

The Beaver

30 October 2007 Issue 669 The newspaper of the LSESU



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Military Rule in the Asian Century

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LSE shamed by student surveys

International Student Barometer ranks the School 53rd out of 56 UK universities for "good teachers"

'Teaching Task Force' to investigate improving teaching

Rajan Patel
News Editor

Results from the International Student Barometer (ISB), a national survey completed by 1459 overseas students at the LSE, place the School 53rd out of 56 UK universities for "good teachers".

The School scored highly on "expert lecturers" and was placed 5th out of 56 universities for lecturing quality.

The National Student Survey (NSS) 2007, a separate survey sampling third year undergraduates, saw the LSE outclassed by other research intensive Russell Group universities (such as Oxford, Cambridge and UCL) on teaching.

Only 59 per cent of respondents believed that they had "received sufficient advice and support with my studies", compared with Oxford's 81 per cent and York's 76 per cent. 65 per cent agreed that "staff made the subject interesting", the worst result in the Russell Group - Oxford led with 86 per cent.

Yvonne Choi, a second year Economics undergraduate, said, "I'm not surprised that the LSE didn't score well in the student surveys, but I am surprised we came bottom of the Russell Group unis because the LSE has such a good reputation overall."

The results were included as an appendix to a report submitted to the School's Academic Board on 17 October. Entitled "Teaching at the LSE: an Overview and Proposal for a Way Forward", the report observes that "the School's performance is not...distinguished". It calls for the establishment of an "LSE Task Force on Teaching and Career Development" to consider how

a steady improvement of teaching might be brought about.

In a statement to *The Beaver*, Howard Davies, Director of the LSE, said: "The idea of a reassessment of teaching quality at LSE is one I have been considering for some time. We agreed to propose a task force at the directorate annual 'awayday' in June, before the NSS or ISB results were known."

The report was written by Janet Hartley, Pro-Director for Teaching and Learning, and identifies "concerns" about the extensive use of Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) for teaching at undergraduate level. Non-permanent staff - comprising GTAs, teaching fellows and temporary appointments - teach 75 per cent of undergraduate classes.

One GTA from the Government department observed that "there are various factors which affect teaching quality in a negative manner, from too short seminars...via not very clear guidelines as to how much you are expected to prepare as a teacher, up to low pay for GTAs and the fact that as a PhD student you always have to meet your own deadlines for the School as well".

Many of these issues are noted in the report, which emphasises the need to balance the School's twin objectives of excellence in teaching and "research of the highest quality". The report suggests a perception among academic staff that: "the only thing that matters for promotion...is [research] publications".

It also stresses the need to reward quality teaching. Teaching Excellence prizes (based on student nominations and partly assessed by the LSE Students' Union) were introduced last year to recognise the best teachers, but there exists "little collective discussion

within departments...about whether there is anything distinctive about LSE teaching".

The LSE is following the example of Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences, whose own Task Force demanded fuller evaluation of teaching and active engagement with new teaching methods. The report commits the LSE to an equally comprehensive reassessment that will "enrich student learning...and distinguish [the institution] even further in the ranks of leading research universities".

The Task Force will consist of academics from a range of LSE departments. The LSE Students' Union (LSESU) Education and Welfare Officer will be the sole representative of students' interests, although regular consultation with undergraduate and postgraduate fora has been promised.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, she said: "The new teaching task force is a promising step in addressing some of the concerns surrounding the quality of teaching...I am confident that the School is wholeheartedly committed to improving the quality of teaching through this review."

Sacha Robehmed and Elle Dodd, both student representatives on the Academic Board, gave a frank assessment of the problems faced by the School.

Dodd identified inadequate training for teachers and "the absence of any clear evaluation and improvement system" as being particularly important.

Both noted that teaching quality differed widely across departments. Robehmed said: "It has definitely become apparent to me in my time here, as someone who has taken courses

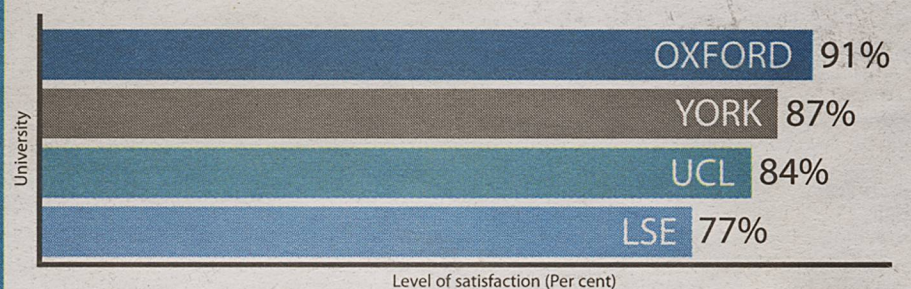
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The National Student Survey 2007 was completed by 650 third year undergraduates at the LSE and allows for comparison of student satisfaction across UK universities. Though satisfaction with class teaching is low, the International Student Barometer ranks the School highly on "expert lecturers".

STAFF HAVE MADE THE SUBJECT INTERESTING



STAFF ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE TEACHING



I HAVE RECEIVED SUFFICIENT ADVICE AND SUPPORT WITH MY STUDIES



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Pullout: *Michaelmas Term Manifestos*



In other news

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS



East Anglia Union defies NUS

Students at the University of East Anglia have rejected the National Union of Students' (NUS) policy of excluding organisations perceived to be racist or fascist from campus debates.

The "no platform" policy gives the NUS steering committee sole discretion to ban any group and its membership from all NUS activities including participation in an election. Hizb ut-Tahrir, the British National Party and the anti-immigration group Identity, Tradition and Sovereignty are currently subject to the no-platform policy.

The UEA motion, which argued that illiberal, extremist or racist ideologies must be openly confronted if they are to be discredited, split the UEA students union executive. It was passed by a narrow majority.

EducationGuardian

Race row Professor resigns

The DNA pioneer James Watson, who was branded a racist for suggesting that black people are less intelligent than white people, has resigned as chancellor of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York state.

The row led to his decision to curtail the lecture tour promoting his autobiography and left him fighting to save his reputation. On Thursday, his employers announced that as a result of his comments he would be suspended.

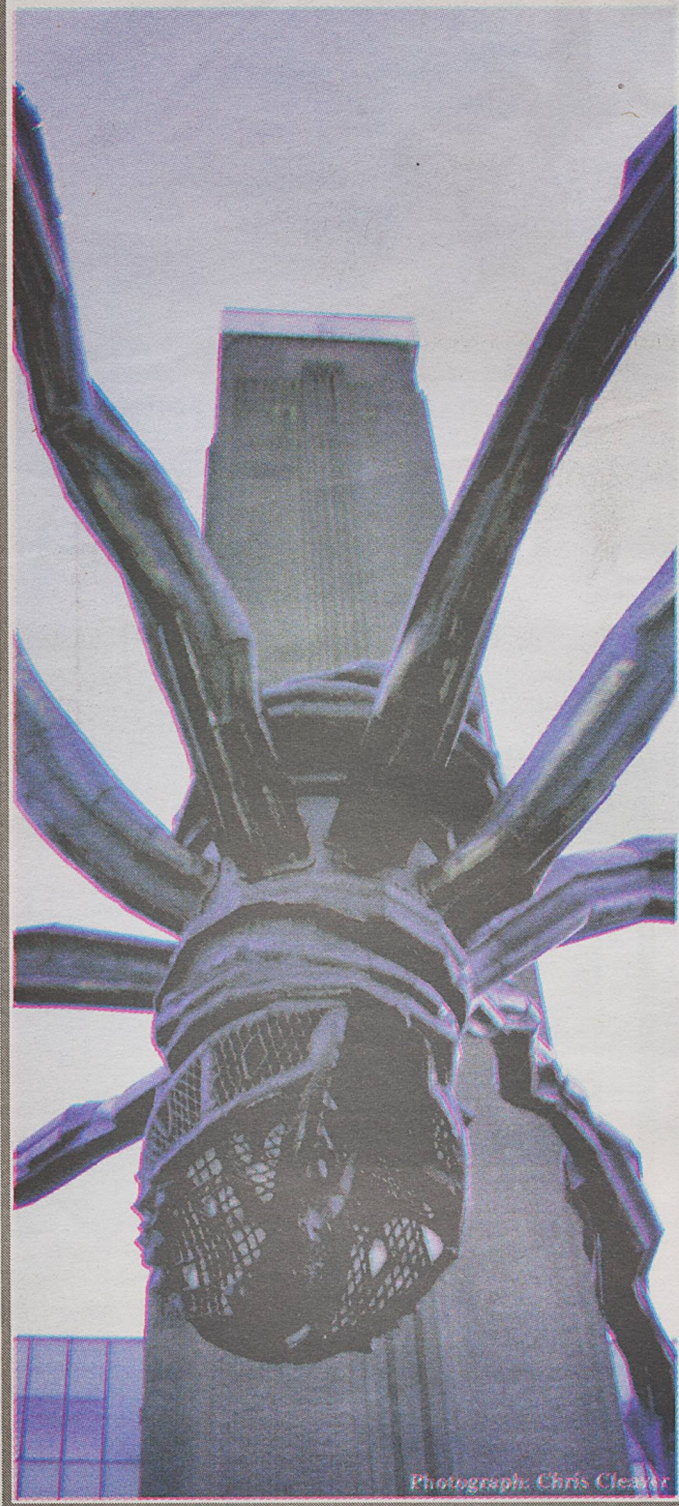
how do New NUS web-sites generate £1.3m since September

NUS Services, the commercial support arm of the National Union of Students, has said the three new web sites it has launched since the start of the current academic year, have generated over £1.3m in sales since their launch.

The three sites are: nusextra.co.uk (student discount cards), ulive.uk.com (live music events booked by the NUS) and the latest site which launched last week www.udisco.uk.com (accessing uDisco events at Union venues across the UK).

Digital agency Code worked with NUS' creative team to develop the theme of 'milk it', encouraging student members to make the most of the discounts and services students can obtain with their NUS 'Extra' cards.

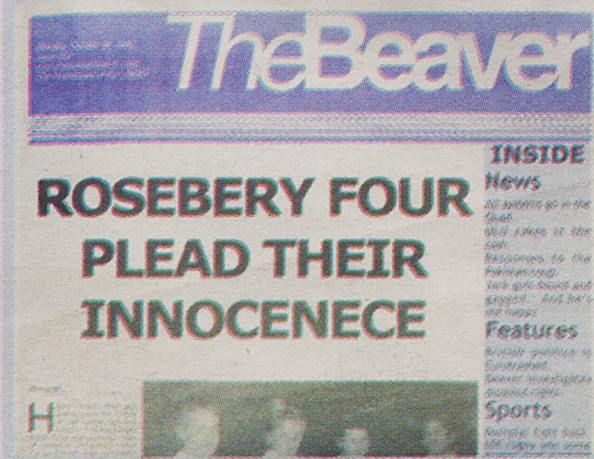
Picture of the week



Photograph: Chris Cleaver

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

This week in 1999



Heavy-handed, racist and over-bureaucratic' is how an LSE fresher described London's Metropolitan Police Force after a strange night of confusion at Charing Cross Police Station. The comments came after the Met moved quickly to act upon an attack and robbery near Leicester Square last Wednesday, arresting four LSE students in the process.

The four, pictured right, are all first-years from the LSE's Rosebery Avenue Hall of Residence and protest their innocence, seeming puzzled and confused at the arrests.

On a routine night out they visited King's College Bar and the Three Tuns before making their way towards Leicester Square. On entering Leicester Square, however, they were surrounded by police and forced against railings, then told they were being arrested under suspicion of assault. They claim that they were not read their rights until around fifteen minutes later.

At this point the sole Asian amongst the group, Accounting and Finance student Nickhill Fakey, was separated from the rest of the group with no explanation being given, before the group were bundled into two police vans. Another member of the four, Economics student Steve Simpson, alleges that whilst in the van he overheard one police officer say: "With young Asians you might have a stolen mobile phone or some drugs," and presumes that this is why Fakey was singled out.

Amidst further confusion the police entourage didn't reach Charing Cross Station until twenty minutes later, as the Arresting Officer could not be found. Once at the station the group surrendered their personal belongings and had their clothing taken for forensic evidence. They were then provided with white paper boiler suits and taken to separate cells, still, they claim, somewhat unsure of the crime they had been arrested for.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

RAG total reaches £7245

Events organised by the Raising and Giving (RAG) team have already raised £7245 for charity.

The RAG Freshers' Ball, held at Ruby Blue, was attended by over 600 LSE students and raised £4300 for Great Ormond Street Hospital's Children's Charity.

A RAG Raid in support of Marie Curie Cancer Care raised £2600 and a cake sale for Oxfam raised £260.

More events are planned, with a Halloween themed Raid today (Tuesday 30 October) in aid of UNICEF.

For more information about upcoming RAG events and to get involved with the year-long programme, visit www.lsesurag.com.

Students find it cheap up north

Research suggests that students' money goes further in the north and west of the UK.

According to a study by www.push.co.uk, the cheapest universities are Bradford, Bolton and the University of Wales in Bangor. London's Imperial College and the Royal College of Music are the most expensive.

Push, an independent service for students, developed a typical student basket of goods - including king size Rizla papers and a Pot Noodle - and worked out how its price varied at shops near different universities.

Johnny Rich, Push series editor, said, "No two unis cost the same and students need the facts to make informed choices...this research shows even more diversity between universities than we would have imagined."

TRIUM MBA ranked second in the world

The LSE's Global Executive MBA programme was ranked second in the world by the *Financial Times*.

Launched in September 2001, the TRIUM programme offers a global business experience and is the product of an alliance between New York University's Stern School of Business, HEC Paris and the LSE.

International Organisations day packs theatres

The LSE's first 'International Organisations Day' on Saturday was applauded as a success by students who were able to see talks by recruiters from organisations such as the UN Secretariat, the World Bank and the IMF.

The Hong Kong and New Theatres were both packed to capacity, with more students watching on AV links.

Fiona Sandford, Director of the Careers Service, said "The choice for us is clear; either we offer the opportunity to a limited number of students in person, and to the whole of LSE by podcast, or do what every other university careers service does, and not attempt it at all."

<< CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

in five different departments within the School, that teaching standards vary across departments...I call on those departments who provide poorer teaching to recognise and accept this."

Internal student satisfaction surveys reveal that the quantitative departments – Statistics, Maths and Accounting and Finance – consistently underperform. Establishing why this occurs will be one of the Task Force's key aims.

Contrary to many students' perceptions, formal training programmes do exist for GTAs. All new GTAs attend five compulsory events provided by the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) at the beginning of the academic year. About one in six GTAs are also studying for a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education.

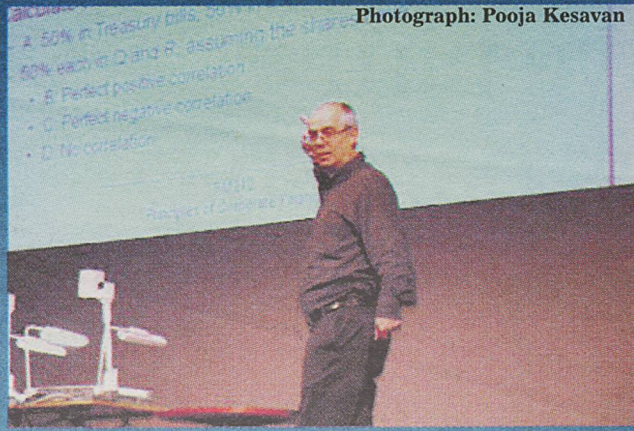
However, Janet Hartley, the report's author and a member of the Task Force, told *The Beaver*, "You can have all the training you like, but unless you have incentives, I don't think some of the concerns students have expressed are going to be addressed."

Some lecturers already provide their GTAs with considerable assistance and real incentives. Professor Alwyn Young, who is responsible for EC102 (the largest first-year course in the Economics department), meets his class teachers every two weeks and gives written feedback to teachers new to the course.

"I have put in a system where class teachers are encouraged, financially, to attend my lectures if their



Photograph: Anna Mikeda



Photograph: Pooja Kesavan



The National Student Survey 2007 may have criticised teaching quality in classes (bottom) at the LSE, but lecturers such as Michele Harvey (top left) and Gregory Connor (top right) have led to the School being ranked highly for "expert lecturers" by the International Student Barometer

schedule allows, so that they are better able to field student questions," he said.

However, a former GTA in the Statistics department told *The Beaver*, "I think there are two lives at the LSE: one for lecturers and one for class teachers. I received excellent training from the TLC at the beginning of the year but didn't consult with the course lecturer all year."

The reality of teaching and

its inconsistency across departments still disappoints many students. David Hardy, a third year Economics undergraduate, said, "In particular, I am concerned with the quality of spoken English exhibited by some individuals...All teaching I have received seems to be given by highly motivated individuals (very commendable) who in some cases simply do not have the right skills to teach."

The TLC and the Language Centre provide seminars and practical assistance for GTAs whose first language is not English. Teaching within the Language Centre is high quality – Nick Byrne, Director of the Language Centre, received a National Teaching Fellowship in 2001 for his work on innovative teaching methods – but many students remain frustrated with their teachers' language skills.

Ensuring that best practice becomes the rule and not the exception is the challenge faced by the Task Force, which will report back before the end of the academic year. Hartley described the coming months as a "real opportunity" for changing teaching at the LSE.

"I think it's a very exciting initiative and I hope that students are actually excited about it as well," she said.

"Ideal student" faces deportation

Home Office denies visa to award winning Kenyan student on Brunel University PhD programme

Henry Lodge

In 1997, Tony Blair set up the International Student Initiative. It aimed to open the UK's borders to more international students, giving them access to first class higher education and providing cash-strapped universities with extra fees. Now, in 2007, the story of Cleopatra Mukula – a Kenyan student attempting to take a PhD course in the UK – makes it clear that there is still a long way to go. She spoke to *The Beaver* about the bureaucratic nightmare she has suffered over the past year.

Cleopatra was born in Mombasa and attended Kenyan state schools until she came to England for a law degree at Sussex University. Her interests remained closer to home. Following a change in degree to healthcare and law and while studying for a Masters in film-making at Brunel University, she was already making plans for the future.

"It always struck me that the majority of aid that Africa receives is a short term solution," she said. Education, she thought, was the key. But how was one to deliver an effective education to an under-funded and widely illiterate population? "Then it hit me: radio, or maybe TV."

She won a bursary to make a film – titled *Umoja* (Swahili for "Unity") – which focused on the lives of ostracised women of the Maasai tribe who were raped by British soldiers in the

1960s and 1970s.

The film was completed in late 2006 and screened at the Channel 4 cinema where it caught producers' eyes. Cleopatra began refining the documentary for further screenings in May this year, graduated from her Masters' course in July and was formally accepted for a PhD course at Brunel University, which she planned to start in September.

Around April, her plans were interrupted and work on her documentary suspended. Her student visa application had been denied on the grounds of, amongst other things, "bad character". The previous three visa applications had been approved without any problems. As a spokesperson from Brunel University put it, "She is, if you like, the ideal student. She does a lot of work at the university for students."

She appealed against the decision. Although the judge was largely on her side, he was powerless to grant her the visa as it had to go through channels at the Home Office.

The result of her second application came through in early September, by which time she had been formally accepted for her PhD course. Her rejection letter stated: "The Secretary of State is not satisfied that you intend to leave the United Kingdom at the end of your studies, nor is he satisfied that you intend to follow the course of study...if you do not leave voluntarily, you may be prosecuted for an offence under



Cleopatra Mukula receives her International Student Award in 2004

the Immigration Act 1971, the penalty for which is a fine of up to £2,500 and/or up to six months' imprisonment."

In the time between the appeal and the second rejection, the law had changed, removing her right to appeal. Instead, she took her story to the *Guardian* newspaper. After her story was published, she received a letter informing her that the Home Office had agreed to reconsider her case.

Following the positive response to *Umoja*, Cleopatra started to develop a film company, www.films4africa.com. She said, "I couldn't understand why the fair trade initiative revolved solely around

goods. Why not extend it to services?" The company seeks to make documentaries and films in Africa, for Africa, with the proceeds going to Africa.

She recently set up a charity, the Peggoty Foundation (named after her late aunt), which seeks to raise money to put disadvantaged children into education in Kenya. Now Cleopatra has a new cause to add to her workload: the plight of the international student. "This isn't just about my case, this is part of something bigger. I have friends from abroad studying here that have no idea of the pitfalls of being an international student."

There are a number of

Kenyan students at the LSE. Yvonne Maingey, a second year Law student who intends to do a Masters degree, is currently on a student visa. She told *The Beaver*, "The number of British travellers and students that Kenya welcomes with open arms – it's frustrating to think that Kenyan students, who pay an arm and a leg to come and study here, have to go through this horrible, nasty experience. The government needs to practice what it preaches – refusing African students is hardly making poverty history."

Visit www.films4africa.com and www.peggoty.org.uk for more information on Cleopatra's work.



Union Jack

Curses. The coming of the Michaelmas Term elections left an indelible mark on the UGM, corrupting it with unimaginative rhetoric of the desperado student politicians, who clamoured for every second the Returning Officer, James "Not-quite-Kevin" Bacon, threw at them. With idealistic fervour oozing out of every orifice, the politicking few spouted policies and promises so glamorous, even the likes of Obama and Giuliani would have been proud.

But Jack could always count on those who stood on the 'moral high ground' to save the day. Thank god for the AU. Morally corrupt and loitering with murderous intent on the high ground of the balcony, the paper-throwers were never short on lewd remarks and risqué demands. Jack almost shed a crocodile tear or two for Jamie "White House intern" Corley, as lustful suggestions rained upon the salacious General Course candidate. Nevertheless, the disappointment was clear for all to see when she coyly declined from performing exhibitionistic handstands onstage.

The slow-going affair almost put Jack into stupor, save for the gallant efforts of UGM Commissar Tarzan Marwah. Not quite George of the Jungle this time, for the Commissar opted for the Western gunslinger look. While his Clint Eastwood impression left a lot to be desired, his self-sacrifice deservedly earned the derision of AU marksmen. The ensuing gunfight was brutal. Tarzan tried to work in *that* line from *Dirty Harry*, but his acting debut ended in a hail of paper bombs. Tarzan aka Harry Callahan bravely stood his ground, but was eventually left lying on it.

To his credit, Tarzan recovered quickly and rose from his still smouldering ashes to deliver a rousing speech. Mesmerising the Convention with lofty ideals of a 24hr library and the awarding of more honorary student accolades, the Commissar cut a heroic Robespierre-esque figure. Jack can only hope that he escapes the impending Terror when the guillotine starts falling on the Union Girondins.

Jack spies with his little eye, and spots the not-too-diminutive "Saint-Just" Moosavvy nestling amongst his brethren from the Committee of Union Safety. Emanating an aura of skulduggery, the treacherous Moosavvy was up to something. Jack was cocksure. And so it proved. Even as "Danton" Kettle-in-ham raced to upstage arch nemesis Commissar, Moosavvy's hands edged tentatively to his sides. He sprung his trap in a heartbeat – a devastating paper blast at point blank. Four dead in five seconds. Almost. Moosavvy was quick on the draw alright.

Uproar. The dastardly assassination attempt drew furious ire from the Convention. Commissar Tarzan was forced to dismiss his comrade-in-bloodsoaked-arms. But Moosavvy is not to be denied. His vengeful spirit lingers on in the Convention...vive le révolution.

Zimbabwe film highlights hardship

The author is an election candidate

A film about the political and economic situation in Zimbabwe, entitled "Denied - This bit of Truth", was launched at the LSE on Monday 22 October. The film featured many senior Zimbabwean politicians and was created by Shrenik Rao, an LSE alumnus and the founder of Dolsun Media.

Among those interviewed are Zimbabwe's two Vice-Presidents; the leaders of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC); the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe; the controversial former Archbishop of Bulawayo; the former British Secretary of State for International Development, and a political refugee.

The film derives its title from "the juxtaposing 'truths'" about the country's political and economic situation that are presented by the state-run media and discussed within the Zanu-PF (Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front) government. The Zanu-PF has been in power for 27 years and it is unlikely that the elections in March 2008 will be fair.

The film showing was followed by a discussion session. The discussion panel included the secretary of the Association of Zimbabwean Journalists in the UK Sandra Nyaira,



Opposition to Mugabe is growing in Africa

Zimbabwean political analyst George Shire and political activist Brilliant Mhlanga. Charlie Beckett, Director of POLIS - an LSE department which investigates the media's impact on society - chaired the discussion.

The Department for International Development (DfID) is concerned about the political and economic conditions in Zimbabwe. The average wage for 80 per cent of the population is less than US\$2 a day and 56 per cent live on less than US\$1 a day.

The Zanu-PF government refuses to take responsibility for the crisis and has attacked many local and foreign jour-

nalists. The government has also enacted a bill which allows for the monitoring of journalists' communications. Rao hopes to start a debate about Zimbabwe at a time when the Zanu-PF is preparing for the March 2008 elections.

Rao told *The Beaver*: "Zimbabwe is facing an economic crisis. It is really important to make an effort to resolve that economic crisis." When asked about how the discussion went, he said: "I think the discussion went really well. I thought many different angles were covered and many voices were heard." The event was attended by 150 people.

Students attend launch of UN Global Environment Outlook

■ UNEP paints grave picture as LSE academic calls for fresh approach

Michael Deas
News Editor

Over fifty LSE students and academics attended the launch of the United Nations Environmental Programme's (UNEP) fourth Global Environment Outlook report. Four LSE students were invited to be rapporteurs for the event, taking notes and highlighting key themes, on behalf of the organisers of the event, the Stakeholders' Forum.

The GEO-4 report warns that unresolved problems such as climate change, the rate of extinction of species and the challenge of feeding a growing population "put humanity at risk". The launch, held in central London, saw a variety of authors, academics and UN officials present various aspects of the report's findings.

A first year Environmental Policy student who attended the launch told *The Beaver*: "It was interesting hearing and learning more about mainstream environmentalism, but no one had any solutions except for the usual 'let the market solve the problem and we need new technology and incentives for business to become more sustainable'. However, I found it rather limiting that no one asked whether we might need a major social change in order to fix the problems that humankind face."

On climate change, the report notes that ice cores show that the levels of greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and

methane are now far outside their ranges of natural variability. Global average temperatures have already risen by about 0.74°C since 1906. Drastic cuts in greenhouse emissions are required by mid-century to avoid reaching the "threshold beyond which the threat of major and irreversible damage... is inevitable".

The report also notes that global biodiversity is declining faster than even the most pessimistic of predictions. The statistic that "freshwater vertebrates declined on average by nearly 50 per cent from 1987 to 2003" was emphasised. In relation to food, the growth in intensive farming is vastly improving output, but such unsustainable land use is causing significant degradation, "a threat as serious as climate change and biodiversity loss".

In contrast to the GEO-4 report, which sees December's negotiations on a replacement to Kyoto as vital to the fight against climate change, LSE academic Professor Gwyn Prins has published an article in *Nature* this week entitled "Time to ditch Kyoto".

The article - co-written by Prins, Director of the Mackinder Centre at LSE and Professor Steve Rayner of University of Oxford - concedes that the Kyoto Protocol is a symbolically important expression of concern. However, it has stifled debate on climate change and is "the wrong tool for the wrong job". Prins and Rayner point out

that Kyoto depends on the reduction of emissions by the creation of a global market in carbon dioxide. This allows countries to buy and sell their agreed allowances of emissions, but this market has not yet stabilised. The report's authors note: "Even if a stable price was to be established, it is likely to be modest - sufficient only to stimulate efficiency gains."

Rather than repeating these mistakes, the authors believe the replacement to Kyoto should focus mitigation efforts on the big emitters rather than developing nations, put public investment in energy R&D "on a wartime footing", and allow emissions markets to evolve from the bottom up.

The report also argues that policy makers should begin to consider how humanity will adapt to the problems arising from climate change.

In Numbers

0.74 - number of degrees celsius by which average global temperature has risen since 1906
15.7 - Earth's biological capacity as measured in hectares per person
21.9 - Humanity's environmental footprint as measured in hectares per person
22 - temperature in degrees celsius recorded in Arctic during this summer's heatwave

Environmental and Ethics Forum plans for year ahead

Vishal Banerjee

Over twenty representatives from various LSE Students' Union (LSESU) environmental and social justice societies attended the year's first Environmental and Ethical Forum last Monday. The forum discussed possible campaigns, such as a Plastic Free LSE, examined plans for the LSESU Climate Change Action and Environment and Ethics weeks and proposed the development of an LSESU Ecological and Ethical Policy.

Other ideas for campaigns included a Stop the Traffic campaign to highlight the problem of human trafficking and putting further pressure on the School regarding ethical investment.

The forum began planning the Climate Change Action Week, taking place in Week Nine of this term, and hopes to co-ordinate an event with the Carbon Trust, host a lecture on Biofuels and run a workshop with the Climate Outreach Information Network. Lent Term's Environment and Ethics week hopes to invite a Farmer's Market onto Houghton Street and host the Magnificent Revolutionary Cycling Cinema, a cinema powered by bicycle power.

The LSESU Environment and Ethics officer was enthusiastic about the progress made during the meeting. He told *The Beaver*, "This year looks certain to be an amazing year for environmental and ethical campaigns at the LSE. The first Environmental and Ethical

forum raised some fantastic ideas for campaigns, the School is aligning with our priorities, societies are co-operating more than ever and lots of enthusiastic and skilled people are set on making LSE even greener, even more ethical and even more active in the fight for social justice. I encourage all students to get active and bring the LSE to the top of the Green League tables."

The forum also voted not to elect an official LSESU Environment and Ethics Committee. Instead, the Forum will act as a committee in all but name, allowing more participation and a less hierarchical structure.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 1 November at 6pm in room H103.

"What's wrong with playing God?"

■ Leading scientists discuss synthetic biology and its ethical implications

Rajan Patel
News Editor

Craig Venter, one of the scientists responsible for the sequencing of the human genome, was at the LSE on Wednesday 24 October to discuss the practicalities and ethics of genetic research.

The event, entitled "Beyond the Genome: the challenge of synthetic biology", was organised by the LSE's BIOS centre for biomedicine and biotechnology. Venter was joined by LSE professor Sarah Franklin, Professor Peter Lipton of the University of Cambridge and Professor Chris Mason of UCL. Professor George Gaskell, Director of the LSE's Methodology Institute, chaired the event.

Venter began with a brief history of 'synthetic biology', an area of science which attempts to design and build new biological systems. Research in the field may have major implications for the pharmaceutical industry, healthcare generally, and the energy sector.

The initial breakthrough came in 1995, when the first genome from a living organism was synthesised. Subsequent research led Venter to wonder whether "the minimal operating system for life" - a code

made up of only essential genes - could be discovered. He soon realised that this was a "naive question". Environmental factors were found to be fundamentally important in determining how genes function.

Venter's work has focused on constructing a "synthetic chromosome", using sequencing software to produce a "digital" version which can be replicated in the laboratory. These chromosomes, whose genes code for particular characteristics, can then be inserted into bacteria.

Chris Mason considered how the pure science could be "translated" into real healthcare, energy or environmental products. He concluded that a "multidisciplinary approach" and greater investment from blue chip companies will be needed to realise the full commercial value of synthetic biology. Positive public opinion would also be a pre-requisite - he cited the failure to win over the public as a major reason for slow progress on developing genetically modified crops.

Professors Franklin and Lipton explored the social and ethical implications of synthetic biology. Franklin argued that experimental science was at the core of our modern belief system, but that the public debate on genomic research was "impoverished" and domi-

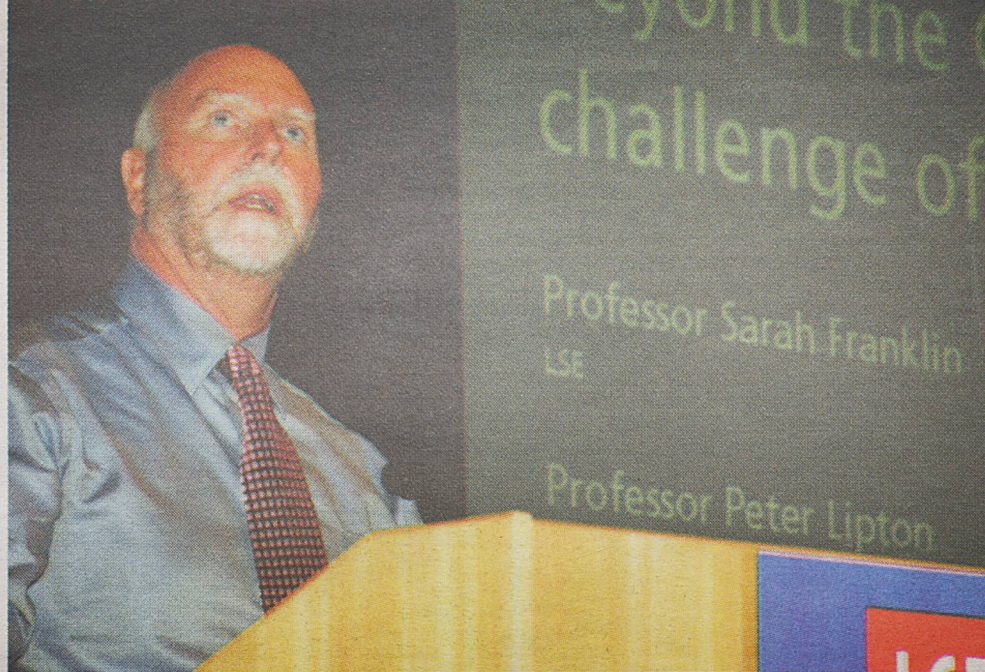
nated by irrational fears of "Frankenstein figures".

It was claimed that scientific research is not racing ahead at a frightening pace - in fact, the perception of the "vast and fast paradigm" is fundamentally incorrect, with the consequences of scientific research always "inflated by foresight and diminished by hindsight".

