

Leeds: Crime City?
Are students unfair
victims of crime?



LS1, pg. 9

Norman Jay
LS2 interviews
rave legend



LS2, pg. 32

BUSA kicks off
University sport
begins nationwide



Sport, pg. 44

The Leeds Student Newspaper

Friday, October 19, 2007

volume:38 issue:4

LSH boss defiant

Aitkens rages against court threat: "I've done nothing wrong"

by
Jessica Geen

Leeds Student Homes boss Rory Aitkens has warned former tenants that none of them will receive their full deposits back - and at least 200 will receive nothing.

Mr Aitkens has been expelled from the Unipol Code of Standards scheme, but the housing charity has no further powers to make him pay out. Affected students are now gearing up to take their cases to court.

He told Leeds Student that he does not believe this will happen. He said: "If this is going to court, I have to have done something seriously wrong. It's not a criminal offence to return deposits late. I haven't committed any offence so I'm not going to end up in court."

Mr Aitkens has devised a computer program to calculate how much his tenants will receive after deductions for repairs, missed rent, administrative costs and unpaid bills. None of his old tenants will receive their entire deposit back, and at least 200 people will not get a penny. He said: "I probably owe deposits to around 500 people. But I'd like to meet some tenants who haven't caused any damage or owe me money. None of the houses were left in perfect condition."

He added: "I admit I have been late with deposits, I'm sorry and I'm rectifying this. But now people are jumping on the bandwagon, saying I owe them their deposits when they haven't paid their rent."

"I know that people will protest and call me an evil man, but I have inspected the properties for damage. If I had lied about the deductions from the deposits, that would be wrong. But I haven't done that. If there is

money actually owed, I will return it."

The Unipol tribunal heard that Mr Aitkens estimated he had taken around £200,000 in deposits from tenants of around 200 properties. At the time of the tribunal, held on Thursday, October 11, he eventually admitted that only 15 tenants had received their money back, despite first claiming he had returned 90 per cent of the deposits owed.

Third year Psychology student Ellie Brett received a letter from Mr Aitkens last Thursday. She said: "The letter said that he was deducting £200 from our £250 deposits because of damage to the house. He didn't provide a breakdown of the costs. That's a total of £1200. There was nothing wrong with the house. I'm hiring a lawyer now, because it's a lot of money."

When Leeds Student spoke to Ellie's landlord, he expressed surprise and stated that he had no knowledge of any remedial work required on the house.

Mr Aitkens insisted he was sending itemised breakdowns of costs out to all former tenants and said he had no problem with doing so.

Alex Mills, an English and Philosophy graduate, also received a letter stating that his deposit was being withheld due to one or more of his housemates owing money to Leeds Student Homes. He said: "We've paid all of the rents and bills. He was far too vague. I know we're not going to get our money back without a fight."

Mr Aitkens said that he had decided to be more thorough this year when inspecting properties, to make it "fairer" for new tenants. He admitted that he had charged some tenants £3 to rehang their curtains, claiming that he had an obligation to ensure that the houses were in good order.

Story continued on page 2.



BUDDHING ARTISTS: The sand mandala being destroyed in the Parkinson Building last week by exiled Tibetan monks. After several days of creation, the mandala's destruction symbolises the key Buddhist concept of the impermanence of life.

Photo: Ken Manson



Sketch

By James Haddon

Okay, hands up all those who voted in the Union Council By-elections. Right - now put your hand up if you know what the Union Council actually is. For those who somehow lack the ability to visualise this satiric display of contempt, let me make it easier for you: in response to question one, fifty of you raised your hands; in response to question two, six.

In case the monumental institution of democracy passed you by this week, you just missed out on your chance to elect five people you've never met to five positions you don't quite understand. The candidates have been on top form, preparing well for the world of real politics by promising things that they

can't actually provide. Highlights from this year's manifestoes included pledges for candidates to "heighten you[r] senses to experience the delights of the unknown, the brand new, and the not yet conquered" and the promise to single-handedly vanquish the forces of discrimination. Now that's political action we can all get behind! In the sense that it's arse.

Now, I know I'm frequently the victim of charges of cynicism, but I think it's fairly clear that asking students to try and choose candidates based on this sort of make-believe dream-politics isn't going to achieve a full-hearted response. Promising that you're going to cure world hunger, stamp out disease and persuade the BBC to run a new series of Fawlty Towers is not going to persuade 33,000 stu-

dents that you're worth voting for. Maybe, if you're lucky, it'll persuade people you're worth pitying. But probably not.

While by-elections have a history of below-average turn-out, I think this year has made a sharp move in the right direction - much like the knife of democracy slipping under the ribcage in order to get easy access to the beating heart of the student population. This year has seen more candidates than ever before, and with this many people standing it can be a fair bet that - if they all remember - there should be the same number of people voting.

Democracy 1, the World 0.

Illustration: Mark Mackay



Reader of the week

Aitken's defiance

(Continued from front page)

ensure that the houses were in good order.

Simon Kemp, Unipol Code of Standards administrator, said: "Mr Aitkens would be expected to provide a written statement of the breakdown of damage costs. That he hasn't is regarded as inadequate.

"Unless the dispute occurs over contractual agreements, such as payment of bills and rent, the question mark is when he actually inspected the properties for damage. We've had reports from tenants that he was carrying out the inspections in August and September - a couple of months after new tenants moved in.

"We're carrying out a detailed investigation and we want to advise tenants of the best way to get their money back. Ultimately, this is going to end up in court."

Former tenants are being urged to collect as much evidence as they can to support their cases. A meeting for Leeds University students with LLU housing specialist

Andrea Kerslake will be held on Wednesday, November 2 at 5pm in the Union.

Andrea said: "We have received legal advice on how to proceed. There will be an investigation into the finances of Leeds Student Homes. We are asking the students affected to bring in any correspondence they've had from Rory Aitkens and their landlords. We will go through individual cases to see if they are strong enough to take to court. We plan to take a selection of the strongest cases to court to see if they will be successful."

Mr Aitkens sought to clarify his links with YourStudentHome.com, contradicting his comments to Leeds Student last week. He claimed that he only provides the company with computer system support. He also owns a number of student houses which are managed by YourStudentHome.com, although he would not confirm how many.



Jon Housier 2007

Contents

News

The Big Debate

LS Extra

Comment

LS Chat

LS2

Sport

2-7

8

9-13

14-15

16

17

43

LS1. Editor - Charlotte Griffiths / Associate Editors - James Haddon Gardiner, Matt Andrews, Laurie Whitwell / News - Chris Stevenson, Jessica Geen and Laura Mackenzie / Extra - Vivien King Macdona, Jessica Parker & Paul Raymond / Comment - Maryam Ahmad & Virginia Newman / Sport - Owen Bradley, Ahran Symonds-Baig, Joe Hibbert / Photos - John Puddephatt & Maria Garbutt-Lucero / Onion - Bhaji Biketaiger / Advertising assistant - Kate Bevan / Advert design - Rebecca Edlin / Copy editors - Clare Morley, Elen Paine, Tracy Towner / Designer - Jessica Midden / Staff Co-ordinator - Christine Cooper
Leeds Student Newspaper, Leeds University Union, PO Box 157, Leeds, LS1 1UH; (0113) 3801 450; editor@lsweb.org.uk
To advertise: email k.e.bevan@leeds.ac.uk

Jim fixes it for Leeds medics

by Edward Cave

Leeds-born DJ and TV veteran, Jimmy Saville, has made a generous pledge of £48,000 to the Leeds Undergraduate Research enterprise (LURE).

Having already helped four high achieving medical students towards careers combining medical research, teaching and practice, this further donation is intended to continue the good work being done by LURE.

This month, Sir Jimmy met the four students who have benefited from his previous donation. Impressed by the students' hard work and progress, he has now ensured future scholarships at the University of Leeds, which are to be allocated in the spring.

UK medical graduates who want to pursue a career in the interdisciplinary field of clinical academic medicine are hard to find. University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Arthur, said: "We need talented medical graduates to combine their clinical work with research and teaching, so they can pass on their knowledge and experience to future generations of doctors. I am very grateful to Sir Jimmy, and we both hope others will follow suit."

The four 'Saville Scholars', Junaid Azam, Peter Mackley, Lakshmanan Arunachalam and

Dhakshana Sivayoganathan, have been working hard over the summer under the supervision of LURE's leading developers, Professor Shervanthi Homer-Vanniasinkam and Dr. Karen Lee, both of the Leeds University School of Medicine, to fulfil Professor Arthur's wishes and justify Sir Jimmy's investment.

Peter Mackley said: "I am really excited about the possibilities this research offers to reduce the risk of adverse consequences from surgery and improve the quality of life of patients."

Junaid Azam, who conducted research into cardiovascular function of vascular surgery patients under Professor Homer-Vanniasinkam's supervision, said: "Jimmy's sponsorship has helped me to think about how patients experience surgery and to understand its effects on the whole body. The varied LURE activities are providing me with the skills to become a good academic surgeon."

Sir Jimmy was himself awarded an honorary doctorate of laws in 1986 from the University of Leeds, and in 2005 he donated £40,000 towards research into MRSÄ at the University of Manchester. He has led an actively charitable life, running numerous marathons and raising millions of pounds during his 80 years. He also volunteers one day a week at the Leeds General Infirmary but his continued support for LURE is proving to be some of his most generous communitarian work to date.



GENEROUS: Sir Saville's donations will benefit undergraduate research in the field of medicine. image: www.bbc.co.uk

The hunger to succeed

by Daniel Bridge

Leeds University student, Huw Beynon, is currently in the lead in an internet competition to win computer equipment for your union.

The Kit Your Uni competition, run by Intel, invites students to perform party tricks in front of a camera, with the videos being posted on the internet to be voted for by the public.

Huw's party trick puts the old regulars of burping the alphabet or shooting milk out of your nose, to shame. In an astonishing display of dexterity and co-ordination, Huw juggles whilst eating an apple. He submitted his video entry at the Intel stand during the Freshers' Fair.

Huw, a first year Broadcasting student, said: "I was harassed by the women on the Intel stand to do something so I went to the Union and bought an apple. It actually cost me 50p to enter."

When asked where he had learnt the trick, he said: "One day I was juggling and felt a bit hungry, so I tried to see if I could try both." He developed the act as part of his performance and comedy work.

An Intel spokesperson said: "We are delighted that three students from Leeds have been selected in the Intel Kit Your Uni competition with their hilarious party trick videos. They are now going head to head

with finalists from the other UK universities to be in with a chance of winning."

The prize for receiving the most votes is for the winner's Union common room to be kitted out with the latest Intel-powered products.

Currently, Huw's video has received 171 votes on KitYourUni.com. This places him far in the lead with his closest competitor having only 45 votes.

the Knowledge

Students can vote for Huw and submit their own entries by visiting: www.kityouruni.com

The website allows you to watch Huw in action as well as view the video entries from all competitors.



AN APPLE A DAY: Huw's party piece has gained him top place in the Intel competition image: John Puddephatt

Music to LSFRM's ears

by Chris Leslie

Leeds Student Radio are celebrating after having been nominated for a total of eight nominations in the 2007 Student Radio Awards.

Two of the eight nominations went to Rob Daly and Maddie Lown for their weekly news programs, Newslink weekly and Newslink Big 25. Neil Kingston was nominated twice for Best Newcomer and Best Interview. Jimmy Smallwood was also nominated for Best Interview.

Faye Lyons - White was nominated for Best Female, while Greg Hughes and Ben McGrail will be competing against each other for the Best Male award.

Richard Andrews, LSFRM's station manager, spoke on behalf of all of the LSR team. He said: "We're thrilled to have been nominated for eight awards across so many categories and we're especially pleased to be up for two awards for journalistic programming - a credit to our news team!"

The awards are hosted by Radio 1, and this year Jo Whitey takes over from Steve Lamacq as the new Chairperson. The winner, and first and second runners-up in each category, are decided by a second round of judging, undertaken by a new set of judges. The results will be announced at the Student Radio Awards on the 15th November.

The results of the competition will be announced on the 15th November, you can listen to LSFRM at www.lsrfm.com.



LSFRM: takes Radio Awards by storm
Photo: Ali Hung

Japanese crisis

A £2.5m cash injection has raised hopes that the UK funding crisis for Japanese studies can be averted.

Staff at Leeds believe that their share of the extra money will ease the strain brought on by an increasing demand for the subject. Last year applications for Japanese jumped by 40.9 per cent nationwide. Head of Modern Languages at Leeds, Mark Williams, regrets having to turn away many good students. With 10,000 children currently studying Japanese in UK schools, demand looks set to increase.

Japanese finalist Chris O'Reilly believes that interest has grown due to Britain's greater exposure to Japanese pop-culture, which comes in the form of recent films like Kill Bill. Others are drawn by different aspects of Japan's culture including Manga, literature, and martial arts. Many are lured by the wealth of job opportunities provided by Japan, which boasts the world's second largest economy. "Although this may be the century of China" explains Professor Williams, "Japan will be a very important part of that".

Despite increased demand, cutbacks to Japanese have been made in many British universities. It was sayonara for East Asian Studies at Durham, which controversially closed down its department in 2003. Universities struggle to provide Japanese due to the relatively high number of contact hours which make it relatively expensive to teach. Leeds is to receive £0.25m of the £2.5m made available by private funding institutions. This money will be used to employ a fulltime member of staff, to begin in January. Professor Williams hopes this will help solve understaffing difficulties currently facing the department.

Whether this additional lectureship will allow increased student quotas for Japanese is yet to be seen, and will depend on whether new centres planned for Bristol and Manchester can "take up the slack."

Climate chaos cafe Payback

by John Puddephatt

The Climate Chaos Cafe returns this month with a series of fortnightly events to promote discussion and encourage action on both local and global green issues.

Hosted in the Common Place in Leeds City Centre, the Climate Chaos Cafe aims to bring together like-minded people for guest speakers, conversation, food and drink.

Regulars to the Common Place may be aware of the various roles it aims to fulfil within the city, and the Climate Chaos Cafe endeavours to add to this.

As an independently run co-operative, the building acts as a community space and vegan cafe during the day, but is also used to host gigs and film nights on a regular basis.

Climate change is top of the agenda, and the organisers believe in sharing knowledge in an open and comfortable environment rather than relying on experts. In this way they hope to bridge the gap between "a few people understanding and most of us gripping the causes and implications of climate change".

Evening events will start from the 24th October, with the first evening covering the topic of tackling disinformation. Following topics will include, building zero-carbon houses, capitalism and climate change.

As a collaboratively run venture, new visitors are always warmly welcomed, and not only as customers: volunteers to help set up, cook and clean up are all always needed.

upcoming events

24/10-Foolproof argument to defeat the sceptics (tackling disinformation)

7/11-How do we build zero carbon houses?

21/11-Why is the camp for climate change different? -discussion on capitalism and climate change

5/12-Climate change and migration-a discussion with Leeds No Borders

19/12-Transition town

by Laura Mackenzie

The Student Loans Company have replaced their freephone helpline and students who require assistance with their loans and applications will now be charged.

The SLC's 0800 service ceased to be available on Monday 8th October due to escalating telephone costs. The customer subsidy has been reduced by 50 per cent and customers must now cover half the cost of the call.

A spokesperson for the Company maintained that they did not regret the decision. They said: "We are still providing our customers with a subsidy, something which most public service call centres do not do."

The Company are trying to remove the need for phone calls altogether by providing as much information as possible on their website.

The spokesperson added: "We hope, eventually, to extend our web-chat facility to customers who are not covered by Student Finance Direct."

The new telephone number for students to call is 0845 026 2019. Alternatively they can call the normal Student Finance Direct number 0845 607 7577 or contact www.studentsupportdirect.co.uk for the opportunity to e-mail via the web chat service when available, or go on line to view their own account status.

Countdown comes to Leeds University

Countdown, the cult TV quiz show hosted by Des O'Connor and Carol Vorderman, is coming to Leeds University to search for new contestants.

The Channel 4 show, recorded at Yorkshire Television Studios in Leeds, wants to hear from anyone who thinks they may have what it takes to be a Countdown champion.

Applicants will be invited to an audition in Leeds where they will pit their wits against the clock with both letters and number challenges.

The show's producers hope to hold the auditions on Leeds University campus.

For an application form, e-mail countdown@channel4.com, stating 'Leeds Uni Application'.

Subsidies cut

Students undertaking their second undergraduate degrees could be faced with paying fees equivalent to those of overseas students.

The Government has announced that funding, paid directly to universities, may eventually be removed for anyone studying for an undergraduate degree after already completing a Ba/BSc.

Universities may have to charge these students the full cost of their courses.



A fascination with intoxication

by Michael Bird

The production and consumption of intoxicants in the 16th and 17th centuries is soon to become the subject of a major study at the University of Leeds.

Dr Phil Withington of the School of History has been provided with a three year research fellowship from the Economic and Social Research Council to complete the study, which aims to provide a historical perspective on current issues such as anti-social behaviour and drunkenness.

Research will include alcohol, tobacco, tea, coffee, and opium, among other intoxicating substances.

The study will be comprised of three parts: a book to be entitled 'England 1500-1700: An Early Modern Society?'; research articles concerning intoxicants and their impact on early modern society; and websites, seminars and conferences which will provide a forum for the discussion of intoxicants from many perspectives.

When asked about the role of intoxicants in early modernity, Dr Withington said: "The research will not only look at their centrality to many different kinds of sociability, but also the economics of their production and trade, their representation in various kind of media, and the politics surrounding them."

He will also be looking at the association between medical attitudes and the use of intoxicants in society. For example, many

drugs such as opium and cocaine which have now been illegalised, could be bought over the counter for medicinal purposes until 1916.

In the context of student life, intoxicants are seen as a central part of sociability. The rise of 'booze culture' in recent years, with people often defining themselves by their alcohol consumption or their favourite place to drink, has caused much concern over health.

Claire Preston a second year History student, said: "Students spend too much money on drink, it's a shame people can't seem to have a good time without getting wasted."

The increase in anti-social behaviour has also been blamed on a nation obsessed with getting drunk and it is hoped that this research will help academics to better appreciate and understand our modern fixation with intoxicants, whilst providing us with a fresh historical perspective on the situation.

Dr Withington added: "There will be workshops and conferences involving academics from different disciplines and people involved in policy."

"Hopefully this will allow some influence on attitudes and decisions."



BOOZE: blame the past
Photo: Anthony Zupnik

Mugging in Woodhouse

by Laura Mackenzie

Three students from the University of Leeds were mugged last Saturday in Holborn Green.

The three girls were walking through Holborn Green in Woodhouse at 11 pm when they were suddenly surrounded by four boys. The victims were targeted individually with the muggers stealing bags, iPods, and mobile phones.

Elizabeth Judd, a second year English student, had her bag cut from her arm and then stolen. She said: "I know everyone says this but you never think it will happen to you. We used to walk that way all the time and thought we were safe at in a group of three. We're always really safety conscious."

Elizabeth no longer walks through Holborn Green and now travels on the Nightbus if going home at night. She added: "I'm not happy walking home on my own now, it's made me really jumpy."

The girls were visited by police the next day and told that the area is a hotspot for muggings. Inspector Coldwell from Bellevue Police station in Hyde Park, said: "On this occasion the victims had had a drink and while there's nothing wrong with this it can make you more vulnerable when walking home late at night."

"Students should also remember to stick to the main roads at night rather than take short-cuts, and to avoid advertising their mobiles and iPods."

Know what you want?

We do... we want hard working, down to earth graduates who have the drive and motivation to learn and succeed.

Management Trainees – Sales Logistics or Purchasing c.22k

Bunzl is an FTSE 250 international value added distribution and outsourcing group supplying non-food consumable products to other businesses with sales of over £3 billion in 21 countries. We have a simple mission, Buy well, Sell well and Distribute well.

The graduate training scheme is a 2 year programme with modular training which will develop technical and managerial skills and commercial aptitude. Following your induction immersing you into all elements of the business, you will be placed in a real role with particular emphasis on Sales, Logistics or Purchasing.

Career prospects are excellent with opportunities to progress to director level in your chosen function or to move into general management through running your own branch.

To apply you should have gained or be expecting an upper second class honours degree in any discipline. In addition, you will have the drive and determination to succeed as well as the motivation to learn. You will have a full driving licence, be flexible on location within the UK and Ireland, and have the ability to work effectively as part of a team. Applicants must be eligible to work in the UK.

For further details visit our website on www.bunzl.com
To apply forward your CV and covering letter to: bunzl@buckingham-psnl.demon.co.uk



'Homophobia is gay' campaign kicks off

by Natasha Evans

On the day Sir Ming Campbell stepped down as leader of the Liberal Democrats, his Chief of Staff, Ed Davey, paid a visit to Old Bar for a Question Time-style debate.

The event was organised by LUU Liberal Democrat Society, and an impressive turnout in the Old Bar on October 15, meant that a cross-section of the Student Body was present.

The floor was opened to provide anyone with the chance to ask a question of Ed Davey, leading to an hour of topical debate. Everything from issues of the day, such as the environment and who would win an election if called were debated. Mr Davey was also keen to discuss issues that applied to students in particular, such as top up fees and how politics can appeal to students and young people in general.

Tom Johnson, a second year Politics student, attended the event. He said: "Ed Davey is a great speaker, he's on the same level as his audience—

and he doesn't shy away from arguments."

His visit was used to launch the Liberal Democrat campaign 'Help Stop Homophobic Bullying' in Leeds. Several members of the Liberal Democrat Society joined Mr Davey on the Parkinson steps to officially launch their part of the campaign, unveiling posters revealing the catchphrase "Homophobia is Gay."

Mr Davey said: "I am delighted to see LUU has such an active Lib Dem society. It is vital that students think and debate politics. University is a time to open your mind to all sorts of ideas. In my humble view politics should be part of that."

Speaking about the event and the launch of the campaign, Rowena Skinner, Secretary of the POLIS Society, said: "It was really lively and enjoyable, with a really good turnout. It was a really positive way to launch the campaign."

LUU Lib Dem vice-president Jamie Saddler said: "This is a great campaign and we are delighted that Ed has come to Leeds not only to help us launch it, but also to engage in a frank and wide-ranging debate with students."

Of the campaign, Saddler said: "Over the next few weeks and months, our campaign will be seek-

ing to challenge the status-quo and highlight this issue with a program of events including a fund-raising social for charity, inviting more speakers, and of course persuading as many people as possible to sign our petition."

The campaign looks set for success, with support being demonstrated at this year's Preshers Fair. Saddler said: "Over 2,000 badges distributed, and countless more people signing the 'Stop Homophobic Bullying' petition, the campaign is already off to a fantastic start."

The most exciting aspect of the day for Leeds University was being indirectly involved in a national news story. Davey, Chief of Staff to Lib Dem Leader Sir Menzies Campbell, was present and performing his duties in Leeds at the time of his leader's resignation.

Saddler stated: "Considering the circumstances unfolding around him, Ed Davey was calm under fire, and performed superbly during his visit to the University."

"It was a surreal experience for us to be so close to a man who was at the centre of the unfolding events, and for us to see elements of that firsthand."

Police neglect

The sister of a man who died in police custody gave a talk at Leeds University last Tuesday calling for greater awareness of and action to prevent similar occurrences.

Janet Alder, the sister of Falklands veteran Christopher, criticised the failure of the British legal system to bring justice for her family.

She said: "Nothing has been done by the police about deaths in custody; it's all still going on."

Christopher Alder died in a Hull police station in 1998, after having been removed from a hospital without treatment in connection with a fight in a nightclub. He was lying on the floor for 11 minutes in the presence of several police officers, who were later accused by a police watchdog of "the most serious neglect of duty".

Janet Alder claims that the police officers in question have still not sufficiently been held to account: "This is important; it's a basic human right that all of us get justice."

Five of the police officers were cleared of manslaughter and misconduct in 2002 and Mr. Alder's case is now being taken to the European Court of Human Rights.

Between 1969 and 1999 over one thousand people died in police custody in England, and to date no police officer has been convicted for any of these deaths.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Exiled Tibetan monks in the process of completing an important and intricate Buddhist ritual. The six monks created an elaborate picture named a 'Sand Mandala' in the Parkinson Court. Mandala translates as 'house' or 'palace' Made and is created from complex patterns of coloured sand, the Mandala is scripted by the monks in an complex geometric pattern based on ancient scriptures with traditional tools. The finished piece was destroyed in the closing ceremony at three pm on Friday 12th October. This systematic destruction is an act that symbolises the key Buddhist concept of the impermanent nature of life. The monks come from the Drepung Gomang monastery in south India, which was built following the Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1950



Degree inflation

by Ruth Skitt

A recent study has shown a noticeable increase in top degrees awarded to students.

Mantz Yorke's book, 'Grading Student Achievement in Higher Education: Signals and Shortcomings', shows evidence of this degree inflation. The increase seems to be growing fastest in the Russell Group Universities, of which Leeds University is a member.

Yorke's discoveries are to be examined by an official report next week. The examination will bring many topics to discussion and raise concern over the higher education system.

Many argue that top universities are lowering their standards for top degrees say that a change is needed in the way degrees are taught. Final marks are now more heavily based on course work from throughout the academic year, and less on marks of final exams. This arguably makes it easier to achieve higher grades.

Yorke's evidence is based mainly on the Russell Group Universities. It suggests that the increase of top marks being awarded could be due to many factors. He argues: "With the trend towards better A-level grades, those accepted into universities are better qualified than ever before the theory of the tall poppy syndrome may be having an impact." The theory states that when put together, the academically gifted thrive.

The analysis also backs the argument that there is a strong correlation between entry qualifications and degree results. Wendy Platt, director of the Russell Group, agrees with this argument. She said: "All Russell Group Universities maintain a strict watch on standards, with rigorous checks in place using expert external examiners."

However, the increase is worrying government ministers who are as anxious about changes in degree inflation as they are about A-level and GCSE results. Recent government statistics show that the number of first class degrees awarded has increased by 3.7 per cent since 1997, provoking speculation about university marking systems.

UN birthday party

The United Nations Association is to host a 'birthday party' for the 62nd anniversary of the United Nations.

The event invites students to come along and discuss the negative aspects of the organisations and encourages frank discussion about its future.

UNA member, Joe Barnsley, a second-year Politics and Parliamentary Studies student, explained why they are employing such uncelebratory tactics. He said: "The UN is all about creating debate and dialogue between nations, so it would be hypocritical to celebrate our birthday by pretending we're perfect."

"Instead, we've got an interactive exhibition where all the visitors will be asked to add what they think about the UN and what it should be doing. That way, the display gets bigger as the day goes on to show that for all the things the UN has achieved, it's all about the future and what still needs to be done."

Those without a view can still take part however. There will be prizes on offer for anyone who can crack the birthday quiz. Joe added: "We are also hoping to screen Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon's first speech, which would definitely provoke some opinions."

Everyone who contributes an opinion will also see it put inside a UN balloon, which will then be released at the end of the day from the Parkinson Steps. When asked whether or not this would cause environmental damage, Joe said: "We're not inflating them too much to ensure they land nearby and don't cause any problems...the UNA takes climate change very seriously."

The birthday party is due to take place in Parkinson Court on Wednesday and all students are welcome.

To find out more about the work of the UNA, students can join its Facebook group: United Nations Association -University of Leeds.

300 seconds with: Akram Salhab

**Akram Salhab,
Palestinian Solidarity
Group (PSG) Secretary.**

LS: Hello Akram. What exactly is the purpose of PSG?

AS: We have a very simple mission statement: to support the determination of Palestinian people in the Middle East.

LS: Could you tell us a bit about the campaign which PSG has been running on campus this week?

AS: It's a campaign against the destruction of the environment in Palestine. Since 2001 there has been an ongoing problem of Israel up-rooting trees in Palestine. We've been raising funds outside the Union for the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature who aim to plant one million trees in the region, and have also been promoting a talk which is taking place next week called *Israel and the Destruction of the Environment*.

LS: So why is this up-rooting such a problem...

AS: If it was happening in Britain there would be the problems of the environment and 'oh, the streets don't look so pretty now', but in Palestine it's having far bigger implica-

tions. Many of the trees produce olives and lemons and so Israel's actions are destroying the livelihoods of many of the Palestinian people.

“The ‘I word’ always manages to spark controversy between PSG and J Soc...

LS: We heard the campaign caused a bit of a ruckus outside the Union?

AS: Well some members of *J Soc* got pretty angry because we'd used the word 'Israel' on our banners and leaflets. They felt that some students would pick up the leaflets without going to the talk, and misinterpret the campaign to mean that Israel is destroying their own environment. The 'I word' always manages to spark controversy between *PSG* and *J Soc* on campus.

LS: I heard that some of the members of *J*

Soc got a bit naked?

AS: Yeah, they tried to attract attention and create an opposing demonstration by wearing little clothing and decorating themselves with green paint and leaves. It seemed to just attract more attention to our campaign though. When we were setting up in the morning I noticed some people hanging around and looking shifty but thought I was just being paranoid!

LS: Did you realise that the campaign would cause such a fuss?

AS: We deliberately chose a campaign that we thought everyone on campus would agree with, I can't understand how anyone can argue against it. To me it seems ridiculous that anyone could misinterpret our message. It's sad that it's got to the point where the first thing you have to consider when organising a campaign is, 'how much trouble will it cause?'

LS: There seems to be a lot of conflict between the two societies...

AS: I'm really for co-operation on campus and we weren't trying to attack the *Jewish Society* in any way. It just seems to have turned into a situation where they counter anything we do. Student politics on campus has very much turned into tit-for-tat.



LS: So has this altered your view of campaigning on campus; would it ever stop you?
AS: Definitely not. I don't believe in stopping doing something if it's right.

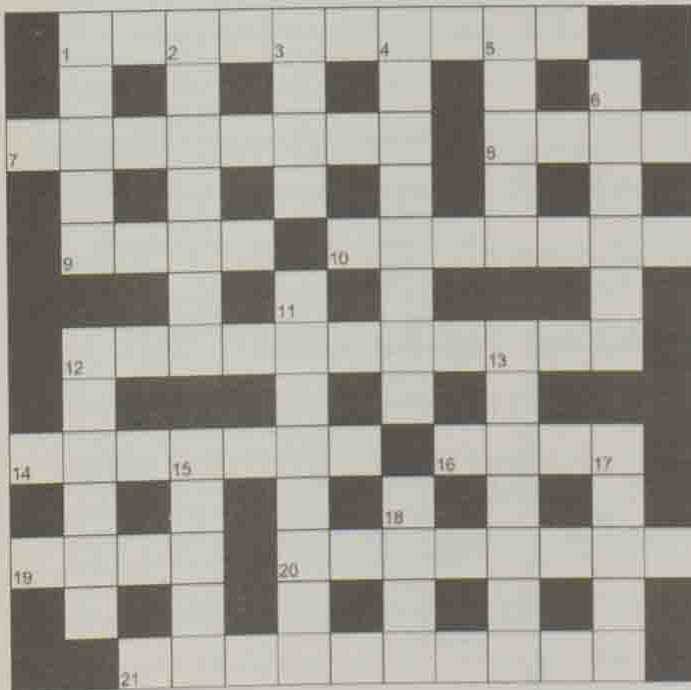
Israel and the Destruction of the Environment is taking place in Conference Auditorium 2 at 6pm on Monday 22nd October.

“Student politics on campus has very much turned into tit-for-tat.

LS Break time...

Welcome to LS's weekly procrastination station. We know that as the term progresses work builds up, therefore we know you need something to take your mind off the endless lectures, essay deadlines, library sessions and additional seminars. Check out our new crossword feature below. Five lucky winners will receive a copy of the Study Skills handbook. Just send your completed crossword to the Leeds Student office, upstairs in the Union building. Good luck!

Concise Crossword #1 by Phaedrus

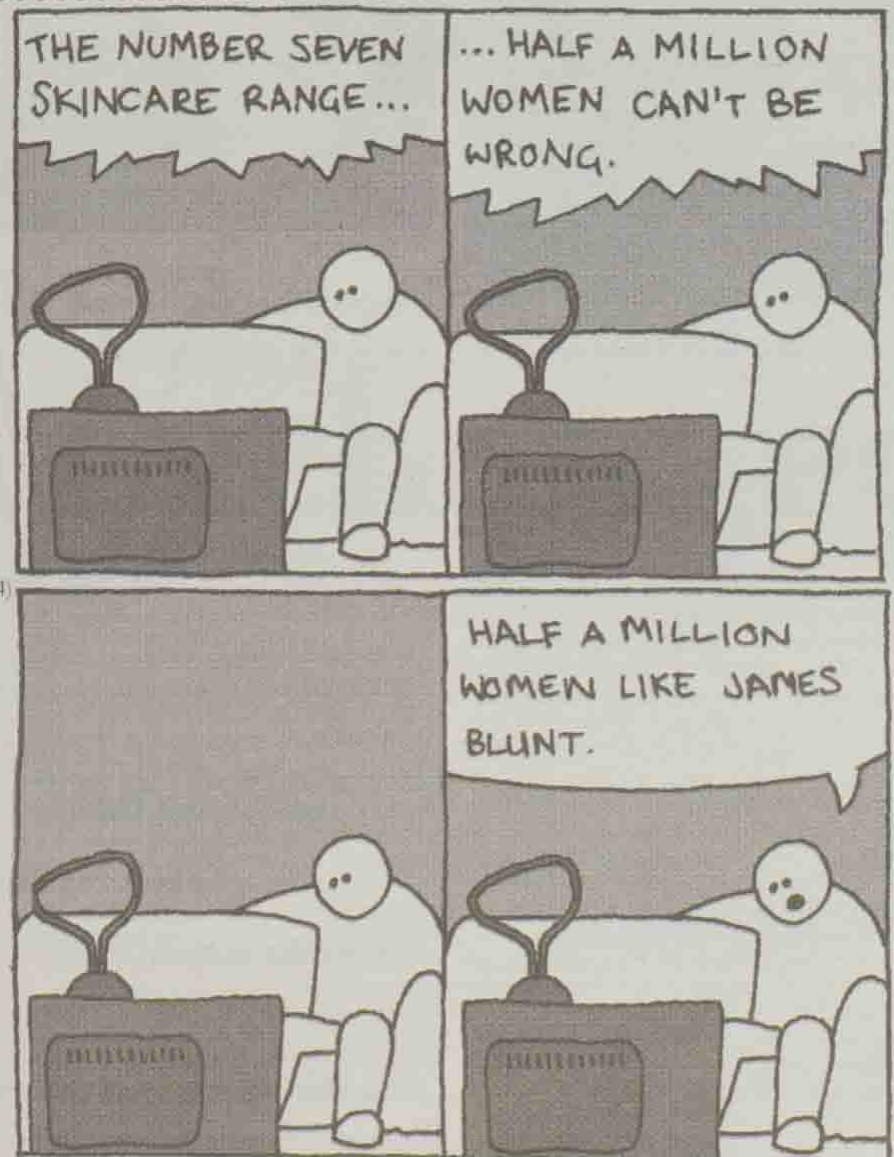


Across

- 1 Shiny - thoughtful (10)
- 7 Thrifty (8)
- 8 Unit of electromotive force (4)
- 9 One Earth revolution around Sun (4)
- 10 Waterproof pouch (7)
- 12 Tallest known mountain (7,4)
- 14 Attendant (7)
- 16 Italy's old capital (4)
- 19 Manual recoil (4)
- 20 Alight (8)
- 21 With distinguished elegance (10)

Down

- 1 Boxer - mountainous (5)
- 2 Unrealistic or improbable (7)
- 3 Trees (lining streets perhaps) (4)
- 4 Lacking discretion (8)
- 5 Clear (dream) (5)
- 6 Secretes vital fluid (6)
- 11 Occurring irregularly (8)
- 12 Surpass intellectually (6)



Jon Horner 2007



The Big Debate

the big debate:

Facebook Freedom or Farce?

