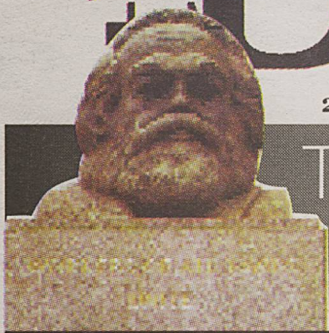


The Beaver

23 October 2007 Issue 668 The newspaper of the LSESU



The Marx Issue

Is Communism still relevant?

Pages 11-20



Frank Dobson

Part B 4



NEWS3 Letter dispute rumbles on **C&A7** A Convenient Award **FEATURES16** Left in London **SPORTS24** Rugby Drawn **PARTB6-7** The Dead Speak

Constitution crisis still unresolved

■ A new Standard Society Constitution to be presented at this Thursday's Union General Meeting

Subash Viroomal

It has been confirmed this week that all LSE Students' Union (SU) societies without approved individual constitutions have been operating under a non-existent Standard Society Constitution.

Draft Constitution and Steering Committee (C&S) minutes of a meeting on Monday 15 October obtained by *The Beaver* suggest indecisiveness regarding the Standard Society Constitution, with at least two people expressing concern about retroactive measures needed to address unconstitutional elections.

The confusion stems from the timing of society elections. The issue came to a boil as Azan Marwah, a first year Law undergraduate and Chair of the Union General Meeting (UGM), put forward a motion under the title "Democracy and Student Union Societies" requesting the Returning Officer to investigate reports of "unconstitutional positions in Society Committees" and "the practice of postponed elections for Society Committees".

The motion was rejected, but some have expressed concerns that the vote was against Marwah - who many believe has a vested interest in the issue, despite his protestations otherwise - rather than on the broader issue of student participation referred to in the motion.

Former C&S Chairman James Ketteringham told *The Beaver* that last year's changes to the Standard Society Constitution, launched by then

Societies Officer Arthur Krebbers, were approved. However, the final document was "never created in the first place", leaving a situation where although no definite text existed, there was an "uncodified constitution" consisting of the past one coupled with the changes noted in C&S minutes of May last year.

Ketteringham took responsibility for the oversight, claiming that it "slipped through the net", but insisted that "it was a mistake made in good faith" and "no more."

Andy Hallett, acting Chairman of C&S following Ketteringham's resignation, admitted that "C&S doesn't know what is going on", but insists that they are getting up to speed. The issue's importance is emphasised by the fact that a draft Standard Society Constitution, submitted by Societies Manager Alice Kington, was rejected out of hand at last Monday's C&S meeting. It has now emerged that this is in fact the correct document, suggesting a worrying lack of familiarity with the issue on the part of C&S and poor communication links between Sabbatical Officers and the C&S committee.

Societies Officer Carys Morgan will present C&S with two draft constitutions on Tuesday 23 October. Of the two documents, one will contain a clause stating that all society elections must take place in the first four weeks of Michaelmas Term, whilst the other will allow these elections to take place at any point during the year.

Hallett, in a personal capacity, is adamant that there

will be no retroactive measures over elections held so far and that C&S will look to "clean the slate" in terms of prior Standard Society Constitutions.

However, the consequences of this decision for societies with March elections are still not clear. As Ketteringham makes plain, if the law is interpreted strictly then March elections (unless specified in individual constitutions) are "absolutely unambiguously unconstitutional". Even if there are no retroactive measures, it leaves a situation whereby some committees could sit for 18 months until the beginning of the 2008-09 academic year, as March elections are not allowed.

This would feed into Marwah's argument that C&S and the Executive are not living up to their task of being "guardians of LSE democracy" as first years, General Course and Masters students have not been allowed to "participate in our democracy".

The first signs of protest against March elections were felt this week in the Bulgarian Society, where pressure from members led to the election of a new committee. Yoko Agov, a third year student running for the position of society President, urged other societies with elections late in the academic year to hold elections earlier as well.

The results and consequences of the constitutional confusion, including the new Standard Society Constitution, will be presented by C&S and the Executive to the Union General Meeting this Thursday at 1pm in the Old Theatre.



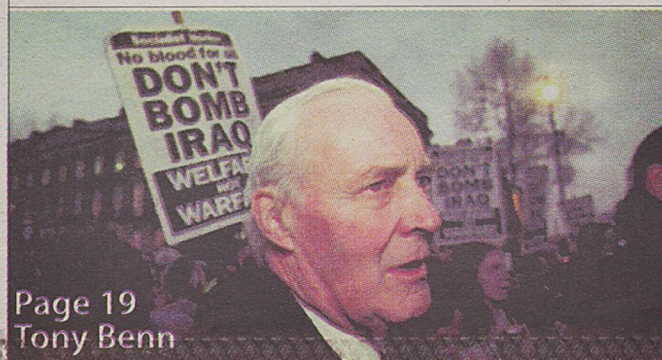
Photograph: LSESU Sikh Punjab Society

Bhangra wakes up campus

From its humble beginnings in 2003 as a group of lads having a laugh, the LSESU Sikh Punjab Society Bhangra Run has grown into a full blown celebration of Punjabi culture. Now an annual event, this street party brings together people of all races and backgrounds to celebrate all things Punjabi.

Gurjit Garcha

Features: Interview



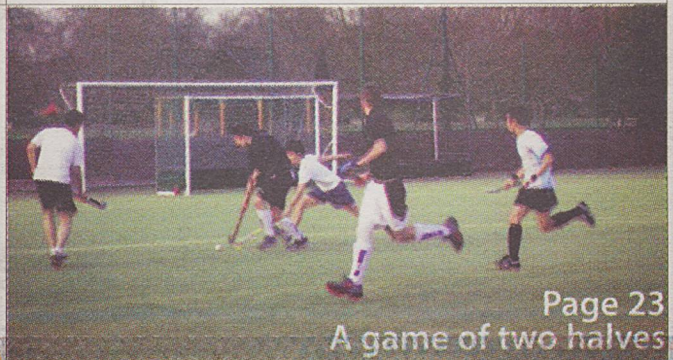
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Tony Benn

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Too funny to fuck
PartB Page 11



Sports: Men's Hockey



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A game of two halves

In other news

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

EducationGuardian

Race row scientist cancels book tour

The pioneering DNA scientist James Watson has cancelled his UK book tour and is understood to be heading back to the US to discuss his future as head of a leading research laboratory after appearing to suggest earlier this week that black people are less intelligent than white people.

Yesterday Dr Watson apologised "unreservedly" for comments reported in an interview in the *Sunday Times* and said he was "mortified" that they had led to offence.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY

cherwell24

University blunder leaves students loan-less

A UNIVERSITY error severely delaying loan payments has stranded hundreds of students without the financial means to pay batters and basic living costs.

Undergraduates have been forced to loan each other money, and some have reported charges of up to £4000 on their termly battels after colleges included University tuition fees with charges for rent.

Around 1200 students were affected, with over £5.2 million in loan payments delayed.

JCR Presidents are to hold a meeting today in an attempt to force the University to correct the error before more students hit serious financial trouble.

The problem, caused by the University's new online registration system, has prevented money from the Student Loans Company reaching students

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Warwick Boar

Student arrested over child porn

Pressure is mounting on Warwick University IT Services to make their network more secure after the arrest of a student on suspicion of downloading and sharing child pornography

The student, who has not been named, was arrested after another network user discovered the offensive material in his shared files and reported it to IT Services. The files were available for viewing and distribution by any network user with the appropriate software.

Picture of the week



Photograph: Anna Mikeda

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

NEWS IN BRIEF

Erik Ringmar returns with new book

Erik Ringmar, the former LSE academic who resigned after criticising the school on his blog and in a presentation to prospective students, has released a book, *A Blogger's Manifesto: Free Speech and Censorship in a Digital World*.

Ringmar argued that academic staff were more concerned with their own research than teaching students.

The book, which is dedicated to LSE students, expresses his anger at how he was treated by the school following his comments.

Ringmar believes the school impinged on his right to free speech when they demanded he removed posts from his personal blog.

Record number of uni acceptances

This autumn has seen a record number of students being enrolled into UK universities, said a UCAS report.

According to *The Independent*, a total of 411,971 applicants have been accepted for courses in September – a rise of 5.8 per cent on last year and higher than the previous record set in 2005.

There is an increase in applications and acceptances of courses on maths, physics, chemistry and modern foreign language courses, areas where the Government has wanted to safeguard student numbers after years of decline.

The figures are likely to increase pressure from leading universities for a relaxation of the ceiling on top-up fees.

Gloucestershire Uni to abolish first year exams

Gloucestershire University has announced plans to abolish all first year exams for its undergraduates. The university's Vice Chancellor, Patricia Broadfoot said, "Students have an instrumentalist attitude to study, and we want to move away from that. We want to see them excited by study, and exams contradict that." The Higher Education Supplement (THES) reports Broadfoot is one of many educationists who argued that other forms of assessment such as coursework are "more suitable for today's students."

LSE Careers Service to host International Organisations

The Careers Services is hosting an International Organisations' Day which will take place on campus all day on Saturday 27 October.

14 international organisations, including the UN and UNICEF, will be sending representatives to the event and will each give a 45-minute presentation about the work they do and the career opportunities on offer.

Robin Broadway of the Careers Service told *The Beaver* that it will be "The first time such an event has taken place."

This week in 2003



Concerns have again been raised over the perceived overcrowding of the LSE with the new term underway with packed lecture theatres, classes and school facilities. With students struggling to use packed facilities around the school fears have been voiced that academic standards are being undermined by a revenue driven surge in student numbers.

These worries have been strengthened by the widely circulated rumours that the School policy is to recruit an extra 500 students per year. Responding on behalf of the School, Andrew Farrell, Director of Finance and Facilities denied this, attributing it to what he termed a "misunderstanding." He continued by saying that "current forecasts assume that student numbers on existing programs will remain more or less the same for the next five years." He added that the numbers will grow from the 7952 currently registered for this academic year, as at the 17th October, to 8,500 by 2011-2012.

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Big names at launch of LSE's India Observatory

- Kamal Nath calls the LSE "Left-leaning but right-acting"
- Optimism for India's economic future in the next 20 years

Ruchika Tulshyan
News Editor

Mervyn King, Kamal Nath and Professor Nicholas Stern were amongst the high profile names that spoke at the LSE last Monday. The School hosted a public lecture entitled "India at 60 in a Changing World: next 20 years" to mark the launch of the LSE's India Observatory.

The talk took a critical view of India's economic growth over the last 60 years since her independence in 1947, with an optimistic forecast for the next 20 years.

Kamal Nath, India's Minister for Trade and Commerce, began by speaking of the strong ties between the LSE and India, adding that "the LSE has always been left leaning but right acting".

After an engaging opening, Nath insisted that India's formative years were not wasted and the first four decades after independence were vital for India's institution building and the economic growth it has been enjoying.

"The next phase of our reforms - part B of the phase which began in 1991 - will focus on reforms in governance. This is going to engage India with the global economy even more," he said.

Nath's evaluation of India was realistic. "I sometimes



East Meets West: a line-up of economists evaluate India

balk," he said, "at talk of India as the great economic powerhouse. India still has more people living on less than a dollar a day than all the Least Developed Countries put together." He ended by saying that India's second agricultural revolution would come when economic growth started to affect the lives of these 300 million people living on less than a dollar a day.

It was interesting to note how each speaker had a different approach to India's past and future. Dr Y V Reddy, Governor of the Reserve Bank

India still has more people living on less than a dollar a day than all the Least Developed Countries put together.
Kamal Nath
Indian Minister

of India, took an economist's stance on the subject, highlighting India's steady growth since independence and the achievement of a single digit inflation rate over the last 43 years.

O P Bhatt, Chairman of the State Bank of India, stated that India should not look towards becoming a super power, but operate on the principle that the world is one big family. He added that there were still massive investments and improvements to be made into infrastructure and health care facilities as well as land and

labour reforms.

Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England and Professor Nicholas Stern, I G Patel Chair in Government and Economics at the LSE, extended this discussion by mentioning the need for India's government to address issues of regional inequalities and social problems. King highlighted the fact that the Indian government currently spends less than 2 per cent of GDP on investment into health and education.

"India has a major role to play at the international level, whether it is at the IMF, WTO or the United Nations," he added.

Stern also warned of the severe effects global warming is likely to have on India. However, there was a general feeling of optimism regarding India's future, especially with Nath's statement: "I don't think you will have to wait for another 20 years to invite me here again," referring to the Sensex of the Bombay Stock Exchange crossing the historical mark of 19,000 points within a week of it breaking the 18,000 barrier.

The India Observatory has been launched to foster research related to India as well as a platform for knowledge exchange. It will be headed by Professor Nicholas Stern, who is also to become a life peer.



Union Jack

'Lettergate', they've dubbed it. The furious affair, which had arisen from a polemic piece of correspondence despatched to our nubile freshers by Union Fuehrer Baker-Maker, is stirring the shit out of the Union. Not since the glorious days of the 2005 AU Barrel had Jack witnessed an incident so contentious and divisive. The Union masses parted so cleanly, even Moses would have been proud.

The whirlwind of controversy forced the Union Reichstag to beat a hasty retreat behind their iron curtain and incessant smokescreen of witty rhetoric. The bullshit stacked so high in the LSESU, you needed wings to stay above it. But try telling that to Yid Al-Tittybum and DJ Smelldon. All they wanted was the truth. But, pardon Jack's tasteless film references, they couldn't handle the truth.

It got so big, the snotty bastards over at The Standard managed to get a whiff of a scoop and promptly swarmed all over the Union like blood-thirsty vultures. Ze Lunatic has got it made, hasn't he? With a propaganda machine of The Standard size, Lunatic's vitriolic passion shall know no bounds, and no Zionist parents would ever allow their chosen children to set foot into the final bastion of freedom. 1-0 to Palestine.

But wait a second. Winning? Do they really want to win? Winning means they would realise the Zionist doomsday scenario, after which they might say, "Oops, so they were right about fighting for their lives after all." But this isn't a zero-sum game innit? Since losers don't understand the concept of peace, isn't a draw the best result? Jack pondered long and hard about this zen shit while the UGM launched into its second edition for the year.

The reputed political tour de force went along rather flatly, until the weekly rag to which Jack is enslaved to got dragged into the volatile mix. The UGM audience rose in rapturous applause when Angler Dilwyn Fisher peppered Kevin N'Perry with a stinging broadside, accusing the Beaver Executor of blatant prejudice. But N'Perry was not prepared to concede his ground to a mop-head angler. He instinctively delivered a succinct yet passionate defence, effectively condoning the sleazy behaviour of his LooSE-cannon commentator Chink Wong.

'Lettergate...lettergate...' Jack's disjointed train of thought suddenly struck gold. Jack oh Jack, how brilliant is he. He's overwhelmed with a brilliant brainwave he just had, thanks to his scheming surveys of the juicy inner Union workings from the safety of his voyeuristic perch. A book, Jack shall pen a book. Jack can see it now...the New Yoke Times number one bestseller, All The Fuehrer's Men, co-written with Yid "Woodward" Al-Tittybum and DJ "Bernstein" Smelldon. The royalties from this upcoming explosive tell-all shall fill Jack's coffers. Go forth you loyal minions, line Waterstones with eager anticipation. Jack wants you to fill his pockets.

Letter dispute rumbles on

Michael Deas
News Editor

The *Evening Standard* and the *Jewish Chronicle* have both published stories on the controversial Palestine Twinning letter sent to Freshers. The headline "Israel is killing children, LSE union tells Freshers" appeared in the *Evening Standard* on Thursday 18 October.

The mainstream press is believed to have picked up on the story following the publishing of the letter on Facebook by Dan Sheldon. He told *The Beaver*, "The recent media interest is a result of me releasing the original letter onto Facebook, and was not proactively sought by me or anyone else, as far as I know. The press coverage has highlighted how serious an error of judgement this letter was, and we still believe that a full apology and retraction from the SU Executive Committee is the best way of drawing a line under this issue."

As *The Beaver* reported last week, some members of the student body have argued that the letter sent to Freshers publicising the twinning of the Students' Union (SU) with the Union of An-Najah University in Palestine, which referred to the Israeli Defence Force as the "Israeli Occupation Forces", contained bias. It was also claimed that the letter did not appear to have been authorised by the SU's Executive Committee.

Students Officer and President of LSESU Palestine Society, Ziyaad Lunat, who helped draft the letter to Freshers, told *The Beaver*, "It's good to know that some individuals took our UGM mandate (to promote a wider understanding of the impact of the Israeli occupation on education in Palestinian universities) at heart, helping us bring attention to Israel's crimes to a wider audience. Any sensible person would agree that Israel indeed kills Palestinian children, 896 children to be precise, since the year 2000 to this very day."

On Friday, the SU Executive released a response to a letter of complaint printed in last week's edition of *The Beaver*. The Executive's letter, printed on page 10, apologises "for any offence caused by the letter sent to undergraduate students".

It also explains further the process by which the letter to Freshers was created, saying that the previous Sabbatical team approved the idea of publicising the twinning in the Freshers handbook.

The apology also disregards questions as to why the Twinning Taskforce was not consulted over the letter as "superfluous", stating that the Executive Committee was solely responsible for publicising the Right to Education campaign.

However, former Communications Officer Ali Dewji told *The Beaver* last week, "I have at no point whatsoever implicitly or explicitly condoned the sending of information about anything to do with Palestine or the Right to Education campaign to incoming Freshers."

Furthermore, no member of the Executive Committee has been able to prove having seen a copy of the letter before it was sent out, adding weight to claims from opponents of the letter that it was not approved through proper channels.

Two members of the Executive Committee, Women's Officer Daisy Mitchell-Forster and Postgraduate Officer James Caspell, did not sign the letter.

Caspell told *The Beaver*, "I refused to sign the apology as the original letter was clearly within the mandate of both the Executive Committee and the Twinning Taskforce - as C&S

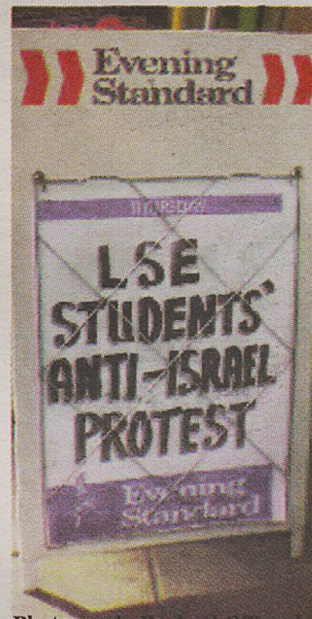
The offence was entirely political and the precedent any apology sets is worrying

James Caspell
Postgraduate
Officer

have since ruled.

"The offence was entirely political and the precedent that any apology sets is worrying. We don't apologise for 'offence' caused to American citizens when condemning US imperialism, nor to Chinese citizens when condemning their human rights record. The Israeli state is not immune from similar criticism and I am proud to be part of a Union that fights for the right to education for the Palestinian people."

Friday's statement is only a response to the letter in last week's edition of *The Beaver* and not the formal apology referred to by General Secretary Fadhil Baker Markar at last week's UGM.



Photograph: Rachael O'Rourke

WTO talk overshadowed by ongoing impasse

David Osborn

Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), spoke in the Shaw Library last Monday. Peter Sutherland, former Director-General of the WTO, joined Lamy. The event, titled "Why services are crucial for concluding the WTO Doha Round", was sponsored by the European Services Forum and became quite spirited at times.

The majority of Lamy's prepared speech was about negotiations regarding service market liberalisation during the current round of WTO negotiations, the Doha Development Round. However, the subject of services was overshadowed even before Lamy spoke. During Sutherland's address he forcefully opined that the Doha Round was in a severe crisis and that he doubted the talks would succeed.

There was a marked difference between Sutherland's heated statements and Lamy's calm, deliberate comments. During his prepared statement Lamy gave an overview of the current state of service negotiations in the Doha round and the importance of services in the world economy. He said that "we live in the age of the services revolution" and that service negotiations were to be crucial to successful completion of the Doha Round. However, he went on to say that "the negotiating reality of the Doha Round is that agricultural subsidies, agricultural tariffs and industrial tariffs are the gateway issues".

It was around these issues that the more lively moments of

Photograph: David Osborn



Pascal Lamy at the LSE last week

the evening revolved. During the public questioning Sutherland reiterated his early concerns, spoke harshly of the member driven nature of the organization and questioned the willingness of developing countries to complete the round. Lamy, however, continued diplomatically. While acknowledging the challenges ahead, he expressed personal optimism that the talks would be successfully concluded.

Begun in Doha, Qatar in November 2001, the negotiations have been plagued by controversy. During 2003 the Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico was marked by large demonstrations and the emergence of the 'Group of 20' developing countries, which refused to move forward without serious reduction of EU and US agricultural subsidies. During the protests outside of the summit a South Korean farmer, Lee Kyung Hae, com-

mitted suicide to protest against agricultural subsidies, wearing a sign that read, "WTO kills farmers".

Again during the Conference in Hong Kong in 2005 there were large demonstrations and violent clashes between protestors and police. A further round of talks this year in Potsdam, Germany attempted to break the impasse on agricultural issues without success.

Originally to be completed in 2005 the negotiations now aim to conclude by 2010. Significant speculation remains that even this deadline will be pushed back. Continuing disagreement over a variety of issues, the expiration of Fast Track Authority legislation this year in the US, the highly contested US Presidential elections in 2008 and the Indian elections of 2009 all present further political obstacles.

The controversy of this round of negotiations and the extent to which the talk last Monday strayed from service related issues to the wider problems of the Doha Round, underscore the intense debate regarding trade liberalisation and the question of unequal benefits for developed and developing countries.

Lamy acknowledged this situation. "We are living through a period of global uncertainty and apprehension in both developed and developing countries," he said.

"Moments of changing tides are among the most difficult for policy makers. The temptation to resist change is high - particularly as the voices clamouring for protection tend to shout louder than those supportive of further opening. But it must be clear that change and opening - especially in services trade - are key to economic growth."

The temptation to resist change is high...but it must be clear that change and opening - especially in services trade - are key to economic growth

Pascal Lamy
Director-General of the WTO

LSE research reveals UK's mobile addiction

Jamie Mason

Could you survive without your mobile? New research suggests that a significant proportion of young Britons could not.

A Europe wide study of mobile phone usage, conducted by the LSE and the Carphone Warehouse, found that a quarter of people in the UK between the ages of 16 and 25 are addicted to their mobile phones. In contrast, fewer than one in ten Germans claimed to hold such an attachment.

The report suggests that Britain is becoming obsessed with text messaging. The average UK user now sends more than five text messages every day, with no other European nation averaging more than four. However, in the sending and receiving of sexually explicit texts the UK is beaten into second place by Sweden.

The UK's devotion to mobiles does not mean that ownership is above the rest of Europe - in fact, Britons on average own the fewest phones compared to the other European nations surveyed. Spain came out top with an incredible one in every three people owning two phones.

The survey shows Europeans to be technological enthusiasts. One in two Europeans have used Bluetooth on their phone and a slightly smaller proportion have used their phone for Internet access. "Mobile phone fever grips the continent of Europe just as it grips Britain, but it does so in a variety of different ways," said Lord Gould, Visiting Professor in the Media Department at the LSE.

The French fare particularly badly in the report's findings on mobile etiquette. Nearly 30% of those surveyed from France admitted to having ended a relationship by text message, over three times high-

er than the other European nations. They were also the worst offenders at talking on the phone during a romantic meal and lying through text messages.

The study found few differences between men and women when it comes to mobile usage and Dr Lars Sørensen, the lead LSE academic behind the report, noted that age is important. He noted that "younger people are much more likely to report a more intense relationship with their mobile phone than older generations".

Perhaps the most unexpected finding of the study was with regard to how many people recycle their phones. Unexpectedly the UK dominated this category with Britain recycling 43 per cent of its phones, well above the European average of 33 per cent.

In Numbers

20% of Europeans admit to sending sexually explicit texts - Swedes send the most

25% of young Britons are "addicted to their mobile phone"

30% of French have ended a relationship by text message

43% of British phones are recycled

50% of Europeans make use of mobile Bluetooth technology

70% of Britons think that text messaging has made lying more common

Students to have their own minister

Rajan Patel
News Editor

A former student radical is to become the first 'Minister for Students'. The move is intended to give the UK's 2.3 million students a stronger voice within government.

In 1968, David Triesman - then a student at the University of Essex - broke up a meeting addressed by a prominent scientist from the controversial military research base, Porton Down. Triesman was suspended from the University, but a week of protests by staff and students ended in his reinstatement.

Now Lord Triesman, a Labour peer with experience at the Foreign Office and in higher education policy, has to initiate a dialogue with students about their experience at university.

The *Guardian* newspaper reports that the minister will chair a 'National Student Forum' made up of representatives from the National Union of Students, the National Postgraduate Committee, the National Bureau of Students with Disabilities and international students' organisations.

This forum will meet four

times a year to discuss issues affecting students' welfare. Five 'student juries' will also be set up to consider student finance, the need to widen access and other key concerns. Ministers will make regular visits to university campuses across the country for first-hand experience of students' issues.

Speaking to *The Beaver*, Triesman said: "I think the three processes for gathering student advice and opinion will fit together in a serious way...I know from experience it will keep us on our toes."

In response to doubts over the National Student Forum's ability to make a difference to students' university experience, Triesman stated: "I have asked that it [the Forum] produces an annual report with recommendations and have given an undertaking that the report will be published and so will the detailed government response to the recommendations. In that way everyone will judge how seriously we take the points made."

However, Simeon Underwood, Academic Registrar at the LSE, noted that the Government's announcement was "short on detail, especially on how the government will ensure that the feedback it gets is acted

Photograph: Foreign and Commonwealth Office



Lord Triesman, the first Minister for Students

on". He added, "There is a very great deal of information available about what students want. Universities, including LSE, take this input very seriously. We are glad that the government is following the institutions' lead. But I am not sure that the devices they are proposing will fully reflect the very wide range of student

views and voices."

Gemma Tumelty, President of the National Union of Students, gave strong support to the idea, stating: "We're delighted the government is willing to listen to the voice of the learner in its approach to education. A student's learning experience should be central to any education policy change."

Hurwicz wins Nobel

Rachael O'Rourke

LSE alumnus Professor Leonid Hurwicz has been awarded this year's Nobel Prize for Economics; at 90, he is the oldest person ever to become a Nobel Laureate.

This is the fourteenth time someone who has studied or taught at the LSE has won a Nobel Prize, and the tenth winner of the Economics award, after luminaries such as Friedrich von Hayek, Ronald Coase and Amartya Sen.

The University of Minnesota professor shares his prize with fellow Americans Eric Maskin and Roger Myerson, in recognition for his work pioneering 'mechanism design' theory, a complex topic in game theory with applications as varied as the design of auctions, welfare policy and even pairing medical school graduates with internships.

Mechanism design focuses on creating procedures of interaction for individuals within an economic system, rather than accepting constraints of behaviour in a system as given. It then attempts to create the optimal situation subject to those constraints.

This theory allows econo-

mists to tackle problems in which competitive markets or centrally-planned economies fail to create adequate solutions, for example in designing an ideal system for taxation and public spending.

Hurwicz fled the political system of his native Russia with his family in 1919 and came to the LSE in 1938 after taking a second-year Economics course as part of his LLM degree at the University of Warsaw. The *Economics* journal of the University of Minnesota notes that his level of English at the time was "rudimentary", but that he always chose to take the classes of the one professor he could understand, a Hungarian - the great Nicholas Kaldor - who "had a worse accent than [Hurwicz] did".

After completing his course in London, Hurwicz moved to Geneva for further study. He fled Europe as a Jewish refugee from Hitler and emigrated to America, where he continues to teach and write papers.

When interviewed by the Nobel Foundation, Hurwicz told them that he was particularly pleased to see his work influencing welfare economics and that he hoped "others who deserve it also got it".

Students take Living Wage campaign to Citigroup

Michael Deas
News Editor

LSE Citizens for Social Justice took part in a demonstration that called for cleaners at Citigroup to be paid the Living Wage, which was recently implemented at LSE, last Wednesday. Protesters attended an Open Evening for LSE students considering a career with the bank at its Canary Wharf headquarters to hand out leaflets explaining the cleaners' plight and request a meeting with the member of staff responsible for cleaning staff.

The action, co-ordinated by London Citizens for Social Justice in conjunction with the Transport and General Workers Union (T&G), was taken after Citigroup failed to respond to a letter requesting a meeting to discuss the implementation of the Living Wage.

Cleaners are currently paid £6.70 but campaigners and the T&G argue that this is an insufficient sum for an acceptable standard of living, especially given the high cost of living in London. The Living Wage, a sum calculated by the Mayor's Office based on the price of household shopping and average wage levels, currently stands at £7.20.

Sam Causton, Chairman of LSE Citizens for Social Justice told *The Beaver*, "We have a

Photograph: David Osborn



particular role to play in this multi-dimensional campaign in the City. The T&G can organise the workforce, London Citizens members can hold demonstrations and LSE Citizens for Social Justice can make our fellow students, who may be considering working at institutions that do not pay a living wage, aware of these unethical policies."

Many of the attendees of the Open Evening were sympathetic to the cleaners situation once it was explained to them, demonstrators claimed. The

protest was well-natured and the demonstrators, wearing suits, were allowed to hand out leaflets for nearly an hour before being asked to leave.

Representatives from the campaign were also able to discuss the possibility of holding a meeting with Citigroup with a senior staff member, who pledged to investigate the possibility of such a meeting.

Emmanuel Sillan, a representative for the Transport and General Workers Union, thanked students for their support and said they played an

important role in "holding giant institutions responsible and making them aware of the world around them."

Citigroup told the *Observer*, who featured the campaign and Sam Causton on Sunday, "We are in discussion with our cleaner partners regarding the rates workers are paid."

Pressure from London Citizens has already forced Barclay's and HSBC into adopting the Living Wage.

An open letter to Citigroup and LSE Students considering working for them is on page 9.

Chairman of C&S resigns

Patrick Cullen
Senior Reporter

On 14 October, James Ketteringham, then chair of the LSE Students' Union (LSESU) Constitution and Steering Committee (C&S), resigned. The abrupt nature of his resignation followed three weeks of dispute within C&S regarding his ability to control the meetings.

Ketteringham maintains that his decision to resign was taken as a result of what he saw as a "plot" to unseat him by the vice-chair, Andy Hallett,

and Elle Dodd. Ketteringham told *The Beaver* that he felt "undermined both during and outside meetings" and that the behaviour of Hallett and Dodd seemed to have indicated an attempt to "take my job". He added that he did not enjoy resigning, as it had hurt the people involved, but that he felt he had to "hit back" and draw attention to what had happened.

The *Beaver* spoke to Dodd, who rejected outright "all allegations that I was plotting in any way...against any current or former member of C&S."

UGM Motions 18 October 2007

- Extend Governance Review deadline to end of this year
- Support the rights of the Burmese people and protestors
- Democracy in SU societies (mandate Returning Officer to investigate "unconstitutional" conduct by societies)

Paul Collier speaks on development

Rachael O'Rourke

Oxford Economics Professor Paul Collier explained the argument of his book "The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries Are Failing and What Can Be Done About It" to a packed the Old Theatre last Thursday.

The book focuses on ending the economic stagnation of 58 countries that together contain a billion of the world's people. Collier described four "traps", the difficulties commonly embedded in the countries of the "bottom billion" conflict; being landlocked if the country is resource scarce; having a small, generally undereducated population; and being high in natural resources.

Collier identified resource abundance as the most significant and complex issue, noting that good governance is key to ensuring the gains from resource extraction benefit the nation as a whole.

Collier also advocates selective protectionism by North American and European nations against certain industries in parts of Asia in order to promote manufacturing export "clusters" in Africa.

Collier acknowledged that much of his strategy depends on a radical change in thinking from NGOs and government, which he sees as being influenced by uninformed popular opinion.

LSE rejects Burgess Report Proposals

Henry Lodge

The Burgess Report recommended that the degree classification system be changed from the 200-year old First, 2.1, 2.2 and Third structure, which it called "not fit for purpose", to a more detailed breakdown of marks that may include individual module scores.

The report is a result of a three-year inquiry commissioned by Universities UK and the Guild of Higher Education, led by the Vice-Chancellor of Leicester University, Bob Burgess, and comes amid rising concerns about degree inflation.

Last year, 61% of graduates gained 1sts or 2.1s, compared to 55% in 2000.

The LSE is opposed to the proposals put forward by the 68-page report, entitled "Measuring and Recording Student Achievement". Simon Underwood, the Academic Registrar, said, "The School already does most of what is recommended in the Burgess report, including the core of the Burgess proposals. We give our graduates transcripts that are fuller than those issued by many other institutions; and we were among the first UK universities to produce the Diploma Supplements...the School opposed the initial Burgess proposals for changes to the classification system, as

did many other universities and most employers' groups."

However, Underwood's words conflict slightly with reports in the *Financial Times* last Tuesday that many employers back the report, including Ernst & Young, a target company for many LSE graduates. It is clear that there is difficulty in selecting people to fill positions in other sectors as well.

Caroline Hurford, spokesperson for the World Food Programme, the largest humanitarian department in the UN, said that it was "extremely unlikely" for them to hire anyone without a First and relevant Masters degree.

The report's proposals may help employers inundated with candidates to hire without having to request an extra year of higher education.

Although some students were nervous about the implicit disappearance of the lower-boundary First, many appeared broadly in favour of the changes. Charlie Hodgson, a first year who may be affected if the report's findings are implemented, as projected, around 2010, said that the proposals were "reasonable." He added that "just because the system is 200 years old, doesn't mean it's the best".

Brian Gelfard, a General Course student said, "Why not give employers a better way of distinguishing between graduates?"

New development offers luxury 'cubes'

Simon Wang
Senior Reporter

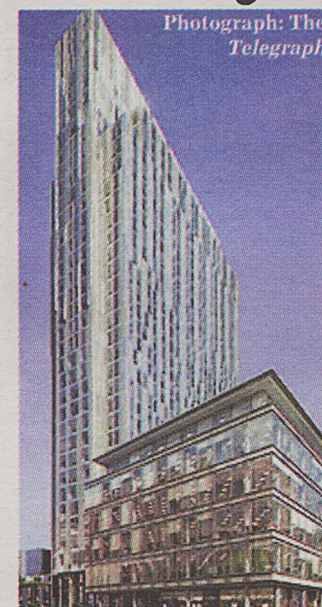
Student housing company Nido has announced plans to build a 33 storey glass tower for student housing, in conjunction with construction company Interior Services Group.

Construction of the building, which will house more than 1200 students on Middlesex Street - near Spitalfields market and Liverpool Street station - is due to start imminently and will finish in 2010.

Nido is planning to offer the accommodation to students at all of London's universities, although it is understood the group will target more affluent foreign students at Kings College and the LSE.

Nido opened its first hall of residence - on Pentonville Road, near Kings Cross station - in September 2007 and the proposed construction on Middlesex Street will be similar. Students at the Kings Cross Nido live in 135 to 184 square foot "cubes", with a shared cube costing £120 per week and a single cube £180 per week, inclusive of bills. Nido has stated that rents at the new development will be comparable.

Anup Patel, a Second year Geography with Economics



Artist's impression of new Nido

undergraduate who lives at a Nido residence, said: "Nido is very good, [the] room is modern and well equipped, although expensive at £210 week but it's still getting good value. It is geared for students with more money than your average student...[but] the place is a bit dead on the social side, too many people from different London universities and a lot of overseas students mixing in their own groups."

Speaking to the *Telegraph* newspaper, Roland Shanks, of

University of London Housing services, said: "£180 a week is very much at the top end of the rent scale. For that sort of price, you can get a properly-sized studio flat in the centre of town, measuring something like 30ft by 12ft (Nido cubes are 16ft by 9ft). As for a room in a shared flat, we've got some on our website for £59 a week in Finchley and £85 a week in London SE16 (Rotherhithe)."

The Beaver understands that some Nido residents are unhappy that unfinished construction work has caused disruption. The fitness centre, advertised as one of Nido Kings Cross' major features, is due to open to students at the end of this month.

Louise Robinson, the LSE Students' Union (LSESU) Residences Officer, noted: "Nido and other private halls are clearly more expensive and less welfare orientated than those offered by universities, but with the ridiculously high prices that students are willing to pay more must be done by university accommodation offices to provide more affordable solutions to widen access."