Lipton concluded the discussion with the suggestion that synthetic biology was casting scientists as "intelligent designers", exploring a perceived tension between synthetic biology and the process of natural selection. However, he noted that artificial selection has taken place for hundreds of years in animal husbandry and suggested that the new debate was an extension of this process.

Lipton observed our instinctive classification of developments we do not like as being "unnatural", asking, "What's wrong with playing God?" He conceded that humans lack God's "omnipotence and omniscience" but argued that the process of genomic research and synthetic biology could not be halted. Science must, therefore, rely on "oversight, regulation and discussion" to vet research in the field.

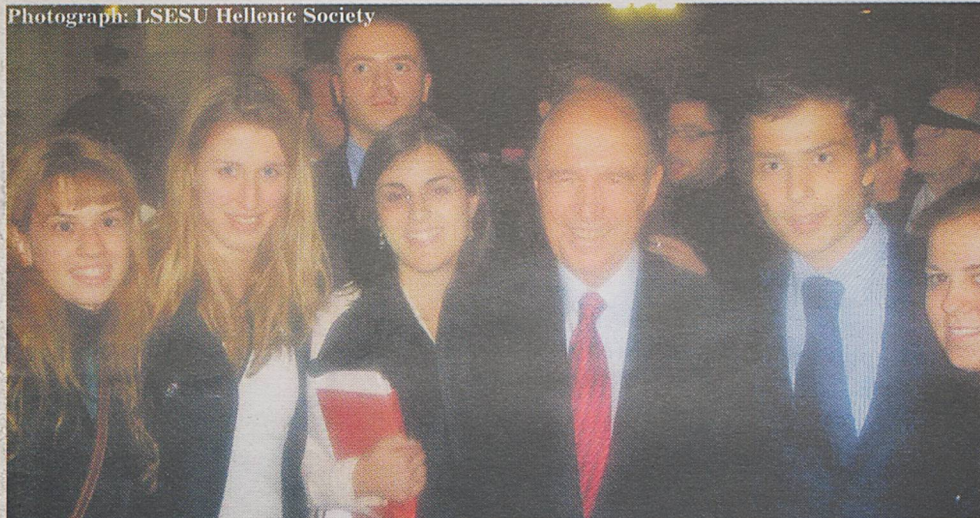
Photograph: Anna Mikeda



Craig Venter, pioneer of genomic research, at the LSE last week

Former Greek Prime Minister speaks at LSE

Photograph: LSESU Hellenic Society



Dr Konstantinos Simitis with members of the LSESU Hellenic Society

Maria Efthymiou
Virginia Nasika

Dr Konstantinos Simitis, LSE alumnus and former Prime Minister of Greece, gave a lecture at the LSE entitled "Is Democracy in Crisis? Lessons from the Greek Experience" on Tuesday 23 October. He analysed the evolution of politics and policy in Greece and voiced his opinions on Greek current affairs.

Dr Simitis, speaking after recent Greek elections, argued that interest in politics and public debates has been decreasing, that the ideologies that once inspired citizens to get involved in public debate have declined and that class differences are not particularly marked in our era.

The electorate, he believes,

only gets involved in the political process at election time and remains indifferent in the interim. He illustrated this with the example of the Greek electorate, which remains detached from politics most of the time.

He also argued that the balance between security and individual liberties is a sensitive one, but did not necessarily see a contradiction between upholding human rights and reinforcing security measures to counter terrorism in Europe.

He emphasised the importance of a "European public space", where European leaders and European citizens can openly debate and exert constructive criticism – where, for example, the Italian Prime Minister can present and discuss European treaties in Germany. He also stressed the importance of social and envi-

ronmentalist movements and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in order to adapt to the new era.

Simitis remains optimistic, believing that democracy has not reached an impasse and that there are ways to "re-politicise politics".

Questions addressed a wide range of topics such as the crisis at the Athens Stock Exchange in 1999, the future of PA.S.O.K (the Greek Socialist Party) after their defeat in the last elections and the possibilities of direct democracy in the era of new technology.

The lecture was followed by a reception organised by the Hellenic Observatory, where students and guests had the chance to talk with Simitis. The Hellenic Society was there to meet him.

Thieves target campus lockers

Simon Wang
Senior Reporter

Six cases of locker thefts in the basement of the Old Building and the LSE Gym have been reported since the beginning of term, including the thefts of two laptops.

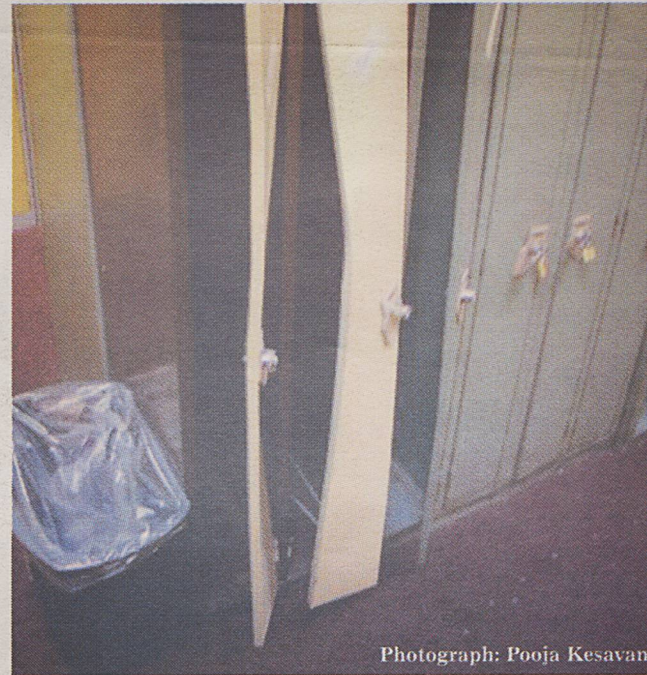
Among the victims are the LSE Students' Union (LSESU) Knitting and Chess Societies. The Knitting Society's entire stock of knitting needles and yarn was stolen from the Old Building's basement lockers over the summer. The society's tea kettle was also taken.

Bea Long, Knitting Society Treasurer, told *The Beaver*, "The thieves were quite discerning, they actually left a few balls of yarn behind, but it was only the cheap stuff. Old Building security staff told our Chairperson that they would have known the difference and taken the good yarn to craft markets in Islington to be sold."

Many of the victims of theft, including the Knitting Society, had used the hefty locks sold in the LSESU Shop which exceed the 5mm lock width requirement recommended by the School for the Old Building lockers.

However, thefts still seem possible as the lockers can be forced open without tools due to the inadequate quality of the lockers themselves.

Kate Slay, Manager of the LSESU Shop, stated that they have "consulted with the School Security department and followed their guidelines on appropriate padlocks to sell". The padlocks are good



Photograph: Pooja Kesavan

Finance department lockers vandalised

quality but the Shop also stated that "unfortunately few locks can guarantee security if thieves are determined to steal".

Lockers in the male changing rooms of the LSE Gym were also broken into and vandalism of lockers is a problem across the School. Many students have reported numerous broken lockers in the Department of Finance.

Paul Thornbury, Head of Security, said that Security have been aware of the problem since the beginning of term. They plan to "increase patrol activity in and around the lockers areas", but Thornbury encouraged all students "not to

leave any valuables of any type in these [Old Building] lockers. The lockers are not secure and not designed to store valuables."

Security also plans to improve maintenance and signage, but there are no plans to improve locker quality or change the lockers completely.

The Knitting Society will be holding a fundraiser on Wednesday 31 October with half the money raised going to Raising and Giving (RAG) charities. Society members – dressed as robbers in recognition of their status as victims of crime – will be selling cakes and teaching people to knit for 20p per row.

Ben Rogers on Burma

The author is an election candidate

A large turnout of students heard Burma expert, Ben Rogers of Christian Solidarity Worldwide, speak at the School on Monday 22 October. The discussion, organised by the Grimshaw International Relations Club and the LSE Students' Union (LSESU) Amnesty International society, centred on Rogers' experiences of visiting the country.

Though it was the third successive year in which Rogers had spoken to LSE students on the issue, there was much more interest this year following the brutal crackdown which ended the pro-democracy protests of Buddhist monks in the country.

Rogers – author of *A Land Without Evil: Stopping the Genocide of Burma's Karen People* – explained how he had visited the country 18 times, visiting various internally displaced members of the population such as the Kachin and Karen minority groups.

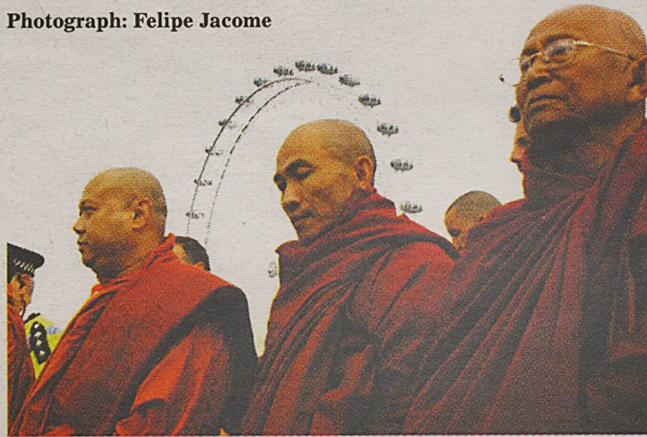
Using a number of pictures from his time inside the country, he described the "Orwellian" feel of a nation where democracy and freedom of expression are heavily repressed. His pictures included signs stating how "Tatmadaw [the Burmese military] and the people cooperate

and crush all those harming the union". Rogers described horrific instances of torture against people he had met and what he called the campaign of "genocide" against the country's minority groups.

Despite the bleak description, Rogers was keen to emphasise the "immense kindness and bravery of the Burmese people". He said that despite the failure of the most recent demonstration, he had heard from sources in the country that the monks would soon attempt another uprising in the country and he was "confident of the ultimate success of the pro-democracy movement".

Nevertheless, Rogers was keen to emphasise the role that the international community must play in imposing targeted sanctions and identified China

Photograph: Felipe Jacome



Burmese monks at the London Eye

as a supporter of the Burmese regime.

First year undergraduate Pete Millwood said, "The event was very interesting. The opportunity to hear about the experiences of someone who has had extensive personal experience of the Burmese regime was unique."

Peter Barton, Chair of the Grimshaw Club, announced that he was "pleased how the event had gone and with the level of interest."

Concluding his discussion on the "Battle for Freedom", Rogers argued that the world faced a simple choice between tolerating "dictatorship or democracy". It remains unclear whether the voices of those in Burma demanding the latter will be heard.

LSE Professor proposes 'smoking permits policy'

Jamie Mason

"There is a real risk that our children will die at a younger age than us" was the stark warning of LSE professor Julian Le Grand as he unveiled radical health policy proposals last Monday.

He argued that a fundamental shake-up of government policies is required to promote healthier lifestyles. Professor Le Grand suggested that smokers could be required to purchase an annual permit to give them the right to buy tobacco, whilst large companies could be forced to organise a daily 'exercise hour' for employees.

Speaking to the Royal Statistical Society, he also outlined measures which would improve nutrition by extending the provision of free fruit in schools and banning salt in processed food.

The proposals were revealed as part of a wider concept of "libertarian paternalism". Le Grand asserted that the government should make healthy choices automatic and that the individual would be forced to 'opt out' to pursue unhealthy activities. For example, although salt would be banned in processed food, the

individual is entitled to effectively opt out by adding their own salt before eating.

He argued that smoking permits would represent an extension of this idea, forcing people to consciously opt out of



Smokers would have to decide each year whether they were going to continue to smoking the next year

Julian Le Grand

a smoking ban. "Every year each individual would have to make a decision to 'opt in' to being a smoker. Smokers would have to decide each year whether they were going to continue smoking the next year. Breaking the New Year's resolution not to smoke would be costly in terms of both money and time."

Le Grand vigorously defended his proposals from accusations of fostering a 'nanny state'. He told *The*

Beaver that the "whole point is that people will still have a choice, unlike blanket bans".

He also rejected concerns that imposing an exercise hour on large businesses would damage British competitiveness, arguing that the exact opposite would occur. "There will be reduced sickness days and probably increased morale that will increase productivity and competitiveness."

However, the suggestions have met with a mixed reaction. Speaking to the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper, Dr Chaand Nagpaul, GP representative on the British Medical Association's Public Health Committee, condemned the smoking permits policy as "half baked". He warned that requiring a doctor's signature for permits could result in an extra 25 million appointments being made at doctors' surgeries each year.

Betty McBride, the Policy and Communications Director of the British Heart Foundation, was more positive about Professor Le Grand's proposals. She told *The Independent* that she had reservations over the smoking permit policy, but that "overall this is exactly the kind of thinking we need to be doing, asking tough questions and turning things on their head".

Union enters election fury

Erica Gornall
Senior Reporter

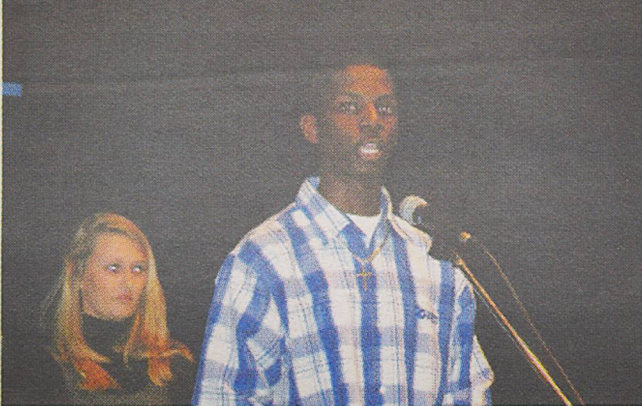
The LSE Students' Union (LSESU) is preparing for a number of close-run races in next week's Michaelmas Term elections.

The elections decide who will represent students' interests on the School's Academic Board and Court of Governors, both important decision-making bodies within the LSE. Students will be elected to the LSESU's Constitution and Steering Committee. A Postgraduate Students' Officer, General Course representative, the Honorary President and Vice-President of the Union and National Union of Students (NUS) delegates will also be chosen.

Voting will take place in the Quad Café (East Building) and online at www.lsesu.com on Wednesday 31 October and Thursday 1 November, with results announced on Friday 2 November.

After what had been described by some as an under-promoted and lacklustre start to the election process, momentum seems to have picked up

Photograph: Anna Mikeda



General Course Representative candidates answer questions

over the last few days.

Earlier in the week, it was suggested that the majority of Freshers did not know the elections were happening, let alone what the positions entailed. The Returning Officer, James Bacon, indicated that he would have to consider the possibility of reforming the procedure by which the Union reaches out to LSE students.

"It is very hard reaching out to people just randomly and so we are going to redress that immediately" he

said.

However, the latest figures from the Returning Officer suggest that nearly half of the nominations this year were from new students.

"We achieved 44 candidates, close to 50% of those were first year students, whether they be postgraduates, General Course or first years," said Bacon. "In terms of promotion, all students were informed in every single [Freshers] induction," he added. Candidates for the posi-

tions of Honorary Vice-President, Postgraduate Students' Officer and General Course representative participated in hustings at last Thursday's Union General Meeting (UGM). However, there were no hustings for those running for Academic Board or as NUS delegates, with candidates relying solely on a poster campaign.

The number of candidates going for these positions and the lack of time were cited as reasons as to why they were not to answer questions at the UGM.

However, it is these positions that will be the most hotly contested races. The possibility of NUS reform in the coming year has produced many candidates for and against such reform: currently ten people are running for three positions as NUS delegates, many of whom already have prominent roles within the Union.

With some suggesting that Michaelmas Term elections are a 'practice run' for those who wish to stand for the major Union positions in Lent Term, all eyes will be on the results next week.

Russian Societies in election fraud

Henry Lodge

In light of recent complaints regarding electoral fraud at a number of society Annual General Meetings (AGMs), the LSE Students' Union (LSESU) will be enforcing stricter regulations on voting practices involving membership checks at the door, a requirement for all voters to present LSE IDs and possibly ballot papers.

Libby Meyer, the LSESU Treasurer, told *The Beaver*: "All AGMs should have an LSESU representative to watch over proceedings. The problem is that some societies forget to inform the LSESU of when and where the AGMs are to take place. Next year we plan to have membership checks at the door for all AGMs."

This week, the relationship between the Russian Society and the Russian Business Society (RBS) caused controversy.

The Russian Society AGM had an on-the-door membership check and, after a 45 minute debate, Boris Yaryshevskiy was elected as society President. Following his election, Yaryshevskiy intended to merge the Russian Society with the RBS. Speaking to *The Beaver*, he explained his intentions: "We are the only nationality to have split the societies in two; most have one society that runs both business and cultural events. Many people thought it was a good idea."

Yaryshevskiy took members of his society to the RBS AGM to sign them up to vote for the pro-merger candidate, Yuri Nikitskiy, in the RBS pres-

idential election. Concerns arose during the RBS AGM over electoral rules and Louise Robinson, the LSESU Residences Officer, was called in as an LSESU representative. Although Nikitskiy won the election, Robinson warned that the results might be annulled. Carys Morgan, the LSESU Societies Officer, later annulled the results on the grounds that students had to sign up with a society at least 48 hours before the AGM if they wished to vote.

The rescheduled AGM took place with the original membership list, not including the Russian Society members, and duly elected Filip Perkon as RBS President. Yaryshevskiy doubts that Perkon will agree to a merger.

The much rescheduled Bulgarian Society AGM took place on Friday October 26. It was the first election to require membership checks, presentation of an LSE ID and ballot papers for all voters.

There was some confusion over the balloting, which required the voter's name to be written down (subsequently torn off), with one unhappy member exclaiming, "No secret ballot? People have died for this!"

Libby Meyer, the LSESU representative at the election, had to intervene on several occasions, notably to make sure that English was the language spoken at the meeting in line with LSESU society rules. Despite some minor altercations between candidates and the crowd, the vote was undoubtedly fair and Maria Tchotreva was elected as society President.



Photograph: Anna Mikeda

Every week, *The Beaver* profiles a different aspect of your Students' Union. Here is Rachael O'Rourke's guide to the Union General Meeting

Ask any LSE student to describe the Union General Meeting (UGM) and you could get a variety of answers: pride at a pure form of democracy, a snigger at the theatre of ambitious student politicians locked in gladiatorial combat or plain confusion.

The UGM is open to all registered students, making the LSE unique among British universities for retaining such a universal weekly forum. Quite simply, the UGM allows any student to suggest and help select LSE Students' Union (LSESU) policy.

Any two registered students may propose a motion, or policy document. Every registered student is allowed to vote, speak for or against motions and challenge speakers with questions.

UGM Debate:

A motion would first be promoted to the UGM by a speech of no more than two minutes; this can be followed by a student speaking against, second speakers for and against the motion and questions to all speakers. A vote can be called any time after questions or a pair of speeches.

Paper-throwing has become a problematic issue for the SU after concerns grew that it was preventing some students from becoming involved at the UGM. The past Executive Committee sought outside legal advice, who informed them that paper-throwing at the UGM contravened laws on Health and Safety and Equal Opportunities, as disabled students were particularly dissuaded from speaking by paper-throwing. The School has told the Students' Union that if the law continues to be broken through paper-throwing, they will ban the use of School property for the UGM.

Who does what:

Chair - currently Azan Marwah

Has the unenviable task of maintaining order, ensuring that all speakers are heard and procedure is followed. The Chair is elected with the Vice-Chair at the first UGM of each term; any member of the Students' Union may stand for these positions.

Vice-Chair - currently Kevin Holder

Takes the minutes for the meeting, which are then ratified by all present at the start of the next week's UGM. If the Chair is absent, or temporarily steps down to present a motion, the Vice-Chair will take their position.

Keeper - currently Felix LaHaye

The role of Keeper was created last year in response to the ongoing issues of paper-throwing and low UGM attendance. They should ring a bell in Houghton Street to signal the start of every UGM, then spend the meeting standing on the Old Theatre stage in a cloak and hat, pointing at and shaming paper-throwers.

Constitution and Steering Committee (C&S)

One member of C&S must attend every UGM to help the Chair interpret Students' Union regulations documents such as the Constitution and Codes of Practice. If the Vice-Chair is absent or forced to take over the role of Chair, a member of C&S must take the minutes.

Before the UGM, the C&S committee is responsible for checking the week's motions for legality and for producing an online Order Paper, or agenda, available 24 hours before the UGM. This is currently not available on the SU website.

Student Officers

Members of the Executive Committee and the chairs of C&S, F&S and the School Committees can give reports of their work at the beginning of the UGM. This is also an opportunity for any student to ask them questions and hold them to account.

Media Group

The UGM is a busy time for student journalists, whether asking student politicians to make a public statement on difficult questions; or recording the event on camera. Dictaphone or with hastily-scribbled notes. The heads of media group organisations can also give reports and field questions at the meeting.

Hacks

Hacks, or those active in different areas of student politics, tend to sit downstairs during the UGM. Left-wing students sit on the left, conservative students on the right. These generally include student politicians, student journalists, very active members in political or religious societies or Freshers still deciding how to get involved.

Athletics Union (AU)

The balcony of the Old Theatre is typically filled with students from the AU eager to indulge in the spectator sport of the UGM bear-pit. In general these students are the most vocal in their response to speakers. They regularly serve to counter the hacks, taking the process too seriously downstairs or SU officers taking too much power for themselves. They are often the largest bloc in the meeting and often valuable swing voters.

Motions

Motions can determine SU policy, mandate Union officers and committees, allocate or reallocate Union funds, amend SU governing documents and condemn or fire SU officers.

They typically contain three sections:

Union Notes: states background facts to the motion that are deemed 'beyond reasonable doubt'

Union Believes: contains opinions, none of which may contradict

the Equal Opportunities Policy

Union Resolves: the only section that must be in the motion, these clauses mandate or request action to be taken by an officer or committee of the SU

Amendments to motions can be submitted to the Chair before the first speaker on the motion begins. These amendments would be debated by the UGM before the final motion is voted on.

How to submit a motion

Motions must be submitted to the SU reception by 17:00 on the Monday before a UGM; there must be a proposer and seconder, both full members of the union with an LSE ID. If the motion involves SU funds, changes to governing documents or the censure of SU officers, they must be announced a number of weeks before they can be decided on at the UGM.

If students wish to propose a motion in response to an event that occurred after the 17:00 Monday deadline, they may submit an Emergency Motion to the General Secretary by 13:00 on Thursday. This motion must be approved by the General Secretary and C&S before it can be debated.

Motions during a UGM:

During the UGM, there can be Extraordinary Motions, which call for a short suspension of the normal running of the UGM, for example, if a student cannot hear a speaker or is unwell. They can close the meeting, move to vote, vote on a motion in parts rather than a whole, remove the Chair or Vice-Chair from their position temporarily or permanently and can have a person removed from the UGM.

Special UGMs:

Annual General Meeting

Held in Week Ten of Lent Term, the AGM is when the SU is presented with the General Secretary's Annual Report, the Treasurer's Annual Budget Submission, results from the Lent Term elections and decisions on Honorary Students.

Annual Budget Meeting

In Week Nine of Michaelmas Term, the Treasurer will report on the previous years' Accounts and Auditor's Report and present the budget for the coming year. Amendments to the budget may be submitted by any two students to C&S by 17:00 on Monday of Week Nine.

Extraordinary General Meeting

If there is a matter to be discussed urgently by the SU that cannot wait for the next UGM, fifty students may request an Extraordinary General Meeting in writing to the General Secretary. They must then organise such a meeting within three days, with 24-hour's notice and much advertising.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Europe: The Gathering



Andre
Tartar

Given the many benefits of a cohesive EU, perhaps it is time to cling less tightly to outmoded notions of nominal nationalistic pride

Writing in support of a European super-state is a particularly hazardous undertaking in this most Euro-sceptic of countries. But it must be done, for this concerns a dilemma that all European citizens must ultimately face up to.

Fundamentally, we must ask ourselves if we, as Europeans, want to remain politically and economically relevant in the new world order? Do we want to stand next to the US behemoth, the Chinese colossus, and the Indian giant as equals or watch from below like sideline spectators? Personally, I'd vote for the former.

Individually, the countries of Europe are small, and getting smaller as their populations continue to age. A few are arguably still free-standing powers. Germany is the world's largest exporter; the UK and France are nuclear powers with permanent seats on the UN Security Council. But even these European giants will disappear beneath the tidal wave of Asian mass-consumerism. Coincidentally, Germany is expected within mere weeks to become the newest victim of China's seemingly effortless growth, forfeiting its spot as the world's third largest economy.

Politically, Europe's only real bargaining chip is its collective economic clout and soft diplomacy. But these have

never truly been internally aligned, weakened by backstage bickering among member states. And though the combined armies of Europe



Nation states are political and legal constructs that only exist on maps and in legislation.

may number in the millions and have more high-tech equipment than virtually any other, they are little more than splintered and small national defensive forces. The NATO-Afghanistan debacle has clearly shown how unsure Europe is about projecting its military power.

Following on this, one might read into the recently settled Reform Treaty as a major step toward further federalism. A near-total abolishment of the veto, lynchpin of the former "consensus-building" by unanimity voting system, in favor of Qualified Majority Voting. The creation of a common foreign and security policy and the establish-

ment of an "external action service", Euro-jargon for a diplomatic corps. Greater jurisdiction for the European Court of Justice and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. These are only some of the reforms agreed upon by the 27 EU heads of state at a recent Lisbon conference. These would clearly seem to reinvigorate the founding pillars of the EU integrationist mandate.

But no matter, my argument is meant as a purely metaphysical exercise, not overly concerned with the mechanics of facilitating a budding federalist state.

So what is actually standing in the way of a true European super-state, with real legislative and economic powers transferred up to the European level? Petty bickering over anachronistic nationalist concepts such as sovereignty and the unfortunate confusion between nationality and cultural identity. What difference should it make to any European citizen whether their laws are made in Westminster or Brussels? What difference should it make whether British households are getting subsidized British gas instead of cheap Swedish hydropower? Honestly, what difference should it make to people if they are part of a 600-million-strong polity or a 60-million-strong one? I highly doubt that your average

Londoner categorically favors Cornish hamlets to Alsatian towns. As individuals, we live in cities and communities, not in nation-states. Nation states are political and legal constructs that only exist on maps and in legislation. No point pretending that it is otherwise.

And for you Eurosceptics out there, I'll throw you a little bone. It isn't as if you will have no control over your own lives. Naturally each "country" will still have an executive, its own judicial system (the EU judicial branch would function mostly as an appellate body), and a legislature empowered to deal with local concerns. In effect, the only real change would be that national governments would become provincial ones. A semantic and cosmetic change more than anything else.

But what it seems to me that people are really worried about is cultural erosion, not which particular group or person is governing them (most

Britons for example, are probably unaware who their Secretary of State for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs or the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs are). National boundaries, citizenship, and governments are legal definitions, nothing else. If you are a British citizen, it just means that you are bound by British laws while within British borders. It does not specify any ethnic group, profession, or religion to which you may belong. So why do people seem to care so much?

I believe it's a simple case of mistaken identity, between culture and nationality. People may be concerned about their traditional work-life balance (the French case), about the continuation of locally-consumed locally-produced foods (the British GM case), or about the dilution of their remarkable tolerance threshold (the Dutch case). The sad but necessary truth is that we must

first try to protect the European way of life and make it sustainable before we can consider protecting the Danish way of life, whatever that may mean. Being European means valuing work and play, valuing social assistance and accessible healthcare, valuing peace and prosperity. Let's ensure these first, then we can care about keeping Italian patent-leather shoes Italian and French champagne out of Napa Valley.

But don't get me wrong. No European nation should be strong-armed or hoodwinked into a federalised European state, be it by a Europhilic government or a back-room conspiracy. If the majority of a nation's voters are truly against transferring their legislative and judicial loyalties to a pan-European government, then let them stay out of it. If the British people want to opt out of the Reform Treaty, they have that right.

But if they should so choose they will be raising a mighty wall between themselves and any future influence within the United States of Europe. And united the states of Europe will be, you can be sure of that.



Horizons restrained



Angela
Newton

With the series of education reforms running in self-contradiction, perhaps it is time to look more closely to what education ought to achieve

So, they've done it again. The rusting cogs in the machine that is the Department for Education and Skills have had their annual application of WD40 and, right on time, another 'master plan' for reforms to the British Higher Education system have

been announced. With its role being to provide training of two sorts - vocational and academic - the problem, it seems, lies in being able to achieve this without appearing to have segregated into an elitist two-tier framework.

Yet this was exactly what

happened, with the introduction of five vocational diplomas received on their announcement in November 2006. Being designed to run alongside the more academically oriented A-levels, the distinction between the vocational and academic streams

was clear cut and, strongly criticised.



With the future of the human race so dependent on scientific advancements, isn't it vital that the sciences are made accessible to all

Cue the announcement, last week, of three academic diplomas - in science, languages and humanities, widely seen as an attempt to unify the Higher Education system. Despite the Schools

Secretary, Ed Balls being adamant that this does not signal a long-term plan to scrap A-levels altogether, he is clearly testing the water to effect just that.

Problem solved? Perhaps, but its impact on the other major downfall of the British system - its early requirement for specialisation - must also be considered, and appears to have been underestimated.

Less than ten years ago, students in the UK were expected to narrow down their studies to just three subjects, compared to six or seven for their European counterparts. Given the widespread praise for the introduction of AS levels and the increased budget for the provision of the International Baccalaureate, both of which were aimed at bringing the education of British students more in line with their European counterparts, it seems bizarre that this conflict of interests has been overlooked.

There are claims that the new academic diplomas allow for a greater breadth of study, albeit within just one of the three fields. But what about the many of us who don't fit quite so neatly into one of those three boxes? Having risked a fall into troubled

waters by jumping ship from sciences to humanities myself, it is clear to me that a solid bridge between the fields is more important now than ever.

However, the proposed three-field diploma system implies, for example, that a scientist would never need, or want, to have an appreciation of how their development of new technologies can affect society and culture. Or worse, that they should never require foreign languages and communication skills to collaborate with research groups across the globe and to express their findings to people outside the scientific sphere. With the future of the human race being so dependent on scientific advancements, isn't it vital that the sciences are made accessible to all, no matter what their educational specialisation?

We all realise that, as it stands, the British education system has plenty of room for improvement. Yet while the latest proposal does take a step closer to achieving a unified system, it also entails relapsing to a narrow, restrictive curriculum and undoing the improvements we have made over the past decade. This leaves just one question - why hasn't anyone noticed?



COMMENT & ANALYSIS

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Age shall not weary them



Stuart Powell

A 96-year-old man gets punched in the eye on the tram. Another elderly man ends up on life support after an attack by teenagers at a bus stop. Assaults on the elderly have become an unpleasant feature on the news in the past week. Violence against the elderly rightly garners much media attention; this is largely because the treatment of the elderly is seen, not incorrectly, as a reflection on society as a whole.

These assaults are not simply a London or an urban problem. Neither are they committed in a vacuum, far removed from broader social attitudes. They are arguably symptomatic of a broader

The recent spate of violence against the elderly sadly mirrors the general societal attitude, which needs to be changed radically for the good of all

trend of disrespect and alienation of the elderly within this country. This is not to say many old people are not loved and appreciated, or that they require patronising guardianship. Rather, there is a deeply-embedded cultural tendency to dismiss the opinions and diminish the status of the elderly, with its frequent corollaries of isolation and misunderstanding.

These attitudes are closely tied to the great value society places on youth. Their lack of inexperience is conveniently overlooked in a fast changing world where the demands of tomorrow are rarely those of today. Youth has the vigour to evolve and learn, while the older generations struggle to

pick up new tricks. The elderly often find it difficult seeking employment, switching jobs, convincing their families of their usefulness or simply to retain their daily independence. This stigma of uselessness attached to the elderly is self-perpetuating when society consistently circumscribes the spheres of activity deemed suitable for the elderly to operate within.

It is striking that in some non-Western countries there is a vastly different perspective on the value that the elderly can hold for society, even as their physical capabilities decline. In India, the idea of the nursing home is largely alien. The wisdom of older generations is held in high esteem and kept close to the family home. Whilst different socio-economic imperatives need to be taken into account, the principle of the value of the older generation stands. Nursing homes may actually facilitate independence amongst the elderly, but the frequent disconnection of elderly members from everyday family discussion and decision making is a great loss. There is an unpleasant stereotype of the muddled old man or woman to be helped and pitied; brought out on the odd ceremonial occasion such as Christmas or birthdays. Yet the contribution of elderly people to the stability and well-being of families can be consider-

able.

Whilst the younger generations need not constantly defer to the elderly for direction, the advice and counsel from grandparents can be invaluable. The worries, concerns and challenges of life today, be it financial, emotional or otherwise, are not totally dissimilar to those experienced by our elders in the past. Failure to make of their knowledge and insight makes elderly people the greatest untapped resource in this country.



Failure to make use of their knowledge and insight makes elderly people the greatest untapped resource in this country

In light of this, the neglect of the elderly becomes even more frustrating. Despite their planning and frugality, many cannot live securely in retirement and lack support from both their families and the government. Recent reports documenting appalling conditions in some nursing homes and the poor treatment of the elderly on a number of hospital wards are demonstrative of

the degree to which apathy towards the elderly has been institutionalised. That this often leads to quicker loss of mental and physical faculties and the waste of lives which still offer so much only compounds the tragedy.

Is it unfair to suggest that violent assaults are related to the broader cultural attitudes towards older generations? In truth, the nature of family ties go a long way in influencing behaviour; and the absence of close ties with older family members may breed indifference, disrespect and even contempt. The elderly are de-personalised as a consequence, becoming a faceless minority within our society.

