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# The Leeds Student Newspaper

Friday, November 16, 2007

volume:38 issue:8

## Bodington for the chop?

University Council meet to discuss the future of 'outdated'  
Bodington Hall - home to 1,200

by  
Chris Stevenson

back.

A final option is to sell the Hall within the next four years replacing it with accommodation closer to campus. However, the University has promised not to build new student accommodation in any area that is part of the City Council's Unitary Development Plan, which was set-up with the aim of providing a more balanced and sustainable community as well as limit the negative effects of new developments on communities. The area covers Central, South & Far Headingley, but also includes the adjoining neighbourhoods of Woodhouse and Hyde Park which covers the main student districts, as well as Little Woodhouse, Burley Lodge, Burley, Kirkstall and West Park, leaving few alternative sites for the 1200 displaced students.

Highlighting the problem, a University Spokesperson said: "Students tell us they want more self-catering accommodation and that Bodington is too far from campus. Also, many of the buildings date back to the '60s and would need re-building to meet the standards student now expect. In response to such feedback from students a number of options for Bodington have been developed. If the latter option is chosen, any accommodation nearer

The highest decision making body in the University have met to discuss the future of Bodington Hall, home to some 1,200 students.

The University Council meeting aimed to find a solution to the criticism, flagged up through student feedback, that the 1960's hall can no longer accommodate the needs of the modern student. Bodington's extensive distance from University, as well as its large volume of catered houses, are also factors that are seen as undesirable for incoming students who may not want to travel the four miles to university or become tied down to set meal times.

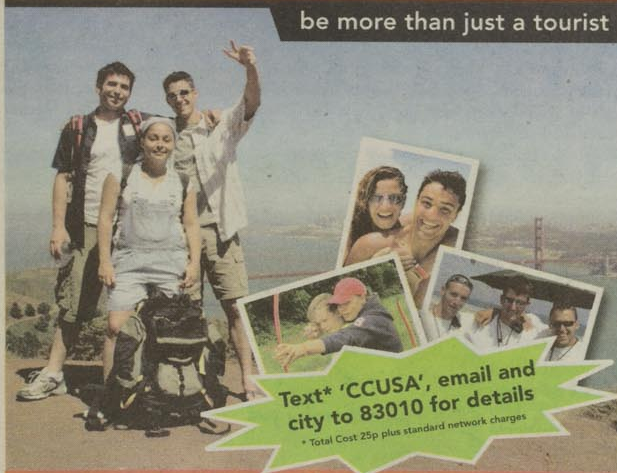
It has been argued that simply continuing to renovate the 40 year old buildings cannot sufficiently meet the needs of modern student standards and four alternative solutions have been developed - two of which involve selling Bodington Hall. These options include completely re-building the accommodation at the existing Bodington site or selling the Hall to a third-party who would refurbish or re-develop the site and then lease it

Story continued on page 2.



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## Sketch

By James Haddon



Sketch was originally going to launch the 'No' campaign for Motion 3 in the referenda this week, promoting the arguments for more expensive sandwiches, and laying the grounds for a motion in the next referenda to triple the basic price of a Union sandwich. There came the realisation, however, that nothing I could do would make the situation any more absurd, so other - more fertile - grounds had to be found.

Thursday marked the 'Debate Meeting' for the referenda - and a thronged crowd of over 34 people made up a more than representative sample of LUU's 32,000 students. The noise was nearly deafening, and the whispered comments and hushed awe of the students had the atmosphere of a school assembly - the fact that Exec Hero "Big Mac" Mackenzie spent the

meeting passing notes to sassy co-Officer Susan Nash only strengthened this similarity. Two officials sat at the tables - fitting into the role of teachers giving a talk - and introduced the motions as and when Hind "Terrier" Hassan had finished attacking whatever had previously been discussed.

The final motion to be debated, "Paper bags not plastic" - which you would presume was quite self-explanatory, but which at least one member of the audience needed to have explained to them - garnered the fiercest debate. The motion was introduced with a small video, entitled 'Great Britain's First Plastic Bag Free Town', which showed a small habitation in Hawaii. The impression it gave was that giving up plastic bags would enable people to live on sun-soaked beaches, a reality that - counter-intuitively - you would rather expect belonged to the pro-global

warming argument.

"Loads of high-street shops have paper bags these days," Lizzie Fellows, seconder of the motion and Exec member, argued, "And it's about time we did too!"

Listen to the Debate Podcast, and you can hear such gems as one unnamed observer's beautifully worded shooting down of the concept of paper bags. Pointing out the fact that Leeds is not located on a sunny beach, one observer commented in response to the video: "Here it rains. An awful lot."

Paper bags. The rain. I don't need to draw you a picture. It would get soggy. For those masochistic, interested or bored enough, the Podcast version of the debate is available online [www.luuonline.com/referendum/podcasts.php](http://www.luuonline.com/referendum/podcasts.php).

Illustration: Mark Mackay

## Bodington closure?

(Continued from front page)

to campus would be in line with our Housing Strategy and our commitment to not build new accommodation in the Area of Housing Mix."

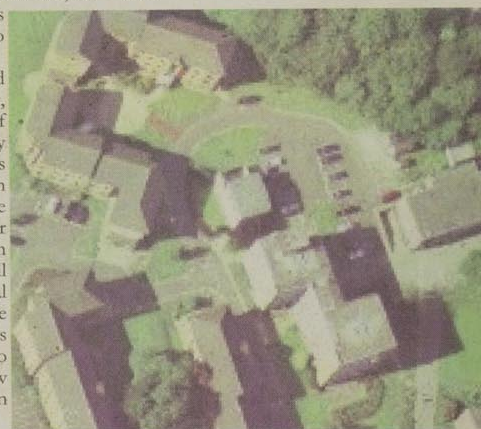
Many current residents as well as students around the university have reacted badly to the potential action against Bodington Hall. A Facebook group has been created that calls on students to "Keep Bodington Halls Open." The description of the group says that it "opposes any future plans to get rid of Bodington Hall as a university residence." The creator of the group states that he plans to send a letter of petition to the Vice-Chancellor to express the concerns of unnerved students, all members who join the group will be added to the letter as signatories.

Speaking of the potential upheaval, a source at Bodington said: "The University have been very open about the process they have had meetings with staff, as well as a meeting with the Hall Council. They have made it clear that all of the options will be discussed." The source added: "However, to keep refurbishing the residence is not economically viable, so something else must be done."

To lose this community would be a great loss to the University, as there is a great spirit of togetherness here. The way Bodington is set up gives students the means to get involved with organising events, whether it be through the JCR or through other events we hold. From an academic perspective, the Hall also holds the annual International Medieval Congress, which is the biggest in Europe, as Bodington is the only place large enough to accommodate it, I do not know where it would go if Bodington were to be closed down."

Juliet Dick, a fourth year Medical student is an ex-resident of Bodington and, like many people that the Leeds Student spoke to, she believed that the community benefits on site outweigh the shortfalls of dated accommodation, she said: "It is absolutely miles away and some of the rooms are horrible, the food looks like it has been marinated in oil and the common rooms are just plain dirty. Having said that, it is just amazing for socialising and meeting new people, it feels like a whole campus of friends and I think that is what halls are really about. In a way, the worse your room is, the more time you want to spend out of it socialising with people in the common room."

She added: "Somewhere like James Baillie is new but it there seems to be much less socialising there because everyone is separated into little flats. It's not the same in a modern hall. I'd like to go to Bod Bar one more time if Bodington does close down, I hear that it has just been re-done. It is the best bar and that's all you need in a fresher hall."



## Readers of the week

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# Women's Hockey Club reveal it all for a new charity calendar

by Claire Freeston

Members of the Women's Hockey Club have got together to create a semi-nude calendar for 2008.

Rachel Solomon, who is in charge of sponsorship, came up with the idea in the hope that it will raise both funds for the Club and for charity. The calendars will retail at £4.00, and 50p from each sale will be put towards the charity WOW - 'Wellbeing of Women' who aim to fund medical research for specifically female based illness including gynecological and reproductive problems.

The photos represent a variety of sports from table tennis to boxing, and were taken upstairs in the union building by the president of the Photography Society.

Rachel, who is a third year Sociology student, said, "It was all a bit bizarre and reminded me of Calendar Girls! But soon we all got



into it and we're really pleased with the results."

Nathan Glynn, a Sports Science graduate, was a member of the men's hockey team and knows some of the girls through coaching. He said, "I've seen some of the pictures and the calendar looks very tasteful. The money going to charity is a great idea and it's fantastic what they're doing."

Calendars are on sale now in CATS in the Union and on the internet. More information about the Club can be found on their Facebook group.

## A Damien Hirst sketch up for £1

by Laura Mackenzie

A Damien Hirst sketch has been offered as a prize in a £1 raffle.

On Wednesday November 14, visitors to the Leeds City Art Gallery were given the chance to take part in a raffle where they could win a signed Damien Hirst sketch. The sketch covers a catalogue featuring some of his most famous works.

The raffle was organised by Dr Jeffery Sherwin in aid of Heart Research UK. Dr Sherwin said it was fitting that the sketch was being raffled to the people of Leeds, or at the very least visitors who had climbed the steps of the gallery as Hirst himself had done as a student.

He said: "As Damien is essentially a Leeds lad I asked him if he would help and he came up trumps with a catalogue covered with a great sketch, signed and dated.

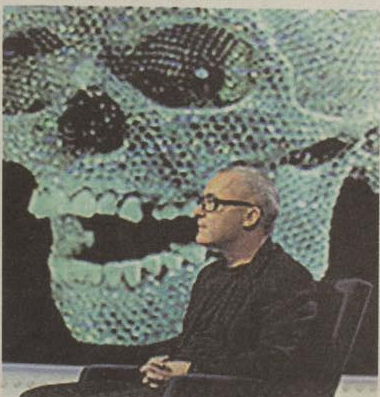
"It would have been normal to put such a work up for auction at a posh dinner and in fact Sotheby's offered to sell it in their sale but frankly I didn't think that was fair."

Dr Sherwin was keen to stress that art is something that all people should be allowed to enjoy and own, irrelevant of their wealth. He added: "Why should always the well-heeled have the opportunity of buying

something special?"

The raffle is especially significant as it follows the sale of a diamond-encrusted skull by Hirst for £50m, in August of this year.

Heart Research UK, which celebrates its 40th birthday this year, is a national charity based in Leeds which funds medical research projects into the prevention, treatment and cure of heart disease. The charity currently funds more than £2.5m of research projects at 33 hospitals and universities across the UK.



## Leeds soars up the league tables

by Chris Stevenson

The release of the THES-QS world university rankings has seen Leeds break into the top 100 institutions for the first time, in 80th position, a jump of 41 places from 2006.

The university rankings are based on a survey of 3,703 academics worldwide. They were asked to nominate up to 30 institutions they regarded as the best at research in their own fields. Hundreds of graduate employers were also surveyed. Other factors influencing the rankings included the ratio of academics to students and success in attracting foreign students and internationally renowned academics.

The jump of 41 places represents the third highest rise among the 20 universities present in the Russell Group, which represents many of the major research universities in the United Kingdom, including Oxford and Cambridge. This also meant Leeds moved from 50th to 27th place among European institutions.

It is the goal of the University to win a place in the top 50 in the world by 2015, with a strategy in place to achieve this through the distinctive integration of research, education and scholarship. The place in the top 100 has been obtained four years ahead of schedule, while a place in the top 75 by 2013 is within touching distance.

Speaking about the success University Vice-

Chancellor Professor Michael Arthur said: "This is a terrific achievement for us all, and reflects the hard work and commitment of our staff. This particular league table places huge emphasis on reputation, so our success is also a very positive measure of the esteem in which we are held in the UK and across the world. "We can all take pride in this result. I believe it reflects a new self-confidence, as well as recognition of our impact in the wider world. There is a feeling across our campus that we are changing, and moving forward; the outside world is beginning to notice. League tables are prone to fluctuation, so we shouldn't get too carried away. But I believe this is a reasonable reflection of our position in the world. It's also a big step forward for our university, and brings our ambition of a place in the top 50 within our grasp."

The editor of the Times Higher Educational Supplement (THES), John O'Leary, said: "The presence of so many American and British universities at the top of the ranking owes something to the dominance of English as a world language in academic life as well as in business, but by every measure these are outstanding institutions."

These thoughts were echoed by Richard Parkins, a second year Philosophy and Spanish student, who said: "I am extremely proud to be a student at a university that mixes the academic and social aspects so well to create a great experience."





# Female graduates to face a £1,000 pay gap

by Tierney Smith

A survey completed by The Higher Education Statistics Agency has found that a degree can no longer guarantee full time jobs or equal rights for women, with many graduates not working in graduate positions.

The research looked at the career progression of 24,000 people, and found that a quarter of all graduates are still not working in full-time jobs more than three years after gaining degrees. Furthermore, 20 per cent who do gain work will not be working in graduate positions. The report found that in total 89 per cent of graduates were in some kind of work, but that much of this was unpaid or voluntary with only 74 per cent in full time paid employment.

Adam Backhouse, a third year Music and Politics student who is due to graduate at the end of this university year, said: "I'm not really worried. I don't imagine myself not getting a job when I graduate, even if it's not something I want to do in the long run." Adam, like many other students, has to face the possibility of having to settle for a non-graduate position when it comes to employment.

The survey also looked into the prospects of equal rights for women, and found that the average full time salary was £1,000 higher for male than female workers. In part-time employment the research found an even greater difference of £3,133.

Levi Pay, Head of Equality Services at Leeds University, said: "From an equality point of view, the most striking finding in this report is that male full-time first degree graduates are being paid, on average, £1,000

more than equivalent female graduates. However, in some ways, this should come as no surprise. In almost every sector, research shows a persistent gender pay gap – despite the fact that legislation on equal pay was first passed in 1970!"

Women are also more likely to be working in part-time employment than men at every different level, despite their mode of study and qualification.

However it has been said that women are usually more satisfied with the careers they choose.

Levi Pay believes there may be ways in which to work around the problem of pay gaps and said: "One of the factors contributing to this pay gap might be the willingness of the job applicants themselves to negotiate their starting salaries. When you are offered a job by an organisation that means they want you, which puts you in a strong bargaining position."

This was the first survey of its kind, with graduates usually being questioned only six months after leaving university.

Graduates of medicine, dentistry, education and agriculture have among the highest employment rates to date.



**MIND THE GAP: A £1000 salary divide exists despite laws enforcing equal pay**  
Photo: John Puddephatt

# People and Planet's Green League wins award

by Tierney Smith

People and Planet has won the award for Best Campaign 2007 at the British Environment and Media Awards, which took place on Thursday November 8.

The award was won for their Green League campaign which ranks British universities by their environmental performance.

The Green League was launched in June 2007 by the national student organisation People and Planet, in aim to celebrate universities which are successful, while exposing those who fall short of their responsibilities.

Alistair McGowan, who hosted the awards, said of the Green League: "It succeeded in dragging environmental issues from the fringes and making them a central concern for many Vice Chancellors. As a result, the judges look forward to seeing a real shift in the environmental performance of

universities in the coming years."

The Green League, which hoped to encourage universities to Go Green, ranked each of the 122 British Universities, awarding them with the university grading system of First, 2:1, 2:2, Third or Fail. Leeds Metropolitan came out top, followed by Plymouth and Hertfordshire, with Leeds University coming eighth. The ranking was based upon eight different environmental criteria, both policy and performance related, and much of the information was gathered through the use of 'freedom of information' requests.

The League has been praised for the strong strategy it has enforced, and for its clear objectives and the imaginative tactics which it has adopted. It has helped to publicise the potential that universities have to take action but has also shown much inaction also.

Bronwen Thomas, People and Planet's Climate Change Campaigns Officer, said: "Higher Education should lead the way in

fighting climate change...Universities are not only critical for their direct emissions and impact on the environment, but for their influence on the next generation."

Kristina Diprose, a representative for LUU's People and Planet group, said: "The innovation of The Green League was to institutionalise the question of our carbon footprint - what can we do as a staff and student body to entrench the value of sustainability? It was exciting to see student activists' concerns reported as mainstream news. Both of the city's Universities performed encouragingly well, so I guess our message to Leeds students is keep up the good work!" The group also wished to offer thanks to the Ethical and Environmental assembly for their help and support in the campaign.

People and Planet aims to create a competition between the universities in order to drive their environmental potential, and work has already begun on the Green League 2008, which will be published next year.

## News in Brief

### Supermassive research

A team led by a scientist at the University has made a breakthrough in discovering the origin of mystery rays which bombard the Earth.

The origins of these 'cosmic rays', which travel at the speed of light, has puzzled scientists for decades.

The team, which was composed of more than 370 scientists working at the Pierre Auger Observatory in Argentina, the world's largest cosmic ray laboratory, found that supermassive black holes in the centres of nearby galaxies are the most likely source of the rays.

Alan Watson, Emeritus Professor in the School of Physics and Astronomy, is currently leader of the collaboration at the observatory. He said: "The result opens a new window to the nearby universe and heralds the beginning of cosmic ray astronomy...Our observatory is producing a new image of the universe based on cosmic rays instead of light."

### Loans system overhaul

A new government proposal means that students will be able to apply for their student loans at the same time as applying for their university places.

This comes as part of the government's plans to widen access to higher education. It is thought that this will encourage students and their families to think about and understand student finance earlier.

There is evidence that a significant minority of A-level and mature students are deterred from taking up university offers, or from applying in the first place, for fear they may not be eligible for student loans or might not be able to manage repayments once they graduate.

An extra 100,000 students a year will be eligible for grants towards university living costs once the new system starts.

The change would also accompany a move to allow students to apply to university after receiving their A-level results. John Denham, the Universities Secretary, said: "The particular attraction is that there may be some students who would apply for a different choice of institution once they know how they have done."

### Banter with Ban-Ki

The United Nations Association are holding the first in a series of debates over controversial but important issues.

The first debate, which is taking place on Monday November 19 in the ARC, will have a guest speaker from Iraq and discuss what the United Nations is doing in Iraq and how it is trying to improve living conditions.

'Iraq's Present and Future' will take place from 5 to 6.30 pm in Conference Room 1.





# Security staff 'visciously attacked'

by Chris Stevenson

**There was drama at the Union last Saturday, November 10, as a fight erupted outside the main entrance to the building.**

A group of males were thrown out of the Brighton Beach night that took place across both Stylus and Pulse for what is speculated to be cocaine use in the toilets of one of the venues. This led to tensions between the group and security and a brawl followed. A member of the security personnel was reported to have been kicked in the head, but did not retaliate against the group of males, who are rumoured to be part of a football firm of hooligans.

Erin O'Connor, a second year business student witnessed the event, commenting on it she said: "I was walking into the union with everyone else and I bumped into my friend, so the others carried on in whilst I was speaking to her. Then about 10 lads who looked like they were in their late twenties were thrown outside the union doors by the bouncers. My friend and I moved to the bottom of the steps to get out of

the way, and turned round to see one bouncer on the floor whilst two of the lads were kicking him. I couldn't really tell who was fighting who, but I have honestly never seen a fight like it.

"I tried to get back in because my friend had left and I was all on my own so I asked a female bouncer if I could, but to be fair it wouldn't have been safe for me to try. She then informed everyone waiting outside into a queue to the side of the union steps out of the way of the fight whilst the other bouncers tried to get rid of the lads that were still there.

"There were more bouncers inside having to hold the doors closed because the lads were trying to force their way back in again. When they finally gave up and left, the female bouncer hurried everyone in the queue inside the union asking us to go quickly because they might come back. Once I got inside a few people told me that they were football hooligans but I'm not sure."

Commenting on the events Neil Mackenzie, Communications and Internal Affairs for the LUU Exec said: "LUU door staff acted fantastically to diffuse the situation and we are proud to have the best door staff in the city."



# An unwelcome return for Geoff Hoon

by Eva Berrymen

**On Thursday November 8 the Chief Whip and Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury, Geoff Hoon, came to the University to give a talk on the future of British Foreign Policy.**

Before the talk had even begun however, Mr Hoon, a former lecturer of the Law department, was abruptly interrupted by a group of anti-war protesters.

Protesters were present from both Revolution, an international socialist youth organisation, and Students Against War, a Leeds University society. Members of Revolution protested in a more aggressive manner, and shouted Mr Hoon down before he had even been allowed to speak.

Students Against War displayed quieter dissent and held up red painted hands for the duration of the talk, accusing Mr Hoon of having caused great bloodshed in Iraq. The Society wanted to make it clear they are not affiliated with protest group Revolution.

Sarah Holtam, Secretary of Students Against War, said: "Students Against War is a non-violent, non-aggressive, peaceful movement concerned with the situation in Iraq, the likely attack on Iran, as well as with war in general. We disagree with Geoff Hoon's decision to take us to war, his choice of weapons in Iraq and his opinion on nuclear weapons."

Alasdair Burns, a student of Leeds University and member of Revolution, explained the reasons for Revolution's presence at the meeting. He said: "We did not come to the meeting to be lectured by a warmonger. Geoff Hoon was the Defence Secretary when Labour took Britain to war in Iraq, a war which has cost the lives of over a million Iraqis. He is part of a Labour government which has consistently attacked our civil and workers' rights at home. He is a murderer, a warmonger and a hypocrite. Our intervention in the meeting was intended to show that a man with the blood of thousands on his hands will not be welcomed at

this University. It's a shame that some students feel they weren't able to get their point across but when Revolution lead an anti-war chant calling for 'Troops out now!' a large part of the room got involved; it is these people we want to reach out to and get involved in real activism rather than those who are content to sit around listening to the excuses of a war criminal.

Once Mr Hoon was eventually allowed to begin his speech, he made no reference to the war in Iraq. Instead he mainly spoke about Britain's foreign policy in relation to Europe. He discussed Britain's significant role in Europe, the European Reform Treaty and gave reasons for why a

referendum on the EU is no longer necessary, as well as discussing Britain's relationship with the US.

At the end of the talk, time was given for questions from the audience. One student informed Mr Hoon that she was ashamed of his affiliation with her University. Mr Hoon replied: "It is not 'your' University but a public institution."

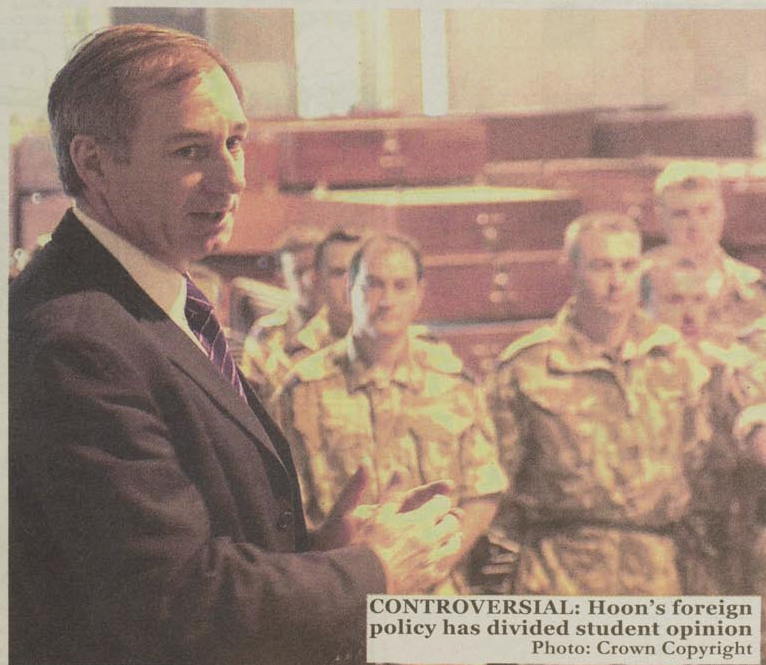
Mr Hoon also expressed his belief in the importance of democracy and how the opportunity to hold politicians such as himself to account is crucial in giving citizens the opportunity to participate democratically within society. However, he added that being shouted down

hampered that chance for others to question him constructively as well as critically. He said: "I fear that in trying to bring attention and credibility to a certainly credible cause, some protesters instead frustrated other members of the audience by obstructing their chance at democratic participation and therefore through garish means of protest brought embarrassment to themselves and their organisation."

Mr Geoff Hoon said afterwards, of his visit to the University: "I was pleased to be back at Leeds University. I started my career there as a law lecturer. I recognise that student politics is always lively. However, I feel that on this occasion the majority of students who wanted to ask questions were denied the opportunity by a deliberate attempt by far-left groups and individuals, some of whom were not students, to disrupt the meeting."

In retaliation to this statement that not all members of the audience were students, Alasdair Burns said: "In response to the comments that some of our members were not students at this university we would point out that Revolution is a socialist youth organisation; we organise young people, students in schools, colleges and university and young workers. Some of our members were not students at Leeds University but this does not mean that they had any less right to attend a public meeting and protest if they wished. We do after all, as Geoff Hoon said, live in a (capitalist) democracy."

The talk was organised by the International Affairs Forum, a non-partisan group in the University. They did not condone the behaviour of the small minority of aggressive protesters present and said: "The protesters not only prevented the rest of the audience from hearing and questioning the Chief Whip but also succeeded in completely undermining their own cause and alienating themselves from those in attendance. Sadly, an incredible opportunity to question a senior cabinet member on aspects of his own career and the current Labour government's foreign policy was lost."



**CONTROVERSIAL: Hoon's foreign policy has divided student opinion**  
Photo: Crown Copyright





## Art for the masses

Dr Sherwin should be commended for providing the opportunity for a member of the general public (at least the general public of Leeds), to own a piece of Damien Hirst's work.

In a consumerist society where pieces of art are being bought for £50 million, art is becoming increasingly unobtainable for the average citizen. It seems unfair that the wealthy can actually own pieces of popular and groundbreaking art, whereas the poorer citizen is resigned to viewing it in a gallery.

Owning pieces of important artwork is in itself very questionable: surely they should remain available to the general public to appreciate and to study? Even the fact that many private galleries charge an entrance fee seems like another obstacle between the public being able to learn about and enjoy art.

However, while art continues to be bought by private owners, it would at least seem morally right that it is not just bought by a lucky minority. Perhaps the artworld needs to take on a more socialist approach to its buying and selling. Perhaps there needs to be restrictions on how much a piece of art can be sold for; removing the auctioneer from art transactions would certainly bring down the prices.

The artists themselves should also have more of a social conscious. Surely they become artists for a love of their job not in order to become multi-millionaires? And once they are, why not donate all future works to galleries or fans?

Such measures may be difficult to impose, but hopefully Sherwin's innovative attempt at redistributing the wealth of art in our society will kickstart similar projects in the future. Other artists should follow Hirst's example and rise up against the increasingly capitalist artworld which is undermining their profession.

## Smashing the glass ceiling

The new research revealing the pay gap between women and men and the unequal opportunities facing female graduates, should not come as a surprise to anyone.

There may have been legislation on sexual equality since the 1970s, but the reality of prospects for women in the workforce, indeed in all areas of life, does not reflect this. Men are continually chosen over women for high-flying jobs and executive positions, and women remain the primary child carers, which means many become housewives over their partners becoming 'house husbands'. The 'glass ceiling' is still very much in place.

The government may not welcome such claims but one only needs to look at the Labour Party and their women-only constituencies to realise that job opportunities for women are nowhere near yet equal to those for men.

The reasons for this inequality is an unfounded attitude to women: many employees are reluctant to employ women because they believe they are not as hard working as men or that they will leave to have children. Some are even so sexist as to believe that women do not have the same intellectual capacities as men.

