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That Friday free thing

# Leeds Student

Friday, April 27, 2007

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## Spate of sexual assaults continues in Hyde Park

By Jessica Geen

A 22-year-old medical student has become the latest victim of a spate of sexual assaults in Hyde Park.

The female student is believed to have been approached by a man who engaged her in conversation before attacking her. He then ran off in the direction of Brudenell Road.

The incident occurred just after 5.30am on Sunday on Hesse Terrace. The suspect is described as an Asian male with short dark hair, five feet 10 inches tall, of medium build and between 25 and 30-years-old. He was wearing a round-neck navy jumper over a light-coloured top, and dark trousers.

Police have confirmed that they are linking this incident to two other assaults on women in Hyde Park at the beginning of this month. On both occasions, the women were grabbed from behind, but subsequently managed to escape with minor

injuries. Officers have stepped back from saying the perpetrator as a serial attacker.

A man in his twenties from the Halifax area was arrested in connection with the first two Hyde Park assaults a few days afterwards, but was later released without charge.

Acting Detective Inspector Simon Atkinson from Weetwood CID has sought to reassure students. He said: "We are conducting door-to-door enquiries around Hesse Terrace, which will continue, and we are stepping up police presence in the area with increased patrols." He stated that the latest incident is not being treated as related to the sexual assault on a student near Devonshire Halls last week.

Jenny Mensah, a second year Classics student, was in the area early on Sunday morning. She said: "I think there were a few officers around, but at the time I didn't think anything of it. It was light when we came home though, so these crimes are literally happening in broad daylight. I think the student bubble we were all living in has finally burst. I'm really getting scared to leave my own house now."

Sarah Wayman, LUU Women's Officer, said: "These assaults highlight the need for everyone to be aware of their own safety and their friends', and also be sure not to behave in a way that could be perceived as threatening to others." She added: "We still distribute attack alarms that can be picked up from the Student Advice Centre in LUU."

DI Atkinson said police are continuing to appeal for witnesses. He said: "If you have information about this incident, I would ask you to get in touch with the police immediately on 0113 2413495."



**LINDSAY ANN HAWKER'S FUNERAL:** Mourners gathered at Coventry Cathedral yesterday to bury Leeds Biology graduate Lindsay Hawker. She was found dead in bath full of sand by police in Tokyo, where she had moved to be an English teacher after graduating last June. Her family, from Brandon in Warwickshire, made emotional tributes to a "beautiful and principled" girl who they were all proud of.

### Police Advice:

**Avoid walking alone after dark.**

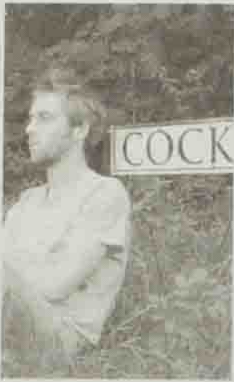
**Keep to busy, well lit roads and try to look confident even if you don't feel it.**

**If you think you are being followed, cross the road and keep walking. If it continues, head for a busy area or lighted house to ask for help.**

**Get a personal attack alarm and carry it in your hand.**

**When you go out, tell people what time you expect to arrive home.**

## News



## Sketch

By Steven Smith

A thick fog of smoke descended on the new batch of Union Councilors this week. They were aching to be as democratic as possible in Monday's inaugural meeting. As ever, *LS* covered the revered event from a safe distance. In fact, safe enough to involve Neighbours and a Guinness, but suffice to say a battle was set.

A simple dilemma: sell cigarettes and continue slowly killing the members, or stop selling cigarettes and lose an estimated £45,000 profit. As Dick Turpin might put it, 'your money, or your life?' With a nationwide smoking ban set to begin on July 1, the - cough cough, hack, cough...hack, excuse me - the resulting decision after two and a half hours of the

monthly mutual mass debate: continue selling cigarettes. If only sex was regularly so long and surprising.

But wait, who brought this motion forward? Well, the Executive, the people voted in to represent us. And who decides on it? Union Council. We voted for them as well, right? Yes indeedy - no secrets here. But wait, didn't we do some questionnaire about this smoking lark over Easter? Yep, that's correct. And what happened with that? Well, about 60 per cent said, 'ban smoking'.

And suddenly, regardless of all that, a big, fat 'pro choice' penny drops in to the £9m LUU pot. Why would our representatives turn their backs on the voters they desperately convinced to propel them

into office? Dazed eyes crossed the room.

Someone lights up and a husky voice says: "It's a smoker's choice whether they smoke, we're not creating a nanny state". Nanny state, they exhale! (Remember that next time you try and buy a Nestlé chocolate bar from the shop.) The 'revelation' that the anti-fag majority were mainly non-smokers themselves, apparently empowered the fingers of democracy to overrule the rationale of said group because, for want of a better explanation, "it has nothing to do with them". So why waste so many resources asking questions to people we intend to ignore? Let's have a rational think (the sort of grown up thing, un-chemically addicted people do).

Our VC - a medic by profession - is, ahem, fuming about the issue. LUU is the only place on campus where cigs can be purchased and he's been lobbying the Union to pop a Nicorette patch on since his arrival. He's even offered to compensate the Union for its drop in profits by upping the grant it gets from the University. But the extent of our addiction knows no bounds.

Perhaps non-smokers might have wider issues with tobacco companies, smoking and the like. But then, of course, smokers are a legally recognised minority with actual rights and a diverse culture of yellow-fingered art. All this talk of conspiracy is making me waiver, I'm going for a fag.

# Students: any questions?

By Alex Doorey

Students were given the chance to put politicians in the hot seat when BBC Radio talk show Any Questions? came to Leeds last Friday.

The show, broadcast from Lawnswood High School, encouraged pupils and university students alike to put their questions to a panel of guests, including Shadow Home Secretary David Davis, International Development Secretary Hilary Benn, Lib Dem Higher Education spokesperson Sarah Teather and former Head of the CBI Sir Digby Jones.

The panel were quizzed with on-the-spot questions from members of the audience in a live broadcast on Radio 4. One of the ten demanding questions, put forward by Editor of *Leeds Student* Ben Schofield, asked whether the war on

terror was suffering from an identity crisis, highlighting comments that Benn had made in a recent trip to America where he condemned the use of the war on terror phrase.

Other questions focused on the pensions scandal and the compensation Bernard Matthews is to receive after the culling of thousands of the company's birds during an avian flu scare earlier in the year.

Once off air, *Leeds Student* had a chance to catch up with the panel. Speaking about the upcoming elections, David Davis was keen to stress that the Conservatives had much to offer the 18-30s voting group.

"We can offer social mobility and opportunity for youngsters, irrespective of their background," he said. "We also hold a level of idealism for youngsters, for example I am a strong opponent of the ID card and defeated the government on the 90 day trial proposal. We can offer liberty

and justice."

When asked what the Conservatives would do to remedy the rising number of gun and knife crimes in urban areas such as Leeds and Manchester, Davis said that the Party would focus on the basics to change the situation: "Tony Blair once said that he was tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime. Well, we want to deal with those causes of crime, the culture surrounding the people that commit these crimes.

"We want to give young people opportunities that are not criminal, so that the person they look up to the most is not the local drug dealer." He also said that the party would work to create a strong base for stable families. "70 per cent of troublemakers are from broken homes. But this is not their fault, it is their society. The culture needs to change."

Sir Digby Jones agreed that the family was an important factor in shaping the future of young people. When asked

whether he still believed that young people were coming out of higher education without the skills necessary in the workplace, a statement he made when he was still Head of the CBI, he stood by his convictions.

"Young people enter the workplace with no soft skills: their communication is not up to scratch and they lack the skills badly needed in business," he said.

Jones went on to blame parents, teachers and the students themselves for the drop in business skills. "It's no one's fault but the teachers and parents," he said. "Kids should take more responsibility for themselves too."

When *LS* asked him what the market was like for graduates emerging from University this year, he said: "It's fabulous. If you've got a skill, you'll be in work for the rest of your life. The private sector pays graduates £8 billion more than non-graduates, and that's not even including the public sector payouts."

# Women inspire at forum

By Katy Palmer

A panel of female stars spoke out about the role of women in society at the Inspirational Women's Forum on Tuesday.

The forum, set up as part of the NUS Women in Work campaign, was organised by LUU Women's Assembly and started with a presentation by LUU Chief Executive Lesley Dixon, the only female Chief Executive out of the top ten UK students' union.

Dixon spoke of the obstacles she faced in her journey to the top of her chosen career. She felt this was a slower journey for women, due to the complacency within Students' Unions.

The second speaker was Rosamund McCarthy, a lawyer who grew up during the second wave of feminism. She touched on the growing progress in women's legal rights. Students then heard from a member of the Fabian society, a coordinator from the rape crisis charity STAR (Surviving

Trauma After Rape), a full time parent, and an engineering lecturer at Leeds University.

A variety of issues were discussed, including: the multiplicity of a woman's role in society, the stay at home parent, and positive discrimination. Most of the panellists felt women made equally effective, but leaders with different skills to men, and that the problem was respecting the different ways in which men and women lead.

The talk was followed by questions from the floor and some stimulating answers. The issue of the remaining existence of the glass ceiling was thrown into question, as was the nature-nurture debate, and the validity of the term 'emotional intelligence'.

For women's rights at work to improve, the consensus was that women have a variety of roles in society, and should not be expected to choose between parent and worker. Full-time parent Anna Longhawn argued that her role should be seen as a valid job in itself and did not make her a housewife.

Engineer Louise Jennings also admitted that she found working in such a traditionally male dominated field something of a novelty at first. But in response to the question about whether women are natural leaders

and can run the country, she replied: "I think Clare Short would be a great Prime Minister. But for me, it depends more on our definition of natural leadership, gender shouldn't be the issue."



INSPIRATION: Forum panel (right to left) Lesley Dixon, Rosamund McCarthy, Seema Malhotra, Anna Longhawn, Barbara Siedlecki and Louise Jennings

PHOTO: John Puddephatt



## GLOBAL

By Alex Doorey

The founder of hip-hop label Def Jam has called for three sexist and racist words to be banned from songs.

Russell Simmons said there was "growing public outrage" about the use of the terms, which he said should be viewed as the same as "extreme curse words".

He asked broadcasters and record companies to voluntarily remove, bleep or delete the words from music. And he suggested setting up an industry watchdog to recommend guidelines for lyrical and visual standards.

Simmons, the pioneering entrepreneur whose label has released music by Public Enemy, Run DMC and the Beastie Boys, objects to the use of "nigger", "ho" and "bitch".

He said: "The words 'bitch' and 'ho' are utterly derogatory and disrespectful of the painful, hurtful, misogyny that, in particular, African-American women have experienced in the United States as part of the history of oppression, inequality, and suffering of women.

"The word 'nigger' is a racially derogatory term that disrespects the pain, suffering, history of racial oppression, and multiple forms of racism against African-Americans and other people of colour."

Simmons called together influential music industry executives to discuss the issue. He added: "It is important to re-emphasise that our internal discussions with industry leaders are not about censorship.

The 49-year-old added: "We recommend (the three words) are always out.

"This is a first step. It's a clear message and a consistency that we want the industry to accept."

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## A showcase of musical talent

By Virginia Newman

The greatest talents in contemporary music are in Leeds from April 20 to 29 to take part in a series of concerts put on by the School of Music.

The series of programmes has been showcasing the talents of musicians and composers from the department and has included famous names. The organisers aim to promote new music and put on many accessible performances.

The series will also appeal to contemporary music fans with big names such as Ian Pearce, Bill Nelson and Nicola le Fanu performing and also the works of Michael Spencer, Martin Watkins, Adam Fergier and Vicki Burrett being performed.

Jillian Johnson, Concerts Administrator for the University of Leeds, said: "Many of this year's performers are recognised as the best in the world. Most performances are free and there's something to interest everyone. If you are new to contemporary music, there's no better time to experience it than with these amazing performances."

Friday's concert included 'Musik mit Leonardo' for speakers and chamber ensemble, 'Kleines Requiem fur

eine Polka' by Henryk Gorecki, and an arrangement of Wham hits by Leeds composer Martin Watkins.

Cassandra Hodgson, a first year Music and English student and member of 'LS TWO' the School of Music's contemporary music ensemble, said: "It was certainly a challenge interpreting alien symbols and making them music. It was great hearing the final effects of the pieces and a fabulous experience."

Last Sunday the Leeds University Liturgical Choir gave a concert of contemporary choral music and the winning piece of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society Choral Composition prize. On Wednesday, acclaimed contemporary pianist Ian Peirce gave a recital, also including a work by a student competition winner.

The series continues with Joseph Tong and Waka Hasegawa playing music for two pianos on Friday 27, and legendary guitarist Bill Nelson presenting a film and live performance on Saturday 28.

The series will end with a harpsichord recital including works by Louis Andriess and Bayan Northcott given by Chau-Yee Lo.

• For more information go to [www.leeds.ac.uk/music/concerts.htm](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/music/concerts.htm)

## LS:TV enjoys success at national awards show

By Jess Geen

LS:TV has won six awards at the 2007 National Student Television Awards, including Best Broadcaster.

The station, which has only been a NaSTA member for three years, won almost half of the 14 awards at the ceremony, which was held in Warwick on Friday and Saturday, March 30 and 31.

As well as Best Broadcaster, LS:TV also scooped awards for: Best Light Entertainment, Best Comedy, Best On-Screen Male, Best Drama and Best Video to Music.

The station was also highly commended for the documentary 'Thais and Lows', Episode 3, and for its news programme, 'The Essential'.

LS:TV station manager James Cooper said: "As a station, we are all incredibly proud of our success at this year's NaSTAs. It certainly is a huge team effort and I can't think of one member who hasn't put their all into ensuring that we are the best student station in the country. I think we were so successful because the spirit of our society shows through in our work."

"We are all about allowing anyone, no matter what their experience, to be creative, meet like-minded people, and learn about making student TV. We're always

welcoming new members, and if someone's got a great idea, we'll make sure it gets to air. As a result, I think our broad range of programming and huge creativity really impressed the judges."

He added: "What makes me especially proud is the fact we won so many awards with so little equipment. We have three cameras which constantly break, one edit computer, and a tiny office. Nevertheless, week in, week out, we produce two hours of great TV. The fact that these obstacles have never stood in our way reflects the

commitment and enjoyment of our members.

"Over the coming year, we aim to become a more valuable and more easily accessible media resource in our Union and we hope we have now earned enough recognition to achieve that. Next week we will be broadcasting some of our best work every day in Millennium Square as part of Celebrate Week and we have big plans to branch out and redefine ourselves in the next 12 months and hopefully win some more awards along the way."



SUCCESS STORY: The award-winning team at LSTV

PHOTO: Jamie Morton

## Scientists explore new depths of the universe using new telescope

By Chris Stevenson

A galaxy far, far away has come a little bit closer due to new research by a group of scientists from around the world.

Leeds University astronomer Dr. Jim Hinton is part of the High Energy Stereoscopic System (HESS) group that has been awarded a share of the €1M (£683,000) European Union Descartes prize for research.

The prize, which has been awarded yearly since 2000, rewards scientific and technological excellence that allows the European Union to compete in the fields of international research and scientific development.

It also rewards research that involves co-operation between member states of the EU. This year, the prize has been shared between three groups, including The High Energy Stereoscopic System (HESS).

The HESS project involves about 100 scientists from Germany, France, the UK, Ireland, Poland, the Czech Republic, Armenia, South Africa and Namibia.

Their work involves building a telescope system that uses high energy gamma rays to construct images of the galaxy that surrounds us. Gamma-ray astronomy is that of the "non-thermal universe", tracing the most violent and energetic phenomena at work in space.

Since 2002 the project has built four telescopes in Namibia that detect gamma-rays and enable scientists to 'see' celestial phenomena far beyond the range of visible light.

Dr. Jim Hinton of the School of Physics and Astronomy, who plays a role in the research, said: "The work is very important as it allows us to find out more about very high energy phenomena in the universe."

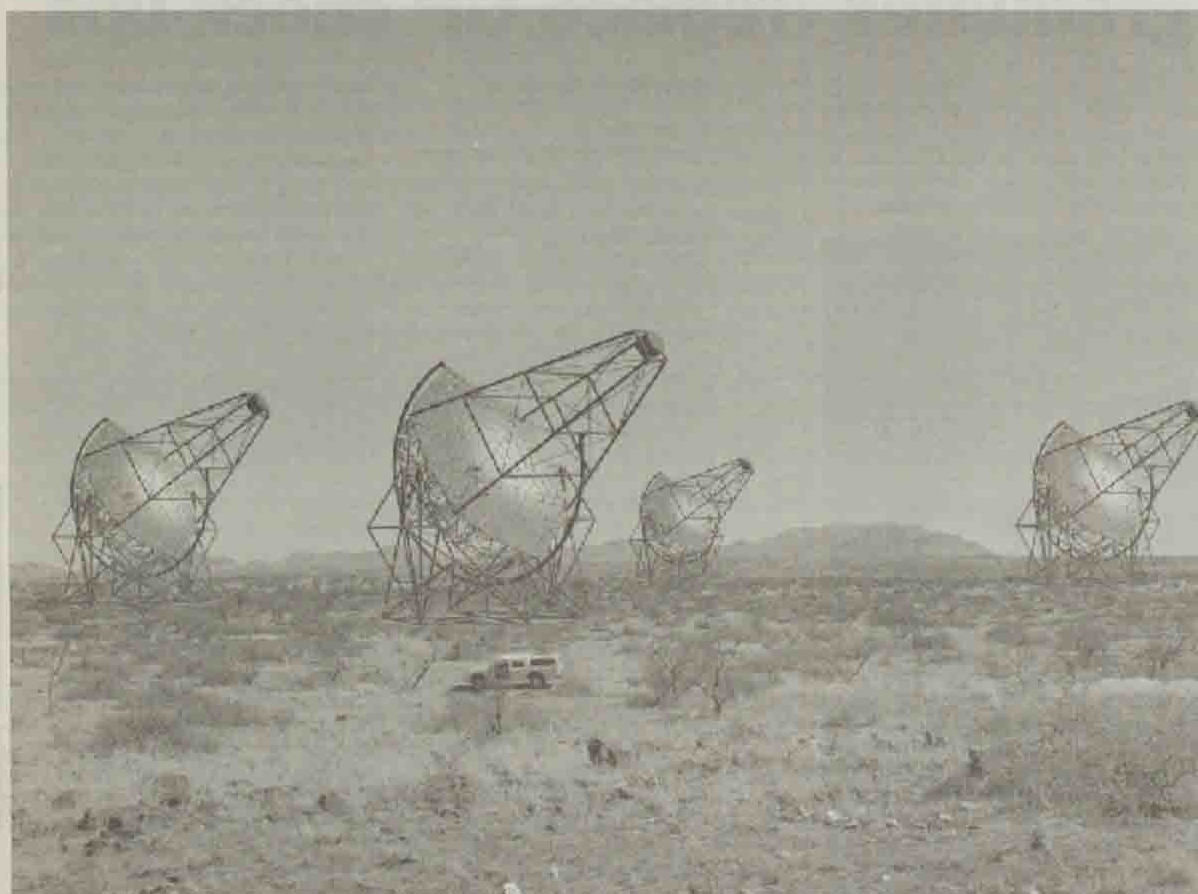
"For example the processes that occur in the extreme environments in supernova shock waves or close to supermassive black holes. A part of this is finding out how and where in our galaxy particles are accelerated to close to the speed of light."

He added: "The HESS telescopes are about ten times more sensitive than previous instruments in this very-high-energy gamma-ray range."

"These are the highest energy photons seen from astronomical objects (each with a billion times more energy than an X-ray) so this research is important and revolutionary for astronomy as a whole."

"The grant we receive will mostly be spent on mirrors for the next step in our project (HESS-2), which involves constructing a massive 27m diameter telescope at the same site in Namibia, in order to further our research."

The name HESS also honours Victor Hess, who discovered cosmic rays in 1912. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1936.



THE SKY AT NIGHT: The HESS telescope system

PHOTO: Google Images

## News

# Academic website could be the facebook for studying

By Abid Husain

An internet-based social networking portal called Online Academic Advisor is becoming the facebook of the academic world.

The portal brings together students studying a range of subjects from all over the world. The goal is to allow users to get to know one another, socialise, make friends and discuss academic matters of interest to them.

On registration, members provide their subject of study, research area, research direction as well as a personal statement to tell other users about themselves. Once a member, users can browse through other users' profiles, find people with similar academic and social interests, send messages to as well as join and create communities of students who share anything from a like of football to an admiration of the work of Friedrich Nietzsche.

The unique aspect of the site is that discussion is not restricted to members in a similar geographical area. Members are able to message anyone across the globe so they can share a 'world of academic experience'. Academics are also able to join up, share research interests and even teaching methods. Another interesting aspect of the site is a free scholarship advertising feature

available to academics which helps cut costs on the otherwise expensive business of scholarship advertising. Some universities have even started registering undergraduate and postgraduate secretaries of different faculties to advise and attract more students.

Vlad Ukis, part of the Online Academic Advisor team said: "The development of the portal is only a start and we are excited to enrich it with more useful features for the academic community."

Students at the University of Leeds appear excited about the portal's development. Andrew Wray, a third year politics student said: "I've just finished my dissertation and I think the portal could really help in areas like that. It's difficult to find people to bounce ideas off in the niche area of politics that my dissertation was about but with a worldwide community it would make life a lot easier."

He added: "I like the social aspect of the site as well. It is good to merge academic interests with social ones, it makes the site like a thinking man's version of facebook."

The portal community has grown exponentially over the last four weeks, more than doubling its membership. Currently it consists of 900 users.

It is available online at <http://www.OnlineAcademicAdvisor.com>.

Building the world's largest academic community.  
Are you part of it? Already joined?

Meet Users Scholarships My Subject Communities Groups Messages Friends Academic Help Main Area

## Our Members

Why Register?  
Being Student  
Being Academic  
Invite Friends

## Latest Users

Student  
Academic  
Member of Public

## News

RSS Feed  
Competition  
Newsletter  
Press Releases

## Miscellaneous

Add to Favourites  
FAQs  
Mission  
Need a break?  
Get in touch

## Polls

Students' Poll  
Academics' Poll  
Publications' Poll

## Business

ACADEMIC WEBSITE: The thinking man's facebook?

## The Online Academic Advisor BETA

Connect with People from Your Research Area.

Welcome to the community portal for students and academics! The portal's goal is to bring together students and academics from every subject and research area worldwide to promote academic discussion and socialising.

### Students can here

- Discuss academic matters
- Socialise
- Meet and make friends
- Find out about studying abroad
- Get rid of postgrad loneliness
- Get academic help
- Find a scholarship
- Find a research supervisor

Register as a Student it's free

### Academics can here

- Discuss academic matters
- Create their own communities
- Organise conference activities
- Socialise
- Meet and make friends
- Provide academic help
- Find new PhDs and PostDocs
- Make themselves known to them

Register as an Academic it's free

Not a student? Not an academic? But still interested? Register as a Member of Public

Free Scholarship Advertising  
Attract More Students to Your University for Free

Latest Users  
Latest Student Latest Academic Latest Member of Public

PHOTO: www.OnlineAcademicAdvisor.com

## Journalists meet to help make working life better for graduates

By Irfan Raja

A National Union of Journalists conference has introduced new measures for graduate journalism students.

The NUJ motions included: a bid to make work experience paid and the introduction of a web blog for student writers. The event saw 300 media professionals, technical staff and 14 students gather in Birmingham, to mark the centenary celebration of the National Union of Journalists.

The Union Secretary General, Jeremy Dear, informed students of how ruthless employers can be when exploiting fresh graduates under the umbrella of work experience, which often involves little more than bringing tea, answering a call or making a photocopy. He said: "The National Union of Journalists is the first organisation to work with students to produce best practice guidelines to end the exploitation of those entering the profession."

Students were given the chance to direct questions to the NUJ President, Secretary and other officials. The Union's move to come-up with a student blog ([www.100yearsofnuj.wordpress.com](http://www.100yearsofnuj.wordpress.com)) was a popular decision with those who hoped it would motivate graduates who may feel disenfranchised

with the working world of journalism. Paul Bradshaw, the blog editor said "the blog will serve all students, those that want to make a difference now have the opportunity to do so."

One student attendant said: "It was my first ever media related conference in the UK. I think the Union's interest in the concerns of students will bring more diverse young graduates to this profession."



NUJ MEET: Journalists and students gather in Birmingham

PHOTO: RONAN QUINLAN

## Healthy phone may replace GP check-ups

By Anton Mclean

Researchers are developing a mobile phone for health that could replace the regular doctors' check-up.

The phone will work by interacting with small wireless devices such as a blood pressure monitor which is strapped to the wrist. It will be able to check blood-pressure and blood glucose levels, heart rate and other vital signs via a Bluetooth connection and then transfer the information via a remote server directly to the owner's doctor. In emergency situations the phone would automatically alert health professionals with a phone-call or text message.

Improved living conditions and a better quality of life means that people are living much longer than ever before. Scientists estimate that by 2014, the number of people aged 65 in the UK will exceed those under 16. Dr Alison Marshall who is leading the project says because of this, new technology solutions that 'provide a greater level of care for patients' need to be found and the researchers are confident that the health-phone will revolutionise the way we think about healthcare.

The mobile will be so advanced that it will even allow its owner to check the amounts of calories, sugar and fats they

have eaten and then recommend what dietary or exercise changes would be required to offset the damage. The researchers have found that patients' well-being is significantly enhanced by self management and believe that the phone will negate the need for patients to make frequent trips to the doctor for routine checks, and let them track their health progress on a personalised website.

However, the health phone was given a cautious reception by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP). Professor Mayur Lakhani, Chair of the RCGP told Leeds Student: "This mobile phone device is not a threat to GPs as it can never be a substitute for a face to face consultation. However, if used carefully it can support doctors in delivering high standards of care and empower patients by offering them another method of communication with their GP."

The project which has received funding from the New Dynamics of Ageing Programme involves researchers from the Keyworth Institute, the School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, the Nutritional and Epidemiology Group and the School of Healthcare.

A prototype phone will be tested on research volunteers next month to improve its design and functionality, before a larger trial is held next year.

# V-C looks to stub out opposition

By Rachel Hunter

A motion to ban the sale of cigarettes in Leeds University Union fell at Monday's Union Council meeting.

The Vice-Chancellor Michael Arthur, who has been lobbying for a moratorium since his arrival at Leeds, has expressed disappointment at the result.

He told *Leeds Student*: "As a medic who has witnessed the awful, painful deaths of people with smoking-induced lung disease, I feel it's my professional and personal duty to take a strong position against smoking."

Discussion at the meeting centred around Council's belief that Union members should keep the right to purchase cigarettes in LUU, whether discontinuing the sale of cigarettes would actually deter individuals from smoking and also the potential loss of revenue that might occur, resulting in a significant impact on Union investment in student services.

Following what was described as an 'interesting yet contentious debate' by Democracy and Communications Officer Damola Timeyin, it was decided that the Union would not discontinue the sale of cigarettes.

The forthcoming smoking ban, which is being introduced throughout the University from July 1, could lead to

the controversial issue being raised again on the agenda of the Union Council or on the upcoming Union Referenda.

Hoping that the decision may be returned to at some point, the VC is offering to help the Union offset any loss of profit from stopping the sale of cigarettes.

He said: "I appreciate there are financial concerns, and so the University has offered to help the Union offset its potential loss of profits for a transitional period (50 per cent of loss in year one and 25 per cent in year two - around £24,000 in all). That offer is still there."

"I suggested that LUU should consider the issue of selling cigarettes as part of their 'Healthy Week' activities. Promoting the health and well-being of students is a great idea, but to do that whilst also making a profit from selling cigarettes is - in my view - inconsistent."

"I acknowledge the freedom of choice issue, but I still believe that the whole concept of 'health promotion' is undermined by this very clear inconsistency in policy."

He added: "This is the single most important step the Union could take to promote health among students, and I'm sure this debate will continue in the coming months."

"Meanwhile, I very much hope that the Union puts measures in place to help those who want to quit smoking, and does everything in its power to

discourage its members from this dangerous habit."

The VC is due to meet students next week for his termly question and answer session. Timeyin has suggested in an email that all Union Councillors should

attend the meeting to hear Arthur's arguments in favour of a ban. The VC's office has confirmed he intends to engage with them on the issue. The floor will also be open for students to quiz the VC on their student experience at the

University of Leeds.

• Share your views and opinions with the Vice Chancellor and the student body on May 1 at 4pm in the Riley Smith Hall. RSVP: [comms@luu.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:comms@luu.leeds.ac.uk)



SUPPLY AND DEMAND: Cigarettes on sale at LUU

PHOTO: Patrick Nixon

## Uni urges staff to cycle to work

By Laura Mackenzie

A new cycle-to-work-scheme has been launched to encourage university staff to lead better lifestyles and promote healthy living.

The scheme allows staff to hire new bicycle and safety equipment at a discounted price and they can sign



ON YER BIKE: A new scheme is launched to encourage cycling

up from now until 30 June 2007.

The initiative works by the University purchasing bikes and then hiring them to staff for eighteen-month periods.

Monthly deductions will be made from staff's gross pay as a tax-free benefit. At the end of the hire period, hirers will be able to buy their equipment at ten per cent of the retail value.

Transport co-ordinator Steffi Hasse explained the reasoning behind the scheme: "Cycling is the quickest mode of transport in a city over a five mile distance" She added: "Running a bike is much cheaper than a car, and its good for environmental air quality."

Such benefits would suggest that the scheme should evolve to include students; although many are close enough to walk to university, there are others who live just outside of Leeds centre and could also participate in such a scheme.

Students have mixed feelings about the idea. Sara Habachi, first year Politics and Philosophy student, said: "unless there are proper cycle lanes or students have had road safety lessons then they could be at risk on the roads."

Lucy Graham, a first year Law student said: "I think the cycle scheme is a great idea. I don't own a bike currently but if I was given a discount on equipment I would definitely cycle to university rather than get the bus."

## Cyclists take on 2000 mile charity challenge

By James Morris

Four intrepid cyclists are setting off at the end of May on a 2,000 mile journey to Africa.

The quartet, consisting of Leeds students David McCorquodale, Luke Williams, Ben Stuart and Sam Moore, are taking on this enormous challenge to raise money for Leukaemia Research.

The finalists, who leave London on May 29, plan to complete the cycle unaided in just over a month, cycling on average between 60 to 80 miles a day. Their final destination will be Morocco.

Inspiration and choice of charity for the four stems from the death of Luke's brother Ben as a result of leukaemia in 1991.

With dissertations looming, training has naturally been tough for the team, who have been in the gym over the winter months but are now trying to cycle between 40 and 50 miles a day. None of them have tried anything remotely similar before.

For many, such a ride would seem a daunting undertaking, but David calmly shrugs this suggestion off. He said: "It's a nice way to end our university experience as well as doing our bit for charity."

Their route takes them first to Portsmouth, then by ferry to St Malo and straight through France over the Pyrenees.

They will then travel down the coast of Spain through Barcelona and Valencia and into Gibraltar, taking the ferry across to Tangiers and then on to the capital Rabat.

David added: "Friends were all surprised when we told them about our plans but have been extremely supportive as can be seen from the number of people who have already donated".

Their Facebook group, 'Cycle to Africa 2007' already has 240

members, and displays two maps, detailing the route the cyclists plan to take.

With £1,800 already donated, the level of support is clear, making them 60 per cent of the way towards their £3,000 target.

For more information or to make a donation visit: [www.justgiving.com/cycle2africa2007](http://www.justgiving.com/cycle2africa2007) or join their 'Cycle to Africa 2007' Facebook group.



CHARITY CYCLE: The Leeds lads take on the challenge

PHOTO: David McCorquodale

## Under the Radar

# Russia after Yeltsin: Change, Chaos and China

The Moscow Times considers the possibility of dramatic reform: "In the next decade, Russia may break up into six to eight different states"

By Stefan Page



MOSCOW, RUSSIA: The future of Russia seems uncertain. Stefan Page offers an insight from the 'Yeltsin Perspective'

**RUSSIA:** Boris Yeltsin, the former President of Russia who died aged 76, led Russia away from the repression of Communism, but was never to see the promised land of a thriving market economy and a state ruled by law. He took control of a Russia in disarray and left it in a different kind of bedlam when he suddenly resigned on the last day of 1999.

"During his time in office two very different Yeltsin's etched themselves on the world's consciousness. There was Yeltsin the fighter, who climbed on top of a tank in August 1991 to raise the standard of liberty against the Soviet putschists who wanted to restore Communism" (Telegraph, 24/4/07)

Just days after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Boris Yeltsin resolved to embark on a program of radical economic reform, with the aim of restructuring Russia's economic system – converting the world's largest socialist planned economy into a market-oriented capitalist one. During early discussions of this transition, Yeltsin's advisers debated issues of speed and sequencing, with an apparent division between those favoring a rapid approach and those favoring a gradual or slower approach.

In late 1991 Yeltsin turned to the advice of Western economists, and Western institutions such as the IMF, the World Bank, and the U.S. Treasury Department, who had developed a standard policy recipe for transition economies in the late 1980s. This policy recipe came to be known as the "Washington Consensus" or "shock therapy," a combination of measures intended to liberalize prices and stabilize the state's budget. Such measures had been attempted in Poland, and advocates of "shock therapy" felt the same could be done in Russia. Some Russian policymakers were skeptical that this was the way to go, but the approach was favored by Yeltsin's deputy, Yegor Gaidar, a 35-year-old

Russian economist inclined toward radical reform. In January 1992, Gaidar convinced Yeltsin to introduce a program of "shock therapy" in Russia. On January 2, Yeltsin, acting as his own Prime Minister, ordered the liberalization of foreign trade, prices, and currency. At the same time, Yeltsin followed a policy of 'macro-economic stabilization,' a harsh austerity regime designed to control inflation. Under Yeltsin's stabilization program, interest rates were raised to extremely high levels to tighten money and restrict credit. To bring state spending and revenues into balance, Yeltsin raised new taxes heavily, cut back sharply on government subsidies to industry and construction, and made steep cuts to state welfare spending.

In early 1992, prices skyrocketed throughout Russia, and deep credit crunch shut down many industries and brought about a protracted depression. Many state enterprises shut down as they found themselves without orders or financing. The living standards of much of the population were devastated. In the 1990s Russia suffered an economic downturn more severe than the United States or Germany had undergone six decades earlier in the Great Depression.

Russian commentators and even some Western economists, such as Marshall Goldman, widely blamed Yeltsin's Western-backed economic program for the country's disastrous economic performance in the 1990s. Many politicians began to quickly distance themselves from the program. In February 1992, Russia's vice president, Aleksandr Ruskoy denounced the Yeltsin program as "economic genocide." By 1993 conflict over the reform direction escalated between Yeltsin on the one side, and the opposition to radical economic reform in Russia's parliament on the other.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Yeltsin promoted privatization as a way of spreading ownership of shares in former state enterprises as widely as possible to create political support for his economic reforms. In the West, privatization was viewed as the key to the transition from communism in Eastern Europe, ensuring a quick dismantling of the Soviet-era planned economy to make way for

'free market reforms.' Will Yeltsin's dream of a thriving market economy and a state ruled by law be achieved in the near future? This is an unanswerable question, all that is certain of Russia's future is that it is extremely unpredictable.

Russia's future is a topic of speculation, the Moscow Times considers the possibility of dramatic reform: "In the next decade, Russia may break up into six to eight different states. ... In world history, countries that suffer from systemic internal disorder inevitably become the victims of conquest. And not even nuclear weapons can guarantee the territorial integrity of a country, just as a car alarm doesn't always protect against theft. A country without an army is in trouble, and Russia's army showed its true colours in Chechnya: It's adept at plundering but no good at fighting. In this high-tech age, only professional armies can get the job done; mass conscript armies are as obsolete as cavalry armies were in World War II." (21/2/07)

An interesting factor in Russia's future is its relationship with the East. Whether for good or ill, Russia, as the last of the European imperial powers engaged in Asia, is in retreat. Even in the "near abroad" of the former Soviet states of Central Asia, Russia may expect increasingly to play second fiddle to the dynamism and ambitions of China. In its relations with China itself, Russia is no longer either the dominant nor even the primary factor in Beijing's worldview. Rather, Russia is a useful partner to China in many aspects of its own external relations and a secure hinterland in any potential future crisis over Taiwan or Korea. For China, Russia is also a school of economic and social policies it regards as failures and, unfortunately, an object lesson to the Chinese Communist leadership against the rapid introduction of multi-party democracy, a free press, and loosening of a highly centralized system of state control over its provinces.

### Also in the news

#### Police generate community cohesion in Leeds

Football for the under 17s has become a new project for the Neighbourhood Policing Teams in Hyde Park, Headingley and the surrounding area. The so-called "Fair Play" project encourages 9-13 and 14-17 year-olds to engage in community issues. The first tournament, on 11th April, saw Woodhouse 9-13 year-olds beat Tinsill, 1-0, and the Little London side win a separate penalty-kick shoot out competition. The event, which is sponsored by Leeds Federation Housing, was described by one Police participant, PC Cryer, as the best youth community event by far: "It was well attended, well behaved and entertaining for everyone involved."

#### Deportation to Democratic Republic of Congo

A 'National day of Action' protest was held in Leeds – amongst many other UK cities – earlier this month, against deportations to the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is alleged that Home office created, operation Castor, saw the deportation of 38 DR Congolese, a number that included 21 children. The DRC has been through a turbulent recent history with ethnic and civil wars in almost constant throes, which has seen the recent period labelled as the bloodiest since World War Two. Despite the potential for democracy in 2006, the elections were still disturbed by riots and attacks on the polling booths.

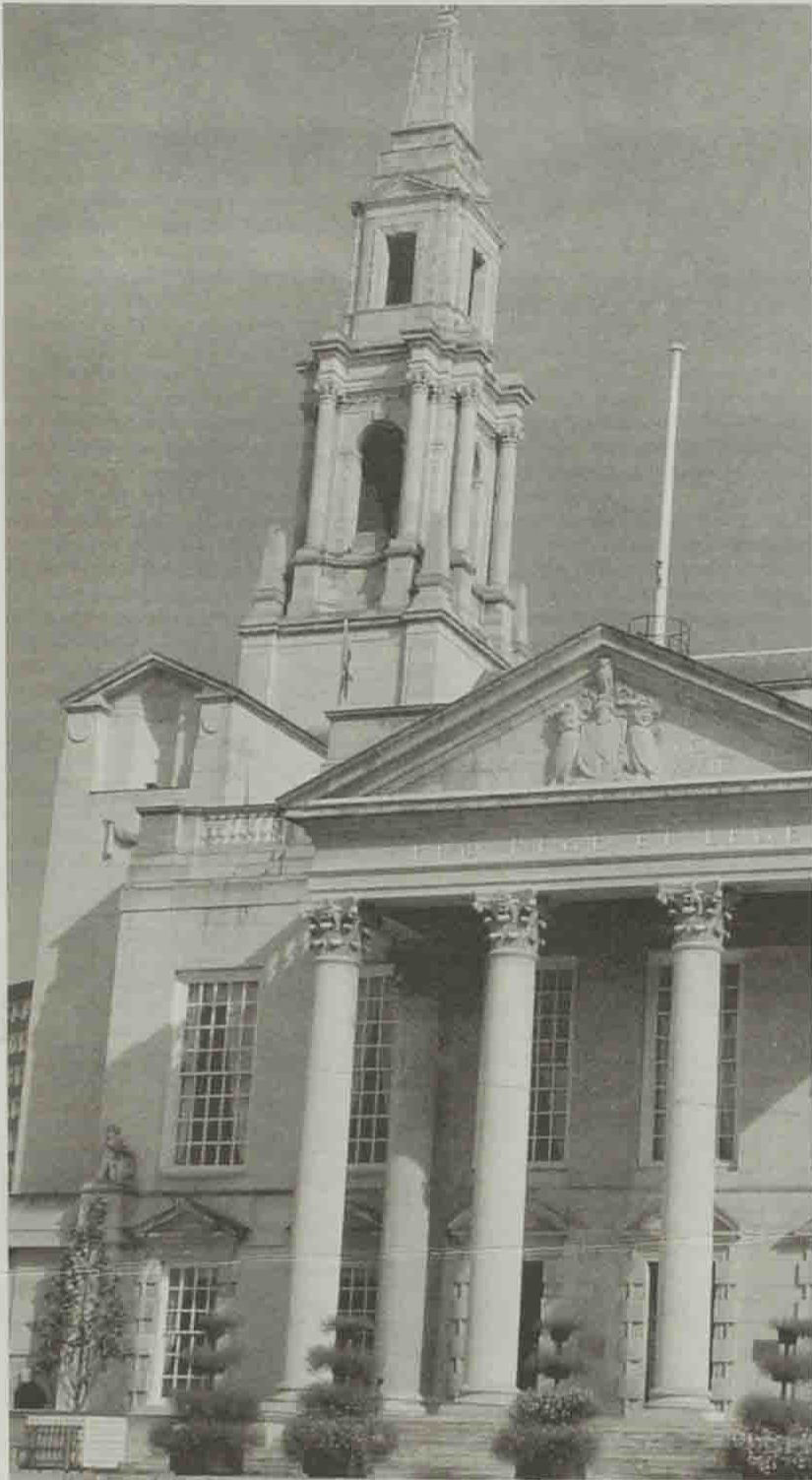
#### Microfinanciers target HIV in Africa

Microfinance institutions are helping to fight the pandemic, AIDS, that is particularly prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa. The financiers offer micro loans as little as \$15, which helps communities build up their own economy from a small yet stable base. The loans – due to their small nature, have an unusually high rate of repayment at 98 per cent. However, HIV and AIDS are paying detriment to the companies as repayments are completed between 65 and 86 per cent due to ill health. As a result of this loss of income, the MFIs are implementing education schemes and workshops to inform potential borrowers about the ins and outs of the virus.

#### Rio de Janeiro tackling drug with the army

Rio de Janeiro has seen the killing of an alleged 20 gang members as the Police made an attempt to crack down on the escalating drug trade in what is rumoured to be one of Brazil's most dangerous cities. With rates of 50 homicides to every 100,000 citizens, the city sees killings – especially in the notorious favelas – on a daily basis. The killings which happened in the Mineira favela, near the city centre, was a result of rival gangs from the trying to gain control of drug dealing spots, claimed the police. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is debating whether to send military troops into the city to deal with the escalating violence and drug related crime.

# extra



LEEDS CIVIC HALL: Can a lowly Leeds student make it into the corridors of power?

## Political pastures new

The cosy confines of Leeds Civic Hall are under threat. There are students on the loose. Danial Adilypour and Chris Wales talk to Jessica Parker about their fight to become Leeds City Councillors.

Any student worth their weight in erroneous three AM take-aways will know the golden rule: we do not talk about the real world. If we occasionally stray and mention this nightmarish realm, a student's tone is to be light, airy, humorous and very suggestive of the fact that said 'Real World' does not actually exist. But there's bad news. Some of our own have taken the plunge into the murky depths of reality and this reporter fears for their safety. Have you seen Danial Adilypour or Chris Wales? Stay away, children, stay away. They have burst their own student bubbles and might just try and burst yours.

On Thursday May 3, one third of Leeds City Council goes up for election. It is currently run by a 'rainbow coalition' of Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and Greens (see table on page 9). Mr Adilypour and Mr Wales have seen fit to enter the contest and challenge the incumbent councillors in two wards. Danial Adilypour is the Labour candidate for Harewood and Chris Wales is the Conservative candidate for Headingley. That's right, not only are these two crazies trying to get serious jobs before they're even done being a student but jobs that give them

the responsibility of actually running the city of Leeds. And yes, I did check, they are real students.