Universities and employers have started to regulate Facebook. As a result action can now be taken if material on the site is considered offensive. This week's debate asks: 'Should Facebook content be monitored?'

For Facebook freedom...

Ben J Puddle email: jho6bp@leeds.ac.uk

We live in an age of over sensitivity where the slightest slur could leave you in a slanderous situation; political correctness leaves you calling the coffee dark. But I say, 'I like coffee like my women...' In short: we are a bunch of wet blankets.

'You can't call us that', I hear you cry. 'How would you like it if we talked about you like that?' I wouldn't give a toss. What we should be asking ourselves is why we afford small-minded individuals the attention they clearly don't deserve? Actually, you'd better not answer that! But if you do, why not start a Facebook group?

You needn't take offence to the ill thought out remarks of imbeciles. These fiends have too much spare time and they waste it starting groups on Facebook. Let's not worry about groups joined by a few fantasists who need to get out more. Why read or care what they think? They are just a bunch of losers who spend most of their time on a computer.

We all like to use Facebook for useful purposes like sending gifts or stalking ex's. Instead, why don't we go out clubbing, buy your ex's best friend a drink and then take them home in a cab. That really would hurt like a book slap to the face.

The reality is Facebook is not reality. In reality if you don't like a particular group or person and you had better places to spend your time it is more than probable that you would chose to go somewhere else. You don't bother yourself with unwanted hassles. In Facebook if you don't like a particular group or person: reject and block.

You can't help but look at a group because you are invited! If every time a member of the Church of Jesus or whatever knocked at your door and you attended the meeting to see what it was like you a) would have wasted your time b) need to learn to say no c) stop answering the door to strangers.

We have dealt with the plea of nutters. We as rational people realize that we needn't be indoctrinated into a strange cult and marry our cousin. There are however more sinister and damaging groups that encourage people with serious issues to congregate on line.

How do you possibly defend groups that advocate self-harm, rape, bulimia and other indecencies? It may actually help us to find and help those who need it most. We all like to know if there's a paedophile living next door; kids wouldn't be allowed to walk home on their own. We would be concerned to know if someone in our community was dying of cancer; neighbours would be considerate and perhaps fly tip somewhere else. A freedom of speech allows a freedom of scrutiny. It brings all the needy out of the woodwork.

Freedom of scrutiny? One is yang while the other ying; Its impossible to separate them. If you are free to say it then we are free to hear it (if we want to). It's all a question of choice.

The beauty is that Facebook allows everyone to join together online and find those with similar likes, dislikes and beliefs. It brings us closer in an open community that transcends the typical divisions present in everyday society. Facebook freedom forever.

For Facebook regulation...

Ally Shepherd email: pto7avs@leeds.ac.uk

Do universities and the police have the right to monitor the content of Facebook? Or is this a violation of our freedom of speech and privacy? I would argue that they have every right, for the following reasons.

Whilst I am a supporter of the right of freedom of speech on the basis that we live in a relatively liberal society, I do think that there has to be limits. In the same way that society is policed to ensure that the government's laws are being upheld, so should be the case for making sure public websites like Facebook aren't infringing on any laws or promoting immoral behaviour.

Freedom of speech is all very well, but when someone has an idea that is hateful, for example against ethnic minorities or a religion, and they have access to an instrument such as Facebook where they can express their ideas to a large number of people; issues about rights and responsibilities are raised. The right to freedom of speech comes with the responsibility to exercise that right carefully and thoughtfully, and not everyone can do that. Potentially one person could have a lot of influence by setting up an offensive group, and this person could be absolutely anyone, therefore there has to be some higher organisation observing and controlling the content. As these are effectively public documents, they are therefore subject to all the basic legal limits.

Facebook asserts that they do not tolerate pornographic images, or sexually explicit content; violence, threats or bullying; or expressions of hateful opinions. So, in the same way that people who do not behave themselves in society are cautioned so must those carrying out inappropriate behaviour on internet sites. Facebook wishes to be portrayed as a reputable site as it is linked to universities and businesses; this regulation sustains their status as a respectable company.

Similarly, Leeds University asserts that it is not monitoring Facebook needlessly, it will only intervene if necessary. This seems appropriate.

An example of how police access to Facebook has been positive for society is that it helped campus police at a university in the US trace a hit and run driver who had killed a Fresher. Other instances of positive action that has occurred due to this regulation are that students have been expelled from universities for promoting anti-social messages that were accessible to anyone. Two students from Texas were expelled for posting racist images on their profiles, and another US student received a similar punishment for writing a homophobic speech on their profile.

And rightly so. People cannot just go around writing whatever they feel like without giving any thought about the repercussions of their actions, or the feelings of others.

If this argument comes down to you thinking, 'well I don't write hate speeches all over my profile and I don't want the police and my university to be able to trawl through the drunken pictures that were taken of me at the weekend', then simply set your profile to a private setting, so only your 'Friends' can see it. Problem solved.

When people have access to free forms of commenting that is viewed by millions, I think it is fair to allow them to be regulated. It is for our own good.



is GAGGED.

Updated 4 minutes

Networks

Sex:

Looking For:

Birthday:

Hometown:

Political Views:

Religious View:

Mini-Feed

Displaying 10

Today

is GA

View Photos of You (17)

Edit My Profile

You are online now



University of Leeds Friends

Last Week's Debate: 'To Strike or not to Strike'

Latest result from online polls:

For strike action: 90%

Against: 10%

Join the debate, visit the website: www.leedsstudent.org.uk

LS Extra

12 Police vs students

Is crime in Leeds as bad as perceived? Are police contemptuous of students? Vicky Ellis investigates.



14 Comment:

Defending "sexy Socialism" and halting homophobia - Nali Sivathasan and Jamie Sadler speak.



Corn exchanged

The current transformation of the Corn Exchange and Kirkgate Market in Leeds city centre has caused controversy amongst shoppers and traders alike. **John Owen** and **Clarisse Earle** investigates.

From most angles, you couldn't tell that anything was happening. But walking along New Market Street you begin to notice that the huge domed half sphere that rests upon the body of the Corn Exchange is undergoing something of a change. The broad white sign draped on the walls stating that there is 'business as usual' begins to imply exactly the opposite.

The Corn Exchange is undergoing restoration, and as soon as you get into the building it's impossible to ignore the huge skeletal structure of scaffolding that juts up from the floor. Climbing up to the roof in a complex interaction of bolts and steel, this skeleton forms the support for a new renovation scheme that looks to clean up the national heritage listed building. It also acts as a place for local traders to show off their ingenuity, and the metal bars that turn the building into a maze provide the support upon which familiar images of student life hang: Scarface, in paint effect, jostles with a picture of pouting Kate Moss. All the

life there, however, cannot hide the sight of the windows that encircle the innards of the exchange, giving customers a view into the shop space inside. Now, in many of these windows, there is nothing but emptiness.

Before the developments began, and before it became a Mecca for youngsters in search of retail therapy, the Corn Exchange had a history that spanned for over a century. Designed by Cuthbert Broderick, it took three years to build and was completed in 1864. Initially used as a market in which corn and other goods could be exchanged, as time went by the Corn Exchange deteriorated and was used less and less frequently for its original purpose. Only when Speciality Shops Plc won a national competition to redevelop it as a shopping centre that the modern building known by all today really began to exist. Since its opening in 1990 it has been hailed as the 'Covent Garden of the North', and has bustled with quirky retailers. Though many have come and gone, it is the reputation for its dif-

ferent, independent nature that has stuck. Now, in the eyes of many shop owners I have spoken to, this is under threat.

Within the last few years, Zurich Insurance, a multi-national financial service operator, have bought the building. Using Phoenix Beard as their managing company, Zurich has begun work totalling £1.5 million that includes new lighting and redecoration alongside restoration of the 75ft dome. Lee Scott, of Phoenix Beard,

“Were you to read the Leeds Itchy guide 2007, you would find that not one of the shops mentioned remains [in the Corn Exchange].”

selling of more luxury items was in turn seen as a way of bringing in a wealthier clientele. All those I spoke to thought this simply would not work, both because the spaces being rented were too small and because the Corn Exchange has a reputation firmly entrenched in its ability to offer something different from the high street. Another shop owner who previously worked in the Corn Exchange commented “they want to starve [the shops] out by letting the corn exchange go to waste. We think there’s a hidden agenda- they want it to be more like the Victorian quarter and I said it wouldn’t work because the place is known for students.”

Such speculation seems to stem from a number of sources. Firstly, a lack of communication from the managing company, Phoenix Beard, has been repeatedly cited, with tenants either being misinformed regarding future events or not told at all. During one interview, I was told that reassurances were given before the recent work redevelopment work started “they led us into refurbishment saying it would be good for us and we wouldn’t have to pay.” Another woman complained about a lack of accessibility “I’ve tried to phone up, but they’re never there”. Meetings between shop owners and the management seem few and far between, whilst refusals to renew leases were often given with the minimum of notice.

In a corner of the Merrion Centre you can find a tattooists named Ink Vs Steel. Working

ing to set up shop in the Corn Exchange, met with an answer stating that the units were not available to be rented. Upon calling Central Retail, the agency in question, I was informed “works at the Corn Exchange are ongoing at the moment. We are waiting for the scaffolding to come down and the landlord is taking a tenant mix strategy”. What this ‘tenant mix strategy’ entails remains to be seen.

Not everyone is convinced by the accusations of “bully boy tactics”. One trader, still working at the Corn Exchange, said it was all “gossip and rumours” adding “If you sign a lease you can be removed at any time. It’s your choice to sign that lease. A lot of people didn’t keep up with the payments and went bankrupt. They did a runner and are now getting sued”. Another said that “it is a hard place to trade and people will always find things to blame”. Though it is true that retailers are not always the innocent party and that Independent stores may more likely to go out of business than high street stores, the fact is that only 15 units remain trading of the 35 mentioned in the Exchange’s website.

A spokeswoman for Phoenix Beard had said in the Yorkshire Evening Post story that “the decision to defer new tenant signings is as a direct result of the time taken to secure necessary listed building consents” yet none of the shop owners I spoke to raised this issue. This explanation also did not seem to correspond with the answer I received from Central Retail. On trying

Walking through the union I recently had a case of Déjà vu. Having stopped at a new shop, I found myself browsing through well priced pairs of trainers and wondering where I’d seen this kind of thing before. Then the realisation dawned. MB shoes had been selling in the Corn Exchange until recently and now had landed slap bang opposite Hiccups. Chatting to the owners, Mike and Adele Brook, it was obvious that they were nostalgic for past times. Like many businesses that have been in the Corn Exchange, they helped create a network of loyal shoppers, one of whom was Leeds University student Adam Cookson. A third year English undergraduate, he said “I liked the unusual shops and the place had lots of atmosphere. I wasn’t sure what was missing when I last visited but it definitely seemed depleted.”

What the new development brings may not be immediately evident. What is evident is that there is some disquiet among a number of store holders and that extensive efforts are in place to renovate the site. Whether Zurich have plans to increase profits by bringing in more expensive retailers remains to be seen, as does the fate of those that choose to remain. The one likelihood is that the recent trend will continue, and whilst the number of vacant plots increases, so trade will decline. As I was ruefully told by an employee at one shop “It’s heartbreaking because we love being here, and we feel like we’re being driven out” it was hard to know if the Corn Exchange as we know it would survive.

THE KIRKGATE SCANDAL

by Charlotte Earle

The boarded up shops fronts and dirty windows, so prominent on Butchers Row in Kirkgate Market, have become a symbol of the change there in recent years. Upon entering the market one is immediately struck by the deluge of traders, hawking their wares at the top of their voices. But once you recover from a sensory bombardment of colours, sounds and smells, you begin to notice the telltale signs of a market in trouble. Every area of the market, from home-ware to fabrics, is peppered with closed down stalls. The butchers’ section is particularly brutal, with many large shop spaces standing empty. Here the number of stalls has dwindled from 21 to a meagre 11. It’s the sign of a lengthy ongoing fight with Leeds City Council, of whom one butcher said, “They don’t tell us anything. It’s just a blank wall.” And a blank wall is what the area is fast becoming. Kirkgate Market was built over a hundred years ago and has been a major source of trade within the city ever since. It is the largest undercover market in the UK, and its sheer size and extravagant architecture attract a wealth of customers, whether for practical or tourism purposes. Kirkgate was even the home of a small stall that eventually grew into the retail giant of Marks and Spencer. It is an important part of Leeds’ heritage, and it offers everything from Granny Smith apples to toupees at cheap, affordable prices (should your supplementary needs be that of Vitamin C, or head hair). There is even a Tripe Shop, and despite boasting that, “Quality tripe can increase your libido fourfold”, it is one of the last few remaining in the world. And as if that wasn’t enough, it is important to remember that the Market is a far cry from the corporate monsters of Asda and Morrisons. Kirkgate allows locally based traders to sell directly to the consumer, allowing you to understand where goods have come from and the methods used in their production. Much of the produce is locally sourced, benefiting the local and national economy. In addition to this, Kirkgate also has the reputation of being the cheapest Market in Europe, something that students can surely appreciate (3 packs of Jaffa Cakes for a £1 -brand name!).

Despite all of these factors, the market is facing an ongoing struggle for survival in a climate of severe change. And who are the advocates of this rapid change? Leeds City Council.



BUSINESS: Some of the Corn Exchange’s regular shoppers
PHOTO: Ana Santos

here is Scott Commons, another trader who has left the Corn Exchange to find business elsewhere. Having spent 4 months trying to establish his new business, Scott feels that he is currently doing well. “They’d waited for rent to clear on Friday, and they’d put this letter round on Saturday morning. In this letter they said that they wanted us out for Thursday. There had been no warning before that, nothing.” Though he concedes that they had fallen behind in their payment a few times, the previous lease had been signed two years ago whilst the shop was in arrears “so it was nothing to do with that”. This experience corresponds with Yum Yum Beads, who were given a weeks notice to clear out the premises.

The idea that shops were not being allowed to stay on because they did not fit the image that the owners of Corn Exchange wished to portray was one that recurred in many conversations. There was even mention of something dubbed the ‘anti goth’ clause, which stated in the lease that tenants would not sell products that might encourage a particular teenage crowd to visit the shops. Furthermore, the idea of shops being driven out by bad trade was one that many tied in to the inability of prospective traders to rent out units. The logic was simple: the less shops there are, the less people will visit. I was told about an enquiry to the letting agency, look-

ing to contact Phoenix Beard I was repeatedly sent to their PR company, who were happy to send me a press release detailing the extensive renovation program. However, in response to my questions regarding the future of the Corn Exchange they said that the answers would first need to go through the ‘appropriate corporate channels’ before I could get a response.

There seems to be a lack of support system for Independent Traders, and the anonymity repeatedly requested by those I was speaking to smacks of the fear that comes with starting a fight that can only be lost. One person spoke of their sadness at seeing “young people with good ideas getting annihilated”. It seems neither the Leeds Chamber of Commerce nor the Leeds City Council was particularly interested in the issue, and only the Federation of Small businesses were willing to discuss the matter. Jenny Sargeant, the local representative highlighted the fact that this was not an isolated case “I’m aware that businesses in Kirkgate Market are concerned that it is not as busy as it used to be and there is concern about the lack of support that local businesses gain. I think that Local authorities do have a general responsibility to support the sector”. She added small businesses were advantageous for an area as “they can respond quickly and flexibly to local situations”.

enthusias “this investment will maintain an important part of Leeds heritage, provide a thriving new destination for retail trade and events and also offer a stunning visitor attraction for the general public”. Yet signs that all is not quite right are there for those who wish to look. On the 29th June, the Yorkshire Evening Post ran a story that highlighted the fears of traders in the Corn Exchange and told of a 65% drop in the number of shoppers. Anyone wishing to visit now will notice that the upper level is conspicuous by the absence of traders, and the four that remain are surrounded by empty rooms, gutted of stock. Were you to read the Leeds Itchy guide 2007, you would find that not one of the shops mentioned remains.

For many shop owners, recent management of the Corn Exchange has been inadequate or worse. Nabil Homsy is the owner of Travelling Man, a seller of collectable items such as comics, and recently moved from the Corn Exchange to Central Street after a decade of trading. Part of a small chain store, his shop expanded from one unit to five and was for a long time successful. “Our trade seemed to diminish in the last two years. I think it is partly market forces but what we noticed was that trade at our other branches hadn’t dropped as much as at Corn Exchange. I think there’s possibly a difficulty with the management at the Corn Exchange. I don’t think the manager they employed was good at promoting the building in a way that might appeal to our customers. I think she was more interested in trying to put on nightclubs”. The woman he is discussing has since left Phoenix Beard.

Mr Homsy went on to explain that in other retail centres “they’re really proactive in supporting businesses and bringing in custom because they know that the more retailers are attracted to an area the more they can charge for rent. I think the Corn Exchange has always been fairly expensive but there were no negotiations to drop the price this time”. This drop in price was seen by Mr Homsy as a fair demand given the building work and its effect on business. Instead, an extra £600 a month is being added to the lease to pay for the building work, a fee additional to the Corn Exchanges’ Service charge which cost Nabil Homsy £25,000. The idea of high cost demands was supported by a shop owner at the Corn Exchange too worried about recriminations to give her name “A lot of people in the shops have asked if they could put the rates down, but they won’t do that- they’ve said that when they’ve made the changes then they will put up the rent”.

Rumours about the future of the building, and the effect that this will have upon people’s livelihoods, are rife. Many I spoke to believed that the Corn Exchange was being primed for redevelopment, with a retailer more suited to the upper end of the market being encouraged to move in. This move toward the



KORN EXCHANGE: Some of the Corn Exchange's main demographic.

PHOTO: Ana Santos

Unlike the privately owned Corn Exchange, the covered part of the Market is council owned and operated and so it is to them that traders pay their monthly rent instalments. Unfortunately, relations between the Council and the Traders have long been fraught, largely dating back to early 2003 when the troubles for Kirkgate began.

When looking at the facts, it appears that the writing was on the wall as far back as fif-

teen years ago. Prior to this the Council would conduct a review of rents every 3 years. But fifteen years ago there was a mysterious review suspension of 10 years imposed on Market traders. No reason was given for this review delay and

when pushed, the Council would only allude to a secretive "Market development" plan. What this plan was exactly was never revealed to local traders. Even now, fifteen years later, people can only speculate as to the long term plans for the Market.

In late 2002 the rent was finally reviewed and it was then that the real troubles started. People were shocked to learn in early 2003 that astronomical rent increase had been imposed. Most traders saw their rents double and were appalled at the thought of how this would affect them. One stallholder told me, "We were all so shocked. It came out of the blue. We'd had the same rent for 10 years and then suddenly we were facing bankruptcy." The council argued that the rent rises were in line with EU inflation rates and that inflation within Britain and the EU had increased dramatically in the last 10 years. The question is, are the Council using the current economic climate as an excuse to force traders out, as part of a plan to "beautify" the Market.

In 2003 some traders took matters into their own hands and soon there was a public battle between the Leeds City Council and the Leeds Kirkgate Market Tenants and Traders Associate (LKMTTA - for short). A Tribunal was held in which the Traders contested the rises and fought for the businesses that many families have managed for generations. It transpired that, for the first time in years, independent reviewers had been used, meaning that the results of the review were harder for traders to challenge. A loophole in the law also stated that if the value of one site had risen by a certain amount, all others must rise comparatively. And all that was needed to make the cost of one site rise was one tenant prepared to pay the higher price of a single unit. A spokeswoman for the Council said at the time, "The first rent increase for traders in over 10 years was proposed by independent consultants. A number of 'new to the market' entrepreneurs have invested important capital into stalls and have successfully started their businesses at new rental levels - evidence that these increases were appropriate." The Tribunal itself drove many traders out of businesses, as no rent was paid while the prices were being contested in court. At the end of the

18 month hearing, traders owed 18 months worth of rent and many were forced to leave the market, unable to pay such a substantial lump sum.

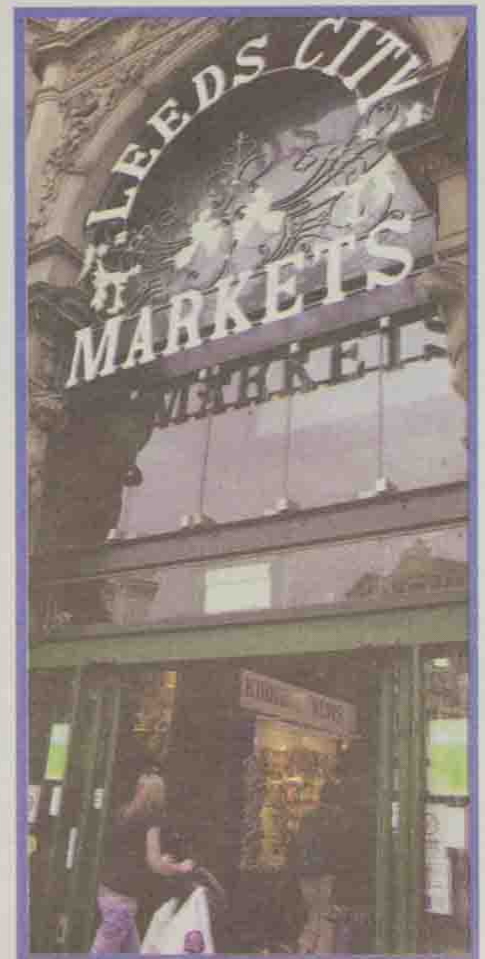
Since 2003 many more businesses have been forced to sell up and move on. A move that, in a one fell swoop, has wiped out years of history for those families that have been manning stalls for generations. The Council argues that, "The executive board introduced a scheme to help traders", although evidence suggests that this was not very effective. When I visited Kirkgate Market, I was struck by the number of new businesses there; I spoke to many traders and a vast number had been in the Market for less than 5 years. One trader said to me of the new businesses, "In the beginning I felt quite a bit of anger toward the new traders, just coming in here and taking over from friends who I've worked with my whole life. After a while though, you just have to get on with it."

The rising rent prices within the Market have been catastrophic, particularly when considering the economic climate of the last few years. Most traders report a decrease in customer numbers, due to the popularity of supermarkets and competition from cheap stores such as Primark and Matalan. Rising interest rates and lower disposable incomes have made the situation even worse. One trader said, "It is simply getting harder and harder to pay. I have already cut down on staff due to a gradual loss of trade over the last few years big chains particularly will be the death of small, independent traders like me". External factors, like increasingly bad weather, have also been detrimental to the prosperity of the Market, particularly the open air section. No doubt the recent troubles with mass consumer debt in Britain will further fuel the problems faced by shop owners, with people less willing to fork out. It is sadly ironic, for the people of Kirkgate, that shop prices are on the increase as less and less consumers walk through the market doors.

Since that fateful review in 2003, rent has been increasing steadily, leading many to speculate that the Council intends to drive out many of the original traders and to turn the market into a "classier" shopping experience, more

akin to the Victorian Quarter. Many stallholders believe that the mysterious Council "redevelopment" plan consists of running down the bottom half of the market and turning the historic top half into a shopping centre. It is a widely known that Lord Sainsbury has coveted the top part of the Market for many years and has been trying to buy it from the Council for a substantial sum. It is believed that he wishes to build a Supermarket in this part of the Market, catering particularly to the needs of the surrounding flats. The bottom half of the Market however is owned, not by the Council, but by the people of Leeds. It was given to them, for trading purposes, by the Church in the 1700s. Senior councillors strongly deny these claims, arguing that rent increases would never be well received by traders and that the nature of a market, such as Kirkgate, means that there is always a high labour turnover. Whatever the truth may be, the controversial redevelopment plan has even been attacked by members within the Council, who claim that the plan is a "sell-out" and goes against the authenticity and principles of the Market.

For the traders of Kirkgate Market there is nothing to do but fight the daily battle to make a living. The success of their various businesses are subject to a huge range of external factors, whether it is flash floods, stiff competition, poor crop seasons, interest rates, or anything else that the world throws at them. However, it is not these uncontrollable considerations that are the biggest dangers to these shop owners. It is the Leeds City Council and its attitude toward the Market. Although the Traders Union gives the people of Kirkgate a voice, it is the Council that decides the Market's future. Many traders are now just resigned to the fact that the Council seem intent on making their jobs harder. Whether they have been in the Market for 4 or 40 years, they are all just trying to earn their daily bread and many have had enough of the ongoing speculation at what will happen next. Although many are starting to think that any challenge is "fruitless", Kirkgate remains full of people who will continue to determinedly put their views across and fight for their livelihoods and principles. As one trader put it, "As long as people are still coming here and giving us their business, then we'll still have something to fight for and we'll be strong enough to do it".



“In the beginning I felt quite a bit of anger toward the new traders, just coming in here and taking over from friends who I've worked with my whole life. After a while though, you just have to get on with it.”

teen years ago. Prior to this the Council would conduct a review of rents every 3 years. But fifteen years ago there was a mysterious review suspension of 10 years imposed on Market traders. No reason was given for this review delay and

May the Force be with you

Coping with crime is all part of being a student in Leeds. Bolted doors and locked windows only guarantee so much security. But what do you do when it all goes wrong? **Vicky Ellis** investigates.

This week (15-21 October) sees the start of, "Not in my Neighbourhood Week" in West Yorkshire, and its aim is to highlight, "the work that is being done force-wide to tackle crime and keep communities safe. Initiatives are being set up across the force to coincide with the Home Office led national campaign and also to link in with Neighbourhood Watch which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year." The question to ask ourselves, at this publicity-oriented time, is whether we really feel safe in our own community.

With nearly 7,500 households, the area of Hyde Park and Belle Vue is a warren of terraced housing, slanting roads and small back alleys. At the edges of these areas you find Woodhouse Moor, popularly known as Hyde Park, with its children's playground and skate-park. This mix of greenery and shabby urban homeliness is home to a population of over 20,000 people. A number of these 20,000-odd will be left untouched by the crime that lies on the boundaries of life in Hyde Park. Others however, will have frequent run-ins with the other side of the law, whether a break-in, a mugging, or a stolen car; personally, through a friend, or even both.

At such moments, support from the arm of the law, the police, is vital to offering the victim of crime reassurance and to stop them from feeling insecure and helpless, whether that is through confidence in the police reaction on the telephone, or the physical presence of an officer, particularly after confrontational acts like mugging or assault. However this is just the opposite behaviour which one University of Leeds' student encountered when he was mugged in the early hours of the morning, last weekend.

The reaction of police officers to the robbery and assault enacted upon the student in the early hours of Saturday morning last weekend was delayed, sceptical, and in the end virtually insulting, with thinly veiled suggestions of deception, drug abuse and incitement of racial hatred.

When eventually questioned by officers, the student was offered several times to confess that it was false-



The Police in action, on the front line of crime

“When viewed with the Leeds' Police Force's allegedly heavy-handed actions towards students at a house party last year, this incident can be seen as evidence of a growing trend in dismissive, incredulous and ultimately, a worryingly cold attitude to students and reported crime in student areas.

hood, and subtly warned that a three-month term in prison was the punishment for lying. Throughout the student's adamant protestations, the plain-clothes policemen were still inclined to disbelief.

Despite the student's shoe being removed from his prone body, and receiving a swollen and bloody cut lip, both which point to the use of aggression and force, it was suggested by investigating officers that the whole reported episode was a fabrication, and perhaps merely an attempt to claim back insurance for the loss of the phone and wallet.

On its own, this type of reaction could simply be a loss of faith in general human honesty, with police increasingly forced to think the worst of a person in a world with a growing climate of violence and crime, particularly in relation to the residential area of Hyde Park, which is an infamous hotspot for break-ins and muggings.

However, when viewed with the Leeds' Police Force's allegedly heavy-handed actions towards students at a house party last year, this

incident can be seen as evidence of a growing trend in dismissive, incredulous and ultimately, a worryingly cold attitude to students and reported crime in student areas.

It is at this point that we, as a student body, should perhaps be worried about the emerging stance of the law enforcement agencies towards students.

Ostensibly the West Yorkshire police force is in support of students: their website has a clear section designated for students, with details on keeping safe and being aware of how to avoid potentially harmful situations. The presence of 3 police stations in the surrounding area, in Weetwood, Otley and Pudsey, is surely also a reassuring thought; the Weetwood station is even open 24 hours, 7 days a week. There are neighbourhood policing teams (NPTs), available to contact, for each region of West Yorkshire. The potential assistance for the needs of students in the aftermath of a criminal incident is certainly there. What it comes down to for individual officers, and even the widespread force's mentality, is the willingness to see student crime as a credible threat, worth investigating, not just a waste of precious police time.

In one section of the website, students are reminded by University officers: "Do not falsely report crimes or you will be dealt with appropriately!" This is a reasonable point to make, as wasting police time is clearly wrong. However, at what point does this understandable stance towards students become a detrimental and ingrained attitude of suspicion that places students in the wrong, from the word go? And surely, it is fair to expect a fair response when reporting a crime which cannot be reversed, without fear of slander or interrogation? Below this exclamatory reminder, the website features this inspirational, yet cheery, slogan: "We want to make your neighbourhood a safer place to live - with your help, we can make it happen!" If student efforts are met with disbelieving, hostile and belittling police reactions, and "your help" is thrown back in the collective student face, then "making it happen" is going to take a long, long time.

crime line

16 A series of sexual assaults in Leeds City Centre. A man in his 20s is arrested or raping two women aged 22 and 23. After assaulting them he robbed them in the Lovell Park area of town and left them for police to find.

02 It is revealed that one attack a week occurs on Woodhouse Moor (aka Hyde Park). There were five attacks in January alone, all perpetrated by 20 year old males. Police warn students to be more vigilant at night.

02 Two women were grabbed from behind in separate incidents in Hyde Park, a day apart. One woman, 44, managed to struggle free; the other screamed until her assailant released her. Police believe it was the same man.

February

March

April

Vox Pop

We interviewed a cross section of the Leeds student population to discover how you have been affected by crime.



James Wilcox, 19
English Literature

We were burgled during Freshers' week. We just left the kitchen window slightly ajar when we all went to bed and the burglar must have got in through there, at about 4am we think. He came into our rooms and stole everything while we were still asleep; my laptop, camera, wallet, phone and keys were all taken. My housemate's girlfriend actually woke up and saw the burglar, but thought it was one of my other housemates. I still feel safe in Leeds, I just think we were a bit careless and it was an opportunistic burglary.



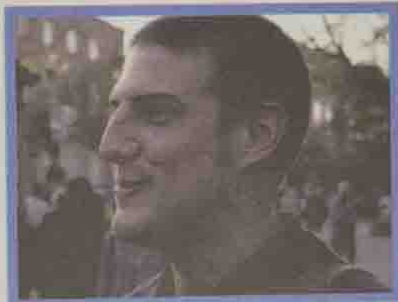
Phoebe Cooke, 20
Medical Science

It was over the summer, so no-one was in our house. Somebody broke into our shed and took all my housemate's really expensive gym equipment. We reckon they must have planned it since they would have needed transport to take everything away.



Claire Parker, 20
Fine Art

Nothing's happened to me in Leeds thankfully, but my friend had her wallet stolen from her bag as she was walking round town. Knowing that there are pickpockets like that around is a bit worrying.



Steven Foster, 21
History

Last year our neighbours' front window was taken out and a laptop was stolen. It looked like a pretty professional job. I probably feel safer at home in Chester le Street than in Leeds. The worst time to be in Hyde Park is on a Sunday night when quiet.

Dan Harris, 19
Management and Psychology

Luckily I've never been the victim of a crime in Leeds but my housemate last year was mugged right near the Parkinson Steps, on the road down towards Montague Burton halls of residence. She was pretty shaken up about it.

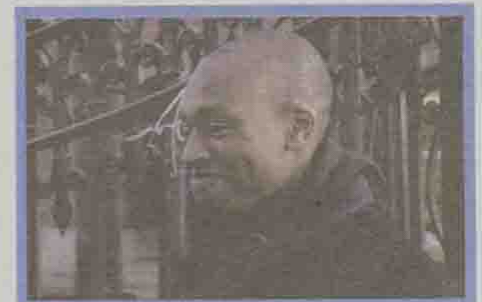


Katie Eskdale, 20
History

Everyone in the house went out for a drink. Two of us came back later and there was a man standing in the hallway holding my laptop. We stood facing each other for a minute. Suddenly he ran towards us, pushed us both out of the way and ran off. We were in shock. Then we heard a car pull away and realised that he had taken my car keys and driven off!

Nathan George, 19
Politics

My bike was stolen a couple of weeks ago, from right outside my flat on Burley Road. Apparently three bikes were stolen round there on the same day. It was locked so whoever did it must have known what they were doing. It was a pretty rubbish bike though so it's a good excuse to get a new one!



20

A 20 year old female student was attacked on Cumberland Road. She walked home alone at 2am, and was robbed and sexually assaulted. Police initially refused to tell nearby residents what had happened.

