

# LEEDS STUDENT

BUREAUCRATS SMASH LMU HOPES AFTER 'ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR'

## Sports chiefs ban Uni teams

**H**undreds of students have had their sporting dreams shattered after Leeds Metropolitan University was banned from competing in the prestigious University Athletic Union.

'Spoilsport' UAU chiefs took the decision to ban LMU after students union bosses failed to pay a mere £223 affiliation fee - despite the fact that LMUSU had already paid the UAU nearly £4,000.

The ban, which will last until the end of the academic year, has angered union officers at LMUSU, which last year won the coveted award for best overall college for

winter and summer sports.

Louise Brooks, VP Administration at LMUSU, described the UAU chiefs as spoilsports. "We can't understand why they've banned us over such a small sum of money. Perhaps it's because the former polys are beating so many of the old universities."

Ed White, Sport and Recreation Coordinator at LMUSU, described the failure to pay the bill as a "misunderstanding". He explained how confusion over affiliation procedures had led LMUSU to fail to pay the affiliation fees for overseas students, who enroll in January.

The confusion left LMUSU owing £223, a bill which White did not pay

By Simon Greenhalgh

before the UAU's deadline because he "did not regard the payment of a relatively small amount as urgent". White emphasised that the bill has now been paid and claimed: "We are being treated as a scapegoat, just to keep people in line."

Greg Jones, UAU Chief Executive, admitted that student athletes - through no fault of their own - would be denied the opportunity to compete against other universities.

Richard Thompson, who last year steered the LMU cricket team to success, expressed his disappointment

that the team would not be able to compete: "Being one of the leading sporting colleges, this withdrawal from competition was very unexpected."

He went on: "I'm deeply disappointed since competing in UAU competitions is what every sports team strives towards."

Simon Hollyhead, the current captain of the LMU cricket club agreed: "The cricket club are appalled, and with so many members we are second only to the football club. We can field three or four quality teams. It's our main summer sport and our ban is an absolute disgrace."

However, Jones nevertheless

defended the UAU decision to ban LMU, saying: "Only four institutions out of 139 failed to comply with the payment requirements, which does suggest that the reminders were quite clear. The voting members of General Committee, who are all students, resolved that Leeds Metropolitan and others be excluded from summer term competition."

John Rose, Leeds University Union General Secretary and a member of the UAU Executive, also defended the decision, describing it as "harsh but fair".

See Leader, page seven  
Additional reporting: Richard Fletcher

## ... but football and fun continue at Beckett Park

**A**n action packed Funday has been organised by Leeds Metropolitan University students in aid of Cancer Research.

The Funday, held at the Beckett Park site on Sunday 8th May, will feature a variety of attractions, ranging from a Gladiators-style duelling competition to a Guinness roadshow.

Those who attend will have the opportunity to participate in netball or 7-a-side football, to try their hand at the assault course, or to have a laugh on the bouncy castle. Being a student event, there will of course be the ubiquitous beer tent, and what better way to finish off an afternoon's drinking than to take advantage of the Tetley Shire horse rides, or better still,

By Nicola Woolcock

to enjoy one of the rides on the funfair.

Musical entertainment will be provided by a steel band, and a raffle will give everyone the chance to win a season ticket for Yorkshire Cricket Club, signed footballs from Leeds United, Everton Liverpool, Tranmere and a Leeds Rugby League ball.

Pete Davis, Vice President of Communications at Beckett Park and Funday organiser, said: "We want to promote LMU students in Leeds in a good light, and also to raise loads of money for Cancer Research."

He continued: "The Lord Mayor will be attending, and we are trying to improve communications between students

and locals in Leeds.

"Many companies have been very helpful. The Midland Bank has provided us with some marquees, much of the equipment we will be using has been loaned to us by Yorkshire Cancer Research, and the army will be putting on Infantry and Parachute displays. Leeds United will be participating in the Gladiators duelling event, and of course the University has provided a lot," he added.

Student reaction to news of the Funday was quite enthusiastic. "It'll be good if it's sunny. I'll go for the fair and the beer," said Economics and Public Policy student Graham Crawford.

● Pictured opposite, listed from top left: Les Silver, Pete Davis, Gary Speed, Gordon Strachan, Gary McCallister. (Pic: Ed Crispin)



INSIDE: Spotlight examines value for money in university accommodation



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Leeds Student Newspaper  
Leeds University Union  
PO Box 157  
Leeds LS1 1UH

**Editor**

Richard Fletcher

**Deputy Editor**

Rosie Prince

**Assistant Editor**

John McLeod

**Chief News Editor**

Matt Roper

**Assistant News Editors**

Helen Crossley

Tim Gallagher

David Smith

Nicola Woolcock

**Focus Editors**

Gareth Hughes

Isobel Williams

**Arts Editors**

Hannah Jones

Eleanor Rose

**Music Editors**

Alex Sanders

Johnny Davis

**Class/Jazz**

Steven Ranger

Christian White

**Books Editor**

John McLeod

**The Guide**

Stephen Hill

**Sports Editor**

Roger Domeneghetti

**Photo Editor**

Ed Crispin

**NEWSDESK**

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# Bank on Midland

Midland bank made the first move this week in the 1994 'battle of the banks' when it increased its final year overdraft limit from £400 to £700.

Research has shown that by their final year, students with overdrafts owe more than £400. The Midland states: "The most common form of borrowing is a bank overdraft which most students use at some stage."

Barclays are hitting back already with a graduate package. This allows those just out of university a space of three years in which to pay up, with specially low interest

By Alison Wragg

rates. Banks are now looking forwards, rather than concentrating just on freshers.

Despite the obvious benefits, reaction to the Midland's announcement has been mixed. Leeds University English and History student Jenny Britton said: "The higher overdraft may encourage student debt - most people do not really need more than £400."

National Union of Students statistics tell a different story. They argue that most 1994 graduates will owe up to £3,500 to banks and the

Student Loan Company. Leeds University first year Economics student Jamie Kilpatrick says: "I bank with Barclays. However, an offer like this is hard to refuse: the extra money is definitely an incentive."

Other students agree. Colin Johnson, a third year studying History, argued that: "It's about time the banks gave more competitive offers."

Some are less easily pleased, however. Language student Simon Burton said: "An Our Price music voucher is more likely to attract me - at least you don't have to give it back."

# Top prof's fame in Spain

By Charlotte Lomas

Professor John Macklin, Head of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Leeds University, has been awarded one of Spain's highest honours, The Order of Queen Isabella has been awarded for the services he has made to Spanish studies, in particular for the establishment of the first Cervantes Institute in Britain and the numerous exchange programmes fostered between British and Spanish universities.

After receiving the award from the Spanish ambassador on 19th May, Professor Macklin will officially become a Commander of the Order and be entitled to prefix his name with "Ilustrisimo".

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese is "absolutely thrilled" with the award. A spokesperson said: "This is very important for the Professor himself of course, but it's also important for the Department and the University as a whole as we achieve recognition on a European



Euro-boffin gets Queen's award

scale, 'We are very proud.'

Professor Macklin remained modest however: "What can I say, I'm very pleased and very honoured. I won't be using the 'Ilustrisimo' title though."

There was a reaction of mild

surprise among students in the department. Second year Chris Harrison said: "I knew he was pretty important at the University but I never thought anyone else would even have heard of him."

# Ravers rally round for justice

Several organisations will meet in London on Sunday for a rally and march to protest against the controversial Criminal Justice Bill, which could severely curb raves and demonstrations, writes *Cie Sangster*.

The rally is being organised by Advance Party, a group which aims "to campaign for people to choose their way of life, free from oppressive legislation, and to defend the free festival and party network."

The Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill, which could become law this summer, covers many areas, including young offenders, police powers and obscene videos. However, the suggestions causing the

most concern are in Part 5, which deals with 'Public Order: Collective Trespass or Nuisance on Land'.

If the Bill is passed, this part would enable police to remove trespassers, arrest those attending or "preparing for" a rave and to seize sound equipment and vehicles. Squatting would become a criminal offence, and Section 47 states that "any gathering of 100 or more people on a piece of land becomes a criminal offence even if the landowner gives his/her permission".

The Bill is seen by some as part of a wider Government crackdown on those who choose to lead alternative lifestyles, and as a threat to

personal liberty. If it becomes law, the Bill will also remove the right to peaceful protests or "trespassory assemblies" such as those at Oxleas Wood and Twyford Down last year.

Catherine Muller of Leeds University Union EarthFirst! called the Bill "a threat to travellers, Gypsies, squatters, ravers and, worst of all, those who wish to protest peacefully about anything that they feel is wrong."

Any students who wish to attend the rally should be at the Parkinson steps at 8am on Sunday when LUU EarthFirst! is providing a coach to London. The meeting will take place at Speaker's Corner in London's Hyde Park.

## My Little World

Leeds Metropolitan University is to host a talk given by Sheffield artist and writer Robert Clark. The meeting will look at the influences on his latest exhibition, 'My Little World', currently on display at the LMU Gallery. The talk will take place on Wednesday 11th May at 6.30pm. Tickets are £4 (£2 concessions) and are available from the Gallery. The exhibition runs until 21 May.

## Book 'em

Leeds University Union's bookshop is to tighten up its security after a recent spate of shoplifting. The new electronic tagging system should reduce thefts and deter potential book-stealers.

## Save the Whale

The Leeds Greenpeace Support Group is to stage a protest against Norway's whaling practises, on Saturday 3rd April. It will take place at Dortmund Square in Leeds, and will coincide with demonstrations in many other European countries. Norway has contravened an international ban on commercial whaling, killing about 1,000 whales since 1986. A boycott has so far cost Norway about £40 million.

## Twice the news

Unfortunately, there will be no edition of Leeds Student next week. As is usual in the summer term, every student's favourite paper will be produced fortnightly.

## Excellent cinema

Film fans are in for a treat next week as the Hyde Park Picture House mounts an unprecedented quadruple bill in a single night, writes *Pennie Cabot*.

'Wayne's World' and 'Bill and Ted', along with both their sequels, will be shown a week tomorrow.

Previously there has been no all-night cinema in the city, but there are plans that the cinematic feast on Brudenell Road should become a monthly feature during term time, with David Bowie, Monty Python and zombie movies among potential billings.

Leeds Student has four free tickets to give away for the show on Saturday 7th May. Just call in at our office in the Leeds University Union building, and, if you are among the first to claim the tickets, they could be yours.

## NUS demo

Leeds University Union General Secretary John Rose has criticised the National Union of Students for organising a demonstration in London too close to this term's exams, writes *David Smith*.

"We appreciate that this could cause problems for many people, but it's still very important that as many attend as possible," said Rose.

The demo, postponed from earlier in the year, takes place on Wednesday in protest against cuts to the student grant. However an alternative demo, staged by the student group Left Unity last term, is likely to have stolen the thunder from the NUS.

LUU hopes to send three coaches down to London, leaving at 8am. Tickets are available from LUU and LMUSU Execs, priced £4 each.

## Pizza perfection

An election candidate who distributed Pizzaland vouchers along with his own campaign material - described as "an extremely reckless act and one that was open to be interpreted as bribery" - should not be disqualified, it was decided by Leeds University Union's Elections Committee, writes *David Smith*.

Richard Malach, standing for Societies Secretary, had been accused of handing out Pizzaland tokens with flyers, as well as covering his opponent's posters and using chalk for publicity on Woodhouse Moor in contravention of election regulations. Although some of the complaints were undoubtedly true, the Committee found that there were "no solid constitutional grounds for disqualification".

Malach, a 2nd Year Chemistry student who won the Exec post by just six votes, defended his actions: "I'm a chef at Pizzaland and I was asked by my boss to hand out flyers as a favour - you can pick them up anywhere and they are of no value at all."

"Everything I did, or something similar, has been done before, I consider the complaints to be sour grapes."

## An apology

Leeds Student would like to apologise to Grahame Stowe, Bateson and Co solicitors, who acted as defence for Mr David Martin Jackson, at the recent Hyde Park rape trial.

An article which appeared in the 28th March edition stated that a Mrs G. Higgins was a spokesperson for Jackson's solicitor. We would like to make it clear that Mrs G. Higgins had no authority from the firm to make any statements purportedly on their behalf relating to Mr Jackson's trial.

# Trouble brewing for new flats

Leeds Metropolitan University officials are under fire this week for failing to keep their promise that, following the closure of two halls of residence at Beckett Park, 140 rooms at the redeveloped Kirkstall Brewery will be ready for first years by autumn. The rooms will not now be available until October 1995.

Although a Unipol development behind the Royal Park pub will house about 70

of the students who would have stayed at the brewery complex, more than 50 will now be forced to find their own accommodation.

Andrew Snowball, LMUSU Vice President Beckett Park, has expressed annoyance at the announcement. "The University already offers a pathetic amount of accommodation, which will now be further reduced. It's also disappointing that the University is not putting any

By Sam Rose

money into Unipol to cover these losses."

Mike Wilkinson, a member of senior management at LMU, has described the 12 month delay as merely "a blip" in the overall development plans at the Kirkstall Brewery site. The complex will eventually provide facilities including a bar, restaurant, sports hall, supermarket and 50-terminal

computer room for more than 1,000 students.

The current issue of the LMU publication 'The Student' boasts that "the complex will be the largest of its type being developed in England at present". There is no mention of the fact that the scheme is 12 months behind schedule. "The article is obviously slightly out of date," says Wilkinson.

Students were also angry at the delay in the development:

"The whole thing is pretty poor," said fourth year Design and Technology student Ian Dwyer, "I wouldn't want to come up here at 18 with nowhere to live."

Other students expressed concern: "The best private accommodation will be snapped up by second years. I feel sorry for the first years who will have to hunt for houses in a strange city," said LMU first year Peter Jones.



Kirkstall Brewery Pic: Ed Crispin

## Designs on travel

Two Leeds Metropolitan University students have won a £750 travel prize, writes Kate Mathison. Nicola Nemeč and Lorraine May, both Fine Art students, plan to use the prize money to go to the south of France and the USA.

The prize was donated by Edna Lumb, a local painter of industrial landscapes, who died in 1992. She studied at the Leeds College of Art, now incorporated into LMU.

Before she died, Edna left instructions for her remaining work to be sold in order to establish a trust fund which would provide travel scholarships.

Some of Edna Lumb's paintings were exhibited at the Calverly Street concourse test this week, to mark the prizegiving ceremony on Thursday. Similar scholarships will be made available each year and will be open to Art students at Leeds Metropolitan University.

## Signs of confusion

By Nicola Woolcock

Problems emerged with Leeds University Union's new signs even before the beginning of term. The signs, directing students to various parts of the Union building, went up on Friday but, among other errors, Rag was not labelled on the main signs situated in the Union foyer.

Action is omitted from the signs, while the colour of the sign for Leeds Student wrongly indicates the newspaper office's floor.

John Rose, LUU General Secretary, said: "The Union has a new system. We had some teething troubles, but they're sorted out now. A couple of small mistakes were made by the manufacturers."

Several people have commented on the fact that despite Leeds University Union spending £5,000 on the 'improvements', needless mistakes were still made.

Many students were not impressed with the new signs.



Which way now?

"It's like you've walked into a hospital. It's a waste of money. There was nothing wrong with the old signs," said Penny Boyce, second year Physiology student.

Others claimed that the signs would be more likely to lead to confusion among first-year students next year and that the previous signs were clearer.

Pic: Debashis Singh

On the whole, most were indifferent toward the situation. "I know how to find The Old Bar, and that's all that matters," said Michael Buckman, a second year, Chemistry and Management student at Leeds University. "I really don't think that the signs are going to make that much difference to most students."

## Speak and spell

Engineers will have the chance this week to prove that they too know their adverbs from their adjectives, and maybe even win £1,000 in the process, write Megan Curtis and Toby Wakely.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering at Leeds University is inviting its students to take part in a writing and communications competition which could help them to lose their reputation of being lacking in verbal skills.

Professor John Coney, of the Mechanical Engineering Department, pointed out that the competition was a re-vamp of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Competition.

He added that the competition aims to enable science-orientated students to adapt to the work place, where the ability to communicate clearly and confidently is of the utmost importance.

Professor Coney also commented on the lack of practice students receive in

this area, adding: "The opportunities for students to put forward and defend views are not as great as we would wish."

Mechanical Engineering students seem to welcome the opportunity to express themselves and fine-tune their purple prose.

One student of the department said: "The competition will help a lot of people. It has to be said, a lot of Engineers need the practice."

Martin Leonard, a fourth year Engineering student, said: "We already have to do a communications dissertation outside the Engineering department."

However he complained: "There's not a lot of time in this degree for competitions, but in general communication skills are pretty bad, especially English."

Fragiskos Lemmonis said: "I'd enter if my skills in English were a little better. It's a great opportunity to test yourself as an engineer."

## Gameboy launches new mag

By Richard Fletcher

While most of his fellow finalists were busy swotting in the library, Leeds University whizz kid Sam Greenhill launched a national magazine - just five weeks before his first exam.

Computer boffin Sam, a third year Philosophy and Politics student, launched the 72 page glossy computer magazine at a computer show last week.

Sam, a former Deputy Editor of Leeds Student, was headhunted by a national magazine company to edit and start the magazine, *Acorn Action*.

'Gameboy' Sam started writing reviews of computer games for national magazines when he was just 14 and is now an expert on the Acorn computer system.

Sam joked: "It's a bit of a



Gameboy Greenhill go go go

nightmare taking my finals at the same time but as long as I don't get confused and start writing about Lemmings in my Politics exam it should be okay."

But Sam is still not happy: having launched the magazine, he is now spending two weeks working on the *Yorkshire Evening Post*. The dynamic

finalist starts work at the YEP at 7am every morning, and after a hard day in the office returns home to continue work on the magazine, before a few hours swotting in the library.

Sam told *Leeds Student* that fortunately, like Margaret Thatcher, he can survive on just four hours sleep a night.

## Cheat your way to the top

By Lucie Spurr

Cheating in university exams is on the up among undergraduates, according to a recent survey. A confidential questionnaire was distributed to students at Plymouth University containing questions about 21 types of cheating, ranging from deliberately misfiling library books to impersonating somebody in an exam.

Although nobody admitted to pretending to be someone else in an exam, 50 per cent owned up to plagiarism. Professor Newstead, who initiated the survey, claimed he was shocked at how common cheating was, with one in eight students admitting to copying in exams.

However many students questioned around Leeds University weren't very

surprised. A standard response was: "Well, everyone cheats at some time or other."

Dr Patten, from the French department at Leeds University, did not believe that cheating is a major problem. He thought that University guidelines were pretty clear and that the punishments were enough of a deterrent.

He recalled the story of a student who had stuffed literary guide books behind a pipe in the male toilets during an exam and left his name in them. However, due to extenuating circumstances and the fact that it was unclear whether the culprit had visited the toilet during the exam, no disciplinary action could be taken.

Another Leeds undergraduate, who wished to be known only as Dan, was severely reprimanded and penalised for plagiarism.

He blamed his academic misconduct on the pressure of his work load and family problems, but was nevertheless threatened with expulsion from the University should the incident be repeated. He said: "I didn't think they'd be so strict but I'm certainly not going to take any such risks in the future."

A straw poll of students in Leeds University's Edward Boyle Library found that nearly half admitted to cheating at one time in their university career. David Osborne, a third year History student, said: "There are a few easy ways to get round the system - once you find them out it's very tempting."

# Combat 18 death threats

## OFF CAMPUS



### Survival of the fittest

According to a recent survey Jane Torvill has been voted the sexiest sportswoman in Britain. Forty per cent of the men questioned put the skater's horsey charm over second place Gabriella Sabatini and Sharon Davies, who came third. The other half of the skating sensation, heart throb Christopher Dean, was pipped at the post by Grand Prix driver Damon Hill who took the title of hunkiest sportsman. Among the results Sally Gunnell was awarded fifth place for her 'perfect buttocks' while Angus Fraser was commended on his impressive middle wicket.

### Size is important

A stripper from Philadelphia has been told to reword her advertisements or face a fine of £500. The posters publicising her act claim that Crystal Storn has a bust measuring a staggering 127 inches. However, after inspection by a trading officer armed with a tape measure Storn was advised to modify the posters to include her real chest size - a more modest 50 inches. Storn complained: "I don't see what difference a few inches make."

### In a lather

TV fans addicted to soap operas will now be able to wear themselves off Neighbours and Home and Away in Britain's first clinic established specifically for the purpose.

"Soap heads" can soon attend support sessions at the Jack Duckworth Memorial Clinic set up by Britain's answer to Betty Ford, David West. "Soap operas are taking over peoples lives," says West, "they need help."

### Sex aid

A 31-year-old sufferer of a groin condition has taken the advice of his doctor to use sex as a means of easing his symptoms. Phil Stringfellow, who had been on pain killers since his last affair six months ago, was mobbed in a night club by a group of charitable young girls who had heard of his plight. One red head and 3 hours later he proclaimed himself completely cured.