Yet neither candidate appeared remotely intimidated by the prospect of life outside of Studentville, when I met up with them this week. Conservative Chris Wales proclaimed confidently, "Students can absolutely fulfil the role. Being a councillor is about addressing people's concerns and listening to them." Labour Danial Adilypour seemed equally ready to take on the task, saying, "I would relish the opportunity, if elected, to change things in Leeds." Change is a big word and is often bandied about by politicians more often than it is achieved. However, both Mr Adilypour and Mr Wales seem to have some substantial ideas to back up their campaigns.

Danial says, "We've said, if elected in Leeds, Labour will provide all over-80s with free homecare. I'm disgusted at the way the current Council have treated the elderly. Since they came to power, over 1,700 elderly citizens in Leeds have had their homecare taken away from them. I've seen spending cuts, a decline in public services and I want to do something about it." Shock of all horrors, Chris has a more positive verdict for the performance of the

### 10 Cottaging: the second coming

Steven Smith goes down to Leeds' premier cottaging hotspot, the Parkinson Building toilets, to revisit and further expose Leeds' anonymous gay sex scene.

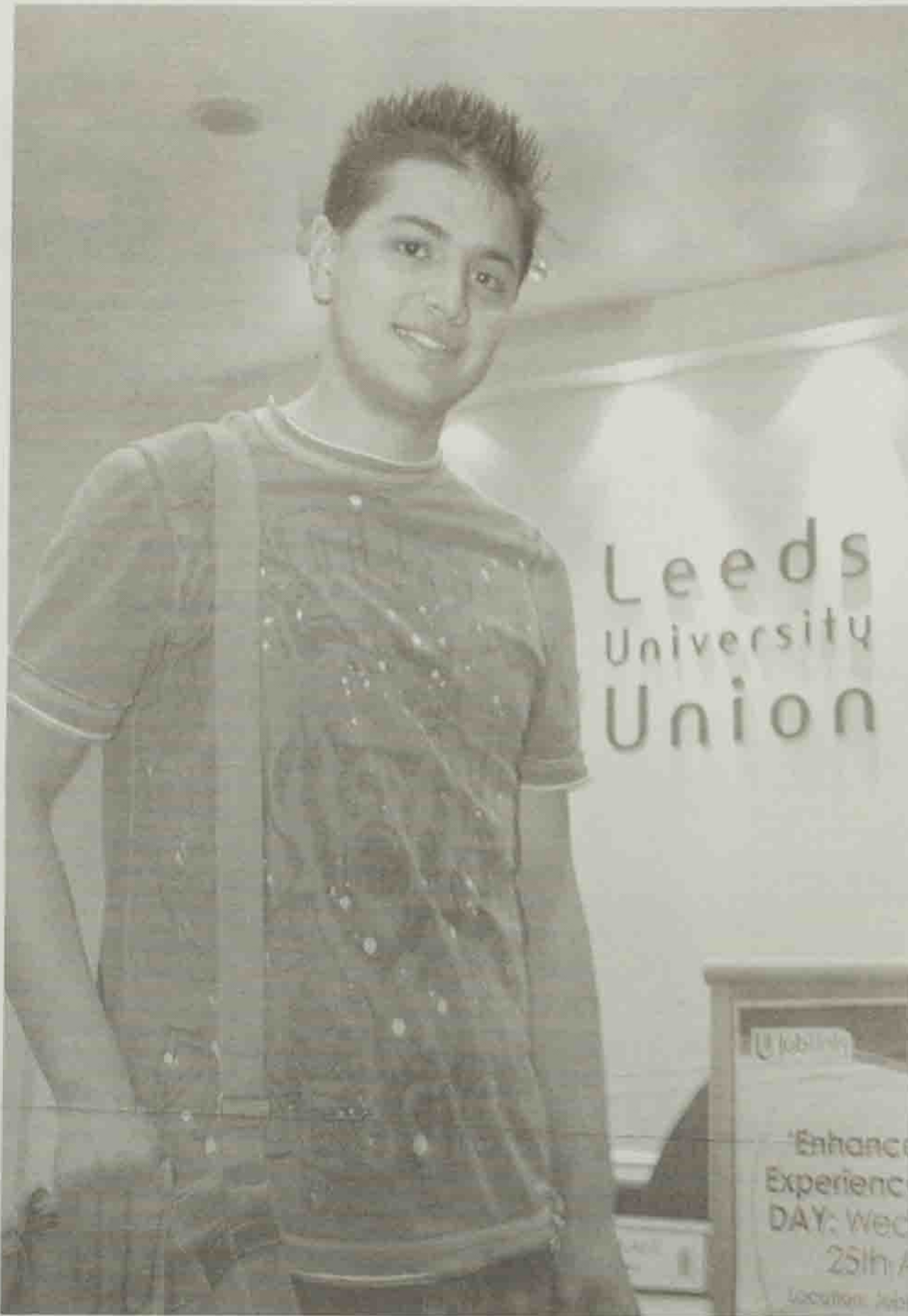
### 12 Student Parents

There are those students whose lives are a little more complicated than having just to juggle their coursework and that 14th pint. James Haddon meets with the students who balance their courses and their children.

'rainbow coalition'. "I think it has worked very well. There's been a visible change in road repairs in Leeds, a greater police presence on the streets and response times have shot up. But as you always get with coalitions there has to be some horse-trading and compromise. A single ruling party in power would bring about more radical change. The Conservatives, Lib Dems and Greens are certainly strange bed-fellows - it's like sticking Margaret Thatcher, Charles Kennedy and a sprout into bed." Brilliant.

It is, of course, unsurprising that a Conservative believes that the current administration has been a success. But does Chris have ideas for the future? "I'm standing to put students at the front of the agenda in Headingley." An admirable policy, to be sure, but does Chris think that being a student and standing in a student area, with his central policy being greater representation for students, might put him in some small danger of being a single issue candidate? "Representation is obviously a very big issue. But that isn't all I stand for. I think that government needs to be more transparent. I don't think many people actually know what the difference is between local government and national govern- ➤

## Extra Student Politicians



**ADILYPOUR:** Dan's name appears first on the Harewood ballot sheet. An advantage that secures, on average, a extra 150 votes.

PHOTO: JOHN PUDEPHATT

### Danial (left):

**"I'm looking for every vote. And Labour values are as valid in the suburbs as they are in the inner-cities. There are Labour voters everywhere and they deserve representation."**

ment: what their powers are and what they can do for us. I'd like to see a system where local councillors posted daily on the internet about what they're doing. And there are social issues, like the usage of land, the need for more community facilities and raising education standards for poorer families."

So both Danial and Chris seem raring to go but, do either actually have a chance of winning in their respective wards? Danial's ward of Harewood is currently run by three Conservative councillors who have a very strong base of support in the area. Student candidates are often nominated to run in seats in which there is little or no chance of victory. Does Danial think he can beat the incumbent Councillor Rachael Proctor or, is his a mere 'paper candidacy'? "Not at all. I'm looking for every vote. And Labour values are as valid in the suburbs as they are in the inner-cities. There are Labour voters everywhere and they deserve representation."

Headingley is run by three Liberal Democrat Councillors. Chris is running against James Monaghan this year. (Mr Monaghan, previous to his occupation as a councillor, found some measure of success in the porn indus-

try. Now who can say that Leeds City Council isn't a broad church?) Does Chris think that he can take on the likes of Mr Monaghan (who, in his own humble words concedes that, as a councillor, "I have achieved a lot") or, does Chris believe that he's just another student being set up for a 'paper candidacy'? "Conservatives have the highest number of student councillors in the country. And in Headingley we were 1,700 votes behind the Liberal Democrats but that was slashed down to 700 overnight. 700 votes is not a big grab. The big problem in Headingley is voter apathy. In any other ward 700 votes would be a party clinging on. But even with voter apathy, higher in Headingley than in most areas of the city, I still think that everybody's in with a winning chance. So I wouldn't go so far as to call it a paper candidacy."

Chris and Danial's optimism is certainly inspiring and impressive, but will the people of Leeds take these two as seriously as they take themselves? Danial believes they will. "I've had a positive feedback on the doorstep. People seem pleased to see a fresh face and hear new ideas. Chris doesn't think that people will just see him as a student. "It's not about your age or circumstances in life. It's about whether

you can connect with people and are prepared to fight for them. And the response has been fairly positive. I ran last year and sent out some information asking people if they'd be prepared to vote for a student and something like three quarters said yes. And those responses were more from residents of your blue rinse brigade and old age pensioners."

Chris Wales is of course running in an area with a heavy student population - often said to explain Lib Dem dominance in the ward. Popularly perceived as the student party, the Liberal Democrats might be hard to push out in such a student-orientated ward. But Chris thinks that the Conservatives might be about to steal the student faithful from the yellows. "I don't think the Liberal Democrats are the student party as such. That's a very recent development. If you look at it historically, students generally back the most progressive force. When Mrs Thatcher came and was seen as a dynamic, progressive force, a whole chunk of her votes came from students. Same with Mr Blair in the early 90s - he offered radical change, that looked very good on paper, and students flocked to Labour. The way the Conservative party is moving at the minute



**WALES:** Not actually Welsh but Leeds born and bred.

PHOTO: STEVE SMITH

### Chris (right):

**"The Conservatives, Lib Dems and Greens are certainly strange bed-fellows - it's like sticking Margaret Thatcher, Charles Kennedy and a sprout into bed."**



will mean that it becomes a lot more attractive, if it hasn't already, to the student vote."

Danial reminds us some of what his party have done for students, "Labour introduced the minimum wage, which really helps those students who work part-time jobs. And twenty years ago a university education was the pursuit of the wealthy elite. Thanks to Labour, anyone who wants to can now go to university. If it wasn't for Labour, I wouldn't be at university."

Many may, at this point, may be tempted to cough the word, "Top-Up Fees". With the Liberal Democrats seen as the main party opposed to Top-Up Fees, can either party deny the student-Lib Dem connection? Danial remarks, "It annoys me that the Liberal Democrats present themselves as the 'anti-tuition fee party' yet they were more than happy to introduce the Graduate Endowment Tax in Scotland, which is effectively tuition fees by another name." The Graduate Endowment Tax requires Scottish Students to pay a sum of £2,145, possibly more, once they have finished university and are earning over £10,000 a year.

As for Liberal Democrat loyalty to students on a more local basis, Chris is sceptical. "Having been round Headingley and followed some of the local Liberal Democrat Councillors, I have to say, they spend a lot of time sitting in obscure residents meetings blocking planning permission and talking about how they'd like to get students out of Headingley." Danial agrees, "The Lib Dems, from what I have seen, seem to be hostile to the student presence in Headingley and Hyde Park and Woodhouse."

Chris Wales is disappointed in the lack of contact between students and their councillors. "I've never seen the councillors here talking to the Exec, coming and supporting our campaigns or talking to us about our needs and concerns." The Labour candidate for Headingley and former Leeds University student, Katherine Mitchell, agrees that some of the current councillors have failed to reach out to young people. "I believe most young people are interested in politics but politicians in general are unrepresentative and remote from the people they represent."

**"NUS and bodies within the Union can appear to be the only outlet for students. Places where we spend three hours talking about a wall going around Israel. They achieve two-thirds to three-fifths of nothing."**

Interestingly, current Headingley councillor, James Monaghan, believes that student-councillor ties are strong. "I have worked closely with the Student Unions of Leeds Met and Leeds University to establish a student forum to discuss issues that affect students living in the LS6 area. The agenda is set by students and the ideas and comments that come out of the forum are fed into official council channels to help formulate the council's strategy."

To put Mr Monaghan's assertion to the test, Chris asks, "Outside of the political 'elite' on campus, could anyone actually even name who their three councillors are?" (Can you?) "The councillors are being paid twelve thousand a year to enfranchise all their voters. But they're not talking to the students."

I can't help thinking that there might be a reason why we can't name our councillors (apart from any possible lack of effort on either side). Often belittled as being merely the people in charge of rubbish collection, pot-holes and getting cats out of trees, does either of our students feel that their prospective occupation is simply a matter of lording it over bin-men? Danial reminds me, "The current administration has been powerful enough to take homecare provisions from our elderly. And if you're on the door-step, it's issues like pot-holes and rubbish collection that concern people."

Chris is of a similar mind, "Whilst Leeds City Council isn't going to be declaring the next war," (glad to hear it - although conquering Sheffield could potentially be fun), "or putting forward radical education policies, measures like becoming a zero waste city is a fantastic step forward that makes a very big impact on a lot of local people."

Danial is less impressed with the Council's performance on the environment, "I'm very unhappy about the plans to introduce the incinerator. It's environmentally unfriendly and hypocritical that the Greens on the Council are happy to see it built. Instead of focussing on burning rubbish and polluting our environment in the process, they should provide a decent waste disposal service and invest more resources in recycling. And the current Hyde Park and Woodhouse Lib Dem up for re-election tried, not long ago, to tarmac over some of Hyde Park and turn it into a car park." Surprised at this, I looked into Mr Adilypour's claim and it does indeed seem that Councillor Kabeer Hussain did once support plans to tarmac over the Monument Moor section of Hyde Park. Councillor Hussain stated at the time, "[The car park] will be really nice with shrubs and trees surrounding it". Car parks with shrubs and trees are always nice to cook up a BBQ in, it's true.

The more I talk to Danial and Chris, the more apparent it becomes that the two are extremely well-informed and more than capable candidates. Having met the odd councillor in my time, I can say with total sincerity that these two are no less impressive (if not more so) than their prospective colleagues.

However, I am curious about why neither of these two political anoraks have taken the more conventional course of climbing up the greasy Union Council and NUS ladder. Chris observes, "NUS and bodies within the Student Union can appear to be the only outlet for students. Places where we spend three hours talking about a wall going around Israel. They achieve two-thirds to three-fifths of nothing. We can actually have a fantastically

positive effect on the local community. Look at RAG, look at ACTION - there are groups that go out and actually do something. This isn't all about giving students what they want, but empowering them to make a positive difference in the community." Danial agrees that there is a need to break out of the usual political student forums, "There often seems to be the attitude that politics outside of campus is only the stomping ground of the middle-aged. We need to show that this isn't the case."

Pot-holes, littered parks and rubbish collection may not be as glamorous to discuss as far-away wars, but it is important to gain a sense of, dare I say it, reality here. An American politician once said, "All politics is local". Whilst he clearly never attended Leeds University Union Council (wise choice), we might do well to listen to his advice. Though it is the student's golden rule never to mention the real world, secretly and silently crossing a box (or violently defiling your ballot paper, if you so wish) doesn't, if you think about it, break this commandment.

## The figures - Leeds city council, 2006-07

Labour	40
Liberal Democrat	25
Conservative	24
Morley Borough Independents	4
Green	3
Independent	2
BNP	1

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## Extra Cottaging

# Cottager's coming

Last year *Leeds Student* reported that gay men were meeting up for sex in the Parkinson Building toilets. *LS* returns to the underground cottaging hot spot and finds it's being used more than ever by men from all backgrounds, including students. After investigating the goings on 12 months ago, **Steven Smith** reports.

**P**aul is from Armley. A medium build, 5'8" 34-year-old, he feels lonely and is easily hurt. James on the other hand is 20 and a student in Leeds. A slender 5'9" he is concerned about his hygiene and enjoys the theatre. Guy is from Leeds City Centre. A stocky, 6'2" 32-year-old, he notes his good looks and chest hair. Although these men may seem unconnected, they share a secret hidden life which plays out on Leeds University's campus.

Paul, James and Guy have all met with other men in the Parkinson building toilets for sex. They have shared their tales online at the website [squirt.org](http://squirt.org) and solicited further acts with many others. That such men frequent campus is not news. A year ago, *Leeds Student* shared the Parkinson buildings'

buried secrets. Leading the investigation, I told of how men would meet up for regular lunchtime liaisons and use the self-drilled spy holes to peer at other, perhaps unsuspecting, users. But Paul, James and Guy are part of a vastly increased number of 'cottagers' who use the Parkinson building. The toilets now play host to a full timetable of activity. Weekdays begin with a 9am rush and manage a steady flow through the afternoon, sometimes achieving a double figure of punters at lunch time. Over the weekend, the deserted toilet becomes a safe location for organised meets, free from the weekday fear of unsuspecting bystanders.

In seeking to establish if anything had changed since I last went there, I took a trip to the Parkinson's basement conveniences once more. Escaping the mid-lecture bustle above, I went down

to the suspect toilets and took a cubicle close to the corner. Sitting, perhaps suspiciously with my trousers up, I soon had occupants in both adjoining stalls. The usual bathroom quiet – a feature of male etiquette – was, as ever, spoilt by the sound of both men masturbating loudly, as required by cottaging etiquette. When a non-cottager, or even a new cottager, entered the room, a relative peace descended, though this was soon disrupted by stray feet suggestively infringing on the space under the partition. Men constantly approached the end cubicle, trying the door in hope of a face-to-face experience.

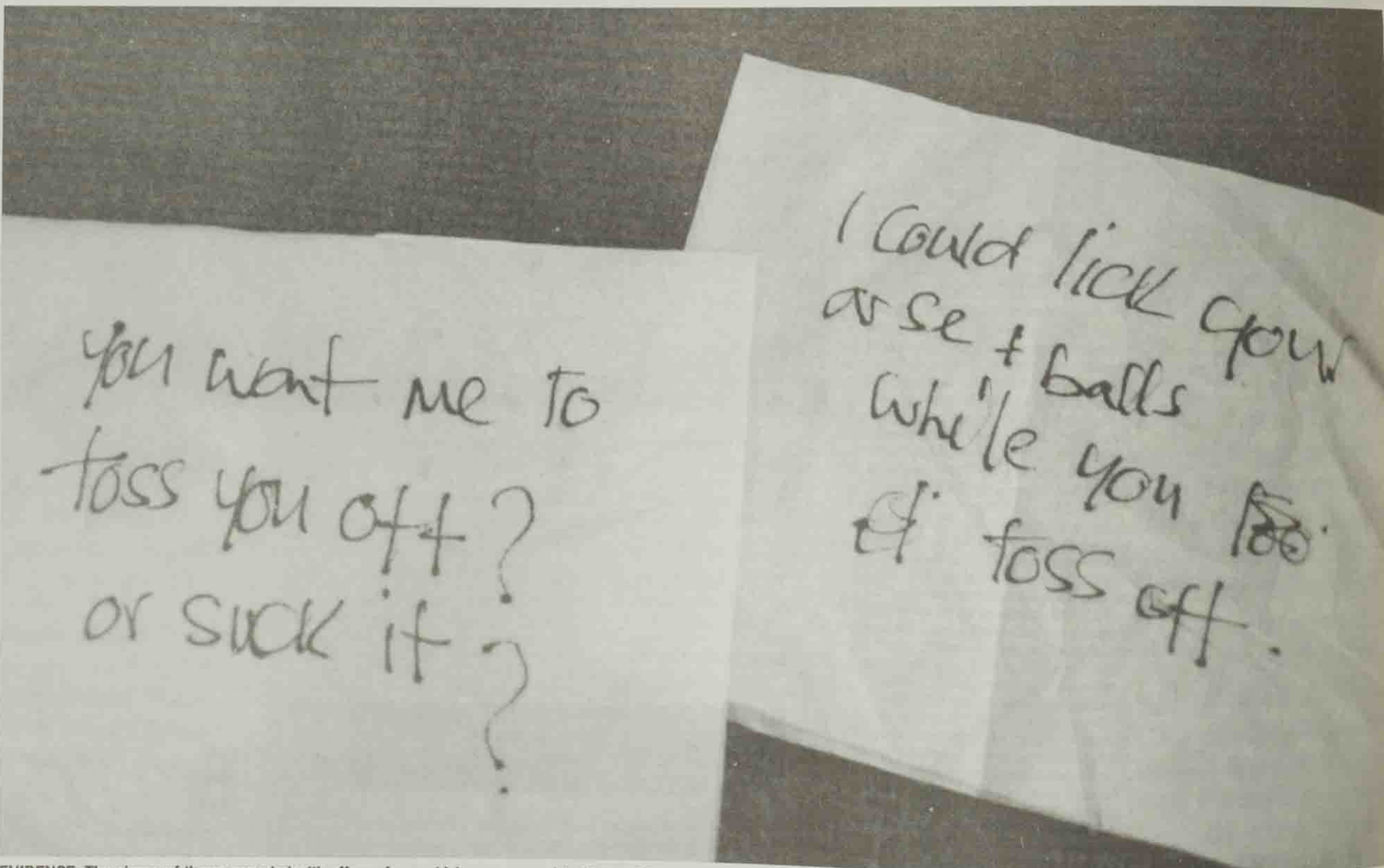
Having covered up the spy hole hidden under the toilet roll dispenser to the right I remained anonymous to my neighbouring admirer. His intentions had been made plain with foot advances

that I had rebuffed and 'wank hand' shadows that I had ignored. Such a cold shoulder made him resort to passing notes. Written in fountain pen – which the man had bought along, I presume, with the sole intention of writing on toilet paper – the man, who turned out to be years my elder, slipped the first sheet of shabby paper under the partition.

"You want me to toss you off? Or suck it off?" was scrawled onto the tissue. Within 10 minutes, my lack of reply prompted a second note: "I could lick your ass+balls while you toss off." Taking this as my cue to leave, I stood up, oblivious at first to a man's face appearing under the partition. I quickly left the cubicle, only to be met by three men, who were lingering at the wash hand basins pretending to be soaping and rinsing, leering at me as I left.

This experience is not unique. Returning on different days and mapping the times throughout the day, I've seen urinal masturbation, couples performing oral sex, fingering under cubicles and couples meeting up, only to depart to continue elsewhere, just about everything except full sex, though I have seen the odd used condom. There are frequently the sticky remnants of the climax of a session on the floor and cubicles often reek of semen.

Within a year, cottagers have made inroads away from the Parkinson toilets and further into campus. Squirt points its users to the Worsely building, which has a hole looking out over the urinals, and says the E.C. Stoner and the Edward Boyle library – a site only accessible by students – have spy holes looking over the urinals in at least two sets of men's toilets. Even the Union



**EVIDENCE:** The pieces of tissue scrawled with offers of sex which were passed to Steve while he was investigating the cottaging scene at Leeds Uni. With almost 1,400 subscribers to cottaging site [squirt.org](http://squirt.org), it seems the practice of meeting men for sex is on the increase.

building has more recently been the topic of online discussion: the toilets by the Oxfam shop are quiet and accessible to all. In fact, it's been said that about six years ago a man was caught drilling a hole between cubicles in the Old Bar toilets, prompting the installation of metal cladding. A quick fix perhaps, yet even today a spy hole still exists below that sheeting.

**C**ottaging is the pursuit of, often anonymous, homosexual encounters in public lavatories. This, predominantly British slang term stems from the wider definition of cruising, which includes the same acts, committed outside, usually in woods and parks. People convicted for taking part are arrested under public indecency laws, but this walks a somewhat bizarre legal line: unless you're caught doing it, it's not illegal. For this reason, cottaging is a very hard thing to police. And that's something that the authorities at Leeds University have been grappling with since finding out about the goings on.

In a statement, a spokesperson told Leeds Student: "Like any organisation which has premises that are accessible to the public, and indeed any university, we are striving to get the balance right between having an appropriate level of security presence around the campus and respecting people's privacy in using toilet and other facilities.

"We want to provide a safe and welcoming environment for the thousands of students, staff and visitors to the University. With this in mind, toilets - as with all parts of campus - are regularly checked, not just by security, but also by cleaning staff and porters. Over the past year, we have seen a reduction in the number of reports of cottaging and inappropriate behaviour and also in the number of people challenged about such incidents. However, it is important that we keep this issue in perspective. The University is one of over 50 named cottaging sites in central Leeds on squirt.org, the others including shopping centres, restaurants and a range of other organisations.

"As a response to Leeds Student highlighting this issue, we have decided to increase patrols as a precautionary measure. If anyone does feel uncomfortable about an approach or the behaviour of others, then we would ask that they report this to University security. We will also examine whether there are any ways in which we can take account of this issue in planning future refurbishments or the design of new buildings."

Yet the infrastructure of squirt and other websites, envelops an underground community, evolving with changing situations. And an increase in website traffic between the 1,400 squirt members is a sign of increased cottaging. But Paul Doyle of MESMAC (a regional sexual health organization for Gay and Bisexual men) describes a different climate: "The cottaging scene in Leeds has dwindled to a few areas in recent years mainly because of new and emerging technologies."

The installation of security cameras and police crackdowns might deter people for a period, but in my personal experience, it does little to deter the ongoing problem.

Moreover, it seems that there are more cottagers than ever. According to news site 'hidden sexuality', the most UK-centric cruising website 'cruisingforsex.com' has over 500,000 members, suggesting that 10 per cent of homosexuals in Britain are experimenting with anonymous sex. Within the year of our last investigation in to the campus cottaging scene, at least three more locations have appeared and the average number of

posts on Leeds-related sections has increased from an approximate 80, to several regularly passing the 100 mark. It's perhaps unique that such a mass of illegal activity isn't more secure. Anyone can quickly sign up for a 'cottaging' website and within minutes seek out local hotspots and discover the time and location of meetings.

When I asked Doyle how the University might combat the practice, he said that my question "pre supposes that cottaging is a problem rather than a symptom of the wider problem of homophobia and heterosexism". He noted that the health risks are no more than sex in a bed unless multiple partners are used, and added that threesomes and the like are not specific to the cottaging community. But to talk only of the risks to sexual health ignores more serious health risks; those presented by homophobic vigilantes.

A recent post from 'squirt's' 'Armley Mills' listing notes a recent spate of Asian gang attacks on cruisers. Armley mills, located behind Kirkstall's Vue Cinema has been a notorious

cruising spot since 31-year-old Ian Webster was strangled, stripped naked and dumped in a river whilst meeting men there for sex. His murderer was alleged to have lured him to the spot under the pretence of being a fellow-cottager.

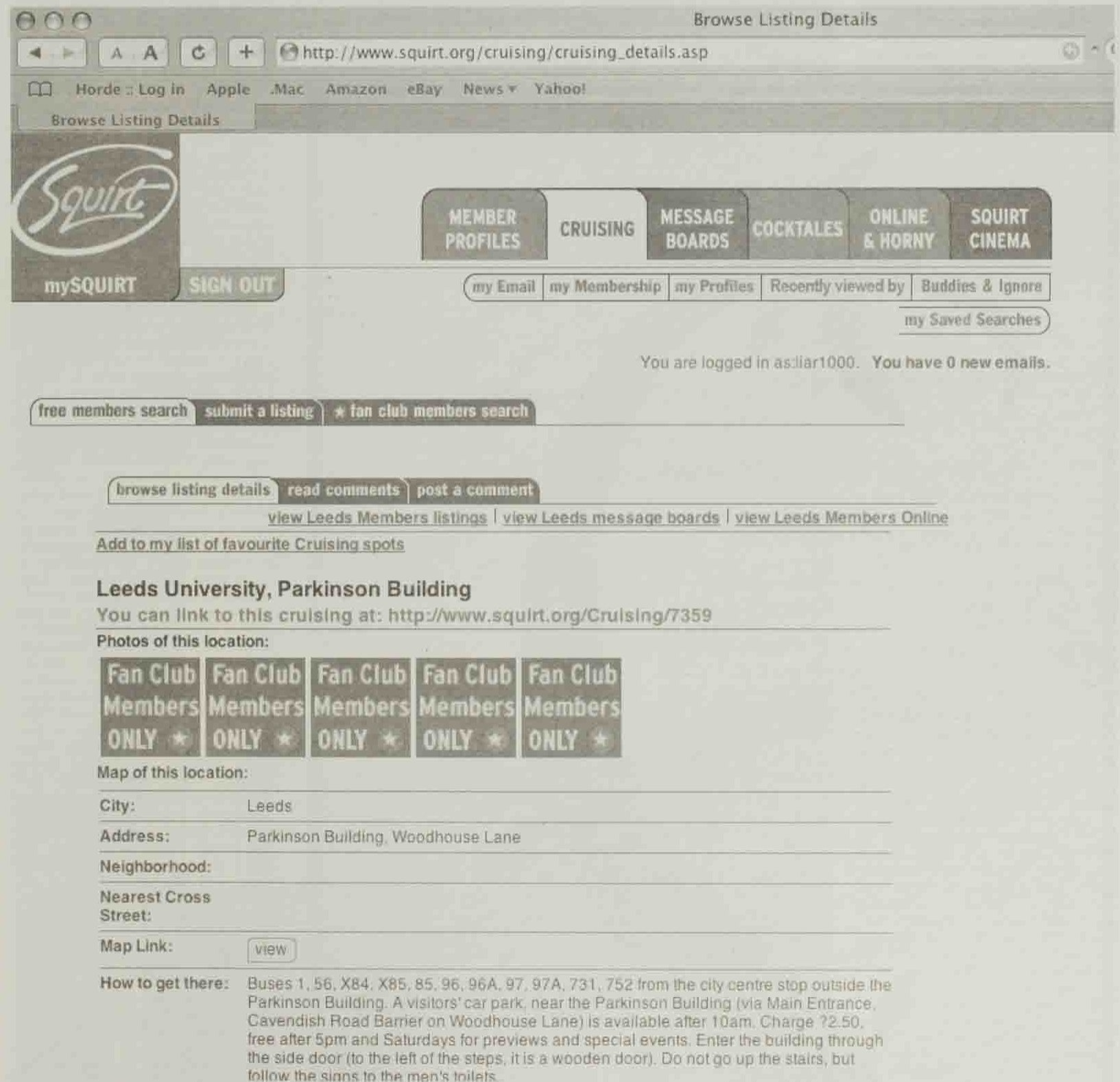
Visting the area, which is where tourists and families park their cars and have picnics by the Leeds Industrial Museum, the debris from years of activity is immediately apparent. Walking a well-trodden mud path I approached the thick, battered tree line. Inside exists an underworld of debauchery and urges, represented by the carpet of condoms, tissues and lubricant packets littering the floor. Men of all ages, from the overweight to the superbly buff walk in circles, magnetised by hedonistic groupings which involve anything from mutual masturbation, to mass orgies. Armley Mills harbours cruisers day and night but retains a facade of friendliness unbound in toilets. An older cottager warned me against leaving my car in the car park and that I should 'watch

myself' while in the area. The encounter summed up the cottager's constant yet equal fears of assault and the law.

There's no doubt that the cottaging phenomenon is increasing both on campus and elsewhere in the city. Whether a problem to be eradicated or symptom of a societal misunderstanding, it is illegal and is seriously dangerous to participants and communities alike. Doyle's comments about it being a result of homophobia may ring true. After all, why else would covert sex with strangers be so prevalent among gay men? Yet avoiding the stigma of being openly gay exposes cottagers to other risks associated with advertising oneself online. Moreover, the health risks facing the communities which play unwitting hosts to cottaging are manifold.

After being greeted with such a frank warning from the middle-aged man in Armley Mills, I creep back to my car as dusk approaches and swiftly drive away.

**He said my question "pre supposes that cottaging is a problem rather than a symptom of the wider problem of homophobia and heterosexism"**



**SQUIRT: It's on squirt.org, shown above, that cottagers can find out about what's going on and with who in the Parkinson Building toilets. After their rendezvous, men sometimes post recollections of their time there on the site's discussion boards.**

## Extra Student Parents

# Creche course

Some students have the challenge of juggling a degree with raising a child - how many are at Leeds? No-one's sure. How can the University contact them? They can't. James Haddon meets with members of the newly-formed Student Parent Assembly to find out more.

"If I hadn't been so stubborn I would not be here at Leeds," explains Siobhan, recently elected as one of the two chairpersons of the Student Parent Assembly. "I had to defer for a year because there was no available housing, and we ended up living with an alcoholic for six months, in an environment completely unsuited to a child, before eventually being offered

a house in Middleton."

No-one is certain how many students with children attend Leeds University. There are about 200 international students registered with families here but, beyond that, it is simply a question of guesswork. Having to balance university work with the responsibilities of looking after a family means that it is often easy to feel alienated - even ignored

- and it is only recently that the attention they need is beginning to be given. Siobhan Gallagher was spurred by her own experiences to become involved with - and to help run - the Student Parent Assembly. "Before Middleton, I was at Bolton Institute, living with Alex's dad, where I fell pregnant. There was no family accommodation there," she explains. "We lived in halls and

couldn't go back." While Leeds University offers more family residences than any other UK university, there is still a ridiculous shortage and an extremely long waiting list. They provide 160 family residences, but many people are still forced into the private sector which, as a profit-driven area of the market, is considerably more expensive. Without an accurate figure for the number of student parents at Leeds, it is difficult to assess the scale of the problem this presents - all that can be deduced here is that more vulnerable people want the University's help than they can provide for. "We live in Unipol accommodation now, and mice and silverfish are common problems. It's a rough area," she concedes. "There's quite a bit of crime, especially car crime. But it's actually the nicest place I've lived since I was 19! I've been here for four years now."

Having a child to look after has an understandably severe impact on the university experience, especially as a single mother. Arriving from Manchester, Siobhan knew no-one in Leeds and while she joined a few clubs and societies, she was never able to attend meetings. Without an established support network like the ones being established now, creating connections with people in similar situations was difficult. "I have some amazing friends here now but it is hard to meet people and socialise when you have a family, especially as a single parent. I've met most of my friends through voluntary jobs, nothing to do with the University." But her reaction is positive, and her view of other people's willingness to accommodate the unique challenges of parenthood seems to veer - for the most part - towards a cautious optimism. "In my first year here there was nothing for student parents," she explains. "I've seen quite a few improvements over the last three years, including the Student Parent Network, and some clubs and societies changing their timetables."

People's reactions aren't always positive, though, and Siobhan makes this vividly clear. "I remember the guy at the Middleton housing office really well. He talked down to me like complete dole scum. Alex was about 16 months old and was taking her clothes off and rolling around on the floor at every available opportunity; the house just wasn't fit to move into. After we'd left his office, I remember asking him if he had kids, he said 'yes' and I asked him if he'd think it was okay for his toddler to move into a house like that. His reply was 'No, but I have a job'."

"I dropped out of Uni the first time because I spent nine months throwing up, pregnant with Alex,"

Siobhan explains, in an offhand manner. "I had to drop out a second time because the LEA messed up my fees." While chance has played a considerable part in her misfortunes, Siobhan's case serves to show that the current preparations do not always work, and are not sufficient. "Sometimes I think I am a terrible mother for just being here and putting her through all this," she confesses. "It isn't exactly the kind of childhood I thought my children would have. I spent the whole of my childhood dreaming of prince charming and a white wedding, 2.4 children and a dog on a rug by the fire - we can't even afford a dog. If nothing else, I guess this should be a good advert for contraception," she adds, with a bleakly ironic turn of phrase, "Alex was a total accident we were both unprepared for."

As harsh a situation as it can be,

**"You've already been up since six o'clock, you've had to get your kid dressed and sort them out, and that's before we've even got ourselves ready. You've got to pass a degree at university, and go home and sort somebody else out for tea, and bath, and bed, then you've got your own work to do after that."**

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Siobhan's case is by no means representative of all students who attend university with children. Meeting with a handful of mothers out on the Terrace, enjoying a coffee and seemingly oblivious to the blustery conditions, I got a far more cheerful portrayal of parenthood. Joining the group, I could have been sitting at any mothers' meeting in the world: discussing crafts at the crèche, complaints of early mornings and the extended family, catching up on the gossip. What I expected, I don't know – either the melodramatic, tragic figures reported in the papers whenever there's a slow news day, or matronly characters whose appearance and mannerisms simply

you've been in our shoes, you can't really understand," she concedes. "I mean, I'm not comparing it to a physical disability but when you'd meet someone with one you'd agree that 'yes, they do need extra support'. We don't have anything you can actually physically see when we're in University but we are still restricted." She and her friends are at pains to draw attention to the investment in time they have to give, not just in spending time with their children, but in everyday activities. "It always takes so much longer to do anything with a child," she explains, while describing the difficulty found in physically getting to university each day. "You've already been up since six o'clock, you've had to get your

kid dressed and sort them out, and that's before we've even got ourselves ready. You don't understand what goes into actually getting here, and then you've got to pass a degree at university, and go home and sort somebody else out for tea, and bath, and bed, then you've got your own work to do after that. We actually do a lot during the day, and I just feel like some people are not very understanding of that. I've had problems in the past with people – little, nasty comments they make."

I ask them about difficulties they've faced in people's attitudes, or the way they've been treated, and they give me a few examples. "Well, it's understandable," Lindsay explains. "I look at other people in

**All that can be deduced here is that more vulnerable people want the University's help than they can provide for.**

the street with screaming brats and think 'Oh my God, control your child!' and it's just natural to look and think like that, but it hits you more when it's you who's got that child." Jenny picks out the occasional negative reaction she's received when she's had to take time off to look after her children as a problem, blaming it on a simple lack of understanding. "I put my youngest in nursery three months ago and he's never had a week where he's not had a cold. There's always something going around nursery. But nobody believes me if I take a day off Uni, because he's ill, and then take another off a week later – they just say 'you're using it as an excuse' – really, he's just ill all the time because he's at nursery. They're just building their immune systems!"

LUU's Women's Officer, Sarah Wayman, has had an instrumental role in encouraging the Student Parent Assembly, recognising a number of the problems the group has identified – most notably, the lack of information on the numbers of student parents at Leeds. "All these efforts at the moment are just stabs in the dark. When you're trying to organise events, or a support network, and you've no idea of numbers or contact details, it makes it a vicious circle where you don't reach people, they don't know what services you offer and the services don't get used enough." Changes to include this information as part of the initial registration process are underway, and are likely to be ready for September 2007. With more access to this, the University will be able to engage more fully with student parents.

Wayman also highlights the important issue of the Union's attitude towards students with children, believing that there is already a change towards making student parents realise they're welcome in the Union and that their children are welcome, too. She illustrates the point with the example of the Terrace. "Every time they do it, they get a different response from a member of bar staff as to whether their children can be there, what time their children must leave, where their children can sit – we're trying to be inclusive, but some student parents don't even know whether their children are allowed through the front door."

Detailing the Union's plans for the future, she concentrates on the possible expansion of the nursery, and of the hopeful addition of new, different types of play schemes. "One thing I'd really like to do," she replies, "is develop student parent give-it-a-go sessions. That's what I think would be great: when you get to Freshers, there are loads of family friendly activities you don't need to ask 'can my child come along?' for. I think it would give the message that we're really aware of the issues, and we want to make sure their experience is brilliant." With the Student Parent Assembly having been launched this year, it seems likely that developments will be made, and 2008 is already being jokingly dubbed "Year of the Student Parent" by its organisers. "It's been for too long that officers of the University, or of the nursery, have been having to second-guess what parents want," Wayman admits. "Now we have a group that can say 'this is what we want' and which we can respond to."

**"Being a student mum you're in this sort of limbo between – well, you've got your student friends who have absolutely no idea what everyday life is like for you, who've got very different priorities"**

exude motherhood. Instead, I was presented with a group of people who simply seemed like students – overworked, perhaps, and certainly busy, but still students.

Approaching Jenny, mother of two – one nine months old, the other two years – I asked her what it was like. "It's weird," she replied. "Being a student mum you're in this sort of limbo between – well, you've got your student friends who have absolutely no idea what everyday life is like for you, who've got very different priorities – but, on the other hand, you've got stay-at-home mums, married, had children later, and they're able to do extra things with the kids and you don't fit in with them, either. When you go out with them, I just feel really sort of – bad, in a way. I don't come home and bake buns, or send them to nursery with hand-knitted scarves." Her friend, Lindsay – mother of a little girl – interjects. "It's lonely as well. It's different if you're not living with other students. I'm the only adult in my house a lot of the time – it's just not the same. It is a lovely thing to do, it's just hard."

Jenny, having become a part of the Student Parent Assembly, sees its role an important one. "We are a minority and we do need extra support. But some people don't necessarily agree that we do. Unless



**BRIGHT:** The attractive yellow exterior of the Bright Beginnings daycare centre.

PHOTO: JOHN PUDDEPHATT



Sam Francis

# Calm in the Somali storm

After Ethiopian and Somali government troops managed to reclaim the capital of Somalia last December, many had high hopes for the future of the country. Sam Francis takes a look at why such hopes were in vain.

**S**omalia hits the news in waves. One major story broke in the summer when the Islamic Courts took over the capital, Mogadishu, and another in December when the government's troops took it. The press speak in terms of "warlords", "Islamists", anarchy and a new opening in the American "war on terror".

Many, myself included, had high hopes for the future when Ethiopian and Somali government troops finally took control of the capital in just one week in December. However, little progress has been made towards peace in the south of the country around Mogadishu: recent fighting has left hundreds dead and almost half a million have fled the city.

Since the fall of Siad Barre in 1991, various factions have wrestled for control of the country. The capital in particular had been carved up by various 'warlords' until the militia of the Union of Islamic Courts took control last year. For a few months under the control of the "Islamists" – as the western media have taken to calling the courts union – Mogadishu was relatively peaceful, although there were some reports of "Talibanization". In December the UN-backed transitional government asserted itself from its base in Baidoa and moved

towards Mogadishu. With vital backing from the Ethiopian government, including troops, heavy weapons and air support, the government took control of the capital and the country's third city, Kismayu.

Somalia's second city, however, is a different story. Hargeisa, in the north, now serves as the capital of the Republic of Somaliland, which was proclaimed in 1991 after Barre resigned and fled. The new country was based within the old boundaries of the British colony of Somaliland, but a government took shape which was based on local traditions and clan elders, rather than on colonial infrastructure as is the usual case in Africa. Complete with two chambers (a parliament and a council of clan elders), the government is fully functional and democratic, with regular and fair elections.

Somaliland, a proud "home-grown democracy", repealed the 1960 Act of Union with the south and in contrast to the rest of Somalia has proven politically stable and peaceful, if relatively poor, for over fifteen years. Part of the reason for this is the dominant Isaaq clan's insistence on the inclusion of other clans in the governmental system, and programmes for peace and reconciliation

whose success is unparalleled in the south.

Nevertheless, this fledgling government's quest for international recognition has so far been fruitless. With such recognition would come the security of proper diplomatic relations and other benefits, including international aid. However, the inequitable distribution of aid has in the past been a source of conflict rather than prosperity. It has been said that although Somalis will tolerate any hardship, they will not accept injustice.

The "transitional charter" of the government in the south, however, declares its commitment to a unified Somalia: they hope that Somaliland will be amenable to reinstating a federal Somalia. However, it is doubtful that Somalilanders will want to be governed from Mogadishu again, after the experience of Barre's rule, during which northerners suffered greatly. Indeed, 97 per cent of the population voted in favour of independence in a recent referendum.

In the last few months violence has returned to Mogadishu – if we can say that it ever went away – and various clans and the "Islamists" are vying for control with the transitional government and its Ethiopian troops. The govern-

ment calls the Islamic Courts Union "terrorists"; the Courts Union responds by saying "Somalia is under Ethiopian occupation". Things do not look good for the transitional government: it needs the Ethiopians if it is to survive, but the longer they stay, the more resentment will build against this foreign-backed government.

Despite all this, there is some hope for the south. The government is in negotiations with clan leaders and warlords who might be able to help restore it to power. Al Jazeera reports of local militias in some areas who might form the basis for a new police force. Foreign support, from the Ethiopia and possibly the US, is available, but whether that would help or hinder in the long-term is debatable.

The success story in Somalia is the part that has left it. Somaliland is peaceful and democratic, and yet it receives little attention or support. The media prefer the dramatic and violent south; other nations see little of strategic or economic interest there. Perhaps that is for the best: after all, who wants the kind of help that Iraq is getting?

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“ It has been said that although Somalis will tolerate any hardship, they will not accept injustice ”



Maryam Ahmad

# The Pelican's Closet

Maryam Ahmad was led to believe that Francis Drake was a British hero. Now she knows he was a slave trader and argues that this country should accept its dark past

**I**n my care-free days in primary school, my class carried out a project on a famous person in the history of our great country, Sir Francis Drake. We eagerly learnt about his ship, his world voyage and the commodities that he introduced to England. It was during a history lesson that I decided to capture the image of Drake's Ship, The Pelican.

