

THE MITRE

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FIFTY PENCE

'SAINT' BANNED BY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Atkins Cites Discrimination Against Groups

Compiled by Staff

THE Students Association has sparked controversy by banning the *Saint*, the most widely read St Andrews student newspaper, from using the Association's facilities. The ban, according to Association President Simon Atkins, was decided as a punishment for the fortnightly tabloid's failure to abide by the Association's policies, which ban various forms of discrimination. The Association alleges that the *Saint* discriminated against a number of protected groups, and in a letter explaining the actions, specifically cited 'the Welsh, dyslexics, and homosexuals.' The staff will also be required to undergo farcical sounding 'diversity awareness training.'

The *Saint* rents offices that are located in the Students Union building in St. Mary's Place, and at a rate that one Union insider claims is substantially below market value. The ban means that the newspaper would not be allowed to use those offices, nor any of the other Union facilities until the Association is satisfied that the *Saint* will abide by its policies in the future.

Some have
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UDS CANCELS DEBATE OVER VIOLENCE FEARS

BLAIR CITES CONCERNS OVER SAFETY, UNIVERSITY'S HANDLING ATTACKED

Replacement Motion Condemning 'No Platform' Policies Carries Instead

A CONTROVERSY erupted after the Union Debating Society cancelled one of its debates over threats of violence to those involved.

The U.D.S. had invited Mr. Nick Griffin, leader of the extreme right British National Party, to speak on the motion "This House Believes the Multicultural Experiment Has Failed." Mr. Griffin's attendance at the debate was kept secret until leaked to the media, allegedly by Mr. Nick Bibby, an alumnus of the University and former debater who is now believed to be a left wing activist with the Scottish Green Party.

Violent threats from undisclosed persons or

groups were made against Peter Blair and other members of the Board of Ten of the U.D.S.

When word of the B.N.P. leader's planned participation in the debate was finally out, the University released an "important message to all staff and students" claiming that the invitation of Mr. Griffin was "likely to cause significant concern to a large number of people in St Andrews." The statement went on to say that "any such visit is likely to be damaging to our efforts to promote diversity in St Andrews" and that the administration "have asked the Debating Society to reconsider this invitation."

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UNIVERSITY RADIO STATION LAUNCHED

Long Promised by Union Hacks, Now Finally Delivered

THE University is to have its first student run radio station when StAR FM begins broadcasting later this month. St Andrews Radio has a short licence, and will be on the air from February 28 to March 15 for six hours every day, at 87.7 on the FM dial.

A student radio station has long been the campaign promise of many candidates for Students Association President, most recently with the nearly successful bid by James North. StAR FM, however, is not a Union initiative run from the top down, but rather the brainchild of two students, Sandy Walker and Steve Pidcock.

"This station will provide a great opportunity for anyone who's ever wanted to get behind a mike and try their hand at broadcasting," they said, "as well as offering a great deal of entertainment to the students who will listen to it."

StAR FM will have a breakfast programme from 8:00am to 9:00am, an evening programme from 7:00pm to 9:00pm, and finally a late night broadcast from 11:00pm to 1:00am.

COMMENT

Award-Winning Newspaper Famed for Sleaze & Inaccuracy

"The *Saint* is a tabloid and it is light hearted in places, but we still strive to maintain a broadsheet quality. We have issues to raise and we argue them in a sophisticated manner."

Thus spoke *Saint* chief Jo Kerr to the local and national media during the recent kafuffle surrounding the temporary banishment of the student run tabloid from Union facilities. Miss Kerr may or

may not have succeeded in persuading those unfamiliar with her paper of its broadsheet quality and sophistication, but those who know the *Saint* may have struggled to match her claims with the hallmarks of the paper trashiness, sleaze, and journalistic inaccuracy.

The head honchos of the University's downmarket tabloid may
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IN BRIEF

New Education Secretary Ruffles Feathers

The Labour Government has appointed Ruth Kelly, an anti abortion MP to the cabinet as Education secretary. The post was vacated when Charles Clarke was appointed Home Secretary in the wake of David Blunkett's resignation.

However the Irish born Miss Kelly has publicly stated her support for Labour's embryonic stem cell research policy in contradiction of Christian social teaching. The national director of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, Mr. John Smeaton, said "her stance is deeply disappointing."

New Center Studies Religion and Politics

University of St Andrews academics have founded a new research center devoted to the study of religion and politics.

The Centre for the Study of Religion and Politics is a joint project of the Schools of Divinity, International Relations, Modern Languages, and Philosophical and Anthropological Studies. The Centre will be based in St. Mary's College under the guidance of the Dean of Divinity, Dr. Mario Aguilar.

The C.S.R.P. has as its joint patrons the Cardinal Archbishop of St Andrews, Keith Patrick O'Brien, and the controversial 'Father of Liberation Theology', Padre Gustavo Gutierrez from Peru.

The Centre's first seminar took place on Thursday, February 10 in St. Mary's College Hall on 'Religion and Politics in Gustavo Gutierrez'.

Student Union Bans Controversial Tabloid

Con't from Front Page

suggested that the tabloid will not be able to survive without Union aid. The editor, Miss Jo Kerr, however, stated that they intend to continue printing the *Saint*, and the common thought is that if they can produce at least one issue without the Union, the newspaper has a chance at survival. Miss Kerr, on holiday in Egypt, told the *Guardian* that "the problem was a couple of people who have nothing better to do than make complaints in a self righteous bureaucratic manner."

Student opinion regarding the ban has been divided. It has been further complicated by the fact that the *Saint* has made so many enemies over the years, including the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender society, the Catholic Society, the evangelical Christian Union, and others. Many cite the poor quality of the *Saint* as counting against it, but a number of students have claimed that the ban is political correctness gone wild.