27

"A spate of sexual assaults occur in Leeds" according to Leeds Student, including a 22 year old girl, attacked at 5.30am in Hyde Park. Police promise to increase patrols in local areas in an attempt to curb the problem.

5

Police dogs were unleashed upon student revellers after a Hyde Park house party was closed down. A suggested 8 people were left in hospital. Police were accused of brutality after dogs and batons were used without enough warning.

7

A man subjected a woman to a serious sexual assault near Hyde Park. The white male struck in the early hours on Moorland Avenue. He dragged the 34 year old victim into a bin storage area before assaulting her.

April

April

May

July



“Homophobia is Gay!”

Why homophobic bullying is still a problem, and why it needs to be stopped.



Jamie Saddler
Vice President of LUU Liberal Democrats

Homophobic bullying is still rife in our schools, universities and workplaces. With the repeal of Section 28, the passing of the Civil Partnerships Act and gay adoption laws, you'd be forgiven for thinking that homophobia was something consigned to the darker days of history.

This is not the reality. The continued and recent reports of young people being viciously victimised in our schools over their sexuality

proves this. Take the case of one 14-year-old girl who, after confiding that she may be a lesbian, was forced by her teacher to sit outside the changing rooms until all the 'normal' children had changed. Or the case of a 12 year old boy who was kicked, punched and accused of carrying AIDS by fellow pupils after coming out. The climate of fear is still very much alive.

Whilst I won't deny that coming out myself was a difficult experience, I am in the fortunate position of having a large and supportive network of friends and family. I have not been the target of taunts, verbal or physical abuse. The examples that I have cited show that I have been lucky.

At least four in ten gay and lesbian people in the UK have faced discrimination because of their sexuality. Surveys indicate 52 per cent of people have been bullied in the workplace. Meanwhile, 63 per cent report being targeted in the street; 64 per cent received verbal abuse whilst 35 per cent have faced both verbal and physical abuse.

The 16-24 year-old age group is the most likely to experience such discrimination, with two-thirds experiencing homophobic bullying in school. Of those who report homophobic bullying, it is estimated that 62 per cent of the time nothing is done.

The regional picture is no better. A recent article in the Yorkshire Evening Post reported

that figures showed West Yorkshire as a national hotspot for gay hate crime.

These figures are unacceptably high and whilst the fight against racism, for example, is beginning to make progress, the fight against homophobia is stalling. Our society may have abolished discrimination in its laws, but

“Whilst the fight against racism is beginning to make progress, the fight against homophobia is stalling.”

it has yet to abolish it from its hearts and minds.

So what to do about it? The anti-discrimination legislation proposed by Jack Straw is to be welcomed but this only addresses part of the problem. We must do more.

The Liberal Democrats have launched a “Homophobia is Gay” campaign to do precisely this. Only 6 per cent of schools have policies which specifically address homophobic bullying.

This must change. If young people continue to be brought up in an environment where homophobia is tolerated, it will persist. We hope that this campaign will highlight the need for this to change.

The Liberal Democrats have three key proposals which we believe will help tackle the problem, and we call on the government to implement them.

1. Homophobic taunts and name calling in schools and universities should be challenged immediately by staff.
2. All schools' and universities' anti-bullying policies should be required to include measures specifically to deal with homophobic bullying.
3. At least one teacher in every school should undergo training which includes how to tackle homophobic bullying.

We believe these measures will help, but we understand that they will not solve the entire problem. Homophobia cannot merely be challenged by altering the law. We must also challenge this continued blight on our society as individuals.

It will only end when, collectively, we take a stand and say “Stop!”. So wear one of our badges, sign our petition, attend our events that highlight homophobia and help us stamp out this affront to tolerance and decency forever.

We're still sexy!

Max Doherty's presumptions about student socialists are way off the mark.



Nali Sivathanan
English student

In last week's article, 'Socialism isn't sexy', Doherty completely misses the point of the purposes of the various socialist groups present within university and fails to notice that they are just as passionate and dedicated to 'sexy' topics like Iraq, Chavez and Trident, as they are to local issues.

If you, or an 'ideologically vulnerable' fresher were to attend a socialist meeting or

read one of the many leaflets that you may be bombarded with on the way to lectures, you'd find that socialists are involved in a wide range of local issues that are directly linked to students, like their much publicised campaign to scrap student debt, their involvement and support of the recent postal strikes and their attempts to curb the power of privatisation. Furthermore, I think if you engage any socialist campaigner in a conversation about why the health services are failing then be prepared for a long, well prepared and impassioned explanation which will provide a solution, but is more than likely going to involve socialism.

I've been quick to state that socialists focus widely on domestic issues, but what is so wrong about having an interest in international causes too? Surely that is what socialism is meant to be about- uniting people from around the world under a common cause? I don't think that being concerned about the workers' struggle in Brazil somehow makes you morally inferior to someone who campaigns to defend the NHS. Furthermore, it would be unrealistic to think that all students would be more concerned about local issues, considering the Leeds University student demographic is composed of students from across the country and the globe, so focussing

on international issues within socialist groups is likely to appeal to this audience. In addition to this, when did being concerned about the plight of other's, no mat-

“When did being concerned about the plight of other's come to be viewed so negatively?”

ter where in the world they might be, come to be viewed so negatively? It is an inevitable result that advancements in areas like technology and media have allowed the world to become a global village, where people (like Socialists) have become more conscious and involved with international developments. Discussing international issues shows that we are not self-absorbed, ignorant citizens, oblivious to anything happening outside our borders.

It's probably true when I say that

socialists don't exactly have the largest fan base within the university or indeed the world, but at least they have an interest in politics and are actively trying to bring about changes. This is shown by the sheer number of left wing groups present in university, and for Doherty to pigeonhole all of them into one category is to fail to realise that they are all slightly different, with some focussing more on certain issues than others. Most young people these days seem indifferent towards politics as they feel it does not affect them, and many just can't be bothered to vote during elections. So it's refreshing to see socialists out in force during these important times, trying to involve young people in politics.

It's a sweeping generalisation to assume that nearly all these socialist campaigners will abandon their cause once they enter the 'real world'. Socialism is very idealistic and it is highly unlikely that its vision of an utopian equal world where there is no poverty, privatisation or Conservative Party will ever be achieved. However, just because students may become less idealistic as they grow older, it doesn't mean that they lose all their values- its most likely that they just won't have the time to screech about them because they are too busy working to pay off their student loan.

Make the right selection

Why the need for more student interest in the political processes of the Union is more important than ever.



Maryam Ahmad
leedsstudentcomment@gmail.com

The by-elections are over and surely this means we will have survived another period of incessant attack from over-eager under-experienced students shoving pieces of paper, with a bad attempt at a seductive pose and an extremely general bullet-point list of a manifesto, right under our noses as we attempt to plough our way into the Student Union. For many new students at least, it was perhaps exciting to partake for the first time ever in Union democracy, but most of us no doubt will have viewed it as another week of dodging aggressive leafleters who manage to poke you in the eye in an instance of unprovoked harassment on the way to a lecture. At least, this was the way that candidates used to try and snare the apathetic voter, but sadly no one really seemed to be bothered about canvassing the traditional way this term, opting instead to use facebook

“Why do we so often allow career-motivated people to succeed in obtaining these positions because many of us don't even bother to vote?”

groups to entice students to vote, which most people who actually join the group will probably forget to do anyway.

Given the actual importance of the elections to the highest decision-making body in

the union why have we allowed it to become nothing more than a popularity contest determined by the number of students that will vote for a candidate because they're the flat-mate of a new facebook friend? More importantly, why do we so often allow unqualified, self interested, career-motivated people to succeed in obtaining these positions because we make the democratic process so off-putting that many of us don't even bother to vote? I'm not going to pretend to have the answers to either of these questions, but I am aware that with the recent problems that have been highlighted with the way our Union is being run, it has become more important than ever to ensure that we elect the right people whose priorities are in accordance with the ethos of the Union. I am of course referring to the discovery of harsh treatment of Union bar-staff, discovery of the clause that prevents them from speaking to Leeds Student and the increasingly profit-orientated attitude



amongst management.

For those of us who could be bothered to vote, we should really ask ourselves the reasons why we decided on that particular candidate? Was a 250 word manifesto really enough information upon which to base a decision on whether that person would be the best representative of our views, or perhaps the clinch was the fact that the remaining candidates seemed a hell of a lot worse? We might start to question the motivations behind why a particular candidate would recommend themselves as the best person for the job, and it is only when we begin this line of questioning

that we start to get to the crux of the issue.

The plain and simple truth behind why students apply for these positions is usually for no other reason than the quest for power. Our Union's mini-elections mirror activities which take place in national politics; our decision makers are motivated to make decisions according to their own beliefs and values and what will directly benefit themselves. It makes one despair to think that the way the Union is governed, and the majority of the people who run in the elections really aren't much better than that poor excuse for representation that we have for a government. When we listen to reports of the activities of our ministers most of us become aware that the people who are running the country do not have a clue as to how go about solving the causes of the country's predicaments, but rather due to lack of wisdom and experience they have a tendency to aggravate the problems and it is only for want of power (and the beautiful accessories

“Somewhere out there in the student rough there are a few idealistic diamonds who are genuine in their motivations for wanting to help to run the Union.”

try) are probably some old, learned scholarly-type people hidden in some remote area, such as the deserts of Mauritania, who have the wisdom to know how to govern but are too wise and humble to accept power due to the knowledge that it is a source of corruption. This then, presents a dilemma to the potential voter: to either vote for someone who will most likely be the least person worthy of the job or not to vote at all.

This may sound like a very harsh treatment of those students who would like the responsibility to represent others (and possibly the disjointed ramblings of a cynical third year who has been hardened by the brutality of university politics) but I hope to show a recognition of the fact that if the people who may be more 'qualified' for these positions do not want to be involved in an election then why should those students who are motivated, for whatever reason, to take on the role be excluded as potential candidates? Perhaps we are right to be wary of careerists but on further meditation is not every single one of us a careerist of sorts? We are after all a part of the University studying for a degree which for most of us is a fundamental prerequisite for the career that we have in the back of our minds. We each have our own interests and societies to which we belong where we vie for positions such as Chair of the Cheese society, Secretary of British-born Chinese society or the sub-editor of Comment which we hope will make us ever so slightly more appealing than the competition.

I am sure that somewhere out there in the student rough there are a few idealistic diamonds who are genuine in their motivations for wanting to help to run the Union, though the fact that most of us are a little interested in where we want to go in life is not necessarily a major sin, but the recent events have highlighted a slippery slope in a bad direction where we will no doubt end up if the majority of us continue to be disinterested in the running of our Union.

to match, such as wealth and fame) that attract them to the job in the first place. So too then do those 'careerists' who campaign to become part of the band of decision-makers of the Union who think nothing more of their role than a means to make them look more attractive to an ideal employer. In short often the people who want to have power are the least deserving of it. It might even be considered extremely arrogant for anyone to think that they are the person most capable of thinking up solutions to the problems that we are faced with. I often think that the best people to run the Union (and possibly the coun-

the Leeds talk.

write to us. PO Box 157, Leeds LS1 1UH visit us. www.leedsstudent.org.uk



talk@leedsstudent.org.uk



text: 07794125795

we say...

It's a mug's game

Another week, another mugging. But Leeds police are adamant that students could be doing more to help themselves.

Inspector Coldwell, from Bellevue Station in Hyde Park, believes that much of the fear surrounding student muggings has been created by hype, and by students who are making false reports. In other words, students who are strapped for cash, or just plain greedy, are claiming they have been mugged in order to receive payouts from their insurance companies.

However, Leeds police do not deny that muggings are a problem nor that students are targets for crime. The area from the Dry Dock pub up to Hyde Park Corner is a particular 'mugging hotspot', as it is the route for many students making their way from Hyde Park, Woodhouse, and Headingley, into the city centre.

There are many things that students should consider when planning their way home at night or after dark. If students have had a

drink then they should remember that their senses will be dulled and that this will make them more vulnerable to crime. Ideally students should also travel by taxi or the University Nightbus but if they are going to walk home then they should make sure they are in a group; although this didn't prevent Elizabeth Judd and her friends from being mugged, police say it generally acts as a deterrent.

While all of this may seem like common sense, something that students may not have previously considered is how their behaviour differs from that in their hometowns. Many students at the University of Leeds come from fairly affluent backgrounds and live in places which are relatively safe and free from crime. When they come to Leeds they often forget that they are now living in an inner-city area and that they need to be more safety-conscious.

The moral of this story then is simple: use your common sense and the risk of you being mugged will be far less likely.

Binge there, done that

The story this week that a doctor from the School of History has been given a three year research fellowship to study drinking in the sixteenth and seventeenth century is brilliant news.

This is because the research will try and map out the origins of modern day "binge drinking" culture.

It may not sound brilliant, especially if you are not interested in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but if the origins of drinking culture can be laid out, then that gives students someone to blame for their drinking. This research is the perfect excuse

to say "We British have been drinking this way since the 1500s. It's in our genes, why would we need to cut down the amount we drink?"

This could be taking the potential findings of this new study to the extreme, but it is comforting to know that it is not the modern day student that is to blame for the capacity for drinking in today's society, it all started 400 years ago... so that means that the students of Leeds can keep drinking responsibly, safe in the knowledge we are continuing a great tradition.

Is 'gay' homophobic?

Ed Davey's launch of 'Help Stop Homophobic Bullying' in Leeds, on Monday, may have gone smoothly but the campaign's tag-line seems questionable to its future success.

"Homophobia is Gay" is the catch phrase accompanying the Liberal Democrats new campaign and has been chosen for its wry humour and obvious connections with youth slang. The play on words takes note of the changing usage of the term 'gay' and how it is now used among young people to describe something as 'stupid' or 'ridiculous'.

This is a typical display of the Liberal Democrats trying to appeal to students and gain the youth vote, and may prove successful in drawing attention to a very worthwhile campaign in Leeds, where over 30,000 stu-

dents live.

However, the new usage of the term 'gay' is considered by many, including members of the gay community, to be discriminatory and ignorant. In a university environment such language could be considered against the ethos of equality and against the emphasis on political correctness.

While it is good that politicians are starting to appeal to students and use methods of attracting their attention to campaigns, in this instance the wording is insensitive. The Lib Dems should not seek 'hipness' at the expense of tactfulness.

Perhaps the party should in future stick to the more successful and admirable tactic demonstrated by Davey: talking directly to young people in their own environment.

you say...

This is a letter personally addressed to Max Doherty: have you ever SEEN Stalin? Perhaps it's just me, but the idea of a stronger welfare state really gets my unwashed masses going. There's just something about a higher-state-expenditure that does strange and unusual things to my proletariat.

Of all the shades of the political spectrum, its socialism that doesn't NEED sexing up. It's smoking hot already!

-Candice Jacobs, English Masters

Dear Leeds Student,

Couldn't help but write in to comment on Maryam Ahmad's contribution to the big debate last week. Was this really serious? For her article to open slating the rhetoric of the national media, labelling them as irresponsible, and characterising their portrayal of postmen as 'demanding pay-rises whilst our undelivered letters to Santa at the North Pole keep piling up' would be harsh if it stood alone, but when taken in conjunction with the fact that she later described students' reaction to the strikes as being 'miffed because our £2.00 worth of vintage won on ebay didn't arrive in time' seems frankly absurd. Well done, Mrs Pot - somehow I think the irony wasn't intentional.

-piers montebank.

Dear Leeds Student,

I don't know who Laurie Whitwell thinks he is but his description of a scouse "scally" was ridiculous. I bet Laurie is some kind of southerner who thinks that taking the michael out of northerners is the sport of kings. I think veiling his comments under the guise of an innocent rambling on train stations is sickening.

He has managed to turn the story of a man doing the honorable thing and protecting his mother in to his own personal attack on society's ills. This is before besmirching the good name of rail passengers all over the land by insinuating they are animals who only care that they are boarding the train. At least most of these passengers will be less up their own backside than he is.

Yours,

Archie Evian

Letter of the week...

Dear Leeds Student,

I was impressed with the article in last weeks paper about where is the best spot to go to the toilet across campus. For once the student paper has finally run a feature that is useful for the student populous at large.

I too have had the misfortune of heading up to the Roger Stevens Level 10 toilets and they are a disgrace, there is no dignity in having to run to the toilets in the Edward Boyle library because you are desperate!

The Parkinson toilets used to be a viable option, but since last year they have lost some of their lustre. But at last Leeds Student has shown me the light and the Emmanuel Centre is now the obvious choice.

No more running home for a number two eh?

H. Marcheind

Your txts this week:

... I came in her hair. *JC.*
 ... I snorted her hairbrush like a line of fine cocaine. *JC.*
 ... I urinated in her hair. *JC.*
 ... Baked beans are the shizzle. *Bazza.*
 ... I'd BOX her. *Matt.*



LS2 inside

Holly tries High Culture

LS2's resident guinea pig, Holly, is sent to experiment with Opera, ballet and the world of culture.

p.24



Drunken Fashion Faux Pas

Did the bottle of Lambrini convince you that you could pull that off? LS2 reports.

p. 28



Norman Jay

LS2 talks to Sir Norman Jay, MBE, the pioneer DJ of rave culture.

p. 32



LS2 Editor - Charlotte Griffiths • Associate Editors - James Haddon Gardiner, Matt Andrews, Laurie Whitwell, John Puddlephur • Lowdown - Karim Khan, Martha Ling • Features - Vivien King Macdonald, Jessica Parker, Paul Raymond, Chloe Watson and Phil Bassor • Music - Ramzy Alwakedel, Helena Goodwyn • Clubs - Rhannon Salisbury, Katie Gilliland, Jonny Leighton, Tom Angell • Arts - Simon Gilbert, Lucy McIntosh, Natalie Lewy • TV - Harriet Knowles, Madeline McGarric • Observations - Alex Gilchrist • Starsigns - Peter Newland • Onion - Bhaiji Bikerajger

Ad

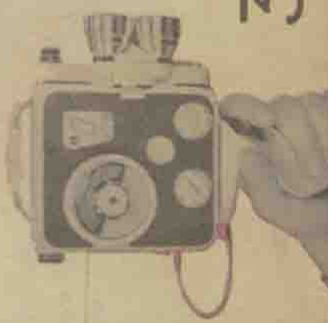

Ninja Tune Special PT2

NEW BOHEMIA Presents

THE CINEMATIC ORCHESTRA

+ Kidkanevil Live

Monday 29th Oct
Leeds University Union
Leeds LS1 1HU
7.30pm - 11pm
£12 adv.

Full Live show from what has to be Ninja Tunes finest band, playing a selection of their best work from four amazing albums.

NINJA TUNE

Coldcut Presents 'Journey's By VJ'

This new job-smacking live show takes the DJ style of mixing they defined to another dimension in which What You See is What You Hear. 4 decks are used as the instruments to slice, cut, dice, layer, mash, process and chop an audiovisual cast of 1000s - from BBoy breaks, hipster film references, cartoons, politicians, soaps, sci-fi, Coldcut Ninjatunes and Party classics - into the ultimate Multimedia Mixxxdown. Call it ReTurntablism...the Return of Turntable tricknology supreme in the hands of the guys who started it for the UK and who this year celebrate 20 years at the cutting edge of electronic entertainment. With guest MCs such as Juice Aleem and Mike Ladd, and featuring the outrageous skills of Raj Pannu on the Wheels of Steal, this is a Journey beyond Sound...

Hexstatic

The dynamic duo, Hexstatic, return to the fray with "When Robots Go Bad," their finest album yet. Taking their electro obsession to greater heights than ever before, "WRGB" finds Robin Brunson and Stuart Warren-Hill mashing up sounds and influences in search of the ultimate machine groove. The show will utilise large-scale projection screens (think cinema!) and the latest in technology (such as Pioneer's new DVJ-X1 dvd decks - think exciting gadgets!) to bring to life the works from their new release. You'll laugh, you'll cry, dribble a bit and smile a lot and all will seem right with the world. The whole thing promises to be a proper treat.

For further information, see www.ninjatune.net

New Bohemia presents The Cinematic Orchestra & Kid Kanevil

The Cinematic Orchestra is a British-based jazz and electronic outfit, created in the late 1990s by Jason Swinscoe. In both live and studio context, the Cinematic Orchestra employ a live band which improvises along with a turntablist and electronic elements such as samples provided by Swinscoe. In their studio releases Swinscoe will often remix the live source material to produce a finished product that is seamless combination of live jazz improvisation with electronica, such that it is difficult to tell where the improvisation ends and the production begins.

In the last three years the Cinematic Orchestra has played far and wide at every conceivable type of venue and on all kinds of occasion. They have shocked out from the Jazz Café to the Jazz Bop via Rennie Scott's. And in somewhat hardcore fashion they toured the North American Jazz Festival circuit in the back of a transit van, with the dates culminating in a prestigious support slot for John McLaughlin in Central Park.

Kid Kanevil is providing support with a full live show. The beat making mastermind behind sold out debut single 'Kranium Rock' and the sizzling follow up 'F.I.R.E.', Kid Kanevil's snare-snapping hip hop breaks are a core element of the sound of Leeds label First Word Records.

For further information, see www.myspace.com/newbohemia



Leeds University Union Thurs 25th October
NEW BOHEMIA & lookandlisten
present a

ninja tune

Audio/Visual Spectacular!!

COLD CUT with **HEXSTATIC**

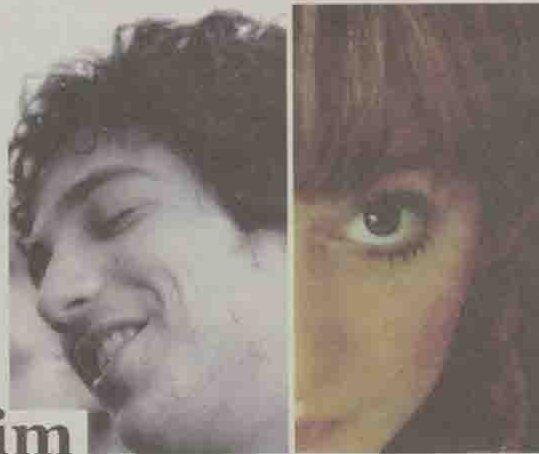
Don't miss the job-smacking and audiovisual originators Coldcut land in Leeds with a show not to be missed. Their seminal Journeys by DJ mix is joined as the best mix of ever creates new job-smacking live show takes the DJ style of mixing beyond to an other dimension, basically. What You See is What You Hear. 4 decks are used as the instruments to slice, cut, dice, layer, mash, process and chop mindblowing Audiovisuals.

The dynamic duo, Hexstatic, return to the fray with "When Robots Go Bad," their finest album yet. The show will utilise large-scale projection screens (think cinema!) and the latest in technology to bring to life the works from their new release. You'll laugh, you'll cry, dribble a bit and smile a lot and all will seem right with the world.

FOR FURTHER INFO AND FULL LISTINGS OF UPCOMING EVENTS VISIT WWW.LEEDSTICKETS.COM

The LOW DOWN

with Martha and Karim



Some people say you meet your 'friends for life' at university, so let's hope you've been picky as you're now shackled together for all eternity. Remember, friends can provide a healthy support network in your times of need- much like your parents. Just try not to find yourself wailing "Mummy it's SO HARD" onto a friend's bosom after one too many drinks- however loyal, friends do have boundaries, and you have self-respect. I'm now going to reveal The Lowdown's deepest, darkest, secret. Karim and I have not been friends for life. In fact, we only met four weeks ago, after being paired at random by the paper. Yes, we both have our faults- poor concentration, communication, dedication- actually that's just Karim, but I forgive him. And forgiveness is the key to a long lasting friendship. So next time your housemate drinks all your milk and puts the carton back in the fridge, resist the urge to launch it at their head and enjoy their friendship. Sit down, have a drink and a chat. Laugh together. Smile. And if you're hell-bent on revenge wait until third year when you can pour month old milk over their final dissertation.



If a 'friend' looks at you like this trog, you're screwed.

Every person you pass in the corridor is a friend you haven't met yet...

Actually, this is bullshit Martha. Strangers are just people you don't know well enough to harbour deep-seeded and indelible hatred for, even after you've left uni. But hey, like my associate said, forgiveness is key. Or make a stealthy steal of the last of their bread. Let's see them function without carbohydrates in the morning! Then laugh away as they foggily stumble into chairs, doors etc.

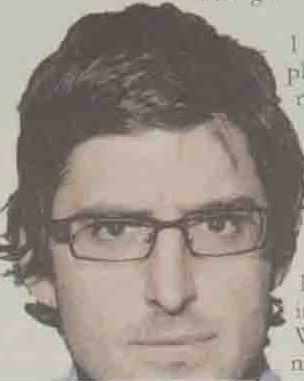
Real friendships, as we all know, are tested through tough times. You can tell your friends are real if they actually make time for you instead of fucking off to the pub at the first possible moment to avoid your blubber. Real friends will express real opinions on your troubled love-lives rather than vague, life-affirming waste that neither affirms nor demoralises, preferring to leave its intended victim with a profound sense of apathy towards his or her own misery. Probably chain-smoking. Crack. Well done you!

Thanks for that, 'Uncle Karim'. Students across the campus will jump into eachothers out-stretched arms as a result of this article.

You know why we loved old-school friends so much? Not because we could happily play Sega Megadrive with them for hours on end, but because they cared. When you're 11, their problems are your problems, and yours are theirs. Before girlfriends and jobs and money and the fame, we were all happy to have each other's backs, imparting our 11 year-old sage-like wisdom with understanding and sympathy. I, for one, propose a Renaissance! Let's get back to basics with friendships! (God, I sound like John Major).

And in other Martha and Karim news....

Part way through last-week, I realised a sad truth about my university experience. In the two and a quarter years I've spent at Leeds, I've never been to a horrific student night. In the interest of research, this had to change. I wasn't feeling ballsy enough to go the whole-hog, so no Oceana on a Wednesday for me. But I did stray outside the usual realms of my so-called life. As my housemate plied me with vodka and bundled me into a cab, I felt a little bit of sick come into my mouth. What had I let myself in for? As we reached our destination I saw to my horror six blokes in rubber-rings and rave-paint. Kill Me. Now. Some sarf Landan geezer tried to flog me an £8 membership card, and I started having mild palpitations. Yet once inside, I was pleasantly suprised to hear there was no Baywatch theme tune or 'oops upside your head'-either of which would have driven me to a self-induced coma. An Apple Sourz induced coma. As that's ALL the shots they had. Bleurgh.



Louis. Is he fit? Or is Martha a douche?

I didn't waste my time by going to a plastic dungeon, but went to the newly-reopened basement at The Wardrobe to see Norman Jay, who was able to mix The Isley Brothers with drum and bass! How did he DO that? This week the Daddies themselves Soul II Soul are playing, which is bound to be absolutely huge. Other highlights for this week include Strangeways, this Friday at Wire- this is an underground club-night, not a prison.

Going up

OVERDRAFT ACCEPTANCE:
This is the point where you acknowledge you'll never be in plus figures, accept it, and move on. If you squint your eyes together for long enough, the minus looks like a plus any way. And if you cross your eyes for long enough, perhaps a passer by will take pity on you and GIVE you some money.

THINKING ABOUT WHICH FESTIVAL YOU'RE GOING TO IN THE SUMMER:
No, it's never too early to start planning flights. There are so many going these days it brings joyful tears to your eyes. How about 'Lake of Stars' in Africa? Yes. This does exist! Google, or Ask Jeeves if you're feeling a bit cheeky.

HOLLYOAKS:
Yes, we know it's just an FHM shout with (poorly scripted) words, but how many other programmes deliver an average ten teen issues per episode? Rape, eating disorders, homosexuality- and that's before the cringey yet brilliant new titles. Yes, it's all a bit superficial and spongy, but without it there's be no lifestyle Bible for the dwellers of Headingley. Phil Redmond we salute you!

LOUIS THEROUX:
The thinking woman's troy. Charming, funny, and now with a fine set of abs thrown in. I spend every Sunday waiting for his Irish bespectacled face to enter my life. Martha Theroux- sounds good!

(He's still a geek with too much chat - Karim)

TESCO DIRECT:
Genius. You can buy your food without leaving your house. Why doesn't everybody do this? Oh yeah, because if your laptop needs to refresh, you lose all your bloody shopping and have to start ALL OVER AGAIN.

CENTRAL HEATING:
You put it on overnight and awake in the foetal position, not wanting to leave your blissfully warm womb-like duvet. So you don't leave, and all of a sudden two months have passed, you've failed your course and your parents have severed all financial support. Then you get a big fat heating bill and have to sell your kidneys.

SPENDING LOADS OF MONEY ON A MESSY WEEKEND:
So you wake up on Sunday evening and realise you waxed about £100 in two days. Cue mad financial nightmares and promises to self to not buy anything at uni. Which lasts until around Wednesday.

Going down

Overheard this week. "Really? You don't sound like a chav" // "It was actually a car crash...not a drunken incident" // "It looked like a tuna flake" // "I'm a maverick, really." // "It's all about nu-grave" // "What, you paid full price for In Rainbows? Hahaha- I mean, good one." // "You're a Paedo-trog! no, your mum is" // "Karim looks like Fab Morretti"-he wishes.

Holly tries... high culture.

Leeds Student's correspondent **Holly Westwood** attempts to infiltrate Leeds' cultural high society by visiting the opera, appreciating art and, er, becoming an audience member on Nicky Clarke's chat show... Read on, and see what a little culture could do for you.

"Caw, caw, caw"... that is the sound I am currently making, for this week I have become a culture vulture (see what I did there?!). In stark contrast to last week, I decided to leave the exotic dancing to the professionals, and try moving within the upper echelons of Leeds society. So, this week, I have been trying a spot of culture.

Before I came to uni I pictured myself lying around on grassy slopes discussing literature with like-minded people before popping off to a topical debate on, erm, something topical. I thought I'd be challenged daily by new readings of classical novels, and I imagined spending my evenings watching obscure avant-garde plays. What I quickly came to realise, however, is that my evenings would largely consist of downing sambucca in city-centre bars whilst trying not to think about the next day's seminar, and the closest I would get to a topical debate would be an argument over which kebab house does the best chilli sauce (it's Milano's, in case you're wondering - I've done a lot of research into the topic). In an effort to reverse the current situation, I have been venturing outside of the realms of normal student entertainment - my target for the end of the week is to experience a genuine evening of culture.

First outing on the road to becoming cultured - a trip to the West Yorkshire Playhouse. The playhouse is a fantastic building near to Leeds bus station in the centre of the city. There are two stages within the playhouse - the Quarry and Courtyard theatres - as well as a bar/café area. They have a fantastic line-up over the next few months, with loads of new productions so it's well worth checking out their autumn/winter schedule (I'm particularly excited about the production of 'The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe' which is appearing in November).

The production I went to see last Wednesday was 'Runaway Diamonds', the story of Frederick Washington Bailey, a black American slave who became a leader of the abolitionist movement. In theory, a step in the right direction - a fairly new production and about a topical issue (it's Black History Month, for those of you who aren't in the know). I say 'in theory', because the play left quite a bit to be desired. As Philippa Birmingham said in last week's Leeds Student, the accents of the actors weren't quite up to scratch, and I too was confused about the plot. I was impressed, however, by the dancing and the music, although during a slower number towards the end I did find myself nodding off (how embarrassing!). The cast only consisted of two people (David Hamilton and Gee Goodison) with a very minimal set and few props, yet they managed to convey the story and scene changes

effectively. In the end I was left with the feeling that they could have done more to give the message more effectively to the audience about what an amazing man Bailey was.

Despite my feelings of dissatisfaction, visiting the Playhouse is definitely a nice way to while away the afternoon, with a fairly mixed group of people in the audience.

For my next outing I decided to go for the Everest of culture - opera. 'Opera' is a word which strikes fear into the heart of most theatre-phobics. For many it conjures up images of large women bursting out of corsets, possibly whilst wearing a Viking helmet, hitting octaves so high that only those in the canine world can hear them. Yet I have discovered that opera is accessible. Or, in the words of my cultured housemate, "Like a play. But better". So myself and Julia (aforementioned cultured matey) ventured out to see the Opera North's production of Falstaff at the Grand Theatre (just down

"I have discovered that opera is accessible. Or, in the words of my cultured housemate, "Like a play. But better".

from Gatecrasher for all you un-cultured lot). In order to enhance our operatic experience we popped along to the bar D-Fusion beforehand for a talk by the charismatic Andrew Slater, who plays Pistol in the production. One of the most interesting things I learned from the talk was that the whole point of opera (according to Andrew) is that the addition of music heightens the emotions that are simply spoken in regular plays (interesting stuff, huh?). We were also given a quick step-by-step guide to how become an opera singer, although judging by my latest



PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST: Pashmina? Check. Beret? Check. Tea-drinking finger? Check.

efforts in the shower this is not a career path that I'm currently considering!

The Grand Theatre is an absolutely gorgeous building, full of gold paint, velvet chairs and chandeliers. We had seats in the stalls which gave us a great view of the stage. If I can take a moment to be a bit girly, I want to mention that the opera is a fantastic opportunity for getting all dressed up (and for wearing that Oasis dress that is just a bit too much for day-to-day wear). So myself and Julia had put our glad-rags on, although the attempt at sophistication was, in my part, slightly ruined due to the amount of bruises I had acquired on my knees following a particularly brutal limbo incident (don't ask!). Anyway, back to the opera.

Falstaff is essentially a comedy, composed by Verdi, loosely based on Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Think that definitely scores me a few points on the old culture scale! The basis of the story is the fact that the overweight, drunken, ex-knight Falstaff thinks he can earn a bit of extra cash by hiring out his sex skills to two wealthy married women. As you can imagine, all sorts of hilarious capers follow, with a bit of a love story thrown in for good measure. The music was great, although without the famous songs (or 'arias', if we're being correct) that non-opera-goers will recognise. Jules was slightly distracted by the woman doing sign language at the side of the stage, but other than that we were totally engrossed. The set itself was also pretty

special, particularly the street scene, where the perspective makes it appear like a really long street, enhanced by the use of children playing the roles adults in the background so that they seem far off.

The comedy is provided by the general premise of the story, but also in the fact that certain lines are just funnier when they are sung (we particularly liked the line "Sod off", which raised quite a cackle from the audience). The opera is great bit of mid-week entertainment, and I can guarantee you'll feel a self-righteous glow when leaving, from the feeling that you've done something a bit respectable (nothing better to wash away those memories of the night before!).