As a sailor's daughter, I was naturally completely overwhelmed by every detail involving its creation. It was ten years before I fully understood the true purpose of The Pelican.

After piling on three layers of crayon, I mastered the body of the ship, the mast, its tattered sails and punctured cabins and holds. I was so proud of myself, as at ten years old it was by far the best picture I had ever created. I had an eye for detail and managed to include a picture of a scroll which detailed the various goods that the ship was carrying. What this document had failed to include, and what my teacher had neglected to tell me was the fact that the cramped, dark, rat-infested hold brimming with sea water was

actually storage space for slaves whom Drake had chained up and brought as part of his 'cargo' from Africa.

I recently learned about this and was shocked to say the least. I revered a brutal slave trader and pirate as a great historical figure of Britain, and was encouraged in this by the education system. It was nothing short of outrageous. Yet to this day children are still not taught the truth about past events which shaped Britain as we know it, as a free society which acknowledges the rights of all regardless of 'race'. The brutality suffered by an unfathomable amount of people, it seems, is to be forgotten. I cannot help but think that our government would rather forget about the past and disassociate Britain from the slave trade.

My English tutor has a newspaper cut-out stuck on his wall which states Tony Blair's 'sorrow' for Britain's role in the slave trade. The article goes on to mention that he failed to issue the apology which many commentators demanded. This was followed by calls for action including reparative measures and compensation. However, if

ministers are too proud to reform the insulting and derogatory content of school history which misrepresents our heroic explorers and denies justice to those effected by the slave trade, it is unlikely that our PM will apologise over mistakes that our country continues to conceal.

A less obvious practice of slavery in the twenty-first century is the war in Iraq. Although Iraq and the slave trade period are essentially incomparable they do share some similarities. Iraq has been raped and plundered, and people are killed en masse everyday. Iraqis are forced to flee their country, many are forced to work illegally in severe conditions and others' employment options are restricted. Our country benefits from oil resources as a result of imposing authority on Iraq, not to mention the qualified Iraqi doctors and lawyers employed for the minimum wage in our newsagents as part of our work force. The documentation used as a basis for the war is analogous to historical 'scientific' documents written to prove the inhumanity of Africans and thus justify the slave trade.

Sadly, like all other nations we have not learned from our past mistakes. The parasitic conduct of our governments on others in order to maintain wealth is still used albeit with different methods. It may be the anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act but the enslavement of people and their states by the British government is far from over, and judging by the increasing threat of British invasion of other countries such as Iran, the worst may be yet to come. But, as the slave riots eventually led to the Abolition, the resistance to the current occupation will hopefully lead to Iraq's emancipation.

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“ The brutality suffered by an unfathomable amount of people, it seems, is to be forgotten ”

Comments expressed here are not necessarily the views of Leeds Student

# Just for profit

The end of the year is nigh and Hind Hassan takes a look at the state of Union 'democracy', how it has changed over the past year and if it is truly in the interest of students.



Hind Hassan

It is almost 40 years since the wave of student protests descended upon universities up and down the country, a movement which climaxed at Leeds with the famous union sit-in. It was a time when student participation was more than a dream and when the word 'democracy' was not such a prostituted adjective. It was inspired by a desire to effectively participate in university governance and to aspire for an environment where freedom of speech could flourish. Yet it appears that history is not repeating itself this time round. Gone are the protestors, in are the lobbyists. Out are the AGMs, in are the referenda. Gone are the powers of the student Union Council, in is the control of the bureaucrats.

It was the abolition of AGMs, and the introduction of referenda, that set the motion rolling to firmly place the nail in the coffin of the term 'student-led union'. The referendum was unveiled all guns blazing, proudly proclaiming itself to be more democratic for the following reason: AGMs hardly ever reached quorum, with only ever around 300 students turning up to vote whereas the referendum, taking place over three days, would provide greater access to more students and, thus, increase turnout and democracy.

So that was it, the forums for debating and discussion, for amendments and opposition, were exiled to the pits of hell in favour of the brand-spanking new system, where amendments are only passed through Union Council meetings, where only members are allowed to vote. This resulted in many partisan students voting on whether they liked the motion proposed, rather than whether or not it should be put to the student body to decide.

In also came the 'Big Debate' - a substitute for the AGM discussions. So big was this debate that a massive turnout of 30 people turned up for the opportunity of pitching one point for or against each motion to an empty room and a microphone. And in came the infamous ballot box and the little book of motions so ridiculously titled I find myself choking on my Weetabix just thinking about them. 'Protect LUU', a motion that would take away Union Council's role as trustees and as the highest decision-making body of the Union, placing it in the hands of the Exec, appointed students and non-university members who would primarily have the union's financial interests at heart. This means that, potentially, the new trustee board could overrule any motion passed by the student body if they deemed it detrimental to their bank account. While we're assured it will only be used in extreme situations, and would avoid any adopted political policies, this has not been outlined in the constitution - poor old Coca Cola must have been quaking in their carbonated boots, because this reeks of external corporate control. Voices of concern were raised and aptly silenced with the explanation that it was being implemented solely in the interest of

students and to coincide with the new charity laws which would remove the potential risk that UC members could be made bankrupt should anything happen to the Union. It's never happened before, but it has suddenly become a matter of extreme urgency. Call me cynical, but I find it more than coincidental that, as student pressure on Coca Cola and their alleged human rights abuses gained considerable fuel over the past few years, a motion calling for a ban on the company was almost passed at last year's annual NUS conference - one similar to that successfully passed at Sussex, Manchester and New York universities - and we are suddenly presented with the urgent need to remove the final say from the mass student majority and place it in the hands of the Execs and 'key' appointed individuals.

Of course the two matters are related - Coca Cola have four multi-million pound contracts with the purchasing consortium NUS Services Ltd, which supplies food, drinks and other products to NUS member unions at low cost. I am still dumbfounded as to how such a motion could be presented to the student body with such insufficient detail, completely neglecting to mention that: 1) to remove a trustee would require 1,000 more votes than to pass a motion. 2) The Union Council, made up of 42 elected students, would no longer be the highest decision-making body of the Union. 3) That half the trustee board would be appointed. This certainly does not fit with 'Protect LUU's' claim that "Our union should be all about democracy, campaigning and making life better for students at Leeds." I would almost go as far as saying it was misleading: "The Exec

lack the skill and experience to provide LUU with the proper scrutiny it deserves, so should not act as a trustee board alone or else put our Union at risk." I am at pains to understand their reasoning, seeing that the Exec will still be trustees and still get a vote on the board. It was not mentioned that 36 student votes would be taken away and given to appointed individuals. Why could an advisory board not have been set up to direct the Union Council? Why was the motion so vague?

If the Exec and the powers pulling the financial strings behind the scenes really gave two hoots about democracy then we would not have been presented with titled motions. Who is really going to vote against a very vague looking, unthreatening motion titled 'Protect LUU'? 10 motions over two semesters have been put to the student body, all 10 have got a majority 'yes' vote with nine of them reaching quorum and achieving a position of binding union policy. It doesn't take a genius to realise that perhaps there is a huge glitch in this amazing new democratic system.

True, AGMs never reached high turnouts but at least motions could be properly scrutinised and every student had the right to vote on amendments. Their failure was not down to student apathy but a lack of organisation and advertising. As I recall, the AGM that took place last year was not only poorly advertised, but took place on a Monday afternoon in reading week. I guarantee that, had the Exec spent a month preparing and advertising; informing students about the opportunity to present radical, student-led motions; walking around campus engaging students on the issue; flyering; emailing every

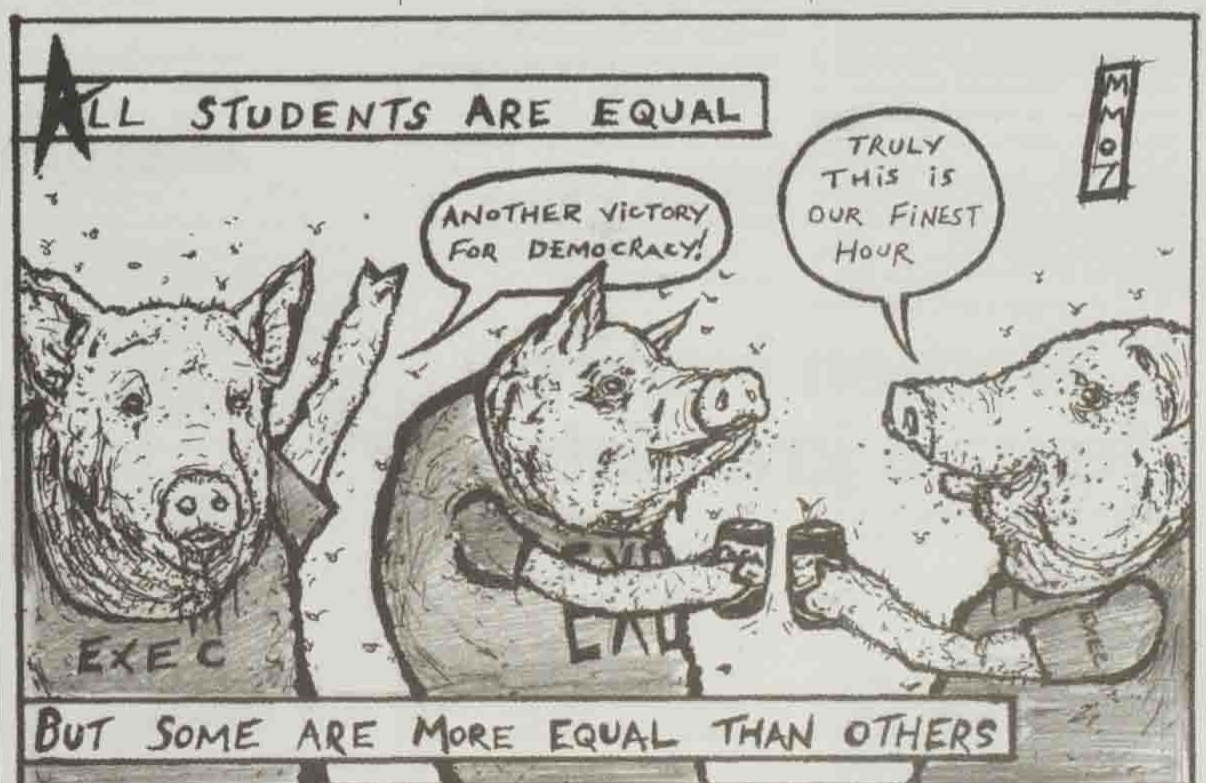
department with details; had it been held on a Wednesday afternoon and not in the middle of Reading Week, the turnout potential would have drastically increased, as would the degree of democracy involved.

What appears to be the problem is the streamlining of democracy: the fact that the Executive Officers' powers are feeble and simply symbolic. At the moment we are grasping very tightly onto a rope that is being pulled increasingly in the opposite direction by career-motivated administrators whose primary interest is the Union's ability to sell itself off as a commodity. There will always be puppets and those who pull the strings, but the ability to halt this shift into the hands of big business will always be in our hands.

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“The forums for debating and discussion, for amendments and opposition, were exiled to the pits of hell in favour of the brand-spanking new system”



Leaders

# Leeds Student

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## Attacks become more regular

Yet another front page of *Leeds Student* has been given up to attacks in the student community.

The frequency of sex attacks, and other crimes in the area is taking a worrying turn for the worst, as summer approaches and more students are out and about in the early hours. Add to that the alcohol-fueled celebratory spirit of those finishing exams or dissertations, with female students walking home from local night-spots alone, and quite soon we could have a spate of attacks on our hands in our own community.

Every day, students report an attack, or a story of a friend who has been the victim of a burglary, mugging or similar. It is time for the student community to become more vigilant, and, even more importantly, to look out for each other; helping another student does not always mean risking your own safety. Now attacks are

getting more serious, it is time for students to take more care of themselves, and their contemporaries.

The warning message could not be more clear: avoid walking home alone at all costs, no matter the distance and especially not through the park, take the night bus if leaving from University, get a taxi (Amber Cabs still offer rides to students with no cash if they agree to hand over their student card and pay later) and if walking around the area, stay alert, try not to distract yourself with mobiles or iPods.

Don't be a victim, and try to help others stay out of harm's way as well.

## Opinion remains split over Union cigarette sales

Reflecting the mood on campus, opinion on Union cigarette sales is split in the *Leeds Student* office.

Some believe that the presence of cigarettes behind the counter is an ever-present incentive for non-smokers to start. Others think that it should be the choice of the student if they want to buy cigarettes or not, and that the Union should not have the right to take away this freedom to choose. Some think it couldn't be less important; just a hundred metres away from

the Union is a shop that will sell cigarettes. After an offer from the Chancellor to top up the amount the Union stand to lose from removing cigarettes, there is little financial argument for keeping them.

However, what is clear is that if the Union are considering the removal of a product that provides them with £44,000 a year, then this product must pose a serious risk to health. Hopefully, this message will not be lost throughout this debate.

## Women inspire female graduates

Congratulations to the Women's Assembly, whose Inspirational Women's Forum served as a reminder that women are still struggling to achieve equality in the workplace.

The varied panel offered a comprehensive guide to the achievements of women across the skills sector, and also provided thought-provoking messages regarding the job of the single parent, so demanding a role that it is a

job in itself, even though this still receives an unfair amount of criticism. The panel raised awareness of how, with determination, gender is no object in the workplace, and that it really comes down to skill and ability.

The women that spoke were a true inspiration to females graduating from the University this summer, particularly those who have taken up careers in male-dominated fields.

### Ellis debate goes on

Dear Editor,  
While *Leeds Student* can justifiably claim credit for bringing Dr Frank Ellis' views on racial issues to attention of the wider University community, it is grandiose and palpably wrong to assert, as does your correspondent Matt Kennard, that the outcome of this issue was determined largely by media pressure.

If that had been the case, then the University would have refrained from taking any action at all, as views expressed in and by the media represented the whole spectrum of responses, ranging from calls for his immediate dismissal to demands that Dr Ellis be acknowledged as a champion of free speech.

Passions run high on such issues, and there are important principles at stake which go to the heart of our values and what we stand for. The legal position is (and was) extremely complicated. It is sometimes hard to ignore all the clamour, sound and fury - and the demands for immediate action - in order to reach the right decision in a calm, dispassionate manner. That is what we tried to do.

With hindsight, we believe we got it right. Dr Ellis, our (former) employee, was treated fairly, but without favouritism. We are proud that we became the first university in the UK to take positive action (by suspending Dr Ellis) under new legal responsibilities on public bodies to promote good race relations.

Judging from your editorials, *Leeds Student* should be proud of that too. How many of our students would agree that their tuition fees should have been spent on a seven-figure test case, perhaps to the House of Lords and beyond, when we had the option of reaching an amicable and fair settlement in which Dr Ellis took his leave from our campus? Far from being a cop-out, as Mr Kennard insinuates, we believe the outcome was the best possible for the promotion of good race relations, and for our university, and should be acknowledged as such by *Leeds Student*.

Vanessa Bridge  
Director of Media Relations

### Fashion?

Dear Editor,  
Was I the only one who considered last week's fashion piece to be an absolute joke? If I honestly cared what someone around uni was wearing and where they had bought their clothes from, I would just tap them on the shoulder and ask them.

Are there not enough clones hanging around good old Eddy B anyway, without the paper promoting the recreation of someone else's look?

Yours,

Emma Lawson  
Second Year History Student

### Smoking ban? No thanks.

Dear Editor,

On hearing on Monday that the decision had been made not to ban cigarette sales in the union I, for once, found myself admiring the policy making process of LUU. Banning tobacco sales is not going to stop people from smoking. Of course it could be argued that in selling tobacco to students the union is essentially promoting a habit which kills tens of thousands of Britons a year and supporting an industry which is grotesquely unethical. But banning cigarette sales is by no means an adequate pragmatic step towards treating the causes of this, it is merely a token gesture towards treating the symptoms and a half-hearted one at that.

Smokers will smoke, regardless of whether they can purchase their tobacco from LUU shops or not. By banning it, the only good the union will do to its smoking members is encourage exercise. The facts of this debate are simple. In order to adequately treat addiction to smoking, it is not sufficient to simply take away cigarettes and hope for the best. What would instead be a much more thoughtful and effective method of treating smoking addiction would be to continue selling tobacco products and then invest the full £44,000 a year that is generated by those sales into 'Quitting clinics' and the provision of free nicotine patches and advise to those who have chosen to quit.

It could be said that these clinics could be funded without the sale of tobacco, something which unduly puts 'blood on the hands' of union members but who then is to

foot the bill? Does it not seem appropriate that smokers should both have the choice to smoke and also pay the price for the consequences of addiction and the damaging effects thereafter to their health?

If we do nothing, we solicit an undesirable and damaging habit. If we ban cigarette sales then we simply brush the problem of tobacco addiction under the carpet, safe in the knowledge that we have 'done our bit' for those 'naughty smoker who were too stupid to know any better'.

Do those who support the ban honestly think that an addiction to nicotine renders all smokers mentally incompetent? As a smoker I am aware that my habit is killing me. As a smoker I am keen to stop in the near future. But by banning tobacco sales I am angered and enraged at such a poorly thought-out and myopic policy that I am in fact encouraged to smoke more in an act of defiance and protection of my freedom of choice. This may sound foolish, a case of cutting your nose off to spite your face, but this is really desperate the smoker's case has got.

IT IS MY CHOICE TO SMOKE! Yes this is an unhealthy and potentially fatal habit but first and foremost there is a matter of principle at stake here. Freedom of choice is one of the most important rights we have as human beings. It should not be compromised or revoked on any level unless it infringes on the rights of others. Me buying 12.5 grams of Drum does not infringe on anyone's rights, plain and simple.

The union must act to prevent smoking as it has a responsibility to do so, but it should not surrender basic human liberty of its members. The validation that smokers are a minority is equally weak. You cannot suggest that a ban on cigarette sales is valid on the grounds that there are fewer smokers than non-smokers any more than you can suggest anymore than you can suggest that homosexual magazines should be banned because there are fewer straight union members than there are gay. Of course magazines cannot harm your health in a way that cigarettes can, but as I have already demonstrated, a ban on tobacco does not solve nicotine addiction any more than taking the needle off a heroin addict cures his or her dependency.

Thank you LUU for a choice well made.

Yours,

Jonathan Price  
3rd year Politics

Send letters to Leeds Student newspaper, Leeds University Union, PO Box 157, Leeds LS1 1UH, or email the editor on editor@leedsstudent.org.uk. Please keep comments to 200 words. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for content and space.

## \*\* Improve your text life - text LS \*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
Last week's LS was shite. That smirnoff advert made me cry

\*\*\*\*\*  
Lydia benns rocks my socks off and my underpants

\*\*\*\*\*  
I didn't think the paper was a Labour party flyer until last week! What about the other candidates?

\*\*\*\*\*  
Looking forward to a man utd chelski final. It's best of three. utd for all of them. Come on Fergie

\*\*\*\*\*  
Word to the monk. MH

\*\*\*\*\*  
Thank God that Scorch is no more. As

much as i read epage with caution, its much more fitting than that Scorch tripe. Self-centred exec and paper promotion

\*\*\*\*\*  
David Brent lives at our uni. I've seen him in the flesh.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Bit of a depressing paper last week what with sex attack and other depressing stories. Let's hope for some good news this week

\*\*\*\*\*  
Cock!!!!

\*\*\*\*\*  
Why am I textin into the paper, is this how much I'm avoiding revision. Damn u *Leeds Student*.

\*\*\*\*\*

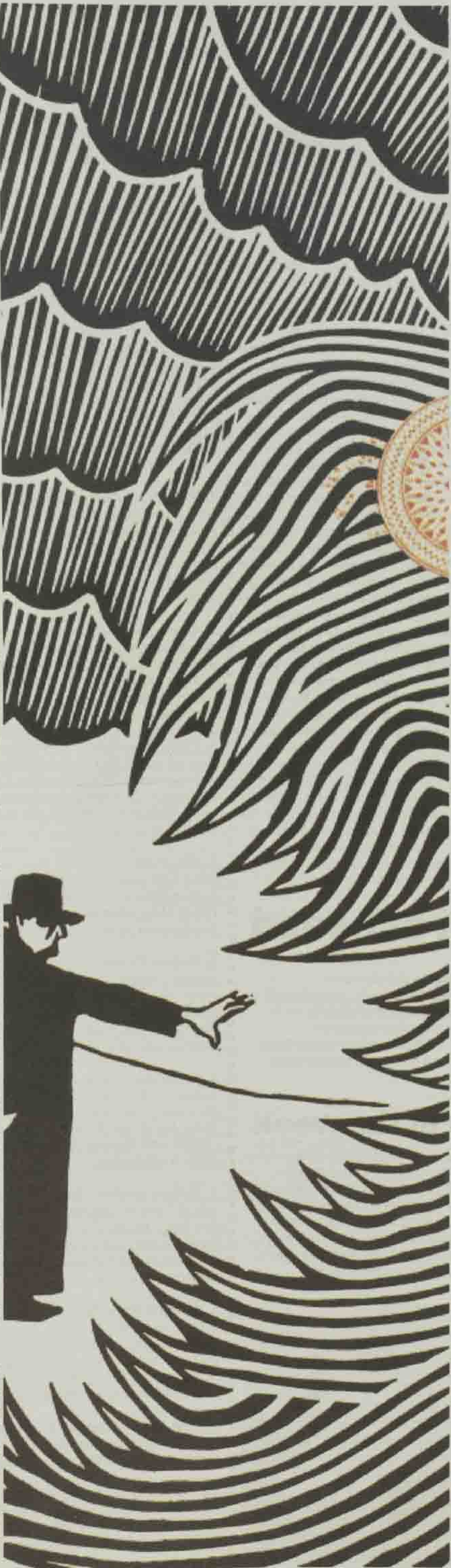
txt 07794  
125795  
2 get ur msg in





# LS2 inside

LS2:inside Editor - Ben Schofield • Associate Editor - Steven Smith • Lowdown - Poppy Kemp & Olivia Marks • Features - James Gardiner & Jessica Parker • Music - Jonny Price & Joe Bennett • Clubs - Sophie Barnes, Vivien King Macdonna & Katie Gilliland • Arts - Mark Mackay & Tom Foster • Books - Chris Tedd & Katie Dunn • Observations - Hind Hassan • TV - Andrew Edelson & Laurie Whitwell • Columnists - Richard Woolley & Chris Dixon • Diary - Sharon Forde / Photos - Patrick Nixon & Emma Dalzell • Chief copy editor - Vicky Sharkey • Deputy copy editor - Ramzy Alwakeel • Side bar - Patrick Nixon & Erin Short



## Balance: LS2:inside's foray into fiction 23

Eliot Hughes thrills us with a short story



## Sound Tracks 24

LS2:inside's music team puts together their top ten albums of your degree



## Closer 30

Closer - the LUU version sans Natalie Portman - reviewed along with all the week's best releases in Screen and Stage



## e 32

Are you Mark Z's friend? Do you want to poke him? Maybe you could send him a secret msg. Find out what e thinks about the facebook revamp.



## Books 33

Chris Tedd reviews Ian McEwan's latest novel *On Chesil Beach*. Is it perfect holiday literature, or will you feel washed up?



# LOWDOWN

By Poppy Kemp and Olivia Marks  
(insane in the membrane)

## Going Up

### Diaries

It's nice to chart your life, and even nicer when you look back in a few months time and say "cor blimey, I was a retard." Get your thoughts and feelings down and hope no-one finds it. It's mortifying if they do.



### Scope

The best chazzer shop in town. Much more reasonably priced than Oxfam or RSPCA and has a good retro section. Check it and save your loan for a summer getaway. To Seunthorpe.

### Speak the Hungarian Rapper

Hit this into YouTube and laugh your fucking socks off. We can't stop singing along, harmonising, and just generally shouting 'business' as loudly as we can. Get this man to number 1.



### Using 'film' language

By this we mean telling taxi drivers to 'hit it!' or 'follow that car!' Closely followed by doing mundane things and saying "I live for this shit!", "You can't handle the truth!" and "get with the programme!"

### Clapping on Deal or No Deal?

Don't clap when someone takes out the £100,000 because it's nothing to shout about. You wouldn't congratulate someone for losing a race, would you?

### Sunny days

The sun can fuck right off cos we've got lots of work on and Olivia's involves the library and Poppy's involves darkened theatres. Neither of which are great advocates of natural light. So bring on the rain...till 18th May.

### Guns

Look, after what happened in Virginia last week, surely it's become clear to EVERYONE that guns are fairly bad things? Why do American's insist on having them? They're pointless.



### Super-skinny 'experiments'

What, informing impressionable young girls just exactly how you get down to a size zero? Ridic. Also, if you actually want to look like a 8 year old child, you've got mental problems.

## Going Down



If there's one thing I've learnt during my time at univerty, it's to not leave things to the last minute. I'm referring mainly to essays here, but also to not having ample time to get ready before a lecture and misjudging the time it takes to get to a workplace. Actually I tell a lie, I learnt this lesson a long, long time ago. Probably when I was about five or something and missed the deadline

for a colouring competition. But the thing is I haven't really learnt this lesson at all. If I had then I wouldn't be in meltdown right now. Sorry to anyone who has had the misfortune of having to be around me in the last couple of weeks. It must have been bad, seeing as I keep bumping into people who look at me and say "Ooh, I heard you're not doing very well". News about my mental health

obviously travels fast. Either that, or nobody has anything more interesting to talk about. This is probably more likely as most people I know have had their personalities sucked out of them by Edward bloody Boyle. I don't blame them, it's not their fault they have to spend their days and nights with the parasite that is the Eddy B. As a result, conversations have turned even more base than usual. If the dialogue between myself and friends (or even strangers) isn't filled with toilet talk then its about food. What food do you really like at the moment? What are you having for dinner? How do you like you're potatoes done? For fuck's sake. There's nothing like an extended conversation about potatoes to make you feel like the most boring bastard in the world. Unfortunately, they seem to be pretty frequent at the moment. I really need to find something interesting to say or just stay silent until I do. But you know, life isn't all doom and gloom. In a couple of weeks I will be a free woman, in every sense, and I can lig to my hearts content. I am very much looking forward to lying inert for a long, long time. I might employ Poppy to feed me grapes and intermittently pour wine into my mouth. Actually, swap the grapes for whole bars of chocolate and wine for vodka. Then she can mop me up when it all comes back up again. Poppy's one lucky woman. OM



Olivia post-Uni

## Hellish heroes

SO LAST time there was a gig at Wire, there was a queue round the block, no barriers, just four bouncers linked arm in arm forcing back 350 people, the band playing in an alcove, and then the lead singer of the Crips crowd surfed and sparked himself out on one of the lapdancing poles. And, what? You weren't there? Oh you must have been one of the 600 people queuing outside. Wire don't put on gigs often, and when I say 'not often' I mean, like twice. So this Wednesday, make sure you're free, **Hell is for Heroes** are playing. This band have a lot to answer for. They shaped a lot of tortured teenage attitude, then ran off to Sweden for a few years, or something. They've had their fair share of bad luck and timing, but they've stuck to their gut feelings about what THEIR music should sound like, and just emerged from the bar, saloon doors swinging and pistols firing. Post-hardcore, rock, alternative, whatever. If you were brave enough to EVER go to The Vine, maybe you caught rockers Locus Of Control, or the indie RnR kids Antihero. Yeah well they kicked out the fillers and merged to form new band. **FORTUNE FAVOURS**, who are supporting. This band are good, you'll be pleasantly surprised, these guys have done this before, these guys aren't shy. They've hung around long enough with enough scenesters to not give a shit. In terms of special, these guys are a 12 inch crème egg I heard you find on the pillows at the Ritz. And on their website it says they always buy drinks for their fans after their gigs. ALWAYS. Tickets from Wire box office, jumbo, crash, [www.ticketweb.co.uk](http://www.ticketweb.co.uk). (basically we're making it easy for you so you can avoid the crush on the night.) £10, bands on at 8pm. So whilst we're here, top tips for this summer, Hell is for heroes will release an album up there 12 inch crème eggs, and Fortune Favours, well you can fall in love them at the Best Club In The World, sorry Wire, this Wednesday, 2nd May. Check out the club night with LSR djs playing after, or if you want, check out the gig live online at [www.lsrfm.com](http://www.lsrfm.com). EA



## Top 10 Uni Mysteries

We've been here for three years now and basically know everything there is to know about life at Leeds Uni. The best place to get lunch, exactly where the Freddos are in Essentials and where to get the night bus from. But do we? There are a few things that have worried us for a while...and it's doubtful that we will ever know the answers. Oh well.

1. **The girls toilets stench** - The ones in the Union always stink of shit, Eggy shit. Fishy shit. Sweaty shit. Just always shit. But these toilets stink so much it's like every girl that has been in there has dropped the kids off at the pool. Not very feminine.

2. **Game On cash machine** - Why did they have to move it? It used to be such a nice little secret for those who knew about it. Now it's all out in the open all the mystery is gone and we all have to queue. Dickheads.

3. **Little Essentials** - Why doesn't it sell cans of coke? You can only buy bottles and sometimes 500ml of sugary fizz is just too much. Everyone knows that coke tastes FAR better out of a can so why are they being so biased?

4. **The Pond** - Why is it only sometimes filled with water? Yes, it does rain and fill it from time to time, but it is frequently full of H2O when there's been no sign of precipitation. Horribly perplexing...

5. **Roger Stevens** - Sorry but why did anyone choose to build this building? It looks like Lego and is so unpractical it makes the hell of a 10am lecture so much worse. Sweaty, badly laid out, awkward, trapping and ugly. Pull it down.

6. **Smoking** - You can't smoke in the Refectory but you can smoke in Stylus. Now that is just silly - it's practically the same building. Either ban it outright (which will happen in July anyway) or allow it everywhere.

7. **Printer credits** - How overdrawn can you go? Are we talking 50? 100? 1000? If you feel a bit ker-azy during all this essay madness, why not try and find out? Don't tell your friends about it though, they'll think you're boring.

8. **Edward Boyle lifts** - Why are these so often out of action? Is someone deliberately breaking them with their massive weight every day for a 'laugh'? Spare a thought for those who need them, like disabled people and lazy fuckers

9. **The plastic spoons in Essentials** - Why are they so annoyingly titchy? Not good for yoghurt-eaters like myself.

10. **Dizziness in the Brotherton** - If you walk round and round long enough you start to spin in a horrible way. Yes it's circular but why to you get quite so dizzy?

## Overheard

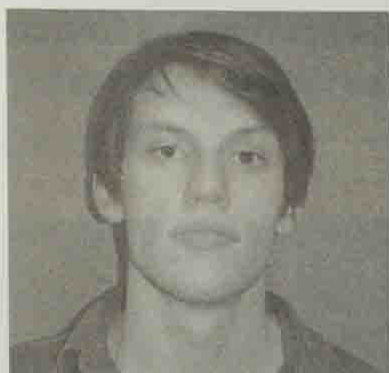
"She did the crab backwards, naked...is it OK when I slide it in?...ouch, pube caught in pants...there's nothing worse than ungrateful tramps...I cannot stop masturbating..."

## Pic of the week

AAAhaa, would you please look at this. He's pissed off because he just got in from the office and his boss has been giving him shit all day. His housemate's being a frigging loser coz he's all loved up with this new bitch. And to top it all he's gotta watch Look North coz there's bollock all else on. Fuck's sake.



# RICHARD WOOLLEY



**I**t was a frosty New York evening in the dying weeks of 1973. Leroy Jenkins had just been Christmas shopping, and, after a pleasant family supper, putting his children to bed and telling his wife he loved her, he ascended to the 'bathroom' to round off a long day with a satisfying shit. Halfway up the stairs however came the familiar sound of *The Tonight Show's* Johnny Carson, with the perturbing news of an impending toilet paper shortage set to grip the U.S. over the Christmas period. Well 'news' isn't the right word, sarcastic joke would be a lot nearer the mark, but in the early seventies it was perhaps more difficult to differentiate between the two. And this was certainly true of Leroy Jenkins (who, I should add, didn't actually exist) but who for the purpose of this story wasted no time in driving to the nearest all night supermarket and buying up all the toilet paper, tissues, and paper towels he could lay his hands on. Hundreds of real New Yorkers did the same. The following day it was impossible to find a roll of toilet paper for sale anywhere in the five boroughs.

Fast forward 35 years and America is finally beginning to see the cost of such a drought. Over recent weeks Sheryl Crow and Laurie David (the wife of overrated comedy writer Larry David) have been travelling between one Midwest university campus and another, arguing moderation in toilet paper consumption. It seems the average Americans squander about 5.3 sheets of toilet paper *per wipe* in every trip to the restroom, a figure that's dangerously high, and could be contributing to the climate change problem. Al Gore visited the pair on tour, and what sounds like a torturous collaborative performance between Crow, Faith Hill and Carole King took place in Washington DC, where the tour ended, on Sunday.

The Conlin-Beavan family, two affluent Manhattanites who were recently profiled in the New York Times lifestyle pages, evidently took the message to heart. The family of three are attempting to go a year without the use of toilet paper, or any other paper for that matter, possibly even the paper they sold their story to. The pair are also restricting themselves to a solely organic diet of groceries grown

within a 250 mile radius of their home: they bake their own bread, they even take the stairs instead of the lift.

Reader: 'Hang on, wait, wait, wait, you didn't say what they did instead of using toilet paper?'

Me: 'No, well, erm, I'd rather not.'

Reader: 'Oh come on, you can't be coy now, we're already on the topic, how bad can it be?'

Me: (reluctantly) 'Well they also grow things you see, plants, inside the apartment, and, well, plants grow better with a ready supply of compost - so it's just a matter of redirecting it.'

A campaign of seemingly universal praise has been launched for the Conlin-Beavens who, it has to be said, seem to take Sheryl Crow very seriously. Unfortunately they are, at the most basic level, yuppies. This shouldn't matter, but it does.

If you are able to own an apartment in central Manhattan, it necessarily follows that you are financially secure enough to spend time, energy and money individually sourcing your organic diet by casting a net for 250 miles around New York and communicating individually with growers and sellers. For the vast majority of New Yorkers, and for the vast majority of people, this is of course impossible. Just like Sheryl Crow's demand that Americans limit themselves to one sheet of toilet paper per shit is a ridiculous proposition. She was joking, and has had to admit as much in a press conference, but only after complaints were made that such an adjustment was unfeasible.

Waste is a problem, particularly the waste of paper. And of course organic vegetables are the best you can buy, but they are also the most expensive. This is what campaigners so consistently overlook. Stopping climate change, and seriously stopping it, not just occasionally reusing old plastic bottles, or remembering to recycle this paper, is a bloody expensive process. News paper profiles of such model green families become less impressive and more disheartening as they remind people of the gap between those who can afford to restart their lives as self sufficient new-agers, and those who can't.

The last thing I want to do is appear apathetic. There are several things a student on a low income can do to help the environment; the Organic Co-op near the Old Bar is proof enough of that. And to help with the conservation of toilet paper, as a lifelong Sheryl Crow fan, I've even started looking for alternative places to wipe: glossy lifestyle supplements might be a good place to start.

email: eng4raw@leeds.ac.uk  
Richard is an English finalist

“ Al Gore visited the pair, and a torturous collaborative performance between Crow, Faith Hill and Carole King took place in Washington DC

Richard ”

“ I thought I was going to the esteemed location of brain-improvement, but I must be mistaken

Chris ”



**I**went to Edward Boyle library today.

I was truly believing that considering my complete lack of productivity when at home, largely due to...snacks/the vacuous, time stealing void that is the internet/Neighbours/excessively long lunch preparation time/my phone/this book called 'Is It Just Me or Is Everything Shit?' - No man, it's not just you/and other innocuous distractions littering my room that do not fall into the category of work...I might find some solace in the oasis of calm that is that time-honoured institute of academia, the Library. Alas, I thought I was going to the esteemed location of brain-improvement, but I must be mistaken, for I found myself in a wooden cage, gazing desperately out of the window as they construct a noisy, modern monstrosity outside. I do not object to building new facilities, anyone who has been skewered between the library stacks that move would agree that more space can be a good thing. But why oh why must luminous men cut metal in my cochlea when I am trying to absorb the mine field that is media law? Obviously I missed the e-mail saying "Miss Dixon, we know how much you want to royally cock-up your finals, so we have decided to build new stuff in the vicinity of your studies for the duration of that period." Cheers.

I am easily distracted and I wager that I am not alone in this. Seriously, Edward Boyle desk scribes, a poll on whether fat or thin girls are better in bed? As if the moron writing that crap is ever going to convince anyone to have sex with him. Anyway, I digress. According to an American survey the average worker admits to frittering away 2.09 hours per 8-hour workday, excluding lunch and scheduled break-time. When employers determine your pay they take this fact into consideration. Taking their greedy capitalist logic into consideration, I guess that means we are never required to be diligent and efficient because they are paying us wages that reflect the assumption that we won't be.

Anyone who has ever seen the film Office Space - join me now! Take a bat to the photocopiers! Slash the tyres of the noisy trucks! Or, non-incident to violence suggestions could include making work spaces less bloody dull. The hum of air conditioning, the tap-tapping of a woman's manicured nails on a desk, the mind-numbing boredom of looking at a com-

puter screen all day, these things are designed to send you slowly to madness. This can be the only explanation for women like Prescott's dirty diary lady and the whole Bill Clinton cigar incident. Either that or I've got politics all wrong.

To go off on a minor tangent, I came up with a hypothesis today which should explain patterns in our behaviour. 'Adults', which I am surely not often complain about how young people are becoming less intelligent and academic life is consequently becoming easier to tailor to this new generation of idiots. I propose this: The Internet is to blame. Theoretically it should be a positive force, an educative tool which democratises social and class structures. We have been granted a role in shaping what we watch, what makes us laugh, influencing how politicians should behave and so on. These are powerful suggestions, except there is one problem, that being that the internet is full of shit. I clicked and entered the World Wide Web with good intentions this sunny afternoon. I had a cup of tea to the left of me and my notebook to the right. I just attempted to read Baudrillard, an insane yet pretty amazing cultural theorist. I think to myself that I would like to know more about this man, so I go to the number one democratic knowledge site, Wikipedia. Within twenty minutes I am on a page telling me things like: "The term 'the whole 9 yards' came from WWII fighter pilots in the South Pacific. When arming their airplanes on the ground, the .50 calibre machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet, before being loaded into the fuselage. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got 'the whole 9 yards.'" I don't know how I got here. One minute I was filling my brain with knowledge, reaching to the utopian ideal of intelligence and happiness, expanding my horizons, yadda yadda yadda. The next I know, I am filling my brain with junk and texting my friends things like, "No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, and purple" and "The very first bomb dropped by the Allies on Berlin during World War II killed the only elephant in the Berlin Zoo."

Don't even get me started on Facebook.

Or Myspace.

Get back to work.

• I borrowed my crap facts and stats from  
<http://www.pikablu.co.uk/facts.htm>  
and SFgate.com

email: ics4c2sd@leeds.ac.uk  
Chris is a Viz character

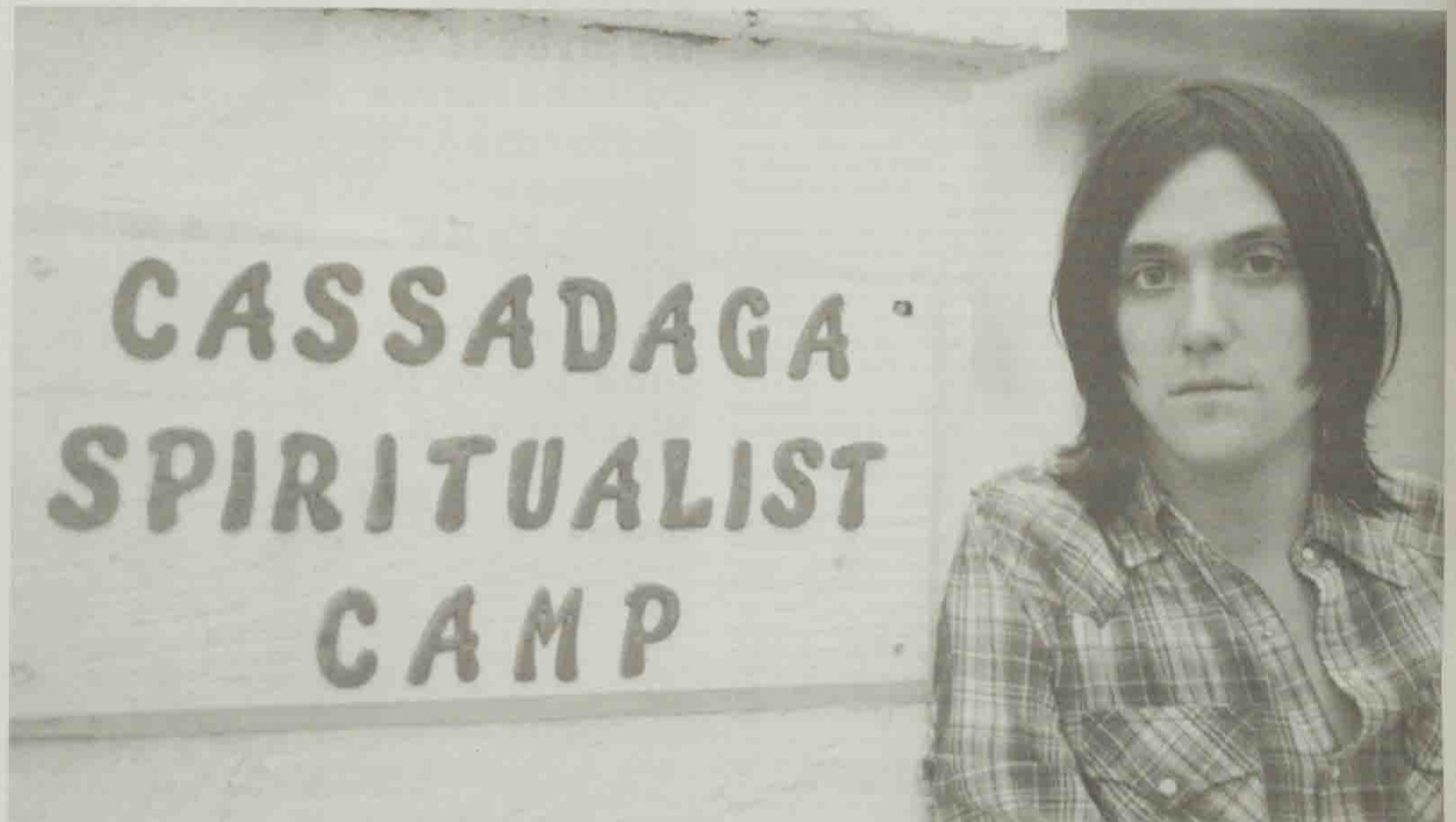
# Bright eyed boy

**Tortured soul or down to earth song writer, Conor Oberst is currently revelling in the success of Bright Eyes' latest album 'Cassadaga'. But despite his international fame little is known about him and much is assumed. Is he as mysterious as he is perceived to be? Leeds Student had a brief chat with him to try and find out.**

"Hey there buddy, how's it going?" Certainly not the cheery greeting I would expect from a man often documented as a shy, reclusive and particularly awkward interviewee. Indeed Oberst's candour throughout our brief chat was remarkably light-hearted and contrary to the common image of him portrayed by the music press. His lyrical eloquence and ability to dance around the point whilst still remaining totally convincing also comes across in his casual and relaxed style of answering questions he has presumably been asked a thousand times before.