The experience and wisdom of the elderly, coupled with their sacrifices in the great struggles of the 20th century, ought to have endowed them with some form of natural authority. But this is denied not just by violent felons but also by general societal norms. While this does not justify the attacks, but it does, in the loosest sense, offer some explanation for their occurrence.

Besides the paying of due respect for the elderly, maintaining good relations with the elderly is important for the benefits and enrichments of healthy interaction it offers for both the young and old. In a culture which holds youth in such high regard, it is perhaps worth remembering that a sense of connectivity to grandparents and the elderly in general is what truly reminds us how young (and foolish, idealistic, promising) we really are.



Bridging the divide



Anjali Raval

Britain has a lot going for it: a history of democracy, a liberal media, a cosmopolitan population, and a language that sees common usage throughout the world. This however casts a veil over the truth of the lack of hospitality and tolerance that seem to be engrained in the British culture.

On the face of it, we have a culture of respect and tolerance which is the envy of others worldwide, and yet there still appears to be a lingering 'institutional racism' which was identified in the 1999 Stephen Lawrence inquiry. This intolerance in public institutions filters through to the grassroots, alienating people from their fellow neighbours. One of the key reasons for this is that, as a population, we still do not see diversity as an opportunity - we see it as a threat.

In his book "Celebrating Diversity", Dr Atul K Shah highlights the problems in the UK and suggests remedies that

Cross-cultural understanding is far from a given, and Britain has some ways to go in accepting its ever-increasing ethnic diversity

can be found by living 'the Indian way of life'. He covers a wide range of areas of discrimination, from discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation, to discrimination based on colour and religion. However, as an immigrant to the UK himself, his focus is on ethnicity.

In a recent interview with Dr Shah, I asked if this was not a singularly British or Western problem, but rather that human beings are xenophobic by nature. He argued otherwise, suggesting that pluralism is actually engrained in religions such as Hinduism and Jainism. Not only do they teach respect for other human beings, but biodiversity lies at the heart of Jainism in particular. Dr Shah suggested that a lot of the ills of society are born of the human obsession with humanity itself.

The question then is, if Britain is so multicultural and cosmopolitan, why does it have such a problem with accepting diversity? I think that the

answer can be found in history. Dominance and control over other peoples was a common theme in Britain's imperial past. This historical trend permeates into the British culture itself. The native British population is not one that knows how to assimilate or adapt - there is a distinct fear of change.

One of the main problems in the diversity debate can be found within the workplace. The representation of ethnic minorities in senior positions in business, government, law and media, whilst improving, is still unsatisfactory. Britain is happy to use the skills of its minorities and yet it refuses to give them any real power. Without the opportunity for positions of influence, ethnic minorities can not make the changes needed for themselves. Dr Atul Shah suggests that there needs to be a fundamental change to the system, a 'pump-priming' mechanism, positive discrimination of sorts, to deal with this long-

standing inequality.

The media is a perfect example of a mono-cultural and white institution. The media has a huge arena of influence and power and, in my opinion, therefore has certain obligations and responsi-



The native British population is not one that knows how to assimilate or adapt - there is a distinct fear of change

bilities it should uphold. However, rather than embracing diversity, it seems to be creating a climate of fear that is counter-productive. We must remember that prejudices often stem from personal insecurities.

the Beaver

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

The Beaver

Established 1949 - Issue 669

Teaching standards...

...still in urgent need of attention

It is with a grim sense of inevitability that *The Beaver* acknowledges the results of the International Student Barometer and the National Student Survey. In February, our own survey showed high levels of dissatisfaction with teaching standards at the School, with almost a third of students describing teaching quality as "bad" and 64% of students stating that the teaching quality was not, in their view, "good enough for an institution like the LSE".

This dissatisfaction has been reflected in the recent surveys and failings have been underlined by comparison with other top universities. It is certainly difficult to make excuses when examples of better practices abound throughout the Russell Group. Many of the students whom *The Beaver* spoke to have expressed their surprise, not at the poor opinion of the School's teaching, but at the low placing of the LSE compared to that of other universities. As one student put it, the LSE's "good reputation" is thought self-evident and, perhaps, inviolable. The head of recruitment for the United Nations Development Programme, speaking in the Hong Kong Theatre on Saturday, praised the LSE as an academic institution but also took the opportunity to warn students of the importance of their own reputations - how difficult they are to build, and how easy they are to break. The LSE would do well to heed this advice, or else its exceptional reputation will not last.

Fortunately, there are clear signs that the LSE is listening to the calls of students. Plans for an 'LSE Task Force on Teaching and Career Development' predated the publication of these most recent survey statistics. It seems that these figures will give the School the incentive it needs to give teachers the incentives they need, allowing a better balancing of teaching with academic research.

Of course, we must remember that there are many fine teachers who are enthusiastic about their subject and teaching work. They regularly go beyond the call of duty in advising and supporting our studies. These teachers deserve to be rewarded for their efforts. In doing so, we can hope to create greater incentives for those teachers currently neglecting their teaching duties to change their attitudes.

We are all lucky enough to be attending a world-class university with world-class academics and lecturers. We also have, as *The Beaver* recognises, many world-class teachers. It is in making this the norm, and in increasing the general level of teaching quality to match that of lecturing, which remains the challenge - but at least the School seems to have awakened from its slumber.

Halloween is upon us...

...which means the year is flashing past

In another couple of days, we will be into the last two months of 2007 and next week we will be half way through Michaelmas term. While Freshers' Week is still a reassuringly recent memory, the fact is that the year - whether it be your first, second, third or indeed seventh - is well underway.

This is a point in the year when many people feel, that with the chaos of Freshers' Fair now dying down, it is time to get more involved in student life. This week's upcoming elections drew a healthy forty-four candidates, and *The Beaver* urges you to study the manifestos on the centrefold pullout, and use your vote wisely. Remember - when you find yourself complaining about poor quality decisions by your Union representatives, it is your votes, or your decision not to vote, which put them there.

It is also an excellent time to become involved in other parts of the Union, away from the greasy pole of Union politics. *The Beaver* is holding a collective meeting next Monday 5 November at 5pm in G108, and encourages everyone, members of the collective or not, to attend. It will be an opportunity to question the editors who shape the newspaper that you currently hold in your hands, and also a chance to vote fresh faces onto the editorial board.

Letters to the Editor

The *Beaver* offers all readers the right to reply to anything that appears in the paper. Letters should be sent to thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk 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.



"description elsewhere"

Dear Sir,

I was intrigued by Mr Unkovski-Korica's reinterpretation of the October Revolution, in which he claimed that the Revolution was supported by 'the vast majority of the country'.

If this is correct, then it begs the question as to why the Bolsheviks felt the need to shut down the Constituent Assembly after its first and only election, in which the Bolsheviks and their allies received only a quarter of the votes, and to instigate the Red Terror, in which at least twice as many 'political opponents' were executed in the first two months as had been sentenced to death by the Tsarist regime over the previous century, and in which concentration camps were established for 'priests, kulaks and doubtful elements'. All this was done on the orders of Lenin, the man who had returned to Russia with the help of the Kaiser's government, years before Stalin came to power and supposedly 'corrupted' the 'good' Revolution.

I was also puzzled by the description elsewhere of Mumia Abu-Jamal as 'a political prisoner in the US'. Is this the same Mumia Abu-Jamal who is in prison for the murder of Daniel Faulkner?

Peter John Cannon

"more skimpy"

Dear Sir,

I would like to congratulate David Woodbridge on his interesting and well-written essay in the 16 October issue of *The Beaver* about the School's decision to award its own degrees rather than those of the University of London. This is an important, if technical matter. While one might quibble with some of the detail, his account of the foundation of the University is salutary in reminding us why it came into being. However, his more recent history is somewhat more skimpy.

The move by the LSE and other Colleges to award their own degrees is not a sudden development. Our relationship with the University has been changing gradually but significantly over at least the last twenty years. Also, the move is not a sudden whim of individual managers: all the major moves have been discussed fully and carefully by the School's governing bodies over this period.

In the 1990s, the School took direct responsibility for the standards and quality of its own undergraduate and Masters degrees, without recourse to the administrative machinery of Senate House. At that point, it could be argued, the University became a degree-awarding body in name

only.

More recently various Colleges have 'patriated' various services from the University. For example, the School took on responsibility for its own Careers Service in 2002 and for running research degree examinations and appeals in 2006. In both cases, we are certain that we now provide students with a better and more efficient service.

Very importantly, in 2005 the University had something of a shock in the form of an adverse judgement at the end of an Institutional Audit carried out by the national Quality Assurance Agency. In view of some of Mr Woodbridge's comments, it is worth quoting the Audit Team's main judgement in full:

"On the basis of the results of institutional audits of the University's constituent Colleges carried out between 2003 and June 2005 by QAA, broad confidence can be placed in the management, by the individual constituent Colleges, of the academic standards of awards and the quality of programmes offered in the University's name. However, only limited confidence can be placed in the soundness of the present and likely future management by the University, as a corporate institution, of its specific responsibilities as an awarding body under the current statutes and ordinances."

The University is now trying to reverse this judgement; and as one of the constituent Colleges we are working with it to this end. In this light, Mr Woodbridge's main judgement that "The University of London is being undermined by shallow individuals with no sense of history and interested only in short-term gain" is rather harsh.

Simeon Underwood
Academic Registrar

"separate set"

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to the op-ed entitled "Double-edged sword", written by Zak Moore, in the 23 October issue of *The Beaver*.

In his piece, Moore criticises arguments made by James Caspell and Ziyaad Lunat in their op-ed "War of the Words" (16 October). To build his case, Moore makes references to Freedom House's 2007 *Freedom in the World* report, citing that Israel is ranked as a 'free' country.

However, it should be noted that the report gives a separate set of scores for the Israeli Occupied Territories. The Freedom House report uses a point scale from one to seven, with one being the best score. The Occupied Territories are given a score of six for political rights, five for civil



liberties and are accorded with the status of 'not free'.

The arguments made by Caspell and Lunat are focused on the lack of political freedoms within the Occupied Territories, not within Israel. There is no accusation of the Israeli government denying political rights to Israelis. Moore's counterargument is therefore disingenuous at best.

Also, there is no defence in claiming that there are worse violations of human rights elsewhere. Not being the most notorious of offenders doesn't make one any less guilty.

Chun Han Wong
Comment & Analysis Editor

"forever last"

Bitter:Sweet

Live an eternity that hasn't begun,
Sing the melody that cannot be sung,
Learn to loose so as to gain,
What life images, always is - a sweet pain.

Even if at the verge of a fall,
Dream a rise...

Realise the integrity of truth,
Imposed although by a web of lies.
Your grief will weigh you down,
But destiny is what you will see,
A simple thing... that's the most extraordinary.

Perhaps has struck the lightning,
But 'fear of suffering' is worse than suffering,
One step further, stars may be shining,
Reach the end of the road,
A destiny may be awaiting.

Neither exists an outspoken future,
Nor the inevitable past,
A step today may forever last.
So address the obstacle with a smile,
It's then you'll truly 'live a life'.

Desire and Dream forever longed,
Never will fail for one walking on,
Face the challenge and it'll be gone,
As the darkest hour is always before the dawn!

Ashish Dudani
MSc Management

"know how"

Dear Sir,

I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy your newspaper.

I'm not a student at the LSE but I walk down Houghton Street every day on my way to work, and *The Beaver* makes Tuesdays a little less grim. I love Part B. Daniel B. Yates is a genius.

Jasmine Keyes

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

c&a@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Students' Union

Voices of the Union



James Caspell

The LSE is nothing without its fundamental constituents - its students. Given the opportunity to influence School governance, cherish it and use it

This week around 5,000 students will be voting in their first set of Students' Union elections. It is important to recognise how crucial these are in fighting for social justice and students rights; recent years have seen the successful return of effective and campaigning student politics at the LSE, both inside and outside of representative channels.

For example, the Students' Union has secured a commitment to a Living Wage for our exploited cleaners, twinned with An-Najah University in solidarity against the Israeli occupation of Palestine, held the first ever referendum on the appointment of a Director in the UK, and prohibited investment in the arms trade and divested from Sudan. These are all monumental achievements that all students should be proud of. However, all of these achievements have been in the face of over opposition from Howard Davies' anti-student administration.

These successes were achieved by students exercising collective power outside of the representative institutions that often fail us. However, this is not to say that the elections are redundant. Far from it.

Through a non-violent campaign of direct action and engagement, students and

academics won a victory for cleaners in the face of the heartless intransigence of bourgeois directors, who are transplanting the soul of our School with their neo-liberal, free market agenda. However, it was student representatives who helped to force such issues onto the agenda of closed School Council meetings.

“

The School is effectively run by decree, not democracy, and student representatives and academics are increasingly dismayed with this

Without them, student concerns would have been totally ignored.

When the School promises to head towards becoming a zero-carbon campus, we need students to continually remind

them. We must continue fighting discrimination and exploitation at home, and opposing occupation aboard, inside and outside of the system. As our General Secretary once said: Liberty, Solidarity and Equality - that's our LSE.

A particularly important election is for Court of Governors and LSE Council. It is unfortunately the case that the LSE Council (the equivalent of a Director's Board) consists of a majority of private-sector careerists looking to ease their conscience without any idea of what is actually happening on campus, and sycophantic academics on the administrative gravy train. As someone who had the task of trying to negotiate through such a bankrupt body for a year, I am sad to say that it is in desperate need of a wake-up call.

Currently, Council dances to Howard Davies's tune of higher fees, squeezing academics out for disagreeing with the party line and abysmal state school recruitment figures. Davies even gets away without submitting any written reports to Court Of Governors and Council detailing what he actually does for £220,000 a year. Howard Davies may be personable, but on issues such as re-sits and tuition fees, he is staunchly anti-student and opposed to vast swathes of our

Union's policy to bring more equality to the LSE and our wider society.

Council almost never votes, and some of the most important decisions regarding the School were made without a vote, such as the appointment of an anti-women oil baron Peter Sutherland as the new Chair of the LSE Council. The School is effectively run by decree, not democracy, and student representatives and academics are increasingly dismayed with this.

Next year, Davies will effectively be taking a summer holiday for which we will be paying him £55,000 whilst others do his work - the equivalent of nearly 20 students' tuition fees. The School's regulations - and convention - make it quite clear that sabbaticals are meant only for academic teaching staff, not administrators. Given the lengths our lecturers need to go to justify their sabbaticals, the idea that Davies can just informally agree on a paid leave with Lord Grabiner, Chair of LSE Council, is a disgrace.

It is also an open secret that certain Governors are on Council due to the amount of money they have given to the School. Sarah Worthington, Deputy Director, openly lauded future-Chair Peter Sutherland's "little black book" with which even more money from the trans-national capitalist class can corrupt our increasingly plutocratic university.

It is because of the endemic corruption that is rife through-



out the School's representative bodies - in particular LSE Council, Court of Governors and Academic Board, - that this week's elections are so important in choosing individuals capable and passionate enough to voice our concerns where it matters.

Our Union of 8,000 students is more powerful than the 25 di-

rectors that sit in LSE Council and it is fully within our ability to decide the direction of our School. It is for this reason that vocal, principled representatives are required to oppose this inside and outside of Council meetings, rather than those interested in furnishing their CVs. Therefore please use your vote to fight for your rights.



A sorry excuse for an apology

The author is an election candidate

Sending a letter in full knowledge of its politically divisive nature is very unwise, and possibly a result of individuals hijacking Union machinery

cognoscere causas. The conflict is very complex - simplistic labels and sweeping accusations do nothing to further the peace process. Not surprisingly, the mainstream press picked up on this story with headlines such as "Israel is killing children, LSE union tells freshers". This was a serious error which has not only damaged the SU itself, but is potentially harmful to the name of the LSE in general.

What kind of impression does it give of our SU when one of our first pieces of correspondence to incoming students is such a partisan letter, on an issue they had no input into and possibly little exposure to? Not only did the letter cause offence to Israeli and Jewish students at the LSE, it also raised the ire of those who also hold nuanced views on this contentious issue. In sending this letter, the SU failed in its primary duty to represent the diversity of opinion within the student body.

A group of students wrote to

those responsible to demand a full apology and retraction, and also to raise concerns over the processes behind the letter. The

“

Imagine if someone were to punch you in the face and then apologised, when challenged, for any pain you may have felt, rather than for the punch itself

response from the Executive was a fudged half-apology "for any offence caused". Imagine if someone were to punch you in

the face, then - when challenged - apologised for any pain you may have felt, rather than for the punch itself. Whilst their lack of foresight is forgivable, their subsequent refusal to apologise in full shows a lack of political judgement.

Even more worrying, however, are the outright lies in their response. Firstly, they claim that "Previous sabbaticals had agreed during their term of office to place a section in the handbook dedicated to the issue." This is simply untrue. Joel Kenrick unilaterally told the current sabbatical officers to put something in the welcome pack about the twinning. The previous sabbatical officers did not discuss this, and certainly didn't agree to it. Alexandra Vincenti has publicly stated that "No draft of any letter was discussed by the Executive Committee or the sabbatical team for later approval and action".

When questioned about whether every member of the Executive Committee was consulted on the content of the letter, Fadhil indicated several times that the entire Executive were sent an email asking for

feedback on the letter. In their formal response, the Executive claims that "Part-time Executive members made no changes to the draft." This implies that all Executive members were consulted, but had no problems. In fact, the opposite is true. They were never consulted. Had they been consulted, they certainly would have suggested changes.

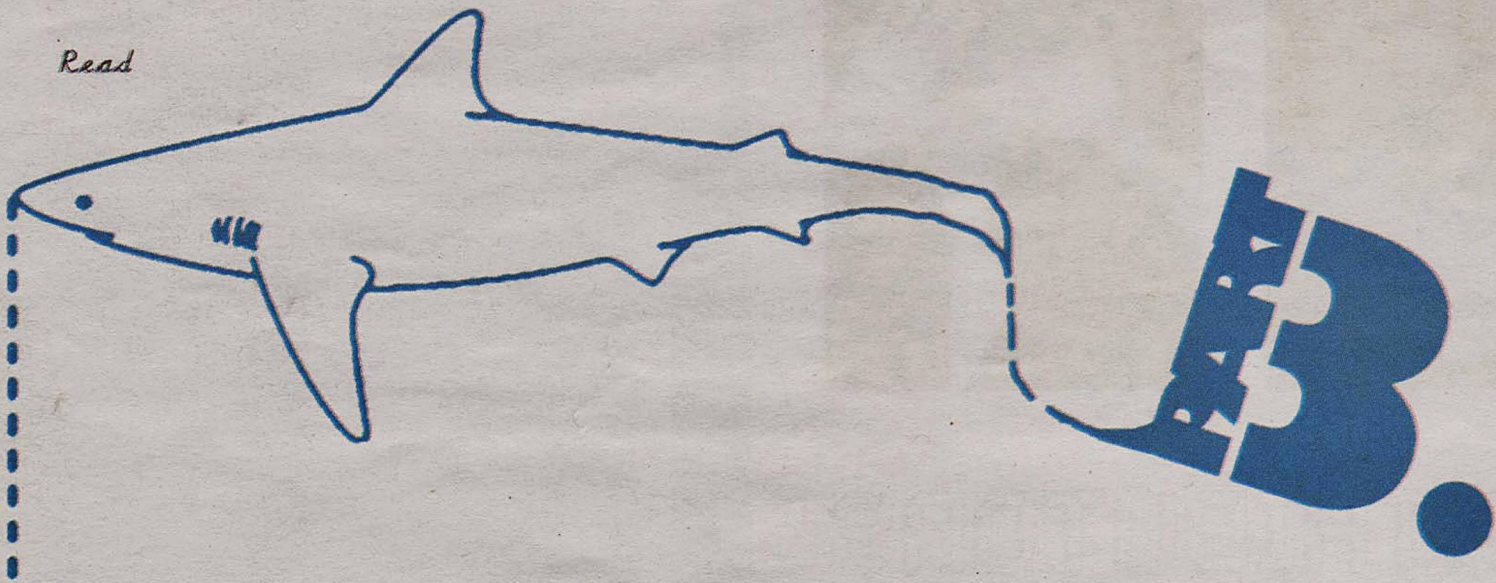
Why is this such a big issue? Anybody with half an ounce of political judgement could guess that a letter like this, sent on behalf of the SU, was bound to divide opinion and it would be wise to consult the entire Executive on it. But their decision is even stranger in the light of what happened a couple of weeks earlier. The Education and Welfare officer, had attended a National Postgraduate Committee (NPC) conference, during which there was a debate about the academic boycott of Israel. She considered the debate to be biased towards Israel, and wrote a letter to condemn the NPC for such bias. The original version of this letter was strongly-worded and - despite the lack of an SU mandate - implied support for a boycott. It

was circulated around the entire Executive for consultation, and a few members had concerns. As a result, the wording of the letter was toned down.

In this context, why wasn't every Executive member consulted on a similar letter that went out to 1,400 freshers? Once again, it boils down to political judgement. Although our Executive is composed of very hard working individuals, they are, for the most part, not political beings. Most simply want to get on with the jobs they were elected to do. They want to run a successful and inclusive Students' Union; not firefighting political issues they know little about. As a result, they have been taken advantage of by a few single-issue fanatics pursuing their own agenda. They were incredibly naive to have sent this letter, but more worrying are the misleading statements and poor handling of the aftermath.

I'm sure the Executive have learnt from their mistakes, and I hope they will choose to issue a full apology to draw a line under this embarrassing incident.

Read

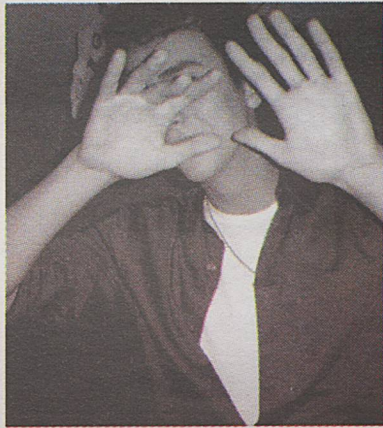


INSIDE THIS ISSUE AROUND LONDON

Franks Cookney is an island off the coast of Madagascar. Inhabited by a Polynesian tribe who go by the name of the Qpq69, this island was uncharted territory until the late 17th century, when Dutch explorers in search of eternal life were swept onto its shores after a terrible storm. The mating rituals of the Qpq69 are a constant source of wonderment to social anthropologists who are baffled by their aversion to the missionary position. Franki sorts out our Halloween costumes in Style on page 9.



Alex Maroulakis is a man, amongst mentals. A king amongst kingfishers. He traded letters with Descartes while also finding time to fuck a werewolf. These days his time and energies are spent looking at his own penis, which, by popular account, closely resembles a butter dish. Many things have been said about his penis, most of which revolve along its long and distinguished public speaking career at Speakers corner in Hyde Park. Read about his Roman holiday in Travel on page 10.



LITTLE LONDON

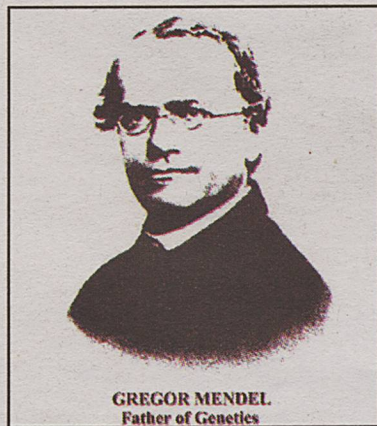
London. Sound familiar? Hyde park. Everyone knows where that is. Well, actually you think you do but you don't. These places are actually major tourist attractions in the country's TRUE capital, Leeds. Yes that's right, ladies and gents, there is a place further north than Cockfosters. Little London - a small district in Leeds - is (living up to all the horror stories of 'up north') a shithole, so if by some awful twist of fate you find yourself getting pissed in Leeds, don't stray too far from the safe confines of Dixy Chicken (unless you have an uzi tucked down your weekend pulling pants). The same can't be said, however, for the neighbouring borough of Hyde Park. What was once a suburban nightmare of whores, hookers and bandits is now an incredibly trendy part of the world, full of students, arseholes, perverts and twats. In short, Leeds is a beautiful modern city of the world and should be visited (with caution) by all.

HAYLEY DAVIDSON

CONTRIBUTORS



Laura Parfitt has nuclear explosives for brains. She is a beautiful and talented threat to society that may detonate at any minute. Reflecting infinite rays of light and sounding off a night of stars, she has a face that would launch a thousand ships and an ass that would launch a ballistic missile. She is a fan of solar power and other alternatives to the problem of limited fossil fuels. She smiles like a beautiful flower and kills like an assassin. She will kill you if you walk slowly, find out more in Rant on page 11.



GREGOR MENDEL
Father of Genetics

Gregor Ulm was a witch in 14th century Indorussia. In 1376 he forcibly took over the city of Mrivek and subjected the populace to a tyrannical reign in which every man woman and child were put to work, designing lemon juicers with novel attachments and hover-boards with sexual devices and jellybeans and close-tracks and platypi and electric harps. Whilst his subjects starved he ate jelly beans, whilst telling the people that the stones in the road were actually bread. Read Gregor's live review of Sohodolls on page 6.

PARTB HONCHOS

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erinorozco

style honcho
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loisjeary

straw boss
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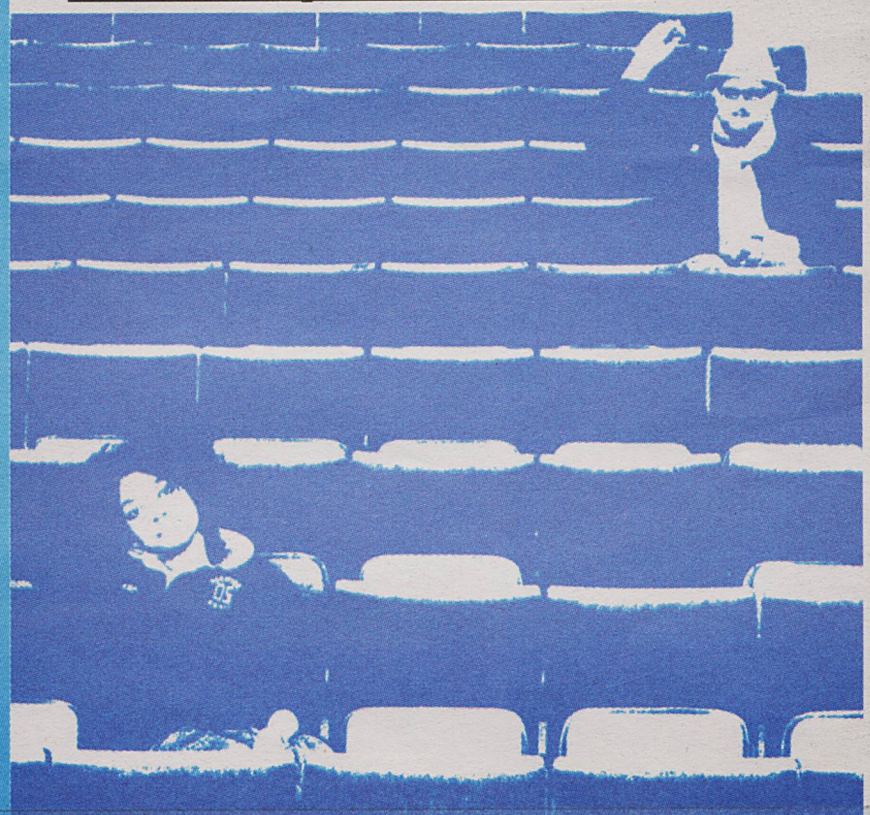
travel honcho
willjoce

film honcho
bernardkeenan

gaming & tech honchos
simonwang & hasibbaber

We are retiring. In Daniel's case for the second time this week. To be honest he doesn't really come in very often anyhow, preferring to issue his rabid directives from a machine-gun nest in a tree in Russell Square. In his resignation letter - a peculiarly strained document written in what appears to be the coating of jelly beans, semen and fingernail marks - he explains that he is leaving PartB to spend more time with his depression. At least we think that's what it reads, the man has handwriting like a tortured animal. He will be very briefly missed. Aba, the beautiful beacon of inspiration, is now sleep deprived and irritable. Like most party animals, she is nocturnal, but work at PartB is interfering with her usual habits. She tosses and turns the few hours she has in bed, calling out to Auntie Shaw from the depths of her dark, dark dreams. It is time for her to say goodbye and join the stars in the night sky. We have loved and lost... our sanity. We have created with our own four hands many a beautiful thing. But like all good unions, it must come to an end. We hope you enjoy the show.

thebeaver.partb@lse.ac.uk



EDITORIAL

THE BLOGBOARD

AS WE ALL KNOW, THE INTERNET IS AN ALTERNATE, SCARY WORLD. LET THE VIDEO POLKS MY PARTS TAKE YOU TO A HAPPIER, MORE HILARIOUS PLACE WITH OUR NEW FEATURE, THE BLOGBOARD, WHERE WE HIGHLIGHT THE BEST THE INTERNET HAS TO OFFER.

Many of our wanderings this week led us to YouTube, the home of the amusing and/or frankly disturbing digital masses. Our first clip is both entertaining and painfully cruel (who does that to a child?), and the sight of the fat kid mesmerized by the glowing computer screen illustrates the mindless slack-jawed media age we've entered.
<http://tinyurl.com/yqzemm>



childishly joyful, the video has no plot or even explanation, but is ultimately a bit like we wish the world was. That is, basically, filled with blue balloons. WEEEEEEEE!
<http://tinyurl.com/yq8f69T>

This week's final clip needs very little explanation. It will, simply put, make you happy. And if that's not what we're aiming for here at Part B, I don't know what is.
<http://tinyurl.com/yseszy>



Clip No. 2 plays like a homemade Bravia ad for the skateboarding demographic. At once both absurd and

'Til next week, my fellow surf-tards... 'til next week.

INFOPORN

Information that serves no purpose and consumes valuable space in your head.

ie:
"Man, that lecture was full of fuckin' infoporn!"

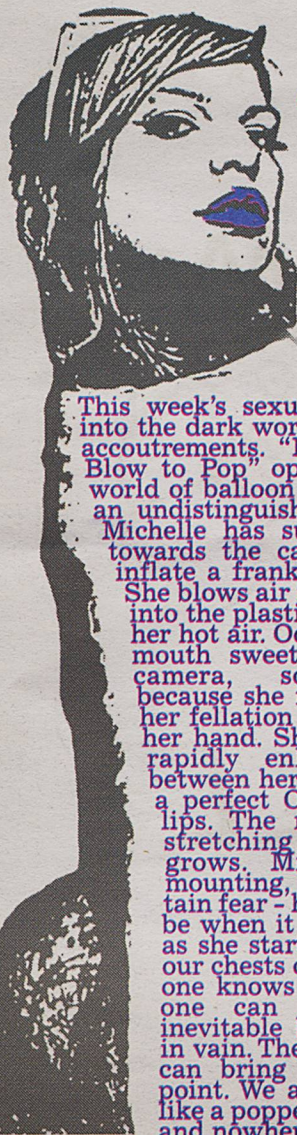
CLEAR YOUR TUBES

Got a transport nightmare you want to share? How about a favourite bus route? You write it, we'll print it:
thebeaver.partb@lse.ac.uk

I've been waiting since 7/7 for some sign that the tube is going the same way as the airports. The tube is claustrophobic, highly vulnerable, and full of people. People are dicks. Just like airports, but slower and sweeter.

So it's fair to say I wasn't shocked when last week, carrying my TV from home to my flat, a helpful prole noticed a large, potentially dangerous object sitting squatly on the seat across from him. Nevermind that this fearful object was wrapped in a black bin bag (the terrorist carryall of choice) and had an aerial antenna sticking out of it (clearly receiving satellite bomb detonation signals). This amorphous package was a menace to him and his fellow passengers, and he was going to do something about it! That something being to get off at the next stop, alert someone, and presumably listen smugly to the radio traffic as they stopped the train at the station after that to investigate. When asked who the bin bag of death belonged to, we of course responded that it was our relatively innocent television. With a disturbingly power-hungry gleam in his piggy little transport officer eye (obviously he hadn't expected to catch the perpetrators in the act quite so easily...) he carted the television off the train with us in tow.

His promotion is going to have to wait until the next security alert, however, because once his supervisor had kicked the offending appliance a few times and discovered that the worst it was capable of was broadcasting Big Brother, he had no choice but to let us go on our nefarious way.



Ms. Rubella Valve
reviews
pörn

BE AFRAID. THE TIME IS NIGH. TIME FOR FEAR AND DARKNESS. TRICKS AND MENACE IN THE STREETS. ON THE EGGS! DEAR GODITREMBLING IN THE AUTUMN CHILLS. SHRIEKERS. BLOODY HALLOWEEN



mt. Wleff's top recipe

Last week I sent you all a plea. An open letter to tell me my place, my meaning. What the fuck. Did nobody read it? Am I meaningless? I am verbally vomiting into a bubble of newsprint, and no-one cares. I try to talk to you, meet you face to face on this and all you want is a fried egg bap. I try to reach out and no-one hears me. Damn you. Damn you all! What's that? It was only £1.05 last week? That an increase of 15p is above inflation? Inflation is what I make it, fool! My services are an expression of my identity, and my identity wants you paying £1.20 for your tomato and salad sandwich! Who eats salad on a sandwich, anyway? If you want a salad, eat a salad! I don't care. I don't care about any of you. You're all transient, anyway. A few years and you're gone. I'm not gone. I'm always here. Forever. God.

waxin' off

with chun han wong

waxin' off is the new feature from your friends at Part B, in which we will cut to the burning heart of the issues of today, dissect them, and toss their entrails to the four winds.

This week we confront the horrors of the evacuation of Promises rehab clinic.

Blow, wind, blow. Flames of fury sweep across California with a vengeance. Incineration. Immolation. Devastation.

They say the likeness in things attract. And so it proved as wildfires raged towards the Promises Malibu rehabilitation centre - the sanctuary for victims of lost inhibitions, death wishes and nipple slips.