So, I'd done plays and opera – the next step was Art. I've given it a capital A as art can encompass so many different things. I roped a few mates in and set off to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park near Bretton, which is apparently one of the largest of its kind in Europe. Luckily the weather was gorgeous and we had a pleasant amble around the

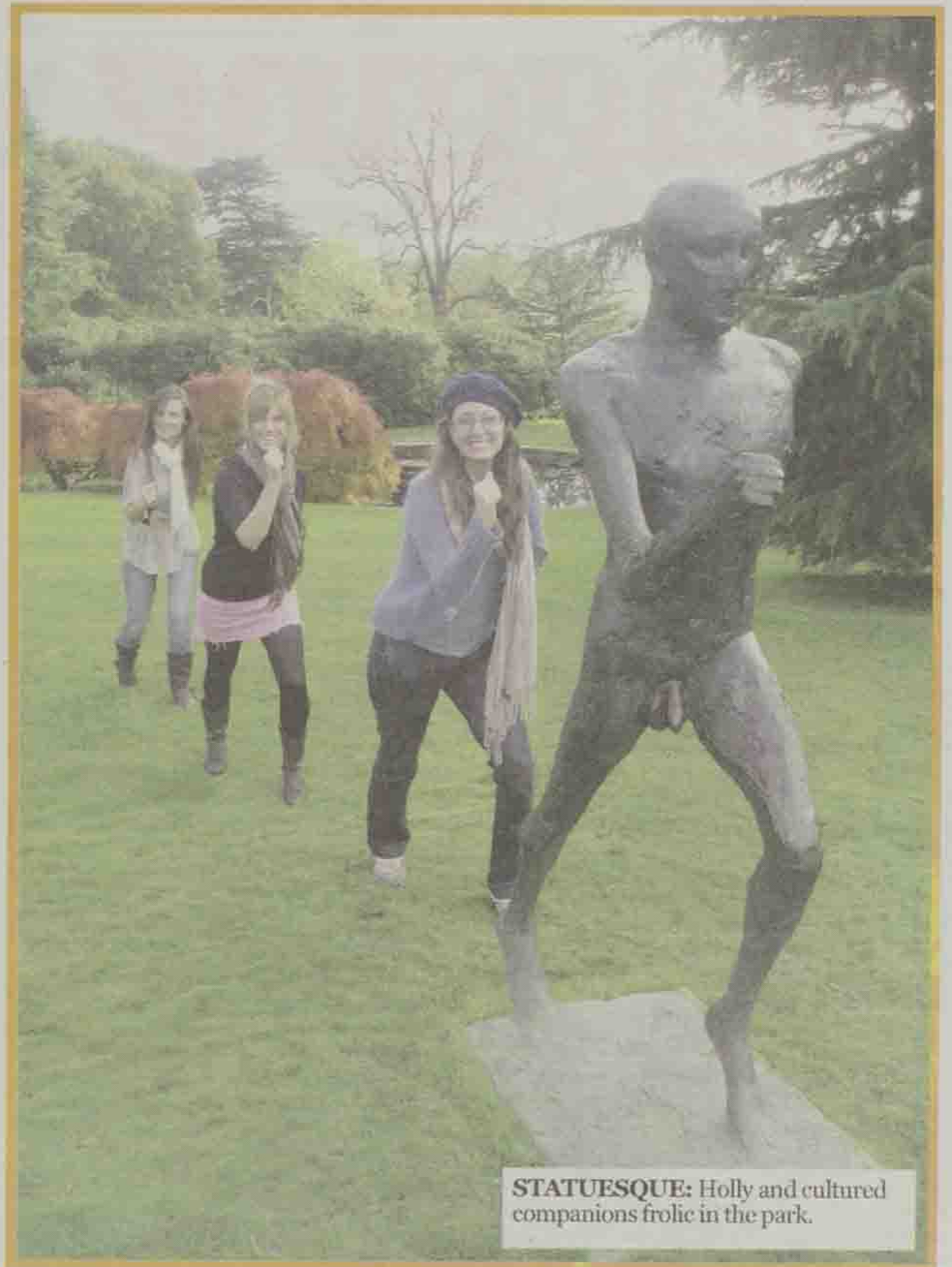
grounds and then a look at the indoor exhibitions. Yet again, we managed to detract somewhat from our cultural appearance by fooling around the statues of naked men that cover one section of the grounds (much to the amusement of two OAPs enjoying their afternoon stroll).

In the Underground gallery there is currently an exhibition by Andy Goldsworthy, creator of the famous Angel of the North, who has made installations using clay, stone and wood which are pretty amazing (especially one room which is a sort of cave made entirely of logs. Brilliant). As you may have realised, I don't really know a lot about Art, but I know what I like. I like the sculpture park, and it's really worth a visit (so long as you can persuade someone to give you a lift there – it's not exactly easy to get to!). the Goldsworthy exhibition runs until January, when all the installations will be dismantled and the parts returned to nature (how very Zen!).

For my penultimate cultural expedition I decided to go national. Wow, that's a pretty exciting way of putting that I appeared in the audience of a TV show. Although it was BBC1. Wait; let me explain a little further. On Sunday morning, after getting up at the un-Godly hour of 6.30am, I ventured to that hub of cultural living, Bradford, to participate in the topical (Yes! Topical!) religious/ethical discussion show 'The Big Questions'. The show was actually pretty interesting, with topics such as 'Is environmentalism the new religion?' and 'Is suffering good for the soul?' (although I must admit I was more concerned about getting my mug on the telly). The delightful but slightly scary Nicky Campbell presents the show each week, but I suspect I may not be in his good books after I quite audibly said to the chap next to me that I thought 'Nicky' was a woman. Oops!

Unfortunately I couldn't think of anything appropriately intellectual to say (I did have one point to make, but someone else said it first. Bastard). Yet I did hear some interesting viewpoints and, yes, I did get my face on the small screen (blink and you'll miss me!).

So as I reached the end of my week of culture, there came the big test; an evening of bona fide, sophisticated, cultural entertainment. I had my outfit in place – pashmina slung casually over my shoulder and beret on at a jaunty angle (as I've said before, looking the part is half the deal). I then spent a couple of hours or so in a suitably individual, arty café. Ok...it was Moorish on the Hyde Park Road. Not exactly an undiscovered source, but a fabulous place to hang out anyway (if you've never been there, what's taking you so long?). I read some appropriately cultured literature then had an in-depth discussion on the presence of the Self in the work of James Joyce. Hah!



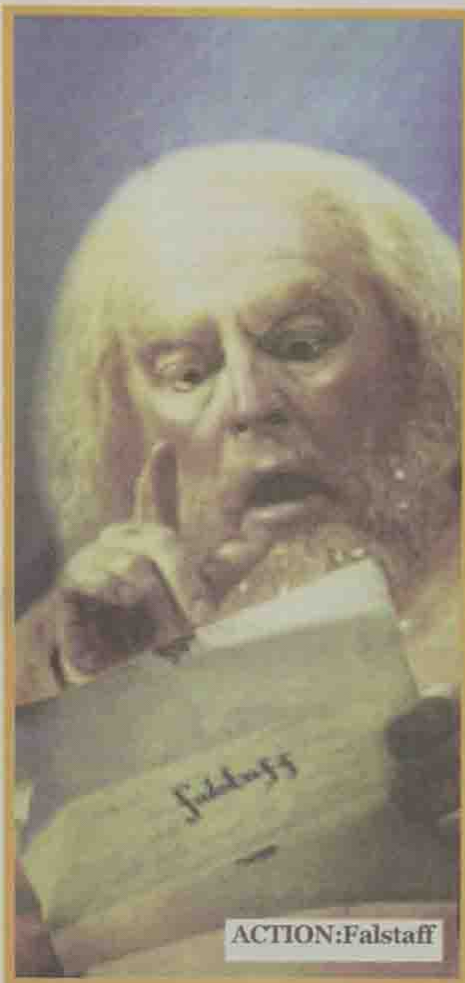
STATUESQUE: Holly and cultured companions frolic in the park.

Only joking. I have discovered this week that you can't go from zero to cultured in a matter of days. I have also discovered that you can't be cultured all the time. So I have decided that a little can go a long way – I had the beret and the espresso, so a literary discussion wasn't exactly needed (just as well really as me and my mate's conversation went rapidly downhill as we shamefully caved in to our gender stereotypes and talked about men and shoes!). Unlike the other

things I've tried, culture is one of the things that I'll certainly have a bit of now and then.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm off to a wine tasting and classical music evening...

If you have any suggestions for things Holly can try, email us at leedsstudentfeatures@gmail.com



ACTION:Falstaff

7

SPICES

Tel. 0113 2435758

Fully Licensed
203/205 Woodhouse Street •
Leeds • LS6 2NY

ASIAN RESTAURANT & TAKEAWAY

Visit our local Asian Kashmiri cuisine, we offer quality and the best of value. Try our Kashmiri cuisine at 25% special discount for students.

Come for the best, forget the rest



Blagging it.

Worried about the loan running out? Sick of forking out on club entry fees? **Kieran Toms** investigates how to live the high life - without spending a penny.

It was simple enough - get a lot of free things, and write an article about it. But how to go about it? I knew I could use the LS name and, with the help of a few half-truths and insinuations, get various companies to send me things for the sake of good PR. I began phoning a lot of different companies, requesting samples of their products with mixed success - Jaffa Cakes firmly insisted, "it's not the sort of thing we do," whilst Morrisons seemed fantastically keen to send me each and every grocery I could possibly ever desire. But it occurred to me, what exactly would be the point of this article? Most students don't write for *Leeds Student*, so whilst a rundown of how I cunningly hoodwinked companies might be mildly amusing, what practical use would it serve? Having said that, any student can give blagging a go, but Morrisons might become a little suspicious after the 300th journalist calls for a lifetime supply of own brand baked beans for an "article". So I decided to break free from the silver spoon of newspaper backing, and find ways so all can reap the rewards of a spending free lifestyle.

Later that night, I was out at a club in the town centre. My flatmates and I frequent this particular establishment with alarming regularity, unlike the rest of Leeds who seem to be either unaware or unimpressed by its greatness. Arrive before 11pm and it's only one pound. Sadly, being a disorganised and easily distracted rabble, we didn't arrive until well after midnight. At first the bouncers were reluctant to let us in for a quid, even though we would have increased the numbers tenfold. "Well if you let us in, we'll be able to spend lots of money at the bar," I boldly promised the burly bouncer. And

to my surprise, he descended the stairs to check with the promoter if this was a satisfactory deal. Apparently it was. So in we went, saving 3 whole pounds. Lovely.

When it was time to leave, even more riches awaited. Encouraged by my success at free entry, I enquired at the cloakroom whether there were any left items that a jacketless clubber might have in order to face the cold night air. I gave a pathetic little shiver to try and win her pity. After all, if I was cold inside the club, God knows how I would be outside the club. Hypothermic, probably. Success! The obliging girl, behind the counter, produced a dazzling array of attire that, "nobody has ever claimed". A few of my friends got in on the act. A lovely hat, a scarf, and three jackets were all given new owners. We paid little heed to the fact they were all items of girls clothing. Free is free, after all. And they certainly did the trick against the biting Yorkshire night. I did feel a little guilty about all of these items of clothing, but the manager assured me that the coats had been festering there for ages. I wish he hadn't used the word festering.

On a roll now, I even managed to get some posters for my wall advertising club nights. "There's no advertising for this place in my halls," I told the girl. There are now, all over my flat. That's six people, plus visitors, being subliminally lured to various venues.

That was all well and good, but at the end of the day, I had spent money - both for drinks and the taxi - to get into town from my Headingley base. This seemed totally against the spirit of spending nothing. Not good enough. I needed to try harder. I needed to do a whole night out without spending a

the haul

- 4 Coats
- 1 magazine
- 1 calendar
- 1 onion
- 1 bottle of cider
- 1 hat
- 1 scarf
- a free night out
- lots of free entry to clubs
- 3 books
- 20 prints of photos
- 16 blank video tapes
- some free drinks
- 1 hoodie, grey
- 1 newspaper
- some free tea
- 1 jar of jam

penny.

But could I have a night out that was not only free, but also enjoyable? My flatmate and I set out on this ambitious quest. Off we walked (that's right - no bus, no taxi), determined to enjoy ourselves. I had a good start. Bizarrely, one of the first people we encountered was a gentleman carrying a large pile of clothes. With my journalist's eye for opportunity, I asked if I could have any item of said clothing. To my surprise, he agreed, and simply handed over a fantastic grey hoodie (which I am proudly wearing as I type this).

But the free night didn't end there. We approached town and came to a club. Apparently the fascists were actually charging people to get in. I don't think so. We nonchalantly walked up to the bouncer, waved our hands in a manner that we hoped indicated we were paid up and stamped, and carried on through. Thoroughly expecting a heartless hand on my shoulder and an unceremonious shove onto the pavement, we continued on speedily. Joy. Nothing, no one said or did a thing. Despite not liking the music very much, we stayed for a while anyway. After all it was free. On we continued, arriving at Halo where we successfully repeated the same trick. Maybe we have strikingly innocent faces.

But then a problem - thirst. Not being beautiful girls, or girls at all, we weren't hopeful of being bought a drink by anyone. So we decided to ask people, who had nearly finished their drinks, if we could have the rest. Not the safest or wisest or most hygienic plan ever, but it seemed like the only way. And, after a few incredulous refusals (I don't blame them to be honest), it worked. That 1/8th of a pint sure did taste good. (You just have to ignore the little globule of saliva drifting on the surface). Then, hallelujah, we saw two people not only leaving, but also leaving behind almost full pints! We were right on that. Feeling slightly ashamed of our scavenging

ways, but not too ashamed, we finished our drinks and headed off.

Over the course of the couple of weeks, I managed to get into more clubs for free - one of them by convincing the bouncer that we had previously been in and out, but had forgotten to get a stamp. At first he was rightly dubious but eventually, much to my surprise, he said "oh yeah I remember you", and stamped our hands to let us in. Perhaps he knows me from a past life.

I also explored other ways of getting things for free. The best instructions can be found on the internet. There are a whole host of sites that point you in the right direction, telling you about deals and giveaways. <http://www.free-stuff.co.uk/> was very useful indeed. Through that, I got a whole host of things. Free "credits" to buy, or rather just have, some books. Admittedly they were books that I had never heard of, but free nonetheless, and one was a "Wordsworth classic". I just filled in some details, selected my books, and low and behold, a few days later (bloody postal strike) my books arrived. I had been sceptical, but they arrived with a minimum of fuss. After this I got a few more things from the same site, some tea, a magazine, a National Trust calendar, and jam! I also managed to get 20 free prints of my digital photos. I just uploaded them onto the site, went into the Jessops to pick them up and it was all...you've guessed it, completely free. Excellent.

Whilst trawling the best that the net has to offer, I also discovered a nifty little site called "freecycle". The premise is to avoid peoples' unwanted belongings going into landfill. You join the group for your area, then people post up anything they want to get rid of, and you email them if you are interested. The Leeds version of the site is now very popular indeed, meaning you have to be very quick if you want things, particularly the better items. I got sixteen blank video tapes, but sadly was too slow in emailing for a bike. But nevertheless, there's a load of stuff there for the taking, and the cause of reducing waste is a worthwhile one. You are encouraged to give away something yourself first, before getting on the freeloader's wagon. An easy, eco-friendly way of ridding your house of all that clutter.

Meanwhile, I informed my entire hall block about my quest and, upon entering a neighbouring flat, I was handed a bottle of cider. (I'm fairly sure it was his to give away). In addition I gained another coat, after some other flatmates did the same trick of asking nicely at a different cloakroom.

Other things I acquired; a free newspaper from walking round the union, (The Financial Times, not LS - that wouldn't be much of an achievement) and a free onion. I went into a corner shop, placed it on the counter, to be met by an incredulous look from the man behind it. "Is that all you're buying?" After informing him that, yes, that was to be my sole purchase, he said, "Well you might as well just have it then". The possibility of doing my entire weeks shopping, one item at a time, in various Leeds shops, did enter my mind. But the idea seemed a little excessive. And tiring. And ridiculous. I was also given a glass from a pub. I just asked for one, and after a bit of a chat about my reasons, was kindly granted one pint glass.

FREE STUFF: a fine hall of goods for not a dime



Week in Profile

Chips, cheese and more mayonnaise, please.

Our two emotional explorers take a tour of both sides of the greasy counter. **Laura Choksey** and **Dan Gilmore** look into the eatery exploits of Leeds takeaways on a post-Fruity Friday night.

I'll get busy at about eleven thirty tonight, when the first batch of students try to pick up the pieces from peaking too soon with a portion of cheese and chips. We don't charge for mayonnaise, which I've never understood, as the amount they use to drown the chips in is almost offensive.

A girl and a boy come in; they look fairly sober, which is strange for a Friday night. They ask for two cheeseburgers and chips. The girl says she doesn't have any money, and the boy says, "Don't worry, babe, it's on me." If I were going on a date, I wouldn't take a girl here for food, but that's just me. In fact, you'd have to pay me to eat some of the stuff we serve here. Cleaning up the remains of a chicken-burger at five in the morning will put anyone off eating anything similar.

I tell the boy that the food comes to three-twenty. He hands me a twenty-pound note and puts his arm around the girl. He's not as sober as I thought he was. He's not as sober as he thinks he is. "Sorry, sir, we don't have change for this at the moment. It hasn't got busy yet." He looks at me as if I've just sworn at him. "No change? Why not?" I tell him I'm sorry, again. "Well, what am I supposed to do about that?" I shrug my shoulders. I can see my boss starting to pay attention out of the corner of my eye. I tell the boy that he might be able to get change from next door. "Can we take our burgers with us?" he asks. I laugh a little to show that I think he's joking and shake my head. He says to the girl, "Let's go somewhere else, I can't be bothered with this," and they walk out.

It's getting really busy now. People have got bored of the night at the Union. A group of five girls walk in. They're all wearing nurses' outfits and singing a Britney Spears song loudly and quite badly. I recognise one of them who was here a couple of nights ago; she started talking to me about her ex-boyfriend "who's a knob and deserves to die but the thing is, mate, I still really love him," before asking for two extra sachets of mayonnaise. I smile at her when she looks over, and she shouts, "Are you perving on me? Not another one, men are disgusting." She was quite drunk the other night but now she's even worse. She staggers out again and I see her vomit on the side of the road. A couple of her friends come up to the counter. "Bless her, she's still upset about it - cheese and chips please - wanker. Men are such bastards." "Mayonnaise?" "Please. Can I have a couple more?"

Now the guy who comes in every Friday at around this time walks in. He's always with a group of fairly loud mates, but he's the worst. I don't think he realises that understand his meaning when he calls me Osama. I suppose that's quite funny as I'm not even Muslim. And he's paying for an education. That cheers me up.

I don't think much of their night at the Union. I went when my boss gave me the day off a few weeks ago to see what all the fuss was about. I didn't like it that much. It was like the meat market down in town, and the smell wasn't much better. That girl told me the other it is the place to find someone special. I hope it's not the only place.

There's a man sitting in the corner. He's been here for a couple of hours now, still swaying but less than before. At one point I thought he was going to fall off the seat. He's a bit of a regular, comes in every couple of days after spending the afternoon at the pub down the road. Usually he just stares into space, swaying, staring, blinking heavily and swaying a bit more, but once he came up to the counter and asked if he could buy a train ticket to Perth. "You'll have to go to the main station for that, my friend," I told him, and he turned away, muttering something

I couldn't understand and going back to his seat. I've never been to Perth but my cousin told me it's a nice place. The Osama boy goes up to him and starts mocking him. I think, that could be your grandfather. Then I think, that could be you.



Oh, more chilli sauce geeza... oi Bazza mate check that bit of skirt outside... dirty Northern slag... show us ya minge love... oi Osama mate, I said more sauce fella... cushtie!

The name's Wazza right, no surname needed pal. You ask someone if they know London Wazza up 'ere and spot on they'll nod with proper respect. And I love it I tell ya, I fuckin' love it! It's Friday night and I'm on it like a rabbit! It's what I came to Uni for to be honest... binks and booze, nuffin else matters... wahie! If I ain't havin' more sauce on my kebab I'll be getting my sauce on in the club! Oi Oi savaloi!

Where I come from down in the Big Smoke - well St. Albans to be exact - me and my boys rule the roost come Friday or Saturday... and let me tell you, up 'ere it ain't no different, and we're on it seven days a week: Oceana, Halo, Nu, Tiger Tiger: we've taken them all! We got the girls, the VIP passes and the bottles of Cava... you step on my K-Swiss and you'll get a proper batterin'! Just like Danny Dyer out of Football Factory we are proper NAWTIEYYY! You probably know us as the firm decked out in Diesel and Diamonds, always smashing the fuck out of Northern idiots or some other mopey students in shir clothes who call dare call us Mockneys! "Dress classy-act nasty", that's our motto... and you can bet your bottom dollar that we live up to our name! With me, Pauly, Gazza, Mickey, Bazza, Nicky and Snazza we're pure unstoppable. The Southern boys come to piss all over all you Northern monkeys!! Fuuuuuuuuuuuuu excellent!

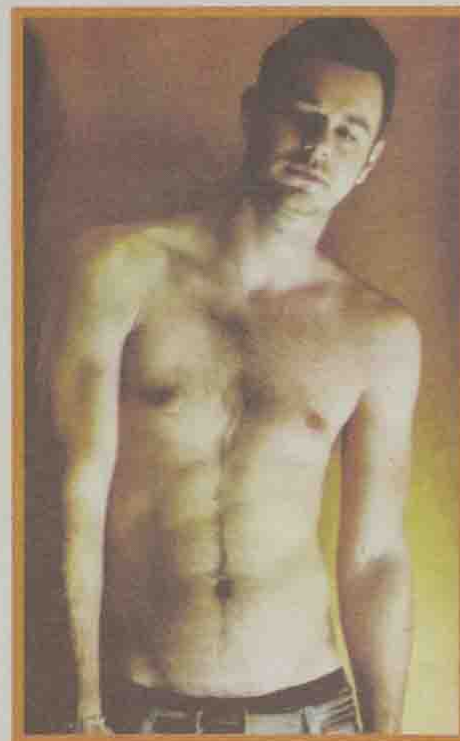
So yeah, last Friday was a proper bubble. We started where we left off on Thursday night with a healthy all day breakfast in The Library: bacon, beans, egg, sausage, chips and five fuckin' pints! No wonder I shag so much funny! After that we moved on to town for some afternoon tequilas in Wetherpoons. Snazza yanked all his black pudding over the bar lady and we ended up having to scarp - but like I say it got us right in the mood for the nighttime shenanigan. We don't take any fucking prisoners down in St. Albans.

We got back to ours around six and I managed to stumble into the shower where I passed out for ages until Mickey and Bazza woke me up by shitting on my face. WANKAS! I smashed the pair of them a

couple of square ones a la Danny Dyer and washed myself off whilst getting stuck into a six pack of Grolsch. Then it was time to get all ticked up, lots of Lynx, my Stone Island T-shirt, tight as fuck Diesels and my new Ben Sherman kicks... as the Northern muppets say - I looked proper mint! Down in the living room Pauly was playing some quality tunes out to get us up for it and by the time the taxi pulled up we were neckin' a bottle of brandy and dancing round the room to EZ's Pure Garage 3 like we were 16 again and dancing our socks off in Eavy Watford!

It being a Friday Night in Leeds there was only one destination suitable for a motley band of gentlemen such as ourselves - FRUITYYYYYYY! And fuck me did we have a good time... necking Sambucca shots and Dirty pints faster than Snazza shagged that prosie in the 'Dam last year. By 1am I was pullin' a proper proper bit of fanny to Shaggy's 'Mr Lova Lova'... she had tits the size of beach balls and was sweating like a Turkey on Christmas Eve... like I say, a right bit of filth... only I ended up puking in her mouth and collapsing on the dance-floor.

When I woke up the boys had me propped against the window in Flames and Bazza was reviving me with the stink of his donner and chips... I was up like a flash for one of my own. With the help of Osama's chilli sauce I was fit as a fuckin' fiddle in seconds, taking a swig of Vodka and a swing at Osama I ran out into the street singing 'My Old Man Said be a Tottenham Fan' before throwing up again all over a tramp. Me and Bazza left the boys to chant some more Chelsea songs at the Northern muppets and we had just enough energy to do a taxi run at the Hyde Park junction back to ours. The name London Wazza reverberates around Leeds like a nuclear fuckin' bomb at the moment, and Friday night tells you exactly why! I'm out of control and heading for a First... In getting Fuuuuuuuuuuuuuucked!! Haha! As Danny Dyer says... proper NAWWWWWWWTY!





PIZZA
Halal
ilano

(0113)
242 56 72
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Pizza Deal Three
Any 11" Thin Crust Pizza
Regular Fries
Can of Soft Drink



£5.50

Burger Deal
Any 2 X 1/4lb Burgers
with Fries & 2 Drinks



£5.50

Value Box
2 Pieces of Chicken,
Regular Fries
3 Spicy Wings
& Can of Cold Drink



£3.70

Fast free delivery
Freephone:
0800146652

NOW INTRODUCING:
THE 18" SUPER-SIZE!



Saints and Sinners

In fashion purgatory? On which side will you fall?

Those Drunken Mistakes...

We've all been there. Its 10 o'clock and that seventh glass of wine probably wasn't the wisest decision ever made. Especially when you're supposed to be meeting people at some bar in 20 minutes and your still wearing those seductively stained jogging bottoms and lime green t-shirt. You've gone way past the "couple of drinks whilst getting ready" stage and are officially on the point where you realise what a profound and misunderstood error Britney truly is and how her life probably wouldn't have descended into that of a fringe eating, lesbian redneck if only you'd been her backup dancer. Best friend, I mean, when your experiencing life-changing moments like this how are you supposed to even focus on getting ready? And that's when it happens. That zebra print mini skirt that you bought in a sale because, I can't think why, it was only 50p (reduced from £150) suddenly gets dragged from the depths of your wardrobe in a moment of epiphany. It gets teamed with the red fishnets that you used to wear constantly when you were 15, a thought which makes you go all nostalgic and nearly descend into boozy tears.



Let's not even go into the mini t-shirt that used to be pink but went kind of green, but right now you've suddenly realised how cool it looks. And then the make-up. Two words will suffice: Transsexual Orangutan. Oh yes. Its all about the smoky orange trendalaya, lashings of Amy Winehouse style eyeliner, mascara that means your eyes have trouble staying open (or is that the wine?), and of course cheeks so red that you look like Catherine. Fate's just hit you across the face on both sides. So it happens that this stumbling mess of colour leaves the house in search of previously mentioned bar, convincing hippies on the way that they are definitely having crazy and flashbacks. And what happens after this emotional roller coaster... Your mates have the best night of their lives at your expense and, after a couple of hours when you start (slightly) sobering up, you finally look down and what you see causes you to be very ill. All over yourself.

Style on the Tiles...

There are certainly a lot of positive aspects of the nightlife in Leeds. Nights out here are renowned all over the country and make living in these chilly northern climes all the more worthwhile. They tend to be pretty eventful, with a massive mix of clubs, pubs, bars and parties catering to whatever mood you're in, whoever you are, however much of whatever you've consumed. Whether day or night, the streets are also awash with an abundance of different fashions and the large quantity of vintage shopping available here means that many have a very individualistic style. Never is this more celebrated and violated than when crowds of people hit the streets of Leeds on a night out. This week we celebrate some fashionistas, whether they owe their get up to Primark or Ralph Lauren, that we spotted in places as far apart as Oceania and the West Indian Cultural Centre.



“

Meg Taylor + Omar Mesbahri
Students

Spotted: Halo

"We like to think our styles are fun and individual. We're both complete designer junkies. If there's a label, we're not interested. We wouldn't be seen dead in Primark and don't like the whole idea of those cheap disposable clothes. Its much better buying something expensive that will be loved forever."



“

Fara Ahmad
Student

Spotted: Tiger-Tiger

"Fashion is how I express myself. I live for vintage clothes and luckily Leeds is jammed with kooky little shops. I used to visit Blue Ruse a lot though I think its gone downhill. I like to think that my clothes have a bit of a history, as opposed to looking like a Topshop clone. The Strawberry Arcade in Huddersfield is superb with decent second hand wear, and I've found some real bargains in Kirkgate Market."



“

Adam Wallace
Student

Spotted: West Indian Cultural Centre
“I just chuck on whatever I can find and, unless I'm too hungover, it usually looks pretty good. Before I met my girlfriend I was all about white linen trousers and Kafians but thankfully she soon cured me of that. Now I buy most of my clothes from charity shops or blag it from my mates. Someone I know made this hat and the T-shirt I got for free. I bought the cardy when I was a bit wasted so maybe I should do that more often.”



“

Hannah Livvsey
Student

Spotted: West Indian Cultural Centre
“There's so much around in terms of fashion that I think it's a real trial to dress like every one else. My fashion scene changes all the time but I have a few staples in my wardrobe that will be with me forever. Marks and Spencer is great for underwear and I have to say that I am slightly addicted to Topshop and Primark. I'm a Vintage girl too. I find that a lot of stuff looks really useful when it's on the hanger but once you put it on and team it with a wicked belt or some jewellery, then it can look amazing.”



5 MINUTES VS 2 HOURS

Girls are notorious for the hours that they spend preening themselves in preparation of a night out on the town. We're all too familiar with the sight of impatient guys slugging beer and shouting up the stairs as their girlfriends dab and dizzle a range of products onto themselves. All this and only to emerge to a boyfriend who is well on the way to needing a nice home and a kebab and wouldn't notice if their other halves had backcombed their hair, sprayed it green and used crayola as eyeliner. But do those time-wasting girls really need to spend so much time getting ready, when really no one gives a shit? I decided a direct comparison would be best to see if those who do spend ages dressing up are wise or whether they need to learn to pick up some clothes from the floor, slip on some lipstick and settle down to an episode of Family Guy with a pint before facing the cold. I asked two friends to come out to a massive mash up in Hyde Park. One I told two hours in advance while the other received a panicked phone call telling her she had to “Be ready to go in 5!”. I kept vodka away from both (dangers highlighted in earlier article) and I was picky in my choice of friend, particularly avoiding the one who regularly goes raving dressed as Winnie the Pooh (don't ask).

Cecilia Gibbons - 5 minutes.

Used to a more leisurely pace and a large accommodation of gin, I was amazed when Cecilia actually managed to leave the house on time looking almost (intelligible in such a sober state). “I found that the 5 minute time limit resulted in a state stress but made me move incredibly quickly. I kept on my jeans and grabbed a sparky top from the floor. Who needs to wash clothes when you have Febreze? A lot of perfume, concealer, powder, eyeliner and lip gloss and I was ready to go. I looked exactly the same as on any other night. Have to say though that dressing up is something that shouldn't be rushed as it takes out all the enjoyment. I would have much preferred to go at my usual pace and have consumed far more gin.”

Hollie Snow - 1.5 hours

“I usually give myself about half an hour to an hour to get ready but I knew that tonight was going to be a big one. That and I'd had enough of re-stocking since bottles and I needed a better alternative from doing my coursework. I ended up tearing apart my entire wardrobe and trying on about 16 different outfits before deciding on the first one I'd tried. Underneath I then spent half an hour experimenting with crazy eye shadows and laughing at Peep Show. When I emerged I thought I looked pretty good, although I have to say that between Cec and me there was no massive difference, despite my looking a little Pat Britchesque. Still, I'd take an hour over 5 minutes any day.”

Basically, the fact that some girls spend so long getting ready has nothing to do with the fact that in reality they resemble Bernard Manning's love child. Anyone can get ready in 5 minutes (although it may be accompanied by lots of popping and swearing) and look absolutely fine. It's not a practical issue as such. It's just that we like to take our time, no our all the options, keep one eye on the TV, make use of the hair straighteners and sing-a-long to a bit of Girls Aloud (don't try and dance it. Oh yes, that and the gin).

DAMAGE CONTROL...

It's just another of life's little kicks in the teeth, Murphy's law: whatever you want to call it (I'll go for bloody annoying). You spend an hour getting ready, the consequences of which have left your room looking like a practice site for Osama Bin Laden. A million rejected outfits and you've finally settled for one that doesn't make your ass look like a cat's hind and your ms look like two bald men trying feebly to escape. The make-up is flawless, courtesy of some Benefit staples for which you starved for a week. You're all set to go and you look good. Cut to six hours later when you struggle in at half four looking like a cross between an extremely wasted Gourmet Love and the girl from The Grudge. Hours of sweating profusely in whatever club you've been to, knocking back shots and groping wildly inappropriate men have made their mark. Make-ups now all over face, hair suggests you've been eaten by a bad tempered bush, shoes are in hand, rights folded, beer all over top. In short, not a good look. Well, for anyone whose had enough of scaring off potential muggers purely by looking like a woman whose undergarments have been on the run for days, here are a few handy tips. Avoid wearing thin rights. You know they'll be soddered within minutes, already preparing you for your Rocky Horror Picture Show look. Bring a few make-up essentials. Eyeliner, lipgloss and powder are highly recommended. The trick is not losing them. Hair products. Or anything to keep the frizz at bay. Shoe bright. If having a particularly crazy night, go for heels that won't cause you to rip them off in the first hour of being on the dance floor. An equation for you to remember: glasses in foot = ow. If particularly inebriated by and sick to bottles. Less likely to cause serious spillage when the drunken “dancing” strikes... Or you could just avoid running into double figures with the drinks.

words / clarisse earle

Previews.

New Bohemia goes **ninja-electro.**

New Bohemia - voted one of the top five club nights in the BBC's Radio 1 Worldwide Awards - returns with a very special night designated to one of our favourite labels. Main acts Coldcut and AV maestros Hexstatic will be fronting the show. Regular readers of LS will know that New Bohemia at the Faversham is one of our favourite nights and this is guaranteed to not disappoint.

Coldcut have just returned from their Sound Mirrors world tour with their next installment 'Journeys by VJ' to start this extravaganza. Their previous album, the seminal 'Journeys by DJ', is rated as the best mix ever and I couldn't agree more. A night featuring such music cannot be rated highly enough. This frankly gob-smacking new live show takes the style of mixing they defined to another level in which what you see is what you hear. Four

decks are used to slice, cut, dice, layer, mash, process and chop an audiovisual cast of 1000s (from BBoy breaks, hipster film references, cartoons, politicians, soaps, Sci-Fi, Coldcut Ninja tunes and Party classics - into the ultimate Multimedia Mixxxdown. Call it ReTurntablism...the Return of Turntable technology supreme in the hands of the guys who started it for the UK and who this year celebrate 20 years at the cutting edge of electronic entertainment. With guest MCs such as Juice Aleem and Mike Ladd, and featuring the outrageous skills of Raj Pannu on the Wheels of Steel, this is a Journey beyond Sound...