The national press certainly took up interest in the story, articles or opinion pieces being published in the *Telegraph*, the *Times*, the *Guardian*, the *Scotsman*, and the *Herald*.

An opinion writer in the *Scotsman* claimed that the episode was reminiscent of "a puritanism not seen since 1920's Germany."

"In one stupefying leap," the *Scotsman* continued, "the Students' Association of St Andrews has abandoned good sense and adopted the fledgling behaviours of a po faced totalitarianism. All it needs for such a regime to be shown in its true colours



THE LAST ISSUE: Some claim the *Saint* won't survive.

are emblematic arm bands and shoulder pips to indicate degrees of zealotry and fanaticism. Yes, it's a hoot all right, if only the pathology on

"It was an excellent newspaper in my first year as rector, but unfortunately standards have rather gone down since then."

Sir Clement Freud

display were not so deeply offensive and so threatening to our freedoms."

Sir Clement Freud, the Rector of the University, came out against the *Saint*. "It's fine to insult the principal or

the rector," the Lord Rector told the press, "but once you start insulting religions or races or the Welsh I think you're treading on very dangerous ground."

"And it's not as if they're doing it from a position of strength, I mean the paper only sells a few hundred and there are several thousand students at St Andrews. It was an excellent newspaper in my first year as rector, but unfortunately standards have rather gone down since then."

Meanwhile the University itself had very little to say, simply stating that "there are certain responsibilities that go with independence and we are keen to see the *Saint* encouraged to brush up on its journalism."

Sleaze, Trash, and Inaccuracy

Our University's Award-Winning Newspaper Isn't Fit to Wrap Chips In

Con't from Front Page

perhaps be forgiven for putting on airs during their fifteen minutes of fame, but can they sincerely believe that the terms "broadsheet quality" and "sophisticated manner" are appropriate for describing their product? If so, we may be dealing with fantasists.

Clearly a university education is failing to do those at the *Saint* any good. Too often their world appears peculiarly detached from the realm of real facts. They described St Patrick 5th century as a biblical superhero despite being long after all the canonical texts had been written, and in Britain. The patronising attitude and smug tone they adopt towards Christians, evangelical and Catholic, is emblematic of their intellectual backwardness and lack of a cohesive school of thought. A little research and discerning reading would help them immeasurably.

The controversy that led to their banishment from the

Union flared up after the paper chided Christians for protesting the grievously offensive concepts involved in Terence McNally's play, *Corpus Christi*. "The irony is, they call us intolerant for criticising the play as homosexual propaganda", says Stephen Green, national director of the Welsh group Christian Voice, "then they go on a bigoted racist rampage of their own."

But did the *Saint* really go on a bigoted racist rampage? The *Saint* merely made some tongue in cheek comments lame and without wit about the Welsh. They should have known that in modern politically correct Britain, and especially in our student environment, the only people who can be targeted for abuse are the English, the Americans, Christians, and the Israelis.

The Union has been forthcoming to offer help in the form of providing a course of mental re alignment that is, a political correctness programme for Miss Kerr and her colleagues.

Naturally the *Mitre* welcomes this proposal, though we the editors are still awaiting our invitations. As we suspect that they may never arrive, we would like to extend a fraternal offer of 'work experience', including free re alignment lessons, to the editors of the *Saint* so that they can learn from us how to avoid causing offence, and how to project a modest, humble, and realistic editorial image.

For once, the Students' Association have gone after the right target but they've blown it by choosing an utterly wrong headed course of action. Of course the Union has a right to ban the *Saint* from using its facilities, but generally it is wrong to take action against a newspaper's right to free speech, and in this case to restrict the editor of the *Saint* to meeting the also questionable mores of the Union authorities.

Since the *Saint* is so far from representing student diversity, far better would be to deprive it of its unique privileges. The

Students' Association should re admit the *Saint* and henceforth charge market rate for the offices they occupy in the Union. Alternatively, the Union could offer the *Mitre* the benefits enjoyed previously by the *Saint* which of course we would refuse as an unwelcome endorsement.

The Union does a disservice to the students they are supposed to represent, and whose money they spend, by subsidising a poor product devoid of intelligence, humour, and journalistic sensibility of any note.

Nature's friend the environmental lobby might also want to bang their fists angrily, with the Welsh and the Gays and Dyslexics, about the *Saint*. Anywhere from 1,500 to 2,000 copies of each edition are printed, though the word is that sales have been as low as 500 per edition for some time. It is believed this is done so the paper can claim a higher readership than it might actually have, and attract more advertising revenue.

Debate Cancelled Over Fear of Violence

Continued from Front Page

The message, sent via electronic mail to all students and staff, also announced that a press release had been made simply stating the following: "The views and values of Mr. Griffin and his party are utterly odious to the University of St Andrews, but we do not have a locus as a censor of independent student debates." Furthermore, according to the *Herald*, the University was considering an eleventh hour withdrawal of permission for the use of



Students observe a debate of the Union Debating Society the world's oldest in Parliament Hall last term.

Lower Parliament Hall, the traditional venue for the Union Debating Society.

Many students were further outraged when the National Union of Students, which officially does not represent the students of this university, contacted every student union in the country urging them to put pressure on St Andrews to cancel the debate.

A replacement motion was debated in the Union on the evening scheduled, condemning the policy of refusing to debate controversial extremists.

FEATURES

THE ASIAN TSUNAMI

Debaters Feel the Shock of Asian Earthquake

Our own David Montfort Vinton reports on the tragedy.

JUST AS Britain was waking up, still bloated from the excesses of Christmas Day, across the other side of the world the Earth came to life.

As the ocean plates began to move, a devastating tsunami moved across the Indian Ocean, decimating everything in its path. This has been reported in great detail all across the world. However, it has to be remembered that this is a personal tragedy, and thousands of families have seen broken homes and ruined lives.