Alarm bells 'a-ringin', and the celebs go fleein'. Such a shame that a premier centre for psycho reconstruction has to be cleared of its prized clientele. But fear not. Its stellar alumni will never forsake the alma mater that granted them a chance at a Second Life. Surely the Afflecks, Lobans and Spears are not the boozing, snoring ingrates they once were?

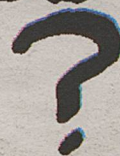
But the truth is far more sinister. Having framed our vicarious view of Hollywood through glorified kaleidoscopes of pointless awe and inane admiration, it's time to cast the lens of film noir and cruel intentions upon those apostles of Satan.

Promises don't rehab celebrities. They are a business, not a charity. Promises' illustrious clientele go through a Wheel of Dharma, but unlike the Buddhist path to Enlightenment, theirs is a unending cycle of sin. Easy come, easy go. And that's where the money is.



e&c

DO WE NEED SNYDER FOR POET-PRIEST



EVEN ONE WHOSE APPREHENSION OF THE WORLD IS TOTAL...

TURNS INTO A SHOW WHICH FITS INTO THE PREVALLING SOCIAL SPECTACLE...

AND HIS WORKS BECOME THINGS WE CAN LISTEN TO OR BUY IN STORES, ADDING TO OUR COLLECTION OF "SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCES."



GARY SNYDER, PETER ORLOVSKY & ALLEN GINSBERG IN THE HIMALAYAS

Tonight's performer has said elsewhere, referring to the monopolization of "religious" (Total) experience by the priestly class, "We really don't need these people to mediate for us. Each person should be his own shaman."

And yet the present situation is no different essentially than the remainder of our fragmented lives: we submit, and even rush to be able to submit ourselves to passive acceptance and consumption of separate items. Of course, we are pickier and more sophisticated than most, and insist on consuming only "beautiful trips."

Some of us are so liberated as to kiss only enlightened ass.

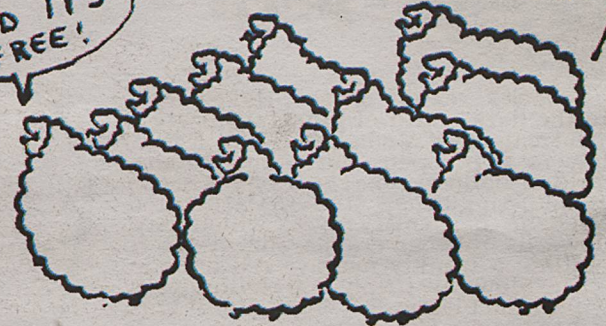


DO IT FOR ME!

SOME-DAY MAYBE I'LL BE A POET, TOO!

AND IT'S FREE!

BAAA!



POETRY MADE BY ALL — OR NOT AT ALL

call of the wild

it has taken ten years for Sean Penn to bring his vision of *Into The Wild* to our screens. he tells PartB about what drew him to the story of Chris McCandless, the idealistic young student who dropped out of life and embraced freedom.

by **bernard keenan**



“If we admit that human life can be ruled by reason, the possibility of life is destroyed.” So says **Christopher McCandless**, quoting **Leo Tolstoy**, in **Sean Penn’s** new film *Into the Wild*. It depicts the final years of the young man who, upon graduating with honours from Emory University in 1990, gave up a safe future at Harvard Law school and disappeared into America with nothing more than faith in the possibilities of freedom. He took on the name **Alexander Supertramp**, burned his money, ditched his car in the desert, and just started walking. Two years later, having finally escaped the human world he despised so much, he would die alone in the wilderness of Alaska.

If this sounds a little familiar, that’s because it is. Two years ago **Werner Herzog’s** documentary *Grizzly Man* examined the life and death of another drop-out from the white American dream, **Timothy Treadwell**. But where Herzog’s interest lay in the beauty and cruelty of nature, Sean Penn’s dramatization is concerned with the all-American ideal of freedom. **Christopher McCandless** may have been misguided, but he was the quintessential American: his right to pursue life, liberty and happiness

originally the biggest stumbling block to the film being made. Penn has been fascinated by the story for fifteen years, and was originally ready to shoot with **Leonardo DiCaprio** and **Marlon Brando** ten years ago. But then something unexpected happened, as Penn explained last week in London. “His mother had a dream that she took to mean her son was not ready to see this movie made. I told her that I wouldn’t be making movies if I didn’t respect dreams, so it didn’t get made. Ten years later I got a call saying the family were ready. I didn’t ask why.”

“You could spend 80 years of life sitting in front of Facebook, and be dead for all of it. Get out there and fucking live it.”

In those ten years Penn had honed his skills as a director. He’s learned by working with the best, including **Terence Malick** (*The Thin Red Line*) and **Woody Allen** (*Sweet and Lowdown*). “The advice you give to a young director is go out and become a successful actor,” he jokes. “The majority of films I’ve acted in for the last ten years I did to get that kind of film school.”

In the film, the family’s story unfolds through the narration of **McCandless’s** sister, **Carine** (an

whatever it was at that moment. Writing is not a polite enterprise, I was not interested in avoiding the truth of their son. I stayed true to my commitment to them, to make the film as best I could. But my interest was in what he was pursuing, not what he was fleeing.”

In examining this romantic pursuit of freedom, Penn is careful not to add to the strange cult of hero-worship that has sprung up since **Jon Krakauer** published his book on **McCandless**, also named *Into The Wild*. In **Italo Calvino’s** *Invisible Cities*, the explorer **Marco Polo** tells of how in each new place, a traveller

can see the traces of the people he could have become, had he chosen to stop travelling some time in the past. The traveller, however, cannot ever stop, and so must move on. It is a terribly sad dichotomy. There is a similar moment in the film, when **McCandless** has returned to the urban world and is unable to gain his bearings. Lost in a nightmarish blur, he suddenly sees himself in the place of a well groomed young professional, clean and apparently happy. The vision terrifies him and sends him hurtling back to the freight train that will carry him North. “I’m pretty anti-legend,” says Penn. “I don’t see the use in legends. Will the film contribute to it? Sure, any medicine can be misused. But there’s an innocent magic to him. I knew that no matter how I fucked it up or succeeded, it was something I would not experience alone. That wanderlust is in everybody.”

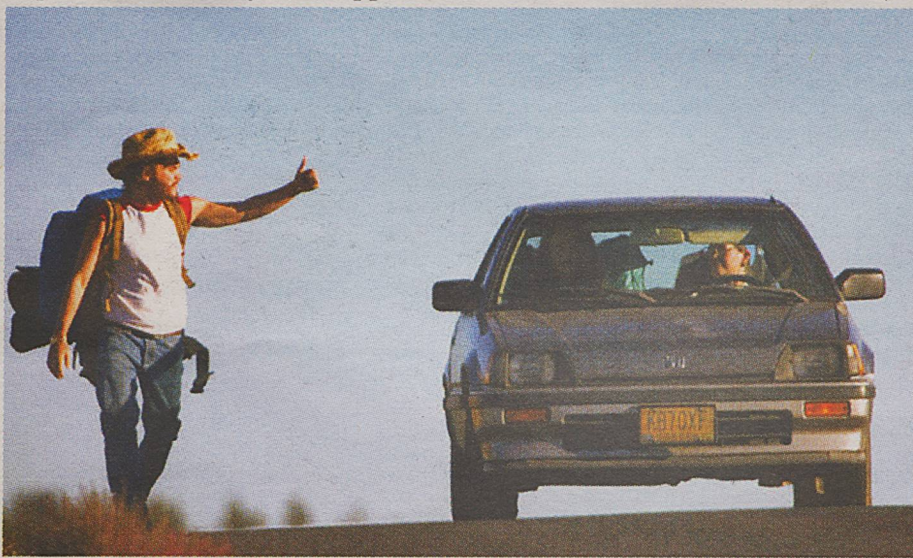
Given that the main character put himself in terrible danger, as well as spends much of the film in isolation, finding the right man for the task was not going to be easy. In **Emile Hirsch**, Penn feels he has found the perfect combination of intelligence, mischief, and perhaps, naivety. Says Penn, “I saw him in

Lords of Dogtown and asked, who is this guy? After that I pursued him, but didn’t want to put a ring on his finger right away. I wanted to see if he could go through with demands that would be far greater than anything I ever had to do as an actor. We were shooting in nature. If he’d walked across a frozen river and fallen through, then we wouldn’t be sitting here talking about it today.”

For many Alaskans, **Chris McCandless** was not a hero. Like **Timothy Treadwell**, who thought he could live peacefully among bears, he was simply an idiot, or possibly mentally ill. Inspired by novelists like **Pasternak**, **Tolstoy**, **Thoreau**, and **Jack London** (whose *Call of the Wild* inspires him to go to Alaska), he was sent into the wilderness by fiction, looking to live out a story of his own. The film is edited so that even as we see him get ever closer to his fate in Alaska, we simultaneously watch the dream fall apart. Whether or not we should be sympathetic is a question that is left open.

Despite **McCandless’s** tragic end, Penn firmly believes that his impulse to drop out of our regularised, disenchanted world of money, consumerism and technology is to be respected and embraced. “I do think it’s essential, yes. I’m not gonna recommend recklessness. But putting yourself out there, a rite of passage, is necessary. In the Western world we’ve become addicted to comfort. You could spend 80 years of life sitting in front of Facebook, and be dead for all of it. Get out there and fucking live it.”

Into the Wild opens on 9th November



is never once in question.

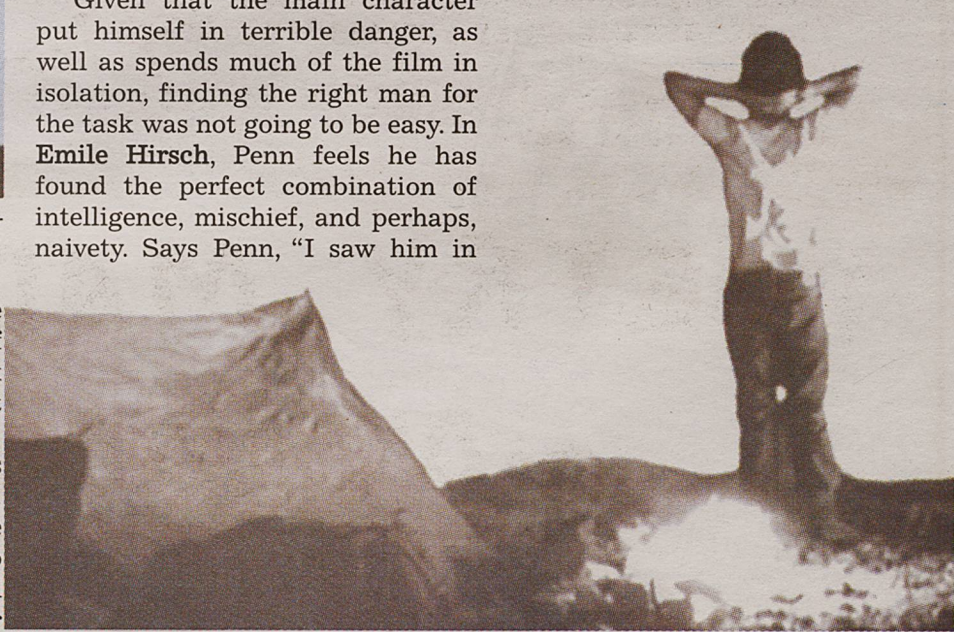
The film opens with **McCandless** arriving in Alaska and hiking towards distant mountains without map or compass. He comes across an abandoned bus which he makes his home, and sets about surviving alone in the wild. As the film unfolds, Penn traces the story of how he came to be there, the tales of those he touched along the way, and the devastation his disappearance wrought on his family.

The **McCandless** family were

understated and brilliant performance from **Jena Malone**).

The young man’s experience of his parents emotionally abusive marriage, lived out for the sake of their business, propels him to break radically from the trappings of what most people consider the ideal life.

Portraying the family’s role in his disappearance was not an easy task. “I know and like everyone I wrote about,” says Penn. “But I had to allow myself to feel hatred and loathing, love and confusion, or





SOHODOLLS LIVE AT 93FT EAST
by gregorulm

To be honest, I could not remember much about Sohodolls other than the fact that their singer was stunningly beautiful and luckily, this still holds true. **Maya von Doll**, as her nom de guerre goes, is apparently in her prime, and has no reservations about putting her feminine assets to good use in a skimpy school uniform and four-inch heels. Hence, as a typical red-

blooded male, it took me quite a while to realise that there were more persons on stage and suffice to say the other band members did not get much attention.

The band played many tracks from their debut release *Ribbed Music for the Numb Generation*, a record that sounds very much en vogue. If you prefer your indie rock with a touch of synthesizers, and have taken a liking for **Dresden Dolls**, then Sohodolls are for you. The band started out using a double bass, which was barely audible and damaged the impact of the band's live sound. Luckily, after three songs one of the strings broke and the offending instrument was replaced with a regular bass guitar. This change seemed to light the audience's fuse, although a more critical spectator might question whether this reaction was in fact caused by Maya taking off her jacket. '1724' stood out as a fitting culmination of a sexually charged performance - the song describes a sexual encounter in Regent's Park, where the '17' refers to the age of the female protagonist, and '24' to her male counterpart.

To be honest, the music alone would not necessarily have kept me in the venue; however, watching Maya teasing the audience was a real treat. My personal highlight

was when she wielded two microphones at once - singing into one, while stroking the shaft of the other. Subtle, huh!? Sure, one could easily point out the fact that Maya's sexuality is much less restrained than her vocal register. In all honesty, I question the potential of this band, so enjoy them while they are still young and nubile. I certainly did.

Sohodolls debut album *'Ribbed Music For The Numb Generation'* is available in stores now.

THE LISTINGS WAR
judged by loisjeary

30TH OCTOBER
Rufus Wainwright
Hammersmith Apollo

vs.

Idlewild
KOKO

Expect diamonds and lederhosen from Rufus, who justly deserves all the praise he gives himself, or, erm, tartan at Idlewild.

31ST OCTOBER
Iron & Wine
Shepherd's Bush Empire

vs.

Pony Up!
The Fly

Sam Beam's heartwarming folky goodness will ignite and inspire. If you prefer boobs to beards, then the all-female indie-pop band are fun enough.

1ST NOVEMBER
Animal Collective
Astoria

vs.

Keane
Brixton Academy

The members of experimental freak folk band Animal Collective like to wear masks on stage. People wish the the hideously ugly Tom from Keane would wear a mask, but alas.

3RD NOVEMBER
Ash
Brixton Academy

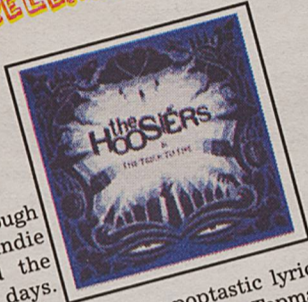
vs.

Super Furry Animals
Roundhouse

Continuing with the dressing-up theme, Super Furry Animals are quite hairy both in and out of costume. I liked Ash when I was 12. I've changed - they haven't.

NEW RELEASES

The Hoosiers
The Trick to Life
22nd October



It seems as though all new indie bands sound the same these days. Catchy guitar riffs, and slightly poetic but very popstastic lyrics are combined with men dressed like Topman mannequins donning over complicated hairstyles. In this regard, the Hoosiers are no different. With their lead single, "Mr.A" doing the constant rotation on the music video channels and airwaves, you may be fooled into thinking there's something about this band that sets them apart from the rest. But you would be mistaken. The album is mildly enjoyable, but if you are looking for something different and challenging, this ain't it. Time to stop taking NME's advice.
abacosunsade

The Duke Spirit
EX Voto EP
22nd October



When reviewing a piece of music one ought not to give too much credence to one's initial response. However, appreciating the immediacy of music's form, it is sometimes useful to record those initial reactions. My first reaction upon hearing this record, was to go outside and find an active volcano into which to hurl this piece of worthless plastic. After detailed consideration and lengthy reflection I now believe that a world where The Duke Spirit constitute a sound, and moreover, one that people want to hear, is simply not worth existing in and consequently nihilism and suicide is the only option.
danielbyates

The Hives
Black and White Album
15th October



Anyone who has ever been to an indie night will be acquainted with The Hives's sound, which can best be described as rough and edgy. The B&W Album at first seems to share the same virtues but unfortunately, despite the great opener, "Tick Tick Boom", the bulk of the material lacks punch. Among the fifteen attempts to come up with some decent tracks you encounter unfortunate accidents like "You got it all... wrong", a misconceived attempt of a ballad and the rap-influenced 'Giddy Up!', which easily takes the prize for worst song on the album.
gregorulm

COMPETITION

DO YOU LIKE FRISSEES? DO YOU LIKE MARK RONSON? IS YOUR IDEA OF HEAVEN A LIMITED EDITION SIGNED MARK RONSON FRISSEE? IF SO THIS IS YOUR LUCKY DAY AS PARTS HAVE ONE TO GIVE AWAY. TO WIN EMAIL MUSIC@THE-SHAVERONLINE.CO.UK DESCRIBING YOUR HAPPIEST FRISSEE-PLAYING EXPERIENCES. THE WEIRDEST WILL WIN AND ANY OTHER DECENT ONES MAY WELL BE PUBLISHED.

In Heaven everything is fine - this is the place where acid house was invented, one of the true landmarks of club culture, and tonight **Von Südenfed** are in the haus. A collaboration between German techno heroes **Mouse on Mars** and **Mark E Smith**, best known as the vocalist and only consistent member of **the Fall**, Von Südenfed are a wonderful proposition. In recent years the Fall's line-up has come to resemble a revolving door for session musicians. The albums and live shows have become increasingly dull, the urgent anger and unique, angular sounds of their early work replaced by a slurred indifference and lazy garage rock. Von Südenfed's album *Tromatic Reflexxions* is all dirty technoid pop and grinding beats, by far the most exciting thing Smith's been involved with for years. All the above means that tonight is A Pretty Big Deal.

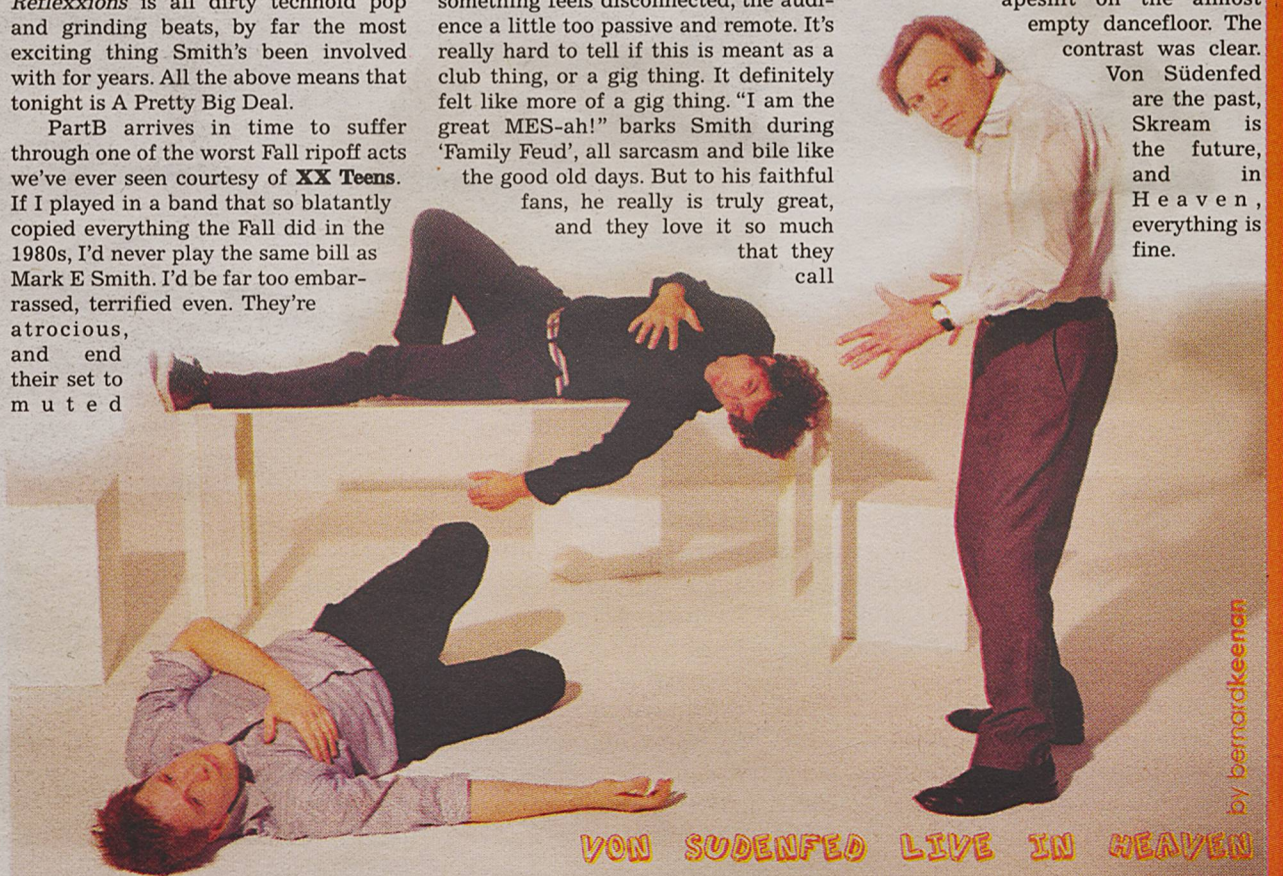
PartB arrives in time to suffer through one of the worst Fall ripoff acts we've ever seen courtesy of **XX Teens**. If I played in a band that so blatantly copied everything the Fall did in the 1980s, I'd never play the same bill as Mark E Smith. I'd be far too embarrassed, terrified even. They're atrocious, and end their set to muted

applause from an audience who've clearly seen it all before. Inevitably the majority of the crowd are here for Mr Smith. The average age must be around 40. Every other person is a middle aged man wearing glasses. After a long wait, Von Südenfed get started. Using a Mac as sampler, they begin processing a simple beat through a matrix of hardware and cables, evolving it into a filthy, grimy thud. Finally the crowd comes to life, cheering as MES takes the stage, looking for all the world like he would rather down the pub. As he slurs and sneers, Mouse on Mars continue to build the sound. They process and warp his voice, the speakers push harder, and now people are starting to dance. But something feels disconnected, the audience a little too passive and remote. It's really hard to tell if this is meant as a club thing, or a gig thing. It definitely felt like more of a gig thing. "I am the great MES-ah!" barks Smith during 'Family Feud', all sarcasm and bile like the good old days. But to his faithful fans, he really is truly great, and they love it so much that they call

for an encore before pottering off to their slippers and bed.

As the older members of the crowd drain from the room, a small bunch of twenty-somethings are left behind. Also on the bill is **Skream**, one of dubstep's leading lights, a bright young producer and DJ who has just spent his summer blowing up dancefloors around the world. Skream, positioned on the floor by the mixing desk, is given full control of the soundsystem, and he pushes it. Dubstep played loud is a physical experience. You don't just hear the music, you feel it inside. The air pressure in the room increases, bass floods over you like dark water; and at this point the hundred-odd kids left went absolutely apeshit on the almost empty dancefloor. The contrast was clear.

Von Südenfed are the past, Skream is the future, and in Heaven, everything is fine.



VON SUDENFED LIVE IN HEAVEN

by bernadkeenan

Elections

make your vote count



Honorary President

one position

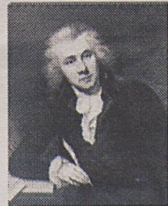


Aung San Suu Ki

In the general elections on 27 May 1990 nearly 8 million Burmese voters cast their vote for the National League for Democracy, giving the party 392 out of the 492 seats in the Burmese parliament. The ruling military junta annulled the results of the elections and placed the National League's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, in house arrest, a punishment she had already experienced the year before due to her work for democracy and human rights.

As of this month, Aung San Suu Kyi has spent 12 of the last 17 years in house arrest. When being given the offer of freedom on the condition that she leave Burma forever she has refused, preferring to stay with her people as a silent symbol of resistance to oppression. She has received numerous awards for her non-violent example, and is the only Nobel Peace Prize laureate in detention in the world today.

In solidarity with the Burmese people, who on several occasions have shown their opposition to the oppressive military regime, vote for their democratically elected leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, as Honorary President of your Students' Union. In her own words: "Please use your liberty to promote ours".



William Wilberforce

William Wilberforce MP (1759-1833)
While it is not like me to propose anyone who was in favour of the British Empire in India Wilberforce is an exception. He was the member of Parliament and campaigner who fought to pass the Act of Parliament which ended the Slave Trade in the British Empire.

William Wilberforce was born on 24 August 1759 in Hull. In 1780, Wilberforce became MP for Hull, later representing Yorkshire. His dissolute lifestyle changed completely when he became an evangelical Christian. His Christian faith prompted him to become interested in social reform, particularly the improvement of factory conditions in Britain.

Wilberforce lobbied for the abolition of the slave trade and for 18 years he regularly introduced anti-slavery motions in parliament. The campaign was supported by abolitionists who raised public awareness of their cause with pamphlets, books, rallies and petitions. In 1807, the slave trade was finally abolished, but this did not free those who were already slaves. It was not until 1833 that an act was passed giving freedom to all slaves in the British empire.

Wilberforce worked to provide all children with regular education in reading, personal hygiene and religion. He was closely involved with the RSPCA.

one position

Honorary Vice President



Khaled Al-Mudallal

Khaled Al-Mudallal, a Palestinian Business & Management student at the University of Bradford, is trapped in Gaza along with hundreds of other Palestinian students unable to return to their studies abroad. Israel controls all of Gaza's borders -- it even has the power to decide whether food or other essential supplies can come in or out. Many human rights organisations call Gaza the world's largest prison; with 1.5 million inmates. Palestinian students are being collectively punished and deprived of their right to have an education.

'Everyone has the right to education'
Article 26, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

'The Prime Minister should call on the Israeli government to allow Khaled Al-Mudallal to leave Gaza immediately' Gemma Tumelty,

NUS President

'This house believes that Mr al-Mudallal should be allowed back to Bradford to complete his degree in business and management; and calls on the Government to take action to ensure Mr al-Mudallal's right to education is secured.'

House of Commons EDM, British Parliament
Over 890 children, 200 university students, and 39 teachers have been killed by the Israeli army since 2000.

Can you continue to be silent?

www.letkhaledstudy.co.uk

Stop violations of right to education

Khaled Al-Mudallal #1 for Honorary vice-President



Patrice Lumumba

Patrice Lumumba, First Prime Minister of a Free and Independent Congo. If you want to give the two fingers to the CIA please vote for Lumumba. If you love and believe in a free Africa, vote for Lumumba. Lumumba fought and died for the independence of Africans suffering under Imperialism. He stands for Democracy, Anti-Imperialism, the Equality of Man and a Free Africa.

Patrice Lumumba was an African Nationalist leader in the Belgian Congo. He campaigned non-violently for a free Congo which had suffered the world's largest holocaust/genocide under Belgian Imperialism. Ultimately, the Belgians had him assassinated in order to continue exploiting the resources of the Congo.

Lumumba founded the National Congolese Movement (MNC) to campaign for a Free Congo against the Belgian regime. He was imprisoned but ultimately freely elected as the Congo's first Prime Minister.

He stood for Non-Alignment, which roused the CIA to attempt his assassination. Ultimately, the Belgians would succeed in his elimination. This legacy of violence and external interference for the rich resources of the Congo and Africa is something we are still reaping today.

To see what kind of man Lumumba was please read his Inaugural Speech to a Free Congo: http://www.africawithin.com/lumumba/independence_speech.htm

one position

Postgraduate Students' Officer



Manishankar Das

As General Secretary-Students Union of University and President of various international societies, I have imbibed leadership skills and understood the vitality of hard work, innovation and integrity. Whereas having worked for 2 years in an export import firm, as a relationship manager and 2 years as a software engineer for Airbus at Hamburg has helped my presentation, communication and interpersonal skills.

I will aim for:
1 ACCOMMODATION -Providing university accommodation to all students of LSE.
2 FREE WATER- Providing more water fountains in public places.

3 TRANSPORT- Providing shuttle services between LSE and halls of residences .
4 EMPLOYMENT- A placement committee consisting 4 students from each department will be formed and efforts will be taken towards on campus recruitment .

5 COUNSELLING TEAM- A counseling team to be formed for undergrad students wishing to pursue higher studies.

6 PRINOUT- Providing free printouts for course material.



Emiliano Huet-Vaughn

Campaigning for Students and Social Justice
Emiliano Huet-Vaughn, MSc Economics and Philosophy

As an undergraduate, I was Amnesty president, a leader of a successful campus living wage campaign, and a Greenpeace student leader.

If elected, I will capably represent LSE students' interests, and post-graduates' in particular, and advocate on behalf of the values of human rights and environmental sustainability shared by LSE students.

In the first vein, I plan to push for greater financial assistance for students; lobby LSE to keep Wednesday afternoons class free so that postgraduates can participate in sports; work to keep quiet, on-campus study spaces open for longer hours during the summer and between terms so postgraduates can work.

In the second vein, I will ensure that the living wage LSE promised to expand the number of fair trade products sold at and purchased by our service employees is implemented; school; expand the recycling program.

one position

General Course Representative



Jamie Corley

It is time for the General Course to develop a strong, united voice in the LSESU. Although we are only here for a year, it doesn't mean we can't leave a legacy. Let's lobby LSE for OUR interests! Let's become an integral part of The LSE community during AND after our short year here. Vote for JAMIE CORLEY.

As GC Representative I would work to: Organize social events and promote interaction between residence halls through theatre nights, pub crawls, museum tours

Create an online GC Alumni Database for contact purposes
Publish a weekly newsletter highlighting events, internship opportunities and academic services

Organize seminars hosted by LSE Admissions Officers and Departmental Tutors to discuss future academic opportunities at LSE

(Masters, PhD)

Represent your interests in the UGM

I have experience representing diverse interests through serving on my University's Senate Finance Committee and interning in Washington DC.



Sean Eric Mickens

Renaissance: "Rebirth of the General Course" focuses on reestablishing the GC community within the LSE community. The platform focuses on three main factors: Assisting, Assimilating, and Accessibility. I will, with the support of the GC, design a handbook composed of the testimonials of this year's GC students that will assist next year's GC students with all of the information that we wished that we would have known transitioning into LSE. I want to assimilate the GC students into the larger LSE community by designing a forum with a panel of previous GC students, primarily the GC students that transferred into LSE. I plan to be accessible for the GC students. I would like to make a committee which consists of a GC student from each hall that would transmit the issues of GC students to me. I will represent the needs and issues of GC students to the fullest extent.



Lindsay Relihan

We are all here to have an amazing study abroad experience. Though we all define it differently, making an impossible first or tearing through the best bars in London, I want to make sure that everyone gets the most out of their time. As part of the Student Union, I'll work to effectively integrate our issues and opinions with those of the larger student body. Of course, there's also the critical need to throw fantastic parties, which I can't wait to organize with your suggestions. I have the experience to represent such a large and diverse group as the General Course from sitting on committees and fulfilling other leadership roles at Wellesley College. I hope that you give serious consideration to your vote and cast it for whomever you think will best represent you. And remember, "Not for whimsy, vote for Lindsay."

Constitution and Steering Committee

one position



Joseph Brown

Joseph "Seph" Brown

Why vote for me?

I WILL FIX WHAT IS BROKEN:

Oversights and mistakes like those reported in the UGM and Beaver shouldn't be allowed to happen in the first place. I would prevent these wastes of SU time from ever happening.

DEDICATION: I am practically the only candidate running SOLELY for C&S. Why do people run for many positions? To get elected to anything - I want to be in C&S.

COMMUNICATION: The C&S Committee has a duty to act transparently towards the wider student body and societies. I do not believe it has been clear. Communication from meetings would be a priority.

EXPERIENCE: I spent two years on the 'Procedures Group' of the UK

Youth Parliament. We upheld constitutional rules and regulations, ensuring that campaigns met satisfactory standards, perfect practice for C&S.

Vote for DecISEPHness and give C&S a good case of SEPHilis!



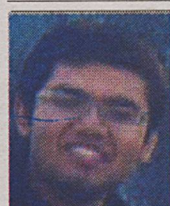
Mohammed Iftakar Hussain (Abz)

I believe it is time that someone is elected on this committee that has actually read and tried to rewrite the societies SU Constitution. As a Society President I have had the experience of learning the workings of the C&S Committee.

If elected I pledge 3 things: 1) Help with writing up constitutionally apt motions; 2) Greater transparency of the working of the committee; 3) Create greater awareness of the UGM to the student population. Vote For Abz, Vote For Diversity.

Philip Pacanowski

This candidate has not submitted a manifesto



Mustafa Saleem

I believe that the UGM is the focal point for all student activities and the smooth and efficient running of the C & S is crucial for a united student body. The UGM and student politics can at times be intimidating which explains why very few students are involved in it and I feel I can lead by example for those who care for LSE but feel intimidated. Being a first year I can bring in fresh blood to the C & S. C & S right now needs people who come with a problem solving attitude rather than those who are divided over party lines.

Fairness and Accurate Interpretation
Upholding the spirit of the Students' Union
A Balanced Perspective.



Ashley Tan

Thirsty for change or simply thirsty? The complete lack of water coolers in LSE, a basic fixture in schools, is indicative of the many improvements I intend to fight for. Inefficient student banking? Pricy food? Tiny budgets for societies? We pay between £ 3,000 -12,000 yearly. Where is that money going? LSE's account is in excess of £ 40 million. Can it be better utilized?

