odyssey* is unquestionably an alpha male. HAL 9000 exhibits the characteristics that would be expected in a masculine man: rationalistic, unemotional, quiet, and ruthlessly intelligent. In the late scene in which the hibernating crew members' life support systems are shut down by the machine, his actions are committed with such a calm calculation that the men he kills have become no more to him than ants are to us. If this is true masculinity, any man worried over whether he is masculine enough can relax, knowing men need not aim for this. Jason Anderson in his review said of the computer, 'It's no accident that the only compelling character in the piece is the HAL 9000, and Kubrick lends its death a gravitas that he deprived of just about every other casualty in his films'. Meanwhile, the male players receive the same treatment of character development as the control panels in *Star Wars*.

The only other contemplation upon a character's death appears in *Full Metal Jacket*, where women and machines are finally combined into a singular character: the young ill-fated female Vietnamese sniper, capable of assassinating the marines with a precise dedication that their inadequacies do not afford them. It starts to make sense why the marines are ordered to give their rifle a woman's name.



wanting to exploit the girl; we hate her for exploiting him. As Brian McKay remarked in his review, 'She is fully aware of her sexuality and the effect it has on men, and likes to play it up...Is she using it as a weapon?'

A similar predicament appears for Tom Cruise in *Eyes Wide Shut*, this time in the form of a nymphomaniac who again is

as a shield from her enraged father. The look she gives explains fully she knew what she was doing, and still enjoyed it. Moments like these are offered throughout, as male viewers are forced to re-examine our misconceptions that women are our property. Kubrick wants us to realise that female innocence is non-existent, that our misgivings that this is not so

Nether Wright's Bar, nor even splashing out at the Garrick would do this time. We needed to escape, get away from the LSE campus for a bit, seek a caffeine boost elsewhere. So with Fairtrade Fortnight in mind, we headed to Progreso in Covent Garden. Set up jointly between a group of coffee-growing co-operatives and Oxfam, it sells certified Fairtrade and organic coffee.

Located in this mall just off Neal Street, which though well-signed was not particularly obvious to the casual shopper in Covent Garden, it was around a corner, down some stairs, and in an atrium. This lent it a light, airy atmosphere, and I always enjoy being able to see the sky, yet the setting seemed bizarre for a Fairtrade coffee shop, as it was in the middle of an 'Everything Less Than £10' shop (a lie as my companion later discovered, with much disappointment), and a variety of well-known surf/skate shops.

I'm not quite sure what I was expecting, but it struck me that Progreso was actually just like going to any other coffee shop. Just like the Starbucks and Café Nero's of this world, you went to the till, placed your order, paid, heard a loud whooshing as the drink was being made, then collected the beverage of choice at the other end.

Unfortunately, the service was quite slow as there was only one barista initially. However we were duly compensated. When asked which products were in fact Fairtrade, she was extremely helpful, and had such vast, excellent knowledge. It was mainly all the different coffees and hot chocolates, and a plate of Fairtrade Mocha Brownies, though I did also spy

some Divine chocolate bars, Geobars, and the Greenleaf fruit juices (which incidentally are available in the Quad Café and SU shop).

I opted for the Vanilla Latte, whilst my companion went for the White Hot Chocolate. These were rather curiously classified as 'Comfort Coffee' and 'Leftfield' respectively. We apparently weren't 'Hardcore' enough for an espresso or machiatto! These bizarre, quirky classifications aside, Progreso served a wide range of drinks, incorporating plenty of non-coffee options, probably the largest of anywhere I've been for a while, including those delicious 'Innocent' smoothies.

Choice was a prevalent theme with food options as well. These varied from fresh cheesecake, to sandwiches and salads, to quicker on-the-go snacks like nuts and cereal bars. Though extremely tempted by the some fantastic-looking blueberry cheesecake, and the organic gourmet sandwiches, our wallets weren't quite in agreement - these were on the pricey side, at £2.90 and about £4 respectively. But in retrospect it's not bad for London, perhaps I was just in a Scrooge-like student mood. The Fairtrade Mocha Brownies were more tempting at £1.50 each, but they looked a tad dry. However I am a firm believer that the proof is always in the pudding, so I shall definitely have to give

them a try next time.

Whilst not quite at Wright's Bar prices (£1.50 for a regular coffee), it's not nearly as expensive as Starbucks, which comparatively is often up to £1 more for essentially the same product. Though coffee from any of the aforementioned shops would be made from Fairtrade beans, Progreso differentiates itself by being totally dedicated to raising awareness about Fairtrade. Whilst waiting for my coffee, I picked up literature which explained what Progreso stood for, the ownership of the company, as well as their loyalty scheme which is through Oxfam - instead of a free coffee, you get a free goat, which is given to families in Africa. There was the Fairtrade Foundation Newsletter, 'Fair Comment', which was informative. Around the café, the Fairtrade logo was prominent, there were pictures of the farmers who formed the co-operative in Honduras, and they even showed a Fairtrade documentary at 2pm every day.

Hot drinks in hand, we made beeline for these comfortable-looking table and bench creations. The seating didn't really make much sense to me. The central area was lacking in any vague character, and had the feel of a food court, due to these green, plasticky, generally rather icky chairs and tables. In fact the vast majority of customers, like us, avoided these. But it was a surprisingly large

space, and though it initially felt like it lacked an element of cosiness, this was offset by a marvelous discovery - there were books stored under the benches! How exciting.

Both of our drinks were delicious, with the White Hot Chocolate being a great discovery (if a bit overly sweet by the end). Good coffee, literary delights, and a sound conscience for having helped farmers in developing countries get a fairer deal - it was a satisfying if but fleeting escape from campus.

Some fairtrade events happening at LSE next week:

FAIRTRADE WINE AND FILMS EVENING - TUESDAY 6TH MARCH - 7PM, D702

A relaxed, informal evening with various short documentary films showing exactly how Fairtrade benefits small marginalised producers and also the opportunity to sample a variety of Fairtrade wines. Non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. An opportunity to watch, taste, chat and learn about Fairtrade.

Hosted by LSESU People and Planet Society

FAIRTRADE MARKET FRIDAY 9TH MARCH - 11AM TO 5PM, THE QUAD

With a variety of fairtrade suppliers and products, including a fantastic range of jewellery, clothing, olive oils and hand-crafts. Come and learn a bit about fairtrade, and browse through the beautiful products!

Hosted by the LSESU Palestine and People & Planet Societies

A reception to follow with all participating societies to celebrate the end of Fairtrade Fortnight at LSE. Details to be confirmed.

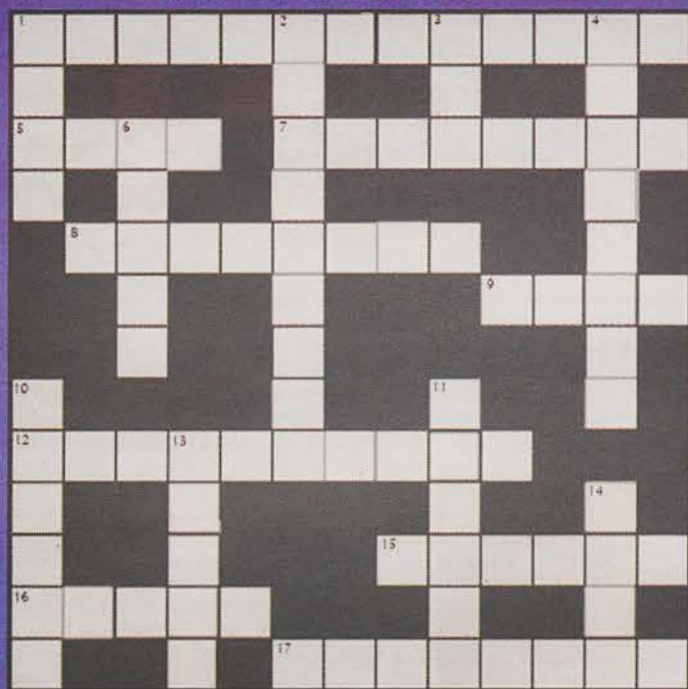


Food and drinking

progreso!

sacharobehmed bucks the star for fair trade

SET BY LEE BONG



Across
 1. TV-stick (6-7)
 5. available (4)
 7. the tip (8)
 8. a drink (8)
 9. pale (4)
 12. occupation-free (10)
 15. a position on a scale, a unit of quality (6)
 16. appear on birthdays; sponges (5)
 17. loyal; believing (8)

Down
 1. element of the interior of a building (4)
 2. with a basis of experience (9)
 3. negative prefix (3)
 4. petrol puddle (3-5)
 6. each; all (5)
 10. subtlety (6)
 11. sandy water (6)
 14. french attractive masculine thing (4)

Last week:
 Across: 1 handwritten 6-down 7-journalists 8-handy dory 11 bean 12 infallible 15-hall
 16-attitude 17-room 18-lovely 19-entertainment Down: 2-wonky 3-tasty 4-noisy 5-insignifi-
 cant 8-urn 10-robbery 11-behead 12-imagined 13-fatal 14-oudest

		1	9				3
9			7			1	6
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Difficult

the c-word



Very Difficult

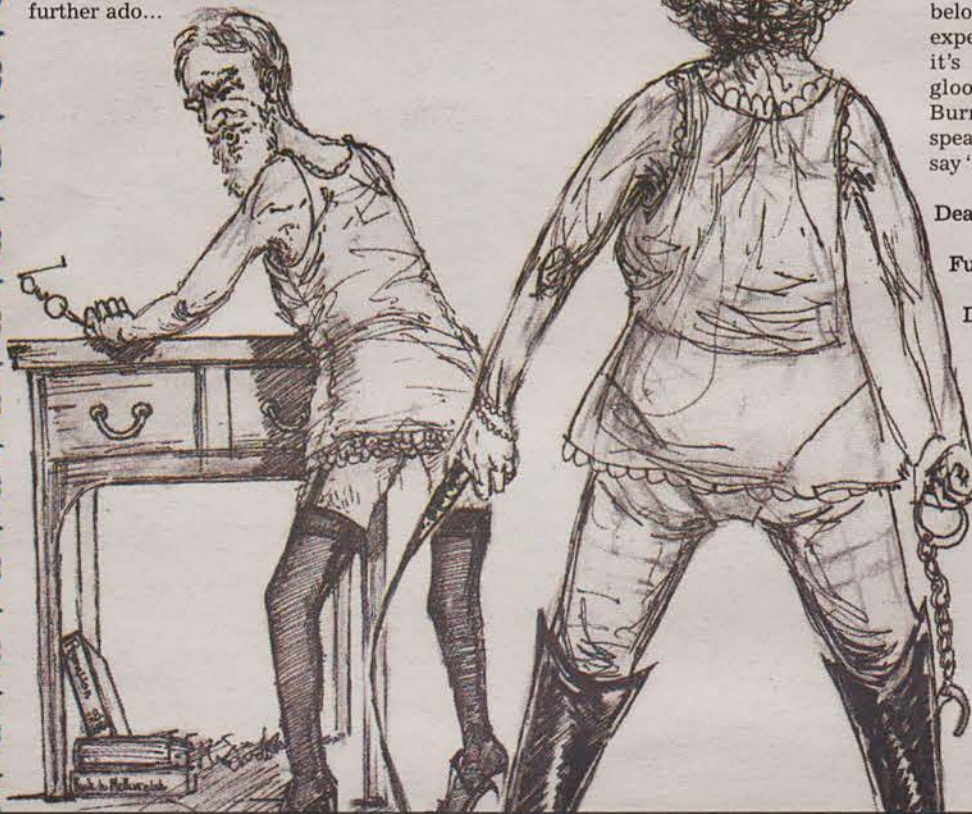
	8						1
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2			6	8			1
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sudoku

Ask

Mr. Shaw

Right, let's get this over with. Geoffrey Blundercunt St. John Fotherington Shaw here although I suppose you can call me Uncle. Spot of bad news, Mrs Shaw's come down with a bit of an ailment, syphilis she says. I don't know what she's complaining about, been in my family since 1364, never did us any harm. Woof! Anyway the old bitch is most insistent I take a look at some of these letters piling up around her parts while she's in bed, so without further ado...



Dear Auntie,

Some people are now saying that poking on facebook is a sexual thing. I have poked so so so many people on Facebook and now I feel dirty, and a little like a rapist. You must feel like this all the time, how do you deal with it?

Social Policy
2nd Year

Poking you say? Rather! Although I'd steer clear of the face if I were you, far more interesting territory amidsthips and below decks in my experience. As for rape, it's not all doom and gloom, as we said in Burma, 'if they don't speak English, they can't say 'stop'.'

Dear Auntie,

Fucking. Inside or out?

DBY

Dear Chap. First one, then the other. Repeat for as long as you are able.

Dear Auntie,

I had a wank in a rickshaw. It was fresh. I also whacked my bulbous sex-fist in the London Eye. I'm thinking about doing it in class. Lend me your support and congratu-

lations.

Trigger Happy, Law

My dear boy, when I was your age I held the all-England record for jerking the gherkin across three continents in a wheelbarrow. I would have made it further but by the time we reached Calcutta the swelling was so bad I couldn't get a decent grip on the damn thing and I had to call it a day. Stop by the library sometime and I'll show you how it's really done!