At the time of the earthquake, the University of St Andrews Union Debating Society was in Malaysia, competing in the World University Debating Championships. Despite the tournament going ahead, it was impossible to ignore the facts of the devastation unleashed upon the area. The effects on Malaysia have been relatively unreported, as it was not as affected as other areas, such as Thailand and Bangladesh. However, up close the effects were difficult to comprehend.

Kuala Lumpur is not close enough to the coast to be at risk from the tsunami, however, it was in the earthquake, and the city and the residents felt the shocks. The hospitals were immediately checked to make sure that the patients were fine, but thankfully none were harmed. Further up the country, the story was different. Large parts of the Malaysian coast were sacked by the tsunami's power, and taken by surprise by the ferocity and unpredictability of tragic events.

The response was both swift and dramatic. From every mosque, mullahs called the people to prayer every day and



A satellite view of Banda Aceh, Indonesia, before and after the tsunami.

DIGITALGLOBE



night, and people from every nationality and religious group responded together, in an act of spiritual and human unity. In addition, several prominent Malaysian businessmen contributed personal fortunes, and many others contributed

sizable sums of money. On every street corner was a box for donations, and a reminder to contribute.

It would be trite to compare this to some great human achievement, or a reverse of the Tower of Babel. Instead we must realise that this is nation

that was united in grief, and that this event rocked an entire subcontinent.

Although the competition continued, despite calls for it to end, one debater showed the rest of the contingent the true meaning of support. Jamie Furniss from Ottawa

FEATURES

Law, who had just be crowned World Champion, had his connection cancelled in Thailand.

Rather than checking into a hotel, he found the coördinators of relief work in the area, and started helping with the clean up. In the Indonesian heat, he spent his time moving corpses, and doing all sort of acts to help with the relief effort.

Speaking in a statement released through his university, he said "We worked in 30 degree weather in heavy rubber gloves, masks and bio suits to exhume bodies from temporary graves... I don't relish it, since it is so gruesome but it must be done and I am glad they agreed to let me stay. It shows mostly our solidarity with them in this need and appreciation of this massive disaster". And he was modest about it as well. "For me it means taking one extra class during our winter II semester, which is little." For many, it was a reminder of the proper way to show support.

Although the news of the tsunami has faded from the headlines, despite a huge public support, the rebuilding effort of lives, houses and families will take many years. It is therefore important that we don't forget the people affected by this event, and continue to show our solidarity and support.

DONATIONS

Cheques to the Order of Malta Emergency Fund, together with your full name, address and post code and a note to instruct them to treat as Gift Aid should be sent to: The Hospitaller, BASMOM, Mantle Hill, Bellingham, Hexham, Northumberland NE48 2LB, or alternatively by bank transfer to The Order of Malta Emergency Fund, account no. 00872754 at LloydsTSB 30 94 19.

Bonn

VOYAGE

STUART PATERSON

When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life. When a man is tired of Bonn, one can presume that he has spent too long at the Arithmeum. The city's shrine to arithmetic is heralded by the tourist board as one of Bonn's major attractions. The museum, which is situated in a glass and steel monstrosity in the vicinity of the university, exhibits "bizarre cogwheel mechanisms in mechanical calculating machines, state of the art highly integrated logic chips, as well as historical arithmetic books." Needless to say my life has not yet reached the point where I would consider visiting, but as I am here until the end of July, I am certainly not going to rule it out.

Of course there are plenty of other distractions for those seeking intellectual and cultural enrichment. Having taken lessons from the Salzburg School of Composer Birthplace Exploitation, the city's fathers have labelled the former capital as the *Beethovenstadt*. Bonn is very proud of its most famous son and the little house where he was supposedly born has been converted into the Beethoven Haus Museum. An original name, if ever there was one. The museum is a tad disappointing and anyone wanting to see animatronic dolls acting out scenes from *Fidelio* will be sorely disappointed. To be fair, Bonn does not exploit

Beethoven to the extent that Salzburg capitalises on its links with Mozart. In Salzburg you can buy absolutely anything with 'MOZART' emblazoned upon it although it

is not, as you might imagine, Robert Schumann's place of birth, but rather the asylum where he was to die, having swapped sanity for attempting suicide and syphilis.

As for museums, somewhat more popular than the Arithmeum, is the Haus der Geschichte, which chronicles the nation's history since the Second World War. Next door on the 'world famous' Museum Mile is the National Art and Exhibition Hall, which is noteworthy for the giant blue cones, or 'light spires' that sit on its roof and its ability to bring some of the world's biggest exhibitions to the city. At present, the museum is hosting a fascinating collection of treasures from the tomb of Tutankhamun. As a result of a nationwide marketing campaign, tickets are like gold dust. If you have an aversion to coachloads of German school children, then it is suggested that you head for the Academic Museum of Art or the Rhenish Regional Museum. Fans of taxidermy cannot afford to miss the natural history exhibits at the Alexander Koenig Museum; fans of Germaine Greer should make a beeline for the Frauen Museum. Of course, those who leave the Arithmeum absolutely fascinated with the development of antiquated calculators will probably relish a trip to the equally exciting Mineralogical Museum.



BEETHOVEN, OF BONN

appears that you can now buy Mozart chocolate at almost any airport in Europe. Bonn has not reached the same level, although it is possible to buy replicas of Beethoven's death mask a snip at 49,40. Anyway, the dissatisfied tourist in Salzburg can console themselves by going on one of these Julie Andrews bus tours. In Bonn, sadly there is no such alternative.