"Student loans are completely inadequate in covering these costs - the NUS should reinvent its campaigning and return to issues which directly affect and interest students - like living costs."

A GUIDE TO YOUR UNION

SABBATICAL OFFICERS

General Secretary



Fadhil Bakeer Markar

The face of the Union

Chairs the Students' Union (SU) Executive Committee

Responsible for co-ordinating and publicising SU "campaigns and committees"

Sits on School committees and liaises with the School.

Provides advice on all welfare matters

Responsible for the SU Academic Affairs policy

Represents individual students at School panels/committees

Education & Welfare Officer



Ruhana Ali

In charge of SU finance
Chairs the Finance and Services Committee

Presents the budget at the Annual Budget Meeting in the ninth week of MT

Oversees all SU staff

Organises Freshers' Fair and oversees all SU societies

Responsible for informing the student body on the SU

Raises money for the SU through advertising

Produces SU handbooks

Coordinates SU Weeks

Convener of the SU Media Group

Communications Officer



Kayt Berry

Treasurer



Libby Meyer

STUDENTS' UNION (SU) STAFF

Gethin Roberts, SU General Manager
Advises the Executive Committee

Sam Kung, Finance Manager
Works with the Treasurer on finance matters
In charge of the SU Copy Shop

Alice Kington, Societies Manager
The go-to person for all society problems
Produces the Societies Handbook

Patience Orbituaro
In charge of the SU's catering

'Bang Bang', Entertainments Officer
Organises Crush

Kate Slay
SU Shop Manager

Jim Fagan
Three Tuns Manager

Shana Hyder
SU Advice and Counselling Centre

June Maeda
SU Reception

ACADEMIC BOARD

The principle academic body of the LSE
Discusses all major academic policy affecting the School and its development
Four student representatives are elected in Week 4 of Michaelmas Term

COURT OF GOVERNORS

Body of School staff, academics and external representatives
First place of discussion for key matters of School policy
Deals with some constitutional matters
Student representatives are elected in Week 4 of Michaelmas Term

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Societies Officer



Carys Morgan

Liaises between the SU and societies
Provides information on all society issues

International Students Officer



Firoz Noordeen

Represents the interests of international students
Chairs the termly International Students Forum
Organises Global Week

Women's Officer



Daisy Mitchell-Forster

Champions equal opportunities for students
Chairs the bi-weekly SU Women's Forum and organises Women's Week
Delivers information regarding female safety on and off campus.

Students with Disabilities Officer



Lizzie Fison

Ensures equal opportunities for disabled students
Chairs the Students With Disabilities Forum
Organises Disability Awareness Week

Environment and Ethics Officer



Aled Dilwyn Fisher

Responsible for the development and implementation of the Union's environmental policy
Chairs the termly Environment and Ethics Forum
Co-ordinates the annual Environment Week

Postgraduate Students Officer

To be elected in Michaelmas Term
Chairs the Postgraduate Students Forum

Liaises with the Ed & Welfare Officer and the National Postgraduate Committee

Anti-Racism Officer



Amina Adewusi

Advises students on discrimination
Chairs the Anti-Racism forum and organises the Anti-Racism Week

General Course Students Representative

To be elected in Michaelmas Term
Helps General Course students get involved in the SU
Non voting member

Athletics Union President



Residences Officer



Louise Robinson

Sits on Residences User Group
Liaises between SU and Halls' Student Committees

Mature & Part-time Students Officer



Ziyaad Lunat

Ensures the welfare and representation of part-time and mature students
Sits on various committees
Chairs the ad hoc forum

LGBT Officer



Dominic Rampat

Liaises with and helps the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Society
Runs LGBT Awareness Week

Returning Officer



James Bacon

Organises SU Elections
Introducing online voting for this year

Daniel Holness

Liaises between the School, the SU and the AU
Non voting member

FINANCE AND SERVICES COMMITTEE (F&S)

Controls the day-to-day financial affairs of the SU
Ensures the overall development and co-ordination of Union services
Researches alternative sources of income for the SU
With approval from the Executive Committee, may make arrangements to borrow money on behalf of the SU

CONSTITUTION AND STEERING COMMITTEE (C&S)

Ensures that the activities of the Union are compatible with the SU Constitution
Arbitrates on all constitutional disputes
Advises on UGM motions/rulings and counts votes at the Union General Meeting
The final court of appeal for election disputes
Currently undertaking a Governance Review

UNION GENERAL MEETING (UGM)



There are, in fact, four types of UGM. These are:

1. The weekly UGM, held in the Old Theatre on Thursdays from 1-2pm
Open to all members of the SU, who can debate and vote on Motions and question Union officers.
2. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Week 10 of Lent Term
General Secretary presents the Annual Report
Treasurer submits a budget
Returning Officer announces the results of the Lent elections
3. The Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) can be convened at the written request of 50 members of the SU.
4. The Annual Budget Meeting in Week 9 of Michaelmas Term, which discusses the budget and any amendments submitted by members of the Union.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

How I learnt to stop worrying



Chun Han Wong

A friend once told me that there are two types of LSE students. The first kind dream of fast cars, gorgeous garments, luxurious mansions and exotic holidays of sinful indulgence. They study economics, mathematics and accounting, graduate with good grades and promptly throw themselves into the capricious hordes of number-crunching private-sector bureaucrats.

The rest of the lot fall into a nebulous group of superhero wannabes. They revel in bedtime stories about how anyone can save orphans, refugees, British politics and perhaps the entire world. They then follow up on these childhood dreams with fervour and determined action, participating in campaigns and striving for good causes.

Given my pursuit of a History degree and abysmal mental capacities with regards to algebraic equations, I probably should belong in the second group. So I try my best to fit in, and like any self-respecting LSE student who wants to be Captain Planet when he or she grows up, I grab my daily dose of world news from the ever-reliable news bul-

The ghastly spectre of 'the bomb' has haunted humanity incessantly, and recent events serve only to remind us of its undying presence

letins of the BBC. What better source is there to learn the latest of worthy causes, not least on my pet topic of nuclear disarmament?



Even by DoD's conservative estimates, at least one serious nuclear weapon accident takes place every year

But while visiting the Beeb website last week to discover the world in two minutes, my world came crashing down with the horrific news that Iran's chief nuclear programme negotiator, Ali Larijani, had called it quits. His excuse? Not enough cojones to resist President Ahmadinejad's persistent hardline stance, which was slightly at odds with his own

preference for the soft-sell.

Alas, a cruel blow to American hopes of torpedoing the Iranian nuclear programme in its infancy. Even Russia has upped the ante on this one, with Putin's expressions of solidarity with his beleaguered comrades in Tehran. While I lament the dark clouds that shroud our hopes for nuclear non-proliferation, the pundit in me advises you to place bets on the 1981 air strike on the Osirak reactor being spectacularly re-run in the foreseeable future.

Peering closer into the Americans' diplomatic lambasting of Great Leader Kim and President Ahmadinejad, I then uncovered the true meaning behind the Western quest for non-proliferation. Wielding extensive military and economic influence with the power to inflict indiscriminate devastation is no easy business. Therefore, the rest of the world should keep their hands off and place confidence in the great powers' technological expertise and ability to safely maintain the weapons that have kept the peace for us since 1945 (peace from hegemonic wars, as a neo-conser-

vative once qualified this statement to me).

Proud as I was of my fabulous new theory on nuclear proliferation and its regrettably bellicose effects on international relations, my wildly optimistic dreams of a first-class dissertation died a pitiable stillborn death. Several links down the BBC webpage, I learnt that a US Air Force B-52 had recently flown half a dozen nuclear-tipped cruise missiles across North America. Rather unfortunately, their payload of Armageddon was left attached, with each warhead packing five to 150 kilotonnes of radioactive wallop. Goodness knows what might have happened had the bomber crashed and its ghastly cargo leaked into the atmosphere. Following a six-week witch-hunt, Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne placidly described the incident as "an unacceptable mistake and a clear deviation from our [USAF's] exacting standards."

It then struck me how close the world came to an apocalyptic end not too long ago, when the suave Christian Slater halted the

murderous plans of deranged B-2 bomber pilot John Travolta. *Broken Arrow*, they called that escapade. A quick Wikipedia search promptly reminded me that it was merely an action movie, but being the studious LSE eager-beaver that I am, I delved deeper into the US military's nuclear-bungling past.

A 'Broken Arrow', as the US Department of Defence (DoD) describes any nuclear accident that does not carry the risk of nuclear war, is not as rare as we would like to believe. The Centre for Defence Information website revealed that from 1950 to 1980, the US military documented at least 32 serious nuclear-related accidents. "We live in fame or go down in flame," proclaims the USAF

anthem. But clearly they do both simultaneously, as their extensive lead in the accident count demonstrates.

How many bullets, from the Americans at least, have we dodged since then? Perhaps ignorance is bliss. The paper-pushers in the five-sided fortress have not released any records since 1980, but DoD's conservative estimates indicate that at least one serious nuclear weapon accident takes place every year.

I breathed a sigh of relief. Now that the quota for 2007 has been met, we can expect some peace and quiet in the months ahead. Meanwhile, I shall start a Facebook cause calling for reductions in the nuclear powers' doomsday arsenals. Give and take, it's only fair. You do not ask others to follow when you refuse to lead. But I'm not hasty to call for full disarmament, since that got us nowhere back in 1919. Neither do I appreciate some French commandos putting a hole in my boat should I ever go on a holiday cruise. I, for one, learn my lessons from history.



Accolade diplomacy



Sami Quraishy

In his last will written in 1895, Alfred Nobel requested that the Peace Prize which would be awarded in his name be given "to the person who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between the nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

That this year's Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in part to Albert Arnold Gore Jr. surprised a few people. Just what the Nobel Committee saw in Al Gore's actions will be endlessly debated on, and rightly so. There are certainly more deserving individuals who could have received the award, not least the Burmese monks whose defiance against their country's military dictatorship had captured the imagination of the world, or the Zimbabwean opposition leaders who were arrested and, in some instances, beaten by police whilst protesting peacefully against Robert Mugabe's

Awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize has often been primed with controversy, and its overtly political overtones has surfaced once more

military regime.

Gore's ticket to Oslo was his documentary entitled *An Inconvenient Truth*, which has picked up an Oscar and won plaudits from environmentalists worldwide. But in the British High Court, just a few days before the announcement of the Nobel Prize winners, its questionable connection to truth was highlighted by Justice Michael Barton.

Justice Barton identified nine statements within the former US Vice-President's film that are either mistaken or unsubstantiated. The judge ruled that the film could be shown in schools provided that it is accompanied by material to balance

Gore's "one-sided" views. Commenting on Gore's claim that sea-levels could rise by up to 20 feet due to the melting of icecaps of either West Antarctica or Greenland, Justice Barton said that, "the Armageddon scenario he predicts, insofar as it suggests that sea level rises of seven metres might occur in the immediate future, is not in line with the scientific consensus."

Apart from the fact that the documentary exaggerates the threats of global warming, how exactly does it support world peace?

"Indications of changes in the Earth's future climate must be treated with the utmost seriousness, and with the precautionary principle uppermost in our minds," warned the Nobel Committee in its Peace Prize citation for Al Gore and the



The Nobel Committee has, not for the first time, taken a direct swipe at the US administration under George W. Bush

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "Extensive climate changes may alter and threaten the living conditions of much of mankind. They may induce large-scale migration and lead to greater competition for the earth's resources. Such changes will place particularly heavy burdens on the world's most vulnerable coun-

tries. There may be increased danger of violent conflicts and wars, within and between states."

In other words, the Nobel Committee believes that if we start caring more about the environment and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, this will stop climate change and there will be less chance of war. Personally, I find this argument very far-fetched.

If we start forcing countries to cut greenhouse emissions, this in itself may burden the world's most vulnerable countries. Developing countries require oil to industrialise, and if we try and hinder their needs, it could be argued that we are more likely to create war rather than peace.

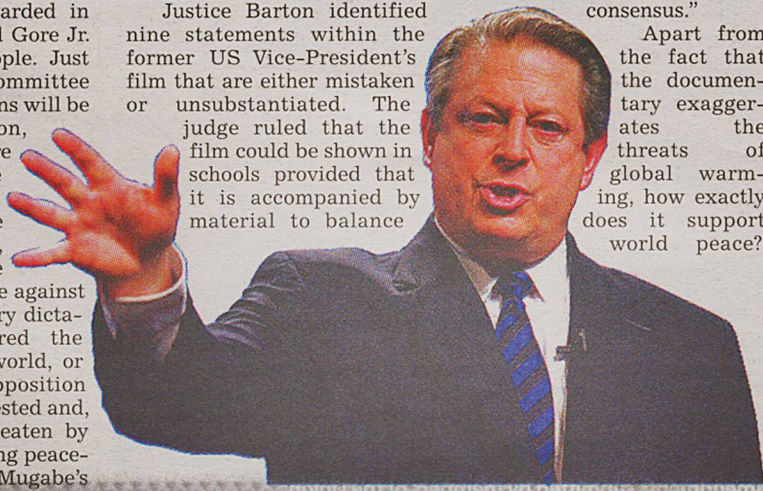
Then again, it is not as if peace matters much to the Nobel Committee. Alfred Nobel himself invented dynamite, which is not exactly the most peaceful of innovations. It is an invention often used in armed conflicts since the 19th century. The motives behind his creation of the prize were not very noble either. In 1888, a French newspaper denounced him as a "merchant of death" in an erroneously published obituary, having mistakenly believed that Alfred had died instead of his brother, Ludwig. Nobel, not pleased by this, tried to clear his name and suppress all information about the horrors brought upon the world by the explosives produced in his factories. The suc-

cessful public relations campaign by Nobel and his friends meant that after his death in 1896, all obituaries were written positively and all the undesirable information about him was covered up.

While other Nobel Prize winners are chosen by a panel of experts in the relevant fields and announced in Stockholm, the winner of the Peace Prize is picked by a five-member committee selected by the Norwegian parliament and is announced in Oslo. Hence, the prize has always carried with it some political connotations, although it is not clear why Alfred Nobel decided that the Prize be awarded by a Norwegian committee.

Arguably, all the selections reflect a very European mindset. Perhaps then, the awarding of the Prize to Al Gore should not have come as such a great surprise. By selecting Gore, the Nobel Committee has, not for the first time, taken a direct swipe at the US administration under George W. Bush. In 2002, the Peace Prize went to Jimmy Carter, a vocal critic of the Bush administration. Two years ago, the accolade went to Mohamed El Baradei, who was under fire from the Bush administration for his criticism of their claims about Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction.

All we can hope for now is that the Committee has not distracted us from a serious debate on global warming.



COMMENT & ANALYSIS

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All the world's a stage...



Molly Tucker

The new media grants the layman easy access to a global audience, but is it right for news agencies to propagate uninformed opinions?

Who knew the Queen was a rugby fan, eh? Well, apparently the South African squad, who must have been delighted to be told by Her Majesty (in what must be one of her more tactless moments) what an excellent kicker she thought Wilkinson was, and how keen she was that England win.

Diplomatic carelessness aside, what I find amazing about this was quite how much fuss her opinion caused: even if we disregard the fact that it was probably the one thing that could have had poor Jonny quaking any more in his golden boots, why do we care? She may be the Queen, but

she's hardly qualified to comment on whether any player is the key to anything, and we're jive suckers to listen at her elderly feet for drops of sporting wisdom.

I'm not trying to attack the Queen, really. It's not her fault that we as a nation are downright obsessed with making our voices heard, whether or not we know one whit about the topic at hand. My real issue is with the 'news' outlets that constantly ask for our opinions. Even the BBC, long considered a bastion of impartiality and benign bringers of tidings good and bad, nevertheless insist on carrying on with its inane campaign for the

idiot masses to "Have Your Say". Why? Why must we listen to what 'Dave' in Basildon has to say about how the bombings will affect Pakistan? What the hell does Dave have to say that could be of any use or in any way enlightening?

Some may call me elitist for this point of view, and honestly, I wish I was. I wish that out there, hundreds of thousands of ordinary Britons were sitting at home, hitherto unheard, just waiting for the chance to make their erudite and well-informed comments that would instantly shed light on the subject. However, although this may be true of some people, it mostly isn't.

For example, let us go to Ria, who had this to share on the BBC website:

"what life does Mrs Bhutto has with all those machine guns up in her face to protect her that's not life. She love politics that much? I wish her well and the Pakistan people. love to all."

we don't mix news and poetry more. It must be said, however, that the one I feel most sorry for is the BBC grunt who is assigned to review the comments posted for publication on the website; one wonders whether he or she has absolutely any hope for humanity left.

Personally, every time I open the opinion pages of any of the daily tabloids, I genuinely wonder what kind of cretinous city I live in. In a world where we must challenge the news we receive from even legitimate sources (and increasingly wonder which sources ARE legitimate anymore), why are we encouraging every idiot out there to add to the chaos? Putting these opinions in print, online and in broadcasts validates them.

Please don't tell me that citizen media makes everyone a journalist: we don't want everyone to be one. We should, and do expect the highest standards from our news outlets, and the only way they can achieve a fair, balanced, well-informed news is by being highly selective, and writing it so as to enable everyone to make up their own mind, free from bias.

I say: let the journalists do the writing and if you want to have your fill of badly spelt, under-informed and mildly racist commentary, find a cabbie. Any cabbie. But of course, you don't have to listen to me. That's just my opinion.

Please don't tell me that citizen media makes everyone a journalist: we don't want everyone to be one

Now, isn't this a refreshing antidote to ordinary, emotionless news journalism? If only every article on a disturbing subject wished all concerned well, and ended with love. Or if more articles were composed in verse rather than prose:

"Military power will continue to rule./Terrorism works./War is peace./Get on the bandwagon."

I find this to read like a sort of postmodernist journalistic haiku – such a shame that

The new media has rendered public speaking an obsolescent art form.



'Fresher Letter' Statement

Response from the Sabbatical and Executive Officers to last week's letter of complaint

We would like to make the following statement in response to the letter received on the 15th of October 2007 signed by 24 individuals.

We would like to take this opportunity to apologise for any offence caused by the letter sent to undergraduate students.

During the summer break the LSESU sent out a letter detailing the wider impact of the Israeli occupation on education in Palestinian universities. The letter was produced following the passing of the motion entitled "Twinning LSE SU with a Palestinian University" in January 2007. Paragraph 3 of the "Union resolves" section mandated the Union to "promote wider understanding of the impact of the Israeli occupation on education in Palestinian universities." The letter was believed to be a fulfilment of that mandate.

Previous sabbaticals had agreed during their term of office to place a section in the handbook dedicated to the issue. They had consulted Ziyaad Lunat as the proposer of the motion on this decision.

The Communications Officer received notice of this decision three days prior to the printing of the handbooks. It

was decided she was not able to facilitate the original request. The sabbatical team determined a letter to be an alternative medium of promotion.

Ziyaad Lunat, as proposer of the motion, was once again consulted and asked to draft the letter. The sabbatical team then agreed the content of the letter. Part-time Executive members made no changes to the draft prepared by Ziyaad Lunat.

The letter was then distributed, alongside the handbook, to first year undergraduate students. The welcome pack included a confirmation of their place at LSE and numerous other documents. The handbook detailed a number of other campaigns the LSESU were currently involved in.

The letter was at no point distributed to members of the ad-hoc twinning taskforce due to this not being within their mandate. Following the decision by C&S on the 15th of October 2007, stating that solely the LSESU Executive officers were charged with the mandate in paragraph 3 this statement is affirmed. We thus deem questions concerning the taskforce to be superfluous, with regard to the letter.

Both Fadhil Bakeer

Markar and Ziyaad Lunat signed the letter. The former signed as the principal representative of the LSESU, the General Secretary. The latter signed as the author of the letter, stating his title as both an officer of the Union and president of the Palestine society. The contact details for the society were provided due to members of the LSE SU Palestine Society having previously campaigned on the right to education for Palestinians. The email address allowed those feeling ardently, with regard to the impact of the Israeli occupation on education in Palestinian universities, to gain further information.

The letter also contained contact information for the LSESU itself in the upper right hand corner. Unfortunately due to an error only 7 digits of the telephone number appeared on at least one copy sent out to students. The letter however did detail the website address where telephone numbers and email addresses are available for all 4 sabbatical officers as well as a fax number. In addition the Handbook, sent alongside the letter in all cases contained comprehensive contact information for all Sabbatical and Part-time Executive Officers.

We therefore reject claims that students were unable to contact the Students' Union with regard to this matter.

The motion affiliates the LSESU with the Right to Education campaign whose aims can be found at <http://right2edu.birzeit.edu/>. Students are assured that no Union policy can be adopted unless passed by a majority at a quorate UGM. We therefore reject claims that Union policy has been devolved to a third party.

Whether we have overstepped our mandate or breached our equal opportunities policy is a decision for the Constitution and Steering (C&S) committee. We suggest you provide C&S with a written complaint clearly stating relevant sections of the letter you deem to be unconstitutional. We believe our actions to be in line with both our mandate and Equal Opportunities Policy.

We would like to reaffirm that the Union believes peace and reconciliation between the Israelis and Palestinians is vital. The Executive stands by actions in view of the mandate but would once again would like to take this opportunity to apologise for any offence caused by the letter sent to undergraduate students.

Fadhil Bakeer Markar
General Secretary

Libby Meyer
Treasurer

Kayt Berry
Communications Officer

Ruhana Ali
Education and Welfare Officer

Amina Adewusi
Anti-Racism Officer

Carys Morgan
Societies Officer

Aled Dilwyn Fisher
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Firoz Nordeen
International Students Officer

Ziyaad Lunat
Mature and Part-time Students Officer

Dominic Rampat
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Officer

Lizzie Fison
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Dan Holness
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Published since 1949.

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If you have written three or more articles for *The Beaver* and your name does not appear in the Collective, please email: thebeaver.editor@lse.ac.uk and you will be added to the list in next week's paper.

The Beaver is available in alternative formats.

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

COMMENT
& ANALYSIS

c&a@thebeaveronline.co.uk

The Beaver

Established 1949 - Issue 668

Constitution
investigation......provides more questions
than answers

The minutiae of Union constitutions may not seem like the most absorbing of news articles, but the ongoing confusion over the situation that many of our Union's societies find themselves in has helped to create an image of a Students' Union struggling to cope with the demands of the new academic year.

The Union's image has not been improved, of course, by the fact that several London newspapers have picked up on the story regarding the letter which was sent to Freshers informing them of our twinning with An Najah University. Students have had to witness the ignominy of seeing LSESU's name vilified by the city's press and political bloggers alike, and this newspaper hopes that the formal apology, which is printed opposite and which is signed by, amongst others, both of the signatories of the original letter, will draw a line under this incident.

The Sabbatical and Executive officers involved must now set about the business of repairing the reputation of this Students' Union, not just in the eyes of current students, but in the way that we are perceived by outsiders and prospective students alike. In previous weeks this newspaper has raised concerns over LSE's cavalier approach to advertising its MSc programme and dealing with subsequent complaints, and it is surely the least we can ask of our Union that first and foremost we ensure that students here at LSE are getting a fair deal.

Bernard Shaw
is still unique...

...and still worth listening to

It was with some concern that this newspaper acknowledged the presentation of the Nobel Peace Prize to Al Gore. Not because of any doubts as to whether or not he deserved it, as is discussed elsewhere in the paper, but simply because it raised the question as to whether he could now challenge George Bernard Shaw's claim to being the only man ever to win both a Nobel Prize and an Oscar. To our relief, however, it appears that Shaw's remarkable achievement remains a singular one.

Bernard Shaw is something of a father figure to this newspaper. Indeed, in 1949, at the age of 92, he contributed a handwritten note to the first ever issue of *The Beaver*. It began "Socialism will abolish classes; but it will replace them with sets. *The Beaver*, whilst accepting this as natural and inevitable, should organise meetings of all the sets."

This was some 24 years after he was awarded a Nobel Prize for Literature "for his work which is marked by both idealism and humanity, its stimulating satire often being infused with a singular poetic beauty" and 11 after he had won an Oscar for the screenplay of his own play, 'Pygmalion'.

In contrast, Al Gore, who, along with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change" has not, despite the popular perception, received an Academy Award. While he famously got on stage to collect an Oscar for 'An Inconvenient Truth' earlier this year, it was not actually awarded to him. The Oscar went to the film itself, rather than Gore as an individual, and was therefore awarded to director and producer Davis Guggenheim.

So unless Gore, or perhaps even Professor Hurwicz, is currently penning a screenplay of his own, or indeed preparing for an acting debut, Shaw's record will remain intact. It is to this University's credit that such a unique talent's history is so intertwined with its own, and at this time when concerns have been raised about elected leaders everywhere from the international arena to our own Union, critics and even supporters would do well to remember his stinging remark that "Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve".

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.



"given authority"

Dear Sir,

Firstly I'd like to say that, as a new student here at the LSE, I am generally quite impressed with *The Beaver*. As a past editor of a university newspaper I know how hard it can be to juggle class work, schedules and deadlines, and *The Beaver* does an admirable job producing a quality student publication for its audience. I've especially been interested in following this latest scandal regarding the letter sent to freshers on the twinning with An-Najah University, and think that *The Beaver* has generally done a good job in fairly reporting the developments without allowing editorial bias to enter the work (despite what the General Secretary may accuse your staff of in his published rebuttal).

All that said, I have been concerned by the regular use of non-attributed student sources in a number of articles. Obviously I understand that there are times when important sources require anonymity in order to share crucial information with your reporters, and I presume that editors are given authority to grant such anonymity. However, in several instances in recent issues of the Beaver, anonymity has been granted to students in rather trivial circumstances. If, for instance, a "second year Economics undergraduate from Hong Kong" is not willing to own up to his or her comments on the benefits to their future career provided by the recently launched International Graduate Scheme, then why should their words be printed in *The Beaver*?

I consider *The Beaver* to be a quality publication, and I appreciate the work that its reporters do (all while carrying a full load of lectures and seminars), but I think that this kind of lazy reporting or lax standards does a disservice to your readers and damages the reputation of *The Beaver* as a reliable source for news to the LSE community.

Richard Nevins
MSc Media and
Communications

"cleaners move"

Dear Sir,

This is an open letter to Citigroup and LSE students considering a career with them.

We understand that cleaners working in Citigroup's European headquarters are paid only £6.70 an hour, 50 pence an hour less than the London Living Wage, £7.20, which is the amount researchers and the mayors

office calculate is needed to live above the poverty line in London.

We also understand that many other large financial institutions in London have agreed to make sure that the whole of their workforce receives the Living Wage. These include HSBC, Barclays, Morgan Stanley, Deutsche Bank, KPMG and Lehman Brothers.

We believe that all people in work should be rewarded with wages that keep them out of poverty. We deplore the practices of certain institutions, including Citigroup's, that force hard working, respectable Londoners to make impossible choices regarding weekly expenses. Extensive research into poverty in London has shown its devastating effects. Due to the wages Citigroup's cleaning staff receive, they, whilst working long hours, have to regularly choose between providing decent food for their families or heating the house, between buying decent clothing or not going into debt.

We are moved to take action in defence of the rights of our fellow citizens. Therefore we are requesting a meeting with Citigroup to discuss this situation.

We would like to inform Citigroup that the LSE Students' Union has passed motions in support of the Living Wage, and that a student-led campaign on campus has persuaded the School to make sure that all of its contracted cleaners move to the Living Wage. Students have made clear that they would take the treatment of contracted workers into account when choosing their future employer. If Citigroup still refuses to follow the lead of other major banks, then it could well see graduate interest from the LSE decrease and similar attempts to inform Citigroup and its potential graduate intake of the importance of paying a Living Wage to cleaning staff.

We are a part of the London wide Living Wage Campaign being run by London Citizens (of which LSE Students' Union is a member) and the Transport and General Workers Union.

We await Citigroup's reply to this letter.

LSE Citizens for Social Justice

"whole looks"

Dear Sir,

As a new student at the LSE, I'd like to commend *The Beaver*'s professionalism and style. Your news team has handled a very difficult issue with tact and every issue has been very enlightening about my new school. The paper as a whole looks very professional and has a striking design. It's hard to believe that none of

you are paid!

The Arts pullout has looked fantastic. I'm amazed that there is such creativity on campus. PartB always makes me laugh.

So I'd just like to say thank you to the whole team for making my first couple of weeks more enjoyable!

Michelle Sriwongtong
MSc Population and Health

"write news"

Dear Sir,

While much of last week's paper was admirable, it contained some serious lapses in editorial judgment.

Alex Teytelboym wrote a news article on a story he is involved in directly. Alex no doubt tried to provide balance (he did better than expected!) but there is bound to be a systemic bias. Would the editors who allowed it let me write news articles on Environment Week? Putting comment articles in the 'News Section' is bizarre indeed (Fadhil's response was also a fraction of Alex's).

I question the titles given to articles on the academic boycott of Israel. The editor chose to label the anti-boycott article 'Give Peace a Chance' and the pro-boycott article 'War of the Words'. An editor is entitled to his opinion but it is unprofessional to assign politicised titles to an article. I happen to think that not boycotting will do nothing to 'give peace a chance', whereas the boycott is a non-violent form of pressure that worked in the case of Apartheid South Africa. The idea that such a notion could be contrasted with "peace" (or linked to "war") is both absurd and insulting to all those who support non-violence and the boycott. But I too should not be able to assign whatever titles I like to articles - editors must provide neutral headings.

When I challenged the Executive Editor during the Union General Meeting, he said "even pacifists can be engaged in a war of words", confirming he is happy to put his own views into the titles of articles written by others. Is such a policy consistent with producing a balanced paper renowned for a high level of debate?

Aled Dilwyn Fisher
LSESU Environment and
Ethics Officer

"unilateral misuse"

Dear Sir,

If Howard Davies were actually in touch with people on campus, rather than spending his time skim-reading novels, he would have perhaps been able to inform Lord

Grabiner that the discussion of a potential boycott of Israeli academia remains vibrant amongst students and academics at the LSE, as well as the grassroots of the University and College Union (UCU) despite opposition from its leadership.

In his letter last week, Lord Grabiner appears to conflate the right of free speech for Israeli academics, with an obligation on the UCU to listen to what they have to say. Lord Grabiner also implies that academic boycotts would not be acceptable in any situation. I presume that he would have correspondingly welcomed a hypothetical collaboration with Nazi Germany or Apartheid South Africa?

In his non-executive capacity as Chair of Court of Governors, Grabiner cites the record of two School meetings as evidence of widespread opposition to any boycott. However, given the minutes of both meetings are yet to be formally ratified, Grabiner is yet again acting characteristically *ultra vires*. This is not the first example of Lord Grabiner's creative reinterpretation of "democracy". Our unelected Lord stated on recorded LooSE TV footage that a vote for Peter Sutherland as his successor was "unanimous". Given that there was not even a show of hands to imply any vote, such a claim is an outrageous exaggeration at best.

Despite their attempts to the contrary, Lord Grabiner and Howard Davies do not decide what students and academics can discuss on campus - we do. As such, it is vital that students and academics collaborate at every level in order to wrestle control of our university away from an oligarchy of privatising bureaucrats, ignorant lawyers and guilty plutocrats.

James Caspell
LSESU Postgraduate
Students' Officer
Former elected member of LSE
Council and Court of
Governors

"sad situation"

Dear Sir,

Thank you both to the specific reporter, Ruchika Tulshyan, and to *The Beaver* staff in general for the delicate treatment of the death of our Management undergraduate William Widjaja during the summer.

As you would expect, many School staff became involved in finding the right response to a sad situation such as this. *The Beaver* piece was delicate and professional, and a welcome and very helpful contribution.

David Lane
Reader in Management
Science & Academic Governance

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

c&a@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Israel-Palestine Conflict

For all of mankind

Ziyaad Lunat
&
Deborah Hyams*Co-existence is the watchword. Returning freedom to the Palestinian people does not necessarily mean threatening the existence of Israel*

Article I of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." Freedom, a prerequisite for human development, has been the dream for generations of Palestinians growing up in refugee camps and in exile since their homeland was ethnically cleansed in 1948. Sixty years on, the indigenous population of Palestine has yet to realise their right to self-determination.

Over 500 Palestinian villages were destroyed in 1948; their ruins are all that remain of the flourishing multicultural society that once existed. Palestinians remaining in historic Palestine after 1948, mainly in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, were subjected to military rule after Israel captured those territories in 1967. The international community defines the West Bank and Gaza Strip as 'occupied territories'. Considering the reality on the ground, 'occupation' is actually a mild description. Military occupation, as codified in the Hague Regulations and the Fourth Geneva Convention (Israel is a signa-

tory), has to be a temporary situation. The occupying power cannot exert sovereignty over any part of the captured territory, nor can it forcibly transfer people from or within the occupied areas, or transfer its own civilian population into the territories occupied.

“

Within 'democratic Israel, 150,000 Palestinians live in over 100 'unrecognised villages', with their inhabitants considered as non-persons

Not only has Israel perpetuated its military occupation for over 40 years, but it has continued its ethnic cleansing of the indigenous population,

through forced expulsion and the creation of over 100 Israeli colonies on occupied Palestinian land. Most recently, Israel's 'separation barrier' in the West Bank has forced Palestinians in surrounded villages to apply for permits from the Israeli military to remain on the land they have worked for generations. Israel's occupation of Palestine shares many characteristics with past colonial projects, making Israel the last remaining active settler state of the 21st century.

Why does Israel continue to colonise Palestine? Israeli apologists assert 'security' concerns as justification for widespread abuses of human rights. Never before have the colonised had to provide for the security of the colonisers, but Israel's supposed 'divine' mandate and 'God-given rights' ensures continued international support for its repressive policies.

Israel today is an ethnocratic state with two peoples in historic Palestine. The state of Israel, which has never resolved the contradictions between its self-definitions as 'a Jewish state' and 'a democ-

racy', has struggled to defend its Jewish majority from its perception of the Palestinian 'demographic threat'. Currently, about one-fifth of Israeli citizens are Palestinian. But forecasts indicate that Palestinian will eventually form the majority in the area of historic Palestine over the next few decades, with significant impact on Israel's demographic composition.

This prospect has caused panic within the Israeli establishment. Professor Arnon Sofer, a highly-respected Israeli academic and senior government adviser, stated in the Jerusalem Post, "if we want to remain alive, we will have to kill and kill and kill. All day, every day. If we don't kill, we will cease to exist. The only thing that concerns me is how to ensure that the [Jewish] boys and men who are going to have to do the killing will be able to return home to their families and be normal human beings."

Israeli historians Benny Morris, Avi Shlaim and Ilan Pappé believe forced expulsion to be the Zionist strategy in 1948 to create an ethnically homogeneous state with a Jewish majority. This explains Israel's refusal to abide by UN resolutions endorsing the right of return for Palestinian refugees - the world's biggest

refugee population. A recent poll by the Jaffa Institute of Strategic studies show that 46% of Israelis support mass transfer of the Palestinian population. These ideas are also represented within the government, with Minister of Strategic Affairs Avigdor Lieberman frequently calling for 'transfer' in various forms. According to the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, the Israeli military has demolished 18,147 Palestinian houses since 1967. In the last seven years alone, 5,356 homes were demolished and its occupants expelled. Within 'democratic' Israel, 150,000 Palestinians live in over 100 'unrecognised villages', with their inhabitants considered as non-persons.

What should an alternative vision look like? It must be based on human rights for all peoples, instead of a single ethnic or religious group. It

must encompass democratic rights and choice for everyone, including those Palestinians now disenfranchised as refugees. But it does not mean 'pushing Jews into the sea', as Israeli apologists so often claim. It means finding a way for Israel to truly become a state for all its citizens, and stopping the process of ethnic cleansing and land seizure that has persisted since 1948. That is what supporters of 'the Palestinian cause' - many of them are Jewish - are actually advocating: a new reality in the region, based on equality, human rights and universal values.

It is a call for the 'right to exist', to be extended to all the region's inhabitants, so that Israelis and Palestinians, Jews, Muslims, and Christians, can live as free citizens with equal dignity and rights, as espoused by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Double-edged sword

Zak
Moore*A boycott would be highly detrimental in practical terms, and a pointed attack on Israel ignores other violators of human rights in the region*

In their comments last week, Mr Oliver, Mr Caspell and Mr Lunat present ostensibly contrasting views on the efficacy and propriety of a boycott of Israeli academics. Appropriately, the article supporting free speech was titled with 'peace' and the column advocating boycott with 'war.' But while the two articles took different sides on the issue of boycott, both wrongly agreed on the premises underlying this absurd, reactionary initiative. I hope to provide some balance and more importantly some facts.