Dear Auntie,

Firstly, I ate a drugs. Chingwa. Secondly, i'm dropping out of school, have sold all my clothes to fund this stonking great crack habit and my girlfriend has left me. Now, the two may be connected but I don't know what's connected any more since i tried juggling dot to dot books on LSD and fell into hell.

Please be frank

Kevin, 2nd Year

Laddy-boy. When I was in Laos in the middle sixties a group of young reprobates took me in and we smoked delicious black opium. We swam the golden lakes of the imagination and were visited by the Maharaja and his tiger, who was called Bill. We became so intoxicated that I began

to have flashbacks to Burma and dismembered them all with a broken

bottle of London Gin. The point is, drug use should not be toyed with. Hallucinogenic substances are dangerous things, and you should not imbibe them if you are prone to being poor, ill-educated, black, or any of the above.

Dear Auntie,

SU Elections have just happened and i'd like to congratulate everyone involved on their commitment and endeavour in bringing about an election that was good and hard work, fair on all counts and well done to all the candidates who were hard and fair and hard work, well done. Shame George Masterson, Sally Bentwhistle and Pervy 'Pervy' Paul Paulis can't take a leaf out of your book. HAHAAH.

Hack-kneed

Oh, do shut up. You piffling idiot.

I do hope my dear wife is back next week to administer to you insufferable plebs and your piteous mewling. Do whatever you do @ the-beaver.partb@lse.ac.uk or through Auntie Shaw on Facebook.

Signed : G.B.Shaw

nable for Africa

of neo-colonialism as the continent joins
of Independence.

have shifted but the objectives are the same. Political control is no longer the premium goal, instead economic dominance is the prize. The new scramble for Africa is taking place among the world's big powers, who are tapping into the continent for its oil, gold, diamonds and other resources. The United States' determination to find an alternative energy source following the growing instability in the Middle East is leading to a new oil rush in Sub-Saharan Africa. Oil companies around the world are aggressively pursuing new fields in Africa with support from their home governments.

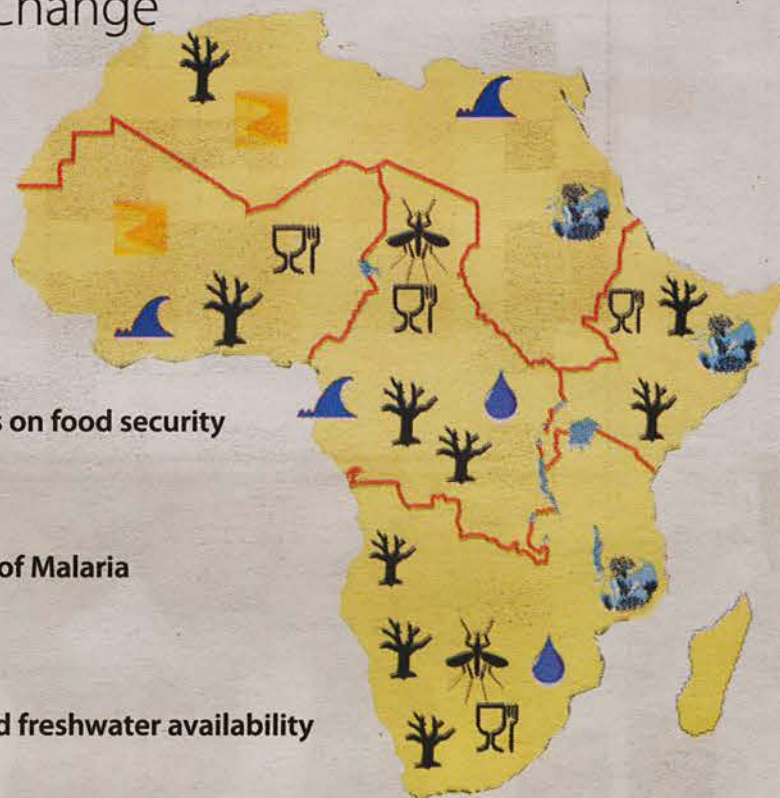
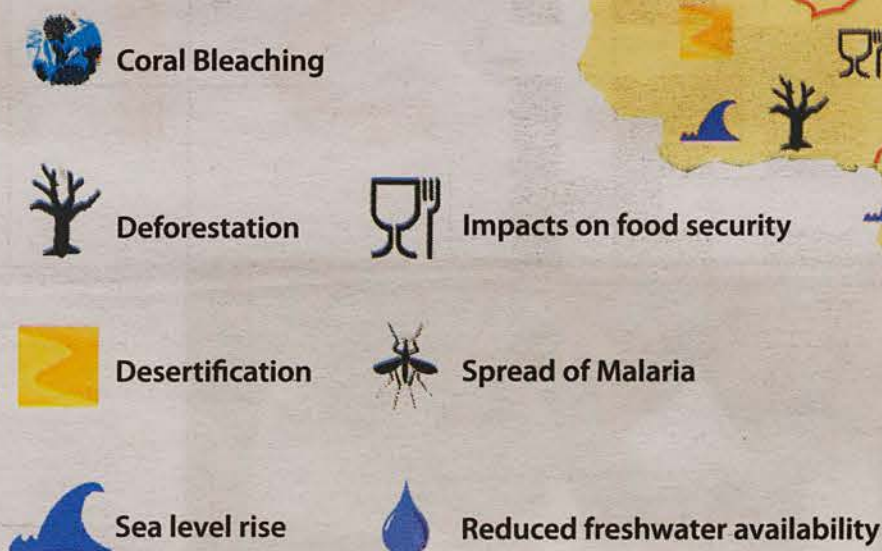
As an emerging global economic power, China is often described as the lead country in this new scramble. China's total investment in 2006 in Africa is estimated to be \$6.3 billion making it the third largest trade partner of Africa after the US and France. It has signed trade agreements with more than 40 countries and imports 30% of its oil from Africa. Its biggest deal, a \$2.3 billion investment by CNOOC (a Chinese oil company) in Nigeria allows the company a 45 per cent stake in an off-shore oil field capable of producing about 180,000 barrels

per day.

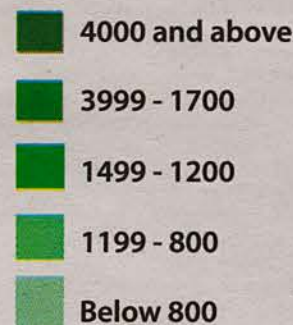
In trade relations, Africa is often marginalised and treated unfairly. China, for instance, is battering the continent's economies with a flood of highly subsidised goods. This has resulted in the closure of some textile industries in countries like Ghana. Ethiopia's impoverished farmers also continue to receive meagre income from the coffee Starbucks buys from them. Worse still, Starbucks is preventing the Ethiopian government from trademarking its three, prized coffee brands which could add \$88m a year to Ethiopian's export earnings. This obviously could have changed the livelihood of the poor coffee producers.

Despite all these, the continent is still attracting more foreign direct investment, recording a 200 per cent increase over the last five years. Most of this has however focused on extracting natural resources rather than developing local economies. The challenge for African governments is to ensure that majority of their population benefit from the huge flow of capital and that the agreements that are signed with foreign investors are fair, equitable and stand the test of time.

Vulnerability to Climate Change



GDP per capita in US dollars - 2002



BUT CHAINED BY DEBT

Molly Tucker looks at how the burden of debt repayments blight Africa's growth

At a time when many African countries are celebrating their independence, it is being brought home more and more starkly just how far from free they are...from debt. This is an issue that has been raised so many times; Live 8 and the G8 summits are the most recent and notable occasions, and yet for all the attention paid to them then, the world appears to have gone back to sleep.

Most of the debt now being borne by developing nations was accrued when Western banks lent vast sums of money to the recently decolonized African nations as they attempted to solidify their infrastructures. These were not loans. The money was more than any of these nations could ever hope to pay back, and in a matter of years had re-shackled the continent indefi-

nately.

There are arguments stating that the governments of the newly independent African nations willingly entered into the deals themselves, and as such bear the responsibility and weight of them forever after. This argument tends to ignore the fact that many of these countries were governed by less than democratic means, and that it is perhaps unfair to hold the citizens of these countries accountable for a debt that they had no role in amassing. Often, the governments of the time were so corrupt that millions of dollars of the loans disappeared and the people of African nations gained little to no benefit from them. Now, they must watch what little income their countries can muster be sucked away by a remorselessly sterile party for reasons they cannot understand, or if

they can, have trouble justifying.

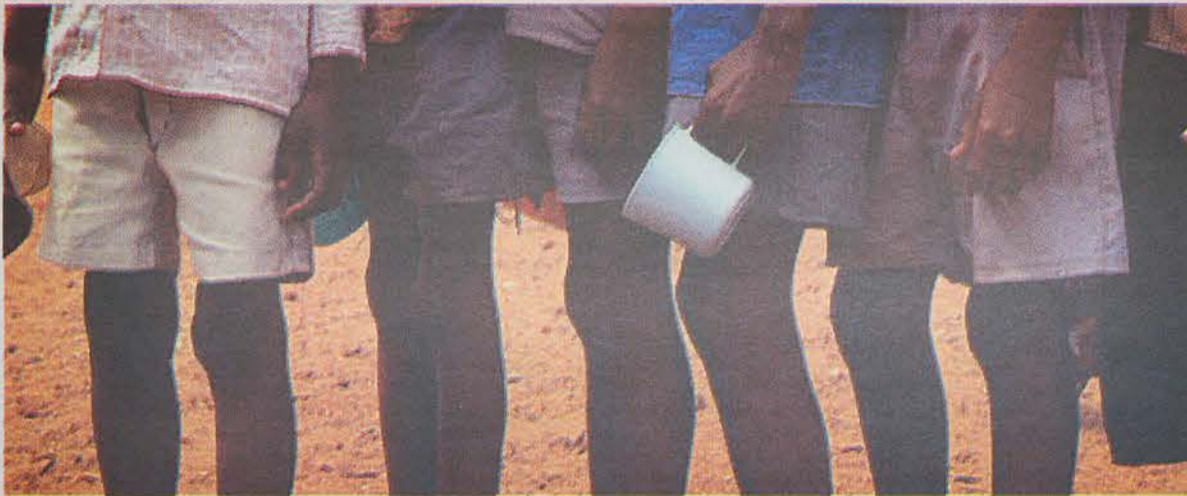
The first world is making some attempts to right this. Debt relief is being actively and often successfully pursued by numerous organizations, from the World Bank to the Jubilee Debt Campaign. However, these are paltry when viewed comparative to the size of the burdens they are attempting to relieve. The decisions made at the G8 summit to boost aid and cancel the debt of the poorest countries were noble enough, but even the most committed of the member states (including Britain) have been sluggish to implement the plans. To say that the West is purposely keeping African countries under a sort of financial thumb is perhaps too much, but the reasons for their slow move to action are nevertheless unclear.

In the decades that it took for the winds of change to sweep

the continent and send the colonists packing, public opinion of Africa was mired in old-fashioned notions of inferiority and an impenetrable air of mystery. What is more embarrassing for those lucky enough to be born in the West is how little has changed since then. We have a habit of not looking further than the stereotypes presented to us by our governments, the media and even the charities at the forefront of the attempts to change the world in which most Africans live; we tend to lump them into one great mess of cultures, history and ethnicities, and this is of course a grave mistake. However, debt is one problem that all Africans face and definitive debt relief a solution that they all deserve.

THE STATE

Features examines



Overturning the bread-basket

Rosamund Urwin looks at the urban crisis in Zimbabwe

There may be many reasons for optimism on the African continent, but Zimbabwe does not present us with many: the country suffers from the world's highest inflation rate, unemployment is estimated at 80%, and tourism, formerly a major industry, is now almost nonexistent. In their criticisms of the Zimbabwean government, the international press have focused mainly on the slump in agricultural production, a result of the Zanu PF Party's questionable land reforms and the seizure of white-owned farmland by the pro-Mugabe War Veterans Association. Perhaps this focus is unsurprising when the country once known as the "bread basket" of Africa now cannot feed its own population. Yet this emphasis has sidelined the problems in the towns which are worsening, with widespread fears that another round of Mugabe's controversial slum clearances are on the horizon.

The first round of Operation Murambatsvina ("Drive out the trash") affected most of the major Zimbabwean cities and left around

65,000 families displaced. Whilst Zimbabwe is not unique in carrying out slum levelling, other countries have planned the operation far better with pre-prepared new areas of settlement. In contrast, the groundwork for the Zimbabwean operation was minimal and little effort has since been made to rehouse those left homeless. According to a Zimbabwean government, this policy went hand-in-hand with land reclamation, but while the former slum-dwellers were sent back to rural areas, they did not receive any repossessed land. Many experienced enormous difficulties in being accepted into rural society, thus the families drifted back to the towns, some even re-building their destroyed structures. This leaves them enormously vulnerable to further government action against them.

The obvious question is why the slum clearance was instigated. A Zimbabwean Police Commissioner, Augustine Chihuri, said that the operation would "clean the country of the crawling mass of maggots bent on destroying the economy", with similar sentiments expressed by many other

government officials. The reality is quite different: slum clearance is being used as a form of political punishment and control. Since the towns (especially the urban poor) have voted consistently for the opposition party in Zimbabwe, the Movement for Democratic Change, the slum clearance was a penalty for their disloyalty to Mugabe. It is no coincidence that the clearances came so swiftly after the 2005 parliamentary elections, evidence of continuing opposition to Mugabe. Further, it scattered MDC supporters, making it more difficult for them to present a united opposition against the Zanu PF.