Naturally, a city with such a heritage offers a wide variety of diversions for the music lover. The major venues include the easily combustible opera house and the Beethoven Hall. I have yet to sample the delights that these auditoria purvey, however I recently attended an intimate performance at the Schumannhaus, which



IN THE COLLEGES

February 2005

Thursday, 17

Moral Evil and International Relations

Professor Nicholas Rengger speaking. Organised by the Centre for the Study of Religion and Politics
11:15am-12:45pm, St. Mary's College Hall

Monday, 21

Film: 'The Piano'

Belen Vidal of the new Film Studies department will introduce this 1993 film from New Zealand.
7:00pm, School III, St. Salvator's Quad

Tuesday, 22

Film: 'The Big Lebowski'

David Martin-Jones of the new Film Studies department will introduce this 1998 Coen Brothers classic starring Jeff Bridges as 'the Dude' with John Goodman and Steve Buscemi as his sidekicks.
7:00pm, School III, St. Salvator's Quad

Wednesday, 23

Fuel Cells - Fuelling the Future

Professor John Irvine, Prof. of Chemistry, will deliver his Inaugural Lecture, open to the Public. The Principal will take the Chair.

5:15pm, Lecture Theatre A, Purdie Building, North Haugh

Sunday, 27

FilmSoc: An Evening of Buñuel

Two highly influential and radically different films from the Spanish master. "A perfect introduction to classic European cinema" says the Film Society
'Un Chien Andalou', 8:00pm

PAST & PRESENT

A GLIMPSE OF HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS



BETTMAN ARCHIVE

The Lord Rector of the University, Field Marshal Haig, inspects a review of the St Andrews University Officer Training Corps outside St. Salvator's Chapel, May 1922.

'La Chamre Discrete de la Bourgeoisie', 10:00pm
Both in the Salad Bowl, Students Union, St. Mary's Place

Monday, 28

Film: 'Ring'

David Martin-Jones of the new Film Studies department will introduce this 1998 Japanese thriller.
7:00pm, School III, St. Salvator's Quad

March 2005

Monday, 1

Film: 'The Conformist'

Scott MacKenzie of the new Film Studies department will introduce this 1969 film.
7:00pm, School III, St. Salvator's Quad

Societies and clubs should send notice of events to the Mitre via our email address:
themitre@gmail.com.

Miss Alexandra Jennings has unfortunately taken ill. Her **Parliament Hall** column covering news and views of the Union Debating Society will return shortly after she recovers, which we believe will be quite soon.

Our Generous Benefactors

The Mitre would like to thank all who donate to our cause, most especially:

2LT Chris Cruden
Mrs. Naomi Cusack
Miss Victoria Truett

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

The Mitre depends on the financial contributions of our generous readers. Please consider a donation of £20 or more to ensure the survival of your newspaper.



Prayers



FOR ELIZABETH, OUR QUEEN, may she govern wisely, be resolute in leadership, and in all things follow Your will. For Anthony, our Prime Minister, may he foster a culture of life in this realm, and defend it from all who wish it harm. For Keith Patrick, our Cardinal Archbishop, may he minister wisely, bear witness to the orthodox Christian faith, and propagate the Gospel in our Archdiocese. For Sir Clement, our Lord Rector, may he justly represent the students of this University. For Brian, our Vice-Chancellor and Principal, may he conduct the affairs of this University with love, prudence, foresight, and in the light of Faith. For this University, may we promote wisdom, life, and love, and continue to answer Your call as did Your Apostle Andrew.

For these people, we humbly beg pardon for their sins and ours, and we pray that our lives might reflect Your everlasting dominion.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON AND TO THE HOLY GHOST, AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND EVER SHALL BE, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.

Modesty á la mode



MISCHA BARTON: Is this really supposed to be the standard for twenty somethings?

by ABIGAIL HESSER
As I meandered down Bell Street the other day I witnessed the most grievous violation of all respectable fashion known to man: a young woman wearing no less than every current trend imaginable. Her whiskered, bell bottomed jeans tucked into her mid ankle baby pink Ugg boots did nothing to compliment her nylon, handkerchief cut, polka dotted miniskirt over said jeans, nor did they compliment her figure. Moreover, she was wearing a purple poncho and carrying the latest free bag to come with any raunchy 2 magazine sold in Tesco. For the love of all that is good and holy, I thought, what is she thinking?

The sad fact is that this girl consumes and digests all the trash that is thrown at her from the Kylies, Britneys, and Christinas of the world. Young women today are, frankly, expected to dress like whores, and cheap

whores at that. Even I myself have fallen victim to the short jean skirt and Uggs. Women slightly older than our age group are allowed to idolise Cate Blanchett, Kate Winslet, and Gwyneth Paltrow for their sophistication and glamour, while we, poor twenty somethings that we are, must look to Mischa Barton and Tara Reid as our standards.

When did we lose our modesty? When did we throw ourselves head first into the J Lo era and completely blind ourselves to the Bette Davis and Audrey Hepburn allure and purely feminine charm? Our fashion salvation may be at hand, however. On the runways this spring look for classic, flowing and feminine cuts such as Chanel skirt lengths well below the knee, and shoulders, not breasts being accentuated. Even Gucci and Versace are jumping on the modesty bandwagon. In make up and skin, thank God for myself and

all the other fair blondes or red heads out there that there is a reversion to Victorian mentality milky, ivory skin is now the most desirable asset for a woman this spring and summer. The bronzed goddess can nurse her skin cancer in some other season. Unfortunately, the wedged shoe will be back in, and as much as I despise the 70's, at least the wedge isn't the 80's deathly spike. But don't cry stiletto lovers, Manolo and Prada will always be a classy girl's best friends.

Maybe we lost our modesty when Britney got her boobs, but let's try to remember the legacy of our mothers and grandmothers; more will be less bar make up, and conservative yet sensual curves will always be in fashion. If you want to go all out this season, remember what some great great aunt I'm sure told all of you as she did me, that "a lady is never seen in public without her gloves."

LEISURELY PURSUITS

EUDAEMONIA THE GOOD LIFE

Just Above the Popular

Our own David Bean considers the eclectic side of mainstream music.