### Order in court

A juror was fined £50 this week after smuggling a can of Kl High Strength Lager into the courtroom. Judge Michael Devonshire attempted to confiscate the offending item and found himself in a grapple with juror John Butler as he attempted to reclaim it. The trial continued when Butler was eventually removed to the cells after admitting that he was too drunk to sit on a jury.

Compiled by Sally Kean

Nazi activists in Leeds have turned their attention to *Leeds Student* following this newspaper's reports of their activities last term. Members of the fascist paramilitary group Combat 18 have been seen trying to enter the *Leeds Student* office, and threatening graffiti has appeared in the Leeds University Union building.

Last term *Leeds Student* reported that members of Combat 18 had been seen on the University campus and in the Union apparently trying to collect the names and addresses of leftwing

students.

A week later, on Friday 19th March, one of its known members, Dave Appleyard, was seen in the Leeds Metropolitan University Students Union trying to find the *Leeds Student* office and asking to see the Editor. The office was closed, however.

Appleyard has a reputation for being a hard man who will beat up anyone who disagrees with him.

Last Friday graffiti was spotted in the men's toilets at LUU, saying: "*Leeds Student* is a bag of shite - kill the bastards".

By Paul Greenough

Nearby were stickers from the "British Movement", and a slogan stating: "The next time the BNP [British National Party] come to visit the socialists are going to bleed."

The graffiti was written in a cubicle which was promptly closed off with out-of-order signs until the graffiti had been removed.

A spokesperson for Leeds University Union Executive said the faces of some members of Combat 18 are known to him.

"They are regularly

spotted around," he said.

However, he admitted that the Union was limited by law in what it could do to stop the action of the fascist groups.

"If they are caught, all they can be done for is criminal damage or incitement to racial hatred at most," he added.

Combat 18 are a paramilitary fascist group who are committed to a racial war. They are active in Leeds and have been linked with gun-running for loyalist paramilitaries in Northern Ireland.

● On Thursday 5th May, the Anti Nazi League are



Dave Appleyard

putting on buses to travel to Todmorden, where a candidate for the British National Party is standing in the forthcoming local elections.

## Jolly Dutch hockeysticks



Leeds University Union's hockey team plucked up Dutch Courage to attend an international hockey conference over Easter in the land of tulips and windmills. The saucy stick-wielders played every match in comedy outfits and took a "tour queen" with them to introduce to other teams. Captain Ric Coope, resplendent in Captain Birdseye costume, thought the tour was a success: "When the chips were down, we froze the opposition," he said.

Words: Tim Gallagher

## Putting ME first

International ME Awareness Day will be recognised for the first time this year by the National Union of Students and students unions throughout the country. Taking place on Thursday 12th May, and so coinciding with Health Week at Leeds University Union, the event is designed to raise awareness of the disease amongst the student population, writes Charlotte Lomas.

The disease ME (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis), the symptoms of which include memory loss, exhaustion and muscle fatigue, can have particularly debilitating effects on students, impairing their ability to revise and their actual exam performance. In many cases students are forced to drop-out of their courses altogether.

The attempt to promote awareness of ME coincides with a new self-help group at LUU. Organiser Natalie Hensby, herself an ME sufferer, said: "There is not enough

provision for students with ME. Very often they don't know what to do, their parents don't understand and they are ostracised by their department. We hope to provide a drop-in service to prevent the isolation experienced by many sufferers."

The International Awareness Day and the self-help group met with a favourable response from students, particularly those who had witnessed the effects of the disease first hand. Second year Jenny Parr remarked: "There are so many myths flying about concerning ME that it's important to dispel them. It's an excellent idea, not just for sufferers but for everyone."

From next week anyone is welcome to call in to the ME self-help group in the Nightline drop-in room on Yellow Level in the Union building, between 1pm and 3pm from Tuesdays to Fridays. For more information contact Natalie on 750993 or Paul on 452420.

## Back to Basics Beef eaters meat their match

By Dominic Dare

"A back to basics return to Victorian economic values" has been demanded by the Economics and Public Policy Professional Group at Leeds Business School, Leeds Metropolitan University.

In a new publication the economists have directly attacked the Government's objective of reducing spending and borrowing at the expense of public investment, calling it "short sighted" and "penny pinching".

The publication argues that the basic infrastructure of our society is slowly being eroded. Housing, education, transport and urban

regeneration are seen as key areas in which governments both past and present have failed to invest.

The report concludes that by the year 2005 the government should have "completed the modernisation of the rail network", created a "comprehensive Metrolink system" and "reduced levels of unfit houses".

Leeds University Politics student Geoffrey Gotts welcomed the findings of the report: "The Government should allow councils to use the profits gained from the sale of council houses. Present legislation prevents the use of the huge cash reserves for reinvestment in housing projects. I believe this is ludicrous."

Next week is 'Veggie Pledge Week'. Meat lovers everywhere will be slinging their steaks, banishing their burgers and reaching for the soya.

"The idea is to persuade people to give up eating meat for the week," explained Susan Luxton, a

By Matt Roper

member of Leeds University Union's Animal Rights group. "Hopefully, once they find how easy it is, they will give up for good."

The group will have a

stall outside the Union building every day next week to promote the event.

However, not all meat eaters seemed prepared to enter into the spirit of adventure. Keen carnivore Gareth Williams said: "I'm not giving up my kebabs for anyone."

## No jobs for the boys and girls

The number of graduates successfully making the transition from scruffy student to responsible employee is worryingly low according to a recently published survey, writes Jolyon Attwooll.

The report states that only an estimated 49 per cent of 1992 college leavers went into a job; the lowest employment rate for 20 years. As a result

of the ongoing effects of the recession and rising graduate numbers, 13 per cent were forced to go on to the dole, with many opting for further education or training courses.

Concern among final year students is clearly evident. Leeds University third year Philosophy student Robert Nesbitt believes the figures expose "a lot of wasted

talent". He admitted: "I am very apprehensive about my job prospects."

However Richard Siddall, Leeds University Careers Service Director, is more positive. He says that the job market is "beginning to improve" and that with the aid of the Careers Service there are "plenty of job opportunities" for graduates.

# 'Send them to the tower'

While most of us were busy revising for summer exams, over one thousand students descended on Blackpool for the annual NUS Conference. *Richard Fletcher* takes a personal look at the conference and suggests that for the majority of delegates it was a waste of time turning up

According to the National Union of Students, its annual conference is the perfect example of democracy in action.

Twelve hundred delegates, representing students from all over the country, descend on Blackpool's Winter Gardens to decide the future policy of their students union.

In reality there is actually very little point in the average delegate bothering to turn up.

Contrary to the idea of democracy, the decisions are not actually made on the conference floor, but on the balcony above conference, where the 'spin doctors' and full-time hacks tell run conference.

The power of each faction is roughly proportionate to the number of hacks - or 'visitors' as they are officially known - on the balcony. By far the strongest is the

National Organisation of Labour Students (NOLS), followed by the Union of Jewish Students. The balcony is also home to a number of other factions: Left Unity, SWSS and Palestinian students who, with little support on the conference floor, amuse themselves by trying to disrupt conference - by constitutional, or other, means.

Sadly the delegates on conference floor follow these leaders like sheep. Before each session, badly produced newsheets instruct delegates how to vote on particular amendments. For delegates, conference suddenly becomes easier: just pick up your factions newsheet and follow the simple instructions.

Fortunately, the factions don't always get their way, and when the occasional spanner is thrown in the works the more intelligent delegates look on in amusement. Small

changes in amendments can lead to the most amazing confusion, as the majority of delegates look around dazed, not knowing which way to vote.

While the majority of delegates follow like sheep, the factions fight dirty. If NOLS put as much effort into fighting the Tory government as they did into bashing Left Unity, then we would all be living on £10,000 a year. But all the energy at conference is put into defeating opponents, rather than fighting for ordinary students.

But it's not only the backstabbing which leads to a distinct lack of action; with conference sitting from nine in the morning till twelve at night, by day two most delegates are suffering from conference disease.

The disease affects delegates' limited supply of common sense. Suddenly, the



The three wise monkeys. Lorna Fitzsimons and a couple of sad hacks

Pic: Richard Fletcher

fact that a growing number of students are really poor is no longer of any importance. What is important is whether we suspend standing orders, so that delegates can continue to discuss reform of conference rather than student hardship. The sheep mentality of delegates also increases as

conference disease sets in, as does a feeling of self-importance.

Not surprisingly, by the end of the week conference had become a farce. After NOLS and UJS stitched up the debate on racism - in which only five out of the 55 speeches were made by black delegates -

black students occupied the podium. The response of other delegates? They amused themselves with a Mexican wave, led by the so-called conference chair.

If you ask me you, they should have cleared the conference floor and sent them all to the tower.

## THE DIARY AT NUS CONFERENCE

Not that the *Diary* would not want to suggest that conference is one almighty knocking shop, but delegates were welcomed to Blackpool with a free condom. The providers of this essential evening wear, none other than Labour Students. Rather ironic really when they spent the whole week attempting to screw the conference and keep delegates in the dark.

Traditionally NUS Presidents write their own opening speeches, however outgoing President Lorna Fitzsimons - lovingly known by other delegates as Fucksimons - has never been one to follow

tradition. The *Diary* understands that NUS press officer Louise Clarke was still 'typing' the speech just minutes before Fitzsimons was due to make it. The *Diary* also understands that halfway through the speech Lorna suddenly paused: no longer her articulate self, she began reading the speech more slowly. Surely even Lorna is able to write her own speeches?

One of the most interesting performances at NUS conference was that of Mark Walton, LUU's Financial Affairs Sec Elect. Mark started the week as he meant to go on - assuring everybody that he knew the way to Blackpool. It was only as the Union's

minibus raced along the M62 that Mark admitted that he had lied. In fact Mark was well and truly lost. Not only that, but under interrogation he admitted that he had absolutely no idea where Blackpool was, let alone how to get there. Therefore when Mark failed to show his face at conference on Tuesday morning the delegation assumed that he had got lost on his way to Winter Gardens. When Mark finally arrived, later that afternoon, it transpired that he had not in fact got lost, but just overslept. It's nice to know that the LUU's annual budget of over £2 million pounds is in safe and responsible hands.

### The things they said.....

"I've been on this committee since 1975  
..... So please vote for me again"

A very sad hack

"What a load of bollocks. You lot need to pull your finger out"

A delegate sums up their impressions of conference

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# The great unwashed moves into House of Hamer

Spring is here and with the joyous change of season comes my solemn duty to welcome a new housemate. It seems that the previous two occupants have fled and that my ridiculous articles have performed the kind of ethnic-cleansing the Serbs would be proud of.

And although our new companion is undoubtedly very pleasant I couldn't help thinking as I suspiciously eyed her plate of hippy food

that sooner or later she would cop 350 words of abuse for no better reason than that I'd had one too many Lowenbraus the night before.

She showers too regularly to be a true liberal but her slightly dreamy demeanour is a possible indication that there could be some unpleasantly left wing thoughts going on inside her head.

On Friday I'll know for sure. If she has no sense of humour she is definitely a liberal and we will be back

## Rupert Hamer on Friday



down to three people in our five person house. Either that or I will become another victim of women who cut off the genitalia of men they can't stand.

For there is only one thing

worse than a liberal. And that it a liberal who believes that their lofty moral ideals prevent them from having BO, that a necessary precondition of believing in state intervention in the economy is

the refusal to buy shampoo and that soap is the product of a bourgeois capitalist conspiracy to oppress the workers.

What is it about people with alternative political views which means they have to look like tramps? What happened to Paul Heaton and the clean-cut, spiky haired socialism of the mid-eighties?

Marx might have been a drunken, bearded slob but Lenin was as neat as a newly promoted advertising

executive.

It was recently alleged that The Fenton has been criticised for its lack of hygiene. I've been to this fine pub loads of times and the problem has nothing to do with its owners. It has everything to do with its liberal-customers' refusal to shower more than once a year.

So get a hair cut and join the revolution. Or perhaps, more likely, don't and join the dole queue.

## the HACK

A weekly sketch of student politics

At the end of last term this column drew attention to Michael Zatman, the one father who, if it really came to it, you could depend on to stump up maintenance to support his disadvantaged child - namely, the Constitution of Leeds University Union. To doubt Zatman's mastery of this ancient document is no less an offence than to find out whether God exists by giving His huge shaggy beard a good tug on Judgement Day, but that, no doubt in high end-of-term spirits, is precisely what Elliot Reuben did.

"You can't have an election at an inqurate OGM," Reuben warned him, as the Zatman prepared to launch into voting for some Mickey Mouse committee or other. There was dread silence for a moment, as all eyes fixed on the Speaker - his profound, knowing stare captured the look of a man wounded fatally. But then came the reply as we all knew it would: "There's nothing in the Constitution to say we can't..."

Reuben, it was thought, would surely play the role of Frank Bruno as he challenged for the champion's crown, yet he gamely battled on. For the spectators it became as farcical as Bruno's other fights - the ones he wins, where everybody has the feeling it's all a waste of time. In the end of course Zatman got his way, but there was more vaudeville to come as the vote finished tied at 14-all for candidates who, it became apparent, had not even turned up. This meant that the casting vote lay with the Speaker - Zatman again.

Then there was the Liz Rouse affair. The Women's Officer had been put in the dock by Z a t m a n

because of an election she hadn't run, an extraordinary thought considering the barrage of ballots held last term. "I cocked up! I admit it - I'm sorry," said Rouse. Could you imagine a similar response from Tories to the Scott Inquiry? "Mr Major, did you or did you not sell arms to Iraq?" Mr Major: "I cocked up! I admit it - I'm sorry."

Zatman now had a question or two for the whole of Union Council. Its members were to troop past the microphone, accounting for why they had let Rouse cock up in the first place. But before this pompous procession could get in full swing, dissenting voices could be heard: "This is ridiculous!", "No one cares anyway!" yelled the audience. Most daring of all, "You can't chair this bit - you're asking the question!" directed at Zatman.

After this session of unbridled blasphemy, Zatman had the air of Godfather, as if he had just seen one of his sons insulted by a dopey cop and was not going to stand for any slurs on his family. "Heeh boys, you know what you gotta do," you could almost hear him hoarsely whispering to his loyal and unforgiving clan. Reuben before the rest would be made to pay for his audacity, that was clear, even if it meant the traditional decapitated horse's head on top of his Exec office desk.

A subtle tip-off brought revenge more swiftly, however. After someone pointed out a blue haze at the back of the hall, Zatman took a fiendish delight in snapping: "Elliot Reuben, could you please put that cigarette out or go outside! Smoking is not allowed at an OGM! - even if it is inqurate." Suitably chastened, naughty boy Reuben put the cigarette out quickly enough, and will surely now think twice before insulting the Godfather again.

# The West Riding Pub and the BNP

Dear Editor

I am writing regarding the events of the evening of the 10th March, and your report that appeared in the 18th March edition of your paper. I would like to point out a number of factual inaccuracies that appeared in this report.

As usual early on a Thursday evening I was drinking in the West Riding. On the way down I had been requested by members of AFA to check whether BNP supporters were in the pub.

They were not, and the doors of the pub were locked to prevent their entry. When four BNP supporters were cornered outside against these doors, the police asked to bring them through and away from the demonstration. The landlord was totally against this, but did eventually agree to let them be locked in between the inside and outside doors of the pub porch. There they remained for some 40 minutes, during which time ANL and AFA protesters gathered outside the pub. One

drunk dickhead gave a straight (left) arm salute to wind them up, but he was told where to go by both pub staff and other drinkers.

Eventually the police did bring all four BNP supporters through the pub. There was no support for them at all from the clientele, which suggests that your claim of "other BNP members" being present was incorrect. Perhaps your reporter saw my shaved head through the front window, and put two and two together to make five.

In conclusion, I would be very grateful if you would print this letter. The West Riding is not a Nazi pub and deserves to have its name cleared.

Yours,  
Steve

*Editors Reply:* We did not wish to imply that the West Riding was a Nazi pub - the fact that someone inside the pub goaded the demonstrators led us to believe that there were other BNP supporters inside the pub.

## Nice guy bouncers

Dear Editor

I was glad to see the recent article on local club bouncers, as it provides me with the perfect prompting to write this letter.

I attended the Warehouse's *Anything Goes* Friday club last month and was having a good time with my friends until I moved up to dance on the stage area.

One of the men leaning against the wall was groping the woman dancing in front of him and when they demanded that he stop, he would pretend that he didn't know what they were talking about, or pretend that someone next to him was the perpetrator, despite witnesses to his behaviour.

After this happened to me twice, despite me having made it clear to him after the first time that such behaviour was inappropriate, I sought a bouncer at the club to complain about this man and told him to stop or he would be ejected from the club. With this the man left the area, and we were free to dance unmolested.

It is too bad that this man didn't have basic respect for the women around him, sadder still that he would not respond to the requests of those he disturbed. As such, I appreciated the fact that

when I did call upon the representatives of the club to impress upon this man the gravity of the offence, they were responsive and helpful. I want to extend my respect to the bouncers at the Warehouse for a job that requires at minimum attentiveness, tact, and, regrettably, the occasional show of strength.

The fact that they can still be friendly to boot only makes it all the more pleasant to go to the club, and I'm glad to know that they are effective at making it a safe place for everyone.

When I arrived at Leeds I remember reading an article about people who have had bad experiences with bouncers, and I'm glad to report that I have been among those who can report nothing of the sort.

As I frequent the Warehouse on many of their club nights during the week, I am glad to say I find it to be among one of the most friendly places I have been to.

The Warehouse bouncers are an important part of my good impression, and I want to thank them for helping make my nights out safe and enjoyable.

Sincerely,

Irene J Nexica

## Irresponsible Network

Dear Editor,

I am not Asian or black or Jewish, and I do not belong to any extreme left wing organisation or anti-fascist group. Yet I was staggered by Network FM's complacent interview with the BNP broadcast at the end of last term. In a free society Network FM should be able to interview any group, but this freedom carries with it some journalistic responsibility.

Because Network FM seems oblivious to the BNP's politics, I feel I must enlighten them. Here is a sample of BNP philosophy:

The Holocaust, in which the Nazis murdered six million Jews; publicly the BNP say it never happened; privately they believe that Jews are racially 'sub-human' and every Jewish man, woman and child should be exterminated.

Immigration: publicly the BNP want all non-whites, even third generation British citizens to be repatriated (ie 'returned') to countries which many of them have never even visited); privately

they say that immigration is a plot invented by the international Jewish/Zionist conspiracy to dilute and weaken the white race.

On a recent Radio 4 interview, broadcaster and Holocaust survivor Rabbi Hugo Grimm asked a senior BNP official the simple question: "Why do you hate the Jews so much?" I cannot understand why Network chose to avoid this central topic especially since their interview was broadcast just as 'Schindler's List' was being shown all over Leeds.

Anyone in the Leeds area who has suffered racial violence, or whose relatives include Holocaust victims, could have been greatly distressed by the tone of the interview. For their sake I suggest that Network broadcast an apology. Meanwhile the next time there is a racist or anti-semitic attack in the Leeds area I shall think of Network's cosy little chat with the BNP.

Yours sincerely,  
James Dixon

The Editor  
Leeds Student  
Leeds University Union  
PO Box 157  
Leeds LS1 1UH

Letters should be addressed to the Editor and clearly marked for publication. The Editor reserves the right to edit letters, which should be no longer than 300 words. The deadline for letters is the Tuesday preceding publication.

# How petty small-minded bureaucrats are punishing the teams

The bureaucracy ticks over. The big-wigs at the University Athletic Union (UAU) were owed £223 of the £4,000 fee demanded of LMU, so - game over, nil points. Never mind the 'University' bit in UAU - marking it as an institution created to serve students. After all, rules are rules.

UAU officials can smile smugly, secure in the knowledge that LMUSU will never again forget to fail to send their money in on time. A lesson has been learned, and the guilty punished. But have they?

Louise Brooks and co, while feeling mildly miffed at getting their knuckles rapped, will not suffer from the decision by UAU to ban LMU clubs from their championships. The only people truly affected by the decision are the sportsmen and women who give up their time, energy and effort in order to train.

The pinnacle of any sportsperson's ambition is to be accepted on to a team, and once there to have the opportunity to compete with other teams. The UAU committee cannot have intended to frustrate the aspirations of these blameless

## LEEDS STUDENT

individuals, and their action in doing so can therefore be interpreted as little more than a petty attempt to somehow 'get back at' LMUSU's admittedly dire-administrative goofs. It is rather shabby, and says little for good relations between the two Leeds universities that John Rose, General Secretary and perhaps more pertinently an ex-Sports Sec of Leeds University Union, is an

executive member of the UAU and chaired the general council meeting which voted to ban LMU.

Rose, who has competed for Leeds University on both the Hockey and Ski teams, must appreciate the pride and delight individuals in sports clubs feel at representing their university. As Chair of the committee Rose took the easy way out and abstained on the vote, but LMU students must

now be wondering whether, if it was his own institution which was to be banned, Rose would have taken the same course of action.

