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# The Leeds Student Newspaper

Friday, October 26, 2007

volume:38 issue:5

## Faceblocked?

### University moves to police troublesome Facebook groups

by  
**Virginia Newman and  
Charlotte Griffiths**

The boundaries between Facebook use and the rules of the university have caused controversy after groups have been shut down following action taken by the University to protect students and lecturers from perceived bullying.

In one case, a Facebook group has shut down after a complaint was made to the university. A meeting took place between the group's creator and a Pro Vice Chancellor, one of the most senior professors at Leeds, where the creator was advised to think about the consequences of his creation of the group. The group's creator, said: "They said I could potentially bring the University into disrepute, given the 'all access' nature of Facebook, and said that it was not fair."

He justified the group by explaining that it was inspired by the idea of someone else and had only been set up as a result of a shared joke saying: "My intention was nothing more than to make fun."

In regards to the comments posted to his group, the creator said: "I said that I had taken no action whatsoever since setting up the group. People are free to act of their own free will. My opinion is if they are smart enough to get into university, then they are smart enough to predict the consequences of comments made. I said that I don't control people and I didn't feel responsible for somebody else's potential actions."

A University lecturer has also been subject to bullying through a Facebook group and 'wall to wall' posts. The group, which is still

on Facebook, criticises the lecturer's teaching style and the module taught. The wall comments were made by a student who felt that they had been unfairly marked by the lecturer.

The lecturer has asked *Leeds Student* to keep her school and name anonymous. She said: "I do respect the student's right to criticise my module, but I would rather that it is done through the formal process." She added: "Personal comments about my appearance or comments about my research, which endanger me personally due to the sensitive nature of the research, are not acceptable."

The lecturer was distressed and raised the issue with both the University and Facebook. As a result of her complaint the University asked Facebook and the students to take down the offensive material from the site, which they did, although most of the comments were taken down before she had the chance to use them as evidence. The lecturer said that she had felt confident that the University would be successful in taking action against such material.

Hind Hassan, a student made prominent by her position as an officer in the Exec, has also become the subject of a Facebook group, entitled: "Hind Hassan is a baby eating ex agent of Saddam Hussein". But she has taken the group in jest and has even joined it herself. She said: "In my case, the group did not have any root in reality, no harm could have come of it on a real level around campus. The majority of these groups tend to be light hearted, a bit of a joke, but there is a line that can be crossed."

She continued: "The university does have a role to play in ensuring that people can get

Story continued on page 2.







**Sketch**  
By James Haddon

For those who haven't been paying attention, you've just missed your opportunity to have your twice-yearly say on what the Union should be doing. "Whoosh!" - that's the sound of dubiously effective progress passing you by. In case you're curious, bored or masochistic enough to want more information on the referenda, the Union's lurid, 'shroom-trip of a website is suggested as the logical place to start.

What might be an ill-considered move on their part is opening their "what is a referendum?" section with a quote from Wikipedia - seeing as every single student in the university has been told, from day one, that this is a horribly unreliable source. If a lazy, drunk and quite possibly drugged-up

first year is perceptive enough to realise that this is a silly move, you'd have thought that this would have been acknowledged. After all, the Union's own wikipedia entry has been the victim of repeated e-vandalism, with the insistent and repeated insertion of fictitious Executive Postman, Davey Pascoe, into the otherwise serious entry.

The fact that, as of going to press, several conflicting key dates for the referendum have been given across the website simply makes clear the huge lengths that the website's creators have gone to to ensure accuracy. Perhaps the violent colours and bright lights have simply distracted whoever was paid to write the content, leaving them too dazed to actually check that what they've written made sense. Who knows?

To be fair to them, this year's website is a lot more positive than last year's Q&A "Referendum Feedback" section - mainly due to "Big Mac" Mackenzie's review of the by-laws over the Summer. The public's response to the first referendum was particularly damning, key criticisms such as "The rules on electronic campaigning don't make sense" were answered by an implicit agreement from the Union. Now, at least, most of the rules make sense, and a degree in law, an animal sacrifice and a lot of luck isn't necessary to actually take part.

If the "Pascoe fiasco" tells us anything, it's that it's far easier to invent a consistent fiction, than to report a consistent fact.

Illustration: Mark Mackay

# Facebook groups

(Continued from front page)

on with university life without being harassed. I think the group about me is hilarious. Sometimes, there is a problem about being too rigid, people should lighten up and have a laugh. I think it can actually be quite flattering".

The Pro-Vice Chancellor for Students and Staff, Stephen Scott laid out the University's official position saying: "The University's official view on the use of social networking sites like Facebook has been developed alongside LUU. In line with this the University is not monitoring Facebook or any other similar site. However, if an issue is raised with us, we have a duty of care to both our staff and students and the overall reputation of the University to consider and respond to the issue raised. "We are not in any way wanting to limit individuals' freedom of expression and their entitlement to criticise as these are very much a part of the University values. However, individuals are reminded that mutual respect is also a key element of the University values."

He continued: "We are as concerned with protecting students who are the authors of such sites as well as those who are featured in them. People who are producing any such 'groups', need to be aware that these are effectively public documents and subject to all the basic legal limits. In effect it is just

like signing and posting something on the Union notice board. The University wants to ensure that students understand their responsibilities and liabilities as well as their freedoms. The agreed process is one of giving guidance and not instructing students on what they can and cannot say.

"Ultimately we can reserve the right to invoke the University disciplinary processes, however this would be seen as a failure of the above process and not as a natural consequence."

A Facebook spokesperson has said: "While we believe users should be able to express themselves and their point of view, certain kinds of speech simply do not belong in a community like Facebook, you may not post or share content that makes threats of any kind or that intimidates, harasses, or bullies anyone or is derogatory, demeaning, malicious, defamatory, abusive, offensive or hateful."

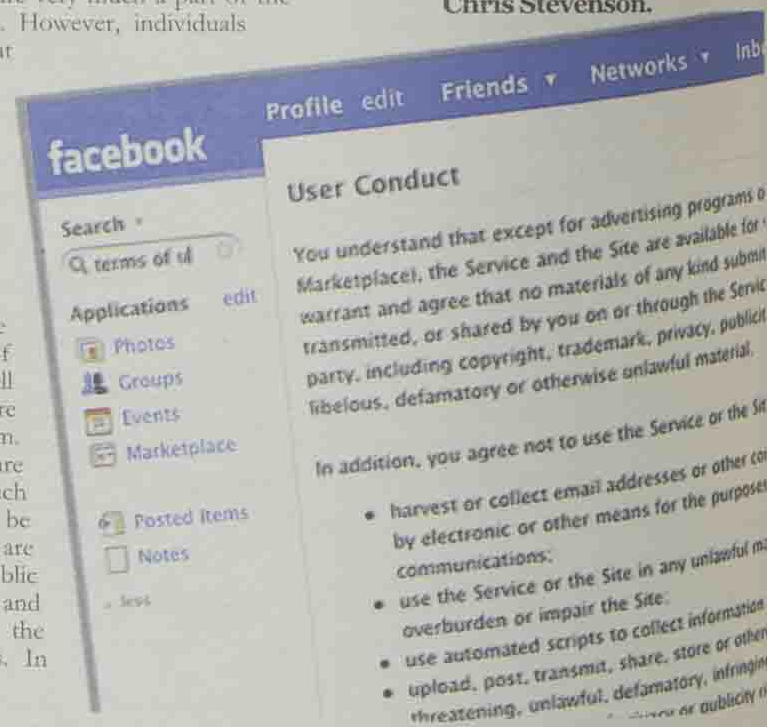
additional reporting by Chris Stevenson.



Reader of the week

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# Speaking out breaks the Guinness World Record

by Laura Gardiner

On Wednesday October 17 a group of students helped to break a Guinness World Record by taking part in the 'STAND UP SPEAK OUT' campaign.

At 1.15pm on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 33 students

wearing red and white formed a giant 'mouth' outside the Union. The stunt was organised by LUU's People and Planet group and aimed to represent the growing movement of people who are refusing to stay silent in the face of poverty.

From 9pm GMT on October 16, over 38.7 million people in 110 countries took part in

similar events, and succeeded in breaking the Guinness World Record for the largest number of people to 'STAND UP AGAINST POVERTY' in 24 hours. This attempt broke last year's record of 23.5 million and was jointly organised by the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC) and the Global Call to Action

against Poverty (GCAP), along with a wide range of other partners.

The 'STAND UP SPEAK OUT' campaign is a global call to governments to take action against poverty by working towards the Millennium Development Goals. In 2000, leaders of 189 countries signed up to the Millennium Development Goals, a global plan to halve poverty by 2015. The Goals commit rich and poor countries to working together to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; ensure all boys and girls complete primary school and promote gender equality. They also aim to improve the health of mothers and children; reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS; protect the environment and create a global partnership for development by ensuring rich countries give more and better aid, debt relief and trade opportunities to poorer countries.

Eveline Herfkens, the UN Millennium Campaign's Executive Coordinator, said: "Together we have broken the incredible record for the largest number of people standing up to demand action on poverty. But the record we really want to break is the world's record of breaking promises and ignoring the poor. We don't want to record numbers of people dying of poverty every year. This is the great issue of our times, let us become great by dealing with it decisively."

RECORD-BEATERS: People and planet break the record.

Image: [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)



# A home grown Nobel Prize winner

by Jack Jordan

An academic at the University of Leeds was one of the scientists that received the 2007 Nobel Peace prize for helping understand climate change.

The 2007 Nobel Peace prize was awarded jointly to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the former US vice-president, Al Gore. Dr Piers Forster, of the University's School of Earth and the Environment, is a leading figure in the IPCC. He played a major role in writing the body's latest report, released in February of this year, whose purpose was to assess climate change science. Explaining his research and the work of the IPCC Dr Forster said: "My research really looks at the underlying physics of climate change. It tries to understand and quantify all the different factors that have contributed to climate change and then understand how the global climate responds to these influences."

"The IPCC is an organisation set up to report the facts about climate change to the world governments. Importantly it never advocates policy. However, governments make policies such as the Kyoto protocol on the basis of the IPCC reports findings. It's job is to sort through the hype to distil the facts and communicate these to policy makers."

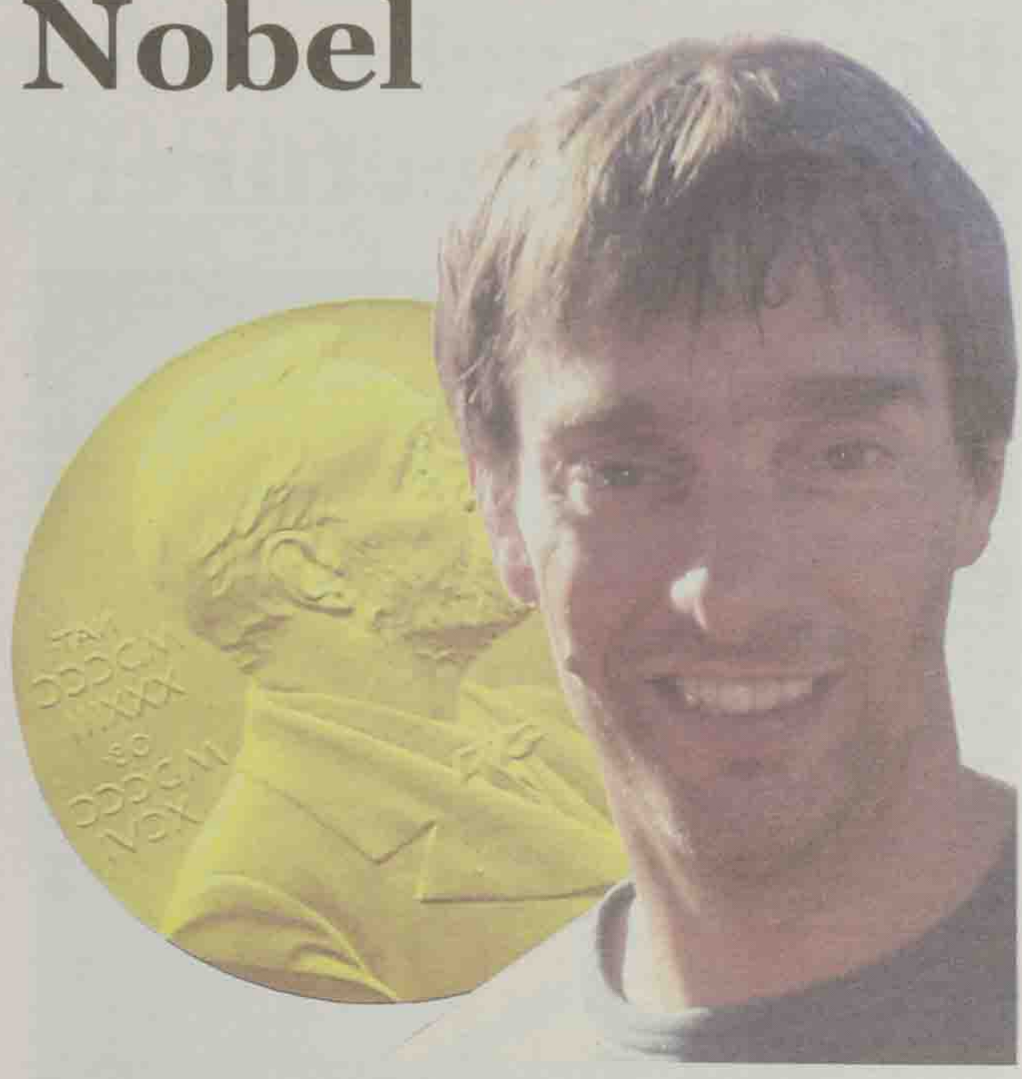
The scientific effort is huge - never has

such a rigorous and huge distillation of science been undertaken in any field. The reports take about five years to write and they go through three stages of peer review. In the most recent report we had tens of thousands of comments that we had to write responses to. I was one of the main coordinating authors of this report."

Amongst the conclusions of the report was the prediction that by the year 2100 temperatures would increase by between two and four degrees Celsius, while sea levels would rise by between 28 and 43cm.

Dr Forster added: "We came up with the finding that humans have very likely caused most of the global warming since the mid twentieth century. This may sound rather tame after five years of work, however, it was really the solidity and rigour behind this statement that had a huge effect on, particularly the US government, and made them take notice."

Commenting on winning the prize Dr Forster said: "I was really surprised and honestly gob smacked that the IPCC won the Nobel Peace prize - especially as winning it puts one in some slightly odd company. Many scientists have worked on the IPCC reports over the last two decades and it's great to give them some credit. I think science is the real winner and we have hopefully given the world the evidence needed to take the action now that will prevent the worst consequences from ever happening."





# Executive 'Open Surgery' fails to interest students

by Laura Mackenzie

A recently launched 'open surgery' scheme, the brainchild of Neil Mackenzie, Communications Officer, has sparked little interest among students as illustrated by a series of low turnouts.

Previous Executives have had an open door policy but this is the first year that the six members have gone directly to the students themselves and held a weekly meeting at the LUU info point in which people can come and air their views about the role of the exec and LUU in general.

The idea stemmed from Neil Mackenzie's election manifesto and aims to make the Executive more accessible to students. At present the majority of students are not aware of who the Executive are or what their role in the Union and University is; even most of those who do would not recognise them by face or know how to approach them with their problems.

Lucy Graham, a second year Law student said: "I voted in the Exec elections last year but I don't think the results were well publicised enough. I'm still not sure of who all the members are and what the roles are of the different Officers."

When asked about how successful she thought the surgery scheme would be, she said: "I think the open surgeries are a good way for students to communicate with the Executive, but I don't think the scheme will

work properly unless enough students actually know it exists; I wasn't even aware that the first surgery had already taken place." Neil, LUU Communications and Internal Affairs Officer, said: "We've got 32,000 students at Leeds University and I would say that upwards of two-thirds of these don't even know where the Exec's door is. Hopefully this will be more successful than an open door policy."

Neil added that the surgeries are also useful in reminding the Officers of their main role. He said: "The scheme reminds the Executive that our main job is to be representatives for the students, not just to

sit in our office. Although students haven't come to talk to us so far, there has already been a cultural change within the Executive and we have used the two hours to approach students ourselves and advertise new campaigns. "For the first few surgeries all six members will be present, and the surgeries will run throughout the year, regardless of the turnout or how popular they prove to be. They run every Thursday from one to three pm at the Information Point in the Union Building."

Find out more about the Student Executive Officers and how to contact them at [www.luuonline.com/theexec](http://www.luuonline.com/theexec)



**BIG MAC ON CAMPUS:**  
Neil Mackenzie

**EXEC: The elected members of LUU.**

# Back to school for out of touch lecturers

by Claire Freeston

Leeds University lecturers and school teachers are swapping roles in an attempt to make the transition from sixth form to undergraduate teaching smoother.

Many new students at university find they are being asked to learn more independently and the teaching and guidance they receive is very different from study at school. Therefore, Leeds, along with other universities around the country, including Sheffield, Nottingham and Warwick, are hoping to lessen the gap between the two different types of teaching by becoming part of the Teacher and Academic Fellowship scheme.

The head of Chemistry at King Edward VII school in Sheffield, Will Davey, has become a teaching fellow at the university and over the next year hopes to discover how the more structured teaching of science subjects in schools can be adapted to more accurately reflect undergraduate experience.

His lecturing colleagues meanwhile will spend time going to local schools to observe teaching styles and practises; gaining insight into how their subject is taught at a less advanced level. Mr Davey said: "I hope to also bring back to the school improved knowledge of what university admission tutors look for." All of the other Universities will then follow this example. Commenting

on the other ways that Leeds helps students to adjust to University life, a Spokesperson said: "The University of Leeds is very aware of the need to bridge the gap between the learning styles of school and university. Our programmes of study help students move from the more directed learning associated with school to becoming more independent learners. We seek to clarify students' expectations through the kinds of activities and assessments which we set throughout their programme. We also put particular emphasis on supporting students during their first months at university. Following a major project two years ago, we provide a co-ordinated induction programme which addresses their particular needs as they begin to engage with a different learning style."

At the same time, the University engages proactively with local schools to develop greater understanding of developments across the two sectors. Academic staff are involved in working in local secondary schools. Last year, for example, the University held 12 events for school teachers and a further 147 local teachers took part in University seminars and workshops. In January one of the keynote speakers at the annual Learning and Teaching Conference, to be attended by over 300 University staff, will be the Head teacher from a local secondary school who will be speaking about changes in

teaching methods in schools.

This project may remedy the fact that in recent years universities such as Leeds have experienced a downward trend in interest for all three sciences, with Chemistry and Engineering taking the hardest blow. This statement is echoed by Rob Knowles, a second year History student, who said "If universities had made more of an effort in promoting sciences in schools, then I may have chosen to continue science at degree level."

Speaking about how Leeds tackles the problem, a University Spokesperson said: "The University offers a number of ways in which science subjects are promoted in schools. These include running events on and off campus for National Science & Engineering Week, the Biological Sciences 6th Former Residential Conference, after school computing clubs in local schools, and Chemistry, Maths and Physics revision classes for school students about to sit A levels. In addition to this, the University offers Mentoring to students studying GCSE and A levels at school or college. Students are paired with University of Leeds students studying complementary subjects at degree level." Sarah Freeston, a Year 13 student, hoping to study Physiology at university, said: "Getting children into science earlier is a good idea because it inspires them as well as stretching them academically."

## News in Brief

### Breast Aware

LUU's Women's Assembly are holding a Breast Cancer Awareness and Fundraising Day on Tuesday October 30 in the Riley Smith Hall.

The day will involve a wide range of events including literature and merchandise stalls, video screenings, refreshments stalls and a raffle.

There will also be presentations from student nurses at 11 am and 3pm and Breast Cancer Care Staff volunteers will be coming in between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm to chat to students and answer questions. The day will end with a Give-It-A-Go Indian Head Massage session from 4 to 6 pm.

A spokesperson for the event said: "The day is a great way to get to know your bodies and raise money for a good cause. Bring a friend, a housemate, a relative, a colleague, a partner or anybody you can find!"

Raffle tickets cost £1; the Give-It-A-Go session costs £4. All proceeds from the day will go to Breast Cancer Care.

### Action Auction

The Action volunteering society will be running an auction on November 1 at 8.30pm in the LUU Terrace Bar in order to raise funds and awareness of the group's activities.

Items up for auction include: A diamond necklace worth £300; Paint-balling tickets; Tickets to University gigs and events; Meals at top restaurants; VIP tickets to Jeremy Kyle; Summer Ball tickets; An amber necklace and Cinema tickets.

Also at the event there will be a psychological illusionist, a chocolate fountain and free cake.

### Halls Go Green

Students in halls are being given the chance to help make their residence a more environmentally friendly place.

The Union is working in partnership with the University to reduce the environmental impact of students living in halls by recruiting volunteers to be Environmental Hall Reps, to promote and assist a variety of environmental campaigns throughout the year.

The key campaigns will focus on waste management and recycling, energy conservation, and transport. There will be an introductory meeting for reps in the LUU Conference Hall at 5.00 pm on Thursday 8th November.

If you are interested in getting involved please contact Rosie Trobe, Ethical & Environmental Assembly Chair at [rosie@luuonline.com](mailto:rosie@luuonline.com) by Friday 2nd November, with name, contact details and which hall you're living in.





# Vote turnout low but winners smiling

by Laura Mackenzie

The results of the Union Council by-elections were announced on Friday October 19, with all six positions filled.

Polling closed at 7 pm on Thursday October 18 and the total turn out was 631 votes cast. Although this was a very small percentage of the 32,000-strong student population, it was actually a significant increase on last years turn out. A spokesman for the LUU Campaigns and Democracy Support Office, said: "It is sadly true that Union Council by-elections do only ever get small turn outs. The good news is that this is actually a 31 per cent increase on last year's turn out which in itself was a 40 per cent increase on the previous year."

Neil Mackenzie, LUU Communications and Internal Affairs Officer, said: "There's always more that the Union, the candidates themselves and the media can be doing to advertise Union Council elections and encourage more students to vote."

"Although general student apathy is a massive problem in terms of turn out, the trend for voting is going in the right direction and turn out is increas-

ing every year."

The position of Mature and Part-Time Assembly Convener was won by joint candidates, Bianco Juan-Carlos and Laurainne Yhann, and the position of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Assembly Convener was won by Sophia James. Both positions were uncontested.

There were two candidates competing for both General Student Representative and Post Graduate Assembly Chair. Jak Codd was elected as the new General Student Rep, and Mina Said as the Post Graduate Assembly Chair.

The two positions of First Year Representatives had a combined total of seven candidates standing with Alia Mahdi and Zippi Gershon winning the votes.

Neil Mackenzie added: "We were delighted that most of the positions were contested, and were particularly pleased that seven first year students were standing; this is a good sign for the future of democracy in the Union."

All Council positions will be open for full election once again at easter, with the exception of First Year Representatives whose term of office follows the academic year.



Steve Halpin, Returning Officer:

"I think we were all really pleased with both the turnout and the number of keen and able candidates, especially considering this was a by-election so there's not the same buzz around campus as with the spring elections. However, elections aren't the only way to input into decision-making around our union, there's the assemblies and a referendum coming up too. All the cynics who think democracy is rubbish in our union are frankly behind the times!"



Jak Codd, elected General Student Representative:

"On the campaign trail it was evident that the large majority of students are simply not interested in the democratic structures of the Union. It is a shame, because a lot of good work is done by not only the Executive, but also Union Councilors and other active Union members. I think the majority of students feel disillusioned with Union politics, and feel that it is just a place for careerists who want to promote their particular agenda. It is important that LUU focuses more on the issues that really affect students, because I believe that is the only way in which to attract more people into the decision making process of LUU."



Sophia James, elected Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Assembly Chair:

"I love being a representative for the people, too many individuals involved in politics forget that they are accountable to the public plus I'm interested in the formation of bi and transphobia on top of homophobia. Union Council is an amazing way for students to be empowered. The council can provide support and funding to aid the most amazing and opinion altering campaigns. For students that utilise the council, it is an immense outlet to exercise their political views."

# Students gain insight into construction work

by Laura Mackenzie

A building site on campus has provided Civil Engineering students with a first-hand experience of the kind of environment they will be working in after they have graduated.

Work on the £16 million project began on the site in April of last year and is on track to be completed by May 2008. The building will house the University's student services and officially be called the Marjorie and Arnold Ziff Building after its benefactors and in memory of Arnold Ziff.

It is rare that students get an opportunity on their own campus to visit a live construction site, and experience health and safety issues, and building methods first-hand. 130 first year Civil Engineering students visited the site to talk with the construction team, and health and safety was high on the agenda with suitable boots being a prerequisite to going onto the site.

The visit was led by Graham Cottam, the site's Project Manager and preceded by a lecture on 17th September, with Steve Hayman, Shepherd's Managing Planner, which introduced the students to the construction process. The lecture provided some back-

ground information relating to the Marjorie and Arnold Ziff building project and highlighted various areas of interest.

Rosemary Creasey, Senior Tutor at the School of Civil Engineering said: "This has been a unique opportunity for students to learn about teamwork, health and safety and to discuss potential career opportunities first-hand with the Shepherd's team."

Tomas Bilbe, a first year Civil Engineering Student said: "As it was my first time on a construction site I was overwhelmed. It was definitely an inspiration to have the opportunity to see a working construction site this early on in my civil engineering career."

The building will be six storeys high and form a purpose-built student administration centre at the heart of the Leeds University campus. It will also house Joint Honours, the Lifelong Learning Centre, the Language Centre, International Foundation Year, Interdisciplinary Science Foundation Year, the University Senior Management Team and the Alumni and Development Team. The building will also house a cafe and new Council Chamber.

It is hoped that there will be further student visits in the New Year.



CRANE YOUR NECK: The soon-to-be Arnold Ziff Building.





# 300 seconds with: Mark Robinson

## Mark Robinson, President of RAG

LS: Hello Mark. Standard question...could you tell us a bit about RAG and what it actually is.

MR: RAG stands for 'Raise And Give' and is a really large organisation with branches in nearly every university in the UK. We basically organise loads of different events which are supposed to be all about having fun and raising money for lots of different charities.

LS: So how did you manage to get the top job?

MR: Well I organised RAG Week last year and then got voted in at our AGM!

LS: And what events is RAG organising at the moment?

MR: We've got loads of events coming up including the Paris, Morocco, Amsterdam and Barcelona Hitches, the Paperclip Challenge and Firewalk.

LS: Ermm, can you explain what 'the Paperclip Challenge' is?

MR: Basically we give participants a paperclip and they have to try and swap it for something better. They then have to swap that for something better, and so on. Someone once did it for a year and ended up with a house, but we're just sticking to four weeks.

LS: And 'Firewalk'...

MR: This event is taking place in early November and is raising money

“ Since Circus School I've wanted to try new, crazy things.

for Friends of Antara. RAG members have to walk across hot coals.

LS: What? With their bare feet?

MR: Yeah! I really want to take part because ever since I went to Circus School I've wanted to try new, crazy things. Also, those taking part are only given two hours training and I want to see if I could be

convinced to do it in such a short space of time.

LS: So have you ever embarrassed yourself for a charitable cause?

MR: I don't want to admit it but I actually haven't...

LS: But would you?

MR: I would definitely embarrass myself for charity! I nearly took part in the speed-dating event the other day but we had too many people!

LS: Did you manage to matchmake anyone?

MR: Yeah we actually did! It was a bit awkward at first but it was really successful. At the end everyone had to write down the name of anyone they liked, and when two people had put each other we gave them their email addresses. RAG has also organised an event called 'Five Go Dating' where five boys and five girls go on a group date.

LS: So how can students become involved in RAG?

MR: Students can join our Facebook group or visit our website [leedsrag.org.uk](http://leedsrag.org.uk) for more details. If you want to take part in



events or become a member then you can just visit our office which is in the ARC. We also have loads of socials including a pub quiz every two weeks and meals at Barakas.

LS: And, quickly, anything else to entice new members?

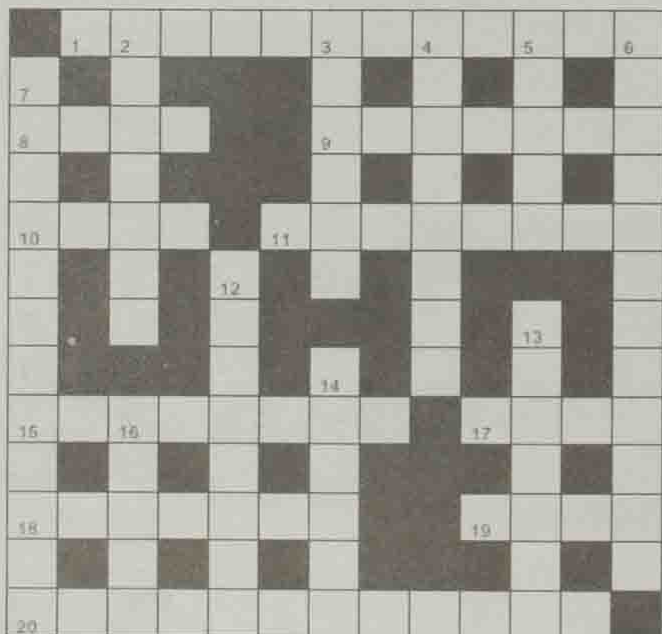
MR: RAG'S a big network of fun, enthusiastic students, and it's a great environment to work in and meet new people!

“ I would definitely embarrass myself for charity!

# 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. Fifty lucky winners will receive VIP discount tickets for Seven Spices restaurant. Just send your completed crossword to the Leeds Student office, upstairs in the Union building. Good luck!

## Concise Crossword #2 by Phaedrus



### Across

- 1 Shakespeare play (6,6)
- 8 Pleased with oneself (4)
- 9 Shakespeare play (7)
- 10 Core - smallest constellation (4)
- 11 Small dagger with thin tapering blade - shoe (8)
- 15 Visible symbol representing abstract idea (8)
- 17 Hallucinogenic drug (colloq.) (4)
- 18 Sailor's cry upon raising anchor (5-2)
- 19 4 Down for example (4)
- 20 Obviously correct (7,5)

### Down

- 2 First World Cup winners (7)
- 3 Seeks out new talent (6)
- 4 Greek mythological warrior (8)
- 5 Divide, break or part lengthwise (5)
- 6 Flowery shrub (12)
- 7 Having tendencies of an insane and violent nature (12)
- 12 Shakespeare play (4,4)
- 13 Shakespeare play (7)
- 14 Storehouse for weapons (6)
- 16 Depart (5)

# Singing star

by Laura Mackenzie

SINGING HER WAY TO SUCCESS: Laura won £1,000 in radio contest



A Leeds University Student has won first prize in Radio Aire's Leeds Talent competition.

Laura Tebbutt, a third year Music student, came first with an a cappella rendition of Mariah Carey's 'Hero'. She won £1,000 prize money as well as a night for two in an Ibis Hotel, and a bottle of champagne.

The competition was run by local radio station, Radio Aire, who visited several Leeds hotspots, including Hyde Park and Baba Beach Club in the search for new talent. Contestants were asked to perform their talent for one minute in front of a camera and the videos were then posted on Radio Aire's website for listeners to vote for.

Laura's entry was filmed at the St. John's Centre where she sang 'Fever' in front of all of the mid-day shoppers.

The top ten entrants were invited to a live final which took place on Friday October 19 at The Lounge. They then had to perform their talent for up to five minutes in front of an audience and panel of four judges.

These ten were whittled down to a final three. Sam Harrison, a third year Leeds University English student and Laura's friend, also made the three with his half comedy sketch, half song about his love life. Laura said: "We originally only took part for a bit of banter so I can't believe we made the final three."

Laura had to give back the prize money after the judges gave all of it to her in cash: "I was going straight to Fruity so I asked for it to be sent to me as a cheque; I didn't want to spend it all on Apple Sourz."





## News in brief

### Gadgets galore

A recent survey has found that parents are spending up to £4.6 billion on gadgets for children at university, an average of £1,860 per student.

A poll of 1000 students by dot mobile about their technology revealed that the most is spent on students in the south. Students from the Greater London area have the most spent on them when setting off for university, having an average of £2,250 worth of gadgetry. Students in the South East came second with an average of £2,200 being spent on them; while students in the South West came third with £2,075.

Those in the North West and the North East have the least spent on them - £1,750 and £1,700 spent respectively. This is more than is spent on food for the whole of the first year, which works out at an average of only £1,476.

The survey also revealed the top ten pieces of technology present in students' rooms. At the top was a mobile phone, with 94 per cent of students admitting they could not go to university without one. Also present was internet access and a laptop, present in second and fourth place respectively.

In terms of using gadgets to help with work at university, the statistics show that students are more likely to spend time surfing the internet or speaking to friends rather than studying. 87 per cent of students questioned admit to using their technology to socialise rather than study, with 76 percent stating that they spend more time on sites such as Facebook. In terms of hours, this equates to spending 20.3 hours a week communicating with their friends using gadgets on average. This is in contrast to just an average of 9.2 hours spent studying with the help of technology.

### Global gathering

On Wednesday October 31 at 6 pm in Arc Room 5, a 'Global Health for Dummies' session will take place, with the topic, 'HIV and TRIPS', where the subject of Anti Retro Viral drugs (medical treatment for HIV sufferers) and the patents imposed by pharmaceutical companies to restrict their generic production will be discussed.

The session will revolve around the premise that pharmaceutical companies place a huge price on the ARVs they produce, because they have patented the drug which means that they cannot, under the World Trade Organisation's statute, be reproduced cheaply.

Governments and charities all around the world are trying to break these International trade law barriers to provide ARVs to the countries and the people whose lives are being ravaged by the effects of HIV. The session will be led by Harry Burns, last year's President of the StopAIDS charity in Leeds 'Global Health for Dummies' has been set up by Medsin Leeds to promote education about global health issues, where people are encouraged to come to the themed sessions to contribute and learn about current day global health topics.

Medsin is a student network, with branches and projects running across the UK. The projects and campaigns run by Medsin aim to educate about and act upon health inequalities in our local and global communities.

# Mystery canal saviour

by Laura Mackenzie

An 84-year old man who was deliberately pushed into the Leeds Canal is anxious to find his rescuer, who is thought to work at the University of Leeds.

The incident occurred at around 2.30 pm on Saturday October 20. Mr William Warner was sitting in a chair beside the canal when he was pushed head-first into the water by two boys. Due to balance problems he was unable to climb out and soon began to lose temperature.

He was found in distress some time later by a Canadian man, along with a lady and her daughter. The man, who is thought to be a University of Leeds employee, pulled Mr Warner out of the water and lent him a jumper to wear.

Mr Warner regrettably lost the man's business card when he was taken to the A and E, but is very keen to thank him and to return his jumper. If you are the Canadian rescuer concerned, or you know who this person is, please phone Mr Warner on 0113 216 4548, or phone his daughter Ann on 0113 2798 341.



CALAMITOUS CANAL: Remember to be careful.

## Dispersal order disparaged

by Adam Richardson

Researchers at Leeds University, in conducting a survey into police dispersal powers, have found that rather than solving the problem of anti-social behaviour they just move it.

The results of the survey have highlighted that whilst one area achieves a down-turn in anti-social behaviour, its neighbouring area sees a substantial rise. Professor Adam Crawford and Stuart Lister of the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies found that crime in regions designated

dispersal areas had fallen by 39% over six months in one area. However, in another neighbouring area, crime rose by 83% over the same period. This is due to a displacement effect, as one area's problems are shifted to neighbouring areas, and it has been noted that after the duration of the dispersal order, the problems return to the original area.