Rather perversely, however, the clearance campaign also affected many Mugabe supporters, including those very same war veterans who had helped with agricultural land seizures back in 2000. Again there is a simple political explanation: Mugabe, despite nominally being a socialist, is keen to preserve the social order. His earlier use of the war veterans has given them political sway and thus to avoid their political influence growing and since they no longer needed their help, the Zanu PF party with-

drew their protection and support. As with other informal enforcers Mugabe has manipulated, such as the youth militia, the war veterans were no more than a tool for keeping political control.

The international community is largely impotent to stop another wave of slum clearances and Mugabe's other damaging policies. Whilst the EU renewed economic sanctions on Zimbabwe, Mugabe does not mind seeing his people starve, so this will achieve little. Only the regional powerhouse South Africa could have any sway but Mbeki is desperate to create a more united Africa and believes there are more pressing concerns on the continent to address first, such as the civil war in the DRC. But the UK itself is not blameless: despite long acknowledging the human rights abuses the Mugabe administration has committed, ending the policy of removals to Zimbabwe in 2002 and admitting it is no safer now than it was then, the UK government has

owned land and thus attacking the rights of the white population, but now since it is the black urban poor who are under threat, the UK has stopped caring. Certainly the media was full of stories of the injustices of Mugabe's land reclamation back in 2002 but less was written in 2005 with the slum clearances and Zimbabwe has now largely disappeared from the headlines. It is time for a strong protest in the UK against the resumption of returns to a country where human rights are routinely abused.

Since the international community is failing the urban poor, perhaps the only real hope for change is for opposition to grow within Zimbabwean society. Principally as a result of the slum clearance, a radical Christian alliance has risen up in opposition to the bad governance policies under Mugabe. Initially, many displaced people took refuge in church halls but these were raided by police, expelling those who were given sanctuary. This had a tremendous impact upon the Christian urban leadership, many of whom are no longer prepared simply to address the problems of poverty in their parishes and remain silent about its governmental causes. Pius Ncube, the Roman Catholic Archbishop, has long been an outspoken critic of the Mugabe regime, but with growing support from other church leaders, we can only pray his calls for a non-violent revolution will finally be met.

An anonymous letter sent to Zimbabwe's Financial Gazette in 2000 stated, "The ruling Zanu PF should consider changing its emblem from a cockerel to a condom because it vividly reflects the party's political stance. A condom is cheap. It survives severe inflation, halts production, encourages cheating, protects a bunch of idiots and gives one a sense of security while screwing others." It is a credit to the writer that they had kept their sense of humour despite the worsening economic conditions of the time, but it is questionable whether today, with the ever-increasing suffering both in urban and rural areas in Zimbabwe, they would still make light of the Zanu PF's disastrous rule.



"The ruling Zanu PF should consider changing its emblem from a cockerel to a condom because it vividly reflects the party's political stance."

recently restarted its policy of forcibly and routinely returning failed asylum seekers. The academic Terence Ranger argues Britain's vacillating policy is a result of change in the British political climate. In 2002, the Mugabe administration was reclaiming white-

Africa onscreen

Aba Osunsade talks to political film-maker Abderrahmane Sissako

During recent decades, structural adjustment policies implemented in post-colonisation Africa by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank have been blamed for the perpetual poverty and hardship in what is essentially a resource-rich continent.

It is difficult to comprehend why a land-mass so rich in diamonds, oil and gold to name but a few of its resources is simultaneously the home of many of the world's poorest countries. With basic amenities such as electricity, running water and education being rarities in numerous African nations, it seems little is

being done to improve the situation by those with the authority and influence to help. It is a well-rehearsed subject matter - is Africa the victim of the West's failed attempts to 'save' it? And is the West, instead of rectifying its mistakes, worsening the situation through its insistence on debt repayments? In his new film, *Bamako*, Mauritanian actor and director, Abderrahmane Sissako imaginatively argues his side of the debate, setting the scene in the courtyard where he himself grew up, using real lawyers and villagers to emotively play out a mock-trial which sees the plaintiff, Africa, take on the defendants, the IMF and World Bank, in a heart-wrenching, intellectually stimulating

fight for justice. It is refreshing, albeit emotionally taxing, to see a multi-layered portrayal of Africa's plight: an "inside-out" view of the effects of Western institutions attempts to "help".

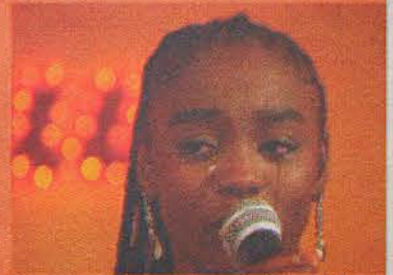
The Live8 concerts and *Make Poverty History* campaign have been successful in raising public awareness of the fact that although Africa may be poor - it need not be. If the IMF and World Bank appear to have acted in the interests of the West at the expense of Africa, i.e. enforced "neo-colonisation", the façade of their current attempts at poverty reduction must be shattered. The consensus seems to be that debt cancellation - in its entirety - is the optimum solution, enabling Africa to use what wealth it does have to get out of the rut it is currently in, instead of surviving "hand-to-mouth" paying back loans, whilst struggling with costly domestic issues such as disease. In *Bamako*, Sissako is not simply telling a story, he is making a statement. Sissako

presents a case for his Motherland, depicting reality but not as we know it in Oxfam ads. This reality contains complex relationships and interactions which extend beyond the dusty faces of fly-covered children with distended bellies. Yes it is a reality of hardship, but we must not become apathetic to it. On the contrary we should realize that a remedy exists, a remedy that is surprisingly feasible, and most certainly reasonable, if only we can convince creditors to stop using excuses such as corruption when opposing debt cancellation.

Speaking to Sissako, I ask if recent G8 summits and their failure to grant all proposals for complete debt cancellation were the main inspiration for making *Bamako*:

It's something that's been deep inside me for a long time. For African artists making films, it is very difficult to not speak of the continent because of its difficulties. There is an air of urgency which makes us feel the need to speak out. Being a black person, I

know how uncomfortable it is to be told what the media usually says [about Africa] so its comforting to make a film that speaks otherwise. There's currently no justice that exists to judge their actions. The action of these institutions, although accepted, was more imposed. They failed, yet cannot be contested. We must put their position into question lest we forget the truth of what happened because it seems we are not meant to know the truth or even understand



Bamako challenges perceptions of the continent

OF AFRICA

life on the continent in 2007



Dancing at a murder scene

Brett Popplewell goes in search of the new Rwanda

Two days into a month-long stint in Kigali I found myself dancing at the scene of a brutal murder. Sipping a beer in the Pasadena bar atop one of the city's many hills, I watched joyfully as a pair of skilled dancers jumped and jived across a circular cemented dance floor. Their coordinated dancing made for a captivating scene, but beneath their beauty lay a dark history. The dance floor itself marked the very spot where the bar owner's brother was murdered 13 years earlier.

The image of a young Rwandan couple entertaining a crowd of locals and foreigners with their dancing prowess is not one many people in the West would envision when picturing Rwanda.

In recent years, most of the news from Rwanda that has reached the average westerner is news of bloodshed. Books like "Shake Hands with the Devil" immortalized in print Rwanda's violent past while movies such as Hotel Rwanda have etched a violent image of Rwanda into the psyche of the average Brit.

Media savvy Brits are also familiar with the tale of the murder of 10 Belgian soldiers and the image of thousands of Rwandan refugees living in exile to escape the genocide. A Tutsi

woman being slaughtered in broad daylight on a Kigali street by her machete-wielding murderer is the most famous piece of film many Westerners have seen from Rwanda. This is the only true footage many in the West have seen from Rwanda that is untouched by the hands of Hollywood.

These images and stories have led many Westerners to perceive Rwanda as a violent country, its people divided by racial hatred created by European colonial powers. But western perception is 13 years behind Rwandan reality. Rwanda is no longer the battlefield it once was. Today Rwanda is in a state of reconstruction and remembrance. The mass graves and the stench of rotting flesh have been replaced by solemn genocide memorials and a genuine feeling that hope and prosperity lie in the country's future.

Unlike some of its neighbouring countries, Rwanda is home to many peoples united in peace. The streets of Kigali, though watched over by police brandishing AK-47s and billy clubs, are safe for Rwandans and Westerners alike. The West may have failed to protect the estimated one million lives lost during the genocide, but most Rwandans do not look at Westerners with hatred but rather with a curious eye. As a foreigner in Kigali the worst

I received was a constant reminder that my white skin made me a "muzungu" or "well-off white man". But being well-off in Kigali doesn't mean you're unwanted. It just means you stand out.

Back at the bar, I'm trying to blend into the scene as I pour back another drink and speak with a Rwandan friend. She's recounting the events of the 1994 genocide. She tells the type of stories Westerners associate with Rwanda. Stories of pregnant women being butchered - their unborn children cut from their wombs and stomped on. She tells me of the bar owner's brother - one of the many Rwandans whose life was cut short by a machete's blade. I learn how he was killed and eventually buried beneath the very spot where a woman is now shaking her hips to the beat of a drum.

I'm still overwhelmed by the horrid tale when a Rwandan woman approaches me and asks for a dance. As we dance, our feet glide over the scene of a man's murder and I think how odd a tribute this is. Then I realize Rwanda is no longer a murder scene. It is a memorial to those who died and a country trying to overcome the genocide by celebrating the good in its history and by building a united future.

the case.

The main disparity between both sides of the argument lies in the competence of African sovereignty. African states insist they can manage well on their own, if only they were given the capacity and means to do so. "The West" often point out the abundance of corrupt government officials as proof of the contrary. I ask Sissako for his opinion on Western media's often negative portrayal of the development process in Africa.

It's clear the manner in which stories about Africa are being told is not right. The reasons for this viewpoint should be analysed: it creates a Western feeling of superiority, focusing on corruption to suggest that Africa is not capable. But Europe is part of this corruption. I think the media attempts to distract the reality - as "Bamako" says, Africa is not a poor continent. It's a continent that has been impoverished by colonisation. After our independence we did

not become sovereign states, instead, there was a continuation of exploitation of resources. And it is the very agents of exploitation who say there is corruption.

As the movie poster says, "Bamako" is a film that needs to be seen and argued over, and seen again. It is a shame that the scheduled viewing of the film at a European Union conference attended by the heads of the IMF and World Bank was cancelled at the last minute, due to a personal reference to Paul Wolfowitz (President of the World Bank) in the film. But Sissako remains hopeful. Recalling the advice of an old Malian judge, he informs us that the film may not change everything, but had to be made all the same, so that "Perhaps then they will know that we know."

Bamako is out in cinemas now. Renoir Cinema, Brunswick Centre London WC1N 1AW Tel: 0870 850 6927 Tube: Russell Square

Ghana at 50

Matti Kohonen charts the country's path to independence through its most famous export - the cocoa bean

Cocoa is the sweetest thing on Earth, but as a commodity it has a bitter history that is fiercely fought over. The first beans travelled to Ghana were due to the ingenuity of an apprentice blacksmith called Tetteh Quarshie, who in 1876 returned with cocoa beans in his pockets from a voyage to Equatorial Guinea and planted them in Mampong.

As independence came, Ghana was the world's top cocoa producer. Through high export taxes and tariffs at the Cocoa Marketing Board, much of the money was channelled to national development, a move widely criticized by many of the cocoa farmers and private merchants. It accounted for 80% of foreign exchange and 70% of government revenues, so it's fair to say that cocoa fed the resources to build the new nation.

As Nkrumah was sidelined by a series of military coups, the fortunes of the crop also declined. In the mid 60s the average production was 450,000 tonnes per year. But through government mismanagement of the sector, production steadily fell. The ultimate decline starts from the crop of 1978/79 ending up in a disaster with wide spread drought in 1982/83 as exports reached a rock bottom of 158,956 tonnes.

It was then, in 1982, with the ascension of Flt. Lt. Jerry J. Rawlings as the president that the cocoa rehabilitation programme was launched. Also the World Bank and the IMF stepped in to 'rescue' the Ghanaian economy, cutting down the marketing board staff. Export taxes were cut,

and as the farmers got more out of their produce, production also picked up. By this time, the neighbouring Ivory Coast had passed Ghana to become the leading world producer.

With the advent of multi-party rule in 1992 also came the multi-privatisation of the industry. Foreign buying companies came to the market as intermediaries between the growers and the government export companies. Global civil society also started demanding a better deal for Third

World farmers, which then materialised in voluntary fair-trade rules. An opportunity to set up a farmer-owned co-operative emerged, and Kuapa Kokoo was founded. It's today one of the largest fair-trade producers in the world with 45,000 producer-members.

However, only 2% of its beans gets sold as fair-trade, as most chocolate manufacturers don't sign up to these rules.

The small portion of the fair-trade market means that not much social development money is received, so Kuapa Kokoo has diversified to start a credit union for its members and go into chocolate manufacturing. They own now 45% of the shares of Day Chocolate Company, who manufacture the Divine Chocolates in the UK and 30% of a US subsidiary. These profits are being repatriated directly to Ghana. The Ghanaian Diaspora has also been active in the cocoa trade; some of them now take part in running the foreign affiliates. Cocoa therefore continues to build the nation, though not today through government initiatives, but social enterprise and global Diaspora networks.