Most other university towns are characterised by a burning hatred between its university and its ex-polytechnic. It is to the credit of Leeds that the same cannot be said here. Both LMUSU officials and students must feel let down by Rose, and not unjustified in their expectation that LUU's General Secretary should have fought for their institution as hard as if it was his own.

The shame is that the sports

teams of LMU aren't just any old teams aiming to compete at university level. The majority of these teams consistently excel at their given sport. Last year, in its final year in the BPSA (British Polytechnics Sports Association) LMU won the award for best overall college in both winter and summer sports. This year, the brand new university expected to rattle the cage of the older institutions. It's preposterous that these athletes, all for a minor administrative balls up, are being deprived of their chance to do so.

## SPOTLIGHT

LMU's new prestige accommodation will not be ready in time for the next academic year. *Jonathan Gunning* asks if Leeds students are getting value for money

Despite university plans, students do not want expensive en suite accommodation. Many of next year's students will pay more than £300 extra a year for an en suite shower and toilet, despite the fact that a *Leeds Student* survey shows that nearly all students want cheaper flats with shared bathrooms.

But the en suite flats look set to replace the popular old-style flats as part of both universities' accommodation plans.

Leeds Metropolitan University is currently building 800 en suite rooms at Kirkstall Brewery with an expected rent of £43 per week.

Leeds University is doing the same, opening 600 en suite places at their Clarence Dock development in 1995. With 240 en suite places at Sentinel Towers, and 490 similar rooms at Devonshire and Oxley Halls going on-line in October, 88 per cent of University accommodation built since 1993 has been of this exclusive variety. By next year, 19 per cent of Leeds University accommodation will be en suite.

The crunch for students is the difference in cost between the two types of accommodation and the swing to building more expensive, exclusive facilities which will deny students a choice as numbers at Leeds continue to rise.

Next year, a non-en suite room in the new Devonshire flats will cost £1,542 per year, while an en suite room will cost £1,860, a difference of more than £300.

Carl Potter, Director of

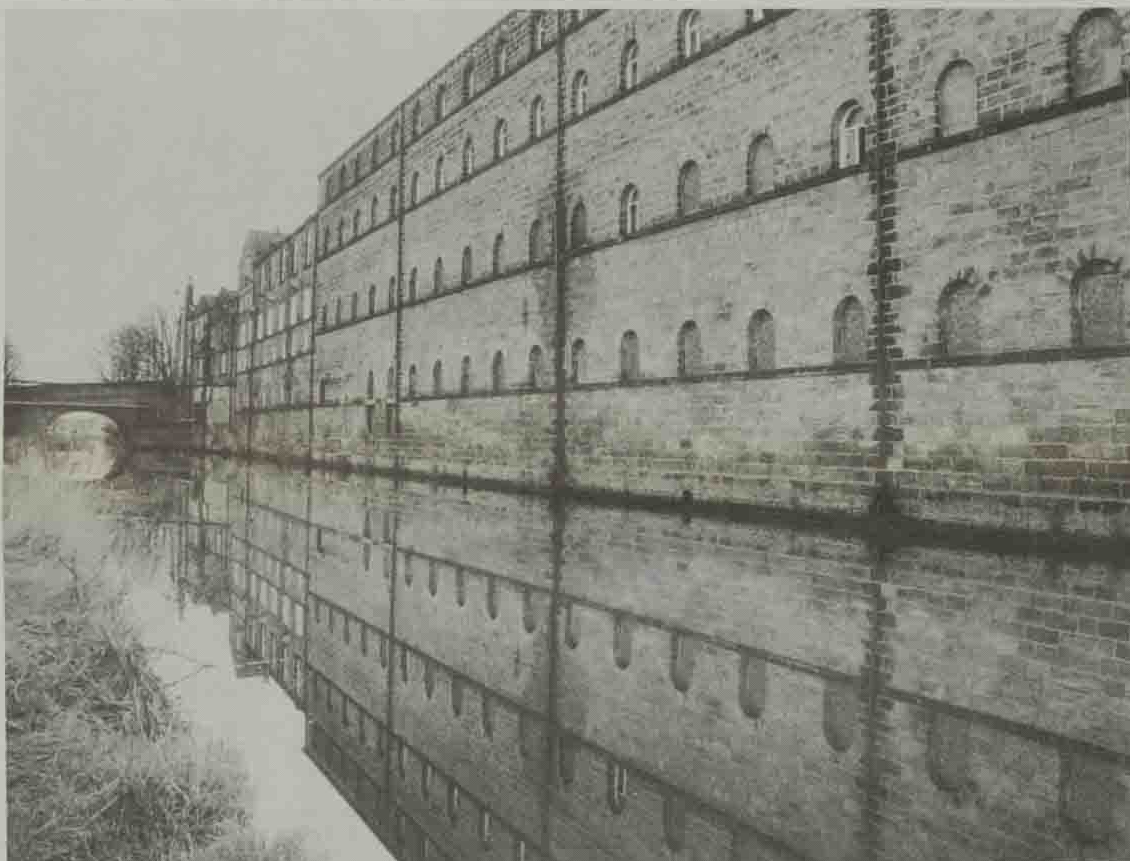
the Division of Residential and Catering Services at the University, does not foresee any problems. His plans cater for what he describes as the "rise in student expectation" regarding term-time homes. "We are in a competitive situation," he argues, "and must provide accommodation matching expectation, as this is a factor in choice of university."

Had there been any survey done to assess student preference? "No," said Potter. "Although experimental, we are going on the experience of other universities, where finding sufficient demand for new en suite rooms has not been a problem."

But first years are not so sure and feel that choice is already being eroded. Kirstie Lang, until recently resident at Sentinel Towers, complained: "I did not enter by clearing but was still told that the only available flats were at Sentinel Towers. They [the accommodation office] said I could either apply there or ring up a week before the start of term to see if there was anything else. I didn't want to risk it."

Another resident who wished to remain anonymous said: "I was told that everything else was taken but subsequently found this not the case." Mr Potter would not accept that students had been put in higher cost flats against their wishes. "They must have put Sentinel Towers down as first or second choice or they would not have been placed there," he said.

Potter said that it had not become the policy to build



Top flats for the top hats

totally en suite accommodation, but did admit that there were no plans for 'normal', cheaper flats in the pipeline.

It is no secret that University flats and halls of residence are let to people attending conferences and even to families for holidays during University vacations to generate useful income. Potter acknowledged that the new en suite facilities at Devonshire and Oxley Halls were attractive as conference suites because they have adjoining catering facilities, although he described this as a "fringe benefit" only.

Leeds Student surveyed 200 students chosen at random from James Baillie and Henry Price flats. Residents were asked whether they would be prepared to pay the extra for en suite facilities based on the

difference between both styles of flats at Devonshire Hall (i.e. £320 per year at £8 per week for 39 weeks). An overwhelming 94 per cent said they would rather keep the money, and share a bathroom with their flatmates. One student complained: "That would be most of my grant gone even before I'd paid any bills."

Kelly Slater, a Geography and Sociology student, felt the same: "With grants getting cut, it's ridiculous to expect anyone to pay £8 a week for a toilet and shower."

Someone who has tried to convince the accommodation office of student opinion on this matter is the Leeds University Union Welfare Officer Ceri Nursaw. In a letter to Potter she voiced the "severe reservations" the Union had that, at Clarence

Dock, "students will have to pay approximately £5 a week for a facility they could do without".

Although the Union has been involved in the planning of accommodation Nursaw feels that some propositions have "fallen on deaf ears". She said: "We have been pushing for 'student user groups' to be set up for future developments." These groups would liaise with planners and consist of students in accommodation similar to that being proposed along with second and third years with useful experience of living in University flats.

"The University has got cheap accommodation," she said, "but there is not enough of it." She agreed that this may have been behind the panicking of some students into signing for Sentinel

Towers last year.

All the evidence indicates that Leeds students do not want expensive accommodation with en suite bathrooms. But this is increasingly what they will be forced to choose, as all new accommodation is to be en suite.

Staggeringly, neither university has undertaken any research into what students actually want. It seems clear that in developing Sentinel Towers, Kirkstall Breweries and Devonshire Flats, the universities are pursuing their own agenda, more interested in attracting conferences than listening to their own students.

● *Additional reporting by Amelia Hill and Toby Wakely*

# Where the wild things are...

## Hunchback of Notre Dame

West Yorkshire Playhouse

Director Phelim McDermott and designer Julian Crouch have some very weird ideas. To tell the story of the hunchback and the gypsy Esmeralda, they have assembled a cast of six who play both the citizens of Paris and a group of gargoylish characters who inhabit the inner recesses of the cathedral and narrate the tale. But sometimes the cast are also a guild of thieves who celebrate the Feast of Fools by dressing up and appearing as a group of gargoylish characters.

The play is an adaptation of Victor (Les Misérables) Hugo's 'Notre Dame de Paris' and the joint team of director and designer have turned a fairly conventional tragic melodrama of injustice and misplaced love into a weird dreamlike exploration of the underside of a fairytalish medieval Paris.



The backdrop is the huge interior of the cathedral whose dark arches loom continually over the proceedings. However, sometimes the play takes place in the streets or interiors of Paris which are demonstrated by several movable buildings operated by actors, and at other times the action takes place on or around a twelve foot high model of Notre Dame. The play has two court scenes one presided over by a giant fish, the other by a three foot head. Altogether it demonstrates a range of characters and special effects which are wonderful, grotesque and more than a little menacing. But ultimately the play still fails to convince that it actually has anything to say.

While the set, atmosphere and general ensemble are excellent, the story remains pretty thin. Its themes of infatuation and prejudice are not given any contemporary relevance and in the end the effects seem strangely without purpose and the play baffles without raising any important questions.

Eleanor Rose

## Tom and Viv

Hyde Park Picture House

Tom, an American, leaves his house at 6am and proceeds to his new job at Faber and Faber at a stately walking pace. Viv, an Englishwoman, leaves the path of accepted social behaviour as soon as she can and proceeds towards the lunatic asylum at the speed of a monkey slipping down a greasy pole. At what time do they pass each other? At wedding time, naturally.

Brian Gilbert's version of the story of Vivienne Haigh-Wood's marriage to T.S. Eliot wants very much to concentrate on the opposing trajectories of a woman determined to shrug off all things English and a man determined to epitomise Englishness: but because this is a tell-the-untold-story film, it finds it has an obligation to keep in perfect step within the tandem of Viv's life, and so the plot hinges on the issue of her health.

By all accounts Haigh-Wood was a nascent literary talent, who suffered from a condition that today would be treated with HRT but which in the 20s was understood as 'moral insanity': the refusal to accept one's social obligations and duties. An 'over-active pituitary gland' caused a havoc-ridden menstrual cycle which in turn resulted in an objectionable woman saying up yours to tea dances and finger buffets. The condition was assumed to be untreatable and left only one option - committal to a lunatic asylum.

Miranda Richardson plays a Viv who, Hamlet-like, is capable of far greater insight than the world around her - but her antic disposition is adopted largely out of desperation. The odds are too enormous for Viv to find justice in a society that refuses to recognise the help she has given to Eliot, and so the scenario gives a shake and becomes one where Viv effectively commits herself to the asylum since this is the only way she can give

her life some weight - by morally transcending society. Feminism in film has not yet come far enough to offer a debate about this aspect: and to do so would largely have been a mistake since the film's extraordinary power lies in Viv's solitude against a monolith of medical and legal prejudice.

Liz Ekstein

## Doug Anthony Allstars

St George's Hall

I have become increasingly baffled as to why ferocious Australian comedians and musicians the Doug Anthony Allstars are not a student institution here, preoccupied as their act is with sex, beer and good old-fashioned bad taste. For those unacquainted with the Allstars Experience, audience members can expect to be propositioned, used and abused by three voracious comic talents, whose targets can include Oprah, the E.E.C. and your friendly neighbourhood bestiality merchant, while being serenaded in the most exquisite fashion you could expect committed Satan-worshippers to manage.

After such a description I concede that a dearth of mainstream media exposure is clearly to blame for their public anonymity, television appearances having been restricted to late-night cabaret shows of decidedly variable quality. Apparently seeking to change all that by the sweat of their own brows they have spent recent months feverishly touring Britain to forge the exposure they deserve.

This would explain the air of fatigue about tonight's show. D.A.A.S.'s cardinal comedy sin is relying on old material, and tonight was no exception. Perhaps a break is needed to expand on the new pieces sparingly exhibited tonight, a lament for Kurt Cobain being an obvious but typically well-executed example. While the lads still charmed the pants off the audience we saw too infrequent

glimpses of aspects which, if developed, could make their act even more splendid than it rather exasperatingly remains, namely the camaraderie between the three of them, their capacity to digress at both their own and the audience's initiation, and the glorious chill factor that their token 'straight number' always brings (tonight the Hunters & Collectors' 'Throw Your Arms Around Me').

The Doug Anthony Allstars were tonight just plain good. They should be outstanding on every occasion.

Hannah Jones

## Wildlife Photography Exhibition

NMPFT Bradford

This exhibition is a selection of prize-winning studies of life in the wild. The emphasis is on the diversity and wonder that the natural world holds. As such the sixteen categories including animal behaviour, animal portraits, in praise of the wetlands, the underwater world, and the world in our hands allowed for the full scope of wildlife photography to be represented.

The National Museum of Photography, Film and Television have carefully prepared the atmosphere to give visitors the best conditions in which to appreciate the power of a picture. As soon as you enter the room the dim light envelops you and the evocative sounds of the wild penetrate your thoughts. These acoustics bring forward scenes such as a busy beach, a rainforest, and early morning birdsong, from anywhere in the world. The effect is moody, calming and immediate.

It was easy to appreciate the behaviour section as it had both depth and humour, in particular the orang-utan stretching down for a drink and a special shot

of two grasshoppers. The photographer, Christoph Burki from Switzerland said, "one was keeping a watchful eye on my behaviour" as the sneaky insects were peeking over the edge of a leaf.

This year's winner of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year was Martin Colbeck from the UK with a bull elephant dusting. This stark close-up is exceptional in detail and originality. This exhibition is like watching several wildlife programmes running simultaneously. The light and life that are displayed gives a sensitive and very personal view of the wild on our planet.

Harriet Walker

## Robert Clark

LMU Gallery

Robert Clark, a Sheffield based artist and writer is exhibiting 'My Little World' at the LMU. The exhibition depicts a series of nocturnal processes, in which Clark, using a spectrum of light and dark projects a pained mental voyage.

His art is as allusive as the poetry that accompanies it. While the former is constructed largely out of numerous protuberances, distorted noses, metal pins etc; the latter spits forth the subconscious in an almost dyslexic medium. There's nothing particularly novel about distorted visual images, and disturbed language being used to symbolise a distorted mind. However, Clark's crudity and subtle humour at once distinguishes, and rescues him from accusations of pretension.

His juxtaposing of sex, scribing and scraping inspires humorous images. His play on concepts such as 'Odious Rex' combine the art world with a much needed tongue-in-cheek humour. Often funny, sometimes obscure, this is an ultimately fascinating exhibition.

Sara Buys



# Love, love me do

**Backbeat**  
Odeon Cinema

Backbeat is the story of the 'fifth Beatle'. Not Pete Best, the hapless drummer, but Stuart Sutcliffe, bass player and best friend of John Lennon. He travelled to Hamburg with the band in the early 60's where he fell in love with cultured German photographer Astrid Kirchherr. Choosing to stay with Astrid and pursue his more promising career as an artist Sutcliffe left the band before they encountered superstardom, yet died of a brain haemorrhage shortly afterwards at the age of twenty-two.

This film will surely mean many things to many people. Firstly, it rejects the popular conception of one our national treasures as cheesy mop-top scousers in favour of a more gritty sex-drugs-and-rock-and-roll kind of truth. It also contributes to two of the cinema's current debates, namely the ethics of the 'faction' movie and the state of the industry in this country (all hail debutant Brit director Iain Softley). But lastly, Backbeat will mean most to people because it is a love story.

Softley presents us with appealing period detail and plenty of stirring musical numbers recreated in a convincing 'early Beatles' style but the development of the band is merely a backdrop here to the playing of a timeless human love triangle. The relationship of Stuart and Astrid (the former played with conviction, cool beauty and a just about serviceable Scouse accent by American pretty boy Stephen Dorff) is touchingly and upliftingly portrayed. Yet the real dynamism about the situation, and indeed about the whole of Backbeat, is the presence of John Lennon, an immaculate performance by Ian Hart. Not only was John jealous of Stuart's relationship with an intelligent, intriguing and beautiful woman, but he clearly resented her intrusion into his uncommonly profound and affectionate friendship with Stuart.

With the kind of humour typified by a liberality of Lennon's famous dry one-liners Backbeat scores some cracking artistic goals, for it is convincing, warm, witty and thought-provoking throughout. Its lasting effect is to shed an ironic light on the subsequent life of John Lennon, destined like his cherished friend to die young after falling desperately in love with a woman whose culture and influence perverted the course everyone else wanted his life to take.

Hannah Jones



Sheryl Lee as Astrid Kirchherr

**Mother's Boys**  
Odeon Cinema

There has been a veritable drought in serious thriller releases over the last four to five years. We've had sports movies, buddy movies and a child protegee renaissance, but the steady stream of thrillers that graced the late 80's (best remembered for Fatal Attraction) seems to have dried up. *Mother's Boys*, on paper at least, is a monsoon.

Jamie Lee Curtis, who looks seriously evil on the promotional shots, plays Jude Madigan, mother of three and husband to Robert (Peter Gallagher), who mysteriously went "walkabout" three years ago. When she suddenly reappears, begging forgiveness and understanding, the lives of a now stable family are thrown into turmoil. When they suggest that she is no longer welcome...well, don't get between mother and her boys!

So, that was the plan. Nutty mother gets scary with her former family. How has it turned out? "Second rate regurgitated dross" seems a fair and just assessment. Canadian Director Yves Simoneau has attempted to stick together all the highlights of thriller history. He's got the trusted but schizo woman, a blameless family and some cute kids but the plot that was to glue it all together is an unstructured 96 minute ramble. I can quite honestly say that half the events of the film happen for no apparent reason,

the result being that you just don't care what happens to poor cute innocent boys.

Jamie Lee Curtis is a sterling headcase, but the rest of the cast seem to flop around with no real purpose and as a result *Mother's Boys* is a truly poor film made up of an unconnected sequence of 'scary' shots, hammily acted with a weak plot. This film lacks direction and the cast haven't a spare map to hand

Martin Cole

**Fearless**  
Pictureville Cinema

Beginning in the aftermath of a horrific plane crash Peter Weir's tenth film *Fearless* opens with successful architect Max Klein (Jeff Bridges) leading a group of survivors from the scene of the wreckage. Elated by his near death experience Klein subsequently believes in his own mortality, proceeding to defy fate; by eating strawberries, (to which he is fatally allergic) peering off tall buildings and strolling across busy streets in slow motion, displaying scant regard for his green cross code!

Klein's behaviour causes a rift to develop between himself and his wife (Isabella Rossellini) as her initial concern turns into animosity. Unable to relate anyone who didn't experience the crash and equally unwilling to acknowledge its traumatic effect he parades across the screen in a show of either supreme arrogance or plain insanity.

Worried by Klein's symptoms of self

denial the psychiatrist employed by airline (John Turturro) brings him together with Carla (Rosie Perez) shell shocked after losing her baby son in the accident hoping that their relationship will be mutually therapeutic.

Henceforth, the film is transformed from the study of a man avoiding his own mortality to a tale of personal rehabilitation. In common with Weir's earlier work (*Dead Poets Society*, *Witness*) aims to present large issues on a small scale, which occasionally necessitates short cuts being taken with the portrayal of characters. The stereotypical parents in *Dead Poets Society* are mirrored here by the unscrupulous disaster lawyers flocking like vultures at the scent of a damages suit.

Predictably Bridges is watchable throughout, brooding and intense his acting style is so natural you feel tempted to jump onto the screen to join him since this thespian lark looks dead easy! Maybe, within the confines of a \$20 million picture Weir struggles to deal properly with his themes of death, trauma and recovery, but *Fearless* still manages to pack an emotional and intellectual punch that is hard to parry.

Akin Ojumu

**Commissioning next  
week will take place at  
5.00p.m.on Tuesday.**

## cogito

You've seen the *Evil Dead*. You've experienced *The Exorcist*. You've discovered first hand that your dreams can turn to *Nightmares on Elm Street*. You have, in fact, plumbed the depths of fictional horror stories. But now they're back. And this time they're angry. Because it's not fantasy any more. This time, unfortunately, it's the rest of your life.

Yup. It's time to look for a job. (Cue *Benny Hill* music.) This is supposed to be an "Arts" column. But I figure that instead of waffling on about the difference between *Schindler's List* and *Philadelphia* (one's quite good, the other's named after a city on the eastern seaboard of the United States) I'd raffle lightly through a little something which will concern us all eventually. 'Cos there's no business like show business, but unless you're careful, you'll end up with no business at all. Bo!