Most of us appreciate great music, though our ideas of what this comprises often differ considerably. My own tastes have never lain in what you might call the mainstream. Back at school, at an age where it was considered terminally 'uncool', I was content to admit a preference first for classical music, and then musical theatre: a brief Christmastime foray by the boys' choir made of me a lifelong fan of Cameron Mackintosh's 'Les Misérables', and from there I graduated to some of the less well known shows, including 'The Fix', the pre-Broadway 'Jekyll and Hyde' and Sondheim's masterful 'Assassins'. None of which would win me any invitations to the cool kids' parties, but let's face it, none of us could stand that lot.

Lately I've drifted dangerously towards more popular styles songs that might actually have been released as singles, and played on the radio but overwhelmingly either those considered by their aficionados to be somehow greater than the general state of the art, or those who have attracted their own little cult followings of hardcore fans.

In the former category, for me the 1980s and early '90s will always be defined by Dire Straits. The sheer variety of their music had it all: epic, fifteen minute rock operettas 'Telegraph Road', romance, mystery and intrigue 'Private Investigations'; cutting political satire 'Industrial Disease' and insightful commentary on the human condition 'Brothers in



THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS: Grammy winning eclectic pop duo despised by the *Guardian*.

Arms'. 'Sultans of Swing' retains one of the greatest guitar solos ever composed, and mastering it has for many guitarists become a rite of passage.

Along similar lines, I cannot fail to mention the majestic powerhouse of REM. I recently went on an eBay shopping spree to pick up several of their albums, and have concluded that the pinnacle of their career came with 'Automatic for the People', a highly acclaimed album

containing such classics as 'The Sidewinder Sleeps Tonite' and 'Find the River'.

The band I really want to shill for, however, falls under the latter classification: the writers of the Grammy award winning theme song from 'Malcolm in the Middle', 'They Might Be Giants'. *Guardian* readers what are you doing here? might be vaguely familiar with the name because that newspaper, taking its typically reasonable line,

has set about savaging every piece of work the band has ever produced, from singles to live performances.

For the sensible among us the *Guardian's* dislike should be reason enough to give them a try; better still they have produced some genuinely excellent music, drawing good songs from the unlikeliest material, such as their ballad celebrating the life and works of the 11th President of the United States, James K. Polk. The

ARCHITECTURE

Digging for Londinium, continued

Con't from Back Page

We had thought that the early settlements, mainly of timber and mud brick, were entirely replaced with stone and tile structures set back from the roads and on a different layout. The properties dug up at Poultry gave the lie to this. It is now clear that the early timber buildings survived, altered and embellished into the second, third and even fourth centuries. Some of the third and fourth century houses at Poultry were quite grand, with painted wall plaster and mosaic floors. This continuity strongly suggests that Londinium rapidly acquired a stable social environment that allowed land inheritance and continuity of occupation.

Everyone knew that No 1 Poultry would be a key site for Roman studies in London. Southwark, on the other hand, might have seemed a less promising location on the opposite bank of the Thames for a series of remarkable revelations. The most surprising of these was the size and importance of Southwark from early in the Roman occupation. It is now possible to speculate that Londinium may actually have started south of the river. A large number of masonry structures incorporating imported building materials and dating from the first years after the foundation of Londinium in AD50 might suggest that the first settlement was on one of the

sandy islands that was to become Southwark.

Excavations under London Bridge Station during the construction of the Jubilee Line extension revealed much more. London's first shopping centre, a series of shops and workshops, lining the principle road to the Roman bridge. This major commercial and industrial complex suggests that Southwark may even have rivalled the settlement on the northern bank for economic supremacy. We can now postulate that Southwark had its own civic identity and the nature of this will be one of the hotly contested issues for archaeologists and historians for the next few years.

A series of important finds have also illuminated London's early industrial base on the northern bank. The industrial base of Londinium seems to have centred on the Walbrook stream, which provided both a natural resource and a means of flushing waste. The largest discovery of dumped glass was discovered near the Roman amphitheatre at Guildhall Yard. It was the most significant find in northern Europe, and although essentially a Roman bottle bank, thousands of broken bottle shards were found, providing new and important information about glass manufacture and the use of glass vessels in the second century. Less rare but equally

illuminating for the industrial history of Roman London was the discovery of a series of large pottery kilns at Northgate House, also near the Walbrook. Five perfectly preserved kilns, one still full of pottery, have shown that manufacture was key to the economy of Londinium the first and second centuries.

Finds that have perhaps caught the most imagination have been in the Roman cemeteries that surround the town. Until recently, we were largely ignorant of the burial rituals and associated beliefs of Roman Londoners. It has long been known that the Romans buried their dead in cemeteries outside the town walls along main approach roads, and in the past few years several of these have been excavated.

The largest is a cemetery in Tower Hamlets covering some 12 hectares about the size of St James's Park. Smaller, but equally important burial grounds have been excavated at Great Dover Street, a cemetery 0.5 km south east of Roman Southwark, and the major dig at the northern cemetery of St Mary Spital in Spitalfields, where major commercial redevelopment is well underway. These have given archaeologists an opportunity to study both burial practices and individual Romans. The Spitalfields woman, a fourth century noble woman in her early twenties excavated in

1999, provided an important insight into life and death among London Roman elites. She was buried in a highly decorated lead coffin inside a plain stone sarcophagus. Her body was wrapped in a woolen over garment and a gold shot silk damask robe, and her head lay on a pillow of bay leaves.

A more extraordinary burial, of a woman's remains in a rare form of cremation called a *bustum* a pyre built over a burial pit were found at Great Dover Street in Southwark. Her funeral feast was recovered complete with a charred date, an almond and the bones of a chicken and a dove. More significantly she was buried with eight oil lamps, four of which were decorated with gladiatorial imagery, including a fallen gladiator and images of the Egyptian god Anubis who was connected with death in the arena. This woman may have been a member of a cult following Anubis or conceivably a participant in the amphitheatre itself.