If that does not whet your appetite enough and you need more convincing (although heaven knows why), Hexstatic will also take to the stage. This dynamic duo, Hexstatic, return to the fray with "When Robots Go Bad," their finest album yet. Taking their elec-

“

You'll laugh, cry, dribble a bit and smile a lot and all will seem well with the world. The whole thing promises to be a treat.

tro obsession to greater heights than ever before, "WRGB" finds Robin Brunson and Stuart Warren-Hill mashing up -sounds and influences in search of the ultimate machine groove. The show will utilise large-scale projection screens (think cinema!) and the latest in technology (such as Pioneer's new DVJ-X1 dvd decks - think exciting gadgets!) to bring to life the works from their new release. You'll laugh, you'll cry, dribble a bit and smile a lot and all will seem right with the world. The whole thing promises to be a proper treat.

words/katie gilliland and noah ball



Ninja warriors

The Rant.

If you are anything like me, then when you know what night you'll be going out in advance, your outfit will have been planned for days. It's washed, ironed and ready to go. You will have bought your new handbag, shoes and jewellery ready to wear. On the actual night you start drinking early and soon begin enjoying yourself. Eventually you scramble in the taxi and either befriend or argue with the driver. When exiting the vehicle at your destination you curse your parents for not sending you to finishing school as you fall out of the taxi showing your matching underwear to everyone. Yet, as you queue for ages at the swanky nightclub you see people being turned away and hear the bouncer utter to your friends, "Sorry mate but we have a dress code and you can't come wearing that hat". How annoying is that? The bouncer would not even let him in carrying the hat. That's right, we pay for the clothes but should just leave them outside for the general public to steal. I understand that the clubs will try to maintain a classy appearance but in Studentville it's asking a bit much. Maybe the attitude washes in Mayfair, LDN but not here in Leeds where students do not have the money nor the inclination to look like posh twats every night they go out. The fact that someone wearing a hat was turned away was utterly banal and ridiculous. What else will they start to turn away? A favourite of many venues can be denim and I know many who practically live in their pair of jeans. Denim, trainers and hats are clearly the symbols of youth. Yet they are now the very things bouncers chose to flex their leather-clad muscles and discriminate against. Bloody oppression! Maybe they are too old to remember being young or maybe they just enjoy disappointing people. All I know is if stuffiness and elitism regarding clothes is what the future holds...kill me now!

words/katie gilliland

Reviews. Riff-Raff.

Techno triumph at WIC.

You are standing in a small car park dotted with council shrubbery, the Parkinson building is a small silhouette on the far horizon, the nearest cash machine is a fifteen minute walk away - welcome to the West-Indian Centre. Yet despite looking like a makeshift village sports hall this is one of the most highly praised venues in Leeds.

The W.I.C. has an impressive array of nights under its bohemian belt - but tonight is one their lesser known nights - Riff Raff. Advertised as 'Hard Trance / NRG / Acid Techno + Deep n' Chunky House' it is a mouthful of blurb that sets pretty high expectations. But as soon as you step inside the community centre foyer all anxieties fade away in the presence of the uber-friendly staff. There are no queues before 11pm and

so in a matter of seconds you are smack in the middle of all the action. The large room has Marc Johnson headlining but before then there is trance and techno from Sam Townsend and Glowbones. The corrugated plastic walls and chairs around the edge trigger slightly awkward memories of school, saved only just by the strobes and lasers. Nudity and body paint are obligatory for half of the guys, while girls grace the dance floor in anything fluorescent or ripped. The smaller room plays slightly slower beats for the heavier footed, where the second act Miss Shelly looks more like a primary school teacher, giving a surreal effect as groups of boys wearing only glow sticks twist and turn to the Deep n' Chunky House.



Glo-paint galore

Outside there is a busy army barrack style smoking area where people chat excitedly, hugging each other and exchanging t-shirts in the rain. It is this family atmosphere that makes Riff Raff such a brilliant night, the absence of pretensions and participation of the staff gives a fun backdrop to some quite austere underground dance music. Although this place isn't for everyone and could come across as a bit scary and dank for some, it is the high quality of music and happiness of the partygoers that makes Riff Raff worth a tenner. As we leave reluctantly in the early hours of the morning the riffs of music and riffs of ecstatic people stay fixed in the mind.

words/jack cullen

LS2 charts the rise of... The Kings of the Jungle and their Dubstep cubs

Jungle was very much a 20th century affair. Its stuttering breakbeats crackled over a myriad of London pirate radio stations; the only outlets for an underground music ignored by legal airwaves until years after the original sound had lost its fervour. Cassette packs documented the legendary raves, spools of magnetic tape engrained with the sound of crowds, whistles and horns that took, at best, a week to appear on the shelves of even the most committed record shop.

Incubating in the capital until it spread to other major cities, Jungle and its followers celebrated a fizzing, poly-racial status that eventually dissolved away with the arrival of leaner, cleaner Drum & Bass, artist albums and broadsheet column inches. It wasn't until Jungle's sterile, suburbanite offspring re-emerged post-millennium that the genre went truly global and made the occasional chart entry. It says something that Pendulum, the trio responsible for the hit 2005 album *Hold Your Colour* (for some, the final nail in the 170bpm

gag and sound system culture exploded in flurry of sonic ideas not seen since the early 90s. Spacious electronic music perfectly formed for intimate venues and big bassbins, it re-addressed the parameters that Drum & Bass had spent nearly ten years deconstructing. Disillusioned dancers of garage, breaks, dub, D&B and techno backgrounds began to revel in the fresh approach to form and function that took strands of each style, plaited them together and created a formula irresistible to many of the misdirected.

And yet, Dubstep is very much a child of the 21st century. Its elements and prototype sounds were, it must be said, bubbling away in London as far back as 2001, but only two years after its full emergence into a wider electronic music sphere it has cast a net further than any founders thought probable. Owing entirely to the Internet's viral disposition for spreading information, over a scale of months rather than years listeners caught ear across mainland Europe and across the world. A quintessentially British melting-pot music

adopted by the global, online community, made their own and played our loud, clear and bassy to small pockets of devotees around the world's cities.

Pirate radio again plays a role, with stations like Rinse FM and subfm.com the place to hear the newest dub-plates. This time, however, you don't have to be somewhere in London to partake in the music: crystal clear broadband streams give anyone with a connection the ability to listen and enjoy. Online discussion allows for perpetual self-commentary of the scene's

past, present and future. Aspiring producers can host new tracks for download, completed minutes before, and then receive feedback on their impact at a dance on the other side of the world.

As Dubstep mirrors its musical parents in evolution, it does so at ten times the speed. The initial creative explosion reached a plateau in the same time that Jungle was only just warming up. A second wave of ideas took little time in coming, ignoring the norm for electronic music disciplines to stagnate over a

the Knowledge



Dub evolved from Jamaican music in the sixties

Dubstep grew from the garage scene of early 2000s

Jungle is a technical evolution of regga and dancehall

Exodus at the West Indian Centre caters for these tastes

full flip of the calendar. During the course of last year subtle changes in stylistic direction always threatened to burst out into fully-fledged sub-genres, and new takes on the music are ongoing. Solo albums are already an important part of the genre's musical output and portray a mature, high-depth sound complex enough to appeal to those outside the club nights and vinyl releases.

With London Dubstep's natural home and the ever-attentive Bristol its sister city it is Leeds that claims top spot up North for pushing the sound. Exodus at the West Indian Centre is a night fast becoming one of the most revered in the country, as the capital's Dubstep fraternity is brought up the M1 and - thanks to the Iration Steppas' monster speaker stacks - creates a cauldron of bass loud enough to shake half of Chapeltown. Previously only a once a month affair, the rising popularity of the West Indian Centre in general has led to a twice monthly Dubstep event, Subdub, which now takes place every two weeks on a Friday. The more intimate Ruffage night at Wire uses a smaller space to similar ground-swell effect, and with other events such as Central Beatz adding to the rostrum the scene is a healthy one indeed. The latest chapter in British electronic music is in full flow and Leeds is on the front foot.

words/alex frascina

LS Clubs' Hot Picks for the next 7 days

Friday- Strangeways at Wire. Indie, electro, new wave, new rave or whatever. This is the new underground night in Leeds. Bask in it like a happy otter in the sun.

Saturday- The Boogaloo Club at HIFI will lick you with sounds exotic; funky Afro and Latin flavours that taste as good as the cocktails. Enjoy an internationally-influenced Leeds for a change.

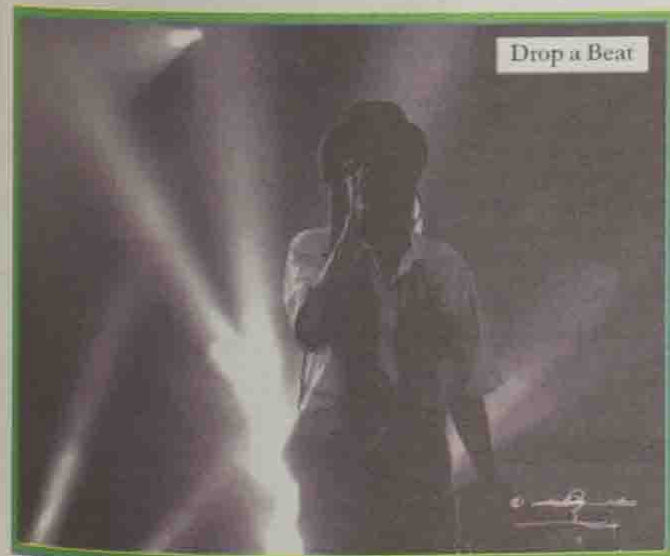
Sunday- The Thrills play a one-off at the Cockpit. 'Just don't go back to Big Sur... baby baby please don't go!' Expect self-deprecating musical joy.

Monday- Jager Bomb, an indie filled night at the Faversham. With reduced prices for birthdays and groups, a definite place to drink away Mo(ur)nday.

Tuesday- OK, so it's not a club but Drydock on a Tuesday offers fun indie tune-age and pound a pint drinks. Come on, do you wanna get drunk and dance? Of course you do!

Wednesday- Forget Oceana, Stephen Frerwell plays the Cockpit. Everyone loves him, from Athlete to Razorlight. Shut, this is music to get laid to.

Thursday- We feel Thursday needs a new name. How about Gayday? With a gay night at Cockpit and a cheesy one at Mission you're for a homotacular time.



Drop a Beat

coffin) hail from Australia. For jaded, long-time Junglists who had kept in touch with the sound, it had reached the end of the world and the end of the line in a bashy storm of stadium dance music.

Parallels can be drawn between Jungle and the current sounds of Dubstep. Those who were too young to experience the former's heyday basked in the dawn of the latter's relatively recent underground boom, hailing it 'my Jungle'. The return of a multiethnic, 'London' sound that picked up the baton for Reg-

The green pill

Mark Beardmore explores the reasons why we should be buying fairtrade products, recycling our pizza boxes and growing our own salad.

Green Meany or Mean Green? Has the Machine gone Green? Trinity appears back in the Matrix and immediately notices there is something wrong. Neo is stood on the other side of the dingy bed-sit. He replaces the receiver of a retro bell-ring phone. It is green in colour. A dim light filtering in through a high window on the wall illuminates the shadows – in lurid shades of green. She looks at Neo; he stares back; a moment of softness before he speaks:

"The Matrix is on to us, it's fighting back with a new virus". Trinity walks over and peers at his black leathers – they are infused with green. She looks down at her own leather cat suit and it too is infused with green, that same shade of green that is pouring in through the window. "What is it?" She inquires. "Green wash", replies Neo.

Blue Pill, Red Pill, or Green Bille?

Despite the illusion of freedom, we are all tied into a matrix of systems that make up the modern world. Our water comes from a vast network of pipelines supplied by chemical treatment and filtration works. Food comes to us via a global network of road, sea and air

links that stretch out across the world. Power in the form of electricity comes from another vast network of cables and power lines. It seems only the air we breathe is free; if only it were free from the waste caused by these giant networks; networks that feed off fossil fuels in the form of coal, oil and gas. And of course, money. In effect we are eating oil, gas and hard cash. These are the main items used in food production – gas to make fertiliser, oil to power tractors, and government farm subsidies paid to agribusiness.

And there in lies the devil: Business. The current economic system relies on a constant ethos of more is good, less is evil; unless of course it involves more ££££s for less lbs. And it is here that the green pound enters, promising that money really does grow on trees with business discovering that consumers will pay a premium to salve their eco consciences. Now we really can charge more for less, as long as it is painted green.

But where did it start?

Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" was the first crack in the post-war consumer edifice, when she pointed out the damage that pesticide use was having on

was 10 years ago. And both polar icecaps - icons to climate change theories - are shrinking rapidly.

So what?

In the past, technology has provided the answer to resource limitation as seen in the moves from wood to coal, and then to oil and gas. But can it provide the answer again? From reusable eco-nappies to recycled cardboard coffins it is possible to be eco-friendly from cradle to grave. We can seek ways to use resources more efficiently, and what's more, all this technological development can fuel the global economy to a brighter, greener future. Conscientious consumers have started buying environmental and ethically friendly goods; sales of organic vegetables and clothing are rocketing. Keen to be seen as green, business is also adopting the many and varied fair trade and ethical standards across the board.

Green washing machine? Or Green-washing the machine?

But are we seeing a real green revolution or just a greenwashing of a little bit of industrial civilisation's laundry? Large scale organic monocultural farming can cause as much damage as that using non-organic methods, and organic fruit shipped from warmer climes has some of the highest food miles going. Large corporations like Nestlé who are often seen as a bastion of all things bad in global corporatism are now Fairtrade certified, having one Fairtrade coffee brand out of 8,500 other products, many of which the source of raw ingredients the company chooses to deny knowledge of. As a global business like any other, they still play the markets. According to the maketrade.com website: "Profit margins are high – Nestlé has made an estimated 26 per cent profit margin on instant coffee. ...with farmers getting a price that is below the costs of production, the companies' booming business is being paid for by some of the poorest people in the world."

And in taking greenwashing to the extreme we find that BAE are producing biodegradable mines and green bullets that still kill you, albeit efficiently with less gunpowder, and are lead free – so good for the environment! This brings a whole new twist to the term biting the eco-bullet...

Conflict itself is often driven by resource greed and fiscal profits. The whole global industrial system of business is designed to make a few very rich, despite its protests that wealth will trickle down...eventually. Based on limitless expansion and by default, limitless profit, the industrial society is no accident and its real purpose is kept hidden. As John Taylor Gatto, author of Dumbing Us Down, points out, the industrial solution is also the basis of the US (and now global) edu-

cation system: "the wrong it does from a human perspective is right from a systems perspective".

It also raises the question of why schools and education are the focus of so much development in 'developing' countries. Is it really to enable them to read and write – (often in English!) so that they can get gainful employment? Employment in that vast industrial network that supplies the wealthy nations



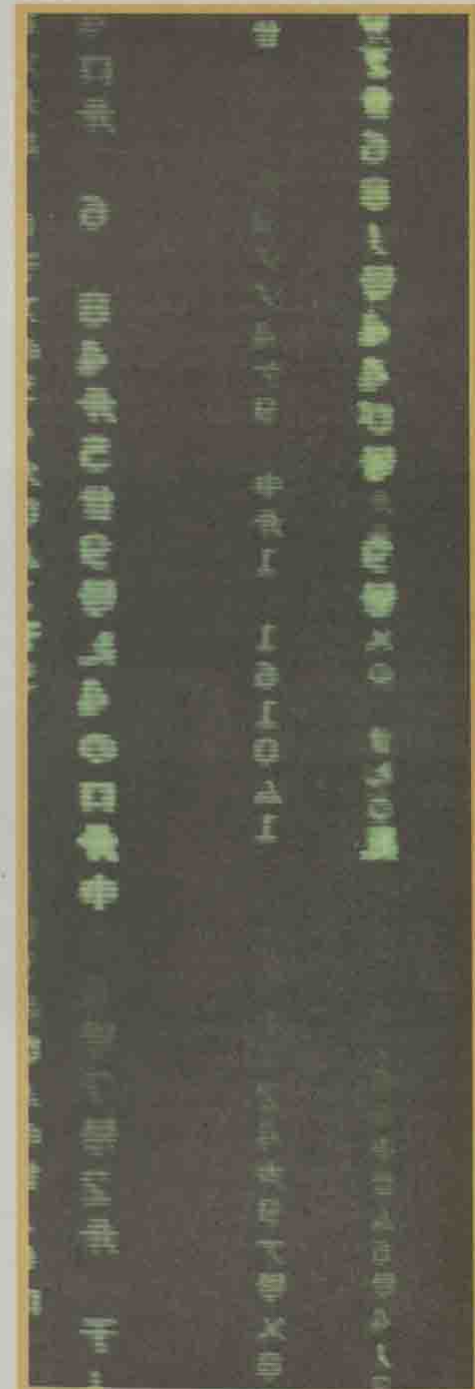
FAIRTRADE

**Guarantees
a better deal
for Third World
Producers**

“ The whole global system is designed to make a few very rich, despite its protests that wealth will trickle down. **”**

wildlife. In the following decades of the 60's and 70's there was a growing realisation that not only are resources limited, but that the industrial scale plunder and pollution of the earth's environment threatens the existence of life on the planet through the multiple threats of global warming, ozone depletion and desertification of both the land and sea. Organisations such as Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth appeared to protect the environment in the face of corporate exploitation.

But like the Titanic, today's civilisation is seen by its captains as unsinkable; yet, as before, all the warnings signs are there. Icebergs from melting glaciers caused by global warming; the Jakobshavn Glacier on Greenland's west coast is melting twice as fast as it



of the globe with all that stuff? When instead they might be better 'schooled' and trained or apprenticed in local traditions and crafts, adapted over millennia to enable survival of human beings in their own unique bit of the planet.

The examples of such traditional systems are seen in the existing sustainable indigenous lifestyles of native peoples such as the U'wa of Columbia, the Penan of Sarawak, (the Malaysian part of the island of Borneo),

and the peoples of Ladakh. All lead sustainable lives - they're as green as you can get - but they don't fit into the global money machine. Thus, not having a dollar a day they are deemed as poor and must be assimilated into the Matrix through that euphemistical term 'development'. How can you consume if you have nothing to consume with?

And here is a glint of the hidden purpose of the global machine. By homogenising lifestyle to the point that in every corner of the planet one can buy a MacDonald's and wash it down with a Coke, every bit can be made to turn a profit. And for those who find that hard

to swallow, we'll daub some stuff with a tasty green organic GMO-free Fair Trade sauce; and charge you double for the privilege. You can be part of our new great green money making machine - a green consumer! As George Monbiot says, "The middle classes think they have gone green because they buy organic cotton pyjamas and handmade soaps with bits of leaf in them - though they still heat their conservatories and retain their holiday homes in Croatia."

The problem is that we can't buy ourselves out of this one. Or trade, or offset. The very word 'consumer' comes from the root 'consume' meaning to destroy. Whether done ethically or not, it is the high levels of consumption that are the main cause of the problem. But of course no politician is ever going to ration the nation's consumption when the rest of the world is consuming to oblivion. We have our reputation.

Escape
Trinity looks closer at the 'green' that covers everything. She blinks, then blinks again - billions of tiny 'green back' dollars swam over everything.

Neo: "Quick the green pill!"
She takes a small green pill from her belt pack and puts it into his mouth. Her fingers linger a moment on his lips. He swallows the pill. The green backs start to change to green leaves. Suddenly the door bursts open. Agent Smith morphs his arm from where he stands in the doorway, his hand grips tightly around Neo's neck.

"Do you like what I've done?" inquires Agent Smith in a staccato monotone. "A virus to infiltrate your organisation, to bring you back into the fold!"

Neo grabs the agent's arm, and as the green backs flow into Neo's form they change

into green leaves. The agent looks confused. His grip loosens and he lets go of Neo, but it is too late! Before he can move he is turning into a tree rooted to the spot.

"Do you like what we've done?" asks Neo in retort. "A virus to fight a virus!"

There is a solution, find ways in our own lives to exit the matrix; grow some salad in a pot on the windowsill; buy local fruit and veg; buy at cost food from the union co-op; buy second hand retro designer chicque. Just buy less 'stuff'. Become a mean greeny. Join a green/ethical society. Trick the matrix; don't

just demand green bins from the council but reduce and reuse. Walk into a coffee bar with your own mug, go to a 'take away' with your own plate, and magically produce your own bag at the check out. The Matrix will freak. It won't know what to do. You might find that, not only are you happier, but richer (well less in debt!) to boot.

As journalist Sydney J. Harris once said, "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem", or as Ghandi put it: "be the change you want to see".



Green Tips:

A freezer uses more energy when it is empty so fill any spaces with empty sealed containers such as bottles, cardboard boxes and used takeaway containers (preferably washed!)

Radiator Foil: Reflects the heat into the room away from outside walls. Cut a piece of cardboard slightly smaller than the size of the radiator so that it will slot behind it. Cover one side with kitchen foil and voila! Insert behind radiator.

If you put shelves above a radiator: This will create warm air currents within the room and make sure you get the most out of your radiator.

Dress up your hot-water tank: A British Standard lagging jacket costs approx £10

and the insulation for the pipe leading to the hot-water tank from the boiler costs £3 a metre. A load of old woolly jumpers cost nothing!

Thermos: Keep a thermos flask by the kettle. After boiling enough water for a drink, if there is any left pour it into the thermos for later. That way you get a hot drink quick for no extra boiling!

It's curtains! Try to close your curtains as soon as it gets dark to keep the cold night air out, and for extra warmth consider getting some extra curtains from a charity shop as a lining. Also never hang curtains over the front of a radiator as this will direct the heat straight out the window!

Nature's Bounty: Grow some herbs or greens in a pot on a windowsill. Lamb's lettuce, Pak Choi, Rocket and Basil are expensive to buy and often have high food miles.

SUBMIT A MOTION.

For guidance on how to write a motion go to www.luuonline.com and leave your mark!

MOTION DEADLINE:
5.00PM ON THURSDAY 25TH OCTOBER.

LEAVE YOUR MARK BY PUTTING A MOTION TO REFERENDUM.



Leeds University Union.

Singles.

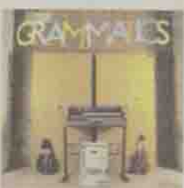
Single of the Week

Wallis Bird
'Blossoms In The Street'
(Bird Records)



Irish singer/songwriter Wallis Bird plays her guitar upside-down. This may not sound important, but there's something about her style that makes you wonder if it's somehow a reason the music sounds so good. A sample of the forthcoming album *Spoons*, this single is an absolutely incredible mix of harmonies, acoustic guitars and a viola. On top of that, there's the catchy rhythm and Bird's beautiful voice. This is the kind of music you want to listen to in a tiny venue; deeply personal but at the same time free and uplifting. Wow. (9)

Grammatics
'Shadow Committee'
(Dance to the Radio)



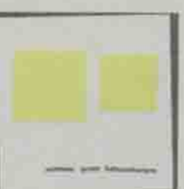
Warning: this song will make you want to creep around your house, dazzle your unsuspecting housemates with your quick-footed nimbleness and your 'graceful' leaps and spins through the air. You will want to perform to this song. It is art/performance pop perfection. (9)

Los Campesinos!
'The International Twee-core Underground'
(Wichita)



As you might expect from the unusual name, Los Campesinos! have quite an unusual sound. Happy indie rock, with additional violins, keyboards and hand-clapping, moving from the upbeat and danceable to slightly spacey interludes - what summer would sound like if it formed a band. Pretty damn good. (8)

LCD Soundsystem
'Someone Great'
(DFA)



A slightly chilled-out LCD track is this one, with a sweet melody and unusual contrasting bass sounds.

Not sure how this would go down on the dancefloor, but then this is the radio edit and there's bound to be a shockingly good overtly electro remix out there somewhere... (7)

Seth Lakeman
'Poor Man's Heaven' EP
(Relentless)



Released in anticipation of an album due out early next year, the *Poor Man's Heaven* EP is loaded with texture and rhythm - violins, banjos and harps woven seamlessly into traditional folk-rock, topped off by Lakeman's passionate vocals. Listen out for the infectious intro to 'Race to the King' - it's the best bit! (9)

words/ claire thorn, ben fisher

Album of the Week

Radiohead
In Rainbows

(self-released)

Stop the presses! After four years of waiting, and not even two weeks of knowing it was coming, Radiohead's seventh album is finally here. Highly anticipated, *In Rainbows* has been touted as one of the more difficult, unwieldy entries to the band's catalogue; the truth couldn't be more different.

A series of skittering beats opens '15 Step', a track perhaps better suited to Thom Yorke's solo effort *The Eraser*; in fact, it's probably the least representative thing here, all skewed wordplay ('First you reel me out, then you cut the string'), dubby guitars, and a chorus of cheering children thrown in for good measure. Barnstorming rocker 'Bodysnatchers', meanwhile, allows Jonny Greenwood to use up an entire album's worth of guitar skronkery in one go, leaving the rest of the record relatively noise-free. If not as "embarrassingly minimal" as Radiohead have described them, many of the songs here are much less cluttered than previous



Stuff/The
Fuses
Angels Are Ace

(Sour Puss)

The drummer-fronted band are back with a second album in an attempt to support their fabulous live shows and unquestionable energy with a solid, sellable record. Although it contains a couple of good, danceable tracks, most of their output is very average - a fact normally covered by their gig performance.

If The Stranglers were to come back and attempt to create an indie album, this is what they would sound like. It seems like a fantastic concept until one realises that, if they were to do so, the music would be tired and slightly out of touch. It would also be just as confused as this album seems, jumping between punk-like vocals, organ breaks and indie guitar riffs.

The talented Steve Albini, who produced Nirvana and Pixies among other bands, is responsible for recording *Angels Are Ace* and, whilst it may not be a shambles, it is not his best work. His grunge past, however, does explain why there are Foo Fighters-esque vocals and riffs creeping into the record. Unfortunately, this just adds to the confusion and incoherent nature of Stuff/The Fuses' sound.

Angels Are Ace has its good points, though: 'Ahhhh Song' will most definitely be heard on indie clubs up and down the country, while the fun, choppy 'Sir Wants Sex' creates the feeling of being crushed against the barriers, sweating off two stone but loving every minute.

The album definitely is a grower, and, after a few listens, you will start to hear things you had not before. It also starts to make more sense, but never quite rescues itself from insufficient continuity; unfortunately for Stuff/The Fuses, run of the mill songs cannot be improved by obscure names such as 'The Champagne Socialist's mid term BBQ pt. 2' or 'Joe C. (is an idiot)'. Stick with the stage. (6)

words/ joseph kusionowicz



efforts; the chiming guitars of 'Weird Fishes/Arpeggi' have a clarity practically unheard of in the band's oeuvre, while the acoustic 'Faust Arp' sounds like a long-lost Nick Drake outtake, right down to the perfect imitation of Robert Kirby's string arrangements. It makes for a surprising highlight.

The same goes for 'Jigsaw Falling Into Place', a driving four minutes of scattered acoustic guitars, Indian strings, backing vocals that sound



Asobi Seksu
Citrus

(One Little Indian)

Although the influence of various bands in the shoegaze genre - My Bloody Valentine, M83, Slowdive, and obvious comparisons Blond Redhead - is clear, Asobi Seksu sound nothing like them. However good albums such as *Levelless* could be, the genre was always going to be restricted by its focus on white noise, dreamy vocal harmony and crashing guitar, and there are a lot of people this does nothing for. *Citrus*, however, is incredibly varied, with unexpected twists and turns in every track, and, despite some seemingly madom changes, it flows so well.

There are a number of factors to its incredible sound. Yuki Chikudate, the main vocalist, can not only actually sing, but she can vary her vocals so well; she flips back and forth from Japanese to English all the time, making the songs more colourful. She can be pure pop, emotional, even at times indecipherable, but always upbeat. She also plays synthesiser, which gives a charge to a song like 'Pink Cloud Tracing Paper', as well as bells and toy piano on tracks like 'Goodbye' and 'Lions and Tigers'. James Hanna also plays a big part: a very skilled guitarist, not just in his playing ability, but also in his control of soundscapes - not afraid of sounding too pop, nor of being experimental and commercial in the same song, his guitar work seems always to complement Yuki's voice and synths.

Highlights have to be 'Thursday', which sounds a bit like The Killers but with more colour and imagination, and 'Red Sea', whose airy soundscapes - synthesisers, shimmering guitar, and light but heartbreaking vocals - sound in parts '80s melodramatic pop and in parts '90s shoegaze. Having said this, there is not a dud track here: they're all good, and each offers something different. *Citrus* definitely has a commercial appeal, but it also has enough originality and uniqueness to appeal to people more into leftfield music. This would have been the soundtrack to my summer if only it hadn't been released two months too late. (8)

words/ nick mendlesohn

Albums.

both ethereal and sinister, and one of the finest performances of Thom Yorke's career. Less so 'All I Need', probably the closest thing to a dud the album has, despite its strikingly human sentiment. In part, it is unhelpt by placement: after two of the LP's crowning moments: 'Weird Fishes', and 'Nude', the latter first demoed in the mania following *OK Computer*, and sounding like it could have come straight off that album. With Colin Greenwood's signature bouncing bass, and almost unbearably lush strings, the track swells and falls, barely able to support Yorke, who sounds at his most fragile. The lyrics, practically unchanged in ten years, remain some of his finest, the refrain "You'll go to hell for what your dirty mind is thinking" arguably the most poignant moment on the album, as the music dies, and Yorke's voice is left to soar alone.

This is Radiohead's most concise, organic record in a decade, and their least self-conscious since *The Bends*; it sounds like they're finally comfortable with being musicians, with being Radiohead, and not just Knowingly Groundbreaking Artists. The LP is all the better for it. Another triumph against conventional wisdom, then, by a band who should have run out of ideas a long time ago. (9)

words/ alex wisgard



Stereophonics
Pull the Pin

(V2)

Stereophonics journey down a well-trodden path with sixth studio album *Pull the Pin*. The result deserves a few listens, but whether it signals a return to the Welsh trio's glory days or a case of songwriter's block is questionable. Awash with Led Zepplin-esque riffs, echo effects and screechy electric guitars, it is clear that the boys prefer to stick to that '70s thing they know and love, with plenty of gussy, angst-ridden rock, as seen in lively opening track 'Soldiers Make Good Targets'. This is a contrast with 'Bright Red Star', a ballad where acoustic guitars and minimal chord changes take things back to the very basic. Between these two extremes, the rest of the album is a medley of confusion. Surprisingly, it does capture a more cheerful side of life than is first apparent, with songs such as 'My Friends' and 'Bank Holiday Monday' adding a dash of fun-loving hedonism. However, this isn't a true reflection of the album as a whole. Like a puberty-stricken teenager, it shifts reluctantly and unpredictably through supposedly upbeat and downcast tracks.

This time, the 'Phonics have expressed themselves by more adventurous political means. 'Soldiers Make Good Targets' deals frankly with the representation of war in the media. Likewise, in 'Daisy Lane', Kelly Jones discusses the consequences of violence in what could be seen as a personal plea to eradicate such social realities. The band have dealt with politics and current affairs before, but their presence on *Pull the Pin* seems ineffective and unnecessary. The tried-and-tested themes of ex-girlfriends, sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll seem a safer option.

This is a collection best suited to diehard fans rather than an invitation to jump on the Stereophonics bandwagon; it is pleasing, but nothing radical, daring or new. The LP ends in the style of all their previous records, with a self-loathing, suicidal number ('Drowning'), where musician and listener alike are left asking: was it really worth the effort? (6)

words/ rebecca tuckley

Live.

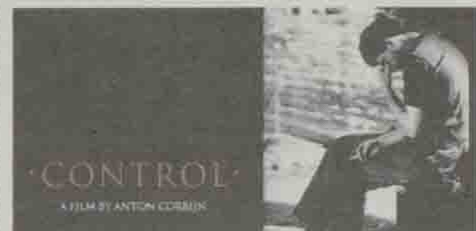
'A' side 'B' side
by Helena and Ramzy



Does *Control* portray Ian Curtis as a selfish, whining bastard? Simply, yes. But this is too simple a description in many ways. Everyone knows someone who is either in an aspiring band, or who desperately wants to be. This is Ian Curtis at the film's opening, obsessed with Bowie and, perhaps a little bit, with himself.

As events progress, the little 'boy' from Macclesfield who 'married too young', 'grew up too fast', etc, becomes disillusioned not just with the mundane existence that awaits him at home but also with his band. Why do people miss this distinction when watching the unhappy story of Ian Curtis's demise?

Albeit briefly, *Control* highlights the destructive nature of sex-drugs-and-rock'n'roll that we see every day in the likes of Amy Winehouse and Pete Doherty. A recent study that appeared in The Guardian indicated that the average life expectancy for rock stars is 35. Why? What malignant force lies at the heart of this film propelling Curtis towards his death? Is it not his passive, loving wife and child, nor is it the fear of his own mortality. It is the lack of control that those who commit to a life of making music often find themselves subject to, and simply cannot cope with.



"I don't want to be that group of teenagers who watch *Control* and then go home and listen to Joy Division," she said, matter-of-factly, when I suggested to the impromptu, downcast contents of my living room that we put on *Unknown Pleasures*. But who is that group of teenagers? It is a slippery slope to suggest that a renewed excitement in (and recalled appreciation of) Joy Division's music after watching a biopic of the lead singer is nothing more than buying into the idolisation of suicide. Perhaps *Control* is a tragedy by nature of the perspective it invites, but a later, overheard assertion that it could be judged neither as a good or a bad film (merely as a more- or less-faithful retelling of events) because it took its material from real situations seemed to wholly miss the point. On the contrary, its playing down of Curtis' suicide (it looks almost as though Corbijn only put it in as an afterthought - everyone knows that he killed himself on the eve of their American tour, but the film is not *24 Hour Party People*, thank God) represents a rekindling of the exhilarating emotional force, the dark energy and the morbid psychodrama it is difficult to dissociate from Joy Division, but without turning them into self-parody. On the contrary, to deny the distinction is to sell them far shorter than to allow oneself to get excited about them after something so behind-the-scenes that I almost feel I should apologise for it. There are ways of engaging with the people within the music that do not descend into Chris-Martin-And-Coldplay syndrome. After all, Joy Division have been one of my favourite bands since I was at school, and I am doing sixty credits this year about the dynamics between music and the cultures it springs from, describes and seeds.