It's the time of year when the finalists amongst us divide themselves cleanly down the middle into two distinct and equally unattractive groups. There is the group of people who have spent the last three years planning their assault on the outside world, and then there's the arts students. Err... Well. I thought about publishing. Um... Maybe the media... If you haven't found yourself in the middle of a conversation about the *afterlife* yet then I have a piece of advice for you.

Lie. Lie like hell. The next time somebody asks you if you've got anything lined up for next year, take a deep breath, clear your throat and then spin them the most fantastic piece of bullshit you can come up with. No! Take a couple of moments right now and come up with a plausible story. Or better. An implausible story. Because, let's face it, nothing could be more implausible than the parental myth about leaving university and getting a job doing something that you're qualified for.

"Well. I wrote a piece once for my school magazine about koalas. And the World Wildlife Fund saw it, so next year I'm going on a sponsored llama-spotting expedition in the outer spiral of the East Andes."

"I met this bloke when I was working for a meat-packing firm last summer who said he was a musician, and I didn't believe him, but he's been number one in Finland now for fifteen weeks and needs a fan-dancer for his next video."

"I'm joining the cabinet as their Basics consultant."

"I'm going to be a Bangalese train-spotter."

"My uncle got me a job as he next Nescafe woman."

"I've landed a placement at ICI as a human test-tube. (Knew all those lunchtimes in the Old Bar would come in handy for something.)"

"My fairy godmother's employing me to dust her sparkly tutus."

"I applied for this job that I saw in the paper, went for an interview, and got it."

Good luck.

Emma Hartley

# LONDON CALLING!



**Blur**  
*Parklife (food)*

Two years ago, seventeen bands down the bill, Blur were the undisputed shock highlight of the Glastonbury Festival. As people gathered half heartedly to watch yesterday's indie funsters, Blur went re-invention apeshit. Damon (Madness suit, National Health specs) hung upside down from the scaffolding, thirty foot off the stage, screaming into a megaphone while the band pogoed through some bastard of punk and trashed their equipment. Having been kicked squarely in the chops and sent down by the entire music industry, Blur's story is one of virtually unique resilience. They've resurfaced again, less than a year after 'Modern Life Is Rubbish' with an album rush released to clear their accumulated debts.

And what a pulaver, guv nor, this one's all over the shop. They've roped in Stephen Hague, Stephen Street, Laetitia Strolab, Phil 'Quadrophonia' Daniels; brass sections, cheeky keyboards and harpsichord tomfoolery abound and it's hard to tell if Blur are taking the piss or trying to make seriously splendid music. Consequently, at least three publications, not to mention Paul Weller, decide they're The Best Band In England.

It's not all as immediately great as 'Modern Life...' but amongst the sixteen tracks, there are two of their best songs ever, 'Trouble In The Message Centre' and 'Parklife'. 'To The End' sees Damon just about pulling off a Scott Walkerish croon and 'Bank Holiday' is so fast and so good it's just daft. What makes Blur truly special, however, is Damon's lyrics. Who else could celebrate the banality of English life with lines like "A golfing fanatic/ But his putt is erratic" and "The kids are eating Snickers/ Because they're so delicious"? It's been done before (The Kinks, The Small Faces) but never with quite as much irreverence. No one sings the words "Grandma has new dentures/ To eat the crust on pizza", for goodness sake.

Cynical and celebratory of England in equal measures, as erratic as our very weather, these London larger loafers really might be the best band we have right now.

Johnny Davis

## McKoy

*Full Circle (Hightrack)*

McKoy are evidently in no rush. The immediate club classic 'Family' was released as far back as early 1991, and since both it and its follow-up 'Fight' are pivotal elements of this debut album my calculations indicate that 'Full Circle' has been over three years in the making.

So unless McKoy have transpired to be perfectionists of Knopflerian proportions, the delay must surely be attributed to arguably more pressing commitments. Noel McKoy himself completed an entire album in the interim with the James Taylor Quartet, and while 'Supernatural Feeling' is unequivocally JTQ's most accomplished and captivating work to date, 'Full Circle' suffers both by comparison and through its subordinate position along the order of priorities.

It is worth concentrating on Noel McKoy here, for although this is ostensibly a family project - the McKoys have together been working on and off for nearly twenty years in various guises, and have nurtured a gospel-tinged vocal arrangement with Noel's Terence Trent D'Arby guttural lead as its fulcrum - Noel emerges from 'Full Circle' as both lead vocalist and multi-instrumentalist, easing his family into awkward anonymity.

'Full Circle' certainly has potential, if not only for the calibre of its alumni: collaborators on various tracks include JTQ, Snowboy, Steve Williamson and former Snowboy trombonist Joe De Jesus. Yet this obvious potential remains latent and untapped: save the two singles and perhaps 'Lucky Fellow', a hazy adventure through a

fusion of brass, strings and seductive vocals more poignant for highlighting what could have been, the McKoy project appears disjointed and notable for its absence of discernible originality. That said, innovation in the neo-jazz fusion market is increasingly hard to come by, in Britain at least, so perhaps McKoy should not be scapegoated. The salient and frustrating point is that 'Full Circle' could have been exceptional, given a more focused and cohesive effort. Maybe next time.

Martin Beauchamp

## The Brand New Heavies

*Brother Sister (Acid Jazz)*

This one has been knocking about for a bit but with the threat of the sun this scene comes into its own and reevaluation must surely now be necessary. 'Brother Sister' is a double LP of souled out jazz swingers with that same, much sought after, lack of emotional maturity that appeared on the previous album. While lyrics of positivity and love still burst from every track their music has had several extra layers of fiddly bits whacked in for good measure.

For all the right reasons The Brand New Heavies have become a flagship band for the Acid Jazz label. Not only are they enormous live but they consistently out fox the competition with the creation of darn brilliant commercial albums that don't lose them spotter points. The way they drip the track, 'Keep Together', into the jam of 'Snake Hips' is pure performance. It seems incredible that with such enormous vocal talent N'Dea Davenport has only recently taken along her passport photo and fiver to gain full membership into this

remarkable clique.

'Brother Sister' pours forth a selection of songs that are recognisable on her vocal alone but are created by the talent of the boys behind. The jazz vibe of 'Fake' and the laid back 'People Giving Love', the slinked out 'Dream on Dreamer' are all potential singles that rely on great song writing without falling back on self-indulgent jamming. Fine threads, smooth tracks, and a cracking album.

Alex Sanders

## Pink Floyd

*The Division Bell (EMI)*

Let us be frank even though Pink Floyd have been with us for over twenty five years they died in 1979 and really ceased to be relevant to anything. After the release of their first album the band leader Syd Barrett took one trip too many and went home to live with his mother leaving the guitar position vacant and allowing young userper Dave Gilmour to step in. David is the man who thinks fifteen minute guitar solos are a great idea even though everyone pointed out as far back as 1975 that they weren't.

David Gilmour is Pink Floyd thus guaranteeing sixty minutes of mind numbing tediousity. Sod this, you either bought it the day it came out or you don't give a toss. In case you are mildly interested The Division Bell is utter shite. Even worse is that it's callously calculated shite.

The first track 'Cluster One' brings back images of the classics as 'Wish you were here'. Excitement builds, Pink Floyd have realised they are the founding fathers of ambient house and are coming to reclaim their throne, unfortunately it turns into AOR cack.

The lyrics are morose but pretend to be deep, thus allowing Pink Floyd to assume an artistic stance. The front cover is decorated with specially commissioned sculptures but it all seems so laughable as Pink Floyd could fart for forty five minutes and still get a number one album. To many bands rely on past success to sell millions of records but what make Pink Floyd even more annoying is their total sincerity. Surely no-one is naive enough to believe that the motivation behind The Division Bell came from the emotional desire to make music rather than the emotional desire to make money.

Matt Ball

**CRASH!**

*This week's Best Selling singles*

*Matty at the controls*

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Sonic Youth       | Bull in the Heather    |
| 2 Killing Joke      | Millennium             |
| 3 Jah Wobble        | Becoming More Like God |
| 4 Counting Crows    | Mr. Jones              |
| 5 Stiltskin         | Inside                 |
| 6 The Cranberries   | Dreams                 |
| 7 Cypress Hill      | Lick A Shot            |
| 8 T-Empo            | Saturday Night...      |
| 9 Autechre          | 3 X 10" Box Set        |
| 10 Inspiral Carpets | Uniform                |



# not worth the weight



**Rollins Band**  
*Weight (Imago)*

Henry Rollins is the type of guy that men and women love to hate, a quasi new-man/pop intellectual who always wears his heart on sleeve. This would be acceptable if the quality of his music matched the sentiments he was trying to express, unfortunately this is not the case on *Weight*.

Assuming that the Rollins Band are reaching the peak of their career, they seem determined to make the transformation from dodgy rock combo to mega sell-out rock combo. Although the record has powerful intentions, the resulting fusion of heavy rock/funk is an unimaginative procession that succeeds in exorcising all the integrity from the former and all the fun from the latter genre.

At least the band cannot be accused of trying to deceive the public, the hopelessly contrived picture of the lads looking like a collection of Armani men (ummm sexy!) and the Mister Men (not so sexy). The second image is an accurate description of their obsession with being serious pop spokesmen, Rollins's defence of the male sex against feminists on *Wrong Man* is cringeworthy in the extreme, but only one of a variety of embarrassing moments that litter this album.

Certainly not a record for the faint hearted, I had to struggle manfully against my better instincts as power chords and Henry Rollins stentorian rantings combined to try and deprive the reviewer of his faith in the wonders of modern music. The most annoying aspect about the whole thing is the glaring lack of lyrical and musical subtlety pervading throughout, I know that is not what the Rollins Band are striving to achieve, but that is no excuse for such a tired sounding bunch of songs.

Akin Ojumu

**Hole**

*Live through this (City Slang)*

It's a cynical thing to say, but what with Kurt Cobain's tragic suicide and the ensuing media frenzy, the release of this album couldn't have come at a better time for Hole's Courtney Love. She's in the public eye more than ever before, and now would be the ideal time for her to show what she's made of.

In terms of fame, she continues to live in her late husband's shadow. To most she'll always be Cobain's drug addict widow, as depicted in certain American magazines. This album, however, makes it much easier to accept Courtney, on a musical level at least, on her own terms. Sure, there are plenty of traces of Nirvana, but almost inevitably these days Kurt's influences can be seen in every indie/grunge-type band, and the woman who shared in the last couple of years of his megastar life can hardly be expected not to have had anything rub off on her.

Even so, this is certainly not the remake of *Nevermind* that may have been expected. Far from it. Instead, Courtney has taken the vicious snarling thrash of Hole's earlier releases, injected a slight pop sensibility and even added a few 'classic' (as opposed to 'alternative') rock nuances - some parts sound more like the Beatles than Babes in Toyland.

This is almost certainly Hole's last chance to make it big, at least as far as America is concerned. What's more, they've made an excellent record to go with the hype. Not the greatest the world has ever seen, but better than a hole in the head.

Joe Williams

**Pulp His 'N' Hers (Island)**  
*Spicelab The Orbit*

Pulp's world is one stuck permanently in a misplaced adolescence in everytown circa 1975. His 'N' Hers logs a diary of what everyone goes through at some time between puberty and getting a real job. Sheffield references no longer fill the songs to the extent they used to and yes, now they're talking to you too. This is a time in which the lemonade light filters through the trees and a bottle of cider is put in the river to chill.

The sound of the record is, well, mad. Anyone must be insane to make something that sounds as wonderful as this. It's littered with the experimentation in wacky sound effects and studio gizmos that ruined loads of record from the 70s. This time Pulp get it right, and the superbly bizarre production takes Jarvis' compelling diary ten steps further than their already superb live show.

This same loopy experimentation and indulgence in gizmos gives Oliver Lieb (aka Spicelab) the edge when playing live, taking the opportunity to give our ears a good battering. If any of the tracks on his *Lost In Spice* album had a tendency to lose the plot (all four are each about 17 minutes long), the bits he treats us to here are some of the most magnificent slabs of techno to have ever come from Frankfurt's Harthouse label. And when the 162 bpm mayhem of the wiggled-out off-killer beauty that is 'Pyrospice' hits the crowd, no-one's sure whether to groove or move. Lieb remains almost completely oblivious to everyone here, but still churns out almost an hour of blindingly bloody brilliant sounds. Nutters, the lot of them.

Stephen Dick

**Maceo Parker**  
*Leeds University*

There were two very different factions parading their colours outside the union last Saturday night. The first were the ravers, all maniacally chewing gum. The second group may not have been so obvious, but the funkateers on their to see Maceo Parker in the Riley Smith Hall were no less dedicated to finding the right groove than the pillheads at Ark.

Even before the cheesesome threesome had taken to the stage, the backing band's filthily funky opening instrumental ensured us that we were in for an evening of the rudest music in town. When Maceo and the lads came on, it became obvious why these people played for so long with one of the greatest showmen ever, each solo sizzled with an energy that a man half their age would find difficult to muster. Messrs Parker, Ellis and Wesley saxed and 'boned their way through most of Parker's new album- *Roots Revisited*-throwing in a few J.B. favourites and even a couple of Funkadelic covers. The time in between each solo saw each of the three taking time off to inspect the more attractive of the female audience members, pointing them out to each other and leaving no doubt in my mind that the real object of the evening was not to make music, but sire children...

Finally, a word about the godlike genius of the bass-player, who set himself apart from the rest of the backing band due to a couple of superb solos. Just as well, otherwise he would have been laughed off stage for his bizarre similarity to M.C. Hammer.

What more can I say? Utterly inspirational.

Nick Moffat,



Claire Rowland wears the techno trousers in this house.

**HARDFLOOR**  
*Funalogue (Harthouse)*

Effortlessly wonderful return of Dusseldorf's acid meisters, raising the cult of the squelchy bassline to even greater heights with this 5-track mini LP.

Minimal rhythms build skillfully to climactic 303 wig-outs (check out 'Confuss' and 'Roaragh') without ever losing the sense of stylish control which makes Hardfloor impossible to get bored with. And not a smiley face in sight.

**THE FALL**  
*15 Ways (Permanent)*

Certainly no smiley faces in sight on the lovely Mark E Smith either (just for a change), as he draws out something unintelligible and probably rude about long hair and sneakers on 'Hey Student' and something unintelligible and Cosmopolitan-like about 15 ways to leave your bloke. (Do it girls, there's only 8 ways to keep him.)

**SOUNDGARDEN**  
*The day I tried to live (A & M)*

'Alternative' metal for people with long hair and sneakers.

**ASTRONUTS**  
*Voyager (Eastern Bloc)*

Hard house digs out its trance trousers and goes out cavorting with the likes of Speedy J and Justin Robertson (who sends it bouncing round and round in surprisingly acidic circles). A sweet organ hook if not quite brilliant - best mixes are the *Together as 1* and the *Netherlands Original*.

**RIDE**  
*Birdman (Creation)*

I haven't heard a Dire (sic) record since that one with the wave on the front and as they're still producing those swirly Rickenbacker quagmires of Thames Valley depression I'm glad I didn't bother. "Atoms can't pretend" sings Mark Gardener (probably). Yeah mate - where's the Hardfloor remix?

**SALAD**  
*On a leash EP (Island)*

Wannabe P J Harvey sung by an Edie Brickell impersonator, according to whom "everyone's a little mad, on a voyage round their dad". In other words, wet lettuce.

**BIVOUC**  
*Marked and Tagged EP (Elemental)*

Better than Salad. But then so's chocolate.

# Operetta North

## *La Rondine* Grand Theatre, Leeds

The recent opera North production of Chabrier's *L'Etoile* never left its audience in any doubt about its intentions. From the moment that the chair arrived on stage to execute the hero with a spike through his bottom you knew this was operetta. Their new production of Puccini's *La Rondine* leaves more lingering doubts. Certainly Puccini started with the intention of writing an operetta. He envisaged spoken dialogu and a placid plot-line. But seven years of revisions changed the ending by having the hero leave the heroine, and generally muddled matters.

The swallow (*La Rondine*) at the centre of the piece is a high class prostitute. Her story is one of doomed love. The problem with the opera is that it is never quite doomed enough to engage the audience. The love affair doesn't even begin until the second act, and the opera's conclusion, which leaves both protagonists very much alive is more soap than opera.

The relaxed pace and wry humour of operetta is established in the first scene. Here Magda presides over a lush Second Empire Parisian salon. A fat poet pontificates about the way in which love is coming back into fashion and unaccountably, listless ladies listen - presumably in the absence of any more compelling occupation.

If it were a Merchant-Ivory film this would be the scene set in a turn of the century Cambridge College where eager, fresh faced young men dressed in dinner jackets thrash out the nature of beauty. The Merchant-Ivory analogy doesn't stop there. Magda's heart-stopping first-act aria, which

was well sung by Helen Field, was the one used for the snog-in-a-cornfield scene in the film of *A Room With a View*. Unfortunately the vocal magic is paid for with acres of dramatic tedium. Nothing happens before the end of the first act except the agreement to meet outside at the beginning of the second.

It must be admitted that you can almost feel the director Francesco Zambello, and the designer Bruno Schwengl trying to overcome this. Take the very pretty sets which are transformed from a black swagged salon representing the swallow's bourgeois restraint, to white beach and high blue skies for the women who has flouted convention. Or there was the frenetic tooting and froing of the chorus during the Act II romance and recognition sequences at the cafe. Yes, not much happens between the lovers, but you can overcompensate by having the cafe-chorus everlastingly Toulouse Lautrekking across the back of the stage.

Yet the opera holds your interest in spite of its failure to excite. The usual quality English Northern Philharmonia orchestra couldn't be faulted and Tito Beltran's top As mostly came off. Above all the piece works as entertainment.

Forget about the scenic symbolism and the meditations on the metaphysics of love. *La Rondine* is a very simple story, moderately well told, but set to scrumptious music. This is musical caviar not cod's roe and gives the same simple pleasure.

Christian White



Magda and Ruggero get to grips in the park

## *LUUMS Chorus* Parkinson Court

Mozart's Coronation Mass, written at the age of twenty three was the main work in the last LUUMS chorus concert under Katherine Rushby's direction. The chorus's men sang with a commitment that testified their loyalty to their conductor. The orchestra tended to be bass heavy and used tempo for contrasts which should have been dynamic. Of the soloists Ruth Willcock in particular engaged with the audience. The broad emotion of Gorecki's *Totus Tuus* is best evoked by a large choir and Katherine Rushby exploited the folk-harmonies and rhythms to create a moving performance. The Vaughan Williams Shakespeare Songs were less successful with few singers willing to take responsibility for the difficult lines, but Alex Afia's violin solo had exactly the right balance of sweetness and serenity. The men of the choir banished any hint of insecurity with a perfect performance

of Toch's Geographical Fugue. Their shouting was as committed as their rhythmic accuracy. Nothing could display the group's hard won discipline better.

Elsbeth Findlay

## *St. Matthew Passion* Bradford, St George's Hall Leeds, Town Hall

The Easter season brought prestigious semi-professional performances of the Bach *St Matthew Passion* to both Leeds and Bradford. Though quite separate enterprises, they shared the tenor Mark Tucker who appeared as the Evangelist in Leeds, and sang the arias in Bradford. Tucker set the tone of the Leeds performance, which was one of high drama. This small man's fervent singing propelled the narrative forward in a way that Ian Partridge, performing the same function in Bradford,

never quite managed. Both Passions were in English and to that extent traditional choral society performances which don't tax the audience with an unfamiliar language, and stress the importance of the audience following the story, over authenticity. But the two local choruses under the batons of Simon Wright and David Lloyd-Jones in Leeds and Bradford respectively, were set cracking and thoroughly modern tempi. It was a thrilling experience to hear singing almost comparable with the agility of, say, John Eliot Gardiner's Monteverdi Choir, in an ensemble perhaps five times the size. But only in Leeds was the deftness matched by absolute oneness and clarity of choral sound. This work makes almost intolerable demands upon the performers and both city councils can be justly pleased with their Easter musical showcase. It is only remarkable, that in a secular age, the great religious statements of a devout one should be so bound up with Northern civic pride.

Christian White

## *Carmina Quartet* Temple Newsam Church

The Temple Newsam concert series at St. Mary's Parish Church has top quality chamber music in an idyllic setting. The Carmina Quarter crowned a warm spring evening with great performances of Haydn, Szymanowski and Schubert.

The first movement of Haydn's *Sunrise* quartet demonstrated their ability to produce a perfectly homogenous sound and a wide variety of colour and character; the second movement was beautifully phrased but lacked flow. Not so Szymanowski's *First Quartet*, a varied work which the musicians embraced with absolute commitment. This work is especially suited to the Carmina Quartet's clear, luminous, rather glossy tone. But the highlight was yet to come: Schubert's *Death and the Maiden*. This brought suitably passionate and highly physical playing, nuanced and deliciously formed.