However, this should not put off female graduates from applying for the top jobs. If anything, it should spur them on to prove employees wrong and smash both the glass ceiling and sexist attitudes. Things are progressing, even if very slowly, and graduates should have nothing but optimism for the future and that the problem of sex inequality will eventually change.

Of course it is not just down to the graduates themselves but also to the government: It seems very happy to face up to the problems of ethnic and racial inequalities, but not to those affecting every single woman in Britain today.

## The naked truth

The Woman's Hockey Club have put themselves on the line in the name of charity with the sale of their semi-nude calendar.

While it could be said that such a fundraiser is tacky and tasteless, even 'anti-feminist', the calendar needs to be taken with a pinch of salt. Especially so when each month represents a different sport and equipment such as table tennis paddles are strategically placed over certain areas.

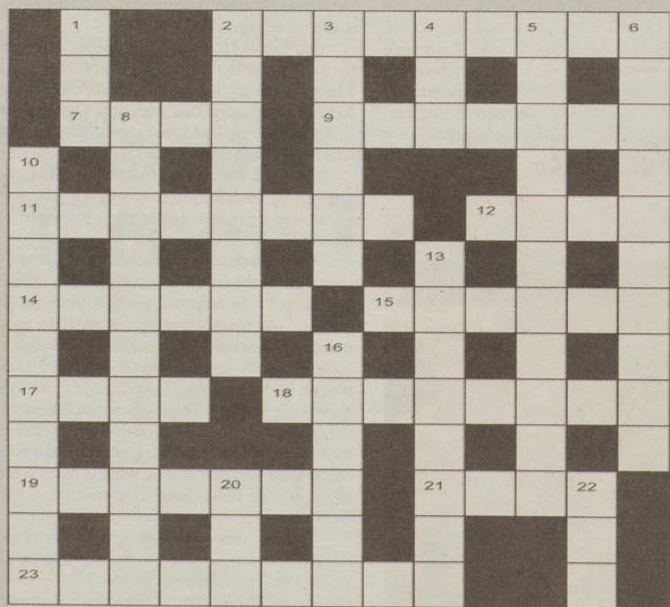
Not many things are as embarrassing as taking your clothes off in front of a complete stranger, let alone then being photographed and that photo being sold in your university union. However, the hockey players managed to overcome these fears in order to raise money for a charitable cause. In the same spirit as the original 'calendar girls', the members of the Women's Institute, the Hockey Club have embraced their fundraising wholeheartedly, risking their own embarrassment for those worse off.

We should remember that those affected by the causes in which we fundraise for are usually in a worse position than ourselves, and that we can afford to relax once in a while and not take ourselves so seriously. Fundraising is a positive thing and we should try and have some fun while we do it.

Last week the *Leeds Student* reported on the RAG paperclip challenge in which fundraisers had to swap a paperclip for something which they could sell. It seems the fundraising culture is moving away from that of cake sales, raffles and charity balls. Such lighthearted events should be encouraged; the more obscure and crazy the more likely people, students in particular, are to take notice and participate.

Who says charity can't be fun?

## LS break time.



Concise Crossword #3 by Phaedrus

### Across

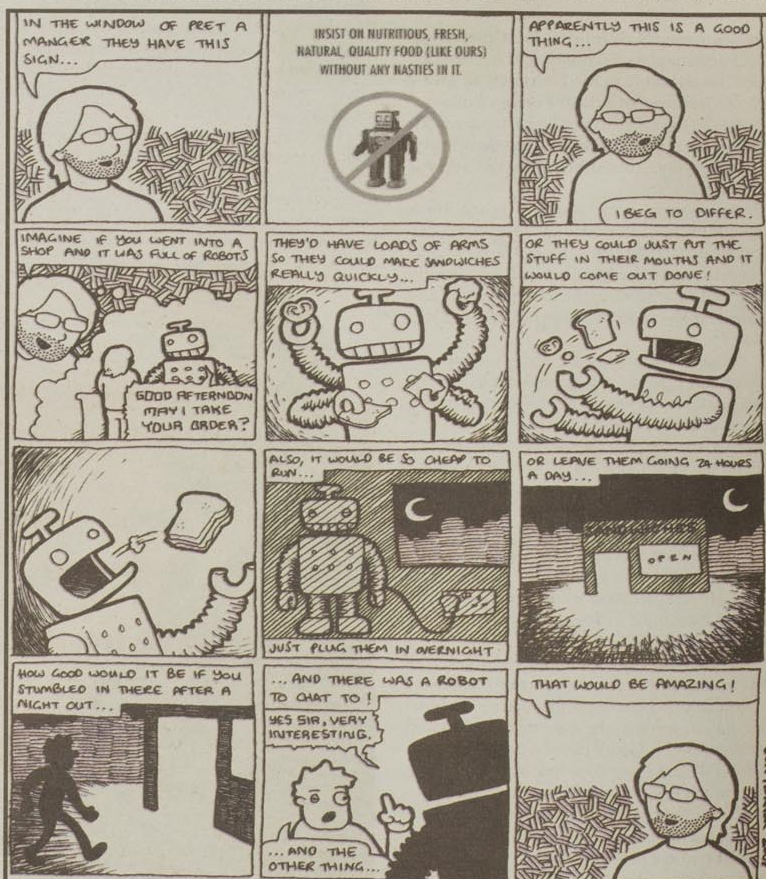
- 2 Wooing (9)  
7 Missing (9)  
9 Month (7)  
11 Positivity (8)  
12 U.S. state (4)  
14 Refugee sought by the persecuted (6)  
15 \_\_\_\_\_ and 21 across (6)

### Down

- 17 Bereft of life (4)  
18 Old U.K. colony returned to China in 1997 (4,4)  
19 Month (7)  
21 Area of Leeds: Park (4)  
23 Beatles song: \_\_\_\_\_ wood (9)

- 1 Greek letter - acronym (3) - (1,1,1)  
2 Lacking in fairness (6)  
3 Square root of one hundred (3)  
4 Good diet (7,4)  
5 The study of human and animal behaviour (10)  
8 Clever, spontaneous

- humour, (found at Dave) (5,6)  
10 Character in The Mighty Boosh (6,4)  
13 Extremist  
16 Multiple of fundamental mathematical constant equalling 12.57 (4,2)  
20 "Adieu" (3)  
22 Finish (3)

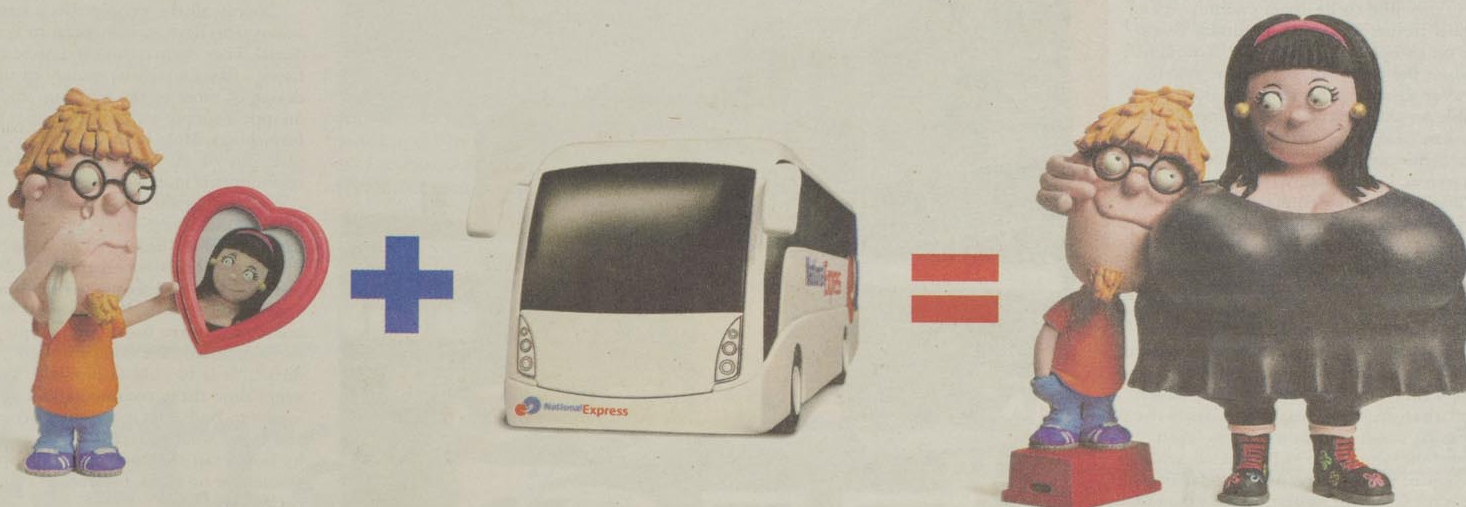


TOP 5 ROBOTS OF ALL TIME: 1: JOHNNY FIVE FROM SHORT CIRCUIT 2: R2D2 3: KITT 4: BENDER 5: PETER CROUCH GOAL CELEBRATION





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## The Big Debate

# the big debate:

## Brilliant Bod or dreadful dump?

Nicknamed the 'Marmite hall' Bodington life sparks contentious debate across campus. This week's debate asks: 'should it stay or should it go?'

### For Bod staying put...

**Chris Stevenson email: [jho6cds@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:jho6cds@leeds.ac.uk)**

**T**he news that Bodington Hall could be potentially shut down left me with a feeling of emptiness, as if a piece of me had been removed, as it played a huge part in my life as a first year and how I came to view the university as a whole.

When I was told to choose my first year accommodation, I was put off immediately by the distance from University in relation to other residences, that placed Bodington as far as it is possible to be from campus. As a potential fresher it seemed important to me to be on campus, close to what I thought would be the centre of all student activity. However as a catered resident it wasn't possible to place everyone on campus that wanted to be and so, as Bodington had the largest contingent of catered residences, I was given a space at Bodington.

While this was the complete opposite to what I wanted before starting at Leeds, it turned out to be the best decision I could have made. All of my housemates, as well as my closest friends were part of the Bodington community. I still speak to many of the 60 people I shared a house with and this creates a fantastic social circle in which to move. As a catered resident, there was a huge spirit in the house which lead to many events, which meant that my first year was a fantastic experience, one free of worry and isolation.

It was the same, as far as I could tell, across the whole of the complex. As it is so far away, there is the feeling of separation from the rest of the University, but this is no bad thing. This community spirit made Bodington a great place to live, as everyone was always helpful and there was always someone to talk to if you had a problem, whether that be your Sub-Warden or Warden, or just general staff. It also lead to a healthy sense of competition and there was huge scope at Bodington for getting involved with sports between the different blocks to a level which is not possible at many other residences.

From a social point of view, the Hall is second to none. As it is placed at the start of the infamous Otley Run it has an unrivalled advantage when it comes to organising and enjoying this key part of the Leeds social scene, which is a staple of Bodington life and sets us up well for the social side of student life.

Granted the distance from University could be a sticking point for many people who do not want to shell out for a bus pass. However, after a while, I got used to the distance and just factored it in to whatever I was doing. Nobody likes travelling back up the Otley Road at 5pm at night, but it should not detract from the fact that it is a great experience. Nothing beats being able to sit out on the fields on a sunny summers day and do nothing.

This place left a lasting impression on me and I made many good friends that will last many years (I hope). I believe that

Bodington is a great place for new students, as it sets you up well for the next couple of years of your degree. It would be a mistake to shut it down as in my opinion no other residence can rival the atmosphere around Bodington.

### Against Bod's dated existence...

**Victoria Malcolm email: [ipi4cvq@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:ipi4cvq@leeds.ac.uk)**

**T**he closure Bodington Hall, if it happens at all, will not be the end of the world. Indeed, it would be the beginning of a new way of life for over a thousand

people.

Distance is the key to the Bod debate. Every year a vast amount of freshers get placed in Bod, some 1,200 students, and they have to travel four miles to and four miles from university. Every day. No amount of re-development will change the fact that the site is simply too far away from where the action is, where the university is. That is, after all why students come to university... to go to university.

Nearly all the people that I have come across who have actually been to Bod are in denial. They claim to love it despite it's many flaws - flaws which lie mainly in the dated design of most of the buildings and cannot disappear simply with a lick of paint and new furnishings. Most rooms do not even have a sink, one of the most basic standard room requirements in most other halls.

Bod isolates it's inhabitants. It isolates them so much that many actually feel or felt happy in their unfair conditions. In fact many of those that claim to love it have nothing but bad things to say about the accommodation itself. The usual criticisms arise: "there are too many people, so the food standards are compromised", "it was dirty", "it is too old fashioned". Yet nearly every time these comments end with total loyalty to Bod: "but it was such a community and that's what mattered", "we were united by how crap the food was", "I spent my whole year on a bus, but couldn't wait to get back to Bod bar".

The problem is that these isolated Bod-dwellers do not know what they are missing out on. They are cut off from the normal expectations and lives of freshers. No 'community' should be united by how crap their living standards are. And travelling so far is surely impractical and unfair. Not all 'Boddies' have a car, and if they do, they have to pay £80 to park outside their own home and there's also the cost of at least 8 miles a day worth of petrol. Then, of course, whether on a bus or in a car, Boddies have to battle through the morning congestion of Weetwood and Headingley or face the long walk of over an hour. No fresher wants to get up at seven a.m. for a lecture at nine. This is only compounded for a Bod resident when an hour or so of travel is added to the long list of reasons not to go in, along with being hungover and not wanting to travel for so long just to sit in a room for an hour and then travel back again.

I spent my fresher year in Oxley Hall, the second furthest away after Bod. It took me 55 minutes exactly to walk in every day and it seemed like the longest journey in the world. I could never imagine having to walk even further. I had to do so once or twice to visit friends there but more often than not they had to make the journey out of Bod to socialise. After all why would any other fresher make such a long journey only to arrive at such a dump?



### Last Week's Debate: 'To gap or not to gap?'

Latest result from online polls:

For exclusion: 50%

For inclusion: 50%

### Top Comments from the website:

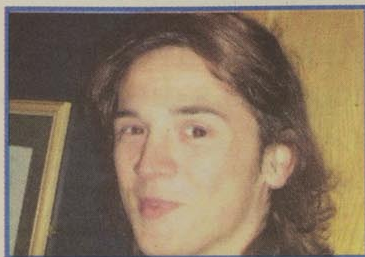
"Students who gap need to think about why they need to travel in the first place and what the implications are of their visit upon the local people in their travel destinations. Most people use the excuse of finding themselves, but when they get back often they're no wiser than when they left." - Maryam Ahmed

"I'm always up for a holiday, tho I didn't do one myself, I might do one after I finish my degree tho..." - The BazBomb

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



# Have Your Say: LS1 cruises campus to find out what you think about the future of Bod.



**David Hudson, second year, Geography.**

Bod is one of the leading halls. Everyone is always raving about it, it provides a pleasurable student life for people. The best thing about it is that people aren't there to social climb, it isn't part of the public school clique like some other halls.

I think it is a good thing that Bodington is so far away from uni, it gives you a break from campus stress and you can do the Headingley and Hyde Park thing when you are in your second or third year.

I loved my time there and I loved my dodgy little room, it wasn't all bad, we all used to visit each other and pop round to each other's rooms for a chat. It was great! I doubt it's the same in the new swanky halls where everything is separated into little flats with kitchens shared between only four or five people.



**Juliet Dick, fourth year, Medicine.**

I'd like to go to Bod Bar one more time if it does close down. I hear that it has just been re-done. It is the best bar and that's all you need in a fresher hall.

In my opinion it is absolutely miles away and some of the rooms are horrible, the food looks like it has been marinated in oil for about a million years and the common rooms are just plain dirty. Having said that, it is just amazing for socialising and meeting new people, it feels like a whole campus of friends and I think that is what halls are really about. In a way the worse your room is the more time you want to spend out of it socialising with people in the common room. Somewhere like James Baillie is new but it there seems to be much less socialising because everyone is separated in little flats. It's not the same in a modern hall.



**Sofi Goddard, fourth year, Spanish.**

I don't think that Bod meets the needs of the modern student. It would be good if it was a mile further towards university, some of the new halls are much nicer than Bod. I had a horrible room, I enjoyed my time there but it simply wasn't ideal accommodation. I spent most of my first year in a bus.

I don't think people should resist change for the sake of it, the fact is that some of the new nicer halls are a lot nicer, the Tannery is really swanky I hear. I wonder whether all of the students will just relocate to private halls, or if there'll be enough room around the area to build a new and more modern hall. The thing is, even if Bod is rebuilt from scratch they still won't be able to get away from the fact that it is too far away from the university itself and most people prefer to walk to uni.



**Paul Foley, second year Electrical engineering.**

I found my time there extremely enjoyable. The distance from the University and the Town centre wasn't a major problem with the busses running frequently. The advantages of living this far away from any other residences meant that socialising between the residents was inevitable and as a result I made several good friends there.

It may not be the prettiest place, and the meals are something to fear, but it was the perfect place to start uni life - my closest friends are from Bod and will continue to be my friends hopefully for many years to come. There are some downsides, such as the distance, which put people off applying there, but most people I know loved Bod, and I believe it would be a great loss to the university if it was demolished - no other hall can compete socially.

## Extra



**Matt Andrews**  
Associate Editor

changed the way our LS2 supplement works: as of this week's newspaper, the section is a separate magazine included within your normal newspaper. The Leeds Student team are excited about this new format and hope you are too - have a flick through the paper and check out the new system.

**W**elcome to the new and improved features section. This part of Leeds Student has been modified slightly to cover a wider range of topics and offer some more brief features alongside our usual in-depth coverage of issues.

As well as this, we've also

**"The only non-black person in this 'information' booklet was a white male doctor."**

**- HIV/AIDS: Ill Portrayal, p 10.**



### Ill Portrayal

10

We explore the racial implications within HIV/AIDS literature - can a disease be discriminatory?



### Denied Education

11

A religious group in Iran are being prevented from entering university. LS1 examines this denial of rights to education.



### A Global Perspective

14

LS1 talks to international students about their perceptions of British culture, Leeds life, and their experiences in Europe.



# Is HIV a “black man’s disease”

Can diseases discriminate? If you examine some of the anti-AIDS literature available on campus, **Adaeze Umolu** examines the implication that HIV/AIDS is “a black man’s disease”. What

**Y**ou’d be surprised the things that a little flu can cause. Before I arrived, I was sure I was never going to be ill in this country...until the cold weather left me distraught, offering further proof that the coats and sweat shirts were obviously doing nothing for me. So my suspicion turned to ‘unhealthy’ eating as the cause of my illness. But being the critical thinker I am, I refused to blame ‘me’ entirely, so I put some blame on the fruits and vegetables I didn’t eat because they didn’t taste like the ones I had back home, even though they were exactly the same.

I made my journey to the Leeds Student Medical Practice, accompanied by a friend, and after confirming my appointment, I returned myself and my attention to the several leaflets, little booklets and posters about healthy living that I had noticed by the entrance. I read about proper healthy eating and on the spot, with my friend as my witness, took a royal vow to tow the line of more veggies and fruits. I noticed the emphasis about sexual behaviour and free immediate services to females and

**“The only non-black person in this ‘information’ booklet was a white male doctor.**

males who had just had unprotected sex, and information on sexually transmitted disease.

I was intrigued about this policy - that a medical centre was offering services to people who, carried away by their excitement, engaged in risky unprotected sex against their wellbeing. The only thing I could think about is how concerned the authorities must be for the students in this university. I only hope this goodwill message wasn’t abused or misused by the beneficiaries.

I looked at the other brochures, until I came across one that had pictures of people who look like

me, so I picked it up and it was on HIV/AIDS. I was interested but not intrigued. It was a booklet by Unite, a guide on living positively with HIV. It also streamlined the treatments and implications of HIV/AIDS. I flipped through and all the people in this booklet were Black, Negro and unarguably of African descent. This is a booklet in Britain, where the majority of people belong to the majority white ethnicity. Meaning that most of the people who see the booklet will be Britons themselves, but for some reason all the models were black and (did I mention?) the only non-black person in this ‘information’ booklet was a white male doctor.

For several years I have observed that Western media doesn’t portray anything good about Africa, but never have I ever seen it as bluntly represented as I did this day. There is no excuse! The images of this brochure were saying one thing only: ‘HIV is a black man’s disease’. As if that wasn’t enough, the very words of the brochure didn’t help matters either.

The very first page had a sub-heading: ‘Who is this booklet

for?’ followed by these words, ‘...It is designed for black African people who are living with HIV and thinking about HIV treatment.’ What is this brochure doing in Britain? The third paragraph under the same sub-title had these words: ‘A similar booklet has been produced specifically for men who have sex with men (MSM)...’

I wouldn’t be surprised if the models in that booklet were all black men too. I wonder what happens to white heterosexual or homosexual people.

But this brochure is not about black people living in Africa, because apart from the introductory page (which is I know is a failed attempt to justify the use of black models in an obviously white country), all the information in the booklet is about the UK. On the fourth page is a huge colourful graph of the death tolls and diagnosed cases of AIDS and HIV respectively. The data, statistics and facts have been collected from the United Kingdom. So why are the producers of this brochure trying very hard to make it a race thing?

If that isn’t enough proof then this next example surely must put the matter to rest. All the contacts listed on the last page of the brochure as ‘helpline’ are all UK numbers beginning with 020, 0845, and 0800. What is this? I think everyone knows that



**SECOND OPINION:** A sample of just some of the HIV leaflets available, aimed at black AIDS victims.



inside this week's  
**MAGAZINE:**

WEEK IN PROFILE  
KARIM INTERVIEWS...  
**OBSERVATIONS**

# TS2

magazine



# inside

STARS  
i P A G E  
**CLUBS**

HOLLY TRIES...  
WEEK IN PROFILE  
**AFTERDARK**

ARTS  
MUSIC  
**T.V.**



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# The LOW DOWN

with Martha and Karim



Going up

Going down

## CARBOHYDRATES:

It's only a matter of time before I'm the face of Dolmio, and Grossman- you're skating on thin ice. I'm a dedicated fan of the carbohydrate in all its guises, the potato, the bread-stick, the pasta twist. Who gives a monkeys if they're stored as fat, it's November- make like a squirrel and hibernate.

## THE SEX INDUSTRY:

I've been told by a reliable source that getting your kit off and throwing a few shapes can be a shrewd money-making exercise. What do you mean it's objectifying women? Haven't you seen The Full Monty? Fun for boys and girls alike, why not try making nuggets for nips- it's got to be more fun than medical testing.

## LONG HAIR:

All of a sudden the only 'cool' factor attached to those Karen-O bobs and Klaxon-esque undercuts is the icy cold grip they're allowing on your frost bitten 'lobes. Next time opt for a more practical style, or if you must be en vogue, be fashion forward and think nu-grave. Uber-long, ratty black tresses? Pure sex.

## LONDON:

Look, London is a capital city, it's its duty to be better than the other cities in the UK. So why do people constantly compare this Tyrannosaurus to the Barney that is Leeds? I mean in the sense that Leeds is colourful, fun and endearing and London is big, scary and dangerous.

## TRAIN JOURNEYS:

Perhaps it's just me, but for some reason the elderly, the young and the mentally impaired seem to be drawn by some magnetic force to the spare seat beside me. Even when there's three completely empty carriages. If they're not telling me to turn my iPod down, they're mumbling about fishcakes or just generally struggling with language acquisition as a whole.

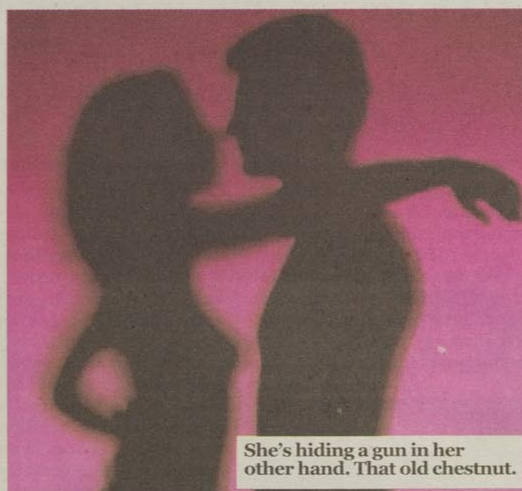
## TEXT-SPEAK:

Admittedly this is a speedy and concise means of telecommunication, but it can have damaging effects when used in inappropriate circumstances. "Iv gvn u th ldp" is best said in person, and "I fink I luv u" doesn't quite have the same effect.

## "SAME DIFFERENCE":

The most distressing X-Factor contestants since the aborted Elvis foetus last year, these two have 'INCEST' written all over their inane smiling faces. Sharon Osbourne described them as something Micheal Jackson would dream up. Nuff said.

words/ karim khan, martha ling



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

This week I decided to shun the ever growing club-scene of Leeds and go back to basics. No, I don't mean the pilled-up danceathon at My House, I mean a well needed return to the quintessential English Pub. I'd forgotten how cheap a drink is when it's not served by some arrogant nobby on Call Lane, so managed to get very happy, very quickly. Another highlight were the hardcore karaoke-loving locals, who provided entertainment not unlike live X-factor auditions. Near the beginning. When everyone is shit. I then had one of those 'quiet nights in' which proved to do more damage than any nights out I'd had in the last three months. The next day I felt like someone was flicking my brain, and blowing in my earholes. I can only assume this is how Karim felt approximately three days after his birthday, when he finally awoke in an abandoned warehouse wearing only a leopard print loincloth. I can't tell you what he's been up to this week, as he's snowed under with work and hasn't been able to make it in. Poor boy. He obviously missed all those priceless 'time-management' lectures we were offered in first year. He was probably too busy with fast women and dirty money. Or a pot noodle and MSN Messenger. Happy Birthday! M.



## "What's next? 'Gang-Bang' in The Old Bar?"

Ultimately then, is it better to be in a relationship doomed for demise or to spend your three-years dodging STI's? I'd say the latter, for the simple reason that you gain 'life skills'. You know, those attributes the panel on Loose Women supposedly have. Many people say that it's better to have loved and lost than to have never loved at all, but that's usually after having been dumped, cheated or generally pissed on by their ex. Some have the opinion that the romantic encounters you experience during University form your attitude to all future relationships, so try and be choosy, if not cautious- or you could end up with more baggage than Heathrow Airport.



**Overheard this week.** "Boy or Girl, I'm gonna fuck my way through the Brotherton" // "It's not me, it's you" // "Same Difference are the personification of vomit- with extra carrots" // "Mince Pies are like sugary, mincey, sex- no, no, better than sex" // "I love techno? What kind of Music was it?" // "Ha, he'd be lucky to get a 'hello' let alone a hand-job" //



# Conserve your energy?

Have you volunteered abroad? Or are you thinking about spending next summer helping protect the environment? Certain volunteer projects, especially those in the conservation sector have been receiving some bad press of late. Reporter **Vicky Kemp** investigates the backlash against this form of eco-friendly tourism.

In recent months there has been some negative feedback aimed toward volunteer abroad projects, with returning volunteers feeling that the companies sending them to far flung corners of the globe have shown incompetence in varying aspects of the experience. A common response is that the company has been lacking in the information provided prior

that volunteers can achieve, both from a personal perspective and in respect to giving aid to and learning from the environment in which they are placed. But equally, I find the reservation to take on volunteering projects very understandable. I myself, a fourth year zoology student, have been exposed to a number of accounts of poorly planned volunteer projects, from which university peers

science expedition projects that operate in remote locations across the world, presently including Indonesia, Honduras, Egypt, Cuba, South Africa, Mozambique and Peru. These expeditions are designed with specific wildlife conservation objectives, carried out within the framework of the 4- stage conservation strategy designed by Op Wall. To date these expeditions have yielded exciting results, including the discovery of 30 vertebrate species new to science, 4 'extinct' species being re-discovered and one million pounds levered from funding agencies to set up best practice management examples at the study sites.