Profile: Two Leaders of Ghana

Dr Kwame Nkrumah



The first President of an independent Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah studied for a PhD at LSE in 1946. Nkrumah returned to the Gold Coast in 1947 with the intention of leading his country towards independence but was wrongly implicated in a protest and imprisoned by the British. Two years later Nkrumah had formed the Convention People's Party drawing on great deal of support in Ghana form the unions to the cocoa farmers. He worked towards forming the first People's Assembly shortly afterwards which called for self-government and a universal franchise. Rejecting these proposals, the British had Nkrumah arrested. However after significant international pressure the British granted Ghana independence with the country holding its first elections in 1951. Nkrumah is still known in Ghana as Osagyefo - the victorious one, for his crucial role in achieving independence.

Dr Hilla Limann



Hilla Limann served in office as President of Ghana from 1979-1981. Limann achieved his Bsc in Economics at LSE before receiving his doctorate in Paris. Upon returning to his native Ghana he became a leading figure in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before becoming ambassador to Switzerland. In 1979 Ghanaian political activist Jerry Rawlings staged a coup to oust the former dictatorial regime. In the aftermath Limann was elected President whilst representing the People's National Party winning 62% of the vote. Like Nkrumah before him, Limann was a Pan-Africanist who believed in uniting the continent. Rawlings staged a second coup in 1981 and deposed Limann.

Watch your language

Sarah Cooke examines the problems faced by non-English speakers on campus



English as a second language (ESL) at the LSE is a touchy subject. When I interviewed students for this article, most of them refused to go on the record. There were concerns about being seen as bigoted – but is someone a xenophobe if they don't understand their teachers' and fellow pupils' accents, or is uncomfortable when the people in the kitchen at halls are all speaking a language they don't understand? "I hate it when a big group of students are gathered in the kitchen speaking a foreign language," an anonymous student told *The Beaver*. "I feel deliberately excluded." It is more likely that they feel excluded, actually – in a country where most students only speak English at school, an international institution like the LSE showcases a real language gap.

It's a well-known (and well-publicised) fact that the LSE is host to more countries than the UN. Approximately half of undergraduate students and three-quarters of postgrads at the LSE come from countries other than the UK, and approximately 40% of the undergraduate population comes from countries where

English is not the first language. The percentage is even higher among postgrads. I always assumed that most of these ESL speakers at the LSE have a phenomenal grasp on English – my friends from Bulgaria and Norway speak better English than I do. I thought that only a small minority would have difficulties keeping up. Not so – it turns out that one in six LSE students "needs help with their English," according to the LSE press office.

A South Korean postgraduate at the LSE, who chose to remain anonymous, explained a glitch in the system to *The Beaver*: apparently it is possible to cheat on the Korean TOEIC and TOEFL tests, which measure competence in English. The test poses questions out of a database of about 400 to 500 options, and test-takers memorize the questions and put them up on Chinese websites after they take the test. Students need only memorize the possible questions and they can do very well. An article in the *Korea Times* last year supports this claim story, and also alleges that people were also text messaging during their tests.

While fluent in English herself, this girl knew a Korean student at the



“A common complaint among undergraduates at the LSE is that they are not able to understand their course teachers because of strong accents or a tenuous grasp on spoken English.”

LSE who had cheated on his TOEFL and was floundering at the LSE. He couldn't understand his professors, make friends, or even order a sandwich effectively. "Still," our course said, "you don't need to speak English to study at the LSE." Her cousin had come to the LSE without any oral or aural English skills, did not understand a word of his lectures, studied hard and long and received a Merit for his efforts. Antonieta Riera, a first-year student who speaks 5 languages, and whose mother tongue is Spanish, says that imperfect English is not a deal-breaker. "While it is definitely an obstacle, it's not about the quality of your English but rather the quality of your ideas," she claims.

Why bother cheating on the TOEFL, or just memorizing the tricks of the test but not learning the language, when it's going to make life so difficult? "Everyone wants to study in the West," our source from Korea said. Jeffrey Miller writes for the *Korea Times*: "Never mind about whether or not the person could talk their way out of a [newsagents] or to save themselves in a fire, scoring high on the TOEIC in Korea is your ticket to success either in the workplace or gain-

ing admissions to some prestigious university." This is changing; institutions like Shanghai University have already been cited as competition for British schools, and international student applications to UK universities were down this year 5.3% this year. The tables are turning, and someday British students will be struggling to learn Mandarin so that they can study in the world's most powerful and influential countries.

Even those with legitimate TOEFL and TOEIC scores can struggle. "I have to work twice as hard as you to get the work done," our Korean told me. "For the first few weeks of last term, I was kind of mute," says Yingyu Guo, a first-year from China. "But it got better. Still, why do the professors have to use such massive words all the time? They know that a lot of their audience does now know English as a first language!" An anonymous Russian first-year agreed with her in relation to lecturers. "Why not just use simpler language? Everyone knows Maths, but no-one knows fucking English!"

It would appear so. ESL students at the LSE are served by the language centre, which provides them with free services such as language assistance and support with course work. However, the students I interviewed said that the classes are a little...erm...basic, and do not provide the sort of tutelage that an ESL student at the LSE is looking for. Is it admirable that the LSE provides this service, or can it be seen as a means of justifying taking in more overseas students, even those whose English is not sufficient to really benefit from study at the LSE? The income we generate (as I am one of them) made up 32% of the LSE's overall income in 2005-6, as opposed to the 13% provided by home fees.

A common complaint among undergraduates at the LSE is that they are not able to understand their course teachers because of strong accents or a tenuous grasp on spoken English. Of course, no-one would allow me to quote them on this – it's simply too impolite to mention officially, especially at a university that is so proud of its international student body.

ESL STUDENTS AT LSE



543

from China



96

from Japan



90

from South Korea



64

from Russia



287

from Hong Kong



92

from Norway



68

from Taiwan



7

from Kazakhstan



A different world?

SOURCES OF HELP

In your department

You can speak to your various people such as: Your personal tutor/supervisor, you can email or call them to arrange an appointment to meet with them. You can also seek advice from the departmental tutor.

At LSE

The LSE Student Counselling Service is available free to all registered students. Call: 020 7852 3627

to make an appointment, or visit them at 6th floor of Tower 1

Students' Union Advice and Counselling Centre You can get visa, housing or financial help as well as see their counsellor on a Friday. Call:

020 7955 7145 Or email: su.advice-centre@lse.ac.uk

Or visit them in: E297

For all academic issues such as appeals, misconduct cases, complaints and disciplinary procedures, you can go and speak to Alexandra Vincenti the SU Education and Welfare Officer. Email her on su.edwelfare@lse.ac.uk, see her in (E299 or call 0207 955 6709.

The LSE Chaplaincy

The LSE Chaplaincy may also be able to help you. They can be contacted by calling: (0)20 7955 7965 and are based in G9.

Pastoral Care

There are various staff members at the school who have specific pastoral roles - male advisor, female advisor to students, Dean of Undergraduates and Dean of

Graduates. Details can be found here: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/resources/schoolServices/studentAdvisers.htm>

The LSE Disability Office

The LSE Disability office offers help and support to students with disabilities. They are found in A40 (just next to the SSC) or call (0)20 7955 7767. The office also employs a dedicated Mental Health and well-being advisor Jane Sedgwick. Email her on j.sedgwick@lse.ac.uk.

Outside LSE

Nightline

A confidential support service run by students, for students. Call: 020 7631 0101

They offer a free, confidential listening service for a whole range of problems and topics.

The Samaritans

You can call them on: 020 7734 2800

There are also walk in sessions between 9am-9pm, seven days a week at Marshall Street, Soho (not far from the LSE campus).

Chinese Student Helpline

The 'Chinese Student Helpline' run by the Chinese National Healthy Living Centre sponsored by the LSE and the SU has just been launched. The helpline is open every Wednesday 1.30pm to 4.30pm, 21st Feb to 13th June. Call:

0207 7287 2705 (London local rate) or:

0845 601 6030 (National local rate)

You can ring up and speak to an advisor in English, Cantonese or Mandarin.

Personal Experiences of Mental Health Issues

LSE students share their experience of living, and coping, with mental health problems

How exactly did it all begin? I don't really know anymore, or I don't want to remember. I think it was summer and I just wanted to lose some weight, like almost everybody else does. Except that I didn't know where to stop. At first I didn't know something was wrong. The feeling of not having eaten, of having total control over what I was ingesting, was incredibly addictive. I knew exactly how many calories there were in the teaspoon of cereal I was having in the morning, and I was writing it down in a notepad. I started to avoid eating with people. I began to walk and exercise more than ever, and to be incredibly determined about succeeding in my studies. I remember having gastro-enteritis one day, and being incredibly happy because it meant I would lose some more weight. By that

time, I had already lost about 20 kilos in less time than it takes you to say diet.

When did I start realising that something was wrong? Long, long after it all started, probably when I didn't get my period for three months in a row. Nobody around me had noticed anything at all. They didn't know and to be honest, I was happier that they didn't. I didn't want to get any professional help even when I became aware of it myself. I think I thought that if I managed my way out of it alone, it would somehow be an achievement, something that I could be proud of.

And somehow I did manage it. I left home. I decided to pursue my studies far, far away. I started spending a huge amount of money on food, because I decided that it had tortured me so much before that I would now enjoy it as much as I could. I read

extensively about the illness, even though it never really gave me answers to the questions I had; I wanted to know why, and how I made it go away, and if it would come back. There are weeks when I fear that more than anything. Some things haven't left me. I still don't drink alcohol, because I read somewhere that it was fattening. I still have an immoderate love for raw cucumber without any sauce, and for things like broccoli and salad. I refuse to go on a diet, because I don't really know whether I will be able to stop it.

Funnily enough, I probably wouldn't be at the LSE without this anorexic period of my life, because I have never worked harder. Anorexia never leaves you. Even now, even if I consider that I've put all that behind me, I know that it can come back any day, any time.



Graphic: Aula Harin

I was diagnosed with manic depression three weeks ago, although I have probably been suffering from it for much longer. Manic depression is an illness. It causes an imbalance in the brain. It's very different from schizophrenia, but it can result in the sufferer appearing to have two different personalities.

There are days when even going to school is a victory. On days like that, the only thing can do is hide in my bed; under one blanket, you don't hear the noises so much anymore. Add a duvet and it's even better, you get the feeling that the world doesn't exist anymore, which is good when you can't face it. For most people, that happens once in a while; for me, that's

how I feel at least 25% of the time. Everything feels like a huge effort, even getting dressed or taking a shower. Essays are beyond the realm of possibility. In a depression phase, you can't focus, you can't do anything. It's harder to think, harder to write, harder to be. It's a constant weariness, made worse by the fact that you never really want to sleep and that the sleep you do get doesn't rest you. The night is full of nightmares, and insomnia. Sleep becomes something to avoid, like most things that used to give you pleasure. Interestingly enough, even in my manic phases, I don't get much sleep either: too many things to do, too many projects, too many things I need to think of. In manic phases, you feel less like you can do anything, and

more like you have to do everything. One of the funniest things is telling people. Trying to choose the people that I'm going to tell is tough, even before having to wait for their reactions. I think I've had pretty much anything, from "Oh yeah, I knew something was wrong." to "You're mad". Hearing that from people I've trusted enough to tell is not the most helpful thing ever, but then again manic depression isn't a very well known illness. Many people don't really distinguish it from depression. Some will tell you that it is all about willpower. Others will say that it's just attention seeking. Many won't know what to do with the radical mood change.

Myanmar: a pariah state?

Poverty, drugs and war, **Chris Wilkins** looks at the causes of conflict in Myanmar

Myanmar's military regime – the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) – has always been an easy target for critics. A catalogue of human rights abuses and resistance to democratisation, epitomised by the continued house arrest of Nobel prize-winning activist Aung San Suu Kyi, has made Myanmar the quintessential pariah state. Although susceptible to international pressure – dozens of political prisoners were released earlier this year – Myanmar's isolation means little can be done to address the problems created by a violent power struggle in the mountainous regions of Shan State, close to the Chinese and Thai borders, where one of the world's least-documented conflicts continues to rage unabated.

The situation is complex; no less than six independent militia groups, with various minority ethnic allegiances, are operationally active. Many continue to oppose the SPDC, including Shan State Army-South (SSA-S), while some, notably the United Wa State Army (UWSA), have nurtured alliances with the SPDC in opposition to rival groups. Over the years, massive organisations opposing the central government – sometimes with armies numbering in the tens of thousands – have spawned splinter-group after splinter-group, sometimes fighting between themselves, while the

army of the SPDC continues its brutal campaign to assert central authority.

As often happens in such conflicts, civilians get caught in the middle. According to figures from the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), violence in 2006 caused the creation of 86,000 internal refugees to add to a total of over half a million, while over 13,000 have lost their lives since 1985. Thousands of combatants are involved on all sides, and the conflict shows little sign of ending; in fact, local news agencies recently reported leaked plans for a fresh SPDC offensive, backed by the UWSA, against the SSA-S and the Karenni Army, to commence in April. Bearing in mind the nature of this

It seems likely that both sides are paying lip service to the international community and adopting some half-hearted measures in the hope of receiving aid...

war, the next spate of violence promises to be both intense and inconclusive.