Whether or not Ian Curtis comes across as a selfish coward, he is portrayed as a human being, and I find that both exciting and frightening - as a fan who has waited three years to see *Control*, as a human being and as a musician.

Gig of the Week

The Maccabees

Leeds Met

8/10/07

Tonight's support act, lucky enough to jump upon the Maccabees bandwagon, are the Envy Corps, four young men hailing from Iowa. Doesn't sound very interesting? Probably because they're not. With their long hair, beards, old man cardigans and corduroy trousers, they push forward their terribly 'meaningful' songs on a not-particularly-interested crowd. To be fair, they do their best to get the crowd going, telling unfortunate anecdotes and stories. Their music is, on the whole, alright: there are melancholic and touching moments as well as a sense of feel-good but, with a crowd baying for The Maccabees, they may have been better off staying at home.

Finally, after a rather long delay, the band that

everyone is waiting for tonight, The Maccabees. After a rather slow start with a new song, they tip into 'X-Ray', creating a mass frenzy of fans desperately clawing their way forward in order to join in with the already rippling mosh pit. The Maccabees certainly do seem to deliver what these fans are waiting for, running through most of the album, with each song receiving a more rapturous recep-



tion than the last.

Front man Orlando Weeks seems as always quite bewildered to be up on stage; his relentless swinging of the microphone stand and occasional

bursts of awkward dancing don't seem to do him any harm, however. Beside him, his bandmates almost embody a caricature: guitarist Hugo White looks as though he has taken a few too many lines of something or other beforehand and refuses to take his hood down throughout, whilst brother Felix White is rather overenthusiastic with eyes that look like they might pop at any minute. They don't even need to work at the crowd in order to make them adore them: everybody here already seems to have made up their mind. Although The Maccabees can be slightly predictable, don't perhaps have the most innovative songs and will probably be victims of indie-bitching this time next year, they do have the ability to cater to everyone and manage to deliver every time. Songs such as 'Precious Time', 'Lego' and 'First Love' are highlights, suggesting that their relentless touring over the last couple of years may have finally paid off.

Like it or not, The Maccabees cannot help but make you smile. (8)

words/ aising beddy

Stephanie Dosen

The Cockpit

12/10/07

"I used to teach first grade a little biddy bit," explains Dosen in her light, girlish way. "I used to tell each class they were my favourite, but then they'd talk at recess. The parents didn't think anything I did was very funny, especially all the drugs." Entrancing is the only word that comes near to sufficiently describing Stephanie Dosen's presence on stage. She is dressed in a white lace dress of innumerable layers, with equally white hair, and talks candidly between songs of whatever she thinks



appropriate. For example, she tells a story of how she upset an audience on her recent Australian tour by telling them she'd just eaten a delicious koala burger. Her set is tied together by these little anecdotes and, though they rarely relate to the songs, she draws the audience closer with every risqué non-sequitur.

The songs are less risqué. She is touring to promote her acoustic-folk debut *A Lily for the Spectre*. It is a batch of distinctly 'debut album' songs. That is not to say that they are immature or simplistic but, rather, that they are relatively easy. For example, her opening song, 'Somerset', is constructed from far too few and too similar chords. There is little variety in terms of colour, and the song lacks depth. When she welcomes her band on stage, however, after two songs played solo on acoustic guitar, colour appears and the whimsy is lessened. This is mostly attributable to the string section: a violin and a 'cello'. The string parts are beautifully arranged, leaving the bass part to the bass guitar and allowing the 'cello' to accompany the violin in cascading two-part harmonic streams. Dosen sings in an impressively measured fashion, never understepping the mark in terms of dynamics, tone and diction. Also, and perhaps more importantly, her voice is remarkable. Too often, though, one is left wishing that the beautiful voice and the wonderfully apt strings were allied to some more enlightening material. A performer of her calibre should be moving audiences to a far greater extent, and her material simply doesn't allow her to do so. (7)

words/ george reece

The Hoosiers

Mine

11/10/07

The London-based three-piece enter-carrying paper-mâché letters that spell out the word 'Hoosiers'. Irwin Sparkes, their unfeasibly charismatic front man, is dressed brightly in a small orange t-shirt and 'Rupert the Bear' trousers. The band's Swedish drummer, Martin Skarendahl, wears a moustache which wouldn't be out of place in an early issue of the Beano. This comic-book visual style is aided by the two TV monitors the band place on their amps, coated in grey fur, showing pictures of simple, black-and-white smiley faces. The music suits the look beautifully, filled with jaunty, bouncy percussion and colourful melodies. Most of all, though, it is the band's wild and unabating grins which create a sense of juvenile joy. The strong, forward-moving beats are reminiscent of late '70s ELO. The song-craft is not at all bad, showing an impressive grasp of structure and harmony. Even the melodies are interesting and memorable. Sparkes's guitar, which looks several sizes too big on him, is coated in colourful glitter, and the noise is the sonic equivalent of the look. His effect-of-choice is a heavily phased, shimmery double-octave which sounds

Prefuse 73

Stylus

15/10/07

This night truly takes me by surprise: not only is the sound so intense that it floods through the speakers, shaking my entire body, but the music is conceptually intelligent and metaphysically



transporting.

Fingating blow me away. Their music seems to be from another dimension, and watching them give a live performance draws attention to how original and talented the pair really are. Their chemistry onstage is electric; they show a real understanding and appreciation of each

other that is rare to witness, as well as a sense of enthusiasm to share their musical creations.

Sneaky's fingers flit nimbly over the strings of his bass, plucking out vibrating, chest thumping rhythms. Meanwhile, Parker's masterful scratching and fading provided an electronic, bubbling cauldron of sound. Between them they are chipping away at musical boundaries and producing works of wonder. (5)

words/ george reece



other that is rare to witness, as well as a sense of enthusiasm to share their musical creations.

Sneaky's fingers flit nimbly over the strings of his bass, plucking out vibrating, chest thumping rhythms. Meanwhile, Parker's masterful scratching and fading provided an electronic, bubbling cauldron of sound. Between them they are chipping away at musical boundaries and producing works of wonder.

Prefuse 73 delivered an equally impressive performance. Their set was magical, mystical, and soul-searching. Unlikely to be defined by any passing scene, Herren, the beautiful front-of-stage man, goes his own way and throws ham-fisted attempts at pigeonholing or categorisation. Reinvention, and reformulation, is the ethic - electric jolts slamming life back into flailing cultural forms. The gig was an endlessly fascinating maze of sound.

The abstract-minded outcomes of Herren's experimentations acclaim him as a pioneering sound scientist. Discerning music lovers fond of Four Tet, Caribou and Prefuse 73's fellow Warp acts Clark, Battles and Flying Lotus would have been wowed and warmed by an evening that simulated walking in space. (8)

words/ thiannon salisbury

Karim interviews ...

The pioneer DJ of rave culture. You technically have to call him 'Sir' for his services to music. The dressing room was too noisy so I had to talk to Norman Jay, MBE, round the back. Where the garbage is.

LS: So, Norman Jay, what's going on? New projects?

NJ: Yeah, I'm Ok – no new projects really, just been touring, travelling quite a lot – China, India... the people there just love the music you know? It unites us all.

“Did you get to Carnival?”

NJ: Carnival can't happen unless I'm there.

LS: So did you manage to get to (Notting Hill) Carnival this year?

NJ: Yeah well, you know, Carnival can't happen unless I'm there...

LS: Haha, I mean, I managed to get there, Saturday was lovely, family orientated, everyone happy and all, but as Sunday evening came I felt that the Police were certainly getting more... sinister, you know?

NJ: Well they have to, you know? Because stupid kids get sinister, the Police need to get sinister. But it was a great Carnival, I mean, record breaking crowds for Good Times (Jay's Sound System) and a wonderful experience. House, funk, disco: all the stuff that I really love.

LS: So with the massive turnout at Good Times, do you think this spells a revival for funk and house for you personally?

NJ: Well no, I'm only a house DJ in this country, because that's the way this country works. I make my living playing House – I mean it's my first love, but unlike other house DJs, I still indulge myself in other types of music that I've always loved.

LS: So what did you start DJing when you first got here? I mean what were your first influences?

NJ: Haha, well when I was young that was years before House came, but just original RnB and Jazz. Billie Holiday, all that scene there.

LS: And who was the first person for you to bring Jazz and Blues to the UK?

NJ: Dunno, I don't really care. I never really looked at it like that. I just played what I felt really. I'm an emotional DJ, I play emotions that I like – you know, from the most obvious cheesiest cheese to the most rarest obscure, leftfield track, I don't care, I'm a maverick DJ.

LS: So what's in your ear right now? What are you listening to? You sticking to the old stuff? Or are you seeking out some new material?

NJ: I don't stick to anything, I mean it's mood. Do you eat the same thing everyday? Do you walk the same street everyday?

LS: So what fresh fruit are you getting?

NJ: There are loads of thing really, I don't know. I don't really check for labels or artists; because the technology people use to make tunes now, they could have been made twenty years ago, they could be made tomorrow. I like my house music, I like my nu-soul, I like my nu-jazz, I like most things that I'm exposed to. I don't own an ipod, I don't really listen to music... I work in this, I don't need it to live. Ok that sounded bad, I mean there are things I listen to – I like my reggae, I like 60s and 70s pop, things you'd never associate with me. People pushing the boundaries forward, you know? I'm not a trendsetter, I'm not cutting edge,

I make people dance for a living, that's all.

LS: There's been a massive rise in interest and attendance for festivals, from right here in Leeds, to as far away as the Lake of Stars festival in Africa – why do you think that is?

NJ: Oh, it's cyclical. I mean in ten years' time you'll see people going back to hot, sweaty clubs. It's a natural cycle. I mean it makes more sense to be partying outside rather than inside. It's just part

“You don't have a rider, no drugs...”

NJ: That's because the others only live for now.

of our culture to party indoors.

LS: It's Black History Month. Who do you reckon best represents black history in terms of a live gig – you or Jazzie B?

NJ: Probably Jazzie B. He's the first guy that went worldwide with it. We have a very special relationship, we're like brothers. I can't praise Jazzie highly enough – he's the brother that took it forward.

LS: You are seen as a true professional – I mean you don't have a rider, no drugs. Just the music...

NJ: That's because the others live for now. The

long-term plan is what I concern myself with.

LS: Throughout black history here in the UK, it seemed to me that black cultural trends have always been latched onto by the rich, bourgeoisie white culture. Do you think that this is still the case?

NJ: That's always been there and that always will. It's mutually exclusive – We take from others, others take from us. I don't come from that school of thought where you are successful because you're black, or you're oppressed because you're black. It's this (tapping his head).



This is the only thing that limits you. The physical things you can deal with, you know? Unless you've been in real places where you face real... hardships, real apartheid, you can't complain about it. I mix my style up because I'm mixed race myself. People experiment. That's the best way to move on... It'd be really shit, really boring if everyone thought the same. You need people who question things.



Tete-a-tete with a legend.

Photo: A. Gilchrist.

Arts: screen, stage and page

Reviews of the Week...

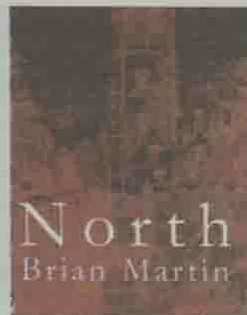
'North'

by
Brian Martin

In Martin's first novel, *North*, he draws upon his 40 years of teaching literature to create a tale that focuses upon the experiences of six main characters at a prestigious Boy's Private School in Oxford. The course of the characters' lives are interrupted by the devastatingly sublime North, whose charm goes beyond that of physical beauty and into the realm of the unearthly. North is an eighteen-year-old student, whose gorgeous youthful body is combined with an advanced intellect. Martin creates a character that is intensely dark, and yet can light the lives of those whom he chooses as a lover or a confidante. Capturing the hearts of more than one of his teachers, North leaves in his wake an ever more complicated assembly of broken hearts and relationships. He is the harbinger of doom and the death knell to more than just the careers of those who enter into his orbit.

The novel concentrates on obsession and suspicion. The charismatic narrator, North's literature teacher, a sophisticate of genteel disposition, (with a champagne habit), illustrates how North nurtures these emotions in the other characters as well as in himself. The two form a deep bond, which develops in a troubling direction, until the teacher lets go, for fear of wholly losing his grip on reality. The novel loses pace toward the middle with promises of a climax repeated too often that leave the reader languishing in boredom until the tempo resumes. Martin redeems himself however through his superb use of literary references and quotes that add to the atmosphere of the stories and encourage the reader to deeply analyse the situations and inner feelings of the characters, in particular those of the narrator. Milton's *Paradise Lost* is a recurring theme of the book and encourages the reader to entertain a range of disturbing possibilities. This book will appeal to anyone interested in exploring the darker sides of romanticism.

words/ cecilia gibbons



'Nose'

by
Edward Trencom

Cheese, noses, murder, love making and history—these are all the components of Giles Milton's creation which have been wonderfully intertwined to produce this eccentric novel. It tells the tale of the Trencom family and their world renowned fromagerie, through the eyes (and nose) of Edward Trencom. However, his life is turned upside down when he delves into his family history and discovers that he is inextricably caught in a Byzantine tangle of which there is no obvious answer. What follows is Edward's exploration into his ancestry and his travels in Greece, which provides Milton with an invaluable opportunity to display his expansive and specialist knowledge on history, (as well as cheese) through the introduction of an array of unlikely supporting figures like Roman emperors, Greek priests, and even Lord Byron. Curiously, the plot seems to revolve around Milton's obsession with 'long and aquiline' noses, providing a narrative that is very witty and entertaining, especially in its irrelevant, yet hilarious descriptions of the Trencoms antics in bed.

Unfortunately, at times, the plot seems disparate and unbelievable with an abrupt ending that fails to resolve some of the problems in the book. Despite this, the novel is bound to be a hit with the cheese tasting society, as it is lovingly prepared with extensive commentaries on a range of mouth watering cheeses, which vividly captures their aromas and tastes, from the smoked 'Norfolk tynwood' to the 'goaty touloumotyni' which will no doubt leave the reader with a desperate craving for cheese.

words/nali sivathanan

Doris Lessing announced winner of The Nobel Prize for Literature 2007

Just 11 days shy of her 88th birthday, Doris Lessing has recently been announced as the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature. She was described by the Swedish Academy as "that epicist of the female experience, who with scepticism, fire and visionary power has subjected a divided civilisation to scrutiny". Lessing is only the eleventh woman to win the prize in its 106-year history and also the oldest person ever to win the literature award.

After she found out she had won the prize, she told reporters outside her home "I've won all the prizes in Europe, every bloody one, so I'm delighted to win them all. It's a royal flush." The prize is worth £765,000.

The 87-year-old author has been a favourite for the Nobel for at least three decades now. Her collected works would fill many bookshelves writing poems, plays, and several science fiction novels throughout her writing career.

Writing Career

Lessing was banned from South Africa and from Rhodesia for many years due to her campaigning against nuclear arms and South African apartheid. Lessing moved to London with her youngest son in 1949 where her first novel, 'The Grass Is Singing', was published. For many, Lessing's breakthrough work, written in 1962, was 'The Golden Notebook'.

Doris was also offered a damehood but declined it in favour of the title of a Companion of Honour at the end of 1999 for "conspicuous national service". She has also been made a Companion of Literature by the Royal Society of Literature. Lessing consistently received prestigious awards honouring her work as an author.

Literary Style

Lessing's fiction is commonly divided into three distinct phases: the Communist theme (1944-1956), when she was writing radically on social issues (and returned to in *The Good Terrorist* (1985), the psychological theme (1956-1969), and after that the Sufi theme, which was explored in a



science fiction setting in the Canopus series. This change to science fiction was rather unpopular with many critics. Lessing responded to one such critic by saying: "What they didn't realize was that in science fiction is some of the best social

fiction of our time. I also admire the classic sort of science fiction, like *Blood Music*, by Greg Bear. He's a great writer." She was Writer Guest of Honour at the 1987 World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon), and made a well-received speech in which she described her science-fictional *Memoirs of a Survivor* as "an attempt at an autobiography".

Her novel *The Golden Notebook* is considered a feminist classic by some scholars, but notably not by the author herself, who openly stated her dislike in being pigeon-holed as a feminist author.

Doris Lessing's most recent publication is 'The Cleft' about a Roman senator embarking on one last epic endeavor: to retell the history of human creation and reveal the little-known story of the Clefts, an ancient community of women.

words/ natalie lewy

Write a Story for Children Annual Competition 2008...

The Academy of Children's Writers have recently announced the 23rd annual 'Write a Story For Children Competition'. There were over 2,000 entries received for the 2007 competition which proves what a prestigious competition this really is for unpublished writers of children's books in the UK.

Of course where there is a competition, there are prizes to be won and this is certainly no exception. The 1st prize in 2008 will be a cheque for £2000 with 2nd and 3rd prizes of £300 and £200 respectively.

All entrants must be over the age of 18 and currently unpublished, however self published entrants are allowed. The closing date for entries is the 31st of March 2008. All entrants will be informed of the winners by the end of May 2008.

How to Enter

Entry forms and further details can be obtained from the following:

- * Write a Story for Children Competition, Academy of Children's Writers, P O Box 95, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 5RL, on receipt of a stamped, addressed envelope
- * Or download from the web site at: www.childrens-writers.co.uk

words/ natalie lewy



Drawing Restraint 9

Starring/ Bjork, Matthew Barney
Directed by/ Matthew Barney

Sculptor/photographer/installation artist Matthew Barney, America's answer to Damien Hirst (if Damien Hirst were a sex addict), directs and stars in his latest offering to art house cinema. If you haven't come across Barney before, then the fact that his partner is Bjork (who also co-stars) should tell you something about him. According to my Graphic Arts friend who is in the know about all things contemporary, Barney's work typically involves gelatinous substances, rubber, a lot of Vaseline and industrial materials which are all steeped in sexual symbolism. As his previous cinematic ventures testify (*The Cremaster Cycle*), these are not your typical rainy Sunday afternoon films.

Shot in Japan, the plot revolves around the encounter of Bjork and Barney on board a whaling boat. It culminates in ritual dressing up in fesh costumes made from sea creatures, and a bizarre love ceremony that turns to cannibalism. The film also involves very few words, lots of jelly like substances and a lot of erotic symbolism I don't think I quite appreciated. Perhaps I'm just a bit of a prude at heart.

The problem with such a surreal off-beat film is that only a select few are going to have the right mindset (without the aid of a mind altering drug) to appreciate it, although Bjork's haunting music and the mesmerising cinematography,

with some beautiful shots of Japanese landscape and seas, did make it an aesthetically compelling experience.

However, this doesn't take away from the fact that it is the kind of film you find in those small blacked out rooms in the Tate Modern where most people take a glance at and then make the sensible decision to keep on walking through. In a cinema, the problem is that you are stuck for 135 minutes viewing the inner workings of Matthew Barney's sexually obsessive mind. Two hours viewing someone else's erotically warped and masochistic fantasies is too long.

Drawing Restraint 9 is comparable to Michael Gondry's quirky and endearing *The Science of Sleep*, another fantasy film constructing onto the big screen the inner conscious of its director. But whereas this film is attainable to its audiences Matthew Barney's mind is just too distorted a place to be infiltrated. The film is simply impenetrable.

Perhaps it is his impenetrability that makes him so appealing as an artist. His anti-mainstream mysticism makes him, like Bjork, somewhat of an eccentric cult figure. Still, unless you are a Matthew Barney fanatic I wouldn't rush out and buy the film when it comes out on DVD. If you want to impress your friends with your taste in eclectic arty films wait until *The Science of Sleep* comes out instead.

words/ lucy barnett

Superbad

Starring/ Jonah Hill, Michael Cera, Seth Rogen
Director/ Greg Mottola

'Desperation', 'awkwardness', 'extreme sarcasm' and 'fake i.d.'s are all things we associate with the modern day adolescent male. They are also things one would expect to see in a credible teen sex comedy in the vein of *American Pie* or *Road Trip* and thankfully *Superbad* scriptwriter and *Knocked-Up* star Seth Rogen knows this, exploiting it to near full effect in a movie that manages to be both unashamedly crude in its humour yet charmingly genuine.

Taking place over one day, we follow the profanely articulated (expect to hear 'fuck', 'pussy' and 'cock' a lot) misadventures of three hapless losers, one fat, one thin and one wearing a Metallica t-shirt, as they frantically try to lose their pesky virginities, and supply booze to the cool kids at an end of year party. Standing in their way are far from professional police, state under-age drinking regulations and themselves (when told by one of the cool/hot girls 'you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours', Seth (Hill) replies 'You know the funny thing about my back is that it's located on my cock'). Hill's character provides the cuddly yet obnoxious, 'make a dick-joke before you think' half of the partnership around which the film is based, with Evan (Cera) providing the endearing but girlishly tentative, awkward pause half. It's impossible not to mention also the fake i.d. roting Vogel, aka McLovin, who provides many a gag, simply because a skinny white guy using phrases like 'honnies' and 'lets ride' would have to try hard not to be funny.

That the characters are so well developed and believable is the film's main strength as it only serves to further the hilarity and makes you actually care about *Superbad's* outcome. After all, why have a line involving the word 'fellate' come from some one-dimensional character played some thirty year old (Ryan Reynolds anyone?) when you could have it coming from a real teenager?

words/ max barry



The Birth of a Nation

Starring/ Henry B. Walthall, Lillian Gish
Directed by/ D.W. Griffith



From the moment the 'blacked up' faces of white male actors playing caricature-like versions of plantation slaves appear on screen, you get the sense that going to see *The Birth of a Nation* will be quite a different experience from any normal visit to the cinema. Considered one of the most important and at the same time controversial films in American cinema history, D.W. Griffith's 1915 Civil War epic tells the story of two families (one Southern, one Northern) linked by love and friendship, only to be divided by the conflict. In what is depicted as the ensuing racial turmoil of the war's aftermath, the eldest son of the Confederate family decides to form the Ku Klux Klan to 'protect the white man' and deliver swift justice.

Griffith's employs what were at the time groundbreaking camera and lighting techniques to deliver this racially charged narrative. Indeed even today the scale of the civil war battle scene and the tracking shots used to capture the Confederate charge in it are extremely impressive. In addition, its pseudo-historical approach to the subject and its popularity on release meant it paved the way for subsequent feature-length films and the acceptance of cinema as an art form in itself.

Such a technically and commercially successful film is set in sharp contrast to Griffith's intellectually vacant world view, in which the black race is portrayed as perfectly content with its life of servitude and that releasing them has only caused corruption and violence. Some scenes, such as that of the 'trial' of a 'rebel' black militiaman by the KKK, and his subsequent condemnation to lynching, still shock today. However whilst these scenes exist, throwing the viewer off-guard on occasion, the majority of the white supremacist imagery, most notably the charge of hundreds of Ku Klux Klan members to the tune of 'Ride of the Valkyries', seem only laughable today. Though anyone watching this needs to bear in mind that at its release it was the pinnacle of white supremacist propaganda (attributed the resuscitation of the ailing KKK), for fans of early cinema it is a must. For anyone else its moral deficiency and three hours plus running time makes it hard to highly recommend.

words/ jon mould



Coming Up...

Daywatch at the Hyde Park Picture House

Daywatch, the second installment of Timur Bekmambetov's epic trilogy about the battle between the Light and the Dark, which follows on from 2004's *Nightwatch*, will be showing for one week only at the Hyde Park Picture House, starting this weekend.

While these films are epic in scale, they couldn't be a great deal further from the type of historical epics spawned by the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, with its setting in a modern, urban Russia. The world of this film is populated by 'others' (including vampires and witches, seers and sorcerers) as well as humans. The Light and Dark sides are equally balanced, held back from mutual destruction by a treaty, which is enforced by each side patrolling the Light by night, and the Dark by day.

Prophecy foretells of an 'other' whose powers will extend beyond those of anyone else, and who will settle the enmity between the two opposing sides forever. Like all of the 'others' he must chose between Light and Dark freely, and by himself. The mythology of the world is set up fantastically in the opening film, and assimilated into the modern world to create a really involving atmosphere.

While Bekmambetov's films do call to mind films like *The Lord of the Rings*, and *The Matrix*, they succeed partly in their combination of different genres and influences, especially in light of the highly stylised direction and effect. *Daywatch* is certainly a film that will be at its best on a cinema screen.

words/ simon gillett



Light Night

A city-wide series of events set Leeds abuzz on Friday night for the third annual Light Night celebrations. The festival, held from twilight through to the wee hours, incorporated music, photography, drama and illuminations from both universities, council departments and various cultural entrepreneurs.

To begin, off to the Brotherton Library, where a trio of second year Theatre and Performance students were to give a dramatic rendition of Ghoulish Ghost Stories. Upon meeting at seven on the dot we are ushered through the special Collections into the oak panelled Brotherton Room. After the crowd settles itself in the pitch darkness Tom Fava begins a reading of *The Woman in Black* from a solitary desk. The atmosphere is suitably uneasy and sees Fava repeatedly reassure himself "I don't believe in ghosts" as the woman in black (played by Lauren Gamham) omnipresence immerses the world of the storyteller into the story itself. Director Thomas Colley used a process of peaks and troughs to build the nervous anticipation - at Fava's pauses in narration the room is blanketed in silence making the regular thud of the mysteriously kinetic rocking chair all the more disconcerting due to the contrast with the stillness which preceded it. The action climaxes in a blood-curdling scream, startling the audience, and the story is subsequently hijacked by Gamham as Fava's storyteller freezes in a state of terror.

The performance achieved a state of skittish foreboding in its audience. Colley expertly incorporated the ambience of the antique, isolated space with a cluster of iconic symbols, the "details that give it a layering," such as the sinisterly empty rocking chair, the thin door which is thought to separate

us from the woman in black, and the comb which Fava sporadically takes through his hair as his character's distress becomes apparent.

The dramatic reading encapsulated the eerie twilight section of Light Night and juxtaposed impressively with a far more raucous performance of *Linus Trizzle's Slazy Speakeasy* outside the City Art Gallery. I then took myself to witness the experimental music of *The Termite Club* where three middle-aged men manipulated a mass of wires, egg cups, amplifiers and bleach bottles to create a crescendo of crickets, feedback and drilling. The performance saw the man next to me candidly enquire "has it started yet?" and caused me to envy the childhood manners of the five year old sitting next to me with her hands clamped firmly over her ears. Downstairs, two stars of Opera North filled the library with sonorous tenors and sopranos in their rendition of Scarpio's stabbing from Puccini's *Tosca*. After *The Termite Club's* offensive the singers' talents were quite literally music to my ears.

Light Night proved to be a mixed bag of events but with an admirable invitation to "be a tourist, a night-tripper and a sight-seer in your own city," and the events seemed to attract a wide-range of Leeds citizens from (a smattering) of students, to young families and pensioners. I wound up the evening with a photography exhibition celebrating eight hundred years of Leeds in Millennium Square and then made my way to Verve with a view to attending their special Light Night burlesque cabaret and from here I was lured into Mojos, saturated with culture and ready for the night to really start!

words/ pauline bache

On Stage at the Grand Theatre and Opera House

Falstaff on until the 9th November

After a career based around some of the best tragic operas ever composed, Giuseppe Verdi's final opera follows the story of Falstaff, one of Shakespeare's greatest comic characters. This opera is famous for its relentlessly fast pace, and a vitality that compliments the character of Falstaff perfectly. The performance lasts for around 2 hours and 45 minutes, and is sung in English, making it a particularly good opera to serve as an introduction to the form.

The Grand Theatre and Opera House is obviously trying to push this performance, as they are running a cheap ticket evening on the 6th of November, although it may work out cheaper to get stalls tickets with student discount on the day you go.

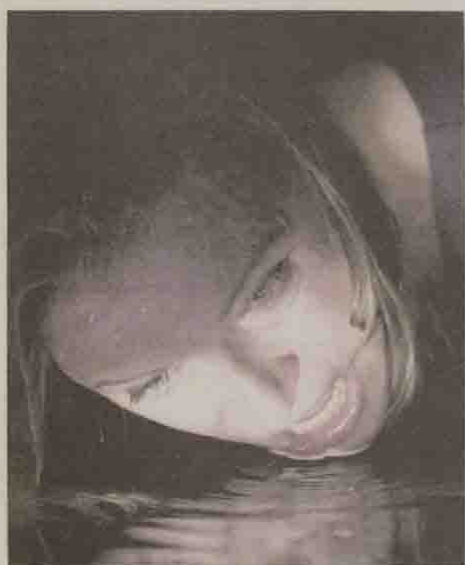
The History Boys 23rd-27th October

Following the extremely popular film of Alan Bennett's play, and the National Theatre's sell-out tour, *The History Boys* is coming to Leeds for a short run at the Grand Theatre and Opera House. While it is surprising that this play about sixth form boys trying to achieve places at Oxford and Cambridge has become so popular it is a mark of the quality of the script and the universality of the themes of adolescence and the role of education.

Tickets for the performances range from £11-£28, and they will be going very quickly, so make sure to book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

words/ simon gillett

Stockholm West Yorkshire Playhouse 16th October



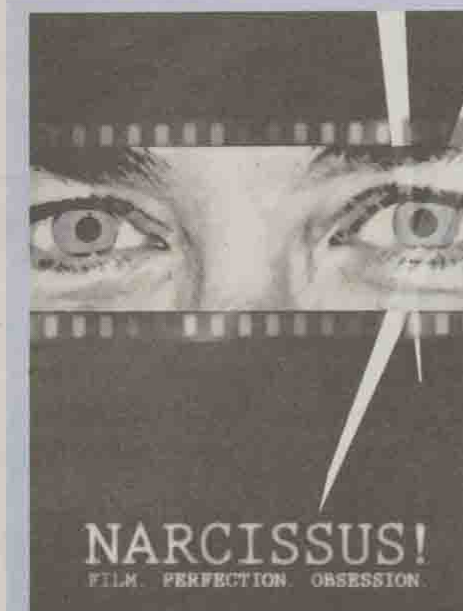
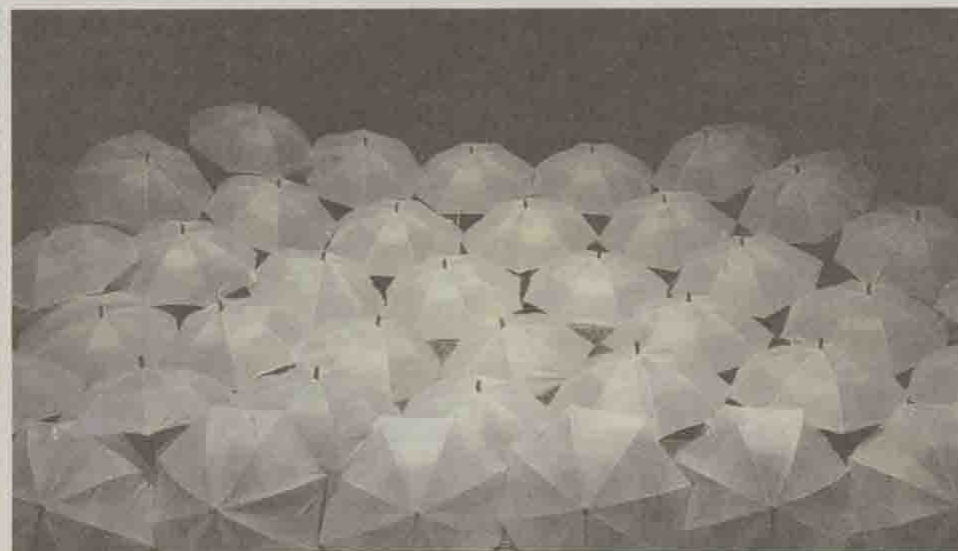
The latest offering from physical theatre company Frantic Assembly collaborates with playwright Bryony Lavery to bring Stockholm to the stage. Georgina Lamb and Samuel James play Kali and Todd, a couple involved in an obsessive and destructive relationship. Seemingly perfect and satisfyingly smug on the surface, the couple give a guided tour of their plush living space and demonstrate proof of their active sex life. But this façade evidently hides a dangerously fanatical bond between two people that are entirely immersed in one another. Aptly named, Lavery's choice of title not only refers to the destination of a holiday the couple are planning, but also to the psychological condition of Stockholm Syndrome, the tie between the oppressed and the oppressor that is incompre-

hensible to those on the outside.

The script is interspersed with short monologues from the characters that reveal the damage underlying their relationship; a clever addition to an already sharp and suitably abstract narrative, but one which perhaps needed more pace and restraint at the very beginning of the play as it was not yet entirely clear where these revelations were arising from. The physical sequences were an unnervingly accurate demonstration of how these two characters were essentially devouring each other; one more ballenic dance taking the place of a fight, as Kali and Todd wind and twist around each other, unable to break apart. Lamb and James are able to turn Kali and Todd into likeable and believable characters, a difficult task considering the nature of the play. Their use of physicality in what looked like complex choreography was brilliantly performed, and, with the play resting on their shoulders, kept the audience's attention throughout.

Laura Hopkins' set is simultaneously an image of the perfect domestic dwelling and a stark, daunting isolation booth. A two-sided stage that revolves between an austere looking staircase rising up into darkness and a sleek and polished kitchen backed by a line of knives that dominates the wall; a haunting residence that is aided in this sense by Andy Purves' mixture of chilling lowlights and bright, penetrating spotlights. The overall coldness of the set is an effective backdrop to the unfolding destruction; at one point a harsh spotlight encircling the characters as Todd announces that it is "hallowed, holy, sacred, 'us' time". This is a play that is definitely worth seeing; a perfect coordination of movement, lighting and strong performances that gives to the audience a close-up view of how damaging a relationship can ultimately be.

words/ kate cunningham



Narcissus!

Next Wednesday sees the opening of the second staged play by Adam Z. Robinson, author of 'Appetite (or, The Modern Medea)'. Directed by Ed Rigg, 'Narcissus!' simultaneously tells the stories of a previous successful controversial filmmaker and a woman caught up in two horrific deaths. Combining horror, cinema and suspense, this new play satirically tackles the current rise in horror 'goreography' whilst providing an unsettling journey into the dark fantasies of an unstable mind.