A number of characteristics of the Op Wall scheme set it apart from many other volunteering projects, resulting in many positive reports from past volunteers, whose messages can be seen, in addition to the organisation's website, on the "Operation Wallacea" group on facebook. On our fundraising committee for the 2008 expedition we have our own seasoned Op Waller, Rachel Davies, who has said of her experience last year in Honduras; "Overall, my experience with Operation Wallacea was something I will never forget. I had an amazing time and a fantastic opportunity to help with invaluable research. Seeing the effects of over fishing, tourism and waste disposal on the coral reefs really opened my eyes to the impact we are having on some of the most diverse ecosystems on our earth, and the need for the research and conservation efforts carried out by such companies as Operation Wallacea"

What are these differences? The feature which is most highlighted for myself is that the time spent on expedition with Op Wall is a complete learning experience, during which the volunteer works under the supervision of experts on the various research projects, and has a chance to increase their skills and later implement them in function to record data of a competent level with intrinsic validity. In this way volunteering for the project provides the possibility to aid the project environment directly, as the results obtained are used toward the design of a conservation management programme, and additionally the skills are learnt to put into use in future conservation projects. Op Wall are fairly unique in that the majority of the volunteers they recruit are university students, alongside a limited number of other volunteers that aid as research assistants, and is tailored toward the development of skills that will be extremely useful to graduate biologists/ geography students.

Personally, I am also very impressed by the level at which the organisation has integrated the conservational management of the different sites with socio-economic policies. Throughout the 4- stage conservation strategy, wherever possible, the expeditions are organised in close co-operation with the local communities and substantial benefits accrue to those communities through their providence of accommodation, food, transport, manpower etc. In addition to the direct economic input from the expeditions, emphasis is placed on the development of businesses that can provide alternative

“ There have been accounts of poorly planned volunteer projects, from which university students have returned feeling cheated and deflated.



Volunteers help save the world.

to departure, therefore leaving the volunteer in a difficult position having arrived to begin their project. Organisational downfalls have included details regarding travel, accommodation, and language preparation. There is also some negative response regarding the organisation and management of the project once the volunteer has arrived on site, which have included accounts of absence of work within the advertised domain and/or skill development at the project site. All in all, the motivation to get involved in volunteer abroad projects has dwindled in recent times.

This can be said equally of a broad range of volunteer abroad projects, those with conservation as their main objective inclusive. It is unfortunate that there is negative thought surrounding the idea of volunteering to work on a conservation project, as there is so much

have returned feeling cheated and deflated after spending their savings to have been sent out to a conservation-less resort for some weeks/months.

My main aim here is not to convince you that any volunteer abroad project is the best one out there, rather to raise awareness that beneficial projects do exist, but also that some care is needed in searching the web for positively designed expeditions. There are many active volunteer projects within which volunteers are able to carry out highly relevant work from which conservation strategies are being implemented on a global level. I would like to introduce you to one organisation, Operation Wallacea (Op Wall), with whom I am undertaking an eight week expedition in the summer of 2008.

Op Wall is a series of biological and social

incomes to local communities. One example is the fixing of product prices for cashews, chocolate and coffee in Indonesia to allow the local community to benefit fully from their produce. The use of financial incentives also runs alongside educational programmes, both managed by the Operation Wallacea Trust, in order that the direct payment for conservation is not the only way of progression in the future.

Op Wall is a project that is open to all University students, and during assistance on the projects there is the opportunity to learn a great deal about conservation management, but also to have a brilliant time in any one of the 7 sites at which Op Wall is based. In summer 2008 we, the fundraising committee that you will hopefully see about the union during the next few months, will be undertaking the opportunity to work on one of these amazing projects. You can contact Op Wall direct at [info@opwall.com](mailto:info@opwall.com) if you have been interested in the information in this article.



THERE'S A CUP OF JOE WAITING WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED THAT ARTICLE, CLARK!

JOLLY GOOD, LOIS! I'M ON MY LAST PARAGRAPH!

**IF SUPERMAN CAN DO IT  
— SO CAN YOU!**

**LEEDS STUDENT NEWSPAPER  
IS LOOKING FOR:**

**PROOF READERS, WRITERS, MARKETING,  
DESIGNERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS.**

**COME INSIDE AND SAY HELLO!  
MEETINGS ON FRIDAYS AT 5PM OR E-MAIL**

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# Spain: The Promised Land

Spain is full of those seeking better lives, as well as with those whose means of living are threatened by the arrival of outsiders. **Harriet Hernando** explores the challenges facing immigrants wishing to enter the dream destination of Spain and the benefits of European living.

**D**espite Spain's attempts to stem illegal immigration, thousands of Africans continue to make their way to Spain to fulfil their dream of a better life. Perhaps the most harrowing of all the tales associated with illegal immigration is that of the tourist on a beach in southern Spain, sun-bathing nonchalantly whilst the body of an African washes up on the shore. Or perhaps that of the boat load found washed up on the other side of the Atlantic in Barbados with 11 desiccated corpses on board. The trip can take a week to two weeks, but there have been cases of boats getting lost and taking 20 days. Many of the boats have a global positioning device, but some malfunction.

Doroï Dabo, 21, who recently arrived by boat, sells copied CDs on a honey-coloured street in Oviedo, Northern Spain. The attractive web of plazas and palaces in the old town may seem like an unlikely place for such a lively hub of illegal activity, but immigrants work here without much hassle from the police. Nevertheless, Dabo isn't complacent; if he ends up getting caught, it could result in his deportation. He's only been here 2 months but already he prefers life in Spain compared to his birthplace in Senegal, the reason being work. Senegal, despite its relative stability, has an unemployment rate of 40% and half the population is under 18. Oviedo seems a strange destination for immigrants, granted that it's much further away from Senegal than the shores of Andalusia. But Dabo says he's come here because there aren't any jobs left in the South. The CDs come in transparent plastic slips covering the poor quality album cover. They are laid out on a large square of dirty material, and each corner is joined by rope. Should the police come, the men can quickly scoop up their wares into a bundle and make off down the labyrinth of streets.



Walking through a sunny plaza, I approached a retired couple and asked them what they thought of the huge influx of immigrants. Having lived in Oviedo all their lives, they testified that the massive increase in immigrants was true, but they displayed apathy towards the numbers. Since they had not been bothered by the "negros", they didn't really care about them. Muggings are uncommon here, and many Spaniards are hostile towards Romanian immigrants, not Africans, because of the presence of mafia and its fame for brutal robberies.

Miguel, 41, of Spanish nationality, works on a market in the bustling centre of Oviedo. He's not so apathetic towards the illegal

workers. He runs a stall selling legal CDs, "making an honest living". He too has noticed the increase in illegal CD vendors and spoke about how there used to be more legal vendors like himself, but who have been forced to close down because they can't compete with the rock-bottom prices. His CDs are priced from 8–10 €, but a one of Dabo's CDs can be purchased for as little as 3 €. Finding a quick solution is difficult, however he believes that the answer lies in stemming the amount of immigrants entering without papers. "With papers, immigrants would be able to work under equal conditions like us, and business would be much fairer."

Entrance to Spain can be made via the Canary Islands from Senegal, attracting immigrants from surrounding parts of Africa such as Gambia, Mali, Sierra Leon and Niger. The islands, with a population of less than 2 million people, have already seen the arrival of 6,500 'sin papeles' (without papers) this year. Tenerife, with less than 800,000 inhabitants, has been completely overwhelmed. Their major immigration detention centre has a capacity to house only 168 people. The Canary Islands now are not just a Mecca for cruise ships; they are fast becoming a gateway to a perceived luxury.

According to El Pais (Spain), the governor of the Canary Islands, José Segura, has said that immigration is "impossible to control" and affirmed that "there is no institutional strength in the heart of the European Union that can control it". Segura said:

"It is not the fault of the Spanish government. It is the fault of the government of those countries that, in effect, are demonstrating a remarkable incapacity to provide opportunities for development to their youth."

Yet once these young men arrive, they hardly find a place in which they can feel free to express themselves, and instead remain on the margins of European society. Beyond sounding patronizing, adolescence can be a trying time, and on top of this alienation and the search for identity can lead to extremism and violence, a fact driven home by the London bombings, the Paris riots, the assassination of Theo Van Gogh in Amsterdam, and the uproar over the Danish cartoons, to name a few examples. Although the latter are associated with Muslim marginalization in the Western World, divides created on the basis of prejudice, be it race, religion, or gender, are universal.

This steady stream of immigration has been dubbed "reverse colonisation" – the coloniser colonised by its former subjects. The major difference between the colonisation of then and now is that it happens without power, control, or rights; there is no gallant Hernán Cortes leading an army to glory and gold. Spain has no modern colonial holdings in Africa today but the Spanish colonised the native population of the Canary Islands in the early 1400s, long before the rise of other European empires. This is parallel to France's relation with Senegal. Senegal was colonised by France in 1890, and later achieved independence in 1960. Despite France's former connections with Senegal, many people in France look down upon immigrants and want nothing to do with them. The riots of 2005 highlighted the social discontent and racial discrimination in France and Mr Chirac said the rioting reflected a "crisis of ... identity". Nicolas Sarkozy, a right-wing politician, has been accused of lighting the fires himself. As France's new president he promised a France that would be tough on immigration and would no longer let unchecked immigrants invade its borders and

burn its suburbs. He said colonisation was an "unfair system" but would not apologise for it and talked of the debt owed to those "decent and hardworking French families" forced out of Africa.

Zeinabou Wallet, a Malien radio announcer in her eighties, is opposed to Sarkozy's stance on immigration and had this to say:

"Taking into account our historical links, it is inhuman that France closes its doors to our children. The White are hypocrites... When they came to colonise us, they did not ask for a visa to come."

**“ In a global world the West needs to take responsibility for the injustices we have imposed and are still imposing on struggling developing nations. ”**

47 years later, and now well into the post-colonial era, Europeans need to question where their colonial responsibilities lie. With regards to immigration is it a question of enough is enough, or should we be doing more to help?

This year's surge of migrants arriving in the Canary Islands are mostly sub-Saharan Africans detained at sea after week-long journeys in wooden boats from the western coast of North Africa, according to Red Cross officials.

A crackdown by the authorities in Morocco has led the migrants to move their departure points farther and farther south, first to Mauritania and now to Senegal, greatly extending their journeys and increasing the chances that they will run into trouble while at sea, according to human rights groups.

The Canary Islands have been drawing boatloads of illegal migrants from Africa for more than a decade, but never at a rate comparable to this year. Spanish officials attribute the increase to improved monitoring of other routes used by illegal immigrants in the past, such as those across the Strait of Gibraltar or, more recently, across the land borders at the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, on the northern coast of Morocco.

Spain attracted more immigrants, both legal and illegal, than any country in the EU in 2005. But illegal immigration to the Canary Islands was on the decline before this year's surge. In 2005, more than 4,700 migrants were detained while trying to reach the Canary Islands, down from 8,500 the year before, according to figures from the Spanish government. But after less than five months, the number for 2007 is already ahead of last year's 12-month total. The government has said it plans to deport all of them after providing medical care and ensuring that they are not political refugees who deserve asylum. But some of the migrants are sure to come from countries that have not signed deportation agreements with Spain, leaving Madrid with few options beyond handing them over to rights groups or charitable organisations.

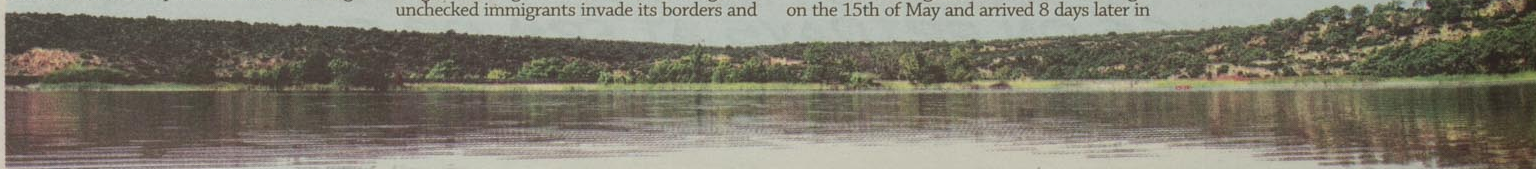
Elimane Niang, 20, left the shores of Senegal on the 15th of May and arrived 8 days later in

Tenerife, cold, hungry and scared after a perilous journey across the Atlantic. The wooden fishing boats in which himself and 78 others travelled are unsafe and not suited to such lengthy crossings. He said that he knew about the dangers of the crossing, but had to make the journey "for his family." Both his parents are dead, but he has left behind a younger brother and sister to whom he sends what money he can, via Western Union. "If it was not for them, I would not have come." Niang then spent 36 days in Tenerife, looked after by the Red Cross, later flying to Madrid, where he spent 4 nights, before making his way to meet his older brother in Oviedo. He said that the Red Cross arranged the flight to the mainland for him, and sent him off on his way with a sandwich. He believes he was lucky to get as far as Madrid. Niang spent 2 years working to save for the journey that cost 500,000 CFA Franc, approximately 700 euros. Others are given money by their parents who sell their houses to pay for the journey.

In Oviedo Niang sells CDs like Dabo and the many other illegal immigrants that populate the town. On a good day, he can earn up to 15 €, but on a bad day he makes nothing. He does not burn the CDs himself, but buys them off his boss. He buys each CD for 1 €, and sells it on for 3 €. DVDs are bought at 1.50 €, and sold for 5 €. One would think that the huge amount of illegal CD vendors like Niang would be as a result of police vigilance, but this is not strictly true. He says that he has often had to run from the police. Once he was caught, but the police turned a blind eye, and said that if they caught him again there would be trouble. This is evidence of just how dire the situation has got in Spain, with the authorities not knowing how to handle the situation anymore.

During the interview, Niang displayed much pride for his people, saying that they had only come to Spain to "earn money and work honestly". The ability to achieve this is relatively futile; until immigrants are granted the legitimacy to live and work in Spain their employment in society will always be perceived as dishonest. He remarked that "there is little hope for us in Senegal, there are few jobs, and you can barely survive on the wages."

Once the immigrants arrive in Spain, they remain on the margins of society. Although Niang goes to Spanish classes, he still finds it hard to integrate. He often encounters racism and a lack of respect. To him, it doesn't matter what race you are or what religion you belong to; it is all the same to him. Perhaps we in the West are lucky that there are still people from the under-developed world who think like this, who are not embittered by colonial pasts or religious brawls. We need to start looking at the positive side of immigration to our western economies, and think about what we can do to integrate the individual into society. It is European snobbery and right-wing politics from the likes of individuals such as Sarkozy that create tensions and divides, and as we have seen from the backlash of the 2005 riots, distancing marginalised people further is clearly not the answer. In a global world the West needs to take responsibility for the injustices we have imposed and are still imposing on struggling developing nations. We are partly to blame for the chaos and disorder of increasing illegal immigration, therefore it is jointly our responsibility with those nations affected to change the situation.





# Animal testing: a neccessary evil?

The animals go in two by two. Hurrah or not so Hurrah? **Alex Holden** examines the issues in animal testing, the challenges faced by those wishing to test on lab creatures, and whether it really does benefit society.

**A**nimals in action or Children in need? Does your heart lie with our smaller, more cuddly friends or would you consider yourself as more of a people person? Alex Holden investigates the facts of animal testing and whether it is right or wrong to kill animals to save humanity.

Scalpel, clamp, rat...Surgery, medical practice, prescription drugs, anaesthetics: you name it, we need it. Western modern medicine, when it is available, saves countless lives and without it our modern world would be unimaginably different. Obviously disease and sickness have not been eradicated, but due to medical advances and skilled doctors, these days we can at least offer a potential cure or

research. The final and less well known group of people are referred to as 'Pro-test'. They support what the scientists believe, but operate on the level of the animal rights activists in terms of the extreme measures they will take. Wherever you stand in the moral dilemma of animal testing there can be no right or wrong answer. If there were, I wouldn't have much of an article to write. So here we go...

There is a lot of bad press about animal rights protests. One hears a great deal of rumours about what horrific things activists have done or have threatened to do in the name of the animals. The fact is though, that most of them are true. Animal rights protesters have caused £150 million worth of damage to property over the last twenty-five years. They're not messing around. Not only this, but millions of pounds are spent on protecting the people they are trying to destroy with security and police escorts. Nightmare! Ok here are some horror stories: At the University of Minnesota alone in just one year ALF (or the Anti-Liberation-Front) did \$750,000 worth of damage to offices and other equipment. This is where the university medical team were working towards developing a vaccine against brain cancer and doing significant research into Alzheimer's disease. Colin Blakemore, who is the chief director at Oxford University's Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience, told the press how even his children had to have twenty-four hour surveillance because of threats to kidnap them. He also received bomb threats, was beaten up and had his home vandalised. Jonathan Djanogly is the MP for the constituency where Huntingdon Life Sciences is based. He calls this extreme action by anti-animal testing campaigners 'terrorism' and says 'whilst there is a legitimate debate to be had concerning the limits and regulation of animal testing, there can be no legitimacy given to those that would use terrorist means to achieve their objectives.' This is big stuff and anyone reading this will be easily persuaded of the lunacy and cruelty of anyone who put a family through such traumatising experiences, merely because someone is doing their job.

However, there is, of course, another side to the story. PETA otherwise known as People for Ethical Treatment of Animals are the biggest organisation in favour of the abolition of animal testing in the world. Based in America, but with branches all over the globe, they believe that animals are neither ours to kill, nor are they 'ours to eat'. Many activists argue that there is very little difference between a small animal and a small child. This controversial concept shows how seriously these people feel about the matter and Ingrid Newkirk who is the co-founder and president of PETA is even quoted as saying that 'a rat is a pig is a dog is a boy'. There are certainly an equal amount of scary statistics to balance that of the horror stories, which might persuade you that animal testing is cruel after all. In 2001, and in the UK alone, 2,567,713 animals were killed in the name of science. I don't even know how to say that number. Some of the testing does also seem highly unnecessary. Experiments for cosmetics and shampoos make up a large amount of that number and this should conjure a certain amount of guilt within us all. As well as this (nasty image coming up) a lot of animals have been used in the development of anaesthetics. This means that they were used to test potentially unsuccessful anaesthetics during surgery and were therefore not only operated on unnecessarily, but potentially without effective anaesthetics as well.

Despite this, the fact remains that there is a crucial difference between animals and people. Even in the bible it highlights that humans were placed above animals. Most of the animals used for testing are not deemed

particularly 'important' or intelligent species anyway. Over 87% of the animals tested on at Huntingdon Life Sciences for instance, are rats and mice. These tests have to happen in order for humans to develop world changing, going-down-in-history sort of medicine that would affect the whole globe and be a huge benefit to mankind. Does it really matter if a few thousand rats die? A few thousand more will be born. In the UK in fact they have some of the strictest legislation. In 1986 the law changed so that if there was a viable alternative to testing on animals for a particular product, this method must be used instead - and they are. However, Colin Blakemore argues that 'if you stand against animal testing then you are standing against being helped by conventional medicine, because it is fact that most of it relies on animals to develop it'. This does seem to make sense.

There is also substantial evidence to suggest that testing on animals *does* really work. Through use of animals in experimentation, vaccines against diseases such as Polio, Measles, Rubella, TB and Mumps have been effectively developed. That is basically covering all those injections that you were given in school so if you had those then you have chosen your side already! It gets more sophisticated as well. Operations such as organ transplants and open-heart surgery have been developed through the use of animal testing. Protesters would argue that animals react differently to humans and that the results are therefore not necessarily acutely accurate. However, scientists have established that almost all the differences between reactions in humans and reactions in animals can be accounted for in the tests.

Nevertheless, we mustn't ignore the fact that experiments can go wrong. If the animal becomes over-stressed, the results have to be ignored and the animal is likely to die as a result of the test. Being caged also makes the animal vulnerable to abuse. Obviously this is avoided as much as possible but there are always exceptions to the rule and in 1997 two employees of the Huntingdon Life Sciences lab were prosecuted for abusing dogs and treating them with needless brutality. More often than not it is small rodents that get tested, like rats for instance (hence the term 'lab-rats') but the use of more popular animals, species that are widely considered pets, is also widespread. In fact, British law demands that any new drug must be tested on a minimum of two different species of live mammal and one of these has to be a bigger animal than a rodent. The UK government, then, is enforcing the use of two different types of animals which seems potentially unnecessarily pitiless. Activists argue that this is essentially murder, and when you think about it, if these tests were ever carried out on humans, it would be considered a type genocide and would create an uproar.

There is some pretty brutal testing that the animals involved in medical experiments are put through. We have all heard the stories of the evil Russian scientist growing an extra ear on the stomach of a poor, un-suspecting mouse. One American protester, Sonya Bass describes an experiment where mascara is

applied to the eyelashes of rabbits and moisturiser is rubbed into the shaved skin of other small mammals in order to observe their reactions to the chemicals. Not good. However when it comes to the chop it would seem that most people stand against testing for cosmetics, but when it comes to medicine, anything goes.

It is not only in the laboratory that animals



RÁTS: Not so innocent.

are exposed to cruelty. The RSPCA have highlighted several recent cases in the news where humans have treated animals so badly that it has resulted in the animals' death. Earlier this year, dog fights took place in Birmingham where the dogs were trapped and forced to fight. One was so badly injured that it died and another had to be put to sleep due to the severity of its injuries. This is a serious example of animal cruelty, although it has nothing to do with animal testing. One could argue that this is an element that activists should focus on more, as there is no reason for it to happen and yet it occurs so regularly. Animal abuse, then, is not restricted to science. Many people, particularly students, argue that giving money to animal charities is a waste of money. Surely other issues like Saving the Rainforest, Climate Change and Children in Need to name but a few are far more important? While condemning the passion behind the protests is far from what I am

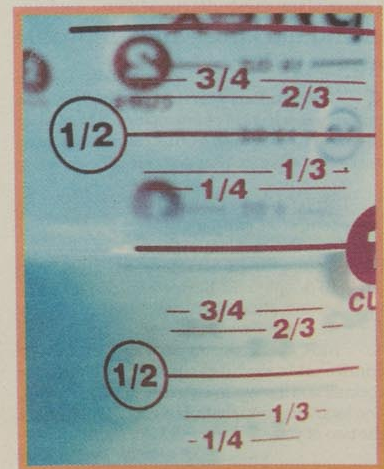
**“ Surely other issues like Saving the Rainforest, Climate Change and Children in Need to name but a few are far more important? ”**

trying to get across, I challenge people to turn to something, well a bit more human. My friend Michael, in a discussion I provoked on the issue, questioned 'why would anyone want to give money to a Donkey Sanctuary when you could help prevent cancer?'. It has to be said that this is a valid question. If one was given the option to save a human or a mouse I think that most would opt to save the human - even our fellow animal activists could hardly argue with that. Some protesters enforce the choice between animals or humans. This seems an unfair ultimatum. However, wherever you stand, you can't argue against the fact that ultimately, as humans we have to choose mankind.

**“ Does it really matter if a few thousand rats die? A few thousand more will be born. ”**

some sort of comfort in most medical situations. However with these substantial steps forward in science comes a price that many find too high. In order to establish new cures and medicines, scientists need to know how they will work once put into practice. Sometimes the only way to know how a human will react is to test potential new solutions on animals. This unfortunately often results in the animal living in unpleasant conditions, its suffering or even its death. However without these vital experiments medicine could not be where it is today and ultimately can go no further. So are we committing brutal murder under the pretence of science, or are we simply following the ultimate survival instinct?

Limitations on what humans can do to animals have been written into law since 1822. Although this was done so long ago, animal rights remains one of the most controversial issues in politics today. It seems everyone has an opinion on the matter. There are three main groups of people involved in this ongoing debate: Scientists fight for the right to experiment on animals and argue that without the use of animals in chemical and medical trials, modern life standards could not be what they are today. Animal rights activists oppose this. These people campaign outside laboratories and will do whatever it takes in an attempt to stand up for animal rights. They believe in using alternative methods in medical







# Clubs.

## Blown away by Bonobo

**L**ast week, Stylus, the venue hosting all the hottest names in town currently, played host to MonkeySeeMonkeyDo, Bonobo and Andrea Triana.

MonkeySeeMonkeyDo were authentically improvisational and though not quite the polished act, are a promising talent. The handsome band members were down to earth and unpretentious, not afraid to go on to the dance floor after their set and enjoy Bonobo - who I am sure their music is influenced by. Bonobo's moment of recognition came when he released his debut album 'Animal Magic', at the precise time that 'chill' was the buzz word on everyone's lips.

Simon Green (aka. Bonobo) refuses to be dragged down by the lazy journalistic prose that labels him 'chillout' and 'downtempo'. This rejection was made clear when Green moved from his original label 'Tru Thoughts' to 'Ninja Tune', and set about taking things to the next level. Indeed his current label have this to say about the performer on their website: "It's all about the levels with Bonobo. Not in a techy, studio kinda way, but in the levels of involvement with his music. On the surface there are the organic, pastoral atmospheres and the catchy melodies, but it's the deeper, slightly hidden levels that you should investigate, for they bring the greatest prize."

The performance on Thursday night was sophisticated, slick, imaginative and new. The freshness of the music was especially enjoyable, and the harmony of Bonobo's band playing in such accordance with one another added a special finesse. The ensemble combine originality with versatility by being able

to play an excitingly wide range of instruments that are commonly unseen, such as the Wind Piano, an instrument sounding very much like a keyboard harmonica, that can best be described as a free reed system with a mouthpiece, air chamber, and keyboard. Perhaps Bonobo's greatest asset is the transformative power his music possesses in making common percussion instruments sound euphoric and magical. As his record label say, "There is an intricacy to his rhythm - almost displaying a sleight of hand - meaning that you could be in one mood one minute, and the next you would somewhere different."

The highlight of Thursday's Stylus show was however the vocalist Andrea Triana, a powerful soul singer hailing from Leeds itself. The 25 yr old was bold and beautiful, her voice - was transporting; she sounded incredible. Triana was mesmerising on the stage, and is a truly gifted talent, by far surpassing the commercialized, packaged female singers emerging from shows like 'The X-Factor'. This woman is a gem to look out for and to support in the future.

Photo: Aine Rose-Campbell

words / rhianon salisbury

## Saturday Night Solutions

On Saturdays, nocturnal activities for students can all too often involve hot chocolate, sofas, and television as we shy away from 'The Locals' of Leeds. But weekend darkness and enjoyable intoxication need not be mutually exclusive. Read on to find out how...

Saturday Night has always been a tough one for the Leeds student: All of the shiny nightclubs that you usually frequent suddenly triple in price and bar service becomes an ordeal as the entire population of Harrogate and Hull organise themselves in rows before you. Finding somewhere to sit or any room on the dance floor is a mere fantasy amid the crowds of fake-tanned fifty year olds and pot-bellied Bradford maseevs all dancing like your dad, their hair gel glistening under the light of the disco ball. Leeds is a big city though. There is no need to queue or pay more for your drinks just because it is Saturday. There is no need to be made to feel second best in the face of minor bureaucrats. Here is a delightful assortment of student-friendly Saturday nights:

1. **Bad Sneakers @ The Faversham:** 2 Bands play every week for the first half of the night and then a club night follows. Nick Frost plays the best of indie, electro and new wave. Previous bands to have performed include The Cribs, iForward Russia!, The Futureheads and Hot Chip.
2. **Viva Cuba!** What looks like a random yellow house on the other side of the road as you walk into town is actually a late night tapas restaurant where you can dance the night away to salsa having already stuffed your face with it.
3. **'Rock & Roll' @ Wire:** Play hide-and-seek around the austere pillars, cut some shapes with indie kids and soak in the 60s pop music.