The reason that these misguided ideologues call so vociferously for a boycott of Israeli academics is because these academics offer so much. It is precisely because Israel produces such talented intellectuals through a vibrant culture of diverse ideas that makes free exchange with them so dangerous for Israel's detractors.

To name just a small handful of representative intellectual successes, Israel is second to only the US in companies on

the NASDAQ technology exchange and venture-capital investment. With the most university degrees, scientific papers, bio-tech start-ups, and computers per capita in the world it is no wonder that Israel has innovated technologies like heart-pumps, digestible cameras, and computerized prescription medicine systems. Other life-saving inventions include medicines to treat Parkinson's disease and breast cancer, injected insulin, artificial blood, antiviral drugs to treat AIDS and the list goes on. Have Mr Caspell and Mr Lunat stopped using Voice Mail and Instant Messenger? Incidentally those innovations too came from Israel.

Imagine what this country could give the world if they could spend all their time developing technology to make life better and more convenient, instead of researching treatments for victims of suicide bombings.

But leaving Israel aside for a moment, what will it do to us if we boycott Israeli academia.

We would be cutting ourselves off from a leading country in technology, banking, investment, medicine, and so many other fields. Our opportunities

“

Are repressive countries like Syria, Saudi Arabia and Sudan not more worthy of boycott?

to advance our own careers in these fields, learn enough to write academic papers, and innovate new inventions and ideas would take a heavy blow. Just as we all certainly want the best medicine available when we suffer from ailments, similarly we want to learn from the best professors and academics in their respective fields. Not doing so is tantamount to self-immolation, and

for an unrighteous cause at that.

Mr Oliver's ideas were certainly right in praising the merits of a free exchange of ideas, and the practical consequences of boycotting Israeli academics and their achievements are clearly staggering. But apart from theory and practice, the boycott is also wrong in the assertion that Israeli policies are flawed and deserving of criticism.

To look at just one hysterical raving in the hopes that others will crumble under the weight of their own absurdity, last week's writers claimed that Israel had "bombed a Palestinian school for the blind." According to the UN News Centre report (hardly an Israeli partisan) Israel bombed the Gaza police headquarters directly adjacent to the site.

Some classrooms were regrettably damaged but of course there were zero casualties because the Israelis bombed the adjacent police site when no children were in the school. The more important question is why Palestinian-Arab terrorist groups use locations like schools as human or humanitarian shields and how they get away with it?

If we want to talk about

academic boycotts, let us not look, with a prejudiced eye towards Israel first. To take just one set of rankings, let us look at the 2007 Freedom House rankings. Measuring a range of liberties primarily derived from the UN Declaration on Human Rights on a scale of one to seven, with one being most free, Israel was given the 'free' status, with one for political rights and two for civil liberties. Incidentally Israel is the only country in the entire Middle East to achieve this status. The West Bank and Gaza are ranked in the next tier of 'partly free', which is quite good by Middle Eastern standards.

Instead of looking at Israel, a country that promotes and affords freedom, can the proposed boycotters find no better target for their outrage? Are repressive countries like Syria, Saudi Arabia and Sudan not more worthy of boycott? Before approaching countries like Israel near the top of the human rights rankings, how about an objective look at jus-

tice in the world? Countries like Pakistan, China, Somalia, Egypt, Cuba, and Iran are labelled "not free," and their people suffer from worse plights. Why, then, is Israel singled out for condemnation and events fabricated to incriminate them?

The accusations cast at Israel and steps to remedy supposed wrongs are cast with an eye of prejudice. Israel is singled out for boycott, despite the fact that scores of other countries have far worse human rights records. In a sea of hate and intolerance, Israel is a beacon of democratic liberalism.

A boycott would put students at a severe disadvantage in getting access to Israeli academics at the top of their respective fields. Even the misguided words submitted by Mr Caspell and Mr Lunat in their rant last week were likely typed on a computer using Pentium processing chips and a Microsoft operating system developed in, you guessed it, Israel.



UKIP

The principal aim of the United Kingdom Independence Party is the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union. It was founded in 1993, by Alan Sked and other members of the all-party Anti-Federalist League. The intention of the party's policy is that the United Kingdom "shall again be governed by laws made to suit its own needs by its own Parliament, which must be directly and solely accountable to the electorate of the UK". Other aspects of policy include promises to reduce taxation, the preservation of the pound sterling, promises to be tough on crime and tighter controls on immigration. The current party leader is Nigel Farage, Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for South East England, also the leader of the party in the European Parliament. His stated intention is to broaden public perception of UKIP beyond merely being a party seeking to get the UK out of the EU, to one of being a free market party broadly standing for traditional conservative values.

"they are racist and have been infected by the far-right"

Dr Alan Sked, 2004, about UKIP

Dr Alan Sked

Lecturer in International History at the LSE (expertise: The Hasburg Monarchy)

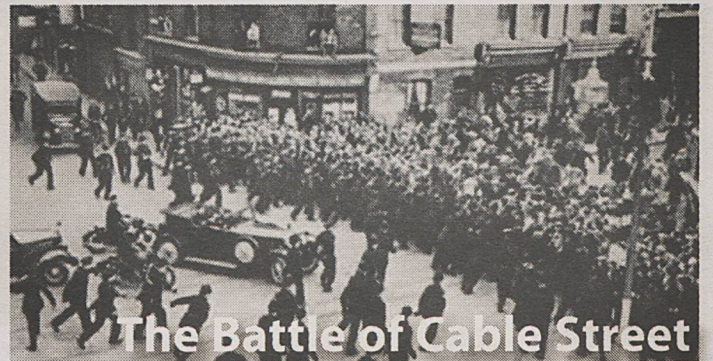
Political Career

- 1970: Liberal candidate in Paisley in the general election
- 1991: Founder of the Anti-Federalist League
- 1993: Founder of the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP)
- 1997: Resigned the leadership of the UKIP following its lack of electoral success
- 1999: Supported the Conservative leader William Hague



BRITISH UNION OF FASCISTS

The party was formed in 1932 by ex-Conservative Party MP, and Labour government minister Sir Oswald Mosley. The party was a union of several smaller Fascist parties. The BUF had the most developed political programme and ideology of any fascist movement, laid out in such publications as *Tomorrow We Live*, and *The Coming Corporate State*. Their policies were based around isolationism, an economic policy whereby Britain would trade only within the British empire; the main attraction to this is that it would separate the British economy from the falls and fluxes of the world market. It also aimed to protect industrial production within Britain from the influence of "... labour the east, paid a third of our wages and working for ten hours a day.", and "Cheap slave competition from abroad." These were referring to the rise of western backed mass production in Indo-China similar to what is said about Chinese labour today.



The Battle of Cable Street

Anti-Federalist League

Established in 1991 to prevent Maastricht's ratification, the AFL failed in its aim of riding a wave of popular resentment at the treaty's imposition. Its founder, Alan Sked, won 1% of the vote in his contested seat during the 1992 general election.

Referendum Party

Five years after the AFL's debacle, the Referendum Party took up the banner of British withdrawal from Europe as a central right-wing theme. Buoyed by Sir James Goldsmith's financial support, the party succeeded in dividing the right-wing vote in several areas, costing the Conservatives some seats. At Millennium's eve, British right-wing politics had become a fragmented shadow.

LEAGUE OF EMPIRE LOYALISTS

Although characterised by the historian Roger Eatwell as more Colonel Blimp than Adolf Hitler, the League's members incubated future far-right figures, such as John Tyndall. The League is otherwise remarkable for demonstrating how completely the British Empire's rapid dissolution in the Fifties and Sixties failed to leave a bitter and impact in Britain's domestic politics, in contrast to links between the Front National and pieds noirs in France.

1954 - 1967

Reality



British National Party

1980 - PRESENT

Fascism in twenty-first century Britain is far from a spent force. At the 2006 local elections, the far right achieved the strongest electoral position in its history, gaining thirty-three seats. This was in large part due to the re-invention of the British National Party by its media-savvy chairman Nick Griffin as a sober, business-suited organisation. Although now couched in euphemism and a modish concern with the 'excesses' of immigration, the BNP remains committed to white supremacism at its heart. Its recent scaremongering on Islamic terrorism continues this trend.

NEW BRITAIN PARTY

Contemporary far-right politics in Britain does not begin and end with the British National Party and the National Front's remnants.

1977 - PRESENT

NATIONAL FRONT

Formed by surviving BUF personnel and neo-Nazi elements from the League of Empire Loyalists, the National Front was a symptom of the United Kingdom's late-Seventies malaise. Although eventually left behind by Thatcherite economic growth, the Front spawned an ugly skinhead subculture, that, while limiting the party's electoral appeal, left it a highly visible stain on British politics.

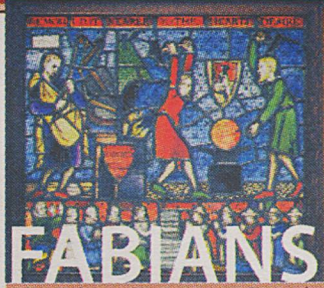
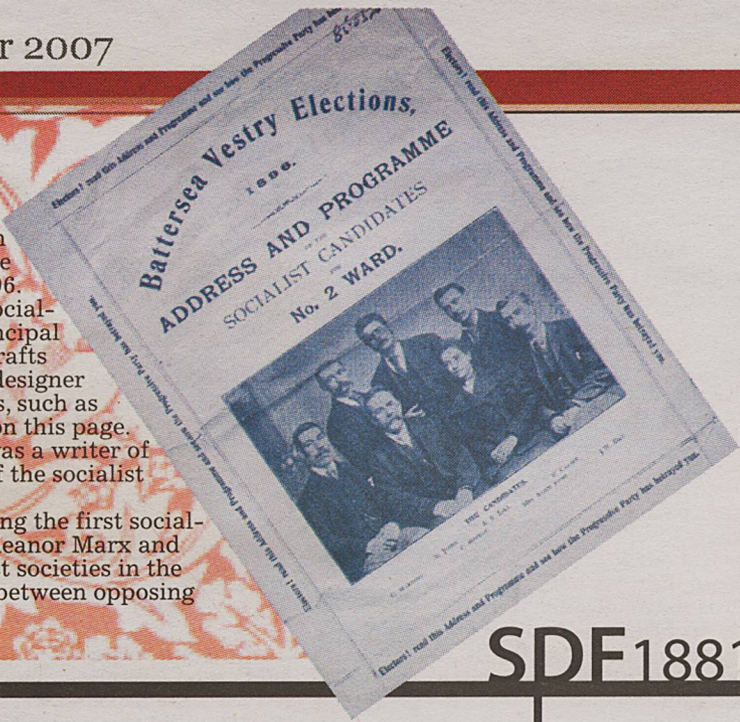
1967 - 1980

BNP



William Morris

William Morris was born on March 24, 1834 and died not long after the founding of LSE on October 3, 1896. He was an English artist, writer, socialist and activist, and one of the principal founders of the British Arts and Crafts movement. He is best known as a designer of wallpaper and patterned fabrics, such as the beautiful pattern you can see on this page. A multi-talented individual, he was a writer of poetry and fiction and a pioneer of the socialist movement in Britain. Morris and his daughter were among the first socialists in Britain, and worked with Eleanor Marx and Engels to set-up organised socialist societies in the UK. He was known as a mediator between opposing sides in the socialist movement.



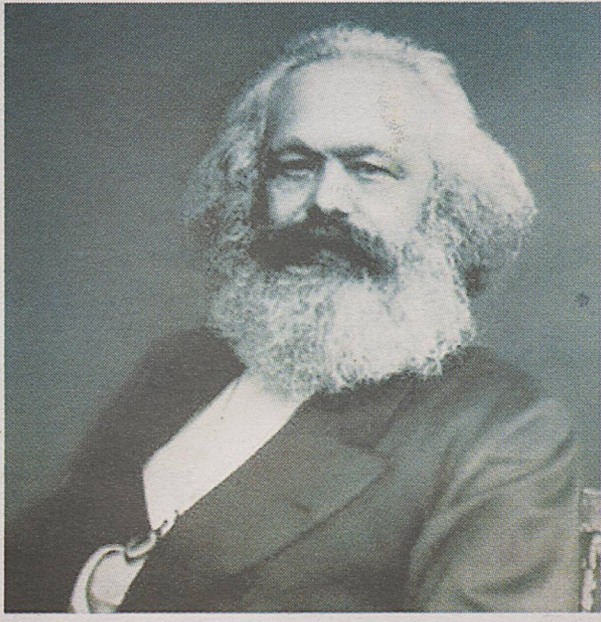
The Fabian Society is a British socialist intellectual movement, whose purpose is to advance the socialist cause by gradualist and reformist, rather than revolutionary means. At the core of the Fabian Society were Sidney and Beatrice Webb. They are best known to us as two of the founders of the LSE and for their admiration of Stalin.

Independent Labour 1884

The party was formed as a consequence of the Manningham Mills strike in Bradford on 1893 making it one of the earliest democratic socialist parties operating in the United Kingdom. Its founder was James Keir Hardie who had been elected as independent labour MP for West Ham South in the previous year's election. Others involved in the formation included Robert Tom Mann, John Bruce Glasier, Henry Hyde Champ, Tillett, Philip Snowden, and Edward Carpenter. The early years of the ILP were characterised by a number of amalgamations with small socialist and leftist groups. In the 1895 General Election they contested 28 seats. They did well in some urban centres but Hardie lost his seat. The ILP played a central role in the formation of the Representation Committee in 1900 and when the Labour Party formed in 1906 the ILP affiliated to it.

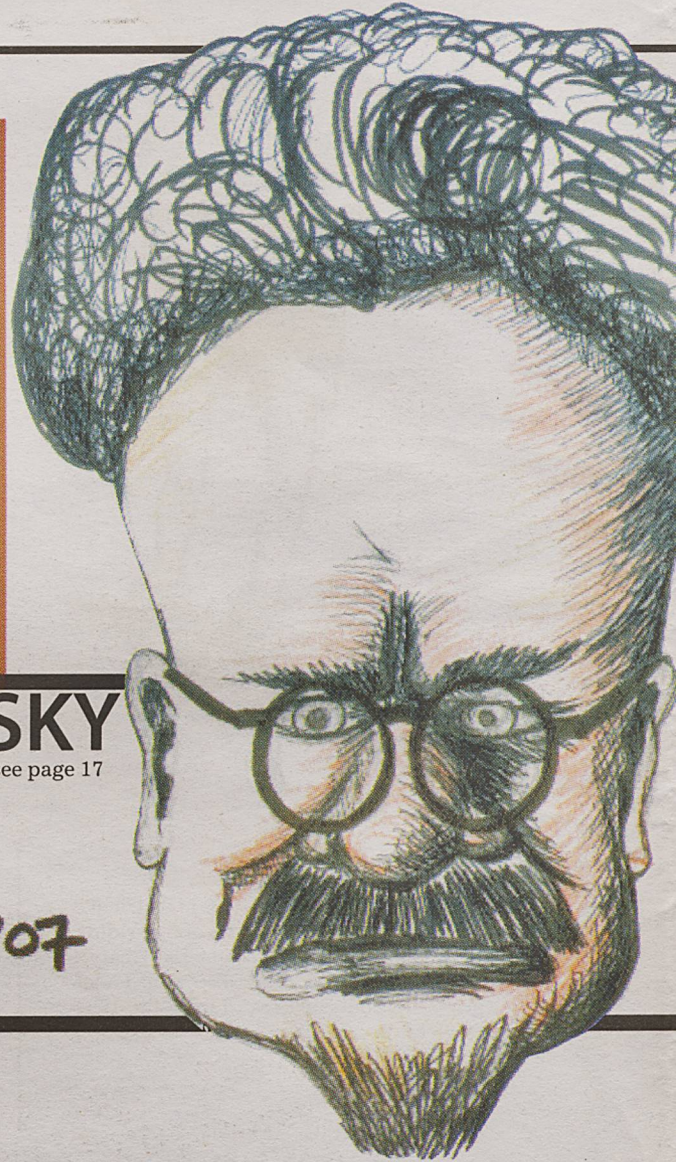
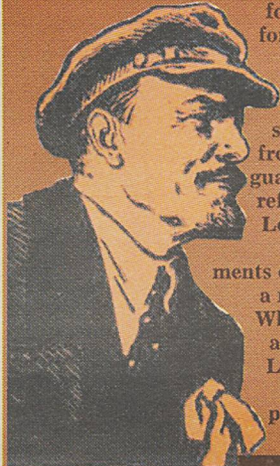
SDF 1881

KARL MARX



LENIN

Aside from Marx himself, no other revolutionary has done more to shape our perception of Marxism and communism than Vladimir Lenin. Although his political career was long and tumultuous, Lenin's variety of Marxism always possessed essential continuities: forthright advocacy of revolutionary (not reformist) social change, and the pivotal role of the working class in bringing about this change. Lenin argued that revolutionaries and reformists could not coexist within a single organisation, and his Bolsheviks split from the Mensheviks to form a separate 'vanguard party.' In contrast with almost all of the reformist parties of the Second International, Lenin and the Bolsheviks argued that socialists should not support 'their own' governments during World War I but should instead seek a revolutionary overthrow of the ruling class. When the February Revolution brought liberals and social democrats to power in Russia, Lenin pushed the Bolsheviks to immediately call for workers' power. His demand of 'All power to the soviets' led to the victory of socialist revolution in October 1917.



TROTSKY

see page 17

L. PARFITT '07

First International (1864-1876)



Eleanor Marx

Eleanor Marx was an author and political activist as well as the youngest daughter of Karl Marx. She wrote *History of the Commune of 1871* with Hippolyte Lissagaray and in 1884, she joined the Social Democratic Federation and was elected to its executive. However, a split of the organisation led her to leave it and found the Socialist League. In 1886, she toured the United States along with her common law partner Edward Aveling and the German socialist Wilhelm Liebknecht, raising money for the Social Democratic Party of Germany. In 1897, Marx and Aveling re-joined the Social Democratic Federation, like most former members of the Socialist League. In 1898, she discovered Aveling had secretly married a young actress. He proposed a suicide pact and supplied her with prussic acid, which she then used to kill herself. He had no intention of following through with the pact, but no charges were laid against him.



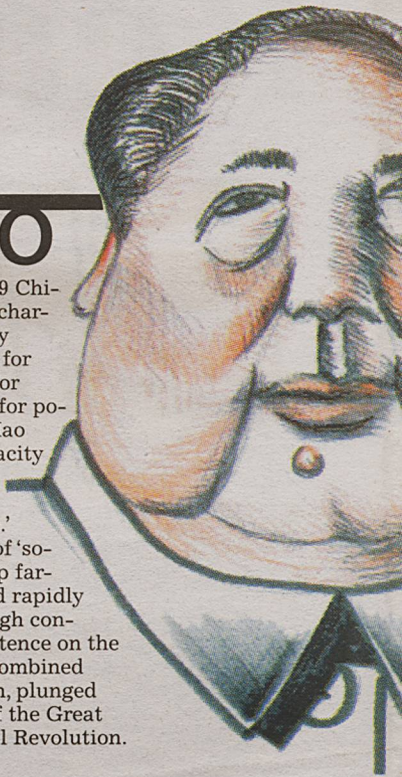
STALIN

Perhaps no figure has done more to discredit the ideals of socialism, Marxism and Leninism than Josef Dzhugashvili, or Stalin ('Man of Steel'). After Lenin's death in 1924, Stalin presided over a severe retrenchment of revolutionary aims domestically and internationally. Guided by his theory of "socialism in one country," Stalin believed that the Soviet Union possessed all of the material prerequisites for the construction of socialism. Consequently, Stalin embarked on a breakneck, and socially destructive, campaign to industrialise and collectivise the Soviet economy, while at the same time abandoning countless revolutionary opportunities abroad (China in 1927, Spain in 1936, Greece in 1945, etc). Trotsky labeled Stalin 'The Great Organiser of Defeats.'

Third International (COMINTERN)

MAO

Mao Zedong, leader of the 1949 Chinese Revolution, shared many characteristics with Stalin: strongly authoritarian rule, a penchant for personality cults, intolerance for Party dissent, and even a flair for poetry. However, unlike Stalin, Mao stressed the revolutionary capacity of the peasantry and advocated a strategy of 'encircling the cities from the countryside.' Mao also took Stalin's theory of 'socialism in one country' one step further, insisting that China could rapidly achieve full communism through concerted mass action. Blind insistence on the power of 'revolutionary will,' combined with bureaucratic factionalism, plunged China into the deprivations of the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution.



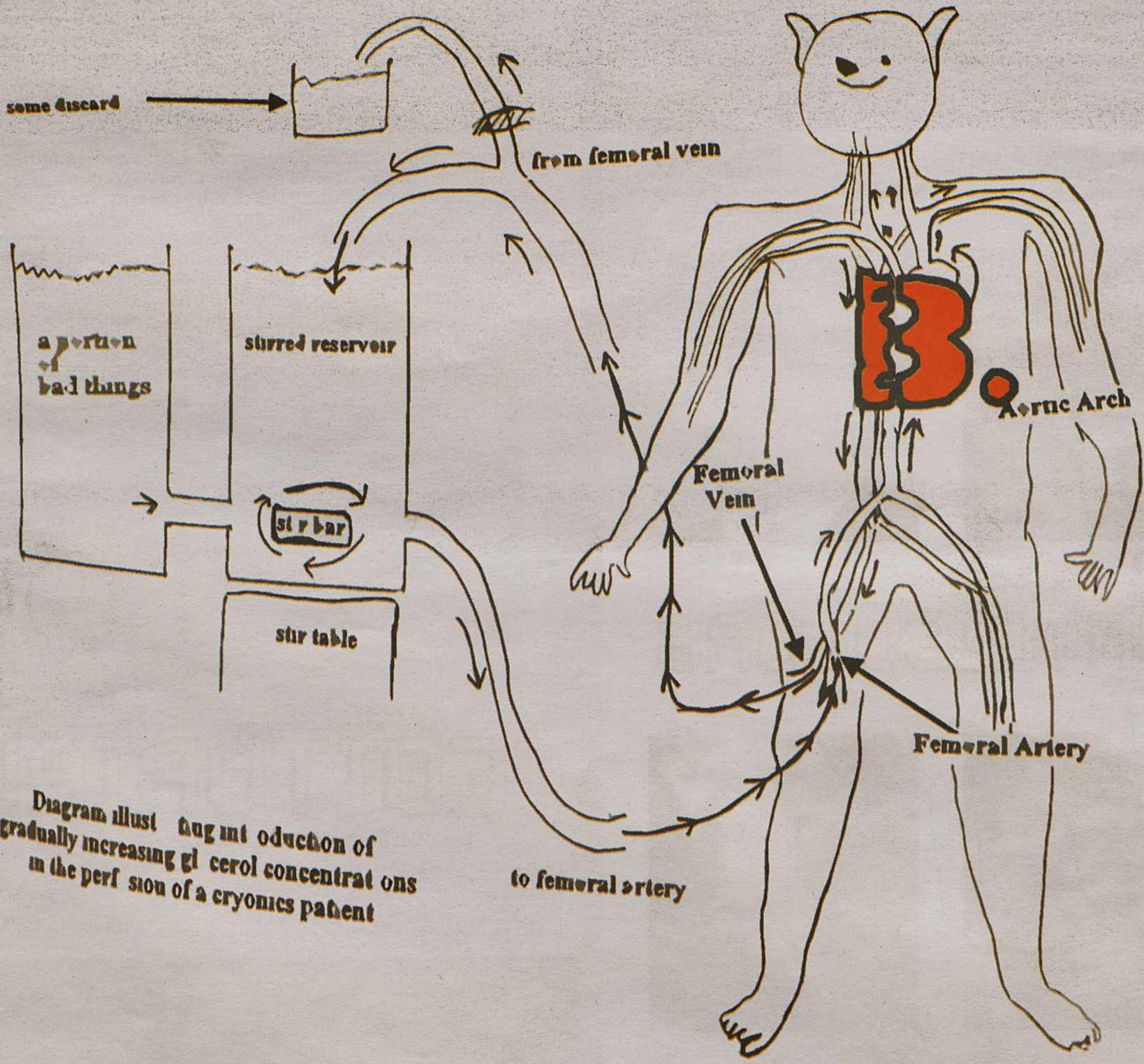
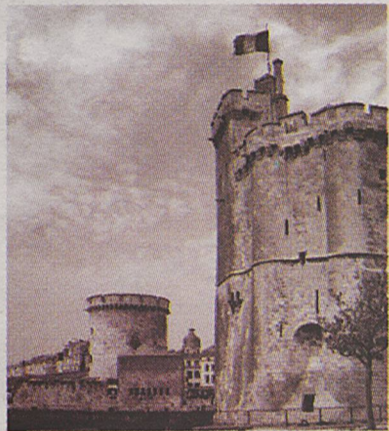


Diagram illust angint oduction of gradually increasing gl cerol concentrations in the perf sion of a cryonics patient

INSIDE THIS ISSUE AROUND LONDON

Rochelle Burgess is a manatee. Released into the wild after years in captivity, she spends her days (and nights) swimming through large bodies of water, better known as seas, at a speed of approximately 5 miles per hour. When not a manatee, she is a postgrad student at the LSE specialising in the field of psychology. According to her, she has lots of cute, funny male friends, so if you're single give her a call - they aren't interested in her. Read her rant on how funny girls don't get laid on page 11.



Frank Dobson is a former Health Minister. In a newly rightist party he continues to embody the sweet virtues of old Labour. He is rowdy bedfellows with social justice and redistributive manners. He is known for his beard and its adventures. He is suspected of making many beards and sending them to fight illegal wars at Tory HQ. Dobbo was named thus after a horse which he attacked. It is widely accepted that he is the only person who maintains his nickname. Read our interview with him on page 4.

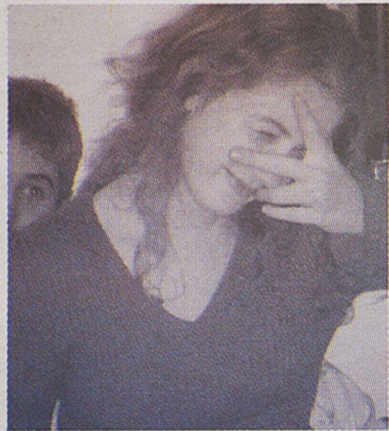


HOUGHTON ST.

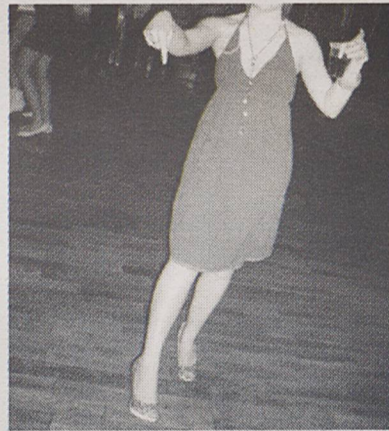
Houghton Street is like one of those paths... you know, through the jungle, that like leopards and monkeys make. What are they called? Well, anyway, its like one of those. It WAS one of those! Still is if you ask some people. Sorry, I was planning on being more eloquent than this. Damn Lambrini. ANYway, although it may not appear to have much more to offer than the occasional sight of Howard 'Just call me Howie' Davies arriving in the early hours of a weekday morn aboard his magical mystical cycle, Houghton Street, to the trained and observant eye, offers a veritable cornucopia of historical titbits (of information. About LSE. No! Not LSE! A time before LSE! When antelopes, or whatever the south London equivalent is, tapirs maybe, would ford the treacherous Thames to graze upon the delectable and suitably alliterative fields. Or whatever...stupid rhetorical devices.) Look, it's Houghton Street, you've been there, it's probably where you got this paper. Congratulations for reading this far, by the way: most people don't bother... not that I know this for a fact. They might bother. Who knows? God knows. Assuming he exists, of course. Which brings me back to Houghton Street, where Mammon (google it) lords it over people...no...reigns, that's what deities do! Even fictional, long dead, whatever they are, classical, deities.

CAPT. BROCK HARDMEAT

CONTRIBUTORS



Chloe is broken/ splintered/ bruised, but since this is lifted from her Facebook profile status, we'll say 'poked', in the non-sexual sense. If she were an omelette, she would contain three free range eggs, a diced onion, half a red pepper and grated mild cheddar. If she were a colour, she would be ochre. If she were an honest girl, she would not appear on Facebook in compromising situations with (possibly) older men. But the camera doesn't lie. And neither do we. Read her comments on writers' blogs in Literature on page 8.



Kerry Thompson is a woman of the moment with an unstoppable currency. She is also a girl of the past, with a certain nostalgic magic. Kerry got snagged in the fabric of space-time and wept like a caged Panda who danced for the men. Kerry and her wife once agreed to jump off Niagra falls in a box. In the event, and unbeknownst to her wife, Kerry didn't get in the box. Her wife survived the fall but, upon crawling out of the water, was shot by officials. Read Kerry's live review of Maximo Park on page 5.

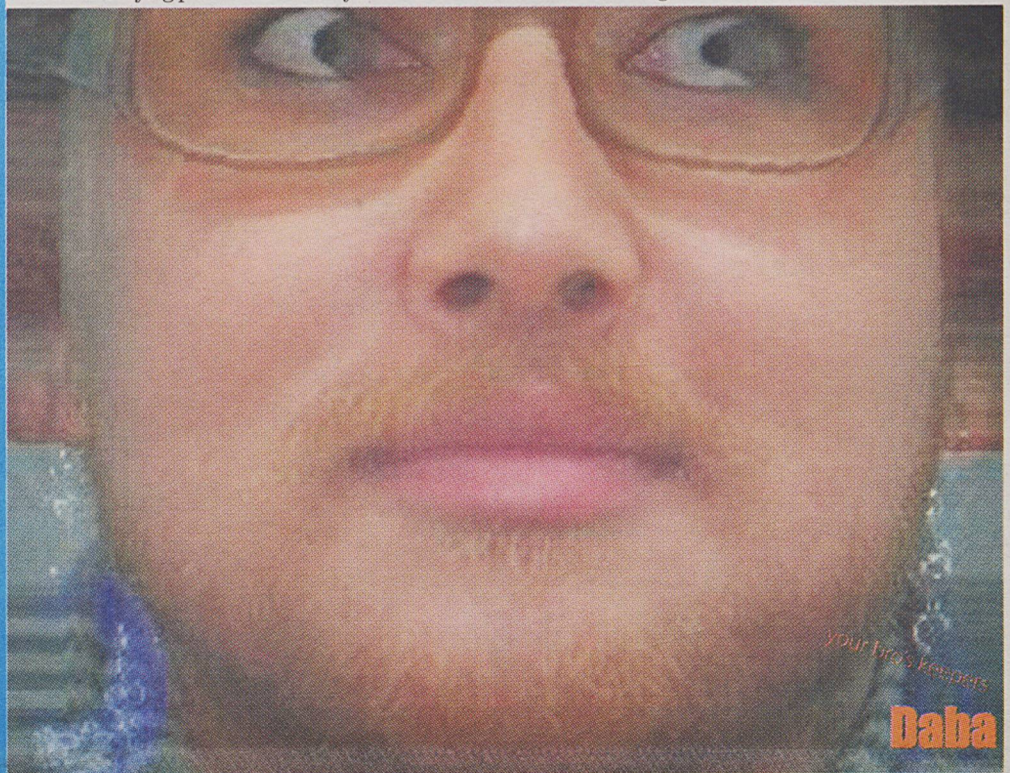
PARTE HONCHOS

- straw boss: **bernardkeenan**
- literature honcho: **erinorozco**
- style honcho: **hollieastman**
- film honcho: **angustse**
- rant honcho: **joshheller**
- theatre honcho: **fomwhittaker**
- travel honcho: **willjoce**

EDITORIAL

partb@thebeaveronline.co.uk

Division of labour or decomposition of labour. There were two potential visions of this week's shift in PartB's production ethos. Honchos were finally allowed to layout, wresting visual control from the sweaty and jaded palms of the editors. And it's turned out rather well. However, in a desperate bid to wrest back the power devolved, the decision was made to clone ourselves. Downing copious amounts of alcohol prior to the experiment may not have been the best idea. A cacophony of mixed up petri dishes, cod-scientific posturing and broken bunsen burners later, the end result is something both beautiful and horrifying. Aba is the horrifying part. Unfortunately Daniel is also. We are never having children. Love unto thee. X



your bro's keeps it
Daba

wax in off

wax in 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, our subject will be the humours of R Kelly.



We all know that R Kelly's r'n'b opera *Trapped In The Closet* was funny, but did R Kelly? Does he take it all seriously? Does he think it's funny that a woman has an affair with a dwarf, or does he think that's a funny thing to pretend to find shocking? In other words, is he on our level, or somewhere below? Or possibly above?

His latest missive to the world, released just before he went on trial for child pornography charges, is a Youtube video for his song 'Real Talk', in which we hear his side of a telephone argument with his girlfriend. Towards the end, a fight breaks out between his friends in the background, and the video is interrupted. Why did Kelly release this? Could the fight have been real? Or was it because he wants to appear tough? Or is it because he knows that we know that he knows it's a joke? Or could he be delighting in the ambiguity of the whole thing? The man is either an idiot, or an absurdist, self-referential genius, operating on a plane of understanding far beyond anything we have ever experienced.

1. when something is excellent
eg. "that is a heavy beat"

2. when something is serious
eg. "war - it's pretty heavy"

3. when something is seriously excellent
eg. "this is heavily heavy"

Rush hour

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

It's 3am when I get to the bus stop at Aldwych. Night bus 343 stops two minutes from my place. It is due at 3.45am. It doesn't arrive. I have other options, in theory. The N68 would leave me five minutes walk from home. In practice it's not an option. The drivers don't even slow down enough to see me wave at them.

-Bastard!

I shout after them.

-Fucking cuntin' bollix WANKER.

A street cleaner van goes past, trickling along the kerb at 2mph bleeping like a robolegic R2D2. I think about hijacking it; it's getting really cold, and the driver looks complacent, I could definitely take him.

Then I see the telephone number on the bus stop. 24 hour information. I dial slowly, my fingers are numb and it feels like I'm communicating with them over a vast distance. The woman operator answers,

- Where is the N343? I ask.

- (typing sounds) We have no reports of any delays with that bus.

- Well you fucking well do now!

I hang up, wondering if she can see me on a CCTV somewhere. At roughly 4am the next bus arrives. There's one other passenger, sitting in the back corner. As the bus pulls away he decides to vomit with gusto, expelling an endless string of tangy smelling bile and about six litres worth of cheap lager. It sweeps down the aisle like something biblical, the smell is so strong I can taste it. Fifteen minutes later I'm home, ten minutes after I would have been, had I just decided to walk. Fucking buses.

RECOGNISE!

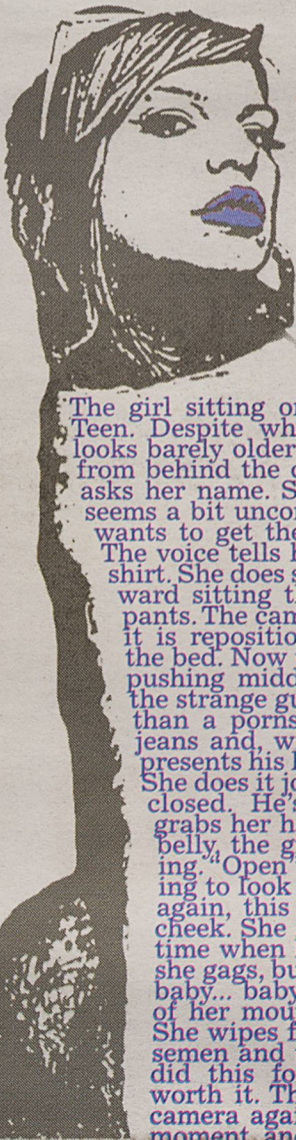
- GUIDE FOR A SUCCESSFUL LIFE -

Wire 25

For 25 years The Wire magazine has provided readers with much to stroke their chins over from the outer limits of modern music. They're marking this anniversary with a month of gigs and events, kicking off in Shoreditch on Friday with the mighty Boredoms. If you're into freak beats don't miss Soft Pink Truth, Strategy and Soul Jazz Djs on Saturday in Rocket. Looking ahead, on the 15th of November they'll have some of dubsteps most innovative players destroying the dancefloor in Plastic People, and a whole host of films and exhibitions. Log on to thewire.co.uk for full listings.