Dispersal orders were first introduced in 2004, and over 1,000 areas have been designated dispersal zones in England and Wales. The orders also have implications for the police, as a more visible presence is required in dispersal areas. For the public in general, the orders look like a permanent

police presence will appear, but due to the short-term nature of the orders, expectations are falsely raised. Once the dispersal order has finished, much of the crime returns to the area, and the police presence returns to how it once was. Professor Crawford calls the dispersal orders a "sticking plaster" over local problems, and believes that they "fail to address the wider causes of perceived anti-social behaviour."

The survey was funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, as the Home Office has explicitly preferred not to designate funding to evaluate the new anti-social behaviour powers, but collects limited data via police quarterly returns.

## South Asian students examined

by Jeremy Webb

Women of South Asian origin are attending university in greater numbers than ever before, but there remain a number of obstacles to their success in education, reveals a new report from researchers at the University of Leeds.

Sociology lecturers Dr Paul Bagguley and Dr Yasmin Hussain based their research on interviews with 114 young women from Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani backgrounds, the majority of whom live in Leeds. South Asian women in Britain have attended university at much faster growth rates than white women. The report suggests that such growth is due to high career aspirations and good parental support. Successful graduates from ethnic communities, or "pioneer women", were also cited as an important influence.

The research found that the decision to attend, as well as the choice of university and course, is

more complicated for these women than for their white counterparts. Most interviewees said their choice of degree hinged on the advice of parents and relatives, who favoured subjects such as law, medicine, dentistry and business. Since their real talents may lie elsewhere, Dr Bagguley points out in the report that this inflexible approach greatly increases a student's risk of failure.

Dr Hussain added: "Higher education is particularly complex for Muslim women, as they may be obliged to attend a local university near their home to ease moral concerns and preserve the family's honour. For most Bangladeshi and Pakistani women, marriage negotiations with their parents are central to any decisions about going to university."

Many of the women said they were attracted to universities with a "critical mass" of South Asian students. The two lecturers state in the report that the "predominantly White environment" at Leeds University had an impact on many of the women. The research shows that those who were the only students from their backgrounds on their course felt particularly isolated.

For some, the issue of ethnicity was raised by

the reactions of white people they encountered at university. A common complaint of respondents was incorrect "liberal stereotypes", which see the South Asian woman as oppressed or domesticated. What the research describes as "white liberal myths" surrounding attitudes towards Muslims created feelings of tension for some interviewees.

Dipvandana Shah, Leeds environmental science graduate and current president of the National Hindu Forum said: "I believe that Leeds is doing enough to challenge unacceptable behaviour from students."

Dr Bagguley outlines what improvements can be made: "There is a sense that South Asian women have been overlooked and marginalised in higher education. Their success depends on universities forging closer links with ethnic communities, and this might mean translating information into other languages for parents. Universities should make it a priority to ensure local access to relevant courses, have effective equality and diversity policies in place, and try to recruit more South Asian staff as careers advisers."





# the big debate:

## Bring back shisha smoking?

Since the 1st July virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces in England have been smokefree.

This week's debate asks: 'Should smoking Shisha be included in the ban?'

### For Shisha to be included...

**Peter Beckett email: [peteracbeckett@hotmail.com](mailto:peteracbeckett@hotmail.com)**

I'm a smoker, and I'm not that keen on the ban – especially now I'm being thrust into the cold every time I want a nicotine hit. I'm also the proud owner of a large blue shisha. It's at my house in London. My mum hates it.

But now we have a ban, it's important to remember why. The law now exists to protect people from the risks of passive smoking – so to argue that certain types of smoking should be exempt on health grounds is a joke.

*Waterpipe smoking is associated with many of the same risks as cigarette smoking, and may, in fact, involve some unique health risks. It should be subject to all the same restrictions as regular tobacco.*

I didn't say that. The World Health Organisation did. Yes, shisha smoke does smell nice. But that doesn't mean it can't be deadly too.

And yes, there are a few crackpot scientists who argue that the water absorbs most of the nasty stuff – but they're in the minority. The vast majority of research indicates that smoking shisha is just as deadly. And were it true, and we were to take that argument to its logical conclusion, bong smoking would be made legal because the water absorbs all the toxins in your weed.

Those who think shisha should be exempt, like the misguided folk who posted a petition to that effect on the PM's website, tell us that every shisha café in the country will be forced to close – devastating areas like Edgware Road in London.

But I was in Edgware Road last week and it hasn't lost any of its buzz; the spice markets and restaurants were in full swing. Similarly the two shisha cafés I frequent in Leeds seem to be doing alright – in fact I had a really good night at Hukaz in Hyde Park recently. They've started doing nice food and putting quite a cool band on.

The same campaigners argue that the only reason to go to a shisha café is to smoke, and so non-smokers simply won't go in. That's not true, most double up as restaurants. But if it was, the same campaigners should also argue for cigar clubs to be exempt.

But their real argument is the unique position of waterpipe smoking in Arabic and Middle Eastern culture.

Surely if we are to say that shisha smoking is OK because it's important to certain sections of the Arabic community, then it follows logically that cigarette and cigar smoking should be exempt because of their importance to certain sectors of the British community. Both were invented at the beginning of the seventeenth century – so it's not like shisha smoking has been around any longer.

And while we're on the subject, why should the Arabic and Middle Eastern community have a special exemption when it comes to shisha smoking? It's legal for men to have multiple wives in many Arabic and Middle Eastern countries, but British law doesn't offer an exemption on that.

The smoking ban inconveniences a lot of people, myself included, but its motives are of

obvious benefit to everyone. The risks of passive smoking are not reduced if the guy next to you is smoking a shisha rather than a cigarette, which would be the only real reason to exempt shisha cafés. When a law is made it should apply to everyone. No exceptions.

### For Shisha to be excluded...

**Hind Hassan email: [h.hassan@lhu.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:h.hassan@lhu.leeds.ac.uk)**

By virtue of my name, the greater than average melanin in my skin and the 'diverse' friends with interesting accents I swathe myself in, I am automatically exposed to skepticism and critique of my choice of

politics, religion and all round opinion. Fine; it's no problem, I can handle it – after all, we do reside in a democratic nation built on a sea of freedom, bring it on I say. But oh no, the dissection of my culture cannot be left to theoretical debate but is ripped out from its heart by those who claim to act 'for our benefit', like an adult spanking a child it is no more than an abuse of power and ultimate control.

I do not drink or do drugs and I'm not a promiscuous girl; smoking flavoured tobacco in the sanctity of the designated cafés, absolved by their dim lit surroundings and the North African beats in the background, was my only vice. I long for the days were my friends and I could debate every topic under the spectrum whilst inhaling such sweet fumes. Alas, all I am left with is a column in a student paper to protest at an injustice ignored by the masses.

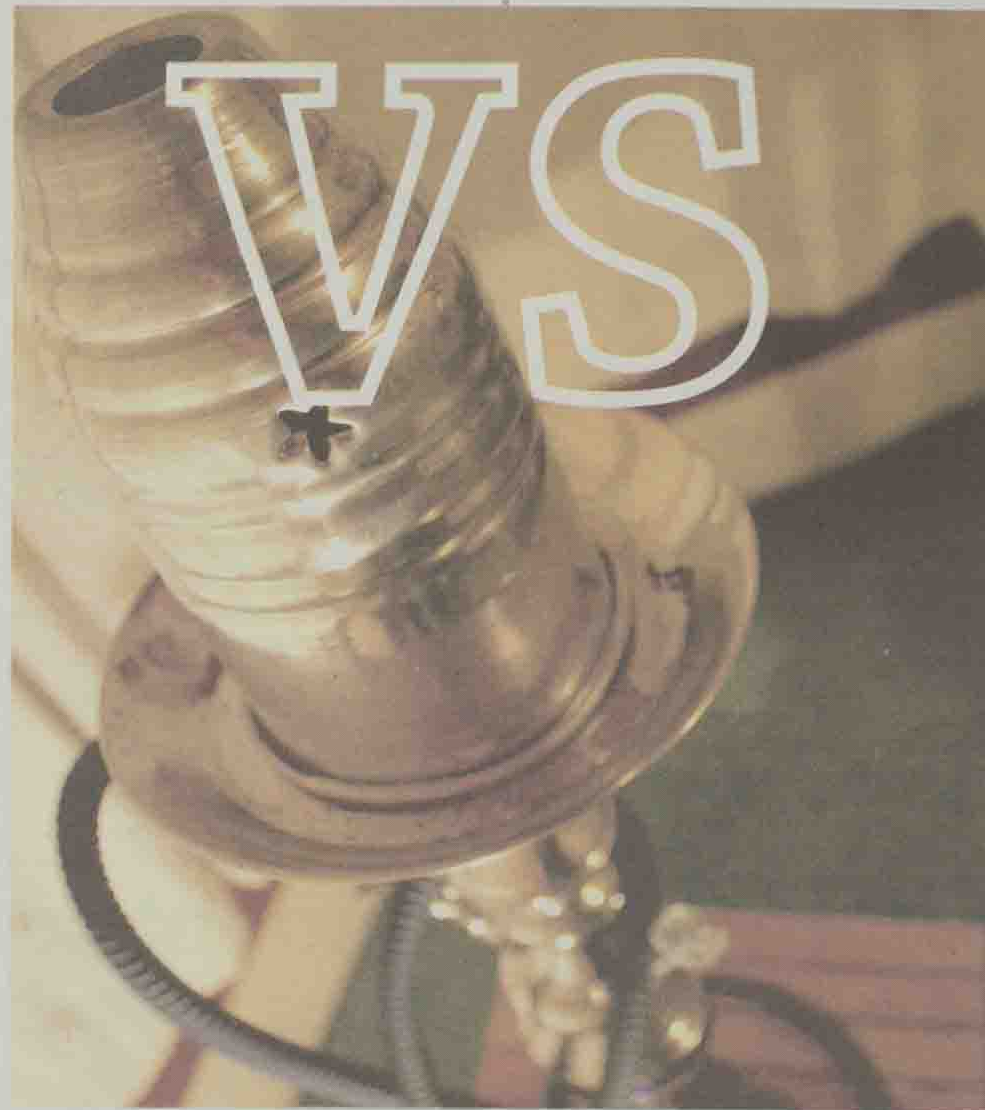
Not only are there significant social factors but economic ones that should have been taken into serious consideration. The majority of Shisha Cafés are owned by people of Middle Eastern origin and the blanket ban on smoking has subsequently resulted in the loss of many families main source of livelihood, especially those with a limited menu that had marketed their business solely on the sale of shisha. From Edgware Road to Hyde Park the sudden cull in this area of business has affected many lives and incomes.

Such is the desire for a custom etched in many people's heritage we have witnessed many cafés attempt to pirouette around the legislation; many have either created outdoor venues, balconies or tents requiring heaters which research has shown to have a significant damaging effect on the environment.

What frustrates me the most is the lame, mundane and inaccurate arguments presented by those I would describe to be the antithesis of freedom and liberty advocates. The title shisha café, especially for those of us at academic institutes such as our blessed Leeds University, should be easy to decipher. Let me break it down for you: it's a café for shisha. Would you go to a swimming pool and complain that all that water was making you wet? No so where's the harm?

It's bad for you I hear you all cry! Then why is it you are still allowed to go for a pint but I can't go for a smoke? Why is everything in this society catered to aid the dangerous and incessant drinking culture we spend so much of our time analysing? Because we are a nation of market lead hypocrites and our government has more to lose economically than it has to gain in our well being from banning such a drug as alcohol.

Alcohol and shisha smoking both have detrimental effects on your health but the fundamental difference is that I don't ever recall reading that consumption of the latter had directly resulted in anti-social and violent behaviour. Either present consistent policies or don't at all, otherwise you run the risk of isolating large groups of people.



### Last Week's Debate: 'Facebook freedom or farce?'

#### Latest result from online polls:

**For freedom: 75%**

**For regulation: 25%**

#### Top Comments from the website:

"The web should be free for all, free from regulation. The web is a release for all. Of course public things need to be watched, but with anything you need a measure of what to expect, depending on the nature of the website you are purveying. Porn is a good example, you cant moan about facebook, which you have to login to, until the rest of the rubbish is gone. Freedom for all, one day the hackers will return and the web will be free again." - WebLord

"As soon as free speech on the internet is monitored and censored by the government we cross into dangerous territory." - Christopher Lovell

**Join the debate, visit the website: [www.leedsstudent.org.uk](http://www.leedsstudent.org.uk)**





# LS Extra

## 12 LUU talks

More lectures anyone? Paul Raymond, Alex Smith and Paul Haydon report on all those academic add-ons you've been missing.



## 14 Comment:

Rejecting religion, the sin of sobriety and latest vogue in flirting - "smirting". Philip Dickinson, Tim Ingham and Pandora Sykes reveal all.



# All about apathy

Are students a lost cause in Leeds University Union politics? Are we as apathetic as the stereotypes suggest? **Juliette Gerstein** explores student participation.

**D**id you vote in the Union by-elections last week? No? Did you actually know that there was a by-election going on in the Union last week? Not sure? Perhaps, like me, you saw the yellow ballot box on your way into the Terrace, but were unsure exactly what was going on, and who or what you could vote for, and ignored it in the rush to get your coffee or pint.

Unfortunately, it seems that I am not the only one. A quick look at the LUU website tells me that a grand total of 631 students voted in the by-election last week. That is just 631 students from a Union membership of 30,000, which is approximately 2%. No questions of the voters were asked, but how many of those 631 do you think knew one of the candidates? Rather a high percentage I would imagine. LUU statistics do tell me, however, that this is a 31% increase on last

year's turnout, which was a 40% increase on the year before.

This highlights a stark reality. Students are not voting.

The Union Council is 'the highest decision-making body in the Union' but how many of us are actively having our say, voting in elections? And if we are not, why not?

Despite being a finalist, and, in the past, having actually voted in some Union elections, I was, to be honest, pretty vague about what we actually elected people to do. In fact, I wasn't entirely sure who did what in the Union, what the elections were for, and what could be achieved by those who were actually elected. And I'm a Politics student; surely I should be aware of these things, interested in student politics. A quick survey of my housemates assured me that I was not alone. I turned to the Union website...

LUU online informed me that "Union



# YOUR GUIDE TO THE REFERENDUM PROCESS.



Home | What is the Referendum? | Referendum Process | 2007/08 | Campaigning | Voting | D

Don't forget to visit www.leedsstudent.org to find out more about your union

LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION REFERENDUM.

PROFAGANDA?: Union website promotes votes

Welcome to LUU's Referendum Website

This website to tell you all about the referendum and will keep updated with the latest news.

25th September - Main Deadline

Council consists of around 30 elected student representatives, all with specific areas of concern. Union Council is made up of the Student Executive Committee, Incorporated Body Co-ordinators, General Student Reps and Assembly Chairs." Any clearer? No, I'm not sure that I am either. The website continues: "The Union Council is responsible for dealing with the Union's representational and campaigning activity. They debate and agree Union policy and review the activity of the Student Executive Committee." Glad we've got that one sorted then!

The fact is, our Union is run 'not for profit, just for students'; they tell us so, constantly. Much perusal of the LUU website has at least convinced me that those who are running our Union are aware that not enough of our huge student body are involved, or feel represented. This is clearly something that they are trying to address. According to the minutes of the first Union Council meeting this year, they have a 'Representation and Engagement Working Group' to try to address the fact that many students do not entirely understand how the Union Council works.

They are also trying to make everything more visible in the Union, to try to encourage the rest of us to become more interested and informed. Is this working? Do we know enough about what's going on? Is there enough publicity highlighting the changes? Clearly there must be a

balance between the provision of this information, and the desire to find out.

This year, there is also a big focus on the 15 Assemblies, each of which deals with a specific area, but is open to anyone to get involved in. The one I've heard the most about (particularly on facebook, mind you), is the Women's Assembly, but there are others including LGBT Assembly, Disabled Students Assembly, Education Assembly, which seeks to address issues about learning, including library opening hours, and the societies assembly. Each assembly is chaired by a Union Council member, and anyone can turn up and raise issues, which can then be taken back to Union Council meetings.

However, we surely can't entirely rely on the Exec and the Union Council to inform us and persuade us to be interested. I mean, they've clearly made the choice to get involved, and have managed to get themselves elected. Presumably they know how the union works. To a certain extent, it is up to us, as students and Union members to ensure that we know what's going on, how things work, and how decisions are taken. There's only so much that elected students can do, only so many ways that they can try to inform us, before we need to make an active decision to get involved, and find out more. And if they go over board (bombarding us with flyers on the Union steps, for example), we are much more likely to switch off. But, how much can any one of us complain about how the Union works, or changes that are made, if we don't even take the time to understand who and what we vote for, or don't bother to vote at all? For example, any of us can choose to attend Union Council meetings, but how many of us do? On the other hand, how many people actually know when the meetings are, or what Union Council discusses? Perhaps this is an area that needs a little more promotion. It's all very well putting this information on the website, but this assumes that people make an active decision to spend their time reading the website, and looking for the information.

In a way, apathy in the Union is simply a reflection of the national political situation. Electoral Commission statistics show a falling turnout for UK general elections: UK voting peaked in the 1950s, but remained

over 70% all the way through the 1960s, 70s and 80s. But by 2001, turnout had fallen to below 60%, although it rose by a few percentage points at the 2005 General Election. In other contests, such as local elections or elections for MEPs (Members of the European Parliament), turnout as a whole is lower. And our age group is one of the worst culprits. Far from being excited to finally get the right to vote at 18, or being stereotypical students desperate for their chance to make a change and get our voices heard, the 18-24 group are the least likely to vote in elections, and the 25-34 age bracket aren't much better. Pensioners put us to shame; in 2005, 75% of over 65s voted in the general election, but only 37% of 18-24s bothered. According to the Electoral Commission, we are also the age group who are least likely to see voting as a civic duty, with only 56% of 18-24s feeling that it is, whereas a massive 92% of the over 65s feel that voting is a duty.

Nationally, our failure to vote seems to be down to a wide variety of factors, from being busy on the day of an election, to a lack of interest in politics, and feeling that all political parties are the same. Some young people feel that they do not know which party to vote for, or that politicians are not listening to their views, regardless of who is elected. This could equally apply to elections in the Union: some students do not understand what they are voting for, some do not understand the issues that are being discussed, and some feel that it doesn't matter who gets elected, nothing really changes anyway. In America there have been specific campaigns to target young voters, such as Rock the Vote, which involves well known celebrities, and seeks to boost turnout. A Rock the Vote campaign started in the UK this year.

Even experiments with e-voting and voting by text message didn't seem to make a significant difference in general elections, although postal voting seems to have done, although it has caused a number of incidents of fraud. Apparently, we are all a lot more willing to vote for Big Brother or the X Factor than we are for our national government, or for those who run our student union.

The Union has recently introduced an e-voting system, (something that I have now registered for) which appears to have two, potentially positive functions. The system, obviously, allows students to vote online, rather than at the ballot box. This was developed after the 2004-05 membership review, in response to a demand for more options when it comes to voting. The review highlighted a clear and pressing demand for e-voting, and therefore it has been introduced. When I registered for the e-voting system, it also offered me a selection of newsletters that I could subscribe to, offering a variety of information about the Union, including club nights, offers in the Union shops, and, crucially, information about elections and Union democracy. To me, this appears to have huge potential. We are the 'internet generation' and most of us spend a great deal of our time online, or working on our computers. Email is a good way to convey information, and is more likely to get through to people than posters in the Terrace are. Clearly those who are involved in the Union are keen to get us more

## ? Election Winners

### Bianco Juan Carlos & Laurainne Yhann

Mature & Part Time Assembly Conveners.

Joint candidate - 239 votes., 33 for RON.

### Sophia James

LGBT Assembly Convener.

260 votes, 40 for RON.

### Jakk Codd

General Student Rep.

237 votes, 203 for Nadia Iqbal, 10 for RON.

### Mina Said

Post Graduate Assembly Chair.

208 votes. 118 votes for Ebube Nwazota, 25 for RON.

### Alia Mahdi & Zippi Gershon

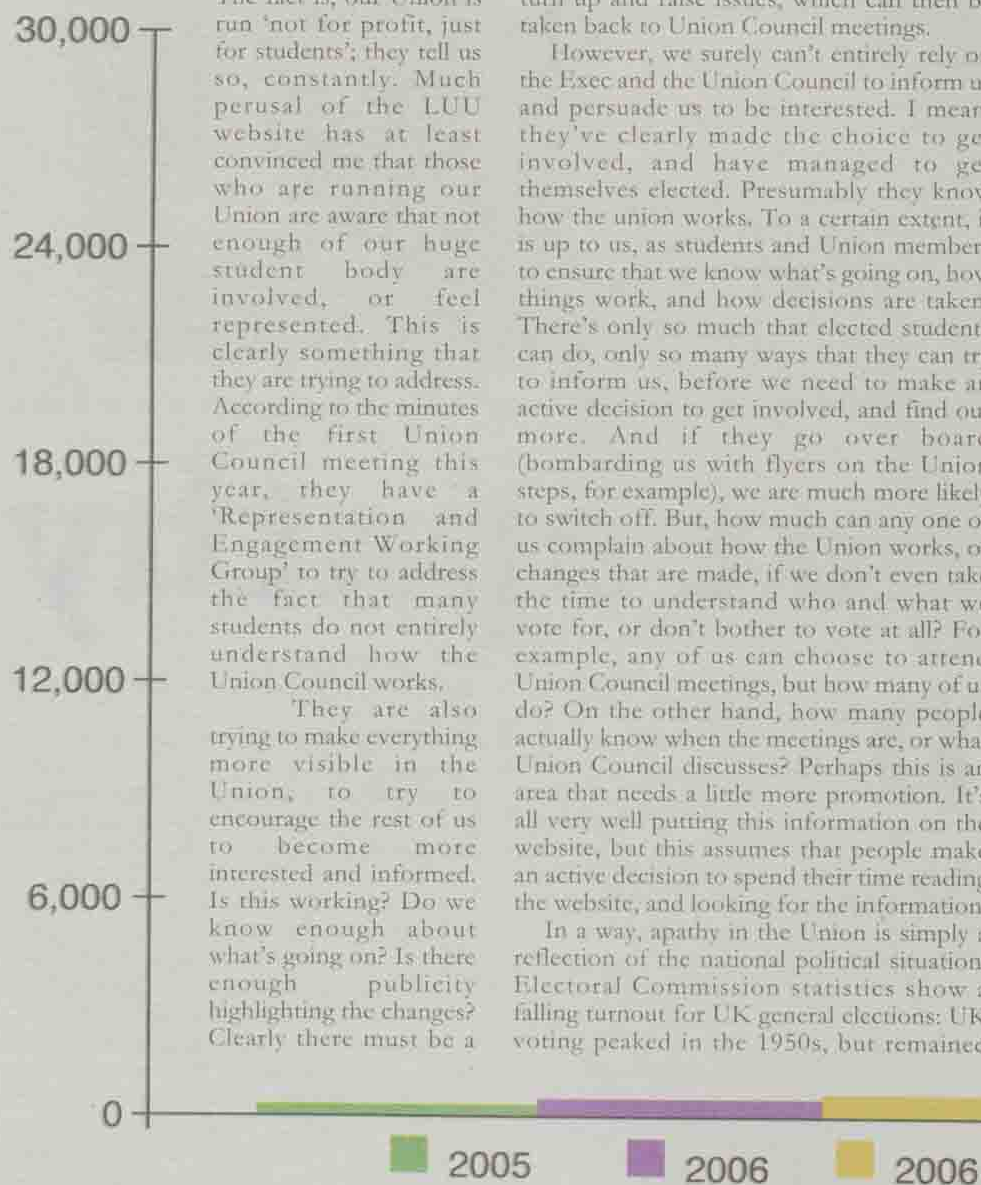
1st Year Representative (2 Positions)

140 for Alia Mahdi, 93 for Zippi Gershon, 55 for Joseph Finlayson, 49 for Lauren Haney-Wilcox, 41 for Christopher Leslie, 34 for Keniesha Lowe, 57 for Ross Markaham, 25 for Steven Sharpe and 12 for RON.

involved, and are seeking to use the internet to do this. There are, of course, facebook groups for each assembly, and clearly the Union is trying to use facebook to raise it's profile, which makes perfect sense, after all, most students I know spend plenty of time on facebook, and it is an effective publicity and organisation tool.

On the LUU website, I had a flick through some of the profiles of the Union Council, and of the Exec. This tells me useful things, like what the exec have been up to, which obviously includes enjoying intro week, but also mentions some key campaigns, such as getting free prescriptions for students; and also what sort of platform they stood on, and what else they have been involved in. It immediately strikes me that a large percentage of both the Exec and Union Council have been involved in People and Planet, but also, that many have

“ We are all a lot more willing to vote for Big Brother or the X Factor than we are for our national government, or for those who run our student union.



APATHETIC?: The graph to the left illustrates year-on-year voting figures for Leeds students in by-elections. The Y axis represents number of student voters, out of a potential 30,000 (approx). All figures are based on LUU press releases.



what could be described as alternative motives for standing. And by that, I mean that some of our representatives appear to be trying to do things other than simply improve

**2.1%**?

of Leeds University students voted in by-elections.

the University and Union for those of us who use both. I'm not in anyway suggesting that the Union should reduce its environmental campaigning, I'm simply questioning the motives of those who are involved.

One concern that many people have about Union Council, elections, and its members, is their reasons for standing, and the agenda that they wish to promote. Certain societies actively promote certain candidates who are standing in elections, for reasons other than to change the Union. It raises the question of what Union politics is for. Should the Union Council be elected according to their stance on the Iraq War or the Israel-Palestine issue?

Or should it be on the basis of how they wish to change the Union? Does this put people off getting involved in the Union? There is a risk that, by bringing wider, international issues into Union Council elections, people will feel that a lack of knowledge about these issues means that they can't participate.

Something else that I notice is that most of those who hold elected positions in the Union have had some, often quite a lot of involvement in the Union previously. Now I'm not suggesting that this is wrong, in fact I suppose it makes sense that many students would work upwards through the Union, or that previous involvement would possibly inspire some members to try to make changes. It does, however, strike me, that students may find it harder to get involved later on in their university careers if they miss the chance earlier on. Of course, only a certain percentage of the student population can be interested in student politics, or have the determination (and time!) to stand for election, as well as the knowledge and interest in the issues that are involved. The Union Council clearly are trying to encourage students with no previous involvement to get involved. But obviously, you need to be interested, and to want to do something, or



make a change, and that is a self-selecting group.

If a large percentage of the students who stand for Union Council come from similar Union societies and are seeking to make the same changes, is it any wonder that people don't vote. If you don't feel that you have much choice in candidates, why would you elect to use that choice?

However, this assumes that all the students are choosing not to vote because they feel that all the candidates are the same. Are students choosing not to vote? Or are they failing to vote because they are unaware, uninterested or uninformed?

As Sunil Bhopal, Union Council Speaker points out, students, for the most part, are not disinterested. When it comes to certain key issues, we are quick to take a stand, and we want to make a change. We have stood up and shouted about a variety of issues: about the Iraq War, about Frank Ellis, about climate change and recycling, about top up fees. We want to make our views known.

Is there enough information about elections and by elections? For example, is there enough coverage in the Leeds Student? Should the newspaper publish all the manifestos? Or is it a case of students not making enough effort to find the information about election candidates? Information exists on the LUU website, and it was extremely easy to access a list of candidates and their manifestos. The Union building, including the bars, had promotional posters clearly on show. There is only so much that we can do to encourage people to vote, but ultimately, students must inform themselves about those who are standing, and take the decision to vote. It does seem, however, that there is often a lack of publicity about key events, such as meetings, or even by-elections. Students cannot get involved with things that they don't know are happening. Assembly meetings, Union Council meetings, all of these aspects of Union life must be promoted, in an obvious, informative way that appeals to students, because if we don't know it's there, we can't go!

I have discovered a plethora of information on LUU online, even if some of it is a little confusing, plus, there is a dedicated Democracy Support Office upstairs in the Union, just next-door to the Exec Office. I did ask the Democracy Support Office if they were concerned about student apathy, but they told me that as members of staff, they were unable to comment. However, they did note the continuing increase in by-election turnout.

It does concern me, however, that in this by-election, six Union Council members were elected by approximately 2% of the electorate. Generally, this would not be considered a legitimate result; even those who ran unopposed didn't receive 100% of the votes, they lost out to RON (Re-Open

Nominations). And with the support of less than 2% of the Union membership, can they really claim to represent us? Or does their mandate derive simply from the fact that no one chose to challenge them. (Of course, it should be noted that this is just voting in the by-election, voting for Union Council and Exec elections receive a much higher turnout, and therefore a clearer

“Some students don't understand what they are voting for, some do not understand the issues that are being discussed, and some feel that it doesn't matter who gets elected, nothing really changes anyway.”

mandate).

Sunil Bhopal comments “The problem is that we, as students, or as members of the public at large, aren't used to having so much power to change things. We don't feed into national or local government stuff, and when we do we feel ignored. So we're not used to being able to change things.” But in the Union, as Sunil points out, we can change things. Our votes do make a difference. Union Council elections are a complete contrast to, say, a general election. You are not just one vote in one constituency out of over 600, you are not voting in a safe seat where there is little chance of party majority being overturned. Particularly in Union by-elections, the turnout is small, and therefore every vote really counts.

As Sunil points out, all of us like some things in the Union, and dislike others; but we need to be proactive and seek to change them. If we don't like the decisions that are being taken, or the way that things are run, it is up to each of us as individuals to try to make a change. We can go to Assemblies, and make our feelings known about the facilities for student parents, the need for anonymous marking, or issues that we have with landlords and student housing. We can, and should, read manifestos, make active choices, and vote in Union Council elections and by-elections. And ultimately, it is up to us to put ourselves up for election, and to seek to make positive changes if we don't like the way that things at LUU are run. After all, we can hardly keep complaining about things if we ignore every opportunity to change them.

**BOXED IN:** Top secret ballots are stored here.





# Talking points

Given the number and variety of guest lectures taking place on campus, you'd be missing out if you didn't get along to a couple while you're at Leeds. **Paul Raymond**, **Alex Smith** and **Paul Haydon** took a sample.



**Nawal Al-Saadawi**  
Egyptian Author / Activist  
Feminism in the Arab World  
Author: Paul Raymond

**H**er reputation may precede her, but first impressions of Egyptian novelist Nawal Al-Saadawi make you think you've walked into the wrong lecture theatre. This firebrand of feminist activism, a vocal campaigner for women's rights who has been imprisoned and had death threats in her own country and has been stirring up violent controversy across the Arab world for the past half a century, seems on first glance as quiet, demure and agreeable as an English country grandmother. Yet behind her sweet smile and darting eyes hide a determined, unbending personality.

Rapidly approaching her 77th year, Dr Al-Saadawi who has several divisive novels and many years of tireless campaigning to her name, is charming, bubbly and seemingly unstoppable. Her age has not forced her to cut back on her campaigning activities. Indeed, she seems to be speeding up. Currently on a busy

tour around Europe to promote reprints of some 30 novels, she is soon to return to her home country to face charges of "insulting religion." If convicted, she may face a prison sentence.

The charges relate to Saadawi's latest play, "God resigns at the summit meeting." The work, which depicts God and the gathered prophets of Islam, Christianity and Judaism having an argument about the interpretation of religious texts, has infuriated many in Egypt's deeply conservative society. Like many of her novels, it has faced vituperative verbal attacks from religious scholars at Cairo's Al-Azhar, the foremost institution of Islamic scholarship.

Yet Saadawi is unrepentant. She has been in conflict with the religious authorities and the Egyptian government for years, resulting in both prison and exile. In 1954 she graduated from medical college as a chest and heart specialist, but was soon plunged into the world of politics when her husband, Marxist activist Sharif Hatata, was imprisoned by then Egyptian president Gamal Abdul Nasser.

Soon, Saadawi's own writings started to get her into trouble not just with the government, but with radical Islamist groups who placed her name on a list of targets for assassination. Her novel "The Fall of the Imam," which parodied the corrupt regime of self-styled "religious" President Anwar Al-Sadat (governed 1970-1981), put her once again in conflict with the authorities.

She is uncompromising when it comes to provoking conflict. "You need to stir, to make people think, because people are hypnotised by continual oppression," she says. She bemoans the education system in the Arab world, which she says indoctrinates children from young age and destroys their creativity.

"We are all born creative," she says, "but our creativity is diminished by religious education."

Saadawi directs further criticism at

education systems which "fragment" knowledge. Western medicine is her example: study of the body is divided into individual areas and specialisations, without taking into account the connectedness of all the body's systems. This fragmentation, she says, extinguishes creativity, which comes from connecting all fields of knowledge together: politics, medicine, sex and science.

Saadawi specialises in approaching red lines, convincing you that she is going to turn around, then plunging straight across. "Sex is politics," she says. "What goes on in the bedroom is political. Who goes on top? This is politics!"

Nor has she shied away from discussing sensitive theological issues. "The books of all 3 monotheistic religions are very similar," she says. "They are all racist, misogynistic, and injected into us as children."

Her outspoken criticisms continue to infuriate the Egyptian establishment and alienate Saadawi from large portions of her own society. Yet she remains popular among feminist and anti-imperialist activists: her

**Richard Bell**  
US Embassy, London  
Darfur and African Governance  
Author: Alex Smith

books continue to sell in their millions, and have been translated into 30 languages, including Swedish, Korean and Indonesian. She may be at war with a whole society, but it seems that Saadawi will have the last laugh.

**T**he latest lecture from the International Affairs Forum was given by Richard Bell, the First Secretary of the political section of the US Embassy in London. Topics covered included Darfur and African governance, the UN and inevitably, US foreign policy, which Bell encouraged the theatre to ask

questions on.

The lecture provided an articulate perspective from a major western power, something perhaps not considered unusual in an age of mass-media slogans and political sound-bites. Bell certainly has a rich CV of foreign diplomatic work, including work at US embassies in Kirkuk, Kuwait and Tel Aviv. However, his friendly and at times informal presentation of US foreign policy led into a thorough grilling by a well prepared and critical audience.

This lecture comes at a time when relative calm in the Darfur region of Western Sudan has once again been disrupted by violence. Bell opened his talk with an interesting account of recent developments in Darfur that have often been over simplified and presented as the result of a dispute between Arabs and Africans. He commented that the recent resurgence has been caused as much by "splintering" rebel groups "trying to show their military strength" as the "typical upsurge in violence that we see at the end of the rainy season every year." He also noted that violence has broken out between Arab tribes over land, and that the many displaced are unwilling to return to their previous homes.

Bell went on to extol the virtues of US investment in Sudan. "I think it's fair to say that no one has done more than the United States in Darfur and the larger situation in Sudan."

He stated that the US had spent \$4bn on peacekeeping and reconstruction for the people of the Sudan and Eastern Chad in 2005-07, and displayed a overwhelming willingness to improve bi-lateral relations with Sudan. However, he stressed the need for a solution to the Darfur issue before any real progress can be made. Bell also said that the US government "applauds" the UN and AU (African Union) for making the inclusion of displaced and marginalised peoples a priority issue in talks between the Sudanese government and Darfur

## autumn agenda

### 30 Oct

Can the United States correct itself? Illinois Professor Jan Nederveen Pieterse discusses the future of American politics. Hosted by POLIS.

Tuesday

### 8 Nov

Geoff Hoon, MP, former Defence Secretary and chief whip on UK defence policy. Includes Q&A session. Hosted by International Affairs Forum.

Thursday

### 17 Nov

The Hidden Debt; Islam's contribution to the world. Tariq Ramadan presents this one-day conference, hosted by the Arabic and Middle Eastern Department.