4. **Reform Bar, Merrion Street:** Enjoy an impressive selection of international beer while listening to The Cure in this candle-enhanced dark red wallpaper-wrapped chic little venue.

5. **Loft @ Queen's Court:** Leeds has a thriving gay scene that can be enjoyed by all. Your inhibitions will get lost in the high-energy pop, helped along by £1.50 selected bottles. Sing along to Sophie Ellis-Bextor remixes, do some pole dancing, and free entry before 11!

6. **BRB, Call Lane:** Sit back and relax in the comfortable seating, sipping an elaborate cocktail and lose yourself in the quirky artwork. Too loud for group chats, but good if there's just the two of you.

words / jack cullen

Leeds/afterdark.



# Last chance to Ave It at Warehouse

**L**ets 'ave it! Sounds familiar? Or do you wish it sounded familiar? If, like me, you missed out on the acid house rave scene (If only I was born earlier, sulk), then you may well harbour secret desires to don a dust mask, a luminous yellow construction jacket and head to The Warehouse.

**Tonight** (Friday 16th) is the last night celebrating old skool dance, and will be hosting hardcore, jungle and breakbeat vibes from the likes of Bizzy B, Positive Broadcasting, Mamosa, Reckless, Goatrider, Boca, Highlife and Shock. Room 2 will be hosting a blend of DnB, dubstep and jungle with Sarantis, Sasquatch, Chazwad, Kommissar, Catman, and Jeneral Dissaray. Previous sets by Altern8 have left clubbers fondly reminiscing over memories of 'back in the day when pills were pure', and there really was dust everywhere, therefore making a dust mask obligatory.

The atmosphere is friendly, with emblematic yellow smiley faces decorating the dance floor, making an enjoyable change from the trendy Leeds club scene. Prepared to be taken back to a time of pretentiousness or preconceptions, when people just wanted to 'ave it.

Calling all ravers, grab your whistle, your glowsticks that you've normally got reserved for some indie gig (shame on you), and head down to The Warehouse to 'ave it large.

Event Organisers had this to say: "At last we are going back to the time when rave was fun and attitudes were left at the door! This is an old skool rave night for anyone out there who wants to 'ave it!! Aiyeel" Aiye e indeed.

If you want to attend this final incendiary throwback night check out [myspace.com/callingallravers](http://myspace.com/callingallravers):

**Price:** Entry £7, NUS £5, First 10 in fancy dress free

words / harriet hernando



Photo: Harriet Hernando

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

### 16th Friday

**Globulogic**  
10pm - 4am

£5 before 11, £10 after  
West Indian Centre  
10 Laycock Place, LS7

Dress up in your raving best, put on your tribal UV paint and come armed with glow sticks. It's time to hit the dancefloor and get into warp drive: Psychedelic trance has landed. The music that seems most at home in the Goan desert or a Thai Beach finds another exotic location in a Leeds community hall. Enjoy!

**Purrfect Electro**  
10pm - 6am

£10 NUS before 11, £12 others  
Mission  
8 - 13 Heatons Court Leeds, LS1

Miss Jools, Will Bailey and Twisted Development are turning up the voltage and taking us on a 'musical odyssey of all things electronic'. Go and experience that Purrfect night out!!!

### 17th Saturday

**Exodus**  
10pm - 4am

£10 before 11  
West Indian Centre

10 Laycock Place, LS7

Dubstep and drum and bass in the main room with 'Ex-d' playing a set of strong grooves and deep rollers. Room 2 sees a talented group of residents providing tunes of a techno nature. This is the community centre doing what it does best - keepin' it dark and dirty.

**Back to Basics**  
10pm - 6am

£12/10  
Myhouse  
1 Brick Street, LS9

Basics is the longest running bastion of cutting edge house in the country. It has a music policy that ensures a night of 'fucked up, up front beats'.

### 18th Sunday

**Whalebow**  
5am - late

£4/5  
Mint  
8 Harrison St, LS1

This the afterparty: all revelers welcome. Wherever you've been before doesn't matter. If you can't be going to bed then this is the place to be. Sunglasses come highly recommended. You'll have a whale of a time.

**Sunday Joint**  
Band 1pm - 2pm, Evening act 11pm

Free

**The Hi-Fi Club**  
2 Central Road, LS1

In the afternoon slot we are treated to jazz and soul from Seeteaeye. The evening session sees The Apples performing their 'Jazzed up, Scratched up, Funky instrumental music'. Hi-fi offers a good Sunady Roast in a relaxed atomsphere. Perfect for a meal with your housemates when no one wants to cook a feast or do the washing up.

### 19th Monday

**Chic Beat**  
10pm - 3am

£5  
Gatecrasher  
54 New Briggate, LS1

Affordable drinks and music to leave behind your Monday Blues. A student night that plays a mix of funky house and dancefloor anthems. Note: don't expect to be making Tuesday lectures.

### 20th Tuesday

**Itchy Feet**  
10pm - 3am

£3/5  
Atrium  
39331 Grand Arcade

A musical medley of 50's swing, moody blues and jazz. It's all in the hips. Make sure you come prepared to make some

pelvic gyrations. This is a good fun night.

### 21th Wednesday

**Lewis Express**  
9pm - 12am

Free  
Sela Bar  
20 New Briggate, LS1

This cellar bar is a delightfully understated treat. It has a relaxed atomsphere that can provide a welcome break from the hectic monotony of weekly nights. A live jazz band gives the venue a vibe of refined vibrancy. The music is wonderfully complemented by a bar that stocks a fine selection of wines, cocktails and draught lager. Sipping your tasty beverage, you'll feel o'so civilised.

### 22th Thursday

**Shadenfreude**  
10pm - 3am

Free  
Dr Wu's  
35 Call Lane, LS1

A chilled-out bar in the Call Lane area, Dr Wu's serves some of the best cocktails in Leeds. Tonight sees pop band, The Feelies, give a "marzipan-coated psychedelic" performance and the brilliantly named DJ Johnny Cancerfingers plays a set. You have been warned.



# Karim interviews ... Robyn

This week I was kept waiting for about 40 minutes before getting to chat to the Swedish pop-veteran. I thought I'd be pissed, but the pint-sized hip-pop princess is a bit of a charmer, really.

**KK:** So for those that don't know, you've been in the music business pretty much forever, right?

**R:** Well I've been involved in music since... '96. So ten years. Is that a long time to you?

**KK:** How has it changed for you personally I mean, from major to your own label?

**R:** Now having my own record label (Konichiwa), it's just a completely different atmosphere to working with a big record label... I think all artists have problems with major record companies. If you're an kind of artist that just likes to be in the studio and do your own music and not really more that that, it's fine, but for me I started out in the very commercial part of the industry, very

have the same kind of respect for female artists and female creativity. I think a lot of times the female role in the

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**I don't think my music is ever gonna be political...**

industry is to be the singer, and to not be the creator. So for me to have ideas, to start to establish a more developed role as an artist was very tough. At 16, I don't think anyone

of being outside, that kind of makes it different... But right now it's doing really well, I mean everything from The Hives to Peter Bjorn and John, The Knife, so there's a lot of cool things going on - it's a nice place to work.

**KK:** So Konichiwa was your clearer idea of a record label?

**R:** thought I needed to get away from that... world. I needed a new place, and that's when I founded Konichiwa Records, in 2004. I gathered this little group of people I had worked with before in the industry, a marketing guy, a girl that did all my PR, and a business affairs manager who helped me start out. It was basically run out of my

work with.

**KK:** But do you classify yourself as pop? 'With Every Heartbeat' was pop to me, but your new one, 'Handle me' has real r'n'b feel to it - I mean, what are you trying to prove? Blurring pop boundaries?

**R:** My definition of pop music is what I grew up to in the 80s, you know? It was Kate Bush, it was Prince, The Police, David Bowie, and Talking Heads and Cyndi Lauper... all of these amazing pop artists but they still had their personal style, still had a very strong sense of integrity. I think pop music is modern music that crosses a lot of people - it could be anything, it could be Bob Marley, even. What defines pop music is a great melody. To me, Abba is one of the most amazing bands ever. If you listen to their records, it's anything but 'plastic' (I previously had told her that most peoples' definition of pop was 'plastic'). I'm trying still not to be afraid of great melodies, and great songs, because that's universal.

**KK:** I was wondering how much an influence US hip-hop was to you, am I right in thinking Konichiwa records came from the Method Man record, 'Konichiwa Bitches'?

**R:** No I wasn't but um, I think his inspiration for that comes from Dave Chappelle, and so did mine. He made this very funny sketch where the different races of the

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**I think there's something about being this small, little country, isolated..**

world come together to decide what celebrities belong to what race? So they're deciding if Tiger Woods is Asian or black, or if Michael Jackson is white or black? the blacks decide that if the white people can take Michael Jackson then they can take Eminem... it's really funny. It ends with one of the members of Wu-Tang Clan, RZA comes up on stage, and you know, of course they decide he's Asian - he goes 'Konichiwa, bitches'... But hip-hop has had a huge impact on me... I'm not a gangster, I'm not gonna rap about crack, but I grew up with that rap thing of 'I'm the best and everyone else sucks' and you can always put that in a new context...

**KK:** I was kinda interested to find out that you're a U.N. ambassador... what's the deal there?

**R:** I was a UNICEF ambassador! I mean I was raised with those morals, and UNICEF Sweden asked me to be their ambassador and I was totally cool with it, to do something like that - in a bigger picture. Right now it's impossible to stay as involved as I usually am, and it's also something I wanna keep away from my music. I'm not a fan of artists who mix it up, you know, like Bono or whatever... haha! I just don't think it's cool.

words/karim khan

This is my 'Robyn has the cutest accent I've ever heard' face.

Photo: John Puddephatt



young. So I found it really hard to shape my integrity, my personality within it.

**KK:** Do you think that's just the industry as a whole? or because of your age and the fact that you're a girl?

**R:** As a young female artist there's a lot of people having opinions about you and what you should do, than if you're like, a 35 year old male rock band. I've always had a strong idea of what I wanted to do, so maybe it was a little unusual and hard to accept for a lot of people in the record company I was with. Basically it's a company that sells a product and I think that they like to think that they have a clue, but they rarely do

**KK:** But you were just starting out, so...

**R:** Yeah, I was starting out, so people don't

has a real idea of what he or she is doing. I was really happy to record my songs, and that was it.

**KK:** Where do you think Swedish music is going then? I mean every Swedish band I know makes great music! one band, called Ida Maria who I saw in Camden, are wicked... they also have their own record label. Where do you think the inspiration comes from?

**R:** I think there's something about being this little, small country, you know, isolated on top of Europe, we don't get... close to anyone else. It's dark all the time, it's cold, snowy... That isolation but still us consuming a lot of western culture, American, European and Asian culture, it puts us in there with other popular cultures, but there's this thing

kitchen and it was just something I did because I wanted to make this record. I had an idea of what the album was gonna be? And I didn't wanna compromise it. I knew that I would have to do that if I stayed with the major. Record companies brag about the contacts they have, how they can bring in this producer, that producer - I was in the studio with like Rockwilder and Scott Storch, all of those people but if you're not a person that they got in touch with through a good contact, they give you one of their shitty beats, and you still have to pay \$200,000 and you don't get anything for it, you know? I just wanted to be in the situation where I started my own relationships with the people I work with. That's why this album is all Swedish, they're all Swedish producers, all Swedish songwriters, people I know I can



## I BELIEVE IN SOMETHING. DO YOU?

I believe in these fingerless gloves, that cause frostbite, as I peel out my black and white flyers (made from recycled paper, I think) and smile at you hopefully. I believe in an end to genocide in Darfur, come to a talk about it tomorrow and make yourself feel good about caring. I believe that the war in Iraq is a farce. Don't want a flyer? Clearly you disagree. I believe that most of Bush's aides should be shot (humanely). Was that a raised eyebrow? Fascist.

Environment, environment, environment. We stand for green, not the fluorescent or the neon, but as deep and dark as the rainforests. I believe in red. What's your colour? Don't have one? Take a flyer, we'll help you find it. You don't like the government but you're not sure why? This demonstration is for you. Why be apathetic when you can hate? War and peace, love and hate. What do you stand for?

Make your time count. Change the world. Spread the love and take a flyer. It might change your life. Get angry, see red, start a revolution. Screw the degree, it's just another piece of (non-recycled) paper. We are the change we want to see. Your vote does count. Are you part of an ethnic minority? Do you feel set apart from the rest of the student body? Well, you are, so join us and change the pre-conceptions of ignorance.

They send us politicians and we shoot them down with bullets of dissent. The blood of their self-respect runs with our knowledge of their guilt. We shout out against war and corruption, corruption and war, against self-interest, against selfishness, against the self. We shout out together, us against him, them, it. Democracy doesn't exist. If you can't beat them, join them. Or shout at them very, very loudly.

I'm missing a lecture to hand you these flyers. Look at me sacrificing education, time and body-heat for the greater good. Look into my eyes and see the conviction. I believe, I believe, I believe. If you believe in us, we shall believe in you. There are no compromises. There is only the fight of good against evil.

This is free press.  
This is where the truth lies.  
This is the closest you'll get to freedom.

Millions have died, are dying, and will die in the Congo, but you're walking past my flyer to get in the queue for a sandwich that probably won't come within a tomato of fair-trade. At least come to the screening of Hotel Rwanda and sit in shocked and guilty disgust for two hours. Can't you see that you are everything

**“You don't like the government but you're not sure why? Then this demonstration is for you. Why be apathetic when you can hate?”**

that is wrong with the world? You don't have to be. There is still time. Here lies salvation, atone for your sins. Your privilege is your burden.

Bush, Blair, Brown, Buffoons and bi-elections. What do you believe in? Who do you trust? Look for someone to blame, find the real axis of evil, read this environmentally-

# Week in Profile

**Bush-basher and a sex-phisticate...what could they have in common? Both want your fingers on their flyer. Dan Gilmore and Lara Choksey penetrate the people behind the promotions.**

friendly(ish), black and white flyer and become the change you want to see. Not sure what exactly you want changed? Don't worry, we can help you decide that, and how to go about changing what you see. Throw red paint on fur coats, chain yourself to a tree, starve yourself for three weeks and above all shout, shout, shout against all of it, shout for as long and as loudly as you can.

Before I came to University my dad told me that one of the most important things I would learn was how to present an argument. Any argument? I asked him. "Any argument," he replied. It didn't take me long to realise how wrong he was. It's not important to be able to present any argument, but the right argument. What I have to say is right, what I stand for is the truth. There shouldn't have to be any argument, but that is why I'm handing out these flyers to people like you.

Join the fight, take the flyer. Come into the light.

not the dealo, yea? I don't spend my whole life strutting along the guest list queue to Gatecrasher wearing my trade mark oversized beanie, chain smoking Marlboro Lights and air-kissing girls to avoid rubbing against their fake tan. To become what I am you need more than

**“I like to give a knowing smile, and then a shrug, before readjusting my ponytail.”**

mere beauty and popularity...you need a game plan.

Firstly you've just got to have a good social scene at your grasp. You've got to know all the

single one of their 44, 985 Facebook friends advertising amazing Tuesday nights in Courtyard! If you don't market well you just won't succeed.

Perhaps the most important quality to have as a Promoter though is IMAGINATION. Everyone is so like, used to tired formulas and boring nights where they only ever see the same people. As a promoter it's just like integral to think of something different and original to attract them. For example my innovative highlights from last year included creating a two for one deal on Vodka Energy Drinks and constructing a number of themed nights based around vague images from American High School movies. These included the notorious rorching fest: 'Spring Break Madness' and the much revered 'Cheerleaders vs Jocks.' Equally it helps to put phrases like "sophisticated décor," "funky house" and "elegant clubbing for the sexiest students in town" on the flyers as it makes the night like, stand out from the other 30 events going on in town.

Of course the biggest danger in the field of premium promotions is like, the threat of random violence. I've lost count of the number of times people I don't know calling me a 'Wanker,' and for the life of me I just can't understand why. I mean when faced with a popular, hip, young sophisticate such as myself why do people feel the need to call me a prick and proceed to try and stick broken bottles through my face? In these situations it always helps to run behind the nearest bouncer and control your shaking hand enough to call the police.

To be honest though, yea, I don't even like calling myself a promoter...I'm more of an entrepreneur. You see as I come from London I just, like, know everything about amazing clubbing. I was brought up in places like Purple, Crazy Larries and Mamalangi...I know class and sophistication when I see it. So like up here it's more a matter of creating and changing rather than promoting and to do that you need vision or as I like to call it: Entrepreneurial Spirit. It takes like a huge amount of ability to inject a bit of funky vibrancy into this Northern backwater, and if like me you spot a gap in the market you take full advantage.

So, since I've got the dealo like locked up here I'm proud to say that I'm starting my own night this week. I want to call it 'Sex-phisticated' though part of me is worried that this name sounds like some kind of weird sexual fetish? But anyways, all doubts aside it's just going to take Leeds uni by storm. I'm going to combine London Ambience with London Cool...my superstar DJs will be playing all the sexiest RnB tunes with a smattering of funky 'Funky House' and there is going to also going to be like a totally laid back VIP room where I can invite all the honeys. My first year minions have been forcing armfuls of flyers onto an unsuspecting public around the Parky Steps and I've sent out like about a million Facebook invites to all the hipsters in Uni. I've even come up with an ingenious new drinks deal: two for one on VK Orange! Sexxxxx! So yea like just totally what you've all been waiting for: 'SEX-PHISTICATED' on Mondays - a night that quite literally offers a break from the norm...be there or be square...



**FLYER APATHY: Just say no.**  
Photo: John Puddephatt

## TARQUIN FULLER BRICE - CLUB PROMOTER AND ENTREPRENEUR

What makes you so special Tarquin? is a question that is often carelessly thrown at me. I like to give a knowing smile, and then a shrug, before readjusting my ponytail and telling people exactly why the girls always call me "Tarquy" and how my clubbing empire is taking over this city.

Some people think that like, what I do is easy; that I just sit in my Ivory Towers raking in millions of pounds a week for standing around outside Tiger Tiger looking cool. Well that's just

lads from the standard schools: Eton, Radley, Wellington, Charterhouse etc but also some from the lower end to keep numbers rolling in every week. Equally, yea, its just like an absolute imperative to know all the usual girls. Chill with them in the Headingley Starbucks or the Smoothie Company for lunch, air kiss them 8 times whenever you randomly pass in Uni and then tell them they simply must make an appearance on Wednesday before cheekily pinching their bum and air kissing them 4 times goodbye.

Equally, and like I just can't like stress this enough... you've got to understand the intricacies of Facebook. Not everyone knows how to send 15 messages an hour to every



## Fashion

# A WAR OF THE SEXES?

**AS AUTUMN-WINTER 07 SWINGS INTO FULL FORCE, ANDROGENY AND MILITARY TAILORING ARE AT THE HELM - LS2 WONDERERS HOW WOMEN ARE MAKING MENSWEAR LOOK SO GOOD**

This season designers have once again cinched in the waist of fashion and returned to the iconic symbol of femininity. The seductive curve of the woman has long been embraced and denied, enhanced and disguised, shaped by whalebone and squared off with shoulder foam, and this trend of manipulation and reappropriation shows every sign of continuing. But as these previous affairs with the female form have shown, the ideal curve isn't always ideal. There seems now, more than ever, a call for compromise. Women are confident in their identities and don't need the dictatorial talon of fashion pointing in their direction telling them how to utilize their curves. But the fashion industry does not work well with the concept of compromise.

Designers have called to attention and cracked the whip on Autumn-Winter fashion, brandishing a decidedly feminine silhouette. But this silhouette has been achieved with durable fabrics and a tough, masculine edge. Traditional associations between the military and the masculine are recalled and bring with them a new discipline to this season's dressing. Sharp

cuts and bold shapes dominate coats and jackets with Balenciaga's buttoned-up blazers and Luella's floor length military trench causing much ado, whilst the navy-inspired overcoat, embellished with gold epaulettes and red piping at Aquascutum brings womanly glamour to this trend. On the high street Warehouse have produced a gold-buttoned jacket which is reminiscent of the Marc by Marc Jacobs pea coat as seen on the catwalk recently, and provides an accessible version of a trend inspired classic and a sound investment at £75.

The revival of leather on the catwalk has been dominant in the introduction of the new harder feel to fashion.

Leather dresses at Loewe show the new and stunning combination of a classic material with classic shapes, and luxury dressing is fully embraced with one runway outfit that uses the same material for the dress and bag. Next to each other they demonstrate the scope of what can be achieved with the fabric. Marks and Spencer cleverly produced a high street version of the leather dress and at the height of its popularity it was the biggest selling line in the whole of the retailer's

group. Topshop have a leather mini swing skirt at £30 which, kept simple, is a choice piece to implement this trend. Christopher Kane's body conscious, highly crafted dresses have perhaps been most noted this season. His creations emphasise that it is women dressed in this leather armour, setting the durable properties of the fabric against the natural shape of the female figure. Using feminine shapes the designs remind us of the duality of leather and its potential to be soft and luxurious.

As the often-celebrated spokes-label for 21st century femininity, Chloe perceptively showcased fashion's shift to a harder style. The arrival of Paulo Melim Andersson as chief designer has been firmly stomped on the label with edgy shapes, zips and orange lace-up hard-wear

boots that are striding towards a new direction in-house and in fashion. H&M's green rubber copies of the lace up boots are decidedly less successful, but Zara have produced some really good Chloe inspired pieces including a squarely cut black top with a large silver zip detail. Chloe's reinvention owes its success to maintaining its definitive grasp of femininity, whatever form it may take.

It is the combination of continuity and repetition in the fashion industry which ensures innovation each season.

However cyclical it is



tendencies, however

contradictory,

the industry always manages to put one foot forward. And this season, that foot would be wearing Balenciaga ankle boots by Nicholas Ghesquiere. They are severely structured - buckled, laced, screwed and zipped - and look ready for an industrial-fashion battle. But their brutal appearance disguises a vertiginous heel - the secret shaper of the feminine posterior and curved calves. Designers have flirted with mannish trends in many previous collections, but this time it is not the straight lined boyish look of Autumn-Winter 06/07. The masculinity of this season's collections is masquerading as a woman. As the lines between masculinity and femininity continue to merge designers have created a look which is the product of these softening boundaries. With a sensuously defined silhouette and definite construction, this season is distinctly different from the androgynous trends which have previously filled the margin between masculine and feminine dressing.

While it continues its tradition for durable outerwear, the progressive Burberry Prorsum showed pieces that were panelled, padded and belted at the waist creating an almost cartoon like unisex shape. The



compromise between the sexes but gained a new perspective for this season.

ankle boots the volume of Burberry's equestrian style coats achieve a strangely sexy silhouette. For a similar look try Zara for a padded trench and either River Island's patent knee high boots at a (gasp inducing, both for price and beauty) £99.99 or Dorothy Perkins's patent lace-up ankle boots at £30.

Gucci's form fitting suede bolero jacket boasts leather shoulder cones which are strangely reminiscent of Madonna's blonde ambition conical bra. An icon of both femininity (whether you agree or not) and reinvention, I think it is fitting that Gucci's piece evokes her assets. The jacket perfectly embodies this season's new femininity. It is not wholly feminine, or typically masculine, neither has it resulted in the androgynous compromise between the sexes. The subtle blending of genders has created a new silhouette. Gucci's shoulder cones transform the female figure by creating a broader masculine shoulder, but this is done with two suggestive emblems of femininity. This Autumn-Winter women's fashion isn't so easily defined by a trend towards either 'femininity' or 'masculinity'. Perhaps fashion has reached a compromise in this sense, but in the only way she could. Dressed in leather, wearing stomping lace-up boots, fashion has lost nothing in



the

**WORDS:  
OLIVIA FISHER**



Masculinity and fashion have often enjoyed a rather tenuous relationship, but it seems that recently an interesting shift has occurred within the world of men's fashion that is reviving and rejuvenating ideas of what it means to be a man and how to dress like one.

Both men's and women's fashion have looked towards androgyny recently, and a merging of gender lines has been the inspiration and driving force behind many designer's collections during the Autumn/Winter 06/07 period. However, in more recent collections designers from Prada to Ralph Lauren and Thom Browne to Tom Ford have noticeably embraced a renewed masculinity. Fashion cannot ignore the path down which it has travelled and the recent journeys of menswear have most definitely taken the British male into seemingly uncharted territory. The skinny fit jeans, the unavoidable presence of pinks and pastels in numerous male wardrobes and the popularity of the tailored short this summer have to varying degrees been indulged in by many men and contemplated by even more. It could almost go without saying that these influences are of a decidedly feminine origin.

However, a new horizon beckons. Miuccia Prada, head of the prolific design house, recently confessed that when she designs for men she tries to make her designs "freer" and this is a sentiment which is being echoed by much of the male fashion world. Whilst it means physically men's clothes will become looser, (a sigh of relief from all those men either too fat or too shy to face the skinny jean), they will also become 'freer' in the sense that men's fashion will come into its own again, with a very definite and obvious masculinity in mind.

Whilst the sharp, fitted and often narrow silhouette remained in many collections, designers are starting to reassert the masculinity of their designs as menswear is once again coming to embrace men, so to speak. The square shoulders at Alexander McQueen alongside the masculine forms and shapes on show at both Prada and Tom Ford are some of the most dominating examples of this resurgence in masculine identity. Tom Ford's departure from Gucci has enabled him to establish his own self-titled label, and his first menswear

collection, whether through suits, shirts, knitwear or even accessories embodies a deep sense of brooding masculinity. By focusing on his men's range before branching out into womenswear Ford has clearly indicated that his menswear is a priority and not an aside to a dominant women's collection (as can often be the case). The strong, sharp, undisputedly masculine shape of his design is something which is best imitated on the high street by brands such as Reiss and Zara. The suits at Reiss may be a little expensive at £395 a pop but the tailoring is simply impeccable, with the capacity to give

almost any man that perfect v-shaped torso. Some of the more sophisticated pieces in Zara's collection strongly reflect the brand's European influences and manage to be cut slim and fitted without being effeminate.

Nowhere can masculinity be more obvious than in the military domain and once again designers have turned to the battlefield as a source of inspiration for recent catwalk trends. Burberry Prorsum has been one of the best examples of this with coats and jackets exhibiting great

big buttons, a plethora of pockets and fastenings and the recurrent use of strong, structured shoulders. On the high street it is always possible to find clothes that offer a toned down version of this unavoidable trend. Topman has a good selection of coats adorned with the necessary buttons, zips, pockets and belts, but its best has got to be the new long wool trench, a sensible (and very on-trend) investment at £100. If you get the chance

to find your way past the often gaudy, clashing young teens section of the store, the shirts at Topman also have a noticeably army feel to them and starting at £28 they're an easy way to get into the military fashion of this winter. For

the braver men among us Topman has also recently released its £55 black stirrup boot. Good for luberjacking, rounding up cattle and riding dirty sounding motorbikes, these boots may not be the most practical buy but teamed with dark denim and a pea coat or chunky jumper they most definitely work and are undisputedly masculine – not one to pair with skinny jeans then...