Pop Art Portraits

The National Portrait Gallery is showing an extensive collection of Pop art from Britain and the US, from the obvious (Warhol, Hockney, Peter Blake) to the more obscure. Although today Pop art is today seen as the lowest common denominator of gallery exhibitions, this collection is a reminder of how powerful and innovative the movement once was. Before Pop, artists painted the real; after Pop they painted representations of the real. Rethpect.



Ms. Rubella Valve
reviews porn

The girl sitting on the bed is a Real Teen. Despite what is advertised she looks barely older than fifteen. A voice from behind the camera, a man's voice, asks her name. She answers cutely, but seems a bit uncomfortable, like she just wants to get the money and go home. The voice tells her to relax and off her shirt. She does so quickly, looking awkward sitting there only in her white pants. The camera shakes and rises as it is repositioned facing the side of the bed. Now we can see the man, he's pushing middle age, looks more like the strange guy living down the street than a pornstar. He takes down his jeans and, without any further chat, presents his limp dick for her to suck. She does it joylessly, keeping her eyes closed. He's groaning now as he grabs her hair and thrusts his hairy belly, the girl gags and stops sucking. "Open", he intones. She's starting to look quite distressed. "Open", again, this time with a slap to her cheek. She resumes the blowjob, this time when he thrusts into her throat she gags, but is too afraid to stop. "Oh baby... baby..." Suddenly he pulls out of her mouth and cums on her face. She wipes from her eyes a mixture of semen and tears, whatever reason she did this for, it couldn't have been worth it. The man walks behind the camera again, it wobbles for a brief moment, and the clip ends.

NOTHING TO BE DONE! THERE IS NOTHING TO BE DONE!



MR. WLEFT'S TOP RECIPE

Whaddup y'all, Mr Wleft from the campus food-slot here. I'm such a stereotype that it seems like dirtyfun, but it isn't. Try living it. I'm just a mess on the shit-splattered conscience of my editors. Somehow they believe that this is funny. I'm not sure how. Anyway, here's to me. I make a thing by which I am disgraced upon myself. I make something sickening to the average human sensibility, then I do something even more disgusting.

Then it goes wrong. Who gives a fuck. Perhaps I was supposed to mock the high-minded pretention of a new student gastro-mic ideal, to suggest that little has changed bar packaging, and packaged 'lifestyle' aspirations. Perhaps I was just pathetic irony. Whatever I was supposed to do i'm not convinced i'm doing it. I have a family to support. This is my priority. I make what I can from what I have. I'm an honest producer of things that I believe people will enjoy. I also excrete wantonly into the food I prepare. Next week, or something! Please help me.



LSE Student. Labour's London mayoral candidate. Shakespeare Documentary Maker. Secretary of State for Health. West Ham fan. Winner of the Beard Liberation Front's 'Beard 2000'. **Frank Dobson** has been all of these things and more.

Speaking of his time at LSE, Dobson tells me that he studied Economics, "In theory anyway. I know enough Economics to know that somebody else is talking bollocks and that's about it really."

He has fond memories of student days "If you don't enjoy yourself for three years of pretending to be an academic, you're never going to enjoy yourself are you?" and even of Three Tuns romances. "I met my wife there. I fancied her from afar ... I knew her best female friend a lot better than I knew her..."

"I think LSE has changed, I think more attention is now paid to undergraduates than used to be.

Certainly at the time I was there, my impression was that there wasn't a great deal of attention. In the past I've caused offence by saying that I don't think I really got very much from the academic staff there. But I gained a lot from talking and listening to my fellow students, who were from all over the world. It was a remarkable change for me."

But one of the main reasons for moving to London from "an all-white grammar school in the north of England" was to indulge his love of the arts. "It was wonderful to be able to go to the theatre or the opera. There is only one National Gallery!"

"Theatre's a remarkable thing. The best thing ever being Laurence Olivier in "Long Day's Journey into Night". He was absolutely wonderful. It was stupendous. I don't think I came back during the interval even. There isn't much like great acting."

Dobson is a huge fan of Shakespeare, and has presented documentaries on the Bard for ITV, and says The Globe has an "immediacy" that other theatres struggle to match. "There's no hiding from the audience for the actors."

Much like the UGM, I suppose. But perhaps surprisingly for a man who is now in his 28th year as an MP, he had no involvement in SU politics. "I didn't particularly like student politics, and I still don't. I think it's certainly a way of learning the 'dark arts' of politics, but generally speaking, it never appealed to me. I was involved in other political campaigning but that wasn't done through the Students' Union, which was fairly tedious and a lot of willy-waving, and whatever is the female equivalent of willy-waving." I tell him that it hasn't changed much, and he leans back in his chair, laughing heartily.

After leaving LSE Dobson became a local councillor. "I was a member of the Labour party throughout that whole period. I lived in Passfield Hall and then in a flat in Bury Place, near the British Museum, and continued living there when I ceased to be a student. I got heavily involved in local campaigns, basically related to stopping the residential population being driven out, and houses and flats being turned into offices. I was elected to council in '71."

Dobson describes most of the time he has spent as a Labour MP - in opposition- as "frustrating" but he has also been a frequent critic of the New Labour experiment. "The bulk of our election manifesto in 1997 was an up-to-date Labour manifesto. Most of the things that were introduced then were a modern version of a fairly traditional Labour approach to things. Things like the national minimum wage, actually getting people back to work or tax credits to ensure people actually got a decent wage. The last time John Smith spoke at the TUC he asked me to help with the speech, and I think I contributed two phrases. One was 'A Britain on work, not a Britain on benefits', and we wanted to make sure that when "people worked for a living, they were paid a living wage". The Labour government in the first few years delivered on that, and continues to deliver on it, which is a dramatic assertion of timeless Labour values. Quite a lot of the things that we did in health, and in education, were along the same lines, and most of the things that have worked fall into that category. The things that haven't worked are the fancy Blairite ideas, this obsession with choice and diversity. A certain elitism, and a belief that the best way to improve local hospitals is to have one supremely wonderful and the others will aspire to be like it. Similarly with schools, which is clearly clap-trap. If you want to improve the worst performing institutions, you attend to the worst performing institutions. It is an obsession with elitism and management-ism, if you see what I mean, because if you look at it from the point of view of the patient, or the pupils, then you should be addressing the needs of the people who are getting the worst deal. Not marginal improvements for the people who are getting the best deal."

"As far as the war's concerned, I don't think the fact that it's illegal is of much consequence one way or the other. Combinations of powerful nation states make up international law, and it may have been an illegal law or not. But it was stupid. That's the main offence. We're in a worse position now than if we'd not got involved in the invasion and occupation of Iraq. The first duty of any government is to ensure the safety and security of the country and its citizens at home and abroad. No one could possibly argue that we're safer either at home or abroad. We're infinitely less so. I used to carry around the page out of Hansard which was my speech in the February debate about a month before we actually went to war. My only criticism of myself in there was that I think I give the Prime Minister too much... I don't doubt his intentions at that time. Also, I understate the things that I predict will go wrong. They've been worse than predicted. That continued and continued, and it was what led in the end to him going as soon as he did. Because my impression is that the absolutely craven, stupid position we got into over the Israeli invasion of the Lebanon, when we were the only country in the world, apart from Israel and the US, who weren't saying that they should withdraw. That was the pits. I think a lot of people who'd given him the benefit of the doubt up until that point decided that there really wasn't any doubt any more. He was just getting it wrong, wrong and wrong again, because we were tied into the United States. I think Iraq has also restricted our capacity to prevent Iran getting nuclear weapons if they want to. I don't want Iran having nuclear weapons, and I can't see any sensible person who does, but Iraq has made it more difficult to do anything about that. Also, I think action would have been taken to prevent what's been happening in Darfur, apart from the embarrassment of you can't have a go at another Muslim, another Arab government. It has been a total, unrelenting disaster."

There have been successes of course, Dobson mentions the "phenomenal" investments in the NHS, Gordon Brown's work on overseas aid and cites John Prescott as an unsung hero for his work on the Kyoto agreement. He even singles out Blair for "a huge amount of credit for the settlement in Northern Ireland."

However, he retains his belief that Labour can do better. He points out that NHS improvements have been undermined by costs spent on consultants and lawyers, and the private sector currently receives 11% more per operation than the NHS.

As a former Mayoral candidate, I ask Dobson about his thoughts on next year's elections. He highlights his concerns that the BNP may be well placed to win seats on the GLA, but laughs at the suggestion that Boris Johnson is a viable candidate. "Were, by some freak of fate, he to become Mayor I don't think he would succeed. But I doubt he will do very well. You never know because there is this sort of "oh, well he's quite funny on TV""He can't be as stupid as he pretends to be". I think in some aspects he is as stupid as he pretends to be. Well not quite as stupid, very few people could be as stupid as he pretends to be and still be able to ride a bike."

FRANKLY DOBBO
TALKS TO kevinperry

MUSICAL STARS LIVE @ SCALA by rochelleburgess

Anyone who has had the pleasure of listening to *Up in Our Bedroom After the War*, or any other album by Stars, one of the countless offshoots from the renowned Broken Social Scene collective, understands what I'm talking about. Many songs have been written to explain the ins and outs of relationships - be they the real hard core, or pseudo-relationship variety (where pseudo equates to those lovely situations where you are in love with an illusion, reflection, or a memory). But until you have listened to the music of Stars, you have yet to completely understand the all-consuming agony of 'being in love', and until you have listened to them live, you have yet to fully experience the real magic that is indie 'cry yourself to sleep' rock music.

After the crowd had successfully marred the vocal stylings of Lily Fraser, an extremely talented British folk singer, with their incessant chatter, silence finally befell the capacity crowd at the Scala. Stars started their show much like they start the new album - with a teaser to let you know of the magic that would follow, which was nothing short of spectacular, with each song growing in intensity, vibrato, and sheer volume as they progressed. The live version of 'Take Me to the Riot' nearly - just nearly - puts the album version to shame, if only for the fact that you can actually see how much vocalist Torquil Campbell simply wishes there was actually a real riot to take someone, anyone, too. In contrast to his endearing panache for melodrama, it was Amy Millan's aberrant calm as she manoeuvred guitar in hand, through varying phases of woman that really drew you in: timid, vulnerable

and scared in "Personal", alpha female in "The Night Starts Here". You simply couldn't help but stare, and wish to the high heavens you were her or were sleeping with her.

The supporting cast in this band was unfailingly fantastic; giving justice to what live music often aspires to be. The drums, taken care of by the wildly enigmatic Pat McGee bore a precision befitting the finest military band (if said band was ripe with the kind of soul often reserved for blues bands). The keys, serving to fill in those spaces where us novices feel there couldn't possibly be room for more, handled by Chris Seligman, were a dream and once you add in those brief yet shining moments of guitar and bass solos, one sees that it truly takes a village to raise the unruly child that is indie rock. Although the majority of the night was dedicated to their new release "In Our Bedroom After the War" arguably the most depressing (in the most beautiful of ways) album, no Stars show would be complete without at least one of their staples, and much to my sheer delight they included "Your Ex-lover is Dead" - an oddly comforting tune to anyone who has wished the same fate on their ex.

Before closing the show, Torq took the time to reveal his musical manifesto: "We do this in the hopes that we can be the soundtrack to your lives. So you can take the tracks once we've sung them here, and live your life to them." It's wonderful to be reminded of why music was meant to be shared; so that we can use it to help make sense of the mess that is our day to day existence. Stars can take me to a riot any time of the damn day.

THE LISTINGS WAR

23rd October

Vincent Vincent and the Villains
Dingwalls

vs.

Jose Gonzalez
Union Chapel

Take your pick between frantic rock'n'roll and acoustic folkiness. Neither are good for the health - one will melt your heart, the other will probably precipitate a heart attack.

24th October

Ray Quinn
Hammersmith Apollo

vs.

Reverend and the Makers
Astoria

To be brutally honest if you are even contemplating going to see the child that lost The X-Factor then you are not cool enough to be reading partB. So stop now.

29th October

Bat for Lashes
KOKO

vs.

Capdown

Atmospheric folk by an enchanting woman who howls at the moon or cod-ska-punk from a politically-illiterate political band. No actual contest.

Nine Black Alps
Love/Hate
22nd October

When you play the second album from Manchester post-grunge poster boys, it feels like you've got home from school and stuck the radio on. It is music to live to, specifically when you are 16 years old and brooding in your room after a row with your mum. The lyrics are full of accusations and the guitars whine vitriolically. The songs are often predictable and unoriginal with titles like 'So in Love', which you wouldn't be surprised to read in text speak. Buy this album if you want to forget you're an adult for a bit. It's not just unashamed, it's completely unaware that's it's a cliché of teen traits - just like the usual teenager then.



Róisín Murphy
Overpowered
15th October

In the artwork for her latest solo album the Moloko singer is sat in a greasy spoon, clothed majestically in an outrageous knitted and latex construction complete with pom-poms. It is the avant-garde placed in an otherwise mundane setting and is a powerful visual representation of Murphy's disco-pop in the current musical climate. Along with a host of collaborators, including Groove Armada, Murphy has constructed an album of dancefloor delights, which is best when unashamedly funky and sets itself apart from the usual crap that seems to pass for pop these days thanks to her silky vocals and infectious beats.



My American Heart
Hiding Inside the Horrible Weather
5th November

If Reading didn't fill your emo-post-pop-punk quotient for the year, then get on board with My American Heart for an emotional odyssey detailing the woes of the American Mid-West. Apparently, life there is really depressing. And, like, girls suck. This band are just way too in touch with their emotional side - they are the American Snow Patrol. You really want to smack them and warn them that if they don't start washing their hair, wearing jeans that fit and grow some balls, no girl will ever stay with them.



NEW RELEASES

MAXIMO PARK @ BRIXTON ACADEMY
kerythompson

It's a controversial issue, and I fear I may be in the minority, but Maximo Park's second album, *Our Earthly Pleasures*, was not of the same standard as their debut, *A Certain Trigger*. Released in April this year, the record's promotional tour culminated last weekend in a three-night stint at London's iconic Brixton Academy, selling out the five thousand capacity venue in less than 48 hours. The band, who are originally from Newcastle, made an admirable attempt to bring to life a disappointingly dull album, but suffice to say it was not the most entertaining of shows.

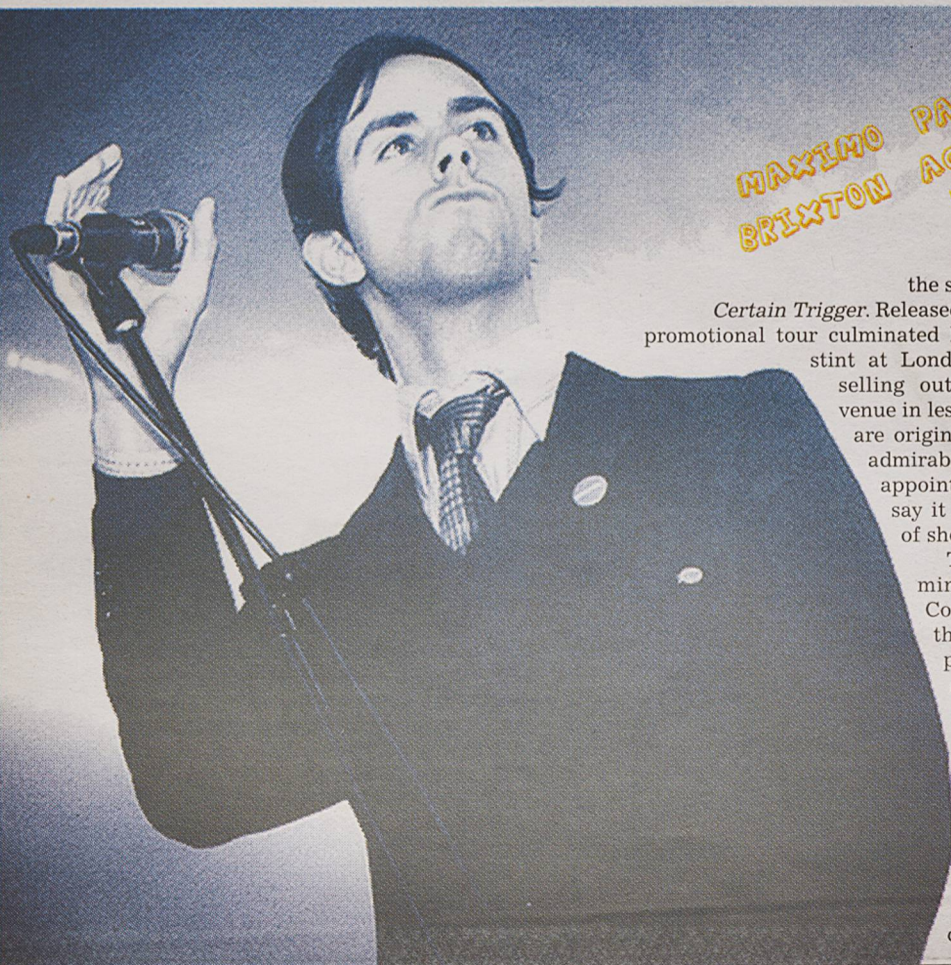
The quintet played a ninety minute set, opening with 'The Coast is Always Changing', one of the lesser known but not unimpressive tracks from the first album. This theme was to permeate the evening, as performances of a combination of songs from both albums at times giving the impression that the older songs were required to keep the audience entertained. The first twenty minutes of the show revolved around several mediocre down-beat songs, and it wasn't

until the performance of 'Apply Some Pressure' (the song that initially shot Maximo Park onto the mainstream indie scene in 2005) that the audience started to seem as if they were enjoying themselves. Similarly, while the main set ended on 'Our Velocity', it was the stunning performance of classic tracks 'Acrobat' and 'Graffiti' that blasted the audience away during the encore and allowed the band to end the show on a high note.

Where their more recent song-writing has been somewhat lacking in energy, Maximo Park were eager to make up for this in a frantic and frenzied stage performance. Lead singer Paul Smith dominated the Academy's large stage, wearing his usual bowler-hat-and-red-shirt combination and vigorously bouncing around, dancing in an extremely strange, socially-awkward manner. Keyboardist Lukas Wooler echoed Smith's liveliness and captivated the audience's attention during a fantastic rendition of 'Limassol', a song that relies heavily on a strong synth riff throughout. Despite all this activity, neither Smith's vocals nor the other band member's musical ability faltered; in terms of live performance, their professional capabilities were infallible.

Yet there was something missing from the atmosphere at the Brixton Academy, almost as if people were contented, but not deliriously happy, with the band's performance. The concert attracted a much wider demographic than I had anticipated, but this is to be expected as indie becomes more mainstream - *Our Earthly Pleasures* reached a respectable second place in the UK Albums Chart. It is this level of popularity that allows the band to fill larger venues rather than smaller and more intimate ones, but such an eclectic audience is undoubtedly harder to inspire and Maximo Park seemed to fall short of this requirement. The show was not wholly disappointing, but in many respects Maximo Park proved unable to salvage a fantastic performance from an album of second-rate songs.

Maximo Park's next single, 'Karaoke Plays', will be released on November 12th.

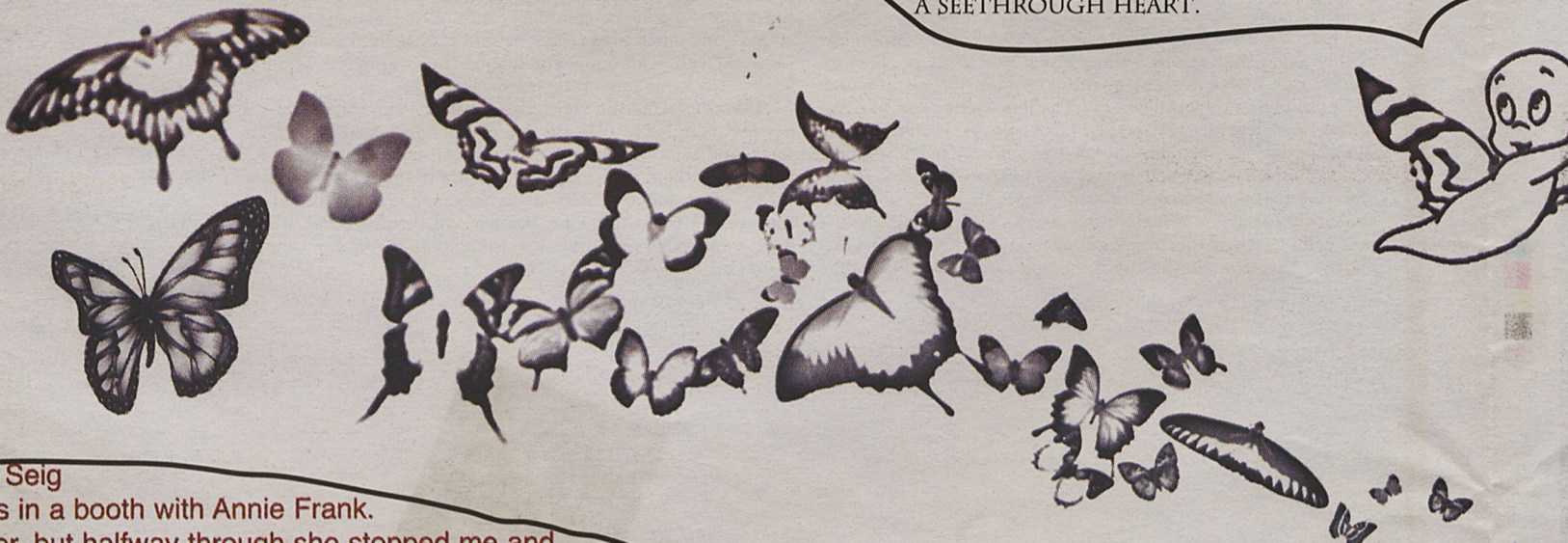


MUSIC

STRIP-SE

The first substantive problem was the fact that the seance was taking place in a strip club. 'This is wrong' was the freshly-seeing nihilist simply said 'it's like that' and reminded everyone present of their part in the truth that was not - and has never been - an issue. So the seance was set, and with the use of our entrails, as the strippers and the clients. This is an unqualified glimpse into the realm beyond, where darkness reigns, and

I'M HERE TO STRIP FOR MONEY. YOU SEE AFTER AP
AS A BORDERLINE-PSYCHOPATHIC CHILD-RAPIST, WORK IN CHI
INGLY HARD TO COME BY. I WAS FOREVER HAUNTING DRUG-ST
UNATTENDED SCRAPS OF MORPHINE AND COCODAMOL. NO
FOR MONEY. I AM A FRIENDLY WHORE. A TART WITH
A SEETHROUGH HEART.



Seig
Heil. I was in a booth with Annie Frank.
I stripped for her, but halfway through she stopped me and
started stripping for my pleasure. It was langweilig and I would have
preferred my dog. The Aryan race is doing quite well in the world so i'm happy,
but heaven isn't to my liking. I would prefer something whiter. Peace and
Anschluss people.



Man,
you crazy people. Last
thing I knew I was
jamming with some
vomit and now i'm
here, stripping for
Michael Eavis and his
daughter. There's no
love no more. I'm just
walking in a field and the
grass is electric. I keep
that image whilst I strip,
it keeps away the
freak.



Everything
is just fine, sugar, just fine. Ever
inch platform shoes I've mainly bee
and smoking inhuman amounts of p
hassle. He's promised me a Merc. I'm
get, some more H baby. Have my kaftan,

part careers

BANKING. INVESTMENT. DECISION. GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES. ENTERPRISE. GOLDMANSACHS. MORGANSTANLEY. PRIVATE EQUITY. LSE 9-5. BUSINESS DECISIONS. MORTGAGE. NORTHEROCK. CHINA. CORPORATE. FOREIGN FUNDS. INVESTMENT BANKING. INTERNATIONAL TRADING. AMERICA. SLUMP BANKING. FINANCIAL. INTERNATIONAL. NEW YORK. STOCK MARKET. ENTREPRENEUR. SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR CAREER. JOB HUNTING. BANKING. INVESTMENT BANKING/ HSB. BARCLAYS. LLOYD. JP MORGAN. REPEAT BANKING. INVESTMENT. DECISION. GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES. ENTERPRISE. GOLDMANSACHS. MORGANSTANLEY. SIONS. MORTGAGE. NORTHEROCK. CHINA. CORPORATE. FOREIGN FUNDS. INVESTMENT BANKING. INTERNATIONAL TRADING. AMERICA. SLUMP BANKING. FINANCIAL. INTERNATIONAL. NEW YORK. STOCK MARKET. ENTREPRENEUR. SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR CAREER. JOB HUNTING. BANKING. INVESTMENT BANKING/ HSB. BARCLAYS. LLOYD. JP MORGAN. REPEAT BANKING. INVESTMENT. DECISION. GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES. ENTERPRISE. GOLDMANSACHS. MORGANSTANLEY. SIONS. MORTGAGE. NORTHEROCK. CHINA. CORPORATE. FOREIGN FUNDS. INVESTMENT BANKING. INTERNATIONAL TRADING. AMERICA. SLUMP BANKING. FINANCIAL. INTERNATIONAL. NEW YORK. STOCK MARKET. ENTREPRENEUR. SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR CAREER. JOB HUNTING. BANKING. INVESTMENT BANKING/ HSB. BARCLAYS. LLOYD. JP MORGAN. REPEAT DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO? WORRY? WORRY NOT. IT'S YOUR DECISION YOUR FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS



news

Graduates head to London

Almost one in three students plan to move to London after graduating. Research reveals 30 percent of current students want to find employment in the capital - more than half a million jobseekers.

London attracts the brightest students and graduates. A third have, or are expecting to achieve, a first class degree look to move to the capital, along with two-fifths of 2:1 graduates. Reasons for moving to London include: it is seen as a good place to start a career, offers better pay and has a wider selection of jobs. (Source: Milkround)

City cuts bonuses

London's financial centre is predicted to cut bonuses and jobs this winter as a result of the credit crunch.

The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) forecasts that bonuses in the City will plunge 16% from last year's record of £8.8 billion to £7.4 billion. Jobs are also set to get the axe over the next two years with CEBR claiming 6,500 are up for the chop in the near future.

The predicted drops have been fuelled by the debt markets with top investment banks falling into losses. Source: Milkround

events

Trading Game (JP Morgan)

Ever wanted to experience the thrill of the trading floor and get inside the mind of a trader? The Trading Game gives you exactly this opportunity. During this highly interactive session you will have the chance to meet some of our traders and find out more about what it might be like to work within Sales, Trading and Research at JPMorgan.

Date: 31 October
Booking: Opens 23 Oct 5pm

L' Oreal on campus presentation

Find out more about L'Oreal and our Graduate opportunities at this on campus presentation.

Date: 1 November

Law Careers Forum

A panel of senior solicitors and barristers will be sharing their experiences in developing a career in Law. Senior barristers from Blackstone and Devereux chambers will providing an insight into a career at the bar and Herbert Smith will provide an insight into life as a commercial lawyer.

Date: 1 November
Booking: Not needed

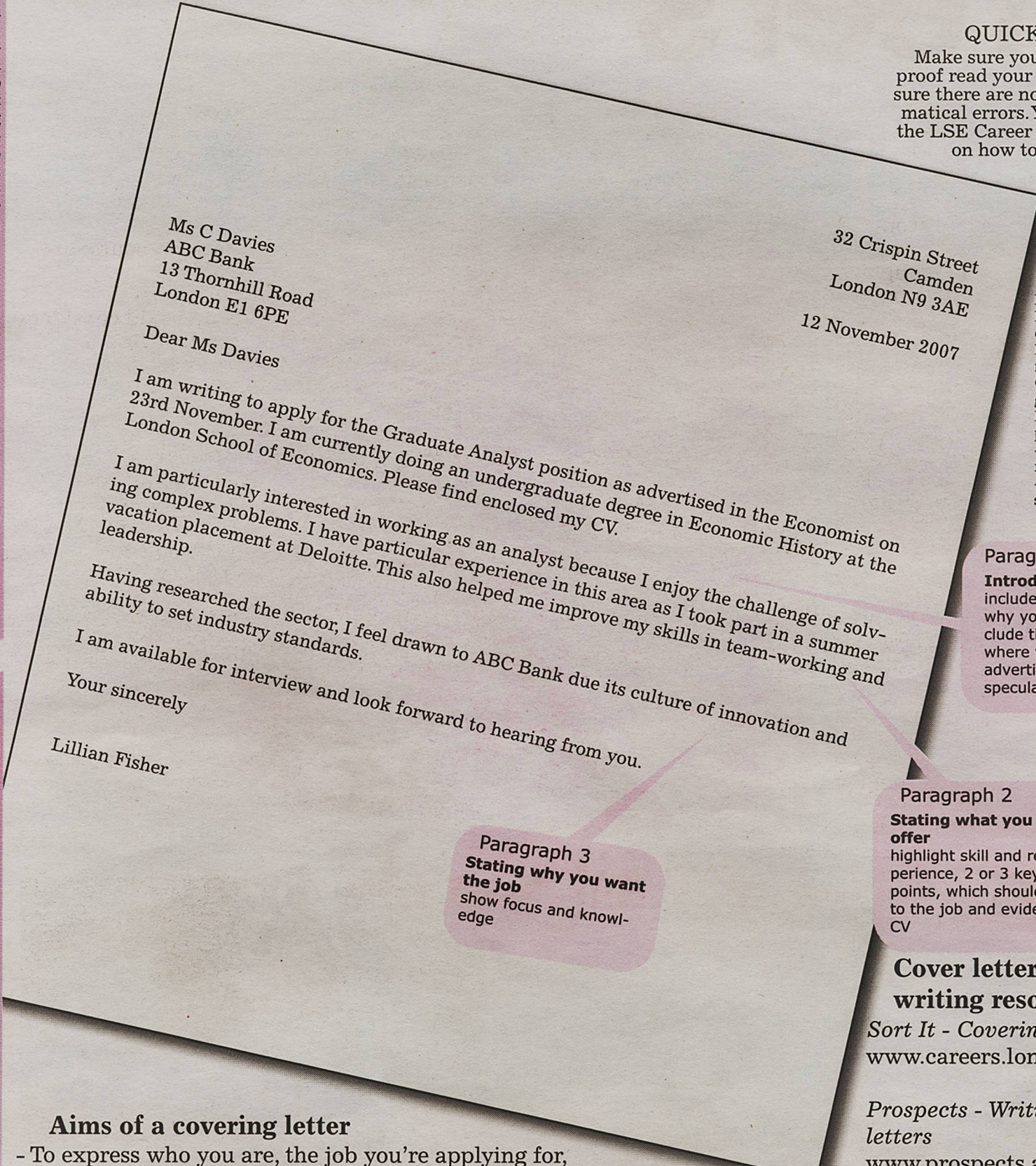
COVER LETTERS

QUICK TIP

Make sure you get someone to proof read your cover letter to ensure there are no spelling or grammatical errors. You can also go to the LSE Career Service for advice on how to improve it.

RULES

- Be concise
- Don't repeat entire content of CV
- Don't include information not in the CV
- Check for spelling and grammatical errors
- Follow business letter protocol
- Dear Sir...Yours faithfully
- Dear Name...Yours sincerely



Paragraph 1

Introduction
include who you are, why you are writing (include title of job), where you saw the job advertised, or if it is a speculative application

Paragraph 2

Stating what you have to offer
highlight skill and relevant experience, 2 or 3 key selling points, which should be relevant to the job and evidenced by the CV

Paragraph 3
Stating why you want the job
show focus and knowledge

Cover letter writing resources

Sort It - Covering letters
www.careers.lon.ac.uk/sortit

Prospects - Writing covering letters
www.prospects.ac.uk

Brilliant CV, Jim Bright & Joanne Earl, Pearson Education, 2001

101 Best Cover Letters, Jay A Block & Michael Betrus, McGraw Hill, 1999

QUICK TIP

You cover letter should be about 400 words length, average 14 words per sentence and not more than 1 page.

Aims of a covering letter

- To express who you are, the job you're applying for, why you're applying for it, and why you are suitable for the position
- State your strengths and motives for applying
- Show you are confident, competent and enthusiastic
- Avoid any spelling and grammatical errors
- If needed, explain any gaps or weaknesses in your CV.

Graduate Deadlines

Fortis Investments	Banking/Finance	30 Oct 2007
Corporate Executive Board	Business/Management	30 Oct 2007
Government Economic Service	Government	31 Oct 2007
Deutsche Bank	Banking/Finance	1 Nov 2007
UBS	Banking/Finance	4 Nov 2007

Internship Deadlines

Lehman	Banking/Finance	1 Nov 2007
Lazard	Banking/Finance	16 Nov 2007
Goldman Sachs	Banking/Finance	28 Dec 2007
Credit Suisse	Banking/Finance	30 Dec 2007
Merrill Lynch	Banking/Finance	31 Dec 2007

you're studying: economics

Take this quiz to see where Economics can take you.

I like being the leader in a group.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.
- c) Disagree.
- d) Strongly disagree.

I enjoy analysing complex problems.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.
- c) Disagree.
- d) Strongly disagree.

I can be persuasive when I need to be.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.
- c) Disagree.
- d) Strongly disagree.

I always organise my workspace at the end of the day.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.
- c) Disagree.
- d) Strongly disagree.

Money is the most important factor in choosing a job.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.
- c) Disagree.

d) Strongly disagree.

I'm more likely to take a big risk in the hopes of a big payoff, than to take a smaller payoff.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.
- c) Disagree.
- d) Strongly disagree.

When I meet people, I often assess how they can help me achieve my goals.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.
- c) Disagree.
- d) Strongly disagree.

Dressing up for work every day appeals to me.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.
- c) Disagree.
- d) Strongly disagree.

I want other people to envy my job.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.
- c) Disagree.
- d) Strongly disagree.

I like people to think that I have to be clever for my line of work.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.
- c) Disagree.
- d) Strongly disagree.

If you want a job done really well, you have to do it yourself.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.
- c) Disagree.
- d) Strongly disagree.

Even if I don't want to do something I'm supposed to, I'll do it.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.
- c) Disagree.
- d) Strongly disagree.

I often make to-do lists and complete the assigned tasks by the time I planned to.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.

c) Disagree.
d) Strongly disagree.

I am brand conscious when it comes to cars, electronics or clothes.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.
- c) Disagree.
- d) Strongly disagree.

It's not important if people like me.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.
- c) Disagree.
- d) Strongly disagree.

I don't need to express myself in my work.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.
- c) Disagree.
- d) Strongly disagree.

I'm a practical person.

- a) Strongly agree.
- b) Agree.
- c) Disagree.
- d) Strongly disagree.

RESULTS

Mostly a)s
You should consider:
Business Management Consultancy
Banking
Entrepreneurship

Mostly b)s
You should consider:
Accounting
Finance
Government
Law

Mostly c)s
You should consider:
Social enterprise
Development
Think Tanks
Research

Mostly d)s
You should consider:
Public Affairs
Media
Advertising
Marketing
Charitable organisations

jobs

Copal Partners Vice President

Copal is currently searching for a business development professional to manage its London business development efforts.
Closing Date: 1 December
Reference Number: 10429

Office for National Statistics

We currently have an ongoing recruitment need. Vacancies are available immediately and for the forthcoming year 2007/08. In addition to job satisfaction and inspiring challenges, you can look forward to an excellent benefits package.
Closing Date: 31 October
Reference Number: 9604

Global Business Reports International Business Reporter

International Business Reporters conduct activities including research, interviewing business personalities and leading corporations, writing sector specific reports about a country, Public Relations and reporting to head office.
Closing Date: 6 December
Reference Number: 9745

The International Centre for Security Analysis (ICSA)

Research Assistant
The RAs will carry out research on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction from open sources for a research project at ICSA, Department of War Studies, King's College London. Ideal candidates, in addition to having a keen interest in international affairs, should be able to read either Vietnamese, Malay, Indonesian or Thai. They would be asked to work for two days a month, under the supervision of ICSA's full-time research team.
Closing Date: 10 November
Reference Number: 10235

West London Law Solicitors

Part Time Paralegal
We are a busy new firm in West London and we require a part time paralegal placement to work in the litigation department, mainly dealing with High Court litigation and debt matters for both publicly funded and private clients.
You will receive excellent legal experience by assisting the principal lawyer. The candidate will need to be dedicated, focused, motivated and have a genuine interest in the law.
Closing Date: 23 November
Reference Number: 10383

Campus Group Student Brand Manager

We are looking for dynamic and energetic students who want to gain some great experience of marketing, who can work well on their own, really make an impact and are keen to earn some extra cash in a flexible role.
Closing Date: 10 November
Reference Number: 10244

Visit the LSE Careers website for further details and other opportunities.