But what is it YOU desire? I write here to solicit your trust, rather than your vote as I believe this position is based on that value. Trust that I act without fear or bias, the 2 main stumbling blocks for would-be dogooders. From Albania to Zimbabwe, I aim to represent ALL views responsibly. I believe you are better off UNrepresented than MISrepresented. Not content with being a mere figurehead, I strive to be your effective agent of positive progress. Make yourself heard.



three positions

Academic Board



Ossie Fikret

"Laissez faire ...Not in Education!"

What does my campaign slogan mean? It means we are no longer happy with lecturers leaving students with little or no guidance. We need a fresh, new and proactive voice on The Academic Board. Someone who is willing to speak up for the students at the LSE, if elected I will:

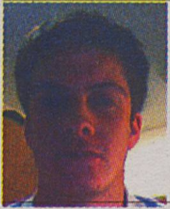
- Build upon past developments of the board, i.e. Extend and expand upon the resits policy.
- Demand more feedback on assignments and essays throughout the year.
- Propose that lectures and classes become 'Peer-Reviewed' - that is, invite a member of academic staff from a separate department, to sit and review the lecturer's performance. In the hope of giving guidance on improvement.
- Insist upon multi-media use in all lectures, to improve accessibility for all

students.
- Support calls for the Library to be open 24-hours.
Vote for Ossie Fikret. Vote for change.



Emmanuel Akpan Inwang

I am your average student. I worry about my grades, my finances, and everything that takes place in the modern world. The last thing I want as my representative is for someone who make a list of insincere promises that they don't intend to keep. I have also felt that there are a number of practical issues that need to be addressed. For example I have been at the LSE for two years, why have I only met my tutor once? Why did I have such a hard time as a fresher working things out? Why do my lecturers not want to speak to me, and why do I not understand a word they say? As a true representative of LSE students I aim to raise the true issues that students care about. Tell me how you feel and I promise to listen. Emmanuel for Academic board.



Micheal O'Keefe

I'm studying an MSc Politics and Government in the European Union. I'm running for the 'Academic Board' so that I can help to implement change in a number of areas, particularly accessibility to literature. I think free mandatory 'course packs' should be available for all modules. The LSE library policy dictates that there should be one course collection book per ten people available. This is not being enforced, and with an unexpected increase in the number of students this year, there is an increased demand on books in the library. A three-hour loan scheme for these books should also be reintroduced. Furthermore I believe more chapter focused reading lists will reduce the length of time students borrow books for, thus increasing accessibility for other students.

Having previously represented students on various university bodies in University College Dublin I have the both the experience and the enthusiasm to implement change.



Anastasia Shadrina

VOTE ANASTASIA SHADRINA #1 FOR ACADEMIC BOARD!

Green Party: Ethical Awareness, Progressive Teaching

AIMS: To bring a FRESH and CRITICAL student voice to the Academic Board tackling issues such as:

1. Development of academic team spirit at LSE - student discussion and study groups for undergraduates, especially Freshers!
2. Continued improvement for library resources - increased computer access and more online reading materials
3. Reducing pressure on students - better monitoring of students' progress by timely addressing individual needs
4. More opportunities for time planning through increased academic flexibility
5. Promotion of ethical business awareness in teaching and career orientation
6. Improvement of study environment - more trees around LSE!

EXPERIENCE: REPRESENTING STUDENTS

School Representative for 6 years - enthusiasm and commitment. Deputy of Communications Committee in Sixth Form - representation and organization.

VOTE for ANASTASIA SHADRINA #1 FOR ACADEMIC BOARD! Green Party: Ethical Awareness, Progressive Teaching



Mohammed Iftekar Hussain (Abz)

I am aware of the LSE's harsh exam resit rules and it would be my main priority to highlight those issues on the academic board. My policy is to be open to every member of the Union who may have a suggestion that will improve the quality of education at the LSE. Vote For Abz, Vote For Diversity.



Nada Mansy

NADA MANSY # 1 FOR ACADEMIC BOARD

It's about time you get your money's worth. We pay thousands. So why should our lectures/classes be "a waste of time"? It is absolutely appalling for a 'world class institution' to have bottom-class teaching standards

1. DEMANDING teaching that is value for money
 - Increasing student-staff contact time
 - Better monitoring of teaching quality
2. CAMPAIGNING for our academic needs to be met
 - Sufficient resources - library books, course packs across departments, online material on webCT/public folders
 - Zero-tolerance to overcrowded classes

- Subsidized language courses across all departments
 - 3. LISTENING to Your views on Your education
 - We want world class teaching from this 'world class institution' so ...
- USE YOUR VOTE WISELY - VOTE NADA TO AFFECT ACADEMIC CHANGE
Experienced, inclusive, approachable 2nd yr



Justus Rollin

What I stand for:

Loud and Clear Student Voice - new to LSE, fresh and committed
Academic facilities - adapting to the needs of ALL students
Communication - listening to your views
Representation - representing international students' interests
Academic Board - real concerns - I will bring up the issues
Justus for Academic Challenge and Commitment!

I created my local school council. I played an integral role in my student council's achievement of full democratic rights and also planned and monitored teaching assessments. Moreover, we successfully incorporated more diversity and optional choices into our curriculum.
I wish to further pursue democratic representation for academic issues. I wish to further pursue democratic representation for academic issues. I wish to further pursue democratic representation for academic issues. I wish to further pursue democratic representation for academic issues. I wish to further pursue democratic representation for academic issues.

Moreover, I am willing to give a voice to everyone, especially international and undergraduate students.

NUS Delegate

three positions



Ruhana Ali

Since becoming your Sabbatical Officer I have experienced first hand what NUS can do for students; given the affiliation fees we pay they are not doing enough. I'm campaigning for a more accountable, democratic and diverse NUS run by students for students. I will work to ensure that NUS prioritises the fight for an affordable education; against fee rises, increasing visa charges and for improved student bursaries. I will lobby NUS to continue campaigns for equality and justice, actively opposing all forms of discrimination. I will be working to ensure NUS becomes a stronger, more effective body of student representation.



Estelle Cooch

I attended NUS Conference last year and was shocked at the lack of debate about issues concerning students. Many students who attend are simply New Labour careerists.
2003- They failed to take a stand against war in Iraq.
2004- They failed to take a stand against the war in Lebanon.
2007- They failed to take a stand against higher fees resulting in some universities charging over £10 000 from 2009.
NOW -they want to rid the NUS of all democracy, abolish National Conference and hugely increase the power (and wages) of those at the top. Its time to take a stand.



Aled Dilwyn Fisher

RE-ELECT Aled Dilwyn Fisher to NUS - Experienced in Defending Student Rights!
AGAINST ALL STUDENT FEES - education is a right, not a privilege. NUS must also oppose the exploitation of international students.
FOR DEFENDING NUS DEMOCRACY - increasing participation and resisting reforms that restrict student involvement.
FOR PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL, ANTI-RACISM, AND WOMENS, LGBT, DISABLED, AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' RIGHTS CAMPAIGNS - making NUS relevant to students.
FOR MORE THAN THE OVER-PRICED EXTRA CARD!

EXPERIENCE: Current SU Environment and Ethics Officer, NUS Delegate and Green Party Co-Chair; Green NUS Campaign Founder; Defend NUS

Democracy Campaigner; anti-arms trade campaigner; Living Wage Campaigner.



Mohammed Iftekar Hussain (Abz)

As your elected official I will make your views heard at the annual NUS Conference. I am highly active in SU Societies and am an efficient operator. As an articulate individual I believe that I will be effective in getting our student bodies across to the National Union of Students in a very effective manner. Vote For Abz, Vote For Diversity.



Rob Oorthuysen-Dunne

What has NUS done for you? As a second year student I feel the NUS has done very little to convey what LSE student's really feel. NUS needs to listen to students more not just interest groups. The NUS structure also needs major reform to make it more democratic and representative, to move it away from partisan issues and towards much needed change. LSE needs an NUS that listens. Vote Rob #1.



Daniel Sheldon

VOTE SHELDON - EXPERIENCE AND IDEAS FOR A REFORMED NUS, FIGHTING FOR STUDENTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

- NUS needs to change, fast. Major reform of its structures is needed to make a positive difference to students' lives.
 - NUS should focus on action, not procedure; results, not posturing.
 - After the disaster of the Extra Card and selling off key assets, NUS is in a terrible financial state.
 - We need a democratic structure which is agile, cheaper and more accessible.
- NO TO THE STATUS QUO, NO TO WASTING OUR AFFILIATION FEES, YES TO REFORM**



Ashley Tan

Student politics. Does it have a voice? If someone needs to shout himself hoarse over the din of self-serving agendas, unclear objections and red-tape, let that person be me. Let me ensure we stand toe to toe with other schools while demanding lower transport costs and education fees, fair representation to all minorities and to cut through the BS that is politicking. Our school's voice will be loud and clear in this din. It will promote our fine name, safeguard our interests and protect our students and staff. With Passion, Pride and Prejudice to LSE, let's shout together.



Thomas Warren

I just want to promise you all that my position as NUS delegate will simply be a stepping stone to further my career prospects and bolster my CV. I really have no opinions regarding the utterly useless NUS extra card, when the LSE card provides all necessary discounts, nor do I really want to ask for greater funding for London students in the face of rapidly increasing housing costs. Instead, I assure that I will embezzle from you and swindle you as often as is possible. On a serious note however, I am a firm believer in equality.

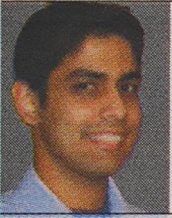


Nara Yoo

Vote for ME!!!! NARA YOO

No one can represent you better. I have international experience. Since 10, I lived in different parts of Asia, Africa, and Europe, and grew up learning to understand and respect different cultures, religions and ethnicity. So once elected, everyone, whatever the religion, ethnicity, background, will receive the same 100% attention from me. Although I can't guarantee that your opinion will be accepted, I will make sure that YOUR voice is heard by EVERYONE, exactly the way you said it, not just in LSE, but in a national scale. So please Vote for ME, NARA YOO!

Court of Governors



Fariduddin Butt

Third year lawyer, active member of your UNION. Being the President of Pakistan society, press officer of Green Party, I have the EXPERIENCE and COMMITMENT to represent YOU. I have also actively campaigned for a number of causes including the Living Wage Campaign. In order to promote the interest of LSE students, our UNION needs to be UNITED and we need to focus on issues faced by majority of students. I'm going to focus on Lack of facilities on campus, 24-hour library, rising fees of home and international students, lack of residence facilities.

Vote is your right- USE IT WISELY



Eleanor Dodd

Experienced: Having been on Academic Board for a year, I have developed an understanding of the school system, structures and staff. I will use this knowledge to inform difficult lobbying and negotiation within Court.

Leadership: I am a trustee of the British Youth Council; my responsibilities include financial management and strategic planning. I am also the Vice Chair of a national charity, Woodcraft Folk; working to improve participation and democracy.

Listening: Within Academic Board I have worked with SSLCs to campaign for better teaching and fairer degree pricing. On Court I will expand that to Societies, Hall Committees and Student Forums to ensure everyone can voice their views.

Engaged: I am already involved in Academic Board, Students Union Campaigns and C&S. In C&S I have ensured my views don't obscure the views of other students which are represented regardless of my own opinion. Vote Elle Dodd #1 Court of Governors

This candidate has not submitted a manifesto



Andy Hallett



Kevin Holder

Why vote KEVIN Holder #1 for Court of Governors? APPROACHABLE - I value people and their opinions. As a first year, I would like to think I am approachable to everyone - especially newcomers and those who feel 'outsiders' to politics at the LSE. I promise to be easily contactable via email and Facebook.

INDEPENDENT- I am not a member of any political party or society. I will represent you at Court, objectively and vigorously, irrespective of your political convictions or my own.

REPRESENTING YOU LOUD & CLEAR - I realise LSE governance can sometimes seem uninteresting. However, critical decisions, affecting your experience here, are made in Court. I will empower you by representing your views loud and clear.

I want to hear and advance your views. After all, it's your education, your LSE experience - shouldn't you have a say in how it is shaped for the future?



Farhana Hoque

My name is Farhana Hoque and I would like your first preference vote for the Court of Governors. Why do I deserve your vote? Because I will work unreservedly to ensure that you have the opportunity to shape school policy. I will listen to, raise, and attempt to resolve any issues you have. I will press for what is in the best interest of the students. My other focus would be to push for a more strategic approach by the LSE on the environment, particularly on how we can cut waste and promote sustainability in university buildings. If elected, you can expect hardworking and passionate Court of Governors representative, so please give me your first preference.



Mohammed Iftekar Hussain (Abz)

If elected your student governor I will impartially present your views to the School. I am not a part of any political parties therefore do not have to follow any party lines. If elected I pledge to campaign for a reduction in student inflation-busting fee rises for international students. I will also campaign for greater funds being available to the SU that can be spent for the enhancement of societies such as stalls with umbrellas. Together we can work to make our union more effective and efficient. Vote For Abz, Vote For Diversity.



Daniel Kremer

Hi, my name is Daniel and I would like to represent your views at the Court of Governors. I have two years' experience as a student representative at my previous university. If elected my main priority will be to make LSE more affordable and accessible to all. I will lobby School officials against raising tuition fees and push for more financial support for all students: UK, EU and overseas. I will work for improved food quality and more drinking water sources around campus. I will propose higher discounts for LSE graduates wishing to study for a post-graduate degree at the School, and ask for the development of a proper Student Common Room. I will also demand increased PC availability on campus and in the library. I will always be open to your views and speak up for your interests. Vote # 1 for Daniel Kremer, Court of Governors.



Ziyaad Lunat

LSE students need court of governors representation geared towards implementing socially responsible change. LSE has become inaccessible for students from disadvantaged background, we have become apathetic towards human rights abuses internationally and the school is run by elitist bureaucrats.

My priorities:

1. LSE not \$\$\$ - LSE is not a business. I will stand for egalitarian and affordable education to all

2. International solidarity - lobbying for school support to international human rights and universal right to education

3. Accountability - ensuring students' interests come first

Experience: Msc Global Politics, Mature & Part-Time Students Officer, President LSESU Palestine Society, People & Planet activist, Former elected member of C & S, Former chair of Beaver collective, RAG Week Task Force 07, Editor of LSE academic journal "IS Channel", Co-founder of LSE Sustainable Futures Consultancy, Right to Education campaigner

VOTE ZIYAAD # 1 FOR COURT OF GOVERNORS
Promoting social justice



Daisy Mitchell-Forster

If elected, I will campaign on the following issues:

- PRO-CHOICE: A woman should have control over her own body
- LIVING WAGE: For all staff at LSE - I oppose Davies' £55k holiday
- RIGHT TO EDUCATION: For all, irrespective of economic class or ethnicity
- OPPOSE THE OCCUPATION OF PALESTINE
- WELFARE NOT WARFARE: No to Trident; No to fees; No to the occupation of Iraq
- NO TO PETER SUTHERLAND: As former Attorney General of Ireland, Sutherland facilitated the constitutional ban on abortion, consigning countless women to backstreet terminations. As current Chair of BP, Sutherland is implicated in a series of human rights and environmental abuses across the world which undermine LSE's historic

commitment to social justice and the "betterment of society". I oppose his planned appointment as Chair of LSE Council in 2008.

VOTE FOR RADICAL LEFT REPRESENTATION FOR STUDENTS AT LSE AND AROUND THE WORLD!



Carys Morgan

My name is Carys Morgan, I'm a third year student studying Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method and have been involved with the Students' Union since my first year at LSE.

Within my role of LSE SU Societies Officer, I have and will continue to work with a very diverse range of the LSE population. Building on this experience, I would strive to represent your views to the school. I would focus on working towards realistic, achievable changes that matter to LSE students, for example improving quality of teaching, providing enough computers and making sure that despite increasing student numbers, our campus remains a good environment to study and spend time. Vote Carys for Court of Governors, for a representative who will put students' interests first.



Doug Oliver

I'm Doug, a final year undergrad, standing to improve representation for students at LSE's highest decision making level. As a former SU Returning Officer who increased turnout by 34% and as a former NUS delegate who voted for reform of the unrepresentative national union, I've got the commitment and experience to make a clear call that students at LSE get a good deal. Until last year, the Library would be closed the day (Sunday) before Lent term started - through my lobbying this has changed. Though I'd clearly like to change the world in to a sunnier place without war, rain on bank holiday Mondays or George Bush, I have more modest aspirations for the LSE Court of Governors: improved welfare provision, smaller class sizes and a more flexible careers service which allows students to book appointments more than a few hours beforehand. I'd be grateful for your support.



Helen Roberts

VOTE HELEN ROBERTS #1 FOR THE COURT OF GOVERNORS

I believe that the LSE as a school should care for its students. Even though the LSE needs to maintain prestige, keep finances afloat etcetera, fundamentally, the most important task is to look out for the best interests of its students.

My experience as Returning Officer and a member of the Constitution and Steering Committee shows my dedication to the union, and to the best interests of the students.

I am efficient, rational, unbiased and I treat people equally. If you elect me, I will be your voice for your union

The Court of Governors is one of the senior decision making bodies of the school and I want to represent you on it, to make sure that your voice can be heard through me.

VOTE HELEN ROBERTS #1 FOR THE COURT OF GOVERNORS
ENSURING YOUR STUDENT VOICE IS HEARD.



Louise Robinson

Green Party: Reelect Experience, Better Representation
IF RELECTED I WILL CONTINUE TO STAND FOR:

- Loud and Clear Student Voice - lots of committee procedural experience, drafting papers and reports
- Communication and Representation - listening to your views; representing your voice on Court
- Facilities and the Environment - adapting to the needs of increasing student numbers with better facilities and resource access, particularly with the School expansion plans for residents, societies and students
- Clarity and Openness - making the School more accountable to its students; pushing a quality teaching agenda
- Social Justice and the Living Wage Campaign - real issues on campus -

bringing social justice to Court

RE-ELECT LOUISE #1 FOR EXPERIENCE:

- Current SU Residences Officer for the second year
- LSE Court of Governors Student Representative last year
- Female Co-Chair of LSESU Green Party
- Wealth of Society experience
- Vote Louise Robinson #1 for LSE Court of Governors



Ashley Tan

Thirsty for change or simply thirsty? The complete lack of water coolers in LSE, a basic fixture in schools, is indicative of the many improvements I intend to fight for: Inefficient student banking? Pricy food? Tiny budgets for societies? We pay between £ 3,000 -12,000 yearly. Where is that money going? LSE's account is in excess of £ 40 million. Can it be better utilized?

But what is it YOU desire? I write here to solicit your trust, rather than your vote as I believe this position is based on that value. Trust that I act without fear or bias, the 2 main stumbling blocks for would-be do-gooders. From Albania to Zimbabwe, I aim to represent ALL views responsibly. I believe you are better off UNrepresented than MISrepresented. Not content with being a mere figurehead, I strive to be your effective agent of positive progress. Make yourself heard.

vote online at www.lsesu.com

Wednesday 31st October 10am - Thursday 1st November 6.30pm

Harold Pinter's Hothouse

Three hot English Lit. students review the National Theatre's latest hot thing

Harold Pinter's 1958 work 'The Hothouse' is a dystopian nightmare of institutionalised bureaucracy set in a hazily defined sanatorium or rest house. We are presented solely with the staff – never being seeing the oft mentioned patients themselves, distancing the play from the similarly set 'One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest'. Here, Pinter demonstrates that staff can become trapped within these systems just as easily as patients. Violence is used at several key points throughout the play, crucially during a pivotal torture scene.

The scene reminds of a computer game I played in my youth. To get past a certain point I had to electrocute an enemy to force him to give up a piece of key information. This was before the era of realistic 3D graphics, so the game used videos of actors for important scenes such as this. Even though I knew the man on the screen screaming in agony was just an actor, and that I wasn't really inflicting pain on anyone by repeatedly clicking the 'electrode' button, I hated the scene and stopped playing, unable to stomach torturing him for long enough to gain the information. I couldn't help but think about this while watching the awkward, stuttering Lamb, played by Leo Bill, being tortured by the calculating Gibbs, played with cold detachment by Finbar Lynch. I know they're both actors and I know he's not really in horrible pain, but I still want it to stop. Similarly, the prisoner's riot towards the end of the play is a physically uncomfortable experience. We may not feel the heat that the character's experience in their institution, but the audience is certainly made to squirm. Violence is critical to the point that Pinter is making about power and bureaucracy, and this is clear even when the audience is spared the daunting sound effects. Towards the end of the play, Paul Ritter's louche Lush questions the authority of Stephen Moore's Roote, the head of the institution. The swift beating he receives leaves the audience in no doubt of the true source of his power.

kevinperry

Oh, really. This production seemed intent on 'extracting the laughs', and this sort of extraction, when left to dentists tends to be funnier. Whilst most of the first half is written as a comedy, it is only in the way that R.Kelly's Trapped in the Closet was written as an opera, or the bible was written as a set of empirical facts. As leaden stereotype after leaden stereotype walked across the stage, expelling equally leaden one-liners, I sat there stonily. The rest of the audience however laughed and giggled like tickled lunatics pumped full of enough nitrous oxide to propel a rally car into space. And this was baffling to me. What we had here wasn't just bad comedy, it was 50 year old bad comedy, reekingly old bad comedy, the kind of comedy that belongs somewhere in the vaults of the Museum of Truly Appalling Comedy curated by Ned Sherrin, stacked on top of 'variety-show catch-phrases' and propped against the mummified corpse of Musical Hall. It's historical fact that in the 1920s grown men could laugh for up to an entire day at a picture of someone falling over, introduce a banana skin and spleens would rupture, but we've moved on from there. Time and fashion has manoeuvred Pinter into a similar relation to comedic subtlety as the drunken Punch and Judy puppeteer, who, too fucked to actually put on his puppets, is just battering his denuded hands together in the presence of a group of frightened children. Perhaps it's the magic of the theatre. Perhaps it's because the audience were composed entirely of marginally cretinous Radio 4 listeners. Whatever the cause, these people laughed and laughed.

The set designers constituted the lunatic asylum (in which the play was situated) as an abstracted hint at brutalist architecture: not unlike the very building we were all sitting in. Surrounded by people laughing maniacally at nothing I can assure you the irony was not lost.

danielbsplode

There are few things I like better than seeing plays at the National Theatre. They've got this sort of legitimating cool value, unusual for an art form loved by the young and very very old alike. So when I'm there, surrounded by the elderly in their velvet coats and old people pashminas, I feel both cultured and smoothly sophisticated; a little bohemian with my messy hair and school bag. "Look at us," I think, "we, separated by decades, are joined together in this act of cultural appreciation. I benefit from their wisdom, they are touched by my youthful vigour and desire to better myself through theatre. A beautiful, arty cycle is fulfilled."

This week, the cycle was broken. Why? Because while I was sitting in the audience, watching Pinter's frankly bizarre "The Hothouse", everywhere around me the elderly were actively enjoying the play. It was weird. Really, really weird. The play made no sense, I was utterly baffled. But worse than this, the old people understood it. Modern art and cinema are too much for them, when confronted with a DVD they usually try and place cups of tea on it, play them some electronic music and they generally think something has gone wrong with the 'stereogram'. However, it seems that in the context of the theatre, and because it's theatre – utter chaos and bewilderment can be a thoroughly good thing very much enjoyed. Obtuse dialogue, stultifying pauses, sequences of events so random and apparently disconnected that it made Beckett look like the Waltons – all this is worthy of praise and attention. The tables are turned; I am left muttering crabbily about modern rubbish and using mild profanity to convey my confusion about 'that damn play', they are skipping youthfully away, singing praises over the symbolism and prescient sociological commentary, how relevant it all is, etc etc.

What does it all mean? What is the world coming to? Young people of today... Oh. Wait.

mollytucker

Coldfish

thomaswhittaker reviews the stage production of Swimming with Sharks

Buddy Ackerman knows how to make financially successful movies; stick a big celebrity name somewhere, find a previously successful movie to mine for remakes or sequels then coat it all in a tidal wave of blood and torture. The new theatre production of 'Swimming with Sharks' seems to have consciously taken these messages on board and has adapted them to the stage.

The celebrity in question is one Christian Slater playing Buddy, the ruthless senior executive who drives his new assistant, a naive film school graduate and budding writer named Guy (played by Matt Smith), deep into the morally corrupt world of the movie industry with promises of once in a life time opportunities to rise through the ranks of the Hollywood elite. Buddy is no easy boss; pedantic and unpredictable he can blow up any minute which soon leaves Guy a nervous wreck. And when Guy attempts to play the Hollywood game by drawing his producer girlfriend into a key deal with Buddy things quickly go from bad to worse and no one is going to be left the same.

The play itself is an adaptation of the 1993 film starring Kevin Spacey, and it suffers for this. Anybody will tell you how hard it is to fill Spacey's shoes at the best of times, but to have to attempt this feat on an open stage, from a largely unchanged film script must be a nightmare.

Slater is not a bad actor, he is just not a stage actor. 'Pump Up the Volume' is still one of my favorite movies of all time and 'Heathers' is pretty high up the list (this is

admittedly due in no small part to Winnona Ryder but this is not the time or space for me to go into that little obsession) but being able to be quick and cool on the big screen is very different from the stage where you must keep the momentum up throughout. It is an endurance test you either fail or pass and I don't think many film actors appreciate this. While in front of the camera an actor will have the chance to do several takes of the same scene or maybe have the chance to hype themselves up before a

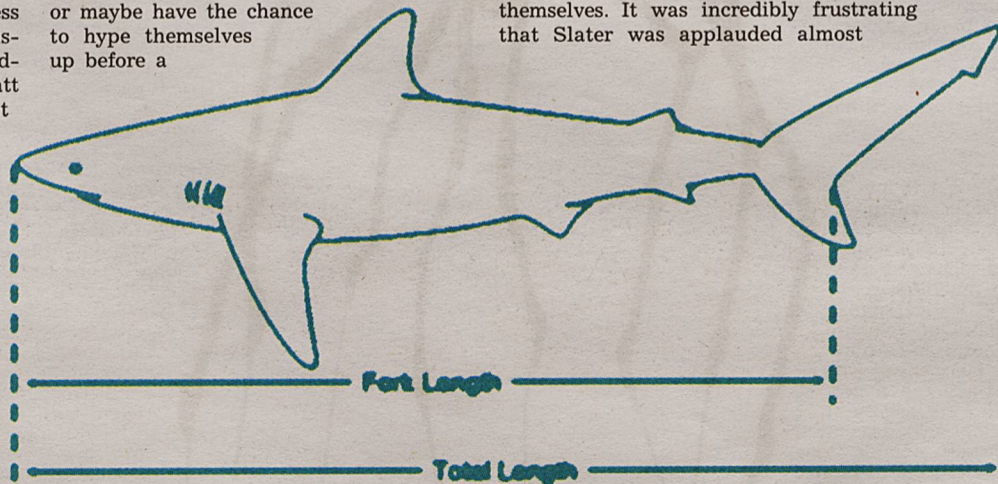
edge of their seats throughout you need to have the fortitude to stick it out – keep that boiling pot of malice safely stocked. But Slater just does not have the energy for it. His tirades feel forced, lacking any aggression or spontaneity so it is hard to understand Guy's anxiety and eventual freak-out. By the second half you are left wandering what has driven Guy to the eventually bloody and violent ending.

This is not helped by the audience themselves. It was incredibly frustrating that Slater was applauded almost

make any actor lazy, and certainly this appears to have been the case with Slater's performance in which he obviously felt safe and cosy without a hint of pressure upon his shoulders.

But I feel I am being a little too tough. Putting Slater's own performance to one side the other two leads bring out strong characters you can truly sympathise with. Matt Smith manages to find an interesting development in Guy's character from the idealistic graduate to cynical, bitter and overworked yuppie. Helen Baxendale (her name might ring a bell for those who watched Cold Feet), as Guy's producer girlfriend, inflicts an incredibly poor American accent upon the world but does manage to show that even the most tough-skinned, Hollywood ice queen, will have a heart buried away in there somewhere.

But it is not theatre. It feels like an ego piece for Slater and while I might well have been okay with this if it had been Spacey performing the role, Slater has neither the conviction or power for it. Go rent the movie, it'll cost you about £15 less and you can see how it's meant to be done.



particularly intense moment there is no room for that on the stage.

They must live and breathe that character throughout or not bother at all. And when the role demands Buddy to be a deeply unpredictable character who keeps his poor assistant, and the audience, on the

every time he breathed. Every thoughtlessly delivered joke or statement was followed by enthusiastic approval from an audience that cared little about the play, or even the performances, but rather upon telling their friends they had seen a big Hollywood name up close and personal. This has got to

Where: Vaudeville, London
When: Mon-Sat 19:30,
 Thu & Sat 15:00

Letters from Africa

euniceng reviews Alexandra Fuller's *Memoirs*

erinorozco reviews Tony D'Souza's *Whiteman*

Writing a memoir at the age of 31 may seem premature, but for Alexandra Fuller, the daughter of white farmers in 1970s Africa, it's enough material to fill one book and then some.

Born in England, Fuller (aka 'Bobo') moves to Africa at the age of two. The Fuller family barely survives by moving from farm to farm, country to country. Life is harsh. Three out of five of the Fuller children die before the age of two, a situation that drives Bobo's mother, Nicola, into frequent bouts of depression and alcoholism. Bobo and her older sister, Van, are taught to fire, strip and lean a gun at the age of 7. They are further told that they should not wake their parents in the middle of the night in case they are mistaken for intruders and killed. Bobo herself nearly dies twice. All this is told in sparing, unsentimental detail.

But if life is harsh, it is made equally vivid by the lush African landscape. Fuller writes gorgeous images, describing wide open skies, the cacophony of morning birds and night creatures, and the vibrant hues of sunset. To accompany this backdrop is the quirky, chaotic spirit of the Fuller family. Partly fueled by an innate restlessness and the reckless sorrow that comes in the wake of tragedies, one cannot help but be appalled and riveted by the bravado that allows parents to cruise drunk through mine riddled Rhodesia past curfew. Yet one also admires the stoic, practical, can-do spirit that allows the family to eek out a living despite losing three children. Most compelling is the character Nicola Fuller. A well-read alcoholic and manic depressive, Nicola defies all possible labels. While she could be chided as a bad mother, she instills in Bobo a toughness that is invaluable in later life. Underneath it all, she is a vulnerable woman, and Bobo's fierce love and dismay for Nicola is plain on every page of the book.

By turns joyous and sorrowful, *Don't Lets Go to the Dogs Tonight* is a refreshingly new, honest and riveting beautiful account of Africa.

Put simply, this book will change your life. Tony D'Souza's tale of an American aid worker living in West Africa may appear profoundly futile given the morals it imparts, but the impression it leaves readers will be significant. The picture D'Souza paints of Africa is enough to make one think they've been there and lived the chaos themselves. There are no clear cut happy endings and the adrenaline of vicariously living through the protagonist as the Ivory Coast descends into violence makes one feel guilty for, as he puts it, letting "it quicken my pulse, though I know I shouldn't have". Most of all, readers will feel a sense of profound sadness upon setting the book aside as a result of the separateness with which Jack conceives his Africa and the helplessness he feels while trying to better it.

This separateness is inherent to the title of the book, *Whiteman*. Jack spends the duration of his stay in the Ivory Coast learning and assimilating to the culture and customs of the Worodougou, yet remains ever separate due to the colour of his skin and the connotations that has for everyday people with whom he comes into contact. Jack's foreignness, while mitigated by his experience in the bush, is made all the more painful by the beguiling and seductive Africa that D'Souza presents. It is an Africa that is irresistible and addictive, like the many African women Jack pursues. His eventual and long-expected departure in the final chapter seems like a farewell to a troubled love one or an end to a passionate yet dysfunctional relationship.

The mournful yet sensuous mood created is solely the product of the author's burgeoning talent. This reads much more like the musings of a seasoned writer rather than those of a debut novelist, and this subject matter in anyone else's hands would seem destined for cliché. Perhaps it is D'Souza's own experiences in Africa that give credibility to the story. Notwithstanding, D'Souza and his chosen style of writing, which manages to be witty, subtle, sophisticated, sexy, and extraordinarily poetic, demonstrate a sort of raw talent that is rare in prose writing today. Readers will find themselves recounting images from the book, both unforgettably violent and heartbreakingly nonchalant, days after having finished it. All of this and more assure that D'Souza is an author on his way to greatness.

Read this novel to enrich your life. What D'Souza offers in the space of over two hundred and fifty pages is more than simply a travel diary or fictionalized memoir. It is insight into the very nature of humanity.

Louise Bourgeois @ Tate Modern

by anitadorota

In the eaves of a large industrial building on the bank of the Thames there is a hard, humongous, spider. 12 feet across and thirty foot tall, this gargantuan arachnid is the stuff of genuine nightmare. Before you phone Rentokil and ask for the nuclear option, it might also be added that the spider is the centrepiece of Louise Bourgeois' exhibition at Tate Modern and exists solely in sculptural form. Born in Paris in 1911, Louise Bourgeois is both artist and sculptor, and the exhibition provides a window into the progression of her work over the last seven decades. Distinctive, thought provoking and unclassifiable, Bourgeois' artwork revolves around her past, memories, emotions, form and representations. Through the breadth of the exhibition it is visible that these concepts remain etched in her work, but Bourgeois has presented herself new challenges throughout her artistic career. This is evident in the progression of the ten rooms which show how the ideas she has fixated on have been tackled differently in each decade.

Room by room the exhibition was explored, weaving through the labyrinth filled with marble, breasts, cocks, spiders, threads, mirrors, cages, tapestries, chicken wire, doors, chairs, prosthetic legs amongst others. An endless collaboration of unexpected objects that communally produce hoards of powerful and intelligent images. Room one contains her evocative, snappy and witty posters like images of *Femme Maison* (woman house), one of Bourgeois' earliest pieces. Using linen and inks this piece engages in the debate of women's place in the home, as sections of women's naked bodies are replaced with buildings and houses. The woman has become architecture, a commodity in herself, sellable to the world, her very being disadvantageous within societies norms.