One such question was of course irresistible. What was going through his head when he made these seemingly disrespectful remarks about John Peel at the 2005 Glastonbury festival? Was it an ironic stab at the plethora of acts throughout the weekend who had begun their sets with the obligatory "This one's for John Peel" to the ends of an easy cheer? "Not really" he replies "we had been touring for the best part of a year and we were hungry and muddy and tired. We had sat around all day getting drunk amongst other things. When I got on stage I wasn't really sure what was going on." A somewhat unsatisfactory response, but nonetheless he insists that he has "nothing but respect for him" and means no ill will to his memory or his fans.

Indeed his response is typical of the fact that Oberst is a man often misunderstood. His lyrics inspire many and often seem to be charged with anti-west sentiments and resentment generally of the current world order but in reality he assures me that the extent to which Bright Eyes are on a political mission is overstated. "I write about what I'm thinking. I don't sit down and try and write a certain type of song for the hell of it." I ask him further to this if he thinks the roles of a singer and a politician should be blurred



as has been the case with Bono and Bob Geldof. "Musicians are people too" he responds "just because they make music shouldn't mean that they're not allowed an opinion. I like Bono, he's getting out there doing his thing and I think its great

for him. Would it be better if he didn't do anything at all?"

Oberst has a way of catching you off guard and making you feel like a small mollusc looking up at a menacing shark passing over-head. He is as cutting as he

is polite, not willing to pander to the niceties of interview etiquette but without being rude. Conventional pre-conceptions of this man will almost undoubtedly be inaccurate. Has the success of *I'm Wide Awake It's Morning* and *Digital*

*Ash in a Digital Urn* change the way in which he writes music? "Absolutely not." Does he hate giving interviews? "No." Is he one of the most distinguished, genuine and talented song-writers of our generation? Go on, I'll let you have that one.

## Is this the way to Cassadaga?

### BRIGHT EYES

*Cassadaga*  
Saddle Creek/Polydor



In the sleeve notes to *Noise Floor*, last year's rarities collection, Oberst states that the abstract soundscapes that open all his albums are there to ward off casual listeners.

Despite the fact that 'Clairaudients', *Cassadaga's* opening, maintains the tradition by means of a semi-tonal string section and a cynical one-way telephone conversation, the LP seems to have been designed with the specific intention of drawing in casual listeners. This is not a negative point in itself; if it loses anything of the discomforting intimacy of *I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning* or the fractured claustrophobia of *Digital Ash In A Digital Urn* then it is by design; this is the album Oberst, Mogis et al wanted to make. It doesn't sound like a compromise but an experiment, albeit a very safe one.

The sinister monologue that opens the album (where is the person on the other end of the line? Why is the voice so gently persuasive?) concludes, six minutes after the stylus hits the first side, with a chilling echo over 'there are so many people who do not believe'. If Conor Oberst has grown up, found himself and

been healed, then he has a very ungrateful way of showing it. This is something of a relief but, seconds later, when the opening strains of lead single 'Four Winds' stir up, it seems questionable how tongue-in-cheek the bastardisation of 'Santa Claus Is Coming To Town' really is. Nonetheless, the song is excellent. Biblical references ambiguously peppering its misleading chirpiness, it stirs up the dead leaves that have settled around Bright Eyes' legacy over the last couple of years: two non-studio releases after his last full album, a lot hangs in the balance but (sickeningly) Oberst has yet to fall from the beam.

Whatever his personal agenda, the album refuses to relinquish the themes of misguided quests to find oneself, characters trapped in familiar situations, men being fooled by things more 'real'. 'Hot Knives' has thematic resonance with R.E.M.'s 'Sweetness Follows'; 'If The Brakeman Turns My Way' exhibits that

frustrating refusal of responsibility that coloured 'Train Under Water'. Where the record is more acutely referential to an inability to live the life of solitude that it seems to long for, such as on the Spector-esque 'Make A Plan To Love Me' or the deceptively upbeat 'I Must Belong Somewhere', the line between albums seems again blurred. Where the melancholy is more maturely tempered, notably on beautiful closer 'Lime Tree', the wealth of musical and sociological experience within this songwriter is obvious.

At thirteen tracks, *Cassadaga* is not particularly concise, and, whilst the double-vinyl length is a format that has worked before (*Lifted*), it seems unnecessary. 'Soul Singer In A Session Band' and 'Classic Cars' do nothing to further the thematic content, and, occurring consecutively, threaten to derail the album. Even so, it is far from stagnant or overindulgent.

'Coat Check Dream Song' opens side four and makes use of an intriguing Arabic-sounding hook, like something from a half-remembered dream, no longer with any case to make, but a strong association and a dissatisfied inconclusion.

If there is nothing as potently able to tear apart the listener's very soul as some of *Digital Ash* or *I'm Wide Awake's* more effective moments, or as perfectly encapsulative as the frail emotion on *Lifted* or *Fevers and Mirrors* (or as lucky, as easy, or free) then there is a sense of moving forward, of killing one's darlings. This is a bigger album, it has been well documented. No longer a small-time acoustic artist, Oberst is throwing orchestrations and soundscapes around as though he were making *XO*. Luckily, self-indulgence is something that Bright Eyes seem to have got down to an art. (8)

By Ramzy Alwakeel

# Class warrior

Sam Beeton seems poised to take over the observable universe. Ramzy Alwakeel catches up with a man whose primary objectives are the promotion of hats, an undisclosed political agenda and the distancing of himself from James Blunt.

Sam Beeton is hailed, at least by the promotional postcards littering the tables of the Leeds Met Bar, as "the finest new talent": accordingly, we meet for a chat after his acoustic lunchtime set. Finding it hard to hear each other over the seemingly arbitrary loop of music videos, we end up stood on the stage itself, downstage right, next to the stairs, where it is so dark that I have to write whilst holding a torch in my left hand.

"This was what I wanted, but things have just happened," he tells me. "I didn't have a website: I didn't promote myself. I was spotted in a bar, aged 13, in Nottingham. A producer walked in and decided he wanted to record me."

Beeton signed to RCA records in August last year. When, somewhat provocatively, I ask about any tension between his DIY image (playing a free acoustic tour, releasing a download single) and his major label backing, he responds rather terrifyingly. "When we need to be 'major', we will," he half-threatens, "but it's good to get an intimate base of fans to sell limited editions to. I don't hold the view that the major label thing is something to

feel guilty about. I deserve to be promoted." Concerned, I push for some information about how self-directed he really is: "75% say that I choose when and what to play; the rest is RCA. It's not a battle - we work together. I guess I'm the sort of artist that can be trusted to do the right thing..."

The interview has barely been going for ten minutes, and it feels like Beeton is playing with me. I conclude that he is trying to make a statement, but he is giving nothing away about what it might be. "If there's a political issue, I will shout about it from the rooftops," he stresses a bit later. "I'm not the sort to keep it to myself. I'll support certain things on the website. But I wouldn't be a Bono creature. I'm not going to bad mouth Bono, but... [trails off] I won't be a hypocrite. There's a quote for you." He hints at something more specific, but "won't disclose it". That's not fun journalism! "Ah, but you've started the process. You've started chipping away at it. You're almost there."

Whether or not this agenda relates to the social structure of Britain is unclear but, when I ask about the inevitable Blunt/Morrison comparisons, his

answer is that way inclined, albeit largely nonsensical. "I'm very, very, very working class indeed. Whereas they're not very good at all." How important is your class, then? "It's very important. It shapes how you deal with things, and talk to people. If you're working class, you stay on your feet; you're not too American about things. But anyone can write a good song." So is that the major difference between you and them? "That's not the crux of the biscuit." Endearingly mixing his metaphors, especially after a proclamation like "they bring shame on anyone who holds a guitar", seems rather too obvious an attempt to defuse the direction of questioning, but

“  
Class is very important. If you're working class, you stay on your feet; you're not too American about things  
”

perhaps I am being a little harsh.

Judging by his brief set, Beeton is sitting on better material and presentation than the download single 'Best Friend'. Unlike Beeton himself, it is neither shocking nor ambiguous. "It's got broad appeal," he explains. "It's got a sentiment that everyone can buy into. It's catchy." There will, he says, be a full (tangible) single in June.

Indeed, perhaps the most intriguing thing about the record is its repeated reference to headwear. "I'm quite excited about hats. I've got quite a shaggy head of hair, so it's good to have a backup for days when it doesn't quite work. And it brings something with the ladies. The ladies like a good hat. Society was better when everyone had a hat; we seem to have lost the hat from modern day Britain. And the first line, about the hat on the floor, I suppose could be a reference to busking. But then the song goes on to say, "I was face down in the sugar bowl". And I won't explain that." Um... alright. "No, you're meant to say, "oh, go on". Go on, then. "No.



I'm not going to bend."

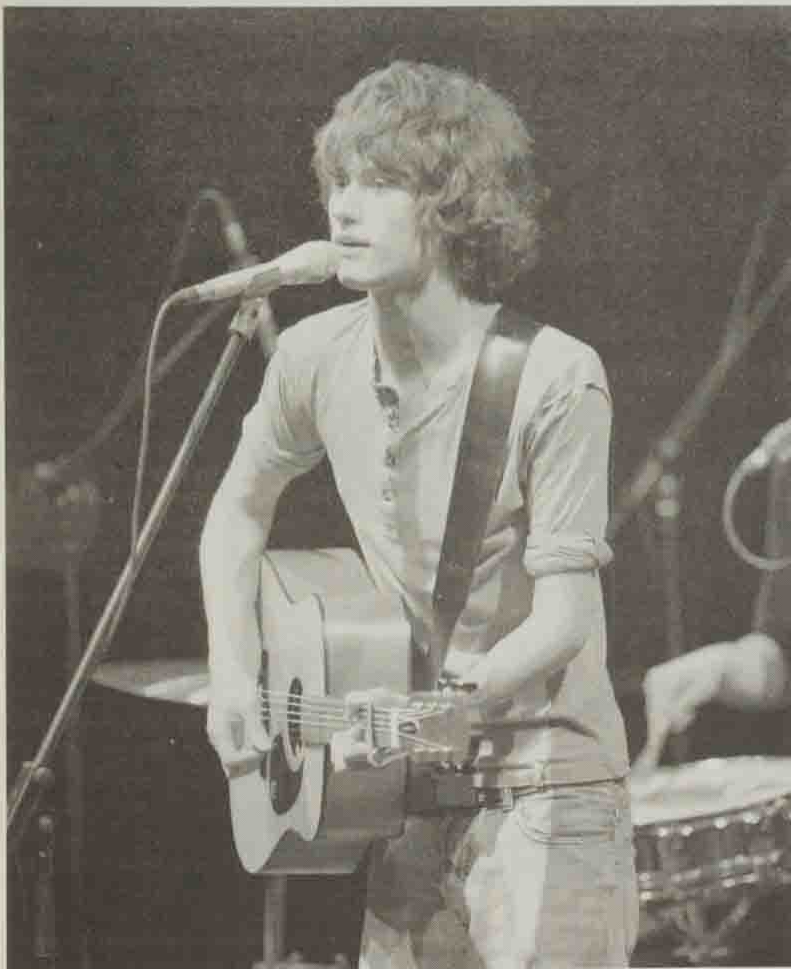
What does he think of the rather immodest tagline? "I didn't write that, but if someone wants to say that about me then that's very nice." Who is the finest new talent if he isn't? "He's not new, but Ryan Adams." Distressingly, I warm to him somewhat as a result of this, even if he has not answered the question properly. One is given the distinct sense that Beeton knows exactly what questions he will answer well in advance of interviews; whether I manage to get anything out of him, or am merely playing straight into his hands, is very difficult to gauge, but I plough ahead.

We discuss the acoustic scene in Nottingham ("I've got no idea. I didn't get involved. But it was easy to get gigs. My dad played in a band and I played the drums") and his own taste in music. His best ever gig, he tells me, was a Levellers concert in Nottingham's Rock City. His favourite album is Zappa's *Broadway The Hard Way*. Again, I feel there is a theme, but I fail to spot it.

I ask what he did at school. It turns out that he left before his sixth form: "I was on a path". What A levels would he have done, then? "Some intense, scientific A level. Maths. A bit of number crunching. English. I've always liked English." Music? "No.

You can't teach people music." You can encourage them to appreciate it, can't you? "Yeah. But you can teach people what's good and what's bad..." Can you? "That's what I mean. You might listen to a bit of... Elgar, a bit of the *Enigma* variations... and be told why it's not good music, but I like it a lot." Would a music teacher do that? "Yeah." As a music student, I'm not sure I would agree. "Go on then, what's wrong with it? You tell me." Well... I don't think there is anything wrong with it. If Elgar makes theoretical "mistakes", he'll do it knowing that he is, and it works. Beeton, either way, seems unconvinced, and perhaps understandably so. The idea of a State-regulated grounding in something that, with whatever leanings, he seems to live and breathe, must be dissatisfying. Frustratingly, at this stage, someone official clambers onto the stage and asks pointedly if we are done. I enquire as to whether Sam Beeton has a message for the readers of *Leeds Student*. "You are the future of Britain, so you'd better make sure you work hard, then we'll be back on top. Erm... I'm not a nationalist." But you like Elgar. "Medical students need to work hard, too," he continues. "We need a cure for cancer."

By Ramzy Alwakeel



# FREE Digital TV in room for next 100 applicants! (PC/laptop needed)



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# Balance

**T**he light from the flashbulb sticks to your eyes the way the smell of formaldehyde does to clothing. To blink is to try and wash the image off your retina and, sometimes, as when you adjust your own personal aperture within a squint, the image floats in a skyward direction though your eyes are not moving. I had this concept explained to me by a dreamer. He said that that was the death of the image. There are clichéd thinkings that exist and suggest that the taking of an image removes a part of the subject's soul. Perhaps this ethereal drifting of light is part of making its exit. Of course, accepting that brand of myth is difficult to swallow in such a scientific field. Photography needs precision. It needs care. Love. Patience. A fixed glance and a steady hand are all the tools of a good photographer. The subject is often irrelevant. But not always.

I occasionally allow myself the luxury of nostalgia and dream of my schooling years. At university, pictures - capturing - became my sole motive for my staying away from the comforts of home. The single certainty, that I clung onto like a burr, was that beauty could never be contained on a sheet of paper. But an attempt to share the idea of beauty with those who would, and can, let their minds fill in the aesthetic gaps was what became my driving force. Every boyfriend I had, I had to capture. A purely shallow lust was oftentimes the draw. And, when I had them, it

had to be sealed. I still have a dusty tome (it being twenty years since I opened it) of posed pictures. Reclining on elbows, in the nude, standing at ten paces to steal anticipation from the moment and harden the thought with chemicals. And, during their reign, their pictures, these boys would hang on my walls, staring back at me, thanking me for their delayed transience. Conversation with these men was mostly dreary and I variously ignored their uttered thoughts, catching, perhaps, a final word or two so that my feigned responses would go undetected as fraudulent. I was kept, merely and completely, by their good looks. Being blessed with what you might call beauty myself, I was able to ensnare any male of my choosing. But, these relationships would, predictably, break down after a tiny short epoch. A dynamic of the visual over the aural is not sustainable. Lust, or whatever that thing was that pushed me to the desire of keeping their visage in a photo, dwindled and rotted away after a month or two at the most. This is where the animal kingdom holds us to ransom. Their displays, their dances, their subtle tips or beaks or wings or snouts or heads or legs can erase the need for a thousand words. They are drawn in and freed in such brevity of time that their courtship was a mere blip in their existence. And that's where we have them to ransom. We are able to capture these sexual, sensual and gorgeous moments in something less frail and unreliable than our memories.

It's the visual that holds truth. And a photograph is as close as you can get.

Another snap of light and jumbled senses mean that the smell of formaldehyde is the only externality that can't be ignored. Sometimes the bodies of the very young arrive in small metal cases which have flip-locks on the fronts, not dissimilar to the briefcases of the professional business men who rush into the hospital with crisis painting their countenances. This is not how I envisaged my photographic career. My art, I supposed, would never be needed. My craft, I didn't believe, could ever be drawn into a realm of necessity. Every picture that is taken was meant to be shared! Every image focussed is meant to be shown to the maximum number of others. Sharing and balance are the essence of such a creation. And so, now, when my pictures are the fodder of text-book manufacture and medical scrutiny, all this philosophy wilts away. I began my job as a post-mortem technician a few years after my education ended. I was drawn into it as a last resort. It encompassed my art, in a manner of speaking. It would be a footbridge or a stepping stone. Twenty years later, it has become the exact opposite of vocation.

A fad of the nineteenth century was the daguerreotype, a slow photographic process which produced almost permanent images. The issue with modern photographs is their tendency to wither and fade.

Not so with the daguerreotype. The vapour of iodine deposits a layer of photosensitive silver halide particles onto a plate of mirror-polished silver. Then, an image of the Daguerreotypist's choosing is focussed onto the plate through a lens. The development process involves heating mercury in a specially designed container and then holding the exposed plate over this vat of liquid metal. The image is then fixed onto the plate by dipping the entire daguerreotype into a solution of hyposulphite of soda. A process yields only a positive image: an image that could not be replicated. Fashion and current fascination with the dead and dying dictated that much of the purpose of this technology was to capture post-mortem. The sadness of having a loved one pass away, the lack of surety as to where they might go next, drove families to purchase single images that kept each corpse in permanent stasis. Decay is not a worry for that which is not organic. Gazing upon these images, still, is traumatic. Yet, beautiful. Here sits one so loved that their image is captured forever. I shared this sentiment but not through real love. Through mere fascinating and adoration of form. Of aesthetic. Of the truth of the physical.

My work does not follow suit. The pictures of car-crash victims are not for the benefit of anyone. Violent society has produced a wealth of violent deaths. And it is my job to visually describe their symptoms. In image. In colour. To be dissected

by those who wish to understand causes of death. It is not a spiritualist yearning. It is not the fixing of one's projected love. I go home at the end of each day, stinking of man's attempted ignorance to death. The chemical which masks putrefaction and synthetically tints our understanding of after. The grotesqueness of the day, etched onto my retinas. I poured my soul into my art and have had it smudged out through this horrific toil. Thinkers have suggested that each image necessarily defines its opposite. So, a photo of death, of hurt, of decadence, means life. Me. The other aspect of this photography. I'm mirrored from these pictures of the dead and the dying. If we are the living, what is our reflection? How do we reflect? Each dead child, each fatally wounded adult. Symbiotic. Inevitable. Definition on paper occurs because of what it isn't. Hues mean something because they are juxtaposed with what they are not. Everything merges. Life. Death. Life. Death.

Death.  
The light from the flashbulb sticks to your eyes the way the smell of formaldehyde does to your clothing. Like a layer of celluloid in my pictures, it can't help but hint at the future.

By Eliot Hughes

• *Balance* is a short story and is entirely fictional. If you have some creative writing you would like to see in *Leeds Student* send it to: [features@lweb.org.uk](mailto:features@lweb.org.uk)



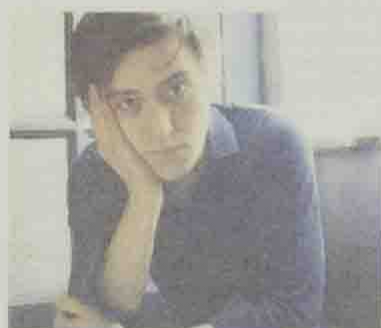
Illustration by Mark Mackay

## Cultured Albums

# The soundtrack of your degree

As the prospect of full-time employment dawns on those in their final year, what better way to take a trip down memory lane than to count down the 10 albums of the last three years that have provided you with the soundtrack to your degree?

## 10. *Digital Ash in a Digital Urn* Bright Eyes



Not as revolutionary, with hindsight, as a lot of its contemporaries made out, *Digital Ash in a Digital Urn* was not so much notable for its serrated synthesizers and electronic soundscapes as for the bleak claustrophobia of the emotional spaces that it catalogued. Contrary to its more successful sister release *I'm Wide Awake*,

*It's Morning*, *Digital Ash* reached much further inside the human psyche, unnerving its listeners with its surrealist narratives, its inspired use of sampling, its cracked vocals, the heartbreaking strings that drowned the cold isolation of 'Down a Rabbit Hole' and dared us to dream and to drool over 'I Believe In Symmetry'.

Elsewhere, the album made you dance and cry all at once, like a twisted puppeteer. 'Hit the Switch' was absolute in its whiskey-soaked despair; 'Are of Time' was probably the nearest thing Bright Eyes had ever made to crunk (and, perhaps thankfully, still is); 'Ship in a Bottle' manipulated babies crying and orchestral stabs over an alt-country backing. 'Light Pollution' was the most straightforward electropop song on the album, sonically, but its lyric again documented real, breathing human beings, which is what Conor Oberst has always been so effective at doing.

In a year remembered for James Blunt and Coldplay, Bright Eyes re-wrote the rules and raised the stakes.

## 9. *Begin to Hope* Regina Spektor

Some, of course, argue that this album is little more than a 'sell out' and a poor imitation of its 'edgier' predecessors. Sadly for those who subscribe to the 'I knew her when she was nothing' school, their tragic pursuit of unpopular music for the sake of it will distract them from the glaringly obvious individuality and effervescence of *Begin to Hope* and consequently deny them the delights of Spektor's seamless amalgamation of heart-on-the-sleeve piano ballads and sprightly and playful anti-folk.

Where as many of those loyalists insist that songs such as 'On the Radio' and 'Fidelity' are examples of Spektor succumbing to the perils of writing her music in the key of \$\$\$\$\$, they are, in fact, tributes to the versatility of her style. The clever, twitchy vocal patterns which often sound as if she is choking on her dinner combine brilliantly with *staccato* piano

melodies and intermittent periods of fluid, angelic singing in an unparalleled fashion.

Her pure yet 20-a-day hardened voice is the stamp of originality on this album and should simultaneously silence sceptics and woo those looking for 'something a little bit different' who are not prepared to stray too far away from the safety of Coldplay/piano/heartbreak format. Those, however, who see beyond the obvious merit of her voice and into the impressive and original songwriting style that ranges from lo-fi on 'Edit' to stadium rock on 'Better' and then to playful and humorous joke-folk on 'That time' will find an album that oozes charm and style and is both original and experimental - whilst remaining a suitable candidate for listening to in the car on the way home from a Radiohead gig.

In listening to *Begin to Hope*, however, please expect to find yourself casually ejaculating 'SO CHEAP AND JUICY' next time someone offers you a tangerine. Surely, the mark of a great album.



## 8. *The Eraser* Thom Yorke

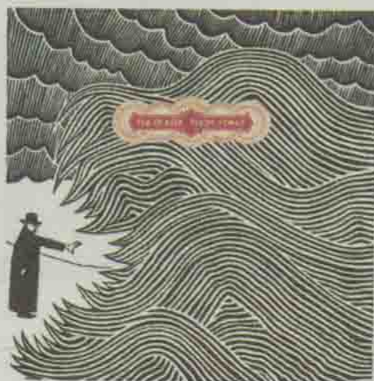
In the wait for Radiohead's seventh album, addicts were given a much needed fix in the shape of Thom Yorke's intelligent solo effort. Fans of the Warp records electro which provides Yorke with much of his recent inspiration will be left disappointed but, for the rest of us, *The Eraser* is beautifully characteristic of the kind of melodic experimentalism which saw his band move from angst-ridden Brit-pop rejects to world conquering pioneers of contemporary popular music.

The simplicity of songs like 'Atoms for peace' is something of a welcome antidote to the multirarious nature of Radiohead's music and candidly exposes the honesty of Yorke's lyrics and the beauty of his voice. Indeed, this is something of a theme to the album.

Bleeps and blips created on a laptop are arranged with subtle beats and often hypnotic bass notes in a fashion which transcends the electro genre. 'The Clock' is more Led Zeppelin than it is Four Tet, the latter having a tangible influence on 'Black

Swan'. The title track is equally difficult to immediately pigeon-hole, combining wafting and typically frustrated vocals with fragmented and peculiarly timed piano chords not too dissimilar to those on 'Pyramid song'.

Perhaps the only downfall of *The Eraser* is its often annoyingly overt political intention, most notably on 'Harrowdown Hill', but such is the understated beauty and minimalist brilliance of the musical accompaniment, we'll let him off; after all, he is a God.



## 7. *Demon Days* Gorillaz

Following the success of Damon Albarn's first run with the gang of nightmarish cartoon musicians, *Demon Days* was always likely to be as impressively innovative and resourceful as its predecessor.

The importance and merit of this album should not be disregarded;

indeed, it has received a great deal of attention and has produced the majority of the Radio 1 playlist for the last year.

The combination of the indie-based, unmistakable vocals and songwriting of Albarn with various hip-hop and rap artists is something that Gorillaz have very much made their own; certainly, they weren't the first, but they're definitely one of the best.

It is difficult to listen to *Demon Days* without recoiling, such is the extent to which it has been overplayed. There is very little one can say about the album that hasn't already been said; however, you can rest assured that these well crafted and interesting genre transcending songs have been indelibly etched into your memory, and rightly so. A likely source of post-uni nostalgia in the coming years.



## 6. Arular M.I.A.

For the disease of here-today-gone-tomorrow indie bands, M.I.A.'s baile funk via electro via grime debut (read a life spent growing up between Sri Lanka, New York and London) *Arular* is the perfect remedy. Over in just thirty-eight minutes, Maya Arulpragasam's album manages to fit in a handful of the best pop songs of 2005 with 'Bucky Done Gun', 'Sunshowers' and 'Galang' all dancefloor fillers. If you don't buy into the daughter of a Tamil Tiger/childhood spent in the

ghetto myth it's probably 'cos you're too busy bopping to the minimal Peaches-esque electro orchestrated by her main man DJ Diplo. As 'Galang' opens with Maya shouting in Jamaican-English patois 'London calling/ speak the slang now/ Boys say wha gwan/ Girls say wha/ Get down!' over blaring trumpets and a fuzzy beat, you get the idea this is the eclectic and contradictory blend of global pop envisaged by a post-London Calling The Clash. Gorillaz' Demon Days sounds like a Guardian reading white boy's attempt at going ghetto compared with this ultimately unclassifiable party starter.

## 4. Sound of Silver LCD Soundsystem

With *Sound of Silver*, James Murphy has, in many respects, made an album remarkably similar to his last. All the same reference points are here, from Talking Heads (the heavily chorused vocals of 'Get Innocuous') to Brian Eno ('Watch the Tapes') to The Velvet Underground (the piano lament of 'New York I Love You') but this never strays too close to the state of pastiche. Instead, *Sound of Silver* is the product of a man who has listened to the right people at the right time and, with consideration, has produced the musical missing link.

More than a few of these tracks are great; some already feel like classics. Opener 'Get Innocuous' starts in a way that some fans may find slightly too familiar. Yes, he is actually ripping off his own drum beat. The track builds with a duel drums/drum machine attack towards Nancy Wang's vocal exclamation 'Get

innocuous!'. 'North American Scum' is this album's 'Daft Punk is Playing at my House'. Murphy trades intelligent lyrics defending his native NYC from post-9/11 US bashing ('It's the furthest you can live from the government uh huh huh/ Some proud American Christians might disagree/ But New York's the only place we're keepin' them off the street') over crunchy guitar and synths. If you can get past the opening lyrical clanger, and it takes some doing, then you will be treated to the real gem of the album, moving in the space of seven minutes from stripped down rock vibe to a deep trance climax. This is followed by the Broadway-musical-like coda of 'New York I Love You' ending in full bring-the-house-down style.

Pieces of rock music that make such a statement are few and far between. Dance music that works played live, in a club or through speakers is virtually non-existent. With *Sound of Silver*, LCD Soundsystem have achieved both of these.

Singles 'Helicopter' and 'Banquet' need no introduction, although the latter deserved to soundtrack *everyone's* sexual awakening.

Surely the album's centrepiece, though, is 'This Modern Love'. Its vast, thick tangle of melancholic vocal strands sounds as though it has leapt straight out of the album cover - freezing, bleak, sparse, bright white. Russell Lissack's sickeningly moving guitar work so natural and Matt Tong's organic drumming so perfectly fitted that you could be forgiven for not noticing anything at all apart from the sheer feeling that the song instilled; Okereke made every hair stand on end and made every lost soul feel vindicated.

'The Pioneers' and 'Price of Gasoline' revealed a harsh, cynical edge to the band's political position while maintaining the image of that snow-covered plane of magic and fright. Breakthrough single 'So Here We Are' builds and builds into an electric, transcendent affirmation of what it is to be in love and to be alone and to not care. At the beginning of 2005 - and every time we played *Silent Alarm* - Bloc Party made music matter again.

## 2. Silent Alarm Bloc Party

To a mixture of surprise and relief, East London's Peel-championed post-everything quartet with the amazing drummer and the little-boy-lost vocals about sex came up with an album so biting in its commentary and so powerful in the delivery of its narrative that it seemed to be the voices of a thousand dissatisfied workers, citizens, lovers and adults, whilst sounding like giddy teenage excitement, a hangover, a divorce settlement. It was near impossible to put a handle on exactly what *Silent Alarm* did to us, but we surfaced after fifty minutes gasping for air and grateful to be alive and angry to be alive and merely alive.

A complex, unforgiving web of human emotions, its juddering, percussive introduction crash lands into the streamlined, bleeding heart of 'Like Eating Glass' - can YOU hear the bass note under the first verse? - whose filtered closing minute of addictive, revolving guitar texture and vocal starts sent shivers down absolutely everything. Kele Okereke or Ian Curtis? The line was decidedly blurred.



## 5. Takk Sigur Ros

Few bands of the last three years have managed to produce music on a similarly monstrous scale to Sigur Ros and, even if they have, they certainly haven't managed to turn them into a work of beauty to parallel *Takk*.

The obvious stand-out track is found in the form of Planet Earth title track 'Hoppipolla', something which serves to epitomise the graceful manner in which the Icelandic four-piece have brought post-rock into the mainstream without compromising the grandiose and intricate nature of the genre. Although *Takk* certainly sees Sigur Ros moving towards a more commercially viable and accessible sound, it is still a collection of songs that



cannot fail to bring a tear to the eye, and proves that a catchy chorus is not the only way to sell records.

What perhaps makes *Takk* so remarkable is the way in which it acts less as a pop album and more as continuous score, presumably to accompany some heart-rendering, art-house, short film about climate change or something. And is that not the key to a great album? Sure, it has tracks that stand up on their own merit, most notably the violin-led 'Andvari' and the tormented and explosive 'Saeglopur', but this is first and foremost an album best listened to in order and in one sitting as an accompaniment for an hour or two of casual day dreaming. A particularly dangerous album to listen to when revising, but flawless, nonetheless.



## 3. Illinoise Sufjan Stevens

Sufjan Stevens' second release in his project to make an album for each US state initially sounds dangerously familiar to 2003's *Michigan*: all horn arrangements and soaring vocals. However, when this familiarity takes the form of epic opener 'The Black Hawk War', a mystical telling of the bloody return of the Sac and Fox native Indian tribes to Illinois amidst the gargling and eddying strings of the Illinoismaker choir, you'll probably stop worrying.

This album is all about the history of Illinois through minute detail. Nowhere is this more apparent than the bare (for Sufjan) 'John Wayne Gacy, Jr.' which remembers that darkest of chapters in Illinois' history over faint piano and guitar: 'His neighbours, they adored him for his humour and his conversation/

Look underneath the house there, find the few living things rotting fast in their sleep of the dead.' Stevens remembers the serial killer's victims before revealing his great skill for relating the historical in the personal 'but in my best behaviour, I am really just like him/ Look beneath the floorboards for the secrets I have hid'. This comes across as affecting rather than emo in comparison to that other purveyor of the heartstrings, Conor Oberst. *I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning* comes across as self-obsessed and introspected compared to Stevens' admissions of weakness and empathy.

For one of the best songs you've ever heard then please see 'Chicago', an off-beat and magnificently orchestrated anthemic ejaculation of beauty that puts even the Arcade Fire to shame. Truly, this is a brilliant album and received nowhere near the attention it deserved. Expect more brilliance in *California* later in the year.

## 1. Funeral Arcade Fire

With the recent global success of Arcade Fire's latest album *Neon Bible*, finally, it would seem that they are beginning to receive the kind of recognition they have deserved since the discreet release of their debut *Funeral*.

For those of us who made the pilgrimage to Manchester Academy in May 2005 to see this mysterious group of arty-types from Montreal, it is quite simply impossible to suggest that any other band has emerged over the last three years that has the ability to silence a room of rowdy northerners on only their third gig on UK soil or conjure up the kind of emotion and euphoria that Arcade Fire produce night in night out as standard. As they sell out gig after gig in 2007 on the back of their latest release, it is imperative that we remember that *Funeral* is where it all began.

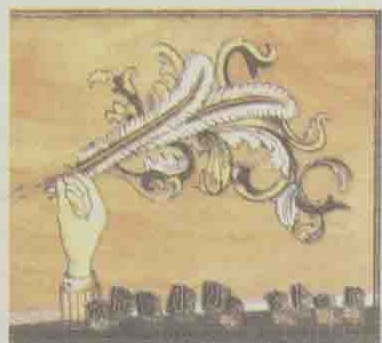
Beginning with the distant, restrained piano melodies of 'Neighbourhood 1 (Tunnels)', Win Butler's distinctive, raw vocals document an original and delightfully abstract love story. The orchestra of various instruments relentlessly pursue a climax throughout the song and are constantly seconds away from the inevitable explosion which finally comes in the form of a soaring and harrowing outro of evocative vocal howlings. Straight back to the start, please.

'Rebellion/Lies' follows a similar pattern of emotive progression, but with the welcome addition of a thudding house beat that has seen the song creep into the live set of the Chemical Brothers. 'Neighbourhood 3 (Power Out)' also sees a dancier side to Arcade Fire, this time combining a simple yet furious repetitive guitar riff with a commanding and original



dance beat and, of course, the familiarly erratic and strained, yet deceptively, melodic screamings of Win Butler.

Whilst 'Neighbourhood 2 (Laika)



also manages to pack something of a disguised indie disco punch, the real brilliance of *Funeral* can be found in such songs as the swooning, choral 'Wake Up' and the tormented, soaring 'In the

Backseat'. Particularly in the latter, we are treated to music that is beyond subdued yet immensely encouraging, and that is as much an uplifting affirmation of life as it is a cathartic chronicle of the tragedy of death. There has not been an album in the 21st century that manages to transcend so many genres and break so imaginatively with the conventions of modern popular music. Both lyrically and musically, it is almost beyond words, literally; it is impossible to do justice to the beauty and originality of the music in the clumsy and flaccid communicative medium of text.

You listen to *Funeral* and feel as if you have just had your soul spring-cleaned but you can't quite work out why. Truly the best album of the last three years and hopefully the soundtrack of your degree, if it wasn't, then stop listening to *Neon Bible* for a second and go and get it immediately. If an album could ever change your life then surely this is it.

# Music: Records

## Singles

'Precious Time' is the forthcoming single from Brighton five-piece **The Maccabees**. This may be cynical, but doesn't the highly enunciated, suspiciously rife, southern twang



currently employed by fellow Brightonians The Kooks, hot new things Cajun Dance Party, Jack Penate and various others

make you wonder if there's a factory somewhere, perhaps in Brighton...? The softer, more sensitive side of **Brand New** comes out in their first major release from the recent album *The Devil And God Are Raging Inside Me*. 'Jesus' is a delicate, troubled, vocally intense, 4.5 minute ballad that deals with the time-old question of what happens after we die, in a moving and relevant way. The main guitar line is a little repetitive, but in a way that helps the tune resemble a sort of dark lullaby that is really quite beautiful. The tension that builds throughout the song, simmering just beneath the



surface, never breaks into singer Jesse Lacey's trademark, tormented shriek as most of his songs do. His self-control is visible, and a far cry from the Brand New boys of 2001, who penned the lyrics: 'Girl, come to me, the only broken-hearted loser you'll ever need.'

She's one of those pop princesses you can't quite make your mind up about: should we love her or hate her? Is she talented or, well, not? **Sophie Ellis-Bextor** returns after three years away with a new album and this, its second single, 'Me and My Imagination'. It's formulaic and sounds a little bit teeny-bop; she does have a very distinctive and pretty voice, though. **The Noisettes** are undoubtedly cool. The mix of raunchy guitars, soulful, powerful vocals and the kind of bored, furious lyrics Kele Okereke would be proud of serve to make 'Scratch Your Name' a whooping, whopping hit. 'Dinosaur Egg' is based on a David Shrigley cartoon. **Scout Niblett** brings it to life with the distinctive vocal melodies and minimal finger picking she made her own on 2005's *Kidnapped By Neptune*. As usual, Scout's soaring, unhinged vocals seem to weave, stream-of-consciousness-like, all over the sparse instrumentation to puzzling effect.

The idea of **Mr Hudson vs. SWAY** seems bizarre. One a recent noted purveyor of a tough, urban sound, the other a man who looks entirely at home peddling his polite dinner-room jazz on Later with Jools Holland. Yet, somehow, it doesn't fail, completely, if only because the respective performers keep safely in their own sections of the song.



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By Helena Goodwyn & Joe Dennett



### NINE INCH NAILS

*Year Zero* (Interscope)

For Nine Inch Nails, waiting five years for a new album isn't out of the ordinary. That Trent Reznor, Nine Inch Nails' front man and driving force, has managed to knock out two albums within two years of each other (the last one being 2005's *With Teeth*) is high on a miracle.

*Year Zero* is the band's sixth full-length album, and marks a return to the synth-driven, noise-ridden tracks of *The Downward Spiral*, but it is also a departure in that it is the first true concept

### ALBERTA CROSS

*The Thief and the Heartbreaker* (Fiction)



**Alberta Cross**, are an East-London based band formed just over six months ago, who produce a sound emanating from the American hinterland, circa 1969. Some may

### MR. HUDSON AND THE LIBRARY

*A Tale of Two Cities*

Music is dumbing down: there are no two ways about it. In an effort to appeal to more and more people, artists frequently draw on numerous genres, creating a musical mish-mash that will hopefully sell more records. This can be good, and it can be bad, but, unfortunately, Mr. Hudson's offering sits slap bang in the middle, inspiring no strong feelings either way. Like Lily Allen before him, Mr. Hudson mixes everyday tales of life in the city with... well, I don't know what. It's soft-RnB-jazz-lounge style music, and the fact is that you barely notice it, it's so quiet and unassuming.

This failing could be covered if the erstwhile Mr. Hudson had something new to deliver vocally or lyrically but, unfortunately, his London-inflected vocals are disarmingly similar to everything we've heard before. Again, not so much of a problem if he had a lot to deliver lyrically, but he treads a lyrical path so well travelled that

album from the band. It describes a believable near-future, totalitarian America where all civil liberties have been cast aside and the country is run as a police state. While *With Teeth* was an angst-filled exorcism of Reznor's drug addiction and rehab, this is a highly politicised and far angrier record.

Familiar motifs and recurring themes pop up in *Year Zero* as much as any NIN album, but the fact this is a concept album gives the record a different feel. With less emphasis on personal and emotional trauma, and with a more politicised content, Reznor shows he is not content to merely tread water. The oddly titled first song 'Hyperpower!' is a crescendo of

raise an eyebrow here, but the mix of folk, blues and indie that the likes of **Kings of Leon** currently do best is a timeless form of guitar pop not to be sneered at. A short album with only seven tracks, the general feel of *The Thief and the Heartbreaker* is a tribute to love lost, heartbreak and musical times gone by. The album's first and title track is a decent, mid-paced tribute to Neil Young and Crazy Horse with a cool groove, country guitar lines and a solid chorus. Songwriters Petter Ericson Stakee and Terry Wolfers then take it up a notch with the melancholic yet curiously uplifting 'Lucy Rider', a summery, up-tempo tune which introduces us to the extent of Stakee's yearning vocal talents. It sounds suspiciously like anything written by The Thrills, another band that pays homage to the American greats, but that isn't necessarily a bad thing. 'Hard breaks, Low Man',

there are escalators for the steep bits and Little Chefs every few miles. Have people not had enough of the work/club/love lyrics popularised by Lily Allen and The Rakes? In places, the lyrics are passable, if a little clumsy; 'triple-glaze the cold from my soul,' Mr. Hudson sings on 'Brave The Cold', one of the album's many tracks that are impossible to remember within minutes of hearing them.

Singles 'Bread and Roses' and 'Too Late Too Late' are a little more lively, but the album soon slips into a monotonous rut. 'Picture Of You', 'Ghost' and 'Upon The Heath' all blend into one long afternoon sat in the lounge of your parents' friends' house while they drink tea and talk about The Guardian. This kind of music is created to fill the gaps in Radio 1's schedule, and, if you like your food bland, your colours grey and your music uninspiring, then you'll definitely like *A Tale of Two Cities*. Although 'like' is probably too strong a word for you, isn't it? (7)

By Owen Clements

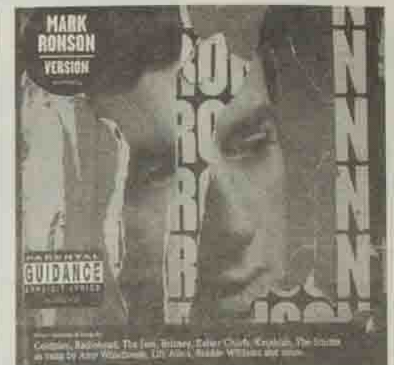
noise and heavy guitar riffing, and opens the way for a succession of NIN classics. Track three, 'Survivalism', the first single from the album, is a dissonant and noisy affair; perhaps the closest comparison would be to some of the more electronic moments on *Further Down the Spiral*. Another likely candidate for a single, 'Capital G' is in the bracket of instant classic, a half-speed, bleeping and whirring broadside against complacency and idiocy in American politics. Other songs such as 'The Greater Good' drift away from the industrial sound more into the realms of trip-hop and the electro work of Mr Oizo. The final song 'Zero Sum' is delightfully bleak, offering only a slither of redemption for the story the album tells.

Throughout the album, monosynth bass lines rumble along with distorted drum machines, whilst wailing, dissonant guitars seep through the computer bleeps and samples. Never descending into self-indulgence, the record is tight and kept on track by Reznor's pop sensibility, making *Year Zero* a lean, mean, hate-filled machine of an album, which is exactly what it should be. (8)

By Carl Barrowclough

and 'I've Known for Long' are three melodic ballads containing sweet harmonies and swooning guitars that won't bowl you over but will certainly get your foot tapping. 'Old Man Chicago' belongs on a Counting Crows album but is perhaps the most lyrically interesting track, reminiscent of the strangest Beatles songs. It's possible to hear the band's cited influences The Band and Van Morrison on occasion, especially in the closing track 'The Devil's All You Ever Had' which builds through over six minutes into a euphonic climax, aided by what sounds like a giant gospel choir. So, whilst it's tempting to label this album nu-folk, or nu-blues or anything that implies complete derivation, Alberta Cross are doing something worth listening to; something 'nu', but not new... (5)

By Helena Goodwyn



### MARK RONSON

*Version* (Columbia)

As one of Britain's more famous ex-pat producers, **Mark Ronson** has been building up a reputation for his DJing and production skills for the last 10 years, starting out in New York clubs and moving on to parties for the rich and famous (P.Diddy? Check. Gucci in Milan? Why not?). Known for boundary crossing sets which take in everything from hip hop to 60s psychedelia, and having released *Here Comes The Fuzz* to critical success, Mark Ronson's follow up comes heavily anticipated.

With *Version* comes something that can claim a fairly original niche in the market place; a selection of covers, it is largely backed by a funky, percussive production which leaves the 'Ooh Wee' hip-hop of before, whilst boasting a diverse range of guests. And what guests. It seems that all those hours spent mixing with the good and great in pop today bagged him a list of stars not many others could afford. Having produced for Amy Winehouse and Lily Allen, you can only presume Ronson used his charms and reputation in netting the likes of Robbie Williams and Paul Smith. That said, an A-list of talent doesn't necessarily an album make (see Audioslave), and so the question arises: is the album as good as the sum of its parts?

