

Spring 2010



Hugh Phillimore - Music Festival

Welcome to the special Spring 2010 bumper issue of The Harrodian Eye. As this is our final issue as editors, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Jane Denton for all of her help and hard work. It's been a hugely worthwhile experience for us, and we hope that our successors don't mess it up.

Patrick Delaney & Thomas Moore - Editors

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Thank you and enjoy the magazine,

Patrick Delaney, editor



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## Fifty Years On

by Mr Peter Thomson

Fifty years ago I took a temporary post at a county boarding school against the advice of my father who wanted me to join the family firm of aero-engineers. One school led to another (Radley/St. Pauls/Emanuel) until March 1994 there was a letter from Buckingham Palace (*pictured below*).

That seems to be that - il faut cultiver notre jardin - but Mrs. Thompson found my gardening less than satisfactory and handed me the local newspaper with a reference to staff vacancies at this new school in Barnes. Lady Houston Boswall rejected my offer of help with games but Sir Alford appointed me headmaster.

I was charged with growing the school from 100 pupils to 250. Mr Hooke as Director of Studies helped me jump the first hurdle - Common Entrances places had to be obtained at Eton, St. Paul's, SPGS, Godolphin and King's, Wimbledon. Relief and delight when 100% pass rates were achieved at 11+ and 13+.

With help from Kate Dowse and Celia Rhys Evans the Pre Prep grew and grew. Sir. Alford's beautiful new buildings kept pace with rising numbers. More and more pupils chose to remain beyond 13+ for GCSEs. Then there was talk of a 6th Form. "Enough, enough!" I cried. Over to Mr. Hooke and Dr. Parmley.



"O res mirabilis"

Several OFSTED reports later it was clear we had a school with real strengths.

In no particular order- let us celebrate those jewels in the Harroddian crown:

1) A very busy, happy Pre-Prep with consistently distinguished assemblies.

2) The pastoral care throughout the school (graded "excellent" by OFSTED)

3) The quality of the Drama from the earliest years in the Pre Prep and then into Miss Field's 8s, next up are the prep school pantos, plus in the seniors we have plays both great and small. My wife and I have seen hundreds of school productions over the years 1960-2010 but the intensity and quality of Mr. Parker's work- wondrous, wondrous. Mrs. Thompson's special favourite was "The Magic Flute" from 2009, thank you Mr and Mrs. Bentley.

4) Emanuel was well served by its prefects but they were 18 years old. Our prefects from the 15s are just as efficient and give service with a smile.

5) Last (and certainly not least) our parents- they are "simply the best" and have been central to the growth of and good health of the school. Mr. Beyad and HSPA. Mrs. Tesler and Mrs. Wadham with their Harroddian Spectaculars. Mrs. Mackay's costumes. Mrs. Mayall and Mrs. Birkholm in make up. Mrs. Codacci, Mrs. Denton and Mrs. Mackenzie here at "The Eye". Thanks and WOW, WOW and thanks.

Fifty years on at home, sweet home- a dozen grandchildren.