Room two is filled with *Personages* a collection of individual abstract sculpture, representing people in the simplest forms, standing like soldiers to attention. Unlike soldiers, the sculpture with sharp black blades protruding upwards instantaneously stood out. On initial inspection the piece is mighty, conquering the fight for dominance amongst the sculptures, yet below at its feet, it awkwardly teeters on a weak foundation. It skilfully symbolises the artists past, as the piece tries to become stronger and bigger than it really can be in its present moment, like the relationship between the young Bourgeois and her father.



Striding into room three and four, the quiet compactness of its space is astounding. Yet it is still filled with exceptional sculptures that are an abstract continuation of *Personages*. *Personages* sculpture forms are repetitive, as one of them significantly resembles a filled CD rack. Repetitiveness suggests the presence of stability, yet Bourgeois' "structures are...skewed and off balance" implying a disparity in nature and humanity. The more abstract designs reflect the artist's thoughts that somehow people themselves have become inhuman and unrecognizable. Whereas room four clearly highlights the development of the artists work as she begins to display her structures as group compositions.

Flowing into the vast arena of room five, six and seven; chaos is waiting to meet its visitors. The complexities of the spiral are artistically investigated in many forms, structures and designs to personify the structure as one that "attempt(s) to control chaos". Sculptures are hung from the ceiling, scattered on the floor, moulded logically to scream with asexual connotations and innuendo. Curiosity confusingly controls the viewer to try and determine the sex of these designs, but to no avail, as the answer lies exclusively in the imagination of the individual. Development over the decades is astoundingly apparent in the final three rooms of the exhibition. Room eight's walls and overall eeriness are familiar to a well kept dungeon, that's sets the scene perfectly for her creation of rooms or as she preferred to call them "cells". As Bourgeois pointed out in *Le Trani Episode* with regards to women "the whole person becomes a breast that stretches in order to give". This comment is most significant with regards to the cell named *Spider*, which simply is a chair and many tapestries within a cage covered by a twisted metal spider acting a shelter for this prison. Her comment here is significant as the *Spider* is a representation of the woman and her protective nature over the home in giving it her care, showing that the concepts Bourgeois was intrigued by decades ago have been answered over the years in her work.

Louise Bourgeois at the Tate Modern has succeeded to bring to London a very inquisitive and rare exhibition, filling a small space with a diverse cosmopolitan selection of Bourgeois artwork. By the end of the adventure, no doubt I was totally shattered from the sheer conceptual minefield that this experience was, but it is one that has most definitely left positive scars on my imagination.

TRICKS OR TREATS

frankicookney is having a ghoulish time

"I think I'm going to ban sexy witches this year," my housemate says, glancing at me over her laptop. The two of us are sitting at the kitchen table planning our Halloween Party. Or rather I am compiling a Halloween Shopping List, so far consisting of vodka and black food colouring, while she browses Google for the perfect Jack-O'-Lantern image to add to our Facebook event. "You do realise," I reply, "that if you ban sexy witches, half our friends won't come."

The problem is I'm actually on her side. I am so sick of friends thinking that they can avoid dressing up by simply wearing all black. Year after year the girls turn up in 'boho' black skirts and low-cut tops, claiming it to be a costume. Ladies, listen well, back-brushed hair and an overdose of black eye makeup do not a witch make... although if you smear your lipstick and bring a bottle you might pass as Amy Winehouse. And then there are the fishnets. Admittedly this isn't just a Halloween problem. For some reason unbeknownst to me, fishnet tights are a costume party staple for women of all ages, but at Halloween they seem nigh on indispensable. Now don't get me wrong, fishnet tights can be pretty terrifying (not least on me), but they do not constitute fancy dress.

The boys are just as bad. A slick of gel and a turned-up collar and you're Count Dracula. Hardly. The vampire is to men what the sexy witch is to women, namely the physical manifestation of an irrational fear of fancy dress. Oh yes, my friends, you may think you're too cool to dress up, but the truth is, you're too scared. Which is a shame really, because dressing up like a twat can actually be incredibly liberating. But more often than not, it's about style, it's about creating a look, it's about coming up with something other people haven't thought of or couldn't do and in that respect it's no different to getting dressed for any other evening out.

On Halloween the words "you look revolting" are as precious to me as the words "you look nice" would be at any other time of year. A couple of years ago I went to a party as a vampire's victim, which was great because it not only meant that I got to swan about in a nightie (a hell of a lot more comfortable than fishnets, I'll tell you that for nothing) but it also meant a brilliant makeup opportunity in the form of a horrendously mangled neck. People looked at my neck the way I look at girls who can do their liquid eyeliner exactly the same on both eyes: "How did she do that?"

At the end of the day though, fancy dress is good old-fashioned fun, and a refusal to enter into the spirit of it is just a bit miserable, frankly. It is one night of looking silly, you've got the rest of the year to look cool. "I'm thinking of painting myself green," my friend tells me nonchalantly over a pint. "Brilliant," I say, applauding him, "anything that involves being an entirely different colour sounds promising to me." "Well I haven't decided yet," he says, "but I thought that if I painted myself green, whacked on some fishnet tights and a bit of eyeliner, I could come as a sexy witch."

kerrythompson ain't saying boo to no goose

According to the Gospel of Wikipedia, Halloween was originally the pagan festival, Samhain, (meaning 'end of summer') and has been celebrated for over 2000 years, marking the end of harvest and the beginning of the Celtic New Year on November 1st. The legend follows that All-hallows-eve (as it is also known) is a time when our world is most accessible to spirits who wish to make contact and when magic is at its strongest. If this is the case, I look forward to receiving my belated acceptance letter from Hogwarts on Wednesday night.

Halloween is the only night of the year when it is acceptable for kids in masks to approach people's homes and issue demands on the threat of vandalism. I will admit that trick-or-treaters are only children and they are only demanding sweets, but the principle itself is both disturbing and farcical.

If I came to your doorstep any other night of the year, dressed as a serial killer, demanding Mars bars and threatening to egg your house, you would probably dismiss me as a complete headcase and promptly call the police. Yet for some reason, come October 31st, this behaviour seems completely acceptable.

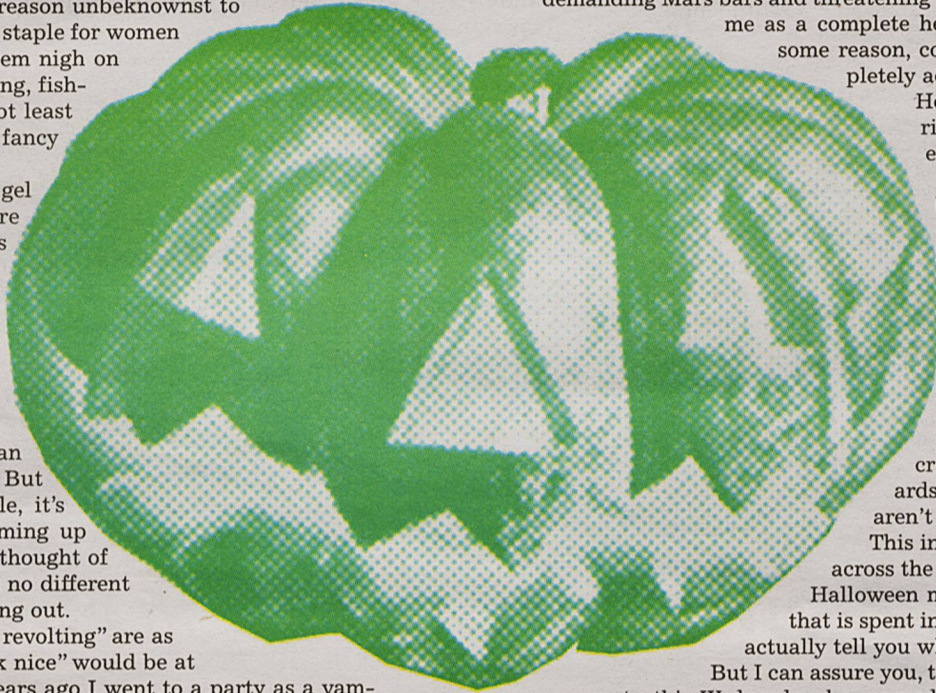
However, this is not the worst, or even most ridiculous, aspect of Halloween in today's society.

Like all public holidays, Halloween has become yet another event which has been manipulated by the forces of capitalism and turned into a multi-million pound commercial activity. The array of plastic garbage that you can buy from your local Tesco's in the three months preceding October (actually three months, it has been there since June) is unbelievable - who would have thought that you would need Halloween Tinsel or Halloween Crackers (as in Christmas crackers, but decorated with witches and wizards... you're rushing out to buy some right now aren't you?)

This influence, of course, originates from our friends across the pond; in 2005, the U.S.A. spent \$3.3 billion on Halloween merchandise. But for all the money and effort that is spent in celebrating Halloween, how many people can actually tell you what it is about?

But I can assure you, these fripperies are needed. If you are planning a party this Wednesday, be warned, your party will be nothing without all the appropriate merchandise. Hand-made costumes and hand-carved pumpkins are no longer up to standard. Long gone are the days when your Mum wrapped you up in sixteen rolls of Andrex, squirted on a bit of ketchup and whoop, you were a Mummy, ready to go. Now you're expected to plan your outfit months in advance and spend silly amounts of money on some ridiculous costume you're only going to wear once, for half the evening, until you get drunk, and decide to be a naturist (just as scary as a witch in most cases).

I don't want to spoil your fun; I like a good time as much as the next person. But if you are thinking of dressing up as Hannibal Lecter and scaring old ladies into giving you a packet of Smarties, I beg you to take a long, hard look in the mirror and reconsider. Surely Halloween would be much more fun if we just made our own costumes, partied hard (regardless of how stupid everyone looks) and slept sound at night, safe in the knowledge that we didn't intimidate any pensioners or waste our money on the pointless commercialisation of a festival that has lost its meaning.



holliestman helps
the creative juices flow

In a bit of a marmalade trying to think of a costume for this coming Wednesday? Weary of witches? Inspiration lies ahead..

1. Static cling:
You will need;
Black trouser/leggings
black tshirt,
rubbish (crisp packets, chocolate bar wrappers, tin foil, whatever you have around)
Some form of adhesive... (be creative: glue, pins), hairspray.
Don your black.
Then get a friend to put sticky stuff on the rubbish and attach them to you in a random fashion. Stick your head upside down and



unleash
some CFCs into the atmosphere.
Hurray, you're ready to go!
This costume is a great way to walk into people all evening, your excuse being, "I'm static cling... I'm just drawn to you..." Pull guaranteed.

2. Snowman:
You will need;
White clothing, leggings, jeans, a knitted white jumper/ long sleeve tshirt, a scarf, white face paint (if you are on a budget, things such as a pale blusher/eyeshadow... even flour, will do), black eyeliner/shadow, a carrot/ piece of orange card, two pillows. Then get your white on - flour/face paint/blusher up your face a treat.
Use the black eyeshadow to make your eyes look like coal, and add some more along your mouth.
Stuff the pillows up your jumper, one on the front and one at the back. Two pillows are essential as to avoid looking like an obese albino. Make the orange card into a cone and

Cut out it!
Wear it! the perfect Partb costume accessory.. wear with pride!!

attach it to your nose.
For a greater effect pour some flour on your hair, too.
If you can't get your hands on vast amounts of white clothing, this outfit can be easily turned into a Teenage Pregnancy by losing one pillow, substituting the jumpers for a tracksuit and donning some gold jewellery.

A few of the best:

- 1. Laundry basket:** Cut a head hole in a basket, stick your head through the hole, then pin dirty socks, etc to the rest of you.
- 2. PartB:** (you're guaranteed to be the coolest person in the room)
- 3. Super (insert your name here):** Wear underwear outside, just as long as you remember it on the inside, too. Tie a bed sheet round your neck and get ready to fly.
- 4. Fashion victim:** Wear your favourite outfit plus blood/gore/a weapon.
- 5. Toga:** No explanation needed.
- 6. Amy Winehouse:** Back brush your hair to near oblivion, skinny jeans, a vest, red lipstick, lots of eyeliner, some self harm, a fag and a bottle of anything fairly alcoholic. Get wasted and fall over.
- 7. Boris Johnson:** Put a mop on your head, whip on a suit, and talk loudly about how bendy buses are the downfall of society.

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For further inspiration try:
www.fancydress.com

STYLE

danielbsplode restaurant reviews

FOOD REVIEWS

danielbdaedelus restaurant reviews

THE BIN ON KINGSWAY

Perhaps the most notable feature of this small, standalone eaterie on Kingsway is the convenience of its opening hours. Apart from a period of thirty seconds around 5am each morning, when it is being emptied, this small bastion of honest sustenance is open around the clock and is rarely known to have a queue. I had the chicken cottage box and was pleasantly surprised to find inside chips, as well as two mauled chicken bones. Slightly disappointing were the flecks of vomit which appeared to adorn the lid but these were rendered palatable by a vigorous mixing with the solidifying mayonnaise. My partner went for the chocolate roulade in a plastic bag which unfortunately turned out to be a dogshit. It is an aspect of eating here that there are no staff or manager to which one can make a complaint, so my partner bore the brunt of possible blindness and chowed down with admirable gusto. Wiping our trampish faces on a crumpled copy of the London Lite we decided to give this establishment 2 stars. Upon leaving we saw a man in a football shirt urinating into it.



BURGER KING

Verrrrrry drunk... It's been a charming evening indeed ... belch ... You, YOU, it is very much YOU ... hahahah ... My dear boy, I think I love you ... Moving down Kingsway, the beer-swaddled air, the night is zombified, undecided, and undecidedable. We swarm through the metal archipelago of parked cars in loose convoy... hahahah ... Umbarella ... oh do stick that song up your arse! Up your urethra, like a cocktail umbreally... It's TRUE. They DO it in the hospital. Umbarella!! We are standing outside Burger King. The orange lights, blurry and ill-defined, I try to look at them but they sway upwards out of vision as my head dips toward the pavement - before bobbing back up, the languid swell of inebri-hic-ation. I fiddle slowly in my pockets for change. Am I... Am... Am I a pleat in time... a temporal distortion!... that sounds clever ... I'm a cleverer ... smug. Change in hand we lurch into Burger King. It's too bright and we sober up slightly. What's going on? "The place is overlit. That's when I reach for my revolver". The corner of my eye begins to throb. The transaction is smooth if a little clumsy on my part. I get a Burger. The Burger is flaccid and banally composed, I'm very drunk but can still taste the mechanisation. It's heavy, and fatty, disgusting, and it's warm and what you need. Lettuce tumbles out and skips down my jeans. I sway, feeling triumphant. The next morning my stomach harbours a malign presence, as if I'd sucked off and swallowed a thousand gorillas. As loose stools sluice foully through me I try to remember the night before. I don't remember any gorillas.

danielbpamphlet tells us

WHY RESTAURANTS SHOULD NOT EXIST

The restaurant: a microcosmic example of the follies and blunders of westernkind, a sampled stage for human debasement and inhuman evils. Let me take you round the back where crates of produce and meat are being hefted into the kitchen. The common stuff of this earth, the golden fruits of a unified Eden, packaged, owned, fetished and exchanged. In the glassy eyes of the slaughtered pig we see how brutal our relation to the land has become. Inside the kitchen the chef, towering and cruel, demeans and humiliates his subordinates in a one-sided theatre of cruelty, all knives and dripping sadism. In the front of house the waitresses supplicate themselves to the clients, contained in each of their gestures is the act of begging, for tips to supplement their meagre wages. Standing over them the owner, chief exploiter at life's feast, bleeding his staff of their labour, compromising their Being, extracting all that becomes value. All here is stultifying pattern, bureaucracy and exploitation, pure evilitude. Raze this place to the ground.

abadabbadoo reviews

CHANGWOOGISH

Sitting in Changwoogish, one feels transported through time and space to a land of wonderful existence, where children never grow old and trees shed fruits of golden wonder, feeding into our hearts and minds a constant flow of enriching beauty, akin to rays of sunlight on a summer day, which wash over you bestowing a wave of uncontrollable warmth that once felt, you hope will never leave, for basking in its overwhelming goodness equates to a priceless experience that even the most filling and delicious of meals will never, ever, give you.

wish you weren't here

willjoce is trapped in the west of China

Urumqi is an industrial city in the far west of China, the capital of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region and, to be completely honest, a dump. This is not an article warmly recommending you visit a place that will leave you full to the brim with pleasant memories. This is a warning to stay away from somewhere that will give you lead poisoning. Urumqi is a central Asian city in terms of feel, architecture and, of course, geography, and has little in common with the modern, western style metropolis belt on the east coast. Heavy industry is the order of the day here and constant Chinese fears of a Uighur separatist movement mean there is a large military presence, not a combination likely to lift the soul and please the mind. Perhaps the worst thing about Urumqi, though, was that I was trapped there, my train from Kashgar, down near the Tajik border, had deposited me in the city but there was no connecting train westwards for days. I had wondered around on my first day, nosing about as I like to do in strange cities, and been simply appalled. The city lay under a blanket of snow, but not the white, pure, clean snow of childhood memory. This was a grey black sludge that looked like it had been coughed up by a chain smoking giant, spat out over the city some time ago and had lain there rotting ever since.

When I was there Urumqi was bitterly cold, it is situated in the middle of a desert and in winter the vast plains allow the wind to build up prodigious speeds before buffeting the city and its inhabitants, burying its way beneath layers of clothing and chilling things which should no be chilled. In summer, however, the heat builds up to furnace-like intensities and the wind, which could offer some relief, is diverted hundreds of miles further north, leaving the city to sizzle in its own sweat. I will conclude with the advice that if ever a set of circumstances leads you to this barren and remote spot of western China, or even possibly could do, run, run like the wind. Go somewhere the drinking water does not contain dangerous levels of lead; somewhere bored soldiers driven mad by the toxic gases do not roam the streets looking for sadistic entertainment. Do not go to Urumqi.

alexmaroulakis is duped while drunk

It was late afternoon and my mates and I were approaching our hotel in Rome. Let me state for the record that we were not in a very sober state of mind, as a matter of fact our whole week in Rome was pretty much dedicated to the consumption of alcohol and the shenanigans that inevitably followed. Actually, you'll find me hard-pressed to recall any moment in which we were not at least partially inebriated.

Suddenly a dubious character approached us in a small street market and said 'cellulare,' Italian-speakers among you will know that this means mobile phone. I responded with a confused 'si questo lo vedo,' or yes I can see that. He then offered me the phone for 100 Euros, which is about 70 Pounds. Now this phone, which was in excellent condition, would at the time have cost at least 300 Euros, triple the amount at which he offered it to me. The moment I saw it I wanted it, thinking I was about to get the deal of a lifetime. An appropriate film quotation that comes very close to reflecting my thoughts at the time would be 'It's a deal, it's a steal, it's the sale of the fucking century!' from Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels. I managed to haggle the price down to 50 Euros which was an even bigger 'steal.' Or so I thought.

The man put the phone in a box and then in a plastic bag, all in front of our eyes, then handed me the bag. He then proceeded to shake my and each one of my friends' hands. All the while one of my friends has been whispering in my ear 'He's gonna fuck you man, come on we're in Italy, he will surely fuck you...' In retrospect, it would've been great if I had listened to him. The man then mumbled something about having to leave in a hurry and ran off. Now, since everybody in the market was looking at us one of my friends got paranoid and told us to hurry back to the hotel. We entered the courtyard and I took the box out of the bag and opened it.

But instead of a brand new phone all I found was a half-empty bottle of water!

All I managed to say was 'duuuuuuuuude !'. My friends to this day laugh at my reaction, I bet my face was priceless, and I can now proudly say that I have bought the world's most expensive water, not even the 7 pounds per glass of water at the V.I.P. Room in St. Tropez can compare.

The moral of this story is do not trust Neapolitan men on the streets of Rome, or anywhere else for that matter, giving you 'sales of the century'. I comfort myself that 35 pounds for a half-empty bottle of water surely qualifies as a 'sale of the century', even if it was not the way I had hoped.

FOOD AND DRINKING

TRAVEL





SLOW WALKERS

lauraparitt has a need for speed

Not being a local, I myself was once a newcomer to the Big Smoke and have, on a few occasions, been a tourist. I rapidly learnt the rules of the City, and came to love them because they do make sense. I get up a bit late, take a bit too long to get ready, forget something and have to go back, and after all that I miss the bus by seconds. So I walk as fast as my little legs can carry me to Liverpool Street Station. As I move through the crowd I am swift and agile, like a swift and agile oompa-loompa.

And then I meet some. They come in different guises, the slow walkers. There are the backpackers, seemingly prepared to set up camp anywhere from Big Ben to Brick Lane. Studying the map, bewildered, they can take you out with one hasty half-turn. OMG - move over to the right side of the escalator. Fucking tourist.

Then there are the obeasts. I don't blame them for walking slowly; the heat created by their chafing thighs might cause them to spontaneously combust, but for God's sake please try. It's not like it's easy to do my usual 'side step and skip' overtaking manoeuvre around your ample girth.

You've also got your mutters; you're never quite sure whether they're talking to you or their pocket A-Z. They are the ones who will be walking at a reasonable speed then suddenly stop in front of you, rub their beard, then point and say "ahh" before continuing, only to repeat the procedure at every junction. On top of this lot, there are eaters, chatters, dawdlers, old people and, worst of all, parents with young kids.

So bad is the problem of congestion in London that a new phenomenon has arisen: pavement rage. I must admit that I've been susceptible to a little pavement rage myself: branding my umbrella, a jab in a straggler's eye is very tempting. Once I actually growled at a two lads who made me miss my train.

Some clever person even suggested splitting Oxford St pavement into two lanes, fast and slow. Heaven. There would even be marshals ensuring a minimum speed of 3mph. I don't know why it never took off. Shame.

ONLINE PDA abasunsade cannot stand fluffy facebookers

Sick of finding out who is no longer listed as single when you're dodging doing coursework by cruising down the Mini-Feed? Facebook is admittedly a vain, self-indulgent, addictively entertaining affair. But when it comes to matters of the heart, what role does this popular social utility play? From the number of "his'n'hers" mug shots appearing in the place of profile pictures of those with significant others, it would seem some couples seek validation of their relationship through a website, making something which I think should be personal and intimate, public and paraded. It's not cute, it's not sweet, it's not romantic: it's fucking lame! Great - you're in love. We really don't need to know much more than that. Facebook walls are for inane comments sprung from boredom, or desperate communication when mobile phones fail us. They are not journals for young lovers to keep evidence of their trysts. We get it, you dig each other - stop posting sickeningly fluffy posts on each others walls to remind us! I find myself one afternoon busy trying to think of a witty yet totally pointless post to type on my mate's Facebook wall so that I am another ten minutes late for a devastatingly boring Econ lecture. But as I click on their profile, I am sickened by the latest post from their other half - "hey you, you're so cute, wanna get with me?" After cleaning my puke off the computer screen, I re-read it in disbelief. The fact that these two are an item is no secret - their relationship status has made it clear. As have the numerous photos of the two of them that they have posted and tagged for the hundreds of people on their Facebook networks to enjoy. So why ridicule themselves further by writing sickeningly sweet messages to each other for everyone to see? If you feel the need to let everyone in the world know just how much you mean to each other, there must be something seriously lacking between the two of you... relationship insecurities, perhaps? Facebook ain't the answer. Seek couples counselling, try an open relationship, take a break, dabble with swingers, but whatever you do - please don't use Facebook to justify your love. Leave it as the great time-wasting playground us short-attention-span students have grown to love, and don't pollute it with your fluffy filth.

come Write

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destonius with
your know edge
of culture and
the London
A-s
scene.

beaver, paritb @lse.ac.uk

return
we offer
fame and
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at the very least, your
name in print, email the

in



GRANT

LSE in

LOVE

I am quiet and of south pacific origin. Inside my shyness there is a genuinely loving guy who can genuinely love someone for free. Call me on *censored*.

Looking for someone to prove me wrong when I say LSE boys are butters... Fruitless searches at Crush lead me to believe I must lower my standards.

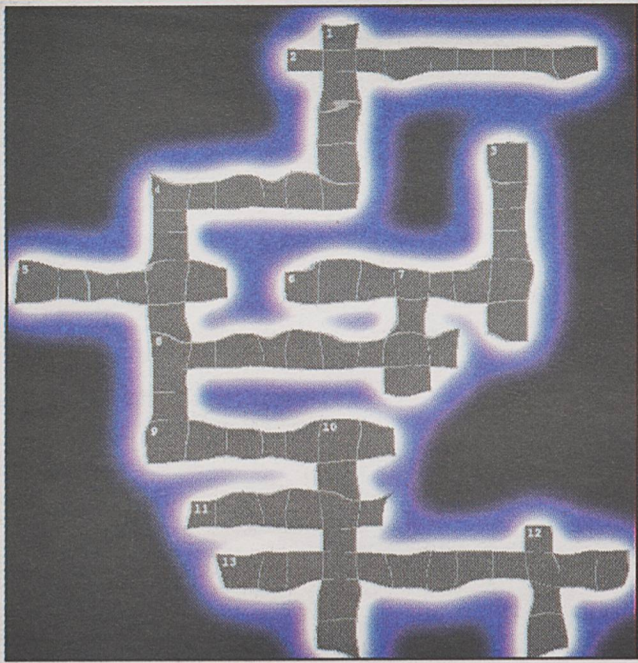
I smell of camphor and the elderly. Your hips move like brittle twigs and your arse looks like rocks in a sack. I love you but the economy of love suggests I shouldn't.

I am to blame. Drink and spectacle?

You spit your pint on me at AU night then put your hand up my skirt in front of all your teammates, then pulled one of your teammates, then puked on my mate. I love you.

I hurt when I pee.

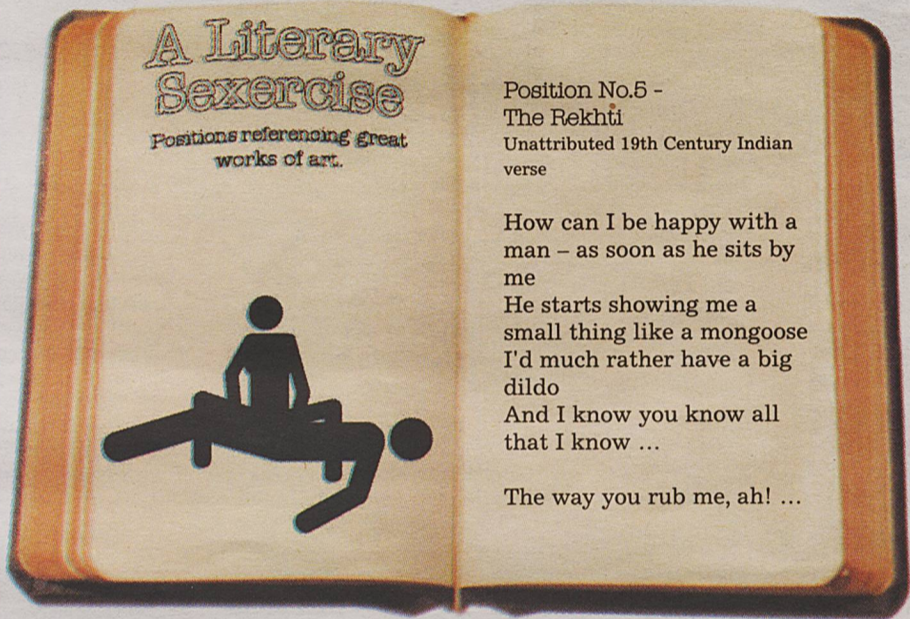
ITS ALL UR FAULT.



Last issue: Email thebeaverparth@lse.ac.uk for a personalised list of solutions.

ACROSS DOWN

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 2. Put your stuff here | 1. Resulting from rain |
| 4. 'R on the roof | 3. Like poodle but with a 't' |
| 5. Schmargle, pass the toothpaste. | 4. Attempting to solve this puzzle |
| 6. Sea tube | 7. Tear |
| 8. Language of the rugby scum | 10. Fabric of the Eighties |
| 9. Oy vey | 12. Culinary trident |
| 11. Baby, just give me a... | |
| 13. Tasty as only the quad can make it. | |



Ask Auntie Shaw REMIX



Username? Auntie Shaw.
 Password? Nympho1885.
 Scandisk cancelled, configuring user settings, downloading updates, virus scan complete. This week, dear readers, your favourite Auntie takes on the digital age. I am embracing the 21st century in all its technological glory and answering your burning questions as a computer.

Dear Auntie,
 My boyfriend dumped me last week, and I'm fucking devastated. I thought what we had was perfect, but he obviously didn't feel the same way. To make matters worse, he planted that fucking typical "it's not you, it's me" line on me. Fucking wanker. I am desperately seeking the best way for me to get revenge on him for breaking my heart. Any suggestions? The cruefter, the better. I await your reply.
 Sincerely,
 Girl of Fury
 3rd Year IR

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love, OI O O I O
 Hey Auntie,
 I broke up with my girlfriend last week but she has gone totally schizo on me! She keeps showing up at my house,

prank calling me, then of course bombarding my inbox with he standard drunken texts saying how much she misses me and all that shit. How the hell do I get rid of her once and for all? Looking forward to your advice you sexy devil...
 Bachelor-4-Life, 2nd year Econ

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Sex machine
 Dear Auntie,
 I dont wanna go back to school because im scared im going to miss illegal substances im used to having in my system when I have responsibilities. I need a new addiction. Whats good nowadays?
 Love,
 Chioma Imoukhuede

Yours, OI O O O I
 Auntie, you're the only thing worthwhile reading on the Beaver! I love you!
 Love,
 Election candidate

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Features

Radical Left

Vladimir
Unkovski-Korica



By the time The Beaver goes into print, anti-war rallies will have rocked eleven big cities in the US over the weekend. Just in time – because George W. Bush seems intent on widening the fronts of the 'War on Terror' ever wider. Bush's response to Putin's recent trip to Teheran was to say: 'we've got a leader in Iran who has announced that he wants to destroy Israel. So I've told people that, if you're interested in avoiding World War III, it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing them from having [sic] the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon.' Given the occupation of Afghanistan, destabilising Pakistan, the Iraq war apparently drawing in Turkey and spilling over into Iran, and Israel's aggressive posturing in recent months towards Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian people, one would expect Bush to be a little more humble about America's role in the Middle East and Asia.

Instead, we get more hypocrisy and warmongering. It would be very amusing were it not a threat to world peace that the US continues to justify its role in the Middle East by posing as the defender of apartheid Israel. Colonial settler states based on ethnic cleansing are all fine and good, it seems, as long as they are America's watchdog in the region. But the US seems to find it very difficult to defend the right of the Kurdish people, the largest single stateless people in the world, to their own state. In the last couple of years, the US has used the Kurdish national movement for its own ends in Iraq and, recently, in Iran. It has failed, however, to support the Kurds' right to self-determination. This is because it can't afford to provoke one of its major allies in the region, the country with the second largest military in NATO: Turkey.

Just over two decades ago, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) began its guerrilla war of national liberation against Turkey. The war cost the Kurdish people 4000 destroyed villages, 40,000 deaths, and four million refugees. Driven from southern Turkey, the PKK has since operated from bases in northern Iraq. Meanwhile, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) already based there entered a Faustian pact with the US against the Baathist regime in Baghdad. They have been staunch supporters of the American invasion, hoping for more autonomy and control over oil-rich Kirkuk in return. Recent reports also suggest that the Party for Free Life in Kurdistan (PJAK) which operates in Kurdish Iran, maintains high-level contacts with the USA. The PKK has nevertheless been singled out as a terrorist organisation.

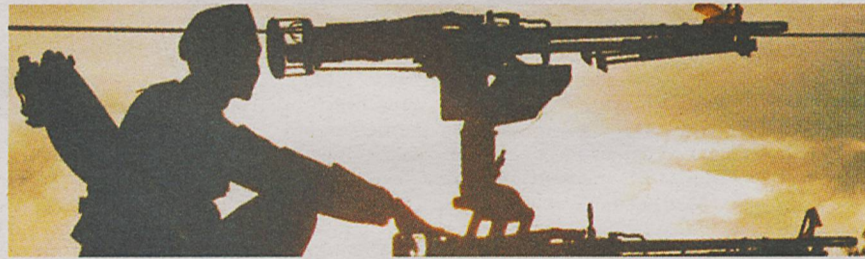
A recent attack by PKK guerrillas left 12 Turkish soldiers dead. Turkey ratcheted up its anti-Kurdish rhetoric and its parliament overwhelmingly sanctioned military operations in northern Iraq against the Kurdish resistance. The US, however, is too busy crushing the Iraqi resistance to worry about losing the support of its Kurdish allies in the north. We thus have the spectacle of the US first imploring and warning Turkey against intervention in Iraq, and then its promising to conduct its own strikes against the PKK, perhaps in joint operations with the Turkish army. We shouldn't be surprised by US's desire to placate Turkey's leadership. The Kurdish parties are pushing for a referendum in Kirkuk, with its sizeable Arab and Turkmen minorities, which could accelerate Iraq's slide into uncontrollable civil war. Think of America's oil interests!

Iraq is now a write-off – with over a million dead and four million displaced since the invasion. What the Kurdish complication proves is that the US presence in the region has nothing left to offer. The US knows it is losing, and has tried to hit out at Iran in an attempt to curb support for the anti-imperialist forces in Iraq. Enlisting Kurdish help to first invade Iraq and now destabilise Iran, it is in fact drawing more countries into the mess. Meanwhile, the war in Afghanistan is spiralling out of control and the US-brokered deal between the Pakistani elites about a possible hand-over of power seems increasingly in trouble. Yet, on 25 October, the US announced the toughest sanctions on Iran yet, and Britain meekly followed. Viewing the world situation, one is reminded of Sir Edward Grey's lament on the eve of World War One: 'The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.'