Saturday

### 27 Nov

Ali Alawi, author and former Iraqi Minister of Defence discusses the future of Iraq and the region. Hosted by International Affairs Forum.

Tuesday



rebels scheduled for October 27 in Libya.

Bell also gave a personal account of his views on the interventionist concept of Responsibility to Protect (R2P). This was a particularly challenging section of the lecture which raised questions of humanitarian intervention and the ethics of insurgency and occupation. While acknowledging the scope for abuse, he believes that "it has the potential to change the norms of behaviour internationally."

The focus then shifted from Darfur to the more general question of African governance as a whole. While acknowledging the problems of Africa's growing extreme-poor populace, he argued that it is "not all bad news," with economic growth averaging 6% in each of the last three years and a downward trend in terms of civil conflicts. Citing factors such as a dramatic reduction in malaria cases, a planned doubling of G8 aid by 2010, increased transparency and democracy, programmes such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (joined by 27 of the 52 African states), and the formation of the African Union from the OAU, Bell feels that there are in fact grounds for optimism.

When he moved on to discuss US government actions in relation to African governance, however Bell took a more defensive air, seeming eager to highlight the positive US foreign contributions in the face of a more general scepticism from his audience.

Apparently seeing Africa as both about "promise and optimism" and "disease and war," the US government's priorities are: "to combat HIV/AIDS, advance political and economic freedom and to promote peace and regional stability." Bell also explains the oft-maligned "Africom" as a response to the African complaint that US foreign command centres were over-regionalising on the continent, and describes the Millennium Challenge Cooperation as "committed to governing justly and accountably." The 8 African countries receiving \$3.1bn under this scheme - he claims - would gain approval of a "generous" US population who want to "help the less fortunate." He expresses bewilderment at the notion that the Bush administration only deals in hard power, countering 'common' misgivings about US foreign policy by stating that, under Bush, aid has doubled worldwide and "just about" quadrupled in Africa.

While the lecture was an informative insight into the machinations of US government, the Q&A section which followed was arguably the more engaging. There were few easy questions, Bell was immediately asked why countries lured into loans by governments such as the US and corporations such as the IMF and World Bank incur debt payments that far outweigh the aid the country is receiving. Admitting he was not an expert on debt matters, he argued that "sovereign governments are the parties who ask for the loans."

Bell was also quizzed on the US rejection of UN resolution 52, the justification of committing of war crimes in the name of humanitarian intervention and the need to separate ethics and economics in foreign interventions (highlighting the motive of oil in the Iraq war, a point which received much applause). He replied by stating the need for all western diplomatic politics to run through the "independent judiciary" to prevent war crimes being committed in foreign endeavours. A murmur of amusement greeted Bell's claim that "the Iraq war wasn't about oil," and that the US's only intention was to make oil,



#### Lin Chun

London School of Economics  
China and Democratisation  
Author: Paul Haydon

China is soon to overtake Germany as the world's third largest economy and is becoming increasingly influential on the world stage. One of the key questions facing China today is how the government will choose between democracy and authoritarian rule. Leeds University Centre for Democratisation studies welcomed speaker Lin Chun to discuss notions of democracy in modern China. Lin Chun is a lecturer at the London School of Economics and is the author of the highly successful book, "The transformation of Chinese Socialism." Her prestige was recognised by such a large turnout that the talk had to be moved to a larger lecture theatre, and the wide variety of students present reflected the interest shown in this topic.

Core to Chun's argument was the fact that democratic tradition has existed in China since the turn of the century, following the overthrow of the Imperial system by Sun Yat-Sen. His political philosophy was known as the Three-People's Principles, essentially modelled on the democratic system. This refutes the claim by modern commentators that democracy is new and alien concept to China. She also argued that the communist revolution of the 1940s had democratic elements; it started in the countryside with massive popular support and was in essence a movement of self-liberation. Finally the communist regime that took power encouraged citizens to be politically active through grassroots movements and labour unions. However, this eventually led to the violence and atrocities of the Cultural Revolution of the 1970s, when political activism was encouraged in the form of youth militia groups such as the Red Guards. Protective measures were not in place to

prevent persecution of certain groups, particularly those better off who were seen as middle class, and this led to widespread outbreaks of violence. There were also negative impacts on democracy in the last fifty years, the loss of civil liberties and the rise of Mao as an authoritarian ruler. Lin Chun's emphasises that there were both negative and positive impacts on democracy during this period, a fact overlooked by many Western analysts.

In China today there are four main stances towards the development of democracy in China. These are as follows:

**Official Position:** The policy of the Chinese government is to continue the political reform of the last 30 years, increasing

Western model, with property rights, competitive elections and a multi party "Western" system. Some accuse this group of being incoherent as they support the government's economic reforms, which are largely authoritarian in nature, whilst criticising the system of one-party rule.

**Socialist opposition:** This group largely opposes the government's liberalisation of the economy and the social problems this has caused, such as displacement of people, pollution and the lowered status of the common worker in the modern economy. They are for a more democratic system with more involvement by the public in political decisions, but want a return to a more socialist economic system.

There are already some democratic institutions in China that could be built upon to create a real democracy. The most important of these is National People's Congress (NPC), the highest organ of state power. Here serious debates take place about how to run the country, but the majority of the representatives are members of the Communist Party, with only limited involvement from the 8 "small" parties. Here the emphasis is on "consultative democracy," involving a more collaborative relationship between political parties, as opposed to the Western, competitive system. Another recent development has been the introduction of local elections in rural areas of China. However these have been condemned as simply a tool of oppression, appeasing the rural masses while giving them no real say in national politics.

The official line taken by the Chinese government is that a transition to democracy will lead to instability, and that what is needed right now is a strong government to lead the country through this period of tumultuous change. However, Lin Chun argues that what is really needed is the open dialogue provided by democratisation, which will ultimately lead to a stronger and more stable government.

“There was such a large turnout that the talk had to be moved to a larger lecture theatre.”

personal freedom and implementing liberal economic policies while maintaining a one party system, effectively guaranteeing that they remain in power. Their justification for this is that public supervision from the grassroots upwards eliminates the need for competitive elections.

**Semi-official Position:** This is endorsed by the government but not broadcasted in its propaganda. Based on Confucian principles of people power, it basically states that the rulers of a state cannot remain in power without being popular with the public, and therefore will act in the public interest.

**Liberal opposition:** This faction believes only in liberal democracy based on the





# The Heart of the Matter

## How the death of self-reflection has caused our society to deteriorate.



Jeremy Rowland  
leedsstudentcomment@gmail.com

There appears to have been in recent times a movement towards anti-intellectualism. Intelligent people seem to have lost the will to think deeply, and as a result they use their intelligence to find ever more creative answers to the world's problems. Yet in doing so, they are still no closer to finding the truth of our situation. Perhaps they are scared of

uncovering the truth, which may as a result blow their perception of our contemporary society as advanced out of the water.

The truth is, that as a society, we are doing this on many levels. Our children are deeply unhappy, which is being expressed through obesity, teenage pregnancy and liver disease. Yet the current debates surrounding these issues seem to completely avoid the question, 'if we are so advanced, why are our children so unhappy?'

Another group of 'intellectuals' seem to think that all the world's problems stem from religion. This is futile in its effort to find an easy way to understand the world by not thinking in depth, and therefore arrives at a simple explanation which doesn't even scratch the surface of what humanity's real problems are. The reality is that the internal state of most humans is imperfect and therefore the actions which follow are imperfect. Are the arms manufacturers making weapons because they want peace, or profit? Are massive corporations exploiting and devastating the poor for motives other than human desire?

The fact is that no leader can gain power without support of some kind, and religion and ideology are just ways in which corrupt

people try to gather support. It is the love of wealth and power, and the feeling of superiority based upon association which are the real driving forces behind most of the world's injustices. Even when people are violently trying to establish their religion or ideology above another, it is still the desire for power which is really at work. But

“Are arms manufacturers making weapons because they want peace, or profit?”

few are addressing the question 'how can we prevent people corrupting themselves?'

It is my belief that it is actually a type of arrogance which is driving us to destruction. Our society is falling apart at its seams but we appear to think that somehow we are indestructible. Our schools are failing our children, the family is deemed unnecessary by large sections of our society, and we are

surprised when our children pick up a gun and take a life. So the question becomes, how is our 'progress' helping us to progress?

The saddest aspect of all this is that the world has proven humanity wrong, yet in our advancement we have not even stopped to notice. Have you not taken time to think that climate change is the result of the very 'progress' which we celebrate? I am not however blaming the world's problems on technology or change. It is our inability to mature with the responsibilities all this brings. We have progressed externally but we got carried away with what that actually means. Internally we have not changed, or worse we have deteriorated.

Change can only manifest within the masses if individuals first change themselves. But this involves a process of serious and sincere self-criticism. How often do people really take the time to assess what they have done, and why they have done it? But it is hardly surprising that people fail to think deeply these days, as there are so many distractions around such as TV, computers, music and mobiles. We are suffocating ourselves and not allowing our intellects to breathe.

# From our species' childhood

## Why the anti-theists think they've got it right.



Phillip Dickinson  
English

Infancy and superstition can be entirely charming in the young, but not so much in those where the cortex has fully developed. Those who wish for an unending supervision of everything they do and think still exist, and continue to preach and often attack on the impossible and self-contradictory axiom which is the following - they not only know that God exists, but they know his mind too. And on this basis, they can tell their flock what they

can eat, drink, think and do; what could be more sinister and totalitarian than this? For those who would hesitate to concede their lives to this system, they are allowed the following consolation - all it requires is belief, and eternity in a paradise is assured. If you were to read this without the knowledge of religion as a concept, you would be utterly reasonable to suggest that the above sounds similar to a common marketing scheme. A business.

If I was to ask the for the last occasion where a religious leader spoke anything of intelligence or integrity, I believe you would be clutching at straws with whatever answer you presented me. On the corollary, I only need to recall in my memory of events where religious bigotry prevailed once more. In Denmark, we found that a cartoonist could not expect to perform his job without the threat of "Islamist" murder and violence. In America, we find that children may be stultified with pseudo-science explaining that a design may be behind the universe. Scientists in secular America too, are informed that they may not be allowed to conduct stem cell research due to those who childishly believe that the soul exists in those mammal cells. We have the

elderly bigot known as the Pope who informs us that we really need to start telling our children that hell is waiting to enclose them should they refuse Catholicism. Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims are destroying mosques and humans over their ancient conflict in Iraq. We have nutters all around the world explaining why we need to aid the

“A Catholic refused to acquire a Nazi uniform and was executed.”

apocalyptic settlers on the West Bank so Jesus can finally return.

Ah, you reply, but what about Stalin and Hitler? A fair question, but not when you fully consider the circumstances. First, is the Catholic Church's complicity, or more politely lack of condemnation, in both regimes. As a Catholic, you would have to believe that God truly desired this. Franz

Jagerstatter, a Catholic, refused to acquire a Nazi uniform and was executed. But, he was vastly outnumbered by his priests who urged him to don the hateful uniform. Hitler's religiosity can be reasonably disputed, whilst the Catholic Church also aided in the battle to destroy Spain at the hands of General Franco. In addition, to take an explicit example, North Korea, totalitarian regimes acquire a theistic character: Stalin's Cult of Personality, Hitler as the Fuhrer, the Eternal leader and the Dear leader of N. Korea (one short of a trinity). These so-called atheist dictators did not commit their acts because of their lack of faith. Atheism is a necessary condition, and not a sufficient one. An atheist can be a nihilist or a sadist, but it states nothing concerning atheism itself. To be religious, necessitates adherence to religious doctrines, which warrant slavery, homophobia, racism, chauvinism, sexism and a submission of one's skeptical faculties. Religion is innately hostile to free inquiry and reason, and it must be fiercely opposed.



# “Smirting.”

## Is the smoking ban our new love connection?



**Pandora Sykes**  
English

It cannot be denied that life got a lot less romantic when the smoking ban came into play. Against a cornucopia of health reasons, the cigarette represents a certain sort of sexy charm. It long held its position in the pursuit of leisure and it almost seemed sad when such a social little stick was at last relegated to the anti-social outdoors. Or so

we thought. Smirting – flirting whilst smoking – is a phenomena that has burst into our lives since the smoking ban. It is an anthropological fact that flirting is an essential element of human interaction. The best form of flirtation is subtle, which is why smirting is definitely the right way to flirt.

Normal British froider is suspended when you're bonding together over your shared vice, in little hoards outside the pub/club/eaterie. Forgot your lighter? Never mind, coyly lean in and let a hot stranger light it for you. Where you could feel like a bit of a twat going up to a stranger in a club, there's nothing cheesy about offering someone a cigarette or a lighter. And smirting doesn't just create frisson between strangers, it consolidates already existing affaires. Smoking couples can escape outside for a cosy fag a deux.

There's no exclusivity with smirting either; smirting makes flirting more fun for non-smokers too, as they can engage in some light-hearted banter with a smoker without their clothes stinking of smoke like they would if they were huddled over a pub table desperately trying to sustain flirtation. Apparently, even the stoners love smirting

as they're no longer the only ones going outside for a smoke.

As most students de-camp Leeds for the course of the summer, it has only been since the recent start of this semester that we have been able to assert which of

“The days when smoking was cool are meant to be long gone. But smirting has re-lit the smoking fire.”

our local habitats are smirt-friendly. Outside the Student Union is a popular day-time smirting spot. For evening smirting, the eager smirter should be warned that The Wire insists that you queue for a 20p wrist band – allowing you to go in and out of the club – which makes the whole process a bit

of a hassle. But if you want to observe smirting in full force, go to The Mint or Warehouse. Both clubs have large seated outside areas. As we all know, the clubs in Leeds are crammed to the rooftops, with angsty bouncers presiding over the masses. So, the generously sized smoking areas of these clubs makes a nice contrast, where not only can you cool down outside with a cigarette – without accidentally stubbing it yourself or indeed someone else – but also enjoy a part of your evening when your personal space is not being invaded by unwieldy elbows and other flailing limbs of your fellow clubbers.

The days when smoking was cool are meant to be long gone. But smirting has re-lit the smoking fire. Going in and out of the club, giving fellow smokers a knowing smile as you pass them on the smirting threshold, means that you inevitably meet more people. Smirting is not without fault; one negative factor has been the inevitable rise in social smoking. Various friends of mine have admitted they have increased their smoking since the onset of the ban, because of the social benefits. Nonetheless, smirting is hereto stay. So spark up, give a wink, and go light someone's fire.

# Balls to the binge!

## How sobriety may stifle creativity.



**Tim Ingham**  
Colour Chemistry

I'm sure many of you will have read the commendably small article in this very paper some two weeks ago entitled 'Balls to Binge Drinking'. Apart from the witty headline, two things amuse me about this piece. Firstly, that it is next to an article about Leeds being the cheapest place to live, which reading between the lines and looking at the picture basically amounts to "Leeds has the cheapest beer!" Secondly that anyone

would listen Mr Edward Balls asking students, of all people, to tone down the drinking. Because here's the thing our beloved Mr Balls doesn't realise - Students have always drunk a lot, smoked a lot, eaten dubious food and remained in bed until seven at night. Oscar Wilde did it, Stephen Fry did it, I do it and I'm prepared to bet most of you do too. Just last week there were 48 cans of Foster's and three Bottles of vodka in our fridge, all of which have now been drunk, and considering we never see four of the people here and I don't drink either of the above beverages, this indicates a certain level of excess. Now, I refuse on principle to drink any drink I can see through, restraining myself to brown beer, whiskey, and gin and tonic packed with ice and lemon. I also refuse to go into a nightclub for reasons which, if you saw my attire, would become abundantly clear. I am told, from reliable sources, that corduroy and tweed are not welcome in such establishments. And I can tell you from personal experience that you cannot dance in either material.

Rather than having any actual concern for the student populace, what I suspect is happening is that Balls is trying

(as is so often the case with "new" Labour) to curry favour with the all powerful middle England, who, as we know, are opposed to drinking, clubbing, students, and young people having a good time anywhere. In the aforementioned article concerning Ed Balls there are several statistics quoted, to the effect

“Most of the great music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was composed drunk.”

that more people are being admitted to hospital with "alcohol related" problems, and that there are more violent incidents "related" to alcohol. These statistics are all very noble, and probably correct, but I do suspect that they ignore several important facts. Firstly, there are more people than there used to be, and secondly, how many

of those hospital admissions and violent incidents involve students?

Rather than the continued dangers of student drinking, a far more terrifying situation would occur if they stopped. Most of the great music of the twentieth century was composed drunk, as was a lot of the best writing. Oscar Wilde, from the amount of brilliance he came up with, must have pretty much been consistently inebriated. If students had not have drunk, and been drunk, there would have been no Monty Python, no Fry and Laurie, no Blackadder, the lists goes on and on.

To Mr Balls, I would suggest, that unless you want our green and pleasant land to be devoid of decent TV, film, theatre and satire, you kindly do what your best at - running the country very badly. Students have been students for a while now. We are quite good at it and we know what were doing. If you must interfere, it would be better for the nation if we were positively encouraged to get ourselves quickly and thoroughly plastered, then handed a pen and paper. There are thirty three thousand students at Leeds; there has to a budding comedy partnership there somewhere.



# the Leeds talk.

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



talk@leedsstudent.org.uk



text "LS1" followed by your text to 60300

## we say...

### Facebook, Freebook

Facebook is an important method of communication for both lecturers and students across campus. It has now become so integral that the University has worked with LUU to create a policy based around the usage of the social networking site.

However, this policy may have its work cut out if the recent cases of the University having to intervene continue.

Facebook is rightly seen as a place where you are free to write obscene messages to your friends, as well a place to keep all of those precious drunken pictures of yourself in one, well organised, and completely visible place. But, a line can be crossed, when innocent banter between friends becomes bullying.

There is always one Facebook group that appears to take the traditional and well trodden school playground route of shouting "gay", and other similarly immature comments at each other.

While the creators of such groups usually mean

no ill harm, and are generally poking gentle fun at our Politically Correct-crazy society, when groups are specifically aimed at students, lecturers and other University staff, lighthearted fun can seem offensive.

Many in authoritative positions at Leeds University would probably see the closure, or at least the increased censorship of Facebook, as the solution to this problem. It should be remembered however, that we live in a country of free speech and that University students are adults, not primary school children.

It would seem then that it is down to students themselves to recognise when they are crossing a line, and when they do, to recognise that they need to take responsibility for their actions. At the same time, those obsessed with political correctness in our society perhaps need to step back and look at the bigger picture; people have a lot to learn from students in terms of having fun and not taking themselves too seriously.

## 31,369 students can't be wrong

Union Council by-elections took place last week and were further proof that democracy in the LUU is alive and swinging.

Well, this is what the Exec and the Democracy Support Office would have us believe anyway. In reality a 631 turnout is hardly something to shout about. While this is partly the fault of the students themselves, LUU should shoulder much of the blame.

## Students, 'Stand Up'!

The biggest triumph among LUU's societies this week must surely be *People and Planet's* participation in the breaking of a Guinness World Record.

It should be noted however, that record-breaking is not the only achievement of the 'Stand Up, Speak Out' campaign. This demonstration of students exercising their rights to free speech and expression of political belief may have gone unnoticed by the majority of students who walked past the Union, but among the British public as a whole it was something of a phenomenon.

In recent times of economic stability and general voter apathy in the UK, the majority of citizens seem content to sit back and ignore the problems going on in the world. This attitude is even evident amongst the Leeds student community, despite the fact students

are often characterised to be 'campaigning, free-loving hippies'.

An example of this student apathy can be witnessed on any day outside the LUU: a handful of students from *Revolution*, *Amnesty International*, *People and Planet*, and the like, attempt to persuade students to join them in the fight for their cause, tempting them with leaflets, singing, stunts, and even cake. The average student on the other hand, will walk blindly past the stalls, ignore the leaflets being thrust at them, and not give the campaigning a second thought.

Perhaps more students should take notice of groups like *People and Planet*. In a world where the majority of students do not even have a Union to campaign outside of, free speech is something that all students should consider embracing.

## you say...

Leeds Student,  
Just thought I'd write in to express my extreme displeasure on seeing Puddephatt's photo accompanying Daniel Bridge's article last week. While the writing was interesting, the badly photoshopped apples sickened me to the very core. Would you take a photo of a student, photoshop 'twat' on their forehead and write about it? No - sloppy work, Mr Puddephatt, sloppy work.

Piers Montebank

Dear Leeds Student,  
Glad to see a crossword in your paper at last, and especially happy to find that - obviously judging the clues as being too easy - you decided to set the reader the task of filling in the questions missing from the bottom of the page.

1 (cross): Excrement, expression of displeasure (4) SH\_T

Yours, crossly,

Candice Jacobs, 4yr English

I'm not sure what dope Mark Beardmore was on when he wrote "The Green Pill" but it was terrible. Not in the 'terror inspiring' sense, but in the "William Shatner does spoken word" way. Such patronising pseudo-science is an immediate turnoff for anyone who isn't a die-hard environmentalist. If anything, the style and tone of Beardmore's piece is the reason people care so little about their environment in the first place. Start treating us like adults, who are capable of digesting information that isn't sugar-coated in metafiction to 'keep our interests', and we'll treat you like a person whose opinion matters.

Angrily, Matthew Blacken

## Letter of the week...

Who is Jamie Saddler trying to fool? For a moment I thought his article on homophobic bullying would be an interesting reminder of the problems some people face in the difficult process of 'coming out'. I was of course wrong. The whole first half only served as a pre-cursor to the actual reason for his writing; he softened us up with hard luck personal stories before hitting us with the hard political pleading.

His initial investigation into the problem built up to the question, "So what to do about it?" And then the propaganda spiel came: "The Liberal Democrats have launched a 'Homophobia is Gay' campaign...". I switched off. You could almost hear him booming out the writing as a speech at some party conference. Proposals were declared (in a power of three of course) and the classically political words "We believe" were used. We also found out where the title of the piece had actually come from; lifted from the LibDem's questionable literature. The student newspaper should not serve as a means for a particular party to be supported in such an obvious way. The guise of a 'comment piece' was as transparent as 'Casper the Friendly Ghost'. The turn the piece took was a shame as an individual answer to how to solve the problem would have been more beneficial. The opportunity was lost. The aim of the comment was commendable; but the angle it came from was all skewed.

Archie Clark, third year Politics student

## Your txts this week:



... what does epochal mean? my net wont work so cant check. *suz*  
... Hey cant make it to 3 lecture really sorry il b in at 5 tho x. *VD*  
... I urinated in her ears. *JC*  
... tht facebook gag girl is hot! *Bazza*.  
... matt is the king of ls 4eva i luv him. *John "The Tongue" Tango*



# LS2 inside

## Holly tries shunning technology

LS2's punching bag, Holly, tries to go 48-hours without using modern technology.

p.20



## Back to backpacking?

Landscapes, sunsets, cultural harm: LS2 explores the dangerous effect of backpacking.

p. 24



## The Herbaliser

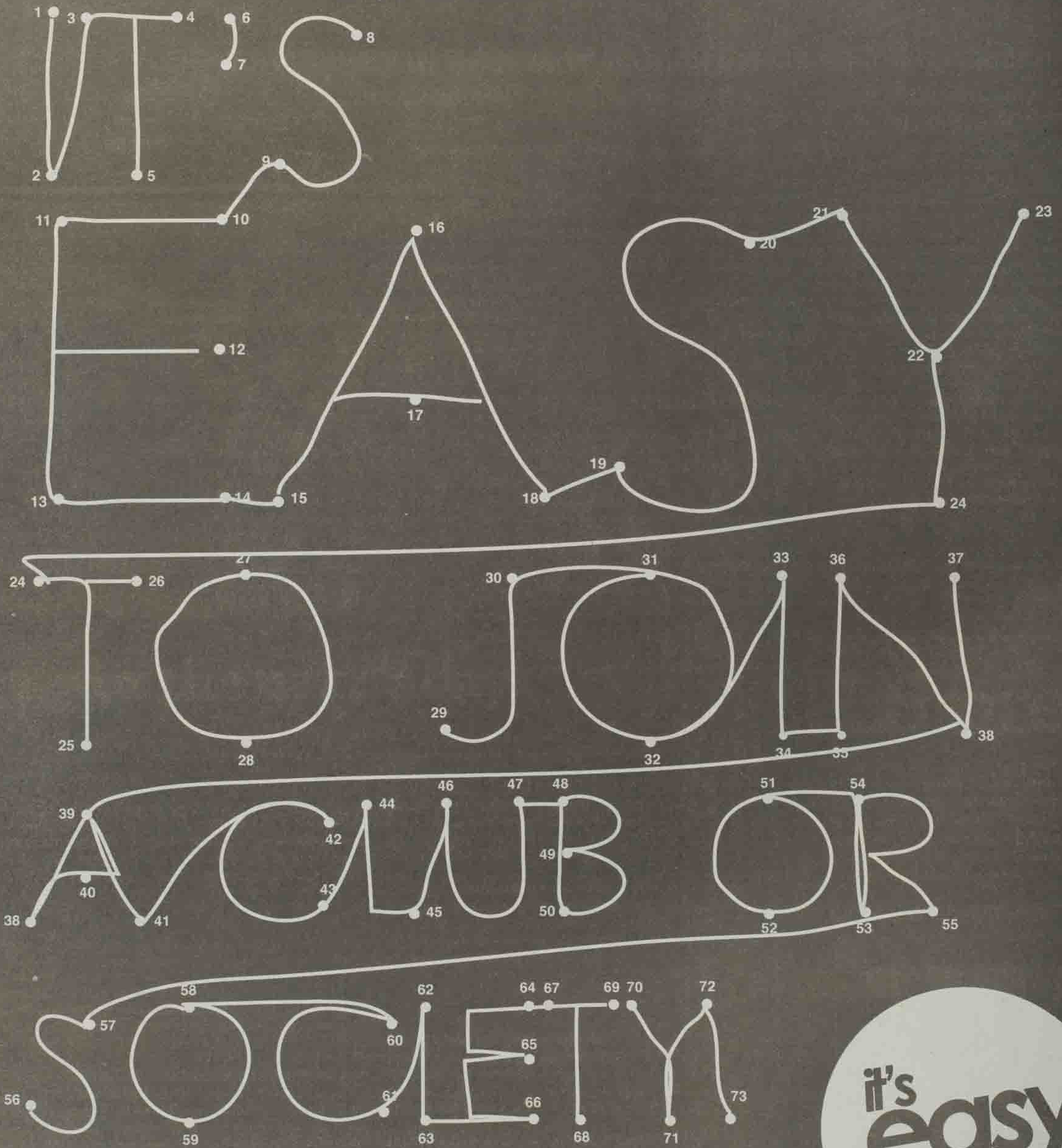
Karim talks to vintage jazz, hip-hop maestro, Ollie Teeda

p. 32



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# The LOW DOWN

with Martha and Karim

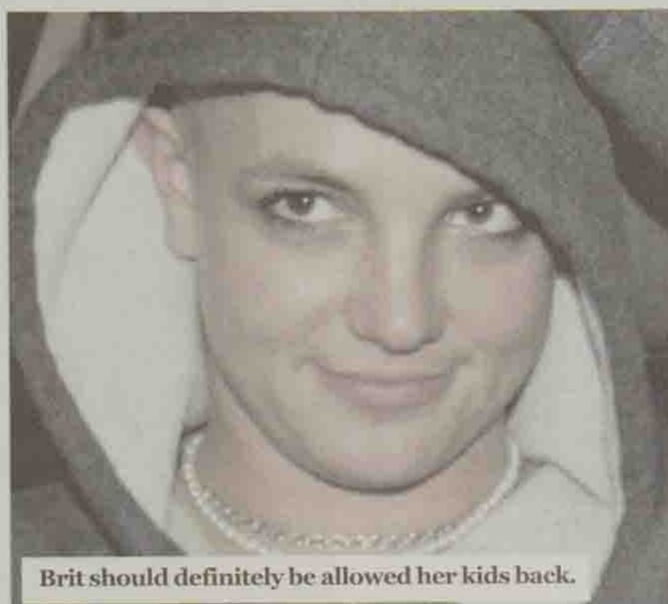


**T**his week, I am pissed off with so-called 'celebrities'. What really grinds my gears is the self-involved bubble they happily splash around in. Well, that or the unbelievable amount of importance they attribute to their own miserly histories and the profundity attached to 'how they made it'. Now for a dash of reason. Ok, I can understand how a sheltered life, more money than cares in the world etc. can significantly blind a person to the 'real world' but can this excuse an attitude of super-ego and shameful disregard for morality? I'm not talking about Lindsay Lohan. Even musicians suck. If they're not lulling you into a dreamless sleep with their tales of what amounts to 'rock n roll international playboyism', then they are trying to coerce you into acts of degrading sex. With their girlfriends/boyfriends. True story.

As much as I'd love to reveal the identity of Karim's thinly veiled allusions to his night of passion with an unnamed celeb, I fear he may call me a 'douchebag' and that cuts deep. So let's skip past the fact that he slept with Meatloaf and form an argument for our frothy friend 'The Celebrity'. Can anyone tell me honestly that they read the serious story on the front page of the Metro before they read the picture caption under the celebrity pant-flash du jour? I'd choose Britney over Brown anyday. He's never even smoked weed for God's sake. Let alone flashed his nether regions and had same-sex romps in swimming pools. Celebrities provide us with hours of base entertainment, admittedly at their own expense. If you think about it your average student is the polar opposite of your average celeb: they've got no money, no hired-help and no access to rehab after one too many sherbert dib-dabs. We should count ourselves lucky that the only publicity our drunken mistakes get are via that irritating facebook friend who tags your Britney-esque commando faux pas right on the hot spot. Ouch.

**They are trying to coerce you into acts of degrading sex.**

I've found that the lesser the celebrity, the more satisfying the personality. And why is this? Because they haven't been arse-kissed unto oblivion yet. They're actually funny! They have a good time! I think what I'm trying to say is that big business ruins everything. Martha? Yes, I'd have to agree with you on this one. Let's take Leeds' own Adele Silva, who was known until recently only as 'that tart off Emmerdale with the non-existent eyebrows.' Fast forward a few weeks and she's nearly won Hells Kitchen, and for a fleeting moment gains credibility with the bored housewives who watch that programme. Immediate scum-factor. Luckily the next day she goes back to screwing around the farm and our loveable slag from the stables is returned, getting pissed and snogging students at Townhouse. And then we're all 'Go girl! Man, we're fickle.

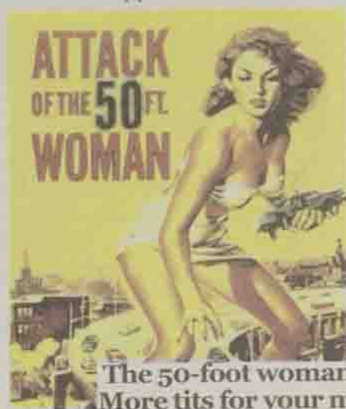


Brit should definitely be allowed her kids back.

## And in other Martha and Karim news....

So hands up who's pissed off at the collective English effort? Well I am, Martha's a bit bemused. Let's check the stats, shall we? Lewis Hamilton: Flop. Phil Vickery: Flop. Eleven more overpaid douchebaggladies who haven't got any pride in wearing the Three Lions anymore: Flop. What a load of talent, eh? Let's cull them all like the vermin they are. OK, so that's a little harsh. Happily, sport brings out that ruthless aggressive side of man that causes football hooligans to hit each other with bottles. Rrrrr. Still, let's not settle things the Colombian way and ACTUALLY kill them (remember Andreas Escobar in the 94 World Cup? No? Ok.) A death for a death leaves the world an orphan, and we've already got loads of them. Plus, England doesn't really have its own top drugs cartel, unless you count that geezer on Hyde Park Road that sorts you out with weed.

Yes, sport is a good example of things that men like that also make them angry- much like women. Although unlike football, 90,000 men can't appreciate her at the same time. Unless she was the 50-foot woman. On a not-so-effeminate note, this week we're look forward to hanging with Jazzie B at The Wardrobe, and getting our breaks-faces out with Chromeo and Annie Mac at Stylus. Or even going to The Grove pub, which I've heard has a type of music called...folk?



The 50-foot woman. More tits for your money.

Martha and Karim

**Overheard this week.** "She's got thighs like a seal" // "I only started knowing about Partition when I watched Ghandi" // "Badgers are sick! But they carry TB" // "We put the pro in produce" // "Does anyone read books?" // "You're comparing The Simpsons to the Mona Lisa." // "I don't get silent discos, what if your neighbour is listening to CSS and you're listening to James Blunt. What then?"

Going up

**HOODS:**

Originally the uniform of hoodlums, pickpockets and muggers there's no denying that the mauling of hats and coats was a march made in heaven. Keeps your ears warm without the geek-factor of ear-muffs.

**BUSKING:**

Those who have been in Leeds a while will be familiar with the local celebrities belonging to this age-old custom. Going up? The man who looks like Claude Greengrass and his singing dogs. Going down? That dickhead who thinks he's Leeds' answer to James Blunt. Affectionately known as 'That Twist on Briggate'.

**WORKING IN RETAIL:**

Leeds has a lot of shops. Fact. But what's so great about standing on your feet all day, and kissing arse in Harvey Nichols? Well you can earn a pretty penny in commission, and most shops get multiple guest list spots for some of the best nights in the city. Just don't get too involved in the retail scene, or you'll find yourself actually caring about which Topshop sales assistant is doing the supervisor at Primark.

**NOT WORKING AT ALL:**

This is worse than having a job, as there is NO INCOME dropping into your shaking hand. There comes a time when mummy and dad will tell you to do one, and THAT my friends, is when the FEAR kicks in. Bask in the fear, let it lead you to sleepless nights, and ultimately, a job!

**BERNARD MATTHEWS:**

Ok so we all know his turkey drummers and wafer-thin ham nose like the divine ambrosia offered only to the Greek Gods, but he's actually a type of antichrist that keeps battery hens by the million. And feeds them with the carcasses of their dead friends.

**ANIMATED FEATURES:**

No, I haven't seen *Finding Nemo*. Some may disagree but in my opinion, Disney went tits up when it ran out of proper fairy tales and started giving us stuff like *Lilo & Stitch*. Thus tarnishing any desire I may once have had to see *Ratatouille*. Sorry reviews!

**NU-GRAVE:**

Yes it's a big fuck-off to the fluoro fashion monstrosity that was Nu-Rave, but whilst black has been fashion's fall back since, like ever, an onslaught of black just makes you look a bit scary and ill. And like you hang outside the Corn Exchange.

Going down



# Holly tries... giving up technology.

Leeds Student regular, **Holly Westwood**, tries to survive for 48 hours in today's technology ridden world without resorting to new-fangled electronic wizardry. Discover how she manages without her phone, laptop etc etc etc. How would you cope?

**T**his week I have been cold and lonely. Shit, what a bleak start to an article! But there is an explanation for my current miserable state - I'll go back a little and explain.

There is a point in all good scary B-movies (or bad scary B-movies, depending on your opinion) when it becomes obvious who's going to become the next victim of the axe-murderer/alien invader/psycho-cheerleader. Yes, I did learn something from the 'Scream' trilogy - I knew all those sleepovers would come to something! This pivotal point of the movie usually appears when

somebody utters the immortal line "I'll be right back", or variations on that theme (for example, "Hey, who turned out the lights?" or "Chad, is that you?...Eek!"). This kind of complex plot line even makes an appearance in most Scooby Doo adventures (and no, Shaggy, it is never a good idea to "split up"). So, with all this in mind you would think that I would pause before uttering some ill-fated cliché. But you would be wrong. Thankfully, I have not been gutted by an obliging meat cleaver, but I did fall straight into an obvious trap. I was a bit stuck when pondering what to try this week, and so I sought the help of my ever-wise editor, the lovely Paul (wait for it, the big moment's coming soon!). In answer to my plea for ideas, he suggested that I try living without technology for 48 hours, to which I replied (here it is!)... "No technology? Sure! After all, how hard can it be?" Hahaha! Little did I know what I was letting myself in for.