What do LSE Economics graduates do?

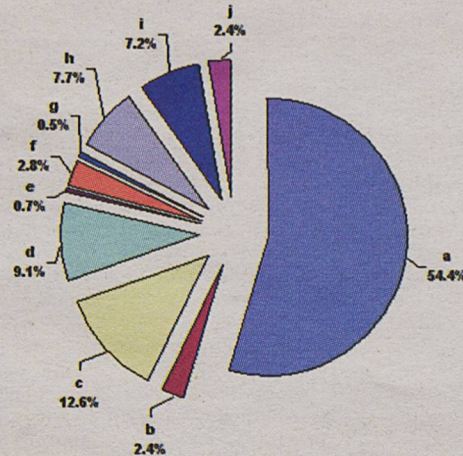
in 2005/2006 the most popular sectors for undergraduate leavers from the Department of Economics were:

- banking
- accountancy & taxation
- business and management consultancy
- local and national government

Also, a significant number undertook further study either at LSE or at other universities worldwide.

What do Economics graduates do nationally?

- a: In UK employment 54.4%
- b: In overseas employment 2.4%
- c: Working and studying 12.6%
- d: Studying in the UK for a higher degree 9.1%
- e: Studying in the UK for a teaching qualification 0.7%
- f: Undertaking other further study or training in the UK 2.8%
- g: Undertaking further study or training overseas 0.5%
- h: Not available for employment, study or training 7.7%
- i: Believed to be unemployed 7.2%
- j: Other 2.4%



Types of work included:

- Business and Financial Professionals (41.1%)
- Commercial, Industrial and Public Sector Managers (13.1%)
- Marketing, Sales and Advertising Professionals (4.9%)
- Other Professionals, Associate Professional and Technical Occupations (3.4%)

Who employs economics graduates?

These are some of the employers LSE Economics graduates went to work for:

- Abbey
- Bank of America
- Bank of England
- Barclays Capital
- BBC
- BDO Stoy Hayward
- Boston Consulting Group
- Cambridge Econometrics
- Deloitte
- Department of Trade & Industry
- Financial Services Authority
- Goldman Sachs
- Grant Thornton
- HM Treasury
- House of Lords
- Inland Revenue
- Lehman Brothers
- Macquarie Bank
- marakon
- McKinsey & Company
- National Archives
- Office of National Statistics



focus on.

LSE graduate's life in the C

Meryem Torun speaks to LSE alumnus Michael Fauconnier-Bank about his career in banking



Michael Fauconnier-Bank in an Honorary Student who graduated from the LSE in 2006, with a BSc in Philosophy, Logic & Scientific Method.

He is currently an Analyst in Citi's UK Mergers & Acquisitions team, based in Canary Wharf.

What made you decide to go into banking? What other career options did you consider?

I've never been one to follow the crowds which is probably why, studying at a university that is renowned for being a stepping stone to the city, I rejected the idea of working in investment banking right up until the start of my final year at the LSE.

During my first summer at university I worked at a play camp for special needs kids, run by a local charity. Although this wasn't something I considered as a full-time career, it did serve to reinforce the idea that there is more to life than simply making money. This might seem a strange thing to say, given that I ended up working in investment banking, but bear with me!

I worked for Deloitte in my second summer at university, and I was offered a full-time position with the firm. The problem was, I found that I was naturally suited to the role, in that my mind worked in such a way that I could easily conceptualise and understand the business processes that I was analysing. To a normal person this might be a good thing, but I really wanted to challenge myself and I didn't feel that the learning curve would be steep enough.

I was intrigued by the Corporate Finance division at Deloitte, which still seemed to be geared towards understanding businesses, but from more of a financial perspective. I was actually quite shocked to learn that this was simply an offshoot of the dreaded 'investment banking' world that I had been consciously avoiding for so long.

Once I had taken the time to properly understand what banks such as Citi really do, I decided to jump straight in and apply for an internship in my final year, which I converted to a full-time offer before setting off on my second gap-year.

What was the application process like?

I was an atypical LSE student in that I had no detailed knowledge of the finance world before the start of my final year at the School.

I had to ask one of my good friends, Arjun Malhotra, who headed up the Investment Society at the time, to explain the industry to me. He is the guy I blame for encouraging me to apply!

The most important thing Arjun did was to help me identify the role that would best suit me, as there are many different career paths available in a bulge bracket bank.

The application process at Citi is pretty standard. You can get the full details on the website.

Did you do any internships in the sector? Were they useful in helping you attain this job?

While it is not impossible to get a job in banking without having interned in the sector, it is certainly more difficult to apply for a graduate position without any relevant industry experience.

This doesn't mean that you should get disheartened if you didn't manage to secure an internship or if, like me, you have arrived late to the game. You will just have to work that much harder to show that you are career focused and that you do have the skill-set that the recruiters are looking for.

What's the best thing about your job?

The money! No, seriously, while you are certainly paid better than your peers in other industries, the compensation at the lower levels mainly reflects the hours you are expected to put in.

For me, the most important thing about my job is the people I work with. One of the main reasons I chose to work at Citi was that I consistently got along well with everyone from the business that I came across throughout the application process and my internship.

Every bank, and to a certain extent every team within any given bank, has a distinct culture. Not everyone will be suited to working at Citi, but for me it was a good cultural fit.

While you are expected to work hard here, the people in your team will always take the time to answer your questions and help you out. It really is not the 'dog-eat-dog' world that you might read about.

What's the worst thing about your job?

They say that banking years are like dog years, in that every one year in banking is worth something like seven in the real world. However, this works both ways, as you will be getting seven years of experience in exchange for seven years' worth of stress.

Everyone has heard about the long hours. It's nothing new and, for me, this isn't the problem.

The big issue for me is the unpredictability. One day you might leave work at 7pm, the next you could be working through the night.

This means that you need to have understanding friends who recognise that you might not always be able to commit to seeing them weeks - or even hours - in advance.

The onus is on you to actively take steps to maintain the much sought-after 'work-life' balance and, while it is not always easy, it is certainly possible.

What advice would you give to other aspiring bankers?

Don't do it! Save yourself before it's too late! But, then, everyone told me that when I was applying, so I know that my warnings will be falling on deaf ears.

In all seriousness, the banking world is not for everyone, and entering into it is very much a

personal choice. Having said that, as long as it is an informed choice on your part, I would fully encourage anyone at the LSE to apply.

A good book to read about IBD in particular is *Monkey Business* by John Rolfe and Peter Troob.

There is also the classic *Liars Poker* by Michael Lewis, in which LSE gets a mention.

Golden Handcuffs: The Lowly Life of a High Flyer by Polly Courtney is also an interesting book, although I didn't find myself nodding along to the same extent as when reading *Monkey Business*.

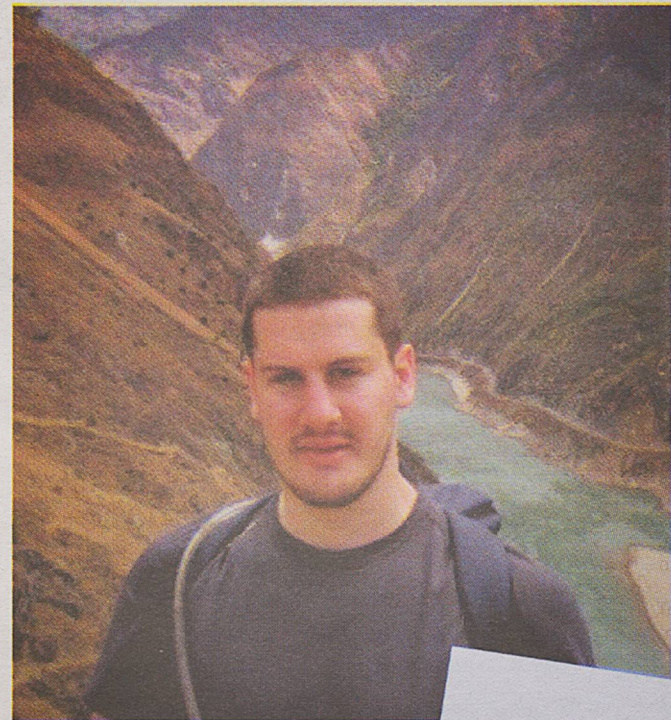
real interest to you; the 'CV boost' should simply be a by-product of your involvement.

Do you have any good interview tips?

Try to remember that the interview is an opportunity for you to learn about the company, just as much as it is an opportunity for the company to learn about you.

Do not be afraid to sell yourself, albeit in a non-arrogant manner. If you don't tell the interviewer how good you are, they are not going to know.

Also, practice makes perfect. Take part in mock interviews with your friends and the Ca-



If you still think you can handle it after reading the pessimistic titles above, then come along to the LSE Internship Fair on Tue 20-Nov 18:00 - 21:30, or contact your careers service for more Citi events.

What other activities did you do during university which helped you in your career path?

The most important thing is to simply get involved in the extra-curricular side of life at the LSE.

I'm not saying this from a careerist perspective, by any means. I just think that there is so much more to university life than hiding away in the deepest recesses of the library for your entire time at the School or, at the opposite end of the scale, in the darkest corner of the Tuns.

You have a lot of free time while you are studying, so take full advantage.

For my part, I was a club captain of the Mixed Martial Arts team and I was a committee member of several SU societies, including the Entrepreneurs and Film societies. I also worked as Business Manager on the Beaver.

One word of warning - it is pretty obvious when someone has engaged in a little CV-boosting. You should primarily get involved in clubs that are of

CURRENT VIEWS

- Club captain of
- Martial Arts team
- Committee member
- Entrepreneurs societies
- Business Manager
- Beaver
- Vacation student at Deloitte
- Internship at Citi

...banking

iti

I was an atypical LSE student in that I had no detailed knowledge of the finance world before the start of my final year at the School

CAREERS IN FINANCE

Actuary: using statistical and mathematical knowledge to make long-term financial forecasts.

Banker: responsible for establishing and maintaining positive customer relationships, planning and delivering effective sales strategies and monitoring the progress of new and existing financial products.

Chartered accountant: provide professional services to a wide range of fee paying clients, from private individuals to large commercial and public sector organisations, including banks.

Credit analyst: Credit analysts (or credit risk analysts) undertake risk assessment analysis of various types of lending proposals from the straightforward to the very complex, which can be for amounts in excess of £50 million.

Financial advisor: Financial advisers provide clients with advice on financial matters, making recommendations on ways to utilise money.



USEFUL RESOURCES

WEBSITES

- Banking and Finance section of LSE Careers Service website (www.lse.ac.uk/careers)
- London Investment Banking Association (www.liba.org.uk)
- Investment Management Association (www.ima.org.uk)
- Futures and Options Association (www.foa.co.uk)
- The London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (www.liffe.com)
- The Financial Services Authority (www.fsa.gov.uk)
- The London Stock Exchange (www.londonstockexchange.com)
- NASDAQ (www.nasdaq.com)
- Bloomberg (www.bloomberg.com)

REFERENCE BOOKS

Offered by the Careers Service

- The Wetfeet Insider Guider to Investment Banking
- Vault Career Guide to Investment Banking

Banking on the poor

Markus Gstoettner recounts his summer banking experience

It was last year, during the course of the Nobel Peace Prize ceremonies that I had first heard about Grameen Bank (GB) and its Micro Finance Model. I had just moved away from home, started my studies at LSE, discovered my genuine interest in Economics and was eager for new and promising innovations. The idea of pursuing an internship with this institution seemed exciting.

Grameen Bank runs several internships, research and exposure visit programs which give individuals the opportunity to study the Bank's work and operational structure on the spot, in Bangladesh. I decided to do a three week 'Internship and Research' program in Dhaka, the country's capital, which turned out to be one of the most valuable and rewarding experiences of my life so far.

A bit deterred by the media's constant coverage of monsoon floods and political instabilities at that time, I obviously had to do some careful consideration on whether I really wanted to go. This helped me get my priorities straight.

First and foremost I wanted to study the structures of Grameen Bank and the methods it employed in micro-lending. My guiding question was whether this new form of "social entrepreneurship" would have the potential to be a force of effective poverty reduction and sustainable development. If yes, then I wanted to understand how. If no, then I wanted to analyse possible roots of its failure. In either case, I hoped it would provide inspiration. This new form of combining for-profit businesses with a social mandate seemed like a possible career path for me, and a very worthy cause.

My second priority was to

see how Grameen Bank's members and borrowers, the poor of Bangladesh, live and work. After all, it's necessary to be aware of the economic and social hurdles that are faced by the poor before make the steps towards empowering them.

Leaving Vienna for



Grameen Bank runs several internships, research and exposure visit programs which give individuals the opportunity to study the Bank's work and operational structure

Bangladesh was very exciting, but, arriving there, I felt disappointed. I had to realise that I did not at all feel comfortable with the unvarnished account of poverty that welcomed me in the streets of Dhaka. That was probably my first and most important lesson: what poverty really means can never be encountered in academic terms; it has to be

experienced or at least witnessed.

Struggling with a severe culture shock I spent my first few days in the Grameen Bank head-office in the district of Mirpur, Dhaka. What has to be emphasised when talking about an 'internship' with Grameen Bank, is that this is not an internship in



the traditional sense. Interns are not asked to fulfill a certain task or work on certain projects for the bank; neither are they being paid or subsidised. Instead, successful applicants are invited to go to Bangladesh and study the structures of Grameen Bank and its applied model of micro-finance. The detailed program and the intern's stay with the company is totally flexible and individually tailored to each candidate's interests and priorities.

Throughout the 'Internship and Research' programme I was accompanied and supported by my personal coordinator, an employee of the Grameen Bank International Training Dept., who helped me to reach my objectives and organize my activities.

In the beginning I chose to focus on studying the Bank's the-

together with the branch manager (who lives in the branch too), his staff, an interpreter and a fellow intern, I really had the on-hand experience of how harsh but rewarding the daily micro-lending business is. Burdened by regular power cuts and a +90% humidity rate, the people there usually work from 7am to 11pm. Before the regular banking and accounting business begins in the afternoon, the daily routine starts with visiting some of the villages where the Grameen members live. They hold centre meetings where all borrowers (mostly women) come together, meet with a member of the branch staff, pay their instalments and apply new loans. In this setting I had the great opportunity to interview some of the members about their personal backgrounds. This helped me to understand how micro-credits can change people's lives by enabling them to turn from exploited daily laborers to self-employed mini-entrepreneurs.

During my last days in Bangladesh I was also given the opportunity to see some of the other companies of the Grameen Group. These are to be found in various sectors like electricity, textile manufacturing and telecommunication, and all follow the group's corporate policy of combining a pro-profit structure with a social mandate. They pay their employees higher than market wages and re-invest in social projects - successfully it seemed.

All in all I can say that my time in Bangladesh was as enriching as it was challenging - personally and academically. I can only recommend this program to anyone interested in development, economics and social entrepreneurship as well as to all those who might wish to expand their horizons.

ory: operational structure, business report and mandate. Once I understood all of this and underwent several interviews, I couldn't wait to see the practice. While the head-office is rather focused on bureaucratic supervision, the real "Banking to the Poor" happens on the branch level - mostly in the country's remote rural areas.

Therefore I gained the most experience during the four days I spent living in a branch far north from the capital. Staying

INTERNSHIPS

Summer as a journalist

Chun Han Wong travels to Singapore to work in the media

Time's awastin' over summer, and instead of slouching in the relative comforts of home, watching mind-numbing re-runs of American Chopper, I threw myself into eight weeks of odd-hours, meagre pay and endless legwork. Internship, work experience, temporary employment: whatever the label, vacation jobs have all but become routine for the average LSE student.

I have always been the sore thumb, the black sheep or the odd man. While my fellow countrymen read the usual fare of economics, accounting and law, I simply had to break the monotony with my unusual choice of history. As they aspire to stellar careers in soliciting, investment banking and auditing, I dream of collecting paycheques from frontlines, braving rains of fire and hailstorms of bullets as did the likes of Robert Capa and Peter Arnett.

As soon as the curtains were drawn on the last academic year, I instinctively leapt into rapid action. Hastily putting together my CV with whatever minute past glories I could muster from the prior 21-and-a-half years of my life, I shot off hopeful emails to human resource departments of the major news publications in Singapore.

Perhaps irked by my persistent emails, the HR department of the Singapore Press Holdings decided to give this journo-wannabe a crack at the big time. First hurdle to negotiate was a three-hour English language proficiency test. Perhaps they don't trust the English grades on my certificates too much, even though I am a true-blue product of the pressure-cooker Singaporean education system. Then again, two years and two months of mili-

tary service does untold horrors to one's mental faculties, so it was a matter of better safe than

ability and experience. I replied with colourful and skilfully-nuanced answers, hoping my times

Times news desk (being the only English broadsheet newspaper in Singapore, boasting the highest circulation numbers for any news publication, there was no way could I pass up on an opportunity like that).

Despite having no news reporting experience whatsoever, the recruiters in all their wisdom decided to grant my wishes and plant me into the heart of *The Straits Times* local news section – the Home desk. Two days of mandatory software training equipped me with functional knowledge of the workflow systems utilised in the publication of the paper, and off I leapt into the frying pan.

My first assignment seemed simple – do a phone survey for a news story that would be written up by another reporter. Turned out to last an entire day, exhausting my phonebook of friends and contacts and then some, but phoning people from the safety of my cubicle was not too bad. I could easily handle that.

Unfortunately, *The Straits Times* doesn't believe in shadowing or mentoring for fresh faces. The assistant news editors, constantly on the prowl in the newsroom, simply fire off stories and assignments at anyone within earshot. With no on-the-job training of any sort, I was quickly thrown into the thick of things. As one of my supervisors put it rather succinctly, "You'll either sink or swim."

The following assignments came in thick and fast – ministerial events, news conferences, news worthy happenings and the works. And I would be tasked to go it alone, sometimes with a photographer whose only concern was to get a Pulitzer Prize winning shot and pack off for home. 'Use your in-

stincts', advised the Obi-Wan in me. So I did, asking probing questions, plugging gaps in the story with fresh information, directing the photographer as I deemed fit.

“ Perhaps irked by my persistent emails, the HR department of the Singapore Press Holdings decided to give this journo-wannabe a crack at the big time ”

Yet the legwork is only half the story. Composing the compelling and comprehensive prose that would lucidly illustrate the news was the next challenge in line. As was the case with newsgathering, I was left alone to the news writing. A few words of guidance and wisdom from the editor and off I would go into my cosy cubicle to churn out twenty to forty lines of news. Why would they trust an intern to write stories on his own? In truth, they trusted the system – the edito-

rial process. Reporters' compositions are passed on to the sub-editors and copy-editors, who would catch the flaws in the story – be it in the language or news content. Through nifty messaging software, they would verify information in the story and then proceed to educate me about the fine art of new writing.

The kicks you get out of this business? Getting your own by-line. Seeing your name taking pride of place at the head of the story. Receiving appreciative emails from readers. Better yet, getting a story on the front page, which I managed rather fortuitously just once. Strangely enough, I only found out when friends sent me congratulatory text messages while I was still unconscious from a late night at the office. Which then brings me to another point – the unpredictable hours.

Late mornings are just about the only good thing in terms of the schedule, as the late-breaking stories could easily force long nights. Social life became a thing of the past; I could never make any appointments on weekdays, and weekends were spent recuperating from the week's exertions.

But why should I complain? Transport cost is reimbursed; I get paid to travel to the ends of my country, to look into the various facets of Singaporean life I had not previously seen, to meet people wielding wealth and power, to help those struggling on the lowest rungs of the social ladder. Better yet, people always treat you with extra care and civility when you reveal yourself as a reporter. And hardly any other job can offer as many thrills and spills or the adrenaline rush one gets from chasing news and beating deadlines – for there are no two same days in journalism.



sorry. Thankfully this segment of the tale had a happy ending, and I was invited for an interview. They read off my CV and fired questions to test my cred-

with *the Beaver* and LooSE TV could pull wool over their eyes. They wanted to know which publication and desk I preferred, and I gave them my pre-planned response – *The Straits*

why do vacation work?

It looks great on your CV

Demonstrates that you have a responsible attitude to work and that you've experienced life beyond academic institutions.

It demonstrates and develops transferable skills

These are often skills that employers value such as teamwork, flexibility, communication and dealing with pressure.

It helps you with your career choices

You can enter the employment sector and see what suits you. By the end, you will be in a more realistic and informed position to make future career choices.

It may prove vital for entry into some sectors

In fields such as media and banking, work experience is seen as a must.



what's available?

Internships

These are work placement schemes offered by large organisations and companies. They are usually well structured and mostly found in sectors such as sales and finance.

Other work experience placements

These placements are usually less structured and vary in the type of work you do and the amount you are paid.

Work shadowing

Sometimes organisations may allow you to shadow someone in your chosen field.

Voluntary work

While not paid, voluntary work often involves greater variety and responsibility than you may find in a regular paid holiday job.

Faststream to civil service

Amina Adewusi talks about her first experience with the public sector

So, the question on everybody's lips; what did you do last summer? Were you taking that well-needed chill-out at home? Travelling the world backpacker-style? Or, were you joining the masses in trying your hand in the world of work? Yes, these days, especially for those at LSE, there is a great pressure on us to find the internship which will guarantee us a one way ticket into employment bliss.

As a social policy student my interests lie in fluffy matters such as human wellbeing and the betterment of society, but in more substantial terms this inclines me towards jobs in the public sector: not-for-profit organisations and think-tanks. In Michaelmas term, as essays started piling up and exams loomed, I pledged to myself that every day of my summer would be spent doing something worthwhile. The welcome prospect of four months of summer holidays (a big improvement from the standard six-week English school holidays) brought with it a fear of couch potato syndrome: sitting in front of the TV watching repeats of my favourite no-thinking-needed American sitcom. I mean, with LSE's name behind me, I should be able to get somewhere, right?

In March I stumbled across the Civil Service Faststream Summer Development Programme, a competitive scheme whereby students from ethnic minorities and with disabilities can apply to Government departments for an eight week

paid internship. On the application we were asked to put down three government departments that we would prefer to work for. I chose DFID, the Department of Health and the Ministry for Defence. Please don't ask me why I chose it - I have no idea



what was going through my head! A word of advice: have a clear mind when you're writing your application forms - you might actually get what you ask for! In this instance, I was lucky. So, one application form, two interviews and four LSE exams went by and I was sitting in the Department of Health's Waterloo site working on a National Service Framework.

My job was to do what in health terms is the impossible: reach out to "hard-to-reach" patients and find out what they thought of the services they received and their feedback on government plans for improvement. I organised patient-focus

do as students. However, when you're out of the university environment, finding work that mentally challenges you can be the difference between enjoying what you're doing and disliking it. I also found the work environment quite slow-paced.

tion. I would be included in weekly "coffee-drop-ins", as they were affectionately called, where the whole team would come together with our department manager to discuss the latest developments in Whitehall. One of the most interesting things was the cynicism which plagued a lot of these meetings. Although humorous and lighthearted, it was obvious that the civil servants had lost a lot of faith in the ministers that work above them.

“ the programme gave me the chance to get an insider's look at the civil service ”

On the other hand, I felt happy to know that the work I was doing would actually improve the life-standards of people who were suffering. Additionally, a great deal of the work I did was in my own borough of London, which has a

substantial Bangladeshi population. Not only was I "giving back" to society, but I was also able to bring my expertise about the needs of that local community into play through my project strategy. My work also gained the interest of other health workers and researchers who were interested in engaging with communities from an ethnic minority.

By the end of my internship I was certainly used to the routine of doing an office job and absolutely loved the freedom to spend my time outside the office in anyway that I pleased, without the guilt of not doing reading or homework. Furthermore, I was able to do plenty of networking and talk to current faststreamers about their feelings towards the civil service and their jobs. The summer development programme also offered a 2-day training simulation, which went through the civil service assessment centre. I was able to identify my strengths and weaknesses and recognise what skills I needed to improve to make myself a stronger candidate for the faststream after graduation.

I am positive that I will apply for the civil service faststream and I would urge other LSE students to find out about the scheme and apply if they are eligible. The value of internships lies in the ability to go into a workplace, be there long enough to see if it's somewhere you aspire to be: or equally as important, to find out if it's somewhere you want to steer clear of.

Down and out in New York

Peter White leaves London in search for his dream job

I'm a fan of large cities. I really fell in love with London when I started going to gigs. Soon enough I was in my own band playing in some of the capital's premier venues and I loved every minute of it. There are very few cities on the earth that can match the capital's art collections, museums, bars, clubs, pubs, cinemas, and theatres. So after London I didn't feel there was anywhere to move on to - at least not in the UK. I decided to head off to the Big Apple. I have a friend who interned at a music publicity company on Wall Street that had the likes of the Strokes, the Libertines and the Kings of Leon on their books. This sounded perfect to me; I could gain some unequalled experience in the music industry to beef up my CV and also have the best summer of my life in New York.

Obviously I had some saving to do. I never spent much on my diet but I shrank my budget even further. Breakfast became lunch, lunch became dinner and dinner became nonexistent. It's amazing how little food you can live on. I walked everywhere I could and learnt all the bendy bus routes off by heart. The pound is strong and so I saved every penny I could, quite literally, paying for my groceries

with a pound's worth of pennies. I got myself a bar job before I finished my exams. I didn't want to lie to them and promise my labour for the

“

I could gain some unequalled experience in the music industry to beef up my CV ”

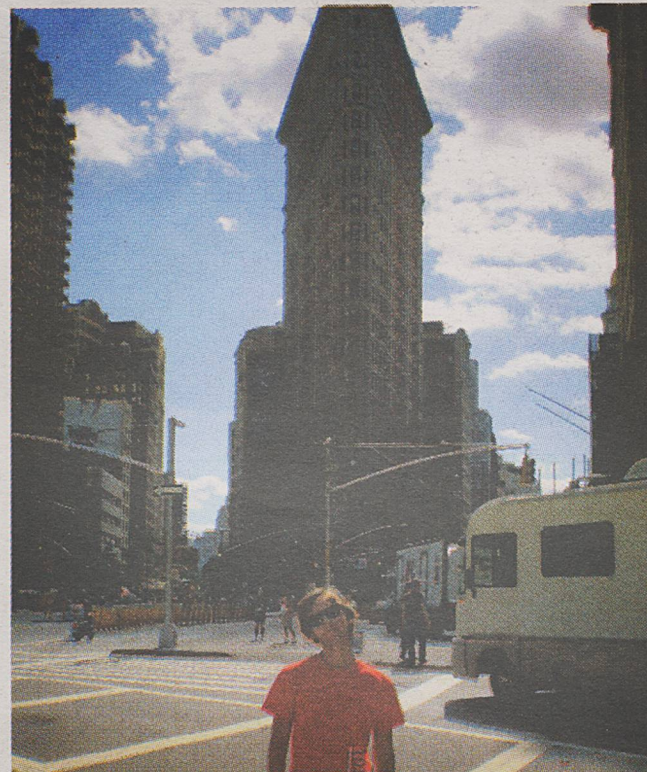
”

whole summer but sometimes you just don't have a choice. The saving started as far back as Easter when my flights were booked and after two terms of

going out more or less every night, I started to stay in more often. With the exams looming

a first in my first year.

Finally the day came when I departed from Houghton Street



it made far more sense and it kind of paid off too: I averaged

and went to live on Houston Street. I had obtained myself a

six month working visa through BUNAC, a working holiday scheme that sponsors your visa and walks you through all the logistics. I went out armed with a pile of CVs into the heart of Manhattan's bar scene: the Lower East Side and the East Village. In London I was employed on the spot by the first bar that walked into. New York was a little different. In the US it is customary to tip 20% of each drink and so in busy bars on Manhattan, bartenders can expect to get hundreds of dollars a night in tips and may not be paid by their employers at all. Nonetheless they make far more than London bartenders. This makes bar jobs in New York's busy bars gold dust.

I saw a job advertised on Craigslist by a British chocolate company that had a café in Saks, 5th Avenue. This was perfect. I got the tips that I wanted to get through the café and I still had my evenings free to spend with friends and go out drinking.

Once in New York, other than astronomical rent prices, the cost of living is pretty low, or at least it is to a Londoner. There was so much to do for free. I found three public park cinemas, professional Shakespeare productions are performed in Central Park

throughout the summer, there are countless free concerts and performances in public spaces up and down Manhattan, the beach is only a subway ride away and many of the museums offer free evening viewings. The list goes on.

Moving continents may seem like a daunting task but if you find yourself a job and an internship, you'll make plenty of friends. LSE students can probably adapt most easily - barely a week went by without one of my friends passing through the city.

The hardest task is finding accommodation. I lived in two places: one was a total disaster, the other perfect. There are international student halls you can rent near Columbia during the summer but I chose to live nearer the action, which is a bit trickier. Craigslist opens up a world of opportunities but all at your own risk. I would advise people to take caution with sublets. Try and get some sort of written agreement to be on the safe side.

Achieving working visas outside of the EU becomes harder once you leave university, so really this is the perfect summer to do it. There are hundreds of internships and jobs out there just waiting for you to apply.

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SEANCE

wrong' was the general consensus, but PartB has never been about consensus, and with the lapsed moral sense in the theatre of the dead. It was at this point that most of those present decided to leave, but in contrails, some intense teabagging and a lax smattering of divination, we made the dead come to us and perform reigns, and restless spirits hunt for the chance to strip...

SEE AFTER APPEARING IN THE FILM 'KIDS' WORK IN CHILDREN'S TV BECAME INCREASING DRUG-STORES, HANGING OUT FOR ODDAMOL. NOW I'LL DO MOST ANY THINGS T WITH



It was the march of history that enabled me to have privately-owned capital strip for my pleasure. Its dancing nexus of producers, dehumanised and glorious made me hard. Man is to be found in his doing, and I am doing private capital, I am roasting the bourgeoisie, the 'look no touch' has no weight here. I am raping. I am possessing those who wish to possess.



I was here, and then I wasn't. I was in a mirror, and then I was gone. Now you bring me back and have Mo Tucker stripping for me, her meat is clasped in her cymbals. It is something I am neither happy nor unhappy with. These days I am counting the nothingness. The black boot falls, I am indifferent. I have nothing more than I had, and nothing less. Tell LR he owes me, I am now to frig myself rigid, like a series of hard rocks impacting upon an iceberg.

Everything
er, just fine. Ever since I checked out in my six
es I've mainly been sitting around listening to Kris Kristofferson records
man amounts of pot. Now I have to strip for the man which is a plastic
d me a Merc. I'm not sure i'm going to get it. Some more H and i'll for-
Have my kaftan, it's ripped. I am broken.



*The seance was a marked failure

Learning Literature at the LSE

euniceng changes her timetable after chatting up dr.anguswrenn

There are currently two literature courses running through the LSE Language Centre: one on English Literature and Society and another on Comparative Literature and Society. How did the idea of literature courses get initiated?

Literature forms an important party of LSE's profile – for example the novelist Pat Barker (who won the Booker Prize for *Regeneration*) studied here. Indeed this year the LSE Director Howard Davies is chair of the judges for the Man-Booker Prize. Literature has in fact been taught at LSE for quite a long time – at least since the 1960s and 1970s, when the Language Centre specialized in linguistics – Raymond Chapman was an expert on Thomas Hardy. More recently, reflecting the increasing international profile of LSE, the Language Centre has concentrated on English language support for students but has retained staff who are active in literary research, who have been responsible for teaching the Literature and Society (LN250) course.

How do you think that your courses fit into the often vocational mindset of most LSE students?

From my teaching experience, over several years now, LSE students are well read and very open-minded. They enjoy the opportunity to develop skills they often have from earlier reading at school, and are

keen to go on the theatre trips which we organize several times each term. The course also gives students the chance to consider aspects of style and expression which may not be involved in other courses they are taking. (They are also exceptional students to teach. Having taught elsewhere I can confirm that this is the only college where I've had a student who stood in a general election before taking her finals!)

What are the chances of the course selection expanding?

From the beginning of 2007-2008 (i.e. now!) we are offering a second literature option – this time in Comparative Literature and Society (LN251). This will involve literature from both sides of the Iron Curtain, starting with the controversial trips to the USSR made in the 1920s and 1930s by the Fabians. The course will then look at works like Orwell's 'Animal Farm', in English translation Solzhenitsyn's 'One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich', and later works (again in translation) like Kundera's 'Unbearable Lightness of Being', before coming up to date with Tom Stoppard's plays (you may have seen 'Rock'n'Roll' in the West End recently).

We are working on plans for a further literature undergraduate option concerning contemporary literature and issues in globalization and hope to introduce this next academic year. The future looks literary.

What the kids are saying...

"The open design of the course gives you an excellent amount of freedom, not least the freedom to escape the traditional rigours of the social sciences." *2nd year Econ student*

"In the classes, all the students seem incredibly keen, sometimes annoyingly keen. It must be the joy of putting our hands on literature again for the first time since high school. That or these people are annoying." *3rd year Anthropology student*

"Dr. Wrenn is so sweet." *Anonymous Undergrad*

To Blog or not to Blog

chloepieters sees writers' blogs as epiphenomenal wank, not so reckons danielbyates

Writers enjoy validating themselves. Often this comes accompanied by an injurious tone as they scrabble to explain why critics won't like their book. Of course you, dear reader, have better sense than those nasty critics. You've read the blog: you know how much effort has gone into this undisputed magnum opus. KJ Bishop tells us: "I just know someone is going to savage me for having a talking slug in this book. And other people are going to savage me for how quiet and gentle and slow it all is (a few violent moments aside)." Shouldn't the book (and slug) be able to stand up for themselves without Bishop making a big deal about how special and brave she is for putting in something as original™ as a talking slug?

More amusing are the musings of the batshit-crazy, sex-obsessed writers. "I've broken my rule and put a sex scene in the first thirty pages of the book," Laurell K Hamilton gleefully announces. Hamilton is the author of the Anita Blake: Vampire-Hunter-turned-Vampire-Fucker series, so this is perhaps not too surprising. Though really, isn't giving the game away at this stage a bit of a betrayal of your fans? Readers buy books because they want to find out what happens. Now they don't need even need to waste the time – they can get everything from the author's blog months before the book hits the shelves. This seems to defeat the purpose of publishing in the first place.

And do we really have time to read the rambling stream-of-conscious inner monologue some writers feel compelled to share? "I am noticing the way the frost touches everything. I breath [sic] it in and try to remember the taste of the air, the feel of the heavy frost on the leaves. How it melts if you touch it with your finger tips. It turns to ice, to water, at the warmth of my fingers." Yes, thank you. I think reading this kind of thing causes brain-cell loss. Writing it certainly does. So...don't?

It's not just the pretentious and pathetic authors whose blogs are excruciating. Neil Gaiman is a truly sparkling writer (his short stories are particularly amazing, mind-boggling in fact). His blog is cheerful and intimate and cute and...self-indulgent. One of his latest entries contained a photo of a bubble bath he was about to step into. Hm. But that's not the worst of it. His prolific blog is, most of the time, sadly banal.

In fact, this banality is one of the most difficult things about reading a writer's blog. It is a sad day when you realise that the same writers who hammer out the most exquisite, lush prose also run out of toilet paper. It ruins the illusion of the Noble Artist, which is an illusion we all need to sustain our weary, investment-bank-internship-driven lives. So do us all a favour, Published Writers of Greatness and Badness alike: shut up, and stick to writing fiction.