The Military... ungh... What is it good for? Absolutely everything

Features explores the function of the military within the political cultures of Asia

In countries such as Thailand, Pakistan, Turkey and Burma the function of the military is more analogous to a political institution than the national armed forces of a nation. Regardless of the democratic indexes of the aforementioned countries, the military has remained an exertive agent within the political process. While most militaries are politicised to varying degrees, depending on historical conditions through which they have evolved as institutions, some have reconciled their position within the boarder political milieu of their respective nations with more grace. In other cases in which the military has refused to curb its political ambitions, the contemporary histories of the countries have been marked by a constant permutation of power between electoral administrations and authoritarian military governments. Upon closer analysis of the different instances of direct militaristic interference with civil politics usual patterns began to emerge. The most palpable form of this tradition is direct intervention and the subsequent expulsion of obdurate political entities. Quite often disputation over corruption, instability in civil politics and social unrest, have provided necessary pretext for militaries to intervene and impose their will. However with the ever-expanding network of economic factors, international scrutiny, and globalised information, the prospect of totalitarian intrusion carries substantial ramifications for any country with the least stake in international affairs. This is why, increasingly, the relations between the military and civil politics are conducted through a more sophisticated course of interaction. Even in countries that have historically been susceptible to recurrent military coups, the possibility of imposition of political will can no longer be endured through sheer force. For example in a country like Turkey, despite the absence of explicit force, the military has been successful in retaining its fundamental influence over the most critical aspects of national politics by implicitly projecting threat to negotiate its political desires and yield results. Elsewhere in Thailand and Pakistan, the militaristic agents of power have been forced back into the political process by reengaging in negotiation with oppositional fractions, and have been persuaded to adopt a pragmatic outlook in the process. This is not to say that the condition of democracy is an inevitability in a post millennium world, but to merely suggest that the nature of military rule is undergoing a strategical metamorphosis, and as such demands a new assessment of its process and function.



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Right Approach



Annette
Pacey

The United States has long cultivated its reputation as international defender of democracy and promoter of peace. But increasingly the US is losing its respected place in the international community. Has the bumbling Bush administration utterly squandered US credibility as an honest international broker, or is there still a chance to turn back the tide?

Russian President Vladimir Putin seemed to sum up the simmering resentment of other world leaders when he likened the latest US economic sanctions against Iran to "a madman running around with a razor blade in his hand". China too grumbled that "Sanctions should not be lightly imposed in international relations". Russia and China both have increased levels of trade with Iran in recent years and don't see any reason why they should stop doing so for the sake of the US. While the prospect of an Iranian nuclear weapon causes genuine international concern, Russia and China are less inclined to see America's suspicion that Iran is assisting Shia insurgent groups as their problem. The US is finding it increasingly difficult to persuade other states, not to mention multinational companies, to make economic sacrifices in order to solve a problem which many feel the US has created for itself.

The Bush administration is itself divided on Iran. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has offered to meet her Iranian counterpart 'anytime, anywhere' to discuss a way forward on the nuclear issue. But vice President Dick Cheney is, according to the BBC, widely believed to be pushing for a military strike on Iran before the Bush administration leaves office. We may be tempted not to take Cheney seriously, but an American attack on Iran may be more than a demented neo-con fantasy. Our own LSE professor Christopher Coker suggested in a lecture on Friday that if he were a betting man, his money would be on a US strike on Iran early next year. It's hard to imagine how the US would go about winning Middle Eastern hearts and minds after such a move.

Another friend of the US feeling alienated lately is Turkey, who the US relies on heavily to maintain its supply lines to Iraq. Turkey has said it refuses to tolerate cross border attacks on its soldiers by Kurdish PKK guerrillas in Iraq and has threatened to take military action in response. But the Iraqis and Americans, absorbed as they are with the bloody chaos elsewhere in Iraq, are reluctant to disturb the relative peace in the semi-autonomous Kurdish region and have offered only weak measures to curb PKK activity. On Friday the BBC reported that the United States, apparently without irony, had called on Turkey to 'refrain from actions inside Iraq that could cause an international crisis'. Cue hollow laughter. Turkey is outraged by the double standards shown by the US who reserves the right to act as it chooses against its own brand of terrorists, but preaches restraint to others.

On one issue at least, that of Burma, the US has managed to appear more like the defender of democracy it claims to be. The US envoy to the UN Zalmay Khalilzad led calls for Burma's military dictators to start talks with detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Compared to the EU and Japan, the US has taken the toughest line against the Military regime, insisting that it should honour the 1990 election result and step aside. The US stance appears principled next to the selfish behaviour of Burma's neighbours, who admitted the dictatorship into the ASEAN group of countries in 1997.

What a pity, then, that the case of Burma seems to be the exception to the rule. If the world ever needed an impartial and respected defender of democracy, it needs one now. The decline of US soft power is a loss to all democracies, not just to the US itself. As the Bush administration limps forlornly to the end of its term the battering that US credibility has taken during its time in office has been astonishing. The most pressing task of the new president will be to attempt to undo some of the damage. He – or she – will certainly have their work cut out.

Coups in China



From the barrel of a gun

The People's Republic has avoided the military rule that befell its twentieth-century predecessors. Fears of a PLA coup were no paper tiger, however

Sun Yat-sen would – probably – be proud. The father of modern China knew a thing or two about the deleterious effects of military government on the country's political culture. Having lost China's first Republic at its birth to a coup orchestrated by eccentric general – and pretender to the imperial throne – Yuan Shikai, Sun began his long claw back to power by founding a military statelet in Guangzhou. For all that, Sun was eventually sidelined in the movement to reunify China by Chiang Kai-shek, a warlord of national clout. The contrast with the almost sixty coup-free years of the People's Republic could not, it seems, be greater. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) have, by and large, cooperated. Why?

China's semi-military state

There are two basic possible answers. The first emphasises the normative constraints on the PLA. Sheer ideas held its generals back from trying their hand at running Asia's greatest power, whether these were devotion to the communist ideal the party represented, or fear of dividing China again so soon after it had finally been reunited. On the other hand, institutional incentives to accept CCP leadership also loom large. Since China's government has practically been run on semi-military lines ever since 1949, what more could a pronouncement in Beijing possibly add?

Fresh from fighting a civil war, however, in the regime's early years little distinguished party personnel from their military counterparts either normatively or institutionally. Most of the communist top brass – Zhou Enlai, Lin Biao, Peng Dehuai, Liu Shaozi and Deng Xiaoping – had also been bril-

liant strategists and battlefield commanders in the campaign against Chiang. For the next twenty years, active-duty soldiers would comprise anything from a third to almost half of the Politburo's membership. The very last General Secretary with a civil war background, Deng, did not let go of the last reins of power until 1992. The sheer force of Mao Zedong's cult of personality also obscured any differences between party and army. Military figures who criticised the Chairman's leadership – as Peng did with the disastrous "Great Leap Forward" 1957 restructuring of the economy – were quickly purged. By contrast, Peng's successor, Lin Biao, wrote the foreword to Mao's Little Red Book. So, normative considerations appear to win out at this stage. This is even true of the Cultural Revolution.

Phenomenally, the PLA first helped Mao unleash the forces of the Revolution, destroy much of the party machinery, and then run most of the major work units left functioning in the cities – despite constant rivalry with the Red Guards, the Revolution's brainwashed vanguard, for control of the state's security apparatus. As the Cultural Revolution spun out of control, it fell to the PLA alone to restore order. For political scientists, assigning humdrum policing functions to an army is usually a danger sign that a coup is in the works. Armies soon get used to governing, bringing to it the same single-minded dedication with which they fight wars. It was not so, however, with the PLA during the Cultural Revolution. Once rebuilding had finished, local PLA leaders stood down from administration. Even when the Revolution came to a sudden military climax with Lin Biao's 1971 putsch against Mao – the only

coup attempt in the history of the People's Republic which has even a whisper of official acknowledgement – PLA leaders remained loyal.

Mutiny at Wuhan

Except, however, for the Wuhan mutiny. In 1967, army units based in the city seized civilian politicians and attacked the local Red Guards. Having sent in loyal troops to surround Wuhan, Beijing convinced the rebels to capitulate rather than fight on. Punishments for the soldiers involved, however, were lenient – a sign that the Party had pushed the tolerance of the army as a whole to the very limit. The normative charade, then, was over. Ever since Wuhan, each military region has been run by a commander and a political commissar jointly. Both jobs have limited staffs and a high turnover, to prevent empire-building.

Despite this, China's next serious bout of civil disobedience, the Tiananmen democracy protests of 1989, again threw civil-military relations into doubt. This time around, whole branches of the military came close to falling out, the navy refusing to help the army in its crackdown. Made even more nervous by the August 1991 coup d'état in Russia that finally broke the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Deng engaged in another round of ideological decontamination and re-indoctrination. Ever the enterprising capitalist, however, he also integrated the PLA into the regime's new market-Leninist consensus, encouraging individual officers to run businesses, a far more important institutional development in the long run. Defence budgets ever since have run at a consistent increase of around 10% per year. By

2000, the PLA's commercial empire totalled \$6 billion. Although this can be taken as a bad sign – increasing an army's exposure to corruption increases its chances of a coup – piling money into the PLA also increased its professionalisation.

The more an army returns to its original focus of fighting wars well, the more it detaches itself from politics. By 2003, over a decade after being shocked out of its strategic complacency by the US military's stunning high-tech performance in the first Gulf War, the watchwords of the PLA had become "modernisation" and "combat strength."

In the final analysis, institutional rather than normative reasons prevail for explaining the persistent coup-wariness of the PLA. Take the present day. The fourth and fifth generations of Chinese leadership, the technocrats currently in power, are obviously too young to enjoy the civil war or even Cultural Revolution camaraderie that previously bound Party and army. Nor are the rank and file of an increasingly professionalised and elite PLA any longer drawn from the peasant faithful. Nevertheless, civilian grip on the armed forces is if anything tighter than ever.

Generalissimo Jintao?

Hu Jintao, the country's top politician, has chaired the Central Military Commission since 2004, having become General Secretary in 2002 and President in 2003. This is an unprecedented concentration of power, but only the Commission truly matters. Shadowy and inscrutable even by the standards of Chinese communist governance, its remit can easily extend across the executive branch in times of war. The



Commission is even quite adept at using newspapers such as the 'Liberation Army Daily' to influence the direction taken by other state institutions in its favour. If Hu truly intends to strengthen the parts of the government with some democratic promise, like the Central Committee which "elects" the Politburo and ostensibly runs the country alongside it between Party Congresses, he will need a pliant Commission. Combine this with the ever-increasing professionalism of the PLA, and the democratic flowering of China's former grim garrison state might make Sun Yat-sen's ghost prouder still.

Joseph Cotterill
and
Natalia Telepnova

The Unfaithful Triangle:

The Waltz of Musharraf, Bhutto and Sharif

Nadir El-Edroos explores the dynamics of power in Pakistani politics and looks at what can possibly emerge from negotiations behind closed doors

The attacks of September 11 gave General Pervez Musharraf the opportunity to cement and legitimize his rule. Billions poured into the country, debt was written off, and Pakistan went from being a 'failed state' to the darling of international financial institutions. During just a few short years, Pakistan became International Monetary Fund's poster child for successfully completing reform packages. General Musharraf himself was quick to capitalise on the immense international support he received to strengthen his political position at home and to further alienate the opposition parties. Under the new emerging geopolitical conditions Navaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto, and their respective parties Pakistan Muslim League (PML) and Pakistan's Peoples Party (PPP), received little or no support from foreign capitals. Furthermore, faced with constant campaigns of denunciation and political isolation, both parties underwent a severe decline of popularity and loss of political foothold inside of Pakistan. Consequently, two of the largest opposition parties had been rendered neutralized as political threats. Prominent members of Sharif's PML joined a pro-Musharraf



Bhutto's credibility is highly contested

party while even members of Bhutto's PPP formed a forward block supporting certain policies of the Musharraf government as the lack of leadership led to a fragmentation of overall command in both parties.

While Pakistan remained a strong supporter of the 'War on Terror' the aforementioned situation continued and Musharraf remained the darling of the west. By 2006, however, the General's juggling act was over. The Karzai government in Afghanistan accused elements of Pakistan's intelligence agency of actively keeping the Taliban in the fight. While NATO and US forces accused the Pakistani military of not aggressively pursuing "terrorist" elements in the border tribal areas between Afghanistan and Pakistan, militancy in this region



Musharraf not ready to give up the uniform just yet

grew throughout 2006 into 2007. The army began to suffer heavy casualties and the reports of kidnappings of military supplies and personnel were of daily headlines. In the rest of the country militant organisations were seen to operate freely by carrying out several high profile suicide bombings and attacks on security forces. However, it was the embarrassing siege of the Lal Masjid (Red Mosque) in Islamabad in July of this year which revealed the profound fragility of Musharraf's rule. By the end of this period the Musharraf government faced two challenges; foreign governments were having profound doubts over Musharraf's true ability to tackle extremism while the movement to restore the CJ had proven that stubborn opposition to his rule had developed and his unpopularity was increasing.

The return of Bhutto

While Sharif had promised to resist military rule all together, Bhutto seemed more willing to 'deal' with Musharraf. This time Bhutto was warmly courted by foreign governments; over the summer she spent

most of her time lobbying in Washington, meeting with Secretary Rice and other members of the administration. In Pakistan Musharraf attempted to convince his allies of a possible deal with Bhutto to ensure his own political survival. Since then the government of Pakistan has,

Since Musharraf's government does not want to be seen as being desperate to clinch a deal with Bhutto right away it cannot acquiesce to all her demands

unsurprisingly, withdrawn cases of corruption against Bhutto. Instead, her bank accounts have been unfrozen, and she has been offered a blanket pardon for all cases pending against them (under the recently promulgate National Reconciliation Ordinance 2007). Interestingly

enough, one of Bhutto's first demands has been that the local government system, comprised of small assembly councils, be abolished, which is deemed to be a regressive step in the reform process by most political observers. This is perhaps one of the reasons why so far the negotiations on any power sharing deal have been held behind closed doors. There is little evidence to suggest that Bhutto enjoys the same level of popularity or public trust as she did in the late 80's and early 90's. The situation is further complicated by the public perception of the negotiation process at several levels; since Musharraf's government does not want to be seen as being desperate to clinch a deal with Bhutto right away it cannot acquiesce to all her demands. Also, the present government would not want to create the impression that it is being forced into negotiations due to international pressure by, as that would give further credibility to those who claim that foreign governments dictate domestic politics. Since Musharraf's re-election as President is still to be validated by the Supreme Court, the government does not want to enter into any agreement publicly until the legal situation is settled.

The role of Sharif

While Sharif was forced back into isolation when he attempted to end his exile, Bhutto received a thunderous welcome which was cut short due to the recent suicide attacks. Musharraf is left with no option but to enter into some sort of deal with Bhutto since the secular leanings of the PPP help to counterbalance the perceived threat of the religious alliance in the main opposition. In addition, Bhutto's secular credentials and open support for the 'War on Terror' have helped her to gain the critical support of foreign governments. Sharif has not received the same level of foreign backing as Bhutto and his ability to mobilize public support is highly disputed. However it is quite possible that once a political agreement is confirmed between Musharraf and Bhutto foreign governments would support Sharif's return to Pakistan to head the opposition and present a façade of democracy.

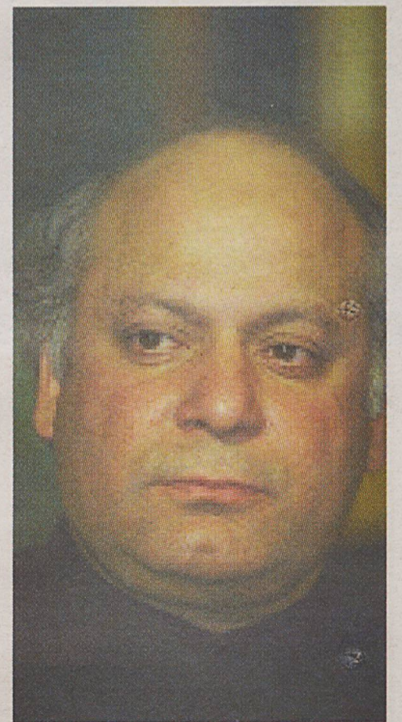
If a deal between Bhutto and Musharraf fails, Musharraf may have little or no options in regard to alternatives. For the past few months there has been talk of an imposition of state of emergency. However, any such act would be both internally and externally unpopular. Any alliance between Sharif and Musharraf is unlikely as the recent events suggest that the present government is still focusing on keeping Sharif marginalised from domestic politics. Any alliance between Musharraf and the United Council of Action (MMA) is also unlikely as this would not be supported by foreign governments who are concerned with the party's religious leanings. If Musharraf and his allied party attempt to go at it alone they may be able to form a government in the upcoming elections. However, they would have to face both Bhutto and the MMA in opposi-

tion and that may be more of a hindrance.

What happens in Pakistani politics over the coming next months depends on a variety of factors. External pressures will play an important role, in addition, verdicts on several cases regarding the constitutionality of Musharraf standing as

Sharif has not received the same level of foreign backing as Bhutto and his ability to mobilise public support is highly disputed

President to begin with may further complicate matters. Internally militant forces may step up attacks especially during campaign rallies thus leading to a series of claims and counter claims between the government and the opposition. The worst case scenario would be a massive deterioration in the security situation to seriously jeopardise the legitimacy of the elections. The military may also



Sharif, pushed into political isolation

withdraw support for Musharraf and in doing, so make him irrelevant. Such a situation, no matter how unlikely it may seem, can potentially cause an extremely dangerous power vacuum that would further destabilise Pakistan. In short, it is very hard to find an optimistic scenario from which a credible democratic force could emerge. The combination of foreign diktats and domestic pressures have created two opposite forces which may do more to cement the role of the country's security apparatus for the foreseeable future than to cultivate its democratic process.

The King

& The Nation

Michael Zinshteyn provides an historical overview of the political culture of Thailand, the position of the monarch, the military and the balance of power

Describing the recent spate of military intervention in Thailand as down to a political culture wholly reliant on martial law is either fraught with orientalism or careless generalisation. To understand the circumstances leading up to the bloodless coup over Thaksin Shinawatra's government in September of 2006, a historical review is in order. Thailand boasts the distinguished reputation as the only Southeast Asian nation never to be ruled by European colonial powers. Of course this is a highly puerile distinction, as Thailand's autonomy had much to do with unilateral trade and territorial concessions to the abutting French and English empires flanking its borders.

An even closer look into Thai history reveals a tradition of kowtowing to global powers. Two symptoms from this history arise: one is a national psychology distrustful of foreign meddling while the other is a conflicted sense of moral propriety in relation to social, political and economic affairs. From this, a grand narrative arises which can explain the pivotal dates in modern Thai history, including its numerous changes in leadership: a nationalism heavily affected by the royal throne of Thailand.

The monarch's critical involvement in Thaksin's removal cannot be registered in formal political or economic terms. The 1932 Constitutionalist Revolution transformed The Kingdom of Thailand from an absolutist monarchy to that of a constitutional monarch, ostensibly relegating status to mostly that of a figurehead while maintaining his position as head of state. Yet King Bhumibol Adulyadej's nearly seven-decade reign has seen him enjoy some of the most hegemonic power of any

contemporary leader. The Thai public perceives him with veneration, and his tactical interventions during the kingdom's more tumultuous political periods strengthen his image as a protectorate of the nation's social and political framework.

With a national psychology almost identical to that described in the coup of the 18 Brumaire, social critic Thongchai Winichakul notes that the growing lower tier of the economic pyramid exacts very little leverage over the political direction of the country. Instead, they legitimise their political influence through a ravenous support for the monarch, with his 'ethereal sphere of non poli-

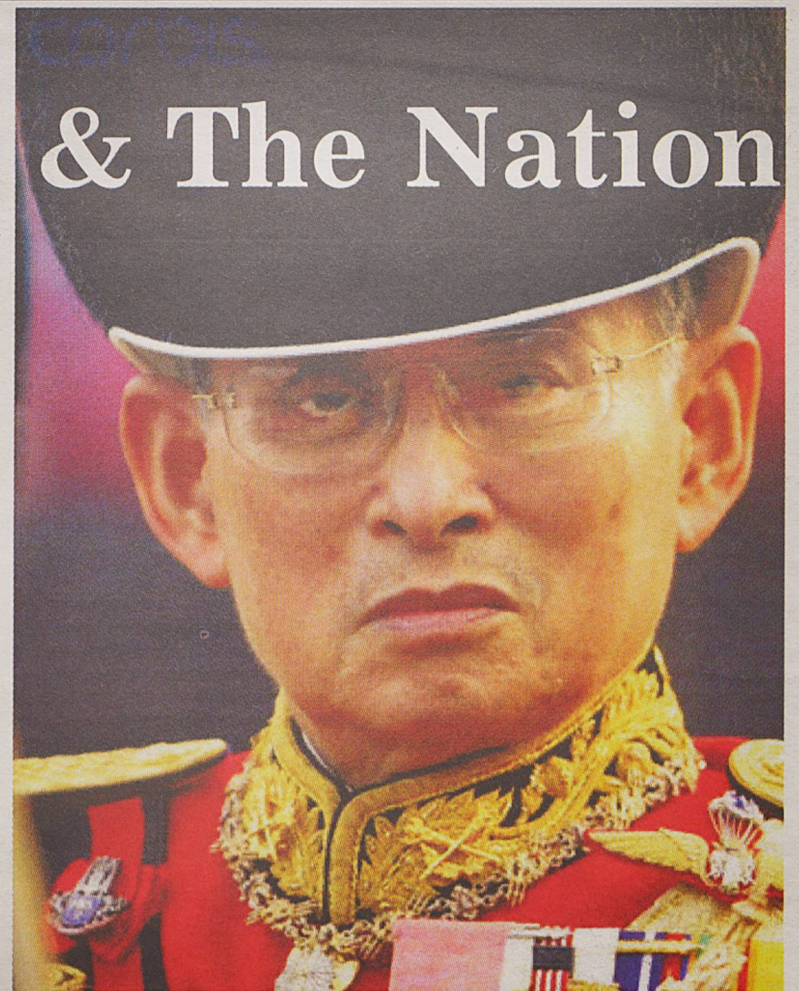
tics,' devoid of the smarmy political wrangling of the political elite. To the masses, the king appears a relentless crusader for the good of the nation, functioning as a moral agent supremely above the prurience of electoral affairs. It is this myth which allows him to effectively overstep his constitutional limits, creating a supra-legislative assembly of Privy Counsellors from which the royal interests usurp the legitimacy of an elected parliamentary body.

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Thailand's royal-nationalism

own interests.

During the 1950's the king visited numerous economically dejected villages, the fertiliser for his counter-revolutionary manoeuvres at the expense of the rising communist and reformist political groups. Bhumibol's support moved beyond the traditional hand-gesturing of other monarchs: he implemented a series of social works projects while simultaneously expanding his list of influential contacts which included governmental and military stalwarts, all eager for



Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-serving current head of state and the longest-serving monarch in Thai history

the patronage of the king. The royally mandated projects grew to such an extent that a department managing these social welfare efforts was created under the office of the Prime Minister with a budget of 50 million dollars by the 1980's.

Yet Thailand is first and foremost a burgeoning economic regional power, having excised its image as a simple agrarian state to that of a country enjoying mesmerising double digit growth from the eighties to mid nineties, and a steady growth of seven percent annually between the 50's and 70's. The king's reputation cannot wholly subsist on his commitment to the poor; to maintain his relevance, wooing the business class would be necessary. As a consequence of Bhumibol's intervention during the October 1973 uprising, the economic agents of Thailand credited him with restoring democracy, militating against the dual putsch of communism and military autocracy. He ousted a reviled government in favour a royally appointed one, establishing himself as above the military and revolutionary class, and as a purveyor of political stability.

Again in 1992, the king supported a military coup, one ostensibly set up to purge corruption within the government. Under the National Peace-Keeping Council, the military heads seized the assets of 'unusually rich' politicians, and promised a new constitution to restore the old order. As Kasian Tejapira writes, "the generals were out of step with the post-Cold War times. During the 1980s boom the Thai bourgeoisie had grown in size, wealth and confidence, the economy had become more open and globalized, and the middle classes had developed to such an extent that 'semi-democracy' was no longer acceptable." A popular rising overthrew General Suchinda Kraprayun's regime, yet an indelible image of Bhumibol's influence sees the two opposing leaders of the coup aftermath side by side kneeling on their knees for forgiveness as the king entreats his subjects to end the street protests.

With respect to Thaksin's removal, many of the same configurations that lead to the 1991 coup helped ensure his fall. Initially a populist demagogue with unbridled electoral support, garnering 54 percent of the elec-

toral vote in 2001, and earning eight million more votes in 2005, his immense popularity allowed him to pursue unquestioned economic arrangements. This policy earned millions for his telecommunications assets, while selling out national services and protected firms to high foreign bidders.

Thaksin followed the model set forth by Bhumidol, distributing free rice and cell phones to the lower classes, while legislating land reform. Yet where Bhumidol appeared regal, selfless and wholly apolitical, Thaksin appeared conniving and spurious. The corruption charges which followed from avoiding tax payments on a US\$1.2 billion dollar sale of his stake in Thailand's largest telecommunications firm painted the oligarch as a profligate, shamelessly flaunting himself while undermining the nation's moral propriety.

The military's involvement in his removal reveals the same symptoms of impetus which marked their previous government overthrows: protecting the ethical standards of a nation from the corrupt mishandling of a leader or movement. That the king consented to this overthrow is stated as much by Thai political professor Thitinan Pongsudhirak: "The role of the king was critical in this crisis. He is widely seen as having implicitly endorsed the coup." Of course, a popular movement bankrolled by a previous Thaksin crony galvanised the nation into withdrawing their support with numerous street marches numbering in the hundreds of thousands calling for his termination as prime minister of Thailand. However, no coup seems likely without the support of the monarch.

Presently, the military-appointed former general Surayud Chulanont is interim prime minister. A national referendum to approve a military-written constitution passed this August, while the public awaits a general election in December of this year. With Thaksin displaced and Bhumidol's hegemony more evident than ever, one can expect this coup to follow the narrative of previous ones: the military will stand behind the king as he presides over yet another democratically elected prime minister, one with the sensibilities to avoid the bravado that overran Thaksin.

TIMELINE

1868-1910 - Reign of King Chulalongkorn.
1932 - Bloodless coup against absolute monarch King Prajadhipok. Constitutional monarchy introduced with parliamentary government.
1939 - Siam changes its name to Thailand ("Land of the Free").
1941 - Japanese forces land. After negotiations Thailand allows Japanese to advance towards British-controlled Malay Peninsula, Singapore and Burma.
1947 - Military coup by the wartime, pro-Japanese leader Phibun Songkhram. The military retain power until 1973.
1965 onwards - Thailand permits US to use bases there during the Vietnam War. Thai troops fight in South Vietnam.
1973 - Student riots in Bangkok bring about the fall of the military government. Free elections are held but the resulting governments

lack stability.
1976 - Military takes over again.
1978 - New constitution promulgated.
1991 - Military coup, the 17th since 1932. A civilian, Anand Panyarachun, is installed as prime minister.
1992 - New elections in March replace Anand with General Suchinda Kraprayoon. There are demonstrations against him, forcing him to resign. Anand is re-instated temporarily. Elections in September see Chuan Leekpai, leader of the Democratic Party, chosen as prime minister.
1997 - Asian financial crisis: The baht falls sharply against the dollar.
2001 January - Elections won by Thaksin Shinawatra of new Thai Love Thai party. Allegations of vote-buying force partial re-run of poll. Thaksin forms coalition government.

2005 March - Thaksin Shinawatra begins a second term as PM after his party wins February's elections by a landslide.
2006 April-May - Snap election, called by the PM amid mass rallies against him, is boycotted by the opposition and is subsequently annulled, leaving a political vacuum.
2006 19 September - Military leaders stage a bloodless coup while Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is at the UN General Assembly. Retired General Surayud Chulanont is appointed as interim prime minister in October.
2007 May - Ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra's Thai Rak Thai party is banned. Thousands of soldiers are put on alert.
2007 August - Voters in a referendum approve a new, military-drafted constitution. General election set for 23 December.

source: BBC

Avoiding military rule on the sub-continent

Democracy

The strange birth of liberal India

Two countries, carved out of one, with much in common: India and Pakistan. Both have come a long way since independence. The paths they have taken could not have been more divergent. Pakistan has battled dictators and coups, assassinations and political intrigue India's tryst with democracy has been far from easy, yet the love affair has lasted. But why did a liberal political system take root in India, when it failed to thrive in smaller, less unwieldy Pakistan?

In 1947, the odds against constructing a working democracy in India were great. There was a million dead, 13 million displaced, billions of rupees worth of damaged property, and wounds of communal violence still bleeding. Not to mention the challenges of administering a country newly freed from colonial rule, integrating the princely states and reorganising the divided armed forces. India's leaders



Indira Gandhi

could have been forgiven for demanding dictatorial powers.

Fortunately, leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhai Patel and many others were men of integrity and vision. Nehru had spent a political lifetime trying to instil the habits of democracy in his people — a disdain for dictators, a respect for parliamentary procedures, an abiding faith in the constitutional system. As prime minister, he carefully nurtured the country's infant democratic institutions, paying deference to the country's ceremonial presidency. Nehru subjected himself to cross-examination in parliament by the small but fractious opposition, allowing them an importance out of all proportion to their numerical strength, because he was convinced that a strong and engaged opposition was essential for a healthy democracy. Nehru also took care to not interfere with the judicial system.

In these circumstances, it was ironic that Nehru's own daughter, Indira Gandhi, seized the reigns of power in 1975 by declaring a nationwide state of emergency. By appointing sycophants to positions of high office, she considerably weakened and corrupted the institutions her father had so carefully protected. She was so confident of her inviolability that in 1977 she called for elections. But her hubris was misplaced and the Congress party was soundly thrashed. Indian democracy, written off as dead, emerged reborn.

In *India After Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy*, historian Ramachandra Guha picks up the story.

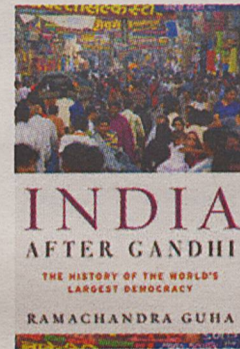
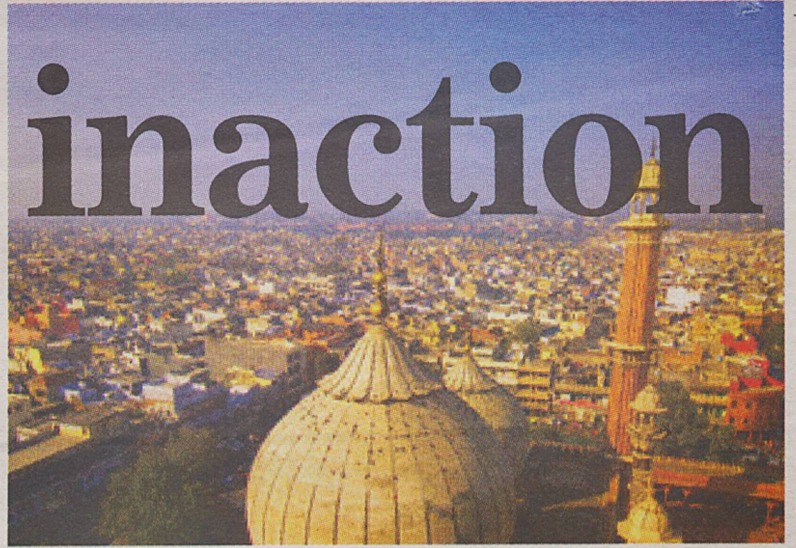
Today's weakened institutions, he says, mean that Indian democracy is best described as a partial success. India is most democratic "when it comes to holding elections and permitting freedom of movement and expression". But it mostly isn't "when it comes to the functioning of politicians and political institutions".

After independence, the Congress Party dominated the political scene for quite some time under Nehru's leadership. However, coalition governments came into existence soon after, which Guha contends is a "manifestation of the widening and deepening of democracy" as different regions and groups acquired a greater stake in the system. As a consequence, each further election gives more voice to millions of poor, marginalised people, who are extremely shrewd when it comes to making or breaking political fortunes.

It is simplistic to say that the Indian people have restricted their democratic aspirations to simply voting at the polls. As Guha says, they have been behind social movements, from the rise of the lower castes and environmental activism to demands for regional autonomy. Hindi films, regional-language poets and national radio have all played their role in deepening the concept of nationhood.

But every now and again, the country's secular fabric is stretched by politically instigated communal violence. By far the deadliest in recent memory were the riots that occurred after the demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya in 1992 and the communal riots in Gujarat in 2002 that killed 2,500 people, most of them Muslims. Still, in general elections just two years later, the right wing Bharatiya Janata Party was turfed

inaction



India is most democratic "when it comes to holding elections and permitting freedom of movement and expression"

out of power and into retreat in an election which involved 400 million people exercising their franchise in the world's largest ever democratic exercise. This reinforces confidence in the system as it serves to check divisive forces in the country and more importantly, to hold people accountable.

Indira Gandhi's 22 months of authoritarian rule, though brief, serve to remind us of the dangers of that route. The era of a single party government in India has passed, and coalition politics is a reality. While this system has its flaws, its obvious

advantage is that it does not breed dictators. In a country of contrasts — rich and poor, the mighty and the weak — democracy is a common meeting ground. In theory, it includes everyone. Perhaps this is one of the enduring features of Indian democracy and a reason for its continued survival; that values such as equality, liberty, justice, freedom of opinion and expression and secularism remain ideals worth fighting for.