What has made the conflict so potent and enduring? The incorporation of ethnically distinct populations into the Union of Burma, formed following independence from Britain in 1948, was always going to be difficult. Tensions developed instantly when the central government failed to satisfy the expectations of minority leaders, and insurgent movements developed over the following decades. Today, these ethnic militias are entrenched, often carrying

out administrative functions in the absence of government authority, but lacking resources and incapable of providing security. The resulting lack of institutions, combined with the legacy of war, has left the minority populations of Shan State – the supposed beneficiaries of a struggle for freedom – among the poorest groups in Southeast Asia's poorest country.

Another factor plays a vital role: drugs. Shan State lies at the heart of the infamous 'Golden Triangle', formerly heart of the world's opium trade – the principal ingredient of heroin. The UNODC has made much of Southeast Asia's 'success story', where opium and heroin production has been dramatically reduced. This positive attitude may apply to Thailand, where opium and heroin production has been virtually wiped out, but cultivation in Myanmar remained at over 30,000 hectares in 2005, still constituting a notable chunk of global yield. But heroin isn't the only profitable drug; in response to the pressure on opium production, heroin labs have simply been converted into methamphetamine labs to supply the ever-growing demand for new party drugs like crystal meth. It seems the international community underestimated the entrepreneurial abilities of Myanmar's drug lords, not to mention the law of supply-and-demand; no more the world's leading heroin producer, Shan State has become the region's leading methamphetamine producer instead.

Despite decades of open involvement in drug trafficking, insurgent groups have made dramatic statements opposing the trade during the past year. In June 2006, Xiao Minliang of the

UWSA announced a 'supreme sacrifice' by pledging to oppose the drugs trade in areas under its control. Yawd Serk of the SSA-S was similarly dramatic, naming counter-narcotics a 'guiding principle' of his organisation. Such statements should not fool anyone, however; Yawd Serk at least had the temerity to be realistic – considering the profitability of drug trafficking, he conceded that some of his subordinates would certainly continue to dabble. Even more disturbing, a report released last year by a local news agency reported frequent sightings of SPDC soldiers guarding meth labs on behalf of the UWSA – probably the legacy of a 1989 agreement whereby the central government permitted the UWSA to continue drug trafficking in exchange for administering parts of Shan State on their behalf (and probably a cut of drug profits). This may not come as a surprise, considering the SPDC's record – but it makes a mockery of their stated commitment to stamping out the trade. It seems likely that both sides are paying lip service to the international community and adopting some half-hearted measures in the hope of receiving aid, while at the same time continuing to profit from the trade. The poor political situation and the flourishing drugs trade are mutually-reinforcing; as long as there is a power struggle and narcotics are the only source of funding, then both the drugs trade and the violence will continue.

On a rare positive note, some good news came out of Myanmar last week. Various dissident groups, after meeting in secret, were able to agree on a pledge of unity which included various shared objectives. The signatories read like a who's-who of groups opposed to the SPDC, including the Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), Women's League of Burma (WLB) and the National Council of the Union of Burma

(NCUB). The international community must praise and assist the development of cogent opposition while simultaneously keeping up its pressure on the SPDC through international institutions. Public awareness is also an important means to generating the type of pressure needed for squeezing concessions from a weak and isolated regime. Although political reform remains a distant goal, some positive steps are at least being taken towards saving Shan State from the mire of poverty, drugs and war.

AUNG SAN SUU KYI



It is not power that corrupts but fear. Fear of losing power corrupts those who wield it and fear of the scourge of power corrupts those who are subject to it.

Aung San Suu Kyi was born on 19 June 1945 in Yangon (Rangoon). She is a nonviolent pro-democracy activist and leader of the National League for Democracy in Myanmar (Burma), and a noted prisoner of conscience. A devout Buddhist, Suu Kyi won the Rafto Prize and the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 1990 and in 1991 was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her peaceful and non-violent struggle under a repressive military dictatorship. She was educated in India and Britain, and after studying at Oxford University and marrying in Britain, she returned to Myanmar in 1988. That year, the long-time leader of the socialist ruling party, General Ne Win, stepped down, leading to mass demonstrations for democratisation on August 8, 1988 (8-8-88, a day seen as favorable), which were violently suppressed. A new military junta took power. Heavily influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence, Aung San Suu Kyi entered politics to work for democratisation, helped found the National League for Democracy and was put under house arrest on 20 July 1989.

MYANMAR: A HISTORY

1987 Economic crisis provokes mass anti-government demonstrations

1988 Martial law is declared by the State Law and Order Restoration Council, 1,000s are arrested

1990 General election won by National League for Democracy (NLD) – release of some prisoners

1992 More political prisoners are freed in an attempt to improve Burma's standing in the international community

1995 Nobel Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi is released from house arrest.

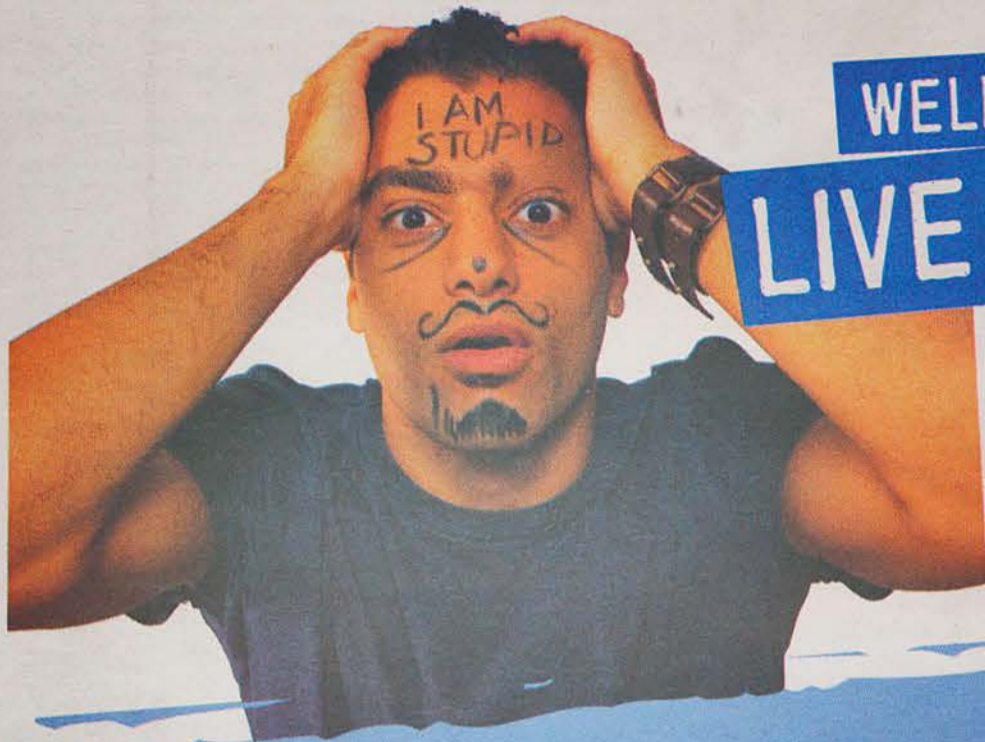
1997 The Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) admits Burma as a member.

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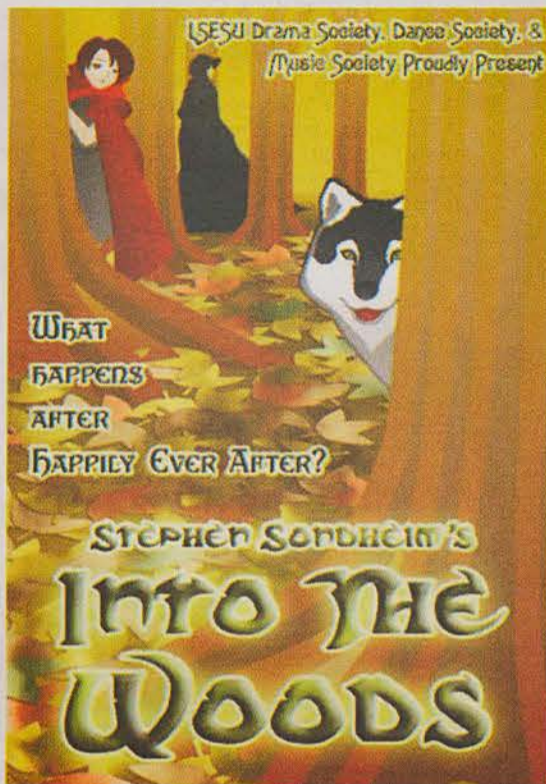


the BeaverPreviews

Into the Woods

An evening of "talking instruments, adulterous scandal, magic spells and general misbehaviour..."

LSE is a place of work: one only needs to wander into a lecture hall to observe the bustling students discussing exams, internships, elections- all with a Financial Times neatly tucked under their arm to realise this is no place for horse play. Unless you're in the rugby team that is. However, there are a few students, nestled away in the corners of the quad and the Shaw library that dream of singing, spotlights and stardom. That is why the Drama, Dance and Music Societies decided to join forces and unite every artistic dreamer in a performance of *Into the Woods* by Stephen Sondheim. It's a musical of camped up fairytale characters breaking free from the restrictions of their traditional stories of cheery morality and showing what they get up to 'After Happily Every After...' Stephen Sondheim was described as "the greatest artist in American musical theatre" in *The New York Times*, illustrated by such productions as *Sweeney Todd* and *West Side Story*. 'Into the Woods' is a story of uncensored Brother Grimm fairytales overlapping as *The Baker* and his wife try for a family, coming across *Cinderella*, *Jack*, the *Witch* and many more during their travels. Act I opens with a wish, a witch, and a curse. Each separate tale intertwines throughout the story, each depending on a weakness or strength of another. The play's conflicts are motivated by selfish wishes, made for the betterment of individual characters. Act II explores what happens after "happily ever after," when these wishes have come true. The show explores the consequences of actions taken in the first act, and the need for community in order to survive "the Woods". It's a story of talking instruments, adulterous scandal, magic spells and general misbehaviour. The play carries the message 'Be careful what you wish for...it might just come true'; so if you wish of an evening of well-known LSE faces prancing, dancing and causing havoc then take a break from your studies and come watch what us thespy types have been up to while ignoring deadlines and missing lectures. It's a huge production, involving massive dance routines, sing-a-long-songs and some side-splitting laughter in between.



And if that hasn't sold you... Howard Davies is in it!

"Why do we need Snow and Ice"?

Emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases are changing the Earth's climate, and can result in a global increase in temperature between 1.4°C and 5.8°C over the next hundred years. The weather is likely to become more extreme, and glaciers are melting fast. But why would we need them anyway? This event seeks to clarify the high importance of snow and ice for our planet.

Our speaker, Pål Prestrud, is a Doctorate in Biology from University of Oslo, and is currently acting as vice chair of ACIA (Arctic Climate Impact Assessment) and Director of CICERO from June 2002. CICERO participates actively in the assessment work of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)

WHEN	7th March, 14:00
WHERE	D702
HOW MUCH	Free

LSE Arts Week

5th-9th March 2007

What's On?

- talks/tours
- dance/music/drama
- interactive art
- visual arts/film



Monday

- Poetry at Speaker's Corner** - Literature Society - The Plaza - 11 A.M. - free
- Clay Crush** - Arts Forum - 12-2 P.M. - Houghton Street - Mass participation art - free
- Knitting workshop** - Knitting Society - newcomers especially welcome - 12 - 2 P.M. - The Quad
- Hip Hop Fundamentals Workshop** - Dance Society - 6-8 P.M. - Parish Hall - £3/£4
- Street Jazz** - Dance Society - 7-8 P.M. - G1 - £3/£4
- Beginners Swing Dance Class** - Swing Dance Society - 7-9 P.M. - G108 - £2.50/£3.50
- How does art change the world?** - discussion with Thomas Hirschhorn - meet outside Southbank Centre - 6.45 P.M. - free (Arts Forum funded)
- Orchestra Spring Concert Rehearsal** - Music Society - 7-9 P.M. - Programme includes Haydn's London Symphony - All Welcome - free

Tuesday

- Arts Week Launch** - Arts Forum - 12.30 - 2 P.M. - Parish Hall - A lunch to marks LSE's first Arts Week - refreshments provided - free
- Jazz Band Practice** - Music Society - 4-6 P.M. - Music Practice Room (access through Shaw Library) - free
- Lyrical Jazz Dance Workshop** - Dance Society - 6-8 P.M. - S50 - £3/£4
- Choir Spring Concert Rehearsal** - Music Society - 6-7.30 P.M. - Shaw Library - Mozart's Requiem - free
- Salt Lake City Punk** - Film Society (screening) - 8 P.M. - E171 (New Theatre) - free/£1
- Ballet Class** - Dance Society - 7-8 P.M. (beginners), 8-9.30 P.M. (advanced) - H216 - £3/£4

Wednesday

- Poetry at Speaker's Corner** - Literature Society - The Plaza - 11 A.M. - free

- The Creative Canvas** - Arts Forum - 11-2 P.M. - Houghton Street - mass participation art - free
- Colour the Streets** - a Tate Modern 'Raw Canvas' initiative - 11-2 P.M. - Houghton Street - mass participation art - free
- Chamber Concert** - Music Society - 7 P.M. - Shaw Library - free
- Buena Vista Social Club** - Film Society (screening) - 8 P.M. - E171 (New Theatre) - free/£1
- Improver's Swing Dance Class** - Swing Dance Society - 7-9 P.M. - G108 - £2.50/£3.50

Thursday

- Houghton St. Hop** - Swing Dance Society - just dance! swing or otherwise... - 12 - 3 P.M. - Houghton Street - free
- Celon Mange** - Alternative Music Society - an evening of sonic destruction - 7 P.M. - Shaw Library - free
- Writers' Workshop** - Drama Society - 7 P.M. - Z239 - free
- Life Drawing Session** - Visual Arts Society - 7 P.M. - D211 - £3/£4 - bring your own materials
- Intermediate/Advanced Swing Dance Class** - Swing Dance Society - 7-9 P.M. - D202 - £2.50/£3.50
- Hip Hop Dance Class** - Dance Society - 6-7.30 P.M. (advanced)/7.30-9 P.M.(beginners) - Parish Hall - £3/£4

Friday

- Poetry at Speaker's Corner** - Literature Society - The Plaza - 11 A.M. - free
- Actors' Workshop** - Drama Society - 5 P.M. - D002 - free
- Backstage tour of the National Theatre** - meet outside National Theatre - 5 P.M. - free (Arts Forum funded) - limited availability, please email us
- Into the Woods Fairytale Crush!** - 8 P.M. - 2 A.M.