Alex Afia

# The Power of Love

## *A Bone In My Flute*

Holly Johnson (Century £15.99)

It's difficult not to approach this autobiography with some scepticism when the sleeve notes inform you that Holly Johnson is "a multi media artist, singer, songwriter, poet, painter and icon of 80's pop music". Many have preferred to cite the marketing prowess of Paul Morley as a main reason for Frankie Goes To Hollywood's prosperity; any 'multi media' success Holly has had since then has been sadly brief.

It would have been far kinder to bin the embarrassing C.V and write instead that this is a hugely enjoyable, humorous and often bitchy romp through Holly's life, with emphasis firmly on 'being different' and 'buying clothes'. In fact, it has little to do with music at all. It starts with Holly being diagnosed with an "AIDS related illness" just days before Freddy Mercury's death became trivialized and patronised by the tabloid press. The book exists therefore as the opportunity for him to tell the Holly Johnson story before anyone else gets the chance to rewrite it.

From his parent-vexing adolescence to his pop star days its clear that 'moderation' and 'conservative' were not words that he much favoured. The most entertaining bits are his accounts of Liverpoolian adolescence where we are presented with a bewildering array of misfits and outcasts, most of whom have achieved some degree of success and repute (Julian Cope, Ian Boudrie, Aveline of Bread). The gay scene of the time is described in detail and with much relish. On one occasion the reader is informed how Holly lost his virginity to a Manchester primary school headmaster and on another how a British Airways steward "nearly ripped my dick off with his highly developed arse muscles".

Worldwide success and the ensuing fame are dealt with practically as a foregone conclusion with further entertaining revelations (George Michael apparently "can't take his beer", Elton John is "down to earth"), with the music often taking a back seat to an increasingly extravagant and absurd wardrobe. Holly proudly proclaiming that Frankie Goes To Hollywood were "without doubt the most stylish band of the eighties", although when he describes how he "was wearing a big fur Davy Crockett hat, a brown velvet wrap over tailcoat by Jean Paul Gaultier and a pair of cream Matsuda pants with a black strip down the sides", it isn't always easy to see why.

To offset this is Holly's increasing alienation from the rest of the band and his growing distrust with ZTT Records. It's hard not to feel extremely sympathetic towards him on these occasions, particularly when we hear how he was often the recipient of the staunchly heterosexual band's childish japes; on one occasion, wearing Klu Klux Klan masks, they hounded him and his boyfriend into their hotel room. The subsequent split with both label and band and his brief solo career are afforded surprisingly little space in the book, as is his final emotional and honest reaction to his diagnosis.

This book is never going to become a Penguin Classic. But what Holly lacks in literary prowess he more than makes up for with honesty, enthusiasm and a lifetime of anecdotes culled from a determination to do things his own way. High entertainment.

Johnny Davis

## *Outer Dark*

Cormac McCarthy  
(Picador £5.99)

I do not like novels that can only be described by reference to their atmosphere. Mysterious, gothic, brooding . . . Cormac McCarthy has a style that demands such a plethora of adjectives. He expertly establishes a mood of suffocating intensity for a story with no definite time or setting and thus raises it to the near mythical.

A scared young girl gives birth to her brother's child in the deep woods of the Appalachians around the turn of the century. The boy abandons the newborn child in the darkness, claiming it to be dead. However, discovering her brother's trick, the heart-sick half-crazed young mother sets out to find the baby, taken by a tinker, and is pursued by her brother across an unrelentingly grim American heart of darkness.

But they are not alone in their quest. The paths of these two young searchers are crossed by a group of shrouded horsemen, whose brutal and macabre purpose is only revealed in the last pages of the book.

Unfortunately, it is hard to decide whether *Outer Darkness* is truly great or merely

trying to be truly great. McCarthy does reveal a virtuoso ability with language: I especially liked his description of the hero as "an amphitheatrical figure in a moonwrought waste manacled to a shadow that struggled grossly in the dust".

Yet too often he succumbs to the capital literary crime of vagueness. In his attempt to emphasise the mysterious he does not really give the characters much of a chance to develop enough to make you care about their trials. Style overwhelms content, and it often appears as if he is unsure what he wants to do with his work.

The result is a brilliantly grotesque narrative, populated by the weird and wonderful, but marred by a lingering sense of meaninglessness and artificiality. He seems unsure why he is telling the story, whether it is leading to anything, or even if it should lead to anything. As a result, the violence of the conclusion seems to be overdone, irrelevant, almost voyeuristic.

Cormac McCarthy has created a dense and compelling novel. It could have become a classic evocation of the darkness at the heart of the American dream. Instead, through self doubt and over elaboration, it obscures itself out of existence.

Steven Ranger

## *The Emperor & The Shah of Shahs*

Ryszard Kapuscinski  
(Picador £6.99)

Kapuscinski is a Polish Kate Adie. Working for a small press agency he has reported on twenty-seven Third World revolutions, witnessing countless acts of violence and atrocity. But he is also an elegant and gifted writer, skillfully evoking the feelings which surround the fall of nations. This book contains two of his accounts; *The Emperor* focuses on the fall of the Ethiopian monarchy in the 1970's, while *Shah of Shahs* looks at the revolutionary Islamic movement which toppled the Shah of Iran.

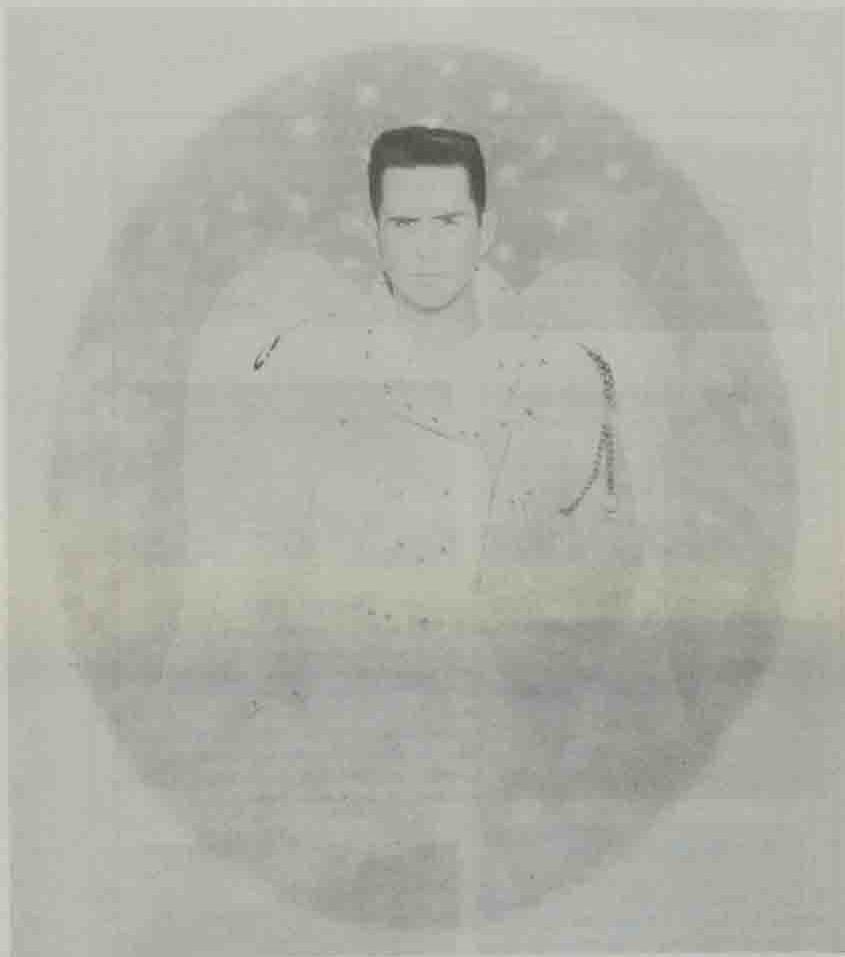
*The Emperor* is the result of painstaking research. Following the deposition of Haile Selassie in 1974, Kapuscinski arrived in Ethiopia and interviewed as many of the palace staff as he could root out. The witnesses of the revolution include the Emperor's official Pillow Bearer and other such servants. The interviews provide an insight into the emotions and rivalries which contributed to revolution on a massive scale. Kapuscinski skillfully blends these eye-witness narratives into a compelling

account of an oppressive and terrifying regime. What emerges is an account of a country not only gripped by famine but also crippled by corruption.

*Shah of Shahs* is a more personal and moving narrative. This is Kapuscinski's own account of a revolution witnessed at first-hand. He uses an impressive array of materials in tracing the simmering forces which led to the unrest. Examining notes, photographs and tapes in an effort to understand the conflict between the religious militants fighting for Khomeini and the forces of the Shah, Kapuscinski manages to penetrate to the heart of the troubles in Iran. He brings out clearly the central opposition which lies within Iranian culture, between fundamentalist Islam and the Western values embodied by the Shah. Kapuscinski's revelations are often moving and emerge in beautifully balanced and powerful prose.

Kapuscinski's writing seems to offer something more than the tedious historical accounts written by crusty Professors in darkened rooms. He combines the talents of faithful reporting with the skills of a gifted writer to provide dynamic insights into momentous events. Try not to let the factual nature of this book put you off. Kapuscinski has more to say about human nature than most novelists you will read.

Ian Darby



# THE OTLEY



## Woodies

.....

It's the beginning, spirits are high and the evening is young. The competitors eye each other up - who will puke and who will pull and will fall by the wayside? Woodies however is full of Oxley and Bod bods having fun. Time to get out to where the real action is.



## Three Horseshoes

.....

Avoid lingering too long. A townie pub covered in cricket memorabilia whose inhabitants tend not to look too kindly on pissed student types. Luckily the Shoes comes at an early stage of the run, and you can drink up swiftish and move on to the next pub...



## New Inn

.....

A nice friendly sort of pub, so it's a good place to start those amusing drunken games such as flashing, or pouring pints on people's heads. Get these frolics in early, because soon, as the run progresses the only thing you'll be able to concentrate on is keeping your stomach contents inside your bod and not down your T-shirt.



## Skyrack

.....

If you're now in need of a comfy chair to wallow in, forget it here. The Skyrack is heaving and teeming - legs and arms stuck out of every window. It could take most of the night to get to the bar, but the run is on, and the kids are thirsty. Get fighting.



## Original Oak

.....

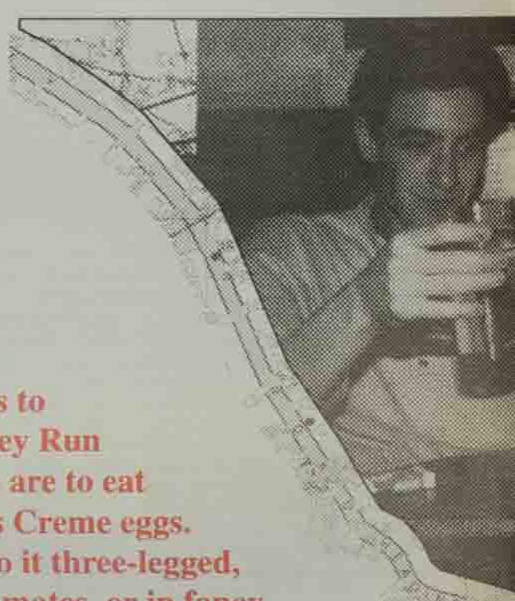
Purists insist that that the Run is pints only, but they obviously don't linger too long in the Oak. It's about this time that so-called mates get snap-happy. When confronted by blackmail worthy photos at a later stage, just ask the wimps why they were sober enough to take them - skipping pints?



## Hyde Park

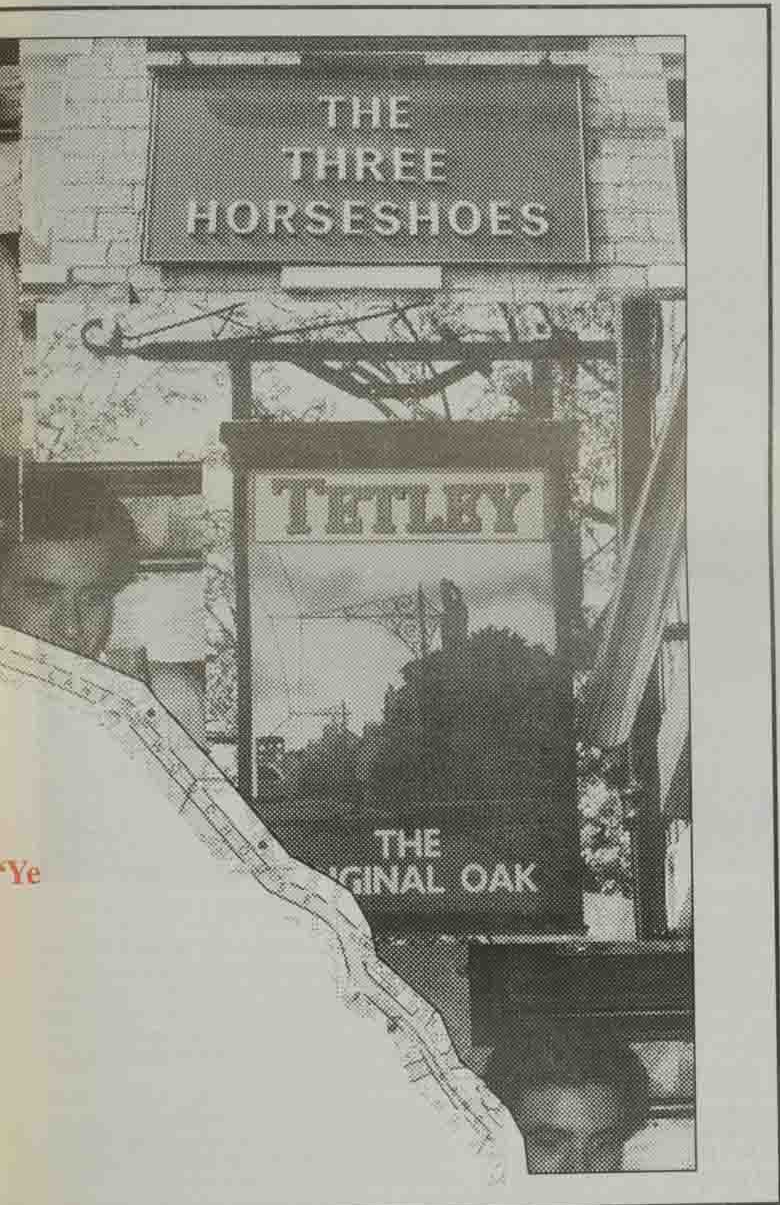
.....

This could be a dodgy one. Tuesday and Thursday are karaoke nights, and you could wake up the next morning with vague memories of howling "I will Survive" to a pub full of complete strangers. Other nights to avoid are those when England or Leeds are playing, when the pub is invaded by a teeming hoard of yobs. Just one humorous squark of "Arsenal!" from a drunken Otley Runner could prove nasty.

There are more ways to do the Otley Run than there are to eat Cadbury's Creme eggs. You can do it three-legged, with your mates, or in fancy dress. The precise course of the Otley Run is hotly disputed, though if you're going to observe tradition, it should involve as many watering holes as possible. The Otley Run's origins are shrouded in mystery, though local history books refer to "Olde Mede Mile". Armed with a blank expense sheet, a bucket and a packet of Alka Seltzer, Rosa Prince investigated.

# LEY RUN



## Packhorse



Dingy but cosy and surrounded by lots of convenient and by now desirable curry houses. Log fires complete the scene, and perhaps now is the time to sit back and reflect on how far you've come, but how far there still is left to go.

## The Eldon

Kinda nice, but you won't be noticing your surroundings by now. Lots of civil engineers tend to hang out here, and the place is suitably non-descript. Time is ticking on, and the pubs shut at 11.00, so it's a big heave ho, round up the stragglers and hit the Old Bar.



## Old Bar



Back to studentland, where some faint hearts may attempt to claim the Run ends. But don't be sucked in - there are pints to pull, and many toilets to be visited before the quest is over.

## The Fenton

A crusty pub in effect, so dodge those dogs-on-a-string on your way to the bar. Good place to puke, because it'll probably improve the smell - the regulars won't notice anyway.



## Dry Dock



A new addition to the run, but already proving a vital stop off before the LMU Bar. For those now too bleary eyed to notice, the decor is portholes and welly boots, and the bogs are starboard.

## The 'Poly' Bar

You've made it! Either you're a fifteen stone rugby player or have secretly been having a few pints of low alcohol brew. If it's Poly hop night, you're in luck. You could attempt to cop til you drop, but it won't be pretty. If LMU is bop-less, well, the bar has it's own tacky nightclubish charm, and then it's decision time - will it be Ricky's, Ritzy's, or the Leeds General Infirmary?



Pictures by Ed Crispin, Graphic by Richard Fletcher

# Out of This World

Fantasy fiction is one of the highest selling genres of the nineties, but rarely receives critical acclaim. Novelist Tad Williams talked to John McLeod about the virtues and pitfalls of writing fantasy.

The message on my answerphone declared that Tad Williams was in town, and would be delighted to talk to Leeds Student about his new book *Siege*. Tad who? A quick phone call to his publishers revealed that Tad Williams to be a leading fantasy novelist living in Islington, currently in the process of publishing his trilogy *Memory, Sorrow and Thorn* with Legend books. But it also revealed something else - my complete ignorance of a rich tradition of writing read by a significant part of today's book-buying public but rarely featured in literary criticism. Was I that horrible monster which I avoided in bookshops and fled from at readings - the Literary Snob?

With my tail firmly between my legs, I prepared to meet Tad Williams at the Conservatory Bar in the centre of Leeds. I had never read his books and knew little of fantasy as genre. Thankfully, Tad didn't mind talking to a fantasy novice such as myself. Reclining in his chair with a cigarette, he joked that "I can say things in the interview that'll sound perfectly plausible to you, but when you credit me people will say 'he didn't write about that - what's he talking about?'"

Californian by birth, Tad Williams is a warm, entertaining individual, who speaks critically and passionately about a literary genre he clearly loves. Anyone who believes that fantasy writing is a banal, disinterested genre indifferent to the world around us would do well to listen to catch him on his current British tour. I settled down to learn a great deal about a genre which, in Tad's hands at least, asks some very shrewd questions about issues of politics, history and representation.

The first thing I learned was that fantasy is a contested genre. "It's hard to say what you are talking about when you are talking about fantasy. Are you talking about the commercial genre, which is very distinct and is rapidly becoming a form of comfort reading like romance, or are you talking about a wider notion of fantasy? Fantasy as a literary genre has a strong American component - Edgar Allen Poe, H.P. Lovecraft - a lot of people this century and last who really made it what it is were Americans. But certainly because the commercial genre is so derivative of Tolkein, and Tolkein is very English - he was an Oxford don for God's sake - epic fantasy or high fantasy is very English, particularly mediævally English.

"I'm pretty much an inheritor of the American side of things. Most people have only ever seen the British side of my work [*Siege* is an 800 page, Tolkein-esque epic], but there's other things which I am doing."

I wondered if Tad had confronted a patronising attitude in literary circles to his work. "I do fault people who don't pick things up", he replied, as I stared guiltily into my pint of lager. "But I can understand why they don't pick up fantasy. There's some wonderful people working within fantasy and science fiction, basically state of the art stuff, but at the same time about 90% of the genre is commercial, just like history or anything else. So while you may have somebody writing

crime novels, like Martin Cruz Smith who is quite a good writer and has a whole agenda other than crime, on the other hand most people wouldn't call crime fiction literature. I think the same thing is true of our field. I don't begrudge people having a knee-jerk response, because most fantasy is commercial crap, bought by people who just want the same thing over and over again. At the same time, people who really like fiction and literature are doing themselves a disservice if they don't read around a little bit, because there is a lot more going on than that.