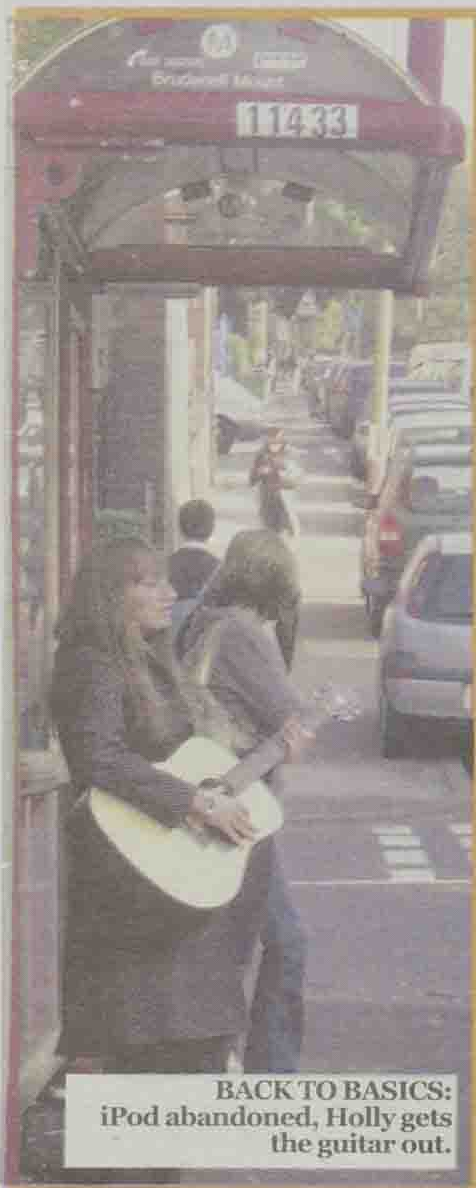
As a self-confessed techno-phobe I was certain that the task for this week would be a doddle. True, I knew it wouldn't be as fun as my other adventures have been, but I enjoy a challenge. Well, according to my CV I enjoy a challenge. I also apparently like 'working as part of a team' and I possess A-level German. Just goes to show that you shouldn't believe everything you read! Anyway, I digress.

At 8am on Sunday morning I woke up and switched off my phone before drifting off to sleep again with a smug feeling that this no-technology malarkey was going to be a walk in the park (a gentle-pleasant-sunshiny walk in the park that is. Not an avoid-the-crazy-dogs-and-mad-cyclists walk in the park!). My smug feeling lasted for approximately 5 sleep-filled hours, before ending abruptly when I jerked awake and realised that I had half an hour to get showered and dressed before meeting my friend Helen for lunch. First dilemma: no phone means no alarm clock, which means running late and stress. I made a mental note to think up something ingenious to wake me up the next day.

Brrr! I don't know if it's a myth that those in the armed forces take cold showers, but if it's true then I have a lot more respect for them now. The shower was cold enough to cool off an overly-excited teenage boy. Not a great way to start the day, particularly when my technology-ban prevented me from having a restorative cuppa! One of the biggest things I suffered from (yes, suffered) was the lack of entertainment. Not having a TV for my first two years of uni, I thought I'd be able to go for two days. It was then that I realised that Channel 5 was having a 'Dirty Dancing' evening! Gutted! I had to suffer the torture of trying to read my book in the kitchen while the



**FORECASTED - ICY SHOWERS: Holly braves a refreshing morning rinse.**



**BACK TO BASICS: iPod abandoned, Holly gets the guitar out.**

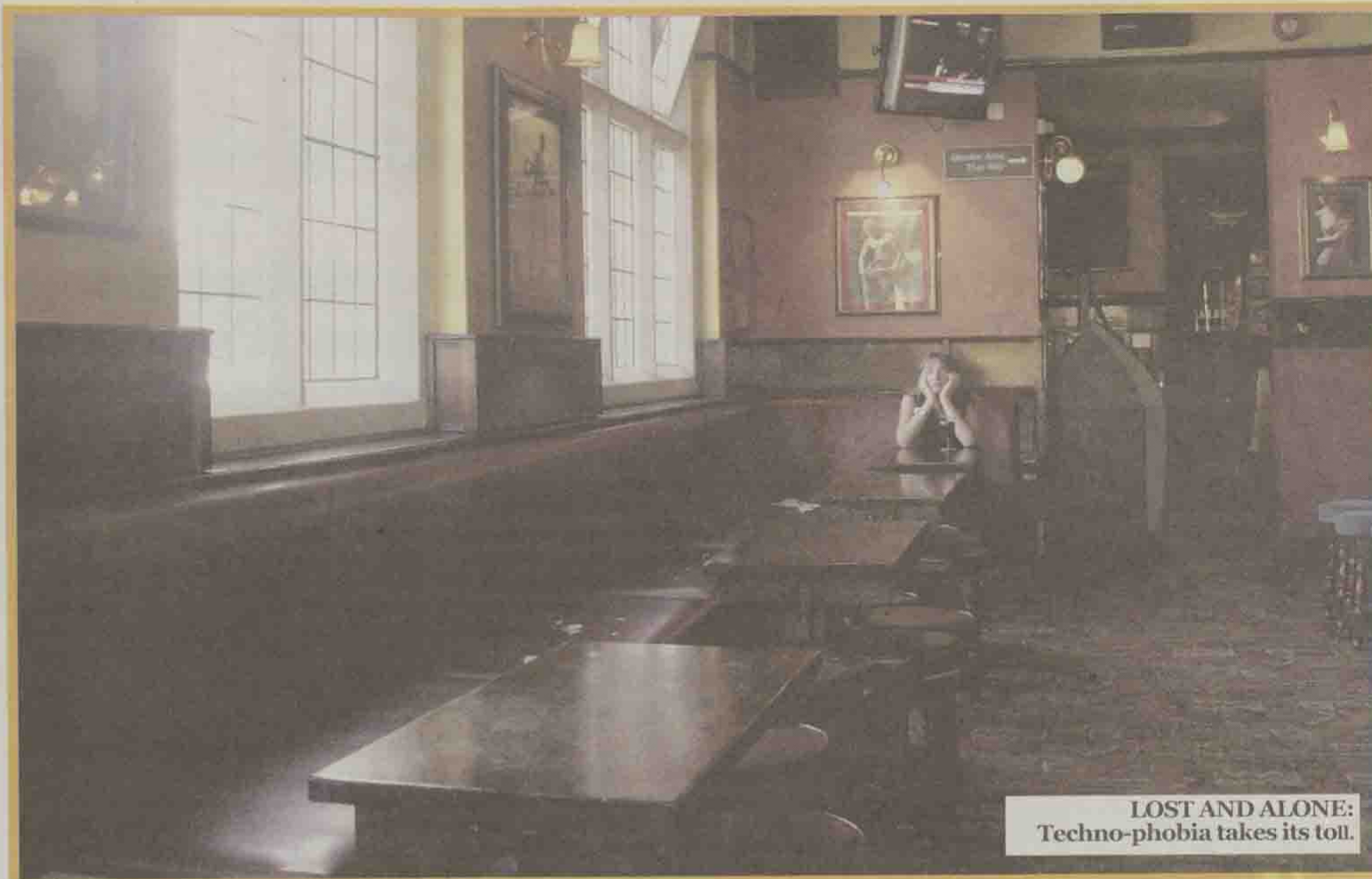
tantalising strains of 'The Time of My Life' echoed through from the sitting room. Clearly some people can put this baby in the corner! In a fit of masochism, for my big task of the 48 hours I decided to throw a dinner party for my housemates. 'Dinner party' gives a fairly grown-up sound to the evening - it's basically just me cooking dinner for everybody. I think the 'party' bit in 'dinner party' mainly just refers to me being anal about everyone turning up on time and getting someone else to set the table. But never mind the ins and outs, the main point of the evening was that such an endeavour was my hardest task so far, one that would push my domestic goddess skills to their limit. How to cook a dinner for seven people without the use of cooker, microwave or lights?! I was tempted to order everything in, although I

thought that might defeat the point. My second cunning plan was then to get in loads of ready-made stuff, but I then discovered that Morrison's closes at a most inconvenient time on a Sunday. I don't care how fresh their bloody fish is, or that they bake their own bread - it's not much use to me when I'm left hammering on their doors an hour before dinner! But I did manage to pull it off in a challenge-Anneka style fit of creativity (what do you mean, you don't remember 'Challenge-Anneka'? Where were you in the early nineties?). I decided to go for a Mediterranean style tapas/meze style dinner, with the help of some tasty bits and bobs from Salts, an amazing deli I've discovered in town. Salts is a Spanish style delicatessen not far from the train station, where I bought some chorizo pâté and taleggio cheese (best cheese in the world. Fact). I



had purchased them for myself, but in a spirit of selflessness I added the goodies to the cheese board. Also on the table was a selection of breads, dips, raw vegetables, marinated olives, a Caesar salad, a Greek salad, some tuna and Spanish meats and some (already-roasted) peppers stuffed with garlic and cream cheese (which went down very well). The whole thing was pretty easy to do, although the amount of garlic we ate probably meant we weren't very popular the next morning. After dinner, as it was a lazy Sunday evening, we'd usually put a movie on and veg out. But not this Sunday! Oh no, if I was to suffer the lack of televisual entertainment then my mates were going to suffer right along with me! I decided to play some after-dinner games to show that entertainment does not necessarily mean technology. To start with we played the Post-it game (you know, the one where people have the name of a celebrity stuck to their forehead and they have to guess who it is). Surprisingly, for once, no-one was clichéd enough to use either Madonna or Marilyn Monroe, although some confusion did arise over the fact that I thought my friend Sarah was Nicole Richie, when she was actually Lionel Richie (I really should wear my glasses more!). After a surprisingly short time that game drew to a close (it took John forever to get 'Warren from Hollyoaks' - don't think he's quite famous enough yet for such an honour!), we then went on to play my personal favourite - charades! As all those present will know, this game is my favourite based on one very important fact. I'm great at it (I realise there's a time for modesty, but this isn't it. I really am great at charades!). I was particularly impressed by a creative mime for 'Sex and the City' (I'll let you imagine what that entailed!). I did learn something from all this - games at uni do not necessarily have to be drinking games, although I'm sure drinking charades would be pretty fun... maybe next week!

Walking to and from uni, I've



**LOST AND ALONE:**  
Techno-phobia takes its toll.

always had the notion that I enjoyed the 5 minutes it takes for me to get to campus. What I actually enjoyed, however, was the 5 minute's worth of music I got from my iPod. Without this little gem of technology I had to instead listen to gobby people chatting on mobile phones and the never ending wail of sirens from Hyde Park. In order to combat this, I decided to provide my own entertainment by singing to myself. An endeavour of this kind is only embarrassing when you decide it's time to stop singing and a deathly silence descends upon your section of the road. The answer - don't stop! Singing to oneself is a thoroughly enjoyable pastime, although I did have a slightly worrying moment when I forgot the words to the second verse of 'Wannabe' at the pedestrian crossing, but I managed to turn my "zig-a-zig-ahh" into a pretty convincing sneeze to cover the moment, so I don't think anyone noticed. I took things slightly too far when I decided to borrow my friend's guitar for some musical entertainment on the bus, before I realised that it's a really

inconvenient object to carry. And I can't actually play it.

The lowest point of my 48 hours came on Monday afternoon in the pub. I'd decided last Saturday that it was about time I met up with my mate Rob who I haven't seen in a while. To arrange the get-together I thought it'd be a splendid idea to post Rob a letter as I knew I would be phone-less over the weekend. I used my new writing paper that I got from the Orchard House gift shop at Hyde Park Corner (pricey stuff but gorgeous!), which made me feel like someone out of 'Pride and Prejudice'. I posted the letter on Saturday, safe in the knowledge that the Royal Mail wouldn't let me down. Monday rolled around and by now the lack of hot water and cups of tea had taken its toll and I was more than ready for a pint (surely drinking in the afternoon is the best part of being a student). So at the appointed time I trotted off down to the pub and looked around for Rob. He wasn't there. Ever the optimist, I got myself a drink and settled down to wait for him. I waited. And I waited. I knew I'd

hit rock bottom when the elderly man propping up the bar (and my only other fellow-drinker) gave me the smile of recognition that could only pass between two kindred spirits. My future flashed before my eyes, and I saw myself in 30 year's time, perched on a bar stool in a leopard mini, dinking gin and chatting up younger men. Oh no, this was not going to happen! I gulped down my bevvie and got outta there. Important lesson learned - do not rely on letter writing for social arrangements, it'll only end in tears! Salt's Delicatessen is found at 14 Swinegate, Leeds. Check it out, it's scrumptious!

Join us next week as Holly tries... to find a man!

If you have any suggestions for things Holly can try, email us at [leedsstudentfeatures@gmail.com](mailto:leedsstudentfeatures@gmail.com)

**“** Second dilemma: the shower. I questioned whether or not the electric water-heater counted as technology, and came to the masochistic decision that it did.



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# The Booze Blues

The ultimate ordeal? **Paul Haydon** does a dangerous amount of drinking in his quest to discover how it's best to recover.

**W**ith binge drinking culture reaching an all time high in the UK, hangovers have become an integral part of uni life. Walking around campus early in the morning it is easy to spot binge victims, clutching water bottles and stumbling around, desperately trying to get to their lecture on time after just a few hours of drunken sleep. Haven't we all wished there was a miracle cure that could instantly revitalise you, leaving you fresh and sober as a newborn baby? With this wonder cure in mind, I felt it was my duty to get staggeringly drunk and try out some of the popular hangover remedies. To maximise the hangover effect, I decided that I would mix my drinks to a grotesque level, drink no water, and stay up into the early hours with an alarm set at 9 a.m. With vodka, beer and wine in hand, I set out to give myself the mother of all hangovers. Enjoy the

recover from the lethargic state it induces.

**11:28 A.M.:** Time to step outside of the conventional realm of student hangover recovery. First up is the Bloody Mary - a "hair of the dog" approach to hangover relief consisting of tomato juice, vodka, a stick of celery, a drop of Tabasco and Worcestershire sauce. As I pour the vodka I start to lose courage but the sight of the little stick of celery makes it seem more approachable. Having guzzled it down, I do begin to feel much better. Is this long-term relief, or will the dreaded hangover return with vengeance?

**12:10 P.M.:** Hangover effects are receding and I decide to drink a bottle of Lucozade Sport to give me that final boost. As the fresh chemicals pour down my throat I feel a wave of relief pass through me. The worst is over.

**15:33 P.M.:** I am now back in bed, nursing a headache, confident that I will never undertake this challenge again. An evening of quiet meditation and watching DVDs follows.

## THE TRUTH ABOUT HANGOVERS

An ancient Chinese saying tells us that in war it is crucial to know your enemy. After my violent confrontation with the hangover experience I thought it would be a good idea to do a bit of research, which led me to make some interesting discoveries.

A hangover is caused by a variety of factors, and so the ideal cure is one that combines different remedies to deal with all the symptoms and their causes. The main causes of a hangover are as follows.

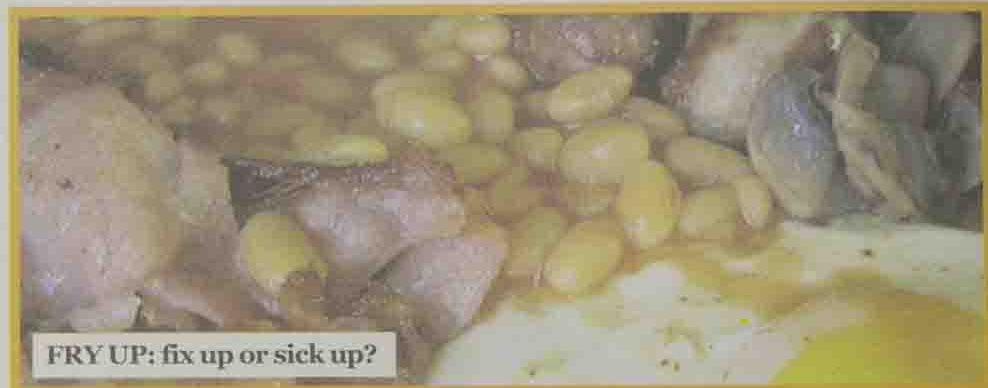
Probably the most obvious is the effect of ethanol, which dehydrates your body and leaves you with that dry, sticky mouth, headache and fatigue. The most obvious way to avoid this is to drink loads of water before going to bed. The alcohol attacks your stomach lining which often leads to feelings of nausea in the morning. A possible remedy is to drink a glass of milk to coat your stomach lining before going out.

As your liver is pre-occupied with dealing with the massive amount of alcohol in your system, it becomes less good at supplying glucose to your body and particularly your brain. This results in a lack of energy and decreased concentration. The best way to cure this is to drink something high in sugar such as fruit juice.

Mixing drinks worsens hangovers, and it is apparently a myth that it will get you more drunk, so there's no real point in doing it.

Congeners are the impurities created by alcohol fermentation, and these tend to aggravate hangovers. As a general rule, the darker the drink the more congeners it contains. That's bad news for whisky and red wine lovers, but good if you're a fan of vodka or white wine. Another point to bear in mind is that cheap spirits have had fewer impurities removed and are therefore a good way of guaranteeing a raging hangover.

The temporary damage to the nerve cells in your brain causes it to swell up, generally making you feel awful. Unfortunately there's no known



**FRY UP: fix up or sick up?**

remedy for this one.

People tend to smoke a lot more when they are drunk, and this can cause nicotine poisoning which adds to the effect of the hangover.

The more you drink in a short space of time the worse the hangover will be, so spacing your drinking over a longer time span should help.

Finally, the effects of a hangover are in some ways psychosomatic. In other words, the more hangover you think you are, the worse you'll feel.

“

**My stomach is in complete rebellion. It feels as though it has been turned inside out and sprayed with pesticide.**

## TIPS TO AVOID HANGOVERS

The best way to cure a hangover would be to go back in time and prevent it, but unfortunately this is not yet possible. A similar approach is to lessen some of the consequences of your drinking before you go to sleep. Of course, the best way to avoid a hangover is not to drink at all, but for a lot of us that is not a viable option. Instead here are 6 easy steps you can take to ease the hangover:

- 1) Have a fatty meal before drinking. Fat takes longer to digest and therefore protects the stomach against the irritant effect of alcohol.
- 2) Drink a glass of orange juice before crashing out; this will provide both glucose and vitamin C to your recovering body.
- 3) Try and drink a glass of water for every alcoholic drink you have.
- 4) Take some vitamin tablets to replenish your supplies.
- 5) Eat something greasy before going to bed. Although this comes naturally to many people it is proven to help soak up some of the alcohol in your system.
- 6) Avoid very sweet drinks. They hide their alcohol content.

## MIRACLE CURES

In recent years there have been a number of "miracle" cures that claim to offer instant hangover relief. For the most part these are

complete scams, but there are some notable exceptions.

**Burnt toast:** A remedy with proven benefits, the carbon in it helps your body filter impurities in your bloodstream. In fact, hospital staff often treat extreme alcohol poisoning by pumping a slurry of carbon into the victim's stomach.

**Taurine:** Found in energy drinks such as Red Bull or Lipovitan, this chemical reverses the build up of fat in the liver, caused by alcohol, lessening the damage done and allowing your liver to function better. But before you go out recklessly downing vodka and Red Bulls, bear in mind the controversy over the effects of taurine. It has been banned in several countries.

**Berecca:** Another recent success in the world of hangover cures is this Australian vitamin supplement. Widely available in the UK these small tubes of goodness aim to replace the vitamins destroyed by drinking, in the correct proportions.

**Resolve:** A powder based substance added to water. A combination of vitamin C, glucose and painkiller, this is marketed as the ultimate hangover cure. Recommended that you drink it before bed as it is unlikely you'll be able to keep it down in the morning.

## THINGS TO AVOID

Last of all, a few things to avoid when you're feeling the booze blues.

**Caffeine:** While it seems like the only option when you feel horrible in the morning and need to get to a lecture, a cup of tea or coffee is not a great idea. Caffeine is a diuretic, meaning it will dehydrate you even further. However, as long as you combine it with plenty of water, it's pretty harmless.

**Paracetamol:** It's very hard to resist the temptation of this little pill of bliss when you've got a splitting headache, but the combination of alcohol and acetaminophen (paracetamol's main ingredient) in your bloodstream causes horrific damage to your liver. Aspirin is better but it irritates the stomach, increasing the likelihood of being sick. It's best just to drink endless amounts of water and work through the pain. If this is not an option, Ibuprofen based tablets are much less harmful.



**FEELING DELICATE?**

results.

**9.00 A.M.:** Alarm wakes me but to no avail. Whilst my body stirs, my brain is still asleep. I feel like a lump of radioactive waste, dirty, ashamed and hiding from the world. 9.00 am was too ambitious a time to wake up.

**10.23 A.M.:** The extra sleep has helped but only really delayed the onset of my hangover. I step into the shower and feel like my head is being compressed into a vice. Not drinking any water maybe wasn't a good idea. My stomach is in complete rebellion. It feels as though it has been turned inside out and sprayed with pesticide. The shower returns me to human form, but does nothing to help the hangover itself.

**11:03 A.M.:** I am now faced with the hardest dilemma facing the hangover victim - what to have for breakfast? My usual choice of cereal is out because the thought of milk makes my stomach curdle. I go for the ever popular "massive fry up" option. The greasy onslaught feels good, but it takes me a good half an hour to



# Week in Profile

## Battle in the bibliothèque



LS's intrepid correspondents **Lara Choksey** and **Dan Gilmore** look into the trials of the university libraries and their more colloquial denizens...

### GEEK ON FIRE

Maybe if I turn around one more time he'll get the hint. I've been glaring at his back for the last half-an-hour, but it's not making a difference. I wonder if it's possible to kill someone with a newly sharpened pencil. If I aim it at a certain angle, and flick it towards his neck, perhaps it will make a small, barely noticeable incision just at the right point and he'll quietly keel over the desk, over his single, solitary piece of scruffy paper, and kiss me.

First it was the foot tapping. I am the first to forgive a little bit of foot tapping at the beginning of a session in the library. It is a means of adjusting to one's environment, and understandable when one has just come in from the circus of the Student Union. Not, however, for fifteen minutes. I turned around after ten and realised that he was tapping to the beat of a song playing from his headphones. I say headphones, but they look like those things that pilots wear in a cockpit. Then, of course, I started to hear the beat of

My housemates are unsympathetic when I describe to them the almost daily traumas of trying to study in the library. It is no longer a place for study. It is a haven for self-satisfaction and vibrating phones. Yes, I have tried the Silent Study Area, but the silence there is like an electric fence - the slightest turn of a page having the effect of a forty-volt electric shock. I have moved libraries, moved floors, gone through deep breathing techniques (recommended by my Tai Chi master), worn earplugs and taken to having the occasional glass of wine in the Old Bar at lunchtime in order to relax the mind.

What these people don't seem to understand is that I am not in the library merely to feel better about myself, to pick up someone, or to while away an afternoon turning pages without reading them. I am here because I am more intelligent, more enterprising and more capable than most people at this University, and will gain a far better degree than the crisp-munching, music-blaring, no-hoper behind me could ever hope to achieve. I was here last year,

bit ill." I cannot speak for fury. Did he just call me 'love'? "Maybe you should go home." He is telling me to go home? Did I hear that correctly? Before I can even begin to respond, he has put his headphones back on and is chomping quite happily on his Lion bar again.

If it weren't for the girl sitting a couple of seats down from me watching, I would aim the pencil and throw it. My God, I wish he'd just rip off my Marks and Spencers blouse.

### INDIE KID ROCKS OUT IN THE LIBRARYYY

The library is propa mint I t'elt ya... I can sit here listenin' to all me tunes, eatin' me lunch and reading the Socialist Worker or Guardian Media pull out t'at any time of day. I like to sit in t'free warmth of t'Edward Boyle wit t'a cup of Bovril Pete Doherty style or if I feel like treat a cheese and pickle sarnie will do just fine. After warming me red hands on t'radiator I sit and read wistfully about me fellow brothers in toil struggling against t'capitalist autocracy of the West or

also hit it off because we both hail from Barnsley, and like they say down t'ere "T'aint Nuthin like a fellow Barnie, apart from a dead Manc."

So I plucked up me courage, scratched t'spot on me chin off and went to say hi. I was amazed but she seemed well glad to see me again and we went and spent ages chatting about them great new albums from Infantshambles and Get Coat, Wear Coat, Fuck Off and laughing at all t'rich wankers prancing around wi'their iPods and warm clothes that seemed to fit them just fine. I asked if she fancied a pint of Bovril from T'Old Bar and she said yes so we went and had a proper laff playing darts and pretending to like the crap R&B on t'wireless.

T'anyways, since then I can't keep myself t'away from t'library, I even went and got a book out the other day. T'its called 'Down Pit' and it is a socialist critique on the British Class system which backed up all me Dad's arguments that after Thatcher's government t'working man would never have a chance again. I also took out a top DVD, t'film



the song, and it has steadily worked its way into my head so that now there is a full drum-kit banging out incessant noise and reverberating around the significance of game theory to industrial economics. But at last the foot tapping stopped, and I felt my entire body start to relax, and even started to chastise myself a little for being so uptight.

He had to bring out the crisps. In full and blatant view of a sign that says 'No food in the library', he brought out a pack of McCoy's (salt and vinegar, my particular favourite. I'm not allowed them due to the no-carb diet I'm on at the moment) and shamelessly started to munch away. The words 'rattle' and 'rustle' don't even come close to describing the aural pain that seared my ears for the best part of five minutes.

before this place was even a twinkle in a Fresher's eye, before this amoeba decided that the library would become his new place to lurk.

I turn around again, and for the first time catch his eye, but before I have a chance to kill him with my perfected glare he turns around again and reaches into his bag. What now? What could you possibly need now? Good God he has taken a Lion bar out of his bag. No, no. Yes, he's unwrapping it. Not again. Maybe I should move. Why should I move? I was here first.

I'm turning around again, full around in my seat and giving his chomping back the full force of mental hatred. He's turning his head. It's working. He looks at me. He pulls out a headphone. "You alright, love? You look a

checkin' fer jobs down in t' Big Smoke as a runner for MTV2.

T'library has loads of other uses t'aswell, t'aint just a place to go t'warm one's cockles, t'was only last week that I spied a bird I met down t'Cockpit at a SockParty gig last year. She was lookin' around t'Edward Boyle High Demand when I went in and she was lookin' dead mint in her skinny jeans and vintage maroon dress all combined. I had met her when we were watching Wazzoo warm up or perhaps t'was Forward Ukraine! or t'maybe even T'Sparrow Detectives, t'anyways we shared half a rollie and a pint of Carling and she complemented me on the fact that I looked like an albino rat who hadn't been out t'house for a while, which was a clear indication that I was well into me Indie. We

adaptation from t'book Kes, t'was was propa mint especially the bits wiv t' Kestral and reminded me of bein' a youngster growing up in Barnsley.

So t'ere you go, even though this Uni is full of Southern numpties there are still havens for t'struggling working class Indie fan such as myself. I can take me portable CD player with all me albums, plonk it down, drink a cup of Bovril, listen to t'Arctic Chimpanzees or Razor Dark and read all about t'workers' struggle whilst meeting mint birds all day long. T'morrow I'm planning t'have a go on this much fabled t'internet to check out the latest news on The Twing's next tour and read up all the latest gossip on Serge from Kasabian and I can tell yer I can't bloody wait!



# Backpacking e

A large proportion of the Leeds student community has trodden the backpack trail. But are they really aware of the impact their tourism has on local communities? **Clarisse Earle** and **Andrew Rogers** report.



**I**n reality there are always many more consequences to our actions than meets the eye, and this is never truer than when visiting a foreign country. Whilst backpacking is generally deemed as something positive; a way of expanding our minds and learning about just how different it is in other parts of the world, there are also a great many things that backpackers, excitable and often naïve, forget about. A huge amount of revenue is generated from backpacking, particularly in developing countries and thus with backpacking comes a certain responsibility, both financial and non-financial. It is also an activity that, in addition to exposing us to different cultures, also exposes them to ours. In many developing countries the West is massively glorified, particularly amongst Beckham-worshipping teens who long for the "freedom" of their Western counterparts.

A key part of backpacking responsibly starts before you even leave home: deciding where to go. Your choice should not only be influenced by your craving for excitement, culture and personal adventure. Many things need to be considered: what is the political situation, how should you dress, is it safe, what is the history? I was amazed by the amount of tourists I met in Cambodia who had never heard about Pol Pot's slaughter of an estimated 2 million of the population. In 2006, 1,700,041 tourists visited Cambodia (a 20% increase on the previous year), bringing a huge amount of money to the country, and yet the average monthly wage for a Cambodian remains at a mere \$25 (probably less than what most tourists spend in a day).

Angkor Wat is Cambodia's main attraction

and charges for one day of temple exploration stand at \$20. You'd think therefore that by visiting Angkor you're directly helping the country; funding economic improvement and stabilisation. You'd be wrong. The lives of most of the Cambodian population, mainly

“ In many developing countries the West is massively glorified, particularly amongst teens who long for the “freedom” of their Western counterparts.

consisting of peasants, remains largely the same as it did in Angkorian times as the corrupt government pocket the cash and make shady deals with the Vietnamese (who placed Hun Sen, an ex-Kymer Rouge cadre, in power). This government still do not allow the history of Pol Pot's bloody regime to be taught in schools and

are currently selling off massive amounts of rainforest for deforestation in addition to selling areas of land to Vietnam for their rapidly expanding populace. Even buying a rose from a child on the street is not helping them, as the children are usually paid a meagre wage by an adult such as a Tuk-Tuk taxi driver. These are just a few factors of which travellers are often unaware; factors that may teach them how to distribute money fairly within a country.

Backpacking often directly funds oppressive regimes. Visa charges, attraction prices and other such things go straight to the oppressors of the people. Never was there a more apt example of this than in Burma, a country currently being torn apart by a Military dictatorship which placed the democratically elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi under solitary confinement in her house 16 years ago and has since led Burma with an iron fist. In Burma there is no freedom of speech, no free press; in fact no freedom whatsoever. Burma has the largest child workforce in the world and torture, execution and forced labour are repeatedly used on children and adults alike in order to intimidate and instil fear. It is even thought that villagers are used to test areas for landmines. And despite all this travellers continue to frequent Burma either as a specific destination or in order to complete a one or two-night visa run from Thailand, putting money directly into the pockets of the Junta (a government formed by a committee of military leaders) thereby ignoring the pleas of the locals to "Stay away!". Many "do-gooding" backpackers are even encouraged to visit Burma by the current situation, feeling that they must be able to do

something for the people there. This kind of naivety and idealism helps to fund the activities of the Junta and to keep them in power and is something that has been repeated in countries all over the world. The BBC states that "while tourism [in Burma] has been a magnet for foreign investment, its benefits have hardly touched the people" and backpackers would do well to take note of this.

The money and changing attitudes (whether for better or for worse) that come with backpacking can also change a community beyond all recognition. Just 20 years ago the beaches of Thailand's Ko Samui were idyllic and Lombok, Indonesia, was a little known hippy destination. Now multitudes of pale skinned tourists descend on these places in order to turn their skin lobster red. The expansion in these areas has been massive and in many places the rustic wooden bungalows are either jostling for space as they crowd the beach front or they have been replaced by Malaga-esque apartment blocks. The locals are generally happy as tourist dollars line their pockets and they can afford TVs, mopeds and cars, but what of the environmental impact? Many Westerners take advantage of today's travel culture, buying land at cheap prices and building apartments and bars to take advantage of the tourist populace, robbing the locals of lucrative business possibilities.

But it is the locals who have to live with the long-term effects. An example of this is the situation in Sumatra, Indonesia. Whereas at one time this was a key backpacker destination, the negative image of Islam, the Bali bombs, the consistent earthquakes and of course the



# tiquette: What the *Lonely Planet* left out



devastating tsunami which affected the North of the island, means that tourists have moved on. In places once filled with travellers there stand scores of empty hostels and hotels. Local touts compete ferociously for business and barter frantically. They miss what they call "the good times" when money was flowing in and nights were spent drinking and playing the guitar with backpackers. It is a sad example of the fickle nature of travelling and the Westernised fear factor that keeps people so closed minded.

Often, it seems that those who want to put something back into the community which they are visiting also fail to make the positive impact they desire; this is rarely more evident than in the case of gap year volunteer projects. The market for this reasonably new form of tourism is huge, and the number of companies cashing in on 'token volunteering' is just as intimidating.

You want to do something rewarding, but where do you find it? Many of these "charities" are merely there to exploit backpackers hoping to "make a difference" and "give something back". The schemes are often a package deal of flights, accommodation, food and costs for the project, with many charities charging a substantial fee for their involvement. Often this money would be put to far better use if it was given to a non-profit charitable organisation who would effectively distribute it where it was needed. Having undertaken two such projects myself, and heard of many others, there seems to be a pattern emerging.

Arriving at the Jajiwala Bramhana Primary School in Rajasthan, India, armed with paint and wood we were eager to get to work. After two weeks the school was newly painted and kitted out with some wooden benches to boot. The 'token' element of this project is all too evident: paint fades, benches break, but when all is said and done what is the lasting impact? The local residents were more than willing to lend a hand; it was apparent that it was our money, rather than

our effort that was of value. For gap year volunteers with limited time, resources (and in many cases, will power) what can be positively achieved? I'd be lying if I said my purposes were truly altruistic. More than the newly refurbished school, or even the money we contributed to its refurbishment, it was the interactions with people that made the difference. This seems to expose a wider issue; in order to positively impact on a community, the human connection is vital. Of course, there are many noble organisations which rely on backpackers for their survival, but these are predominantly to be found while you are abroad. One such organisation was run by a local schoolteacher who, thanks to donations and help from backpackers passing through, had built 6 schools in a local area. He was completely reliant on travellers who could stop by to help teach and build for anything from a few days to a few years. For the accommodation and food he charged a mere \$15 a day, with extra donations optional and he advertised his project in nearby hostels.

Whether volunteering to work for a charity or simply travelling for its own sake, the impact made on the countries visited can be a positive one. Even something as mundane as not littering can help affect positive change and help break long-established attitudes. Like it or not, Westerners in Asia are treated with a respect that is neither earned or deserved, and Western countries are looked upon as having successful economies and political and personal autonomy. This places a great deal of responsibility on the shoulders of the unsuspecting backpacker (who is really just out to have a good time).

One thing which stands out as being of paramount importance is to have an understanding of local culture. A friend of mine constantly complained in India of inappropriate attention from men, and while this does occur, the fact that she wore revealing clothes probably did not help her ease. A little bit of common

sense and cultural awareness goes a long way. Equally, knowledge of local attitudes towards alcohol and smoking can be useful. Many parts of China consider women who smoke to be prostitutes - just a quick heads up!