Running Tuesday - Friday

- Visual Arts Exhibition** - 10-5 P.M. - Parish Hall - free
- The Muse** - Literature Society - Release of LSE's new literature journal *Into the Woods* ticket sales - Drama Society - stall on Houghton Street - Performances 13th and 15th-17th March
- Degree Art Exhibition** - University of the Arts - The Atrium - free
- The Tough Projector** - Arts Forum in conjunction with ReCollect - an instant interactive art exhibition where your small scale contributions join a live, constantly changing display in The Quad.

And watch out for *The Curious Beaver*...!

Promoting Non-Violence and Protecting Human Rights

Speaker: Ms. June Holmes

Summary: Peace Brigades International (PBI) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) which protects human rights and promotes non-violent transformation of conflicts.

When invited, they send teams of volunteers into areas of repression and conflict. The volunteers accompany human rights defenders, their organizations and others threatened by political violence. Perpetrators of human rights abuses usually do not want the world to witness their actions. The presence of volunteers backed by a support network helps to deter violence. They create space for local activists to work for social justice and human rights.

PBI operates in nations as far flung as Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico and Nepal. Ms. Holmes will talk to us about the PBI's work, International Human Rights law, and provide an insight into the practical side of the UN, NGO's and Governmental Institutions work.

WHEN	6th March, 18:30
WHERE	TBA
HOW MUCH	Free

COMING UP

LSE TENNIS SOCIETY PARTY

Friday 16th March from 6.30pm in the Underground

- Free food!
- Free alcoholic shots for the first 50 people!
- Crush DJ!
- FREE & GUARANTEED entry to the last Crush of term!!!
- Pay at the door only: -Free for team members, social tournament players; -£1 members -£2 everyone else

Contact Sumit for more information: s.k.buttoo@lse.ac.uk

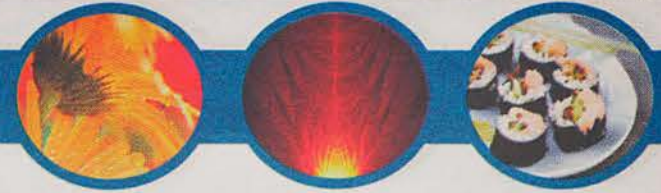


International Party at Rosebery

Hosted in The Tippy Beaver, the new Rosebery Committee are holding an international party, with students to represent their country, decorate the bar and even bring some food. It promises to be the best party Rosebery has ever seen and will be great to see everyone before the LSE breaks up for Easter.

From 20:00 onwards, at Rosebery Hall, EC1R 4TY

the Beaver Listings

TUESDAY
06/03

- 08:30 Cycling Week, Cyclists' Breakfast - including fruits, croissants, juices, *Houghton Street* [visit www.lsecycling.com]
- 08:30 CU prayer meeting, *Chaplaincy [Everyday]*
- 09:10 Catholic Pro-life Group meeting, *Caffé Nero*
- 15:00 CSSA Chinese Classes - B-class, *D206*
- 18:15 Yoga Intermediate Ashtanga Yoga, *Parish Hall*
- 18:30 UN, Talk: "Promoting Non-Violence and Protecting Human Rights", *TBC*
- 19:00 Debate Weekly meeting, *D302*
- 19:00 Dance Ballet (Beginners), *H216*
- 19:00 People and Planet, Fairtrade Wine and Films Evening, *D702*
- 20:00 Dance Ballet (advanced) *H216*

WEDNESDAY
07/03

- 08:30 Cycling Week, Cyclists' Breakfast - including fruits, croissants, juices, *Houghton Street*
- 13:00 Catholic Mass, *Chaplaincy*
- 13:00 Green party, Weekly meeting, *H104*
- 13:00 Hindu, Vedic lunch, *D211*
- 13:00 Anime & Manga, Drawing Class and Gaming Session, *Z129*
- 13:00 Accounting, Homework help session, *G107*
- 13:00 Student Action for Refugees, Weekly meeting, *A283*
- 13:00 Go, Weekly meeting, *V103*
- 13:00 Interfaith Forum, Visit to Synagogue, *Meet outside Old Building*
- 14:00 Pakistan, Weekly meeting, *U203*
- 14:00 Opera, Weekly meeting, *H104*
- 14:00 Yoga, Intermediate Yoga, *G212*
- 14:00 Scandinavian, Talk: "Why do we need Snow and Ice", *D702*
- 15:00 Maths and Stats, Homework help session, *K05*
- 15:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes - B-class, *V103*
- 16:00 Bridge, Weekly meeting, *G107*
- 16:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes - I-class, *H206*
- 18:15 Politics Discussion forum / meeting *H103*
- 19:00 Swing Dance, Improvers Classes, *G108*

THURSDAY
08/03

- 08:30 Cycling Week, Cyclists' Breakfast - including fruits, croissants, juices, *Houghton Street*
- 11:00 Australia and New Zealand, Weekly meeting, *D9*
- 13:00 SU UGM, *Old Theatre*
- 15:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes, *K05*
- 15:00 CSSA, China In-Live Cultural Exchange Scheme, *U8*
- 17:00 AIESEC, Weekly meeting, *H106*
- 17:30 Yoga, Hatha Yoga, *Badminton Court*
- 17:30 Argentinean, Tango classes, *K05*
- 18:00 People and planet, Weekly meeting, *H103*
- 18:00 Sikh-Punjab, Music class, *S78*
- 18:00 Dance, Intermediate hip hop class, *S75*
- 18:00 Filipino, Tagalog lessons, *G107*
- 18:00 Visual Arts, Life drawing class, *D206*
- 18:15 Catholic, Bible-sharing Group, *Chaplaincy*
- 18:30 CU, CU Central, *G1*
- 19:00 Debate, Workshop, *D302*
- 19:00 Dance, Hip Hop (advanced), *H202*
- 19:00 Question Time and People and Planet, Fair Trade or Free Trade: what's best for the world?, *S75*
- 20:30 Dance, Hip Hop (beginners), *Badminton courts*

FRIDAY
09/03

- 08:30 Cycling Week, Cyclists' Breakfast - including fruits, croissants, juices, *Houghton Street*
- 11:00 People and Planet and Palestinian, Fairtrade Market, *Quad*
- 14:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes - A-Class, *Y115*
- 16:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes - O-class, *S221*
- 16:00 GO, Weekly meeting, *H104*
- 17:00 Hindu, Gita Classes, *D11*
- 19:00 Dance, Ballet Class, *S75*
- 20:00 SU, Fairy Tale CRUSH, *Underground Bar, Quad, The Three Tuns*

MONDAY
12/03

- 08:30 CU, Prayer Breakfast, *Chaplaincy*
- 12:00 Knitting, Workshop, *Quad*
- 16:00 CSSA, Chinese Classes - B-class, *K05*
- 17:30 Yoga, Hatha Yoga, *Badminton Court*
- 19:00 Swing Dance, Beginner's Classes, *D502*
- 19:00 Dance, Street Jazz, *G1*

SU Honorary Studentships

Honorary Studentships are given to twenty students each year as recognition of outstanding service and contribution to the Students' Union, Athletics' Union or the wider student body. An Honorary Studentship is for life. Nomination forms are available from SU Reception (and is attached below). The winners will be given their awards at the SU Annual General Meeting on Thursday 15th March.

Deadline: 12noon, Monday 12th March.

QUAD OFFICE HOURS

Aled Dilwyn Fisher Environment and Ethics Officer, *Monday, 13.00*
 Anushka Shenoy General Course Officer, *Tuesday 13.00*
 Sid Kamath Executive Editor, The Beaver, *Tuesday 14.00 E204*
 Fadhil Bakeer Markar International Students Officer, *Tuesday 13.00*
 Ali Dewji Communications Officer, *Tuesday 16.00*
 Emma Hallgren Students with Disabilities Officer, *Tuesday 15.00*
 Jimmy Tam General Secretary, *Thursday 14.00*

Michail Retsinas Mature and Part-Time Students' Officer, *Wednesday 16.00 D302*
 Joel Kenrick Treasurer, *Thursday 14.00*
 Alex Finnegan LGBT Officer, *Thursday 14.00 (Alex Vincenti's office)*
 Adrian Beciri Returning Officer, *Thursday 14.00*
 James Casnell Postgraduate Officer, *Thursday 15.00*

The Dev Cropper Award

The annual Dev Cropper Award commemorates John Devenand Cropper, a Government student who died suddenly in 1998. During his three years at the LSE, Dev was intensely involved in the School community and beyond. The award recognises a second year student who has contributed to student life in their first five terms at LSE and consists of a £2500 stipend for the winner's third year. Students may nominate themselves or a friend. Pick up a nomination form at SU Reception or print off the attached document. The Award will be presented at the SU Annual General Meeting on Thursday 15th March,

1pm, Old Theatre.

Deadline: 5pm, Friday 9th March.

www.lsesu.com/whatson

Zoe Sullivan Women's Officer, *Thursday 10.00 D703*
 Louise Robinson Residences' Officer, *Thursday 12.00*
 Alexandra Vincenti Education and Welfare Officer, *Friday 14.00*
 Shanela Haque Anti-Racism Officer, *Friday 11.00*
 Arthur Krebbers Societies' Officer, *Friday 13.00*



the BeaverReviews

The Lunch Hour

By mollytucker

Let's be honest; Wetherspoons is not known for being the benchmark for all things classy. Nowhere that serves alcohol that cheaply is going to be particularly glamorous, and the Friday night clientele sometimes leave a little to be desired. But today I am not concerned with our beloved Shakespeare's Head's liquid offerings, but rather its' unexpectedly delicious and incredibly thrifty culinary offerings.

My particular favourite is the Chicken Caesar salad; using fresh ingredients including a nice light dressing and parmesan, this is as good or better than anything I could get at a much nicer establishment. I've been told the traditional English dishes and cooked breakfasts are similarly worthy.

Wetherspoons serves food until 10.30 in most of their branches, and while you don't go to Wetherspoons for its' unique atmosphere and 'funky' vibe, it's often quiet and they don't mind students. The Shakespeare's Head is pretty large, but if it's too busy you have another branch just around the corner that stays open late on weekdays, which most LSEers don't find.

Make sure you check out the two for £7.49 deals on certain meals, or the relatively cheap beer and burger combo; both are good value for money when you want something filling but inexpensive. There is also a great deal to be said for not having to go further a-field for your drinking needs once you are done with lunch or dinner! Although it doesn't have the grotty appeal and convenience of the Tuns, it does sell Koppeberg and if that isn't a glowing enough endorsement for you, I don't know what is...

Nights Out

By jamesallgrove and stevehampson

Being students of the highly disciplined department of Economic History, we are best placed to advise on how to go out lots and work very little. Therefore, we thought we should share our choice knowledge for the benefit of all the sad bastards out there who are spending all their time working and not enough time making fools of themselves in public. So here's our recommended line-up...

Monday: Turnmills.

If you're recharged and ready to go after an inane weekend of visiting granny, then head to the underground labyrinth of Farringdon, better known as Turnmills. This venue has a great mix of music styles in different areas accompanied by some good 'chill-out' zones.

Pros: Cheap drink offers all round, with beverages and music to suit all tastes.

Cons: It only happens once a month, and it's nothing like that Friday feeling.

Price: £4 entry, £2 pints.

Rating: 8/10 - you'll be going again.



Tuesday: The Loop.

You probably get invited by about 10 people on Facebook every week. Worthy of the fuss? Absolutely not. This 'student night' works out fairly pricey when you include how badly they skank you on the drinks and the harm caused to your social welfare by the scary female bouncer.

Pros: Cheapish drinks, good mix of dancing and banter. Reasonable queues.

Cons: They try to rip you off, beware of the refilled wine bottles and the "double shots".

Price: £5 entry, £2.20 dubvodbulls.

Rating: 5/10 - Go with Ken.



Wednesday: Walkabout.

Wednesday... Where else but Walkabout! An evening of intense eyeballing and heavy petting. This venue is always overflowing with AU hormones, but never fails to entertain and inebriate.

Pros: Consistently full and sloppy.

Cons: Warm beer and sexual assault.

Price: Free Entry, £1.50 for most drinks.

Rating: 10/10 (AU only), 6/10 (everyone else).

Thursday: Bloomsbury Lanes.