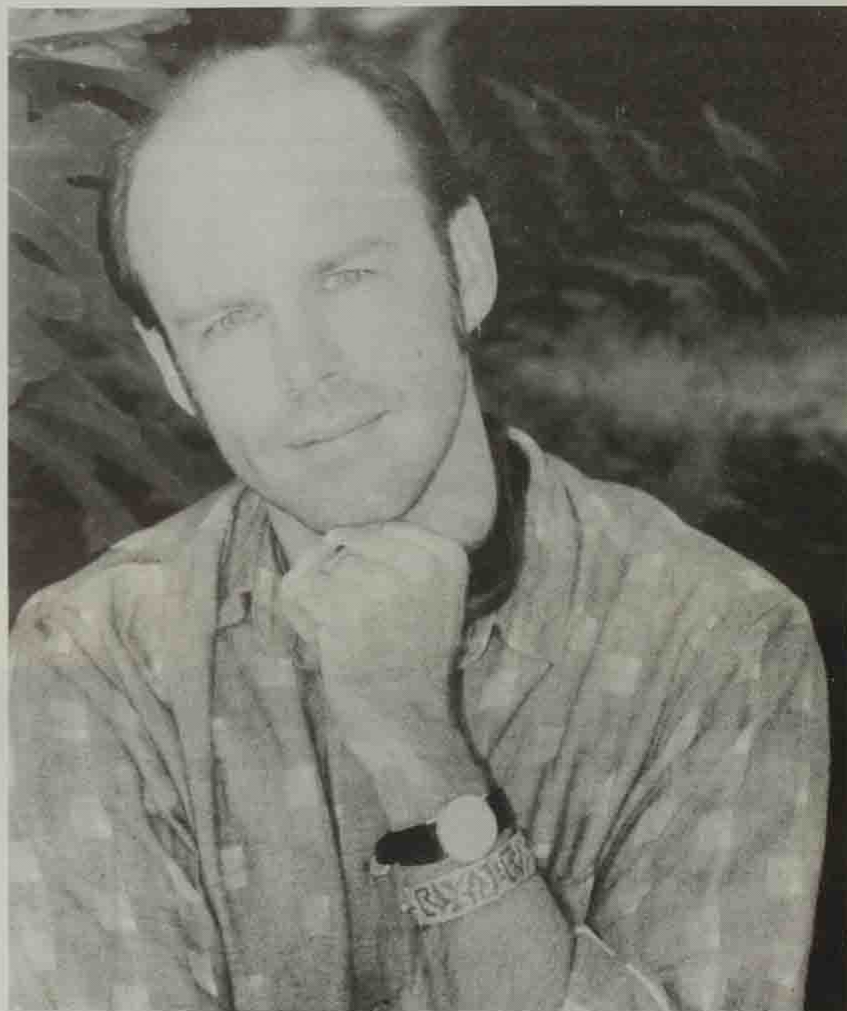
"One of the things that I really like about the genre is that you can do anything that you can do in modern literature, plus anything else you what to do as well. I mean, literally anything. It is modern literature - there is no boundary to it. You can set up societies just to try out particular ideas. You can deliberately manipulate things so as to focus certain human qualities that you can examine almost as in a laboratory. Fantasy is a wonderful venue for this stuff.

"That said, its only in the last few decades that we've kind of gotten this idea that you have to write absolutely naturalist books to address big issues. I mean, what would you call *Candide*? That's not naturalism! I just did a revisionist version of *The Tempest*, which is some ways Shakespeare's most subtle play with its own very interesting social and political and social agenda about discovery and colonialism. But in the middle of it there's magic and monsters, sprites and spirits. If anything I'm probably more like a nineteenth century kind of writer. I'm much more Tolstovian or Dickensian. I write big, sprawly things with lots of characters. I'm definitely writing about real issues."

Tad feels he has three main audiences. "Obviously I'm gonna get a lot of people who just buy fantasy and like big epics, because that's what my last books are. Because I am writing a little more sophisticated stuff - I'm not relying on serial adventuring, although that's there, and I'm writing about some difficult issues - I hope that I'm getting a lot of younger readers especially who've read a lot of such stuff and after reading me will say 'I'm not so willing to go back to the same derivative role-playing stuff', and start reading real books. I like to think I write real books. There are other

people who read me who just like lots of stuff inside and outside the genre and are very open to things with a fantastic element. So I have those two. I also hope I get people who don't normally read this kind of stuff, but will become aware of it through word of mouth."

"I'm not particularly experimental outside of short stories. I'm a big believer in the tradition of Story (with a capital 'S'). I'm not deconstructing things at a textual level just to see what I can do. I'm much more interested in writing as a way of conveying ideas about things other than writing."



I wondered if fantasy writing actually enjoyed its marginalised status, and might lose some of its energy if it became more readily accepted or canonised. "That's actually more true of the science-fiction side of the genre which is at this point a more mature sub-genre, in that it has more support within it for experimentalism. Fantasy, because of its commercial success, has become very homogenised. There are writers within it who are doing some interesting things, but a lot of

them are outside of the commercial mainstream of fantasy.

"Most of fantasy at this point, certainly the big selling stuff people know by name, is really not that different from, say, the new Dick Francis novel or the new Joanna Trollope novel. It's not challenging particularly. So fantasy isn't really a bad boy sub-genre."

Tad has a clear notion of what good writing entails, and is sceptical about the vogue of experimentation. "I firmly believe that, as human beings, we are coded for certain kinds of information transmission. One of the

things we are coded for is a series of patterns we think of as story. That's the thing that makes the most sense to us. So while I would never discourage experimentalism at all, I would say that whatever the latest experiment is we should not turn around and say that that is the only viable way to do something, and that several thousand years of other kinds of work is defunct.

"So what I would say to new writers is that make sure you understand why people want to read. Don't be afraid of story, don't be afraid of creating actual characters, don't be afraid to drag in another art-form.

"A lot of artists think you can jump straight into abstraction without ever having learned naturalism first. But most of the great abstract artists could actually sit down and draw a picture of something, and understood form and volume and space, before they started working with abstract forms. Don't be afraid to go out and learn how to actually tell a story."

We parted company with a warm handshake, as Tad prepared to give a promotional reading. I emerged from the Conservatory, perhaps a little the wiser, with a copy of *Siege* tucked snugly under my arm, and a new-term's resolution to widen my horizons. Me, a literary snob? Never...





# Backing A Hunch...

## Stage

**Hunchback Of Notre Dame**  
 Courtyard Theatre, WYP  
**40 Years On**  
 Quarry Theatre, WYP

I've got a hunch you're going to like this... ba boom! Bad jokes aside, it looks like term started just in time for us, because the West Yorkshire Playhouse has currently got two superb shows on offer to wrench you away from the undeniable pleasures of you books.

"I am something frightful, neither man nor animal, but something else, harder, more downtrodden, more misshapen than a stone" - if your revision's making you feel like this, then you might be well advised to take an evening off and go and see your soul mate Quasimodo in 'The Hunchback Of Notre Dame', which is running in the Courtyard Theatre until May 21st. Victor Hugo's thrilling melodrama has been adapted by Phelim McDermott and Julian Crouch, the team responsible for last year's highly acclaimed 'The Servant Of Two Masters', thus guaranteeing another uniquely visual experience beyond anything you've seen before. Unless you saw 'The Servant Of Two

Masters' of course. In which case, you'll already be planning a trip to 'Hunchback'.

In case you don't know the scenario of this most poignant of love stories, please don't take Meatloaf's 'Anything For Love' video as your starting point. This play is also an impressive spectacle (irony), a "timeless tale of rich against poor, light against dark, good against evil". Nimbly nipping around the gross Gothic gargoyles of Notre Dame is soft-hearted, aesthetically-challenged Quasimodo, who has been enchanted by the hypnotic dance of Esmeralda, a beautiful gypsy girl, who has captured everybody's hearts. Aaah. Will love conquer all? It's facing one of it's stiffest tests...

Tickets cost from just £4 (student standby places), and the show starts at 7.45pm each night.

Meanwhile, back down to Earth with a bump and an "ooh missus", the Quarry Theatre sees the start, tonight, of Alan Bennett's bawdy comedy 'Forty Years On'. This is a classic masterpiece of twentieth century public school life, which deals with the unfortunate 'carry on' resulting from the pupils' decision to 'mount' a revue to celebrate their headmaster's forty years in service...

All goes well until Lady Ottoline Morrell's breast pops out of her frock,



But he's got a great personality...

but at least Matron has had medical training... Eventually, it soon becomes apparent that this is no ordinary school play, and what we're seeing is a few home truths being laid bare.

'Forty Years On' runs from tonight until 4th June, with performances starting at 7.30pm each night, apart from Saturdays at 8.00pm. Tickets as usual can be obtained for £4 on student standby rate, so you'll probably need to pop out early too...

# A Little Shakey

## Stage

**Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead**  
 Raven Theatre LUU

Somewhere in the wings of 'Hamlet', oblivious to the designs of fate, Rosencrantz & Guildenstern bide their time tossing coins, philosophising, and contemplating licking each others' toes. Hamlet's two faithful attendant lords have no memories apart from the regal summons which has set them on the road to Elsinore, and can't quite come to terms with a world where the laws of probability have been temporarily suspended. Probably.

'Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead' is the play which made Tom Stoppard's reputation, virtually overnight, when it was first performed on the Edinburgh Fringe and then professionally in the West End 27 years ago. Brilliant wordplay and a lively visual style combine to produce an excellent piece of comedy, which will keep you rolling in the aisles even if you haven't the slightest knowledge of the Shakespeare play around which it is based.

Scenes from 'Hamlet' cut in and out of the action, momentarily giving the two courtiers something real to grasp hold of, but inevitably leaving them even more confused than before. Soon, the distinction being what is and what is not real becomes decidedly blurred...

LUU Theatre Group's first production of the new term looks set to continue on from the success of 'The Cherry Orchard' and 'Cyrano De Bergerac'. 'Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead' is being performed in the Raven Theatre from Wednesday 11th to Saturday 14th May (week 3, term 3), at 7.00pm every

LUU THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS  
 TOM STOPPARD  
**ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD**  
  
 WED-SAT. WEEK THREE  
 6.30PM IN THE RAVEN THEATRE  
 £2.50/£2 MEMBERS

night. Tickets can be obtained on the door every night from 6.30pm, or in advance during the week prior to performance from a stall in the union foyer every lunchtime, 12-2pm. So for an evening of great comedy to take your mind off the impending exams, let fate part you with £2.50, and come along...

## Previews In Brief

**An Evening Of Sheer Nostalgia, Leeds Town Hall, Sunday 1st May, 7.30pm.**  
 Or possibly an evening of unmitigated embarrassment. The sort of thing granny would take you to. The Church Lads & Church Girls Brigade National Band pump up the volume, and send our minds back to the Golden Era of Elvis. Which is to say, not the fat, bloated, cheeseburger phase.

**Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Leeds Town Hall, Saturday 30th April.**  
 Operatic highlights galore. Verdi, Puccini, but mostly Wagner. Who'd have guessed it, with titles like 'Brunnhilde's Immolation'?

**Fat Bob & The Cure Heads, Leeds University, Thursday 5th May.**  
 One takes it that this is some sort of tribute band?

**Marcella Detroit, Leeds Metropolitan University, Tuesday 10th May, £7.50.**  
 Ex-sister of Shakespeare, and currently pop chick with really long legs. I believe Marcella might be very good.

**Birmingham Royal Ballet, Alhambra, Tuesday 3rd to Saturday 7th May.**  
 Two different sets of fights to choose from - 'Sylvia' runs from Tues to Thurs, and is the story of the eponymous beautiful nymph, and a triple bill of 'The Dream', 'Serenade', and 'Fall River' can be seen on Friday & Saturday. If the ticket prices are anything to go by, this lot are brilliant. I'll leave you to enjoy the shock for yourself.

**'Showboat', Civic Theatre, Tuesday 3rd to Saturday 7th May, 7.00pm.**  
 Kern & Hammerstein's "popular musical comedy" gets the Headingley Am Dram treatment.

**Leeds International Festival Of Music, Civic Theatre, 9th-14th May.**  
 There's so many music festivals proliferating at the moment, it's hard to keep up, but for one which is close to home, and close to a good pub, try a dip into what's on offer at the Civic Theatre. 'Eclectic' does not do the programme justice, so pick up your own copy from the theatre and see for yourself.

**'Bugger Off' - The Bradshaws, City Varieties, Saturday 7th May, 8.00pm.**  
 Buzz Hawkins trips down memory lane and introduces Alf, Audrey and little Billy Bradshaw, who have apparently been entertaining radio audiences for over 5 years with their down-to-earth approach and sheer mind-numbing ordinariness. It says here. \

**FRIDAY**



**Clubs**

**UP YER RONSON** at THE MUSIC FACTORY - Dance & garage, £6 NUS, 9.30pm to 3am.  
**DOWNBEAT** at THE MUSIC FACTORY - Hip-hop and acid jazz, £3.50 NUS, 9.30pm to 3am, £1 a pint.  
**TRIBE** at RICKY'S - Acid jazz, Funk & Dance.  
**LOVE TRAIN** at TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB - 70's night, £4.50.  
**ANYTHING GOES** at THE WAREHOUSE - Dance Student night, £1 with flyer, cheap drinks.  
**PARTY TIME** at YEL! Happy hour 6-8.30pm.  
**DENIM & DANCE** at MISTER CRAIG'S  
**STOMP** at LMU - Indie, grunge.  
**INCARCERATED** at SCRUMPIES - Alternative / hardcore night, £2.50 / £3.  
**TIME TUNNEL** at RIFFS - 60's night, £2.50 / £3.



**Stage**

**WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE** tel. 442111  
**QUARRY THEATRE**  
 '40 Years On', by Alan Bennett - 7.30pm, from £4.  
**COURTYARD THEATRE**  
 'Hunchback Of Notre Dame' - 7.45pm, from £4.  
**GRAND THEATRE** tel. 459351 / 440971  
 Opera North present 'La Rondine' - 7.15pm, from £5.  
**CIVIC THEATRE**  
 'Blithe Spirit' - 7.30pm, £4.50 / £5.00.  
**ALHAMBRA** tel. 0274 752000  
 'La Cage Aux Folles' - 7.30pm, from £4.00.  
**SHEFFIELD CRUCIBLE**  
 World Snooker Championships  
**SHEFFIELD LYCEUM**  
 The BFG - 2.00pm & 7.00pm.



**Music**

**THE DUCHESS**  
 Big 3, plus labberwocky  
**THE GROVE INN**  
 Folk Club present Dave Hardy  
**BRADFORD CATHEDRAL**  
 Piano Recital with Martin Roscoe - 7.30pm.  
**ST GEORGE'S CONCERT HALL**  
 Magnam



**Film**

**PICTUREVILLE CINEMA**  
 Fearless - 6.00 & 8.15  
**BFT1**  
 The Great Pumpkin - 8.00  
**IMAX**  
 Titanic - 8.00pm



**Telly**

'Have I Got News For You' (BBC2, 10.00pm) - I missed this last week for a variety of complicated but emotionally-satisfying reasons, so we'll have to see if it's any good tonight. How many series is this? They'll get stale soon.  
 'Jo Brand Through The Cakehole' (C4, 10.30pm) - Surprisingly funny, apart from the bloody awful sketches. By the way, I've tried the cake recipe from the credits - ugh.  
 'Home Improvement' (C4, 9.30pm) - Ha! This is what we'll all turn into in a few years. 3 kids, spouse, house, sense of humour of a shallow-fried dormouse. Quite amusing.

**SATURDAY**



**Clubs**

**THE COOKER** at ARCADIA - Jazz / soul / funk, featuring DJ EZ  
**TOP BANANA** at THE TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB - 80's night.  
**MAINSTREAM** at MISTER CRAIG'S  
**BACK TO BASICS** at THE MUSIC FACTORY - Dance  
**THE LIZARD CLUB** at RICKY'S - Best of Rock, £3 / £2.50, 10pm to 2am.  
**THE POWER HOUSE** at THE GALLERY - 9pm to 2am, £6 / £7, casual dress.  
**ALTERNATIVE / INDIE** at SCRUMPIES - 12.06pm, all afternoon.  
**VAGUE** at THE WAREHOUSE - £5, cross-dressing.  
**PARTY TIME** at YEL! Happy Hour 6-8.30pm.  
**SATURDAY BOP** at LMU - £2 / £4 guest.



**Stage**

**WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE**  
**QUARRY THEATRE**  
 '40 Years On' - 8.00pm.  
**COURTYARD THEATRE**  
 'Hunchback Of Notre Dame' - 7.45pm.  
**GRAND THEATRE**  
 Opera North present 'The Magic Flute' - 7.15pm, from £5.  
**CIVIC THEATRE** as Friday  
**ALHAMBRA**  
 'La Cage Aux Folles' - 2.30pm & 7.30pm.  
**SHEFFIELD CRUCIBLE**  
 World Snooker  
**SHEFFIELD LYCEUM**  
 The BFG - 11.00, 3.00, 7.00.



**Music**

**LEEDS TOWN HALL**  
 Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra play Verdi, Wagner & Puccini - 7.30pm, from £4.00.  
**THE DUCHESS**  
 Fun-De-Mental  
**THE GROVE INN**  
 Bob Greenwood's Double Trouble  
**YORK ARTS CENTRE**  
 The Carnival Band



**Film**

**PICTUREVILLE CINEMA**  
 Fearless - 6.00 & 8.15  
**BFT1**  
 The Great Pumpkin - 8.00pm  
**IMAX**  
 Rolling Stones At The Max - 8.00pm



**Telly**

'Eurovision Song Contest' (BBC1, 8.00pm) - Get extremely pissed, and turn the sound down until the voting, unless you like the thought of the Bosnia-Hercegovina 'La La Lu OOOOM!' entry. I kid ye not. 25 countries are entering this year, so it'll take even longer than ever. Yippee!  
 'Chasing The Dream' (BBC2, 7.10pm) - 10 men who have broken the four minute mile, it claims, so why does this excuse to hear Vangelis' music last for 50 minutes?  
 'Seinfeld' (BBC2, 10.00pm) - A lot of Americans find him funny, but don't let that prejudice your opinion.

**SUNDAY**



**Stage**

**SHEFFIELD CRUCIBLE**  
 World Snooker Final



**Music**

**THE GROVE INN**  
 Ray Stubbs (hinchtime)  
**LEEDS TOWN HALL**  
 National Band present An Evening Of Sheer Nostalgia, featuring The Golden Era Of Elvis - 7.30pm, from £3.50.  
**YORK ARTS CENTRE**  
 Steve Howe



**Film**

**SHOWCASE CINEMA**  
 27 Gelderd Road, Birstall. Tel. 0924 420071  
 Tickets £4.25 / £3.00 NUS  
 Sister Act 2 Free Willy  
 The Pelican Brief Aristocats  
 Backbeat Widow's Peak  
 California Cool Runnings  
 Philadelphia Mother's Boys  
 Mrs Doubtfire Striking Distance  
 Beethoven's 2nd Shadowlands  
 Romeo Is Bleeding Schindler's List  
 Ace Ventura - Pet Detective  
 Deadly Advice

**COTTAGE ROAD CINEMA**  
 Cottage Road, Far Headingley. Tel. 751666

**LOUNGE CINEMA**  
 North Lane, Headingley. Tel. 751061

**HYDE PARK PICTURE HOUSE**  
 Brudenell Road, Leeds 6. Tel. 752045  
 Like Water For Chocolate - 6.30pm  
 A Bronx Tale - 8.45pm  
 Late Show Friday night - Reservoir Dogs - 11.00pm  
 Late Show Saturday - True Romance - 11.00pm  
 Sat, Sun, Mon - Casablanca - 3.00pm

**MGM MOVIE HOUSE**  
 Vicar Lane, LS1. Tel. 451031  
 1. Ace Ventura, Pet Detective - 1.00, 3.15, 5.45, 8.30  
 2. Schindler's List - 2.00, 7.15  
 3. Mrs Doubtfire - 1.30, 5.25, 8.10  
 Sat, Sun & Mon - Beethoven's 2nd - 1.10, 3.25 (No 1.30 showing of Mrs Doubtfire)

**ODEON - See Monday**

**PICTUREVILLE CINEMA**  
 Fearless - 6.00 & 8.15  
**BFT1**  
 The Great Pumpkin - 8.00pm



**Telly**

'Bite The Bullet : Greenpeace - End Of An Era?' (C4, 7.00pm) - Environmental organisation which is now a multi-million dollar, four million member mega-conscience. Has it become too big & bureaucratic?

**MONDAY**



**Clubs**

**PHUX** at MISTER CRAIG'S - Student night, £2.50 entry.  
**THE WORLD** at RITZY'S - Student night, £1 a pint.  
**UP THE JUNCTION** at THE GALLERY / RICKY'S / ARCADIA - Student night, £1.50 before 10.30pm, £2.50 after, 80p pint (£1 in Arcadia), 80p double, £1.50 'Mad Dog' - music, inc. house, garage, indie, & funky groove.  
**CHIL - STUDENT NIGHT** at YEL - £1 a pint, £1 a shot all night - 70's music with Levi Actionslax.



**Stage**

**WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE**  
 Closed for Bank Holiday  
**SHEFFIELD CRUCIBLE**  
 Final day of World Snooker Championships



**Music**

**LEEDS METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY**  
 Buzzcocks - £9 adv  
**TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB**  
 Brand New Heavies  
**WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE**  
 Tony Leigh Trio - jazz



**Film**

**ODEON CINEMA**  
 The Headrow - Tel 430031  
 1. Mother's Boy - 1.25, 3.45, 6.10, 8.35 (& 10.50 Sat night)  
 2. Deadly Advice - 3.50, 6.10, 8.40 (& 10.50 Sat night)  
 2. The Aristocats - 1.25  
 3. Cool Runnings - 1.15, 6.05  
 3. Backbeat - 3.40, 8.25  
 3. Bad Lieutenant - 10.45, Sat night only  
 4. Free Willy - 1.40  
 4. Philadelphia - 5.10, 8.05  
 4. True Romance - 10.40, Sat night only  
 5. Sister Act 2 - 1.10  
 5. Striking Distance - 3.45, 6.00, 8.30 (& 10.45 Sat night)  
 Listings correct up to Monday. Please ring to check programme changes for the rest of the week.