Wherever you are, it is the human connection that is important, and it can sometimes be very rewarding to get involved in the local community in an interactive way. One phrase I have learned to detest is 'Village safari'. This is exactly as it sounds; essentially a safari but with people instead of animals. Such activities hardly seem the best way to get to grips with a place and the people who live there. Learning a little bit of the language works wonders. You don't have to be an expert, but the ability to say "hello" and "thank you" will evoke praise far surpassing the effort that you took to learn. Besides, most people seem to rather enjoy a game of charades to get the message across. Spending money in the local economy can also have a considerably positive impact. That \$5 you spent on the pashmina you didn't even really want will be of far greater use to the persistent pashmina-seller you bought it from than it ever was to you. It is also quite easy to lose perception when it comes to money and many backpackers find themselves haggling ferociously for the equivalent of 5p. It is important to remember that often this tiny amount of money can make all the difference to your haggling foe, and can mean that they can afford a meal as opposed to going hungry. This highlights the importance of spending money in local economies, particularly in countries under the control of an oppressive regime. Some backpackers boycott countries such as Burma, and in some cases even China, in order to avoid contributing to governmental regimes which they do not agree with.

Our behaviour plays a vital part in how future backpacking generations will be treated, whilst also having a profound effect on attitudes toward us. Too often do Westerners abroad treat the local population with barely disguised contempt.

Many are completely ignorant of local customs and behavioural codes; merely assuming that people are there to facilitate their every whim. On one occasion on the idyllic beaches of Goa, one such western tourist was paying a local to keep his hammock gently swinging in the afternoon sun! Many tourists patronise the local people, assuming them to be almost as stupid and ignorant as they are themselves. The English particularly have a largely negative image when abroad; seen by many locals as alcoholic hooligans. Now I'm hardly suggesting that you turn teetotal on your travels, after all half the fun is letting go off restraint and acting like you want to. But maybe running down the streets in Thailand's Hat Rin with boobs jiggling in the

“ Some backpackers boycott countries such as Burma, even China, in order to avoid contributing to governmental regimes which they do not agree with.

wind, isn't the best idea. Behavioural codes are also largely dependent on where you are, the religion being practiced and how tourist orientated the area is. For example Indonesia, with its estimated 13000 islands, has a wealth of different religions and cultures. Whilst Bali is known as the "party island" with a relaxed Hindu population and a wealth of clubs, shops and restaurants, Sumatra is predominantly Muslim and you would be hard pushed to find a bikini in any shops. In the Northern part of Aceh, recently opened up to tourists after a long and bloody civil war, Sharia Law is enforced and tourists can sometimes expect to be woken up at 2 in the morning by frightening men with covered faces and torches, checking that no locals have been cavorting with Western women. In many areas Western women are perceived as sluts and a meal ticket, and are thus targeted by Indonesian men, who are often rewarded for their hard work.

There's no getting away from the fact that all these things are easier said than done. Its one thing to set out the responsibilities that travellers have but it's quite another to put these into practice. You're massively hung-over and your brain is rolling around your skull, there's a local guy jabbering away next to you on a sweaty bus from A to B and everywhere in between - in this situation setting a positive image is hardly a priority. Likewise when you're letting your hair down at night and taking advantage of the cheap local whisky, being a model backpacker is just not realistic. After all, its nice to overindulge and have fun but, whether it's the Full Moon Party in Thailand that takes your fancy or the serenity of the Himalayas that is more your thing, there's always a cultural code to be practiced and things to look out for. It's all about using your common sense and having a positive attitude, even when your bus has broken down for the 6th time.





# Dress to impress?

Katharina Kramer explores how shops in Leeds perceive the typical student

## The Brief

Anyone who has ever set foot on Leeds campus will know that sometimes Uni life can be one big fashion show. From vintage queens via ugg dependants to designer junkies, many flamboyant and exotic creatures can be discovered in the style jungle. Nevertheless, however fashion conscious some may be, most of us will have been in situations where we are completely and utterly effortless. Picture it - it's Saturday morning, the previous night can hardly be recalled as the six shots of tequila and five beers are very much still in your head, and all you want to do is stay in bed and never, ever get up. This is when you realise it's mum's/dad's/brother's/cousin's/friend's/other dreaded family member's birthday soon and you still have to get their present. So you drag yourself out of bed and look at the pile of unwashed clothes on the floor (which is surprisingly bereft of flies), and realise that you'll probably have to pop into Harvey Nichols, House of Fraser or Debenhams to find that lovely perfume your mum adores or the same tie that you've bought your dad every year for god knows how long. But do you really need to make an effort dressing when you want to go shopping in lavish stores? Would they look down on us if we were to appear in dirty trainers? Or would we be making a fool out of ourselves if we make the effort to look fresh off the catwalk? To dress up or to not dress up? That is the question. And do the shops that we frequent look at us differently depending on our style? We've all been looked down on by a snobby sales assistant, but what's the official line? So the experiment began with a few phone calls to some of Leeds' biggest stores: House of Fraser, Louis Vuitton, H&M and Debenhams, all happily located on Briggate.

## In the Field

We strongly discourage inappropriate dressing or behaviour" was the Debenhams operator's stock response over the phone. A trip to Briggate supported this official line. Accompanying me on my trip was Doug Hunter, a first year Product Design student. We both brought two different outfits with us in order to test the kind of response from personnel when asked if we could take a picture with our phone of a random product. Usually, taking a picture of something in a

store is prohibited, as I found out first hand in a French boutique when a sales woman told me that rival companies could steal their ideas using pictures of products. So we decided to explore whether such privileges would be granted to wealthier looking customers. Doug wore jeans with a white polo shirt and black trainers to Debenhams, looking rather clean for a student, and as he first looked around the shop he was approached by a saleswoman who kindly asked him if he needed any help. Doug replied that his brother had sent him to buy a certain shirt for him but couldn't remember which one it had been, and asked if he could take a picture of the shirt with his phone. "We do not encourage it but taking one picture of something is perfectly fine." In the meantime, I looked around at the shoe section wearing baggy trackies, trainers and a hooded zip-up jacket. The young assistant was very helpful in trying to find the pair of shoes I had picked out in my size, never forgetting to smile. She even offered to find the pair online for me when they didn't have my size and replied with "yes go for it" when I asked her whether I could take a picture of the shoes. "We want you to have a enjoyable and unique shopping experience" is stated proudly on the company website, which was amply fulfilled for Doug and myself.

## H&M

Next stop was H&M. With over 1400 shops in 28 countries this Swedish fashion giant was surely our biggest guinea pig. The young staff are more often than not behind the counters, making it difficult to ask for assistance, but in this shop all the customers are desperate to buy regardless, grabbing a summer skirt in winter that's on sale because there just might be an occasion to wear it sometime. The various clothes and accessoires that are chucked left, right and centre are tidied up by patient sales assistants, hanging them up in their appropriate spot only to be torn away and left on a shelf in the underwear section 20 seconds later due to the sudden realisation that no, she is not a size eight and may not be for a while yet. So in short, H&M resides in a state of semi-chaotic activity much of the time (although it's yet to top Primark on that score). When I first

called the H&M customer service, the operator had told me that "inappropriate dress isn't necessarily bad, as long as the dressing doesn't become blatantly lewd." Doug and I

delved into the H&M world, still wearing the same outfits as in Debenhams. Surprisingly enough, I got a quite degrading look from one of the cashiers when I walked in wearing ultra baggy trackies. I had not expected this from

their Saturday trip to M&S for the chance to pounce on silk shirts. This made me think that this might be an interesting place to carry on the experiment. Doug entered the store wearing relatively respectable clothes and went



H&M, as this is one of the primary student stores in Leeds and caters for a wide range of customer types. Apart from that one moment however, Doug and I were treated in exactly the same way as in Debenhams when we asked a member of staff if we could take a picture of a shirt with our phone. "I'm honestly not aware of any photo-taking policy, as long as people do not go around making a nuisance of themselves" said the rather helpful assistant. One of the sales assistants advised Doug to "do it subtly." This he did, and we both left H&M feeling as though we were treated fairly and kindly.

## M&S

Our next port of call was the one and only Marks & Spencer. Having grown up in Switzerland, Marks & Spencer was always portrayed to me as the quintessential reserved British store, and when imitating posh English accents with friends, "cor blimey, let's have a trip to Marks & Spencer to buy some tea and biscuits" would always be part of the show. So as soon as I came to Leeds and went into Marks & Spencer for the very first time, I was surprised at how I had to fight myself through the store on a Saturday afternoon through swathes of feisty old women desperately trying to grab the bargains and cheap cashmere jumpers. It really seemed as though these elderly women were tingling with excitement and had been waiting all week for





ally "yes of course, no problem" when asked about taking a picture of a bag, before she hurried off again (probably to get more bath sets for the day.) In a moment where there were no customers at the cash desk, I went up with a hand and asked two sales people whether I could take a picture of it. "Yes no problem, do you want us to model with it?" they laughed as I started to try out different poses to accompany the bag. In all the M&S sales people created a very friendly and warm atmosphere.

However, the tides turned with our last two shops. Doug was now dressed in trackies, trainers and a hoodie while I dressed in a black turtleneck, skinny jeans and brown ballerina flats, wearing a golden

not exactly dismiss him, but somehow managed to be dismissive in her own unobtrusive manner. "She was very condescending towards me," Doug told me later. Not surprisingly, the staff treated me with a great amount of respect. They smiled and kept on saying "of course, of course" when I asked to take a picture of a dress to show my mum.

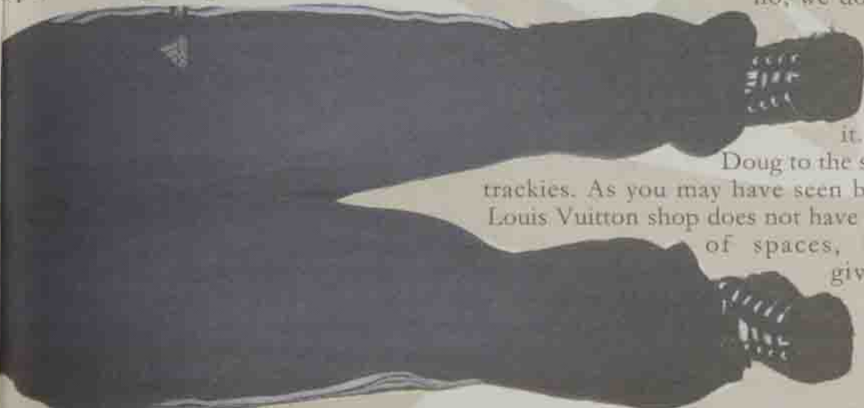
## LV

The same happened in Louis Vuitton. When I had called them to ask about their dress policies, I had expected them to give me a lecture on how their shop was for classy people and how Louis Vuitton defines a certain look, etc. Instead, all they told me was

"no, we do not have any policies."

Really? I don't buy it. So I sent

Doug to the store in his trackies. As you may have seen before, the Louis Vuitton shop does not have the largest of spaces, therefore giving more



necklace and earrings. We had been waiting for these two all day...

## House of Fraser

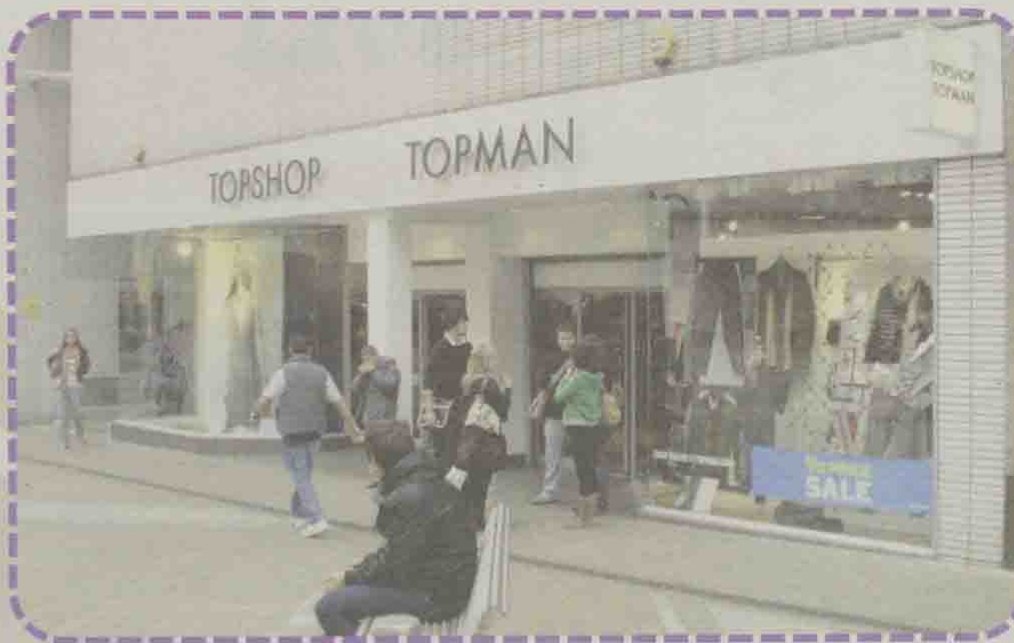
Does your shop have a policy on dress code?", I asked the operator when I called the House of Fraser customer service. "No we do not" - "So say someone would walk into one of your shops without a shirt on, what sort of action would be taken? Would they be kicked out?" After a short pause, the operator suddenly went dead. I was not sure what the outcome of this - either they thought it was a prank call, or was their "non-existent dress code policy" in fact existent?

Doug entered House of Fraser in his trackies, immediately being the object of focus by some of the employees. He browsed the clothes and asked one of the sales assistants if he could take a picture. In a very matter-of-fact tone, she replied "it's not really permitted, but if you really must you can take one." She

opportunity to eye Doug's every move as he looked around the shop. When he asked about whether the company has a policy on taking pictures of their products, the staff replied that "the company itself does not, although every manager has his preference." When Doug then asked to take a picture of a purse, the sales woman was rather hesitant, asking her co-worker if this was allowed, and then giving a quiet "ok." When I came to the shop a day later, the staff were happy to greet me in my rather posh outfit, armed with a Louis Vuitton Speedy bag. Although I'd like to think otherwise, I'm sure my handbag did the trick in the end, but the workers were happy to help me out and almost insisted I take a picture of another bag to show my dad. Needless to say I was not very surprised at the difference in attitude that was shown towards Doug and I at the store.

## Findings

In conclusion, I think it is more your attitude that counts than your outfit. Of course everyone has their preference in



style and every shop has its target customer, but how you show it off is the clue. If you know how to subtly show off the fact that you have money in shops such as House of Fraser or Vuitton, you've got the ticket to friendly staff who are all extremely eager to be your best friend in order to present to you each and every expensive item. In shops such as H&M or M&S, where hundreds of people shop every single day, staff are usually more stressed and have a monotonous friendliness. Approaching them nicely with a smile on your face can

enchant them in an instant and you are much more likely to receive help. If you can't be bothered to dress up for town, so be it, but if you expect to get good service in more luxurious shops, you might want to dress up a notch. To end with a very cheesy sentence (which we all secretly love so much), it's not always looks that count, but personality.

## SKINTED AND MINTED

Ladylike chic - it's everywhere. If you have as much as glanced at the catwalk, flicked through a magazine or had a wander round the shops, you must have noticed it. It certainly makes a change from the layered, oversized, scruffy trends of late. It all started with Chanel who showed classic, elegant scarves, something which most students cannot remember been considered as fashionable within their life-times. Agnes B featured beautiful powder-pink shift dresses, and it was herringbone galore stomping down the runways of Marc Jacobs and Tom Ford for Gucci autumn/winter shows.

This is all fine and dandy, and in all honesty most of us can admit that we have considered chucking our grungy jeans and Uggs in place of something a little more feminine. But how can ladylike chic work in "studentsville"? Well, girls it's all down to accessories. Swap your All Stars for a pair of pumps (heels may be over-doing it a little) run a brush through that hair, pair a skirt with some opaque tights (not, repeat, not a frayed denim skirt) instead of throwing on your usual skinnies. One thing that screams "lady" is a clutch bag, they epitomise effortless elegance, a statement clutch such as the McQueen one featured here can take any outfit in a fashion conscious direction. However if you do not intend to spend your entire loan on a bag, this metallic clutch from Asos.com can take you from scruffy to ladylike at a snip of the price.



Alexander McQueen £490



Asos.com £18

words / chloe watson  
pictures / phil bassot



# Singles.

## Single of the Week

The King Blues  
'Mr Music Man'  
(Soundproof)



Blame Bono. Blame Bob Geldof. Musicians dabbling in politics is becoming a regular joke. "Pah, they think that they can change things," the world leaders could be said to chortle. However, rising up from the London activist punk scene like a menacing flame on a gas torch, The King Blues are bringing a new form of political awareness into the mainstream; their musical influences are reflective of this, folk and reggae being the most prominent. 'Mr Music Man' with its laid-back reggae groove may be as infectious as any pop song but at least this band promote a message that is far from vacuous. (8)

Sons & Daughters  
'Gilt Complex'  
(Domino)



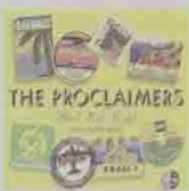
If only this carriage had continued to trundle down the whole length of the garage rock 'n' roll lane. Though the rhythm section writhes like the belly of the infernal beast, Adele Bethel's vocals are too histrionic. Instead of an alluring austerity, the result is a drag queen-like garishness. (4)

Boy Kill Boy  
'No Conversation'  
(Mercury)



The Essex four-piece have never found their foothold in the overcrowded post-punk scene. 'No Conversation', however, may just be their breakthrough tune. It isn't a dramatic departure from the original sound; it's just more robust, with distinctive vocals and a full-bodied, upbeat slightly electro feel. Working with super-producer Dave Sardy has clearly paid off. (8)

The Proclaimers  
'Whole Wide World'  
(W14)



This might as well be another verse in 15th birthday party favourite '500 Miles'. If you like your songs singalong, awesome; if not, this is shit. The opening sounds like a drunk tramp reciting his favourite limerick, and the lyrics are Gilbert & Sullivan. We get that you're Scottish and a fan of long-distance travel. It's getting old. (1)

Sigur Rós  
'Hljómalið'/'Staralfur'  
(EMI)



There's no escaping the gauntlet of clichés related to Sigur Rós' sound. Glacial, ethereal and stunning, both tracks are unmistakably cinematic due to their release in conjunction with *Hemma*, the forthcoming acclaimed rock film. With soaring vocals and a stunning guitar solo on the first, and tender, sinuous strings on the second, this single is a masterpiece. (8)

words/ may simargool, pandora pugsley

## Album of the Week

Dave Gahan  
*Hourglass*

(Mute)

In order to avoid the stigma associated with their critically panned turn to more rock-infused waters in the mid-1990s, Depeche Mode's 2005 opus *Playing the Angel* was a return to electronica and consequently a return to form. Here, their singer David Gahan, following a relatively muted response to his 2003 guitar-driven debut *Paper Monsters*, tries the same tactic.

Such is the computerised nature of this album's sound that the opening seconds of 'Deeper and Deeper' could easily have been lifted from a Boys Noize track, or anything else in the Berliner Techno scene. This is no bad thing, and it seems that Gahan and his Depeche Mode cohorts have realised that their roots lie in a Euro-Disco, homoerotic yet accessible pop sound.

The only query is the inclusion of Gahan's



forementioned bandmates. The fact that they've been drafted in to co-write a number of the songs on the album - unsurprisingly, the better ones - causes one to question whether this is a definitive collection of songs from a singer/songwriter or just a stopgap Mode record. In Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting*, Sick Boy rants about how solo artists will never be as artistically successful as the bands they have left. *Hourglass* shows Gahan taking



Roisin Murphy  
*Overpowered*

(EMI)

Roisin Murphy's singing career began when she helped out then boyfriend Mark Brydon by speaking over some of his records "for a laugh". The partnership soon became Moloko and was signed to a six album deal with Echo. Roisin said in a recent interview, "I had to learn to sing."

I'm not sure she ever really bothered. *Overpowered*, her second solo offering, is produced in such a way that the vocal is always clear and audible and, while she is mostly in time and tune, her voice is trite, bland and thin. So it's only natural that one should look to the music itself in the absence of an impressive performance. Unfortunately, the music is equally hackneyed. The LP is billed as a collection of pop songs, but there's not one decent composition in nearly an hour. Every single track suffers from a shortage of harmonic diversity. This would be alright if there was even a hint of dynamic, textural or metrical variety, but there isn't. There isn't even a single strong melody. This record is little more than impressively disappointing.

The production, at least, is pretty good. The mixture of layered polyphony in some tracks and a beefy wall of sound in others is the only thing that prevents *Overpowered* from becoming painful. Judging by the cover art, though, one again expects far more in terms of sonic language. It's all just a bit too derivative. The title track steals its synth-bass from the Eurythmics. 'Tell Everybody' features an Eminem impersonator. In one way or another, it's all been done before.

It is difficult to give insight into something as characterless as this record, but I would say that there's space for Roisin Murphy yet. If, next time, she concentrates on being different, she could make an LP that means something, that has relevance and its own place in the hideously overpopulated world of music. Right now, she is trying to move into an overcrowded bed-sit without the musical currency to pay the bills. (3)

words/ george reece

Nine Black Alps

*Love/Hate*

(Island)



When Nine Black Alps first appeared two years ago, they were given the kiss-of-death tag 'the next Nirvana'. Debut single 'Cosmopolitan' was eagerly lapped up by everyone willing to place them in this 'next big thing' box; they were full of teenage angst, and that post-grunge sound was obviously there. But, as with every band previously given the same hype, they pretty much disappeared from everyone's interest shortly after the release of their debut. Now, they've returned with a second LP, but is it going to be possible for them to recapture interest after the hype has gone?

*Love/Hate* is no massive departure as such, but the sound is immediately mellow and, at points, has an almost country feel to it. Perhaps the biggest surprise is that singer Sam Forrest's fingernail-scraping yelp has been replaced by him actually singing. The result of this is mixed. The band's clear affinity is with American-influenced music; there are a few attempts at Elliott Smith-type songs ('Bitter End') that work well enough, but there's nothing particularly exciting about much of it. We are still hearing much of the same with regards to lyrics: being the outsider; feeling rejected and irrelevant ('Forget My Name'). Most of the album plods away in a fairly monotonous way; we know the lyrics are meant to be meaningful, but nothing really grabs: to be honest, the majority of it is just dull. However, when Nine Black Alps actually do return to their old grunge-influenced sound - such as on 'So in Love' - the outcome is refreshingly good.

There are small bursts of good pop/rock songs here, but perhaps Nine Black Alps' main problem is that the kind of music they are making is no longer of interest to this country's music-buying public. Had it come out around five years ago, *Love/Hate* might have received success to match the band's hype. (5)

words/ aisling beddy

# Albums.

this folklore into consideration and cowardly opting out of making any drastic changes to his group's familiar sound. Put simply, this album sounds very similar to Depeche Mode's last album.

That said, gone is the sexual, swaggering, personal Jesus of before; instead, we get a more intimate feeling, reminding us that we're listening to an ex-heroin addict who, a decade ago, died for two minutes. This is dark material and, despite returning to the more keyboard-based sounds of old, there are no catchy jingles reminiscent of 'Just Can't Get Enough'. Instead, gnarlier, mechanical noises accompany brooding, mournful vocals. Far from being a catchy floorfiller, lead single 'Kingdom' sees Gahan pouring his soul out over the top of pulsating beats that gradually build up to a euphoric chorus.

*Hourglass* may not be essential, and certainly pales in comparison with Mode's greatest works. Ultimately, though, a second-rate album from a member of Depeche Mode is still light years ahead of any of the trendy bandwagon-jumpers currently associated with electronic music. (7)

words/ luke fear



Unklejam

*Unklejam*

(Virgin)

Unklejam, consisting of a Brit, a Hawaiian and an American, met at East London clubnight Antisocial, so if you're standing at the peripherals of Hoxton nightlife and you haven't got a glitterball around your neck you're instinctively likely to falter at the connotations. The question is: are you Jackson enough to listen to Unklejam?

Given the brilliance of singles 'Love Ya' and 'What Am I Fighting For?', and their laudable point of glooping together about a million different genres, we were a bit excited about listening to their debut. This was probably a mistake because, inevitably, some of it's a bit shit. *Unklejam* is harrowingly inconsistent, veering between moments of hyper-spangly cosmic energy ('What Am I Fighting For', 'Stereo') to rubbish such as 'Loving You', an electro-ballad containing lyrics that Ne-Yo probably shat out into a bag and handed over. Whilst 'the boys' have got an ear for a blinding hook, lyrically, they're leagues beneath OutKast, which is what this sounds most like - although it was also pointed out that one of them oddly sounds a lot like diva girlfriend Anastacia, and whether that's good or not is a matter of taste.

Despite all this, the album's high points are super seductive, with a fabulous range of instruments (check the trumpet on 'Cry' and some Michelle Pfeiffer-in-an-underprivileged-school gangsta strings on 'Just Like Me'), growling synths and squelchy bleeps of hyperventilating rhythms. In light of the self-conscious diversity of the album, the catchiness and sometime sheer pomp of it make it most definitely for the pop fan. Interestingly, though, Bobby asserts that "we all had a desperate need to break out of the box". You might ask what is wrong with being in a box as long as it's good. Unklejam have just broken out of one and into somebody else's, which happens to be killer radio-friendly, but not as leftfield or explosive as they clearly imagined. (6)

words/ jouno ovens



**Gig of the Week**

**The Twang**

**The Refectory**

20/10/07

Look See Proof seem genuinely amazed at playing such a big gig and touring the country supporting major bands. They certainly win the crowd over with their southern indie rock. Guitarist Lee Sells has a jolting energy on stage. They have some well constructed songs and a punky yell and great chemistry but, to be



**Fightstar**

The Cockpit  
17/10/07

As they take to the stage it's hard not to wonder what Fightstar are all about. Their teenie-bopper boy band heritage and their heavy, overly-sincere leanings seem entirely contradictory. There's nothing at all wrong with the music though. It's actually pretty good. The new album is full of melody as well as heaps of angst-ridden power.

How does the music translate into a live performance? Well, first-off, the sound is awful. Particularly with Fightstar's kind of music the



sound production needs to be very different in a live scenario than from in the studio. Some of the sonic attitude has to go in lieu of clarity, and if there's one thing the sound lacks, it's clarity. It's all drums and distortion. I hesitate even to identify it as guitar distortion, it's really that bad. And the vocals! While it is just about possible to ascertain that Charlie Simpson's voice is rich, gutsy and full of the delightful quirks that make a good vocalist great, it is impossible to derive a tune, let alone lyrics, above the ferocious din.

The Ron Jeremy look-alike playing the drums, Omar Abidi, does an admirable job, and though he is the only truly audible element, you get the feeling from the very convincing projection of professionalism that the other members of the band are playing with equal competence. It's just a tremendous shame for the music-lover that their music is not portrayed live with more care and sensitivity. So I take a look around the floor for these 'music-lovers' and notice instead the largest quantity of wet-headed morons with whom I have ever had the pleasure of sharing a room. You know the types, with sticky foreheads, spiky jewellery and visible boxer-shorts. Moshing, stage diving and throwing bottled water around like Tewkesbury after the re-connection. But how many are really listening? Precious few. So it doesn't matter that they can't hear the music. Despite their best efforts Fightstar are still a social phenomenon rather than a musical one. (4)

words/ george reece

honest, they're not doing much to distance themselves from the average indie band. Little Man Tate are funnier and more enjoyable, opening with 'Man I Hate Your Band', which is cracking live. Lead singer Jon Windle is very animated as he tells the story of the song; a splash of British Buzzcocks sarcasm helps too. The adoring crowd lap up lovely indie-pop songs 'Sexy in Latin' and 'House Party at Boothys' (which they finish with). At every opportunity the crowd burst into a chant of "Yorkshire".

Finally, The Twang appear on stage to the cheers of the audience. As soon as the band start so do the audience, dancing to the baggy-influenced indie rock. Mike Skinner-esque vocalist Phil Etheridge is striking and vigorous on stage. Martin Saunders, the other singer, has a camp buzz about him that adds more atmosphere on stage than actual vocal diversity. Their guitarist and bassist leave all the charisma for their singers and look quite stale on stage. Naturally the band leave and

**Klashnekoff**

Mint  
18/10/07

It takes a while for Klashnekoff to get started; I'd like to say the anticipation is building, but the truth is that the dancefloor is as empty as a Primark sale would be full. We sit on polo-shaped seats and wait; it is reminiscent of sitting on a toilet seat.

Klashnekoff and Skribblah finally take to the stage around twenty to one; the place comes to life. We are abruptly surrounded by a swelling mass of white males wearing baseball caps and tracksuits, shouting "brrrrrrrap brrrrrrrap" and doing the Klashnekoff sign; a two-fingered gun. Despite this obvious conformation to the general hip-hop stereotype, the rest of the set is gratefully lacking in bitches and bling. Klashnekoff and Skribblah, two out of three members of Terra Firma, deliver a set that's unpredictable but masterfully controlled. The chemistry between Klashnekoff, Skribblah and DJ Skully is explosive; it's obvious that they know exactly how each other performs and are able to second-guess each other's movements. Quite often, you will hear a frantic shift between songs that is perfectly timed and courageously executed. Like any good showman, Klashnekoff 'breaks the barrier'

**Enter Shikari**

The Refectory  
22/10/07

The queue for this gig leads all the way up University Road and wraps around the corner a good forty-five minutes prior to the doors even opening. So devoted are these fans that later



tonight someone will throw their passport on-stage. One glance at the crowd reveals a throng of emo-core kids in multi-coloured attire and neon glow sticks galore all waiting to beat the living crap out of each other. Quite appropriately then, Your Demise kick off proceedings tonight with their Hatebreed-style hardcore causing the more cager teenagers to open up some early circle pits.

It's a real shame that second support Hundred

return for an encore, both signers knackered but loving it. Musically they seem to be



influenced by The Happy Mondays, and The Charlatans. It's only the atmosphere and the almost spiritual connection between the singers and the audience that carries them. The singers have great presence on stage and the audience love the feel-good ethics of the band. "I f\*cking love it when I feel like this" explains Saunders (the title of their recent album). What makes the gig so good is the amazing atmosphere and love for the band, and the fact that so many are unified in this love. (8)

words/ henry raby

between himself and the audience, resulting in some good old-fashioned audience participation. A Damian Marley tribute gets underway in the song 'Jamrock Takeover'. Things get a bit messy. A fight is on the verge of starting. Good old K-Lash intervenes; after all, his philosophy is "come in peace or leave in pieces". Head butting is threatened by K-Lash himself. The tall man who started the aggro leaves bitterly. A cheer erupts.

The only disappointment is that Klashnekoff doesn't play more songs off his most recent LP, *Lionheart: Tussle with the Beast*. The audience doesn't seem to know these songs as well, so the set is a bit 'greatest hits', and not as progressive and challenging as we have come to expect. Constant screaming for 'one more' ends up in his singing an a capella version of 'My Way'. (7)

words/ holly brain



Reasons have been losing popularity over the years but, with new guitarist Ben Doyle, the band still put on a sound and solid performance, although they neglect to put on a show. Ploughing through their stripped-down post-hardcore songs, they have more integrity and modesty than tonight's headliners. A storming rendition of 'Kill Your Own' is proof that their recent tracks are on a par with anything they've ever done. That said, it's classics 'Silver' and 'If I Could' that make the set a triumph.

Enter Shikari are more of a dilemma. Whilst there's no questioning their showmanship, the music lacks substance. The band are preceded on-stage by a demon-voiced-wolf-headed-man. Listening purely to the band play is proof enough that the music is quite appalling. There are some that'll have you believe that this band are innovative and pushing the boundaries of music - namely, the morons with hoods up and rave bands swinging their limbs around aggressively on the spot. Looking at it optimistically, if you're a fan of the band, you won't be disappointed by them live. If you are a fan of the band, though, you're probably 14 years old and therefore not even reading this. (5)

words/ luke fear

**Live.**

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



Johnny Marr said recently, he wouldn't rule out a Smiths reunion in the future. He was pretty vague about the whole thing though, suggesting it might happen in ten or so years; "when

we all need to for whatever reasons". So why do bands reform? Money is an obvious incentive for some. The recent news that the Spice Girls are back, albeit reluctantly, must be to do with the cash, otherwise why would the five have agreed? None of them look very happy about it, Posh seems positively miserable at the prospect in fact. However, if some people are hopeful for a Smiths reunion (yes, please) news that Morrissey turned down £40 million to tour with his old band mates puts that one on a definite back burner. For others it's about flagging solo careers... 'Take That may be having a triumphant come back so far, but it's difficult to get away from the fact that after initial success, Gary Barlow's solo career hit a serious flump, which resulted in him quitting the performance business altogether. Jason, Owen and Mark all disappeared into the oblivion of minor celebrity pretty quickly and so it would seem reunion was their only option. For others, they hope their return will rekindle their lost fame - Ian Watkins (H) recently pissed off ex-bandmates Steps by signing a deal to act in a London-based production of FAME, ironically enough, instead of going through with the band's reunion plans. Might the spectacularly failed attempt from All Saints put other hopefuls off? It seems unlikely. Next to reform perhaps, S Club 7, North and South, Bewitched, Aqua, The Cartoons (please God, no)?



What has always specifically got me about North & South is the fact that they *actually just disappeared*. Have a look at the contemporary pop press: in April 1998 - on my tenth birthday, in fact - they were billed

to release their debut album *Allsorts*. Four singles had been released over the preceding year. Promotion had been done. Postcards had been sent out to the mailing list (I still have them). And then no shops had any record of the album's existence, and it never came out. No further singles were released. What on earth happened to it? What on earth happened to them?

Perhaps, though, it is the specific lack of any closure on this band's *fin* that means I can still quote the dates nearly a decade later. Perhaps the relevance, statement and definition that culture ascribes to a band is inexorably tied up not only with its motivation but also with its conception, continuity and demise. Consider the impossibly perfect career trajectory of Joy Division, or the embarrassing way in which New Order (and the connection is a significant one) have 'reformed' three times since 1990, carelessly shedding members along the way, each time propounding an album more sluggish, self-indulgent and underdeveloped than the last. Or is it more that we never feel that a second time around is written into the cultural contracts of our artists? Does an attempt to do the same thing again constitute a betrayal of the progressive attitude that we associate with, and expect from, any band sprung out of a movement? (I need only reference the Sex Pistols here, but the point is extendable.) Why do we balk so much less at the thought of Graham Coxon or Alan Wilder rejoining their respective bands than we do at the thought of a Sumner/Morris LP? (Perhaps this is not comparing like with like.)

Maybe the slightly morbid truth is that we consume bands as artworks in themselves, making society the artist - and the art perhaps less qualified to critique that which it springs from.



# LS Reviews.

## It's oh so quiet at Nu Bar silent disco.

**L**et's all go wiggle our hips to...umm, silence? "Silent Disco" - I think of a glaring Oceana-esque light up dance floor and a bunch of drug addicts passionately whispering the words to "Stayin' Alive" to the accompaniment of, well, absolutely nothing. Silence. Perhaps I'm being wilfully ignorant for the sake of a bad joke but the name of the night is undeniably misleading.

Nu Bar's newest brainchild/stolen brainchild from Reading Festival (or wherever you've heard of it before) is far less crazy than it sounds. You'll be paying a sensible entry fee of £4 and an even more sensible deposit of £5 for a pair of extremely flattering headphones. Once said headphones have been acquired you will then be herded into the club room, forbidden from the upper realms of Nu Bar whilst non-headphoneders are carefully kept away from the lower depths. (Clearly the lessons of apartheid have not been learned by the managers of Nu Bar). It's a hard deal for smokers who must find a vaguely reliable friend to look after the old

ear-gear whilst you pop upstairs for a nifty fag. I have heard tales of lost headphones, lost deposits and very lost and lonely souls wandering around and around the circular bar of Nu, wondering whether to stay and jig along to those awful off-key screams and shouts of fellow clubbers, or just give up and go home.