Working alongside the military trend the theme of utility has also been a key trend on the catwalk with clothes that not only look good but work hard as well, with functional coats at Gucci and leather suits at Gaultier particularly impressing many. Leather was used a great deal both in women's and men's collections but to different effects. Both genders were seen wearing leather as a way to accentuate their natural form and identity. Leather is a powerful material and designers incorporated it from head to toe to create a strong gendered presence on the catwalk. This has obviously been best translated into the abundance of leather jackets on the high street at the moment – see

Diesel, Zara and even M&S for the best

# A WAR OF THE SEXES?

**FOLLOWING SEASON AFTER SEASON OF FEMINISING SHAPES, MEN'S FASHION HAS COME FULL CIRCLE AND IS ONCE AGAIN HEADING TO THE BATTLEFIELD FOR INSPIRATION**

examples. But a word of warning; leather is most definitely a investment buy and a general rule applies: if it doesn't hurt your pocket it'll hurt your style – leather that's cheap will invariably look cheap.

a top-heavy look which is strikingly masculine, making even the skinniest guy look bulkier. Gap has come up with a varied knitwear collection, ranging from fine striped cardigans reminiscent of some of the recent Marc by Marc Jacobs designs, or for the more adventurous a selection of chunky jumpers and cardigans with heavy buttons and high necks which have clearly been influenced by Burberry's knitted sweaters.

A final note has to be given to the catwalk lead winter fashion for chunky knitwear. John

Galliano's extraordinary minotaur creation must be acknowledged as the pinnacle of this trend whilst designers such as D&G have opted for an altogether more subtle approach which harks back to the classic English gentleman rather than Greek mythology. The question must be asked, where does this trend fit into the idea of a renewed masculinity? The answer is obvious. The bulk of much of this season knitwear creates

So it seems things are changing, slowly but surely, on the front line of male fashion. Whilst menswear is not waging war on its feminine influences there is undoubtedly a sense that the man's man is back and designers are urging men to embrace it.



**WORDS:  
LEON GRAY**



# Holly tries... breakdancing

From the lingo to the lithesome limbers, *LS*'s very own boisterous B-Girl, **Holly Westwood**, tests her athletic abilities in the funky fresh world of breakdancing.

**T**his week I was supposed to be trying a bit of time travel. I was going to take a nostalgic trip down memory lane and try going back to the '80s. I've been reminiscing a lot about this glorious decade lately; mainly, I think, due to the return of the whispa. Truly the ambrosia of the chocolate world, I simply don't remember them ever being this good (try it dipped in tea or a similar hot beverage. I'm telling you, a taste bonanza for the tongue!). Loads of other stuff was great about the '80s: huge mobile phones, shoulder pads and Ghostbusters. Hell, I even get a little misty-eyed look when I remember shell suits (I had a particularly dashing one in yellow and pink. Please, try and control your jealousy). So this week I was going to be slapping on the blue eyeshadow and a sweat band and getting on down to Prince and Wham at Rehab's Eighties night (every Monday, 80p a drink, 80s music all night. Fab). My 80s-tastic week was going to culminate with a session in the epitome of 80s dance, breakdancing. Plus, there is always one idiot in a club who thinks they can breakdance. Most of the time this sort of breaking ends in shame, embarrassment and an innocent bystander with a few missing teeth. I wanted to be that idiot.

As with everything in life, my plans this week haven't gone according to, er, plan. There I was, high-tops at the ready, when my ever-wise friend informed me that

breakdancing actually started in the 1970s. Bugger. Back to the drawing board...

However, despite finding out this information, I was still determined to have a try at breakdancing. Why? Because I was challenged to it!! Let me tell you about an email I received on the 5th of November inviting me to go along and join in a session with the Leeds Uni Breaking Society. Friendly enough email, although it did end with the line "Give it a go Holly?? Are you Fresh enough??" That to me sounds like a challenge, one which I was more than willing to accept. I was sure that I was fresh enough...or at least I would be, if only I could figure out exactly what fresh meant.

So on Monday I prepared myself for the class. As ever, I was anxious not to look too ridiculous, so I sent a message to the society's secretary, the lovely Dominic, to ask him what I should wear. Images of people from that Run DMC video kept flashing disturbingly through my mind - I don't own any baggy trousers and haven't worn trainers for years. Dom said sports wear was fine, although he also said I should just wear my 'freshest' gear. By this time, I was slightly concerned about the repeated use of this word - was I being subtly asked to take a shower? Or was this just some breaking lingo that I wasn't quite cool enough to know (not sure which would be worse!).

On the subject of breaking terms, you may have noticed that I've switched from

saying 'breakdancing' to 'breaking'. As well as all the breaking moves, a whole culture revolves around this form of dance, including clothes, music and vocab. In order that you may understand the rest of the article, here are a few handy words you may find useful:

**BREAKING:** the proper term for the form of dance also commonly known as 'breakdancing'

**B-BOY:** A breaks boy (male breaker)

**B-GIRL:** A breaks girl (female breaker)

**DICKING:** The symbolic presentation of the male genitalia

**BATTLE:** A breaking competition where crews or individuals compete against each other

**CREW:** A group of Breakers who battle together

**BITING:** To steal another Breaker's own moves

**SMOKED:** To get 'smoked' is to be beaten by an opponent in a battle. Thankfully, this kind of smoking is still legal in public places.

**TOP-ROCKING:** Up-right breaking moves

**FLOORWORK:** Breaking moves done, uh, on the floor

**FREEZE:** A pose/position that you hold during a dance

**GET DOWN:** A move that takes a Breaker from a top-rock to floorwork

**POWER MOVES:** The really difficult 'throw-yourself-about-and-stand-on-one-hand/your-head' bits.

So, here's me trying out some breaking language (in a fictional situation, obviously): "I was trying out some new stuff when battling this b-girl, because she bit one of my moves, then kept dicking me, but in the end she got smoked". Hum...somehow it doesn't sound quite right when I say it.

The class itself took place in the Riley Smith dining room, although the usual training spot is Stylus. I eyed the floor of the room warily, as it looked far too hard to do any dancing on. It was - I'm now sporting yet more fantastic bruises on my knees. Why is it that this article always leads me to looking like a reckless schoolgirl? One of the

“ There is always one idiot in a club who thinks they can breakdance. Most of the time this kind of breaking ends in shame, embarrassment and an innocent bystander with a few missing teeth. I wanted to be that idiot.

b-boys was wearing kneepads, a very wise choice if you can pull it off (he could, I probably couldn't).

The 2-hour breaking session starts out with an hour's lesson given by one of the seasoned professionals. On Monday, the class was given by Seb. Me and the other newbies (about 30 of us in all) learned some straightforward top-rock moves, with the practice focusing on swapping round so as to introduce new people into battles. All of the preparation of the new b-girls and b-boys is leading up to the 'fresher battle' which is happening in December (watch out for promotions for the event, should be well worth a look-see). After learning these basic steps everyone split off into their respective crews to work on developing some coming-in-and-out moves (not sure what the technical term is for this). I tagged on to three other girls who haven't formed a crew yet. Now came the challenging bit - we had to choreograph a short routine, with me learning all the moves as we went along. In the end we got a pretty respectable little routine together, which culminated dramatically in one of my crew doing a backward walk-over thing whilst I inexpertly forward-rolled out of the circle (flash-backs of school gym classes flashing disturbingly through my mind). I actually got a bit nervous when we had to demonstrate our bit to the rest of the group, but I needn't have been concerned as absolutely everyone in the society that I met were friendly and supportive. As well as physical fitness and personal expression, I got the feeling that, for the people who I met at least, breaking is essentially about enjoyment and getting together with like-minded people, the same as any other society.

After the lesson, the second hour of the



**B-BOYS:** Never underestimate the cultural impact of Run DMC





PLIABLE: Holly goes on a bender.

“ I finally made some progress, spurred on by the helpful smiles of my new teachers. Only when I got home did I realise that my flatmate's jogging bottoms had a hole in the crotch. It made me question exactly what they were smiling at.

the floor. There are some talented breakers in this society.

Before I left the session, I had a chat with Zoe, the president of Break Dance Society. She told me that they have an ongoing struggle to find somewhere suitable where they can regularly train. I agree with Zoe that it's ridiculous that the Breakers and many other dance societies don't have anywhere appropriate to rehearse in.

As the time comes to reflect on my experience, I'm tempted to conclude that my body is telling me that some things are better left to the professionals. In my time I've done ballet, tap, gymnastics, salsa, dance therapy, contemporary and jazz dance (I am the jazz-hands expert), yet I can safely say that I found breaking the hardest of all of them. It's not just about fancy footwork; it's about body control, improvisation, innovation and personality (apparently the girl who won the battle last Sunday did so as much because of her personality as her talent). It's no good just learning the moves; you have to invent moves and a style of your own. Because it's like that...and that's the way it is. Huh.

If you think you're fresh enough, check out the Breakers Society at [www.lunbreaksociety.com](http://www.lunbreaksociety.com). They train every Monday and Wednesday 5-7pm and Fridays 3-5pm in Stylus. For a look at how the professionals do it, see [www.clubfreshjive.co.uk](http://www.clubfreshjive.co.uk) for regular breaking events.

session is given for people to practice and work on their own moves. I collared Dom and Seb, and asked them to give me a crash-course in some basic breaking moves. OK, I'll admit it - I wanted to learn some cool moves that I could show off with if the situation ever arose. First though, there are quite a few obstacles standing in the way of me becoming a first-rate b-girl. The biggest of all is that I am about as acrobatic as a banana. Yet I was informed that practice does, in the end, make perfect, although in this instance my frustration at not being able to do something may stand in the way.

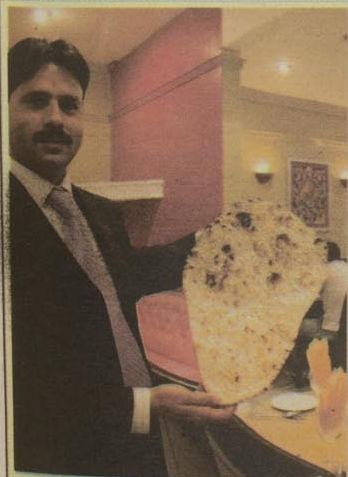
We began with more top-rock moves, but I was keen to learn some freezes. We started off with a 'baby' freeze - supposedly the easiest one to learn. It basically involves putting your strongest hand on the floor with your elbow in your stomach and

forehead on the floor, then balancing all your weight on these two points so that you can raise your legs off the ground and move them in a scissoring motion. Firstly I nearly broke my headband when I pushed my forehead into the ground (I think I dropped about 5 cool points right there). I then couldn't find the right place for my elbow to go, so kept slipping over, added to which was the fact that my wrists were definitely not made to have 10 stone balanced on them. All in all, my freezes weren't exactly a success.

The next move was the backspin. This one of the better-known breaking moves, and involves starting with legs apart, then rotating your left leg over your right, kicking out with your right leg whilst lying down and spinning on the very top of your back. Sounds simple, doesn't it?!? And it even

looked simple when Dom demonstrated. Yet I again had a bit of a struggle (can you see a recurring theme here?!?). After many attempts, I had finally made some progress, spurred on by the helpful smiles of my new teachers. It was only when I got home that I realised my flatmate's jogging bottoms had a hole in the crotch (thanks Jules!). It made me question exactly what they were smiling at (although hopefully they won't have noticed!).

After the backspin trials I went back to the top-rocking (by now my favourite type of breaking move). I learned another little routine, which included a basic 6-step which I think will look quite impressive once I've got it perfect and can do it quickly like the experts (legs moving in a blur). I then took a break and watched the others practicing their moves, which had my jaw dropping to



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# Singles.

## Single of the Week

**The Rumble Strips**  
'Time'  
(Island)



A great single from start to finish. The style is original: quite unexpected in parts. The vocals vary, with singing in some parts and shouting in others, helping to emphasise the lyrics really well. 'Time' is very upbeat-sounding, thanks to the brass section's constant drive until the chorus, where every thing calms down and backing vocals with piano change the mood. The verses contain a dramatic edge but in a way that is clearly not to be taken too seriously. This is the sound of a band having fun making good music. (8)

**Terra Naomi**  
'Up Here'  
(Island)



The start to this single is misleading. The electronic effects make it sound like it's going to be good; once the singing starts, it's all downhill. It sounds like a completely outdated rip-off of similar artists, and not in a good way - it's full of needless attitude with no real justification. Avoid. (2)

**Chris T-T**  
'This Gun Is Not a Gun'  
EP  
(Xtra Mile)



Chris T-T has had a fair bit of good press; however, listening to this four-track EP, it is not clear why. The instrumentation is dull throughout; nothing interesting happens; the vocals are mediocre at best. The main strength has to be the lyrics, which are political and direct, but somewhat hit and miss. (4)

**Cat the Dog**  
'Gotta Leave'  
(Virgin)



'Gotta Leave' enters with a thick bassline and high-toned riffs, moving into choppy guitars and then into power chords; the chorus is more relaxed, with light backing vocals. There is a lot of variation throughout the song; however, the whole thing feels forced. (6)

**The Wolfmen**  
'Cecilie'  
(Howl)



Original-sounding single from a band who are veterans in the music industry. 'B' side 'Do the Ostrich', co-written by Lou Reed, is by far the best track: a chanting, guitar twanging haziness that has a lot of spirit. The 'A' side itself is also quite good, with a modern style weave investigating. (7)

words/ nick mendlesohn

## Album of the Week

**The Raveonettes**  
*Lust Lust Lust*

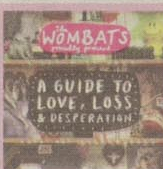
(Fierce Panda)

Whilst not attempting to break away from type, The Raveonettes' new release is certainly a record with a point to prove. Its musically solid backbone bears this out. Steeped in the same sixties revivalism as bands such as the Brian Jonestown Massacre - their stage image may be 50s retro but if truth be told their music is drawn from the same vein as Anton & co. - such individualism is perhaps unsurprising. What self-respecting lo-fi rock outfit would wish to do otherwise? It does, however, create a perhaps sense of expectation that hangs heavy over the album's *raison d'être*. The Danish duo have always been about drama, and *Lust Lust Lust* is determined not to let anybody down here.

The lurching, reverb-soaked 'Aly, Walk With Me' makes this mission pretty plain from the off. The jarring, distorted guitar chords that frequently crash into existence from nowhere



makes this pretty unpalatable in a dank, dark reality that jars perversely with the Cadillac-pink candy you'd almost believe they were selling. Quite an entrance, you have to admit. Gushes of deafening white noise and a swamp of reverb seem determined to jolt the listener into the realms of some sort of dystopian nightmare of high-rise towers and filthy concrete, perhaps making it all the more settling when the haze fades away and we are



**The Wombats**  
*A Guide to Love, Loss and Desperation*  
(14th Floor)

As one might expect from producer Stephen Harris, whose previous cohorts include Kula Shaker and Dave Matthews Band, this album flows effortlessly between tight guitar riffs and cleverly placed harmonies. Interesting opener 'Tales of Girls, Boys and Marsupials', 70 seconds of repetitive yet elegant a cappella, is followed by the band's first hit 'Kill the Director' which, for all its over-indulgence on our airwaves over the summer, one cannot help but sing along to.

The sound of the band seems to follow the well trodden path of a number of hard working British acts at the moment. Frontman Matthew Murphy's narratives tell of an upbringing which, in some cases, the listener can relate to. Murphy mixes it up a bit, though, with stories that, perhaps, are not too relevant to the audience, like 'Moving to New York', which was written after he saw his girlfriend of the time kiss another woman in a nightclub. These words and rhymes all seem well complimented by happy little guitars and keyboards, of Murphy's composition, throughout. Along with the fitting drums and bass lines from Dan Haggis and Tord Overland-Knudsen respectively, the tunes take good shape and make for easy listening.

As the tracks go by, the album seems to settle down into a comfort zone, and one could easily draw comparisons with The Pigeon Detectives and Little Man Tate, albeit with different accents. Who says this has to be a bad thing? While the upbeat little tunes won't leave you feeling like your whole life has changed, neither will they leave you thinking 'what a waste of time'. Given a chance, this album will work its way inside your head and have you singing along and quite possibly dancing around your room, however secretively. A good, fun record. (7)

words/ james clegg



**Destroyers**  
*666*  
Many Were Killed, Few Were Chosen  
(I:Transition)

At first glance, I expected either over-zealous or tongue-in-cheek metal, but these guys are obviously rooted in their early 80s punk (UK82), namely Anti-Pasti, Anti-Nowhere League, The Exploited and GBH: the harder, grittier, angrier, anti-pop, anti-authority, anti-conformist... anti-everything side of punk.

'Resistance', 'Bullshit', and opener 'Decadence' are furious anti-establishment roars, bitter and to the point. Allan Adams' vocal style reminds me of the gruff bark of Motorhead's Lemmy; musically, there's nothing special here (punk, a splash of thrash/hardcore here and there) but, obviously, that's not important in punk. What's important is the attitude and lyrics, and these guys keep the energy going throughout. A quick peek at their MySpace site shows them to be veterans, and there's no attempt to be 'old school' - they've obviously got more conviction for their experience, as evidenced in 'I've been watching (the New York Dolls)', which pays tribute to pre-punk bands.

So where does this '666' angle come in? That's what confuses me, too; I can find no references to devil-worship in this album's lyrics (plenty in their iconography), but never mind. The question with punk is whether or not it can translate to vinyl, and, in this case, I'd say it's done quite well. It's got a hard-hitting grab to it throughout; there's no weak link here. Production-wise, it's pretty good, but the soundbites at the end of some songs (like boots marching and machine guns) don't add much, because the songs get the points across on their own. Obviously not for everyone, this is a nihilistic, dirty, punk album for nihilistic, dirty punks. (8)

words/ henry raby

# Albums.

carried back off to the place of no darkness - so to speak - where guitars chime sweetly. Drama, played for and got, and they don't let up. It has to be said that their almost naive enthusiasm for reverb just doesn't let up but it is perhaps something to be endured if one wants to scratch beyond the music's surface. Ironically for such a minimalist work, there's plenty on show underneath; painfully soaring 'ooh's, disjointed guitar licks, detuned synths and demented fuzz, all of which is pulled off with jaunty, nonchalant aplomb.

The term 'Garage Rock' has always seemed to hang around The Raveonettes; when this is such a significant part of a band's ethos, they will hardly win prizes for technical innovation, but The Raveonettes have resolutely chosen to stick to their guns and show what they're worth. *Lust Lust Lust* is by no means the most original thing you're going to hear this year - Sonic Youth and BJM have been doing the same thing for years, and only The Stone Roses' debut pips them for overuse of reverb - but it's a confident record that aptly fits the DIY aesthetic they've continually proclaimed. Superb. (9)

words/ amy greir



**Jacob Golden**  
*Revenge Songs*  
(Chrysalis)

Predictable trajectories and listless balladry abound in Jacob Golden's debut, whose folk-by-numbers flavour is, to put it politely, of diminished irony. Embarrassingly frantic hyperbole characterises the lyrics, and the shameless mimicry of better men proves inescapable. Perhaps he could have gotten away with his obvious rip-offs of far superior, long-established artists if they'd been at all consistent with their inspirations (Elliott Smith, Thom Yorke); it's just a pity for him that none of the above would ever be intellectually or lyrically defunct enough to complain about solutions that 'make for heavy thoughts'; still less would they slaughter every single instance of interesting sound by making it again and again under the misapprehension that profundity is generated through blind repetition. Any melodic beauty is thus wrecked approximately ten seconds after you first heard it. It's a shame, because some of them begin life almost attractively, à la The Dandy Warhols if they shared as many brain cells as Anton Newcombe left between them - but this is far from being even as finely textured as the latter's self-inflating diatribes and, to extend the comparison, would certainly benefit from acquiring several more layers. Still more infuriating is when he's parroting the artless: 'On a Saturday' opens like Feeder at their most insipid. Self-indulgence, when it's interesting, is fine, but I feel as though years of *The Album* compilations have already force-fed me everything *Revenge Songs* has to offer, from its 'monumental' drumbeats to its relentless (ab)use of the same fucking chord progression. Incidentally, 'Shoulders' features this entire list, so will probably feature in the next national dose - keep your eyes and ears open (or not). (2)

words/ liz grashoff



## Gig of the Week

Holy F\*\*\*  
Faversham

10/11/07

Since NME touted Holy Fuck as one of the top three new bands at Glastonbury this year, they have been the new buzz in the electronica scene. After playing a string of dates in London over the year (mainly at their label Young Turks club nights), Holy Fuck (thankfully) finally perform in the North of England.

Although many of us are only just beginning to hear about the electronic marvels Holy Fuck, they have been a band to look out for since 2005 when they recorded with Broken Social Scene's Dave Newfield, producing a CD that pushed them into low-profile slots at festivals such as Coachella and South by South West and tours with electronica/dance such as

!!! and Wolf Parade. The band, going now for only 3 years, state that they aim to "create the equivalent of modern electronic music without actually using the techniques - looping, splicing, programming and the like - of that music."



Needless to say, The Faversham was rammed for the eagerly anticipated debut Leeds gig on Saturday night.

The band took to stage with just four

members, masses of guitar effects pedals, bizarre musical concoctions and at least seven different keyboards, to produce a mind-melting performance that included the whole of their recent self titled release. Holy Fuck stormed through their set, showing playfulness and determination as they pounded through, showing their diversity in tracks such as 'MilkShake' (a !!!-esque dance number) to the heavier side of things in the more visceral sounding 'Korock'. A packed Faversham stood and watched in awe as the band pulsed through their songs to the point of climax, which eventually came in the song 'Lovely Alan' - a pop masterpiece that you can expect to be on the radio in the not-too-distant future.

I can't imagine anyone leaving the Faversham disappointed after such an intense performance, but then I guess most of the people in attendance will be waiting until next week - and NME's verdict on the band's live show. (8)

words/ david cunnelly

## Animal Collective

Leeds Irish Centre

5/11/07

## Beirut

Leeds Irish Centre

8/11/07

Beirut seem to have a penchant for venues they see as quaint and we see as dirty: Leeds Irish Centre is that place, right down to the patchy fairy lights adorning the stage.

The venue is almost suffocatingly full, which can make for a good atmosphere - however, only if the people who make up this mass are more than slightly enthusiastic. Beirut's gypsy-folk brand of indie makes me want to sing, dance and clap my hands. It is quite apparent that this effect is not aroused in many other listeners. With my spirits



dampened, I take to tapping my foot and nodding so as not to annoy the throng of tappers and noddors.

Beirut put in a performance that is obviously well practised, technically good and at moments verging on brilliance. These moments, however, are mere glimmers in a dying fire. The band appear tired and play as if they are going through the motions.

Having seen Beirut earlier in the year at Glastonbury, I had particularly high expectations for this gig. I had also been looking forward to hearing new LP *The Flying Club Cup* performed live, yet only a few songs off the album were played. 'A Sunday Smile' stood out, with an anthem-like quality that doesn't come across in the recording. Beirut's set list is comprised of mostly tracks off *Gulag Orkstar*, which seems like a blatant attempt to revive the frankly comatosed audience. Not that this is particularly fruitful. Beirut obviously suffer because the venue is too small, the audience wholly unenthusiastic and the sound engineering bad. It seems like a case of some bad decisions and bad luck, but not a bad band. (6)

words/holly brain

By the time I actually get into the Irish Centre - whose strings of lights and backdrops for Islaja are teetering between the otherworldly and a karaoke bar - the absence of Avey Tare due to sickness has been so comprehensively hammered into us by the doorstaff and various scribbled notes that I begin to worry about the severity of his illness. When it comes down to it, however, the Panda Bear/two-thirds of AC hybrid show that we are presented with is such a sensory assault that it is all I can do to perceive that there is anyone on stage at all.

In this respect, at least, the gig is as good as I am hoping for. Animal Collective have never really done anything by halves, and the strips of rainbow stadium lighting directed into the audience that (a week later) I can still make out on my retinae attest that the show is more or less faithful to this. Less impressive is what takes place beneath them, as Panda Bear and Geologist essentially sit behind their equipment, rather statically manipulating the samples and glitches that track an hour of material. The music itself is fine - particularly

## The Envy

Brudenell Social Club

9/11/07

It's been three years since The Envy last came to the UK for the All Tomorrow's Parties festival, and a lot has happened since. The band have toured with monolithics such as Isis and Mogwai, released an album, an EP, a split and been on tour all over the world; all of which has



amounted to very little, as the Brudenell Social Club wasn't even sold out for a band who are widely considered to be one of the best live acts around.

These Monsters, who seem to play most support slots in Leeds these days (These Arms Are Snakes, Oceansize, Russian Circles, Foals) start off very loud with their instrumental madness. The unique approach of using a



exciting is a vigorous extension of *Strawberry Jam* track '#1' - but the performance, and costumes, are distinctly lacking.

It is difficult to evaluate the performance much further without making allowances for David Portner (Avey Tare's absence, as clear album highlight 'Fireworks' would perhaps have been ill attempted without one of the band's founding members, and the disappointing length of the set may well have reflected the diminished resources available to them. In itself, tonight is a good exposition of electronic freak folk, but it is nothing like a faithful testament to what Animal Collective can do. (6)

words/ ramzy awakeel

saxophone in a band of this manner in such a central fashion seems to catch most of the audience.

Second support band of the night are Devil Sold His Soul, a British attempt at European post-metal in the vein of Cult of Luna, Lolita Stasti and JR Ewing. Loud, meaty riffs drown out all other sound in the Brudenell (much to the annoyance of the barstaff) as smoke machines and lights storm the small stage.

After several pints, The Envy have set up, and begin the first track of 2006's *Insomniacs Doze*. This seven minute epic shows the band's technical ability but, unfortunately, for the first time of the night, the PA shows fault and gives us no real vocal sound. This flaw is not down to the venue, however, but to the on-tour soundman who has obviously fiddled with the wrong buttons. As the set progresses, so does the band's sound. Still, despite the sound, much seems to disappoint about the gig towards its end. Maybe my anticipation ruins it, but many don't seem as impressed as you would expect from one of the pioneer bands of hardcore/screamo. The Envy travelled 5,814 miles for this gig. Thankfully, I didn't. (4)

words/ david cunnelly

## Live.

Ce Ce Peniston/D:Ream  
by Helena and Ramzy

To be a lady of ROCK it always strikes me that women have to work pretty hard. Take Courtney Love, she's a drug taking, botox overdosing, nipple flashing fruitcake, and that seems to be why people are interested in her. Or perhaps Karen O, she dresses a bit off the wall, throws herself about the place and simulates sex with stage monitors, and has lots of fans. How about Beth Ditto? She's pretty controversial, always wearing lycra, talking about how fat she is and discussing her sexuality openly, if not that popular she gets a lot of attention. Bjork - dresses like a five year old playing a flowerpot in a Christmas nativity play - beats up the paparazzi, doesn't feel the need to shave her armpits and generally generates an otherworldly glow, all the while her music is revered the world over. The list goes on and on. I can't think of any conservative dressing, reserved yet affable, perhaps 'normal' female rock stars. There are plenty of men: Gary Lightbody, Dave Grohl, Jim Adkins, Roddy Woomble, etc. So why do women have to be 'weird' to be in rock music? Is it that rock'n'roll just attracts the unstable female? I'm not saying there haven't been plenty of crazy men in this genre of entertainment but there does seem to be an imbalance. Maybe the reason why the slightly 'out-there' female is the only one to survive in this male dominated genre is because the almost claustrophobic atmosphere of male managers, male producers, male record execs, male musicians, and often predominantly male audiences is just too much for your average girl. As depressing as this might be, it certainly makes sense. Or maybe your average girl is just too average to make a rock star.