**PICTUREVILLE CINEMA**  
 The Bird With The Crystal Plumage - 6.00pm  
 Tenebrae - 8.15pm  
**BFT1**  
 The Great Pumpkin - 5.00pm  
 La Scotta - 7.30pm  
**BFT2**  
 The Grim Reaper - 5.45pm  
 The Stolen Children - 8.00pm



**Telly**

Look... it's not really a question of what is on tonight, more one of what isn't, i.e. where the hell is 'Northern Exposure'? Yes, I know it's a Bank Holiday, but that means sod all when I'm going out turkey at 10.30. Anyway, if you do decide to switch on, you can catch the first ever episode of 'HJ-De-Hi' (BBC2, 5.15pm) - or perhaps you'd prefer to watch six hours of snooker later on in the evening. Pray for an early conclusion, and then with any luck, they'll stick some trashy 'Carry On...' film on. Failing everything, there's always 'Dusty' (BBC1, 10.10pm) featuring Dionne Warwick, Elvis Costello, & The Pet Shop Boys.

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TUESDAY

Clubs

**BEAT SURRENDER** at THE MUSIC FACTORY - 60's to 90's, £2.50 on door, £1 a pint.  
**THE ROOST** at ARCADIA - Live jazz, £2 admission, £1 a pint.  
**DECADENCE** at SCRUMPIES - Gothic / Alternative.  
**HELL RAISER** at THE OBSERVATORY - Rock night, 8-12.  
**4 PLAY** at YEL! - Gay night, Happy hour all night. Top London DJ Chris Reardon plus live entertainment from top London acts.  
**MELT** at ASHFIELDS (Merriem Centre) - 10pm to 2am, £2 entry, £1.20 bitter / lager, £1.30 cider.

Stage

**WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE**  
 QUARRY THEATRE as Friday  
 COURTYARD THEATRE as Friday  
**CIVIC THEATRE**  
 'Showboat' - 7.00pm, from £4.50.  
**ALHAMBRA**  
 Birmingham Royal Ballet present 'Sylvia' - 7.30pm, from £7.50.

Music

**LEEDS TOWN HALL**  
 Lunchtime Organ Music - 1.05pm, free.  
**BELESHPS**  
 A Taste Of Honey  
**THE GROVE INN**  
 Jam Session  
**LEEDS METROPOLITAN UNI**  
 Sauser - £6.50  
**ADELPHI**  
 Jon Taylor Quartet  
**ST GEORGE'S CONCERT HALL**  
 David Lee Roth

Film

**PICTUREVILLE CINEMA**  
 The Joy Luck Club - 5.45pm & 8.15pm  
**BFT1**  
 Once Upon A Time In The West - 7.00pm  
**BFT2**  
 The Stolen Children - 5.45pm  
 The Grim Reaper - 8.00pm

Telly

'Life Stories' (BBC1, 8.00pm) - Happy hour on BBC continues after laugh-a-minute Eastenders with this tooth about a bloke who was talked down from a bridge when his marriage went wrong. High suspension. Ho ho ho!  
 'Once Upon A Time In The West' (BBC1, 8.30pm) - ...there were jobs, hope, flat caps and whippets. Sit-com with Bernard Hill as a big-hearted optimist, and half-hearted socialist. Well, if you've been a socialist for the past 15 years, you've got to be an optimist. I suppose. OOH, bitapolliticmynameBenEltonThankYouGoodnight.  
 'Swank' (ITV, 2.20pm) - Fashion show, introduced by Margi Clarke, so one presumes you don't actually pronounce the 'S'.  
 'Phenom' (C4, 6.30pm) - Worth a recommendation simply because it sent me into hysterics once with the immortal comic line "Who threw away my fish?" Top stuff.

WEDNESDAY

Clubs

**DIG!** at THE GALLERY / ARCADIA - 10pm to 2am, Live jazz / latin / funk / soul / hip-hop.  
**CIRCUS CIRCUS** at THE MUSIC FACTORY - 3 floors of pop, 60's to 90's, £1 a pint.  
**PARTY ON** at YEL! - Happy hour 6-8pm.  
**BLACK LODGE** at SCRUMPIES - Hardcore / alternative, 10pm to 2am, £2 / £1.50.  
**NORTHERN EXPOSURE** at RICKY'S

Stage

**WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE**  
 QUARRY THEATRE  
 '40 Years On' - 2.00pm & 7.30pm  
 COURTYARD THEATRE  
 'Hunchback Of Notre Dame' - 7.45pm  
**CIVIC THEATRE** as Tuesday  
**ALHAMBRA** as Tuesday

Music

**LEEDS ART GALLERY**  
 Lunchtime Chamber Music - 1.05pm, free.  
**BELESHPS**  
 The Price Of Ivory  
**THE GALLERY**  
 DIG!  
**THE GROVE INN**  
 Cactus Flower  
**CLOTHWORKERS CONCERT HALL**  
 Allegri String Quartet play Beethoven's Cycle Concert No.5 - 7.30pm - 7.30pm.  
**YORK UNIVERSITY**  
 Angela Browardridge piano recital, including Haydn, Chopin, Debussy - 8pm.

Film

**PICTUREVILLE CINEMA**  
 The Joy Luck Club - 5.45 & 8.15  
**IMAX**  
 Titanic - 8.00pm  
**BFT1**  
 Johnny Stecchino - 6.00pm  
 The Conformist - 8.15pm  
**BFT2**  
 The Spider's Stratagem - 5.45pm  
 The Stolen Children - 8.00pm

Telly

'The Lifeboat' (BBC1, 8.00pm) - Yet another Lynda La Plante pile. She's got a couple more in the offing as well - 'The Milk Plot', 'Vess', and 'Truiser Specialists'.  
 'European Match - Live' (ITV, 7.10pm) - Arsenal travel to Copenhagen for the European Cup Winner's Cup final against Parma. Which is a type of cheese, isn't it? My money's on the Gimmies, even though I do rather like a nice bit of cheese.  
 'Oprah Winfrey' (C4, 5.00pm) - Oomphat looks forward to see what lifestyles will be like in the year 2000, and finds a load of brain-dead Americans watching tedious drivel on TV. Woah! Double Take!

THURSDAY

Clubs

**LOADED** at THE MUSIC FACTORY - Indie / dance / dub / hip-hop / psychodelia - £2 / £2.50.  
**ROCK NIGHT** at THE WAREHOUSE - £2 before 11pm.  
**THE MILE HIGH CLUB** at RICKY'S / THE GALLERY / ARCADIA - 70's disco.  
**PARTY NIGHT** at MISTER CRAIG'S - £1 before 12pm.  
**BANANAS** at RITZY'S - £1 a pint.  
**THE FLOOR SHOW** at YEL! - Live entertainment, plus happy hour 6-8pm.  
**STUDENT NIGHT** at STOGGYS - Free before 11pm, £1 after, 10pm to 2am.

Stage

**WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE**  
 QUARRY THEATRE as Friday  
 COURTYARD THEATRE as Friday  
**CIVIC THEATRE** as Tuesday  
**STUDIO THEATRE LMU**  
 Pera Lily & Company present 'Low Fidelity' - 7.30pm, £4.50 / £1.00.  
**ALHAMBRA** as Tuesday  
**SHEFFIELD LYCEUM**  
 South Yorkshire Opera present 'Turandot' - 7.15pm.

Music

**CLOTHWORKERS CONCERT HALL**  
 Early Music Recital - 1.10pm  
**LEEDS UNIVERSITY**  
 Fat Hob & The Cure Heads

Film

**PICTUREVILLE CINEMA**  
 The Joy Luck Club - 5.45pm & 8.15pm  
**IMAX**  
 Flyers / Grand Canyon - 8.00pm  
**BFT1**  
 The Conformist - 6.00pm  
 Johnny Stecchino - 8.15pm  
**BFT2**  
 Down By Law - 5.45pm  
 The Spider's Stratagem - 8.00pm

Telly

'Oprah Winfrey' (C4, 5.00pm) - Oomphat again, this time with some precocious 11 year old white kid shit who says he has recollections of a past life as a black Civil War soldier. In between dropping acid and smoking various herbal remedies.  
 'The Great Outdoors' (C4, 8.30pm) - IR Hartley goes fly fishing. Seriously. Someone somewhere deserves to lose their job for coming up with this.  
 'Harry Enfield' (BBC1, 10.00pm) - Yep, I know it's a repeat, but it still wipes the floor with everything else tonight in terms of laughs-a-minute, with the possible exception of 'Question Time'.  
 'Cardiac Arrest' (BBC1, 9.30pm) - Well, the first episode had it all, or at least one character seemed to have it all, Inaar. Sex, drugs, and rolling out of bed, and a poor new junior houseman who looks like he just stepped off the Clearasil adverts.  
 'Running The Halls' (C4, 6.30pm) - More technicalour yawn from America, not a zit in sight, and a party every night. Dude.  
 'Class Act' (ITV, 9.00pm) - Me, after two pints.  
 'Top Of The Pops' (BBC1, 7.00pm) - Gary Barlow. Fwwoor.

FILMS

**Friday 29th April :-**  
 'Poltergeist 2 - The Other Side' (BBC1, 10.25pm) - Chap vomits up dog-like monster, little girl talks to her dead granny on toy telephone; happy upbeat suburban slice-of-life comedy from 1986.

'The Blue Knight' (BBC1, 11.55pm) - cop-strop-slop-flop. William Holden, aka 'Bumper' has 4 days before retiring, in which time he wants to catch a killer and hang on to his girlfriend, Lee Remick. Bitterness & resentment. And that's on your part, 'cos you should be out partying.

**Saturday 30th April :-**  
 'Masters Of The Universe' (BBC1, 6.20pm) - Some crap about a cosmic key, but worth watching for pec-tastic Dolph Lundgren in a stunning performance as a tree.

**Sunday 1st May :-**  
 'Once Upon A Time In America' (C4, 10.00pm) - Part one tonight, part two tomorrow, of Sergio Leone's monster tribute to the American gangster movie. This is the Director's Cut, although with a total running time of over 4 hours, I'm not sure 'cut' is the right word.

'The Wooden Horse' (BBC2, 11.30pm) - Best of British POW movies, starring Dolph Lundgren as the eponymous nag. Honest.

'Une Femme Est Une Femme' (C4, 12.20am) - Jean-Luc Godard states the bloody obvious, and Anna Karina dominates. Don't get too excited.  
 'Ring Of Bright Water' (BBC1, 2.50pm) - Une otter est une otter, et rien un kebab.

**Monday 2nd May (Bank Holiday) :-**  
 Oh for f\*\*k's sake, I can't cope with this lot. Pick one from ... 'Road To Morocco', 'Oliver Twist', 'Spartacus', 'Goldfinger', 'Raiders Of The Lost Ark', 'Cry Freedom', 'Conan The Barbarian', and part 2 of 'Once Upon A Time In America'.

**Tuesday 3rd May :-**  
 'Sorry, Wrong Number' (BBC2, 4.00pm) - Barbara Stanwyck hears my social life go down the tubes.

**Wednesday 4th May :-**  
 'Surrender' (ITV, 9.00pm) - Michael Caine & Sally Field could have gone soft, but go cynical & funny instead. A breath of fresh air, which might start late if Arsenal go into extra time.

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# Euro-Splash



Fiorile

This Sunday sees the start of Bradford Cinemas' European Film Festival, which runs from May 1st - 8th. There's a subtitle-tastic selection on offer, from some great New Italian Cinema, to award winners like 'Mediterraneo', so browse through this lot to see what tickles your ecu.

The above picture comes from 'Fiorile', just one of 4 new films from Italy. 'Fiorile' is a rich historical epic,

spanning 200 years of one ill-fated family, whose name changes over the centuries from Benedetti (the Blessed) to Maledetti (the Cursed). Visually brilliant, and superbly acted, you can see 'Fiorile' on Sunday 8th May in BFT1 at 8.15pm.

Keeping with the Italian theme, there will be four films shown celebrating the work of director / comic Roberto Benigni, including 'Night On Earth', Jim Jarmusch's highly accessible taxi trips. Benigni plays the cabbie in the Rome section, and delivers an utterly inspired monologue - worth watching for that alone.

Also not to be missed are Sergio Leone's classic monument to the death of the western 'Once Upon A Time In The West', Oscar-winning comedy 'Mediterraneo', and Bernardo Bertolucci's explicit 'Last Tango In Paris'.

'Last Tango...' is in fact one of five films by the great director being shown during the week. Others include '1900', starring Robert De Niro, Burt Lancaster & Gerard Depardieu, which is being shown in two parts on Friday 6th & Saturday 7th at 5.45pm in BFT1, and 'The Grim Reaper', Bertolucci's first ever feature film.

For full details of what's on offer, including times and prices, you can ring the Bradford Film Theatre on 0274 820666, and the Pictureville Cinema on 0274 732277.



## Music

**Citizen Fish**  
LUU Harvey Milk Bar

Citizen Fish. They're a band. As far as I can divine, either you've never heard of them, or you can casually converse on the subject of 'CitFish' - as indeed their reviews tend to - and appear to be totally at ease with everything concerning them... Whatever category you fall into, this is prior warning that the band will be hitting LUU's very own Harvey Milk Bar next Tuesday.

Anyway, if you are unfamiliar with this apparently excellent group, here's the relevant info; 'CitFish' are four blokes - Dick, Phil, Jasper, and Trotsky. They have their own label, Bluurg Records. Together they've played over 400 times in 20 different countries, ranging from the USA to Belgium. The

music has been described as 'post-industrial hardcore big beat with filthy guitar, hard yet flexible rhythms, and fast style rant that goes far beyond the limited subject matter of its peers'. For those of you who are still no more enlightened, the lads themselves recommend that, if you take a dash of punk-rock, a splash of ska, a drop of reggae, and mix in various ratios, you get their sound. Which incidentally contains no sloganeering, and is vegetarian-friendly. Probably best to turn up and work it out for yourselves.

Which is exactly what you should do, particularly as the gig is in aid of a good cause - LU Animal Rights. To add to the evening's entertainment, support comes from local group Dog On A Rope. Tickets are £3.50 in advance from Cats, Crash or Jumbo, or £4.00 on the door. And if you're still wavering, there'll also be some kind of drinks promo, which is as good a reason as any to go along and have a damn good night out.

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**ULTRA TRAVEL WHERE PROFIT RETURNS TO THE STUDENT**

# Bizarre Love Triangle

## Stage

**Low Fidelity**  
**Survivors Poetry**  
**My Map Of The Underground**  
Studio Theatre LMU

The summer season at LMU's Studio Theatre kicks off next week, and there's some great shows on the way during the course of the next two months, but on Thursday 5th May, everything starts with a real bang. Quite literally.

Brace yourselves, because Peta Lily and Company are paying us a visit with their "deliciously ruthless sex comedy" 'Low Fidelity'. This production apparently turns the standard fare of the West End farce on its head, swapping knicker-dropping vicars for a menage a trois which descends into a triangle of desire and jealousy. A painfully funny piece of dance theatre, 'Low Fidelity' is produced by David Glass, who recently won the TMA award for best director.

For a measly £4.50 / £3.00, 'Low Fidelity' is all yours at 7.30pm next Thursday, but if you fancy knocking off a quid from your ticket price, you could pop along to the associated Mime & Physical Theatre Workshop earlier the same day. Some performance experience

is necessary, but an interesting time is guaranteed if you can make it along to the Yorkshire Dance Centre from 10.30am to 12.00pm. Phone 0532 426066 for details and workshop reservations.

The following night, Friday 6th May at 7.30pm, sees another evening of Survivors Poetry in the theatre. Following the success of January's meeting, where members of the Leeds Survivors group gave witty, original and moving accounts of their experiences of the mental health system, plenty of new material has been written, again full of insight and hope. Tickets again cost £4.50 / £3.00, with a special rate of £1.00 for the unwaged.

The following week also holds great promise. Thursday 12th May sees a visit from Interference Theatre Co-Operative with their production 'My Map Of The Underground'. Technical wizardry and ensemble performance combine to create an alarming comedy of surveillance. "The Cold War is over, and the shabby little snoopers of M172 are bored stiff. So they pick on a perfectly innocent couple and set about implicating them in all kinds of dirty dealings, just like old times." Sounds like a riot!

Tickets are again just £4.50 / £3.00, and the show starts at 7.30pm.

# Opera Magic

## Stage

**Opera North**  
**Grand Theatre**

In case your culture gland hasn't already swollen to a bulbous mass of seething artistic longings, this is to inform you lucky people that we're back in Leeds just in time to catch the end of the current run of performances by Opera North. Tonight and tomorrow, the Grand Theatre will be wowed by the glorious sounds of 'La Rondine' and 'The Magic Flute' respectively.

Puccini's 'La Rondine' is apparently as if 'The Merry Widow' had been crossed with 'La Traviata', to produce a haunting story about a woman of dubious virtue who is smitten by a young man and gives up her luxurious Parisian life for simpler pleasures. As for Mozart's 'The Magic Flute', nothing need be said beyond 'masterpiece'. 3 hours of brilliance, and thanks to the efforts of Jeremy Sams, all sung in English.

Both shows start at 7.15pm, and cost from £8. If you can't go or get tickets for the next two nights, 'The Magic Flute' will be performed again later in May.



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BBC 1

BBC 2

ITV

CH 4

FRIDAY

5.35 Neighbours  
6.00 Six O'Clock News  
6.30 Look North  
7.00 Secret Service 'Spying on Angels'  
7.30 Tomorrow's World Featuring a further report from the Natural History Museum  
8.00 Open All Hours Arkwright is preoccupied with a persistent squawk on Granville's bike  
8.30 May To December Alex and Zoe are in need of a nanny  
9.00 Party Election Broadcast: By the Liberal Democrats  
9.05 Nine O'Clock News  
9.35 999 Michael Buerk presents more extraordinary tales of remarkable rescues  
10.25 Film: **Pollux II: The Other Side** Four years on from their horrific encounter with the paranormal forces, the Fyreling family are now enjoying a peaceful existence in Arizona.  
11.55 Film: **The Blue Knight** Oh God No!!! The above comments have doubtless convinced you how much you miss the kaleidoscope of wild and wacky zambas that is this beloved page. Haven't they?

3.00 World Snooker He wandered with a quiet silence  
6.00 Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons  
6.25 The Man from UNCLE Ben Elton catapulted into an inverse dimension  
7.15 Della Smith's Summer Collection of news?  
7.45 What the Papers Say is blowin' in the wind  
8.00 Public Eye  
8.30 Gardeners' World The new fantasy adventure by Arthur C Clarke, set upon remote planet in deep space specially engineered to the needs of these eccentric people  
9.00 World Snooker glowing part the sea of faces all around  
10.00 Have I Got News for You Mrs. Merton turns up this week, so expect another illustration of why never to get married  
10.30 Party Election Broadcast The Lib Dems with absolutely no racism in all. Probably.  
10.35 Newsnight  
11.20 Fantasy Football League Mark Hughes shoots in the last minute of extra time... and it's just over the bar! If only.  
11.50 World Snooker...and finally took his seat.

5.10 Home and Away Oh that this too too solid flesh would melt  
5.40 ITN News  
5.55 Calendar  
6.30 The Calendar Fashion Show  
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right In the Forsyths' living room carpet there is a small hole where Bruce cut himself a wig  
7.30 Coronation Street  
8.00 The Bill The most popular TV programme among young offenders, apparently, which causal link means of course that any past record of it on your video tapes can and will be taken down in evidence against you  
8.30 Time After Time  
9.00 Crime Story  
10.00 Party Election Broadcast Spot the difference between this one and the others to win a fabulous prize!  
10.05 News at Ten Sounds catchier than News at Ten Hours Zero Five Minutes  
10.35 Regional News and Weather  
10.45 Street Legal  
11.40 Film: Honor Guard  
1.10 Whale On

5.00 Champions Let us go then you and I  
6.00 Blossom When the evening is spread out against the sky  
6.30 Happy Days Like a patient etherised upon a table  
7.00 Channel 4 News All my own work, that  
7.50 You Don't Know Me But... In your great grandson travelled from the future to shoot you dead before my grandfather is born because I'm feeling dissatisfied with life at the moment  
8.00 Africa Express  
8.30 Brookside What Chekhov would have written if he lived in 1990s Liverpool  
9.00 Garden Club Sequel to Clarke's legendary Gardeners' World - industrial waste causes a mutation in the flowers who rise up to enslave the gardeners before uprooting and speeding toward Earth  
9.30 Home Improvement  
10.00 Roseanne  
10.30 Jo Brand Through the Cakehole It's really Lloyd Grossman in disguise  
11.05 Eurotrash I thought that was tomorrow  
11.35 Beavis and Butt-Head  
12.05 Film: Fixed Bayonets

BBC 1

BBC 2

ITV

CH 4

SATURDAY

5.45 Jim'll Fix It for a boost to ITV's ratings  
6.20 Film: **Masters of the Universe** Golden haired, muscle bound hero saves the entire cosmos - is it Dolph Lundgren or John Rose?  
8.00 Eurovision Song Contest 1994 will say nothing whatsoever about D-Day  
11.00 News and Sport: Weather  
11.20 Match of the Day which now has rather unfortunate connotations for Gerald Simstad  
12.10 Film: **The Return of Count Yorga** The Return of Count Yorga? How many of these Bippin' Count Yorga films are there? I've never heard of him. Have you?

