

# Education, Education, Education? Minor Party News

A round up of alternative political news...

Andrew Tickell

Robert Kilroy Silk's new political party argues that the role of education in Britain is booming "out of control", misplacing the sceptre of public power in the hands of those unworthy to bear it.

The party manifesto argues that "this country was built upon the honest foundation of the Englishman who rolls up his sleeves and takes to the task. Not greedy Scotch or muck-faced Mick with his grubbers in the public purse, fingering their so-called "degrees". The days of Churchill and Pitt are numbered, and Britannia is the worse for it. This fixation on formal learning is Un-English. The Englishman's home is his castle, whether it's in Stoke or not. And he's entitled to his opinion on it."

In his first press conference yesterday, Kilroy Silk condemned all university courses, save for the Oxford degree in PPE (Puttering & Polite Erudition) in which the students do not have to attend any lectures, and are examined only in their final year

by a panel of three members of the Conservative Party willing to certify them as 'Bonus Ovum' and fit for high office.

A spokeswoman for the conservative Unitary Policy think tank has given aggressive support to the party's position, but has also praised Evade Cameron of the Conservatives for "appearing to have no career at all. A sterling figure. Blair is less successful, having qualified as a barrister. Certainly, he seems to have pleaded no cases, but that is hardly the point. He is still possessed of the loutishness of learning."

Kilroy Silk's line is particularly strong on military matters, promising to close the Officer Training Camp at Sandhurst during his first 100 days in office. Although usually reluctant to speak in political circles, Britain's highest army officer, Field Marshall Sir Wimble Stanley Whipshot whispered to MostlyHarmless that "The Empire was built on that solid cornerstone of British shipping: the expert amateur. Wellington. Indeed, all his officers received no technical training whatsoever in the proper



Kilroy-Silk

motion and use of a body of men, and look at the success he had."

"I fear that some of the loss of life associated with Iraq must be attributed to the so-called 'education' provided to the soldiers - leading them to over reach themselves. Form square to receive cavalry, or form line to give fire. It's terrifically simple."

Richard Hadden

## BNP calls for ban on "smelly cheese"

The British National Party leader Nick Griffin has called for a complete ban on "smelly foreign cheeses" such as Roquefort, Gorgonzola and overripe Camembert. He stated: "They all smell revolting. We don't want flavoursome foreign cheeses overrunning our country and stealing the market share of British mild, rubbery, tasteless, mass-produced Cheddar. All smelly cheeses should be deported right away. Apart from Stilton, obviously."

## Greens "move into commune"

The Green Party has recently

moved in a six-foot-square commune in Surrey, built out of recycled wicker baskets from last year's Womad festival. To demonstrate their self-sufficiency, they are refusing all "imports" and have managed to cultivate two turnips and a carrot.

## Monster Raving Loony Party in tax "rethink"

The Monster Raving Loony Party has called for a reform of the government's tax policy. Said their spokesgibbon: "We advocate a flat-tax policy. Giggle."

## UKIP "falls asleep"

The UK Independence Party (UKIP) has fallen asleep on a beach near St. Tropez.

## Adams and Paisley 'have Pizza'

The sun rose in a spree of neo-romanticist rhetoric on a new and rose-tinged future for Northern Ireland yesterday after it emerged that the Moderately Reverend Ian Paisley, leader of the DUP, and Sinn Fein Top Honcho Gerry Adams had met last night for what has been described as a historic "pizza".

In a particularly symbolic gesture, Rev. Paisley agreed to allowed Mr Adams to order anchovies on the pizza, a key sticking point in negotiations that had previously prevented any pizza being ordered at all, leaving both parties with the options of garlic bread or nothing. **RH**

## Student Councillors (continued from front page...)

motivating the likes of Joe Cookson, a Conservative candidate, who described the fact that 'nobody' spoke for the 2500 out of 4000 students in his ward as 'a disgrace.'

So, which student issues have the council neglected thus far? Chris Bolland, another Conservative candidate, cited lowering council tax and eradicating the congestion charge as his key concerns. However, students in Durham pay no council tax and very rarely use cars. Bolland stated that he was 'not standing to represent students specifically, but to represent the people of Carville [sic.] & Gilesgate Moor'. Sure, but if we need a student voice so badly, why does this voice focus on issues that are barely relevant to students themselves?

Bolland freely admitted that he neither lived nor worked in his ward. Had he ever been there? 'Many times in the past few weeks, and it is certainly a lovely part of Durham'. Can such a candidate hold as genuinely large a stake in the local community as someone who lives there, and moreover does so throughout the year?

Bolland polled 142 votes, trailing the leading candidate, Liberal Democrat Barbara Howard, by 1071 votes, and was even defeated by the electoral might of the Durham 'Taxpayers' Alliance.

It would be churlish to mock such defeats - David Cameron himself admitted last month that the party had 'a fight on its hands' to improve its poor electoral position in the North. In this respect, he extolled the fact that his party had put up more candidates for election than any other.

However, it is hard to believe that he imagined that this 'fight' would be successfully carried out by a bunch of student residents with fairly tenuous long-term ties to the area. Joe Cookson told MH that he considered it 'questionable' that any candidate from Lancashire, the South or the West Coast should be standing. Perhaps he is right.

MH's scepticism was further aroused by the nature of the candidates selected. Frederick Kuchlin, also Easter Term President of the Durham Union Society, ran for election in Pelaw and Gilesgate Ward. Though he

considered it 'unlikely in the extreme' that the residents of Pelaw and Gilesgate would elect him, Kuchlin stood in the knowledge that he would be unable to serve the full duration of his term. He is a linguist and will spend the next year in Russia. Did the 108 people who voted Conservative in Pelaw and Gilesgate know this?

Kuchlin stated that he would have been 'pleased to step aside' if an elusive candidate 'who wasn't taking a year abroad' materialised. If the only candidates that can be found are those who are in Russia next year, then maybe it's better that there are no candidates.

When asked about paper candidates such as Kuchlin, Carol Woods suggested that the issue was a matter of 'personal integrity'. The outgoing DSU President, Alex Duncan, shares her concerns. 'It's interesting to note that certain people standing for the council have no plans to stay in Durham beyond June. This, surely, raises questions as to whether they will be able to perform the role, and as to what their real motivation for standing may be.'

## Examinations stole my soul

Magnus Taylor

The examination season looms over Durham like a great black cloud of lingering discontent. Vivacious young adults in the prime of their lives sit trapped breathing the artificial air of the library and dreaming of a utopian world without mind-numbing tests of intellectual application.

A Durham graduate told us that his descent into mindless-middle-class-malaise could be traced back to the fateful summer of '94, when he sat his philosophy finals. 'It was terrible,' he whimpered. 'One moment I was having a lovely argument about existentialism.

The next, I found myself working for Deloitte with a company car, two kids, and a wife I met in freshers' week. It was as if all my hopes and dreams had suddenly vanished, and been replaced with financial stability and a Skoda.'

Sadly, this is by no means an isolated example of a condition known as 'Corporate Mind Shrinking Disorder' (CMSD). The symptoms are easy to spot, and generally include a propensity to memorise pointless lists of facts and figures, to eschew human contact and develop a misplaced belief that the path to happiness is paved with revision notes and first-class honours.