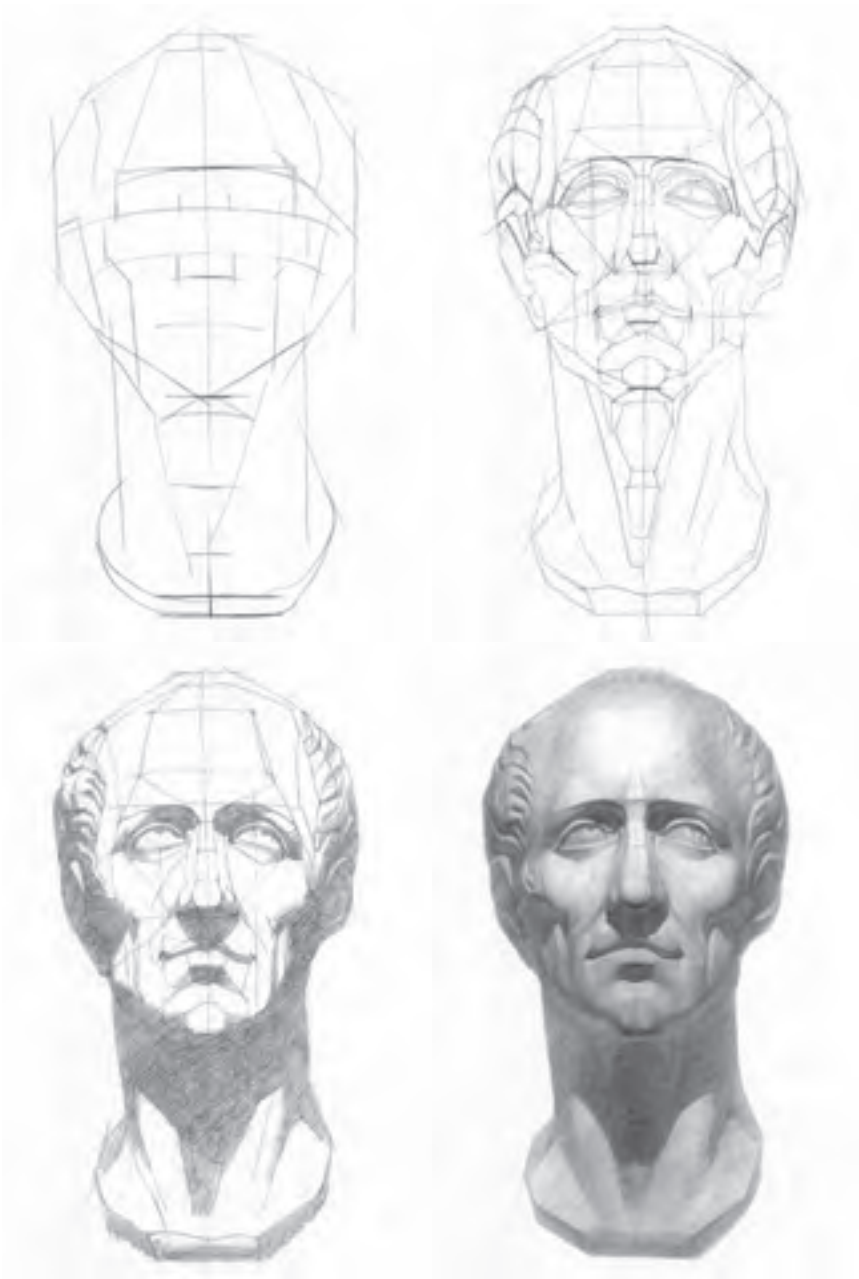
Fifty years on at school, sweet school- 943 grandchildren.

Lucky, lucky Mr. T.

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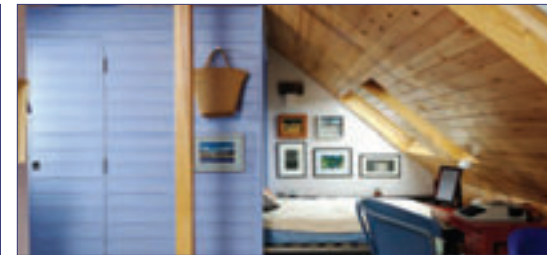
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# China - Changing Culture

by Clara Lahnstein

西

**C** stands for Chinese, change, culture and contrast - and we encountered plenty of that during our journey to the East. Traditional values such as respectfulness and a sense of duty greeted us alongside an eagerness to sell and bargain and a curiosity for Western faces. Earthy tranquil gardens and sacred golden temples stood beside newly constructed glass and steel giants which overpowered the sky with fluorescent lighting effects at night.