Tickets available every day from the Rileybox office.

Where: The Riley Smith Hall
When: Weds 24th - Fri 26th October
Cost: £5/£4 TG

Welcome to this week's iPage, brought to you in shocking pink. In shocking technology news, it seems robotic sex will soon be upon us.

A certain D. Levy of the University of Maastricht published a paper this year titled "Love and Sex with Robots". According to its author, "Love and sex with robots are inevitable." Quite what the social implications of a cybernetic partner are, iPage is unsure. But if my part-cyborg looks (on the right) appeal to any female readers who wish to try out Levy's theory for themselves, just send an email with your details (including processor speed and CPU cycles) to leedsstudentfeatures+ipage@gmail.com.

In other geeky stories, it seems the endless Dr. Who promotional machine has churned out that ultimate goal of all publicity: er, cookies. You can now buy a kit to design your own Dalek cookies, all for the princely sum of around £1.50. If iPage knew any Dr. Who catchphrases he'd be using one right here.

Myspace has come up with a new look, a 'status' section, and is now announcing plans to release 'applications'. 12 year olds who haven't discovered Facebook yet are excited.

Speaking of Facebook (as iPage is prone to do), one of the newer so-called 'Web 2.0' startup companies you may have missed is the catchily-titled "Hatebook". Parodying a social networking site whose name I am certain you can guess, it offers members the chance to "connect with the people YOU HATE" - always good. Profiles feature a section titled "Why I'm Better Than You" and all your messages (aka "junkmail") are viewable by everyone. Personally, iPage was hoping for a Facebook/Myspace mashup, solely because of the naming opportunities (Face-Space). Maybe next week.

So YouTube has slapped on some extra copyright protection measures designed to stop users uploading TV shows. iPage yawns. The system is quite clever; big film studios like Warner or Disney will upload full digital copies of their releases to YouTube (privately, obviously, so cheap bastards can't see them). When you next try to upload that hilarious clip from Robin Hood where Sir Hiss gets wasted on medieval booze, a complex algorithm on YouTube's server will compare your uploaded video's frames to the

“When you next try to upload that hilarious clip from Robin Hood where Sir Hiss gets wasted on medieval booze, a complex algorithm on YouTube's server will block you.

ones provided by Disney and co. If they match: congratulations, you're a pirate!

Of course, this means nothing to the seasoned web thief, who already knows the best places to watch their favourite TV shows and movies for free, in full, without having to click 'Next Clip' every ten minutes, or wait out the interminable 'Buffering...' messages. It's probably illegal for iPage to recommend such things, but if you look hard enough, you'll find them.

Since last week's column, invasions by insect robots planning to digitally steal iPage's soul (good luck finding it) have been minimal. But that doesn't stop those crazy bugs from trying other methods to get back at us pesky bipeds. Russian scientists, not content with sending innocent dogs into space, this week announced the results of the first space birth.

The two female cosmonauts gave birth to "the world's first offspring conceived in microgravity," Dmitry Atyakshin said. The fact that these cosmonauts happened to be cockroaches has little to no bearing on the importance of this discovery. While it remains true that in space, nobody can hear you scream, it remains to be

ROBOTS: Erotic?
Maybe soon.

seen (or heard) whether anybody can hear

your morning sickness, pregnancy craving, late night nappy changing and teething troubles.

Mac OS X "Leopard" is being released soon, promising an awe-inspiring 300 new features. If only it was just promising a 300 feature, where the computer randomly shouted phrases from the Frank Miller/Zack Snyder movie. The Leeds Student office would ring to the sounds of epic quotes such as "Tonight, we dine in MILANO'S", or "Madness...? THIS... IS... iPAGE!". Ahem. Also newly released is the newest version of Linux distribution Ubuntu, known as "Gursy Gibbon". While the naming convention is slightly less cool than "Leopard", Ubuntu is completely free, and allows you to bask in the warm healthy glow of open source software, rather than funding 'the man' or resorting to piracy. If you're curious for a new operating system, head to ubuntu.com.

Finally, it's time for iPage's cool links of the week. A slightly random selection this time, but hopefully you'll find something that appeals. Until next time, I remain,

Yours uncertainly,

iPage / Drew Statman

iPage.



iPage's cool sites of the week

• <http://www.sr.se/cgi-bin/Src/sing/sing.asp>

An absolutely genius page which allows you to enter words into a box and have them 'sang' for you. The program uses samples from thousands of songs, so the more musically inclined user will no doubt recognise Lionel Richie's "Hello" when experimenting for the first time. Hours (read: minutes) of fun.

• <http://www.joshuarey.com/index.pl?Action=ShowArticle&ID=134>

Online ransom note generator. Perfect for those times when you've kidnapped somebody, or merely want to extort money from an unfortunate but wealthy victim. Simply type in your aimless threats and generate a ransom note without any of the hassle of cutting up newspapers. The perfect crime.

• <http://morph.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk>

Why isn't Leeds University funding projects like this? An absolutely terrifying online face morpher that allows you to upload a mugshot and see how you'd look as a member of a different race, gender, age group, impressionist painting scene, or even species (the 'ape' option is particularly freaky).

• <http://www.tankchair.com>

Who wouldn't want a hybrid off-road wheelchair? It can even go up stairs.

U Joblink

ENHANCE YOUR EMPLOYABILITY

JOBLINKS ANNUAL PART TIME JOBS FAIR - BRINGING THE REGIONS' EMPLOYERS AND STUDENTS TOGETHER

This Part-time Jobs Fair will give you the opportunity to meet the regions' employers, who can offer valuable work experience to enhance your CV and bank account.

MONDAY 5TH NOVEMBER, RILEY SMITH HALL, 10.30AM TO 3.30PM

U Leeds
University
Union

Mobisodes or episodes?

With increasing television on phones *Maddy McGarrie* asks 'will we ditch the TV screen for the Mobile?'

Those of you with sexy spanking new phones which let you surf the internet, watch TV, chat on MSN and scratch your arse all at the same time are living life to the max. If so you probably already have been introduced to the magical world of mobisodes (mobile-episodes). In 2004 Fox released mobisodes of '24'

animations on Mobile phones. These are short clips of films or television shows - often cult classics - that you can download onto your mobile phone to watch when you want, where you want. It's clear the phone companies think these mobisodes could change the way we view TV forever.

The idea that these companies are expecting us to pay to watch sixty second episodes on miniscule screens rather than sixty minute episodes on large TV screens is laughable. Most of us watch so much television slumped in silence on the sofa that the living room should be re-named the slouching room. I mean, if we are spending all our leisure time ignoring our housemates by giving our full attention to a dark box dominating the room then maybe we should spend our time on the go actually talking to them. Rather than watching even more programming on that mobile means of communication we call a phone, why not use it to call our friends that we didn't speak to when watching the box.

Ultimately, what is with all this hybridity? We don't want spoons you can brush your hair with so why make phones you can watch the telly on. If the dual experience is really what you want, why not watch a show in the comfort of home while phoning a friend next door watching the same thing.



MOBISODE: Would you pay to download?

“ We don't want spoons you can brush your hair with so why make phones you can watch the telly on. ”

and 'Prison Break' and even the BBC jumped on the bandwagon and created 'Tardisodes' for the first series of 'Dr Who'. Recently the Radio Times website has launched a new series of 'Red Dwarf'

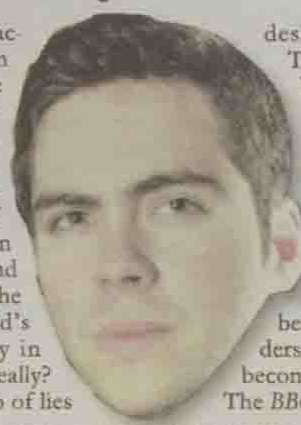
You might find the urge to start stroking your shiny (new) mobile screens in gratitude, but wait before doing so as not all phones have the ability to. If your's does and you want to begin watching mobile television you must first have a TV License. Failure to get one can lead to thousands of pounds worth of fines (or so those threatening ads claim, pah!). And the prices soon rack up when you consider subscription and downloading fees. It doesn't take long for TV on phones to look like an expensive gimmick.

Mobisodes in the past have not been very popular either. The BBC discontinued the 'Tardisodes' after the second series. According to the 2007 BBC's annual report 'they were not the hit we expected'. This was probably due to the small charge for downloading onto mobile phones.

On yer soapbox

Ever scoffed on your pot noodle as Neighbours or Hollyoaks reveals another ridiculous storyline? Here's your chance to do better ...

What: With so many characters coming and going in 'Coronation Street' at the moment, I've started to wonder exactly what they've all been up to. Oh, I know what we've been told. Cilla's shimmed off to Vegas to have a flutter on the gambling tables, Roy and Haley have been enjoying the great outdoors, and Todd's been studying hard away in London. ...but have they really? Or is it all an elaborate web of lies



designed to hide the sordid truth? As Todd made a brief return to the wobbly cobbles this week, I did some sleuthing...

How: Todd has been in London, yes. He has spent the last few years cosy-ing up with a Italian bloke named Augustus, breeding corgis and designing a range of clothes for their adorable little pooches. He's also been hanging around the set of Eastenders, trying to impress the producers and become the east-end version of Sean Tully. The BBC firmly told him to sod off, and since

then he has been in cahoots with David Platt. They've been having a secret affair and plotting the ultimate revenge against Sarah and Jason, whilst bonding over their shared love of hairstyling and geraniums. But in a typically dramatic strop, Todd decides he just 'can't be doing with all this,' and buggers off again. Augustus, however, has found out about the sordid affair and won't have him back, so Todd is forced to borrow Roy's jazzy new tent and retire to the Peak District to plan his next move and perfect his recipe for hot pot.

words/ anna burnell



DERMOT: More Leery than dreary?

The Argument:

Which of these ponces is pope of presenting?

Bruce Forsyth : Dermot O'Leary

Bruce's baby is sex on legs. There is no denying that his grey mustache emits pheromones through the television aerial to arouse the nation. Dermot's boyish good looks can in no way match Bruce's erotically charged facial hair. However, Bruce is so much more than just a DILF (should that be GDILF?). He doesn't solely depend on his looks and physique but his intellect and impressive linguistic abilities. What Dermot lacks is some decent catch-phrases. Who else could make 'points mean prizes', 'nice to see you to see you nice' and 'It could still be a lucky night if you play your cards right!' household phrases. These may be the old but never stale classic sayings but don't think he's past his prime. He still keeps them coming weekly in

'Strictly come dancing' ad-libbing and taking the sexual innuendos to whole new levels - even dimensions. His strictly sayings 'And from everyone here - and I do mean everyone - kee-keep dancing' at the end of the show bring a frenzy of excitement to the crowd. He even rakishly plays with contestants hearts by telling them all 'you're my favourites'. In fact Bruce is so influential that three of his Brucisms have even made it into the Oxford Book of Quotations. In your face Big Brother's annoying Little Brother Crap-Factor Dermot. In fact Dermot shouldn't even be mentioned in the same sentence. With his quick witted verbal energy it would be much more fitting to compare Bruce to Eminem.

words/ maddy mcgarrie

Dermot O'Leary is a much better presenter than decidedly long in the tooth Bruce Forsyth. Who does not inwardly cringe when Bruce's old, wrinkly hands grab hold of an uncomfortable looking Tess Daly and force her to dance with him. That kind of contact with someone as old as Bruce should be branded as necrophilia. In contrast, the dapper Dermot provides much needed eye candy in X-Factor if spotty youths and over 25s aren't your thing. In the cutthroat world of reality TV the contestants need someone who will be sensitive to their emotions like Dermot. The way his sombre voice whispers over the tense classical music can't fail to melt the hearts of the audience and contestants alike.

In comparison Bruce resorts to sickening compliments in order to get onto the contestants good sides. Furthermore, his frankly disturbing jokes about his sex life leave the audience tittering politely before going home for showers of disinfectant. If you compare Bruce's Butlins style humour with Dermot's, you can see who is the more sophisticated. If Dermot wants to be funny he merely raises a wry eyebrow in the direction of yet another contestant who thinks they can sing. His subtle comedy results in a show that despite its cheesy and melodramatic premise always comes out on top.

words/ harriet knowles

Picks of the week: Terrestrial

What to watch for all those still living in the dark ages.

Friday

Comedy Showcase *Channel 4* 10:30pm

This week's instalment of 'Comedy Showcase' is possibly the most confusing so far. We meet Rob Black whose girlfriend leaves him to marry Duncan from *Blue* (played by himself). This leaves Rob feeling somewhat sour and revengeful, so when Rob receives an invite to the wedding he goes on a mission to find himself a date to upstage the wedding couple. This series of one-offs has been quite a giggle so far, but this week is probably not worth staying in for. If you're planning an evening on the sofa anyway then give it a chance.

words/ sophie leaning



BRAND: Manages to pull off post sex hair.

Saturday

Parkinson *ITV1* 10:35pm

Sharon Osbourne and Joan Rivers in a studio together – now that's going to be interesting. Add Sophie Dahl and a sprinkling of jazz singer Diana Krall, and tonight is all about the women for Parkinson. You have to hand it to old Parkie. He may be cracking on a bit, but he sure knows how to reel in the ladies. No doubt Sharon will be chatting about her new book, (faa-abulous, darling), Sophie will be looking demure and attempting to hypnotise Parkie with those saucer-eyes of hers, and Joan will probably concentrate on trying to make her face laugh at her own jokes.

words/ anna burnell

Sunday

Wife Swap *Channel 4* 8:00pm

A very lazy and common woman swaps with a woman who is very efficient and posh. Yes, there will be arguments and yes, they may even learn something at the end of the two weeks. Lets face it though, isn't wife swap just the same every week? But we're now on series 8 which just goes to show that the British public can't seem to resist watching chavs and posh people fighting. It's a winning formula. So if you find yourself at a loss as to what to do on Sunday night then why not tune in, at least you know what you're getting.

words/ sophie leaning

Monday

Russell Brand's ponderland *Channel 4* 10:35pm

The self proclaimed 'S&M Willy Wonka' provokes polarised opinions. Some might even say that he is the marmite of main stream comedy. This is partly due to his sharp waist coats and even sharper tongue popping up on most comedy shows *Channel 4* has to offer. Brand has earned respect after the release of his live DVD 'Shame', showing the Sun's 'shagger of the year' in his natural habitat instead of trying to provoke some life out of the redundant 'Big Brothers Big Mouth.' This series allows the comedian to give his unique view on the world, this week focusing on childhood and adolescence.

words/ joe de luca

Tuesday

Top Gear *BBC2* 7:00pm

The fact that death-defying presenter Richard Hammond survived crashing at 288 mph this time last year is one of many reasons to watch the best automobile show around. Essentially its big boys playing with big toys, but the chippy banter between the presenters gives the show a wide appeal. Even my mother watches it, though it could just be that Jezza represents a rakish charm for the older lady. Jeremy and James are said to be mighty relieved to have the hamster back in one piece, but don't think that means they're wrapping him, or the show, up in cotton wool. Tonight is said to one of their most daring challenges to date.

words/ pandora sykes



HORATIO CAINE: Hot shot investigator - shame he's ginger.

Wednesday

CSI: Miami *Channel Five* 9:00pm

'CSI' lovers are far from starved of their favourite crime busting forensics. There are now six CSIs in the franchise and no doubt more to come. 'CSI: Miami' is one of the most watched TV shows in the USA averaging 20 million viewers an episode (though it's still relegated to our weakest Channel Five.) Set in the glades of Miami though it is actually filmed in Los Angeles. Tonight's episode will no doubt feature at least one nail-bitingly grisly death and lots of finger printing and swabbing, which is actually far more riveting on the screen than it looks on paper.

words/ pandora sykes

Thursday

Question Time *BBC 1* 10:35pm

An interest in current issues is essential for academics, as potential future leaders. An unnerving prospect after observing a 'Fruity Friday.' However you can take an interest and have a cheap laugh in the process. On Thursday forget the sticky floors of 'Tequila' and enjoy the cathartic experience of shouting at some socially deluded public schooler occupying your screen. Featuring such gems as the squeamish withdrawal of panel members after the eloquent raising of taboo issues, such as our troops in Iraq, juxtaposed with some old dear demanding to know government plans regarding the infrequency of her local bus.

words/ joe de luca

Picks of the week: Freeview

What to watch for all you lucky devils with cable!

Friday

Katie and Peter: Unleashed *ITV 2* 9:00pm

Well slap me in the face with a wet fish, wonders shall never cease. Katie Price and Peter Andre have somehow, probably through suffocating the nice ITV chaps with Katie's melons, gone and got their own show. There will be celebrities (yes, other than themselves), music (please God, not from them), and audience participation (don't ask). There will even be behind-the-scenes footage of the show, if you like watching makeup being applied for seven hours straight, and that's before they've got round to Katie.

words/anna burnell

Saturday

Charlie Brooker's Screenwipe *BBC 4* 9:30pm

Mr. Charlie Brooker, professional controversialist and co-author of Nathan Barley, continues his savage, scatological attack on television's dark side. Now in its fourth series, 'Screenwipe' is part forensic dissection of the corrosive effects of modern TV and part hilarious, demented rant. This is a man who once described himself as having 'a face like a paedophile walrus'. This week Brooker singles out manicured children's TV presenters for his ire, and offers us his thoughts on career posho Tara Palmer Tompkinson. Childish, vindictive, at times brutal, Brooker makes the perfect guide to the televisual apocalypse. Laugh like a lunatic.

words/thomas midlane



KATIE: Pete loves her for her big "personality"



ALIENS: No match for the mighty Will Smith

Sunday

Independence Day *Film 4* 9:00pm

This is a classic film that demonstrates that America is our only hope against ET. After the Aliens blow up the white house and refuse to be reasoned with, Will Smith pretty much single-handedly saves the human race. In reality, no matter how much we nuded em' the Aliens would still eventually triumph. On the other hand, you could argue that Aliens do not exist and films like these are simply a ploy for American's to show off their fire power. The political undertones aside, this is a fun film with plenty of good one liners such as Will Smith's character shouting "peace" as he fires a giant Nuke into the Alien mothership.

words/harriet knowles

Monday

The New Adventures of Superman *ITV 2* 7:00pm

Forget 'Smallville' and marvel at the high waisters Lois sports and wonder open mouthed that no one realises Clark is Superman but with no glasses. If Clark does not need to wear glasses, why does he? Surely having to wear them if your eyes are perfect would be disorientating, or if he needs glasses why does he never crash into things while he's Superman? Unless, when he is Superman he wears contacts. Gelling your hair and removing your suit is hard enough while spinning round in a phone box, without poking yourself in the eye as well. It just must be one of life's great mysteries.

words/harriet knowles

Tuesday

Ghosthunting With...McFly *ITV 2* 9:00pm

Yvette Fielding has come a long way since her 'Blue Peter' days. This time her and her so-thick-you-can-see-it-in-the-dark eyeliner are taking McFly for a spot of good old-fashioned ghost hunting in Northumbria. The boys will have to take on some spooky challenges and sit in dark rooms for absolutely ages while Yvette screams and runs around in a corner. No worries, Yvette, if things get too much you can always ask McFly to strum out a tune. One verse of 'Obviously' and you'll never be bothered by dead people ever again. Of course, you'll also then be out of a job.

words/anna burnell

Wednesday

Cutting Edge: Meet the Foxes *More 4* 10:00 pm

As urban sprawl becomes ever more sprawling, more and more foxes are finding their way into our cities. Visit any halls at night and, alongside the normal parade of pissed students and burglars on the prowl, the chances are, if you look closely enough, you'll see one. Attracted by the promise of leftover student pizza, no doubt. Using a mix of wildlife documentary and archive material, 'Meet the Foxes' attempts to build up a picture of a year in the life of a fox family in London, and their attempts to survive in the manmade environment.

words/thomas midlane

Thursday

The Jeremy Kyle Show *ITV 2* 2:35pm

In this episode Jeremy Kyle tries to sort out difficulties between parents and their sons. Expect a cast of chavs sporting track suits and gold earrings and Jeremy getting more irate by the minute. If you want to play the Jeremy Kyle drinking game drink a shot every time Jeremy utters one of his classic phrases, such as "Kids having Kids! Use a condom!" or "Get off my stage!" Jeremy is also fond of telling his guests to shut up while he is imparting his wisdom. His wisdom is usually along the lines of "pull yourself together!" Compared to Jerry Springer's final thoughts about how we should all get along and save the whale, it seems like more practical advice.

words/harriet knowles

Observations.

This week we inadvertently spell the word 'Sin' out of the first 3 letters of each article by mistake. And we noticed. Gosh, we *are* observant!



Ever pondered the intricacies of the fairer sex? I have. And I'm still stumped on the cushions...

So far in this column I've cast my discerning eye over the internal organ black market, UFO abductees, conspiracy theorists and racism. Now I'm going to tackle the fairer sex. Now don't get me wrong, I'm a big fan of girls, women, and even ladies. I somehow feel like this is the awkward racist put on the spot and saying "I've got loads of black friends", or the embarrassed individual who just cracked a homophobic joke in front of a gay guy mumbling, "but yeah, my best friend is gay though. He loves all those jokes. Thinks they're fabulous!" I assure you it's not. My admiration is sincere.

But oh no. It's just not that simple. It never is. Cushions. Suddenly they grow out of the sofas! They're everywhere. There are two types of cushion use. The first is the superfluous-to-need cushion in bedroom excess. In the boudoir one will find between ten and fifty cushions/pillows of all varieties and sizes. Some will have a little pocket in the front for keeping your tooth safe until the tooth-fairy comes (under the pillow just isn't good enough for these little princesses), and others might have a little zip for the precious one to put her pink frilly jim-jams. Essentially all of them are futile. For a start you have to take all of them off the bed to even get in, and you've got four pillows so it's not like you need more stuffing under your head. So what on earth can excite this obsession?

The second type of cushion use is territorial. The first thing that will change if you girlfriend moves into your house is that her cushions will immediately replace your friendly, rather manky, but beloved cushions that have spent many more a night under your drunken, passed out head than she ever has. Or can hope to, at this rate. Of course it's all simple passive aggression. A war of attrition. A cold war offensive. Who can complain at supposedly nice cushions appearing? It would be such a trivial argument to have that whatever the outcome you'd end up looking like a complete tit. And you know the cushions will say, "They'd have to as an apology for you being such a tit. And there. She's won. She'll never realise the irreversible damage to your feng-shui."

At my house my housemate has furry cushions. I'm not a massive fan, but what can you do? No-one with any sense of dignity will ever fight over cushions. But they wear me down, slowly but surely. For a start the fluffy faux-hair tickles the back of my neck, then itches me and I have to go and wrap a t-shirt round it. The way they are arranged annoys me too, just like on a girl's bed; you have to move them to sit on the sofa or to get into the bed. They are simply too piled up on my sofa that my arse would be half hanging off the if I didn't move them. But they always seem perfectly arranged whenever she leaves the house. Maybe her arse is just smaller than mine. It confounds me! (The cushions, not her arse). I've worked out the message from the bed cushions though and it goes something like this: "Remember my bed isn't that easy to get into, but only cos I'm so damn cute." Ugh. But the sofa? That's just irritating.

Let see if I can feed this story some laxative and drag a moral out of the stool. Perhaps something facetious like you get further if you're nice, but then we all know that the "fairer" can get pretty much whatever they want out of us by being complete bitches so I'll avoid that one. I'm annoyed because I'd like to summarise somehow. I'm not one of these men who think that men are from Mars and women are from Venus, or that women are so difficult to work out. But on cushions they've got me stumped.

words/ alex gilchrist



Miss Hernando wants to revert to being a troglodyte. Know what I mean about the fairer sex?

Iwant to go back to basics. Now I'm not talking about moseying on down to that trendy club night offering minimal, candles, and genuine leather sofas. I'm talking about going back to the time of pre-historic man, grappling with dinosaurs and eating snakes. I'm talking cave woman, not to be confused with those gyrating Neanderthals on the Lynx advert, mind. The real shit. Forget "voodoo" smelling armpits and abundant members of the opposite sex clamouring for your attention. The reality of the matter is that in order to be a successful cave woman, B.O. is a must, and this pong ain't gonna give you an edge in the mating game baby.

Now you may be wondering why an apparently normal, Red Stripe drinking student would want this. After all, do we not live in a privileged age where McDonalds can be purchased as late as 4am on a Friday night? Where chemicals can be injected into your face to make you look younger? Perhaps I'm going off the rails more than is acceptable for modern day society; shunning the GHDs, cultivating my armpit hair, rejecting pumeces... Admittedly all of this is to do with the laziness factor; hours spent ironing out the kinks in my hair has gradually taken its toll. Putting hair and feet aside, I just feel as though I'm being taken for a ride by those cunning advertising moguls that always seem to persuade me to buy something that I don't need. So in a way this is about going for the no frills baked beans, the simple things in life. It's about being a sustainable entity in a capitalist world.

All of a sudden I'm gripped with an overwhelming desire to trade my tweed trilby for a tiger print loin cloth. Is that a haunch of venison you're chomping on? Swapsies! Let's swap!

Let's see if I can feed this story some laxative and drag a moral out of the stool.

Me give you Prada handbag. You give me bone. The idea of communicating with grunts and minimal word usage is enticing. If I was a cave woman, anal grammar rules would mean nothing. No-one would be accused of cheating at Scrabble. Semi-colons would be unnecessary, except to be incorrectly placed in essays to get on your lecturer's tits. The benefits are endless!

So perhaps I'll retreat to some secluded cave, far from the evils of society. I'll stop checking my emails, I'll even put a stop to facebook, by gum I will. I'll unashamedly smoke rollies without a roach, pick my nose, and declare ignorance over the war in Iraq. Life will be basic; picking berries, removing ties, spearing antelope. A victim of society? No, not me.

words/ harriet hernando



Charlotte unveils the blinkered vision of those of you who refuse to do venture out of your comfort zone.

Now I know this might be a blindingly obvious statement to make, but despite our repeated claims that students 'are Leeds', and that they have made and continue to make Leeds the shining city of the north that we see today, there is actually a fairly massive part of this city that has bugger-all to do with us. I



Tunisian troglodyte: What Harriet aspires to be like.

doubt that many of you have ventured into that whole other bit of Leeds that exists west of Greek street for example. Now concentrate for a moment. Remember that time you stumbled the wrong way home from the sports bar and found yourself in a quiet but alarmingly smart area where all the YP's (that's young professionals to you enduring hippies) inhabit swish offices in the daylight hours? No? That's probably because you have blocked the terrifying event from your minds.

The reason for this self-induced amnesia may have something to do with the fact that students have a rather arrogant habit of moving into a city, claiming it as their own, then blithely

moving on to the next student stronghold when their loan runs out/parents order them home/the call of travelling finally makes them book a plane ticket. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I'd be happy to put money on the fact that the majority of students in Leeds have never explored further than their favourite drinking venues, let alone made it out to the myriad of suburbs that surround this fine city. And by suburb I don't just mean Headingley. And although many of you may have visited the West Indian centre for a dub-style hippy mash-up, this does not mean that you have ventured out of the student bubble for long. Come on kids, you didn't think for one moment that Leeds just stopped when you went home for summer, did you?

Those who stick around to brave the summer months without some TLC from mum and dad may have noticed that although certain venues are definitely a whole lot emptier, there are those that positively benefit from the absence of an obnoxious student rabble. Obviously the locals do just fine without us, and those in the suburbs hardly notice we're not there at all. You may have heard of Harrogate, or Beeston, or Chapel Allerton, or the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, but how many of you have embarked on a crazy student adventure to visit these unknown places? Wrap up warm, sneak a pack of Strongbow on the bus and go visit. I'm not promising wild cultural experiences, but you might just get a glimpse of the North you never knew was there. Believe me, the novelty of the student bubble will eventually wear off. Get there first and embrace all that lies outside the everyday student lark, after all, you might bag yourself a wealthy YP in the process and never have to rely on mum and dad again.

words / charlotte reeves

The LoveBox

Welcome to the LoveBox. Here, LS helps you to find true love. Send your lonely hearts or missed love connections to us at loveboxleeds@googlemail.com



Lonely Hearts

- I'm a Parisien advertising executive who wants a strapping young gentleman to help write a good motto for a campaign involving Rosemary and the stone age.
- Recently my love life has moved as fast as a lazy glacier. Can you speed it up a little? It'd be great if I found a lovely girl with a hot hot bod to rev my engine. Can you be my Nicole in Days of Thunder?
- Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free? I'll tell you why. This cow is the dirtiest farmyard animal you've ever seen. marvel as I make your eyes pop out with delight. Ever passed out during sex? You will soon, trust me. Mooooooo

• There are too many things I life I don't understand. Maths, Pineapples and the fairer sex. I'm after someone who is not over-complicated. If you're up for no nonsense loving and some polite company then give me a call. Also, if you could help me out with Maths and Pineapples (as aforementioned) then you'd be an absolute catch.

Missed Connections

• You were wearing your law-hoodie - I saw you in the terrace drinking your pepsi max, and my heart felt nothing but Payne(sic) as we caught each other's eyes yet all you did was look away...

- We were both whistling the theme tune of *Scrubs* in essentials but you took my breath away. I can't do this all on my own.
- Our eyes met across the grave at David's gran's funeral. You looked lovely in your black dress. I thought I looked dashing in my black overcoat.
- Send your missed connections and lonely hearts to us at loveboxleeds@googlemail.com



Picture: Copyright 2001-2007 Nicholas Gurewitch

Tommy Pockets Tells Your Future

World-renowned, 320-year-old astrologer Tommy Pockets (pictured here on the Titanic) lays down the secrets of your mystic week.

Aries

A brand new Ninja-Electro night in our fair city will be your cosmic destination this week. If you have heart-problems or are an expectant mother then it's best to avoid because someone will punch you in your face. Mistaken identity is all the rage amongst the rave-erati this week.

Taurus

Your CV gets mixed up with irritating Scottish bint/personality Edith Bowman and you inadvertently present a childrens' television programme. You may be forced to tell The Kooks that you think their new song/crime is "amazing." Obviously, when you arrive at the pearly gates, St. Peter will tell you to fuck off because of this.

Gemini

You regress into your childhood and mistakenly believe you are, in fact, Earthworm Jim and spend the next 49 hours wondering through hyde park trying to lasso people and things. A passing shaman will snap you out of it, demanding only a can of Special Brew as recompense.

Cancer

Looking for work? You could try the Oxford English Dictionary. They will soon be looking for an assistant archivist after James St. Fally-Mage dies in a freak accident. This will have nothing to do with a revenge killing after he told me that my mum was a guzzle-bag. If anyone asks, I was in the Pack-horse... all week.

Leo

Flee! Fly away! Start a vineyard in Southern Spain and become an aficionado of the Rioja world. Return home years later, grizzly yet wearily sexual, and start a late-in-life family with a Pinot Noir fan. Christ it will be amazing; I love it too much to function.

Virgo

Your life's ambition to be the town's chief bin-washer returns to your world on Wednesday as the greatest Washman ever to pick up a chamois, Germaine Greer, dies in a boating accident. There is still time to make it into l'Academie des Lavagers Poubelles in Slough, you just need to have faith in yourself.

Libra

You are called to a meeting of all the noble kings and queens. Long forgotten was your hereditary access to the regal table of power but it's important that your voice is heard. Fighting between the monarchs can only be stopped by you as Queen of the pigeon-folk.

Scorpio

Having read the above starsign to your friend you realise that this page is utter bollocks and also not particularly funny and the author is not very good. Disregard this newspaper into the bin and never pick it up again as long as you are being educated at this institution. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Sagittarius

Your evening class to learn how to draw comes in very useful this week as a madman stops you down a backstreet and threatens to stab you unless you can draw him a picture of a unicorn fucking a native American. Brilliantly you do it in under 3 minutes and submit the video to Art Attack.

Capricorn

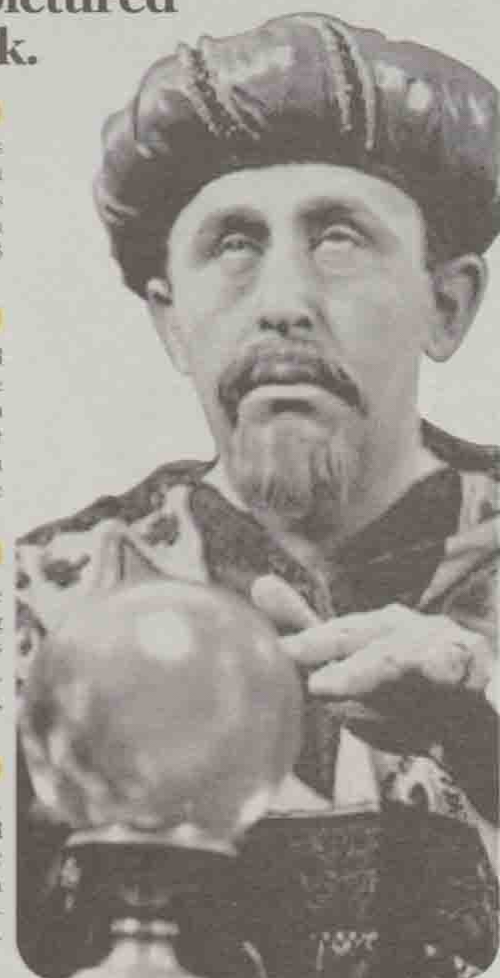
A gypsy asks you to buy some lucky heather and when you spit at her and kick her in the flange she curses you so that you are only attracted to women over the age of 83. Unfortunately this leads to a lot of shattered hip bones. The only plus is that you can't get them pregnant at all because at their age their vagina is broken.

Aquarius

On the way to leading an exhibition to the South pole you are stopped by Joe Pasquale asking for directions to a gig in Hull. He of course gives you some cheeky banter for which he is notorious. They find his body 88 years later frozen in perfect, kebabed position.

Pisces

Upon entering the 66th biannual soap sculpturing competition, your naive admiration is shattered when you realise it's all rigged anyway. The amount of money changing hands makes most of Africa look like good government. Try your heart out anyway and your cinderella story ends in a commendation and some book tokens as a prize.



NB: Tommy Pockets does not accept responsibility for any life-changing events that occur from following his obviously not made-up advice e.g. ordering an internet wife

Tommy Pockets worships the sun and its lifegiving



your summer

[31st december 2007]

your future

Merrill Lynch Summer Internship Programme - application deadline reminder.