Research continues on nearly 2,000 Roman burials excavated from London's cemeteries and will reveal a great deal more about Roman diets, health and many other aspects of its population.

As historians and archaeologists revise their textbooks, a more rounded picture of Londinium will emerge: a town, or maybe even two towns that sprang up with amazing rapidity, that quickly industrialised and enjoyed considerable economic success; a town that displayed an amazing degree of social stability through nearly four centuries; and a population that was rapidly Romanised not only superficially, but also in its belief systems and values. Excitingly, as development continues so do the discoveries we make, discoveries that explain London's earliest origins.

Nicholas Vincent is a *magistrand* from Chislehurst in the New Forest studying *International Relations*.

songs stick in the head so resolutely that, once heard, they never leave much in the way of The Game, which, I regret to inform you, you have just lost.

Their most recent single worries me greatly because, *primo*, I love it, and, *secundo*, it's more dangerously close to the main stream than ever. Admittedly it is called 'The Spine' and displays an unhealthy interest in the vertebral column, but the album contains homages to

all manner of musical styles, from the high octane rock of 'It's Kicking In' to the Beach Boys tribute 'Thunderbird', passing through the haunting ballads 'Memo to Human Resources' and 'I Can't Hide From My Mind'. 'Au Contraire', meanwhile, is a throwback to the old pseudo French beatnik style, with humorous digs at such diverse characters as Franklin Roosevelt and David Bowie, and its wild

applause and exaggerated cries of 'Right on!' at the end.

These, then, are my recommendations. Of course musical taste, as I noted, is highly individualistic; I have always despised the prescriptive approach to criticism and would not want to be thought taking it. What more, then, can be said? Good music is enjoyable, and enjoyment is good; ergo, we should all enjoy good music. QED.

THE MITRE

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Multiculturalism, Move On

For about forty eight hours at the beginning of this Candlemas semester, things got a bit interesting in the town. The Debating Society was due to debate the failure of the 'multicultural experiment'. For the proposition, the Society had invited Nick Griffin, the rather odious leader of the British National Party. An extraordinary chain of events led to the invitation being rescinded. The debate never took place. With some pertinence, the Society debated instead the subject of free speech, which had taken rather a hit.

Why was the debate cancelled? In the face of intolerable pressure, the Debating Society was as heroic as it could afford to be. But in fact, the heavy hands of highly organised pressure groups with the University and the NUS as well seems not to have caused the cancellation. That decision was made after it became clear that the event would require a strong police presence, with leftist groups announcing that they would travel to St Andrews to disrupt the debate, perhaps even with violence. The Society, anticipating that the debate would probably become a fiasco and that students would be put at unacceptable risk, pulled the plug.

Who are the pro Griffins? It would seem that, thankfully, Griffin has little or no support base among the students, most of whom realise that nationalist opinions are nasty. Certainly the Debating Society was not laying out the red carpet for the BNP leader. Peter Blair, the convenor, told the *Daily Telegraph* that 'we believe that the only way to get the truth of what the BNP are saying and to combat them is to do it in public in a debate. It is very dangerous to ignore them.' Mr. Blair was quite correct he recognises that multiculturalism is a concept worth examining, and that Mr Griffin is a man whose views have an unfortunate but undeniable appeal. Anyway, there seemed to have been no question of there being a pro BNP event.

Or was there? One can foresee that there might have been the unfortunate case of many sensible conservative minded students wishing to vote that the 'multicultural experiment has failed' whilst not wanting to give support to Mr Griffin. Perhaps abstention would have put the message across. This, perhaps, was the only mistake that the Society made. By inviting Mr Griffin, they played into the hands of those who, in the end, crushed the debate.

For in Britain one cannot respectably have reservations about such things as mass immigration without being termed 'racist'. As Enoch Powell always said, concern about mass immigration is not to do with race. Englishmen would be concerned even if the immigrants were French or Italians or Scots. Societies, to work well, need identity and cohesiveness. For good societies as Britain has traditionally been race is not a barrier to social harmony. But immigration at a fast rate and on a large scale means that communities are given no chance to assimilate the newcomers. But the fault always lies with those who make the policies and rarely, if ever, with the immigrants themselves.

The multicultural experiment is something of a mystery to many of our generation. As Damian Thompson wrote recently in the *Spectator*, 'young people played no part in the development of identity politics: it is something that has been done to them, and many are uncomfortably aware that they are the subjects of an experiment.' White, middle class readers of the *Guardian*, probably living in areas without immigration problems, are the proponents of the doctrine and its experiments. In many cases, young people from ethnic minorities resent the identity politics that are foisted upon them. According to one writer, multiculturalism is the 'new sectarianism', in which members of foreign cultures, prohibited from assimilating, are treated as members of 'different species'. Has it failed? Not yet unfortunately.

A Blessing from Bishop Rifan

Dear Mr. Andrew Cusack and Friends of the *Mitre*,

Thank you for the publication about my visit in your the *Mitre* of November I received here through our friend Carlos Colon. May God bless always your work and apostolate among the students. I show your publication to our priests and young men as an example to be imitated. With my best wishes and blessing.

+ **Bishop Fernando Arêas Rifan**

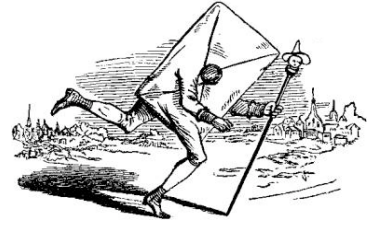
Campos, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

We respond:

Your Excellency,

We, the editors and friends of the *Mitre*, are humbled and honoured to receive your generous words about our newspaper. Your prayers are greatly appreciated, and your blessing thankfully received.