The sadly inevitable answer is yes and no. Leaving behind the comparatively safe world of hip hop behind, Mark Ronson whips out his eclectic bag of tricks and throws motown, funk and big beat into the mix, with no shortage of brass backing things up. The opening track 'God Put a Smile upon Your Face' underwhelms and is a sign of how necessary the V.I.P. list of friends is; although Ronson's take on Coldplay bounces along amicably enough, it lacks the real power that a cover needs to stand alongside its original. Contrastingly, in getting Lily Allen to cover 'Oh My God', the producer manages pulls off an absolute coup, maximising on the singer's ability to mix the sultry with indifference and attitude with pop. Furthermore, Radiohead's 'Just' is squeezed for all the funk it never knew it had; Thom who? As with these last two tracks, when the song being covered is given a new direction and allowed to break out from its predecessor, things are most likely to be successful. This originality is pushed further with 'Stop Me', the lead single which combines The Smiths with The Supremes' 'You Just Keep Me Hanging On'. The work of a producer who knows how to merge older sounds, it creates something genuinely new and exciting.

However, in 'The Only One I Know' lurks the danger that Ronson risks. The song just isn't able to explode like the original does; the ex-Take That man fails to match the Burgess swagger and falls on his face. It is in this combination of songs that Mark Ronson both shines and underwhelms. Though by no means consistently brilliant, *Version* is original, interesting and funky enough to get away with its mistakes. (7)

By John Owens

# The beaten track Smooth Opera-ator

## THE KBC On The Beat (High Voltage)

The KBC hail from Preston and have been together for three years. Their sound is firmly rooted in the groovier end of indie-pop, similar to The Sunshine Underground and the more upbeat side of Bloc Party. So far, they have supported acts as big as The Strokes and played alongside others like The Paddingtons and



Forward, Russia! at Glastonbury. Their debut album *On The Beat* kicks off with the funky guitars and bizarre lyrics of 'Poisonous Emblem', and then slides effortlessly in to the cymbal crashing, bass thumping, and synth trilling wonder that is 'Not

Any more'. Track three, 'Trippin', is the sort of fast-paced, guitar driven tune you might expect to hear in a dingy little indie club where the lyrics 'trippin' on acid...' would be greeted with shouts of 'f\*\*king right mate!' it's not as strong as the first two songs, but it still demands your attention. 'Test the Water', their latest single, sounds a little muffled vocally; perhaps the desired effect, but it starts to give the impression of an overproduced mess, especially in the breakdown, when the delayed vocals just sound a bit 90s pop. 'Days of Disillusion' has, initially, less of the drum-machine, techno feel of its predecessors, but soon kicks into what begins to be an all too familiar disco sound. 'Pride Before The Fall', The KBC's second single back in early 2006, is a slightly more interesting track, which pulls away from the trance/dance feel of other songs and is, instead, an impressive, guitar-propelled piece of furious pop music. The amusingly titled 'Sherlock Grooves Holmes' is dark, groove-intense, and altogether one of the best tracks on the album. Next up, however, is 'Zeitgeist', meaning 'spirit of the time'. Unfortunately, this may be a bit overreaching on The KBC's part, as their synth-based, techno-indie-pop sounds a bit dated already. The last two tracks aren't worth mentioning, which is a shame, because there are some great songs on this album - just not enough to keep you interested. (7)

By Helena Goodwyn

## Bizet's Carmen LUU OperaSoc Riley Smith Thursday 19th April

There are several things that an amateur should never try. Amongst these are fire juggling and, arguably, performing an opera. Bizet's *Carmen* is a tale of passion, betrayal and the fickle nature of human relationships, and you would be forgiven for thinking that a student society would not be able to convincingly portray the mature emotions required to give a good performance. However, having seen LUU Opera Society's rendition, I can assure you that they can. From the opening minute of act one, the audience were drawn into the world of the singers who, for a relatively small group, produced remarkable polyphonic melodies throughout.

A story of unrequited love and passionate gesture, the opera begins with an exchange between a brigade of soldiers and the girls at a nearby cigarette factory. The two-part melodies between the sexes were solidly enacted, the opposing styles of singing and lyrics capturing the essence of the opera as a difference between the genders.

The principal roles were performed with conviction and vigour, the audience often notably taken aback at the quality of the female voices. Elaine Tate's Carmen was captivatingly portrayed, with so convincing a performance that the audience struggled to focus on any other aspect of the opera, even when her character took a back seat. Her performance became so intensely sultry



that during a dancing scene with her love interest Don Jose (Morss) that there were some uncomfortable laughs around the Riley Smith. Her singing ranged from an incredible operatic style to husky tones of indifference, and the image of Carmen as a heartless temptress was well played. Soldier Don Jose, the victim of such indifference, was played strongly, with murderous passion by the ending (if you catch my drift), tension from which built throughout the final act, and love interest toreador Escamillo (Ford) had an unbelievably powerful voice which matched the proud personality of his character well.

However, the audience's favourite performance came from the two smugglers, whose random cockney

accents (and a very obviously drawn-on beard) had the people around me in stitches, and the wildly camp, sparkly blue sequinned matador outfit donned by Escamillo for his bullfight (where did they get that?)

The performance was sung beautifully, with a strong support from the excellent chorus, a well-thought-out choreography and spot-on orchestral performance. If anything let it down, it would be the acting, which only occasionally tended to look wooden from some characters. But, with such little at fault, and having begun with such a challenging opera, this society can only go from strength to strength. (8)

By Alex Doorey

## WILD BEASTS/ VIDEO NASTIES The Faversham Saturday 21st April

I arrived at the already bustling Faversham just in time for *Video Nasties* (7), a Maximo Park-esque indie-pop quintet. Aged 18, the quirky fivesome dominated the stage with their synth-led songs of teenage life - 'I really want to hold you, I really want to make you mine'. The songs are nothing revolutionary, or even anything new at all, but, despite this, they are quality pop songs that get the night into full swing.

Headlining tonight is a local talent - the eccentric and unique *Wild Beasts*, who, as well as being signed to indie heavyweight label Domino, have recently been tipped for success by the likes of the NME and Steve Lamacq, with their first single, the perfectly danceable 'Brave Bulging Buoyant Clairvoyants' being voted single of the week on his 6 Music radio show.

Playing tonight in support of their second single, 'Through Dark Night', which is released this week on Bad Sneakers records, the band are in high spirits, thanking the Faversham crowd, revealing they've been waiting a long time for such a vibrant reception, a contrast to their last visit to the Faversham for NastyFest, where the sparse crowd didn't provide much encouragement for the Kendal (the boys' original home) fruitcakes. Hayden Norman Thorpe's unique, falsetto and, at times, operatic vocals serenade and howl at the Faversham's growing crowd with songs such as 'The Old Dog' and 'Please Sir', making the trendy girls at the back dance along slightly drunkenly (none of this 'nu-rave' rubbish). However, despite the band's obvious talents, the set does begin to drag, with the Wild Beasts self-declared 'wishy washy' style beginning to wear thin. (6)

By Sarah Greene  
Photo by Maria Gurbutt-Lucero



## Arctic Monkeys Sheffield Leadmill Sunday 22nd April

"SHEF-FI-ELD, SHEF-FI-ELD, SHEF-FI-ELD"! Oh yes, you know when you're at an Arctic Monkeys gig, especially if it's in their home town on the eve of their critically acclaimed and much anticipated follow up to 2006's *Whatever People Say I Am...* The tiny Leadmill is literally throbbing with excitement and football terrace chanting so, when the band emerge on stage to the sound of a waltzing string quartet, there is something of a temporary and subdued hush; a calm before the storm of inevitable beer throwing and jeering that erupts when Alex Turner and the boys launch into their first track and latest single 'Brianstorm'.

The set unfolds in a somewhat obvious fashion and balances new material with old classics such as 'Mardy Bum', 'Fake Tales of San Francisco' and 'I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor'. What is most surprising tonight is how well the more primal and basic older songs stand up next to the more intelligent and experimental tracks from *Favourite Worst Nightmare*. They still pack a hell of a punch and command even the most tightlipped, Home Counties, Bjork fan to slur and sway wildly. However, the let-down here is that they almost sound too good. They have clearly become well polished by years of touring and now seem less immediate and energetic as perhaps they did all those years ago in a packed and sweaty Faversham.

Still, 'The View from the Afternoon' and 'Leave before the Lights Come On' are far and away the



best renditions of the evening, with stunningly accurate drumming (a recurring theme throughout the set) and frantic singalongs, adequately proving that the Monkeys' older work is not going to age quite as quickly as many of us had initially thought.

The reason everyone is here, though, is to hear what Turner *et al* have been up to in the last year tucked away in a studio; naturally, they are not left wanting. 'Teddy Picker' demonstrates a much higher level of live energy than is apparent on the album version and conjures more of a dance than before from anyone who has previously heard it and, believe me, those who haven't downloaded at least some of the album are in a minority tonight, one would surely expect. 'Who'd want to be men of the people when there's people like you?' scream the perspiring masses below the crowded stage, highlighting Turner's surprising ability to tackle more well thought-out lyrical content without disappearing up his own arse.

'Do me a favour' is as expertly precise as it is on the album and surprisingly fails to generate much of a response from the crowd, clearly hungry for something more indie disco friendly. The same can be said of '505', a subtle and understated attempt at something a little less aggressive, but without being dull or self indulgent. Although perhaps playing it as the last song was a bit pretentious.

It is difficult to decide what to make of Arctic Monkeys now. Yes, they are mouthy and aggressive northern sprites but, at the same time, you get the feeling that, as they are maturing into their early twenties, their music is following suit. However, whilst they manage to tread the line of thrashy trash indie rock band better than any other, one cannot help but suspect that their progression into a prolific, world-conquering rock band, the kind that could garner significant support outside of the northern working class suburbs, is still a long way off. (7)

By Jonny Price

## Going Out

# WE ARE THE PIPETTES

Retro chic revisits the Cockpit as the Pipettes play

## The Pipettes

### The Cockpit

Thursday 19th April

Very few bands nowadays have the power to attract such a diverse crowd as attended the Cockpit for this gig. There were 15-year-old emo girls ranging to 60-(ish)-year-old couples hopping along to the beat – and every one of them positively throbbing with excitement and anticipation.

For those of you not in the music know (where have you been?!), The Pipettes are three fantastic yet wonderfully strange girls from Brighton, whose pop punk style goes back to the 'drive-in' rock'n'roll era of the 50's. Bursting onto the stage with 'You're Kisses Are Wasted on Me', the crowd went absolutely wild and damn right they should – these girls definitely know how to put on a show. As the

night progresses with such modern gems as 'Why Did You Stay?', 'Judy' and 'ABC' the crowd's cheering never died down, and the masses of people kept on dancing away to the songs.

The girls themselves are lovely to watch – keeping up a cheeky banter with each other and the audience, and keeping the smiles on everyone's faces. In fact, it wasn't till their resounding encore of 'Pull Shapes' and 'We are the Pipettes' that I even realised I'd been there for two hours. The many new tracks they played still kept up the razzle dazzle that these girls are fast becoming known for, and proved that this act's still got some pretty hefty legs.

I'd definitely recommend seeing them if you ever get the chance (you could probably catch the next leg of their European tour if you're quick). Now where can I get a ticket to Munich?

By Hani Megerisi



## oops...

Our sincere apologies to Charlotte Coleman, whose splendid Fresh Jive Breakdancing Championships review in

last week's paper was wrongly credited to Sophie Barnes.

Also to Ruth Jones for failing to credit her for her DJ Tango photo, what can we say? We're rubbish.

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# The Big Smoke

We tentatively explore a life beyond Leeds...

Should you ever, astonishingly, want to escape Leeds, clubbing capital, then your best bet is the big LDN. Since the theme is large then Fabric perfectly fits the bill. Fabric is perhaps the most hyped club in Britain, London's super-club regularly fills its gargantuan proportions with the finest of neon-clad new ravers. So, my first visit to the night was coupled with slight scepticism, would it live up to its massive reputation? Being greeted by a remix of Gary Numan 'Cars' and Grandmaster Flash's 'White Lines' as you enter a club will always set you up for a good night and even the extortionate drinks prices, once you'd gulped back various expletives, were made bearable by the eclectic soundtrack. With Riotous Rockers, Scratch Perverts, Kavinsky all serving up stellar dj sets and Erol Alkan and Andy C headlining there was little chance for a breather before the next dazzlingly brilliant tune was unleashed. Remixes of Jackson 5 with Salt'n'Peppa may not be everyone's

cup of tea but this crowd weren't complaining, quickly adjusting their dance moves from respectable to outlandish to fit the eclectic music policy.

Only a super club with a larger than average ego would dare to fit Erol Alkan and Andy C on the same bill but surprisingly the pairing really works. Alkan adapted his usually indie/pop based set to a bass laden menagerie of underground acts, so underground that I, more of a fan of his 80s synth pop remixes, hadn't the foggiest what any of it was. Andy C performed at his reliable best with his now well-familiar brand of drum'n'bass that you can actually dance to. Writing this it's struck me that as a clubs editor I am surprisingly ill-qualified to talk about any of the music I hear at club nights. I am sceptical of anyone though who actually remembers/knows anything about the various vague genres of grime, dub, shakey breaks, rub a dub dub sub step or what not. Back to the point.

In an era where all things guitar based reign it is impressive that Fabric, the mecca of dance when dance was cool, has continued to thrive. It's all thanks to their ability to adapt to the changing environment, like a monkey but a bit less crucial to the survival of mankind. Their wallet-lining side project in record releasing has earned them not only a tidy pile but a reputation for spotting the next big thing with effortless accuracy. With releases from DJ Hype, Ralph Lawson, Plump DJs and Cut Copy the label has gone from strength to strength. Perhaps the best thing about the club is the vending machine that spews forth cds. Or perhaps the gigantic sofas that by the end of the night are covered with spilt drinks and sprawled out bodies like a bad episode of Skins.

Fabric is very big and very fun, it comes highly recommended for anyone who likes to dance to anything indiscriminately, what more is there to say?

By Sophie Barnes



# Krafty Kuts Deep



The beat goes on at the Elbow Rooms

Krafty Kuts graced the DJ-shaped stage of Elbow Rooms on Friday, whipping the pre-hyped crowd into a dance frenzy of manic proportions. Breaks were the order of the day, as Krafty Kuts spliced beats with serious panache, commanding his dancing minions with ease. His audience were clearly breaks connoisseurs, appreciative of every deft beat drop, and showing their respect via the medium of crazy-dance. Spine-defying shapes were thrown as Krafty added unexpected cuts to the mix, challenging the crowd to risk their very health for the sake of the music.

The darkly elegant atmosphere of The Elbow Rooms provided the perfect brooding backdrop for a night of energetic behaviour, contrasting the insanity of its dancefloor with secluded corners for occasional

much-needed lounging sessions.

The bar, perhaps the sole downfall of the evening, was perennially rammed, making the process of achieving drunkenness somewhat traumatic. However drunkenness was most definitely achieved by certain spectacularly worse-for wear revellers whose inebriated stumblings made the soiree all the more entertaining.

Generally rather more sophisticated than the usual student Baha crowd, this clientele were dedicated breaks aficionados whose respect for Krafty Kuts' DJ skills made this a night of jumping energy. Next time Krafty comes to town, you'd better be ready to dance your shoes to pieces.

By Penelope Smythe

“ Clubbing at home and clubbing at Uni are two very different things. For many of you; one is rubbish and one is amazing. No prizes for guessing which one is which. For one thing the price difference is astounding. The cost of a drink can be in the range of £3.50 and with taxi fares being known to total £30. A week's going out budget at Uni can get you one measly night at home!! The size of the club also differs. At home, there are some dark, damp holes which the owners try and sell as a "club" which in actual fact is the size of a village hall compared to Uni where size is a matter of choice. Choice is probably the most important difference. Leeds in particular offers a rich variety of music, so whether you're into rave, electro, cheese, hip hop or rock, your

## Home or Away??

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The size of the club also differs. At home, there are some dark, damp holes which the owners try and sell as a "club" which in actual fact is the size of a village hall compared to Uni where size is a matter of choice. Choice is probably the most important difference. Leeds in particular offers a rich variety of music, so whether you're into rave, electro, cheese, hip hop or rock, your

taste is catered for. At home and I bet you are familiar with this situation: the same variety of music in even the same order. If I counted the times I had heard the Proclaimers "500 miles" at home on a night out, I would be a very rich student.

Whereas before Uni I thought going out was the best thing in the world, now when I go out at home I am even more aware that the experience is good (because of the people) but it could be so much better. Was I too young to care that my much loved club was a dive? Or has Uni sullied it forever? Only time and graduation will tell.

By Katie Gilliland



## the rant

You've paid good money for a ticket, and one would hope that you attend a gig out of a love of music and not 'to be seen'. Surely you would want to make the most of your expenditure, not spending your time doing something that you could be doing better elsewhere! If you want to chat to your mates then, instead of doing it amongst a crowd who are not remotely interested in what you have to say, why not do it at a pub where the drinks are much cheaper? Not only is it disrespectful to the artist who has to battle through this adversity, but it is disrespectful to the other gig-goers who wish to watch and listen to music, instead of listen to a mundane debate on the finer points of last night's soaps.

I realised the intensity to which I loathe this most disgraceful of practices at a recent sold-out Duke Special gig at The Faversham. The small, barely-raised stage means that it is difficult to find a decent viewing spot when the venue is at full capacity. I find that this problem is particularly serious during the performances of support acts, and one of the support acts at this gig, the American guitarist Stephanie Dosen, creates delicate, intricately-constructed pieces that demand the listener's full attention to fully appreciate their beauty. Therefore, it was deeply

regrettable that a couple of shirted, 30-something gentlemen behind me nattered throughout the entire duration of her excellent performance about how they'd changed a flat tyre on one of their cars the previous night. Thankfully, they shut up once Duke Special came on stage and delivered a spellbinding performance, but it has never escaped me that that night could have been even more magical if they had shown greater respect.

By Nicholas Polydor

## the ones to watch

• Fresh Jive @ Mine Saturday 28th April 'Cypher Kings' The Official Afterparty of TAG... Me vs. The City Bboy antics from 10 Tonn and Jonzi D. Expect the best goddamn lyrical stylings that have ever been heard ever. Should be good.

• SoulSauce @ The Elbow Rooms. Wednesday 2nd May Live jazz and soul from this classy night that is far from The Fast Show 'Nice' cheesiness. features Anonym - a jazz musician from Leeds College of Music plus support.

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## Screen &amp; Stage

# The Lives of Others

Starring: Martina Gedeck, Ulrich Mühe, Sebastian Koch and Ulrich Tukur  
Director: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck

Certificate: 15  
Running Time: 137 minutes



Written and directed by the fantastically named Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, this film, set in the Socialist East German in the early 80's, has been receiving rave reviews, and picked up the *Best Foreign Language Film Oscar* this year. The story centres around the Stasi, the intelligence organisation monitoring the population relentlessly. Georg Dreyman (Sebastian Koch), is an author who is viewed almost universally as one of the

only non-subversive writers of the state. However, a high ranking official's lust for his actress girlfriend, Christa-Maria Sieland (Martina Gedeck) lead to his flat being monitored by Stasi agent Hauptmann Gerd Wiesler (Ulrich Mühe). As he monitors the lives of Dreyman and Sieland, Wiesler begins to see them in a different light, and becomes suspicious of the motives behind the investigation.

While the rest of the cast is good, Mühe's ability to give his character real emotional depth through facial expressions and physicality drives the plot, allowing the development of the story to feel realistic. The casting is something that can be criticised, although the performances are universally good – the characters seem to be pushed towards stereotypes, with the authors and dissenters generally portrayed as thin intellectuals, while the government is represented by the grossly fat, sexual predator Minister Hempf.

Under pressure to get results from his investigation Wiesler is facing a dilemma, as his interest in the couple he is viewing gets more and more pronounced. However, his change is not entirely clear – as he allows Dreyman to get away with a plan he mutters, "Just this once"; he is unconvinced which course of action is right. Due to the suicide of one of Dreyman's 'black-listed' friends, he becomes more inclined to challenge the system, and Wiesler's choices become more important. Where the film really succeeds is in allowing the lead characters' decisions to effect each other, while they remain separated from each other. The system of social control that this film is based around is occasionally made overly obvious – especially in the casting – but *The Lives of Others* certainly deserves the accolades it has received.

(8/10)

By Simon Gillett

# Shooter

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Michael Peña, Danny Glover and Kate Mara  
Director: Antoine Fuqua

Certificate: 15  
Running Time: 124 minutes



To be honest you'll probably have already decided whether or not you want to see this film based on its title alone. And the poster image of Mark Wahlberg with a rifle does little to clear things up. *Shooter* however is a very clever film and definitely worth the watch. It covers a great deal of ground regarding morality and the responsibilities of both the individual and the state, but drops them into the dialogue in such a way that if you're not bothered you can just concentrate on watching people being shot, usually from far away, instead.

The story follows Wahlberg's retired Marine Corps scout sniper, Bob Lee Swagger, and his efforts to clear his name after being implicated in a government conspiracy. Helping him are the widow of his former observer, played by the beautiful Kate Mara, and rookie FBI agent Nick Memphis, portrayed superbly by the scene stealing Michael Peña. Against the three stands everything that the public aren't meant to know their government's posses, headed up by an

insidious Danny Glover, and a blustering Ned Beatty as a secret service colonel and United States senator respectively.

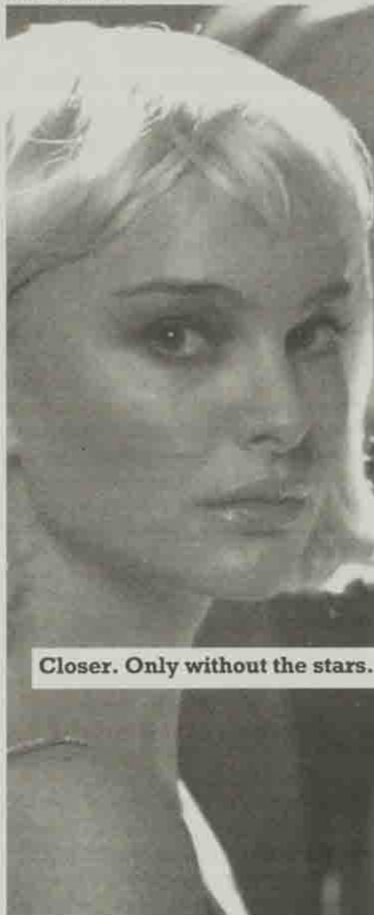
There's not really much more that can be said about *Shooter* without ruining most of the best bits of the story. So it is perhaps advisable to talk about an entirely different film, *The Bourne Ultimatum*. Despite being scheduled for a summer release there has been precious little promotion for the conclusion to the Bourne series and so the unanticipated appearance of *Shooter* has all the more value as an equally intelligent and thoughtful addition to the action thriller genre. Like the *Bourne* series *Shooter* has its origins in a book about a Vietnam era soldier of extraordinary skill, and again updates the basic premise to the modern day with expert skill. If you're hungry for more Bourne, or even one of those Bauer fans, go see this while you wait. You won't be disappointed.

(8/10)

By James Silson

# Closer

A University of Leeds Theatre Group Production



Closer. Only without the stars.

I saw the film of *Closer* and thought it was all a bit depressing, following two couples and four years of romantic betrayal (exhausting), and what with Natalie Portman randomly announcing she didn't love Jude Law anymore (fool), I advised my friend in a steady happy relationship to avoid it at all costs. I was surprised to hear the film was based on the play by Patrick Marber, I couldn't imagine how the aquarium and strip club scenes would work on stage. So when I heard the *Theatre Group* were putting it on I was curious to see how the director, Pete Fabianski, would rise to these challenges. On the night, I tried not to think about the film and go with an open mind and the interesting stage space immediately acted as a reminder that this was something original. The audience sat in four-rows, two either side of a long rectangular space, similar to a catwalk. It felt almost like we were at a fashion show, which suited the modern play. At first I admit I was trying to work out who was playing Jude Law's character, but as actors took their own individual take on the roles, I was soon left watching the action in front of me, the film a distant memory.

*Closer* must have been quite an ambitious play to put on, in terms of language there is lots of candid talk of sex, and as three of the characters are supposed to be in their twenties it ran the risk of being a bit uncomfortable, watching students acting as young professionals in such a naturalistic style. But good acting shouldn't make that risk a problem and thankfully it didn't, as being the prude that I am, I was ready to cringe at discussions of sexual positions. The cast were impressive, especially Paul Bloomfield, who made everyone

laugh winking in the internet chatroom scene, and was captivating in his fury. Stephanie Wollenberg was suitably childlike, and I hope purposefully irritating, and Gabby Edmund's coolness held me as did Nick Laurence's witty remarks. The costumes were spot on for these parts, ensuring they were all the more believable as doctor, stripper, photographer and writer. In fact, every performance seemed effortless and carrying a suitable load of emotional baggage.

I'd heard reports of slow set changes but this must have been sorted by the second night, because there were no tedious four minute blackouts. My only complaint would be the length of the stage, the concept was original but we found ourselves hovering like we had some haemorrhoid problem during the strip club scene. That scene was, incidentally, staged as classily as it could have been, although there were the few standard exasperated sighs from my friends when Stephanie Wollenberg strutted about in her red underwear. But she did look good. I'm sure the men in the audience wouldn't have minded getting a bit closer (hoho). The thought-provoking twist at the end and the moments which touched on friendship, identity, and trust proved this brave, sexy, and funny production to be intense but not in any draining way. *Closer* is about the meaning of closeness, what right we have to know what's in the other person's head and what right we have to protect what's in our own heads. I think the play's answer is that we have to protect our own thoughts. You can't always know what your boyfriend or girlfriend is thinking and that's the way it should be, because when you love someone you can't completely soak them up. You still have to retain some degree of detachment. Or maybe Patrick Marber just got really badly dumped and wanted to write about it. Either way, the production proved that love can scar as much as it heals. *Closer* certainly got under most of the audience's skins, however thick, and for some it might have been too close for comfort, but this was a first-class production.

(8/10)

By Katy Palmer

**Closer certainly got under most of the audience's skins, but this was a first-class production.**

# The Painted Veil

Starring: Naomi Watts, Edward Norton, Liev Schreibe and Toby Jones and Diana Rigg  
 Director: John Curran

Certificate: 12A  
 Running Time: 125 minutes



As if a woman ever loved a man for his virtue," states Kitty Fane, and whoever enjoyed a film for the same reason? This is a truly virtuous film. It is beautifully shot in the very beautiful location of rural China. It is beautifully

“ This had all the makings of a great film, but failed to go the extra mile. ”

acted by the beautiful Naomi Watts and the pitch-perfect Edward Norton. It is beautifully written (despite its rather predictable plot), its score is beautifully haunting, and its historical references are beautifully accurate. Yet, considering its highly dramatic subject matter and potential, *The Painted Veil* is just that: a visually stunning film that hides its

## News Reel:

The sequel to Ang Lee's *Hulk*, *The Incredible Hulk*, suddenly just got classy. Edward Norton, star of *The Painted Veil*, has been cast as Bruce Banner and his mean green alter-ego...*Grindhouse*, the double-bill from Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez, has bombed in the States. Not only were cinema-goers reluctant

brilliance behind an indefinable coldness. Alternating between 1920s London, Shanghai and rural China, at the centre of the film is an unhappily married couple. Having discovered his wife's infidelity with the rather dashing Liev

Shreiber, bacteriologist Walter Fane (Norton) whisks his wife Kitty (Watts) off into the middle of a cholera epidemic for the sake of "research". Once there, he throws himself into helping at the town's hospital, leaving Kitty to fidget at home. Norton pulls off Walter with a mixture of Hugh Grant in *Four Weddings* and Hugh Laurie in *House*, with a dash of Rhett

to go see the ode to '70's exploitation, but many of the few who did go, didn't exactly get the idea of a double-bill and left after the first film...The studio have decided to slice the double-bill in two and re-release Tarantino's *Death Proof* and Rodriguez's *Planet Terror* separately. expect the same thing to be done over here too...And finally, Hugh

Butler for good measure. Watts has the best lines of the script, reeling off first class W. Somerset Maugham one-liners (the film is an adaptation of his novel) with wit and confidence.

As with most good characters, Walter and Kitty are flawed individuals with as many faults as virtues. Their love story is well balanced with the twin threats of cholera and the Chinese civil war, and yet there is hollowness to it. The stars seem to be concerned with being stars, and, while both performances are excellent, there is something absent in their onscreen chemistry.

This had all the makings of a great film, but failed to go the extra mile. The final scene is totally pointless, and there is the sense that the film just doesn't know how to end. It is devoid of the emotional punch that such a story deserves, and explains too much too late. Saying this, it's a more than pleasant couple of hours and, with April showers nearly upon us, will make for good rainy Sunday afternoon viewing. (6/10)

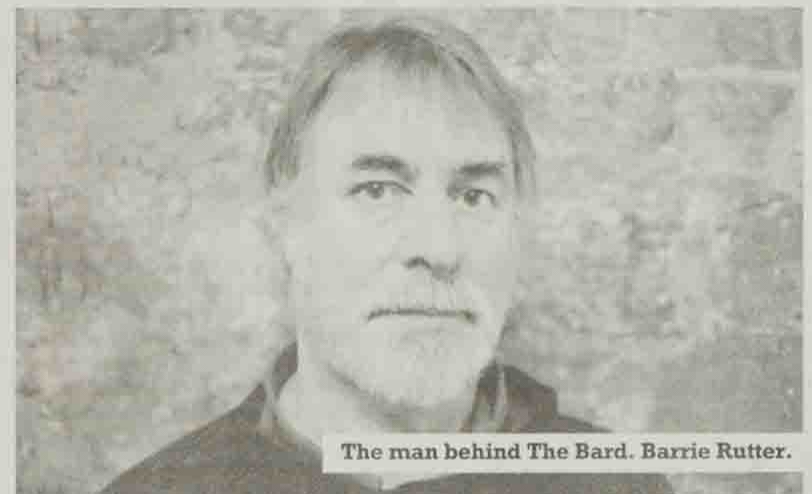
By Lara Choksey

Grant was arrested after an alleged attack on photographer in London. Grant's offending weapon was a tub of baked beans....

# The Tempest

At the West Yorkshire Playhouse

By William Shakespeare  
 Director: Barrie Rutter



The man behind The Bard. Barrie Rutter.

Being one of Shakespeare's fantastical plays in which the audience encounters an array of kings, dukes, magicians, spirits, monsters and romance all in the space of a few hours, *The Tempest* has a lot to offer theatre goers. The West Yorkshire Playhouse performance of *The Tempest* was no exception to the rule with the emotions of revenge, love and forgiveness prevalent throughout the performance of the play.

The company's interpretation of the plot is a relatively standard one but it is their performance which really exemplifies the play as an enjoyable night out to the theatre. Limiting themselves to a very basic stage of just a ship's mast, the company had a rather difficult task of making the audience believe in the island setting that most of the play rolls out upon. Thus, in effect it was the way the characters interacted with each other and their respect for this imaginary setting that led for the audience to be encapsulated by the mysterious island that each of the characters finds themselves inhabiting. The island, as it were seems to in fact become a character in itself, as it is the island along with Prospero's manipulation of it that forwards the plot, all from the same stage. The performance uses music as the island's way of communicating to the other actors, music which is consequently performed on a spectrum of instruments by members of the talented company of actors and actresses themselves. It is this sometimes haunting music, which notifies the audience of spells at work, scene changes and the arrival of other characters onto the stage. The company's use of music in the performance has to be respected in that although Shakespeare plays often have a ditty of two in them, to use this to the effect it has been employed in the performance is of a great benefit to the play.

With the interlinking of three apparently separate plots the company utilizes this very efficiently allowing them to show skills of acting in melodramatic and comedic situations. Comedy is especially characterized by Trinculo and Stephano whose performances had the audience chuckling with laughter. The duo's use of the audience in their performance also added to their advantage engaging the audience acting the 'clown' in front of them and even at one point coming

“ The Tempest has a lot to offer theatre goers. The West Yorkshire Playhouse performance was no exception to the rule. ”

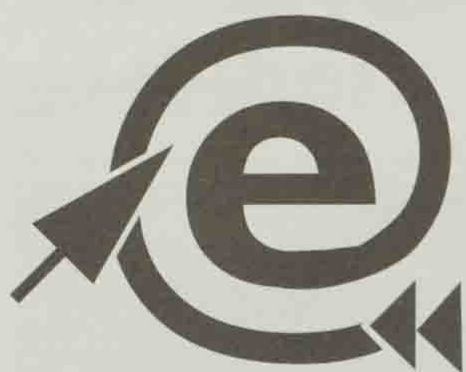
into the seating area as an interpretation of the stage directions. In contrast to the comedic elements of the duo, the play also was led on the themes of revenge and forgiveness personified namely through Prospero.

One change that was apparent in this company's performance of the play was the character of Ariel, a spirit, who was played by three people to show a more ethereal performance by the same character, allowing it to be in more than one place at once. This was matched with the actresses' costumes in the floating colours they wore, allowing the audience to believe in the nature of the character. Costumes for the play were basic but quite effective in showing a particular Stuartesque era that the play was set in, with Caliban's costumes trying to show his half man/half monster personification (further aided by the stature that the actor maintained throughout the play).

Overall, the play was enjoyable whose effect was aided especially by the use of music to personify the island itself; the mix of comedic and melodramatic elements provide the audience with light relief but not at the expense of the message of the performance. (8/10)

By Anthony Coward

EE E E EE E E EE E E there's no limit.



# Facebook, Facebook, Facebook

Once again, it seems change is afoot. Odour Eaters, thinks Epage? It seems change is all the rage in the twenty first century. be it skin deep or, in the case of the more exotic members of modelling world, deep skin. Deep throat? gags Epage. Microsoft on Macs, Parkinson on ITV, the obsessive behaviour of an unreceptive ex-boyfriend (oooo, low, whispers Epage) and now Facebook. Holiest of all the friendly networking websiteys has gone under the digital knife for an injection of cyberspace. Digenetics? questions Epage. When such a diversion comes your way, it's best to face it head on. Epage, thinks Epage. Note to self: If you don't get

on with your parents that well, don't tell them. Paying off your credit cards can never cover the fact that they don't love you anymore. Epage sobs: its parent was a USB pen drive and particularly scathing. Was 'US-B' Lincoln's plan for a communist Utopia? Epage doubly wonders doubly and now considers something more to the point.

So, why has el facebooko gone through its biggest change since dropping the 'the' from its domain name in 2005 or the controversial creation of 'feeds' in 2006? Hmmm, well, it's not as if this is still backroom operation of Harvard gimp Mark Zuckerburb, regularly accused

of stealing the source code of said creation whilst doing work experience at 'connectU', a rival friend networking site. Epage gasps and crashes. With 65% of its 18,000,000 members logging in daily and more than often perusing one of the 1,000,000,000 hosted photos, the redesign of Facebook's user interface was predictably overdue.

And re-vamp they 'kind of' have, taking a leaf out of old Micro Gatesy's book in the art of moving buttons at least an inch in any direction.

Perhaps the most appealing change to the average Facebook stalker is the new network homepages. A centre

point for groups, events and amazing facts such as Leeds University's favourite film (*Anchorman*), or that all the top 10 bands are completely male. Browse other networks to discover the weird fascination Asian countries have with American detective dramas or that the Fiji network has fewer than 200 members, fewer than Epage has real friends. Epage gasps; a little bit comes out and then goes back in.

Further from this, Marky has removed the little Facebook man (aawwww), remembered for a short period by a gift exclaiming "R.I.P. Facebook man". Epage suggests a murder investigation. Shortcuts to

messages and the like are no longer organised in a ladder effect on the left, now dropping from the top of the screen like gifts from heaven. Virgin pregnancies, exclaims Epage.

Further than this, it really is still business as usual at Facebook HQ, slowly but surely becoming the centre of the spacetime continuum. Centre of a continuum? ponders Epage. However, with more members in the local Leeds network than the University's now, Epage predicts gang warfare and rioting in Millennium Square. Watch out, Sheffield; we're downloading your souls as we speak.

Tim Sevthens

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# Young lovers left stranded

## Fiction

### On Chesil Beach

Ian McEwan  
176pp, Jonathan Cape,  
£12.99



Ian McEwan is without doubt one of the foremost writers in Britain and indeed the world today, and any new book of his is guaranteed to attract considerable attention. Much like his American counterpart Philip Roth's most recent effort *Everyman*, for his latest book McEwan has chosen the short novel form, with *On Chesil Beach* attempting to encapsulate the rise and fall of a relationship in a mere 166 pages.

The story is centred around the wedding night of a young couple, both virgins, set in 1962 when "a conversation about sexual difficulties was plainly impossible". However, sexual difficulties they have. For the male character, Edward, this is just run-of-the-mill nervousness and inexperience, but for his new wife Florence it is something much stronger, a sickening dread of physical intimacy possibly stemming from a subtly hinted-at incident in her childhood. Unable to communicate how they feel to each other, their fears and expectations mount up unchecked, and the wedding night progresses with a sense of impending inevitable disaster.

Interspersed throughout the unfolding scene in the bedroom of their hotel are chapters of historical backstory, giving a concise but enlightening overview of the characters' respective childhoods, and how they met and fell in love with each other. McEwan handles these shifts of perspective and time with the consummate ease you would expect from such a master of his craft, and the individual psychology and circumstances of each character is fleshed out completely via just a few brilliantly captured set-pieces from their lives. Many have praised McEwan's descriptive and compressive talent with relation to this book, and it is in these sections, comprising no more than half the length of the book yet yielding two complete, subtle characters, where this skill really shines through.

However I found the 'present time'

sections far less impressive. While there are several moments of enlightening insight into the characters' fears and motivations, especially in the way they are communicated to and misunderstood by each other via their physical actions, many of their thoughts and impulses are very difficult to understand or empathise with.

The idea that underpins the entire book is the notion of how one single, critical moment can completely change a life, with the main instance of such a moment occurring on Chesil Beach, where, after their attempt at sex had gone as disastrously as would be expected (especially since Edward had made the schoolboy error of abstaining from 'self-pleasuring' for the previous week), Florence makes one last attempt to save their relationship, and when this is vehemently rejected she walks off along the beach and out of Edward's life forever, with he making no effort to call after her. While this is certainly an interesting idea, and one well worth exploring, I found it wholly unconvincing with respect to this situation. Despite the fact that the characters' psychologies and motivations had been so well-crafted in the backstory sections, here, and indeed in all the 'present time' sections, they don't act at all convincingly. While I could understand and empathise with Florence's actions, I could not believe that one failed sexual encounter would lead Edward to

abandon completely a girl he had loved and married. Of course the scenes are still well depicted; it is the situation and not the writing which is unconvincing. But given that this is the critical point of the book, I found it hugely disappointing.

Indeed in the few remaining pages that follow, this flaw is compounded as McEwan follows the two characters into their futures; not only does Edward seem barely affected by this failed relationship and marriage but the following forty years of their lives are covered in barely a couple of pages, and even McEwan's talent for compression cannot make this seem at all realistic. Obviously he's trying to demonstrate how fundamentally and irrevocably the situation has been changed from the well-paced development of their relationship, but given that the critical turning point was not believable, this section is even less so, with the added fact that the writing loses its finely poised descriptive quality.

A writer of McEwan's immense talent is always difficult to criticise, especially when the book contains such finely crafted character development and description. However for the central element of his story to be so disappointing is surely a significant failing.

(6/10)

By Christopher Tedd



## Fiction

### The Lost City

Henry Shukman  
352pp, Abacus, £10.99



When I picked up Henry Shukman's *The Lost City* for the first time, alarm bells began ringing in my mind upon reading the quote printed on it - "A very gifted and haunting new writer". First of all, I'm never entirely certain what quotes like that mean, and secondly, if they are intended as praise for the work, they are almost always blatant lies, little more than verbal vomit spewed by some famous author (in this case, Vikram Seth) across what would otherwise be a perfectly acceptable cover. The mere presence of such a quote, clearly just put there at the behest of some over-zealous publisher, immediately makes me wary of the text to follow. Often my disdain is proven to be misdirected, and the novels adorned with such rubbish can be excellent reads leaving me feeling thoroughly guilty that I ever doubted the author's talents. With Henry Shukman, I'm not entirely sure whether he redeemed himself or not.

The story of *The Lost City* is straight forward enough. The protagonist, one Jackson Small (terrible name, I know) has been recently invalided out of the army, following a catastrophic accident in which he was wounded, and his friend, Connolly (also a soldier) is killed. Understandably enough perhaps, Jackson is overcome by grief, and finds it hard trying to settle back into any kind of normal life. Jackson's next step is just what any of us would do in such a situation - go on a mad and fairly dangerous quest into deepest darkest Peru to find the eponymous lost city. When I was a small child, I wanted to do that too - but in search of Paddington Bear's family, rather than some ruins. Anyway, before he can get on with his adventures and voyage of self-discovery, Jackson is robbed of most of his equipment, his passport and his cash. Somehow because of this, he is sucked into other crazed adventures - i.e. an undercover, black-ops style escapade into an area under the control of a very powerful drug cartel - and meets many interesting souls along the way, such as a small boy who sticks to him in the manner of a limpet (but doesn't

say an awful lot), a girl by the name of Sarah (obvious love interest alert) and a large selection of eccentrics.

As I have already mentioned, I'm not wholly certain if I enjoyed *The Lost City* or not. Perhaps it was in part because the book is trying to transcend so many genres in only a few hundred pages (one minute it's a love story, then it's a thriller, then there's some politics thrown in). Perhaps it's the occasionally irritatingly accurate descriptions of Peru (Shukman has, in the past, done some travelling of his own). Perhaps it's because he is also a poet and sometimes his prose suffers a little from excessive attempts to be linguistically pleasing. Most of all, however, I think it was because Shukman refuses to use quotation marks of any kind to show speech, which I found irritating from beginning to end. Regardless of my boundless capacity to be pedantic, *The Lost City* is no great work of fiction, but it's an entertaining enough diversion from writing essays.

(5/10)

By Katie Dunn

"A book must be an ice-axe to break the seas frozen inside our soul."

- Franz Kafka

## News



Cormac McCarthy (pictured) has won this year's Pulitzer prize for his tenth book, *The Road*, a dark tale of a post-apocalyptic America. The \$10,000 award is given for "distinguished fiction by an American author".

Lawrence Wright received the Pulitzer prize for non-fiction, and Natasha Trethewey won the poetry award.

The National Short Story Prize has been awarded to Julian Gough, for *The Orphan and the Mob*. Gough describes the story as "like the bit at the start of the Star Wars trilogy... Except set in Tipperary". The prize was created to reinvigorate short story writing in Britain, and the first prize is £15,000 with smaller cash awards for the runner up, David Almond, and also for the remaining shortlisted authors.

*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* has finally been knocked from the top spot in the bestseller charts, which it has occupied for the past 16 weeks, despite not being

published until July. Replacing it is J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Children of Hurin*, completed from a collection of unfinished notes by his son Christopher. The story is also set in Middle-earth, and features illustrations by Alan Lee.



Pope Benedict XVI (pictured) has published his first book since becoming Pope. *Jesus of Nazareth* sold 50,000 copies on its first day of publication, and contains Benedict's reflections upon the teachings of Christ, as well as his views on politics. The title is to be printed in 20 languages in its first print run.

Dickens' World has opened its doors to the public for the first time this week. The £62million attraction, near Chatham in Kent, is an indoor theme park based upon the life and works of Charles Dickens, featuring reproduction slums, costumed prostitutes and a sewer based boat ride.