It's been a few weeks since Oink - one of the latest torrent sites in the BPI's series of scapegoats - was 'shut down' by a police raid. I was initially unsure about what to think. I have always maintained (perhaps rather contradictorily) both (i) that music is something far more transcendent and, well, intellectually slippery than can be put a monetary value on, and (ii) *something* is changed about the way we consume emotional stimuli when the material backdrop is altered.

So what is it? To suggest that an artwork's 'value' - that which we paid for it - dictates the value we ascribe our response to it (is this not, after all, the only thing that can be said to consistently qualify 'art'?) is to suggest that the British Phonographic Industry is correct to witch-hunt the dissemination of music not on its own terms. This is tricky, because a record is the product of labour on the part of the musicians and engineers (and, unfortunately, the publishers, labels and marketers), so to claim that it is everyone's intellectual property is merely wrong. However, unlike most products of labour, its value to consumers extends far beyond the capitalist exchange: is it possible to appreciate music on both levels?

If we are to pull apart the emotional side of this, we have to consider the emotional impact of unlimited access to music, as opening up all artwork to all people is to override its material value (which is something, for now, I will remain on the fence about). To this end, I have another question: is it possible to quantify levels of emotional response within a person? Or, rather, is it more, less, or equally valuable to have access to any music, or to have more invested in a limited amount? In the long term, do we get more or less out of either scenario? Is the depth of our response dependant upon our familiarity both with the art in question and with our own response to it?



# 21st Leeds International Film Festival

7-18 NOVEMBER 2007

## Death Note & Death Note: The Last Name

**Starring/** Tetsuya Fujiwara, Ken'ichi Matsuyama, Erika Toda  
**Director/** Shusuke Kaneko

Shown on consecutive days to a full crowd at the Hyde Park Picture House, this epic story (the running time is over four hours), based on the manga of the same name, was

certainly popular with the film festival audience. And rightly so: the blend of live-action suspense and animated gods of death working to spectacular effect on the big screen.

The story is centred around a young, bright law student called Light, the son of the police chief, and his moral decline when he finds a 'Death Note' - a notebook in which the names of anyone written will die. There are rules to the 'Death Note', as the face

must be imagined by the writer - preventing random murder. Still, Light uses the book under the pseudonym Kira to kill criminals, gaining some public support as a result of the lowering crime rate.

To solve these mysterious murders, an equally enigmatic detective, 'L', is brought in by the police. A majority of the storyline is taken up by Light's attempt to find out L's real name, so he can eliminate his dangerous opponent. It is in the sparring between these characters that the film is most successful, with events taking place at an extremely quick pace, before their plans are revealed in hindsight. By the second film, a second 'Death Note' has arrived and following a series of memory loss and memory recovery storylines, there is a final showdown, as Light's cruel and malevolent nature is revealed.

The casting is brilliant, with Light and L looking almost as they do in the manga, and with the animated gods of death Ryuk and Rem lifted from the page exactly, and it is visually true to the original story. However, the end deviates significantly from its source, which could anger some fans. These are enjoyable films, filled with lush visuals and a quickly moving plot with many twists. By the second film, the tone is less serious, but the ending still satisfies justifying the lengthy running time of the story.

words/ simon gillett



**GODS OF DEATH: Hang on... isn't that Nanahara?**

## Tambogrande: Mangos, Murder, Mining

**Directors/** Ernesto Cabellos and Stephanie Boyd

As summarised in the programme for the film festival, *Tambogrande* sounds like it will be little more than a depressing depiction of one of many small farming communities in South America that are struggling against poverty. With the discovery of gold directly beneath the town, the lure for Western companies trying to strike rich at the expense of the civilians becomes more apparent, and it seems as though the town will meet a fate of destruction.

But for a refreshing change, and with the chimes of a Peruvian guitar, the documentary depicts an outright defiance of the people against the destruction of their home. The clamour of gold mining has not been able to undermine the community - instead, the town of Tambogrande has become involved with fighting for its survival in drawing the community into an unyielding union whose motivation - protection - is strongly fought for.

The two-man filming crew retell the atmosphere of Tambogrande over a span of several years, honestly depicting the lives of the charismatic inhabitants, who at no point relent to the persuasion provided by the draws of gold and material belongings. Instead, they choose nature and tradition over money, and their love of the land serves as a poignant and satisfying ambition.

The town of Tambogrande presents itself as a self-determining, vibrant community, who the audience can admire. It defies the dreary prospect provided by a lack of democracy and resources, turning their ideas into active movements, peaceful processions and a celebration of demonstration.

The rippling effect that the influence of the community brings throughout South America provides a hopeful outlook of a community united, not by poverty, but by the wealth of fruit which they grow.

words/ jennifer sweeney

## 1,2,3, Whiteout

**Starring/** Karine Adrover, Lou Castel  
**Director/** James June Schneider

James June Schneider's *1,2,3, Whiteout* has been described as "a tone poem for darkness", and it is a startlingly original feature, obeying few conventions of cinema and placing message over narrative. The story follows Veronique, an unemployed and single woman, who is paid by an inventor to help with an experiment after he sees her computer skills cheating at a game arcade. Her brother, a successful member of the 'active intelligence', grows suspicious of her work and eventually arrives at the inventor's. And that's it. There is little characterisation and even less development of story. After she first meets the inventor, we immediately jump to see her talking to her brother about the job, having taken part a few times.

The ambiguities of the film are fascinating; fitting in with the general philosophical questioning of the film "can we shine when faced with blinding light?". The experimentation in the film is of an almost meditative state, with Veronique, in darkness, moving deeper into

herself. Represented on screen by techniques such as manipulated static from televisions, she finds herself in darkness, in a comfortable and creative state. This is what the film provokes in the audience, too. The story is so open to interpretation that we are in the dark to a great extent, having to develop our own understanding and our own narrative to combine and reconcile the elements we see. We are induced into the same creative darkness that Veronique discovers.

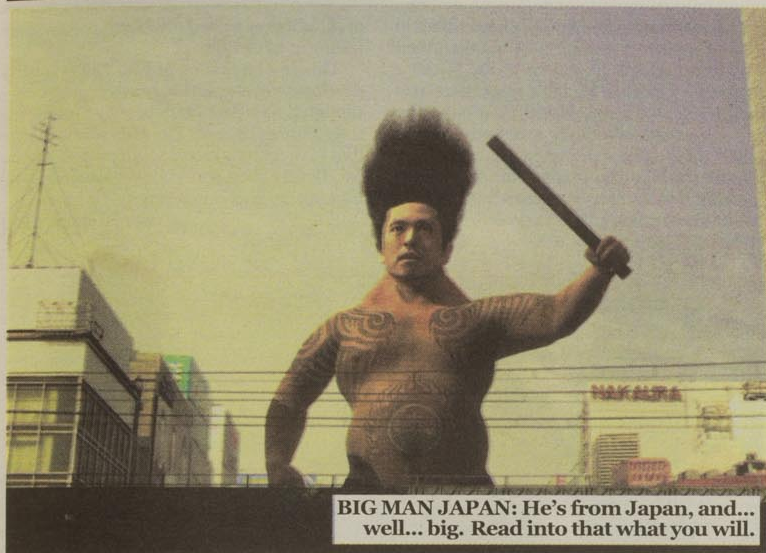
Speaking in a Q&A after the film (in a darkened Hyde Park Picture House) Schneider describes the world of the film as an "exaggerated now", a world where the "culture of light" undermines and limits human potential. The film is slowly paced, with a large portion of the screen time taken up with experimental images that remain unexplained, and it is clear that the film is designed as a provocation of the imagination and to encourage reflection by the audience. It may not be the most satisfying film to watch, as it consciously avoids giving answers to the problems it presents, but it is an interesting and brave experiment, and one which is difficult to get out of your mind after you leave the cinema.

words/ simon gillett



**1,2,3, WHITEOUT: Making night night again**





**BIG MAN JAPAN: He's from Japan, and... well... big. Read into that what you will.**

## Dainipponjin

Starring/ Hitoshi Matsumoto  
Director/ Hitoshi Matsumoto

As a 'superhero' film whose title roughly translates as "Big Man Japan", an audience seeing *Dainipponjin* walks into the cinema with a set of assumptions that are about as distant from the film as you can get. Introduced in a documentary style, the ridiculous and slightly sad character of Daisato seems as far from the superhero stereotype as possible. While Clark Kent certainly seems mundane, he acts only as a front for Superman; here, Daisato – even in 'superhero' form – is obviously still the eccentric, unpopular and dull man he is in every day life.

The film works at a slow pace, at points to its own detriment, but this prolonged – almost stretched – style helps to underline the point it's making. It stands in strong contrast to the norms of the fast-paced, action-packed, hero vs. villain film and, when action sequences are used, they often involve anticlimax, absurdity or deus ex machina to undermine the conventions of the style it parodies, with the result of

undercutting the potential excitement of the sequence as well. While often funny, the film's action sequences – most animated, with the exception of one deliberately tacky live action piece – are the film's weakest sections, and with the exception of the finale, tend to be banal and predictable. While this is probably a deliberate decision on the director's behalf, and advances the bathetic tone of the film, they're also rather dull.

*Dainipponjin*'s appeal as a conventional comedy is questionable, as it shows little interest in attempting humour of the 'so funny you throw up laughing' variety. Instead, a lot of its comedy comes about through presenting the awkward, absurdly mundane character of Daisato and comparing it to the ideal of the superhero, through pure weirdness and non-sequiturs and through presenting the difficulties faced by a superhero in modern society. In their own way, these are successful, but the dry, awkward and stretched humour is an acquired taste, and there is no chance that this is going to appeal to a strictly main-stream audience.

words/ james haddon



**STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKES: Like Sex in the City, but in Tokyo. And not shit.**

## Strawberry Shortcakes

Starring/ Chizuru Iwakaki, Noriko Nakagoshi, Yûko Nakamura, Kiriko Nananan  
Director/ Hitoshi Yazaki

Hitoshi Yazaki's *Strawberry Shortcakes* is based on a manga series called 'Sweet Cream and Red Strawberries', which follows the lives of four young women living in Tokyo. This is a film which completely collapses the stereotypes linked with adaptations of manga – there are no guns, no androids, and the pace is leisurely; it reminds us that Japanese graphic storytelling can be rich and dramatic, as well as capable of presenting realistic female characters.

The women of the film all have their problems. Satoko, working as the receptionist of an escort company is afraid of remaining alone, but tries to resist the advances of her married boss. Her friend, Akiyo, is one of the escorts at the agency who takes life too seriously and has a fascination with death (she sleeps in a coffin-like box, and one of her first lines is telling Satoko that she will commit suicide when she grows old). The other two are flatmates Chihiro, who wants marriage and a steady relationship, and Toko, who secretly suffers from bulimia.

The acting in the film is simply breathtaking, especially Kiriko Nananan, who plays Toko's bulimia incredibly realistically,

## Night of Dead

This now famous horror event was essential cinematic indulgence for fans of the horror genre as well as newcomers looking for a night of guaranteed frights as Hyde Park Picture House showed four new horror movies from midnight until eight in the morning.

*Storm Warning* is a fantastic movie from renowned horror maestro Jamie Banks (who reaped in over \$100 million with his debut film *Urban Legend*), as a city-slick couple get stranded on a boating excursion, before seeking shelter in what turns out to be a farm owned by family of psychopathic sex-maniac killers. Nadia Fares puts Uma Thurman to shame with her DIY barn death-trap.

*End of the Line* is a both comic and terrifying tour-de-force as a battle arises in a subway system between aliens, crowbar-clad civilians and dagger-mad occultists. The audience darts between fear and humour-induced tears as a blood-spattered senile lady chases people with a shining blade while belting out hymns.

*Cold Prey* is a 'mountain top slasher movie' as five extremely attractive snowboarders takes refuge in an abandoned ski-lodge when one of their party is injured, only to discover that it is the lair of a notorious 1970s serial killer. The rock soundtrack compliments the fighting over piles of freezing corpses and crevasse-cusp wrestling scenes.

*Hell's Ground* made a fitting finale to the evening's entertainment and is highly recommended as a priority festival pick. This Pakistani road-trip movie reveals the horrific events as four spoilt teenagers get lost in the jungle on their way to a concert, only to be faced with mace-swinging witch doctors, supernatural zombies and a middle-eastern drug-baron Dracula character.

words/ jack cullen

creating a few horrifically intense scenes. Nakagoshi Noriko, who plays Chihiro, is also especially good, managing to stop her cheerful, naive character from becoming irritatingly one-dimensional as the film's end approaches. Yazaki's direction is stylish, but not flashy, developing some iconic images slowly and carefully, while simultaneously allowing the harsh realities to be shown in an incredibly affecting way. For example, a cut back to Akiyo, almost unmoving, face down on a punter's bed, shows her hopelessness and detachment through a single image. The direction of the whole film is masterfully controlled throughout.

*Strawberry Shortcakes* is a film about change, but it is not about meaningless resolution. The characters do not magically get what they want by the end, but they do get something. The strained relationship between the two very different flatmates Chihiro and Toko gains some strength in their mutual admission that, for a time, they really hated each other; Akiyo's obsession with death seems slightly offset by the realisation that she is pregnant; and Satoko's new job, away from her predatory boss, working alongside the non-Japanese speaking Lee leaves her happier and feeling safer. With its outstanding acting and direction, this really is a manga adaptation that carries the tough reality of life within it.

words/ simon gillett

21st Leeds International Film Festival  
7-18 NOVEMBER 2007



# 21st Leeds International Film Festival

7-18 NOVEMBER 2007

## Body Rice

Starring/ Sylta Fee Wegmann, Alice Dwyer  
Director/ Hugo Vieira da Silva

*Body Rice* is a difficult film to watch. It is relentlessly slow-paced, virtually devoid of storyline, and its portrayal of disassociation and isolation is hopelessly depressing. Having said that, it is certainly an experience: you rarely see a film that doesn't bow to the pressures of conventional closure, or clumsy characterisation. If it wasn't for the brief paragraph explaining the fact that the film is based around post-unification Berlin teenagers who have been moved to the dusty south of Portugal, we would be absolutely clueless as to what we were seeing.

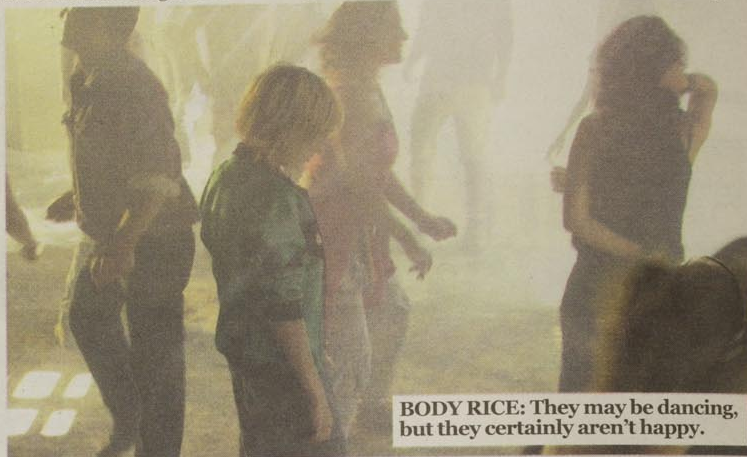
The world we are presented consists of close-mouthed, surly and disoriented people who mope through their days, smoking incessantly, and barely interacting. Cigarettes seem to work as the main mode of conversation in the film, being passed occasionally between otherwise silent characters. This lack of connection has a disturbing effect, as it is like there is something missing in them. The disconcerting lack of humanity is demonstrated as one of the main characters watches a man have a fit, and clumsily tries to help, before eventually stealing his wallet and leaving in a numb confusion.

The only release these people have comes in a series of daytime raves, but even then their isolation is clear. There are three of these scenes, the first seeing the major characters dancing alone, the second with them sitting on the dancefloor (if a dusty warehouse can be called a dancefloor) and the third with them silently smoking in a trailer. Although this is far from being a drug film, there are obvious, but unmentioned signs of various drugs being

used, as if they helped their users to gain some feeling in this world.

This is a snapshot of life. There is little development, and nothing really changes, even though a nameless body is pulled out of the river towards the end. Yes, *Body Rice* is a tough film to watch; it is intense and isolated, but it is excellently shot, and its off-balance amoral inhumanity is as compelling as it is shocking.

words/ simon gillett



**BODY RICE:** They may be dancing, but they certainly aren't happy.

## Aaichi & Ssipak

Starring/ Chang Jung Lim, Seung-wan Ryoo  
Director/ Jo Beom-jin

This film is insanity incarnate. South Korean animator Jo Beom-jin's debut movie takes you to weird and wonderful places you never expect to see within a cinema, or anywhere else for that matter. Some may call it genius, others nonsensical, but there is a certain charm to this film as it whisks you away into its undeniable madness.

Set in the future, human faeces is the last source of energy in aptly named 'Shit City', where defecation is encouraged by providing addictive 'Juicybars' after excretion. Given their addictive nature, a black market thrives within the city, with gangs wreaking havoc across the city as they vie for the trade, most notably the 'Diaper Gang', a gang of angry miniature, blue mutants, hopelessly addicted to the juicybar. So enter Aaichi and Ssipak, a duo of small-time hoodlums who make their trade in the city's greatest addiction and clashing

with the Diaper Gang and cops, notably a brutal cyborg policeman 'Geko'.

Funny, overtly and repeatedly politically incorrect, vulgar and almost ridiculous in its pacing, this hard-rock anime is entertainment all round. Referencing a number of films including *Pulp Fiction*, *Robocop*, *Battleship Potemkin* and, in particular, *Indiana Jones* and *the Temple of Doom* (with a crazy finale set down a mine-shaft), it hardly leaves you time to blink, and this is the beauty of the film.

Without a doubt, this is one of the most violent animations I have ever seen, dismembered limbs flying across the screen and lots of heads shot off - primarily as a result of the utterly disposable Diaper Gang members, which distinctly bring to mind the humble lemming.

If you are a fan of ultra-violent asian cinema and animation, this film fuses the two in a disgustingly brilliant piece of filmmaking, which I have no doubt was created under the influence of some form of hallucinogen. It is a unique experience to behold.

words/ joss paddick

**SHIT CITY:** They never figured out why tourism was so low.



## Have You Another Apple?

Starring/ Zabi Afshar, Leila Moosavi  
Director/ Fazli Bayram

The Iranian *Have You Another Apple?* is an extremely bizarre film, an allegorical tale of a perpetually hungry man roaming across the desert in a constant search for food, while black-clad 'sickle bearers' enforce their edict that the population should sleep at all times. The hungry lead character is portrayed as a simple, childish man, stumbling into and out of trouble almost thoughtlessly, often escaping only through his only skill - being able to outrun a horse.

The cinematography is absolutely gorgeous, and creates a number of iconic images, especially in the presentation of the sickle-bearers' punishment of burying people up to their necks in the desert and leaving them to die. These graveyards, littered with bleached human skulls, and the more-recently buried are effective symbols, especially when we see the two main characters buried a few feet apart with an apple resting on the sand between them.

Unfortunately, the allegorical narrative is very random, and the stark and effective opening is progressively undermined as the story moves on: there is one twenty minute section in a town which could easily be cut without any real loss to the film as a whole. Even though the main characters are given a baby at this point, which could have been used to symbolic significance, it is comically thrown away over a wall before they escape the town and it is never mentioned again.

While the narrative is haphazard, it is saved by its bizarre humour, for example the heroic ascension of the main character to the point where he leads a small village in defence of their homes, a rise which is completely undercut as they all flee before the sickle-bearers even get to their barricades. While he escapes on a motorbike all of the others die, reminding us that he is a self-interested coward and not a hero.

The end is curious, as his talent for running saves the lives of captured children, and establishes him as the leader of his people. We never see his rule, but this could be his symbolic ascent into responsibility and manhood... or it could spell disaster for his people. This film leaves you completely baffled, but its cinematography and humour redeem it to some extent.

words/ simon gillett



## International Short Film Competition

The seven films shown as part of Leeds International Film Festival were a collection of weird and wonderful short films hailing from cultures as diverse as they are geographically distant: encompassing Mexico, Poland, Morocco, Germany, Denmark and Belgium. Bringing together 'unknown worlds both real and imagined, where both the cruel and the impossible are possible', they represent up-and-coming modern international cinema from across a wide spectrum. I have picked out some of the highlights.

*'Dragon Flies'* (Justyna Novak, Poland) was a beautifully shot, evocative tale of first love and first heartbreak. A combination of a

stunning sound track (featuring wonderful Leeds band Sky Larkin) and a delightful visual experience, panning in and out of focus and using saturated colours to reflect the highs and lows of being a fifteen year old girl, it achieved mesmerising cinema.

*'The Pub'* (Gabriel Gauche / Andrej Kroi, Germany) was less a short film than a showcase of the director's cinematic talents. Splitting and blurring shots to layer them as one successive film, albeit with no narrative structure, it was an impressive feat of surrealist cinema portraying a dark uncanny world.

*'Wigwald'* (Timon Modersohn, Germany) was the moment of comic relief in the collection. A piece of black humour, it chronicled the increasingly ridiculous suicide attempts of a geeky teenage boy who is suffering from the teenage angst unnoticed by his self-absorbed parents.

*'Aie'* (Virginie Gourmel, Belgium) stood out

as the most original and delightful to watch in the selection. Technically fascinating, it was shot in slow motion and then sped up to capture a world at incongruent to real time and real life experience. With a sense of fairy-tale fantasy, it offered an untraditional love story involving a vampire chasing a dancing girl, the sexual tension building up to an unexpected climax.

Each film had something to engage the audience. Challenging our perception of the world, some relied on narrative, others on technical affects. Not all had a storyline able to sustain my attention for the length of feature film, but as a raucous journey through the varying warped and fantastical minds of seven aspiring film directors, it provided a stimulating way to spend a Saturday afternoon in Leeds.

words/ lucy barnett

## Lions for Lambs

Starring/ Meryl Streep, Tom Cruise  
Director/ Robert Redford

They say that god never gives with both hands, but try telling this to Robert Redford. Apart from being an actor of legendary repute, he has also proved himself again to be a director of no small accomplishment. Rarely do you see a film of such pedigree, with a cast that seemingly consists solely of academy award winners and nominees.

Set against the backdrop of America's increasingly costly War on Terror, the film weaves together three parallel stories. Redford plays Professor Malley, a world weary yet idealistic political science teacher who uses the example of his two prize students, Arian (Derek Luke) and Ernest (Michael Pena), to shake his current prodigy Todd (Andrew Garfield) out of his apathetic lifestyle. 9,000 miles away, in Afghanistan, his two former students are now soldiers, fighting for their lives in an abortive attempt to implement Senator Jasper Irving's (Cruise) "new plan". Cruise is perfect as the irascible Senator who slickly attempts to sell his vision to reporter Janine Roth (Streep), even while it is falling apart.

If you were expecting high octane thrills then this probably isn't the film for you. While there are several moments that definitely get the heart pumping, this film's main selling point is the superb interplay between its characters. The big three do not disappoint, with Redford and Streep delivering the seamlessly tight performances that we've come to expect of them. Cruise especially throws himself into his role, and manages to perfectly embody the current American administration's cavalier attitude towards foreign policy, with "no matter what the cost" becoming an eerily familiar mantra throughout the film. In this masterly performance, Cruise reminds us that for all of his sofa jumping, crazy religious beliefs and phantom babies, the man is first and foremost one of the best actors of his generation.

I was lured to this film by its big names yet what impressed me most was the excellence of its supporting cast. Pena and Luke inject some much needed pace and drama into what could have been a slow and cumbersome film. Their performances make us question whether or not a policy of "no matter what the cost" can truly bring to a close a conflict that has seemingly ground to a bloody stalemate with no real resolution in sight.

words/ karim flint

## Tekkonkinkreet

Starring/ Kazonari Ninomiya, Yû Aoi  
Director/ Michael Arias

*Tekkonkinkreet* is, in every sense, a pure work of art. American director Michael Arias (a special effects artist credited on a host of films including *Princess Mononoke* and *The Abyss*) has really created something unique with his first feature film, bringing a new dimension to anime, and his prowess within the visual dimension of film is clearly realised.

Based on the cult comic 'Black and White', by Matsumoto Taiyo, the film follows two street children in Treasure Town with the power to fly as they battle



TEKKONKINKREET: Cleverly Translated from Tekon Kinkurito.

Yakuza gang members and alien assassins vying for power over the city. The characterisation is finely executed with a real sense of depth that compliments the fantastically detailed animation style.

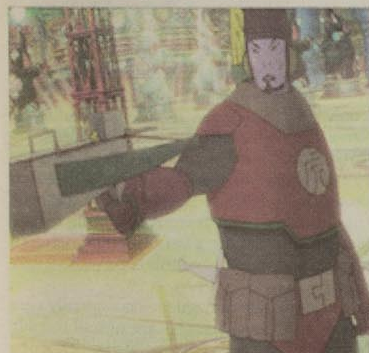
Yet it is the symbolism and metaphor of the film that provide its true essence. It explores the balance eternal struggle of the human conscience, dark against light, and explores the nature of the Ying and Yang, which is manifested in the film through two brothers, aptly named Black and White. As such, the film is as dark as it is innocent, and this concludes pristinely in its final sequence, that's guaranteed to take an audience's breath away.

The animation itself is very distinctive,

but its highly stylised form takes a while to adjust to. But while the film takes a while to draw you in, by its final, heart-stopping cinematic display its easy to be entirely consumed by its beauty. Without a doubt, it's one of the finest pieces of visual creation I've ever witnessed within anime, and as I walked away I'm not ashamed to admit I was quite awestruck by Arias's attention to detail and cinematic vision.

If you ever get the opportunity to see this film, I think you'd be stupid to let it pass you by, particularly if you have an interest in anime or animated films in general. It is a very special film and a true visual masterpiece.

words/ joss paddick



## Rough Crossings at the West Yorkshire Playhouse

Based on Simon Schama's novel, *Rough Crossings* attempts to squeeze fifteen years of history into a two and a half hour production. It tells the epic story of two groups fighting against ignorance and injustice in the hope of liberating the "black man" from a life of slavery. This makes for an interesting and touching piece of drama, though at times I did find my mind wandering, as it so often did, in school history lessons.

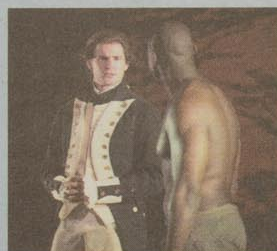
The first half of the play shifts between the lives of a group of former African-American slaves who abandon their plantations in order to fight for the British in the American War of Independence, and the struggle of the English abolitionists to secure their liberation on the other side of the Atlantic. The production opens with a striking piece of physical theatre, showing slaves being thrown across a ship, against a backdrop of dark ocean waves.

However, from this point onwards the play seems to dip and jump in a somewhat rollercoaster fashion. While exciting and enthralling at some points, the quick scene changes, and the cutting back and forth between threads of the narrative accompanied by a swaying stage were confusing at others. Whilst the first half of the play does show a number of different perspectives, its sequential mishmash of short scenes is not enough to evoke any real emotional attachment to the characters.