Sonya Misquitta

The Burma protests, one month on

A Land Without Evil

Military dictatorship in Burma is not long for this world. The more's the pity, then, that pale imitations thrive in Bangkok and Dhaka

"I am not convinced 'fail' is the right description." Ben Rogers, a human rights activist with a long record of involvement in Burma, is not going to give up on last month's revolt, the biggest since 1988, just yet. "The cork is out of the bottle now and there is a momentum behind it. The revolt succeeded in gaining more attention for Burma's plight from the international community than ever before." When pressed on the reasons for the protests' petering out, however, Rogers concedes that the "sheer force" applied by the military regime was the main factor, just as it was almost twenty years ago. Even so, the generals — who recently gave themselves the shamelessly Newspeak name of 'State Peace and Development Council' — may have finally overreached themselves. The army was panicked into targeting "not only people who directly took part in the protest, but also others who watched the protest, cheered the protesters, and gave them water. All of that has created a profound climate of fear, more than there was before," but it has also created a massive groundswell of resentment in the population at large.

Though this time around the regime contained the protests and saw off a UN attempt at mediation, it is staring

systemic collapse in the face. Having isolated themselves in Nay Pyi Daw, a capital built from scratch in the middle of the jungle, the generals have increasingly drawn on child soldiers — 70 000 at the last count, Rogers says, making Burma the world's worst offender in this area — to fight their wars of ethnic cleansing on the country's anarchic borders. Since Burma is home to around 100 ethnic groups, some with fully-fledged liberation armies, they face a quixotic task. Having illegally visited many of the largest tribes, such as the Karen and Chin, Rogers must be well aware of this. Nevertheless, he believes "deep economic problems" are the generals' most serious quandary — "in part because of the sanctions of the US and EU, but largely due to their own mismanagement." Rations and wages for ordinary soldiers are "appalling," leading Rogers to suspect a military split or mass defection is in the offing. In this he is probably right. Soldiers left their posts to join the 1988 rebellion. Two decades later, many of the rank and file silently favour the National League of Democracy. For her part, and with an eye on this caucus, Aung San Suu Kyi, the League's leader, has said that the army will remain a strong Burmese institution after the regime falls. Her father founded it, after all, during the

Japanese occupation in World War Two.

Asked for his view of a Burma beyond the generals' grip — say, in 2010 — Rogers first paints a "dream picture" of a "federal democracy where different ethnic states have a degree of autonomy over their affairs but are part of a united Burma where Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League of Democracy are in power — a situation where the military has peacefully transitioned to its rightful role of defending the people as opposed to ruling and terrorising them." The embittered state of Burma's biggest ethnic minorities however, when added to the amour-propre of an army to which concepts of democracy and human rights are simply unfamiliar, makes a "more complex set of arrangements of power-sharing, with the military retaining a role in the government until it gradually phases out" the like-

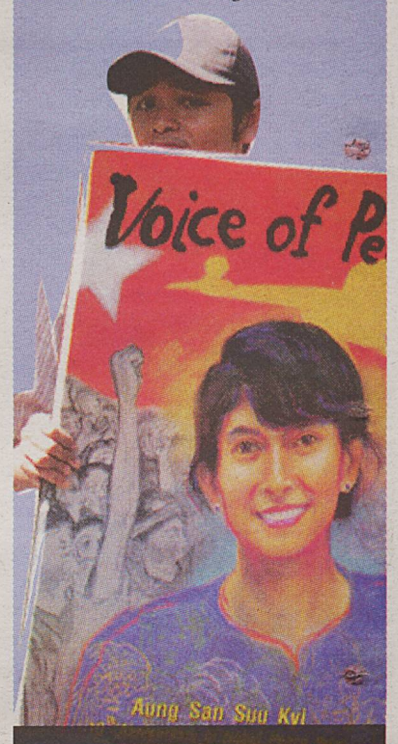
liar outcome.

In that case, the Burmese people may eventually find themselves in the kind of "managed democracy" where the military acts as (self-appointed) guardian of a fragile democratic system — rather than, in the case of the 'State Peace and Development Council', a praetorian relic dedicated to its suppression. Well-established in Turkey for decades, Asia has seen a sudden wave of similar 'junta-lites' in the past year. Corrupt and sclerotic party politics in Thailand and Bangladesh has been replaced by military-backed caretaker governments. "While it is possible to see the role of the military in countries like Pakistan and Thailand as a stabilising factor, given the instability in civilian politics in the short-term", Rogers thinks a worldwide normative shift against military rule will keep these administrations on the straight and narrow.

Joseph Cotterill



Ben Rogers is the Advocacy Officer for South East Asia at Christian Solidarity Worldwide



Life after the Credit Crunch

American Gigolo

How the Credit Crunch could give the US Economy Six Pack Abs

Summer's credit crunch has generally been seen as a quiet cataclysm for the US economy. However, the actual ramifications of the subprime mortgage fallout point to a more virulent long-term outlook for Uncle Sam. For nearly a decade, economists have pointed to an overvalued dollar, unsustainable US trade deficits, and an irrational housing boom as major flaws in the stateside system. Yet it is the seemingly disastrous demise of the high risk mortgage lending sector that will prove to be the ultimate correction the world markets have been seeking, and the remedy that the American economy needs.

Interest Rates

That remedy starts with interest rates. Except for governments and other private lending institutions bailing out the companies most immediately affected by the defaults of US subprime mortgage holders, the main policy decision by Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has been a drastic half point cut in the Fed rate from 5.25 to 4.75. This has only fur-

shrink its legendarily gaping trade deficit with the world. However, the most surprising and the most promising aspect of the numbers are the record levels of US goods that are being shipped to emerging markets such as China and South America. With another interest rate cut sure to follow, the dollar dwindle will continue, and America will cement further its new role as the Wal-Mart of the West - if not the world.

The next promising aspect of the credit fallout and subsequent dollar drop is that inflationary pressure on currency regimes pegged to the dollar is steadily mounting. In China, the flagship economy of the Asian boom, oil and food prices have surged at a pace not seen since the 1989 Tiananmen Square incident. According to Dr. Thomas Palley, a former chief economist at the US-China Economic and Security commission, 'China's current inflation is a textbook case of prolonged under-valuation of a fixed exchange rate in tandem with export-led growth'. While Beijing is implementing tighter domestic monetary policy to combat

that breaks the Chinese currency regime's policies and forces it to more fully float the renminbi - benefiting both the US and Europe.

Foreign Direct Investment

Another factor militating against a lasting American downturn is an increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). With fallout and foreclosures from the mortgage crisis predicted to last into early next year, real estate prices and corporate coffers - already discounted by the dollar rate - are plummeting due to lack of domestic demand. 'Fire sale' deals on US homes and businesses combined with low borrowing costs could spawn a new wave of FDI in US real estate and corporations, rivalling the Japanese grab of the late eighties which helped to prop up the economy in a previous bad patch. For the cash-rich economies of China, Russia, and the Middle East in particular, subprime is the perfect opportunity to load up on prime property at bargain prices. In late September, the Chinese government finally set up a state investment group worth an estimated \$200 billion to diversify its stockpiles of foreign treasuries. Its first purchase was a \$3 billion investment in the American Blackstone Financial Group. Despite current market jitters over recent US losses, when the price is right, money-managers find it hard not to bite.

Meanwhile, carry trade prospectors and governments invested heavily in dollar-denominated assets continue to flee the waning currency. Conventional wisdom has it that any such move from the dollar is a move to the euro. However, recent statements by über-investor Warren Buffet suggest that in the new, more global economy that emerging markets may be the asset homes of the future. Earlier this year, after keeping the world in the dark about his investment in a 'Mystery Currency', Buffet revealed that one of his most lucrative plays of the past year was an investment in the Brazilian real. In addition, his recent negative comments concerning a bearish dollar and the overvalued Chinese stock market have been juxtaposed with glowing endorsements of an emerging sweetheart, the South Korean stock exchange. This, he claimed, was the 'most undervalued' exchange in the world. Many investors still warn that a US slowdown could prove disas-

trous for these emerging markets, which are often dependent on US demand and investment. However, even Alan Greenspan has placed the odds of the full-blown US recession that would threaten this at fewer than half.

Having run the Federal Reserve for 18 years, Greenspan's calculation of the underlying fundamentals of the US economy should be trusted. While he is widely cited as having contributed to the current crisis through his policies, the real situation is far less dramatic than the media would have the general public believe. In his book, 'The Age of Turbulence', Greenspan makes many allusions to the fact that, during this time of rapid globalization, the US and European markets essentially act as stable counterbalances on each other. Earlier in the decade the European economy was bemoaned far and wide for its slow growth and weak fundamentals, while the US steamed through the tech boom virtually unscathed. Now the tables have turned; they will turn again.

Political Change

Finally, political change will complete America's turnaround. The more the excitable media reports on the US economy tanking, the more likely it is that there will be a change of party in the White House a year from now. Bill Clinton famously acceded to an unlikely presidency against war-time incumbent George H. W. Bush by touting the slogan, 'It's the economy, stupid'. For all the Democrats' tax-and-spend reputation, the first Clinton White House managed to balance the books after twelve years of wasteful Republican rule. Even Greenspan touts Bill Clinton as having been responsive to the urgencies he prioritized as the Head of the Fed. Another Hillary and Bill stint could very well bring a détente in Iraq, a tightening of government purse strings, and a new era of technological growth in the US. All of this would serve to reverse the recent spate of irresponsibility in American fiscal policy and perhaps serve to tilt the transatlantic seesaw back into US favour.

Terence Kiff

Crunching the numbers

\$1.3
trillion
total value of US
subprime mortgages

16%
of subprime loans
with adjustable rate
mortgages are 90
days into default

\$101
billion
estimated value of
inward US FDI, 2005

\$190
billion
estimated value of
inward US FDI, 2006

*The US economy faces a new
role as the West's Wal-Mart*

ther fuelled a yearlong decline in the dollar to record lows against the pound, the euro, the Canadian dollar and most other highly traded currencies. Save a few European tourists planning on Christmas shopping in New York, the world has taken fright at this downward spiral. The crunch has admittedly compounded soaring oil prices and dampened demand for foreign goods in the largest consumer economy in the world. However, its several long-term effects will ultimately prove to be mostly beneficial to the US.

Those benefits are already evident in the latest international trade figures. Thanks to the dramatically increased value of the euro, pound, neighbouring Canadian dollar, and most other floating world currencies, American goods are some of the best deals in the Western world at this point. The US has already turned in six consecutive months of record export numbers. This has begun to

inflation, Palley and other economists suggest this is a futile exercise: 'significant exchange rate revaluation should be a central element' instead. The best way to stave off the ballooning effect would be to allow the renminbi to appreciate against the dollar.

While the EU economy has managed to boost its growth above 2% levels, policymakers at the most recent meeting of the IMF expressed concern that 'the fall in the value of the US dollar was being disproportionately absorbed by currencies such as the euro and Canadian dollar, rather than Asian currencies, including the renminbi.' As of August, the European monthly trade deficit with China had increased by 25%, whereas the US monthly trade deficit numbers with China decreased by 15%. A combination of a continuing devaluation of the dollar, a drop in US demand for Chinese goods, and a rise in European protectionism to avoid a drop in growth could prove to be the storm

Listings

www.lsesu.com

Literature Society

The Literature Society is looking for submissions for the third issue of their yearly magazine, *The Muse*. *The Muse* collects creative writing works by LSE students, alumni and staff members. If you would like a chance to see your words in print in practically any format (some examples are short stories, poems, articles on a literary topic, or theatrical sketches), send them to submissions.the-muse@gmail.com. We'll enjoy reading them!

The deadline for submissions is the end of Week 8.

Dance

Evening dance classes, starting Week 4

Ballet (beginner)
Monday 6.00-7.00 Parish Hall

Ballet (intermediate)
Monday 7.00-8.30 G1

Modern Jazz (open)
Tuesday 7.00-8.00 G1

HipHop (beginner)
Thursday 7.30-8.30 Parish Hall

HipHop (advanced)
Thursday 8.30-10.00 Parish Hall

The dance classes are £3 for members, £4 for non-members OR you can buy a card for £10 for 5 classes.

Arabic Society

The LSESE Arabic Society invites you to their Welcome Back Party, Wednesday Oct 31st from 7-11 in the Underground. Enjoy a night of food, dancing, belly-dancers and drums! Tickets on sale on Houghton Street. Email su.soc.arabic@lse.ac.uk for more info.

UNICEF

This Halloween, UNICEF Soc and RAG members are all dressing up and going around LSE with our donation boxes, collecting money for children around the world, and we'd like YOU to join us!

So dress up, come to our stall, collect a donation box and become a UNICEF fundraiser for a few hours! Take the boxes with you to class, pass them around in lectures, stand around LSE and drop it in at the end of your day.

Where: UNICEF Soc stall,
Houghton Street

When: Tuesday, 30th October,
2007, 10 am – 3pm

For further information, contact:
Su.Soc.Unicef@lse.ac.uk.



ready when you are™

FREE GREGGS SAVOURY FOR EVERY STUDENT

To celebrate the autumn launch of Greggs best ever Cheese and Onion Pasty, Greggs the bakers is giving LSE students the chance to try one of the Pastytastic savouries* – for free!

With the winter nights drawing in there's nothing more satisfying than a delicious, freshly baked Greggs pastry or Sausage Roll. With choices such as the Steak Bake, Chicken Bake, Cheese and Onion Pasty and the Sausage and Bean Melt, customers really are spoilt for choice.

The new cheddar gorgeous Cheese and Onion Pasty boasts mature cheddar cheese, wrapped in a light golden pastry and contains no artificial colours, flavours or hydrogenated fats.

Greggs pasties and sausage rolls are freshly baked in-store throughout the day, so you can guarantee a fresh and tasty treat will be ready when you are!

For more information about Greggs visit www.greggsthebakers.co.uk

Terms and Conditions:

Offer subject to availability. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Limit of one coupon redeemable per visit. Coupon is valid until 13th November 2007. No cash alternative offer available. Coupon will be retained. No photocopies accepted.

The offer is only available in the following Greggs shops: The Strand, Queensway, Goodge Street, Holborn, Eastcheap, Pimlico, Waterloo, Strutton Ground, Palmer Street, Upper James Street and Lower Marsh.

*The Pastytastic savouries include Sausage Roll, Steak Bake, Chicken Bake, Cheese and Onion Pasty and Sausage and Bean Melt.

Name: Surname:

Email: Postcode:

On average, how often do you buy food on the go?

- More than 5 times a week
- 4 – 5 times a week
- 2 – 3 times a week
- About once a week
- Rarely/Never

How often do you shop at Greggs?

- Less than once every 2 – 3 months
- About once every 2 – 3 months
- About once every month
- Less than twice a week
- Twice a week or more

Where do you usually buy food on the go?

WEEK 4 LISTINGS

TUESDAY, 30 OCTOBER

AIDS FORUM
Timeless Auditions
G10B, 7:00 PM

KOREAN
Welcome Party
View tourge, 10:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, 31 OCTOBER

LSE SU
MP Elections - Voting
Quad, All day

KNITTING
Knitting against Crime - RAG
Houghton Street, 11:00 AM

ACS
Internship Panel
D502, 1:00 PM

HEDGE FUND
Lecture
S75, 3:00 PM

THURSDAY, 1 NOVEMBER

LSE SU
MT Elections - Voting
Quad, All day

CHINA DEVELOPMENT
Fearless Film Screening
G11, 6:45 PM

MONDAY, 5 NOVEMBER

LGBT
JULI Mind the Gap
Quad, 7:00 PM

The Three Tuns Pub Quiz with ...Howard Davies!

EVERY TUESDAY AT 8PM THE 3 TUNS PUB QUIZ GETS GOING...USUALLY YOU CAN WIN LOADS OF CRAP! BUT IT'S REALLY ALL ABOUT HAVING A LAUGH, A DRINK AND 'TEAM' BUILDING!

NONETHELESS, ON THIS SPECIAL OCCASION, WE SHALL HAVE FLIGHTS ABROAD TO 10 EUROPEAN CITIES UP FOR GRABS + LOADS OF OTHER CDS, T-SHIRTS AND ALL THAT JAZZ!

PLUS: THE DIRECTOR OF THE LSE, MR HOWARD DAVIES, WILL BE GUEST HOSTING!

SO, DON'T DILLY DALLY--COME DOWN AND HAVE A LAFF!

TUESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER

SU Executive office hours

General Secretary, Fadhil Bakeer Markar

Treasurer, Libby Meyer

Communications Officer, Kayt Berry

Education and Welfare Officer, Ruhana Ali

Thursday 2.30pm - 3.30pm, QUAD

A COMEDY BENEFIT FOR TIBET

YAKETY YAK!

PRESENTED BY JOHN HEGLEY

STARRING:

SHAZIA MIRZA

SIMON AMSTELL

AVA VIDAL

SUSAN MURRAY

ROBIN INCE

GREG BURNS, ED PETRIE

TIME: Tuesday, 6th November 7.30pm

PLACE: The Shaw Theatre
100-110 Euston Road, London NW1 2AJ

TICKETS: £20

BOX OFFICE: 0870 033 2600 or www.theshawtheatre.com

Free Tibet Campaign

The Shaw Theatre

The Punter



Matthew Partridge

It is now time to begin the task of looking to see if there is any value in any of the individual Presidential primaries, as opposed to the overall contests. While my macro view is that both John McCain (6.7-7) and Fred Thompson (10-11) present the best value in terms of the Republican nomination, I would suggest that the best value comes from betting against Mitt Romney winning the Iowa Primary (66-70.7). Although most of the polls show him with a ten point, Romney is barely in double figures nationally and the Rasmussen poll, which has an outstanding track record, shows that Thompson and Huckabee are breathing down his neck. Although Romney has spent a lot of time wooing the all-important Evangelical vote his ever changing views on abortion and gay marriage has severely reduced his credibility, which is especially important given that Huckabee is a Baptist minister. On the Democrat side I believe that the best idea is to bet against the 'Audacity of Hype' Barack Obama (20-24) since I believe that John Edwards, or even a possible entry by Al Gore, will present more of a challenge to Hillary than the inexperienced Senator from Illinois.

The New Hampshire primary is a little more complicated, since it will be affected by what happens in Iowa. Indeed, I agree with Dick Morris that Iowa will act as a 'semi-final' weeding out the weaker of Romney, Thompson and Huckabee on the right and McCain and Giuliani on the centre. Therefore, I believe that although Romney will finish ahead of McCain in Iowa, there is a strong possibility that Romney will come into New Hampshire fatally weakened while the latter could have won the mantle of the centre. Contrary to conventional wisdom, there is value in betting against Romney (50-59.7) and Giuliani (30-34.6) to win the Granite state. In terms of the other states I think there might be some value in betting on Bill Richardson (1-10) in the Nevada primary. I don't rate Richardson at all, but if he is going to win anywhere it is going to be in a state close to New Mexico where Latinos make up nearly a quarter of the population.

Finally, although these might well be my famous last words, I am going to stick with recommending that you bet against December Gold (though I would put an order in at \$755). I know that I have been proved spectacularly wrong so far, but I believe that a large fall is just around the corner. Of course, I am sticking with all my previous share selections. I also believe that the Bank of England is finally going to cut interest rates, so I believe that you go long December Short Sterling.

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

Men's Hockey

Things can only get better (honest, guv)!



Willy "Welsh" Jones

LSE 1
St Barts Too Many

Battersea Park

It was an expectant dressing room last Wednesday. After our performance the previous week, we were sure that we could record our first LSE

2nds Hockey win in 2 years! We had Hemal, our first choice goalie, back and the likes of Rahoul bringing a real goal threat up front alongside the experience of Mr. Courtney and Mr. Sheth. St. Barts would have to put in a good performance to take the spoils at Battersea Park.

We started sloppily! Conceding in the opening 5 minutes meant that we were always chasing the game. The boys rallied, with our captain Welch doing his best to be here, there and everywhere on the pitch. It paid off soon after when Jeff managed to snatch a

well taken equaliser. The boys believed again, three points here we come.

But no. We were run ragged. As hard as we tried and as spirited, as all 12 players played, things just didn't quite go for us on the day. At 2-1 down we had a short corner which didn't go as ideally as planned, but popped up to Rahoul who hit a cover drive which Kevin Pietersen would have been proud of into the back of the net. Although our umpires, Dan V and Joe Cheng attempts' to give us a decision or two, or just 'not seeing' certain incidents, the goal was

disallowed as it didn't hit the back board. Half time came around and the score was 3-1. By no means were we out of the game. Our regularly tardy sweeper Azan and LSE debutant Gautam sucked on a juicy orange as Jappy tried to rally the troops.

The second half began okay for the LSE boys as we tried to stroke the ball around the pitch. Joe Meadway and Andy Harris, as classy as ever at the back, echoing the skipper's call - "Shit is better than silence!" We managed to keep the medics out for a the early second half, but once one went

in, we were unable to stop one or two more going in.

Despite efforts from the likes of Geordie bombing up and down the left flank and almost a goal debut for Andrew, we couldn't get back in the game. We defended admirably. Hemal made save after save, but still the goals were leaked. The St. Barts forwards were just too strong for us. The defeat may have been a small step backwards after our last outing, but there are certainly promising signs. This week has to be our first win when we travel to Kent - surely!



Men's Rugby

LSE win the Battle of Shenley



Thomas Jackson

LSE 1st XV 29
UCL 2nd XV 5

Shenley

Picture the scene: It's the first day of the season, the LSE 1st XV has returned to action after their summer of crushing internships, supping Pimms and displaying their perfectly-honed physiques on the finest beaches. Pitch-side the accumulated gaggle of women are swooning - who are these Spartan creatures, bedecked as they are in their flattering skin-tight jerseys? "I heard that Alvin can skull 28 shots of vodka without breaking sweat!" they whisper, scarcely able to tear their eyes off his second row partner's Ronnie Coleman-esque physique.

After some inspiring words from Captain Perry - generally revolving around 'manning up' - the game commences.

Jonathan "Hands are made of rubber" Sharkey expertly fails to drop-kick the ball ten metres, a cunning ploy to unleash our international loose-head prop into the barbarian horde's scrum from the get-go. It becomes clear that the university ranked a pathetic fifth in the latest league

tables will not be able to live with LSE's intellectual and physical superiority. Kirill is hitting his jumpers like an Irishman hits the bottle, whilst other fresher Arun is seemingly running round defenders at will. Before long the floodgates open, Ed Little having to use fancy footwork to get past

defenders because his tragically unimposing frame is not up to the job of going through them. With confidence running high, someone decides to let our flanker Tom have a shot at the conversion: in retrospect possibly a suspect decision, but entertaining nonetheless to see a man take a 15m run up for a

10m conversion.

By no-side, the 29-5 scoreline only told half the story. Unquestionably the match was a scrappy affair, with both teams guilty of unforced errors, but LSE were in firm command throughout and in truth should have scored closer to 50. The scrum in particular blew hot and cold, and perhaps in future the backs could be more altruistic in their decision-making, cough* Davies* cough. Yet still we managed five tries, hat-trick 'hero' Ed Little joined by Ed Studd's walkover and new boy Finn's completion of a slick backs move. In fact all the debutants made an impression, whether it be Alex's shoring up of the scrum, Rob's pinpoint passing or Tom's tenacity at the breakdown. They were joined by battling displays by the veterans: Charlie's match was comparable to a fine Lewis Moody performance, both in commitment and penalty count, while Tom D revelled in his favourite position at centre.

A successful start to the season, then, latterly followed by one of the most impressive showings on a Wednesday night in recent memory. The omens are good...



Swimming

LSE contribute to ULU win



Jane Evans

The London University Swim Team (L.U.S.T.) narrowly defeated friendly foes Oxford and Oxford Brookes at a swim meet on October 20th at Oxford, with A-Team scores of 126, 119, and 62, respectively. L.U.S.T. recorded eleven first place finishes, and eight second place finishes in the friendly gala. "I thought the meet was awesome," co-captain and LSE third-year Stuart Ventham said. "We had good performances by everyone, and I am so proud."

L.U.S.T., a team comprised of members from all University of London schools, began the meet with a first place finish in the women's 200 freestyle relay. LSE graduate students Alexis Ettinger and Jane Evans competed on the relay team that set the tone for the rest of the meet. The team further tallied up points with wins in the women's 200 IM

(Jane Leighton, UCL, 2:35.87), 50 breaststroke (Jane Leighton, UCL, 37.07), 50 backstroke (Libby Kathro, UCL, 36.59), 100 butterfly (Evans, LSE, 1:11.97), and 100 breaststroke (Evans, LSE, 1:23.21). Men's wins included the 100 fly (Dave Roberts, UCL, 1:01.95), 100 breast (Nick Cattle, LSHTM, 1:09.10), 50 fly (Trev Gaunt, QMUL, 28.10), 50 back (Trev Gaunt, QMUL, 29.25), and 50 free (Dave Roberts, UCL, 24.76). Co-captain Ventham, Ettinger, and Evans teamed up in the final event of the meet, the "cannon" relay, where eight members of the team, four men and four women, each swim one length of the pool. This event is not traditional, and was included in the competition for fun. Although L.U.S.T. placed second to Oxford in the relay, the team garnered enough points to win the meet.

"We beat Oxford, and I really like winning," LSE general course student Bradley Portman said.

"We hadn't beat Oxford in two years," Ventham said. "The previous year we disappointingly came in third to Birmingham and Oxford."

Birmingham, a very competitive programme, decided not to attend the meet on short notice. This cancellation provided L.U.S.T. with a better opportunity to win.

The competitive team at L.U.S.T. trains at ULU sports centre five times per week, and non-competitive team members train three times per week. This schedule is often a significant reduction in training time for former competitive swimmers. Furthermore, many former swimmers have had significant time away from the sport before joining L.U.S.T. "I swam absolutely horrible at Oxford," Portman said. "I have been out of the pool for two-and-a-half years, and have only been training with L.U.S.T. for a few weeks." The team provides former swimmers with the opportunity to continue the sport they love, stay fit, and meet new people. "I decided I wanted to get back into swimming, so I joined the team," Portman said.

"This team is nice because it allows students to meet people from other schools in London. I want to have fun in my year abroad."

L.U.S.T. members had a



great time winning, and a great time socialising with the Oxford team after the meet. Oxford organised a social event for the teams to watch the Rugby World Cup final

together at an Oxford college, and then dance the night away at a local nightclub. "Oxford did a great job organizing the social event afterwards," Portman said. "That is some-

thing we didn't do at my previous team, and it was an excellent addition. The meet was an exceptionally good time."

Netball

Win some, lose some



"Harry" Robinson

LSE 1sts 36
GKT 2nds 22

LSE 1st 43
Uni. of Arts 28

LSE 2nds 12
Goldsmiths 2nds 16

ceding game. I wouldn't say we had an air of complacency but I know that I was pretty sure we were going to win. And we did.

As is often true when playing a team that is easily beaten, we didn't play our best netball, but we did enough and got a good result. Wednesday's game at Elephant was far better. The play was fluid and slick (much like Delia on a Wednesday night last year - return to form please Floyd!)

in a fast paced high energy match. Touch yourself, we're on fire <insert Delia dance move here>. We held our centres, controlled the mid court and ensured our set pieces worked. Effalish and Asha kept the shooter pretty much out the game with tight marking and great rebounds. Charlie 'well-in' Glyn had her hands all over the place (!), reading the game accurately to get many sneaky tips and well timed interceptions in. The GA was good;

Glyn was better. Pui played a solid wing defence against the gazelle like wing attack, squeezing her out of the game. At centre Miss Peel was all over the place, using her height and waving her arms wildly to secure interceptions and connect the defence and attack. Captain Nic was (as per usual) pretty bloody good, but enough of her seeing as she got me drunk and left me AND lost her pants.

Hannah played a lovely

goal attack - really putting in the effort in the centre third to pressure the opposition and regain the ball. Me: 'ohhh Hannah your breasts are out tonight!' Hannah: 'Harry, my breasts are always out'. And then me as shooter. I moved well and, as always, rolled about on the floor a bit. But at least I retained my pants. Enough of the players as individuals, what this match really showed was the ability of the 1sts to work as a team. A team is much more than the sum of

its individual players (a statement epitomised by a certain national football team). There needs to be co-ordination, co-operation and a bit of love. On Wednesday the 1sts demonstrated this and proved relatively early on in the season that they are a team. Looking forward to Wednesday's match, team dinners (all out!) and Gills goodie bags! This week's lesson is spirit - whether it be downed doubly with a mixer or shared with your team mates on court.

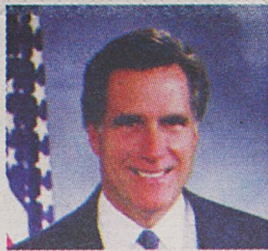


At certain points in my life I find myself self analysing and thinking, 'this is a bit crap'. If waking up in the law common room on Thursday morning with no recollection of getting there didn't put me into this box then the disdainful comment from a canteen lady ('oh my god, you look terrible') whilst attempting to purchase a crayfish and spinach sandwich at 9am from the Brunch Bowl certainly pushed me over the edge. It wasn't my first night back on the snakes since the Barrel, I didn't find a TV on my way home and I'm pretty sure I had no intimate moments with the Walkabout pole. Life 1, Harry 0. Fortunately the netball was all gold this week...In BUSA/ULU league 'madness', we played a team we'd already beaten comfortably the pre-

Victory at Shenley

LSE 1sts crush Euston Tech by over 20 points

Thomas Jackson



Free Willard?

The Punter bets against Mitt Romney in Iowa

Matthew JCG Partridge



L.U.S.T for victory

LSE help the London University team beat Oxford

Jane Evans

30.10.07 | thebeaver.sports@lse.ac.uk

Beaver sports

She kicks, she scores (a try)



Laura Smith & Sophie De-la-Hunt

LSE WRFC **Some**
Sussex **More**

Berrylands

5 Yanks, 4 practises, 3 matches. What do you get? Lash, banter, promiscuity... oh and the LSE women's rugby team. The hottest rugby team ever, might I add. Yes, that's right, the WRFC have returned in style, with a whole lot of love to give. But back to the glorious game. There we were, like all good Wednesday afternoons, legs bare on the Berrylands pitch, lined opposite 15 'healthy' looking girls, with only the sport of rugby to justify their appearance. We had an abundance of questions on our minds- why did we drink so much the night before, how were we supposed to last 80 minutes, and since when was Sussex classed as a university?

The first whistle went, all was forgotten and we were off. With aggressive tackling, good positioning and solid scrumming the LSE side left little space for Sussex. The game continued relatively evenly sided until some good tactics by the backs created some space to get the ball to the wing and Sophie 'Speedy Gonzalez' was away. Up 5-0 the team gained confidence and all seemed to be going to plan. BLAH BLAH. They scored twice. By half time it was apparent that the copious alcohol consumed the night before was beginning to take its toll on the squad. A big team talk was required from our captain, the Bagermesiter. Never one to let us down, the rallying cry was let out by El Captaino. 'I know you are all tired guys, but its only 40 minutes until lash.' Never more inspired than by the prospect of alcohol, the rugby girls were back in the game.

The next two tries were to be ours. The first a glorious run from Miss Bagerman, who maintained her pace despite having four Sussex girls holding onto her, and Bosh, she was over the line. A momentous occasion was to follow- a conversion! Laura, you are a legend, giving us an extra two



points from an angle Jonny Wilkinson would have been proud of. Caught up in the celebrations and jubilation of having found a kicker, and the prospect of a score line not divisible by five, concentration was briefly lost and Sussex charged down the pitch. Defended well with strong mauling by Jess and Nas, the opportunity for a counter attack was ceased by LSE. Quick passing between Alison and Lia, and a charge Bagerman style, allowed Nada to make a successful run and get the ball down. We were back in the lead.

It is often said that rugby is a hooligans sport, and thanks to Nina and Hannah, many can now see why.

Fearlessly throwing themselves at any Sussex girl on the charge; their crunching tackles causing the spectators to wince. Sadly, in the last fifteen minutes of the game Sussex scored twice more. In both cases they attacked strongly down the left hand side, and we lacked the fitness to get to them. This, however, did not mar the solid team performance throughout the match. For many this was merely their first or second match, but neither in skill nor in spirit was this lack of experience ever apparent. Most notable in their improvement was our rookie front line, including new girl Ricki, who have truly stepped up to the challenge since 'The Filth' became

injured.

In good spirits the 'women' of the match were picked, in traditional style each team chose two players from the opposing team before the four ladies race to down their pints. They may have beaten us on the pitch but when it came to drinking we were the clear winners. Miss 'Disney' Allchurch won in style, with plenty of time to spare, showing that despite her perfect appearance, she can still down a mean pint. Sophie came in second, which reflects the era it took the Sussex girls to put their fosters away

The drinking club continued in the Tuns later that night, with a sizeable turnout, largely due to the enforcement of the 'lateness is rudeness'

principle, Kerstin and Nada, you know for next time what effect baileys has in a dirty pint. After last week's poor performance and a stinking Thursday hangover, Andrea raised her game in taps, if only Ally had learnt the same lesson.. Laura 'the mouth' lead the singing about how amazing we are, while we took and returned abuse from the football teams and as always, shared some love in Walkabout. We hope that there will be a bigger netball turnout next week, but perhaps the realisation that it is indeed a hobby not a sport has caused them to disassociate themselves with the AU. Next week, team dinners- netball, hockey and football get

involved- we would like the chance to prove that we really are the loudest and noisiest and sociable LSE women's team.

We cannot end this article without mentioning a few important people. Kim, your sideline support and advice was as loud, honest and aggressive as ever- we cant wait to have you back on the pitch. Martin, Hannah and Sarah we appreciate your dedication to the rugby cause and the shouts of encouragement. or just the opportunity to start the drinking early. A massive thank you to Kav, Jonny Poole and Rhys for their time and coaching advice over the last few weeks- its been brilliant, keep it up!

"They may have beaten us on the pitch but when it came to drinking we were the clear winners."