艾尺

**H** represents the holistic Eastern approach to treating the emotional and physical well-being of the body as a whole. Following the Chinese belief, we left our thoughts with the Buddha in the temple and refreshed our senses during a tea ceremony. Further cleansing was taken care of by a massage which put us on the right footing for the whole of the trip. Holistic was also the attitude of our teachers, Mr Jordan, Mr Hardie, Ms Sanders and Ms Heller, who took us to diverse places such as the Great Wall of China, an Acrobatic Show, the Terracotta Army, the Yuyuan Garden and the Forbidden City. Our taste buds were spoiled by exotic foods, such as eels, duck and

艾

**I** stands for the 1.3 billion Chinese individuals who incorporate ancient as well as modern values. These values range from the felt obligation to shake every visitor's hand, expressed by the old, tired farmer who discovered the Terracotta army, to the fascination and eagerness of many young Chinese to copy the Western way of life and thirst for commercialisation. It was sometimes awkward to be part of this aspiration when they asked to be photographed with us.

艾娜

**N** depicts a nation that has developed from an agricultural economy of the last Qing Dynasty, through the Chinese Civil War led by Communist leader Mao Zedong and the political and economic reforms of Deng Xiaoping, into the world's 2nd largest industrial economic power after the USA. The nation's poverty rate fell by 50% over the past 30 years and it has the highest economic growth rate in the world. Nevertheless, the disparity of the nation's wealth, with both poverty and "glitz", was striking and always present.

诶

**A** represents the skill and creativeness of Chinese Artists. These have celebrated the art of calligraphy and porcelain refining, jade carving and silk weaving for centuries. Chinese creativity is vividly present in the culture's architecture, private interiors and religious artifacts. All of us indulged in this cultural highlight by buying silk dresses, painted scrolls and Buddha statues.



## Harrodian Photography



Silvy Pilkington



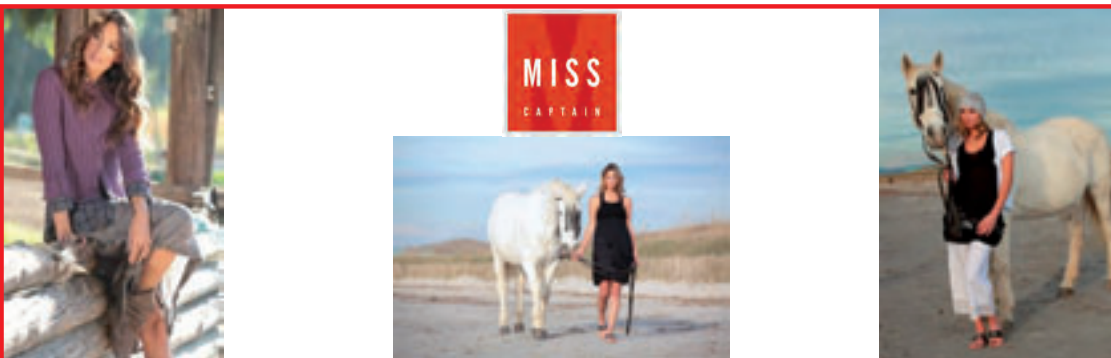
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## Rugby Review

by Harry Short

The early signs were not positive on a cold January morning on our first day of pre season training. Balls were being dropped, tackles being missed and there was a general lack of conviction. Things went from bad to worse, with Mr. Lydon hitting us hard with some fitness training on a Saturday morning, *in the snow*.

With things slowly beginning to improve, our first game quickly came around: away at Glynn Technological College. People were not feeling optimistic due to the early start and the long coach journey down to the deepest, darkest depths of Surrey. However once we got out onto the pitch, the mood improved and the warm up got everyone switched on. Despite Glynn's significantly larger forward pack, the boys really fronted up and showed just what they were made of, and our backs finished off moves with such great conviction that we came to a resounding win of 17 points to nil. This was particularly pleasing to me, as last year they had beaten us pretty convincingly and the signs of improvement were awesome.



From there our season gained momentum with comfortable wins over both Ibstock and St. James, but we were never really aware of quite what we were capable of until our game against Emanuel, Mr. Seaton and Mr. Thompson's old school. Our work at the breakdown area was incredible allowing space for our backs to run in 7 tries against strong opposition, eventually winning 49-10!



From there with confidence flying high, we went into a game against Highgate, who beat us last year. But we worked hard with a slightly depleted squad, due to Mr. Parker's play rehearsal, and we drove to another big victory over the north London school.