We hope that your journey through Britain was as pleasing to you as it must have been exhausting. Your pastoral concern for us bears fruits especially in



Letters to the EDITOR

our own diocese, of St. Andrews & Edinburgh, where your visit has raised the morale of all those who share your love and devotion for the Immemorial Mass.

We hope to see you here again soon as you expressed in your speech, may your next visit see us in greater numbers. You may be assured of our prayers for your own work in Brazil and throughout the world, which we shall continue to follow keenly and report in our newspaper.

Your humble and obedient servants,

Andrew Cusack, Editor, the Board, and friends of the *Mitre*

Letters to the editor: themitre@gmail.com

THE MITRE OF ST ANDREWS

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Hijacking the Just War Tradition

Christian neoconservatives in America are wrongly justifying the Iraq War.

by PETER QUARANTO
in the United States

Blind fundamentalism is on the march on this side of the pond and sadly, more and more of America's Christians are following. Since the tragedies of September 11, President Bush has embarked upon an ideological foreign policy which seems to perpetuate a Huntingtonian clash between the West and the Muslim world. While such an approach to foreign affairs clashes with Christian teaching on war and peace, many believers, inspired by the commentary of such 'neo conservative' Catholic moral theologians as George Weigel and Michael Novak, have attempted to theologize and rationalize their nationalistic impulses. By doing so, neo conservative Catholics in the United States have hijacked the just war tradition, placing the Catholic Church in that country on a destructive course that will ultimately leave it ineffective as a voice for justice in the political arena.

In the march to war, the case for war was constructed on three strands of argument: legal, strategic and humanitarian. Over the last year, all three of these arguments have been disproved by the realities on the ground in Iraq.

First, the legal argument for war centered upon Saddam Hussein's development and possession of weapons of mass destruction, a claim based upon faulty intelligence. This argument, the most frequently articulated rationale given by the Bush administration for the war, has since been proven untrue by all reports. Hussein was not an "imminent threat," thus altering the Bush doctrine of preemption to one of prevention. Pushed against the wall, Bush's logic dwindles to the claim that the world is safer without Hussein in power. Of course this is true, but simplistic utilitarianism of this ilk finds no home in Christian, especially Catholic, teaching.

The second argument was the strategic one, which claimed that Hussein had ties to al Qaeda, and that the war in Iraq is central to the war on terror, a claim that President Bush continued to make on the campaign trail. Again, this argument is



Aquinas

unsound because the facts, admitted even by Defense Secretary Rumsfeld himself, show clearly that Hussein had no ties with al Qaeda. Further, the administration's failure to win the peace has transformed Iraq into a reincarnated Vietnam, which only exacerbates and swells the ranks of terrorism. The size of the insurgency's cadre has skyrocketed and security has deteriorated throughout



Weigel

the country. According to the Iraq Index published by the Brookings Institution the number of insurgents in November 2003 was 5,000. By one year later, it was 20,000. The administration was, and continues to be, blinded by hubris and ideology, ignoring the strategic realities.

Finally, the case for humanitarian intervention is thorny to argue because, according to White House statements in the buildup to war, humanitarianism was at a best a subsidiary motive for

the invasion of Iraq. Yet, hawks, religious or not, in the wake of the deterioration of the previous two cases, have increasingly relied upon humanitarian language to speak about Iraq. Again, such logic misses the facts. Thousands of Iraqis have died, and even more have been wounded. Since the 'end of major combat operations' was declared, the number of U.S. troop fatalities and the level of violence throughout the country have greatly risen. Unbridled looting and misused reconstruction funds have contributed to a society plagued by a nonfunctioning economy, a shattered polity and uncontrolled insurgency.

As the hangover of

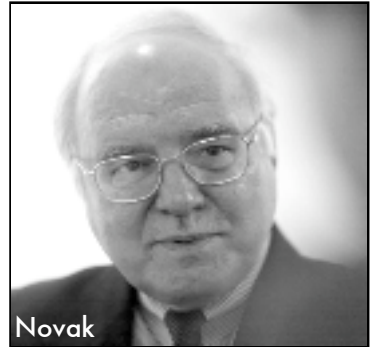


Bush

'shock and awe' has subsided, the Bush administration's war plan has unraveled. President Bush proclaims that "freedom is on the march," but unfortunately for the president and the country, the only things marching in Iraq right now are endemic violence and rampant instability. Yet, while this may seem clear to the keen observer, many Americans, continue to buy into the president's sunny side up view of Iraq and the larger war on terror. American Catholics, wooed by this neo con idealism, have sought to reinvent the just war tradition to meet their ends. As a result, the Church's presumption against the use of violence has been thrown out the door for a new utilitarianism lacking principles or moral clarity. Say goodbye to proportionality, legitimate authority, just cause, right intention and last resort. The

Prince of Peace has been exchanged for the Master of War.

The nexus of the Bush camp and the Christian Right is not only troubling because of misguided foreign policy, but because this troubling alliance represents



Novak

the weakening role of the Church as a prophetic voice in society. In this contentious election season, many believers have too easily found a home in the Republican Party at a time when the faithful should be condemning Bush's unjust war policies and wrong global vision. The ease with which so many have allied themselves with the architect of a grossly unjust



Augustine

international war highlights a departure from orthodoxy and the deterioration of the Christianity in America. "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Peter Quaranto is a student of Political Science and Peace Studies at the Université de Notre Dame du Lac in Indiana, USA. This piece was first published in Advocata Nostra, a student publication at that university.