We'd just like to remind you that we're getting close to our final date for receiving your application for the 2008 Merrill Lynch Summer Internship Programme. So if you'd be keen to spend nine weeks learning first-hand what it takes to be a valuable member of our team, make sure you don't miss out.

We must receive your application by 5pm GMT, 31st December 2007. Apply online today at ml.com/careers/europe



Merrill Lynch is an equal opportunity employer.

ml.com/careers/europe



Merrill Lynch

LS Sport: BUSA's BACK!

This week's BUSA results

LS Sport brings you all the results and reports from the return of the BUSA fixtures

pages 44-48



Quote of the week

We could at least match last year's second place finish, if not go all the way and win it.

Men's Basketball co-captain, Matt Higham, p.47

Off the record.

After the disappointment of the Varsity defeat, BUSA fixtures started again this Wednesday and for many teams this meant a return to winning ways. Over half of Leeds' teams fixtures were won this week, and that is a testament as much to their fighting spirit as their skill.

The turnout for the varsity fixtures last week was incredible, with queues for the rugby union stretching round the block. It would be fantastic to see this kind of support week in, week out for our teams. It can only spur them on to greater heights.



Anyone with half an eye on sports this week will have been paying attention to the successes and failures of the English rugby and football teams. Whilst there were scenes of jubilation as the French were dramatically overcome on their own turf, Steve McClaren's players put up a meek performance, all but surrendering their qualification place to the Russians on a plastic pitch.

There is simply no excuse for the boring football that England regularly serve up. Countries with far fewer sporting resources manage to produce teams who are confident in possession and who are prepared to play the ball along the ground. England's plan always seems to be lump the ball forward to one of two midget strikers. Admittedly, this time it worked for Rooney's goal, but tactics like this are a major failing which will mean that honours will continue to elude England.

The most frustrating part of the night for football fans was the inept performance from players who everyone knows are far better than they showed on Wednesday. The defeat cannot be blamed on Joleon Lescot, a centre back playing out of position and with very little international experience. It equally cannot be blamed on Gareth Barry, one of the few positives from the last set of internationals. It is players who star in the Premiership and in the Champions' League who suddenly revert to plodding idiots, unable to pass along the ground, to find space, or to use their left feet.

The great mystery is why 'world-class' players such as Steven Gerrard, Frank Lampard and even Wayne Rooney can't produce the goods regularly in a white shirt, when seemingly every week their club crests are



kissed after another inspired performance.

In stark contrast, the rugby union side is greater than the sum of its parts. Having been roundly written off since winning the last world cup, and not given a prayer at the start of the tournament, Brian Ashton's men have recovered from a crushing loss to fellow finalists South Africa earlier in the tournament to reach the final, dispatching Australia and France on the way.

Whether they beat South Africa tomorrow or not, there can be no doubt that Jonny Wilkinson et al have produced minor miracles. It is a shame that the same level of determined performance eludes the football team.

Ahron Symonds-Baig

300 seconds with: Felicity Ball

Felicity Ball

Leeds Hyde Park Time Trial

Race Director

LS: Hi Felicity, can you explain to us exactly what the Leeds Hyde Park Time Trial is?

FB: It's a free five kilometre run held in Hyde Park at 9 in the morning every Saturday. It's aimed to increase the activity in the community so it's aimed at people living in Hyde Park, people in Woodhouse, the local areas like that. We've also contacted the local schools in the area as well and obviously all the students and any staff working in either university. It's been started by the Leeds University sport and physical centre and it's been supported by the sports and exercise department. We've also got funding from the University alumni. It's free to get involved but you do have to register online to take part on your first time.

LS: So where did the idea for it come from?

FB: We were told about it in one of our lectures. It's open to sports science students and basically they wanted four of us to become

race directors who essentially will run and organise the runs every Saturday. The rest of the year have to volunteer to be marshalls around the course. We had to have interviews to become race directors, I think about thirteen people entered for it and then four of us got chosen. We've had a lot of meetings to get it sorted, and a lot of trial and error - we've walked round Hyde Park quite a bit to get to know the course and work out what could go wrong.

LS: Have you had any meetings yet?

FB: We had our first one last Saturday.

LS: Good turnout?

“ Last week we had a fresher turn up who had been out drinking the night before and he was sick halfway round.

FB: Yeah it wasn't bad, we had about 45 people. The week before that we had a dry-run where we just got a couple of local runners from Hyde Park just so we could iron out any creases.

LS: Have much experience as a distance runner yourself?

FB: I'm not really a runner, I prefer like classes, like aerobics classes and dancing but I have registered for this and I will be taking part at some point, just as a way of getting up fitness. Once you register your times and recorded and put up on the website so you can track your progress throughout the month and at the end of each month prizes are awarded to people who have improved.

LS: Is there an upper limit of people you can take?

FB: We're thinking probably about 400 hundred would be our maximum, but if we got a turnout like that we'd have to stagger the starts and not have every running at the same time because we have got people running and people walking.

LS: Any plans in the future to lengthen the course?

FB: Well, this thing was started in Bushy Park in London, and since then the UK Time Trials began and there are about five in London now and we were the first group outside of



the M25 To set this up. What happens in Bushy Park is that they have the course set out with a board up and if you find your time you can work out how fast you were running, so hopefully as the one in ours gets more popular we can get a board up with permanent markings so people can run it whenever they want. The course will stay the same but people can run it twice if they want!

LS: Play much other sport yourself?

FB: Well, I dance.

LS: Is dancing really a sport?

FB: Well some could argue it was a sport some can argue it was an art.

LS: Finally, you don't think that attendance will be affected by Fruity on a Friday night?

FB: Last week we had a fresher turn up who had been out drinking the night before and he was sick halfway round. Poor boy.

SUBMIT A MOTION.

For guidance on how to write a motion go to www.luuonline.com and leave your mark!

MOTION

DEADLINE:
5.00PM ON
THURSDAY 25TH
OCTOBER.

LEAVE YOUR MARK BY
PUTTING A MOTION TO
REFERENDUM.

LUU
works.

Leeds University Union.

the big debate:

The Quota System

Will a limit on foreign imports improve the domestic game?

By Ahran Symonds-Baig

Earlier this month, FIFA President Sepp Blatter re-raised an old topic, suggesting that the time is right to introduce a quota for foreign players. The idea is intended to protect domestic leagues and national teams by ensuring that there is a larger pool of home grown talent playing regular first team football in the top sides.

Trevor Brooking has given his backing to the idea, insisting that the national team is suffering as only around a third of starting teams are English. He says that "the more you buy in the overseas players that will become more of a problem. In 10 years' time you don't want us just being pleased to qualify for

“English players will play if they are good enough...”

tournaments.”

He cited the situation World Cup holders Italy have, where 70% of the players in the domestic Serie A are Italian. However, this xenophobic approach is very unlikely to guarantee the improvements Brooking seems to hope for.

Firstly, the standard of football will decrease, as teams are picked on nationality rather than ability. Mediocre players will play while a more talented foreigner kicks his heels in the stands. English players are also more expensive precisely because of the lack of top class examples-Darren Bent is not a £16million player, yet as he is English his price rockets. Enforcing a quota will only drive their already ludicrous prices up.

Foreigners are an attractive proposition to managers. They are cheaper, and technically better in many cases. The problem is the lack of quality academies in the UK, which emphasise technique rather than stamina. For proof, see the way the national team flounder against any opposition with confidence on the ball.

As an example, France's Clairefontaine academy has produced William Gallas, Thierry Henry, and Nicolas Anelka, among others. England's equivalent, Lillleshall, was closed down even though alumni include Michael Owen and Joe Cole, two of England's more accomplished and skilful players.

Your Comments...

This week, we asked:

"Who are the greatest and worst Premiership foreign players of all time?"

Send us your opinions on this or any other story in ES Sport by email: leedsstudentsport@gmail.com with your name and comment.

A vocal opponent of Blatter's proposal is Arsene Wenger, renowned for his reliance on youth. He insists that "It does not matter where you are born, it matters who you are. It is my first responsibility for my club for us to play the best football, with the best players."

If the best eleven are foreign, but less talented players play due to red tape, who wins? Performance suffers, so the fans, the board, the manager and the players suffer too.

Wenger has given chances to English players, but in his opinion they haven't been good enough for his first team. Why should he be forced to start with players he does not rate as first team quality?

Rightly or wrongly, the likes of David Bentley, Jermaine Pennant and Steve Sidwell were all let go by Arsenal without making much of a mark on the first team, yet all are now Premiership players, which is surely proof that players with ability will make it regardless. If anything, the footballing education they had at a club where youth development is tantamount has led them to where they are.

If Wenger had thought that they were good enough for his first team, he would not have let them leave. Other managers thought they had the required quality, so now they play. The simple fact is that English players will play if they are good enough, and quotas aren't needed to guarantee the quality of the league or the national team.

By Joe Hibbert

Sepp Blatter has come out with some rubbish in his time. His suggestion that women footballers should wear shorter shorts has got to be top of the list. But finally, it seems, he has made a good point. His proposed quota system of only five foreign players per starting eleven is understandable and could actually work. However it's important that this is introduced properly and phased in over a number of years.

Firstly, I need to make it clear that I'm not denying the brilliance, flair, and class that foreign players have brought to the Premiership. The likes of Thierry Henry, Gianfranco Zola, and Eric Cantona are Premiership legends that have pushed the top flight forward and made it into, arguably, the best league in the world.

However, for the future of the national side we need to limit the amount of foreign players that come to our shores. With foreign flair we can have the best league on the planet but a poor England team, but by giving home grown players a chance we may have a less stylish Premiership but a top class England.

It all boils down to one key question; do we want the best league in the world or the best national team? It's becoming clear that we cannot have both.

Talented young English players are a dying breed. Drastic action needs to be taken sooner rather than later. The market is the best indicator

of this fact; a young English starlet will cost a Premiership manager twice the amount that it would cost to bring in a foreign player of the same calibre. Look no further than Sven's City for evidence of this. This summer he brought in countless relative unknowns from abroad. He spent approximately £38 million on new players who have made a great impact upon the Premier League. Even City Chairman

“It all boils down to one key question; do we want the best league in the world or the best national team?”

Thaksin Shinawatta cannot afford to buy the English equivalent of the likes of Martin Petrov and Rolando Bianchi.

Former England Under-21 player Phil Jagielka cost Everton boss David Moyes £4million this summer. As someone who has seen Jags play from youth level all the way through to becoming first team captain I can firmly say he is not worth that amount of money. However, he is that special rarity, a decent young English player.

I do fear for the future of the national team. With it being cheaper to bring in foreign players rather than English or British ones, home grown players are getting less of a chance in the top flight.

To successfully limit the amount of foreign players in England FIFA need to work closely with the FA to carefully ensure that our grassroots game is improved. We need to make sure that quality players are coming through our academies before the quota is brought in.

It's difficult to argue this point without coming across as Xenophobic. I truly think that foreign players have done amazing things for our leagues but for the future of the England team we need limit the amount of foreigners that play for our teams. If teams like Arsenal are the future of the Premiership then we won't have an England team in ten years time.



Gianfranco Zola has easily got to be the greatest. He is a Chelsea legend. As for the worst, it's got to be Tomas Brodnik. A truly terrible player.
- Ben Summers, 20, Criminology

The best foreign player to grace the Premiership has got to be Dennis Bergkamp. His touch was class, he scored amazing goals in his career. That one against Newcastle was sublime.
- Alex Abel, 19, Politics

Dennis Bergkamp was a majestic player, I can still

remember that fantastic hat-trick that he scored against Leicester. Brilliant. The worst has to be Arjen Robben, purely for his personality.
- Daf Pritchard, 18, English and French

Two Erics. Eric Cantona is the greatest ever Premiership import. Pure class. Eric Djemba-Djemba is absolute useless.
- Rachel Hyams, 19, French and Spanish

David Ginola, Steffen Freund, Jurgen Klinsmann. All absolute geniuses. Out of the current crop of players,

probably Berbatov. The worst for me is Thierry Henry, purely for the amount of pain he has caused me over the years.
- Spursfan87

Next weeks question:

Will a limit on foreign players in England benefit English Football?

E-mail us your opinions at: leedsstudentsport@gmail.com

Yorkshire rivals defeated by resurgent tennis side

Women's Tennis

Dafydd Pritchard

Leeds Uni 6-4 Sheffield Hallam
South Leeds Tennis Centre

Varsity woes were eased at the South Leeds Tennis Centre this week as the University women's team started at a furious pace, and served up a morale-boosting 6-4 win over Sheffield Hallam.

Lindsey Robertson swept aside Gemma Beal struggling with illness to earn the University their first win of the day with a resounding 6-0 6-0 victory.

Robertson's doubles partner, Lara, also enjoyed a comfortable ride as she overcame Jo Purkiss in straight sets, 6-1 6-2. With Purkiss carrying a shoulder injury and paired with the fatigued Beal, Hallam faced an uphill task in the day's second doubles match. Fitness told as the Uni pairing ran out overwhelming 8-0 winners.

The first doubles match was an entertaining spectacle, as the University's captain Juliet Dick and Steph Lett took on Emma Tomlinson and Jessica Redfean. In a cagey first game Hallam found themselves with a break point at 30-40 but the skipper responded in fine fashion, thundering down a centre-court ace, before seeing the game out to thwart an early break. It wasn't long until the Uni's serve was broken, with Lett's double-fault giving their opponents a 2-1 lead.

A combination of firm ground strokes and sharp volleying brought a break and a hold, Dick concluding two good games with an authoritative smash. With the University leading 3-2 it was imperative that Tomlinson held her

serve, and a smart ace gave them a 40-15 lead.

However, a body-shot from Lett seemed to unsettle the diminutive Redfean, and the advancing Dick took her chance superbly. Showing magnificent touch at the net, a delicate backhand cross-court slice secured the game, leaving Hallam reeling 4-2 down.

Dick and Lett seized the initiative with a dominant love service game, as well as another break, with the two pouncing on any mistake from their Sheffield rivals. Breaks of serve fast became commonplace, with a cocktail of indifferent serving and vigorous returning. The Uni established a 7-4 lead before closing out the match 8-4 as Hallam surrendered limply.

After the doubles' success, Dick looked a little jaded in her singles clash with Tomlinson. The 6-1 first set loss saw the captain voicing her frustration on more than one occasion. Dick sporadically hit the heights of her earlier victory with some fierce forehand shots and won the second 6-2.

Regrettably, the highlights of the match were compromised by some tired errors, some unforced and others forced by the effervescent Tomlinson. The Hallam player's one-handed backhand was a weapon of sometimes Henin-esque beauty, an integral part in her clinching the deciding set and the match, 6-1 2-6 6-4.

As her captain was humbled on the neighbouring court, Lett also succumbed to her Hallam opponent, losing 7-6 (7-4) 6-2 to Redfean. Despite ending on a negative note, the earlier triumphs secured a welcome overall 6-4 win for the University's tennis players, and will have gone some way to easing the pain of last week's 0-10 defeat in the varsity match with the Met.

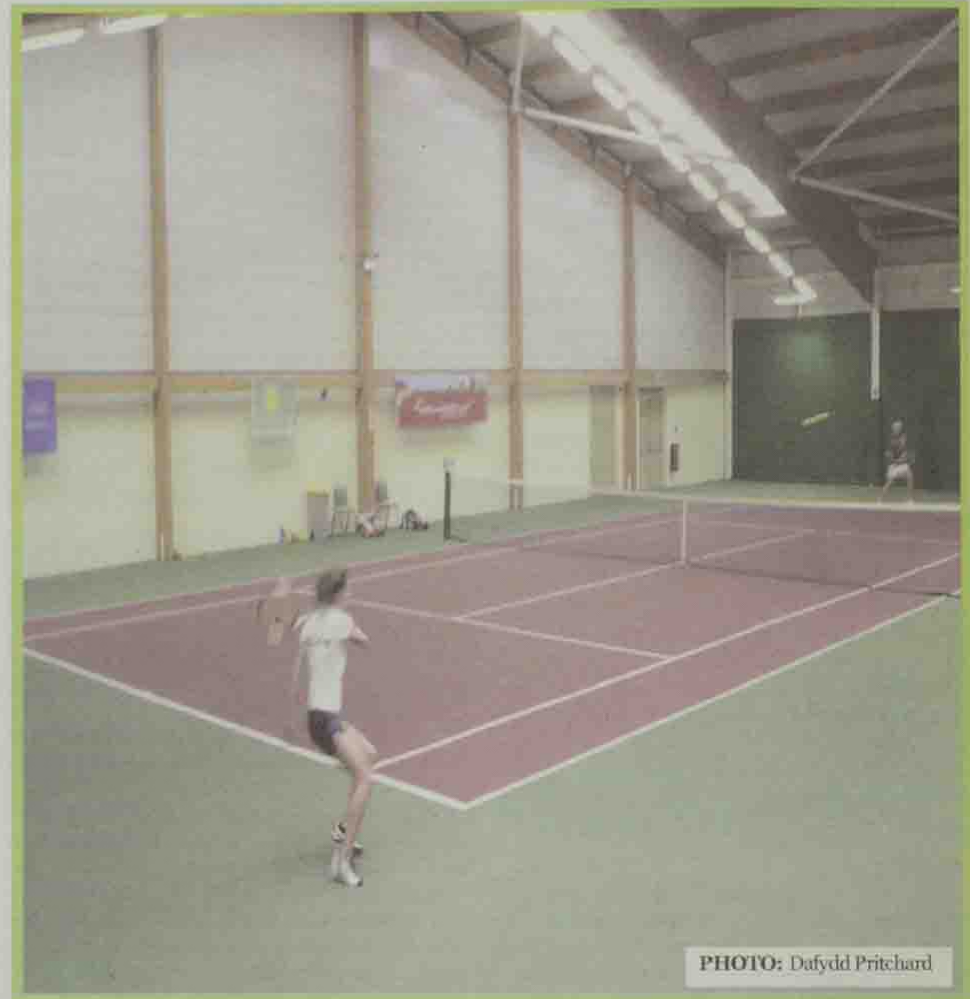


PHOTO: Dafydd Pritchard

Narrow loss for hockey

Men's Hockey

Ed Dallimore

Leeds University 2-3 Birmingham University
Birmingham

Leeds travelled to last year's BUSA finalists Birmingham for this season's opening league match in good spirits after enjoying one of the few uni victories in last week's varsity competition.

In their first match of what is going to be a tough season in the top flight, Leeds hit the ground running, and an early exchange between Appleton and Guninall sent the latter down the right, who glided into the D and from an acute angle slammed the ball into the bottom left corner to give Leeds a dream start.

As BUSA finalists, and with a full strength side at their disposal, Birmingham's response was strong, but debutant net minder Fish immediately proved his worth to the team, making several fine saves as the Birmingham team gave the net a battering.

On 14 minutes, Tony Latham made a superb tackle on the edge of the D only to see the umpire make a contentious decision in awarding a penalty corner. The ruthless Birmingham PC team stepped up to level the scores after Fish initially made a fine save, but chipped the rebound straight to a waiting Birmingham player.

Soon after the restart Leeds found themselves behind, with a fine power slam from the PC,

which left Fish floundering as the ball went medium size into the Leeds net.

At 2-1 down, and up against it to a strong side, many a lesser side may well have capitulated, but this Leeds team showed courage, strength and determination to try and force a way back into the match up, and it was another debutant, Martin Lorry, driving down the left, who forced a PC with two minutes of the first half remaining.

Dan Crouch duly obliged with the shot flying into the Birmingham net. This stung Birmingham into action, and the second half saw them show just why they are one of the best teams in the country, as they moved the ball with pace and ease, and Leeds found themselves on the back foot for large periods. However, Howie and Jolly, the Leeds centre backs, were on fine form, marshalling the defensive unit, and leading by example with a class and skill that belied their years. However, even they were powerless to stop the Birmingham striker Browne, who, after an eyeball to eyeball confrontation with Mathew Boggelend, sprinted into the D, and went reverse on his shot, sending the ball high into the Leeds net.

Unfortunately, Leeds were unable to mastermind a comeback, and although going close on several occasions, had to settle for runners up in their first BUSA league game. However, Leeds can take heart from their performance, which, if replicated against lesser teams than one of the country's finest, will stand them in good stead for the season ahead.

Comprehensive defeat for badminton

The men's badminton side suffered a second consecutive 1-7 defeat, this week's tormentors Newcastle emulating the varsity defeat inflicted by the Met. This has led to a disappointing start to the BUSA campaign for the men's first team, who will hope that this defeat can prove a spur to better things for the rest of the campaign.

They crashed out to an impressive Newcastle outfit who battled to a 1-7 win overall. The Uni side have lost five play-

66
Hopefully we'll hold a strong position this season and push forward in the cups.

ers this season, three of which played key roles in the success of last season's campaign.

Newcastle were quick to make Uni pay with sharp and clever badminton

Men's Badminton

Joe Hibbert

Leeds Uni 1-7 Newcastle University
South Leeds Tennis Centre

right from the off. The sides battled out simultaneously across the hall in singles and doubles games, and it was not long before Newcastle's superiority began to tell.

Uni, in their flash new green strip, put up a fight in the doubles games in particular. Leeds played some clever stuff with neat net play and powerful shots from the backline, but the Newcastle team were too strong for an inexperienced Leeds.

In a difficult afternoon Badminton captain Ben Mortlock lost to Newcastle's Rahul Ramperjad one-nil overall after a tough and well fought out contest, while Leeds player Ashley Fletcher had to forfeit one of his games due to illness, handing a win to the visitors.

Uni player Dave Edwards summed up the performance, describing it as a "Shame. We've got a weaker team than last year", while the captain, Ben Mortlock was more positive about the season ahead. "Newcastle are a strong team and they proved a bit too much for us in the end. Hopefully we'll hold a strong position this season and push forward in the cups."

BUSA In Brief.

It's been a largely successful week for our BUSA teams. Many have bounced back from last week's varsity defeats, in particular the victorious tennis sides who have both bounced back after heavy losses last week. Whilst the **golf** team rubbed salt into Met's varsity wounds by beating them for the second week on the bounce.

Elsewhere, the **netball fourth team** made their BUSA debut by crushing Bradford's second string 59-1 in a very promising start to their BUSA career. The **women's Rugby union** side also did us proud, beating Liverpool JM's first team. There is only a handful of players from last season's campaign, and clearly the fresh injection of talent has boosted the team.

Despite losing narrowly to Birmingham's first

team the **hockey men's** side can hold their heads high, Birmingham are one of the best teams in a very difficult division.

The **basketball men's** first team chalked up a fantastic victory against Sunderland's first team on Wednesday. Sunderland were relegated from the Premiership last season, so to beat them is a promising sign for the season ahead.

There were a handful of local rivalries played out this week, as the **badminton men's second team** were defeated by the Met away from home. Uni defeated Sheffield Hallam in the men's and women's **tennis**, as well as in the men's **basketball** second team.

Meanwhile, **golf** captain Jim Williamson was delighted with his side's second victory over the

Met in as many weeks, "it's been a fantastic start for us especially as the Met put out a stronger side this week." England Under-21 golfer Ian Winstanley beat a fellow England player 5-4 in the heavyweight battle of the day. The next fixture for the golfers comes at a challenging links course against Central Lancashire's second team on Wednesday.

Next week's BUSA highlights include local derbies with Sheffield for the **netball second team** as well as the **women's hockey seconds**. Whilst the **women's volleyball** side face a tantalising test against the Met at the sports hall. The **men's volleyball** side also face the old enemy this time away from home, as do the men's and women's **tennis** sides.

Joe Hibben

Men's football win war of attrition

Men's Football

Nick Grounds

Leeds Uni 2-0 Hull
Weetwood

A battling performance and two goals coming in five first half minutes from Leeds was enough to see off a determined Hull side this Wednesday afternoon.

Those of us fortunate enough to have the pleasure of watching Arsenal this season will testify that the Gunners have been in lightning form, with their youngsters setting the world alight at the Emirates. However, as Alan Hansen will testify, it is all about picking up the three points, and if it means winning ugly, then so be it.

So the University's 1st XI fought out a 2-0 victory at Weetwood verses an equally dogged Hull. Unfortunately for those who braved the arctic winds, quality was in short supply as conditions dictated events. However, led by the impressive Sanderman, Leeds eventually triumphed and won the war of attrition.

The away side had the better of the opening exchanges, with an edgy first half. Fifteen minutes characterised by long balls and ferocious tackles – a constant throughout the match. Good work down Hull's right hand side drew a smart save from Draper, with Hull's right back getting an early striking opportunity. An uncontested corner leading to a free header further contributed to a nervous start from the home side. However, Hull's early pressure resulted in nothing and Leeds soon made them pay.

On the 25 minute mark, after a spell where the

home side grew in confidence, good work down the Leeds right hand side resulted in the first goal of the day. Decent trickery from McEwan, outmugging the opposition's left back, led to a floated ball which was met at the far post by the in-form striker Jimmy Warner, following up his Varsity goal last week with a header out of the top draw.

The break in the deadlock

“Fortunately, the clean sheet was kept intact as the rebound was headed over the bar from barely 6 yards out.

inspired the home side, and it was not long until their lead was doubled. On the half-hour mark, a short corner, once more on the right hand side, produced some tantalising play from the right-winger Barnes. His trickery was rewarded as his lofted cross was met by a ferocious left footed drive from Fynes. The left winger scored a goal he surely won't better this season, leaving the keeper with no chance with his shot finding the bottom right hand corner.

Barnes was a constant thorn in the Hull side,

visitors defence. Seven minutes in and Brown won the race to a bouncing ball, before laying it across perfectly into the path of Huijbers. With the keeper in no mans land and the goal at her mercy, we waited for the net to bulge. It didn't. Huijbers would have to wait a little longer before making her mark.

Fortunately, Leeds could afford to miss a few chances with centre back paring of Eckles and Burgess keeping York at arms length. The one time these two were found lacking, the crossbar gave the girls a helping hand.

Captain Lizzie Tucker enthused about Hayley Brown's first half performance and it was the powerful striker who had the honour of scoring the first goal of the season. Bursting onto a through ball she calmly slid it under the onrushing keeper. Leeds missed her energy upfront when she was withdrawn at half time, as part of the squad rotation system.

The advantage was doubled just after the half-hour mark, with a goal of real quality. From a quickly taken throw in, Tucker swivelled before giving a neat pass into Huijbers, who turned on a sixpence before lashing the ball low into the net, a goal her fellow countryman Johan Cruyff would have been

and much of Leeds' attacking play came through the wide man. Half chances on the stroke of half-time saw Warner come close, with a left footed drive always rising high of the goal. In addition, some decent attacking play by Griffiths at right back led to McEwan firing straight at the keeper.

Hull's first half showing could at best be described as anonymous, with nothing to offer, particularly in the final third when they rarely had possession. However, as the second half progressed, the away side began to find some sort of rhythm.

A scrappy opening to the second period saw Hull begin to play the football but, once more, their strikers offered very little and never looked like opening the team's account. Three minutes into the restart produced a slight scare for the hosts. From fully 35 yards, Hull's central midfielder struck a ferocious right footed freekick which Draper could only palm out. Fortunately, the clean sheet was kept intact as the rebound was headed over the bar from barely 6 yards out.

The deficit should have been halved, but it was not to be the away side's day. The final 20 minutes saw Hull revert to an all or nothing 4-2-4 formation. As they chased a way back into the contest, their play became rather hurried and frantic. A goal never looked likely and thanks to Battersby's no nonsense-style clearing headers, they were left frustrated on a day in which samba style football seemed a far-off luxury.

Leeds Uni 1st XI: Draper, Griffiths, Buck-erthorpe, Battersby, Tuck, Fynes, Barnes (Tyler), Louth, Sanderman (c) (Calligan), Warner (Classen), McEwan.

proud of.

After this Leeds were quite happy to protect what they had and the attacking fluency of the first half disappeared. This wasn't helped by an injury to Eckles, with the creative Tucker having to fill in at centre half.

The girls managed to hold out to the 85th minute, when a loose ball was finally turned home after an almighty goalmouth scramble. A nervy last few minutes ensued, but York's inability to come up with anything other than 'kick and rush' tactics meant they never looked like having the cutting edge to score a second.

Steph Lee won praise from her skipper for 'an excellent midfield display, challenging and distributing the ball out to the wings', but the captain was more reluctant to discuss promotion chances at this early stage. Fair enough, for as England were reminded a few hours later, you're only as good as your last game.

Leeds Women First XI: Casey, Savage, Burgess, Eckles, Johnson, Morton, Lee, Watkin, Tucker, Brown, Huijbers Subs used: Garside, Cardwell

Three more points for women's football

Women's Football

Tom Skinner

Leeds Uni 2-1 York St. Johns
Varsity

Wednesday afternoon, three massive points up for grabs and a 2-1 victory for the home team, leaving the opposition's dreams in tatters.

This of course refers to Leeds women's excellent start to their new league campaign, who unlike Steve McClaren's men, proved they can close a game up. Goals from forwards Hayley Brown and Anne Huijbers put Leeds in a commanding half time lead and although York hit back late on, it proved to be no more than a consolation.

Unlike the footballs, Leeds' start to the game was anything but flat, as they hit the ground running. Making good use of overlaps, as York gifted far too much space to wingers Tucker and Morton, the girls one touch passing soon began to find holes in the

BUSA results Wednesday 17 October:

Men's Football 1sts 2-0 Hull 1sts
Men's Football 2nds 2-3 Durham 2nds
Men's Football 3rds 1-2 Northumbria 3rds
Men's Football 4ths 1-3 Sheffield Hallam 4ths

Women's Football 1sts 2-1 York St. Johns 1sts
Women's Football 2nds 0-4 Trinity and all Saints 1sts

Men's Hockey 1sts 2-3 Birmingham
Men's Hockey 2nds 0-6 Durham 2nds
Men's Hockey 3rds 4-2 Sunderland 1sts

Women's Hockey 1sts 1-6 Birmingham 1sts
Women's Hockey 2nds 1-2 Newcastle 2nds
Women's Hockey 3rds 3-0 Durham 3rds
Women's Hockey 4ths 0-4 Newcastle 3rds

Men's Badminton 1-7 Newcastle
Men's Badminton 2nds 1-7 Leeds Met 1st

Women's Badminton 0-8 Loughborough

Netball 1sts 33-36 Manchester 1sts
Netball 2nds 33-39 Durham 2nds
Netball 3rds 46-22 Sheffield 2nds
Netball 4ths 59-1 Bradford 2nds

Golf 4-2 Leeds Met

Men's Volleyball 3-0 Hull

Men's Basketball 89-53 Sunderland
Men's Basketball 2nds 60-51 Sheffield Hallam 2nds

Women's Basketball 52-53 Salford

Men's Squash 4-1 Northumbria
Men's Squash 2nds 4-1 York 1sts

Men's Tennis 7-3 Sheff Hallam

Women's Tennis 6-4 Sheff Hallam

Men's Rugby League 8-38 Liverpool JM

Men's Rugby Union 1sts 13-15 Sheffield 1sts
Men's Rugby Union 2nds 8-7 Durham 3rds
Men's Rugby Union 3rds 66-0 Sunderland 1sts

Women's Rugby Union 54-14 Liverpool JM

Men's Fencing 133-76 Newcastle 2nds

Women's Fencing 134-110 York 1sts

Overall:

WON 19/36

Big debate:
Too many foreigners
in the Premiership?

Sport, pg. 43



Report:
BUSA
returns

Sport, pg. 44-47



Friday, October 19, 2007

leedsstudentsport@gmail.com

War of Attrition

Men's first team off to a flyer after hard-fought home win

Men's Basketball
Michael Symons

Leeds Uni 89-59 Sunderland
Sports Hall

Leeds men's basketball team opened their 2007/08 BUSA campaign with a comprehensive 89-55 victory over northern conference rivals Sunderland. The convincing performance will have pleased coach Alfie Chu every bit as much as the result and points towards another successful season for this exciting group of players.

The opening quarter set the tone for the entire contest, with Leeds outclassing their opponents in every department. Though it

was in fact Sunderland who scored the first points, their early advantage was short lived to say the least.

Intent on vanquishing any memories of their Varsity defeat a week earlier, Leeds replied with pace and power and had soon established a lead of their own. Leeds' defensive prowess enabled them to attack with freedom, and a 10 point lead at the quarter was their reward for some brilliant movement and expert finishing.

It was the second quarter however that would ultimately prove decisive, with Leeds showing exactly why they are genuine contenders for the northern conference title. Playing with confidence and flair, Leeds overran their comparatively inexperienced oppo-

nents and were, by now, well on their way to a comfortable win. Co-captain Charis Sisou and Kody Manke were imperious in attack, both scoring three pointers at will and ensuring that Leeds took a commanding 49-25 lead into the half time break.

Staring at a sizeable defeat, Sunderland mounted something of a revival in the third quarter, forcing Leeds to defend their 24 point advantage. Although managing to bring the teams within 18 points at one stage, Sunderland were never able to put the result in any genuine doubt, and by the time the game had reached the final quarter, Leeds had restored their 20 point cushion.

With the game already won, Leeds could have been excused for easing off, but were determined to increase their winning margin

yet further. Chasing points of their own, for pride if little else, Sunderland became increasingly vulnerable to Leeds' swift counter attacks and were powerless to prevent further damage to the scoreline. It finished 89-55, a result which by no means flattered Leeds, whose immense talent and work ethic were in evidence throughout.

First team coach, Alfie Chu was full of praise for his side's professional display, acknowledging the hard work in training that had culminated in this convincing victory. Co-captain Matt Higham was equally upbeat following the win and while recognising the hard work ahead, was confident that his side, "could at least match last year's second place finish, if not go all the way and win it."

Analyse
Assess
Predict

Have you worked it out yet?

When it comes to working out the type of career you really want, it pays to ask questions. So, if you like a challenge, love to solve problems and have what it takes to communicate well with clients and colleagues, why not find out more about Hewitt and the many exciting career opportunities they have to offer?

Hewitt Connection

(Graduate Recruitment Day)

Leeds University Union
Lifton Place
Woodhouse Lane, Leeds

Wednesday 24th October
10am - 5pm

To book your place or find out more,
visit us online at hewittgraduate.co.uk



Pensions, Actuarial, Investment.



PHOTOS: John Puddephatt