Next we were up against Reigate, another big college from Surrey. A number of the boys from the Upper 6th will remember being very harshly beaten by them in a sevens tournament when we were in the 15s, so the boys were excited to bring about some revenge.

We started very strongly running in a few quick tries, and they were soon very de-motivated. After half time another try effectively ended the game, as both teams were beginning to switch off and even joke around with each other. The game ended 53-10, and the Reigate boys were particularly happy to hear the sound of the final whistle.



Well done to all of the boys in the squad on a fantastic season, which has been the best on record. Everyone has really stepped up to a higher level than ever before this year, and I would like to thank Mr. Lydon, Mr. Seaton, Mr. Jordan and Mr. Bettison for making this all possible and their contributions towards helping us develop as a side.

## 59 the old clinic



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**Gemma Malley** is the award winning author of The Declaration, The Resistance and The Returners, all novels for teenagers. She regularly visits schools to discuss her books and writing in general; this March she is launching the Wimbledon Book Festival Young Writer's Competition at St Ursuline School. [www.gemmamalley.com](http://www.gemmamalley.com)

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## Five Sports You Didn't Know the Harroddian Did...

by Thomas Moore

1. Fencing- The Harroddian fencing team recently ranked 2nd in England with our star performer Roby Crean ranking an astonishing 4th in all of London.

2. Golf- Run by Mr Nowell, the Harroddian golf club is ever expanding. They practice weekly with expert teaching from a professional on the local golf course, and have several fixtures scheduled for the summer term against other clubs and schools. Though not in the mainstream of Harroddian sport, Golf is a popular option and is open to players of every level, with or without prior experience.

3. Karate- Ken the karate expert continues to run this after-school activity with some of his pupils closing in on their black belts. Karate is both a sporting activity and a valuable practice for life.

4. Boules - Run by Mr Hooke on Tuesdays, most Harroddians have probably seen the Boules club practicing behind the café, and been slightly bewildered and intrigued. However, the club is thriving and aims to bring this fringe sport into the mainstream of Harroddian life.

5. Dance- Miss Edwards' group of dancers (NAMES) have qualified to represent Britain in the IDO European Hip Hop Championship in Amsterdam in June, which specialises in Hip Hop, Electric Boogie and Break Dance.

*And of course there are non-sporting activities that have attracted attention:*

- Chess - Some say Chess is the only game of pure skill. It is certainly as rigorous an intellectual exercise as any sport is physically, and it has thrived in popularity at the Harroddian, encouraging a high level of competitiveness.

- Perudo - Mr Nowell's fourth biggest passion after History, Golf and Music, Perudo is an exciting Peruvian dice game that is easy to learn and exhilarating to play. You may recognise it from the Pirates of the Caribbean films, in which Orlando Bloom's father barbers for his soul over the game. Clearly it is not just down to chance.

- Gardening -- Reminiscent of herbology lessons at Hogwarts, pre-prep students are not only cultivating and learning about plants, but are also gathering vital skills for life whilst growing their own food.

## Why Don't You Dance...?

by Patrick Delaney

You never know what you're getting into when auditioning for one of Mr. Parker's plays. The last production I had done prior to this was "Stealing Sweets and Punching People", a piece with three fellow 6th formers. However, Mr. Parker clearly had different ideas for this production, gathering an army of 24 strong with cast members from the whole of the senior school. It is a testament to his skills as a director that he managed to make the process of developing this play just as personal and the performance just as worthy. Those of you who have been in one of Mr. Parker's plays will know he says that he wants to make "every performance better than the last". Well "Why Don't You Dance" was my last and if it followed the high standards he set it must have been the best too... (it actually wasn't the best, but don't tell him that)

The details of the initial rehearsals seem hazy now, partly because they were so long ago and partly because the writer/director had not added the finishing touches to his script leaving the cast in the dark about their parts. It might have been this unbearable tension that drove a handful of cast members to the brink of insanity and caused them to quit the play. I vaguely remember an improvisation involving a sinister china doll wearing dungarees and the unbearable awkwardness of games involving remembering the names of fellow performers. However, as time went on faces became names and our lazy leader at long last handed out scripts. It was worth the wait.