You're getting a bit bored of this clubbing malarkey. Bring on Bowling. And Karaoke. Combined. Despite being slightly seedy and full of people who somehow managed to miss the past 40 years we never fail to have a good time at this hidden gem in Bloomsbury.

Pros: The bowling-karaoke combo is a true winner.

Cons: Lots of odd retro types with their excessively tall friends. Expensive 'niche beers'.

Price: Free entry, Bowling £4/hr, £3 pints.

Rating: A rockin'n'a-rollin' 8/10.



Friday: CRUSH.

Crush Sucks... Unless it's the beginning of term. Or end. Or you like sticky floors. To crush or not to crush, that is the question. This is the cheapest option available for Friday nights and if you do it right it can result in drunken fun.

Pros: Snakebite. The hotdog guy outside. There will be people you know there, even for actuarial science students.

Cons: Snakebite. Racial tensions brew to the beat of the same old iPod playlist.

Price: £4 entry, £2 pints.

Rating: A solid 5/10.

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CSSA is sponsoring £100 to each of our first 20 participants to join China In-Live!!! Places are very limited. Why Wait?

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Tour Package-Early Bird Offer-£580

Tour Package+London/China Return Air Tickets-£1060

Interested? Don't miss our presentation!!!

Thursday, 8th March 2007

Room U8, Tower 1, LSE, 3-4pm

www.chinainlive.com

chinainlive2007@gmail.com

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FOOTS
cultural show 2007

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£6 lse students • £7 nus • £10 non-student

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Team of the week



(Yet) Another AU Rant

Fear and loathing in Walkabout



Kathryn Nixon and Annelies Vermeulen

So those of you who were out on veterans day, aka a standard 04 Wednesday night, well bloody done. Brilliant night all round. The amount of involvement brought tears to our eyes and the thought to our minds - 'why can't every Wednesday be like this again?' I guess its what they always say, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. This referring to the recipe for the perfect sloppy Wednesday night.

As much as we may have hated those rugby boys when you first came to the LSE way back in the day, we now relish in their scandal. Finally some REAL students who behave

worse than Nixon, and in fact, make Nixon's 'scandal' seem pretty fucking weak in comparison. What's more, you were nobody if you didn't get chucked out of Walkabout. YES: after 3 years of tempting fate, the one and only Miss innocent Nixon was finally removed from Walkabout. And about time too!

By the way, please don't take advantage of me in Walkabout again (unless your name is Hammie). We don't know who the culprit was but the mandatory Kathryn-style 'wet look' hair wasn't necessary. Just because it wasn't soaked already doesn't mean you have to waste those precious few mouthfuls of your very expensive Walkabout beer on me! Really 'I'm not worth it'.

Anyhow, moving on, for those of you who are graduat-

ing this year, you may or may not have realised that it's now week 8 and tomorrow night is your last 'proper' Wednesday night out! So the question is begged what and who will you choose? Will you be surrounding yourself with the nakedness that is men's rugby tomorrow night or will you choose to snog as many netball girls as possible making up for lost time!?!? Either way, please fully immerse yourselves in your own vomit and be disgraced WRFC-style. We don't think we can face going it alone next week.

Those of you meeting the veterans for the first time may have perceived them to be a bunch of obnoxious, arrogant losers, but none of us can deny that they brought the banter back. So much so in fact that those of you who did Get Involved, most certainly took

it, yourselves and our plea to the next level. Many of you will agree that the basement of Walkabout was reminiscent of the Carol, without the fines and spandex outfits. There was a certain déjà vu. Everywhere you turned, there was shoving, groping, licking, puking, poking, snogging, stumbling, stroking, vomit, glasses, bottles and Murderer. It was fucking hilarious. Predictably, several SWOT cards hit their user limit. The LSERFC had their mandatory few million moments of glory, showing us every single inch of their bodies. The sight was awe inspiring to say the least. The footie guys got a little excited and the ladies turned up the heat. The atmosphere was infectious (just like the sex). Yet again there was that footballer with that netball girl standing in the same spot; you could prac-

tically smell the spunk on the dance floor. Everywhere you turned people were up against the wall, on the floor or locked in a simultaneous grind. So we stood back and relished in this scene. We were so proud of you all, we cannot express our gratitude enough.

I'd like to say it appears as though the AU has taken a turn for the better. However we don't think Wednesdays brilliant turnout was anything to do with hustings. No offence guys and girls but the turnout was pretty rubbish in terms of people running for positions. I mean one contender for president!?!? In previous years the contest for an AU exec position was fierce, this year getting a position appears to be as easy as getting thrown out of Walkabout. We think the credit should go to the veterans (this term is ironic as they are clear-

ly no where near retirement) It is now up to you, the freshers and the new AU exec to continue the Wednesday night legacy. It cannot be denied that the old rugby guys love the occasional Wednesday trip down memory lane / Houghton Street, but is it really fair that they should have to keep spoon feeding you their piss? Isn't it about time you flew the nest and started drinking your own and BLOODY WELL LOVED IT!!! And we hate to have to say it, but WE FLIPPIN' TOLD YOU SO. Now you've seen the potential magnificence and grandeur of Wednesday nights, throw caution and principles to the wind and for gods sake, 'Just Do It'

The Futures Bright, The Futures Walkabout (before you get chucked out that is..)

Elections

Few surprises in AU Exec elections



Matthew Partridge

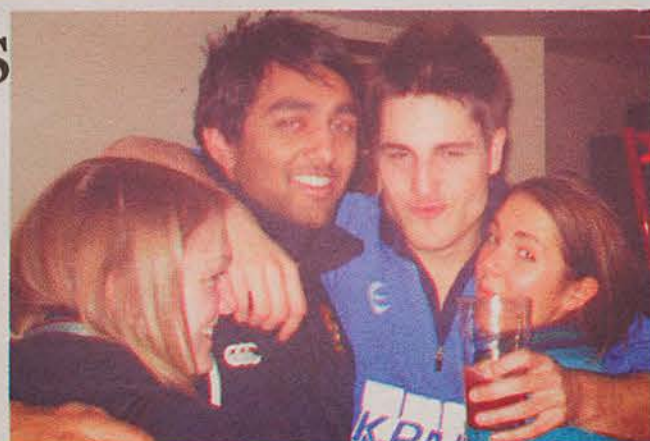
The AU Elections on Thursday night produced few surprises. In contrast to the SU election, where the count went on into

the small hours of the morning, the AU were able to count the votes quickly and to declare winners for all the offices by 9.30. Unless any missing ballot boxes are discovered, or one of the candidates has been found to have been bribing the entire Chess team to vote for them (and we know who you are!), the elections seem to have passed without any controversy, corruption or conflict. Even

the extremely close election for Events officer, which was decided by only 3 votes (after taking RON into account), passed without any Florida-style legal wrangles.

Dan Holness won a landslide victory in the race for AU President, although this was hardly a surprise since he was unopposed. Jen Barker comfortably beat Neil Yoganather for the position of AU

Treasurer, Gaby Disandalo will be the next Club Liason and Sophie De-La-Hunt is the next Communications officer. Rhys Meggy won a landslide victory in his race for Secretary that came close to Dan's margin while Caoimhe Bradley edged Kimberlee James in the Events race. We wish all the newly elected officers the best of luck and look forward to 2007.



Football 3rds

3rds crush gimps en route to final



James McGurn

LSE 3rds 5
Imperial 1

The LSE 3rd XI have had a remarkable season. Gaining promotion last season, the team has remained unbeaten and now goes into the final weeks of the season with a heroic double a distinct possibility. After losing the spine of the team last year this season was supposed to be one of consolidation, it has turned into outright domination. The team has put away 63 goals up to this date, at an average of 4.5 goals per game, with our strike force of Will Wilson and Jaimal Amin redefining the phrase 'ruthless efficiency'. One of the real successes of this year has been the spread of goals throughout the team, Dan Holness's magnificent season has been decorated by 12 priceless goals whilst new boy Dave Dallas has contributed 9 goals and an abundance of skill and energy. The

third team have become set-piece specialists, posing a threat from anywhere within 50 yards of opposition territory and for this we have the superb delivery of Oli Ursino to thank, he seems to effortlessly produce unerring accuracy time after time after time. A great strike force is nothing without a resolute defence. The old guard of Pedro Abreu, Chris McLean and Andy Ong have been exemplary all season, conceding fewer goals than any other team in our BUSA division. New additions in the form of goalkeeper Raymond Daamen and left back Louis De-Ste-Croix have added real quality to our defensive unit. Louis' metronomic left foot and Raymond's unbelievable reflexes have played no small part in our impeccable season. A team is more than 11 players, and the commitment, dedication and attitude of Victor Sonier, Russ Banfi, Tyler Switkay and Joe Butler-Biggs when called upon has proved fundamental to our continued success.

On Saturday we travelled to Imperial College 3rds knowing that one good performance would take us to Motspur Park for the ULU Cup Final. The

day was also important as it marked an impressive landmark; the last time the 3rd XI had lost a game had been at the semi-final stage of the same competition last year. The focus and determination of the team was quickly evident as we raced to a 1-0 lead inside a minute, Jaimal robbed their hapless left back before slipping in strike partner Will Wilson with an exquisite through ball. Wilson wasted little time in accelerating beyond the two IC centre-backs before dinking an intelligent lob over the stranded keeper. After the early setback IC seemed to find an extra gear and applied some pressure, forcing Daamen into 2 fantastic stops. After this brief aberration our back four of De-Ste-Croix, Abreu, McLean and Ong proved impenetrable. With the midway point of the first half approaching, we won a free-kick about 40 yards from goal, cue what has now become a familiar sight to regular watchers of the 3rd team. 'Beautiful Ball' Ursino, 'Unstoppable Header' Holness - standard, 2-0. With the bit between our teeth we pushed for a third before half-time, and what a goal it turned out



to be. Jaimal picked up the ball wide left around 30 yards from goal and preceded to dazzle a gaggle of confused IC defenders with a potent mix of skill and pace before producing a sumptuous finish from an impossible angle.

We emerged for the second half knowing that if we kept it tight for the first 10 minutes then we would be in touching distance of Motspur and the Final. We went one better and scored a fourth. Same routine, different half - (beautiful ball)

Ursino, (unstoppable header) Holness. Same old 3rd team, always scoring. With four goals on the board and no reply we started to enjoy our football a little: Dallas continually embarrassed their clueless left side and Andy Ong repeatedly raided down the right wing. Approaching 70 minutes Will Wilson stole clear and produced a sublime finish to put us 5-0 up. Sonier and Switkay entered proceedings and worked tirelessly till the last. All that remained was to see

out the last 20 minutes of an amazing game: IC managed to score a scrappy late consolation goal but nothing was going to take the shine off an otherwise excellent performance. All this of course means absolutely nothing unless we go on and win the cup itself. We will play either Kings or UCL in the final and will give absolutely everything to secure the FC's first piece of silverware for the year. 10th March, Motspur Park - be there.

Rugby 1sts

Kings of Kings



Robert A. Dunford

LSE 1st XV 12
KCL 1st XV 7
Berrylands

On Wednesday 21 February the smell of victory was in the air when fifteen of LSE's finest warriors set about the conquest of the barbarian hordes that go by the name of the Strand Polytechnic. (A feat not achieved for over half a decade). Back to full strength after a period in the wilderness due to a ghastly run of injuries, our progress would be hampered no more and Fortress Berrylands was preparing to witness an epic finale to an otherwise less than fruitful season.

The first half was incredibly tight with neither side giving an inch, and I would have defied anyone to call this one. The uncivilized heathens from across the Strand were proving to be a formidable force but the Men of Houghton Street seemed to be measuring up suitably. The size advantage of these beasts was apparent as our scrum had trouble holding firm, but this was more than compensated for a by a far superior line-out and some tireless work in the loose.

The game went into half time evenly poised with the scoreless deadlock still intact and everything to play for. Now we were fighting a sub-

stantial headwind so a tactical change would have to ensue with less kicking for territory a more keeping the ball in hand. As the second half got underway it became apparent that aura of confidence was sweeping over the LSE, and on several occasions the crossing of the King's line looked ominous.

And then came the defining moment of the match. A perfectly weighted pass fell

beautifully into the sweet embrace of the large lower-torsoed South African who proceeded to maraud his way through hapless King's tacklers leaving wake of perplexed bodies strewn across the field. Finally dragged down inches from the line, there was enough support for the ball to be secured and the momentum was there for our very own Essex wide boy to finish it off.

The stalemate was broken.

Our forward play was going from strength to strength and the pace was beginning to pick up. As a result the opposition began to tire and their heads could be seen to be dropping. Despite a moment of poorly judged ill-discipline from one of our Locks, who decided to kindly shove the referee head first into the middle ruck, we were in general

keeping our heads and outsmarting the opposition in all facets of the game.

Our pressure told once more when, late in the second half, the flat-footed Valley boy received an offload from the 'lightning', and weaved his way with ease through some feeble King's defence, to touch down under the sticks. The Scotsman converted with a kick resembling his most recent drop-

kicking of a two-year old child out of a window of his Glaswegian crack den.

Triumph was in sight and unfortunately in the dying seconds our concentration slipped and our infallible defence was finally pierced with a lucky fly hack, to give King's a thoroughly undeserved sniff at victory.

It was, however, too little too late and as the final whistle sounded, the late afternoon sun emerged from the clouds and a piteousness of doves could be heard calling in the distance. Battered and bruised, covered in mud and blood, a group of the greatest men to set foot upon the green pastures of Berrylands, left the field victorious.