Nevertheless, the play should be praised for its incredible cast of actors, especially the talent of Miranda Colchester (who played Eliza Sharp) and Dawn Hope (who played Phyllis George), whose singing ability infused passion and beauty into the piece. In addition, the inspired set design of Laura Hopkins allowed for quick set changes which enhanced the play and allowed for some extremely poignant scenes.

The intense atmosphere of Sierra Leone is

conveyed simply, yet beautifully, using a bright orange and yellow projection that illuminates the African sky. Clever symbolism is used to depict the exploitation of enslaved Africans, for example, the ropes translate into



crops, the sides of the ship and tools, rain instruments act like the bars of a jail cell and slaves hold up the table for the "white man" to read upon. Scenes of inhumanity, including whipping and men being thrown overboard, capture the horrors of the era and make for a

memorable piece.

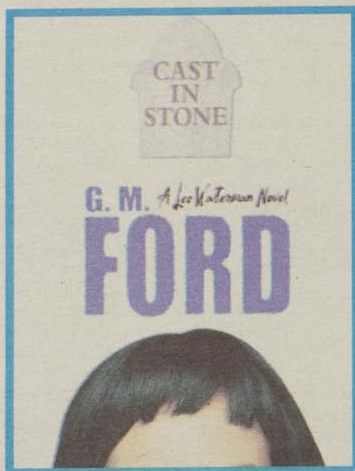
Moreover, the second half makes up for the coherency that is so lacking in the first. After the interval, the scenes were much tighter and more consistent. The play focuses on life in Sierra Leone and the struggle for power between the modest and idealistic Thomas Clarkson (played by Andrew Fame) and the stubborn and defiant, John Peters (Patrick Robinson, who played Ash in BBC drama *Casualty*), who believes self-rule is the only true way to secure freedom. Robinson gives a fantastic and convincing performance. He has a gripping stage presence and his expressive eyes convey the will and determination of his character.

*Rough Crossings* is, at times, overly complicated and even incoherent. However, its outstanding cast, beautiful scenery and sweet moments of song, all set against the horrific backdrop of slavery makes for a moving, informative production and a must-see commemoration of 200 years of emancipation.

words/ elena gratano



# Reviews of the Week...



## 'Cast in Stone'

by  
G.M. Ford

**C**ast in Stone is a down-town detective story narrated through the eyes of its hero; Leo Waterman. The story is jam packed with petit violence, prostitution and love/hate relationships written in a down to earth, matter-of-fact manner that is genuinely appealing. The grubby colloquial language inflected with swear words and subtle sexual innuendos combine to make a novel that is uncharacteristically charming and impossible to put down. Destined to be in your top ten of easy reads, the TV series-style private investigator travels through the down and outs of America contesting with a whole range of grimy enemies, impossible situations and unexpected gems to solve a case he believes in. Turning up grotty thugs alongside witty characters makes the book hilarious despite its rather darker connotations towards modern American society and what is deemed the norm. The personal edge of the book is revealed through the speech and thoughts of Leo, his relationships and stereotypical lifestyle. Although a little unimaginative and unchallenging the vernacular style of the book is clever, having endless appeal that is thoroughly worthy of the attentions of any inspiring detective or people who seek an affinity with the rougher edge of humanity. Despite occasional intellectual references the social element of the book is much more prominent and provocative in its ability to rouse the interest of the reader. Similarly, the quick-fire fluidity of the storyline, with its twists and turns throughout the case encourage the reader to follow their own suspicions as to the earnestness of characters and their lives in relation to the case, as they are interwoven into an exciting, thrill-filled whodunit.

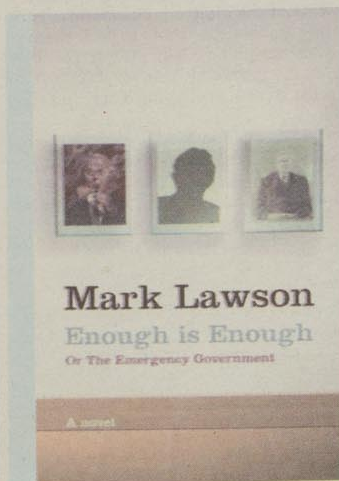
words/ matty sutton

## 'Sulphuric Acid'

by  
Amelie Nothomb

**I**t takes three pages of Amelie Nothomb and BANG – you have a new addiction. Belgian by nationality, born in Japan and a citizen of Paris, Nothomb is one of the most exciting and hard-hitting writers alive today, it is only a matter of time until she obtains the household-name status that she fully deserves. Following the fantastic success of 2004's considerably acclaimed *The Book of Proper Names*, her brand new novel *Sulphuric Acid* concerns itself with a reality TV death camp which rapidly becomes the obsession of a nation. We follow the excruciating pain and suffering of the beautiful Pannonique who was snatched one day while walking across the park and piled into a lorry only to wake up and find herself as a contestant on this horrific program. The death camp itself blends loud echoes of Nazi evil with the now unanimously familiar furnishings of reality TV games shows. Yet what sounds like a cold-blooded read is actually a very black comedy. Nothomb's cutting satirisation of celebrity is so intelligent and intriguing that, unlike say Ben Elton, she prioritises literary style and artistic integrity above the populist desires of fuelling a large pension plan (perhaps the reason why Nothomb is published by Faber and Faber). Nothomb is not interested in sales figures but genuinely sets out on a personal mission to highlight the ridiculous nature of image-consciousness and materialism, enhanced by underlying themes regarding atheism and the nature of true love. At a first glance the storyline of *Sulphuric Acid* holds resemblance to that of Koushun Takami's Japanese cult novel *Battle Royale*, but Nothomb is no mere imitator – Her plots will have you either pulling your hair out in clumps with astonishment or racing to your thesaurus in search of a superlative for 'twist' as each narrative assumption is stylishly smashed down.

words/ jack cullen



## 'Enough is Enough'

by  
Mark Lawson

**T**his book is a fictionalized account of the demise of the Labour Party under Harold Wilson, in a climate of paranoia, lies and intrigue. If you have watched *Newsnight* or have listened to Radio Four, you will be aware of presenter Mark Lawson, and the novel displays his proficiency as an author, while his journalistic background allows him to make some insightful comments on the industry and its influence on the government. Based on actual events, the novel shows the power of the media, through the intentions of Cecil King, nephew of Rothermere, who ran the *Daily Mirror* during the 1950s and 60s, and unsuccessfully tries to topple Wilson's Cabinet, replacing it with Lord Mountbatten, former Viceroy of India. Meanwhile, there are conspiracies that Wilson is a communist, intent on overthrowing the democratic system in a country plagued by devaluation and public apathy. Despite some rave reviews from newspapers, the book is disappointing. Unless you are aware of the political climate of the 1960s, it is difficult to engage with, due to its assumption that the reader is aware of such events like the devaluation crisis or the Jeremy Thorpe scandal. However, it is clear that Lawson has a real passion for producing a novel that combines history, conspiracy and corruption, and on many occasions the action unfolds like a spy thriller. Although 'Enough is Enough' has been painstakingly researched and provides an interesting insight into the workings of the government, unless you really know about Wilson's era, I'd give this book a miss.

words / nali sivathanan

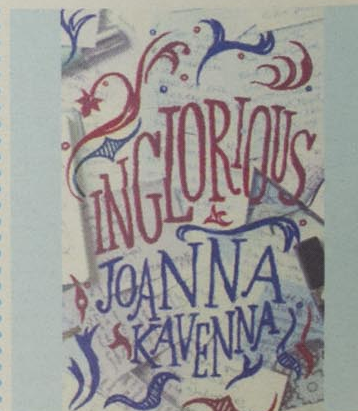
## 'Inglorious'

by  
Joanna Kavenna

**T**here is a certain kind of book that it is easy to pigeonhole as "chick lit." I have to confess that when I picked up this book and read the dustjacket, I found myself inclined to think that *Inglorious* by Joanna Kavenna (which is, by the way, a glorious name to say, positively rolling off the tongue) would fall into this category. This just goes to show that first impressions are not always correct, because this is a clever book from a woman who references great literature and writes with a flowery, elegant style. The story follows a lady called Rosa, who, following the death of her mother, one day begins to fall apart. She quits her job and begins a strange and fraught attempt to find meaning in her life and to escape the cage she has built for herself. She makes lists of things to do to sort her life out and lists of books she must read, like the Tao, and works by Nietzsche and Plato. Naturally, as tends to be the way with efficiently written lists, very few of these things actually get done. As she unravels we see both her own desire and yearning for something greater, some sense of purpose, and the increasing exasperation of her friends and family who are still living the life she was content to be in prior to her mother's death and who can't understand how she can have turned her back on all the values that they hold important. She writes fragmented paragraphs expressing her longing for meaning and increasingly nihilistic perspective on the world. There is a certain duality in the way the book is written – her quest for meaning is simultaneously a fall from grace, her friends are both funny and grotesque, she herself is sympathetic and self absorbed in equal measures. Indeed it is the humour in this book that at times saves it from becoming far too bleak. There can be a very fine line between comedy and tragedy and this book walks it very neatly.

In criticism, the dialogue is occasionally very stilted and the characters are not all terribly believable but this is essentially a book about a journey. It is a book about grief, which is ultimately a very sacred, private thing, and how it can affect us. It is a book about wanting more than just the soul destroying rut of a 9 to 5 – a book that reminds us that we can't always see the bars.

words/ pippa denton





# Altrustic or Egotistic?

With the new series of 'I'm a Celebrity' **Anna Burnell** asks 'why do these celebrities really put themselves through jungle hell?'

"It's time to meet your new best friends..." These were the dubious words of Dec as 'I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!' sauntered onto our screens for series seven this week. You might be donning your shorts and dancing around the

(obviously) he is from Newcastle, she let out a whoop as if she knew the place like the back of her withered hand. She clearly has no idea how the show works. This pulling together of vaguely familiar faces from both sides of the pond to spend several weeks living in an Australian jungle has led me to question just why the celebs put themselves through the hassle. What are they hoping to achieve?

Well, first of all, it could be that they are genuinely charitable people. But I am not convinced that their motives are entirely altruistic. Surely there are more convenient ways for these people to raise cash for a good cause than by munching maggots and hanging out with tarantulas. So could it be that they are hoping to combine a good deed with the experience of 'finding themselves' in a jungle? Well this is possible. Gemma Atkinson could indeed have concluded that glamour and make-up are not for her, and she would rather give it all up and get back to nature. Except the camp 'in the middle of nowhere'

is, in fact, only a thirty minute drive from a luxury hotel. And so that they don't get wet whilst they ponder on the meaning of life, the camp is covered with protective sheeting. Clearly au naturel is the way to go.

Right, so the only other option, (and this is what you're all thinking), is that the celebs are a gaggle of sad has-beens who have snapped up an opportunity to revive their careers by eating bugs and whining continually. And I think you'd be right. Most of the celebs on the welcome show this week looked frankly uncomfortable. They squirmed at having

to explain what they used to be famous for, and only the promise of twenty-five thousand pounds and the whiff of publicity seemed to prevent them from running from the room in sheer humiliation.

Isn't it sad that TV has come to this? It isn't a case of voting for the celebrity we like the most, but the one we pity and feel needs dragging back from the pit of the nobodys.

Contestants- there is a reason you're no longer famous. Personally, I hope Janice gets swallowed by a crocodile. That's if reptiles don't mind plastic.

**"I hope Janice gets swallowed by a crocodile. That is if reptiles don't mind plastic."**

living room in exultation; you may be preparing to avoid the TV at all costs until the fiasco is over. Or, like me, you might just be staring, horrified at the screen and asking, why? Janice Dickenson, the self-proclaimed first ever supermodel, seemed to think that Dec was another 'hottie' contestant and eagerly asked him where he was from. When he answered that



**ANT AND DEC:** All that money is not going to make us sleep with you.

## On yer soapbox

Ever spluttered with incredulity as *Neighbours* or *Hollyoaks* reveals another ridiculous storyline? Here's your chance to do better ...

WHAT:

Check last week's issue of Leeds Student and you'll find that *I'm a Celebrity* is one of the terrestrial picks of the week. Look a little closer and you'll see that the pick itself promised eager viewers a televisual treat with a line up consisting of a plethora of famous names. The promise was not intended to be an empty one: you would have thought the Radio Times website was a reliable enough source, and one not too inclined to get carried away with itself and start spouting nonsense.

Check out an episode of *I'm a Celebrity*...and you'll find that the

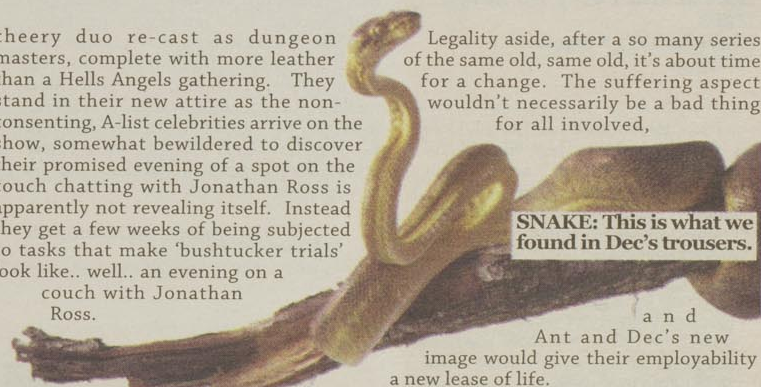
promised big names are nowhere to be found, with the actual contestants including the likes of Lynne Franks, described by ITV as the person who inspired the character of Edina Monsoon in *Absolutely Fabulous*, yawn. Claims from the ex-manager of the Sex Pistols, due to take part in the show, that the whole thing was 'rigged' only make matters worse, which is why *I'm a Celebrity* is clearly in need of a makeover...

HOW:

Forget Ant and Dec spending most of the show grinning and laughing. Cue the

cheery duo re-cast as dungeon masters, complete with more leather than a Hells Angels gathering. They stand in their new attire as the non-consenting, A-list celebrities arrive on the show, somewhat bewildered to discover their promised evening of a spot on the couch chatting with Jonathan Ross is apparently not revealing itself. Instead they get a few weeks of being subjected to tasks that make 'bushtucker trials' look like... well... an evening on a couch with Jonathan Ross.

Legality aside, after a so many series of the same old, same old, it's about time for a change. The suffering aspect wouldn't necessarily be a bad thing for all involved,



**SNAKE:** This is what we found in Dec's trousers.

and Ant and Dec's new image would give their employability a new lease of life.

## The Argument:

Who's the Top Gear: Towering behemoth or five-foot hamster?  
**Jeremy Clarkson : Richard Hammond**

Clarkson is a lovable rogue. He is like Marmite, you either love him or hate him and considering he started out selling Paddington bear toys the allusion is fitting. Either way he makes much more interesting viewing than Hammy. For anyone who was jealous of Jonathan Creek's abode, Jeremy Clarkson is living the dream with a lighthouse on the Isle of Man. Clarkson has a way with words and often makes phrases that fizz and pop with charm and charisma.

When talking about Alfas he is reported declaring that 'you cannot be a true petrol head until you've owned one...its like having really great sex that leaves you with an embarrassing itch'. Just imagine a date with Clarkson. A tall, six foot five, dark haired man dressed head to toe in stonewashed denim and pulls up in the sexiest and fastest of Alfas. Sex with Clarkson in an Alfa would be unforgettable.

Hammond is the sex appeal of Top Gear, and he's not actually that short. Although he may look like a dwarf compared to the ogre Clarkson, Hammond stands at a respectable 5 ft 7. His floppy hair and his snappy dress sense melts the hearts of women all over the country. The troll-like charms of Clarkson are no match for this. Not only does Hammond provide the eye candy, he is also a true british hero. He didn't save any kittens from trees but he did drive a very fast car

and crash it (heroically). In a contest between Hammond and Clarkson, there really is no argument. Hammond combines boyish charm with genuine kindness, he loves animals and his children. Jeremy has been accused of homophobia, racism and even managed to annoy the government of Malaysia. When presented with the evidence, the only possible winner is Richard "The Hamster" Hammond.

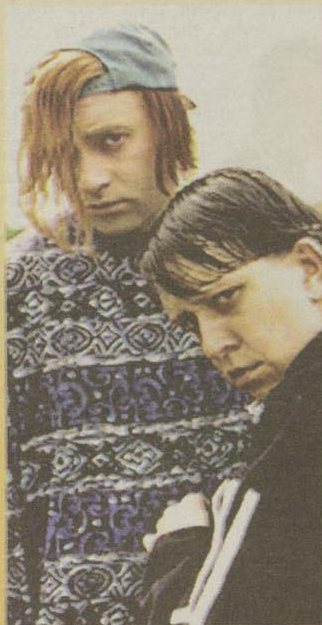
words/ maddy mcgarrie

words/ harriet knowles



## Films of the week

## The Celestial



**Kevin and Perry Go Large**  
BBC3  
Saturday 17th November  
9:30pm

It is easy to forget how brilliantly funny, and expertly satirical a man Harry Enfield is. His sketch show, 'Harry Enfield and Chums' hasn't been on TV in a while but characters like Wayne and Waynetta Slob, Tim Nice-But-Dim, and (the oft imitated) Scousers still strike a humorous chord of cutting parody today. It is the programme Kevin and Perry first came to prominence on, being a big enough hit to justify their own feature-length outing. And I, for one, am thankful. It came out when I was still a teenager and managed to capture (albeit in a comically overblown way) what it was like to go on a clubbing getaway for the first time. The film has some pretty memorable scenes in it: Kevin and Perry drop a swathe of copper currency on the floor whilst attempting to buy their very first porn mag; the lads' holiday love interests pop ridiculously exaggerated spots in a mirror; and the two couples finally get it together on the beach as the camera pans out to reveal a plethora of other copulating partners. There's also a wicked soundtrack that encapsulates the music of the age, spearheaded by EyeBall Paul's very own mix, 'All I Wanna Do Is Do It (Big Girl)', a song that features the sounds of Perry's mum and dad having some serious sex. Phil Mitchell features as a nightclub bouncer. Bonus.

words/laurie whitwell

# Terrestrial Picks

## For all those still living in the dark ages

## Friday

Children in Need BBC1 7.00pm

The theme this year is 'Do something different' yet it looks back before it moves forward featuring some of this years most exciting comeback artists to invigourise the variety show. Spice Girls, Kylie and Annie Lennox deliver a bit of old school girl power. Apparently the BBC newsreaders reveal a penchant for musical theatre and dazzle viewers with a version of 'Chicago'. Although the anticipation of Huw Edwards in fishnets may excite some, or worry others, it is all for a really good cause so should be suffered or enjoyed as one of our nation's best and favourite modern traditions.

words/rebecca white



**TRINNY AND SUZ:**  
Nice babycons.

## Saturday

Friends Channel 4 12.30

The coffee-chugging, joke-making sixsome may have relinquished their positions as Masters of Television gold almost three years ago but that does not stop them from weaving their magic on our televisions. Today Ross' girlfriend Elizabeth (you know the College student) is leaving for summer break which brings our nerdy friend into a bit of a sweat. Rachel needs a date for a ball, so Monica, Chandler and Phoebe find two men who they believe would be Rachel's ideal date. Yes you may have seen this episode a few million times... but who's counting?

words/marya yasin

## Sunday

Matilda Channel 5 5:00pm

Every little girl wishes she could be Matilda with special powers and super intelligence to play pranks on annoying teachers. Let's face it we have all had our own Mrs Trunchbulls in our lives, that annoying overbearing teacher/lecturer. Although I wish more of them would give me chocolate cake. Miss Honey types are more rare but still possible to find but unfortunately not many would adopt you in real life. Real world Mrs Trunchbulls would fail students in essays, Miss Honey types are accused of favouritism, and Matilda's are those annoying teachers-pets that don't shut up in seminars.

words/maddy mcgarrie

## Monday

Dispatches Channel 4 8:00pm

Mark Thomas investigates the murky secrets behind America's favourite export. In recent times Coca Cola has been the subject of many law suits about the dangerous amount sugar that coke contains. Everyone has heard the urban legend that if you put a tooth in a glass of coke it will dissolve over night. Thomas believes that its time to take notice of the rumours surrounding this Multi-Billion organisation, as in India the amount of pesticides that turned up in Coca Cola's products was 30 times over the permitted amount. You might think twice about ordering the classic Vodka and Coke at a bar after watching this show.

words/harriet knowles

## Tuesday

Trinny and Susannah Undress the Nation ITV1 8:00pm

T&S might not be the most tactful of presenters but they are definitely the most tactile. They grab your lady lumps or man boobs, take your knickers off you if they feel you have VPL and prod and poke any beer belly or love handles you might have. All to tell you to stop wearing jeans that are so tight they give you camel toe and a muffin top and generally to wear a decent bra. The depressing thing is that most of these people even when they are dressed properly are still gonna be mingers. Just let them get on with their lives and flaunt their flab if they want to. It gives the rest of us something to laugh at.

words/maddy mcgarrie



**MATILDA: Don't mess.**

## Wednesday

The Jeremy Kyle Show ITV1 09:25

It may be early in the morning but if you are lucky enough to be lecture free or if you are simply skipping that tutorial why not tune into the drama that is 'The Jeremy Kyle Show'. Kyle's no-nonsense approach to dealing with foul mouthed, gold-chained and (has anyone noticed) spotty chavs is hilarious and at times moving. Today is no exception. Expect the vein in Kyle's neck to take on a life of its own as he deals with stories of infidelity, DNA tests and of course lie detector results. If you don't watch you might as well..... GET OFF MY STAGE!

words/marya yasin

## Thursday

Never Mind the Buzzcocks BBC2 9.00pm

Second in the new series, and Simon Amstell returns with his delightfully inappropriate sarcasm, to lay a wonderful shadow of satire over the egotistical and just plain annoying. Guest captain Noel Fielding gets a chance to blow recent criticisms that have been circulating around Leeds of late that he is too random and not funny out of the water. With guests amounting to David Cross (from Arrested Development) and Jermaine Jackson, lets hope for some more classically hilarious moments; to name a few from last season, Preston's huffy walk out and Donny Tourette generally being a horrible person, sheer brilliance!

words/rebecca white



# Freeview Picks

For all you lucky devils with digital

## Friday

Buffy The Vampire Slayer **BBC3**  
10:45pm

Don't tune in to this one expecting Sarah Michelle Gellar to be kicking Vampire butt without even breaking a sweat, this film is from the early 90's and is nowhere near as stylish as the recent TV series. It has the some of the same ideas, the slayer is blonde and attractive and has to vanquish vampires. Here the comparisons should end, the slayer is a superficial cheerleader instead of the dark bad girl Buffy. Attractive denizens of night such as Angel or Spike are missing. This film is an insult to the witty, terrifying and sexually charged Buffy, but for those suffering from Buffy withdrawal symptoms, this will have to do.

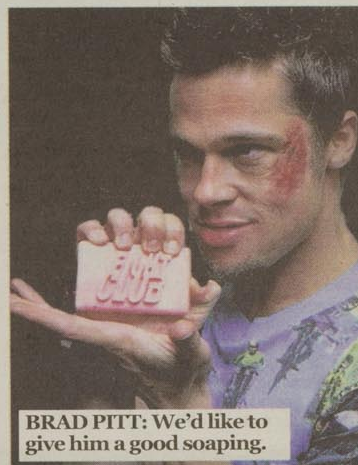
words/ harriet knowles

## Saturday

Flight of the Conchords **BBC4**  
12:25am

This series features a mix of comedy, music and drama as two New Zealand musicians try and make it big in New York. The Conchords have already had huge commercial success with their albums, which they describe as guitar-based digi-bongo acapella-rap-funk-comedy folk. Each episode features a selection of their songs to tickle your funny bones. If you like the anarchic music style that features in 'The Mighty Boosh', and enjoy the comedy songs on Radio 4's 'Now Show', this could be the show for you. In this episode the boys deal with girlfriend troubles: Bret's relationship is going too fast but Jermaine is wanting to speed things up with his special lady.

words/ harriet knowles



**BRAD PITT:** We'd like to give him a good soaping.

## Films of the week

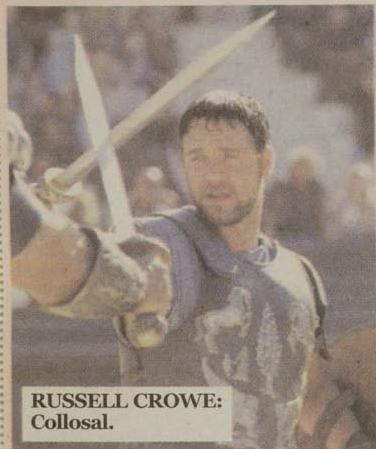
# The Satanic

## Free Willy

**ITV1**  
Sunday 18th November  
12:10pm

Do not let rose-tinted spectacles cloud your feeling towards this film. It is shit. People often remember it as that classic story of freedom from our childhoods that makes us the more liberal people we are today. Slight generalisation, but you get the message. People (no-one specifically) are all too quick point to the 'heart-warming' scenes of bonding between boy and whale and the iconic scene of Willy jumping over the two-foot wall separating him from liberty. Spoiler Alert: the whale was mostly played by an animatronic model. Yeah: metal and wires. Not so 'heart-warming' now, hey? The hammy villainy and cringe-inducing 'family-bonding-after-a-struggle' aspects to the film are part of its extremely basic repertoire. The success of the film spawned two sequels, Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home and (the tongue-twister) Free Willy 3: The Rescue. There was also a less well known TV series, a two-season animated spin-off in which Willy and other sea creatures could talk and, perhaps more awkwardly, come up against a cyborg enemy. Brilliant.

words/ laurie whitwell



**RUSSELL CROWE:**  
Colossal.

## Sunday

Gladiator **Film4** 00:00pm

'Gladiator' might be an amazingly visual film with a stunning computer generated ancient Rome and a blood thirsty story line but its historical accuracy leaves a lot to be desired. Contrary to popular belief in the Colosseum only one Christian died and this was a suicide. Most fights were by gladiators who trained for years to compete there. It is often referenced as the Colosseum in the film but it was actually called the Flavian Amphitheater. Fights included flooding the entire arena with water and recreating sea warfare with full sized ships. Not forgetting smothering slaves in female lion sexual organs and placing them in the arena with horny male lions to see if they would mate.

words/ maddy mcgarrie

## Monday

Fight Club **More4** 10:05pm

Brad Pitt and Edward Norton bring Chuck Palahniuk's bestseller to life. This film is imbued with raw, masculine anger about the restrictions of modern capitalist life. It tells the story of Tyler Durden and the nameless narrator, who form an underground 'Fight Club' for men who want to beat each other up. There's blood, teeth, sweat, spit and a nice shot of Brad Pitt's chiseled torso in these grimy scenes of pure aggression. Watch out for the twist at the end, which makes this film worth multiple viewings once you know what is really going on.

words/ harriet knowles

## Tuesday

Scrubs **E4** 6:00pm

My lips are sealed. With the sixth and penultimate series of Scrubs already in its final episode the mumbling 10-year-old in us will have to find another programme that satisfies the voices in our heads. Alas what if there isn't another zany sitcom like Scrubs? \*Cue nostalgic JD tune ba-ba- ba ba ba babaaaa\* But for tonight let us remove ourselves from that impending reality and head on over to Sacred Heart where today our protagonist JD shares a drunken kiss with best mate Turk's girlfriend Carla.

words/ marya yasin

## Wednesday

About a Boy **ITV2** 8:00pm

When I first watched 'About a Boy' I didn't realise that years later I would watch Marcus, played by Nicholas Hoult, smoking weed and getting a blow job off his girlfriend in hit teen series 'Skins'. Its scary how quickly time passes that this sweet boy can turn into a sex mad heart throb. Hugh Grant, Toni Collette, and Rachel Weisz star in this funny and moving romantic comedy. Expect Hugh Grant's usual awkward Englishman style acting and Rachel Weisz's sex appeal.

words/ maddy mcgarrie

## Thursday

The Mighty Boosh **BBC3** 10:30pm

'The Mighty Boosh' is a student favourite full of classic characters such as The Moon in the last series, who seemed to have the mentality of a drunken five year old. Julian and Noel create the perfect partnership between a jazz fiend who thinks he is intelligent, and an 80s fashion victim obsessed with his hair. Although there isn't much eye candy, though I think Vince Noir has a certain witch like charm, the sheer insanity of the jokes keeps you interested. This show has been endlessly inventive in past in mixing all genres of music with drama, and fans will be hoping that the new series does not disappoint.

words/ harriet knowles





## iPage

**G**reetings, traveller, and welcome to this week's iPage. First off: an apology. There is literally nothing more important to iPage than his readers, and these loyal followers were sorely let down upon the publication of last Friday's Leeds Student. An unforeseen design problem (which was apparently the sloppy work of a certain Scrabble-loving associate editor) meant that half of iPage's column overlapped into the ether; words lost amid the advertisements as half of iPage's textual soul crumbled into the void: gone. All is not lost, however, as a digital version remains in the cyberspace equivalent of the newspaper. All four of you who wondered about the missing lines from last week's column can ease their grief at [lweb.org.uk](http://lweb.org.uk).