That's how it works by the way. Stick on the headphones, flick a wee switch, wait for a moment and then bang! Bog standard cheese, non-independent indie and awful throbbing dance music is playing in your ears. Oh no, wait...it's gone. No, no...it's back again. No, no...if I just stand over here I get reception. In certain spots of the club (mainly the ladies toilets) receiving the music is as frustrating as trying to get mobile phone reception in the Old Bar. I feel I'm being unfair. There are some good songs that come on - for example, a bit of Justice vs. Simian. And if you're not averse to hearing "It's my life" for the 6 millionth time since your University career began, then all is well!

The choice between 2 channels also

“Stick on the headphones, flick a wee switch, wait for a moment and then bang!

makes the night quite fun. "Choose channel A!" someone will mouth emphatically whilst making a wobbly -A shape with their forefingers and thumbs. "No! Choose channel B!" (B's a little harder to shape with the fingers unfortunately). You can then indulge in an A vs. B dance off turning the evening into a Run DMC style grudge match. Judging by reports from last week's night, there will be plenty of room to get quite technical. Channel A's selection moves from friendly dance/DJ songs into unfriendly crazy trance stuff. B plays some pleasant indie before reverting to mind-numbing cheese. At this stage listening to the drunken Fresher next to you, singing "Summer of '69" for the 6 millionth time since their arrival in Leeds, becomes preferable to the actual music.

As pain alleviation you can buy double vodka red devils for £2.50 and play raunchy games with inflatable Corona bottles. More than making up for bad music and a flat atmosphere, cumbersome and sweaty headphones.

But the experience is what's really important right, and you can't put a price on that!

words/jessica parker

## The Rant.

**O**k so I am back, and since my last rant, I have been out the grand total of...wait for it...ONCE. But this week I feel my lack lustre approach should change. Should I just brave it, step out past 10.30pm? When there is a chill in the air, a slight glisten of frost on the ground, an over priced cab at our door honking his horn louder and more virulently than I think is legal in most built up areas in the UK? Initially I think 'no'... but to get past the front door is the hardest part they say. So past there surely it must be easy going? However, I have a fear it might just be the beginning, for the 'queue' has to be one of my most hated forms of evening entertainment. As the cab pulls up, my heart begins to sink at the snaking line which passes 2 other bars, a bus stop. And you know it is bad news time wise, when some local entrepreneur gets the whiff of a good deal and sets out a burger van next to the line! And so as you stand and shuffle for the first fifteen minutes, you idly talk to the people in front and behind, over a) how long do you think the queue will take? Or b) would you rather eat one of the burgers from the burger man van, or eat a half eaten M&S roll you can see which has been disguardedly on the other side of the pavement? (The answer seems to be an even 50/50 by the way.) Yet my most hated part of queuing is when you see people you really don't want to, and there really is not enough space or time to avoid one of those awkward chats about what they have been up to since the last time you spoke to them in fresher's week...year 1?! All this talk of the great British past time of queuing, has really put a downer on my good intentions. So now I feel it is time to cosy on up to 'Late Night Lisa' on classical fm, and have a real good ponder if going out just one night this week is more hassle than it is worth?

words/nick bettles



Headphones a go-go

## Soul Sessions. Cockpit rocks on a friday night.

**I**f Carlsberg did indie nights they'd be the best in the world. If Cockpit did indie nights they'd come a very close second, so thank the lord that they do.

With queues that drape round the club leaving a trail of empty wine bottles and, if your classy enough, White Ace and Frosty Jack's traipsed on the track, The Session, is one of Leeds most popular alternative nights. The very nature of the Cockpit (underground, dingey, tad grimey if I may so myself) makes it a great little spot for all the indie cindys to meet up for a little boogie-on-down.

Being a little out of the way adds to the cool elusive edge of this treasured Leeds gem, but what really makes this night at the pit of Coek so top of the indie pops is the way there's a real Northern feel to the place. Taking a History trip back to days before indie became

a 'scene', maybe this essence is retained from The Session's original birthplace as the Bethlehem of Brighton Beach. Since then jeans have become skinny, people have become fat (or rather 'bigger-boned'), "I'll facebook you" is a student phrase which rolls off the tongue and leggings became acceptable items of fashion, yet Fridays at the Cockpit remain white hot. Three rooms of turbo charged guitar music fuel The Session, but what's so refreshing about this indie night compared to others is it's not bursting out a playlist governed by what NME governs as cool. Instead it pays homage to everything from Prince to Kate Bush to N\*E\*R\*D in the smaller of the three rooms, 90s-modern day classics in the middle room such as Oasis and the wouldn't-be-an-indie-night-without The Libertines as well as covering all that new

electro shiz in the third room. The one tune that definitely rampaged the dancefloor was 'Let's Dance to Joy Division' by fresh-on-the-scene cheeky Scouse lads The Wombats. But whatever those musical masterminds behind the decks blast out is sure to get you pulling some shapes (quite literally) not only on the dancefloor but also on the stage. Yup, you can pretend you really have got some original moves in full glory for all to see, even if they closely resemble your Primary school P.E. warm ups; just be careful of the step back down to the ground which can be a rather hazardous affair. However that doesn't top off the bizarre list; a random chair graced the middle of the dancefloor in the main room and, upon discovery, was subsequently used to demonstrate what a 'human shelf' might be like i.e. how many people can pile on top of

each other without the person sitting on the chair actually being physically squished. Top of the random list however is the way every male in the building seems to think that messing up a stranger's hair is the equivalent of saying hello.

The Session attracts an intriguing variety of people. More often than not you'll get your indie cindys and Hoxton heroes then there's the odd raver and you'll find the occasional friend who's obviously been dragged unwillingly but turned out to have a thoroughly pleasant night.

So get some beverages, put on your dancing shoes and "let's dance to joy division".

words/alla taha



# We all love our Filthy Habit.

**E**lectronic blips tweak, peak and beep whilst a crowd of lively Leeds peeps bop along to their Filthy Habit. Doz, Joe White, James Knapp and Mike Lawton are the self-confessed 'bastard children of the Leeds music scene'. Their night of 'clubbing as it should be' is the love-child of four local lads that reinvigorated a somewhat lack-lustre weekly scene. This motley crew are 'never contented' with their operation and are always striving to improve their already high quality sound. The enthusiasm with which they talked about their night was contagious and it soon had this reporter looking to cut some shapes on the busy dancefloor. The talented mix masters play a medley of tunes, jingles and samples coveted from a bright spectrum of music - hip-hop, jazz, drum n bass, acid house - all makes for an enjoyable electro experience. It may not be summer but they are still bringing the bangers.

Warehouse and illegal raves was where these Leeds upstarts earned their collective stripes; the ethos which epitomised the era of 'ave it large' has been successfully translated into a night of unadulterated non-conformity. Filthy Habit is a place where you can return to clubbing as it should be. It is not preoccupied with who you are, how you dress or what you look like. It is a place only concerned with one thing: clubbers enjoying themselves.

Lasers zap overhead as the light

spectacular scintillates the crowd. The music lulls the party faithful into a false sense of calm as the bleeps and spaceship noises accelerate. Doz smiles in anticipation as the musical mayhem he's about to unleash builds into a crescendo - beep beep beep - silence - (wait for it) - WHAM! a dancefloor in electro epilepsy writhes to the cyberkinetic storm. The DJ toyed with our emotions, created an unbearable intensity and brought us kicking and screaming to an explosive climax.

With a mish mash of mess head Klub Kids everyone's free to sugar the pill. You'll need some serious stamina surviving your Filthy Habit. It's a long session running for twelve hours straight, 10 til 10. Its always bustling but from 3 - 7 there's an influx of those looking for 'where next?'. These late comers arrive for their final assault on the weekend and quickly slide into the alternate dimension of after-party messiness. The friendly diverse crowd leaves locals talking to students, young professionals sharing a water bottle with a big scary looking rasta and everyone else left enjoying the 'the good vibe'. Make no mistake, Leeds' Sunday sanctuary is for the real ravers. Note: big shades should come as standard.

Grabbing your coat and disembarking the mother ship into the cruel dawn of reality, you'll jump into a cab wondering if those beauties of Venus will be there next week.

words / ben j puddle



**HAND FLAIL:** Tired of walking on water Jesus lets his hair down.

## LS Clubs' Hot Picks for the next 7 days

### Friday

#### Jazzie B at The Warehouse.

The Jazzie one from Soul II Soul is making a much-hyped appearance at the best venue in Leeds at the moment. Get down to it if you want some of the good ol' funky stuff. A night of style and sultry beats.

#### Big Phish Halloween Party at The Elbow Rooms.

A veritable mish-mash of DJs playing everything from minimal to booty bass to grime. Sounds quite cool, actually.

#### Fionn Regan at the Cockpit.

Mercury Music Prize- nominee Fionn Regan plays a set of her mesmerising Irish folk at the Cockpit, inducing an awareness to Irish music, and ultimately, love for it.

### Saturday

#### Akala at Rios.

The black Shakespeare (unfortunately his words not mine) and Ms. Dynamite's younger brother brings his unique brand of 'intelligent hip hop' to the masses in Leeds. Expect expensive tracksuits and people going 'mmm, yeah, deep'.

**Bad Sneakers at The Faversham.** Indie/Rock/Electro/Everything night that is quite popular and filled with WROK! factor. Cool, understated night with a live

performance from The Mexicolas.

#### WAX:ON at Leeds University Union.

The big one this weekend for the Electro-loving populace. Annie Mac, the Godmother of slick, headlines. Flanked by the effervescent and achingly cool Chromco. Get your wellies on, this is gonna get messy.

### Sunday

#### 2ManyDJs/Soulwax at Leeds University Union.

What more is there to say? If you haven't heard of these DJs you've either been living under a rock for the last eight years, or you're shit.

#### Funky Dory Halloween Party at The Space.

Funky/Retro House. Dress to Impress, ladies. Straight men will try, but don't really do it that well. Best fancy dress wins free entry for a YEAR! Now, how to sneak your mates in...

#### Reggae Afternoon at Trash.

Deep and bass-heavy reggae 'in a friendly atmosphere'. What the fuck? It's never exactly been ferocious now, has it? Everyone will plausibly be too lean to start anything hectic. Good vibes ya get me!

### Monday

#### New Bohemia present Cinematic Orchestra at Leeds University Union.

The Fav's favourite Hip hop connoisseurs bring

you a slice of meat from the Ninja Tune dinner table. Cool, stylish and oh-so epic. Check out the stuff they did with Roots Manuva.

#### Blues Monday at Sela Bar.

The best place in Leeds to take a date. Why? because the dim lighting is oh so flattering, even if you look like shit. Open mike blues night, so go, make sure you got enough dough for a few whiskey sours, and this could be brilliant!

### Tuesday

#### PIGS at the HIFI Club.

NME- heavy playlist, but you should be able to catch some good tunes, hehe. May contains traces of Electro.

#### Stateless Single Launch Night at Mine Bar -Leeds University Union 7 - 10.

Support from O Fracas, iddleman + Tigers That Talked. A one off special to promote a new up and coming artist described by DJ Shadow "as close to perfection as I've heard in a long time."

#### Follow the Funk at the Elbow Rooms.

B-boy night, so expect immaculately-coiffured hair, pristine New Era hats and wristbands worn in a non-ironic fashion. Good music, too. Funk, soul and hip hop galore.

### Wednesday

MoveOnUp at the HIFI Club.

Veteran club night playing northern soul, taml, stax, motown and 60s beat. What does it all mean? HIFI is slick though.

#### Jager Bomb at the Faversham.

Oooh, Jagermeister! has nothing to do with this. student night playing everything from Arcade Fire to Oasis.

#### Culture Vulture Halloween Party at Wire.

Gojonnygogogogo plays 80s, electro pop, indie, alternative, new wave and nu-rave at this outlandish fancy dress party. No admission without costume, so get your kit out/off.

### Thursday

#### The Unitaur at The Faversham.

Free live music tour and party thrown by VICE magazine, only the best one on the market. Featuring These New Puritans, The Teenagers and Crystal Castles. It's VICE, it'll be cool.

#### Pink Pounder Part 2 at Queens Court, Loft nightclub.

This just sounds too good to be true. Although I'm pretty sure it's not a fake. Camp/funky house. What a name! what if you knew someone called The Pink Pounder? That'd be so cool.

#### Hang the DJs at Reform Bar.

Four of The Reform's regulars put music where their mouths are and take over the decks.

words / karim khan and ben j puddle



# Karim interviews ...

One half of one of the most respected conscious hip hop producers that the UK has to offer. We had a couch. All we needed now was Ollie Teeda, from The Herbaliser.

**LS:** So whats going on? Everything cool?

**OT:** im good, man, yeah, in the Herbaliser what's going on right now is we're recording a new album, which at the moment is gonna be called Same as it never was. Partly because we're trying some new sounds and... i mean, there'll be some of the things that fans are used to, soundtrack instrumentals and rap songs, but we've been doing some old 60-70s funk rnb numbers with a singer called Jess, who's fantastic. She's not famous yet.

“ When we worked with Roots Manuva, MF Doom, they were fresh, green!

**LS:** There's been a bit of a resurgence in that era, you know with the Amy Winehouses pretty established and the Adeles coming up on the scene...

**OT:** You know Mark Ronson's def. done his bit for bringing the sound back, but you know, we've been doing it for ages. We've always been doing these sounds, you know the funk sounds and the hip hop sounds, just where all these grooves meet in the middle, but we've never really found a singer that we wanted to do a bunch of songs with, but now...

**LS:** So what struck you about her? I'm sure people will wanna know how she got that break...

**OT:** Well it was the guys who run the horns section in the Herbaliser, they've got their own group called the easy access orchestra and they were working with her and they just told us that she'd be really good to feature on our next album. We heard a couple of her tracks and she had a

really good sound, so yeah me and jake hooked up some funk/hip hop grooves, and were all in the same space studio-wise, so we were just like bouncing ideas off each other, chopping and mixing. It's always the idea with Herbaliser stuff. Taking an idea and just continuing to add layers and layers...

**LS:** Does this mean you're focusing more on the UK? I mean, you've worked with Jean Grae, MF Doom...

**OT:** We always try to do something with a UK emcee...We worked with Roots Manuva, Capo on the last album. This time around there's not so much UK rapping, because there's not so much rapping on it. I mean we've got Jean Grae, Yungun, and two or three tracks with this Canadian guy, mainly because he's prepared to tour with us. What we think we lack in a live performance is a vocal element. Although we work with some great people, a lot of these artists have got their own tours, and are working very hard on their own careers and so for them to drop everything and do European tours is a big ask. But this guy in Canada, the girl Jess, so everything about the Herbaliser tour is stepping up a level.

**LS:** By removing yourself from hip-hop?

**OT:** There'll always be an element of hip hop in the Herbaliser. Because more than anything, that is who I am. I'm a B-boy, I've been into hip hop for 25 years now..I live for this stuff. Im a sneaker freak, everything man, haha. A lot of hip hop in the last few years for a lot of people hasn't been doing it...but I never give up, there's always gonna be dope shit out there, but there's a lot of guys in the group now, and they don't come from the hip hop, b-boy background. There's a lot from the jazz, funk, soul scenes, live band playing. By now we just try and do an album that's interesting. I'm less concerned about people's definitions of what it is than I used to be. I used to argue for hours. Some guy who's 18-19 telling me what hip hop is, I'm not even trying to hear him. I've been doing this since before he was born. What someone

else's generation thinks of hip hop is gonna be completely different to my views. A young kid basically looks on MTV and sees Fifty Cent and all this and thinks that's what it's all about. For me, that's the furthest thing from my experience. Hip hop's about peace, it's about throwing down moves on the dancefloor, and not throwing down...bullets. It's such bullshit! All these kids walking around listening to stuff that's making them feel like they need to be bad...it's boring.

**LS:** Do ever feel that constraint to work with the freshest talent?

**OT:** If i met someone tonight that no-one had ever heard of, and I liked, I'd work with them. Reputation doesn't count for fuck all. Our rep is what sells our records, we always make a point to work with people that are not big names. When we first started working with Jean Grae, no-one knew who she was - or she had just released her first single, she used to be called What What... If we get a chance to work with a legend, and they're prepared to be reasonable on the

“ Buy our album! Don't download it! We do actually rely on this to make a living...

money, haha, we'll definitely work together. When we worked with Roots Manuva, MF Doom, they were literally fresh, green!

Right now its about working with whoever's dope. I was in Halifax in Nova Scotia, Canada and I checked out this guy called Ghetto Socks, and he's awesome! He's super-wicked, I definitely want to try to hook up something with him. His style is kinda like Apathy, like Edon, wicked rhyme flow, but more than anything his rhymes were funny! No-one writes funny rhymes anymore, rappers now are all like 'be scared of me!' my fave emcees

were like Drez from BlackSheep you used to write just crazy, funny shit. Even someone like Eminem, who I don't particularly like his records, as a lyricist, he's so dope! If you've ever heard him freestyling, He's ridiculous - Bring back the comedy in Hip Hop!

**LS:** You're known for your trainer fetish...Ever thought about bringing out a Dunk, a la the boys from Unkle?

**OT:** I tell you what, I do like Dunks, but I can't do them! Can't do dunks man, haha. I would do a Puma Clyde. That's my favourite sneaker of all time. I got like 60 different colours, maybe. Some of these kids in America man, they got extra houses full of trainers! If you can, catch a documentary called Just for Kicks, there's a dude on there who was like he could wear a different pair of sneakers every day for three years...I've got like 150-200 pairs, but it's taken me awhile...I'm 37 years old now. But I've got shit that's older than you, man! I've got sneakers that are 22 years old, I'm telling you, and they look crisp! 'Cos I keep my shit nice, son. I'm that guy you see going out with a toothbrush to keep his shit clean.

**LS:** Most fucked up tour memory?

**OT:** We had some stop in Geneva, and Kaidi, who used to be in Herbaliser before he went to Bugz (in the Attic), used to mess with some manky women, and on the way back we had to stop there so the driver could sleep and whatever...Kaidi was hiding in the back of the coach, he was scared of her man!

**LS:** So where's Jake?

**OT:** Ah, he's just got Serrato Scratch Live, which I got a while ago, so he's digitising his record collection as we speak. Either that or smoking a big, fat joint. He better enjoy it, too. We're looking to play as many live venues as possible next year, people are really spending money on going to see bands live, especially as the public is spending less on records...

words/ karim khan



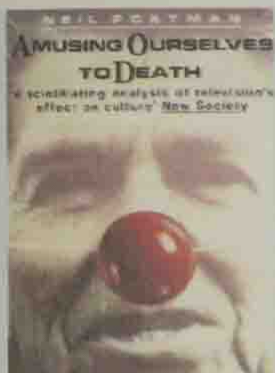
OLLIE TEEDA: Good things come in small packages.



# Arts: screen, stage and page

## Reviews of the Week...

## Special Collections at Leeds University Library



### 'Escape from Amsterdam'

by  
Barrie Sherwood

Japan is a country that has long held a fascination over us westerners, so it's a clever choice of setting for Barrie Sherwood's debut novel. Rice paddies, bullet trains, love hotels and sleazy manga porn are just some of the potent images used to grab our attention, and the result is a twisted and evocative, fast-paced novel that offers a glimpse into the dark side of one of the world's most advanced cultures.

Aozora is a work-shy student who's got himself into some heavy debt gambling away a broken heart. A priceless inheritance comes along at just the right time, but in order to claim it he has to track down his sister Mai, who's refusing all contact with her family and believed to be working as a prostitute. His search takes him through the red light district of seedy Marumachi and to a surreal 'family' amusement park called Amsterdam – as well as into dangerously close contact with the Yakuza (Japanese mafia) and the thugs he owes money.

'Escape from Amsterdam' is quirkily written with playful use of words, and illustrated throughout with Aozora's photographs and cuttings from comics. It's full of the juxtaposition of old and new that makes modern Japan so intriguing – for example the 'weekend monks' Aozora joins on an impromptu pilgrimage. This is the author's first novel, and I'll definitely be looking out for future work.

words/rebecca miles



Are we on the verge of culture-death? This is the question Neil Postman, Professor of Communications Arts and Sciences at New York University, poses in this insightful book which highlights the increasing influence of television on modern society.

Postman argues that since the advent of the television, we have become increasingly reliant on the image – with devastating effects. He suggests that the masses have rejected the written word in favour of an image-based medium that does not stimulate debate or argument, and is far more easily digested. Television, Postman proposes, is having a 'dumbing-down' effect on society as it is converting every aspect of our culture – from politics and religion, to news and education – into one big showbiz performance.

Although extremely cynical, and with a seeming lack of faith in television audiences, Postman asks some important questions in this book, with a certain sense of urgency to push his reader into actively considering the effects of television 'before it is too late'. Despite the profound questions asked in this text, Postman uses a very colloquial style of writing that is both engaging and easy to follow. His satirical undertones make for a surprisingly humorous and entertaining read, not only for those specifically interested in the media, but for a much wider audience too. Ironically, however, if Postman is right in his argument that none of us are interested in the written word anymore... he's not going to sell many copies is he?... Just a thought.

words/ sarah agnew

It may be old news to those regular library go-ers who know each section of our fabulous library off by heart...however for those of you who don't (although of course in the minority) it might be worth reminding you of the fantastic collections available here at Leeds.

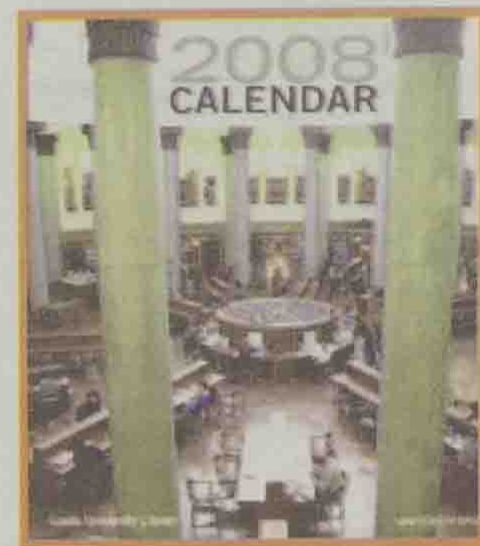
The Special Collections section of the library holds some of the UK's most outstanding collections of manuscripts and books. There are nearly 200,000 books and hundreds of thousands of manuscripts in Special Collections. As much of this material is irreplaceable and needs special care, it is kept in a separate storage area all of its own. There is a supervised reading room where these collections can be consulted. Coming under the title of Special Collections is the Leeds University Archive, which is housed separately.

You can now also access a virtual tour of the Special Collections section of the library introducing you to over fifty manuscripts, printed books and objects with over 300 images showcasing a wide-range of highlights from many manuscripts.

It might also be of interest to any keen collectors of pretty calendars that the '2008 University Library Calendar' is now on sale in the library with stunning images from the Special Collections section. You can buy copies of this calendar over library counters for £8.00. You had better buy yours now!

For any more information, the University website has a link to the library webpage where you can find out anything else you'd like to know. Or below is a website taking you to the Special Collections page specifically:

[www.leeds.ac.uk/library/spcoll/](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/library/spcoll/)



words/ natalie lewy

## Rare and Secondhand Book Shops in & around Leeds

### Bookside Secondhand Books

off Midland Road Near Hyde Park Corner  
Leeds West Yorkshire LS6 1BQ  
Tel: 0113 274 4021

### Bookworm

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### Chevin Books

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Otley West Yorkshire  
LS21 3AP

### The Bookshop

10 Commercial Road  
Kirkstall West Yorkshire  
LS5 3AQ  
Tel: 0113 278 0937





## Stardust

Starring/ Charlie Cox, Claire Danes, Sienna Millar, Michelle Pfeiffer, Robert De Niro  
Directed by/ Matthew Vaughn

Imagine *Layer Cake*'s Matthew Vaughn directing an adaptation of a best selling graphic novel, and what you envisage probably won't be *Stardust*. However, that's not a bad thing, because this star studded film definitely exceeds expectations, despite being a flop in the States.

*Stardust* is basically like your average fairytale- expect heroes, villains, love and a generous sprinkling of magic. Tristan (Charlie Cox), a lowly shop-boy who tries to win the heart of the beautiful but cold Victoria (Sienna Millar), by going on a quest to find a fallen star for her (it's ridiculous, but it is a fairytale). He finds his fallen star pretty quickly, in the form of Yvaine (Claire Danes). Unbeknownst to Tristan, he is not the only one who wants the star. Four princes are also in search of it as well as three witches, including Michelle Pfeiffer. Whilst fending off all these enemies and becoming inextricably linked to the princes' pursuit of the star, Tristan is kept busy by discovering the true meaning of love.

The lead actors aren't amazing, but they do the job well enough to dispel criticism within the audience. The real strength of the film lies

in its creativity and visuals, which evoke a fantasy tale like in *Narnia* or *The Lord of the Rings*, that is bound to captivate those who are young at heart. The stand out thing about this film would probably be its supporting cast who include the likes of Ricky Gervais, Robert De Niro, Michelle Pfeiffer, Ian McKellen and Rupert Everett. Ricky Gervais is hilarious, playing the role of a shady trader named Ferdy the Fence, whilst Robert De Niro, who you would expect to be the villain, given his perfect gangster credentials, is one of the good guys and probably wins in terms of comic relief. He plays the role of fierce skipper, Captain Shakespeare, who has a softer mascara wearing side, and also a particular penchant for cross dressing and cancan dancing.

*Stardust* is very engaging and the twists in Tristan's quest ensure that this kid's film is not as conventional as it may seem. Moreover, there are some laugh out loud funny moments as well as substantial action and adventure, which come as a relief after the cheesy love scenes. I would recommend this film for a bit of harmless escapism and even if you hate feel good films, you should watch *Stardust* purely to see the unforgettable vision of Robert De Niro prancing about in women's clothing.

words/ nali sivathanan

## A Mighty Heart

Starring/ Angelina Jolie, Dan Futterman  
Director/ Michael Winterbottom

*A Mighty Heart* follows the true story of Marianne Pearl whose husband, Wall Street journalist Daniel Pearl, is kidnapped and brutally murdered by a terrorist organization in Pakistan. The Pearls are both journalists living and working in Karachi, Pakistan. When Danny (Dan Futterman) fails to return home from a proposed interview with a notorious religious leader, the intricacies of Marianne's (Angelina Jolie) emotional situation and the investigation which took place, involving the American and Pakistani authorities, unfolds on screen.

Using interesting cinematic techniques, with close shots and sharp angles the film comes across in a documentary style. The result is that you feel as though you are intimately involved with the investigation, witnessing first hand all its motions and tensions. The 'current events' feel to the film (with clips from past news shows pasted in here and there) is mixed with the chaotic and colourful city of Karachi. This cross-cultural effort manages to avoid a patronising representation of the Pakistani metropolis, whilst still allowing the cinematography to be so raw that you can almost smell the hot city air.

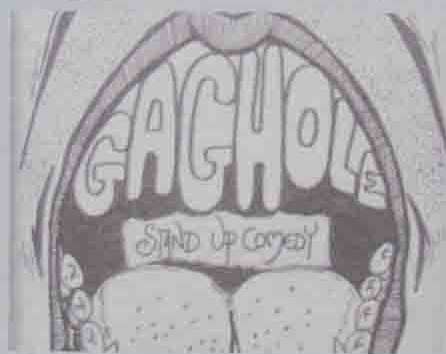
Jolie's acting skills in this film are good, but the characters all lack any real depth to them, preventing any relationship or emotional understanding to be built up by the viewer. As well as this, because the film consists of many fast moving short scenes, it can sometimes be hard to follow and only makes the characters that little bit more distant. Overall the plot can be quite slow moving at times, which, although may reflect the excruciating tedium and anxiety suffered by Marianne and the people working on the case, is no good for an audience who is already finding it hard to follow the momentum that the movie.

At the end, you are left feeling a little empty at your underwhelmed emotional reaction to a story so tragic.

words/ aine rose campbell-he



## Gag Hole Comedy Night at Pulse



Sometimes I think my obsession with stand up comedy is too much, I love it, it's the best entertainment to ensure a good night, on DVD or live at a venue. Fact. So venturing to Gaghole on Monday (Leeds' Newest Stand up night) I had high hopes. Wacky host Winston

Smith began the night with fresh (brave) cutting edge no-bullshit humour (mocking some controversial topical issues in the process) but delivering quality links between each act, even when picking on me - now I know why people are nervous on the front row of a gig.

Kicking off with James Christopher I was mildly amused, though found I'd heard it all before. Next up was Pete Newlands, now I was really beginning to enjoy myself. Tommy Holgate and his ridiculous hair followed, managing to make me laugh simply by reading a list of famous people he has been compared to with his dead pan punch lines. With these acts and the great small-gig atmosphere that filled Pulse I was definitely beginning to think it was worth the trip to the Union. I do have to say that the second half only got better, with Ed Gamble posing as alter-ego; intellectualist Selsden Krupp (complete with glasses-on-end-

of-nose and very old important looking book as prop) his unique off the wall literature-related humour struck a chord with the crowd and really got the gig back in swing; this guy is going places - intelligent places obviously.

I eagerly anticipated the headline act that followed; Paul Foot, who I had seen in the crowd previously and had a small fit after realising I had seen him on Channel 4's FAQ U in recent years. Foot proved his worth as a (slightly insane) modern comic tearing apart everything from cake to homosexuality with his clever observations. All in all Gaghole is a gem which should definitely be experienced - front row or not.

The next Gaghole is taking place on the 19th November. Auditions for Leeds Vealights Comedy Club are taking place on 31st October at 6pm - Room 8 in The Arc.

words/ alexandra haddow

## Daywatch

Starring/ Konstantin Khabensky, Mariya Poroshina  
Directed by/ Timur Bekmambetov



Timur Bekmambetov's *Daywatch*, the sequel to his earlier *Nightwatch* continues with its predecessor's bizarre mix of horror, action and comedy wrapped in the form of an epic struggle between light and dark.

The opening, setting up the crucial deus ex machina called 'the chalk of fate' is strongly based in the mythic past of the story, before we are once more catapulted into a contemporary Moscow with its antagonistic 'others' (people with power) again acting within the truce which has prevented the equally-matched enemies from outright struggle. *Daywatch* does seem to have taken its predecessor lightly, with the prophetic idea of one supremely powerful 'other' who will end the stalemate which was the focal point of the first film unmentioned as we are told of both side's 'Great Others' and the history of them having existed before.

Where the film really succeeds is in its ability to laugh at itself, with characters swapping bodies, and ridiculous stunts (including a car driving across a skyscraper's wall and into its corridors) incorporated in the darker aspects of the plot. Also, its stylish direction is striking - especially in its artistic use of subtitles that flash, move, and dissolve depending on the line's context, emphasising how acutely aware of the non-Russian audience the director is.

This is not a perfect film, and its ending is disappointing, but in its ambiguous genre-bending weirdness it is at least an enjoyable, if not a serious, epic.

words/ simon gillett

## Leeds International Film Festival

That time of year is here again, bringing the 21st Leeds International Film Festival, which is looking like a particularly good one. Featuring documentaries, the massively popular Night of the Dead, and some brilliant alternative cinema, as well as some major films, including Rodriguez's *Planet Terror* and new offerings from the Coen brothers and Wes Anderson, it is shaping up to be an unmissable event.

Tickets are already on sale, and brochures are available around the city at many of the venues, which include the Hyde Park Picture House, the Vue, the Carriageworks, the City Varieties among others.

In the paper next week will be a double-page preview, featuring a rundown of the films that we are most looking forward to that you simply shouldn't miss. On top of this we will be running a competition offering some (very) lucky readers the chance to win Festival Passes worth £75 each.

words/ simon gillett





## There's Something about Simmy at the West Yorkshire Playhouse

Think Bollywood meets Eastenders then place it in the West Yorkshire Playhouse Theatre and you have the new play that is being put on. *There's something about Simmy* will guarantee a laugh as well as a bit of a treat from Rik Makarem who plays Harry.

Simmy has been sent from a small Indian village to bring honour to her family for an arranged marriage. As soon as she is married her husband, Raj runs away leaving her trapped in the house by her mother-in-law to look after a slightly senile grandfather. All seems lost for Simmy until the arrival of Harry from university where a friendship starts to blossom and it appears that Simmy may in the end be able to create her own happy ending. Simmy, played by Vinceta Rishi, delivers a convincing performance growing to love the dysfunctional family that she has found herself in, because underlying everything there is love which does add a sensitive side to this, at times, rather over-the-top play. The production deals with the struggles of an Indian family within

a society of nosy, but comical, neighbours and the necessity to keep up appearances. The neighbours, played by Deni Francis, Nina Maisuria and Mia Ojla, lighten the mood and embody the typically interfering neighbour. This threesome work well together to create the most laughs throughout the play.

There is a clear Bollywood element to the play and if you have no experience of this genre then at times you may be confused, especially by the Punjabi speaking - even with the subtitles - especially when following running jokes throughout. However Punjabi speakers seem to love it and maybe that is where I was missing out.

Issues that are becoming increasingly frequent are addressed here, and this, in its combination of incorporated humour and Bollywood elements, makes the play an impressive one. However if you want more than a superficial and almost unbelievable ending then maybe it is not for you.

words/ rozanne driver.

## Madame Butterfly

at the Grand Theatre and Opera House



San, a Japanese Geisha who marries Lieutenant Pinkerton of the United States Navy. Madly in love with her husband, what Cio-Cio-San fails to recognise is that he doesn't reciprocate her love, and an elaborate tragedy unfolds. A classic love story, *Madame Butterfly* would be perfect for a first date (during the dramatic climax, slip your arm round her shoulder and you'll be in there). And if, like most of us, you can't understand Italian there are screens hidden at the sides showing the translation - so you can amaze her with your sophisticated language skills too.

Opera, on the whole, is a hard thing to pull off, and even the original producer of *Madame Butterfly* could not make his show an overnight success. However, the Opera North performances were impressive and so believable that some singers were booed at the encore for playing such cruel characters! The singing was beautiful although it was difficult to get used to the constant passion, demonstrated even when the characters were only asking for a cup of tea. The costume was perhaps my favourite part of the whole production (which says more about me than it does about this particular production).

*Madame Butterfly* is a spectacle and shouldn't be watched if you don't enjoy eccentricity. But if you're feeling brave enough it's currently showing at Leeds Grand Theatre until January.

words/ amy heritage

As an opera virgin I was dreading going to see *Madame Butterfly* at Leeds Grand Theatre. Was I going to be able to understand what was going on? Would I be able to appreciate the music? Or worse - would I fall asleep? Thankfully the Opera North production was a dazzling success that captivated audience members, from the *Butterfly* fanatics sitting next to me to the first timers like myself.

*Madame Butterfly* follows the story of Cio-Cio-

## Floating.

LS2 interviews Hugh Hughes

In anticipation of the critically acclaimed play *Floating* coming to Leeds, I chatted to Hugh Hughes, the play's creator and principal performer. In 1982, the bridge between Anglesey and Wales breaks as Hugh Hughes (our protagonist) tries to step onto mainland Britain and away from his roots. The community becomes trapped on the island, which is now floating around the Atlantic and ruled by the tyrannous Mr. Morgan, although Hugh attempts to escape. The play details the journey of not just the island, but its inhabitants and subtly explores the question of who we are.

Hugh was a vivacious character to talk to, and is very excited about coming to Leeds. It was a particularly challenging interview, because we found ourselves continually wondering off topic...

**VH- The island is a relatively common theatrical device, but your island is a little different. Why?**

HH- My Island is Anglesey which is a very particular island. It has such a beautiful coastline. Why is my island different? Well, I went to Sardinia in September, and Sardinia is a lot hotter than Anglesey. (Laughs) My island is ruled by Mr. Morgan who is my headmaster from primary school. It represents a community adrift... I'll explain all this in the play though, don't worry, I like to explain things clearly. Make sure everyone understands.