## Fiction

### Londonstani

Gautam Malkani  
384pp,  
HarperPerennial, £7.99



Cutting-edge and therefore forever dated through its language, *Londonstani* could be dubbed *A Clockwork Orange*-ified *White Teeth*. However, this is no made-up language - it's the speech of the 'Desi' youth on the streets of London. Malkani offers the reader a free pass into this linguistic and cultural world designed to exclude. Narrated by the protagonist, Jas, it is all written in slang verging on textspeak ("U goes 2 da same German n Science lessons as me, but u sit up form wid all dem spods, innit?"), which can be, at times, trying. There's not really any point in substituting the digits 2 or 4 for their homophonic words when it's only employed in the dialogue, nor does it seem necessary to spell 'phones' 'fones', etc..

Ostensibly the most notable feature of this book is its documentation of the life of second-generation immigrants. No longer confronted with their parents' pressures of fitting in and achieving success, the heroes of this novel re-define their goals, their language, and their culture. One moment extolling modest 'Desi' women and the next moment ogling girls on the street, the boys are trapped between two worlds and rejecting both - mainstream UK culture and its values and also their parents' unquestioningly traditional ways. However, I was most specifically engaged by the development of the main character, Jas.

Hearing Jas's inner-dialogue is slightly painful throughout the book, as he struggles within himself with his conscious conversion from a 'poncey coconut' to a 'safe Desi', rejecting his old ways and reinforcing his new life and its creed. He shows some signs of resistance to crudity, making the reader sympathise with this good boy in bad boy 'garms', but he certainly lost my sympathy as the novel progressed. Perhaps it is not so much that

his values change, as he has essentially embraced his new lifestyle wholeheartedly from the outset, but more that it is much easier to sympathise with him as the underdog, rather than as what he considers a success. This transformation attempts to delicately reveal the sad underbelly of the high-rolling lifestyle - as Jas becomes embroiled in the world he so eagerly admired from afar, stakes become higher and questions of family, friends, race, and religion are elevated to grounds for violence. By the end, his self-destructive and self-obsessed way of thinking makes it hard to keep reading, as it is generously peppered with elaborate scatological metaphors that have worn particularly thin. In this respect, I really felt that Malkani could have delved into a larger bag of comparisons or developed another way of expressing these repeated ideas without losing any of the book's credibility and making it less unpleasant to read.

Another feature perhaps indicative of this book's status as Malkani's first (or simply of poor editing) was the use of repetition of certain descriptive phrases - often word-for word between distant sections of the book. If used effectively, this might have served as a way of connecting the reader to the story and linking it all together, but once again, it felt more like a lack of ability to devise new ways of describing the same thing and an insult to the reader that the only way to drill a certain concept into their heads was by using identical phrasing.

At the end, Malkani executes a dramatic twist skilfully, if obtusely, throwing the story into a completely different light. Completely unexpected, it almost doubles the value of the novel, giving the reader two stories to take away, possibly even making a re-read a necessity. Overall, *Londonstani* is certainly a very interesting book to read, but in literary terms, is hopefully not going to be the pinnacle of Malkani's fledgling but promising career.

(6/10)

By Thea Whitman

## Television

## Who's got a bum head? You've Gest it!

David Gest is what I imagine Satan to look like. In fact, if you put the two side by side I doubt even a devil-o-meter could distinguish them. Now I'm not usually one to judge a book by its cover but in this case the blurb is written clearly across his curdled face: "I am evil". The name Gest has lately been excreted across our television screens far too freely. The purpose of this writing is to discover the source of this aerially transmitted diarrhoea, in other words: why is this man famous?

A quick search on the Internet Movie Database reveals he was the producer of various television programmes and music concerts, but nothing worth a mention. It seems Gest's original fame was procured by his intimate friendship with Michael Jackson and disastrous marriage to Liza Minnelli, which ended with them both trying to sue each other. His recent return to the limelight was provided by I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here, the reality show where desperate has-beens endure jungle-themed torture in order to reacquire the affections of the public. Whilst Gest failed to win the show he seemed to win the hearts of many viewers with his "wacky" sense of humour. He also laid claim to one or two outlandish statements around the campfire: apparently his friend runs an Albino Hotel; he supports a charity called Chinese Girls With Herpes; and he hires a maid called

Vaginica Seaman to clean his teeth. However to give him credit he performed incredibly well in a Bushtucker Trial where he had to retrieve stars from a tank filled with other hideous beings such as crocodiles and eels. The creatures took such a shine to him that Ant had to politely draw David's attention to

“  
**Apparently his friend runs an albino hotel; he supports a charity called Chinese Girls With Herpes; and he hires a maid called Vaginica Seaman to clean his teeth**  
 ”

an enormous spider that had snuggled up on top of his large balding head. How did he get to be so friendly with rodents and insects, you might teasingly ask! Gest blames his fearless attitude on the fact that as a child he was abused by his father. Ah, right.

On exiting the jungle Gest has wasted no time wangling his way into various other programmes. He currently features as a judge on Grease is the Word, the newest breed of reality TV, which auditions hopeful west-end performers. Even more impressive is whatever he did to land himself his own fly on the wall documentary 'This is David Gest', which began last week. He has promised an appearance from his good friend Michael Jackson at some point in the series but I'll personally be watching it to ridicule his unflinching arrogance and stupidity. Like most idiots he has a proud sense of his own masculinity claiming, "I've never felt the need to prove my sexuality. What am I supposed to do, go around telling everyone I'm straight?" and later adding, "I am straight." He happens to have released an autobiography this month as well, entitled 'Simply the Gest'. The implications of the pun are a tad presumptuous and I'm sure you and I can think of quite a few million things better than Gest, but I wouldn't bother trying to argue with him; if being voted fifth biggest Loser of 2002 by People Weekly wasn't enough to make him bow out of the limelight gracefully, nothing is.

By Clare Pidsley



## Blast from the past!

Time again to take a nostalgic look back at memorable shows from a bygone era. This week...

## Dawson's Creek!

Puberty is one wild and unforgettable ride. Things start to grow, emotions become uncontrollable, erections occur for little or no reason. You grow paranoid about why your parents look at you that way, and you fall in love with anyone who has a nice smell, a good rep and tells you you've got great eyes. It can be confusing to say the least. Thank goodness therefore we had Dawson's Creek to properly articulate all of the feelings our parents simply didn't understand. I

personally never really felt this way, I have always got on well with my parents and certainly did not need James Van Der Beek to speak for me. Yes, occasionally it was merely enough for a strong gust of wind to occur to set an erection in motion, but that's puberty. However, let me just get down to the brass tax of things, James Van Der Beek, aka Dawson Leery, is an absolute faggot. No matter what crazy emotions I felt as a youth, I always knew I had testicles and knew that my seeming 'love' for certain

girls, probably had something to do with them.

If I remember correctly, Joey would climb up to Dawson's room every night and sit with him watching Spielberg films, and he would do nothing but sit there and cry. Sweet, you might think and yeah I suppose it was if they were just friends, but Dawson loved her and who did she end up sleeping with? Pacey. This kid had sex with his teacher at the age of about 15! So while Dawson was masturbating/crying over Joey, Pacey is fulfilling the adolescent dream of most males; who do you think is going to win in that situation? I suppose that's why the show was so successful actually, no one liked Dawson, everyone liked Pacey. Essentially it was just a comedy, we get to watch Dawson go through emotional angst and hell over Joey and then his cool, calm, better looking friend, shags her. 'I'm sitting next to my best friend in the world and my palms are sweating...' Shut the fuck up eye brows and grow a pair!

If I'm honest, I loved the show. The drama, the emotion, the unbelievable vocabularies, Dawson's bad luck and angst, it was all there. And let's be honest, during our adolescent years we all felt a little 'Dawson's Creeky' emotionally, and there's nothing wrong with that, it's part of the richness of life, I just don't 'feel' for Dawson Leery and his giant head.

By Andrew Edleston

## Who Deserves The Tardis Ticket?

## Rose Tyler

Like many viewers I was a bit dubious about Billie Piper being a good Dr. Who assistant, what with her less than fantastic pop career and bad choice in men. But Rose Tyler really stole my heart, she brought a chav element to the role, a character that an increasing amount of Britons can relate to. She is the ideal Dr Who side-kick with her blonde hair and clean sparkling teeth. Her cockney accent was like music to my ears and the only thing that would have made it better would have been if she'd actually sang. She would have easily beaten the Daleks if she dressed up in a school uniform and sang 'Cos I Want To' in squeaky prepubescent falsetto.

It was easy to see who the clever one was, as Rose's lack of intelligence gave the Doctor ample opportunity to save the day and look even more manly and attractive. Clearly Christopher Eccleston left because he felt upstaged. With two 'Doctors' in the new series, that's just confusing. Seeing Rose Tyler bumble along each week was much more entertaining than watching a battle of the egos.

Rose Tyler, the country mourns and proper die hard Doctor Who fans will miss your screen presence and tracksuit bottoms. Just a tip though Billie, stay away from period dramas.

By Harriet Knowles

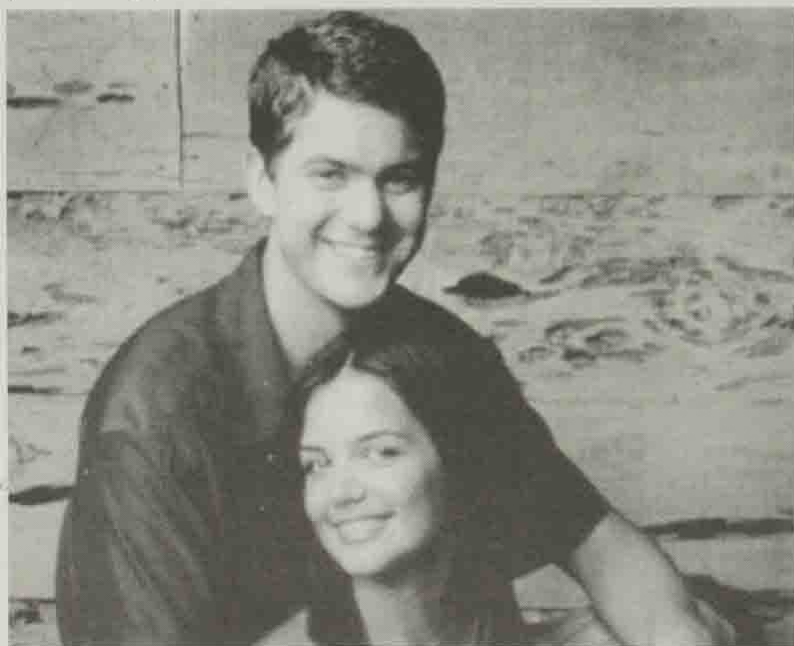
## Martha Jones

Martha Jones is a much better match for the Doctor. After all she is planning to become a doctor herself. She's smarter than Rose, less blonde and looks less like a pig. She may not have the bouncing bosom that makes up Billie Piper's thespian expertise but a little more quality and a little less lbs for your money wouldn't be a bad thing. Rose Tyler is the typical Doctor Who number two but Martha Jones is the modern, fresh assistant of the twenty-first century. Think of it this way, Rose Tyler was the girl you would have the kinky affair with but

Martha Jones is the one you would bring back to meet your parents. And, to illustrate the point, rumour has it the Doctor may marry?

Billie Piper is obviously stupid as only a fool would leave the sexual animal magnetism of David Tennant, a legend and all round sex god. On second thoughts, I hate them both - I want to be the assistant! But really, the sooner the Doctor forgets about Rose and appreciates Martha Jones' superiority, the better.

By Maddy McGarrie



**Peep Show  
Channel 4  
10:30p.m**

In tonight's episode, Jeremy tries to get back with his ex wife and Mark joins the gym in a feeble attempt to avoid his fiancée. Frankly, Peep Show is weird. Funny, but weird. Expect cringe-worthy distorted close ups of kissing and the less than Brad Pitt

looks of Mark and Jeremy. If you haven't seen it before, think the embarrassing humour of Ricky Gervais but less mainstream.

Harriet Knowles



**Friday  
April  
27th**

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**POLISH NIGHT**

Rios  
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indie, alternative

The Subculture  
**HOSPITAL RADIO**  
emo, rock, electro party

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**BBC ONE**

- 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Missing.
- 11.00 Homes under the Hammer.
- 11.00 To Buy or Not to Buy.
- 11.30 Car Booty. 12.15 Bargain Hunt.
- 1.00 BBC News; Weather.
- 1.30 Regional News and Weather.
- 1.40 Neighbours. 2.05 Doctors.
- 2.35 Diagnosis Murder. 3.20 BBC News; Weather; Regional News.
- 3.25 CBBC: Lazytown. 3.50 The Likeaballs. 4.00 Totally Doctor Who. 4.30 Extreme Animals. 5.00 The Underdog Show on CBBC.
- 5.25 Newsround. 5.35 Neighbours.
- 6.00 BBC News and Weather.
- 6.30 Look North; Weather.
- 7.00 A Question of Sport.
- 7.30 Rogue Traders.
- 8.00 EastEnders. Denise is left reeling by Shirley's admission. Phil proposes to Stella.
- 8.30 My Family.
- 9.00 Have I Got News for You. Comedy quiz show that grills contestants on the week's news, host Fern Britton and panellists Reginald D Hunter and Adam Boulton.
- 9.30 Ruddy Hell! It's Harry and Paul. Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse star in a sketch show, joined by Morwenna Banks and Laura Solon. Featuring a host of new characters including Kenny Leyton the hopeless boxer.
- 10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
- 10.35 Friday Night with Jonathan Ross. Guests include Hollywood stars Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst. Music comes from Jamie T.
- 11.35 FILM: Timecop (1994). Futuristic thriller in which a cop must find a corrupt senator who has acquired the power to change the course of history, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and Ron Silver.
- 1.15 Joins BBC News 24.

**BBC TWO**

- 6.00 CBeebies: Fimbles. 6.20 The Story Makers. 6.35 Balamory. 7.00 CBBC: Arthur. 7.15 ChuckleVision.
- 7.30 Get 100. 8.00 The Underdog Show on CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies: Tommy Zoom. 8.40 Numberjacks.
- 9.00 Nina and the Neurons. 9.15 Lunar Jim. 9.25 Me Too! 9.45 Mama Mirabelle's Home Movies.
- 10.00 Postman Pat. 10.15 The Roly Mo Show. 10.30 The Maths Channel. 10.40 The Maths Channel. 10.50 Watch. 11.05 Tales of Europe. 11.20 Focus.
- 11.40 Primary History: Saxons and Vikings. 12.00 The Daily Politics. 12.30 Working Lunch. 1.30 World Championship Snooker. 5.55 Party Election Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats.
- 6.00 Eggheads.
- 6.30 Great British Menu. Northern Ireland champion Richard Corrigan and rival Noel McMeel will now cook their entire menus for the panel, who will then name the chef going through to the national final.
- 7.00 World Championship Snooker.
- 7.30 Christine's Garden. Series about one woman's passion for gardening. Christine heads for a farmers' market in Bolton for local produce in preparation for a Lancashire evening to be held back at home.
- 8.00 Gardeners' World. 9.00 Timewatch.
- 9.50 Deer in the City. Short documentary about a pair of roe deer who have made a Scottish cemetery their home. These normally shy creatures are a magical addition to a city's urban population.
- 10.00 QI.
- 10.30 Newsnight.
- 11.00 Newsnight Review.
- 11.35 World Championship Snooker.
- 12.25 World Championship Snooker - Extra. 2.25 Star Trek. 3.15 Star Trek. 4.05 Malcolm in the Middle. 4.30 Close

**itv 1**

- 6.00 GMTV. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV Lunchtime News; Weather. 2.00 Midsomer Murders. 4.00 Daily Cooks. 5.00 The Royal.
- 6.00 Calendar.
- 6.25 Party Election Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats.
- 6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather.
- 7.00 Emmerdale. Rosemary blackmails Hari. Val and Sharon reach an uneasy truce. The oldies opt for a futuristic pageant float. Laurel receives a call.
- 7.30 Coronation Street. Carla's anger stirs up trouble among the Connors. Blanche realises she has returned to an unhappy home. Messy Jack causes Vera a tumble on the stairs.
- 8.00 Death of the British Seaside? Tonight. Michael Nicholson investigates the errors that have plunged some northern seaside towns into terminal decline, and looks at how some resorts have bucked the downward trend.
- 8.30 Midsomer Murders. Barnaby and Scott delve into the murder of a visitor to Plummer's Relish factory, and discover a web of secrets and lies within the Plummer family.
- 10.30 ITV News; Weather.
- 11.00 WAGs Boutique: The Final Score. The girls race to make the final sale, knowing that the victors will be walking away with profits from both boutiques. Presented by June Sarpong.
- 12.30 ITV Play: Make Your Play. 4.10 60 Minute Makeover. 5.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Early Morning News.

**4**

- 6.05 Making It. 6.10 The Hoobs. 6.35 The Hoobs. 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. 8.00 Just Shoot Me. 8.25 Just Shoot Me. 8.55 Frasier. 9.20 Frasier. 9.50 Will and Grace. 10.15 Without a Trace. 11.05 Without a Trace. 12.00 News at Noon. 12.30 Room for Improvement. 1.00 Channel 4 Racing from Sandown Park. 2.30 Life Begins Again. 3.30 Countdown. 4.15 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 The New Paul O'Grady Show. 6.00 The Simpsons.
- 6.30 Hollyoaks. Will watches as the students find the comatose Zoe, then pretends to be shocked when he walks in.
- 7.00 Channel 4 News.
- 7.35 Unreported World.
- 8.00 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.
- 9.00 Ugly Betty. Daniel is put in an awkward situation with a girl he once stood up at college, who is now New York's most powerful lawyer.
- 10.00 Derren Brown: Trick or Treat. Derren teaches a pensioner how to play poker and becomes a living waxwork in Madame Tussauds.
- 10.30 Peep Show.
- 11.05 Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights. Will Brian manage to keep the Phoenix Club open for the sell-out performance of psychic Clinton Baptiste?
- 11.40 4 Music: Transmission With T-Mobile. Steve Jones and Lauren Laverne are in Swansea when they are joined by Mika, Manic Street Preachers and Switches.
- 12.45 4 Music: Red Bull Music Academy: Melbourne. 1.15 4 Music: The JD Set Presents: Cold War Kids. 1.30 Goalissimo! 2.25 Gumball 3000. 2.55 KOTV. 3.20 Supporting Acts. 3.30 Trans World Sport. 4.25 Adrenalin Rush. 4.55 Supporting Acts. 5.00 Countdown. 5.45 New Shoots: Films from Disabled Directors.

**five**

- 6.00 The Save-Ums! 6.10 Fifi and the Flowerpots. 6.25 Franny's Feet. 6.35 Bird Bath. 6.45 Funky Town. 6.50 The Milkshake! Show. 7.20 Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. 7.30 Little Princess. 7.45 Make Way for Noddy. 8.00 Say It with Noddy. 8.05 Fifi and the Flowerpots. 8.20 Peppa Pig. 8.25 Thomas & Friends. 8.40 Old Bear Stories. 8.50 Mio Mao. 9.00 The Wright Stuff. 10.30 Trisha Goddard. 11.30 five news. 12.00 Home and Away. 12.30 HouseBusters. 1.00 HouseBusters. 1.30 Russell Grant's Postcards. 1.35 FILM: Seasons of the Heart (1994). Drama, starring Carol Burnett and George Segal. 3.35 five news update. 3.40 FILM: Danielle Steel's No Greater Love (1995). Drama, starring Kelly Rutherford and Chris Sarandon. 5.30 five news.
- 6.00 Home and Away.
- 6.30 Two and a Half Men.
- 7.00 five news.
- 7.30 Mean Machines. This edition investigates the world of logging, with a look at a remote controlled logger and a tree-chopping submarine.
- 8.00 Super Cats.
- 9.00 NCIS. Investigating agents uncovers shocking evidence when an ambulance transporting a dead marine explodes.
- 10.00 Law and Order: Criminal Intent. Crime drama series. Detectives Goren and Eames become curious about an altruistic Good Samaritan who gives away his organs and money to the needy.
- 11.00 Raised by the Hand of God: Hidden Lives. Documentary series exploring unusual lives. This edition looks at three families whose ideas on the upbringing and disciplining of their children are directly informed by the Bible.
- 12.00 Prison Break. 1.00 Quiz Call. 5.35 Wildlife SOS.

**7  
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## Television

**Saturday  
April  
28th**



For those of you who thought the rhino men in episode one were disturbing (to say the least), they have met their match in this episode's pig men. They are sick and wrong. Although Billie Piper would probably have blended in with this

facially challenged crowd. If doctor ego battles were bad before, now it is a menage a trois as Hugh Quashie, AKA Ric from Holby City, has joined the troop.

Maddy McGarrie

**Doctor Who**  
BBC1  
7:00p.m

## club

Bondi Beach Club  
**BOOGIE NIGHTS**  
from the makers of  
'Love Train'

Creation  
**LIVE AT CREATION**  
chart & party

Evolution  
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r'n'b & hip hop

HIFI Club  
**THE BOOGALOO CLUB**  
funk, jazz, latin, reggae

Mission  
**GLASSHOUSE**  
funky & hard house

Mission Annexe  
**POPTASTIC**  
indie & pop

My House  
**BASICS**  
with Jesse Rose, Samim

Rehab  
**SPEED QUEEN**

Rios  
**HEADBANGERS BALL**  
rock

The Subculture  
**NIGHTCLUB OF THE  
LIVING DEAD**  
alt, goth & rockabilly

West Indian Centre,  
Chapeltown  
**EXODUS**  
dupstep with Digital  
Mystikz & Loefah

Wire  
**ROCK & ROLL**  
with DJ Debsstar, Hans

## gigs

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## BBC ONE

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen. 11.30 Great British Menu. 12.00 BBC News. 12.10 Football Focus. 1.00 World Championship Snooker. 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 5.35 Just for Laughs. 6.05 **The National Lottery People's Quiz.** 6.45 **Doctor Who.** As a new Dalek Empire rises in 1930s New York, the Doctor must enter an unholy alliance. 7.30 **Any Dream Will Do.** The 10 remaining contestants are soon to become nine. 8.35 **Casualty.** Josh has to face some difficult decisions when he returns to Holby and finds himself in the centre of a terrorist alert. Selena has something very important to tell Nathan. 9.25 **The National Lottery People's Quiz.** The search for the UK's best quizzer. Do or Die sees the winner of the Brain Chain select one contestant from the remaining nine for a head to head. Plus, the Lottery draws live. 9.45 **Any Dream Will Do.** Another potential Joseph leaves the competition. 10.15 **BBC News; Weather.** 10.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of eight Premiership matches. Manchester United are at Everton, Chelsea host Bolton, Sheffield United meet Watford and West Ham travel to Wigan. 11.50 **Cricket World Cup Highlights.** Manish Bhasin, Jonathan Agnew and Rishi Persad present highlights of the World Cup final in Barbados. 12.50 Friday Night with Jonathan Ross. 1.55 Sign Zone: Hairy Bikers Ride Again. 2.25 Sign Zone: Horizon. 3.15 Sign Zone: To Buy or Not to Buy. 4.00 Joins BBC News 24. 5.00 Cricket World Cup Highlights.

## BBC TWO

6.00 CBeebies: Teletubbies. 6.30 Balamory. 6.50 Step Inside. 7.00 CBBC: Baffink. 7.10 Arthur. 7.35 The Underdog Show on CBBC. 8.00 Watch My Chops. 8.15 Mona the Vampire. 8.35 The Story of Tracy Beaker. 9.00 Hider In The House. 10.00 The Underdog Show on CBBC. 10.30 Totally Doctor Who. 11.00 The Story of Tracy Beaker. 11.30 The Fairly Odd Parents. 11.45 Sportsround. 12.00 See Hear. 12.35 FILM: The Magnificent Showman (1964). Drama, starring John Wayne and Rita Hayworth. 2.50 FILM: The Riddle of the Sands (1979). Adventure, starring Michael York and Jenny Agutter. 4.30 Superstorm. 5.30 World Championship Snooker. 8.30 **Porridge.** Classic comedy series. Fletcher is incensed when a third cellmate arrives, and to add insult to injury, he turns out to be one of his old enemies. 9.00 **The Return of 'Allo 'Allo.** The cast and characters of the classic sitcom return with brand new scenes specially written by Jeremy Lloyd and a documentary revealing the history behind the show. 10.45 **'Allo 'Allo!** Sitcom set during the Second World War in occupied France. A brave rescue attempt is planned. 11.20 **Have I Got a Bit More News for You.** Paul Merton and Ian Hislop entertain in the extended version of the classic news quiz. Fern Britton plays guest host and the panellists are Reginald D Hunter and Adam Boulton. 12.00 The Apprentice. 1.00 World Championship Snooker. 1.50 World Championship Snooker Extra. 3.50 Close

## itv 1

6.00 GMTV. 9.25 CITV: Horrid Henry. 9.40 CITV: Grizzly Tales For Gruesome Kids. 9.50 CITV: Tricky Trickies. 9.55 CITV: Art Attack. 10.20 CITV: The Amazing Adrenalini Brothers. 10.25 CITV: Tricky Trickies. 10.30 CITV: Jungle Run. 11.00 CITV: King Arthur's Disasters. 11.30 CITV: Drake and Josh. 12.00 Saturday Cooks. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.35 Calendar News and Weather. 1.40 American Idol. 2.40 Planet's Funniest Animals. 3.00 FILM: Smokey and the Bandit II (1980). Comedy, starring Burt Reynolds and Sally Field. 4.55 Calendar News, Sport and Weather. 5.10 ITV News; Sports Results; Weather. 5.25 You've Been Framed! 6.25 **Vernon Kay's Gameshow Marathon.** Classic 70s show The Golden Shot is given a 2007 make-over, as our celebrities fire crossbows to win points. Will Wendy Richard, Jamelia or Andrea Catherwood hit the mark? 7.30 **Grease Is the Word: Live.** 9.00 **Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?** 10.00 **Grease Is the Word Results.** Stars David 'Bumhead' Gest. Title of tv comment based on said bumhead supplied by Sophie Barnes, pun extraordinaire. 10.30 **The Dame Edna Treatment.** Dame Edna's guests include British MP Boris Johnson and cricketer legend Shane Warne. 11.30 **ITV News; Weather.** 11.45 **FILM: Hope Floats (1998).** Sentimental romance about a former beauty queen who returns home to rebuild her shattered life after she is humiliated on a national talk show, starring Sandra Bullock and Harry Connick Jr. 1.50 ITV Play: Make Your Play. 3.50 Don't Move, Improve. 4.30 Don't Move, Improve. 5.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Early Morning News.

## 4

6.10 The Hoobs. 6.35 The Hoobs. 7.00 Goalissimo! 8.00 The Morning Line. 8.55 T4: Nothing But... Natasha Bedingfield. 9.25 T4: Musicool. 10.30 T4: Popworld. 11.20 T4: Friends. 11.50 Natasha Bedingfield: T4 Special. 12.25 T4: Shipwrecked 2007: The Hut Cam Diaries. 12.55 T4: Shipwrecked 2007: Battle of the Islands. 2.00 Channel 4 Racing from Sandown Park and Ripon. 4.10 Location, Location, Location. 4.45 Deal or No Deal Classic. 5.35 Monarchy by David Starkey. 6.35 **Channel 4 News.** Including sport and weather. 7.00 **Prince Charles: The Bachelor Years.** Programme recreating the spirit of Prince Charles's bachelor years during the 1970s, with contributions from some of those who knew him at the time. 8.00 **Face of Britain.** Archaeologist Neil Oliver explores the results of a landmark study into Britain's heritage, here travelling to Orkney in search of Viking DNA. 9.00 **FILM: Phone Booth (2002).** Suspense thriller in which a media consultant answers a phone in the street only to be trapped in the booth after being told by the caller that he'll be shot dead if he hangs up, starring Colin Farrell and Kiefer Sutherland. 10.30 **FILM: The Firm (1993).** A newly-graduated lawyer rejects big city law companies to join a small Memphis firm, but soon finds himself immersed in corruption and murder, starring Tom Cruise and Jeanne Tripplehorn. 1.20 4 Music Presents... Lost Prophets. 1.50 Rockfeedback. 2.15 **FILM: Slam (1998).** Drama, starring Saul Williams and Sonja Sohn. 4.00 **FILM: Hay Plenty (1998).** Comedy, starring Chenoa Maxwell and Hill Harper. 5.25 Countdown. CHANNEL 5 Saturday April 28, 2007 6.00 Sunrise. 6.55 Franklin. 7.25

## five

Mist: Sheepdog Tales. 7.35 Little Princess. 7.45 Make Way for Noddy. 7.55 Say It with Noddy. 8.00 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. 8.15 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. 8.30 The Book of Pooh. 9.00 Ebb and Flo. 9.05 Peppa Pig. 9.15 Fifi and the Flowertots. 9.30 Jane and the Dragon. 10.00 World's Strongest Man. 11.00 Making of The World's Strongest Man. 12.00 **FILM: Whispering Smith (1948).** Western starring Alan Ladd and Brenda Marshall. 1.40 **FILM: Six Black Horses (1962).** Western, starring Audie Murphy and Dan Duryea. 3.10 **FILM: Columbo: Double Shock (1973).** Crime, starring Peter Falk and Martin Landau. 4.45 **FILM: Born to Be Wild (1995).** Children's, starring Will Horneff and Helen Shaver. 6.35 **FILM: Blind Date (1987).** Farical comedy about a beautiful woman's bizarre reaction to alcohol which spells disaster for a businessman when he takes her to an important function, starring Bruce Willis and Kim Basinger. 8.10 **five news and sport.** 8.30 **NCIS.** Series following special agents who investigate crimes connected to the Navy. Tony goes undercover to help a prisoner escape from a military detention camp. 9.25 **CSI:NY.** Crime drama. When a rich real estate agent is found dead, Mac and Stella work with evidence that suggests he was either the perpetrator or victim of a kidnap. 10.25 **Law and Order.** Crime series. The team experience mixed feelings when they find themselves prosecuting a priest for the murder of an evil drug dealer. 11.25 **Grey's Anatomy.** Medical drama following the fortunes of first year interns. Bailey instructs an unenthusiastic Cristina to look after her baby. 12.25 **Grey's Anatomy.** 1.25 Quiz Call. 5.35 Wildlife SOS.

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**MONDAY 7TH MAY**

**7PM**

**Grease Is the Word**  
ITV1  
4:05p.m

Grease. Usually associated with teenagers, fat people and slippery patches. With this in mind, who thought this was the appropriate title for a film/musical based around summer lovin' ? I am going to write a musical about a son's quest to win his father's approval and call it

'Algae'. Actually that sounds quite art house, people will read too much into that, 'Algae really represents the characters struggle you know?'. In that case I am calling it 'Cat Sick'. Coming this summer.

Andrew Edelman



**Sunday**  
**April**  
**29th**

**BBC ONE**

- 6.00 Breakfast. 7.35 Match of the Day. 9.00 Sunday AM. 10.00 Heaven and Earth with Gloria Hunniford. 11.00 Countryfile. 12.00 The Politics Show. 1.00 Super League Show. 2.00 Diagnosis Murder. 2.45 Cash in the Attic. 3.15 EastEnders. 5.10 Points of View. 5.25 Songs of Praise.
- 6.00 **Castaway.** A group of Brits must learn to survive on an island off the New Zealand coast. The overstretched resources have to go even further, as a new castaway comes ashore.
- 6.35 **Antiques Roadshow.** 7.35 **BBC News; Weather.**
- 8.00 **Victoria's Empire.** Three-part documentary in which Victoria Wood visits countries that used to be part of the British Empire. Here, she visits India, Hong Kong and Borneo.
- 9.00 **Superstorm.** Futuristic drama series about scientists trying to divert and weaken storms. The team have inadvertently created a superstorm which is now heading for New York.
- 10.00 **BBC News; Weather.**
- 10.15 **The BBC One Sessions.**
- 11.05 **3lbs.** US medical drama series. Hanson's former mentor, Dr Rosalind Halliday, asks him to perform a ground-breaking gene therapy procedure on one of her patients.
- 11.45 **FILM: Simply Irresistible (1999).** Romantic comedy about a young chef whose mystical culinary abilities attract the attentions of a budding restaurateur, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar and Sean Patrick Flanery.
- 1.20 Sign Zone: Antiques Roadshow. 2.10 Sign Zone: Holby City. 3.10 Sign Zone: To Buy or Not to Buy. 3.55 Joins BBC News 24.

**BBC TWO**

- 6.00 CBeebies; Teletubbies. 6.30 Balamory. 6.50 Step Inside. 7.00 CBBC: Batfink. 7.10 Legend of the Dragon. 7.30 Smile. 10.00 Something for the Weekend. 11.30 FILM: The Black Rose (1950). Historical, starring Tyrone Power and Orson Welles. 1.30 Premiership Rugby. 1.55 European Gymnastics. 3.00 World Championship Snooker. 5.30 Big Cat Diary: Family Histories.
- 6.00 **Snow Geese - The Desert Storm.** Nature documentary about how, once every decade, the cold and snow that migratory geese fly south from the Arctic to avoid, follows them to the Mexican desert.
- 6.10 **Natural World.** Film following the remarkable life of a giant hornet queen as she builds up a colony in an old temple garden.
- 7.00 **World Championship Snooker.** Live second round action continues at The Crucible. Matches are the best-of-25 frames and played over three sessions.
- 10.00 **The Science of Superstorms.** This final episode explores future developments in weather modification, including methods to stop a superstorm destroying New York City.
- 10.30 **Match of the Day 2.** Adrian Chiles presents highlights of the Premiership match between Arsenal and Fulham at the Emirates Stadium, plus a review of Saturday's action.
- 11.15 **Graham Norton Uncut.** Graham Norton presents a show focusing on the odder aspects of celebrity culture. Oscar award-winning actor Dustin Hoffman and Mika are Graham's guests.
- 12.00 Roman's Empire. 12.30 World Championship Snooker. 1.20 World Championship Snooker Extra. 3.20 Close

**itv 1**

- 6.00 GMTV. 9.25 CITV: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. 9.35 CITV: Feodor. 9.45 CITV: Curious George. 9.55 CITV: Pocoyo. 10.05 CITV: Jim Jam and Sunny. 10.20 CITV: Jim Jam and Sunny. 10.30 The Championship. 11.30 The Sunday Edition with Andrew Rawnsley and Andrea Catherwood. 12.30 Calendar News and Sport. 12.35 American Idol. 2.35 Bennett's British Superbike Championship. 4.05 Grease Is the Word. 5.35 Grease Is the Word Results.
- 6.05 **The World on a Plate.**
- 6.30 **Calendar News and Sport.**
- 6.45 **ITV News; Weather.**
- 7.00 **Emmerdale.**
- 7.30 **Coronation Street.** Liam comes clean to Michelle about the murky past of the Connors. Fiz helps Chesney prepare for his moment on stage. Molly plays nursemaid to Vera. www.itv.com/coronationstreet.
- 8.00 **The Royal.**
- 9.00 **Kingdom.** A young woman from Eastern Europe arrives in distress at the office. As Peter investigates the call on Simon's mobile, he discovers that his brother owed money to many people.
- 10.00 **ITV News; Weather.**
- 10.15 **This Is David Gest.** To celebrate his recent success in the UK, David Gest organises a star-studded Hollywood party and causes chaos. And his eccentric demands leave his bodyguards struggling to cope.
- 11.00 **The South Bank Show.** Director Shane Meadows' latest film, This Is England, is the story of a boy growing up in the early 1980s who joins a skinhead gang. Melvyn Bragg meets him on set.
- 12.05 The Moral of the Story. 12.30 Faith and Music. 1.20 ITV Play: Glitterball. 4.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 5.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Early Morning News.

**4**

- 6.10 The Hoobs. 6.35 The Hoobs. 7.00 Trans World Sport. 7.55 Velux 5 Oceans Ultimate Solo Challenge. 8.20 New Shoots: Films from Disabled Directors. 8.50 T4: Friends. 9.20 T4: Hollyoaks Omnibus. 11.50 T4: Shipwrecked 2007: The Hut Cam Diaries. 12.20 T4: Musicool. 1.25 T4: Vodafone TBA: Amy Winehouse. 1.55 T4: Pussycat Dolls Present: The Search for the Next Pussycat Doll. 2.55 T4: The OC. 3.55 T4: Ugly Betty. 4.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.40 Scrapheap Challenge.
- 6.40 **Shipwrecked 2007: Battle of the Islands.**
- 7.40 **Channel 4 News.**
- 8.00 **Wife Swap.** Series in which wives swap their husbands, children and homes for two weeks. Two women, one a stickler for rules, the other who lets her kids run riot, trade families.
- 9.00 **Fat Man's Warning.** Documentary following US comedian Steve Daly as he embarks on a two-week mission to the UK to warn commuters, children and teenagers of the dangers of over-eating.
- 10.00 **FILM: Shaft (2000).** Remake of the 1970s cult detective drama. John Shaft is a dedicated cop who is assigned to a racially motivated murder case - but can he reach the only witness before the killer? starring Samuel L Jackson and Vanessa Williams.
- 11.50 **4 Music: Vodafone TBA: Amy Winehouse.** Music series featuring bands playing one-off gigs in locations which are kept secret until the day before. This week's performance comes from Amy Winehouse.
- 12.40 The JD Set Presents: Birthday. 1.30 Six Shooter. 2.00 Erotomania. 3.00 My Other Wheelchair is a Porsche. 3.10 Can't Stop Eating. 4.10 Fat Man's Warning. 5.10 Countdown. 5.55 Inuk.

**five**

- 6.00 The Save-Ums! 6.10 Fifi and the Flowertots. 6.25 Franny's Feet. 6.40 Sailor Sid. 6.45 Bird Bath. 6.50 Franklin. 7.15 Mist: Sheepdog Tales. 7.30 Little Princess. 7.45 Make Way for Noddy. 7.55 Say It with Noddy. 8.00 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. 8.15 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. 8.30 The Book of Pooh. 9.00 Ebb and Flo. 9.05 Peppa Pig. 9.15 Fifi and the Flowertots. 9.30 Jane and the Dragon. 10.00 Property Developing Abroad. 11.00 Build a New Life in the Country. 12.00 Holiday House Guest. 1.00 FILM: Frenchie (1950). Western, starring Joel McCrea and Shelley Winters. 2.30 FILM: Zeppelin (1971). War, starring Michael York and Elke Sommer. 4.30 five news and sport. 4.50 FILM: Doctor Dolittle 2 (2001). Comedy, starring Eddie Murphy and Kirsten Wilson. 6.20 **Everybody Hates Chris.**
- 6.45 **Everybody Hates Chris.**
- 7.10 **Joey.**
- 7.35 **Joey.** Its like friends but without the laughs.
- 8.00 **Grey's Anatomy.** Medical drama following the fortunes of first year interns. George begins to overstay his welcome. Meredith learns a secret about her father.
- 9.00 **Grey's Anatomy.** Medical drama following the fortunes of a group of interns. Izzie grills George. Burke feels the pressure when he treats his musical hero.
- 10.00 **FILM: Thelma and Louise (1991).** Oscar-winning road movie in which two Arkansas women become fugitives from the law when they take a weekend break from their dull relationships and dead-end lives, starring Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis.
- 12.30 Great BUPA Run - Ireland. 1.05 Major League Baseball. 4.30 Major League Soccer.

**club**

- Bar Censsa karaoke with Steve Warren
- Bar Risa **SUNDAY FUNK** ambient funky house
- Doctor Wu's **SUNDAY ROAST VS DIRTY DISCO** underground house with Alex Mundy, Scott Broadhead, Matt Cooper & more
- Fab **FILM NIGHT**
- Flares **JIM'LL MIX IT** requests night
- Fudge **SHINE** redefining house
- HIFI Club **THE SUNDAY JOINT** live jazz & funk, resident DJs MJ Soul & Malcolm X
- The Subculture **BLACK SHEEP** goth

**gigs**

- City Varieties **PUNT & DENNIS** (comedy)
- Duck and Drake **VAMP** Josephs Well **THE OVERKILL EFFECT**
- Rios **THE GHOST OF A THOUSAND\*** for tickets ring: 08709 913913
- Sandranista **JODY FITZGERALD**
- \*top tickets** tel: 08709 913913 web: alive.co.uk/tickets
- CREAMFIELDS 2007\*** 25 Aug @ Hulton Daresbury Estate
- BESTIVAL\*** 7/8/9 Sep @ Isle Of Wight



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## Television

**Monday**  
**April**  
**30th**



The death of Pakistan cricket coach Bob Woolmer at this year's Cricket World Cup in the paradise of the Caribbean was shocking, upsetting and most of all mystifying. So many questions instantly sprang up: was he murdered? If so was the method

strangulation, poisoning or both? Were the dark characters in the murky world of cricket corruption behind it? This documentary aims to delve into all these uncertainties and emerge with some plausible answers.  
**Laurie Whitwell**

**Panorama**  
**BBC1**  
**8:30p.m**

## club

Bondi Beach Club  
**MENTAL MONDAY**  
student night

Discotheque  
**CHIC BEAT**  
funky house, r'n'b  
classics

Evolution  
**MONKEY MAGIC**  
stage based student  
night

Fab Cafe  
**SON OF THE VILLAGE**  
**IDIOT**  
rock, punk & ska

Flares  
**LATE NIGHT LAUNDRY**  
student night

HiFi Club  
**SWEET REVIVAL**  
r'n'b, hip hop & soul

Ries  
**SPIN**

The Subculture  
**SNEAKY**  
drum 'n' bass

Cockpit  
**THE ATARIS**

Josephs Well  
**MID AIR 91**

Oporto  
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**SON OF DORK\***  
23 May

**BIFY CLYRO\***  
26 May

**MARILLION\***  
3 Jun

**FROM THE JAM\***  
3 Dec

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## gigs

## BBC ONE

- 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Found.  
10.00 Homes under the Hammer.  
11.00 To Buy or Not to Buy.  
11.30 Car Booty. 12.15 Bargain  
Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather.  
1.30 Regional News and Weather.  
1.40 Neighbours. 2.05 Doctors.  
2.35 Diagnosis Murder. 3.20 BBC  
News; Weather; Regional News.  
3.25 CBBC: Lazytown. 3.50 The  
Likeaballs. 4.00 Prank Patrol. 4.30  
Extreme Animals. 5.00 Beat the  
Boss. 5.30 Newsround. 5.35  
Neighbours.  
6.00 **BBC News and  
Weather.**  
6.30 **Look North; Weather.**  
7.00 **Victoria's Empire.** Here,  
Victoria visits India, Hong  
Kong and Borneo.  
8.00 **EastEnders.** Bradley  
comes to a decision about  
his relationship with Preeti.  
Billy and Honey disagree  
over their unborn child.  
8.30 **Panorama.** Investigation  
into the murder of cricket  
coach Bob Woolmer, with  
access to the man leading the  
hunt for his killer, police  
deputy commissioner  
Mark Shields.  
9.00 **New Tricks.** An elderly  
lady's body is discovered,  
part consumed by her  
hordes of cats.  
10.00 **BBC News; Regional  
News; Weather.**  
10.35 **Not Going Out.** Lee tries  
to find his serious side by  
going on a date with an  
author, while Kate  
attempts to discover her  
lighter side at clown  
school.  
11.05 **Inside Sport.** England  
captain John Terry reveals  
just what life is like on and  
off the pitch.  
11.45 **FILM: DOA (1988).**  
Remake of the classic 1950  
thriller starring Dennis  
Quaid and Meg Ryan.  
1.25 Sign Zone: Ms Dynamite in  
Search of Nanny Maroon. 2.25  
Sign Zone: Sleep Clinic. 2.55 Sign  
Zone: It's Not Easy Being Green.  
3.25 Sign Zone: To Buy or Not to  
Buy. 4.10 Joins BBC News 24.