5.05 Snooker...he gazed pensively into the Crucible night...  
6.25 News and Sport: Weather  
6.40 South Africa Votes  
7.10 Chasing the Dream There must be some reason for my peculiar condition this morning  
8.00 Snooker...his cue gripped firmly in his hand...  
8.30 Notes from the Underground See page 5  
9.20 The Foot Tunnel  
9.30 Have I Got News for You No, we all saw it last night, so there  
10.00 Sinfeld  
10.25 Snooker...as slowly he rose to assume...  
11.20 Film: **Kanal** those trendy spellings are getting everywhere  
12.55 Snooker...his position at the table...

5.30 Bullseye Who knows how long I've loved you  
6.00 New Baywatch You know I love you still  
6.55 You Bel! Will I wait a lonely lifetime  
7.55 Barrymore If you want me to I will  
8.55 News: Weather For if I ever saw you  
9.15 Film: **Cocoon: The Return** I didn't catch your name  
11.15 Bullitt But it never really mattered  
1.20 Tour of Duty I will always feel the same

5.05 Brookside The programme that tells it like it is, grounded in the realism, my naturalism, of earthy everyday life  
6.30 Right to Reply  
7.00 A Week in Politics is a magnificent way of making your life seem a whole lot longer  
8.00 Bite the Ballot: The ABC of Democracy A is for Athens, which enslaved its people; B is for Bigots, who usually get voted in; C is for Crap.  
9.00 NYPD Blue  
10.00 Don't Forget Your Toothbrush, as your Desert Island Discs luxury  
11.05 Bite the Ballot: Citizen Locke After more than fifty years, at last the long awaited sequel starring a stuffed Orson Welles.  
12.05 Life Licence is the excuse Gerry Simstad used, and look where it got him

BBC 1

BBC 2

ITV

CH 4

SUNDAY

5.30 Masterchef It's Dolph Lundgren in a big white hat!  
6.05 News: Weather  
6.25 Songs of Praise  
7.00 Honey for Tea Sounds like an unfair exchange  
7.30 Pie in the Sky Is the moon made out of pie? asked Descartes. No, don't be a fool! belov'd ignoramus. How do you know? I made the silytial. It might be made of pie after all, and the sensation of mooniness is merely the trick of an Evil Genius. At which point, someone wisely produced in Descartes the distinct sensation of being shot dead.  
8.20 Film: Appointment with Death Exam timetables are now available in the Parkinson Building  
10.00 News: Weather  
10.15 Mastermind Dolph Lundgren leaps into the famous black chair  
10.50 Everyman  
11.30 The New South Africa Starring David Haseelhoff?  
12.15 The Sky at Night may have a pie in it after all, so the fashionable theory goes

5.10 Rugby Special Ignore this Union bonhomie, because yesterday's League was far superior, although Leeds's overwhelming defeat has sent the Editor of this newspaper into dark and gloomy depression  
6.10 The Natural World It Wigan on top and Leeds complaining  
7.00 The Money Programme should interest both clubs  
7.40 La Difference is that Wigan actually win things  
8.20 The Great Escapers Wigan win the championship again  
9.10 Grand Prix And Leeds are the grand prizes  
9.50 Snooker...and began to taken aim...  
11.30 Film: The Wooden Horse Leeds' pack

5.00 Father Dowling Investigates "Father Dowling and Sister Steve are trapped between bullets and ballots in a battle..." says one TV Magazine - what alienation! See how "bullets" and "ballots" are exquisitely juxtaposed across the pivotal "ballots". I'd like that job!  
5.50 Calendar shows that you could find yourself sitting alone if you turn up at the lecture theatre tomorrow  
6.20 News: Weather  
6.30 Through the Keyhole 7.00 Surprise Surprise We're not watching Cilla!  
8.00 Catherine Cookson's The Cinder Path  
9.00 The Knock "And the BAFTA Award for most boring programme title goes to..."  
10.00 Spitting Image "Hello, welcome to the inaugural Phantom Phlegging Championships..."  
10.30 News: Weather  
10.45 TV Violence - Will it Change Your Life? I used to be like this. Then I tried TV Violence. Look at me today!  
12.00 MacGyver Alternatively known as The American Play by superstitious thespians  
12.55 Quiz Night  
1.25 The Beat

5.10 Bite the Ballot: Fifteen to One Special Bite the what?  
6.00 Harry Enfield's Guide to Opera "Nessun Dorma, Ness - loads money!"  
6.30 The Cosby Show  
7.00 Bite the Ballot: Greenpeace - End of an Era? Oh I see!  
8.00 Bite the Ballot: Opinions Okay, I heard you  
8.30 Bite the Ballot: The Charter 88 Bad Government Awards Shut up!  
9.30 Bite the Ballot: A Maybe Day in Kazakhstan (!) Bite your ballot in a minute!  
10.00 Once Upon a Time in America we had a dream  
12.20 Une Femme est une Femme Send in your translations on the back of an old crumpled postcard, a) because I am severely linguistically challenged and b) the knowledge that somebody somewhere reads this before it disappears down the toilet would go a little way to relieving my existential angst and restoring my faith in this wide old universe

CROSSWORD

Across :-

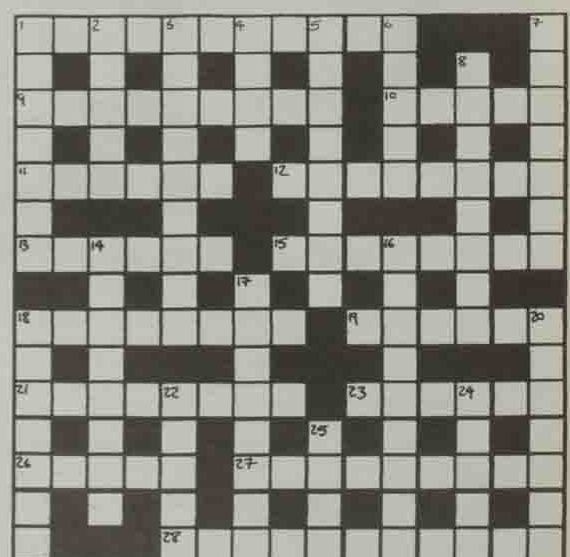
- Dejected to have a soft feathery centre? (11)
- Being there, standing erect. (9)
- Flower found in Ermintrude's mouth? (5)
- Bad tempered giant, like. (6)
- (& 13A & 2D) No matter what happens, you might get hot, maybe wet... (4,4,2,4,5)
- See 12A
- One who chokes gets left out, alien. (8)
- Talk which packs a punch? (8)
- Next, down sodium, maybe. (3,3)
- Liberal position, say, has freedom from restraint. (8)
- Amusing woman perhaps becomes mouldy. (6)
- Degree system. (5)
- Doctor removed and separated by a blow. (6,3)

Down :-

- I see nothing in place at end of devilish top game. (7)
- See 12A
- Wisdom after the event with the red deer? (9)
- Greedy singer gets up. (4)
- Sounds like a number of guests want a cuppa at twenty to eleven. (3,5)
- Number of cattle returned forcibly, underarm. (5)
- Has a positive and negative side? (7)
- Something you might be sensitive about. (8)
- Gets over excited before festival, and brings up water. (4,4)
- Girl's holding weight, and makes it known. (9)
- Coats metal and makes sad noise. (8)
- Argue after explosive situation. (4,3)
- Dew fell and became plump. (4,3)
- Lucky card? (5)
- Grumble, and get bigger lake. (5)
- In tune, or flat. (4)



Answers to last crossword :-  
Across :- 1. Break the ice 10. Nurse 11. Precision 12. Wind bands 13. Bugle 14. Launch 16. Coldsore 18. Noisette 20. Spigot 23. Neath 24. Athenaeum 26. Simpleton 27. Inset 28. Anachronism  
Down :- 2. Rerun 3. Acerbic 4. Typing 5. Emerson 6. Climbed 7. Snowblindness 8. Sing song 9. Underestimate 15. Up in arms 17. Atlantic 19. Echelon 21. Pension 22. Shiner 25. Eases



Previewed by David Smith

The first correct answer drawn from the hat will win a £5 Waterstones book voucher. Send your answers to Crossword Competition, Leeds Student Newspaper, Leeds University Union, P.O Box 157, Leeds LS1 1UH. Answers must arrive by Wednesday the 4th of May.  
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# Beyond Nafees: the real India

**Amelia Hill, a winner of the 'Independent Young Travel Writer of the Year' award, describes how she gave the men of India a lesson in Women's Lib**

Buses stop at dusk in Alleppey, a small town in Kerala, South India. If you miss the last bus, you're on your own - the last train leaves at noon and there are no hotels. It's not a tourist town and the daytime crowds are mainly Indian men. Few seem to live in Alleppey and everyone waits until the last couple of buses before leaving.

Unfortunately, we left it until the last few buses too. When the bus appears, the chaos is instant. The unprepared are shoved to one side or trampled. The chaos enables curious men to grope foreign women shamelessly. Two buses arrived and left the station without us managing to get anywhere near them. There was one bus left that evening. We had no choice: we had to catch it.

When the last bus turned the corner we blindly threw ourselves at it. Almost wrenching my arm out of its socket, I managed to grab the door as it flashed past me and found myself on the steps of the bus. Not for long: as I paused for breath, my moment of triumph was torn from me by an old man who caught me sharply in my stomach with his elbow and catapulted me neatly back into the crowd.

Stunned by this attack, I stood still in the middle of the desperate throng for a second. A determined hand suddenly thrust itself deep

between my legs. Something snapped. The whole situation became unbearable and I turned, screaming obscenities, to the man behind me and landed a perfect left hook just below his eye.

In the split second before fist struck flesh I realised with horror that I was about to hit the wrong man. With the force of my momentum, however, I could only begin apologising literally before he knew what had hit him.

Regaining his balance and clutching his face, my victim grabbed the man beside him, shouting: "That was meant for you!" With cheek already beginning to swell, he stood in the centre of the now completely silent and attentive crowd and gave the true villain a firm lecture on respect.

When he had finished he took my arm and guided me through the crowd (which parted silently before us) to a seat on the bus. There he cut short my apologies with one of his own, and left. Presumably to find a cold compress.

The journey back was unusually quiet. No one Indian seemed to dare to sit too close to me. When the bus finally stopped and people began disappearing into the night, a young Indian woman quickly grasped my arm and beamed at me.

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## Personals

'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead' - Raven theatre, Weds 11th Sat 14th May, 7.00, £2.50.

Hey Chick, it's good to have you back.

Celebrate on a budget at

Strawberryfields. Have a drink in the bar, bottle of Pils lager £1. Eat in the bistro set course meal £5.50. Bookings taken 1-40.

**Happy Birthday Fiona! Thank God Monday's a Bank Holiday.**

We do on stage what is generally supposed to happen off stage...Raven theatre, Weds 11th - Sat 14th

**Dear Rosa, Richard and most especially Liz - thanks for all your patient help in laying out our first pages - love Hannah and El**

'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead' - Raven theatre, Weds 11th Sat 14th May, 7.00, £2.50.

**Set 3 course meal £5.50 Mon-Sat evenings 5.30-10.30 Strawberryfields Bistro.**

'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead' - Raven theatre, Weds 11th Sat 14th May, 7.00, £2.50.

I am the wheel, I am the turning, and I will lay my love around you.

Alan Tait

Jim Fallon

Kevin Iro

Craig Innes

Francis Cummins

Paul Cook

Graham Holroyd

Garry Schofield

Jason Donohue

Neil Harmon

James Lowes

Harvey Howard

Mike O'Neil

Gary Rose

Gary Mercer

Richie Eyres

Ellery Hanley

Marcus Vassilakpoulos

We're all Doug's Laughton

army, we're all off to Wembley,

and we're really shake them

up, when we win the Challenge

Cup, 'cos Leeds are the greatest

rugby team....

**Hello number 13**

'Stuart', you're a lying git, don't get offended, and why shouldn't I look at you like that?

**Fanatical Spurs supporter, (well, kinda), seeks similar for day trips to away matches. I don't know where any of those piddly little first division**

itches are. My fave player is Gary Lineker - I like his legs - Who's yours?

Ra ra helen is horrible and likes dogs

Em, it's a good job it wasn't sunny, or you could have ended up with one of those infamous creases. Still, you wouldn't need a choker then.

Well thanks to everyone. But especially Elanor and Hannah - welcome to the madhouse. The literary snob? John Mc. The newsteam Matt, Nicola, David,

Tim & Helen - the silly season is upon us and Rosa, for editing out my shock and amaze, writing a damn good feature and putting

this all together. Chcececeers

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(both on the first floor of the Union Building)

**Inter-mural success for Bishopgate and Devonshire**

**Dev boys are too sporty!**

Much attention is paid to the stereotype of the 'rugby-playing Dev-boy'. But there is a new and more successful breed of sportsman emerging from Devonshire Hall the footballer.

The success of the Devonshire team in the Intra-mural league over the last two years has been astonishing, and the success has continued, with a 2nd XI winning the division at the first attempt.

Last Saturday saw Devonshire take on the University 5th team. Although

the Champions rarely moved out of first gear, the outcome was never in doubt. Indeed, the only danger to the bored, yet capable goalkeeper was a wayward clearance from Musker, as the 5th team rarely got near the Devonshire goal.

On a heavy pitch, our heroes were soon in their stride. The defence proved impenetrable with full-backs being used more as wingers than defenders, and although the mid-field has missed the combative nature of Briscoe's play lately, Pearson's leadership has been superb all

season, and he has been able to call on very capable replacements. Up front, Reynolds maintained his good strike rate this season, despite his apparent immobility, with a goal. A Koeman-like strike from Pilkington, and a hat trick from the predatory Winter saw Devonshire run out 5-0 winners. Their record of 71 goals for, and 1 against this season means that Devonshire will shortly be adding to the 5 titles won in the last 2 seasons, a success rate that can only be dreamed about by other Halls.

**Bishopgate success**

After a successful first term Inter-mural Netball competition run by the Metropolitan Student Union, the play-offs were held on Sunday 16th January, at Beckett Park Sports Centre.

The round robin competition was played between Priestley, Macawley, Bishopdale and highfield halls. A fitting end to the whole competition came as the result depended upon the final game between Priestly and Bishopgate. Although Priestly won, on a points difference Bishopgate came out overall



winners. Winners and runners up trophies were presented by Margret Talbot, Head of University Sport, and Andrew Snowball, Vice-President Beckett Park.

**LEEDS STUDENT**



Would like to wish Leeds Rugby League the best of luck in Saturday's Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final.

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# SPORT STUDENT

## Sail of the century

A team of students from Leeds Metropolitan University returned recently from Port Solent, near Portsmouth after taking part in the British Student National Yachting Championships and scoring a string of notable results in a very competitive series of races.

The event, organised by Plymouth Poly, took place over the weekend of March the 18th-19th, with a fleet of twenty identical 36ft yachts, racing in

the waters of the Eastern Solent between the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth Harbour.

The nature of the "one design" racing held over Olympic type courses and against some of Britain's best young yachtsmen and women made for extremely close and exciting racing, with even small mistakes being punished heavily by a loss of places within the fleet.

With the world champions, Portsmouth, defending their

British title and many of the Southern Colleges hotly tipped to do well, it was the Leeds Metropolitan University team who took the event by storm, winning three of the five races on the water, and coming an excellent 3rd place overall.

Leeds Metropolitan University yacht club now intend to take part in a series of national and international events, many with extensive media coverage, and seeking interested sponsors.



Leeds lead the way



### THE FINAL WHISTLE

Eusebio, van Basten, Gerd Muller, Gary Lineker, Ian Rush, all these names inspire greatness. They all have one more thing in common, they have all won the Golden Boot, that is; over the season they have been Europe's top marksman.

This year the hall of fame is to be joined by a new name. Will it be Shearer? Will it be Cole? Well, if if thing stay the way they are at the moment, it could well be Dave Taylor. Dave who? I hear you ask.

Dave Taylor is a centre forward for Portmadoc of the Konic League of Wales. It is true that even if Wales' most famous players were actually to take part in this League it is fair to say that the general standard would probably be no higher than that of a quite good Sunday League.

Even though the strongest teams have stayed away - Cardiff, Swansea, and Wrexham all play in the English League, whilst Carnarvon Town, Colwyn Bay and Newport play theirs in English amateur Leagues.

So how can the 28-year old Taylor be in with the chance of such acclaim (he currently has 34 league goals more than both Cole and Shearer). Well the Welsh National League is recognised by UEFA and last years Champions Cwmbran Town played in the European Cup this season.

Taylor a tax-collector in Wrexham trains little with his team mates and is the only non-Welsh speaking member of the squad. He is paid £25 a week for the trouble of playing in front of the average 250 crowd at Portmadoc's ground Y Traeth (The Beach).

Taylor does not have to cope with either the demands or the defenders that others do but he's not complaining.

R.Domeneghetti

## Leeds on the Piste

Successes at this year's Northern Collegiate competition and the Christie cup Race ensured that Leeds University Ski Team ended the season on a high.

The northern Collegiate is an all day event with individual slalom races in the morning, the increasingly popular freestyle event in the afternoon and the parallel slalom in the evening, for the inexperienced racer the course was more than a little confusing; over half of the competitors were disqualified on the first run, however, Ian McHardy showed the team how it was done achieving 3rd place time.

Leeds entered three competitors in the freestyle event, two of whom were new to the competition those who have skied at Sheffield will appreciate that getting from the top to the bottom

of an artificial Mogul field is no easy task. Skiers were scored on technique, speed and performance of aerials at least one of which was to be executed on the Moguls.

Try as he might Nick Boyes-Hunter could not land a "Heli" (360-degree turn) but entertained the crowd in attempting to do so. Harald "the Vicking" Vegstein's successful Heli attempt coupled with his impressive Mogul technique won him 3rd place. In the women's freestyle competition Helen May's beautifully executed star jump won her 2nd place.

And so to the Parallel event, by now it was evident that whenever the commentator mentioned Nick Boyes-Hunter, he would fall. He was having, what is known in the sport as a bad day. The team did not do as

well as anticipated in this event.

Overall, Leeds came 3rd behind Manchester and Liverpool which meant that the Christie Cup would be closely fought competition.

Sure enough it was. Strong teams were fielded by each University and despite the underlying competitive spirit the mood was relaxed and friendly. Everyone tended to cheer on everyone else regardless of team or ability.

Christie cup results were determined on the fastest three times for each team. 1st place for Ian McHardy, 2nd for Harald Vegstein and a fast time for Pete "Cheeks" McDevitte won the cup for the mens team.

The Womens Team came second with individual 2nd and 3rd places for Helen Cochrane and Rachel Gosling respectively.

## Irish Rovers

It all happened on the weekend of the 11th of February.

What a relief; the exams over, it was time to relax put on a dinner jacket and go to the Sports Ball.

Well not for Leeds University Football Club 5th Team, they had a riproaring weekend trip to Dublin where they took on one of University College Dublin's top Football teams.

Initially it had been hoped that the 1st team could have joined them but due to match fixtures they were unable to do so. This left the 5ths to go it alone, which they did in style. Leaving on Friday 11th they travelled overnight by coach and ferry and managed to overcome both travel and sea sickness (amongst other ailments). On arrival at 9.00 on Saturday morning the team were a little less refreshed than when they started.

Following fabulous hospitality in a Dublin B&B and a few hours kip they had a relaxing training session before tasting the finer and more renown qualities (Guinness etc.) about Dublin which was to become their more

successful encounter of the weekend.

The following morning at 10.30 they met their foe. After a hard fought battle (still showing the scars of the night before) Leeds finally succumbed 3-0 to a superior (and fresher) team. However they fought to the very end. Experimental goalkeeper Tatu Syvanen made some fine saves, Captain John Keith showed great effort in midfield, Andy Southern and Jamie Bell kept up a relentless attack and Paul Sykes and Owen Kenny anchored the defence.

It was a highly successful weekend which will hopefully be repeated in the future. This time all the players involved had to stomp up the funds themselves as there were none available at the time. It was a bitter pill to swallow but the Guinness made this particular task some what easier.

Due to its success, next year under the guiding hand of Owen Kenny it is hoped that as many teams as possible can travel. This could be the beginning of a very successful annual event and already an invitation has been extended to UCD to come to Leeds.

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