As dusk set in, the bar was awash with joy and merriment as we sipped on ale safe in the knowledge that the titanic struggle had been won and the inferior proletariats of the polytechnic had been sent fleeing to the hills.

LSE 1st XV: 15 Richard Hooper, 14 Andrew Dassori, 13 Ed Studd, 12 Ed Little, 11 CJ Pagnanelli, 10 Tom Davies, 9 Jonathon Sharkey, 8 John Poole, 7 Charlie Davies, 6 Rob Dunford, 5 Kav Patel, 4 Oliver Perry, 3 Rhys Meggy, 2 Vidu Shanmugarajah (capt), 1 Phil Leung

Replacements: 16 Alex Rowell (sub 29min), 17 Arun Johar-Gupta (sub 40 min), 18 Phil Burkimsher (sub 63min)



Extreme ironing

The sporty way to do housework



Simon Horner

We've all tried to foolishly combine activities that were always meant to be done in isolation. Watching TV whilst writing an essay is a personal favorite of mine, the essay is inevitably sub-standard and the TV under appreciated. Driving whilst talking on the phone is another: a remarkably skewed hierarchy since the first is really deserving of our undivided attention but rarely receives it.

So what to do when confronted with both an overwhelming urge to go rock-climbing and a pile of ironing demanding attention? (An alien dilemma to this reporter, ironing and rock-climbing being both equally far-fetched.) One Phillip 'Steam' Shaw of Leicester, (where else?) faced with this very predicament would not become a slave to circumstance and decided to strap his ironing board to his back and lug it up the unforgiving rock face,

and so the sport of Extreme Ironing was born. Shaw subsequently embarked on a world tour to drum up publicity and presumably the inevitable (although still pending) Olympic eligibility for the sport, taking in sites in the USA, Australia, New Zealand

“With this kind of momentum it is clear that EI is here to stay”

and South Africa.

So how does it all work? Well there are no rules to speak of other than the happy union of an 'extreme activity', and the mundane pursuit of pressed clothes. You might be

wondering how its possible to actually iron clothes up a mountain without 2 miles of extension cable, but necessity remains the mother of invention, and thanks to Hotplate, battery powered irons are now readily available; throw in a camera to document the evidence and the act is complete.

There has been only one formal world championship to date in Munich 2002, but contestants regularly compete for the Rowenta Trophy, a rolling competition where the sinisterly named Extreme Ironing Bureau (EIB) pass judgment on the latest acts of Extreme Ironing. In 2003 a group of intrepid South Africans ran out winners by actually ironing across a gorge in the Wolfburg Cracks.

But there's more. Diving underwater to depths of 137 meters might sound impressive, but what if you considered that Louise 'Dive Girl' Trewavas actually took her ironing down with her in order to set the new record for underwater ironing in Dahab, Egypt. Or 'Scrap Iron' Adam Pearce, a wrestler by trade who threw himself from a plane at 25,000 feet only to commence



ironing a set of clothes and allegedly his parachute before landing serene and safe only moments later.

EI has become so huge an enterprise, that it, like darts and boxing before it has been split by faction with the EIB now competing with Urban Housework for legitimacy as

the recognized sanctioning body. It has featured on Channel 4 and in the Wall Street Journal, rapper Nelly even wrote a song about it simply entitled E.I., although the lyrics make only scant reference to the noble sport itself.

With this kind of momentum it is clear that EI is here to

stay; it can only be a matter of time before LSE EI Soc becomes a fixture on Houghton Street. This reporter recently missed a trick by not taking his ironing with him whilst snowboarding, please don't fall foul of similar folly.

Kendo

'The Way of the Sword'



Eva Korralova

Kendo is a combination of two Japanese words 'ken' meaning sword and 'do' meaning road or "way". The result is "the way of the sword". Kendo originated and developed in Japan, first as Kenjutsu, an art privileged to the feudal warrior - samurai - class.

The techniques developed, the metal swords were

replaced by the wooden ones; the modern kendo is a new sport-like physical training with rich spiritual tradition and developed mental aspects.

And no, while some films, like Star Wars, the Last Samurai or even Hannibal do borrow some the kendo elements, it is not just bashing two sticks together, it is much more refined an art. We use bamboo sword, shinai, to strike the target areas - top of the head, throat, wrist and the either side of the torso. Even though it may sound somewhat painful, Kendo is actually way

safer than other full contact arts, you don't get thrown and you don't risk losing all of your teeth or twisting your hip from a badly executed roundhouse kick. All the target areas are well protected by armour, boughu.

The first impression may be that Kendo is a noisy, aggressive and violent martial art because... well... you hit people on the head with a stick. But once you get to know the rules, moves, strategy and tactics better, as you train and proceed further and further, you will find it very clever and

graceful. Men and women practice on equal terms, and laydees even may have an advantage of being faster and more agile, since brutal force decides very little here.

Kendo is not as well-known in Europe as it is in Japan or Korea, but there are many clubs in the UK, 8 of them in London. Unfortunately LSE doesn't have its own dojo (practice room), but the UCL does.

That is where I started and that is where I train now. Our main teacher, Stuart Gibson, is a member of British National

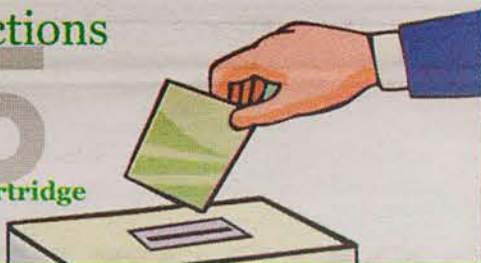
team, the current British champion and British Open Champion. Clubs differ in the way they teach, but after the practice, keiko, we all do the same thing. PUB. Always. In the snow, in the rain, in the hot sunshine we restore ourselves by different means, usually it includes a pint of something and chips. Which doesn't make the training less intense or fruitful - proven by astounding results in championships.

This year we are hosting the University Championship, taikai, in which we took the 1st and 2nd place last year. It is

held on 17th March and is an open even, so everyone is welcome to visit and see for yourselves what kendo is.

I think that kendo is a beautiful art and great sport and it's a pity so few, compared to other countries, students practice it. And so I wrote this article to explain the basic things about kendo, and perhaps get you interested and visit either a practice or the championship.





Holloway, UCL bow low before footy 1sts



Gareth Fishlock

LSEFC 1sts	2
Holloway Scum	1
Berrylands	

LSEFC 1sts	4
UCL	1
Somewhere Horrendous	

A week or so ago, our season was looking almost as bleak as Brummie's job prospects.

Relegated from BUSA, out of the ULU Cup and languishing mid-table in ULU even after playing all of our 'easy' games. We had two huge matches coming up against our biggest rivals, if we could win them both then not only would our season start to look a bit more credible but amazingly we would be back in with a shout (albeit a pretty small one) for the title.

First up were those little chumps from Holloway. Having already beaten us twice this season, the ugly bastards swaggered into Berrylands as confidently as Brummie swaggers onto the Walkabout dancefloor when he's 'cruising for bitches' or when he's claiming his free student burger at McDonalds.

With key players Hogsett and Horgan still missing through injury and Matt 'Body Beautiful' Joy off somewhere posing in front of a mirror, we were struggling for a team. Then the Lone Wolf Little drops a bombshell on the morning of the game. In his infinite wisdom, he had brought his car back to London and parked it somewhere illegally. He told me 'some bloody warden' had got it towed away - it seemed Jim would also miss the match. Taking into account the fact that we hadn't trained for 2 weeks prior, our preparation was about as ideal as the entire team contracting AIDS.

So our makeshift bare eleven would have it all to do against the then unbeaten league leaders. We were keen, we were confident but most of all we were angry - I'm not sure I've ever played against a bigger bunch of twats in all of my 3 glorious years at LSE (excuse my language mum). Our hatred for these arrogant fucks seemed to have sparked us and we began well with some crisp passing and movement, especially in midfield with Bondy looking sharp, Joe looking pretty and Mickey

Maynard bossing things in the middle. Elsewhere, our defence didn't give their lanky-string-of-piss striker a moment's peace, Jim Davies looked grumpier than usual and Rockstar Smallwood ran things at the back. Holloway couldn't hack the intensity, they kept shanking balls everywhere and it soon led to the first goal. Their 16 stone Captain, masquerading as a goalkeeper, completely sliced a clearance and James Hackett found himself in an enviable position. As a goal-mouth scramble developed, the ball bobbling about the line, Sexual Deviant Hackett had not only the opportunity to score but also to kick the absolute shit out of their fat bastard keeper. James duly obliged and whilst the keeps rolled around clutching his ribs, the ball somehow ended up in the back of the net and we were ahead. We looked good, the Work-Horse Salem broke up any potential Holloway attack and San was putting in some hefty challenges at left-back. Somehow Holloway forged an opportunity just before the break, but Rich Gull produced a fantastic stop which meant we led 1-0 at the break.

A quick drink, a jaffa cake and 10 minutes later it was all systems go again. The Lone Wolf had shown up by this point. Holloway started to have a bit more of the ball and we were looking to sit on our lead - something we had planned against. Brummie had seen enough. He knew something had to be done for us to regain control of the match. The big man's chance came. He ushered a striker into touch, waited for the ball to roll about 5 yards away and then kung-fu kicked the Holloway player from behind, leaving him writhing in agony. I couldn't believe what I had just seen but couldn't stop myself from chuckling. Some of their players didn't find it quite as amusing. A melee ensued and Brum, or 'Slimer' to his friends, took a forearm to the face from a particularly unhappy Holloway player. Once the handbags were put away, Slimes was shown a yellow for his disgustingly filthy tackle but the Holloway rudeboy was shown a straight red - excellent news and no doubt what Brum had planned all along.

We looked a lot more comfortable from then on and the Holloway losers, sensing defeat, started to throw their considerable weight around. They were diving in all over the park but it would ultimately be their undoing. A long punt up-field from the Gull-Monster seemed to be an

easy free header for their central defender but like Andy Burton trying it on with one of his close female friends, he had misjudged the situation completely and ended up seriously embarrassing himself. The ball looped over his head and I was able to run onto it, through on goal. A few heavy touches and a powerful finish later it was 2-0 to the Mighty 1s. Euphoria!

We took our foot off the pedal for the closing minutes. The Lone Wolf came on and almost made an immediate impact by playing in Bondy to cross for Hackett but the final ball just evaded the ex-golfer. It didn't matter. Even though the ref played an additional 10 minutes and Holloway scored a sketchy consolation goal, we had done it. A great team effort, and it was very pleasing to watch Holloway waddle out of Berrylands with their tails between their legs. Idiots.

Skinning UCL

Next up, an away trip to Middle Earth (sometimes called Shenley) to play UCL. Once again our match preparation, much like Sheriff's dress sense and general cleanliness, left a lot to be desired. We had the bare eleven so I called up the new AU President, Mr Dan Holness, to make his first team

debut. Despite playing uphill and in blustery conditions we looked almost as impressive as Mick Maynard on his way to the showers. We played all the football in their half and forged some decent openings for Bondy and Hackett with Knoertzer looking particularly lively on the left, turning their defenders inside and out. It was only a matter of time before we opened the scoring. Good work from Jim Davies saw the little angry man win the ball and feed the Fish. A neat slide rule pass later and Bondy was through on goal. He duly slotted the ball home with a calm left-footed shot. A fully deserved 1-0 lead but suddenly it was like we had all transformed into women at Walkabout on a Wednesday night - we were seriously sloppy. A few loose touches and a couple of misplaced passes on our part and UCL looked dangerous. Thankfully Gully-Baby continued his 'Rich' vein of form and was on hand to thwart any attack.

Leading 1-0 at half-time and the weather took a turn for the worse. It was like a scene from 'The Day After Tomorrow', gale force winds accompanied by testicle-sized hail and blistering rain. The UCL boys wanted to call the game off! What a bunch of fan-



A week or so ago, our season was looking almost as bleak as Brummie's job prospects



nies. They quickly retracted that request when they fluked a goal from a corner. It was the kick-up-the-arse we needed and we started to play again. Mick and Shef continued their dominance in the middle and Shank-Man San was passing the ball surprisingly well. It was Hackett's sex-pest-esque persistence that got the breakthrough. His endless running deserved a goal and when a dodgy clearance fell his way, he made no mistake tucking it away.

By this stage, the weather

had gotten to our fresher Knoertzer, who wanted to go home. So Alco-Holness came on in the centre of midfield to make his debut. El Presidente had a good opportunity to score with his first touch but instead of executing a potentially semi-legendary volley, he just fell on his arse. He did make a contribution a few minutes later however when he played in Hackett to coolly slot the ball into the corner for his second. 'Ace' netted his first ever FC hat-trick shortly after when a neat passing move allowed me to get in behind the UCL defence. A simple square pass to Hackett and he was through on goal; he clinically finished the move and then shed a quick tear. He was truly happy. Smalls and Brummie hadn't had a lot to do yet interestingly the ref pointed Lee out as having a good game and Slimes as being a bit off the pace. Maybe it was because Brum was caught getting a mini-pasty out of his sock during the second half, I don't know.

4-1 and we've finally started to show the type of football we're capable of playing, just a shame that it is seemingly too late for any silverware. A messy, emotional Wednesday night ensued and the Mighty 1sts rock on.