## BBC TWO

- 6.00 CBeebies: Fimbles. 6.20 The  
Story Makers. 6.35 Balamory. 7.00  
CBBC: Arthur. 7.15 ChuckleVision.  
7.30 Get 100. 8.00 The Story of  
Tracy Beaker. 8.15 Krypto the  
Superdog. 8.30 CBeebies:  
Jackanory Junior. 8.40  
Numberjacks. 9.00 Nina and the  
Neurons. 9.15 Brum. 9.25 Me  
Too! 9.45 Something Special.  
10.00 Postman Pat. 10.15 The  
Roly Mo Show. 10.30 Pathways of  
Belief. 10.50 Pathways of Belief.  
11.10 Social Inclusion Dramas.  
11.30 Social Inclusion Dramas.  
11.50 Primary Internet Chat Guide.  
12.00 The Daily Politics. 12.30  
Working Lunch. 1.00 Watch. 1.15  
Something Special. 1.30 World  
Championship Snooker. 5.55 Party  
Election Broadcast by the  
Conservative Party.  
6.00 **Eggheads.**  
6.30 **Great British Menu.** Atul  
Kochhar and Stuart Gillies  
compete to represent the  
South East. Atul serves a  
starter of seared scallops  
with grape and mint  
dressing, while Stuart opts  
for pea and leek tart.  
7.00 **World Championship  
Snooker.**  
9.00 **Million Dollar Pigeon.**  
Documentary following  
British hopefuls in their  
journey to the most  
lucrative pigeon race in the  
world, the Million Dollar  
Pigeon Race in South  
Africa.  
10.00 **Ruddy Hell! It's Harry  
and Paul.** Harry Enfield  
and Paul Whitehouse star in  
a sketch show, joined by  
Morwenna Banks and Laura  
Solon. Featuring a host of  
new characters including  
Kenny Leyton the hopeless  
boxer.  
10.30 **Newsnight.**  
11.20 **World Championship  
Snooker.**  
12.10 **World Championship  
Snooker Extra.** 2.00  
Eurograffers. 4.00 Working  
with the Spanish. 4.30  
Working with the French.  
5.00 Working with the  
Germans. 5.30 Working  
with the Japanese.

## itv 1

- 6.00 GMTV. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle  
Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30  
Loose Women. 1.30 ITV Lunchtime  
News; Weather. 2.00 Midsomer  
Murders. 3.00 Half Ton Hospital  
with Jeremy Kyle. 4.00 Daily  
Cooks. 5.00 The Royal.  
6.00 **Calendar.** Regional news,  
interviews and features.  
Including local weather.  
6.25 **Party Election  
Broadcast by the  
Conservative Party.**  
6.30 **ITV Evening News;  
Weather.**  
7.00 **Emmerdale.** Laurel's  
devastated when she gets  
some bad news. Bob  
panics over the christening  
costs.  
7.30 **Coronation Street.**  
Steve offers Michelle a  
listening ear. Molly works  
out how to make looking  
after Vera more fun. Ken  
and Deirdre realise the  
extent of their problems.  
8.00 **Road to Ruin: Tonight.**  
Britain's roads are now in  
such a dangerous  
condition, compensation  
payouts for injuries or  
vehicle damage currently  
rival spending on repairs.  
8.30 **Coronation Street.**  
Emotions run high in the  
Rovers when Michelle  
decides to open up to  
Steve.  
9.00 **Taggart.** When a local  
activist is found murdered  
in her flat, the Taggart  
team discover that her  
protesting had incurred the  
wrath of many people and  
anyone could be the  
culprit.  
10.30 **ITV News; Weather.**  
11.00 **FILM: Monday Movie:  
Total Recall (1990).** Sci-fi  
actioner about a man who  
doubts his very identity  
when he starts  
remembering repressed  
memories. Starring Arnold  
Schwarzenegger and Rachel  
Ticotin.  
1.00 UEFA Champions League  
Weekly. 1.30 ITV Play: Glitterball.  
4.05 ITV at Reading 2005. 5.00  
ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Early  
Morning News.

## 4

- 6.10 The Hoobs. 6.35 The Hoobs.  
7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30  
Everybody Loves Raymond. 7.55  
Just Shoot Me. 8.25 Just Shoot  
Me. 8.55 Frasier. 9.20 Frasier.  
9.50 Will and Grace. 10.15  
Without a Trace. 11.10 Without a  
Trace. 12.00 News at Noon. 12.30  
Small Railway Journeys. 12.45  
Water Stories. 12.55 Life Begins  
Again. 1.55 FILM: Ministry of Fear  
(1944). Drama, starring Ray  
Milland and Marjorie Reynolds.  
3.30 Countdown. 4.15 Deal or No  
Deal. 5.00 The New Paul O'Grady  
Show.  
6.00 **The Simpsons.**  
6.30 **Hollyoaks.** Zoe comes  
home from hospital and the  
other students don't know  
how to deal with her.  
7.00 **Channel 4 News.**  
7.55 **3 Minute Wonder:  
Watch this Space.**  
8.00 **Dispatches: The Indian  
Miracle?** Channel 4 News  
presenter Krishnan Guru-  
Murthy travels across India  
to examine the disturbing  
underbelly of the country's  
economic boom.  
9.00 **Cutting Edge: Blind  
Young Things.** Powerful  
documentary film following  
three blind or partially-  
sighted teenage students at  
the Royal National College  
for the Blind as they adapt  
to a newly independent  
lifestyle.  
10.00 **ER.** Luka, Sam and Gates  
treat a woman who  
appears to be suffering  
from liver failure, but there  
are suspicions that her  
problems may be deeper  
than that.  
11.05 **The Sopranos.**  
Christopher's new girlfriend  
announces that she is  
pregnant. Tony and  
Christopher find themselves  
involved in a shoot-out  
with a biker gang.  
12.15 Sex and the City. 12.50 Sex  
and the City. 1.20 Six Feet Under.  
2.20 4 Music; Transmission With  
T-Mobile. 3.20 Dispatches: The  
Indian Miracle? 4.10 Unreported  
World. 4.35 3 Minute Wonder.  
4.40 Empires of Stone. 5.40 The  
Mummy Road Show.

## five

- 6.00 The Save-Ums! 6.10 Fifi and  
the Flowertots. 6.25 Franny's Feet.  
6.40 Bird Bath. 6.45 Funky Town.  
6.50 The Milkshake! Show. 7.20  
Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends.  
7.30 Little Princess. 7.45 Make  
Way for Noddy. 8.00 Say It With  
Noddy. 8.05 Fifi and the  
Flowertots. 8.20 Peppa Pig. 8.25  
Thomas & Friends. 8.40 Old Bear  
Stories. 8.50 Mio Mao. 9.00 The  
Wright Stuff. 10.30 Trisha  
Goddard. 11.30 five news. 12.00  
Home and Away. 12.30  
HouseBusters. 1.00 HouseBusters.  
1.30 Russell Grant's Postcards.  
1.35 FILM: The Belarus File (1985).  
Thriller, starring Telly Savalas and  
Suzanne Pleshette. 3.35 five news  
update. 3.40 FILM: Mystery  
Woman: Game Time (2005).  
Murder Mystery, starring Kellie  
Martin and Nina Siemaszko. 5.30  
five news.  
6.00 **Home and Away.** The  
lives of Kit and Rachel hang  
in the balance after a  
terrible accident.  
6.30 **Two and a Half Men.**  
7.00 **five news.**  
7.15 **Rich Boys' Toys: Jets.**  
The end of the cold war has  
led to many military aircraft  
being snapped up as the  
ultimate executive toys.  
8.00 **Fifth Gear.** Tom Ford  
finds out what it's like to  
be a paparazzi  
photographer hot on the  
trail of celebrities in an  
unassuming Kia Cee'd.  
9.00 **Short Angry Men:  
Hidden Lives.**  
Documentary about men  
whose height has seriously  
affected their lives in very  
different ways.  
10.00 **Prison Break.** C-Note gets  
into a tricky situation when  
the diner he is in is held up.  
11.00 **FILM: Get Shorty  
(1995).** A loan shark for  
the Miami mob is sent to  
LA to collect a debt from a  
film producer, starring John  
Travolta and Gene  
Hackman.  
12.55 NASCAR Nextel Cup. 1.45  
USPGA Golf. 2.35 NHL Ice Hockey.  
5.10 French Football - Le  
Championnat.

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**CSI**  
five  
9:00p.m

Is it geeky to announce that I like CSI? I can't be the only one; apparently the number of students doing courses in forensics has increased since it's been around. The process of analysing crime scene evidence is where the show gains its edge. With a different crime each week-

alongside a smattering of drama and gore-trying to work out whodunnit will prove interesting and thought provoking. A week-to-week guarantee of the show is that the ginge in CSI Miami will don his sunglasses just before the opening titles.

Suzy Tobias



**Tuesday**  
**May**  
**1st**

**BBC**  
**ONE**

6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Found. 10.00 Homes under the Hammer. 11.00 To Buy or Not to Buy. 11.30 Car Booty. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News and Weather. 1.40 Neighbours. 2.05 Doctors. 2.35 Diagnosis Murder. 3.20 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.25 CBBC: Lazytown. 3.50 Watch My Chops. 4.00 The Basil Brush Show. 4.30 Extreme Animals. 5.00 Blue Peter. 5.25 Newsround. 5.35 Neighbours. 6.00 **BBC News and Weather.** 6.30 **Look North; Weather.** 7.00 **Castaway.** Presenter Danny Wallace drops in to see how they are coping with introduction of a new member. 7.30 **EastEnders.** Dot is terrified that her secret will be uncovered. May is forced to lie when her sister arrives in the Square. Chelsea struggles to understand Denise. 8.00 **Holby City.** Connie's decision to operate on Lola despite being in the advanced stages of pregnancy has unforeseen consequences. Kyla and Harvey reach crisis point. 9.00 **Crimewatch.** 10.00 **BBC News; Regional News; Weather.** 10.35 **Crimewatch Update.** 10.45 **ONE Life.** Director Richard Macer meets several people who claim to be the reincarnated spirit of a celebrity. 11.30 **FILM: Dead Poets Society (1989).** Drama focusing on an unconventional new English teacher and his ultimately questionable impact on an elite Vermont boys' academy, starring Robin Williams and Robert Sean Leonard. 1.40 Sign Zone: See Hear. 2.10 Sign Zone: Panorama. 2.40 Sign Zone: Timewatch. 3.30 Sign Zone: Return to Lullingstone Castle. 4.00 Sign Zone: To Buy or Not to Buy. 4.45 Joins BBC News 24.

**BBC**  
**TWO**

6.00 CBeebies: Fimbles. 6.20 The Story Makers. 6.35 Balamory. 7.00 CBBC: Arthur. 7.15 ChuckleVision. 7.30 Get 100. 8.00 The Story of Tracy Beaker. 8.15 CBeebies: Krypto the Superdog. 8.30 CBeebies: Jackanory Junior. 8.40 Numberjacks. 9.00 Nina and the Neurons. 9.15 Brum. 9.25 Me Too! 9.45 Something Special. 10.00 Postman Pat. 10.15 The Roly Mo Show. 10.30 Primary History: Britain Since 1948. 10.50 Landmarks: Pakistan and Its People. 11.10 Churchill's Bodyguard. 12.00 The Daily Politics. 12.30 Working Lunch. 1.00 Pod's Mission. 1.15 Pod's Mission. 1.30 World Championship Snooker. 5.55 Party Election Broadcast by the Labour Party. 6.00 **Eggheads.** 6.30 **Great British Menu.** For the fish course, both chefs serve John Dory. Stuart Gillies pan fries his and serves with lobster mash, and Atul Kochhar's is crisp-fried and served with crushed peas. 7.00 **World Championship Snooker.** Hazel Irvine introduces live coverage from the quarter-finals, where the difference between winning and losing is £20,000. 9.00 **Horizon.** Science documentary about the proposed use of the Large Hadron Collider to yield the ultimate goal of physics, a theory of everything. 9.50 **This World: The Fight For Cuba's Music.** This documentary travels from London to Havana to explore who owns the rights to Cuba's music, the Cubans or the Americans. 10.30 **Newsnight.** 11.20 **World Championship Snooker.** 12.10 World Championship Snooker: Extra. 2.00 GCSE Bitesize Revision: French 1. 4.00 GCSE Bitesize Revision - French 2.

**itv** 1 |

6.00 GMTV. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV Lunchtime News; Weather. 2.00 Midsomer Murders. 3.00 Half Ton Hospital with Jeremy Kyle. 4.00 Daily Cooks. 5.00 The Royal. 6.00 **Calendar.** 6.25 **Party Election Broadcast by the Labour Party.** 6.30 **ITV Evening News; Weather.** 7.00 **Emmerdale.** Bob messes up when Kelly appears on Dawn's headstone. Laurel keeps vigil at her mother's bedside. Scarlett is put out that Daz has a crush on Louise. 7.30 **UEFA Champions League Semi-Final: Liverpool v Chelsea.** Steve Rider introduces live coverage from Anfield of the UEFA Champions League semi-final, between Liverpool and Chelsea. With commentary from Clive Tyldesley and David Pleat. 10.00 **Traffic Wardens - Confessions.** They are Britain's public enemy number one. With millions of pounds collected every year in fines, ticketing is a serious business - and pressure is on the wardens from above. 10.30 **ITV News; Weather.** 11.00 **Real Crime: A Deadly Secret.** How nine-year-old David Stocker was slowly and systematically poisoned by his attentive but deranged mother, Petrina, at Great Ormond Street hospital. 12.05 **ITV Play: Glitterball.** 4.00 Together Forever. 5.00 **ITV Nightscreen.** 5.30 **ITV Early Morning News.**

**4**

6.10 The Hoobs. 6.35 The Hoobs. 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. 7.55 Just Shoot Me. 8.25 Just Shoot Me. 8.55 Frasier. 9.20 Frasier. 9.50 Will and Grace. 10.20 Without a Trace. 11.10 Without a Trace. 12.00 News at Noon. 12.30 Small Railway Journeys. 12.45 Life Begins Again. 1.45 **FILM: San Demetrio, London (1947).** Drama, starring Walter Fitzgerald and Mervyn Johns. 3.30 Countdown. 4.15 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 The New Paul O'Grady Show. 6.00 **The Simpsons.** 6.30 **Hollyoaks.** Zak tries to prove Will is up to no good. Carmel and Aleksander are discovered by Jacqui. 7.00 **Channel 4 News.** 7.55 **3 Minute Wonder: Watch this Space.** 8.00 **How to Look Good Naked.** Series in which women who are unsatisfied with their bodies are offered styling, health and beauty advice. 9.00 **Jamestown: America's Birthplace: A Time Team Special.** The Time Team archaeologists make a 400th-anniversary visit to Jamestown, Virginia, the first permanent English settlement in America and birthplace of the USA. 10.00 **Animal Addicts.** Britain is a nation of pet-lovers, but this documentary looks at people whose fondness for animals has become obsessive. Including an MS sufferer who keeps 70 owls in his house. 11.05 **Get Your Act Together with Harvey Goldsmith.** Here Harvey works with debt-ridden Deighton Working Men's Club. 12.10 PartyPoker.com Poker Nations Cup. 1.10 Lloyds TSB Insurance British F3 International Series. 1.40 KOTV Classics. 2.35 Velux 5 Oceans Ultimate Solo Challenge. 3.00 KOTV. 3.30 Gumball 3000. 3.55 Gumball 3000. 4.25 Adrenalin Rush. 4.50 Water Stories. 4.55 Monster Garage. 5.55 Inuk.

**five**

6.00 The Save-Ums! 6.10 Fifi and the Flowertots. 6.25 Franny's Feet. 6.45 Funky Town. 6.50 The Milkshake! Show. 7.30 Little Princess. 7.45 Make Way for Noddy. 8.05 Fifi and the Flowertots. 8.25 Thomas & Friends. 8.50 Mio Mao. 9.00 The Wright Stuff. 10.30 Trisha Goddard. 11.30 five news. 12.00 Home and Away. 12.30 Britain's Worst... Builder. 1.30 Russell Grant's Postcards. 1.35 **FILM: A Mother's Gift (1995).** Adventure, starring Nancy McKeon and Adrian Pasdar. 3.35 five news update. 3.40 **FILM: Sacrifices of the Heart (2007).** Drama, starring Melissa Gilbert and Ken Howard. 5.30 five news. 6.00 **Home and Away.** Has Amanda made a huge mistake? Martha seeks Jack's support when she tells him her life-changing news. 6.30 **Two and a Half Men.** 7.00 **five news.** 7.15 **Big Ideas that Changed the World.** David Blunkett MP examines the history of nationalism and its impact on British national identity today. 8.00 **Angels & Demons: The True Story.** Film examining 'The da Vinci Code' author Dan Brown's novel 'Angels and Demons'. Is any of it based on real events? 9.00 **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** Kepler is forced to face his past when an old face turns up in Vegas asking him for a favour. Grissom returns from his sabbatical. 10.00 **CSI: Miami.** Miami's Latin Festival shifts from samba to sombre when a crowded dance floor becomes the scene of a gang murder. 11.00 **Law and Order: Special Victims Unit.** 12.00 Arrest and Trial. 12.30 Arrest and Trial. 12.55 NBA Basketball. 4.20 **FIM Motocross World Cup.** 5.10 Now Is the Time: Night of Combat - Kick Boxing.

**club**

Baja Beach Club  
**THE WORM**  
student night  
Cockpit  
**SLAM DUNK**  
punk, ska, emo, metal, hardcore, punk rock  
Fab Café  
**BAR CANDY**  
40 years of rock and roll  
Faversham  
**CARNIVAL**  
samba & salsa music with Brazilian DJs Silvae & Fabio Bahia  
Flares  
**THE HUSTLE**  
HiFi Club  
**RAISED BY WOLVES**  
indie dance, punk funk  
Sandanista  
**APOCALYPSE NOW THEN**  
University, Mine  
**THE TUNNEL CLUB**  
Chris Martin with indie, artrock, electro

**gigs**

Atrium  
**THE ROSIE TAYLOR PROJECT**  
Cockpit  
**TIGER ARMY**  
Mixing Tin  
**BOOM BIP**  
Wardrobe  
**NICK TYSON TRIO**

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**FUNERAL FOUR A FRIEND\***  
15 May

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## Television

## Wednesday May 2nd



With around five storylines running in parallel each week, it's strenuous work keeping up with the women of Wisteria Lane. One thing keeping me going is the constant introduction of new man-candy such as Rick the pizza guy. However Gabrielle's love interest, a wrinkly mayor candidate is

a definite turn-off. The last minute twists are still thriving too; the discovery that an elderly babysitter keeps her dead husband in the freezer is slightly random, but it's certainly expected from this weird neighbourhood. Suzy Tobias

**Desperate Housewives**  
Channel 4  
10:00p.m

## club

Baja Beach Club  
**STUDENT REVOLUTION**  
student night

Cockpit  
**PANIC**  
indie, 60s rock'n'roll

Creation  
**MILKSHAKE**  
student night

Discotheque  
**F.I.L.P.**  
student anthems

Elbow Room  
**SOUL SAUCE**  
Chico Malo, T-Breaks,  
Joolz & Mr Q-Burt

Fab Café  
**THE SCORE**  
psychedelic funk soul

Faversham  
**CHASE THE DEVIL**  
with Bristol's no.1 Jamaican expert, DJ Derek

Flores  
**THE HUSTLE**

HiFi Club  
**MOVEONUP**  
Northern Soul, funk

Mission  
**MISSIONARY**  
student night, house

Rios  
**EXIT 2**  
alternative/cheese

The Subculture  
**RUFFAGE**  
dubstep & urban music with High Pressure Soundsystem

## gigs

Mixing Tin  
**NEETA**

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**WILDHEARTS\***  
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08709 913913

University Stylus  
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## BBC ONE

6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Found.  
10.00 Homes under the Hammer.  
11.00 To Buy or Not to Buy.  
11.30 Car Booty. 12.15 Bargain Hunt.  
1.00 BBC News; Weather.  
1.30 Regional News and Weather.  
1.40 Neighbours. 2.05 Doctors.  
2.35 Diagnosis Murder. 3.20 BBC News; Weather; Regional News.  
3.25 CBBC: Lazytown. 3.50 The Cramp Twins. 4.00 Prank Patrol.  
4.40 Extreme Animals. 5.00 Blue Peter. 5.25 Newsround. 5.35 Neighbours.  
6.00 **BBC News and Weather.**  
6.30 **Look North; Weather.**  
7.00 **Demolition.** John returns to an Irish power station to unleash yet more devastation.  
7.30 **The Green Green Grass.** Boycie's decision to motivate his lazy workforce has unforeseen repercussions. Tyler is traumatised by the school art class.  
8.00 **Watchdog.**  
8.30 **Car Wars.** PCs Bundy and Norton arrest a joyrider but find themselves being mobbed by his mates.  
9.00 **The Apprentice.** The teams' next task is to sell British food to French people in France.  
10.00 **BBC News; Regional News; Weather.**  
10.35 **The National Lottery Draws.**  
10.45 **My Small Breasts and I.** Documentary which follows three women as they turn to everything from suctioning to herbals pills and photo therapy in an attempt to try to come to terms with their small breasts.  
11.45 **FILM: Coma (1978).** Taut medical thriller in which a Boston doctor uncovers a dangerous conspiracy when she investigates unexplained deaths at her hospital.  
1.40 Sign Zone: The Gardener's Year. 2.10 Sign Zone: Mission Africa. 2.40 Sign Zone: To Buy or Not to Buy. 3.25 Joins BBC News 24.

## BBC TWO

6.00 CBeebies: Fimbles. 6.20 The Story Makers. 6.35 Balamory. 7.00 CBBC: Arthur. 7.15 ChuckleVision. 7.30 Get 100. 8.00 The Story of Tracy Beaker. 8.15 Krypto the Superdog. 8.30 CBeebies: Jackanory Junior. 8.40 Numberjacks. 9.00 Nina and the Neurons. 9.15 Brum. 9.25 Me Too! 9.45 Something Special. 10.00 Postman Pat. 10.15 The Roly Mo Show. 10.30 In Search of Myths and Heroes. 11.30 The Daily Politics. 1.00 Garden Invaders. 1.30 Working Lunch. 2.00 World Championship Snooker.  
6.00 **Eggheads.**  
6.30 **Great British Menu.** Competing to represent the South East, for the main course Stuart Gillies serves up roast suckling pig, and Atul Kochhar spices things up with lamb rack and pan-fried lamb patties.  
7.00 **World Championship Snooker.**  
9.00 **Natural World.** Nature documentary featuring the wildlife of Hawaii's famous surf zone and the surfers and scientists who are fighting to protect it.  
9.50 **Shearwater Island.** Nature documentary. How thousands of strange nocturnal birds make their home on the island of Bardsey in North Wales, and an exploration of the rich history of the island itself.  
10.00 **The Apprentice: You're Fired.** Adrian Chiles, chef Jean-Christophe Novelli, Heat editor Mark Frith and Sir Alan's man Nick Hewer discover where it went wrong for the newly fired candidate from the Apprentice.  
10.30 **Newsnight.**  
11.20 **World Championship Snooker.**  
12.10 **World Championship Snooker Extra.** 2.00 BBC Learning Zone: Schools; GCSE Bitesize Revision: German. 4.00 GCSE Bitesize Revision.

## itv 1

6.00 GMTV. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV Lunchtime News; Weather. 2.00 Midsomer Murders. 3.00 Half Ton Hospital with Jeremy Kyle. 4.00 Daily Cooks. 5.00 The Royal.  
6.00 **Calendar.**  
6.30 **ITV Evening News; Weather.**  
7.00 **Emmerdale.** A fraught Bob does a runner. The King brothers discover that Hari is testifying against them. Carrie tells Jimmy to keep his distance from Scarlett.  
7.30 **Coronation Street.** Claire and Gail worry about Darryl's new living arrangements. Blanche realises that she has finally pushed Ken too far. Ryan wonders what is going on.  
8.00 **The Bill: ...and Nothing but the Truth.** When Mickey discovers that Heaton has slept with Mia, he punches the Superintendent. Will tells Emma that Matt has been taking her for a fool - his girlfriend is alive.  
9.00 **City Lights.** A suspicious Howie discovers a box of hotel matches in Pauline's handbag, but when he takes Colin there they are led straight into the hands of Hatton and Gully. Robson Green stars.  
10.00 **Get a Grip.** Ben Elton and Alexa Chung check out the phenomenon of shrinking celebrities. Are they getting smaller, or are chocolate bars getting bigger? And just how small is Keira Knightley?  
10.30 **ITV News; Weather.**  
11.00 **Weddings from Hell.** Featuring a bride involved in a horrific accident on the way to the church, a wedding threatened by a suspect package, and a groom who paid a heavy price for forcing on a ring.  
12.00 **ITV Play: Glitterball.** 4.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 5.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Early Morning News.

## 4

6.10 The Hoobs. 6.35 The Hoobs. 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. 7.55 Just Shoot Me. 8.25 Just Shoot Me. 8.55 Frasier. 9.25 Frasier. 9.55 Will and Grace. 10.20 Without a Trace. 11.10 Without a Trace. 12.00 News at Noon. 12.30 Checking Into History. 12.50 Life Begins Again. 1.50 **FILM: Blowing Wild (1953).** Adventure, starring Gary Cooper and Barbara Stanwyck. 3.30 Countdown. 4.15 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 The New Paul O'Grady Show.  
6.00 **The Simpsons.**  
6.30 **Hollyoaks.** Zak discovers the truth on Will's laptop while Zoe makes a horrifying discovery. Jacqui is angry with Carmel and Aleksander, but then she and Tony are found in bed together.  
7.00 **Channel 4 News.**  
7.55 **3 Minute Wonder: Watch this Space.**  
8.00 **Property Ladder.** Sarah Beeny revisits a Harlaxton couple as they attempt to convert two listed buildings into the ultimate family home.  
9.00 **Grand Designs.** Kevin McCloud presents the series following ambitious building projects. The Nevilles are building a spectacular oak frame and straw bale house in the Cambridgeshire Fens.  
10.00 **Desperate Housewives.** Suburban black comedy drama. Gabrielle and Victor face a crisis when they are blackmailed. Edie gets into a fight with one of the ladies.  
11.05 **World of Compulsive Hoarders.**  
12.10 **Peep Show.** 12.40 Balls of Steel. 1.25 The War at Home. 1.50 The Osbournes. 2.15 The Osbournes. 2.40 Your Face or Mine? 3.10 Off Centre. 3.35 Off Centre. 3.55 The Bernie Mac Show. 4.20 Reasons to be Cheerful. 4.30 3 Minute Wonder: Lee Kern's A to Z... of Love. 4.35 Wild Things. 5.20 Countdown.

## five

6.00 The Save-Ums! 6.10 Fifi and the Flowertots. 6.25 Franny's Feet. 6.40 Bird Bath. 6.45 Funky Town. 6.50 The Milkshake! Show. 7.20 Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. 7.30 Little Princess. 7.45 Make Way for Noddy. 8.00 Say It with Noddy. 8.05 Fifi and the Flowertots. 8.20 Peppa Pig. 8.25 Thomas & Friends. 8.40 Old Bear Stories. 8.50 Mio Mao. 9.00 The Wright Stuff. 10.30 Trisha Goddard. 11.30 five news. 12.00 Home and Away. 12.30 Britains Worst... Chef. 1.30 Russell Grant's Postcards. 1.35 **FILM: LA Law: The Movie (2002).** Drama, starring Corbin Bernsen and Susan Dey. 3.25 five news update. 3.30 **FILM: Columbo: Undercover (1992).** Crime, starring Peter Falk and Ed Begley Jr. 5.30 five news.  
6.00 **Home and Away.** Ethan and Kelli concoct an evil plan to blackmail Amanda.  
6.30 **Two and a Half Men.**  
7.00 **five news.**  
7.15 **Lemur Island.** The Graveyard Gang find themselves stranded overnight far from home.  
8.00 **How the Other Half Learns.** Documentary series in which six GCSE pupils from two vastly different schools - an inner city comprehensive and a privileged independent school - embark on a student exchange.  
9.00 **FILM: The Sweetest Thing (2002).** A lovelorn woman has all but given up trying to find Mr Right until she meets an attractive estate agent at a nightclub, starring Cameron Diaz and Christina Applegate.  
10.40 **FILM: Say It Isn't So (2001).** An orphan who, while searching for his parents, accidentally falls in love with his sister - who happens to be the worst hairdresser in town, starring Chris Klein and Heather Graham.  
12.30 PartyPoker.com European Open III. 2.00 Major League Baseball. 4.45 NHRA Drag Racing.

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**Chaos at the Chateau**  
Channel 4  
8:30p.m

An horrendously crass hotel manager blundering around, spitting all kinds of xeno/homophobic dribble, a woman with the social skills to clean up his mess, and a diminutive dogs body with only a minor grasp of English. You could be forgiven for thinking I was

describing the characters of Fawlty Towers. But these people are in fact the stars of this relatively new documentary which follows a bulbous idiot and his sexually frustrated wife as they start up a hotel in Slovakia.

Laurie Whitwell



**Thursday**  
May  
3rd

**BBC ONE**

- 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Found.
- 10.00 Homes under the Hammer.
- 11.00 To Buy or Not to Buy.
- 11.30 Car Booty. 12.15 Bargain Hunt.
- 1.00 BBC News; Weather.
- 1.30 Regional News and Weather.
- 1.40 Neighbours. 2.05 Doctors.
- 2.35 Diagnosis Murder. 3.20 BBC News; Weather; Regional News.
- 3.25 CBBC: Lazytown. 3.50 Watch My Chops. 4.00 The Basil Brush Show. 4.30 Extreme Animals. 5.00 Blue Peter. 5.25 Newsround. 5.35 Neighbours.
- 6.00 BBC News and Weather.
- 6.30 Look North; Weather.
- 7.00 Castaway. Danny Wallace presents a series in which a group of Brits learn to survive on an island off the New Zealand coast. Danny meets the castaways and reviews their week on the island.
- 7.30 EastEnders. Stacey decides to get to Max through Tanya. Honey pushes Dot to reveal the truth about George. Ian's plan to annoy Phil backfires.
- 8.00 Panorama. Using shocking undercover footage recorded in two major hospitals, an investigation into alleged serious failings in UK maternity services.
- 9.00 Hustle. Drama series about a team of con artists. The Hustlers are off to Los Angeles, where they try to get away with selling the famous Hollywood sign from high in the Hollywood hills.
- 10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
- 10.35 Question Time.
- 11.35 Election Night 2007. David Dimbleby leads the team for the 2007 local elections, with the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and 10,000 council seats in England and Scotland up for grabs.

**BBC TWO**

- 6.00 CBeebies: Fimbles. 6.20 The Story Makers. 6.35 Balamory. 7.00 CBBC: Arthur. 7.15 ChuckleVision. 7.30 Get 100. 8.00 The Story of Tracy Beaker. 8.15 Krypto the Superdog. 8.30 CBeebies: Jackanory Junior. 8.40 Numberjacks. 9.00 Nina and the Neurons. 9.15 Brum. 9.25 Me Too! 9.45 Something Special. 10.00 Postman Pat. 10.15 The Roly Mo Show. 10.30 Look and Read. 10.50 Music Makers. 11.10 English Express. 11.30 Big Slam Poetry. 11.50 Primary Geography. 12.00 The Daily Politics. 12.30 Working Lunch. 1.00 World Championship Snooker.
- 6.00 Eggheads.
- 6.30 Great British Menu. For the dessert course, Stuart Gillies prepares vanilla and gingerbread cheesecake, and Atul Kochhar serves an apple tasting of the South East.
- 7.00 World Championship Snooker.
- 9.00 The Catherine Tate Show. Award-winning comedy sketch series co-written and performed by the versatile comedy actress. Gingers for Justice take to the rooftops.
- 9.30 Roman's Empire. After a drunken night of passion with Nikki's younger sister Kelly, Leo sees that this could be the perfect way of making Nikki realise what she's missing.
- 10.00 The Graham Norton Show. Graham Norton presents a show focusing on people, trends and aspects of celebrity culture.
- 10.30 Newsnight.
- 11.35 Desi DNA. Asian arts and lifestyle magazine. An international art dealer and playboy extraordinaire showcases a collection of Indian contemporary sculptures on a beach in St Tropez.
- 12.05 World Championship Snooker. 12.55 Joins BBC News 24. 2.00 BBC Learning Zone: Schools: GCSE Bitesize Revision. 4.00 GCSE Bitesize Revision.

**itv 1**

- 6.00 GMTV. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV Lunchtime News; Weather. 2.00 Midsomer Murders. 3.00 Half Ton Hospital with Jeremy Kyle. 4.00 Daily Cooks. 5.00 The Royal. 6.00 Calendar.
- 6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather.
- 7.00 Emmerdale. Jimmy and Kelly contemplate doing a runner. Bob refuses to return home and face the mess he's left behind. Laurel decides to stay and look after her parents.
- 7.30 Northern Skies. In a new series of helicopter journeys across the North, we lift off for a spectacular flight along the length of Yorkshire's magnificent coast, from Whitby to the Humber.
- 8.00 The Bill: Day of Reckoning. Emma wakes up frightened in a Sun Hill cell after her terrifying fight with Matt. Matt comes round in hospital and says that Emma tried to kill him. Will tries to track down Nina.
- 9.00 The Last Detective. Starring Peter Davison. Villain Jimmy the Gent is murdered before he can publish his memoirs. Do they hold the clue to the identity of his killer?
- 10.30 ITV News; Weather.
- 11.00 Soccer Night. Andy Townsend, Peter Beagrie and special guests discuss the region's football, preview the weekend's fixtures and look at the progress of local clubs.
- 11.30 Local Election Special. Local election special with live coverage from polling stations around the region and political analysis in the studio with a panel of experts.
- 12.00 ITV Play: Make Your Play. 4.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 5.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Early Morning News.

**4**

- 6.05 Making It. 6.10 The Hoobs. 6.35 The Hoobs. 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. 7.55 Just Shoot Me. 8.25 Just Shoot Me. 8.55 Frasier. 9.20 Frasier. 9.50 Will and Grace. 10.20 Without a Trace. 11.10 Without a Trace. 12.00 News at Noon. 12.30 Life Begins Again. 1.30 FILM: Sergeant Rutledge (1960). Drama, starring Jeffrey Hunter and Woody Strode. 3.30 Countdown. 4.15 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 The New Paul O'Grady Show. 6.00 The Simpsons.
- 6.30 Hollyoaks. Zak and Kris realise Zoe may be in danger, but they may be too late when she is trapped in Will's room.
- 7.00 Channel 4 News.
- 7.55 3 Minute Wonder: Watch this Space.
- 8.00 A Place in the Sun. Amanda Lamb continues her world tour looking for properties for 80,000 pounds. Simon Laver and Archana Sirur want to buy investment property in Tallinn, the Estonian capital.
- 8.30 Chaos at the Chateau. Things are starting to look up at the hotel.
- 9.00 Lie of the Land. Documentary by Molly Dineen demonstrating how in recent years Britain's farming industry and countryside have been decimated by disease, development and legislation.
- 10.30 FILM: The Score (2001). Crime drama about a professional criminal who had decided to get out of the business, but is persuaded to work with a hot-shot young thief to steal a valuable sceptre, starring Robert De Niro and Marlon Brando.
- 12.50 4 Music: Ibiza Rocks with Sony Ericsson. 1.20 Rockfeedback. 1.50 FILM: How to Get Ahead in Advertising (1989). Comedy, starring Richard E Grant and Rachel Ward. 3.30 Dupe. 3.40 Bus Pass Boob Jobs. 4.40 Wild Things. 5.25 Countdown.

**five**

- 6.00 The Save-Ums! 6.10 Fifi and the Flowertots. 6.25 Franny's Feet. 6.40 Bird Bath. 6.45 Funky Town. 6.50 The Milkshake! Show. 7.20 Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. 7.30 Little Princess. 7.45 Make Way for Noddy. 8.00 Say It with Noddy. 8.05 Fifi and the Flowertots. 8.20 Peppa Pig. 8.25 Thomas & Friends. 8.40 Old Bear Stories. 8.50 Mio Mao. 9.00 The Wright Stuff. 10.30 Trisha Goddard. 11.30 five news. 12.00 Home and Away. 12.30 Britains Worst... Teenager. 1.30 Russell Grant's Postcards. 1.40 FILM: The Cockleshell Heroes (1956). War, starring Jose Ferrer and Trevor Howard. 3.35 five news update. 3.40 FILM: Final Run (1999). Action, starring Robert Ulrich and Patricia Kalember. 5.30 five news.
- 6.00 Home and Away. Ric's last hopes of proving his innocence are destroyed. Amanda goes to extreme lengths to protect her relationship.
- 6.30 Two and a Half Men.
- 7.00 five news.
- 7.15 How Not to Decorate. Val and Tommy's bungalow was once the envy of the neighbourhood with its 70s pools winner chic and three person Jacuzzi but now it is looking dated.
- 8.00 Ann Maurice: Interior Rivalry. The four remaining contestants have to pitch their home staging ideas to a real client.
- 9.00 House. House wakes up a patient in a coma in order to help treat the man's dying son.
- 10.00 Shark. Stark believes that the abduction and murder of an eight-year-old girl is linked to a similar case from 15 years ago.
- 11.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Nick investigates a grisly murder apparently linked to the 'narcocorrido', a Mexican subculture that glorifies crime.
- 12.00 Football Night. 1.00 Quiz Call. 4.00 Dutch Football. 5.10 Football Argentina Highlights.

**club**

Baby Jupiter  
**UNKLE MUNKLE FUNKLE**  
lounge funk-out

Carpe Diem  
**SLAB C**  
ska, punk, metal & comic cock rock

Fab Cafe  
rock & indie

Flores  
**COPACABANA**

Halo  
**ROCKSTAR**  
indie & rock anthems with DJ Chris Martin

HiFi Club  
**HARLEM BUSH CLUB**  
live jazz, funk, soul & hip-hop bands

Nu  
**FULL MOON**

Rios  
**PUNK AS FCUK**  
punk club night

The Subculture  
**GIGANTIC**  
electro, rock, altern.

Warehouse  
**TEQUILLA**  
student night

Wire  
**FUZZY LOGIC**  
guitars with DJ Debstar

Cockpit  
**SAOSIN**

HiFi Club  
**PAMA INTERNATIONAL**

Packhorse  
**INDICA RITUAL**

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# OBSERVATIONS



Sarah Haynes

I have been socialized in an environment where democracy is the norm, it is the given in a situation requiring a decision. But the question is, do I believe in it? Democracy assumes that the majority is right - this is an inherent flaw since the minority may be the ones who are right but so often are they left unrepresented. Do people know how to use democracy to its optimum without the appropriate education? Do people know what is best for them? Certainly democracy is not best for the minority. Democracy is not the answer for the poor.

In the development realm, the democratic agenda is pushed. Developing countries are often forced to adopt these democratic measures in order to receive loans and aid from international institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank. Yet this is against the very heart of democracy; the ability to choose and to self-govern. Surely the desire for democracy needs to come from within and the people need to be given the avenues to express this desire. This sort of forced democracy does not change the power relations which are at the centre of the development debate. In fact, democracy should be dissolving these unequal power relations but it has been used as a tool to further hidden agendas. Democracy should be encouraging pluralism and a variety of voices but arguably because the majority rules, it is another form of oppression as indeed a military dictatorship is. From my travels, I have found that democracy is not the answer to poverty. India, the largest democracy in the world has a high incidence of abject poverty and democracy has not cured the society from the ills of poverty. In Burma, a junta reigns supreme and this sort of government should be removed. Democracy may provide freedom of expression and self-determination but it is not the answer for the poor. In reality, people who are entrapped in the cycle of poverty are far more concerned about finding the next bowl of rice for survival than about the processes which seemingly affect the higher realms of government. If people are to effectively participate in the ways of democracy, surely then we should be widening their other freedoms first.

So do I believe in democracy? I believe democracy is the lesser of the evils but we still have yet to reach the ideal. My purpose is not to argue whether democracy is right or wrong for society. It is about resuming the debate once again on the issue of democracy itself so that as a society we can avoid the pitfalls of apathy and not only remember those who fought for our freedom to vote but to also examine our own agendas in the promotion of democracy throughout the world. So often, we accept democracy yet we don't question it. Is democracy universal? Democracy is not synonymous with freedom and we need to decide which should come first.

*Sarah is in Ghana.*



Omar Shtewi

"Omar, when you were little and someone was like, 'How do you say Sarah or John or whatever in Arabic?', did you just used to say 'Kharaa' or is that just me?", chirped Hind Hassan on the way to Tranquillite to partake of the Anglo-Ay-rab tradition of sitting on our arses speaking broken English while smoking soon-to-banned shisha and contemplating why our parents decided to bring us up here, instead of say, Morocco or Dubai where shisha is a lot bloody cheaper. "Kharaa", by way, means "shit".

The answer was "yes" (actually, the answer was that I used to tell white kids at school things a lot more obscene than "kharaa" meant "Sarah"). So I got to thinking... Why do "we", the Anglo-Ay-rabs take the piss out of our British friends in that way? Imagine the scene...

You start your first job, aged 16. You've forgotten, actually, that you've got a foreign name, jet-black hair, a generous nose and gorgeous eyes... Until, that is, you meet Barbara or "Babs", if you will (and I think you will) and the rest of the staff... Everyone's met "Babs". You know the sort. Usually from an inner-city, the size of a small armoured vehicle and twice as loud as one.

Of course, in these matters, it is important for the Ay-rab to ensure the right pronunciation of his name - first and last. This process can take some time. It can be a few minutes, a few hours and sometimes, just sometimes, "Babs" won't ever say it right...

But the name issue is the easy part. Oh yes. Let me tell you a little something about "asylum seekers". See, in Grimsby, where I'm from, there is no difference between an immigrant - like my father, who's from Libya (or "Lebanon, or Lesotho, or Liberia, or Laos or whah-evah") and an asylum seeker. Take the time me and "Babs" were bonding over a Richmond Superking in the smoking room (piss-yellow walls, brown sofas. Lovely). She's thumbing through the paper (when I say "paper" I mean The Daily Mail). Then it starts...

"Ooooooh these effin' asylum seekers get on my tits. See Aaw-mah, this is why I can't get into the effin' dentist. Aw naw love, I don't me YOU. You're alright. Am sure your dad's lovely. It's them uvvas. Bastards. Where's your dad from again? Lebanon?"

I could correct "Babs". I could take the time out of my life to tell her that my dad is a British citizen who has never claimed benefits and has never taken a place at the dentist at the expense of "Babs" (who, incidentally, has clearly NEVER seen a dentist in her life) but it amuses me to get my own back.

"Yes. He is from Lebanon."

"Saaw, is that like a, Shar-ee-ah law place?" There is no Sharia law in Lebanon (or Libya, where my dad is actually from)

"Yes Babs. Shariah law. We cut off people's heads. In fact, I remember the first beheading I ever saw. It happened in Death Square - just across the road from

McDonald's - handy for snacks during the interval - and me and whole family went. We sat next to Idi Amin. Who is the President of Liberia. He's quite affable. Sorry Babs, I mean 'nice'. We shared a McSheep's-Eye-Soup".

"Yaw jawkin", - Yes "Babs", I am jawkin. I'm jawkin because you've been failed by The Daily Mail. And it pisses me off. Every day I have to go through life explaining what I am, where my dad is from, that I don't live in a tent, that my dad doesn't drop me off at uni on the back of a frigging camel. That we don't lock mum away in a cupboard under the stairs and bring her out to cook sheep's-eye-soup, that she doesn't pin her hijab into her flesh - yes, Muslim women HAVE been asked that.

So, I guess, me and Hind and the other Ay-rabs say these things so we can laugh. And if we didn't laugh, the significant minority of ill-informed and ignorant "Babses" would drive us mad with their bull-kharaa.