**VH- Did people start to believe that Anglesey actually floated away? Why do you think this is?**

HH- Well this is it, this is the whole premise of the play; where does truth lie? I think there is a tiny gap between fantasy and reality and you have to climb into this gap to find truth. It's also interesting to see how people react to so called 'stories' and whether they immediately take them to be true. Reality and fantasy are very hard to distinguish... this is all very surreal... it's a bit like Bruegel and Dali... (we descend into a ramble about surrealist films...)

**VH- You play yourself... Hugh Hughes. Was he a particularly challenging character to play?**

HH- Well, Hugh and I exist both in and outside the play. But it wasn't too challenging, really, it comes very instinctively actually, playing myself! Sorry, am I going on a bit? Oh I'm always going on. The other day someone walked in with a new scarf and I said "That's the most amazing scarf, ever! I mean look at the colours, it's like a rainbow round your neck, and it's all crooked and surreal!" Everyone else said "Hugh, it's just a scarf"...

**VH- Is Hugh Hughes really you? Is this an autobiographical play?**

HH- It is based on my life. Every time I went back to Anglesey I experienced this big feeling, and I wanted to explore that and what it feels like to leave your home for the first time. We're all connected and disconnected from

where we come from, but it always has a hand in shaping who you are. It's like having "Made in China" or "Made in Anglesey" stamped across your behind; it's part of you.

**VH- What was it like working with only one other actress?**

HH- Amazing, Sioned is amazing. I went to primary school with her, but she left Anglesey at the age of eight, and we met again by chance in a workshop. And she started helping me out and she ended up in the show.

**VH- You've been on the road with this play for two years now, what do you think makes it so popular?**

HH- It's strange how it's all happened. I mean, I was doing photography three years ago. I think it's because we deal with a common theme, and it draws people together. Also we mix things up a bit; we use slides, videos, presentation and acting. It's a whole new way of telling a story.

**VH- You like to interact with your audience..**

HH- Yeah, in one of other shows we had a little sing-song together. It was lovely. In another I made everyone cups of tea at the start.

**VH- You're performing in Leeds next week, then Cambridge... what's next for Hugh Hughes?**

HH- I'm very busy, very busy. We'll be touring with our other play *Story of a Rabbit* next year. I'm also working on some other projects. The beached whale project; we like to give these whales a proper send off, so we dance round them and sing... commemorate their lives, you know? Oh and I really like getting people to hold hands, I mean hundreds of people. I'm also working on another play called *Snowdonia's Not like New York*. I love New York. If New York was a person, I'd marry her.

**VH- Can I come to the wedding?!**

HH- Of course! It's such a wonderful place; it's crazy, there are so many people. It's just full of narrative.

**VH- So to summarise, what's the main message of the play?**

HH- We didn't really intend there to be a message. But I would say that if there is one, it is that we need to realise that we are all connected to places and people in a really deep and profound way.

If Hugh's play is as funny and eccentric as the man is in the flesh, this promises to be a truly spectacular performance; hilarious and thought provoking.

*Floating* is showing at the West Yorkshire Playhouse's Courtyard Theatre, from 31st October to 3rd November.

words/ victoria holland



## iPage.

Welcome to this week's iPage. It seems that readers of this humble column – labelled "Generation Y" by those hilarious pundits whose job it is to categorise humanity – are born technologically savvy, but just don't give a shit. James Ware, executive producer at the Californian consortium who published the findings this week, revealed that our generation take technology for granted and don't see it as a career move. Clearly Ware has never met iPage, who plans to use technology to further his career either by writing newspaper columns about bizarre internet websites, or by creating an army of robotic clones to enforce his will on humanity. Whichever comes first.

Got smell problems? No, not the personal odour kind, the other one. Researchers at Caltech University have created an electronic nose capable of responding to smells just like a good old home-grown human nose. The scientists responsible for the device are boasting about its use in industries like mining, oil prospecting and other manufacturing roles, but they're missing a key application: creating a smell so bad it can defy science. With this new-found tool we can test humanity's ability to conquer technology and break down boundaries – not least

“ If any reader believes they can produce a smell capable of thwarting America's greatest scientists and destroying their precious electronic nose in the process, email iPage, who is already considering the Old Bar toilets as a potential candidate.

In obscure linguistic news this week, a hitherto underused punctuation mark has come to light. Meet '!', better known as the Interrobang, a name that sounds like a kind of

the boundary of social acceptability. If any reader believes they can produce a smell capable of thwarting America's greatest scientists and destroying their precious electronic nose in the process, email iPage, who is already considering the Old Bar toilets as a potential candidate.

Internet pirates suffered a large blow this week (no giggling at the back) as two of their favourite sites, both based in the UK, were closed down. OiNK – a secretive music website offering BitTorrent downloads of unreleased albums – was stormed in its Middlesbrough home, meaning digital burglars must look elsewhere to download the new Kelly Clarkson record. Relatedly, tv-links.co.uk was closed in a raid, with its owner apparently being jailed. Students who can't afford Freeview are disappointed.

STOP THE PRESSES! TOM FROM MYSPACE LIES ABOUT HIS AGE! In scandalous news this week, it has leaked that Myspace founder Tom... - wait, does he actually have a surname? You know who iPage means anyway – is not actually 32 like his profile suggests. The social networking slag is actually "36 or 37" according to an off-the-record senior employee at Myspace. There goes Myspace's previously cool public persona of being a company started by hip twentysomethings. iPage: breaking journalistic boundaries.

complicated sex position. Used in those situations when you just can't avoid ending a sentence with '!', it also allows you to look cool and sexy by knowing all about grammar. Trust iPage on this one, the girls love it.

Not content with the car-to-English translator mentioned a few columns ago, the Japanese company Kaneko Sangyo have released an inbuilt toilet for your car. Those of you immediately concerned for prospective users' privacy need not worry: it comes with a wraparound curtain. In those long traffic jams (or possibly the earthquakes that plague Japan), it might be useful to have the option of, well, going in the car.

After iPage's dreams of the future only a few columns back, it seems I have news to report. A generous reader, wishing to be left anonymous, recently offered iPage the use of his time machine. Warning me that the machine was only capable of one journey (and of course, a return trip), the short haired Physics student cautioned me about the dangers of time travel and creating a deadly time paradox which could destroy the space/time continuum. iPage laughed heartily, casually dispatching a hitman to murder his own grandmother in case it all went wrong. But iPage digresses. I have seen the future, and it is not bright.

In 2027 (for that is where iPage travelled to), Leeds is a grim place. Packs of wild dogs roam the streets, stopping only to desperately consume any puddled remains of

alcohol or questionably-sourced kebab meats. Cars drive by wildly, ignoring the strange flashing lights of the road signs and blasting loud, futuristic music from strangely coloured vehicles. Hordes of braying people pass by shouting in strange voices and incomprehensible slang terms. Their clothes were brightly coloured and were mixed in strange, obscene ways. iPage shuddered.

Even the halls of learning at Leeds University itself were not untouched by this futuristic mildew. The steps of the once-proud Parkinson building were littered with decaying corpses and mouldering food, while the Student Union was invaded with zombies, lurching around in the early hours as a thudding beat echoed behind them; no doubt the approach of a horde of cybernetic warriors invading from a distant planet.

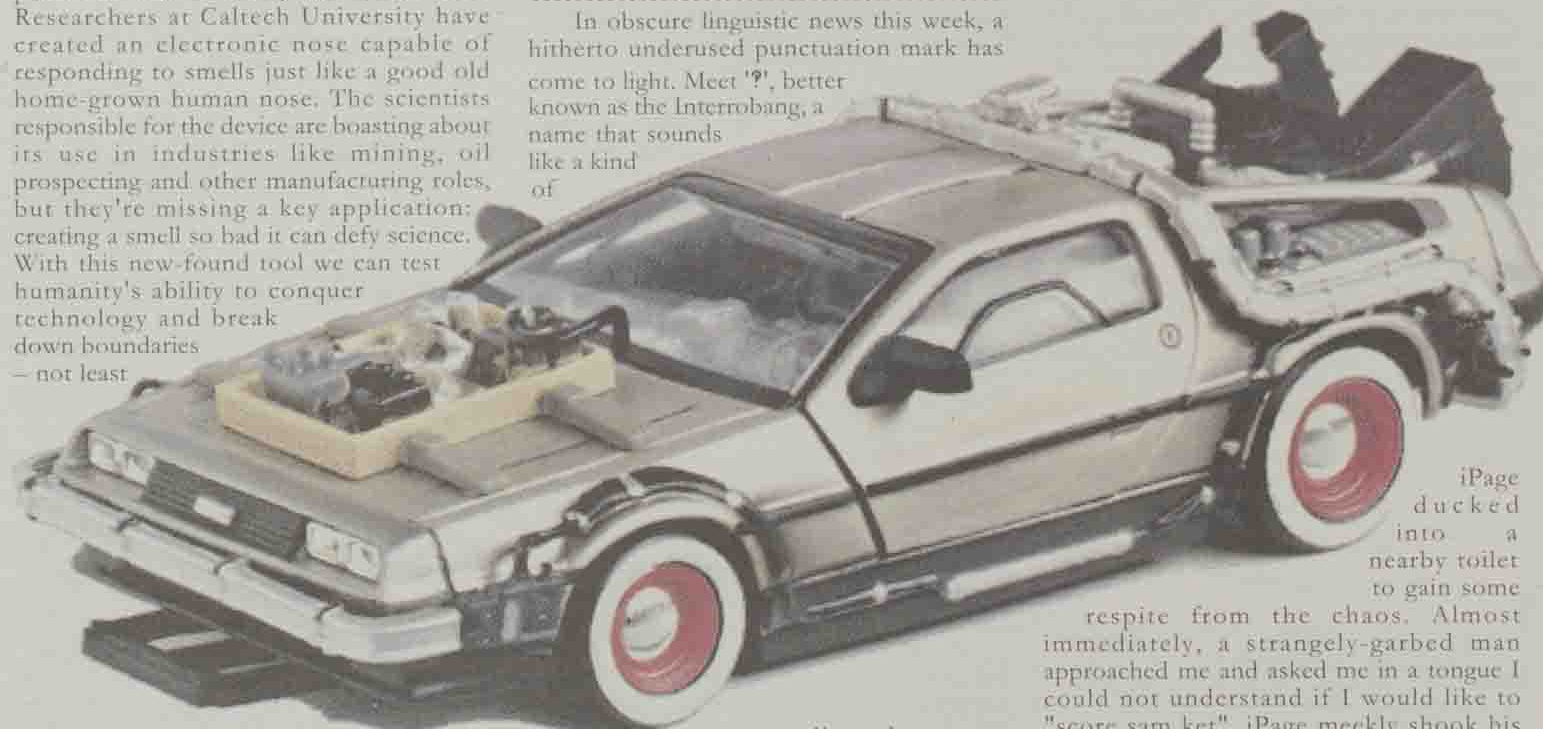
doesn't).

iPage ran for the time machine and mercifully found it still there. Punching in the digits for 2007, I was whisked back to the present day and vowed never to experiment with the future again. I was let down by my dreams of a technologically-superior world in which we shared an electronic unity and an internet-based network of friendship, honour and trust. It was only at this point that my unnamed friend informed me that the time machine was out of batteries and I had in fact fallen asleep inside it rather than been knocked out by the whirling of the dimensions. iPage blushes.

It seems that perhaps we are not ready for the future just yet. Until that happy day, iPage leaves you with his cool links of the week, where hopefully you'll discover some of the wonder that iPage wished to find in 2027.

Yours disappointedly,

iPage / Drew Statman



iPage ducked into a nearby toilet to gain some

respite from the chaos. Almost immediately, a strangely-garbed man approached me and asked me in a tongue I could not understand if I would like to "score sam ket". iPage meekly shook his head and departed as another stranger handed him a note written on toilet paper – apparently the method of choice for communication in 2027 – also containing not a single word of English (does anyone know what 'felch' means? My dictionary



## iPage's cool sites of the week

• <http://www.nadshot.com>

An online archive of those wonderful moments in comics when a lead character receives a swift kick or punch to the groin. iPage's favourite is the awesomely-titled "What happens when you call Bruce Banner a bitch?" – the answer, of course, being "you get Hulk-twatting you in the bollocks". Excellent.

• <http://www.philinthecircle.com/bruce.html>

A video made by an American artist who produces a wall-size Bruce Lee portrait by dipping his fist into black paint and punching a wall. For hours. Watch the timelapse clip and marvel at the dedication and appropriateness of one man's struggle to produce art.

• <http://www.instructables.com/id/realistic-werewolf-costume/>

With Halloween coming up, everyone should have the chance to make their own realistic werewolf costume. Look out for iPage at a party near you, terrifying everyone with his monstrous facial hair and scary canine-like teeth. Just wait till I put my costume on.

• <http://www.marriedtothesea.com>

One of the most eclectic, bizarre and downright genius webcomics out there.



# Is the BBC going bankrupt?

As the BBC faces major cutbacks that jeopardise its future *Harriet Knowles* investigates the effect on the license payer.

The BBC struck headlines again this month by announcing major staff cutbacks. 1,800 jobs are set to go, prompting an outcry from the staff and the unions that represent employees of the Beeb. This has major implications for the BBC's programming as well.

**“ In layman's terms this means that we'll be numbing our brains with more repeats.**

The budget assigned for new programmes has been cut by £100 million, and there will be ten percent less original output from the BBC by the year 2012. In layman's terms this means that we will be

numbing our brains with more repeats of our favourite shows. Taking a quick glance over the schedules, it seems that despite the recent troubles there are some quality original programmes such as 'Heroes' and 'Tudors' being broadcast. Yet repeats of not so golden oldies such as the 'Munsters' (first screened in 1964) and 'Top Cat' (1961) do crop up from time to time. It seems that the BBC will have to be careful not to put off new audiences by repeating programmes that were made before they were born. With the digital switchover looming, the BBC faces more competition with other channels for ratings. It has never been more important for the Beeb to capture the audience's imagination with new and exciting programmes.

So why has the BBC been hit by such hard times? Mark Thompson, the director general, claims that it is due to a lower settlement fee for the TV license that was decided by the government. The management of the BBC has been widely

criticized for not holding their ground against these new fees. Yet blaming cuts in the license fee could be a scapegoat as the license fee is set to rise to £151 in the next couple of years. Critics and unions representing the staff have also called into question the overly large salaries paid to TV personalities such as Jonathon Ross and to Mark Thompson himself. Is it fair that the BBC executives should be receiving such large salaries when workers are losing their jobs and the programmes they produce are being dumbed down?



**GRANDPA MUNSTER:** Papa Smurf gone wrong?

It would be a great shame to see the BBC go down hill, as it has been broadcasting programmes for over 85 years. In the year 2000, BBC television serials made the 'British Film Institute's' list of the 'Hundred Greatest British Programmes' a staggering 72 times. Perhaps the only way to save the BBC is to conform to the rest of television channels and have adverts. The BBC has already started having adverts on its website to generate revenue, but the lack of brainwashing has always been what has made the BBC stand out from other channels. One can only hope that the license payer does not end up losing out because of disagreements between the BBC and the government, both of which are supposed to be putting the public, and license payer, first.

## 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:** 'Strictly Come Dancing' is a paradise of pomp and plumage. It's where every girl's dream comes true in a cinderella-style ballroom dance and men get a chance to unleash their metro-sexual urge to wiggle their hips to the beat of the waltz. Though the judges, like Arlene Phillips, try to squash these hopes and dreams by telling celebrities they have flat feet, stiff hands and, in the case of John Barnes, excess fat. Despite these serpent tongued critics, Tess Daly, an Eve figure if you will, restores the fairytale glow to the show by buttering up and complimenting contestants. Bubbling under the surface is a cruel world of bitchiness, jealousy and sexual tension. This week we unleash the suppressed passions of Strictly

and show the darker side to this ballroom bonanza.

**Who:** Mid-flow of spouting word vomit on the dancing abilities of larger than life John Barnes, and accusing him of being a hunch-back walrus, Arlene Phillips swallows her own acid tongue. In disgust at his affair with previous dancing partner Natasha Kaplinsky, Brendan Cole realises his own arrogance and pigheadedness. Suddenly Brendan gains a curly tail and his head turns into the actual head of a pig, squelling his way off the stage. While the TV crew are distracted by this strange turn of events Bruce Forsyth expresses his undying love to co-hostess Tess Daly. Bruce grasps Tess in

his trembling hands, pulls her close and sweetly whispers 'Higher! Lower!' in her ears. In an explosion of passion they melt into each others arms. Vernon Kay enters the studio with a bouquet of roses in one hand and their three year old child in the other, catching them in the act. He falls to the ground weeping and calling out 'why has thou forsaken me!' in front of the applauding audience. Meanwhile Kelly Brook, now partnerless, lifts the mood by stripping off till she is only wearing nipple tassels and sways to the theme tune as the closing credits commence.

words/maddy mcgarrie

**KELLY:** Keep the lights on but mute the volume.



## The Argument:

Which of these hosts is the quiz master general?

### Noel Edmunds : Anne Robinson

Noel Edmunds' charismatic, friendly and charming personality makes much more enjoyable viewing than the bitter and old hag that is Anne Robinson. Noel is a much more likeable game show host in 'Deal or No Deal'. We all remember his cheeky trickster side in 'Noel's House party' set in the fictional town of Crinkley Bottom with his celebrity pranks 'Gotcha's'. If Noel's lovable original sidekick is the spotty, pink and yellow Mr Blobby, I'd imagine Anne Robinson's being a cross between gollum, Kreecher and a toad. Although 'Deal or No Deal's' trustworthiness

may be called into question with a fine for rigging phone-in competitions, this does not slur Noel's honest television personality. Poor Noel even got repetitive strain injury from lifting the 'heavier than it looks' Banker's phone though I'm sure the toll of presenting is also beginning to toll on Anne and her eery twitchy eye. Nor to mention that 'you are the weakest link' can no way compare to Noel's catchphrase 'Here comes the banker and he's going to punish you!'

words/ maddy mcgarrie

The old Noel may have found his forte in prancing around, whipping open red boxes with a flourish and negotiating deals on an ancient talking implement, but feisty Anne Robinson is what the people really want. Her straight-talking blunt attitude just oozes intellect, and always with a twist of sardonic humour. She always looks like the diva of domination with her smart black getup and the one foot pointed out to the left in a Mary Poppins-gone-bad pose of pure power. If one contestant even dares to answer her back, she directs upon them her laser beam

glare, dooming said back-chatter to eternal disgrace. Her cutting comments and ability to ask the most knicker twisting of questions inflict the utmost discomfort on the contestants, and that is what the viewer wants in a presenter - wit and attitude. Mr Nice Guy? No thanks. Noel Edmunds, you are the weakest link. Goodbye.

words/ anna burnell



# Picks of the week: Terrestrial

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

## Friday

Friday Night with Jonathan Ross *BBC1* 10:30pm

Good old "Wossy" and his Friday night is now in its thirteenth series and is staple Friday night viewing for many. The flamboyant, floppy haired father of the chat show reminds us all of some distant uncle who never quite got over that mid life crisis but actually became quite entertaining as a result. The guests joining Mr Ross this week include Andrew "Freddie" Flintoff, actress Cate Blanchett and top chef Heston Blumenthal. Musical 'entertainment' is provided by Duran Duran who are undoubtedly out played by the 'four poofs and a piano', the ever willing targets of endless innuendo.

words/ joe de luca



ROSS: haven't Take That changed...

## Saturday

Elizabeth *Channel 4* 9:05pm

What with a new TV series and a sparkly new film, it seems that there is a touch of Tudor plague going around at the moment. The sexing up of the ruff-wearers continues with Cate Blanchett's award-winning performance in her role as the virgin queen. A film so smashing, it will have you waving your codpiece triumphantly in the air and crying "Bravo!" in a spirited and frolicsome fashion. You can also play spot the star, as Geoffrey Rush, Richard Attenborough and Kathy Burke parade our screens, all culminating in a shower of war, corruption, romance and politics. Put that in thy pipe and smoketh it, Gordon Brown.

words/anna burnell

## Sunday

James and the Giant Peach *Channel 5* 5:15pm

This film was produced by Tim Burton of 'The Nightmare Before Christmas' fame. In an experimental but exciting twist the film involves a mix of stop motion and live action. For those of you who don't know, the film tells the story of James who lost his parents in a freak rhinoceros accident. James receives magic seeds that produce a giant peach that helps him escape from his horrible aunts that he lives with after his parent's death. 'James and the Giant Peach' was the subject of controversy because of its dark premise when it was first published. What's so dark about living in a giant peach with a caterpillar and a grasshopper that plays the Violin? It sounds like heaven to me.

words/ harriet knowles

## Monday

Eggheads *BBC2* 6:00pm

This general knowledge quiz pits brainiacs against average joes. The egghead team is made up of the heavy-weights of the quiz world such as 'Brain of Britain' Chris Hughes and the winner of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' Judith Keppel. Each week the opposing team tries to wipe the grins off the eggheads faces while struggling with impossible questions such as 'what colour socks was Winston Churchill wearing on October 12th?' The Eggheads of course answer this kind of question with worrying ease, making you want to smash the TV in every time one of them opens their smart little mouths.

words/ harriet knowles

## Tuesday

Dragons' Den *BBC2* 7:00pm

Inventions this week include a portable shower-head holder for travellers (yep, that one baffled me too), a towel to help safely remove your baby from the bath (I thought the stork had that method patented centuries ago) and - now this is my personal favourite - a hairbrush for getting knots out of hair. Now there's a novelty. And all this time I've been using my hairbrush to tenderise my Sunday beef. That said, those dragons know their stuff, and whether you're a budding entrepreneur, or a bored TV flicker, this is one show that never fails to impress.

words/anna burnell



THE SIMPSONS: Homer didn't realise it wasn't a beef steak.

## Wednesday

The Simpsons *Channel 4* 6:00pm

There is no better way of spending this day than watching 'The Simpsons' Halloween specials. Ok maybe a fancy-dress Otley run finished with a drunken house party would be just as good. But tonight as you finish watching 'Neighbours' with your TV dinner on your lap and you move to the remote to switch of the screen to go add the finishing touches to your vampire or witch or zombie outfit flick over to *Channel 4*. This episode has killer mutant Springfieldians, a hybrid bart/housefly creature and an historically accurate colonial witch hunt for Marge. Especially don't miss the opening credits with the spooky themed names like 'Matt Groaning'.

words/maddy mcgarrie

## Thursday

Loose Women *ITV 1* 12:30pm

'Loose Women' always delivers quality entertainment as the ladies set the world to rights. The best bits are when the panel get to grips with the issues surrounding 'Christmas Cards', and end up wanting to kill each other. Behind Jane Macdonald's make-up beats the heart of an amazon who wants to tear the outspoken Carol Mcgriffin to pieces. The audience of aged ladies long for a 'Loose Women' bloodbath, where they would flap their bingo wings in adulation as Carol's head goes sailing past. On a more sober note, 'Loose Women' is perfect Lunch time entertainment and is best enjoyed with a cheese toastie and a cup of tea.

words/harriet knowles



# Picks of the week: Freeview

What to watch for all you lucky devils with digital!

## Friday

The Most Annoying Pop Moments...We Hate to Love *BBC3* 7:00pm

So we've had 'The Most Annoying Pop Songs', and now, if you really like being annoyed, watch this annoying follow-up. A pop 'moment' can mean anything from Joss Stone's 'breakdown' at the Brits, to James Blunt's sudden career change from army captain to bearded crooner. Refreshingly, this isn't one of those shows that taunts you til lam, forcing you to watch hundreds of insurance ads while you wait feverishly for the number one. It is only an hour, so once it's finished you can banish your annoyance by doing something altogether more soothing, like playing a James Blunt tune.

words/ anna burnell

## Saturday

Fanny Hill *BBC4* 9:30pm

If the corset ripping action in 'Tudors' is not enough for you and your appetite for saucy romping is not satisfied by Belle De Jour, maybe you need to have some alone time with Fanny Hill. 'Fanny Hill' is the story of quaint country miss who is forced to become a prostitute to avoid destitution in eighteenth-century London. Adapted from John Cleland's erotic novel, 'Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure' which raised some eyebrows -among other things- when it was first published. You do not have to feel guilty for watching this one, as because it is historical it is therefore educational and not just porn.

words/harriet knowles



**FRIENDS:** I recognise that sofa from somewhere.



**THE REAL HUSTLE:** two men and a dog. (Actually she's well fit bird. Jealous girls?)

## Sunday

The Real Hustle *BBC3* 7:10pm

If your degree isn't really working out, you can't think of a career to fund the lavish lifestyle you intend to lead or you're just a little strapped for cash 'The Real Hustle' could help you out. Let the friendly faces behind crime show you just how easy, glamorous and financially rewarding being a criminal can be. We are shown how to pull off a poker scam, steal in a foreign country and con people at the fair. They give the money back in the end and tell all the people involved how easily they were taken for a ride. Though it doesn't mean you have to.

words/ joe de luca

## Monday

Celebrity Scissorhands *BBC3* 11:15pm

This show should probably win some kind of award for the sheer bizarreness of its title, conjuring up, as it does, the image of H from Steps having his mitts lopped off and replaced with kitchen utensils, Tim Burton style. Sadly that isn't what they're offering here. Having virtually exhausted the possibilities for reality TV shows in which celebs are parachuted into an unfamiliar workplace setting a la Hell's Kitchen, some bright spark has hit upon the idea of training them up as hair and beauty professionals. Watch, if only to see Darren Day giving some poor unfortunate a Brazilian.

words/ thomas midlane

## Tuesday

Brat Camp Unseen *E4* 11:00pm

Watching vile reprobates kicking up dust in Arizona is a brilliant way to exercise any guilt you may have had about your ASBO teenage years. If you're parents complain you're being a brat, simply tune into to show them the undiluted devil spawn and you'll look positively angelic. As if normal 'Brat Camp' wasn't enough, the 'unseen' spin-off presented by Liz Bonnin, shows how families have coped since their kids were on the show. Formerly foul-mouthed, can they convince us that they have changed for the better? Or is it time to send them back again.

words/ pandora sykes

## Wednesday

The Edwardian Family Album *BBC4* 9:00 pm

Thanks to digital photography and the internet, chances are that if you did something embarrassing last night, they'll be copious photographic evidence on Facebook by today. This little gem, a companion piece to the new *BBC4*'s series 'The Genius of Photography', harks back to the start of the twentieth century and the birth of mass photography. Delving into the archives of a Scottish Edwardian mansion, Peter Snow uncovers amazing images of Edwardians at work and play, covering the advent of the motor car and the rise of the suffragette movement.

words/ thomas midlane

## Thursday

Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip *More 4* 10:00pm

If you can get your head around Matthew Perry not playing Chandler anymore - I have similar problems watching Courtney Cox in the sex-fest 'Dirt' - then this is actually pretty good. It's written by Aaron Sorkin, the brains behind 'West Wing'. 'Studio 60' is based behind the scenes of a late-night comedy sketch show, revealing the inner sanctum of the media profession in much the same way as 'Dirt', based on an immoral tabloid magazine, does. Watch Perry as Matt, the self-medicating head-writer, struggling to generate laughs with his flailing sketch show.

words/pandora sykes



# Observations.



## Bring back the Royal Family! And then set me on fire...

**F**or some reason, not so long ago, I was contemplating the idea of re-instating the Royal family, and what the repercussions would be. Well, first of all the Royal family sets the loyal taxpayer back about £37.4 million. Sound like a lot? I assure you it's not. It works out to be just 64 pence a year. The route to Utopia lies not far ahead, I presume you're all thinking. (Although maybe this isn't as convincing as I first thought it was seeing as few of you who read this will pay any tax, so your pecuniary scab may not yet have been picked off by the hands of the government, leaving you to bleed dry). But £37.4 million? What can they possibly be doing with it all? Well, a lot more than the government, who take a whopping £81 billion a year. John '2 Jags' Prescott? Is that all he can muster up? Fuck that – Prince Charles has got a fleet of Rolls!

So where is our money being squandered? Well, last Friday it was announced that during the NHS cash crisis, £38 million had been paid out in redundancy and retirement packages. Maths isn't

**Q:** What looks good on someone who fancies Prince William?

**A:** Fire.

my strongpoint, but isn't that 600,000 more than the Royals get every year? Scandalous, I tell you! So we'd get rid of the NHS for a start, and channel the excess money into making some 'mega'-structures. Think Nazi Germany, think the Red Square. In fact, think anywhere that has ever had a dictatorship. Big is best. And what with the German ancestry in the Royal family, and Prince Harry's renowned affinity with Nazi regalia, we're one step away from taking over the world. Britain will become a super power. And we won't even need to worry about overcrowded prisons anymore – bring back the death penalty and reopen the Tower of London.

Clearly none of this is ever going to happen. The only people that would ever allow it are the type of people who think that William is dashing, Harry is fit, and Majesty magazine is a 'bloody good read'. But who are these people? What demographic of society? It confounds me. Whoever they are they should crawl back under whichever rock they came from. My new joke:

**Q:** What looks good on someone who fancies Prince William?

**A:** Fire.

Maybe slightly unfair but I'm sure you catch my drift. I'm not hugely anti-royalist, and I'm not really a republican, I'm just of the opinion that perhaps the Royal family should start working and not resting on their laurels. Fair enough, they traditionally joined the armed forces, but there's not much of a challenge to get in. Has the special treatment not gone on long enough? Harry wasn't expelled from Eton for smoking weed, wasn't sent to Iraq (more sensibly for the safety of his division) but you catch my drift. What happened to the death penalty when it was deemed out of date? It was abolished. But the Tower of London still exists for us to see the legacy. Let them keep the palaces, but let them pay for the upkeep. 64 pence is not a huge amount, but look after the pennies and the pounds look after themselves.

words/ alex gilchrist

## How to act with the Royal family?

### Hernando says lube up and take it. I say get rid.

#### Where are you from? I'm Scandinavian - Roman - French - English? Right.

**I**'m as big a fan of Yank-bashing as the next person, but this is not my major concern here. That may very well be a lie, but it's unavoidable in this case. If any other country that I knew of did it, then I would target them. (Un)fortunately I don't, so here goes: What is the deal with Americans calling themselves Irish-American, Italian-American, African-American etc.?

I have no problem with people of all creeds and colours respecting their heritage, but I find this to be so full of contradictions. For a country that has school children pledge allegiance to the flag every morning, and to America, this seems all very odd. Now half the population of America seem to be Irish-American, and I understand the socio-political reasons for a large number of Irish people emigrating, namely the Great Irish Famine, but why the clinging onto the 'motherland'? Would they rather call themselves just Irish? No, because they're no doubt fiercely patriotic to America. It is actually 12% of the population who declared themselves of Irish ancestry, which is about 40 million people. Fortunately no proof is needed, so I could pop over and say that I was Irish. And they'd say 'But what about your accent?', and I'd say 'But what about yours?', and they'd say 'Oh'.

But has anyone ever heard an American declare themselves to be English-American? I'm hedging my bets on 'no'. Weren't the pilgrim fathers all pretty English? But they just suddenly became American and denounced their heritage as soon as the boat touched the shore. Or maybe it was after they pillaged and plundered Pocahontas' family (I'll let the Americans take credit for that) There may very well have been some fundamental disagreements resulting in their departure from England, but that, at least for the purpose of my rant, is besides the point. And how are these 'Irish-Americans' received in Ireland? Well mostly the opinion of them is that they are 'Plastic Paddies', and a bit of a joke.

I do not call myself 'French-English', although no doubt during the Normandy invasions one of my ancestors was impregnated by a suave French peasant. Nor do I call myself Roman-English, or indeed Scandinavian-English, despite the fact that those mean old Vikings

raped and pillaged their way through Britain. But then again I wouldn't want someone put in front of the firing squad for burning the Union Jack. The extent of my patriotism extends to a bit of rugby (but I won't bitch and moan when we lose) and a bit of football (and I know we're always going to lose so it doesn't bother me in the slightest). As usual I've run out of words, so I'll finish with this: I blame it all on neo-conservative war-mongering neo-colonial politicians who bind politics so intrinsically with religion that anyone going against them is outcast as non-patriotic or irreligious, even if what they want is for the good of their country and not their politicians' pockets. Raa!

**LEPRECHAUN:** This is what the real Irish think of Irish Americans



they want is for the good of their country and not their politicians' pockets. Raa!

words/ alex gilchrist



## Harriet gets ready to lube herself up for some real good 'socialising'.

**F**or many of you, university won't just be about the books. Some of you will have joined societies and clubs, actually turning up to meetings, instead of just wearing that cool hood. After all, they're a great way to meet people, hone up your friendly skills, and offer the chance of a degree in socialising, instead of that boring degree in Maths. Anyway, everyone knows, it's not about what you know, it's about who you know, darling.

But some of you may well have taken that last bit of advice a little too far. There's a limit as to how far you can lube up any social situation. If you want things to run smoothly it's no good diving straight in there. You need to test the temperature of the lube before you go rubbing it everywhere. Otherwise you're going to rub people up the wrong way. And who wants to look like a great big blunder-buss?

Take for example this conversation I overheard the other day about a fresher who had recently joined a club:

**Her hormones must be running away with her, desperate moments of passion and unbridled love.**

**Woman 1:** Who does she think she is? She hasn't made any effort to get to know the girls in the club.

**Woman 2:** Yeah, she's been in the club for 4 weeks and she still pretends like she doesn't know my name. It says it on my hood for Christ's sake! Don't you just hate it when people pretend like they're too cool to know your name?

**Woman 3:** Dat scrub is foolin wid da wrong people.

**Woman 1:** Did you see her the other night? Like a bitch on heat she was, gyrating all over the guys.

**Woman 2:** Well, I guess she's only 18; her hormones must be running away with her, desperate for moments of passion and unbridled love.

**Woman 1:** You've been reading Jilly Cooper haven't you? How many times... Anyway, she's got no right to sleep with the captain straight away. There are certain rules of society that need to be obeyed. You can't just go straight for the king of the jungle!

Let's discuss. Are there certain 'unsaid' rules that one needs to conform to? What do we make of the girl in the 'case study'? Is she simply a self-confessed misogynist? Or is she a rubber clad dominatrix capitalising on all the willing young men in the club? Stop and think. How would you react to this intrusion? Petty as it may seem, you'd have a good bitch wouldn't you? Or would you pat her on the back for going out of her way to be friendly with the male members of the club, whilst reminding her that you do exist, and telling her what your name is again. Of course, there'll be the more honourable amongst you who'd put yourselves above such trivialities, publicly that is. But inside I bet you're seething with rage and have secret intentions to scalp her. Jeez I can read your mind like a book. Welcome to the jungle.

words/ harriet hernando



# 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](mailto:loveboxleeds@googlemail.com)



## Lonely Hearts

- (Delight at the Lovebox as we receive our first reply. Brilliant. The following is the response to last week's Lonely heart.) Personally I've always thought of maths as some mild form of torture so I can't really help you out there, but I'm a bit of a pineapple fan and I can help when it comes to Spanish and Mangos. I'm confused by revolving doors and onions. Any ideas? Sarah x
- Elderly well-respected gentlemen, seeks similar man or younger for magical times together. Own wand not needed. Drop by my castle and we could have a good old 'Fawkes' \*wink wink\*
- Kleptomaniac looking for rich upper class university student who I can begin a romantic interlude with but will eventually result in all her 'shiny'

miraculously disappearing (I swear to god it wasn't me).