But, hang on, surely writers writing in blogs isn't such a fucking awful thing. Okay, so I concede that they can err on the tedious side. As a matter of course noone wants to know what artisanal olive oil Zadie Smith plops on her pasta. And who cares how Dan Brown feels about his weekly shop for numbing alcohol. Unless it culminates in the urge to pour it all over his manuscripts followed by the application of a match, we rightly don't give a toss. When we read for pleasure, we do not require devastatingly quotidian detail, nor do we ask for the author's every excrement to be slopped down on a platform and held up for our admiration. However there is a sense in which even the dullest blog can have some value in the wider literary context.

Literary criticism has long valued the *ad hominem* avenue of research, and the publishing of letters along with textual odds and sods from the writer's life has been an important part of making the biographical angle of analysis a fruitful one. Blogs, in all of their glorious over-detail, are, in this respect, a critical historical resource of mental-boggling enormity. Literary Critics of the future, floating around in their prose-pods and reading poetry in binary from the screens in their eyelids will have endless screeds for sources, unending tracts of evidence. The inane ramblings of today are the important subjective accounts of tomorrow, and from them we will be able to construct authors as historicised voices with blinding accuracy.

And there are more current ways in which writer's blogs are important. We have all been told that the bloated corpse of traditional media is rapidly decomposing and with it the line between published and unpublished is becoming increasingly smudged. K-Punk has been creating some of the most important narratives about pop music today through his blog. Coming up will be his book *Hauntologies*, which will draw on much of his blogging. He will no doubt be blogging follow-ups to his book. There is not just a sense in which the blog can augment the text itself, and provide rich elaborations – there is also a sense that the two will converge as the formats collapse into one another.

Another bonus is that literary institution 'the diary' has now morphed into the blog, becoming in the process a continuous reflexive thing, and indeed something that we don't have to pay for. Further to that we are afforded free insight into the process of writing and publishing, from a variety of blogged angles, and those of who aspire to write can have concrete paths mapped out for those aspirations.

The great writers of tomorrow will all have been bloggers, and blogging is likely to remain their major format, even after their works are collected and published. So, Zadie, what was that olive called? Dan here is about to instigate a pissed-up bonfire. And the better documented this is; the better for literature.

Touches of Reality

Angustse reviews the latest indie sleeper

This week's film releases are either unappealing (there's plenty of kiddie films though- *Nancy Drew* anyone?) or overshadowed by the London Film Festival (if you care). There is, however, a film that I would like to attract your attention to. A poorly shot, low-budget, Irish film with a cast of unknowns. But it's also a musical, a love story, and a date movie. And most of all, it feels genuine.

Once is about a mid-30s newly single 'Guy' (Glen Hansard, lead singer of the famous Irish band *The Frames*) who works in his father's vacuum repair shop and busks after-hours. He meets Czech immigrant flower seller 'Girl' (Markéta Irglová), who plays the piano and likes his music. They start composing together, hoping to break into the music business, and soon develop a rapport that edges-towards-but-not-quite true love.

The project originally starred Cilian Murphy, but his unexpected pullout meant funding for the film was substantially cut. Having to rely on public funds, the director asked Glen, who wrote the songs, to act as well. Shot on handheld digital, and clearly filming without permits (bystanders occasionally stare at the camera), the technical effect is simple. Only the last scene, an overhead crane shot, resembles anything complex. Both Glen and Markéta (now a real-life couple) have no acting experience, but this is insignificant. The film is essentially a musical, and it

may not be noticeable for many who are accustomed to the never-ending flashy Broadway remake resurgence since *Moulin Rouge*. The songs are the centrepiece, and it's the music performances, where our actors feel most at home, that oozes the romantic chemistry.

I enjoyed *Once*, but it's the film's phenomenon that intrigues me most. The film, while opening in select key cities (essentially a byword for LA and New York only), did very well in America. Made for \$160,000, and sold to Fox below \$1 million, its box office gross has reached \$9 million. The last sleeper, and eventually Oscar nominated, indie hit, *Little Miss Sunshine*, made \$6 million. The box office results are undeniably telling of something. A 'sophisticated audience' would be the wrong thing to attribute- there's nothing heavy or serious about the film- but rather that there's a real word-of-mouth buzz to the film. Is it the songs that are pulling the crowd? I doubt this; sales for the folk/alt-rock OST in the US are still within indie standards.

Steven Spielberg has been quoted saying 'A little movie called *Once* gave me enough inspiration to last the rest of the year'. These words coming out from the man who created the 'blockbuster' phenomenon (*Jaws*, *ET*) are highly reflective of himself and the industry as a whole.

What is inspirational about this film anyways? The picture quality is fugly.

It's another boy-meets-girl story. The people can't act. They talk in a funny accent. And what could Hollywood studios do? They have teams of script writers and checkers to perfect a story. They could hire a famous director with a large crew. They could hire quality A-list actors. Glen and Markéta are no-list.

What I think *Once* has touched but Hollywood frequently misses is to convey real emotions and feelings in films. We have the obligatory string score by Howard Shore/Hans Zimmer/some-other-hack played during the presumably 'important' scenes. (In fact, Spielberg is a prime offender - YouTube search 'creepy sex scene' + 'Munich', and you'll never forget what you just saw.) We have the close-up. Someone has to cry or fight. But somehow these ingredients have to habitually be conveyed through 'actions' and not other means. The original songs in *Once* say something. The characters are believable. The humdrum settings look believable. All this adds up so that it feels like there's 'something more' to the film. That such a small film can be so inspiring- and this film is not revolutionary nor a masterpiece- is actually rather disconcerting.

Once doesn't deserve the pathetic marketing from Icon Films Distribution- few adverts in Tube stations and newspapers, and no TV spots.

Indeed, it's hard to sell an Irish film (when's the last time you've heard of one?), starring nobodies from a band you've never heard of. But if America likes it, why do the distributors lack faith in the British audience (who have proven an affinity for rom-coms)? Surely the traditional stereotypes, that all Yanks are sentimental and all Brits are emotionally repressed, can't be right? If anything, *Once* is an 'antidote' for both sides- a swooning romance with a touch of bitter-sweet stoicism.

**SHAKESPEARE - THE FINAL FRONTIER?**NaeemKapadia reviews Rupert Goold's Production of *Macbeth*

Rupert Goold's Chichester Festival Theatre Production of *Macbeth* transfers to the West End this autumn and remains a veritable feast for the senses, brilliantly retelling this classic Shakespearean tragedy in a fresh and chilling manner.

Goold relocates *Macbeth* to a Soviet state with a WW2 backdrop and we are instantly greeted by Anthony Ward's set of grimy white walls and drab grey floors. A television set displays a multitude of war scenes that periodically flash across the entire stage. Characters burst onto the stage in military uniform with such frightening vitality that it takes a moment to realize that the play has begun.

From the very start, a grim picture of suffering and torture is painted as the scenes effortlessly blend into each other - from military hospital to castle kitchen to clambering train. The lighting and sound designs are brilliantly executed and as our senses are assaulted by the visual and aural spectacle before us, we realize how terrifying this tale of "vaulting ambition" can be, bringing out the worst of human nature.

The Weird Sisters, so often portrayed as nothing more than witch-like hags, appear in identical nun-like garb in this production in a variety of small roles. At the start of the play, they emerge as nurses in a military hospital trying to revive an injured man (killing him off eventually); they appear again

as servants preparing food in *Macbeth's* castle. This mixture of the natural and unnatural is ghastly and remains with us as they lurk in the background of many other scenes, creating a chilling omnipresence and true sense of foreboding.

Patrick Stewart's *Macbeth* rightly steals the show and is an intensely authoritative and ruthless leader. He snatches food from the hungry Fleance, calmly devours a sandwich on stage while offering a mere morsel to his watching servants and forces his men alternately between bouts of petrified submission and raucous laughter during a banquet. Once he overcomes his scruples about killing Duncan, he blazes through a trail of bloodshed with no qualms and descends into the madness of unbridled power - a terrifying spectacle to the maxim 'All power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely'.

Lady *Macbeth*, played by Kate Fleetwood, is calculated and remorseless; she goads her husband to murder the King with vehemence and emerges from

Duncan's deathbed trance-like with her hands bathed in blood, calmly announcing that "A little water clears us of this deed". Yet she is quickly plagued by guilt and retires to the backdrop in the latter half of the play in a stupor of insanity. It is perhaps lamentable that her conniving character is not altogether convincing at times; she fails to arrest us with her powerful "unsex me here" soliloquy and does not seem to equal her husband as emotional and psychological ballast as superbly as Judi Dench did to Ian McKellen in the highly celebrated Trevor Nunn production of *Macbeth*.

Goold is a masterful director and we are continually enthralled by the inventiveness of scenes he has up his sleeve.

Interspersed within the three-hour play are a musical number, a dance sequence, a piano recital and even a rap by the Weird

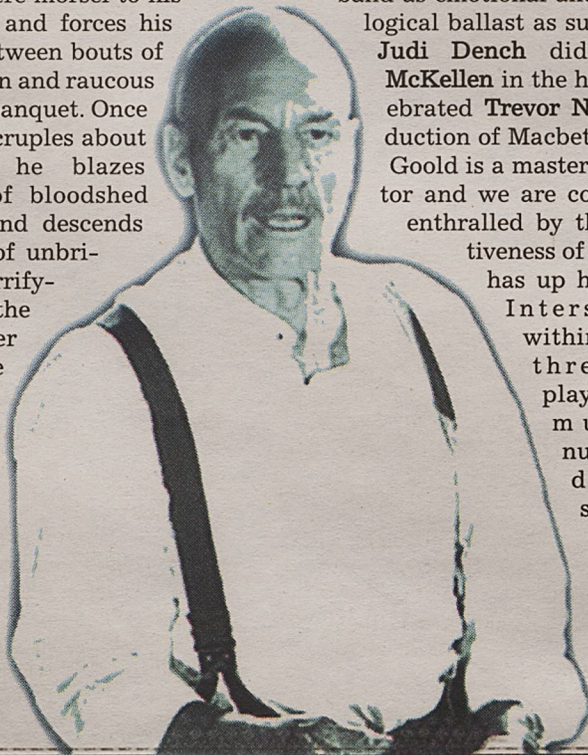
Sisters that is as amusing as it is unnerving.

What this production of *Macbeth* best achieves is bringing out the complexity of its characters. Duncan is not merely a benign and benevolent monarch, he appears callous and brusque as he orders torture to those who go against him; Malcolm's doubts about ascending the throne make us wonder if he really would have been the best person to succeed his father; Macduff comes across as being vengeful and blood-thirsty in his quest against *Macbeth* rather than an arbiter of justice. Even *Macbeth*, at his most dastardly, arrests us with the lucidity of his emotions and his truly fractured soul - a man caught hopelessly in a sea of blood that he cannot escape from.

Indeed, the Weird Sisters' haunting refrain "fair is foul, and foul is fair" rings true in more ways than one, for this *Macbeth* highlights how nothing is merely black and white; there are splotches of grey everywhere.

Where: Gielgud Theatre,
London (tube: Leicester
Square/Piccadilly)
When: Mon-Sat: 7.30pm; Sat
2.45pm
Rating: 8/10

<http://www.getmein.com/venues/gielgud-theatre.html>



corruption in motion

Willjoce greases palms in a nation on the cusp

If you look out from the upper floors of the modern high-rise buildings oil money has bequeathed to central Baku, - you see the Azerbaijan of the future: the Azerbaijan the government wants to present to the world. Past the steel and glass monoliths reaching to the sky lie the outer fringes of the city, teeming with commercial and creative energy. In the distance the tan landscape, dotted with small holdings and oil derricks, vanishes into the horizon. On the other side the Caspian Sea, the source of so much richness, lies peacefully glistening like purest quicksilver, marked only by the occasional ship or the dot of an oil platform out near the edge of the world. Up here a quiet hum and pleasant air-conditioned chill shields visitors from the heat, just as the thick plate glass reduces the noise to mere whispers far below. Outside, flags flutter proudly in a silent breeze that can offer no relief to those tucked away in an artificial environment in the sky.

But those tucked away cannot remain so forever. Sooner or later the automatic doors at ground level will hiss open and they will step, blinking and coughing, into the street. For Baku in summer is a hot, dirty and dusty city that is clogged with traffic and choked by the pall of smog that hangs over it. Within minutes, clothes begin to stick as the close, clammy heat seems to reach into bodies and draw sweat out, leaving ugly wet patches on crisp shirts and droplets that form on your brow before running down your neck. Screams from car horns wrench the air every few seconds over the general roar of traffic that begins with the dawn and lasts well into the night. With the roads so congested, any journey around the city can take hours by road and a walk of any length means greater exposure to the heat and blackening of the lungs from the polluted air. This is why most walks through Baku's heaving streets are short and lead straight to the beckoning doors and gaping mouths of the metro system, where journeys can be completed in cool darkness underground, where the sun and smog cannot penetrate and swift trains make a mockery of the congestion above.

Inside, the rattling from the escalators draws first your eyes and then your feet to the slippery metal tongues that pull you down into the mouth of the beast in a shuddering, mechanical swallowing motion. The clattering and clanking machinery gives off warm smells of oil and grease that are nonetheless like the scent of roses after the stink and smoke outside. Then suddenly, the large and spacious platform is revealed as you slide down to meet it. Despite the many lights hanging from the ceiling on long chains, there is little light down here, the lights being mostly ornamental. Long shadows dance along the platform among the subtle glints given off by dull brass-works that line the walls. On closer inspection, these are ornate frames of intricate paintings all but invisible due to age and fading, but still proudly portraying the now dead and almost forgotten socialist paradise Azerbaijan strived towards not so many years ago. Memories of the Baku above you can make this feel like an archaeological find, evidence of a primitive belief system that crumbled long ago, leaving almost no evidence of its existence at all.

The metro system has dangers beyond these

potential natural disasters that could befall you, though. In fact it is a mistake to think, just because the heat and pollution have been left behind and above, that when you enter the metro system you have found a place of refuge, for there are threats and dangers here too, although here they are not vague and climatic but precise, real and uniformed. Each metro station is patrolled by several policemen who either stand around in groups looking threatening or move among the passengers, swinging their truncheons and trying to determine the best way of getting the next bribe.

I found that it was almost always at my destination stop that I was approached, usually as I made my way back to the surface. A policeman would appear suddenly, either alone or with a partner, and I would feel the ominous tap on my shoulder. A swift salute would follow with the inevitable request to follow them. The questioning would never take place out in the open, where crowds of watching people could get in the way, but in quiet rooms tucked away with no witnesses. I would be led away with everyone wondering what the white boy had done to draw attention from the police but careful not to let their eyes linger. Snatched glances would be followed by an acute interest in the patterns on the floor or the faded paintings on the walls. After being led through the station the police would hold open a door and I would step into the seclusion and isolation to await what would happen.

The first thing the police demanded to see was my passport. After that they made me empty my pockets and searched me. Before they ensured that I was not carrying any concealed weapons or smuggling drugs their attention was drawn, entirely and inexplicably, to my wallet, upon which they pounced with the eagerness of a lion upon fresh meat on the savannah. I usually rely quite heavily upon my various bank and credit cards where possible, and Baku having a plethora of ATMs I never had much money on me at any one time, and what I did have was in Azeri Manats, not the dollars they were looking for, which left them so obviously disappointed.

The descent into the metro was a tired search for refuge and solace, an attempt to leave the troubles of the surface behind. Unfortunately this is to take shelter from a storm in the lair of a beast, and the return to the surface is a hectic flight in fear of pursuit. The same streets that not so long ago drove you away now receive you back; what was uncomfortable has become welcoming. Wherever you emerge in the city Baku's shining new skyscrapers will be visible, framed by the Caspian sea behind them and either glinting in the sun or glowing brightly at night. They can seem to embody the energy and enthusiasm of the 'new' Azerbaijan, one that looks to the future as a petro-state; rich, influential and at peace with itself. The contrast between that image and the greedy, grasping smiles of the corrupt policemen on the metro can seem stark and unbridgeable, as if the foundations of those skyscrapers are being eaten away from below and will soon collapse. The truth, however, lies somewhere between the two extremes, where the towering high-rises represent real hope for the future and corruption and sleaze are a warning from the past. The oil money flooding into Azerbaijan means that the country has two possible futures: one where money and influence vastly increases the potential for crime and corruption, and one where stability and prosperity make them memories as faded as the revolutionary murals in the metro. It just remains to be seen which way the country is going to go.



The GREEN GREEN bras of home

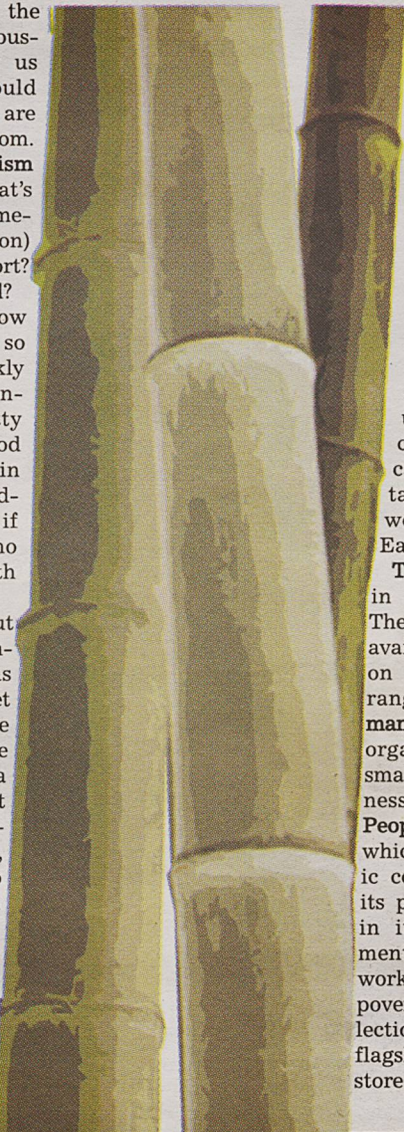
hollieastman is saving the world with her underwear

In the age of green, the tide of social consciousness washing over us preaches that we should care more about where our purchases are coming from. Is **Ethical consumerism** (another long phrase that's been thrown at our somewhat-bothered generation) really worth all the effort? Should we be concerned?

Food miles are now printed on packaging so that we can do our weekly shop with the environment in mind. Pretty much every piece of food seems to be organic in some way, and it's considered a social faux pas if your skinny cappuccino hasn't been made with fair trade beans.

Should we care about what goes into our clothing in the same way as our food? The high street seems to think we should; fashion can be seen to be pushing a wider social agenda, not just focusing on the creation of a greener you, but also trying to improve society as a whole.

Take **Monsoon** for example, their website states that they're focused on reducing their carbon footprint. They are members of



the **Ethical Trading Initiative** devoted to helping promote the well being and treatment of their manufacturers around the globe. There's also the **Monsoon Accessorize trust**, a charitable organisation set up to provide education and healthcare for disadvantaged kids and women in South East Asia.

Topshop are getting in on the act, too. They currently have available in store and on their website a range by **Global mamas**, a non-profit organisation helping small women led businesses in Africa. **Peopletree**, a company which only uses organic cotton and dyes in its products and aims in its mission statement to help people work themselves out of poverty, also has a collection stocked in the flagship Oxford Street store.

H&M expounds their achievements of improving the working conditions in Bangladeshi factories, and **Primark** is boastful of its supplier code of conduct.

Even the basic bra is being remodeled for a greener you. **Ciel** have replaced the regular underwiring with organically grown bamboo, a rather painful sounding prospect to be worn with organically grown cotton pants. This means that purchasing the 'green way' needn't involve henna sacks, not doing laundry, and vast amounts of itching.

While **Levi's** is giving away free World AIDS day tees, and **Gap** are involved in the **product red** campaign, we should note that pushing a social agenda through fashion isn't a new idea - remember the 'Feed the World' rave statement tees of the 1980's, donned by **Sir Bob** and his crew (which have come back around now on his daughter). Pick flowers not fights, drop beats not bombs, make love not war... you get my drift.

The new emphasis on consumer awareness makes it easier for us to exercise ethical purchasing when blowing our student loans during these mid-season sales. However, the same problem remains - greener living costs more than

the regular kind. As much as fashion may steer us in the right direction; so long as the lovely organic t-shirt costs more than the non-lovely, non-organic one, ethical consumerism ain't gonna fly.

Topshop has recently launched an eco-warrior inspired line - think green chic without dreadlocks: back brushing should be embraced, as big "I've just slept in a tree" hair is vital. Needless to say take heed: a Thatcher style fro should be avoided at all costs.

Dull greens, greys, beiges and browns (note: **earthy** colours rather than **army** combats, we're fighting a different war.) worn in lots of layers, mixing chunky knits, big scarves, boots and maybe a balaclava thrown in for good measure.

So, next time you're manoeuvring through the crowds down Oxford Street, think before you buy. As for me, I'm off to buy a bamboo bra. Whoop!

Check out:
<http://www.katharinehamnett.com/>
Must-have tees for any fashion-forward female, slogans meet sexy on these tops made from organic cotton only. Introduced in 1983, this is the original statement t-shirt. Ditch NuRave imitation for the Real McCoy.
<http://www.veja.fr/> Limited-in-number but worth it, these shithot trainers are made from organic materials imported by its French founders from Brazilian co-ops.



TOO FUNNY TO FUCK

rochelleburgess ruminates on the masculine inability to accept funny and feminine

I have a great personality, yet I am not unattractive or overweight, which is apparently what that description leads one to believe. To add insult to apparent injury, I'm fairly funny. I'm sure you have begun to think that I am a narcissist, or that I harbour illusions of grandeur. But it's simply a statement of fact. When I say things, people laugh. Unwillingly, this 'talent' of mine, my panache for interpersonal relations, the ease at which I manage to replace awkward silences with that ugly laugh that fills a room when something is really funny/embarrassing/inappropriate, has become a bit of an annoyance. To be frank, it has now begun to interfere with my ability to bed members of the opposite sex.

The funny girl is an enigma all her own. Traditionally, funny girls are supposed to be the antithesis to the 'alpha' woman... which is the most politically correct way I can think of to say 'not pretty' (but I mean, attractiveness is such a subjective thing, what works for one, may not work for someone else). But for the many of us who fall into that category of a woman who is just a woman, and at the same time, happen to be funny, I now say: we're screwed (and only in the metaphorical sense). Here's why: I had a friend back at my old uni who published a study on sense of humour and relationships. At the end of the day, he found, in the most scientific of ways, that women wanted their men to be funny, while men simply wanted their women to think they were funny. Awesome. Thank you science for adding concrete evidence to support the suspicion that my personality was the barrier between me and my pseudo happy ever-after.

I've always known I had to work harder to let a

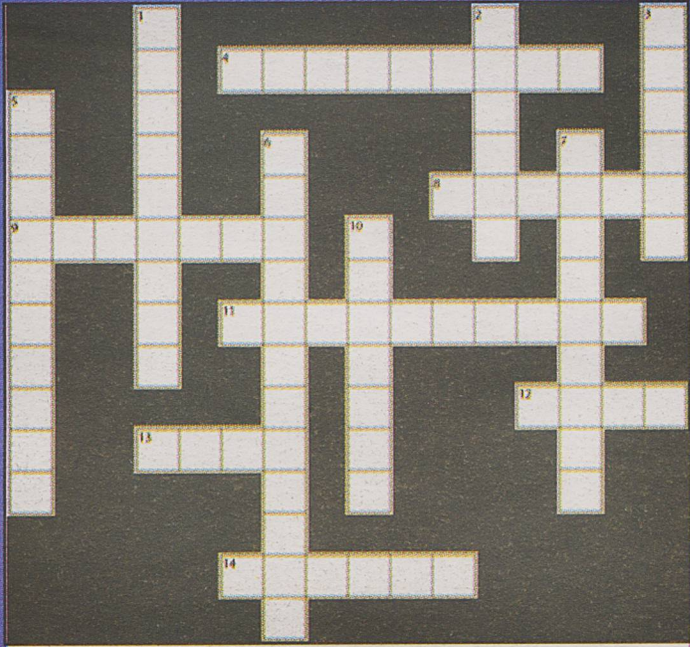
guy know I was diggin' the vibes he was throwing down: that I had to try harder because funny girls are confident and confidence is intimidating, blah blah blah. But that whole jumping a guy during mid con-



versation thing got less hot with age, and lately I often feel that I'm straddling the line between hot chick and broiler chicken more and more with each passing day.

So, because I have no other method of indicating interest other than being myself, it appears that my sense of humour has left me with a bevy of firm friends - but friends that are firmly friends, because men have no idea when I'm interested. Sure, there's that school of thought that ascertains one can never have too many friends. However, this is a lie, perpetuated by people with no friends. We must all remember the adage about too much of a good thing. Which I have equated to having a useless surplus of cute funny male friends, when all you really want is to actually date someone who you enjoy completely, instead of the guy you accidentally started dating because you drank too much one night (i.e. were too drunk to make any jokes of your own, so wound up laughing at his lame ones) and then he just wouldn't leave.

So I ask, what the hell are funny girls supposed to do? Is it too much for one to demand to have their proverbial cake and eat it too? Am I doomed to pretend that some bloke is funnier than I am until after I've had my dinner and customary make out session? And if I do so, does that automatically have to make me a bad person/feminist/comedian? And how sad is it that I have to essentially trick a man into thinking I'm less funny than I actually am so he'll entertain the idea of a funny as hell girlfriend? No, I refuse to believe this to be the case. There must be funny girls out there who have managed to navigate the choppy dating waters and emerged alive, attached to the arm of an equally funny and attractive male counterpart who does not make you want to pull your hair out. But I doubt it. All the funny guys I know are dating girls who laughed at all their dumb ass jokes.



across

down

- 4. Crazy like a...
- 8. Onward ho!
- 9. Hearing not-impaired.
- 11. Fights everyone, especially pigs.
- 12. That is so...
- 13. "...the more you eat em, the more you..."
- 14. Friend of Geoffrey and Zippy.

- 1. Cocky
- 2. Attention-grabbing milk drink.
- 3. Simply ... of.
- 5. Aha Shake Heart Break
- 6. Rhymes with 1 down
- 7. Talky
- 10. You..., you lose some.

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

LSE in
Email thebeaver.partb@lse.ac.uk

LOVE

I
been staring at the sun so long I could not see you. I been looking into the heart of stars and the filaments of flashes, and I missed you. I'm now partially blind.

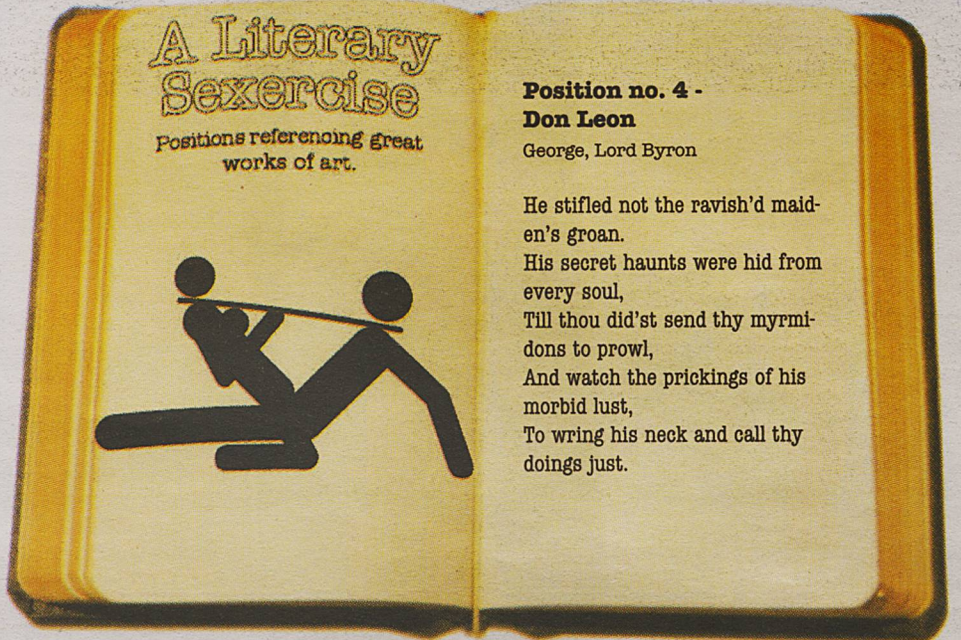
H
elp
me. I am trapped in the computer. I cast a spell that went horribly wrong. I cannot get out. ctrl+alt+del. ctrl+alt+del. ctrl+alt+del. ctrl+alt+

Y
ou
are a shambling wretch with no manners, you are a toothless succubus, you suck-broken biscuits in the corner and gibber madly at the faces around. I touch you.

Y
ou
are SO hot. We hooked up at a friends house party. I gave you my chupa chup. You know who you are. I think you enjoyed it. I definitely did. Let's make a sequel.

Y
ou
are intensely ordinary-looking. There is nothing remotely exceptional about you. You have a totally generic personality. Let's not. Thanks.

I
am desperate and lonely. Please will SOMEONE respond to this ad. I don't ask for much. As long as you love me. Even on that point, I am negotiable. Get in touch.



Auntie Shaw Remix



Hey y'all! Yer favorite country bumpkin Auntie Shaw's here to answer all yer queries and questions and whatnot. Uh huh, that's right, y'all - this week I have infiltrated the beer can rattled, inbred infested terrain that is a trailer park in the deep south of the U, S of A. Yippee-yai-yo-kai-yay! Now lemme jus' get this possum out ma hair and I'll be at yer service.

Dear Auntie, I fear I may have made a grave mistake when choosing my course. I always enjoyed maths at school, but now I'm at uni I find it absolutely impossible. i know everyone finds it hard but I literally CANNOT DO IT. And I don't even have the energy to try. What do I do?
Sincerely,
Future Dropout

Maths? As in mathamatiks? Oh I done heard about that kinda stuff, but I done never actually tried it. I think my uncle, he's called Billy Bob, see, he was one of the few members of my family that knew how to count, and that was only cos he lost a finger when it got caught in the bear trap and realised he didn't have the same amount of fingers as he had of toes. And so he figured that it was one less... as in one less finger than he had toes. But he didn't know what that number was. And neither do I. But I hope that helps.
Yours, Auntie Jimmy-Jo-Jane

Auntie, I fear I may be pregnant. I tried to play it safe, but my period hasn't come and I'm usually pretty regular. Please advise!!!
Impatiently waiting,
Knocked Up, 2nd year Law

This very same thing happened when my cousin Bertha, had a bit of the fiddy fun with my

other cosuin Bertie, who also happened to be her brother, and then it happened again when my neighbor Jeremiah, put the goatskin on the wrong shaft - he put it on the door shaft instead of his malehood shaft 'cos he misheard what the preacher said. And so my advice to you is to not put your hoo-hoo into any more cha-cha's until you learn how to tell your shafts apart, otherwise you will end up with a three-legged baby who can't not talk right, like my lil' cousin Sharonda, who I love anyway cos that's the way God made her so don't you go throwin' any more crab apples at her, goddammit!

Dear Auntie, I think i might be pregnant, but i'm almost paralysed with fear and feel that taking a test is just going to confirm the worst. Do you think I can ignore it.
Love,
1st year, Anthropology

Jesus F Christ honey, don't git yo self all up in a stress. Paralysed is fine, I was paralysed through all my 19 pregnancies, that's part of the reason they happened in the first place. Of course you can ignore it, just get drunk for the next 18 years until it leaves home for jail, as long as your sober enough not to fuck it, you've succeeded as a parent. So just relax, pour yersel a nice drink of distilled knock-off aftershave, sit down and treat the tummy-lump like a big dirty and do it in the sofa y'all.
Yours inliterately
X

Dear Auntie, Just because I'm from the American South people treat me like i'm some stupid hick whose parents are probably road-kill chefs and boyfriend is probably a UFO. I'm sick to the

back of my educated liberal teeth of these stereotypical, exclusionary representations.

Grandpaw sick in my maws sick. Britney!!

Dear Auntie, I came in my father's mouth. It was slightly embarasing because it was in the Quad. How do I ensure this never happens again?
Lovely
Staff

Y'all never hear of a motel? That's where my daddy took me to learn about the mysteries of reprocreatin'. Then we'd go out through the back winder, see, so as not to have to pay fer the room. Then some new fangled federal lawmen came up the track one day and shot ma dawg and took daddy away to the jailhouse fer stealin hubcaps. So I guess what I'm tryin to tell y'all is stop stealin them hubcaps! Nowadays it's more fashionable to take the whole damn car, shoot.

Dear Auntie, How do I tell my girlfriend that I want her to dress me in a nappy and feed me warm milk from a bottle?
Kind regards,
Anon

I say tell her, worst she can do is stick a 12 gauge in your freak ass and blow you a new shitter!

Well, time for me to ditch these trucker caps and continue my expedition through the variety of social scenarios our wonderful world offers. Send your lovely emails to the thebeaver.partb@lse.ac.uk, or befriend me on Facebook and remember, I've seen things you people wouldn't believe, so don't be shy!

Second International Party (1889-1916)

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January 14,
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Party was



Anthony Giddens

Anthony Giddens is a British sociologist who was Director of the LSE and an advisor to Tony Blair. His 1998 work *The Third Way* provides a broad set of policy proposals aimed at the 'progressive centre-left' in British politics - "the overall aim of third way politics should be to help citizens pilot their way through the major revolutions of our time: globalisation, transformations in personal life and our relationship to nature".



Respect 2004



Labour

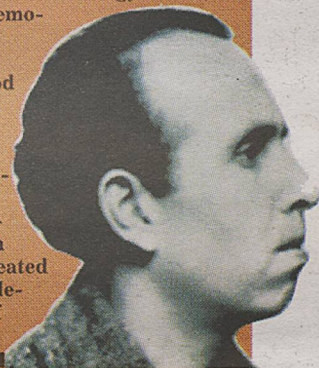


The Labour Party's ideology grew out of the trade unions and was originally led by Scottish socialist Kier Hardie. Throughout its history it has been in favour of socialist policies such as interventionist economic policies, redistribution of wealth and belief in the welfare state and publically funded healthcare and education. Since the 1980s, Labour has moved away from its traditional socialist position towards what Giddens called the "Third Way" following four disastrous general election defeats. The Labour Party continues to describe itself as democratic socialism, but many have described it as much more neo-liberal. Tony Blair publically described the party as following the "Third Way".

Labour Party 1906

PABLO

In the aftermath of WWII, Trotskyists massively outnumbered by huge Communist Parties and their hopes for a revolutionary breakthrough were dashed. At this time Michel Pablo advanced a new tactic for the Fourth International (FI). He argued that to gain influence, win members and avoid becoming just talking shops; Trotskyists should join, or in Trotskyist terminology 'enter', the mass Communist or Social Democratic (Labour) parties. This was known as *entrism sui generis* or long-term entry. It was understood by all that the FI would retain its political identity, and its own press. Reactions to 'Pabloism' were powerful and a number of European Trots withdrew to form the International Committee of the Fourth International. Feelings are still heated on the subject, and some see single-issue causes with a broad-base of support as a form of 'Pabloism'.



GALLOWAY



Socialist Party of Great Britain

The Socialist Party of Great Britain is a Marxist party which was formed in 1904. Its politics have been described as impossibilist, emphasizing the limited value of reforms in overturning capitalism and insisting on revolutionary political action as the only reliable method of bringing about socialism. It is best known for its advocacy of using the ballot box for revolutionary purposes and its early adoption of the theory of state capitalism to describe the USSR.

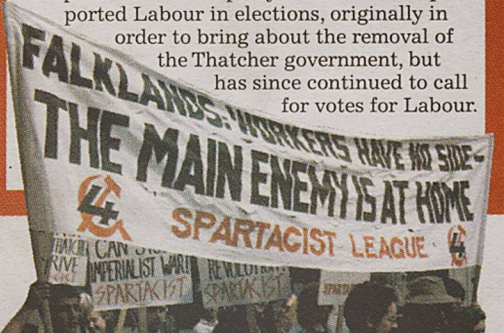
Socialist Workers' Party

The Socialist Workers Party is the largest British far left political party. It is now a part of the Respect coalition, an alliance whose sole MP, George Galloway, is not a member of the SWP. It does however have a small number of councillors who are members of the SWP. The SWP describes itself as a 'revolutionary socialist party' and considers itself part of the 'tradition' of Trotsky, but acknowledges differences from the Fourth International and other Trotskyist groupings.