"Why Don't You Dance" tracks the story of Sarah, a girl at university who discovers her father is selling all of her possessions. This is the basic premise of the plot, although I don't want to ruin it all in case it is re-staged in Edinburgh this summer (fingers crossed). Within this plot the audience is taken upon, if you'll excuse the cliché, several journeys revolving around the stories the objects around us can tell. I hope I have done justice to the subtleties of Mr. Parker's writing (any complaints can be forwarded to [harrodian.ey@gmail.com](mailto:harrodian.ey@gmail.com) we rarely get any emails) and the cast will know how hard it actually is to do that, the week before the play Mr. Parker sat us down and asked "can any of you actually tell me what this play is about?". We scratched our heads. Surely it was his job to know, not ours.



I think most people thought he had genuinely forgotten, we all had our suspicions that he was drunk for the majority of the rehearsal process. Luckily I had memorised the blurb on the programme, so I cleared up the confusion, saving the day once again. I probably said something cool like "now let's get this show on the road!" but I simply cannot remember.





The beauty of this production was that it truly was a collaborative effort, the success of the performance relying on every performer and every performer, whether it was their first or last experience of the Harroddian stage, stepping up to the plate with admirable maturity. Despite the ensemble cast being of great importance Lily Lewis shone in her debut performance as the lead Sarah. "She'll go far that girl", I probably said, very wisely. The potential of the cast of this play is immeasurable, I wouldn't be surprised to see any of them in a show on Broadway before long... Hammersmith Broadway that is. On a serious note, it makes it a lot easier to take that this is my last Harroddian playing when I am safe in the knowledge that there is a fresh, young crop of keen actors and actresses ready to suffer instead of me. Seeing as this article has been somewhat self-indulgent, on behalf of all the cast thank you to Miss. Farrow, the Mackays, Barbara Mayall and the Birkholms for their tireless work on this production. Mr. Parker, I would thank you too but to be honest if you had a penny for every time you were acclaimed you would probably be producing plays in a state of the art, brand spanking new Drama department. Who knows, if there is any justice in the world you will be able to convert the praise for your plays into legal tender and our dream of "The Delaney Centre for Performing Arts" will be realised and my legacy in Harroddian history secured.

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## Girls' Hockey: Trip to Barbados

by Florence Creedy-Smith

Escaping the cold British weather, the 15s hockey team travelled to Barbados at Half Term. From the moment we stepped off the plane into the scorching heat, our sun-glasses were on and we were ready to make the most of our seven days in heaven. The bus ride to our accommodation, Travellers Palm, allowed us to absorb the scenic landscape of Barbados. On arriving we changed into our swimwear and claimed ownership of the poolside for the rest of the day. However, this was not just a holiday but a hockey tour! Our mission was to teach the Bajans how to play hockey, Harroddian style.

The enormity of this task became clear when we met our opposition. They were HUGE! Our first match resulted in a defeat of 3-0. However, Miss Hanrahan and Miss Benseman encouraged us to approach the next match with more determination and skill.

This we did, putting up a great fight in the first half allowing only one goal to be conceded. The afternoon sun however was too intense and we carried on perspiring till the end where we had to accept defeat, 4-0. Undeterred we went into our final match with even more determination and fighting spirit and were rewarded with a victory of 1-0.





During our stay we self-catered in the apartments and a number of members of the squad displayed some incredible cookery skills. While others most certainly did not, consuming a highly nutritious athletic diet of instant noodles!



*Our local beach*

Interspersed with intensely competitive hockey were four days of leisure which we enjoyed to the full. We travelled on the local buses to and from Bridgetown, relaxed on the beautiful beaches, shopped in the market and danced the nights away. The highlight of the freetime was a truly memorable catamaran cruise for which we had raised the cost through a wide range of fund raising activities in school. We snorkelled over shipwrecks, swam with turtles and sailed to a beach with pink sand. A truly memorable trip both on and off the pitch.