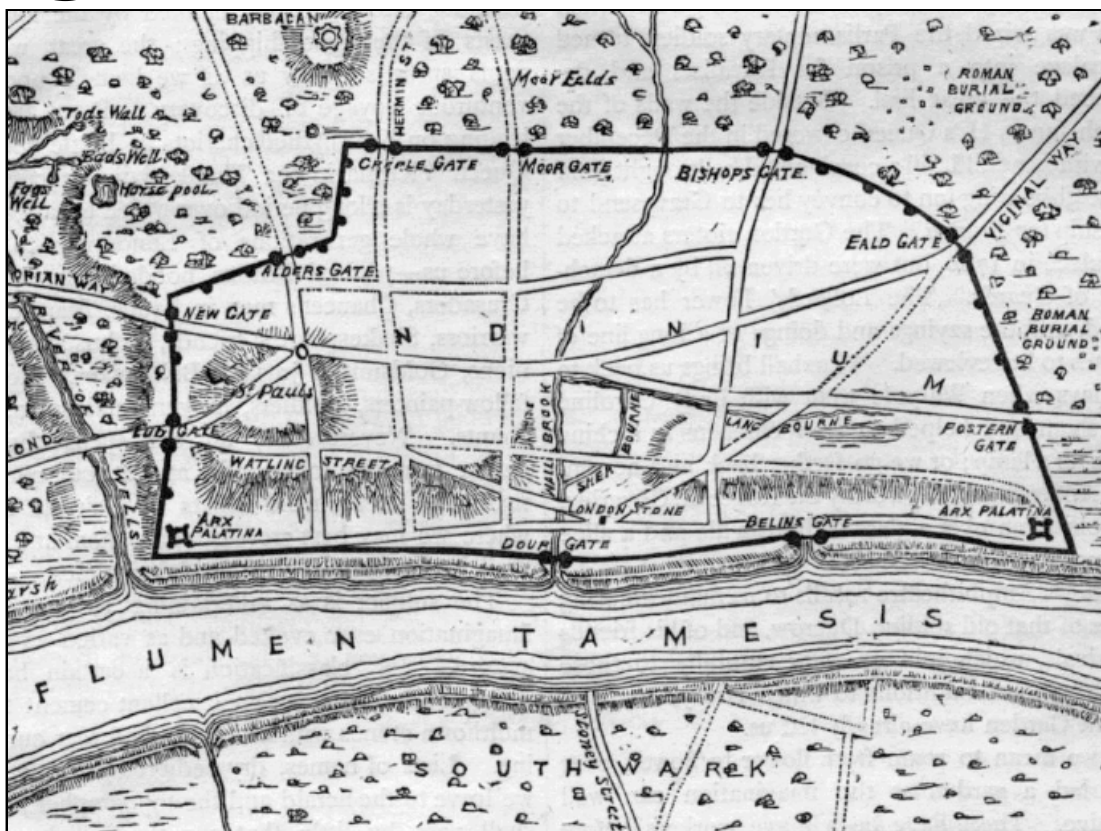
ARCHITECTURE

AN OCCASIONAL REVIEW OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Digging for Londinium

by NICHOLAS VINCENT
Those of you who have visited the centre of London in recent months would not have escaped the extent of its current reconstruction. A rising property market in London has spurred development in recent years, but before the buildings go up, the archaeologists go in.

London's skyline continues to be dominated by towering cranes almost twelve years after the current property boom began. For archaeologists this is good news, believe it or not. There is an almost direct corollary between London's property market and the health of its archaeological discoveries. Since 1990, planning guidance for local authorities known as PPG 16, has safeguarded archaeological remains during development projects, giving archaeological units the opportunity to investigate before the construction begins.



ROMAN LONDON: Londinium as seen in a print from the late nineteenth century.

In the past ten years, archaeologists from the Museum of London have begun to rewrite London's early history with the help of funding from English Heritage. Prehistoric, Saxon and Medieval finds have been important, but the most public attention has focused on our rapidly expanding knowledge of Londinium.

The Romans arrived permanently in Britain after the invasion of the Emperor Claudius in AD43, and rapidly began to colonise. Several major centres of occupation were chosen mostly on ancient British sites and Londinium was founded some time about AD50. Chosen as a principle trading centre and the seat of regional government and administration, it was probably laid out and partially built by the army. In AD60 the fledgling town was devastated by Queen Boudica's rebellion and many of its inhabitants

were slaughtered. But Londinium was refounded and grew to be one of the most important cities of the northern Roman Empire. The Roman administration was withdrawn in AD410 as part of a fundamental retrenchment across the empire.

During the 1980s and early 1990s our fundamental knowledge of Roman London's infrastructure was greatly advanced. The Roman port was revealed at Regis House, the amphitheatre at Guildhall Yard, the public baths at Huggin Hill EC4 and the forum and basilica near Leadenhall in the City of London.

Recently a different set of revelations has been made, more subtle, but nonetheless exciting. One excavation in particular has illuminated the previously dark years immediately after the Claudian invasion of AD43.

The dig at No. 1 Poultry, adjacent to my Father's office and the Bank of England, proved to be the initial curiosity for this article, but subsequently the reason for my own further reading. The Victorian shops demolished to make way for James Stirling's new building have shallow basements preserving a palimpsest of occupation in the heart of the city. The Roman finds were particularly important, as they revealed for the first time a large area of first century Londinium.

The Poultry site has demonstrated the rapidity with which the Romans deforested the northern banks of the river Thames, prefabricated shops, workshops and houses and laid out an instant trading town. Excellent preservation of timber, leather, and other organic matter has enabled us to characterise the urban

fabric of first century Londinium, and to better assess how far the process of Romanisation had progressed in the first fifty years following the invasion. A town of up to 10,000 inhabitants, largely made up of native Britons, had within a generation, adopted a lifestyle that was Roman in all its essentials. They enjoyed a diet with Mediterranean foods, such as olives, pomegranates and almonds, had absorbed Roman beliefs with household shrines to gods such as Minerva, Fortuna and Venus and were surrounded by the trappings of Roman materialism, to include pottery, glassware and metalwork.

The excavation at Poultry was important for another reason, it helped clarify the nature of property and land owning in Londinium.

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