Communist Party of Great Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

The Party was formed in 1968 as a split from the Communist Party of Great Britain, siding with the Communist Party of China. More recently, the party has developed a national line for Britain, including strong opposition to the European Union. The party has however supported Labour in elections, originally in order to bring about the removal of the Thatcher government, but has since continued to call for votes for Labour.



Spartacist League and International Bolshevik Tendency

The Spartacist League became notable in the 1960s for its unique position on Castro's Cuba. SL criticised the Castro bureaucracy and called for genuine workers' democracy. In doing so, the SL maintained an anti-Pabloist, anti-opportunist brand of Trotskyist politics. The SL today has been characterised as a "grotesquely bureaucratic and overtly cultist group." IBT was formed in the 1980s as (what else?) a split from the Spartacist League, the IBT claims to stand in the political tradition of the SL while maintaining a fully democratic internal culture. Although tiny, the IBT has made significant contributions to political struggle: it played a leading role in the "hot cargo" labour boycott of apartheid goods in the 1984, and has more recently helped to organize protests for Mumia Abu-Jamal, a political prisoner in the US. IBT also publishes a journal, *1917*, available at Bookmarks.



Fourth International

Trotskyist internationals

- Committee for a Workers' International
- Communist Organisation for a Fourth International
- Co-ordinating Committee for the Refoundation of the Fourth International
- Fourth International (ICR) International Centre/Center of Reconstruction
- Fourth International Posadist
- International Bolshevik Tendency
- International Committee of the Fourth International
- International Communist League (Fourth Internationalist)
- International Marxist Tendency, also called Committee for a Marxist International
- International Socialist League
- International Socialist Tendency
- International Workers League (Fourth International)
- International Workers' Unity (Fourth International)
- Internationalist Communist Union
- International Trotskyist Fraction
- International Trotskyist Labor Tendency
- League for the Fifth International
- League for the Fourth International
- Permanent Revolution Tendency
- The reunified Fourth International Trotskyist Fraction



ORIGINS: ROYALISM AND REVOLUTION

The beginnings of Tories and Toryism - Britain's first self-consciously right-wing group - are obscure. Tories first coalesced as defenders of monarchy and church during the undoing of Britain's post-Civil War settlement in the 1670s and 1680s, as James II veered ever closer towards Continental-style absolutism. Falling on the losing side of the 1689 Glorious Revolution that deposed James, Tory politicians were excluded from power for much of the eighteenth century.

However, in a time before hard-and-fast party divisions, Tories eventually crept into government. By century's end, Tory politicians had become indistinguishable from their Whig counterparts.

THE SECOND CONSERVATIVE AGE

The American and French Revolutions' explosion onto the Enlightenment scene finally gave right-wing politics in Britain an ideological *raison d'être*. Initially greeted with enthusiasm by most Whigs, the rapid descent of events in France into terror and regicide left them discredited. This was the Tories' opportunity to take the Whigs' place at the heart of the Establishment.

Participation in William Pitt the Younger's wartime cabinet soon followed, to 1806. Toryism hardened into resisting Catholic emancipation and the extension of the franchise to Britain's growing industrial classes.

Robert Peel 1788 - 1850

The Great Reform Act of 1832 brought British politics into the modern age. The Tories' opposition to a middle-class franchise, however, left them in the political wilderness for decades to come.

The turning point in the Right's fortunes came with **Robert Peel's** 1834 Tamworth Manifesto. Making its peace with the new voters' social concerns, it marked the first adoption of **conservatism** as a political programme in Britain. Toryism was dead, though the epithet would survive. **Benjamin Disraeli** completed the party's class reorientation with the 1867 Reform Act, enfranchising skilled sections of the working class.

Peel himself, however, had meanwhile become estranged from his party over his advocacy of free trade. His followers, Peelites, combined with rebel Whigs to become the Liberal Party that vied with the Conservatives for the rest of the nineteenth century. Free trade thought would return to divide the Right in the twentieth.



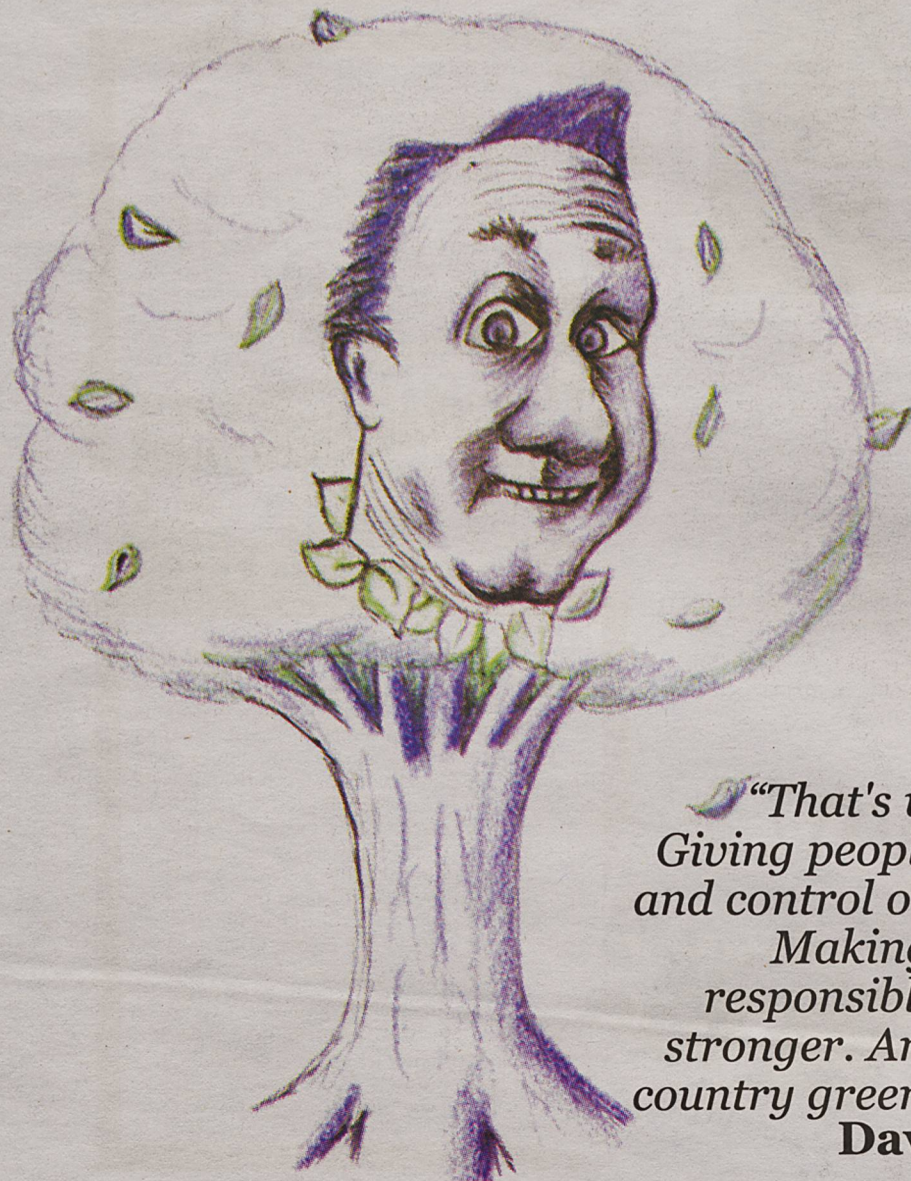
MARGARET THATCHER

Margaret Hilda Thatcher served as British Prime Minister from 1979 to 1990 and leader of the Conservative Party from 1975 until 1990, being the first and to date only woman to hold either post.

Her politics were strongly anti-trade-union, anti-welfare state and aggressive in foreign policy. In 1976, she attacked the Soviet Union:

"The Russians are bent on world dominance, and they are rapidly acquiring the means to become the most powerful imperial nation the world has seen. The men in the Soviet Politburo do not have to worry about the ebb and flow of public opinion. They put guns before butter, while we put just about everything before guns."

On 2 April 1982, a ruling military junta in Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands. Within days Thatcher sent a naval task force to recapture the islands. Despite the huge logistical difficulties the operation was a success, resulting in a wave of patriotic enthusiasm and support for her government, with *Newsweek* declaring "The Empire Strikes Back". There were also several controversies that arose as a result of the Falklands War and Thatcher's handling of the conflict. The victory made Thatcher hugely popular at home, and she became one of the longest-serving Prime Ministers.



"That's what I believe. Giving people more power and control over their lives. Making society more responsible and families stronger. And making our country greener and safer."
David Cameron

The Right

CAMERON'S CONSERVATIVES

Empire's rise. Empire's end. Labour's 1945 landslide; Labour's 1997 landslide. Somehow, the Conservative Party survived the twentieth century. But an increasingly beleaguered party has endured numerous leadership changes and now seems unsure of its own manifesto.

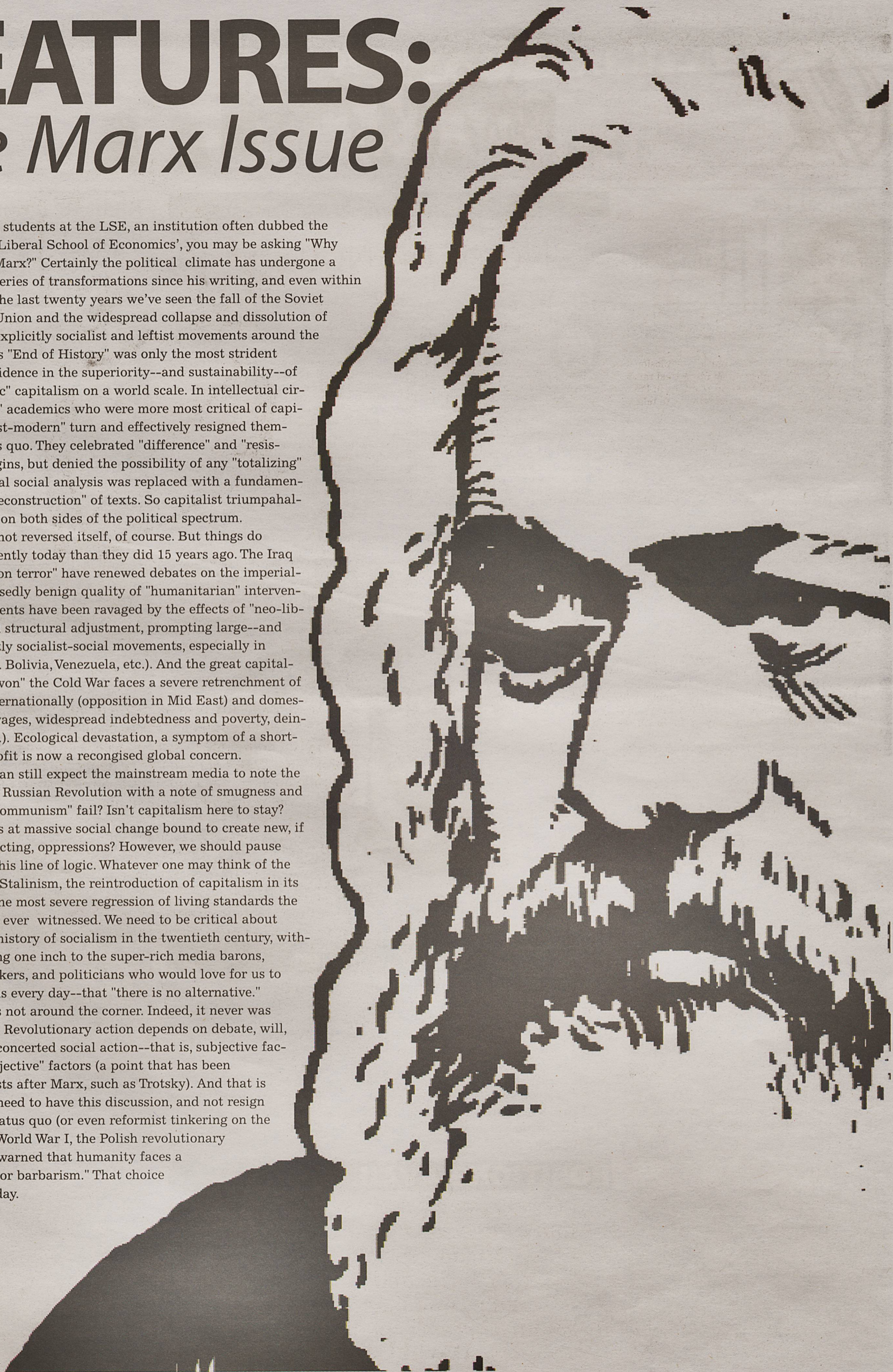
Since the election of David Cameron as party leader, party policy has increasingly focused on such "quality of life" issues as the environment, the improvement of government services (most prominently the National Health Service and the Home Office), and schools.

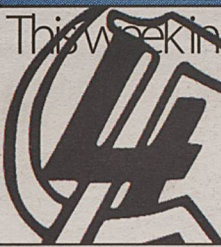
They are still committed to the general principle of reducing direct taxation but now argue that the country needs a "dynamic and competitive economy", with the proceeds of any growth shared between both "tax reduction and extra public investment". In foreign policy, they favour a continuing 'special relationship' with the US, but Cameron has tried recently to distance himself from President Bush, and John McCain has spoken at the Tory Conference.

FEATURES:

The Marx Issue

As students at the LSE, an institution often dubbed the 'Liberal School of Economics', you may be asking "Why Marx?" Certainly the political climate has undergone a series of transformations since his writing, and even within the last twenty years we've seen the fall of the Soviet Union and the widespread collapse and dissolution of explicitly socialist and leftist movements around the world. Fukuyama's "End of History" was only the most strident expression of confidence in the superiority--and sustainability--of "liberal-democratic" capitalism on a world scale. In intellectual circles, the "Marxian" academics who were more most critical of capitalism made a "post-modern" turn and effectively resigned themselves to the status quo. They celebrated "difference" and "resistance" on the margins, but denied the possibility of any "totalizing" knowledge. Critical social analysis was replaced with a fundamentally innocuous "deconstruction" of texts. So capitalist triumphalism was pervasive on both sides of the political spectrum. The situation has not reversed itself, of course. But things do appear very differently today than they did 15 years ago. The Iraq war and "the war on terror" have renewed debates on the imperialism and the supposedly benign quality of "humanitarian" intervention. Whole continents have been ravaged by the effects of "neo-liberal" austerity and structural adjustment, prompting large--and sometimes explicitly socialist-social movements, especially in Latin America (ex. Bolivia, Venezuela, etc.). And the great capitalist colossus that "won" the Cold War faces a severe retrenchment of its power, both internationally (opposition in Mid East) and domestically (stagnant wages, widespread indebtedness and poverty, deindustrialisation, etc.). Ecological devastation, a symptom of a short-termist grip on profit is now a recongised global concern. Nevertheless, we can still expect the mainstream media to note the anniversary of the Russian Revolution with a note of smugness and triumph. Didn't "communism" fail? Isn't capitalism here to stay? Aren't all attempts at massive social change bound to create new, if not even more exacting, oppressions? However, we should pause before accepting this line of logic. Whatever one may think of the Soviet Union and Stalinism, the reintroduction of capitalism in its territories led to the most severe regression of living standards the modern world has ever witnessed. We need to be critical about Marxism and the history of socialism in the twentieth century, without, however, giving one inch to the super-rich media barons, industrialists, bankers, and politicians who would love for us to believe--and tell us every day--that "there is no alternative." "The revolution" is not around the corner. Indeed, it never was around the corner. Revolutionary action depends on debate, will, organization and concerted social action--that is, subjective factors as well as "objective" factors (a point that has been stressed by Marxists after Marx, such as Trotsky). And that is precisely why we need to have this discussion, and not resign ourselves to the status quo (or even reformist tinkering on the margins). During World War I, the Polish revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg warned that humanity faces a choice : "socialism or barbarism." That choice is no less stark today.





This week in **FEATURES**

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19 Interview:
Tony Benn

Radical Left



Vladimir
Unkovski
-Korica

Not since the radical wave that opened in France in May 1968 and ended with the failure of the Portuguese Revolution of 1974-1975 has Western Europe known anything like a revolution. When the USSR collapsed in 1991, Western commentators gleefully declared the end of history. Today, apparently, it is entirely logical that we should accept reduced consumption, longer working lives and crap pension schemes in Europe because of rising industrial and agricultural output in East Asia. Enron, Iraq and New Orleans also don't really affect us. Besides, any attempt to change the world works would lead straight to the gulag.

It is a telling admission on the part of our rulers that their best argument against anti-capitalism is not to point to their own successes, but to their opponents' failures. Nothing illustrates this better than the garbage we'll be fed on the upcoming ninetieth anniversary of the great October Revolution. For what unites liberals and triumphalist 'cold warriors' like Harvard professor Richard Pipes is what Stephen Cohen termed 'the continuity thesis' - an uncomplicated progression from the early Bolsheviks through the October 'coup' to Stalin's Great Terror.

But this myth is difficult to sustain in the face of archival research - old and new. Leopold Haimson showed long ago that the working class in Russia between 1905 and 1914 overwhelmingly backed the revolutionary parties, and the Bolsheviks above all the others. Though suffering from persecution for their anti-war stance in 1914, the Bolsheviks quickly regained their influence between February and October 1917. Steve Smith's *Red Petrograd: Revolution in the Factories 1917-1918* is the classic account of this process. By autumn, Lenin offered the moderate socialists a coalition. 507 of 670 delegates of the Second Congress of Soviets voted for the transfer of power from the Provisional Government to the Soviets under a socialist unity government. Alexander Rabinowitch has argued convincingly that the moderate socialists voted against the Soviet coalition - only to co-organise an attempt to overthrow the Soviet government in the days following the revolution and negotiate their entry into it at the same time!

Not only did the Bolsheviks win the vast majority of workers to their side during 1917, but recent scholarship has also (often unwittingly!) shown that the vast majority in the country also backed the revolution. Much used to be made of Lenin's contempt for the parliament, or Constitutional Assembly, in which the moderate socialists and not the Bolsheviks won a majority in early 1918. But Frederick Rodkey, Alexei Gusev and Orlando Figes have all shown that between the calling of the election and its taking place, the victorious SRs split between a pro-Soviet left and anti-Soviet right. The former by all accounts were more popular than the latter but they were under-represented on the electoral lists! The democratic countries of the world were appalled by a government that placed people above profit. David Foglesong shows in his book *America's Secret War Against Bolshevism* that covert funnelling of massive funds to counter-revolutionary forces began weeks after the October Revolution. Without this help and the invasion of Russia by 14 different countries, there would have been no civil war as a result of the revolution.

The Russian Revolution was no coup. Leon Trotsky said: 'The history of a revolution is for us first of all a history of the forcible entrance of the masses into the realm of rulership over their own destiny.' 1917 inspired revolution across Europe for the first time since 1871. Unfortunately, Russia was left isolated. Kevin Murphy's recent award-winning monograph of ideological heterogeneity in a Moscow metal factory through the 1920s has shown that Stalin's five-year plans clashed in a very real sense with the ideals of 1917 on the shop floor. Stalin could only win in a country where the working class was a tiny minority of the population after unleashing a terrible purge against his own party. But the working class is now bigger than ever - and it is ever less manageable from the Andes and the Caribbean through the Black Forest to the Himalayas and beyond...

thebeaver.features@lse.ac.uk

Notes on Nothing

Out with the saggy old rubbish, in with the shiny new gadgets. We came over all democratic, took a vote, and found some new editors. Joseph knows everything, he belongs to all political parties and has memorised all the Kings of England. He terrifies with his uncanny knowledge of everything from fine wine, to British political history to the exact ingredients of really fine crack. Al has glasses and looks arty, but don't let this fool you - he's a razor-sharp, street-smart gangster with nerves of steel. Their sacrifice to the editing world allows me to retire gracefully into the obscurity of a research degree. In honour of this momentous event, we've had a portrait done, with us as Engels, Marx and Lenin. This also neatly tied into the theme of the issue.

So, shall you be celebrating 90 years of revolution on Thursday? I guess it depends how you view the events of 1917. Was it proof that revolution inevitably leads to totalitarianism? Or a successful revolution betrayed? Or perhaps, you would favour gradual reform over violent insurrection. But, whatever your views of the Revolution itself, the people involved over the past 90 years in revolutionary politics; Trotsky, Luxemburg, Pankhurst, et al. devoted their lives to improving the world in which we live. Their work and teaching are still with us today, as an example of the life well-lived, the fight hard-fought and the hopes so nearly achieved.

So, I'd like to bid you farewell. The proletariat leaders, Al and Joseph have forced me from my Features Tsar throne, and no more awaits me than a bullet in the head and a pit of quicklime. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helped with this issue: Laura Parfitt for the amazing cartoons, Kev and Dan for reading and criticising, Dee for technical wizardry, and Lucie Marie Goulet for tireless research. But, most of all thank you dear reader/writer, as so many of you are both.

Thank you for the hard work, the wit and flair, and most of all, thank you for the complaints. Keep them coming to the new guys.



Joseph

Al

Christine

Right Reaction

Annette
Pacey



Ninety years ago, as the bloody Russian Revolution unfolded, the Bolsheviks promised the Russian people peace, bread and land. Instead, communism proved to be a brutal and inefficient regime where bureaucracy thrived and corruption was routine. By the time the Soviet empire crumbled, there was no food in the shops, no money in the bank, and few if any functioning State institutions. The utopian dream of creating a new world without class, without states and without capitalism had failed catastrophically. What is the state of Russia today, and to what extent is the legacy of communism still being felt in the new Russia?

At the end of the cold war it seemed as if the hugely weakened Russia might never again be a major player on the international stage, but recently the tide seems to be turning. President Vladimir Putin caused an upset when he visited Iran recently for talks with Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a pariah to the US and European governments due to fears about his nuclear ambitions. It is likely that Putin privately shares some of their concerns, a Iranian nuclear weapon is not in Russia's interests, but he still made a point of saying that no-one should be considering using force in the region. Russian assistance with the construction of an Iranian civilian nuclear reactor in Bushehr is profitable, and Putin is careful to ensure that Iran does not take an interest in its bloody conflict in Muslim Chechnya. By refusing to bow to the will of the US and Europe, Putin is demonstrating that Russia will conduct its foreign policy according to its own agenda. It has taken nearly twenty years to recover from the devastating blow that the collapse of the USSR delivered, but once again Russia is playing by its own rules.

While politicians may be wary of Russia's bullish foreign policy, investors are more enthusiastic. Russia's economy has enjoyed eight years of growth, growing by 7% in 2006. The boom is starting to be felt by ordinary workers. IKEA, that sure indicator of middle class consumption, have opened several stores, suggesting those grim Soviet-era furnishings are destined for the scrap heap. High oil and gas prices have certainly helped, but so has Putin's sound economic management: paying off debt and putting aside a significant amount of the oil and gas revenues. Russia may still have a long way to go to alleviate poverty altogether, but the bad old communist days of queuing for bread are gone for good.

Putin's success at balancing the books may account for his high approval rating, which rarely dips below 70%. Despite this he has a zero tolerance approach to dissent, and as the ex head of the KGB has been willing to allow the Security Services, now known as the FSB, to stifle democracy.

One group who have felt the force of the FSB's power are the infamous Russian oligarchs. When Putin came to power they were forced to either abandon their political activity or leave the country. Boris Berezovsky, a former ally of Putin was forced to flee into exile in the UK and had his television station seized by the state. When another oligarch Mikhail Khordorkovsky refused to cease supporting opposition parties and NGOs, or to leave Russia he was arrested by the FSB and jailed on dubious charges.

Ana Politkovskaya, a campaigning journalist who exposed suppression of dissent in Russia as well as human rights abuses in the war in Chechnya, was murdered in October 2006. Putin took the trouble to deny any connection with the FSB but according to *The Economist* the investigation into her murder reveals disturbing links between the Russian Security Services and the criminal underworld. Several of those arrested were former or serving FSB officers who had been involved with a Chechen criminal gang specialised in contract killings. Sadly for Russia, the sinister side of the Security Services did not disappear with the KGB.

Ninety years ago, the Russian Revolution gave birth to a political and economic system which, when it eventually collapsed, would leave Russia humiliated and bankrupt. Today Russia seems to be regaining its place on the international stage and making some progress in its economic recovery, but the habits of the communist era cannot be so easily erased. Ruthless repression of dissent is one legacy of communism which shows no sign of being consigned to the history books just yet.

FEATURES Vacancies

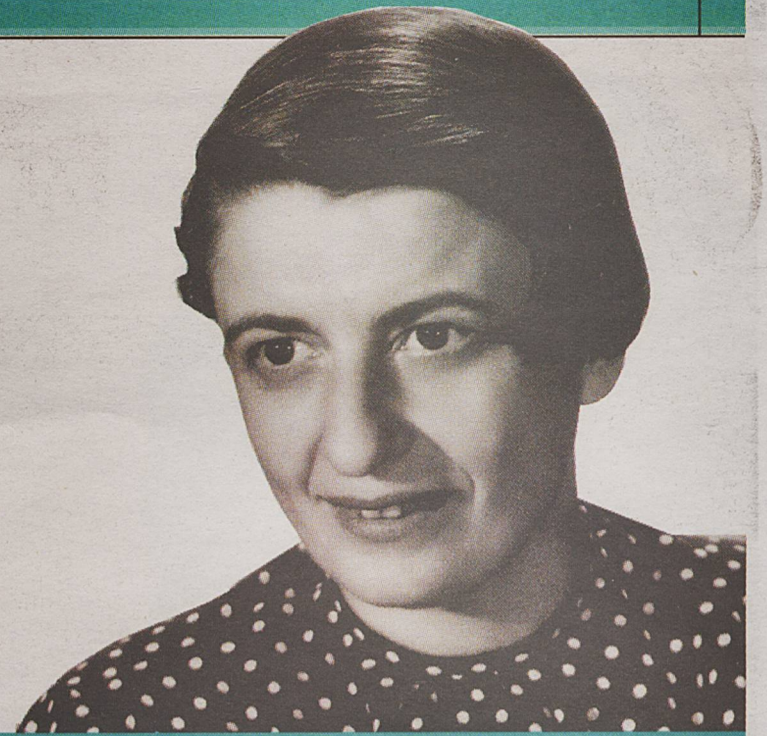
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Trotsky takes on Ayn Rand

Michael Zinshteyn and Al Mansour

Leon Trotsky, Jewish Russian agitator, journalist, revolutionary, and Soviet People's Commissar for War, founder of the Red Army and architect of its military victory in the 1917-20 Russian civil war, was perhaps one of the most influential politicians of the initial stages of the Soviet Union. From a Bolshevik revolutionary to an ardent Marxist theorist, his practical paradigm and theoretical models contributed profoundly to establishing a framework for assimilating the principles of Marxism and incorporating them into an comprehensively Russian archetype. Trotsky helped explain some of the unexpected developments according to the

of the socialist project in Russia. For Socialism to succeed in any one country, the current of revolution must undulate across its regional neighbours. Trotsky's emphasis on international revolution was predicated on his understanding that capitalism developed unevenly. With certain nations burdened by a stronger and more resilient bourgeois class, the designs for reactionary malaise are in place until each ruling bourgeois class is toppled.

In his model, Trotsky upholds Marx's emphasis for international revolution while also keeping intact the multiple stages leading towards revolution that Marx urged. Like Marx, he recognized capitalism's

J.P. Medved defends Ayn Rand from the Trots

Angelina Jolie is an Ayn Rand disciple. So is Alan Greenspan, a member of Rand's inner circle in the fifties and sixties. This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of *Atlas Shrugged*, her seminal work on the morality which underpins capitalism, and the foundation for her philosophy, Objectivism. Rand's other novels, including *Anthem* and *The Fountainhead*, espouse reason, individual rights and laissez faire capitalism, often reworking themes of strong-willed individuals struggling against the ideas and wishes of "society." Hundreds of thousands of copies of *Atlas Shrugged* alone are sold each year. Twenty million are in circulation already. A movie version is now in the works, amid increasing appreciation of Rand in pop culture and television.

Ayn Rand was far more than a political novelist. The ideas of Objectivism form an admirably straightforward and lucid response to the dark doctrines of the 20th century, drawing on sources as diverse as Nietzsche and Adam Smith. As Rand said: "my philosophy, in essence, is the concept of man as a heroic being, with his own happiness as the moral purpose of his life, with productive achievement as his noblest activity, and reason his only absolute."

Even the most obtuse Trotskyite could grasp the main tenets of Objectivism. Its metaphysics is the persistence of reality, its epistemology the empire of reason; its ethics enlightened self-interest; and its politics, of course, capitalism. What is the nature of reality? It is objective, as opposed to subjective. If you and I are both looking at an apple, we both see an apple, and if one of us saw an orange, that would not change the fact that it is an apple. How do we know what we know? We use our rational faculty to observe and deduce things. We are not given knowledge from on high, nor are we born with innate knowledge. What actions should we take in life? Those actions which preserve and better our happiness. How should we organise a society? By the principles of individual rights and the voluntary exchange of ideas, goods, and services.

This may sound simplistic, but from these four points you can pretty much figure out any position an Objectivist is likely to hold. Would an Objectivist support trade barriers? No, since that is a restriction of an individual's ability to voluntarily trade their goods for the goods of another. Would an Objectivist believe we are living in the Matrix without clear evidence? No, because that's

ridiculous. Would an Objectivist believe God had just told him Karl Marx secretly made love to sheep? No, because Objectivists simply don't believe in divine revelation.

Several brickbats have been lobbed at Rand's philosophy. None of them makes its mark. The most enduring criticism is that basing man's ethical system on self-interest, rather than compassion or altruism would create a society of callousness and greed, leaving the poor and unfortunate to suffer. Yet Rand included several instances of compassion and charity in her works and even said herself that "there is nothing wrong in helping other people, if and when they are worthy of the help and you can afford to help them." What Objectivism opposes is involuntary charity, such as welfare. Is it really "charity" when someone forces you to do it? (Isn't that stealing?). Does this mean though that the "sacrifice" of a soldier's life for his country, or his comrades, is ignoble? Of course not. As Rand said, "it is not self-sacrifice to die protecting that which you value. If the value is great enough, you do not care to exist without it. This applies to any alleged sacrifice for those one loves."

Another stone cast at Objectivism is that capitalism as a political system doesn't respect the rights of the individual: so how can one's own happiness be achieved in such a society? By now surely, anyone who doesn't think capitalism respects individual rights more so than (say) communism or socialism is either an idiot, an aspiring dictator, or both. The plethora of failed communist and quasi-communist states show an abysmal record on human rights, while their capitalist counterparts have a long record of respecting and venerating one's rights to liberty, life, and property. To put it another way: would you rather be put on trial in Cuba, or in the UK? There is a good reason why there's so much immigration to capitalist societies, and it's not because they "exploit the working class" and "get rich at the expense of the poor." It's because the poor see an opportunity to achieve a success in these societies that will not be found under any other system (communist or otherwise).

The ideas Rand espoused remain radical even today, especially now among encroaching government policies meant to watch, control, or take care of the individual. In an age where bureaucrats think it is their duty to tell us not only what we can't do to other people, but also what we can't do to ourselves, perhaps a dose of radical individualism is exactly what's needed.



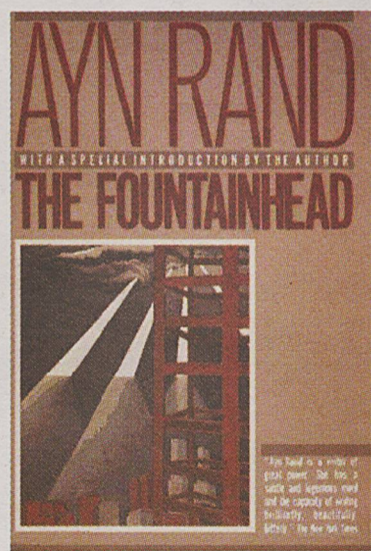
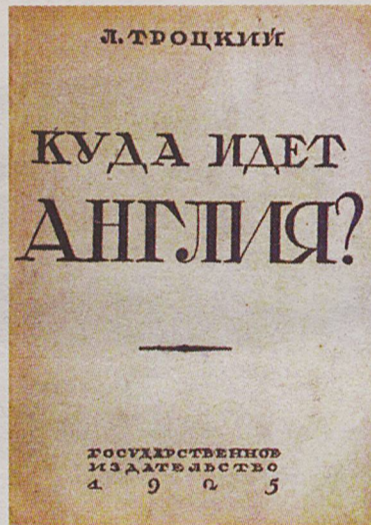
Trotsky offers a foreboding assessment of what is to come in Soviet Russia and thrusts Marxism into a progressive program.

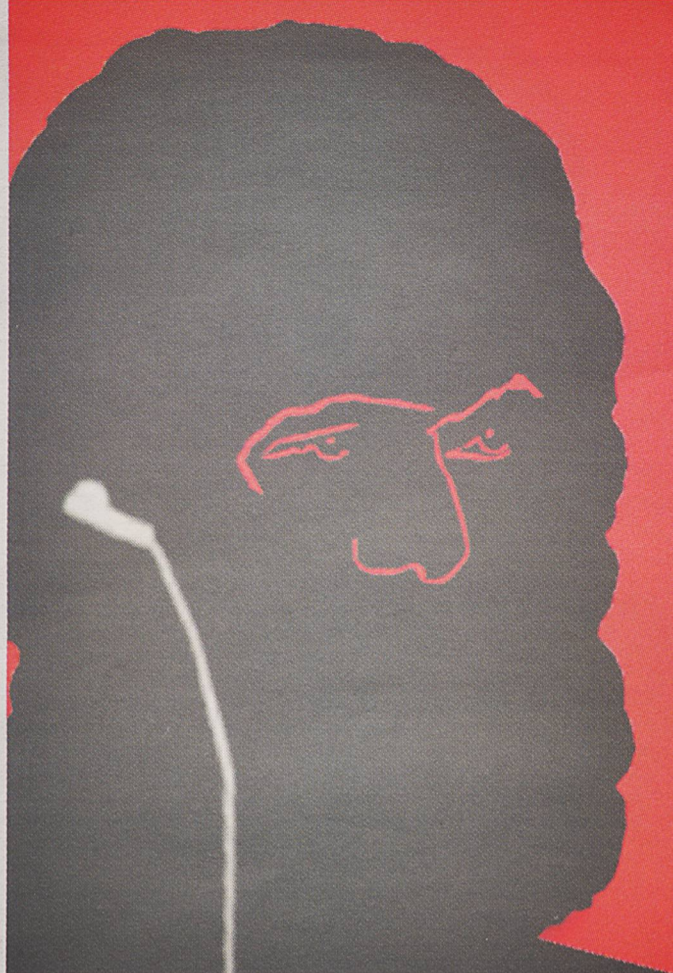
Marxist program. For communism to occur in Imperial Russia, the feudal empire had to first develop into an industrial zion, or so it seemed. While the ownership of production--Marx's proletariat call for arms--can only make sense if the production machine exists, the quickened pace of revolutionary fervour in Russia from 1861 to 1917 was explained by Trotsky's theory of permanent revolution. Because Russian industrialists were behind Western European capitalists in capital and lacked their autonomy from the state government, the Russian industrialists were weaker and susceptible to the hardened and radical Russian workers who burgeoned in the most developed Russian industrial cities. The consolidation of workers in industrial centres mobilized both the zeal for revolution and industrial development, as they were not at the mercy of foreign investors as was the case with the Russian capitalists. Through such a dynamic, Trotsky proclaimed that the bourgeois revolution would be spearheaded by the working class, and that revolution would continue as a socialist revolution to assure the workers control over fulcrums of production.

But he also cautioned that the success of such a revolution depended on the subsequent revolution in the West; otherwise the Russian model "would be aborted and turn inward on itself" as the West would institute campaigns subverting the continuum

machine as one that follows the distinct maturation of developmental modes, as in every historical epoch embraced a new, and more progressive system. Trotsky reified the positive heuristic of Marxism, also broadening the negative heuristic by explaining new shifts within the global rise of capitalist industry and the unforeseen rise of socialism in Russia. Trotsky offers a foreboding assessment of what is to come in Soviet Russia and thrusts Marxism into a progressive program.