## Time for Questions

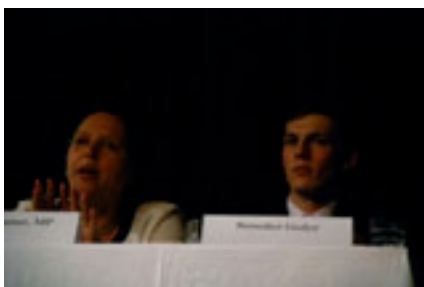
*by Ben Gedye*

When about two months ago Mr. Paton mentioned there would be a question time debate with Zac Goldsmith, Susan Kramer and Lady Butler-Sloss I thought, "that sounds interesting, I'll go along and see that". When a few weeks later he suggested I do it, I was a little bit less excited. "A great opportunity!" Mr. Paton boomed...a great opportunity to embarrass myself more like. However I soon realised that if kept my mouth firmly shut and just tried to look very serious, then I might not be called on to say too much.

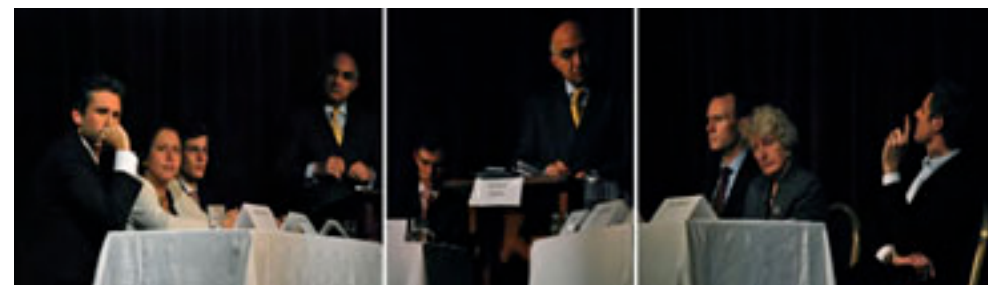
My companions on the panel were- Zac Goldsmith, the prospective Conservative candidate for Richmond and the director of 'The Ecologist' magazine. Susan Kramer, the MP for Richmond who was appointed the Liberal Democrats families spokesperson in 2008. Also Lady Butler-Sloss who was Britain's longest serving judge ever when she retired in 2005 and she was the judge that famously ruled that the child killers of toddler James Bulger should be entitled to lifelong anonymity. Also on the panel was the internationally famous economist David Paton, a Scottish immigrant who discovered a way to regulate the amount of children piling into lunch on a Thursday, and the equally famous Andrew Nowell a historian who is rumoured to have discovered the "perfect political system".

When the night came on Thursday the 12th Reza Bayad was the chairperson and he stimulated a huge amount of debate and interesting discussions surrounding issues such as- women wearing the Burka, the proposed Heathrow expansion, the state of the economy, non-domiciled citizens and most controversially the alleged dismantling of parts of the Kingston Hospital.

I think the evening was very appealing for anyone interested in politics, the way our country is run and generally issues that are pertinent to life in the 21st century. This debate is especially important because of the contentious nature of the Richmond seat which has been closely fought over in recent years. It is was also particularly appropriate having it at our school which has a vocal politics department and a number of students who do politics and have strong opinions on some of the issues raised at the question time.



I would like to say a massive thank you to Zac Goldsmith, Susan Kramer, Lady Butler-Sloss, Mr Paton, Mr Nowell and Reza Beyad for putting on the question time. Also Dr Palmley and Mr Thompson, who were as ever the puppet masters behind the scenes. Finally thank you for giving me the opportunity to play a little part in the whole thing.



*Left to Right: Andrew Nowell, Susan Kramer, Ben Gedye, Chairman Reza Beyad, David Paton, Lady Butler-Sloss, Zac Goldsmith*

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## McQueen Is Dead - Long Live McQueen

by Elizabeth Cooper

Fashion holds a unique importance in the world. Revered by some and dismissed by many others, there exists one key element we can all garner from this increasingly bizarre and ubiquitous realm: true style is individual. Design continually signals a craving for originality. The weird and the wonderful screams to replace the homogenised, clone-spawning faddishness of the trend, to champion innovation. Where clothes of the most established calibre are concerned, imagination reigns supremely, and no other designer exploited the use of imagination as skilfully as the late Alexander McQueen.