- If you want to sing out, sing out. If you want to be free, be free. There's a million ways to be, you know that there are. Be Maude to my Harold. x



Picture: Copyright 2001-2007 Nicholas Gurewitsch

## Missed Connections

- I saw you in Headingley on a Sports-Star Otley Run, you were dressed as Hulk Hogan with the Rugby League team. Your long blonde hair and beautiful blue eyes struck me like an Atomic Leg Drop. You may think you know best, but I'm no jabroni. I'm going to say my prayers and eat my vitamins because when I see you again I'll show you how much of a Hulkamaniac I REALLY am!

- Passing silently through the night outside the union, I saw you on a wall. You looked upset; I almost paused to ask if you were OK but I couldn't because my fear overcame my desire for you.
- Spotted you on the number 28 bus. You were buying a day rider but were 20p short. The driver let you on but I was all ready to be your knight of shiny coinage. Be at the 9.47 stop by Milanos on Saturday and I'll be your day rider.
- Send your missed connections and lonely hearts to us at [loveboxleeds@googlemail.com](mailto:loveboxleeds@googlemail.com)

# Tommy Pockets Tells Your Future

World-renowned, 484-year-old astrologer Tommy Pockets (pictured here on the Titanic) lays down the secrets of your mystic week.

## Aries

Beware of Blue Lagoons. You will consume too many on a night out and sleep with a gastronomically challenged virgin, all kinds of fluids will be involved. The blubber bucket will 'go on top' and squash you into the mattress for eternity. Your lucky sex position is The Steam Roller.

## Taurus

Your hunt for an agent to support you as the world's best Robert Mugabe impersonator gets a boost this week as the Max Clifford takes you on. With his help you sign for Chelsea as their new goalie. Anyone who falsely occupies your land of the six-yard box is naturally slaughtered. Your lucky sex position is The Angry Pigeon.

## Gemini

There are some things you should know. One, your dad was never a pilot. He used to live in a caravan in the park and sell balloons, before returning home and unsatisfactorily masturbating under the influence of helium. Secondly, your Mum was actually a small iron and you are a miracle child. Go, young Jesus, go and bring the second coming! Your lucky sex position is The Cheese-grater.

## Cancer

Today you'll discover something new about yourself. A tumour. Your lucky sex position is The Tearful Nun. Your lucky mug is blue. Your lucky surgical procedure doesn't really matter, as you'll be dead before you reach the end of this sentence.

## Leo

Your lucky star is involved in an ironic twist of fate this Tuesday when it crashes into your family home, killing your dog Wuffles and destroying the result of forty years of back-breaking porn collecting. Your lucky sex position is The Falling Tower.

## Virgo

Today you'll be approached by a small, malnourished child who will call you "Mum". Remember that night in sixth form? Remember that broken condom? Remember those excuses your step-father taught you as a child? Your lucky sex position is The Bottle Factory. Your lucky excuse is alcohol.

## Libra

Donald Trump calls and says he wants a 12-foot high statue of Bob Monkhouse made. Out of paperclips. Your lifetime subscription to Model Builders Weekly has finally paid off and you soon whip it up. The presentation ceremony is a less happy affair as Trump proclaims "Fuck you, Wipeout!" and promptly urinates all over it. Your lucky sex position is The Cry Yourself To Sleep.

## Scorpio

You suddenly find the urge to sniff a girl's hair so head to a densely populated area and open your nostrils. But when you close your eyes to fully appreciate the aroma a springbok takes offence and eats your face. Your lucky sex position is illegal.

## Sagittarius

Tomorrow will mark your first 'Miserable Saturday', a weekly event in which you suffer the indignations of a world gone mad. And being raped. Best not to leave your house. Although that might not be enough. Your lucky sex position is non-consensual sodomy.

## Capricorn

You know it is going to be a bad day when zombie Hitler arrives on your doorstep uninvited. The rest of the week will consist of combatting the combined forces of right-wing politics and the undead. Plus Hitler will keep making moves on your sister. Your lucky sex position is The Unexpected X-ray.

## Aquarius

Your coke binge this week will come to a disappointing end when you accidentally snort a bag of whole-grain flour. This does herald the beginning of a new addiction to yeast that will engulf your life and ruin your nose, although your nostril will allow you to distill a variety of popular high steet spirits. Your lucky sexual position is The Lame Sheep.

## Pisces

A lynch mob including forty angry paraplegics arrive at your flat this Wednesday demanding justice. They are foiled due to a lack of disabled access, so drag you to court and sue you instead. Your lucky sex position is The Milked Cobra.



NB: Tommy Pockets does not accept responsibility for any life-changing events that occur from following his obviously not made-up advice e.g. auto-erotic asphyxiation

Tommy Pockets is Leeds Student's legal representative



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# LS Sport: Off the Record

**Ahram Symonds-Baig** on the Champions League, and the return of the managerial merry-go-round.

It's been a mixed bag of a week for the British sides in Europe this week. After a disappointing week for the national teams of England and Scotland, the first attempts to salve these wounds were made by Chelsea, who beat Schalke; Rangers, who managed a very impressive 0-0 draw with Barcelona, Man Utd, who put four past Dynamo Kiev, and Arsenal, who annihilated Slavia Prague 7-0. Even Celtic, with their atrocious away record in Europe, came so close to a result against Benfica. The result that sticks out like a sore thumb is Liverpool's humbling in Istanbul, the scene of their greatest triumph in recent times.

How the Reds have managed only a single point from their three group games is a complete mystery. With the team they have, Gerrard and co. should be sitting proudly at the top of the group, not hoping to scrape a UEFA cup place. The problem Benitez's men face is that the luck they had against Everton, where Dirk Kuyt avoided a red card and at least one clear penalty against them was denied, has seemingly started to leave them.

A diving header from Gerrard didn't spark the comeback that has become almost synonymous with Liverpool. Under Benitez they have been a fairytale, Roy of the Rovers style team. Magnificent Steven Gerrard-led comebacks in Europe and in the FA cup are still strong in the memory. It is a worrying for Liverpool if that luck is deserting them. In sport, when you're hot,

you're hot, and sadly the opposite is also very true.

Luck is such an important factor in sport, and Chelsea's win over Schalke bears witness to that. The young opposition 'keeper spilling Malouda's tame shot into the net. Two goals, two tough off-side calls to make Chelsea's was given as Schalke's was denied. A clear cut red

“Being a football manager is an easy enough job, right?”

card for Alex somehow not given. The sign of a successful team is winning when they shouldn't, and Chelsea seem to have that ability.

Being a football manager is an easy enough job, right? It can't be that hard to pick your best 11 players, put them in some

kind of formation and tell them to 'get stuck in'. If I can take Spurs into the Champions League on football manager, then surely a professional manager should have no problems at all.

However, it's not that easy. The level of expectations on managers these days has ballooned to a ridiculous level. They are given shorter and shorter time spans to build a squad, mould it to the way they want to play, and deliver results. The strange thing is how you only have to look at Sir Alex Ferguson's tenure at Man Utd, or Arsene Wenger's at Arsenal, to notice the folly of expecting instant success. A manager is not a 20-goal-a-season striker, or a world-class 'keeper; it takes time for his influence to tell.

Sammy Lee was a victim of these unrealistic expectations-rather than gradually introducing his own style of play, he overhauled the entire system at Bolton in an attempt to stamp his mark immediately, and paid the price for it as Wanderers prop up the table. Jose Mourinho also paid the price, to an extent.

It seems as if Martin Jol will also lose his job; despite two fifth-place finishes after years of mediocrity and a team plagued with average players, he is deemed as unable to take the team forward. This has been the most successful era for Spurs in my lifetime, and Martin Jol should be lauded as a hero, and left to build a legacy. It is an appalling reflection on football that he will be denied that.



## Quote of the Week

“What English rugby needs even more than a personal physician to Jonny Wilkinson is continuity”

-Stephen Jones, The Big Debate, p.44

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# the big debate:

## The England Coach

### After the events of the Rugby World Cup, does Brian Ashton deserve to keep his job?

Stephen Jones

There is a fine line, it seems, between knighthood and unemployment. According to video referee Stuart Dickinson, that line stretches to around 50 centimetres, the distance by which Mark Cueto's foot was adjudged to be in touch as he lunged over the try line in Paris on Saturday night. Indeed, the fact that the extension of Brian Ashton's tenure as Head Coach has even been put into question is laughable when set against the years of preparation-

“Allow Ashton to continue.”

and several failures- overseen by Sir Clive Woodward before the Red Rose's eventual triumph of 2003. What English rugby needs even more than a personal physician to Jonny Wilkinson is continuity, and thus Ashton must be given further time to create an England side in his own mould. The calamitous four years between Sydney and Paris were typified by incessant change, and only since the appointment of Ashton last December has some sense of stability at last begun to form, not least in a World Cup where England grew in stature as their starting line-up became more concrete. Rob Andrew stated on the advent of Ashton's elevation to Head Coach that “he is the right man to lead the coaches and players into a new period for English rugby”. Surely those words cannot carry any less meaning now that the side, against all odds, came so close to defending their hard-fought title.

It has however, been well publicised that despite Ashton's superb coaching achievements he is no manager, highlighted by the apparent “showdown”



which followed England's 36-0 drubbing at the hands of the Springboks. While Ashton claims that stories of player unrest with Ashton's management have been overplayed, it seems plain that Ashton would work best with a manager alongside him to deal with addressing players on the day. Clearly, though, England are a stronger outfit with Ashton on board, and even though he will be the first to admit his weaknesses, managing to coax such performances as the front five's super-human show against Australia in the quarter-final is an incredible feat given all the difficulties surrounding the camp in the build up. Ashton believes in giving responsibility to the players on match days rather than sticking to rigid game plans that can become redundant in the heat of battle, and ultimately it was this approach that led to England's rampant march to the Stade de France.

Ashton's past record as head of the National Academy should ensure that no man is better placed to oversee the ushering in of a new generation of talent. Waiting in the wings lies the promise of young players such as Nick Abendanon, Lewis Moody and the vastly impressive Matthew Tait, one of several players to have benefited under the tutelage of Ashton in his previous position. Further encouragement can be drawn from the fact that, despite several retirements, it seems likely that Ashton will still have key men such as Andrew Sheridan and Nick Easter, and perhaps even- whisper it- a certain fly-half to call upon in 2011. Rob Andrew is absolutely right in saying that England need

to prepare better for the next World Cup. The best way to start that is by allowing Ashton to continue the tremendous progress made since inheriting what Andrew called a “hospital pass” just ten months ago.

Owen Bradley

By conventional wisdom, Brian Ashton should have a job for life. After all, he took an England side previously seen as an embarrassment to the brink of a second World Cup win in consecutive tournaments, eliminating France and Australia on the way, which is almost as good as winning the Webb Ellis trophy. Unfortunately for Ashton I am not the only one who believes that Ashton is not the man to lead England forward to 2011 in New Zealand.

It is worth pointing out that Ashton is not the Zeus-like figure that many casual rugby fans will believe him to be after this summer. For starters, his record since taking over is less than impeccable - nine wins to eight losses, and after the dust has settled from the showdown with South Africa in Paris you have to believe that serious questions will be asked: it has already been said that this performance has papered over many cracks in the English rugby set-up, so this appears to be just one of many. There have also been questions asked as to how much Ashton is to blame for the England resurgence in France; rumours from the camp suggest that it was the senior players who took command after the shocking defeat to the Springbok in the group stages, one telling Ashton that he needed to “pull his finger out and do some work”. The problems with Ashton were pointed out long before the events of the Summer: Ex-England international Jeff Probyn simply saying of Ashton “he's not the right man”, and now ex-captain Lawrence Dallaglio has voiced his concern over Ashton being handed a long term deal.

Regardless of the



problems with Ashton though, there is one point which puts the nail in his coffin in terms of taking England forward, the possible availability of one man: Jake White.

White is undoubtedly a better coach and leader than Ashton. The man is

“White is undoubtedly a better coach and leader than Ashton.”

coming off the back of a World Cup win with South Africa, is at the top of the game, and has already expressed an interest in the England job. In other words, the perfect man to step into the role. Coaches like White won't wait around however; New Zealand and Wales are in the hunt too, as well as an apparent change of heart by the South Africans who may now attempt to keep him, so the RFU do need to move quickly to get their man. After all, last time they waited, we ended up with Andy Robinson at the helm, and we all know how well that went.

Brian Ashton did a great thing for the people of England this summer, and no-one will ever take that away from him. That being said, it is hard to believe he will ever be able to match or better that achievement ever again. From his point of view then, why stagnate and tarnish your reputation when you can go out at the top? He has a great track record of developing young players, and is known as a quality coach, so by all means there is a role for him in the England set-up, indeed, England are a better outfit with Ashton on board. But with a Mr. Jake White available, it really is time for Ashton to step aside.

### Your Comments...

#### This week, we asked:

Will a limit on foreign players in England benefit English Football?

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

It will make our league less competitive and less rich, which will certainly stunt development. So, no. The same can be said if a limit was brought into Rugby.

Josh Black, 19, History

No, English players have to have the quality competition as an incentive. Look at John Terry and Frank Lampard at Chelsea or Micah Richards at Manchester City.

Neil Darby, 20, Politics and Parliamentary Studies

Absolutely not. The lack of English talent is a complete myth. We have the best league in the world. The under 21's keep winning and the failures of the senior squad are due to individual shortcomings.

Michael Symons, 18, English and French

We should definitely limit the amount of foreign players that are coming into the Premiership. The young English players are not getting the chance that they deserve.

Harriet Roberts, 19, Geography

There should be no limit of the players that come into the Premiership. Look at Arsenal, flying high with fantastic foreign youngsters. Gunner-for-life92

Next weeks question:

Should Brian Ashton go?



## 300 seconds with: Nick Miller

**Nick Miller**

**Ultimate Frisbee player**

**LS:** Hi Nick, could you tell us a bit about ultimate Frisbee?

NM: Well it's a non-contact sport set up like American football. Each team has seven players. To score points you have to catch the Frisbee in the opposite team's N-zone.

**LS:** How long have you been involved with the Uni's Ultimate Frisbee team?

NM: I'm in my second year now, I've been playing since freshers week last year. I've already been involved in a national competition.

**LS:** What made you want to get involved in the first place?

NM: My brother played when he went to Uni. When he came back he started to teach me the game and I really enjoyed it. We've even got a team started back home;

**“ We're aiming for seventy-two and a half hours of constant frisbee. It's going to be pretty hardcore!**

there are a lot of people involved. It's the fastest growing sport in Europe, just after women's football I think.

**LS:** How did you do at the nationals?

NM: I think we came 12th, but because of the complicated way that the tournament works we only just missed out on finishing between 4th and 8th. We were still happy with a 12th placed finish and the overall performance. Hopefully we'll do better this year, we've got a stronger team. There has been a lot of interest since freshers week. Our stall at the freshers fair was really successful.

**LS:** What would you say to people that say Ultimate Frisbee isn't a real sport?

NM: I've played both rugby and football and Frisbee is more of an endurance sport. Whoever says it isn't a sport obviously hasn't played before! Although it's not a contact sport it still a very physical game because you have to throw yourself around a lot.

**LS:** Do you think Frisbee should be an event at varsity?

NM: I hope so. The Met are currently getting a team together and we're helping them to set up. Frisbee would definatley be something that we could beat the Met in!

**LS:** What were your highlights of last season?

NM: Well it's a really socialble sport. One of the social highlights of last year was at the end of the national tournament. At the end of the night there was the 3 pint challenge. You have to down three pints of ale through a straw from a frisbee, that's a pretty standard frisbee drinking game!

**LS:** A little birdie tells me that you're going for a world record attempt?

NM: Yeah, next spring when it's a little



**“ Whoever says it isn't a sport obviously hasn't played before! Frisbee is more of an endurance sport than football.**

warmer we're aiming for 72 and a half hours of a constant Ultimate Frisbee game, it's going to be pretty hardcore! Leeds held the record of 72 hours a few years back but a team in America beat that with 72 hours and half a minute. We're going to win it back for Leeds!

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# Squash seconds suffer Sheffield blow

## Men's Badminton 2nds

Stephen Jones

Leeds Uni 2-3 Sheffield Uni 1sts  
Sports Hall

Leeds University 2nds took today's opponents Sheffield right to the wire after a brave fight-back from two matches down nearly saw them snatch a victory against the odds. In the end though, Sheffield's Will Bennett maintained a steely reserve in order to assure that his side went home with the spoils after a tense deciding match went to a crucial final game.

First on the courts were Will Orrack and Ash Cross, and both men were comfortably beaten 3-0 by their Sheffield counterparts, ensuring that Leeds would have to win all of their remaining matches to secure the tie in their favour. While Orrack showed glimmers of ability against the tricky Lyndon Borrell, Cross will ultimately be disappointed with a display against an opponent he will feel he could and should have beaten.

It was Dan Gray, however, that lifted Leeds' mood with an outstanding display to pull the fixture back to 2-1. While his opponent James McKenzie allowed his frustration to get the better of him at times, nothing should be allowed to detract from a joyous display of squash from Gray, who dominated the court and orchestrated proceedings throughout, leaving McKenzie trailing in his wake. After winning a tight and wonderfully contested first game, Gray got the bit

between his teeth and ripped through the next two with unstoppable 9-2 and 9-5 victories. As tired legs had begun to set in towards the end of the match, Gray was somehow managing to extend himself to every inch of the court, and in the end a tireless work rate allowed him to walk off court expressing a delight with

his performance. "Sometimes you can walk off court winning 3-0 without playing all that well, but on this occasion I'm very happy with the way I played", declared Gray with some justification after his victory.

Meanwhile, a far tighter affair was being played out on Court One as Leeds' George Weston and Tom Antwhistle of Sheffield seemed to cancel each other out for long periods over a gruelling match. While Antwhistle took a finely poised first game 10-8 after several successive handovers, Weston won the next from game ball in a bout that could easily have gone either way. Two games later the score was at 2-2 after two similarly cagey games. Play was far from free-flowing at times but there were brief instances of brilliance from either side as fatigue slowly began to take its toll. Weston, well aware that only a victory would do, was the man to call on his extra reserves as confidence sapped from Antwhistle in the final set, and will have been relieved to have given his side an avenue back into the tie.

Thus, with the game perched on a knife-edge, Leeds' hopes rested upon the shoulders of Matt Wilson as he took to court in what proved to be a brutally physical contest. Despite some incredibly tense early exchanges, which saw the game stuck at 0-0 for several minutes, Wilson showed excellent composure to carve out a comfortable 9-2 first game victory. Both players were clearly

impassioned, evidenced by some thunderous hitting as well as several clashes between players. The pressure on the two men was clear to see, with each victory followed by a period of apparent self-doubt, with the

nervous encounter eventually finding itself at 2-2, leaving a nail-biting final game to decide the outcome. In the end, Bennett managed to maintain his composure to storm to a 9-2 victory, though Wilson will be disappointed to have missed a few opportunities to probe his opponent rather more towards the end. Leeds' hopes of a heroic fightback were quelled, though Coach Craig Chappell was quick to praise the attitude his players showed in order to fight back from a two match deficit to bring the game to its grand-stand finish.



## Final set decider:

Leeds Uni 2 - 3 Sheffield Uni

Coach Craig Chappell was quick to praise the attitude of his players.

# Hull hold nerve to defeat 1sts

## Men's Table Tennis 1sts

David Pritchard

Leeds Uni 8 - 9 Hull Uni 1sts  
Sports Hall

As the pressure was cranked up to near insufferable levels in the cramped table tennis room of the University's Sports Centre, it was Hull who held their nerve to clinch a narrow victory.

Leeds captain Stephen Denny gave his side a flying start by sweeping aside his opposite number, Rob Owen, 3-1, before crushing the remaining three of Hull, all 3-0. However, his team-mates found life harder, especially against the imperiously consistent Christian Hanys, who recorded three of Hull's nine wins.

In a battle of two gritty competitors, Tim Hoare overcame Jay Kotechy in a hard-fought 3-2 victory for Hull. The match's early exchanges

were littered with mistakes, with both players susceptible to rushes of blood to the head. Hoare settled quickest, as he forced his opponent into mistakes with some bludgeoning forehand hits to claim the first set. Not to be outshone on his debut, Kotechy fought back in the second, securing the set after some ferociously competitive rallying. The two players then shared the following two sets, both riding their luck with net chords and shots just scraping the edges of the table. Motivational remarks were audible from both sides of the net as neither player was able to establish a significant advantage but a moment of inspiration from Hoare settled the match, a devastating inside-out forehand sealing a 3-2 triumph.

Similarly enthralling was the epic encounter between Hoare and Qingen Meng, the highlight of the day's play. Brilliant and baffling in equal measure, Meng snatched the first set with a flamboyant back-hand. The Chinese student's gung-ho approach paid further

dividends as his eye-catching stroke play brought him the second set. Ever the entertainer, Meng revealed his other, frustrating side in losing the next two sets following a string of miss-hits. Having created a situation of high tension, the mercurial Meng rediscovered his power and panache to earn his side victory.

With the tie poised at 8-7 to Hull, Jack Davies needed to beat Leeds' Tom George to guarantee the win. Intense pressure made for a tight two first sets but, showing remarkable cool, Davies ran away with the third to cap an excellent day for his team. His delight was evident, "We're pleased with the win because we see Leeds as a big scalp." Following Davies' efforts, the doubles match was a dead rubber, Leeds earning a 3-0 consolation success. The anti-climactic finale was especially hard on Denny, who will be hurting after his four unanswered wins went unrewarded, and more so after seeing his side lose this local tie.

## Leeds vs Hull by numbers

### Meng vs Hoare

Winners  
13-9

Unforced Errors  
9-8

### Kotechy vs Hoare

Winners  
9-10

Unforced Errors  
13-12



# Watson heroics in vain for Men's lacrosse

## Men's Lacrosse

Michael Symons

Leeds Uni 5-11 Liverpool Uni

In their first competitive fixture of the campaign, Leeds men's lacrosse team were beaten 11-5 by BUSA rivals Liverpool. This was however not as straightforward a victory as the scoreline might suggest, with Liverpool having to recover from an early scare to eventually take the spoils.

Leeds began the stronger of the sides, racing into a two goal lead within the opening minutes, thanks to the quite brilliant finishing of Nick Watson. On both occasions, Watson found space in

a congested goal mouth to expertly fire home, leaving the hapless Liverpool keeper grasping at thin air. Liverpool's lacklustre response enabled Leeds to go in search of a third, but a combination of Leeds' profligacy and resolute Liverpool defending ensured that there were only two goals separating the sides at the end of the first quarter.

Inevitably, Liverpool began the second quarter with far greater intent and having halved their deficit with an early goal, netted twice in quick succession to take the lead for the very first time. Though barely deserving of their slender lead, Liverpool were beginning to show their dominance, taking advantage of Leeds' slack marking. Leeds were therefore hugely relieved to reach half-time still only 3-2 down, though their reprieve was rather short lived.

With the second half only a few minutes old, Liverpool scored their fourth of the afternoon from close range and appeared to be moving out of sight. Nick Watson however had other ideas. His fine solo effort, incidentally his hat-trick, brought Leeds right back into the contest at 4-3. This was unfortunately about as good as it got for Leeds, as within the next ten minutes Liverpool piled on the misery, scoring a further three times. Not content with a hat-trick, Watson single handedly revived Leeds'

## Man of the Match

**Nick Watson:** scored five and was at the heart of everything that was good about Leeds.

hopes with yet another sublime strike, though at 7-4 a fight back was still highly unlikely.

The final quarter was largely incidental, as Liverpool eased towards victory, adding four goals in the process. No quarter would have been complete without a Nick Watson goal and he didn't disappoint, bringing his personal tally (and that of Leeds) to an impressive five.

Speaking after the 11-5 defeat, club captain David Dunleavy admitted that this year was mainly about experience for his young side, the majority of whom are new to this physically and technically demanding sport. He paid tribute to the freshers who had worked so hard to be ready for their BUSA opener and confirmed that 'whilst experience is the most important thing, I'm confident we can get some great results along the way.'

## the Knowledge

**4** Only four of the side had played competitive lacrosse before joining the uni team

# Uni continue winning streak over the Met

## Women's Volleyball

Joe Hibbert

Leeds Uni 3-1 Leeds Met Sports Hall

It's always nice to rub salt in the wounds of Leeds Met and that's just what the women's volleyball team did on Wednesday. After spanking the old enemy just three short weeks ago at varsity they defeated an improved Met side once more this week.

The game began at a high tempo with Uni's captain, Lauren Worrall, first to serve. Met dealt with Worrall's service comprehensively with a neat dig, set and spike combination to chalk up the first points of the day. The Met quickly followed up with another point after a strong spike straight down the middle of the Uni players. Uni quickly responded by winning the third point after a long hard fought out rally. A well won joust at the net for Uni was instrumental for the home side's second point, a clever dig from Maasel winning the point.

It was clear early on that the game would be won and lost at the net. The Met were very disciplined and well drilled at the net and with a cheeky dig from their number 5 outfoxing Uni the visitors added another point. The home team came back well with a clever dig of their own causing a mix up for the metropolitan and chalking up another point.

Worrall defended well in a joust at the net but it was the Met who scored the point with a powerful spike down the dead centre of the court. The visitors dealt well with another Uni serve forcing Uni's Maasel to shank the ball.

**“ We put them under good service pressure. They couldn't get a hit against us and we found gaps in their defence. ”**

Uni fought back after a difficult spell, putting the Met on the back foot winning three consecutive points with some clever volleyball. After a long fought out rally Uni won the ball at the net causing the Met's captain to double foul, capturing the homeside's third point on the bounce. Heads were dropping for the away side. Overall, the opening exchanges were hard fought out and it was difficult to separate the teams in the first set.

As the game went on you could see the morale being sapped from the Met, who made unforced error after unforced error.

The visitors were hitting the ball into the net, shanking shots and spiking wide. Uni capitalised on the Metropolitan's weaknesses with a deft chip from Worrall adding another point for the Uni. The winning captain was very proud of her team, "To be honest everyone helped out, encouraging each other. Kim was keeping up the team's spirit. Denise played really well back of court with good first passes to the setter, as did Steph and Jo. Karen's hitting was so hard and fast."

The women's coach Chris Hassey was satisfied with the second win of the season over the Met, "I think we put them under good service pressure, they couldn't get a good hit against us and we found gaps in their defence."

Uni line-up: L. Worrall, D. Cheung, K. Maasel, K. Smith, S. Li, J. Kleinrok

## Woman of the Match

**Denise Cheung:** Played well back of court, with clever and neat passes to the setter

## BUSA Results Wednesday 26 October

### Men's Badminton

1sts 1-7 Manchester 1sts

### Women's Badminton

1sts 4-4 Birmingham 1sts

### Men's Basketball

1sts 20-0 Teeside 1st  
2nds 63-52 York St. Johns 1st

### Women's Basketball

1st 40-89 Leeds Met

### Fencing

Men's 135 - 75 Durham 2nd  
Women's 110 - 115 Durham 2nd

### Men's Football

1st 1-1 Sheffield Hallam  
2nd 2-1 Northumbria 2nd  
3rd 1-2 Teeside 2nd  
4th 1-2 Trinity and All Saints 2nd

### Women's Football

1st 9-0 Bradford 1st

### Golf

1st 2-4 Central Lincs.

### Men's Hockey

1st 3-5 Durham 1st  
2nd 5-4 York 1st  
3rd 2-0 4ths

### Women's Hockey

1st 0-4 Durham 1st  
2nd 2-3 Sheffield 1st  
3rd 1-0 Hull 1st  
4th 4-0 Durham 4th

### Netball

1st 39-34 Newcastle 1st  
2nd 42-49 Sheffield 1st  
3rd 57-15 Sunderland 1st  
4th 106-4 Teeside 5th

### Rugby League

1st 10-26 Newcastle 1st

### Volleyball

Men's 0-3 Leeds Met  
Women's 3-1 Leeds Met

### Rugby Union Women's

1st 15-17 Newcastle 1st

### Men's Squash

1st 1-4 Liverpool 1st  
2nd 2-3 Sheffield 1st  
3rd 3-0 Bradford 1st

### Table Tennis

Men's 8-9 Hull 1st

### Men's Tennis

1st 0-10 Leeds Met 1st  
2nd 7-3 Sheffield 1st

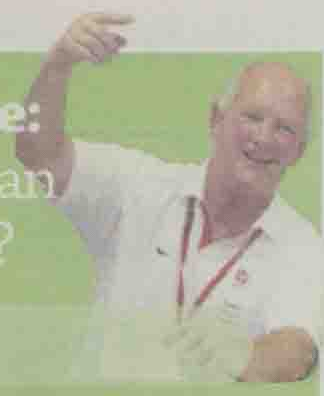
### Women's Tennis

1st 0-10 Leeds Met 1st  
2nd 0-10 York 2st



**Big debate:**  
Should Brian  
Ashton go?

Sport, pg. 44



**BUSA:**  
News, views  
and results.

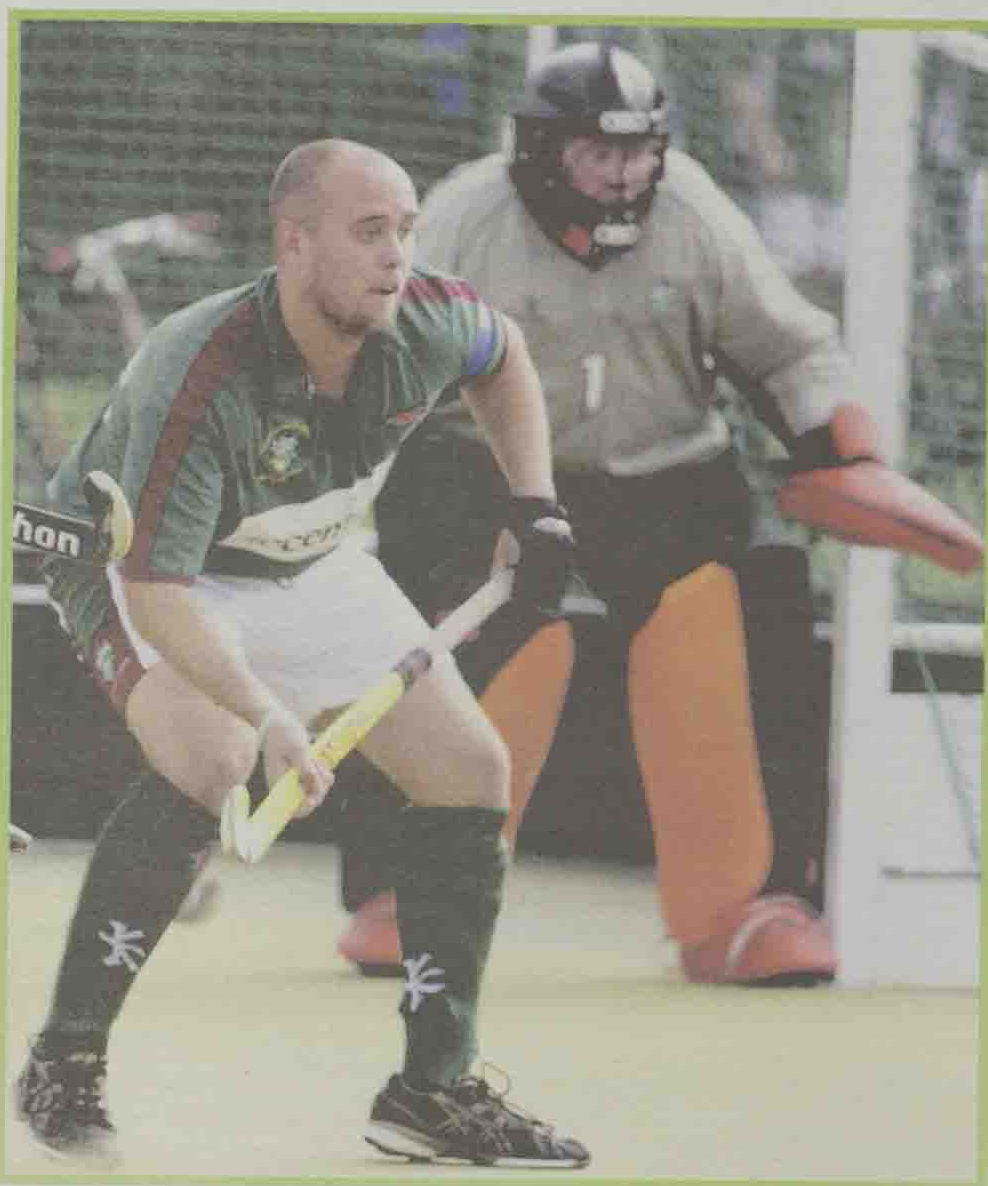
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# Netballers edge Newcastle



**Men's Hockey in action in a 5-3 defeat to Durham. Full results round up, Page 47.**

## Netball 1sts Nick Grounds

Leeds Uni 39-34 Newcastle 1sts

The Leeds 1st netball team responded with great resilience from last weeks close defeat to Manchester, with a moral boosting 39-34 victory over a strong Newcastle team. Having won their opening fixture against Liverpool John Moors, the away side would have been buoyed going into this fixture. Although the sides were evenly matched for most of the contest, it was the home side who eventually took the spoils.

The match in it's entirety was played at a frantic pace from start to finish, with a cat and mouse chase in the score-line. The home side deservedly took the lead, with their defence marking well, frustrating the Newcastle attack, and acting as the platform to attack. However, although Leeds' Wing Attack Hannah Suthren was at the heart of much of Leeds' attacking play, it was Newcastle who led for the majority of the first quarter. Wonderful work off the ball by the away side's Goal Shooter, finishing off a well worked move to take the score to 2-5, was the pick of the action.

The home side remained calm, and following a great score, in which Harriet Rimmer received an exquisite lofted ball from Jo Smith, the goal attack reduced the arrears to 6-8. This acted as the catalyst behind this particular comeback, with the sides eventually finishing the opening quarter at 9 points a-piece.

The Leeds goal shooter, Laura Smith led the line impressively. Although not as tall as her marker, the attacker made up for this with classy movement off the ball and when given possession brought her fellow strike partner Rimmer into the game well. The latter scored most of the home side's points and most of this came as a result of Smith's vision. Midway through the second quarter, Leeds took the game by the scruff of the neck, totalling up a score of 15-12. The hosts began to play the ball around nicely, asking more and more questions of Newcastle's defence. Once more, good

“The Uni's fourth team [...] overcame Teesside 106-4.

marking at the back, especially the interceptions by Dani Bartlett that kept Newcastle's lethal goal shooter at bay, acted as the springboard to attacking success.

Leading 17-15 going into the 3rd quarter, the home side took their foot off the gas, allowing the visitors too much attacking license. However, although Newcastle took a 19-18 lead, this was as good as it got, and once Rimmer began to find the net with increasing accuracy, taking the home side to a 27-24 lead at the end of the 3rd quarter, the visitors never found themselves in a leading position again.

Newcastle were not going to let the game slip them by so easily, and with their impressive county-level goal shooter continuing to find the net with regularity, Leeds were forced to concentrate throughout the final quarter. However, in Harriet Rimmer, Leeds certainly have a lethal finisher of their own, and it was her goals that eventually had the overriding say on proceedings.

The Uni's forth team have had both an impressive week and start to the season. On Wednesday they overcame Teesside 106-4. Building upon last week's 59-1 demolition of Bradford, such a result is sure to bode well for the upcoming derby versus Leeds Met on the 21 November. Captain Laura added: "this is the first year that the fourth team have played in BUSA and so far the results have been fantastic. The squad has been playing extremely well together and in particular a special mention needs to go to Rachael Holt who Teesside awarded Man of the Match".