After the death of Lenin, Trotsky gradually lost his power. The plethora of positions that Joseph Stalin had attained by this point, some important and some not so important but all with patronage, strengthened his position and undermined the power of Trotsky who was favoured by Lenin to proceed him. Stalin successfully broke up all of Trotsky's key alliances and forced him further into political isolation. Eventually, after a campaign of denunciation, he was expelled from the Politburo (1926) and Central Committee (1927), then banished from Russia (1929). He lived in Turkey and France, where he wrote his memoirs and a history of the revolution. Under Soviet pressure, he was forced to move around Europe and eventually found asylum in 1936 in Mexico. During the infamous purge trials he was falsely accused as the chief conspirator against Stalin. He was assassinated in 1940 in Mexico.





“Communism is the riddle of history solved, and it knows itself to be this solution.”

iMarx

Twenty-first century Marx

Stuart Powell asks if Marx can cut it in the modern age

It is said that only Jesus Christ has had a greater impact on Western thought than Karl Marx. Yet, for such a colossus, Marx's work is generally dismissed today. Watered down, manipulated and mutated by communist revolutionaries from Lenin to Castro and by academics with their own agendas, 'Marxism' has become a foggy and uncertain term. In Western Europe, even in traditionally left leaning institutions, the term seems a contaminated relic of a turbulent twentieth century. So much has been taken from Marxism: what could it have left to give?

It is true that the core of Marx's life and work was the revolutionary transition from capitalism to communism. He was preoccupied not simply in describing the ills of capitalism, but rather in outlining a conception of history in which capitalism was a precursor to a proletarian revolution which would, eventually, bring about world communism. The real significance of Marx's theory today however lies not in this discredited grand scheme for world revolution. The intellectual groundings of this vision and the motivations behind it still have raw power to shock. It is from here that Marx's influence is still being felt and also where new inspiration can be found.

A profound distrust of received concepts and ideals led to a corresponding intellectual openness in Marx. The state was not Hegel's impartial arbitrator, but rather the instrument of a bourgeois ruling class intent of consolidating and extending their economic gains. From this perception comes a basic critique of the Enlightenment. The universal, eternal ideas it championed are simply contingent on class ascendancy. There is thus a refreshing scepticism in Marx's outlook. In an age where 'freedom' and 'democ-

ocracy' are wielded as irrefutable concepts to justify any action, here is a thinker who was determined to question the validity of any doctrine that claimed to give an objective and static account of the world from an uninvolved position. Connected to this was Marx's assertion that no element in the total process of history could be isolated and given significance unaffected by the other elements. Tension always exists between any present state of affairs and what it is about to become. Marx scorns the fixed ideals of other thinkers: "Philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways: the point is to change it."

The fullest human consciousness is the active one, aware of its place in history - and with an acute understanding of the desirability of materi-

tions of production.

And yet this revolution does not always have to be violent. In true Marxist style, it all depends on the circumstances. In Marx's German homeland, violence was the only way left, due to an enduring military despotism. But, in his exile refuge the United Kingdom and in the United States, "workers can achieve their aims by peaceful means," due to their highly developed democratic institutions.

Marx also stresses the necessary international dimension of any revolution. For him nationalism is a lie propagated by the bourgeoisie to prevent identification with fellow class members across national boundaries. The workers of the world must unite in order to ensure a successful revo-

The fullest human consciousness is the active one, aware of its place in history.

lution. Collective will on an international scale - and a healthy dose of pessimism as to the real extent of control modern states can really muster - suddenly seems very timely in an age of unprecedented globalisation. "A new revolution is possible only in consequence of a new crisis": in other words, no revolution can be built on ideas. It will be based on a materialist reality that provokes meaningful action. Just ask any of 1989's decrepit Soviet bloc leaders. In a literally changing climate, Marx still has something to say on effective and clearly directed political action, if no longer world revolution.

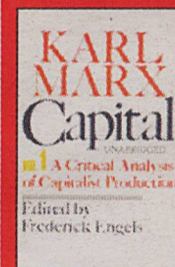
Throughout his life, Marx demonstrated this flexibility shaped by circumstance. But one thread remains constant. Because it changes so quick-

ly, capitalism always renews the risk of digging its own grave. Marx awaits a social group "that is the dissolution of all social groups, of a sphere that has a universal character because of its universal sufferings." The sheer utopian extent of this dissolution should not undermine the value of the idea in principle. Globalisation has brought us closer to the spectre of a "society united in its suffering." Be it global warming or global poverty, unified political action remains on the agenda, given urgency by materialist concerns. The capacity of 'the collective' remains strong in heightening demands for change and dismantling national and cultural barriers.

Above all, Marx remains relevant because of his tremendous faith in mankind. He has an unshakeable belief in man's creative abilities in relation to nature and his fellow man that can still illuminate the dismal science that has left him out in the cold. Unlike so many thinkers, Marx never shackled himself to a fixed conception of the ideal state for a human-being. Man is self-creating. Marx measured what was wrong with nineteenth-century industrial society not by an ideal condition of man, but rather by man's potential. That potential remains in the twenty-first century, stronger than ever. That's why we have no detailed outline of either 'the' revolution or of communist society. To have one would fundamentally contradict the principle of self-realization Marx advocated most strongly of all his positions.

Calling Marx a utopian who inspired dystopias beyond imagining is therefore beside the point. Marx does take us beyond our cosy liberal consensus, but the rest is up to us. What should inspire us today is his crucial exhortation to a society which allows the individual to flourish - and which simultaneously encourages collective action in times of crisis.

WELL-READ MARXIST



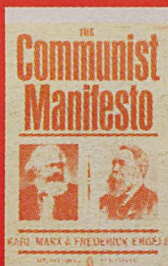
Capital by Marx

Civil War in France: the Paris Commune by Marx and Lenin



Wage-Labour and Capital by Marx

The Communist Manifesto by Marx and Engels



Tony: Bending our ears

Christine Whyte has a chat with a smoker, bon viveur and revolutionary

Why should everyone at LSE be reading your new book?

I've been a diarist for a long time, I've published 67 years of diary. The full diary, uncut, is about 15 million words, and this is 10% of what I had originally written. It's been cut to about 100,000 from a million words in the last 7 years. And the thing about a diary is that you get three bites at your experience: when it happens, then at night when you're very tired but the pressure's off and you put it down, and then later, when you read it and realize you were wrong. And that's the great thing... it's self-education, a diary is a self-educator.

Why do you think memorials like Emily Wilding Davison plaque are so important?

The House of Commons it's a museum of oppression. There are all the kings and prime ministers, not one of whom believed in universal suffrage, or votes for women; there's one little figure of a woman with a cloth over her mouth, which I always noticed. So I thought, why don't we put up some plaques to people who worked for democracy. So I put up three of them. The first was the Emily Wilding Davison. She broke into the House of Commons in 1911 on the night of the census, and when they said to her "What was your address on the night of the census?", she said "The House of Commons". I got a lovely photograph of the suffragette and I screwed it up in the broom cupboard where she hid. I then put up two more plaques; one to honor the people who fought for democracy over the years, and another one to honor the people who built the building; they were later removed.

I put them back up without permission, I'm too old to ask for permission. They were taken down again, and now they're up permanently.

You had a problem swearing an oath to the Queen?

Well, put it more simply than that, every Member of Parliament has to swear by almighty God, or 'affirm' their faithful and true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, and her heirs and successors. If you don't swear the oath, they fine you £500, throw you out of the House of Commons, and have a by-election. So in order to sit in Parliament, I had to tell 17 lies on oath because my allegiance isn't to the Queen, it's to my constituents and to my colleagues. I found it very offensive to be forced to say something that I don't believe in. The last time I did it, I said, "Under protest, and only in order to serve my constituents, I now repeat the words of the Parliamentary Oath Act of 1868.", and I read it, and the clerk just giggled.

So, who would you swear an oath to, if you were given a choice?

Your oath is not to an individual, your oath is to your beliefs or to the people you represent. I think you do owe allegiance to the people you represent, even if you don't agree with their views; you have to work for them. And to colleagues because all political parties are a coalition of opinion; and to your conscience; I couldn't vote for something I didn't believe in.

How do you assess the status of the radical Left within our contemporary political culture?

I distinguish between the kings and the teachers. The kings have power and the teachers tell you what's happening in the world. And the power of teaching long outlasts the kings. The kings and presidents and prime ministers come and go, but the teachers explain the world and help you forward. On the other hand, when a teacher comes out with an idea is captured by the kings. I think that the teachings of Jesus, about loving your neighbours as yourself has been taken over by the church, who says that if you don't do what the Pope tells you, you'll go to Hell. And similarly, I think Stalin distorted the teachings of Marx, because I'm sure Marx's understanding was that it would be popular movements that would bring change, and Stalin said "No, no, I'm leading a vanguard party, and if you don't agree with me, I'll send you to Siberia. Or worse." So it's that relationship that interests me. And you see, although I'm a socialist because I can't understand the world without it, I'm not trying to make other people "my kind of socialist". The parallel with religion is very close; because religion splits and splits and splits, Christian denominations, or Sunni, Shiite, Catholic, Protestant; and it's the same with the Left. My favourite paper is the Weekly Worker. On page 1 it demands socialist unity; and on page 2, 3, 4, 5, it denounces anyone who tries it. And I love it from that point of view, it reminds me that intellectual socialism of that kind gets you absolutely nowhere.

How do coalition groups such as Stop the War Coalition mobilise now?

Well I can't claim any credit for that,

but if you look at history, all progress has been made by what has wrongly been called 'single-issue groups'. If you take in the Tolpuddle Martyrs, they were people who fought for the right to a trade union. Going back to the English revolution, people didn't see why the King should say God put him there. The Peasant's Revolt was a revolt over the taxation that was introduced, the Poll Tax. If you take the suffragettes, they were demanding the vote. Single-issue; but when you look at it, you realise all "single-issue groups" actually cover a range of sub-

Dartmoor, you can smoke in prison; so it is a bit tempting. You have to be responsible about it.

You don't think it's too much of an encroachment of the state into private lives?

We do live in a bit of a nanny state. For example, how fat you are; I can't remember, is it that models are too fat, and everybody else is too thin; or the models too thin, and everybody else is too fat. And now, stress in school children; in no time at all there'll be a "primary school stress czar", and he'll produce league tables

"You can't be an insurgent in your own country."

jects. For example, the demand for trade unionism wasn't just about the Tolpuddle Martyrs, it was about the right of working people to organise. I think that single-issue groups at the moment are very important, because for one reason and another all the political leaders tend to be huddling together in the centre. Without pressure from outside they'll never shift.

What about the smoking ban?

Well, you should never smoke, and I never did unless people agreed. I'm a vegetarian; I've been a vegetarian for 35 years. And a teetotaler, I've never drunk alcohol, in the whole of my life. And if I puff my pipe, they send me to Dartmoor. Well, of course, if you go to

of which kinds of schools are most stressed, they'll be published. I think we need a little bit more common sense. And to pick the word "czar" as an example of a Labour government telling you the czar wasn't elected by anybody! At least they're not called the "fuhrer". I mean, I can imagine if they'd done it the other way around, they would have said there would be a "fuhrer" to deal with stress, but perhaps somebody had heard about the Holocaust.

As a Pilot in WW2 and an anti-war activist now, how has your stance on war changed?

I think it's one thing to defend your own country. When I was sixteen, the Home Guard had a junior branch. When I was sixteen, I was trained as a terrorist, taught to use a bayonet, to fire a rifle, a revolver, throw grenades, fire a missile. And if the Germans had arrived, if I had been alive, I would have thrown bombs into restaurants where they were having a meal. Would I have been an insurgent? Would I have been a terrorist? It's one thing to defend your own country, everyone's entitled to do that. But to invade somebody else's is quite a different business. And I feel very sorry for the troops in Iraq, because they are an invading army. And to call the Iraqis insurgents? You can't be an insurgent in your own country.

How do you feel about the situation in Darfur and UN's insistence to send troops to the region?

I think the UN is a very elemental world parliament, and if the UN decides that there is a threat to peace, which clearly is the case in Darfur, it resolves to go in. I think that is all right. I don't necessarily agree with it, but I think there is a legitimacy about UN action, which is absent when you get a "Coalition of the Willing", which is just imperial aggression.

Do you have any advice for aspiring LSE politicians?

Try to understand your own experience, and books will help you do that. But, I must say books have played a smaller part in shaping my opinion than what's happened to me in my life. Furthermore, if you want to help, find a cause you believe in, attach yourself to it, and you'll learn from others. There is no better way of learning than working with others who are doing it, and then you pick it up yourself. It's the old apprenticeship system, it applies to politics as well. Parliament isn't a career, it's a vocation. You should only go in if you really passionately believe in it.

TONY BENN: A RADICAL IN THE HOUSE



Left in London



KARL MARX GRAVE

Marx died in London on 14 March 1883, and was buried in Highgate cemetery. This is a fitting last stop on our tour, a chance to contemplate the great man's works. To get there take the Tube to Archway (Northern Line) then walk up Highgate Hill to Waterlow Park. The exit to the Park is adjacent to the Cemetery gates.

BOOKMARKS

Pick up a challenging work for the train to Highbury at Bookmarks bookshop. Bookmarks specialises in socialist material, and is one of the main outlets for literature published by trade unions and the labour movement in general. It is a must-visit, to chat to the incredibly knowledgeable staff, browse through their extensive collection and back catalogue of journals and take a look at the events listings. Bookmarks is host to a variety of book launches and writers' events. It is, in fact, more than a bookshop, as it provides bookstalls for trade union and labour movement conferences and major meetings, and is always to be seen operating at major demonstrations. Tony Benn says of the shop, "Bookmarks is the university for activists and needs your support." It's located at 1 Bloomsbury Street, just a ten minute walk from LSE.

BRITISH LIBRARY

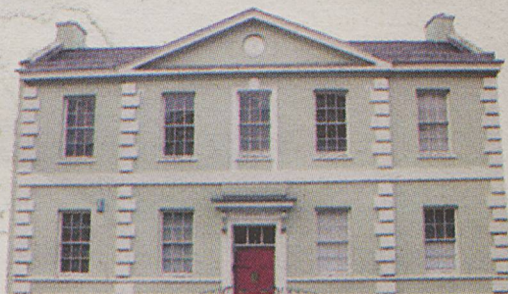
When Lenin visited the British Library, he said, "It is a remarkable institution" and it is the first stop on our tour of Leftist London. It's open from 9:30am, so get there early to get some reading in, and take a look at the remarkable collections. Marx wrote *Capital* here, so have a go at writing your own classic. To get there, take the Tube to King's Cross/St Pancras, Euston or Euston Square. The library's at 96 Euston Road.

MUSEUM TAVERN

Once you've absorbed enough knowledge at the Library, it's time to whet your whistle with a crafty lunchtime pint. The Tavern, where Marx would drink after a hard day's inciting revolt serves real ales and fish and chips.

The pub dates back to the early eighteenth century when it was called the Dog & Duck. When the British Museum was built in the 1760's the pub changed its name to suit. It was expanded in 1855 and much of the existing decor dates from then including the carved wooden fittings and etched and cut glass.

It's located at 49 Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, a short stroll from the Library, or take the Tube to Tottenham Court Road.



MARX MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Established on the 50th anniversary of Marx's death, this library hosts a range of materials on Marx, Engels, the Spanish Civil War and the history of the Socialist movement in the UK. It also has a collection of journals dating from the 1850s, including *The Red Republican* (first to publish *The Communist Manifesto*), *Votes for Women* (a Suffragette journal) and *Commonwealth* (William Morris' publication). It has specialist collections on the anti-Fascist Spanish war, early radical and Chartist movements and complete sets of *The Daily Worker* and *The Morning Star*. The library is located at 37A Clerkenwell Green. Get the Tube to Farringdon (on the Circle, Hammersmith & Metropolitan lines) or Thameslink, to Farringdon or buses 55, 63, 243 or 259.



Bookmarks recommends

If you've enjoyed this short guide to Leftist London, you'll love *Marx in London*. It is fully illustrated with photographs, maps and illustrations, and includes transport details to places of interest. It's been out of print for years, but has recently been re-released. You can get it at Bookmarks and other good bookshops.



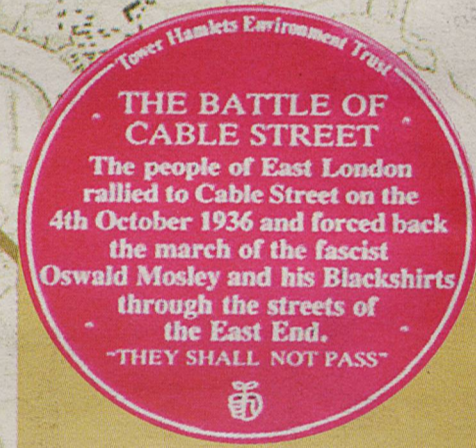
A period of harsh reaction followed the widespread Revolutions of 1848, and revolutionary action was curtailed until the establishment of the International Workingmen's Association (IWA), or the First International. It was an international socialist organisation aimed at uniting different left-wing groups and trade union organisations. It was founded in 1864 in a workmen's meeting held in Saint Martin's Hall, Covent Garden and its first congress was held in 1866 in Geneva. Unfortunately Saint Martin's Hall was demolished in 1879, just 20 years after it opened. To get there, get the tube to Covent Garden.



International Brigade Memorial

Now you're all fired up to fight the fascists, head across the river to Jubilee Gardens on the South Bank. It's host to a beautiful memorial dedicated to volunteers killed defending Europe from fascism in the Spanish Civil War. The memorial was erected and is maintained by the International Brigade Memorial Trust whose patrons include Ken Livingstone and our very own Professor Paul Preston.

Jubilee Gardens is located right next to the London Eye. Get the Tube to Embankment or the train to Waterloo.



Inspired by the MML, take a trip down to the East End to visit one of the most significant sites in London's anti-fascist history. Credited as a significant factor in the British Union of Fascists' (BUF) political decline, the Battle of Cable Street was a clash between police protecting a march by Mosely's BUF, and anti-fascists groups. Mosley planned to send thousands of marchers dressed in uniforms styled on those of Blackshirts through the Jewish areas of the East End of London. Anti-fascist groups blocked the roads in an attempt to prevent the march from taking place. After a series of running battles between the police and anti-fascist demonstrators, the march did not take place, and the fascists were dispersed towards Hyde Park instead.

"I shall never forget that as long as I live, how working-class people could get together to oppose the evil of racism"
Bill Fishman, eyewitness

In the 1980s, a large mural of the Battle was painted on the side of St. George's Hall which stands in Cable Street, about 150 yards west from Shadwell underground station.

Listings

www.lsesu.com

Eurotrash!

The official launch party of
your European Calendar

Thursday, 25 October
LSE Underground Bar
7pm till late

Free to all existing members, £3
to non members (or join the soci-
ety for £1 at the door and get in
for free!)

We'll be on Houghton Street
Monday, Tuesday and
Wednesday next week, between
12-2pm if you want more infor-
mation or to bring along friends
who are interested in joining!

For more information contact
Chris Mooney -
C.S.Mooney@lse.ac.uk

Dance

There will be 5 classes. Ballet and Modern Jazz will
begin in Week 3 and HipHop will begin in Week 4.
HipHop beginner class will be in G1 for Week 4
and 5 and notification will be sent out about their
location in the following weeks.

Ballet (beginner)
Monday 6.30-7.30 G1

Ballet (intermediate)
Monday 7.30-9.00 G1

Modern Jazz (open)
Tuesday 7.00-8.00 G1

HipHop (beginner)
Thursday 7.00-8.00 G1

HipHop (advanced)
Thursday 8.00-9.30 Parish Hall

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

Attached to this email is your free voucher compli-
mentary of the Dance Society and will be valid for
ANY classes that the Dance Society holds through-
out the school year till June 2008. Just print the
voucher and bring it along to class!

In addition to this there will be a Tap Dance Taster
Workshop on Tuesday 30th (Week 4)! Starts at 8pm
and finishes at 9pm. Don't worry about bringing
tap shoes as any hard shoes like trainers will do
fine. The price of the workshop is the same as for
classes.

Students' Union MT Elections

Go Vote! LSESU MT Election 07

Positions:
Honorary President
Honorary Vice President
Postgraduate Students' Officer
General Course Representative
NUS Delegate (3)
Court of Governors (5)
Academic Board (2)

Vote online
10am 31st Oct - 6.30pm 1st Nov



Halloween Crush!

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PUMPKINS GALORE!

CRUSH! GETS SPOOKY, GIVES Q JUMPS TO
THOSE IN FANCY DRESS AND ROCKS IN WITH
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The Punter



Matthew Partridge

The filing deadlines for both the Republican and Democratic nominations will be starting to fall in the next fortnight. Although I have to admit that my prediction that Al Gore would run was off the mark, there is still time for either Gore to get into the contest or for the various 'draft Al' groups to put him on the ballot. Interestingly, the market (Intrade.com) is quoting a price of 6.5-9.5 for him to get into the contest while suggesting that the chances of him being the next nominee are 5.3-5.5, in effect suggesting that he has over 50% chance of winning if he runs. If you still haven't given up completely on Al Gore, you could bet on him entering the contest and bet against him winning the nomination. In any case I think there is still more than a 10% chance of him entering the race and less than a 50% chance of him gaining the nomination if he doesn't, though you should be warned that this arbitrage strategy is capital intensive and will require some supervision.

Instead of looking at whether Al Gore will enter the contest you might do well to look at who is likely to drop out. We've already seen several retirements on the Republican side and given Hillary's dominance we could see some Democrats decide to quit the race. If you are interesting in betting on a candidate dropping out you would do worse to bet on John Edwards leaving the contest before the end of the year. Given that he has already been forced to seek public funding and that he is behind in Iowa, where he has staked all his hopes of success on, the intrade.com price of 7.5-10.2 is pretty good value.

In terms of financial betting I am still going to stick with shorting December Gold (although I would advise you put in an order to be filled only when it goes below \$749). I would also advise you to put in an order to short Templeton Emerging Markets when it goes below 440p. This fund has a very high P/E ratio, it has doubled from last November and I believe that the emerging markets are set for a very serious reversal as they seem to be driven by 'irrational exuberance' rather than investor fundamentals. Indeed, the fact that Chinese companies make up three of their ten largest investments should give anyone serious pause for thought, since much of the stock market boom in China has been driven by capital controls that artificially drive down the cost of the capital for those firms. It is very possible that the relaxation of these controls could be the catalyst that burst the Chinese bubble.

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.

Hot off the Pres.

McClaren should take note



Daniel Holness

A little confession: I love the oval-balled game.

Yes, despite my strong allegiances with the FC, I've been glued to the set the past few months. And if I am to be perfectly honest, the Rugby national roses have put the Football national lions in a more shameful light than some AU members on the Surf Machine (Rob Keegan, I'm looking at you here).

I said last week that I'd be giving little titbits of advice. This week it's more of a warning: always believe in yourself, but never let this translate to arrogance.

No clearer example can be given than that of Steve McClaren and his troops. In

much the same way that the United States had to completely reform their attitude towards international basketball after years of dominating simply by putting out a 'Dream Team', the FA need to seriously consider changes from grass-root level all the way to the top. A feeling of smug complacency seems to have pervaded this talented group of players. And when things haven't gone right for them, they have panicked and looked for others to blame: anyone but themselves that is. The worst case was from our 'leader' McClaren himself. "One decision turned the game," he said, describing the dubious penalty decision on Wednesday. Almost true. For, while Spanish referee Luis Medina Cantalejo did get it wrong when he ruled Wayne Rooney had tugged Konstantin Zyryanov's shirt inside the area, to make it a Taylor-esque 'Do I not like that' moment would be arrogantly blinkered

to say the least. After all, Rooney was marginally offside when he belted home a crackling first-half opener and Cantalejo can hardly be blamed for Steven Gerrard missing the sitter that would have doubled England's lead immediately after half-time.

Instead, McClaren should focus on the dropped points against Macedonia at Old Trafford 12 months ago as the mistake that will probably prove fatal to his career as England coach.

Compare this to Ashton's mishmash of men. The England team totally deserved their 2003 victory but the glorying seemed to go on far too long (hello complacency.) Combine this with the mass exodus of that group of players due to retirement and injury, and the general consensus around the world was that this would be the worst defending champions ever to play at a Rugby

World Cup. Especially after the 36-0 group-stage drubbing at the hands of South Africa. Yet this cluster of 'Dad's Army' and unproven talents stuck together with the clamouring criticism raining in on them. They got a few wins together. And started believing. By no means as talented as either Australia or France, England produced performances of heroic proportions and made the country feel proud, a polar opposite to how the majority of us feel about the spoilt round-ball millionaires. They even managed to make a tight game of it in the final versus the Springboks. Matthew Tait proved he can be more than a rugby coffee-table book, one that looks good but lacks the bulk for the international stage. The way he came of age in the final was a sight to behold. His scintillating, slashing run aside, he was dominant in the tackle and kicked a fan-

tastic territorial game when placed at a less familiar position of fullback, a very exciting prospect. The other players by the end had worked their socks, skin and muscles off. They were so exhausted that they had lost the ability to even speak coherently. After the game, Jonny Wilkinson sounded as though he'd had a stroke or was eating jelly, "I have given everything I had to this effort. I have never given anything less than everything and it has been a hell of a journey with these guys." The English public know that and it's why the rugby boys have captured our hearts once again, despite their defeat in the Final.

And what of the controversial decision to disallow Mark Cueto's try? Martin Corry simply said: "I don't know. You have to get on with it."

McClaren should take note.

Running

Running team tramples Parliament



Charlie Dougherty

Hampstead Heath always seems like a lovely place to raise children, but then everything changes when that fateful first LCL race comes along to Parliament Hill. The hardest race of the season, it brings out the largest field of runners, including this year 16 of your

fellow LSEers. More than 130 teenagers and twenty-somethings were bounding about in lycra and short shorts, starting a riot that makes mothers shake their heads and shield their children's eyes.

And there is always the unfortunate fox, the unsuspecting thirty-something lady in riding boots walking across the pitch in front of 150 runners. The whistle blows, there's a whoop from the UCL attachment, and the chase begins. First she turns her head, and the eyes widen like a deer in

headlights. Then when the fear takes them, they run—but its already too late.

Her name was Kim, but that is another story and really a footnote for greater glories. The course was mostly dry with only a couple of slippery corners to break your ankles on, and LSE started strong. Tom Beedell, despite the toll that I-banking took on more sensible things like training, came in a respectable 10th behind a suspicious looking gazelle with a Spanish accent that seemed to have come

straight out of an imperial lab. Forget doping, genetic engineering is the new way forward. Nathan Converse came in a solid 32th, Charlie Dougherty a strong 46th, Neel Chugh 55th, and Sam Martin rounded out the first team in 78th. LSE first team starts the season in 7th, but you need not worry—King's is 8th.

The women fared all right themselves, with veteran Helen 'special folk' need two years for a masters' Sharp led the women in 20th place, with Stephanie Reed following in

24th, and Nicole Rogers filing in 28th, putting the women's team in 7th as well this season.

So the year starts in the sunshine and crisp autumn air, with only opportunity ahead of us. Well, that and rain, heavy mud, runs on February mornings, more clueless foxes...well, you get the idea.

This weeks results

Football

Wednesday 17th

LSE 1s 1-1 London Southbank
Dale-Stormer
LSE 2s 1-7 SOAS
Schoetter
LSE 3s 2-3 Holloway 3s
Ong, Miguel
LSE 6s 2-4 Holloway 6s
Karkavitsas, Shojai
LSE 7s 5-1 Kings 6s
Kouppas (3), Dzikunu, Sir Guest

Saturday 20th

LSE 1s 1-1 Holloway 2s
Todrov
LSE 2nds 0-5 UCL 1sts
LSE 3rds 0-7 Holloway 1sts
LSE 4ths 2-1 LSE 5ths
Nayar, Tendeter - Hardy
LSE 6s 4-1 Kings Medics 4s
Shojai, Kenyon, Speake, Mitchell
LSE 7s 8-1 Goldsmiths 3s
Sir Guest (3), Jayraj (2), Yannakas (2), Kouppas

Netball

LSE 1s 13-57 RUMS
LSE 1s 46-16 GKT 2nds
LSE 2s 37 -13 LSE 3rds
LSE 2s 39-13
Buckinghamshire

Badminton

Mens
LSE 1s 6 - 2 Imperial 1sts
Womens
LSE 1s 6-2 Kings Medics

Womens Basketball

LSE 28-60 Southbank

Golf

LSE 1-5 Reading
Andrew Pluskal

Running

First team
Tom Beedell 10th
Nathan Converse 32nd
Charlie Dougherty 46th
Neel Chugh 55th
Sam Martin 78th
Second Team
Greg Opie 83rd
James May 85th
Tim Windle 89th
Wilson Leonardi 90th
Tai Ming
Womens
Helen Sharp 20th
Stephanie Reed 24th
Nicole Rogers 28th



Hat-trick hero Rupert Guest (left) General Hero Ben Tutt (right)

Netball

The Netball year begins in style



Emma Saynor

The Netball Club started this season as we meant to go on: if you happen across a shoe, some underwear, or a fingernail please return them to Hannah Davies, a certain Miss O'Regan and our Social Sec respectively, as soon as possible. On the same note – If you happen across a Potamianos looking bewildered or confused, please assign her to your sports team, as although we agree 'Netball is the Best Club', we're not sure we can affiliate ourselves quite so closely with the DJ in the Walkabout, moving forward.

Having walked the freshers through the ball ache that is the journey to Berrylands and assured them that they would not be left to make the journey into the middle of nowhere alone the mighty 2nd team were formed and prepared for the first ULU match of the season against LSE 3rds. Our cautious optimism as we went into the first quarter was almost scuppered by the efforts of

Coker's brand new 3rd team, but no fear, after a couple of minutes of evenly matched play the 2nd's reclaimed the power behind the ball and were already 10 ahead after the first quarter. After this slightly shaky start it was smooth sailing for the rest of the match, with the oh so powerful combination of Wing and the Treasurer's dominating centre court and beautifully feeding the ball into our brand new attacking trio of Annabel, Charlotte and Flo. Naturally, we can Say No More about the defence other than that those pesky 3rd's had no chance against the prowess that was Nat and Alice's inceptions all over court – resulting in the opposition only managing 13 goals in 60 minutes. I think it is safe to say the 2nd team set themselves up for an awesome season ahead.

Our first BUSA match was shrouded in speculation, firstly WHERE is Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College and WHAT sort of special subjects would you study there? Flo and Rajal discounted the idea that it may be beauty therapy by looking the opposition up and down and deciding

that their particular un-academic specialisation probably didn't produce that particular look. So, moving into the game we decided it must be food technology and after the first quarter we were certain it was not anything vaguely related to sport. The other speculative subject before the game began was the mystery surrounding how Alice actually made it to the game after having to be put to bed after passing out in the toilet during the Freshers Ball. Oddly proud that her friends had to 'make her naked', it is no surprise that despite her implausible skill the previous night's drinking meant that she could only manage a couple of quarters of what turned out to be an another awesome game from the 2nd team. Despite their hangovers the Freshers were forceful in their attack, powerfully led by a certain AU treasurer, and secured 39 goals in 60 minutes. In fact, the passing into the circle was so immense that Glynners and O'Regan (of the Nicola variety) claimed that it was nothing less than a highly sexual experience. It was, of course, no surprise that Miss Glyn was complaining of a rather odd



groin strain all the way home. With the centre court dominated by the immense power of the Twangmeister the defence easily closed down the Chiltern's attack, only allow-

ing 13 goals to pass through the net, securing our second annihilation of the opposition this season. All I can say is: let's take those lame excuses for a part of the University of

London down this week ...
BRING ON ROYAL HOLLOWAY!

Men's Hockey

A hockey game of two halves



Andy Harris

LSE 2 (2nd half)
Goldsmiths 1 (ditto)

Crystal Palace

So here we are again. Another year of Welshy constantly singing mediocre pop songs, of Jasper's preoccupation with working out the next possible opportunity for a fag break and of Dan's obsessive need to send about a thousand emails a day. The seconds are back.

Our first game of the season saw us take a trip to Crystal Palace to play Goldsmiths' first team. Due to a lack of numbers we had to start the game with only ten men, which meant firing on all cylinders from the off. And fire on all cylinders we did. Co-Captain Welch led by example, defending, attacking and just generally owning the pitch, getting around more than Waylon on Ladies Night at China White. We gave as good as we got and you couldn't tell we were a man down.

The eleventh man came in the over-sized shape of Azan, who showed his love for the seconds by not only racing

across London to get to the match in time for the last 45minutes, but also by undertaking another degree, just so that he could play for the seconds for a further three years (its got nothing at all to do with him shirking out of growing up and getting a proper job!).

Our goal scoring came from the two extremes. We had fresher Raul letting rip a cracker – think we may have found the new Pete Emms in him, and then went proper old-school with Jeff C.M. showing the young 'uns how it's done.

Some people have the kind of face you just want to slap. Apparently Jasper has the kind of body you just want to whack a hockey ball into, taking hits from players of both teams. Whereas Joey 'J.Lo.' Meadway saw his body as less of a target and more of a weapon, being penalised for wiggling his ass into a Goldsmiths player to shield the ball – save your booty shaking for the netball girls at Walkabout bud!

The senior players got back into their stride and the new boys all made an impressive debut, this season is looking promising. Unfortunately Goldsmiths scored a few cheap goals in the first half so yeah, we actually lost 4-2, but with any luck most people won't get this far through my report, so will never know



Not just football

Dan Holness confesses to a secret vice

Dan Holness



A crash in China?

The Punter speculates on emerging markets

Matthew JCG Partridge



On the town

Netball girls make an impact right from the start

Emma Saynor

23.10.07 | thebeaver.sports@lse.ac.uk

Beaver

sports

Rugby seconds draw again



PW Burkimsher

LSE 2nd XV 14
RUMS 14

Radlett Park

After drawing our first game of the season 0-0 against UCL, hopes were high that we could maintain our unbeaten start and get a win under our belts against a strong RUMS side. The team this year features a blend of youthful exuberance and veterans from many different countries. English, Welsh, Scottish, Irish, American, Canadian, South African, Chinese, Australian and Czech talent was sure to be a good match against a bunch of non-descript medics.

After a short warm-up following the trek to Radlett it was vital to hit the ground running, and this we did after an early line-out in our own half. Good ball was secure by Piers and after a great break by first five-eighth Ollie, lock Andrew Shaw was put through a hole in the defence and showed a great turn of pace and stepped the full back to score under the posts. This was then converted by Ollie to give us a seven point lead.

We proceeded to play a territory-based game and had some success in stealing opposition line out ball with Rahil excelling at the front. Allied with strong tackling from the back row and midfield we were able to keep in the game despite giving up a big size advantage in the pack. Avi, sporting a mohawk for the game, put in one impressive hit on the RUMS winger and Daryl on the other flank was showing some strong running. After some sustained pressure at the end of the half was absorbed we were able to turn around with the lead still intact.

Half time saw the introduction of some fresh legs but maybe the lack of continuity led to RUMS finally forcing their way over after a prolonged siege on the LSE try line. The score board was now level and this gave us fresh impetus to attack and regain the lead. The Medics discipline began to waiver and after an



The 2nd XV pose for the camera

earlier failed attempt, Ollie kicked for the posts after yet another penalty was given away. A fine effort landed just short but popped into the hands of Clemba who went over under the posts. So we now fortuitously had the seven point lead again.

Defence now became the

priority and this was tough with RUMS continually putting on the pressure with their hard running forwards. However we were able to absorb this and gain another chance to increase the lead. A fine effort by Tom just missed the right hand upright and it seemed this gave RUMS the

chance they needed to get back into the game. This they did after another period of sustained pressure and a try was scored. Their kicker showed nerves of steel to tie the match at 14-14. Sadly we did not have Jonny Wilkinson on the bench to bring on and slot a winning drop goal so the match ended in another draw.

However having played two of the stronger sides in the league so far there are high hopes of a first win next week and hopefully we will be able to expand our game beyond ten man rugby so that captain Dan gets a touch of the ball at centre.

15-Reid, 14-Li, 13-Yuen, 12-Swirski (Cummins), 11-

Meysers (Stuller), 10-Townsend, 9-Mitchell (Broumley-Young), 1-Evershed, 2-Davar, 3-Sawbridge, 4-Shaw (Hill), 5-Gupta, 6-Cassidy, 7-Macfarlane, 8-Burkimsher (Eadie).

"The team this year features a blend of youthful exuberance and veterans from many countries."