A storm of hysteria accompanied his untimely death in February of this year. The fashion sphere was left stunned, style mavens mourned, obituaries were churned and assorted celebrities resorted to the Internet. All and sundry wanted a part of the drama, to share the grief, but a crucial factor failed to translate amidst the swirling tragedy- his sheer legacy.

Branded the 'enfant terrible' of British fashion, McQueen dragged, 'beauty... from the most strangest of places, even the most disgusting places', in his own words, redefining the ideals of fashion by morphing the seemingly grotesque, horrific and non-local into undeniable objects of splendor.



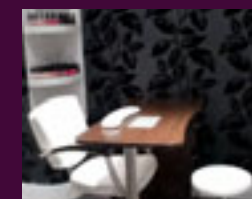
These elements reared most potently during his controversy-fuelled catwalk shows. Models bore the brunt, as they were caged, smeared with blood, placed in brutal wind tunnels, drenched in soaking rain, positioned at odds on a massive chessboard and made to stride in 10-inch heels. Kate Moss transformed into a rippling life-size hologram, husky dogs, interpretive dance, orchestras, disabled models, plus-size models, harnesses and moths all contributed to the magnificent lunacy of McQueen.

He found creativity primarily within fear. Fear of the abnormal and the peculiar, as well as our own seemingly irrational human fear of the natural world featured in his final ready-to-wear collection: 'Plato's Atlantis'. Here, models marched out, boxed in digitally printed and reptile patterned origami-esque outfits. Where shoes should have been, clawed blocks of armour stomped. A hybrid of fantastical sea monster and futuristic robot was produced, perhaps an insight into McQueen's twisted sci-fi visions of the future.

The spirit and novelty that this intrepid design warrior brought to life will forever be cherished, leaving behind a legacy of unrestricted zeal for fashion. Theatrics and romanticism are what I will remember him by. YouTube his 1999 robot paint dress and you'll understand where I'm coming from- Shalom Harlow spinning gracefully in a white prom dress, only to be violently sprayed with black and yellow paint by two ominous and lurching machines. It's disturbing beauty, confrontational and raw. McQueen consistently broke the rules and blurred the lines between fantasy and reality with every step, bringing the unexplainable and unsightly into his collections. His fashion was unfathomable, arcane, driven and unparalleled, it was just pure McQueen; in other words, so much more than you could ever fit into a Twitter status.



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## Is America Sick to Death of Healthcare?

by Robbie Davidson

*As President Obama's attempts to revolutionise U.S. healthcare are halted in their tracks by those convinced of its unsuitability in the land of liberty, the question arises: will America ever change?*

Few have tried, all have failed. The last relic of a pre-social society remains an unearthly stain on a nation which prides itself on justice and fairness, and as President Obama scrambles to salvage what remains of his once hopeful campaign to change the United States' healthcare system; it seems that the fight was lost from the start.

When Obama was swept into the Oval Office in the 2008 Presidential elections his promises of change seem to stretch over every major political issue in the USA. Healthcare reform was no exception. In his first speech to Congress in September 2009 he outlined his plans to provide more security for those who already have health insurance, and provide insurance for the 30 million Americans who did not. Perhaps most controversial to those on the right was the proposed 'public option' by which a government-run scheme would be created to cover the insurance costs of those who were not covered by their employers.

Hardly a revolutionary set of ideas considering that some form of publically funded healthcare exists in nearly every developed country in the world. But America is not any other country and seems to have defied the logical progression of social welfare. Despite titling themselves as the beacon of Western ideals, many American politicians can't seem to stomach the idea of universal healthcare. Whilst all the evidence shows that America is desperately in need of greater healthcare to protect its most vulnerable members of society, conservatives seem so morally and ideologically opposed to anything that might change the status quo, that any serious debate of the issue is quickly reduced to rhetoric and fear mongering.