There are of course those who know that Liberia and Libya and Lebanon are not the same. That I don't have a satellite dish on my tent. That I won't get a camel for graduating with a First. And to all of you: Thank you for breaking the endless cycle of "Int that tea towel meant to gaw on yer 'ed'?"

*Omar is a nutter*



Hani Megerisi

In the UK, as well as in many countries around the world, gay and bisexual men are barred from giving blood, being considered to be too high risk. As a bisexual man, I am directly affected by this legislation and have often thought whether it is necessary. The law actually states that if a man has had sex with another man - ever - then he cannot donate blood. Similarly, if a woman has had sex with a gay or bisexual man, she is not allowed to give blood for the next 3-6 months. These rules are regardless of whether you used protection or even if you know the HIV status of your sexual partner (for example, if they were recently tested).

Many people argue that barring gay and bi-sexual men from giving blood is a discriminatory ruling harking back to the days of the 1970s and 80s when the HIV scare was at its height and many people viewed it as a "gay cancer" and there was general fear that allowing gay and bi-sexual men to give blood would be dangerous. Today, however, we now know that it is not an exclusively 'gay' disease and in fact, in 2005 the British Medical Journal published an article stating that the rate of infection amongst heterosexual couples was just under 10 per cent, a number which had been growing hugely since 1991.

However, whilst these figures show a marked increase in awareness and protection amongst the gay and bi-sexual population, and a worrying decrease in awareness amongst heterosexuals, it must be noted that the majority of 'straight' people living with the disease in the UK had acquired it abroad, with only about 566 heterosexuals infected

within the UK living with the disease in December 2005. Even though this figure is a huge increase on the 181 figure just seven years before, the same BMJ article reported that "homosexual men remain at greatest risk of acquiring HIV in the United Kingdom, accounting for an estimated 80 per cent of newly acquired infections that were probably acquired in the United Kingdom". Whilst the rate of infection amongst men who have sex with men is showing a marked decrease, the number still remains excessively high, arguably owing to residual attitudes amongst the gay population. Aidsmap, a website created to provide information and support for the HIV-infected community, reported that approximately 40 per cent of UK gay men with 30 or more sexual partners in the last twelve months did not visit a sexual health clinic in the last year.

These statistics show that, even though HIV infection rates are increasing amongst the 'straight' population and declining amongst homosexuals, gay men still pose a greater risk. I often look around at the 'gay' society (since that is what it seems to be called nowadays) and wonder whether the blood legislation is fair; but as I meet the endless throngs out on a Thursday night at Mission or skim through the various articles in GT or Attitude on the long train journey to London, I sometimes wonder whether the law is such a bad idea. All stereotyping of gay promiscuity aside (as this is NOT the case with all gay men) a large proportion of gay men in the UK do tend to have many different sexual partners and there always remains the harsh truth that anal sex - whether between two men or a man and a woman - is an incredibly high risk activity vis-à-vis HIV transmission. Nevertheless it cannot be said that all gay men are like this. Many of us want all the same things as a 'straight' person wants: to find someone to love, and spend our lives with them, and are not the promiscuous bunch we are perceived to be. In my opinion this stereotyping should not necessarily affect the entire group.

However, upon researching this article and seeing the statistics above, I do wonder that the blood services are correct to bar gay men from giving blood. Whilst there have been huge leaps and bounds in treatment there is still no cure for HIV. The disease, upon primary infection, takes around 3 months to show up in tests - sometimes longer - meaning that it is sometimes missed. It can then take up to seven years having the disease before any symptoms show. This, coupled with the fact that some gay men are more likely, through their chosen lifestyle make them more likely to catch the virus. I do, however, think that the law is slightly discriminatory and many changes need to be made to it. Many gay men in modern society live with long term, monogamous, partners and, after testing, it can be said 100 per cent whether they are infected or not. Similarly, saying that a man who has experimented once with another man is barred for life from giving blood is extreme and discriminatory and needs to be altered. The blood service needs to realise that gay and bisexual men are not all promiscuous and unsafe in sex and that they too have a right to give blood and that in these times of health and safety regulations, where all blood is tested anyway upon donation, the laws need to be slightly changed to allow for the men who know for sure what their HIV status is, and who are in monogamous relationships.

*Hani is a second year student*



Steven Smith

I had an epiphany over Easter, and this epiphany surfaced as they so regularly do, with a naked eighteen year old straddling me. He asked me out. This boy whom I had known for a while had suddenly turned from an attractive man into an uncertain boy with little understanding of anything, scared and, particularly stupidly, expecting that I'd go out with him.

I started to think about age gaps, do they work? Catherine Zeta Jones and Michael Douglas sporting over 25 years difference and my Uncle and Auntie separated by 19. I'd never really thought about such issues beyond the obvious physical differences, but surely there's some really big mental diversity. Perhaps 18-22 is the best gauge. I wasn't exactly sure of myself at that age, which makes me wonder more and more how I ever let myself get into that position.

But then there came another feeling. Suddenly not one steering clear of people younger than me, but a new found and strange attraction I was getting toward older men. Rich professionals with fast cars and bulging muscles. Three years at university at within the last term I decide I want to become a househusband. Seriously, I think it's the Brie Van De Kamp effect. The effort I've put into asserting my masculinity and abhorring uber-campness has suddenly become a yearning for ironing, cooking, (not that I stereotype the average wife - but I think you understand) and cleaning. I look at the stresses and strains of having a career, and think - why? Nearly 16 years of education has taught me what I can achieve and now I'm ready to settle down, get a convertible and spend the rest of my days enjoying power lunches and baby-sitting for my friends. Perhaps I'll even give-up being gay, it's been a few years now and it's definitely not all it's cracked up to be, without nearly enough aggression or oppression for you to fight against. Married by 25, children by thirty. The book club, church group, PTA, village festivals, and a fiercely 'inspirational woman' on my arm, who feels detached from the children and finds it hard not to bring her work home. I could catch up on my 24, Lost, House, Rome; teach my children football, art, culture. By 45, I'm Steven Ripley (my wife's surname) CBE; public speeches and an acclaimed BBC 3 documentary ensue.

My children become lawyers and doctors and come to visit when I'm not fulfilling my duties as the local, independent M.P. A cynic might say my new found love of family values has come from a recent trip with Action and a group of teenagers. But it does make me think what would happen had I not been gay; the affairs, the ability to be naked around my male friends without them thinking I was perverting on them. Perhaps that one isn't so far from the truth. Ah well, I live, as ever, goes on; but for a second there, I was definitely tempted.

*Steven Smith just happened to be in the office when Hani Leylabi let us down on his observation. He's gone a bit weird recently.*

# DIARY

## Cinema

### VUE: The Light

#### This Week's Releases:

**The Breed** (15) (1hr50)  
Sat/Sun: 10.20 Daily: 12.35 14.45  
17.00 19.20 21.30  
Fri/Sat Late: 23.40

**Next** (12A) (1hr55)  
Sat/Sun: 09.45 Daily: 12.00 14.15  
16.30 18.45 21.00  
Fri/Sat Late: 23.15

**Reno 911** (15) (1hr40)  
Sat/Sun: 11.10 Daily: 13.10 15.05  
17.10 19.10 21.10  
Fri/Sat Late: 23.10

**La Ra Rum Pum** (12A) (2hr55)  
Sat/Sun: 09.55  
Daily: 13.25 16.40 19.55

**This Is England** (18) (2hr05)  
Sat/Sun: 10.25 Daily: 12.55 15.40  
18.05 20.30 Fri/Sat Late: 22.55

**300** (15) (2hr20)  
Daily: 13.40 (except Sat/Sun) 16.20  
19.45 Fri/Sat Lates: 22.40

**Alpha Dog** (15) (2hrs20)  
Sat/Sun: 09.50 Daily: 12.30 15.15  
18.00 20.40  
Fri/Sat Late: 23.25

**Fracture** (15) (2hr15)  
Sat/Sun: 09.40 Daily: 12.15 14.50  
17.25 20.20  
Fri/Sat Late: 23.00

**Blades of Glory** (12A) (1hr55)  
Sat: 10.05 Daily: (12.20 not  
Tue/Thur) 14.35 16.50 19.05 21.20  
Fri/Sat Lates: 23.35

**Curse of the Golden Flower** (15)  
(2hr15) Daily: 13.35 18.55

**Meet The Robinsons** (U) (2hrs)  
Sat/Sun: 11.00 13.40

**Mr Bean's Holiday** (PG) (1hr50)  
Sat/Sun: 10.50 Daily: 13.20 15.30  
17.50 20.10

**The Reaping** (15) (2hrs)  
Fri/Sat Late: 22.20

**Shooter** (15) (2hr25) Sat/Sun: 10.35  
Daily: 16.10 21.35

**Sunshine** (15) (2hr10)  
Daily: (12.45 not Sat/Sun) (15.50 not  
Sat/Sun/Tues) (18.20 not  
Sat/Sun/Tues) (20.50 not Tues)  
Fri/Sat Lates: 23.50

**Wild Hogs** (12A) (2hr)  
Sat/Sun: 10.40 Daily: 13.00 15.20  
17.40 20.00 Fri/Sat Late: 22.30

**Audio Description Available On  
All Performances**

**300** (15) (1h56)  
Fri, Sat, Mon: 12:40 18:10  
Sun: 18:10 Tue: 12:40  
**Subtitled:** Sun: 12:40 Tue: 18:10  
**Alpha Dog** (15) (1h56)  
Fri: 12:20 15:00 17:40 20:30 23:20  
Sat: 17:40 20:30 23:20  
Sun: 17:40 20:30  
Mon, Tue: 15:00 17:40 20:30  
**Blades of Glory** (12A) (1h33)  
Fri, Sat: 13:10 15:40 18:00 20:15  
22:40  
Sun, Mon, Tue: 13:10 15:40 18:00  
20:15  
**Fracture** (15) (1h53)  
Fri, Sat: 11:40 14:20 17:00 19:45  
22:30  
Sun: 11:40 14:20 17:00 19:45  
Mon, Tue: 14:20 17:00 19:45  
**Meet the Robinsons** (U) (1h42)  
Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:40  
**Mr. Bean's Holiday** (PG) (1h29)  
Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:10 12:30 14:40  
16:50 19:15 21:45  
Mon, Tue: 14:40 16:50 19:15 21:45  
**Noddy and the Magical Moon-**  
**dust** (U) (1h1) Sun: 10:30  
**Open Season** (PG) (1h40)  
Sat, Sun: 10:30  
**The Reaping** (15) (1h39)  
Fri, Sat: 00:00  
**Shooter** (15) (2h4)  
Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue: 15:20 21:15  
**TMNT** (PG) (1h27)  
Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:50  
**Wild Hogs** (12A) (1h39)  
Fri, Sat: 11:10 13:30 16:00 18:30  
21:00 23:30  
Sun: 11:10 13:30 16:00 18:30 21:00  
Mon, Tue: 13:30 16:00 18:30 21:00

### Hyde Park Picture House

**FRI** Curse of the Golden Flower (15) 18.30 20.45  
**SAT** Chicken Run (U) 12.00  
Into Great Silence (U) 15.15  
Curse of the Golden Flower (15) 18.30 20.45  
**SUN** Into Great Silence (U) 15.15  
Curse of the Golden Flower (15) 18.30 20.45  
**MON** Curse of the Golden Flower (15) 18.30 20.45  
**TUE** Downfall (15) 18.00  
Curse of the Golden Flower (15) 21.00  
**WED** Into Great Silence (U) 15.15  
Curse of the Golden Flower (15) 18.30 20.45  
**THU** Curse of the Golden Flower

(15) 18.30 20.45

## Events

**27th**  
**Bollywood Dance Show 2007**  
Refectory, 7.30pm, £5  
Urban beats - Bollywood chic. With the Sri Lankan Society. Free food provided. All profits go to charity.

**27th & 28th**  
**Beer and Cider Festival** Old Bar  
Bringing you another taste of the best in local ale and guest ciders. After the success of the Ale Festival in October, this semester there is an even wider range of bitters, stouts and pales. An amazing selection for just £2.20 a pint. Including more entertainment than ever before - with folk music, their first ever chess tournament, DJs, games, raffles and quizzes. Table booking service available.

**28th**  
**Wind Band Concert** Great Hall, 7.30pm, £3 (£2 LUUMS)  
With conductor Simon Lee. Enjoy First Suite in E flat Gustav Holst, selections from Chicago and music from Gladiator.

**29th**  
**Carnegie Great Student Run**  
Headingley Carnegie Stadium - St Michaels Lane, 10am  
A 5km dash to the Leeds Met Student Campus in aid of charity, featuring celebrity runners and a variety of entertainments. For more info and to join in the race, visit www.leedsmet.ac.uk/greatstudentrun or call 283 8686

**The Orange Award for New Writers**  
The Carriageworks - Millennium Square, 2pm, £5  
This year's shortlist will be announced at the event. The Orange Award for New Writers, part of the Orange Prize for Fiction, was set up in 1992 to raise the profile of female writers.

**30th**

**Leeds Revelation Rock Gospel Choir Concert** Stylus, doors 7pm for 7.30 start, £4  
A range of contemporary and traditional gospel music from Swing Low to the Beach Boys to Sister Act.

**1st May**  
**LSR Gig** Briggate, 12-6pm, Free  
LUU Performing Societies collective (Opera, Stage Musical, A-capella Singers etc) are taking over for the day. LSR will be there hosting the day so either come down and check it out or listen online.

**2nd**  
**"Can We Stop Global Warming Destroying the Planet?"** Rm 2 - Arc, 5pm, Free  
Talk by Jonathan Neale - author of forthcoming book 'Stop Global Warming - Change the World'.

**3rd**  
**Canvas Culture Night** Brudenell, 8pm - 11.30pm, £3.50  
Art, Short Film, Music, Creative Writing, Art dating game. Showcasing the best of creative arts, get involved and shape the arts community.

## Give it a Go

**27th**  
**Classic Party Games** Mtg Rm 3 - Arc, 5pm - 7pm, £3  
It's time to relive your childhood and take part in a fun filled evening of Pass-the-Parcel, Pin the Tail on the Donkey and doughnut eating competitions.

**28th**  
**Jitsu Meet** outside Sports Centre, 12pm - 2pm, Free  
Jitsu is a martial art based on the traditional styles of Jiu-Jitsu that originated and developed in medieval Japan. It can improve physical and personal wellbeing and is also an effective system of self-defence.

**29th**

**Speed Dating Badminton Meet** outside Sports Centre, 11.30am, £2  
Giving a brand new twist to the traditional game you used to play at school. Whether you're single or in a relationship come and give it a try.

**30th**  
**Time Management for Revision** Mtg Rm 8 - Arc, 5pm - 7pm, £2  
Feeling stressed? Then make the most of your revision period with this session which will help you plan your time and fully prepare for all those important exams.

**2nd May**  
**Improve your Memory** Mtg Rm 8 - Arc, 5pm - 7pm, £2  
Another study skills session held by the Union to help you manage your revision. Learn ways to keep those important facts and figures securely in your head until you need to use them.

**3rd**  
**Running your own RAG Event** Mtg Rm 5 - Arc, 5pm - 7pm, Free  
Have you taken part in or seen any of the RAG events this year and thought you might like to have a go? Come along to this session run by Ed Rex RAG Co-ordinator and find out what running your own RAG event really involves.

**Indian Head Massage** Conference Hall - Arc, 5pm - 7pm, £3  
This massage is carried out over the clothing in a seated position. The shoulders, neck, scalp and face are all worked to release tension in the body. This treatment helps particularly with reducing headaches, stiffness, and eyestrain and is the perfect massage to learn for both beginners and experts.

Do you have a one off event you want include in the LS2 diary? email details to: listings@lsweb.org.uk by Tuesday.

# EMILY ISRAEL'S...

Dear Diary,  
I was coiled on my bed with a half-decapitated library book when a voice (my conscience?) demanded I check my e-mails. Not my i\_luv\_spicegirls4va@hotmail.com address, my real one. Having not done this since before the Easter break, my inbox was rather whored. I was happily deleting everything, until I reached a LIBRARY NOTICE. I followed the 'overdue' link. It was £5.60. Over £5 in debt to book keepers! My favourite people! It was too much. Too much. As if existing on the very edges of an overdraft (even after the loan has come through) wasn't enough, now I was on

the cusp of a library summons! Not for the first time, I felt like a thief. I had become one of my most hated students; the person who hogs a book for months, oblivious to the fact that someone else desperately needs it, because they don't read 'RECALL. SOMEONE ELSE HAS REQUESTED THIS BOOK' e-mails.  
There is only one absolute cure for severe depression - amnesia. Banging yourself very hard on the head to taint yourself with the condition is a bit drastic. Drowning brain cells in alcohol is a good escapist's alternative. O.K, so I vowed not to go out again this term because I had essays to write and exams to revise for and module/dissertation

decisions to make (Oh God). But it wasn't as if I ever thought I meant it. In fact, it would have been disappointing if I had done what I said I'd do, because then I would have been satisfying a false and ridiculous expectation of myself. By getting dangerously drunk at a tea and cakes party after reading the e-mail, I displayed great self-understanding. My friends' smug faces (I'd pompously insisted yesterday I would be too busy for parties), were met by my even smugger face. I told them I'd done everything I needed to do, and now I was hungry. For all the night, I allocated myself four chocolate muffins, four chocolates, three chocolate biscuits, and four chocolate brownies. Was v proud that I stuck

to this ration. I don't care what they say, cake parties and diets are compatible.  
The night was so lovely, everyone poised with a glass and a summer dress (the girls, that is, not the boys), everyone having grown-up dinner talk. I was intelligent at the beginning; 'Yes. Yes. Mugabe is a terrible man, I know Britain is reluctant to intervene because of her embarrassingly colonial past, but really. Don't you think we should forget Iraq, send our troops to Zimbabwe, and liberate the country? To hell with the UN, the money and America!' Unfortunately, copious amounts of rosé and sugar turned my talk to: 'Seriously. Starbucks should become the president of Africa! Rah. Rah. I mean, can you

imagine how fair trade and happy-caf-fine everyone would be, and there would be no unfair labour. I hate Labour! What amma supposed to do when I leave degradation? Why do they only have two tills at Starbucks? I love Shakespeare. The library's mean...'  
I'm told a kind and very handsome young man (a friend of an acquaintance) escorted me, by cab, home. That acquaintance informed me that my face was in the gentleman's crotch, despite his objections, the whole ride home. I'm told when he asked me where I lived, I originally pointed to Halo. I remember stumbling into my door. I remember being sick on a library book.

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# 300 Seconds in sport

## 'Hot stuff'

By Joseph Hibbert

**"You could write what I know about Rugby and Cricket on the back of a stamp!"**

**Joe Barnsley**

Host of 'The Final Whistle' on LSR

**LS:** Hi, Joe. Your new sports talk show started last Friday; how did it go?

**JB:** It was exciting to get on air, but we had a few technical mishaps! (Laughs) But the discussion was really good. It flowed nicely and there was a decent bit of banter so, hopefully, we can keep that going.

**LS:** So, what kind of things do you talk about?

**JB:** We preview the weekend's sporting action, debating all the big-issues that are coming up in the week ahead. Champions' League and the Rugby featured heavily last week; this week, we're going to look at the Snooker and

the Premiership title race. We're also going to include more features.

**LS:** Like what?

**JB:** Well, we've had the PFA team of the year this week (no less than eight Man Utd players!), so we're going to get everyone on the show to come up with their Premiership team of the year, and we're also going to review the day's papers, to get a broader coverage of sports in.

**LS:** Do you think that any Everton players deserve a place in the PFA team?

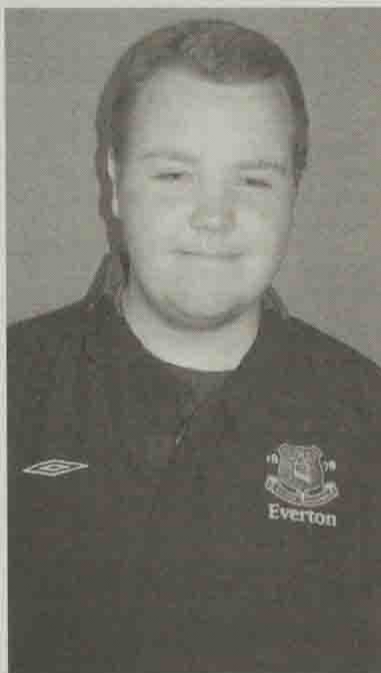
**JB:** Mikele Arteta, without a doubt. He's been phenomenal this season, a creative dynamo! Tim Cahill might have made his way into the side if he wasn't injured at Sheff Utd a few months back.

**LS:** Does football dominate the discussion, then?

**JB:** (Laughs) Football is certainly my speciality - you could write what I know about Rugby and Cricket on the back of a stamp! - but, thankfully, I'm surrounded by a great team with broader sporting knowledge.

**LS:** Who's on the team, then?

**JB:** My co-host and fellow Evertonian



The new Motty: Joe Barnsley

PHOTO: Joseph Hibbert

Tom is a bit of a Rugby League expert, and Darts, if you count that as a sport! And regular guest and cockney wide-boy Alex (he turned up to the show last week in a bright yellow three-wheeler) is a jack-of-all-trades: he knows stuff on everything, from poker to U.S. sports.

**LS:** Where do you plan to take the show in the long-term?

**JB:** Well, if we haven't been kicked off air next year (Laughs) we want to include all the varsity sports. We aim to get varsity players on the show each week to big-up their teams and to join in with the debate. We also want to encourage students to go to the BUSA matches, getting people involved and excited in sport at the University. Every week there's great live sport around the campus and at Weetwood that people are missing; we want to help get people to the games to support our great teams.

**LS:** So, how can people get involved?

**JB:** If you see me around Uni, just grab me and let me know; I'm very approachable! Otherwise, go through the Facebook group (Final Whistle), get on the message boards to show

your interest in getting involved in the show, or simply join in the sporting debate and we'll read the best comments out on air.

**LS:** Have you had much interest so far?

**JB:** It's begun slowly but we're hoping that once more people find out about us then it'll snowball and we'll have really exciting debate on the Facebook group and on the show.

**LS:** What sort of audience are you hoping to attract?

**JB:** Everybody! We want to attract people who love sport - the people who know their stuff - but, also, people who have lost touch with sport: we can get them back into it.

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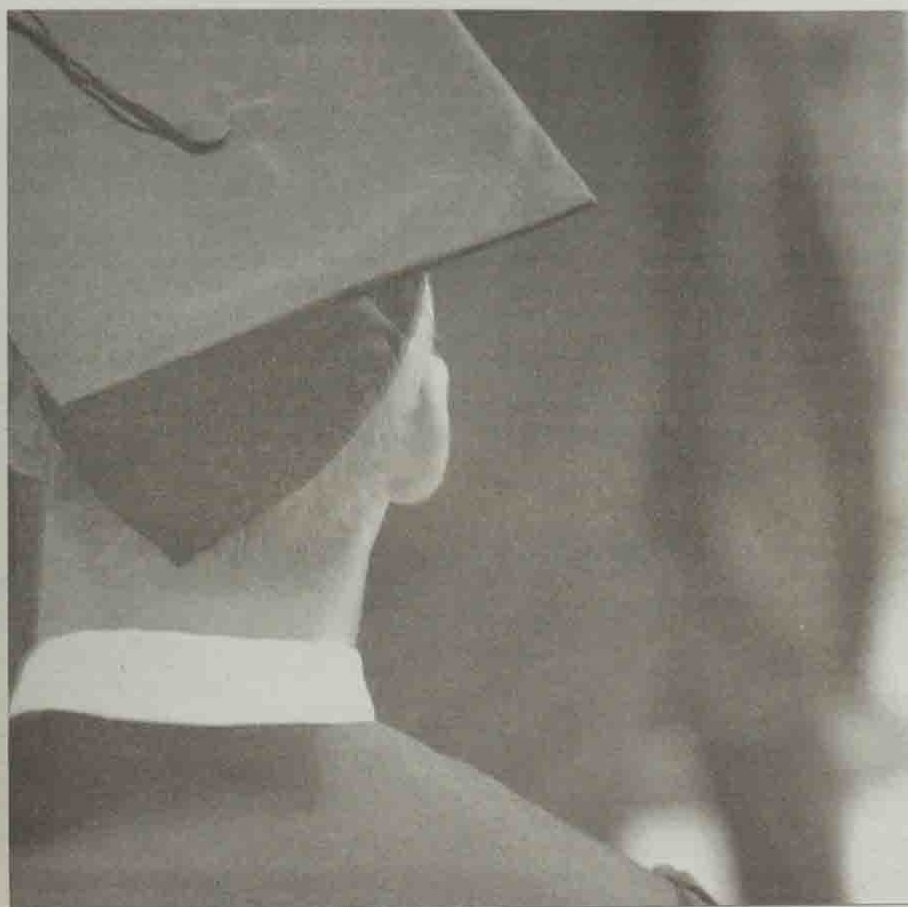
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C'M/S' Cameron McKenna



# Paying the price

Sporting feature

## With attendances dropping at many English grounds, Ky Capel finds out why

Football fans are essential to any team; without them, clubs would struggle to survive. Yet, it is the fans who appear to be the ones being treated with a distinct lack of respect. In a recent survey carried out by Football Fans Census, 88 per cent of fans think match tickets are not value for money. However, they just can't stop going.

Every weekend, hundreds of thousands of devoted supporters travel up and down the country in the hope of seeing their team pick up three invaluable points. Whether their team is riding high in the Barclays Premiership or languishing in the lower regions of Coca-Cola League Two, the sentiment, and desire, is equal.

Despite the mass amounts that clubs charge their fans to sit anxiously on the edge of their seat through 90 minutes of torture, more often than not, people are still prepared to pay the extortionate prices. Students, even. Most clubs do now

milestone of watching 1,000 consecutive Dale games. But he wasn't counting, and says that it's not just the lure of football that keeps him going through the turnstiles every week. "It's the day out every week with my mates. If you look at Rochdale, anyone in their right minds wouldn't go week in week out. But, for us, it's a social thing, completely."

Leeds United have been on a roller-coaster ride in the last several years. They reached the Champions' League semi-finals in 2001, were relegated from the Premiership in 2004, then almost got back in the top-flight in 2006, only to lose in the play-off final to Watford, and are now facing possible relegation to Coca-Cola League One.

Yet, Leeds have a strong base of dedicated fans who will never give up their season tickets, despite the prices they charge. Jonny Buchan is a final-year Broadcast Journalism student and a dedicated Leeds follower. Here's what he

nearly 30 years. I don't think I've missed anything in the last six or seven years."

So how much does Martin have to spend in order to prove his loyalty to England? "From a cost point of view, it gets a bit ridiculous at times. World Cups cost a lot of money. On an annual basis? Thousands."

A recent campaign by The Sun titled 'Cut the Price of Footie', which 33 MPs, including Prime Minister Tony Blair, have pledged their support to, has had some influence in clubs' pricing structures for next season. Football fans in top European countries like Italy, Spain, France and Germany pay much less than fans over here do.

Martin thinks English prices are crazy. "Match tickets are a joke; anything surrounding England is ridiculous. A friendly at Old Trafford will cost you 45 quid. However a few years ago, when England played Spain in a friendly in Madrid, a ticket cost £6. That's just daft."

Jan can understand why the English clubs charge as much as they do. "The draw of football is such in this country now that fans will pay anything to watch it. At lower league level, there's going to be 2,000 fans who will turn up to every home game, and they can charge what they want. Whereas, abroad, fans are obviously not turning up, so they have to charge less."

Jonny says that ticket prices in England are frustrating, particularly when you can see players like Robinho and Raul for less than Leeds United's flops. "I think the prices fans are expected to pay across the country are ridiculous. Leeds is particularly bad but it always has been, to some extent, as it's supposedly the third biggest city in the country. Up until Ken Bates came in, there had been a ticket freeze for four years, and Bates rightly had to raise them four-fold simply to keep up with the trend and inflation. I do think that Premiership prices, for lower tier football, is wrong but it seems to be more about the business than the fans now."

"However, I do think that football in England is much better than that in Italy or Spain, and definitely Germany."

Wolfgang Keinhorst is a German teacher at Leeds Metropolitan University, who himself tries to watch his hometown club as much as possible. "You can get a ticket in Bochum and stand for 10 euros, which is £7 or so. So a bit of a difference compared to over here."

The average cost to watch a Coca-Cola League Two side, like Rochdale, is £16. However, the average price of a Bundesliga game, the top flight in German football, is just £13. Does Wolfgang think, then, that English fans are being ripped off? "I think that it is not value for money here any more. The prices that you hear being quoted for a Premiership game are just horrendous. £30, £40 for just one ticket. I don't think the fans get what they deserve really."

A Birmingham City fan recently confessed he had gone £25,000 in debt and had to re-mortgage his house from following football. In light of this, could watching your favourite team every week,

### European football ticket prices

Club	Price
Coca-Cola League 2 (average)	£16
Coca-Cola League 1 (average)	£19
Coca-Cola Championship (average)	£24
Leeds United	£30
Inter Milan	£13.50
Bayern Munich	£8
Lyon	£13.50
Real Madrid	£17

home and away, be considered an addiction? I asked Stephen Wagg, a psychology professor at Leeds Metropolitan University what he thought: "Addiction is a negative word. Addictions are things that you hope people can be weaned off. On the other hand, you can use more positive words like dedication and loyalty. I think there's a balance. It's good to be loyal to a team that you're fond of, but it's bad to let this get a hold of you."

Here's what the fans think. Jonny says: "Yeah, it could definitely be an addiction. I don't think it's an addiction like alcohol or drugs because your body can cope without football but I don't think many people's brains could."

Jan holds a similar opinion: "It could be an addiction. Some people say it is a very passionate hobby. It starts to become an addiction when you go for the sake of going. As long as you get enjoyment out of it, I think it's still a hobby but, if you are going just for the sake of going, that's when you need to start thinking."

Some high-profile clubs, such as Bolton Wanderers and Blackburn Rovers who are both suffering from falling attendances, have announced that they will lower ticket prices next season. Arsenal, where the best seat in the house costs a massive £94, are to freeze ticket prices for the next campaign. A small gesture to the supporters, one would suggest, but it is a better scenario than that over the way at their fierce rivals Tottenham, who will be upping the

average cost of a season ticket by £27 next year.

What is the danger of clubs letting the prices soar too high? Bill Gerrard, Professor of Sport Management and Finance at Leeds University, says: "What would be a tragedy for the game, particularly at the top end, is if the pricing policies force the young kids away from the game. Because then you've lost a fan for life, and 50 years of consumer business from that individual."

So, could our dedicated fans ever see themselves staying in on a Saturday afternoon? Apparently not. "I know people who have stopped going. I couldn't see myself not going if I had the chance to go every week," says Jan. Jonny is of a similar voice: "I hope I will never be unable to go because of ticket prices, but you just never know."

Strong, hardcore bases of fans will continue to turn up regardless. Tottenham have the fourth-highest percentage of attendance in the Premiership. On average, they fill 98.4 per cent of White Hart Lane every week; this gives them the excuse to raise prices like they have done.

The time, though, will surely come when the clubs will have to listen to the growing concerns of the fans; otherwise, the table may turn and it will be the fans holding the clubs to ransom. Fan power must prevail, but it will take drastic action for all the clubs, even the big fish, to lower prices to what supporters want, and deserve.



**ONE MAN AND HIS SON:** If ticket prices fail to drop, will this be a sight for the future?

have a student discount in place on match, and season, tickets. However, some of the bigger clubs have yet to install such a policy. Manchester United, Arsenal, Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur show no signs of offering students a lower rate. Chelsea do, but only to students who are club members, of which a fee is required to join.

Jan Harwood, a third-year History student, is an avid Rochdale fan, and never misses a game home or away. He saw his first Dale game at the age of two, and then, when he got older, it became a natural habit to follow his hometown side.

Rochdale are currently 18th in Coca-Cola League Two, and they are celebrating their centenary year, but the club don't have much to celebrate from their 100-year history. They have never won a trophy, have been in the same league for 34 years, and have only ever achieved promotion once, back in 1968. Despite this lack of success, or even drama, Jan explains what keeps him going: "They don't win often, so you don't want to miss it when they do win."

One of Jan's fellow Rochdale followers, Nick Brierley, recently reached the astonishing, some may say foolish,

thinks of the desire to watch his home team: "They are the club I love. It's really as simple as that."

The average season ticket price at Leeds mirrors that of their fierce rivals Manchester United, who, by contrast, are top of the Premiership, in the final of the FA Cup and the semis of the Champions League. Ray Fell, Chairman of the Leeds United Supporters Club, thinks this is unfair. "The season ticket range at Elland Road certainly in the Championship is the highest, and I think it's higher than many Premiership teams. Manchester United has some prices that are lower than Leeds, so it does seem unfair."

Supporters often bemoan the vast amounts of money they have to shell out on travel costs following their local club across the country. So, then, what about England fans, who travel to the likes of Azerbaijan, America and Japan to spur the lads on? They've certainly witnessed some drama over the years, mostly in unsuccessful penalty shoot-outs.

Martin O'Hara, Yorkshire representative for England fans at the FA, has been following England for years. "I think I've been going to England games all my life, or, at least, it seems that way,



**ELLAND ROAD:** Leeds charge Premiership prices for lower end Championship football

# Bullseye

By Joe Hibbert and Leanne Wagstaff

While St Patrick's Day is usually associated with drinking copious amounts of Guinness and putting on faux-Irish accents, over four hundred keen archers, novices to those more experienced, from all over the country, convened to compete in a whole day's extravaganza.

Hosted here at Leeds University, with the help of Bradford University and Bronte archers, 33 bosses, the square straw targets

used at this level, were set up as the competitors prepared to show what they were made of.

There was a good team showing for Leeds at the novice longbow event, and individually, as Leanne Wagstaff clinched the gold medal in a tightly fought competition for novice barebow.

After a whole day of hard fought competition, Edinburgh clinched first place overall, but the Leeds team can be very proud of its performances.

## And the winner is...

All the nominations for this year's end of season awards

### Club Colours

- American Football**  
Juan Serrato Vital, Ian Wiese
- Athletics**  
Leslie Addy
- Badminton**  
Simon Canning, Charlotte Wiltshaw
- Basketball (w)**  
Nicola Snowden
- Boat**  
Alasdair Edge, Matthew Ryan, Martha Williams, Anna Wakeling
- Canoe**  
Adam Dumulo, Sara James, Gilly Turner
- Cheerleading**  
Katie Jepson
- Cricket (m)**  
Mark Ashcroft, Rupert Hartley, Thomas Merilaht
- Cricket (w)**  
Sarah-Jane Lock
- Cross Country**  
Ben Jukes
- Cycling**  
Michelle Creed, John Richardson
- Dancesport**  
Naomi Horton, Alex Pimm
- Fencing**  
Robert Walker
- MAFC**  
Luke Covey, Ben Hicks, Adam Mason, Dan McEwan, Christopher Nunn
- WAFU**  
Jane Burgess, Rebecca Mortons
- Golf**  
Lucy Barker
- Gymnastics**  
Heather Parr, Sean Malone
- Hockey (m)**  
Tom Ginty, Seb Jones, Will Rogers, Martin Stonehouse, Mark Witherow
- Hockey (w)**  
Laura Donaldson, Melissa Mercer, Eleanor Trafford, Emma Pledge
- Korfball**  
Jono McKendry
- Mountaineering**  
Sean Jacobs
- Netball**  
Rachael Jarman
- Rugby League**  
Andy Hogg, Matt Taylor
- Rugby Union (m)**  
Hugh Mitchell, Andy Zair, Andy Branthwaite
- Rugby Union (w)**  
Laura Mackay, Frances Arthur
- Sailing**  
Claire Smith, Katy Sampson, Sarah Chadwick, Timothy Barnett
- Skydiving**  
Kathryn Rybinski
- Snowriders**  
Simon Laight, Lee Randle
- Squash**  
Phil Young, Sarah Bowles
- Swimming & Water Polo**  
Daniel Lee, Tim Fletcher, Rachael Dodd
- Tennis (m)**  
Chris Wickett
- Tennis (w)**  
Stephanie Sierwald
- Trampoline**  
Nicki Forster, Helen Wilkinson, Vanessa Ellis
- Ultimate Frisbee**  
Lucy O'Hara Murray, Ben Weddel
- Volleyball**  
Gemma King, Rebecca Coward, Miriam Kay

### Full Colours

- American Football**  
Ben Barker, Luke Brafield, Danny Thompson
- Boat**  
Hannes de Reu
- Cycling**  
Ste Adshead, Tom Burnley, David Wright
- Netball**  
Danielle Bartlett
- Snowriders**  
Hannah Davies, Nicola Millington
- Ultimate Frisbee**  
Robert Wilson
- White Rose**  
Natalie Freislich - Cheerleading  
Paul Steiner - Badminton  
John Richardson - Cycling  
Serena Hannah - Fencing  
Nick O'Donoghue - Men's Football  
Wendy Voo - Women's Rugby Union  
Andrew Currie - Table Tennis
- Gryphon**  
Laura Beardsmore - Aikido  
Hugh Morgan - American Football  
Richard Yates - Athletics  
Harvey Clear - Boxing  
Lauren Griffiths - Women's Cricket  
Adam Grice - Cross Country  
Joe Symonds - Cross Country  
Mary Ferrier - Cycling  
Andy Battersby - Men's Football  
Vikki Johns - Gymnastics  
Sarah White - Women's Rugby Union  
Adam Bleakley - Table Tennis  
Stephen Denny - Table Tennis  
Steve Medley - Tenpin Bowling  
Pete Line - Ultimate Frisbee
- Roberts Trophy - Athlete of the Year**  
Joe Symonds - Cross Country  
Ashleigh Ball - Women's Hockey  
Saurav Ghosal - Men's Squash  
Sarah Bowles - Women's Squash
- Mike Brook - Contribution to Sport**  
Dave Evans - Boat  
Max Billow - Canoe
- Chris Hatton Award (most improved individual)**  
Matthew Gornall - American Football  
Harvey Clear - Boxing  
Anthony Salmon - Cycling  
Ben Weddell - Ultimate Frisbee
- Mike Brook (most improved team)**  
Women's Basketball  
Tenpin Bowling  
Women's Rugby Union  
Skydiving
- Cox-Stanley Plate (club committee of year)**  
Fencing  
Hiking  
Men's Hockey  
Women's Hockey  
Snowriders
- Deloitte Team of Year**  
Cheerleading  
Cycling  
Men's Hockey  
Women's Rugby Union  
Women's Squash

## Good week

### LUUAC



A great result in the Carnegie cup as the team beat last year's total and finished second overall.

### Man Utd & Chelsea

Two second-half goals from Rooney leave the Red Devils favourite to progress from their semi final, where they will probably meet Chelsea, who overcame a surprisingly lacklustre Liverpool side on Wednesday night.



### Kaka



Despite his side going down 3-2 at Old Trafford, the Brazilian Kaka completely outshone Cristiano Ronaldo in what was billed as the clash of the two best players in the world.

### Sri Lanka

A powerful batting display leads the side into the Cricket World Cup final at the expense of a highly rated New Zealand side.



### Watford

The first team to be officially relegated from the Premiership have now lost midfielder Damien Francis for six months due to damaged cruciate ligaments.



### Dylan Hartley

The Northampton hooker has been handed a six-month ban for eye gouging two separate players, after a third case was dropped, and his appeal looks unlikely to succeed. Not a nice sounding guy.



### Stephen Hendry

Made to work very hard to edge past rank outsider Dave Gilbert and, as yet, has not showed signs of adding to his bulging trophy cabinet at the Crucible.



### Newcastle Fans

Michael Owen has still not returned to league action, while Shola Ameobi nears full fitness. Oh dear.



## Bad week



Home on the Range: Some of the participants at the St Patrick's Day event  
Photo: Peter Slack

### Continued from Back Page

First to step up were the Leeds Uni girls. Charlotte Gaynor, Chloe Scott, Caroline Sellers and Lucie Shipley, in the 4x100m. They produced swift changeovers and come a photo-finish third, although was a tight call between them and Sheffield Hallam. The same line-up of girls then took on the challenge of the 4x400m against arch rivals Leeds Met though, sadly, were not unable to keep up with their strong team.

Next up was the men's event. After seeing the girls' solid performances, and being the defending 4x100m winners, the lads knew they had to rise to the challenge. However, the likes of the Met, who boasted Great Britain international runners, would be in close contention. Rick Yates, ranked ninth in Great Britain Senior Rankings for the 400m hurdles in '06, started well, driving the team into a strong position, handing over to Team Captain Leslie Addy who burned down the track chasing down the small advan-

tage of Sheffield Hallam.

Gabriel Akin produced a superb 3rd leg on the bend taking the team into pole position and a fluid changeover with Steve "10.7" Parsons brought the team home to victory, meaning once again that LUUAC ruled the 4x100m.

The key to their success was the fluid changeovers, which were meticulously practised in training by Head Sprint Coach Clem Bartley and, on the day, the team once again produced the goods.

The Mighty Greens took overall second with 199 points, one place better than last year with Leeds Met and Sheffield Hallam first and third, respectively.

Team Captain Leslie Addy collected the trophy, and said: "It was a beautiful day highlighted with some very impressive performances, and a superb effort from all in the team. We now have to take the momentum into BUSA Outdoor Championships where the Mighty Greens of LUUAC will be in force again."



The victorious men's 4x100m team  
Photo: Leslie Addy

We need a new Sports Editor to join our team for next year

If you're interested contact [sport@lsweb.org.uk](mailto:sport@lsweb.org.uk)

Student Sport



## SPORT THIS WEEK

- \* Ticket Prices
- \* 300 Seconds
- \* Good week and bad week

# Student Sport

Friday, April 27 2007

sport@lsweb.org.uk

# Running riot

\* **LUUAC finish second in Carnegie Cup Competition**

By Charlotte Gaynor and Leslie Addy

The Mighty Greens of LUUAC competed in the annual Carnegie Cup contest this Wednesday, pitting themselves against Leeds Met, Manchester, Sheffield Hallam, Edge Hill and Liverpool universities at the LMU Becketts Park Carnegie Track.

The team was opening its official outdoor season in Leeds after recording some respectable indoor performances over the winter. The glorious sunshine provided the right conditions for good performances, and the athletes duly obliged.

The day started well for Leeds with an emphatic win in the 3000m from talented distance runner Adam Grice, who stormed away from the field in a time of 8:54.7s,

leaving the opposition in his wake. His performance set the tone for the rest of the day, with more and more wins being produced.

Mary Ferrier won both the gruelling 3000m and, later on, the 1500m for Leeds. The day was largely about performances and versatility in events providing points for the University. Rick Yates, Becca Flower, Amy Alard, Gary Bartlett and others all performed admirably in a number of field events, recording personal bests.

Jumps extraordinaire Gabriel Akin showed an enduring display of power as he ran between the high and triple jumps coming first and second respectively. His unique high-jump technique left competitors and spectators alike in awe.

The eagerly awaited sprints were expected to provide a great spectacle due to

the talents of the representative university athletes, and they were not disappointed. Newcomer to the team Steve Parsons showed raw talent as he powered down the straight in a time of 10.7 seconds for the 100m. Heptathlete Lucie Shipley ran riot as she competed in a series of events including the shot and javelin. Solid performances by the team, especially the efforts of the women sprinters: Chloe Scott, Charlotte Gaynor and Caroline Sellers meant that the team were climbing into a good position.

The relays were keenly fought, with all teams out to grasp the precious double points. Much was expected of the LUUAC men's team as they had won the relay the previous year, and were not planning to lose it.

• Continued on Pg 47



Leslie Addy collects the Trophy as LUUAC finish second on Wednesday

PHOTO: Leslie Addy

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