As ever, the divide between the progressives and the regressives can be divided neatly down the party lines. A cynic would say that the Republican Party has been at the forefront of any reaction against major social change in America in the last 50 years- and so would I.

The conservative elite within the Republican Party seems to have convinced an alarming number of Americans that universal healthcare is not only unconstitutional but an infringement on human liberty. Their opposition to change could be justified if it were grounded in some form of rationale, but it is not. This isn't the sort of mildly amusing conservatism you see in grumpy middle-aged men and people from Wiltshire; this is full on gun-slinging, bible-bashing conservatism of the American right-wing.

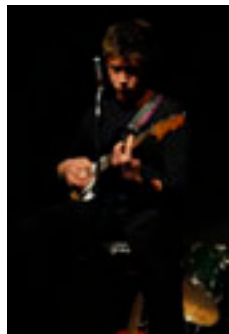
All the characteristics which endear us to our American cousins (love of their country, pride in its institutions, etc.) are brought to sickening extremes by those who mock anything contrary to the American way. Right-wing pundits (commonly known as nutjobs) like Glenn Beck and Bill O'Reilly have done little to reassure naïve viewers that Obama's reforms are anything short of communism. Flagrant attacks on the healthcare systems of Great Britain, Canada, and the devil country itself, Cuba, has instilled in the minds of many Americans the idea that the healthcare bill that passed through the Senate in December is simply another step in Obama's wider plan to turn America into a socialist state.

Perhaps this is what is most worrying about the whole healthcare debate. Those guiding the movement against Obama's reforms are not simply a small group of selfish individuals with a vested interest in ensuring that private insurers retain a monopoly over the health of Americans, they are a substantial proportion of the population who see Obama as the enemy. If they could simply be convinced that his proposals are motivated by genuine compassion for those in need and not some abstract socialist agenda, then the whole healthcare debate could progress to a point where a genuine discussion could be had over to what extent the state should care for its people.

But as it stands the old joke about conservatives seems more appropriate than ever: 'What's the difference between a conservative and a brick wall? A brick wall doesn't interrupt you when you're talking to it'. In the end some people can't be taught and maybe as Obama quickly tries to reconcile the differences between the versions of the bill which passed through the Senate and the House of Representatives, the former considerably more radical than the latter, he should contemplate whether Americans can be trusted to make such an important decision. His sixty senator majority which required no Republican support to pass his legislation has now been ruined following the election of Republican Scott Brown to fill the seat left by the late Ted Kennedy, and now may be the time for the President to consider some of the words of liberal commentator Bill Maher: "You can't get Americans to agree on anything sixty percent. Sixty percent of people don't believe in evolution in this country...Just drag them to this. Get health care done, you know, with or without them."

## Battle of the Bands 2010





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## Harroddian Photography (continued)



Ben Whitley



Jack Harries



Sophie Lee



Chingis Guirey



## Contributors

**Patrick Delaney** - Is not quite as arrogant as he appears in his articles. But he is still pretty arrogant. Rightly so, he is pretty hot stuff.

**Thomas Moore** - will take you on at Perudo and Electric Boogie... simultaneously.

**Robbie Davidson** - part time dissident; we told him he was writing for the Guardian.

**Elizabeth Cooper** - Has undoubtably one of the top 5 fringes in Harroddian history.

**Harry Short** - The fearsome Harroddian rugby captain.

**Ben Gedye** - The less fearsome right winger.

**Chingis Guirey** - Designer of the front cover once again. A true master of his art.

**Florence Creedy-Smith** - Is the future of hockey.

**Clara Lahnstein** - A new writer for the Harroddian Eye and by far the politest we have worked with.

### Special Thanks to:

Jane Denton, without whom the Harroddian Eye would not exist. Thank you so much for your invaluable help over the last year.

Mr. Murray, who taught us how to use computers.

Mr. Thomson, who is slightly too important to feature in the contributors section.

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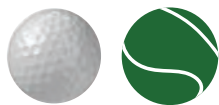
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If you would like to discuss any element of an upcoming event please contact James on 020 8964 5255 or [james@breadandhoney.net](mailto:james@breadandhoney.net)



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