On the theme of failure, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (who apparently maintain law and order in Canada through the legal power of... horses) have recently decided to give up the fight against internet music piracy. A spokesman said: "Piracy for personal use is no longer targeted. It is too easy to copy these days and we do not know how to stop it." This statement ranks amongst too few admissions from governing bodies that they lack to skills and the knowledge to stop petty crime. Don't cheer for victory just yet though, media thieves: unless a brief and eventful war breaks out between iPage writing this and you reading it, England is still under English jurisdiction and therefore you can still get caned for pirating the new Britney record (iPage

shudders).

But thieves better not get too excited. One Dutch cybercriminal was recently arrested for the virtual theft of €4000 (£2840) within the confines of the chat website Habbo Hotel. The tearaway teen apparently stole hapless users' passwords and then proceeded to ravage their online homes, stealing furniture for his own fiendish brothel. Dutch police caught up with him and laid the smackdown with the long, robotic arm of digital law enforcement, extending the fist of justice to five 15 year olds accused of being in on the plot. If iPage was to steal people's passwords, his first port of call would not be pixellated pot plants and digital dartboards, but then, iPage is above all laws, including the laws of nature.

Speaking of nature (are iPage's segues getting too obvious?), Tokyo scientists have managed to, heroically, engineer a mouse which *does not know fear*. Missing obvious cartoon ties and movie deals by declining to name the breed 'Mighty Mouse', the scientists genetically engineered the mouse's olfactory bulb – that's its sense of smell to you and me – to prevent the little whiskerball from smelling danger. In tests, the mice approached cats, standing their ground and refusing to scuttle off. iPage wonders what the implications are of all this. What if scientists combined the famous 'mouse with an ear on its back' (this specimen also needs a catchier name) with this inability to feel fear, producing the perfect spy? Nobody would suspect. Soon the streets would ring to the sound of our rodent underlings, surveying and

assessing our every move with their enhanced senses. iPage squeaks.

Speaking of squeaks, Japan's less rodent-crazed scientists have developed an equally useful discovery: musical roads. Similarly to an old vinyl record (ask a jaded music fan), these special 'melody roads' contain tiny grooves which act on the car as it drives, producing around 30 seconds of music as cars drive by. 28 mph is apparently the best speed to experience the songs, meaning speed demons hoping for some thrash metal accompaniment will be sadly denied, unless they prefer a Chipmunks-esque fast forward effect on the tunes.

But before we can fast forward, we must rewind – back to the prehistoric era, according to some crazy Russian builders. Digging in an underground river, they suddenly spotted some commotion in the water. Throwing in some scraps of food, they saw a monstrous creature rear its round, slimy head from the depths. At first mistaking it for Chris Moyle, they tried to get closer, only to rear back in shock when they saw a hideous monster from the depths of hell emerge dripping from the water. A few whacks of a shovel later and they discovered what was apparently a prehistoric fish, with a long spiny tail resembling a kind of mutant tadpole. iPage has to be a spoilsport

## iPage.

and inform readers that the 'prehistoric fish' was actually a supremely ugly horseshoe crab, but the idea of weird things in unexpected places was too good to ignore.

On the subject of weird things in unexpected places, the Telegraph this week reported on an unfortunate Indonesian man suffering from a rare skin condition which meant his body took on the properties of, well, a tree. He developed hundreds of small warty growths on his face and upper body, but his hands and feet sprouted (sorry) into root-like structures that are honestly unbelievable. The poor chap tried pruning the extra foliage to no avail, but an American doctor has stepped in who thinks he can help. iPage would advise the man to consider carefully before going under the knife: it's not too late to branch out and put down roots. iPage guffaws.

So that brings us to the end of another iPage. It's been an exciting ride, this time correctly laid out, so there's nothing left to say but to introduce iPage's cool links of the week. Enjoy!

Yours misanthropically,

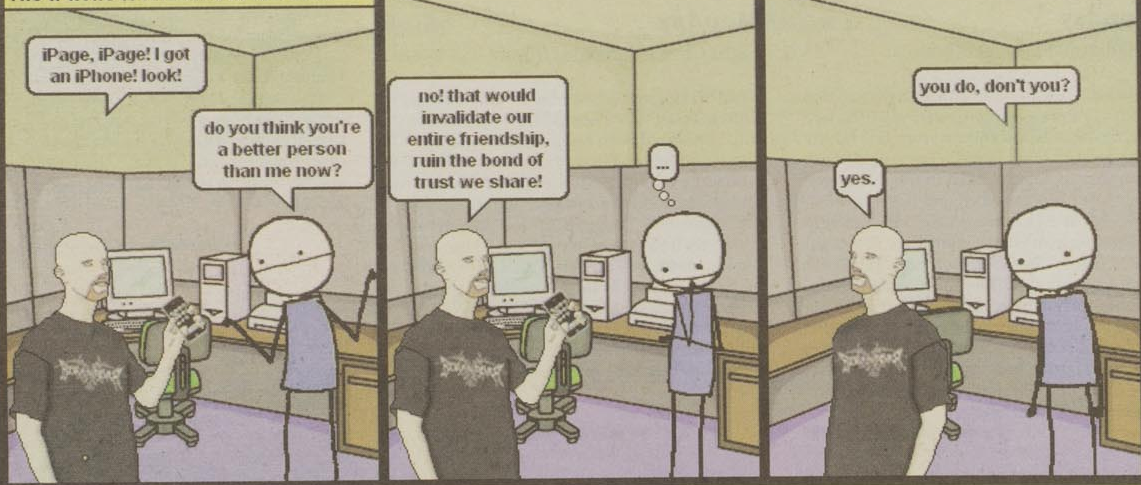
iPage / Drew Statman



Illustration by Mark Mackay, comic by iPage.

## The Many Faces Of iPage: #3

## The iPhone is released in the UK...



## iPage's cool sites of the week

• [www.xkcd.com](http://www.xkcd.com)

Unmemorable name; unbearably funny. If you enjoy iPage's geeky humour (and who doesn't? I want names), you'll love this. In its own words, "A webcomic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language", it won't fail to disappoint if you are 'that guy' who spends his lectures drawing elaborate doodles onto handouts.

• [www.straightdope.com](http://www.straightdope.com)

Ever wanted an answer to those burning questions like "If everyone in China jumped at once, what would happen?" or "Can you become a zombie by having sex with a zombie?" and "Was Isaac Newton a virgin"? This is the site for you as Cecil explains it all.

• [www.tinyurl.com/2uah7o](http://www.tinyurl.com/2uah7o)

Can you tell a Scooby-Doo plot from a real, historic crime? It's harder than you think with this interactive quiz. "An unusual disguise allowed a man to successfully rob a bank. He duct-taped branches to himself and, disguised as a walking tree, left the bank with an undisclosed amount of cash." – Scooby-Doo, or actually true? You decide.

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# Observations.

Remember Live and Kicking? We bring back Hit, Miss or Maybe T.V. so you can pretend you were seven again.



**UAR? LUU? Don't know your acronyms from your arsehole? Alex clarifies...**

**A**s I've told just about anyone who will listen, I am a Union Academic Representative, or a UAR to those in the know. Anyone know what that is? Thought not. The reason why I shout my own praises from the rooftop is that it is my first position of responsibility within the Union's democratic system since I have been here. And why might that be, you ask? Well primarily, for the first year or two that I was here I was more interested in the newest Drum n Bass flyer than I was in the flyer for the new Student Activities Exec. Mainly because I did very few activities except go to Drum n Bass raves. Oh the folly of youth!

Should I have been interested? Perhaps I took the rather selfish opinion that everything for me was going fine, so why should I get involved. On a larger scale if there was something that people moaned about, we'd just moan. Everyone was in the same boat so there's no point doing anything about it. And if something was done about it, then it would only affect people after us. So fuck it.

And herein lies our predicament. You've heard it all before – we're an apathetic nation. Particularly our youth. Our parents in the 70s fought for all of our rights and things turned out to be 'kind of okay', so we settled

**You've heard it all before – we're an apathetic nation. Particularly our youth.**

for it. Women are kind of equal (but not when it comes to salaries, or stereotypes), racially we are all equal (despite people getting shot on tubes), and our class system is, well, better than ever? Not quite. So why don't we do anything about it?

I could come out with the same platitudes that are repeated over and over, but as soon as someone mentions University democracy, people start looking out the window. How many people know what the Exec does? How many people know who their course reps are? I, in three years, have not once been contacted by a course rep, and only once been contacted by a personal tutor. Course reps (please keep your eyes open) are the way in which the average student can raise a concern and something can be done about it. Unfortunately the schools hardly bother to even elect course reps because they've grown as apathetic as the students, and it seems like a process of jumping through the hoops.

So what's the moral? Well without going as far as to say you're all a lazy bunch of gits who contribute to the decaying moral fabric of our society, I'm not sure. So that'll just about cover it. Oh isn't retrospect a wonderful thing?

words/ alex gilchrist



**Hit, Miss, or Maybe.**



## Coffee flavoured condoms

The latest in the latex is a flavoured condom that aims to encourage safer sex in Ethiopia. The dark brown condoms are made to smell like Ethiopia's popular macchiato, an espresso with a generous amount of cream and sugar. Around 300,000 of the coffee condoms were sold in a week when they were launched in September, according to the US charity DKT International. The idea comes not from a Starbucks representative hoping to exploit another part of the world, but from the charity DKT who hope that those tempted by sex will also be tempted by a cuppa. It comes as a recent bid to lower the rising numbers of Ethiopians infected with aids.



## Reading Lists in the School of English

Are we meant to have a life at university? That's what they plugged at the open days; fun, frolics and friends. And yet we're met with a reading list whose commanding presence demands our constant attention. These hefty beasts of books adorn our shelves, looming over us with a sense of impending doom. You will not go out this weekend, or ever, for you are committed to a life of eternal reading and eye strain, "mwahahaha" (evil lecturer's laugh). Now don't get me wrong, I love to swot as much as the next student does, but the amount of reading we have to do is ridiculous. It assumes that we'll spend every hour of our 'spare time' pouring over novels, poetry, and critical theory. What they don't realise, however, is that they're breeding a troubled generation of hermits. Come the end of term we'll all emerge as crazed academics, spouting odes and reciting The Jabberwocky, unable to interact as normal human beings.



## Chat up lines

So you're sipping your martini and lemonade when a hopeful contestant sidles up to you and woos you with the word. Sounds like a clichéd scene out of Sex and the City? Maybe, but do these chat up lines actually work? You've got to admit, they're a damn site better than the act where an anonymous suitor pinches your arse from behind, and then you turn round to see the stupid fool attempting to contain his glee. Romance clearly, is dead. But is the chat up line the 21st century method of serenading? Is it the saving grace that we need in our futile romanceless lives? Despite having a rather cringe-worthy reputation, it has been known to work. And really, you've got to give the guy/girl credit for attempting to win you over with a couple of lines of carefully crafted wit, whilst simultaneously expecting you to berate them at any moment.

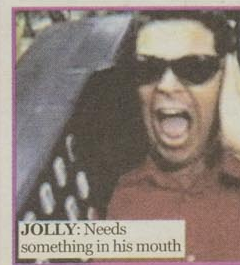
words/ harriet hernando



**Novelty ring tones do your head in? Steve says what you're all thinking...**

**T**here you are, turgidly banging out another half-arsed essay in a computer cluster somewhere, each key you press starting to feel like a tiny kick to the groin by a midget with an accordion (I don't know why he has an accordion, he just does). It's just you, the low hum of the cluster and the sound of keys being tapped, souls being sapped, that sort of thing. Maybe you forget you're amongst other humans and autonomously pick your nose or try to slouch as far as you can down your seat without your arse slipping off the seat.

Suddenly there's a noise that shakes you out of your malaise. A slightly irritating, high pitched noise, a bit like a bee playing a kazoo inside some drums. It starts relatively quietly at first, but slowly gets a bit louder. Yes, that is the sound of a novelty ring tone and it's getting louder because some witless pleb has opened their bag and is in the process of rifling through their possessions in order to find it.



JOLLY: Needs something in his mouth

Suddenly the noise is out in the open, naked, going round and round, like an arse stuck to a revolving door. It's only cut short by the idiot answering it; "HELLO? ALRIGHT MATE?". His voice seems even more sharp and boorish in the backdrop of the silence he's just shattered, the twat. He proceeds to have a conversation with his (probably) similarly knob-faced mate, every word of which makes every other person in earshot feel like their spine is being rammed up and down a cheese grater. On and on it goes, just when a conversational dead end is on the horizon, just when BEER and THAT BIRD are starting to run out of millage, oh no, on they go.

Literally how much of an idiot do you have to be to not realise every person in the room would like to smash your head open on the desk and spoon your brains out with a ladle? The more it goes on, the more heads turn. Nothing is said, mind. Oh no. Ah yes, the English do silent loathing better than any other nation on earth.

That's right, feel our sanctimonious scowl, oh yes. But actually doing something about it? What? No no, much rather sit there and burst a bollock with misanthropic frustration, or later, confine it to some badly written witterings for the student paper. On the odd occasion someone does say something, everyone's head shrinks in to their necks and the dissenter is cut loose; it's just you now buddy! Sorry!

And so the idiot goes on, he'll do it again and it's all your fault. Just when he's finished and your left stewing in a pool of your own pointlessness and self-loathing, the silence is broken by a noise. A familiar noise. Ah yes, a novelty ring tone. It's your novelty ring tone, it's your phone. Congratulations, you have become everything you despise. Shit.

words/ steve akehurst



# 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

● Grumpy sailor type seeks stern headmistress to set-up naval teaching academy on outer hebrides' island. Years of experience in disciplinary techniques a must.

● I'm due to move to the Ukrainian countryside within weeks and I'm looking for hopeless romantic with no sense of consequence to join me in a small russian-speaking mining village. Any takers?

● I'm a recently single member of the royal family and I already have a shag-pad in central Leeds that's rented for the year. Don't ask me why. Any slightly slutty posh birds fancy shagging a future Duke of York? I'll make it worth your while, I'll keep you in plenty of polo ponies and racist badinage. Fancy hitting it up hard, what?

● I'm a bit shy but I do have one extravagance: I do love coloured sticky labels. Post-its are the industry standard but there is a grand world out there to explore.

● Mmmm, sexy sexy sexy bowl of soup.

## Missed Connections

● I fixed your bedroom heating and caught a glimpse of you in your underwear last week. You looked at me but I couldn't decide if it was your 'come to bed' eyes or if you thought I was completely disgusting.

● We were in Bakery 164 together and we bumped in to each other reaching for the last pizza slice. You were very pretty.

● I'm your biggest fan but you don't know. I sit behind you in our Ulysses seminar and I can't concentrate because I lose myself staring at the back of your neck and imagine my hand slowly tracing along your nape.

● "Who's the Boom King?" you asked your friend as I walked behind you on the red route. I am. I'm the Boom King.

● Send your missed connections and lonely hearts to us at [loveboxleeds@googlemail.com](mailto:loveboxleeds@googlemail.com)



Picture: Copyright 2001-2007 Nicholas Gurewitch

# Tommy Pockets Tells Your Future

Our world-renowned, 987-year-old astrologer Tommy Pockets (pictured here on the Titanic) lays down the secrets of your mystic week. Spookacious.

## Aries

There is only so much you can take this week after your washing machine breaking down and your hamster staging a military coup d'etat and declaring martial law on your living room. The final straw will be a tramp's ridiculous claim that you should "iron your shirt".

## Taurus

Clockmakers haunt your dreams this week with their fists made of spanners and clockwork eyeballs. Bloody sweet christ. On the plus side, they are totally unaware of facebook and as such you can always retreat into your cyberlife and avoid their tick-tock relentless pursuit after your kneecaps.

## Gemini

Congratulations! You will be offered the position of the new Bond. Craig's out and you sir, are involved. Better get your acting up to code or you'll embarrass yourself and Pinewood studios and the Broccoli family, both of which (I don't need to tell you) have put a lot of faith in you in the face of a large volume of disparaging voices.

## Cancer

Think carefully before you opt for that cheap and obviously fucking mega-dirty bottle of wine in One Stop. Bowel disease is sure to follow and ruin not only your life but the life of your children and the life of your children's children. That is not acceptable.



## Leo

You awake and find yourself in the body of Harper Lee, the great american writer. Soon though, as you are not used to her gruelling daily routine, it becomes too much for you. The authorities will find her body weeks later at the bottom of the Mississippi estuary.

## Virgo

Betting on black is the way forward for Virgins this week. Whether this applies literally to gambling or the support of afro-caribbean culture is up to you to decide. I can only show you the door, you have to walk through it. Unless it's locked, in which case, I'll ring some people and find the key.

## Libra

As you try and find an ending for your book, you realise that it actually affects the real-world life of a man named Laurie Whitwell and if you do what your story requires, and kill him off, the real life Laurie will cease over in the middle of high street retailer, Next, and cause concern for all those around, not least his long-suffering companion, the cryptically named 'Suze'.

## Scorpio

A strange man accosts you as you are waiting to get into your lecture and passes you a USB stick thingy. You forget about it until you're checking your jeans' pockets before putting them through the wash. You load it and are scared when it contains your whole life.

## Sagittarius

Your break-up goes very badly this week and you pen a multi-million single 'Why is he such a massive cuntface?'. You end up penniless when your manager turns out to be said cuntface's old school friend and they've stolen all your money and made off to the Bahamas.

## Capricorn

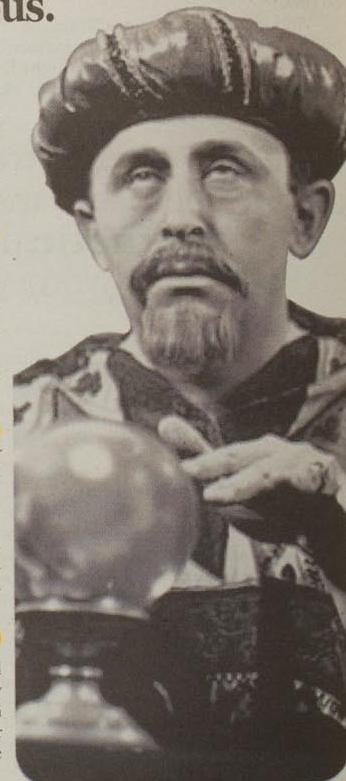
You sell your possessions and move to the Eden project but take a wrong turn for the Edam project and your life dissolves into a vicious spiral of cheese-based puns and hard drugs. A mysterious benefactor steps in later in your life and helps you get back on your feet. You owe him your livelihood and your love. He is David Miliband.

## Aquarius

You guest on rapper DMX's gangster cover of 'Ain't no sunshine' by the Jackson 5. Unfortunately your role is limited to occasionally shouting the words "bitch" or "say what?" in a menacing way. Your relationship with DMX (real name Earl Simmons by the way) breaks down over a disagreement with regards to the state's role in a child's education.

## Pisces

Your experience of combining chairs and Red Bull to make an artistic happening comes in handy this week when you are commissioned by Damien Hirst to create a chair-based energy drink advert for national radio and magazine exposure. This may be your big break. Grab it!



NB: Tommy Pockets does not accept responsibility for any life-changing events that occur from following his obviously not made-up advice e.g. opening a suspect email attachment.

Tommy Pockets' DJ alias is DJ Poeman



# " in the UK?

pus and you might just understand why. You see is what you *think* you know.

the majority of 'black Africans' live in Africa.

This is very simple. This booklet is targeted at people living in the UK (if not I wouldn't have found it). The data in the booklet is derived from the UK, yet they display and claim it is for black Africans.

Was I missing something, or am I right to be concerned that by attempting to depict a particular set of people as carriers of a virus or disease, you are at risk of excluding other groups or individuals who are maybe at similar risk? HIV is not a black man's disease, rather it is a sensitive issue that strikes globally. It is not a respecter of a person's skin colour, sexuality or age. It is a matter of concern now, especially taking into consideration the recent rise of Chlamydia in the UK and among young women. It doesn't benefit anybody to send the wrong messages in advertising this issue.

Is it safe for a student to enter the medical centre, pick up such a booklet and conclude that as long as 'I am pale-skinned, I'll be

**“Why are we making such a futile attempt to destroy a continent that is trying very hard to solve its problems?”**

okay'...as AIDS is a black man's disease!

In dealing with a life issue such as this, the use of multiracial models is only commonsense. There was another pretty-looking leaflet on display and it had a white young female without jewellery, and an old black woman with jewellery, both serving as models for the breast cancer care awareness. This is a health issue, and the sensitivity of the topic warranted the use of multi-racial models depicting different race, age and class groups. The message of this leaflet is clear: breast cancer doesn't discriminate. This is what a leaflet should look like.

All this thought about leaflets and brochures was too much; I was getting ever 'sicker'. To carry the burden of a continent is no easy task. Perhaps I was wrong. I convinced myself that maybe I was being shallow-minded about black African representation in the western media, so I strode to the streets and got myself a nice weekend magazine to relax with. I opened it and there it was, on the front cover, in full colour, the award-winning snapshot of Africa - the typical Western image, anything but good news.

To crown it all, even the words of Alan Rusbridger, editor of The Guardian, added to this image. I understand the effort in aiding a deprived village and attempting to raise funds for this cause, but I do not understand that unforgettable phrase '...the common African problems of poverty, poor health, partial education, unreliable water supplies, a fragmented economy, and sporadic conflict.' Is

this an attempt to imply that poverty and conflict and partial education exist as problems in Africa alone? Is any society a 'poverty-less' one, are there no conflicts racial, protestant, catholic or otherwise? What is the percentage of children of the lower working class in high-brow universities in this country, or in any part of Europe?

As if that wasn't enough, suddenly my eyes opened and I began to see. There is simply nothing good about my continent in the eyes of the media. Every magazine, newspaper, documentary, even brochure, is about poverty, disease and the lack of progress. These things exist, sure, but they exist everywhere in the world, including the UK.

Why are we making such a futile attempt to destroy a continent that is trying very hard to solve its problems? Issues such as those mentioned in that memorable phrase of Rusbridger's cannot be excluded to a/any particular continent and the western media is not helping by keeping quiet about all the of the good news stories coming from Africa? Does the average westerner even realize that Africa is not a country, but a continent with over fifty individual countries - and that not every African is black-skinned, some are of European, Asian and Arab descent.

Let's focus on the positive. Let's give people from the 'donor' nations a truer picture. I offer as an example my friend, who is HIV negative - not because I do not empathise with the strains of people living with HIV on the continent, but because it is of paramount importance that you know that not all Africans are infected. She is female and educated, taking a postgraduate course in Britain - I tell you this not because I do not care about the uneducated, but because I need you to understand that in Africa we allow our daughters to go to school and not all African women are pushed into early marriage as is so often portrayed in western media. She is also a self-sponsored student - so that you know that seeking knowledge at an international level is not dependent on the scarce availability of the generosity of foreign funds for education but that we, Africans, believe in education sometimes at any expense.

I am African and I wrote this piece on my laptop that I brought with me from my country to the UK (not because I do not identify with long hand writing, being a fan myself), but because I need you to know that we have technology (which is what most western media will never tell you). I was aware when your former 'ruler' let your troops go to Iraq and I watched your uprising live (not because I choose to make light of the issue, but because I want you to be aware that we have internet and mobile and satellite TV). In an effort to keep up with world policies and ever-changing global issues, in between watching Prison Break, I turn to international magazines (that I have access to), so in the long run I see and know what you say about me and my continent and most especially I see your community more than you see me!

In fact what you see is what you think you know but really you don't. You should try to look beyond what your media gives you. You should see the African who is educated, liberated and living in his modern society, carving the future of her country. Then you will know what you've been seeing.

## Denied Education



**As Iranian Baha'i Muslims are left unable to apply for university, Justin Watts reviews their government's justification for this discriminatory admissions procedure.**

**R**ight now, around the world thousands of students are beginning their studies at University, but in Iran a section of society is being denied their right to further education based on their chosen religion - the Baha'i Faith. The entrance examination form for Iranian universities and educational institutes has a section on religion with three boxes labelled Zoroastrian, Jewish and Christian. If none are marked, the form explains, it will be assumed that the applicant is Muslim. A Baha'i then cannot complete this form without a de facto denial of their faith which is against their principles. If a Baha'i were to call herself a Muslim and was found to be attending Baha'i meetings then she could be charged with apostasy which can carry the death sentence.

Baha'is believe in the unity of mankind and religion and in the equality of men and women. They acknowledge Christ, Mohammed, Abraham, Moses, Buddha, Krishna and other prophets as telling the true word of God; but they follow the teachings of Baha'u'llah who they believe to be the latest prophet from God. It is currently the second most widespread of all the religions and has over 6 million believers world wide.

Iran has agreed to abide by the guidelines set out in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which obligates it to make higher education equally accessible to all without discrimination as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights, Article 18 of which guarantees freedom of thought, conscience and religion. A spokesperson from the Iranian government has publicly stated that they do not deny anyone the right to tertiary education. Yet, while wanting to appear civil to the outside community, the Iranian government continues to abuse basic human rights.

For the first time in 25 years close to three hundred Baha'is were enabled to enrol in Universities last year. However, their time there was short lived as over half of those who enrolled have since been expelled once it was found out that they were Baha'is.

These are not isolated incidents but are a part of a systematic effort by the Iranian government to destroy the Baha'i community. The outline for this effort can be seen on a memorandum drawn up by the Iranian Supreme

Revolutionary Cultural Council in 1991 which outlines the ways to slowly crush the Iranian Baha'i community. The focal point of this memorandum was that Baha'is should be treated in such a way "that their progress and development should be blocked" and that in order to do so Baha'is "must be expelled from universities once it becomes known that they are Baha'is".

Bani Dugal the principal representative of the Baha'i international community to the United Nations says that "The Iranian Government is in effect attempting to force Baha'i youth to recant their faith if they want to go to university", which is completely against the basic human rights laid down by the United Nations. The United Nations is well aware of the plight of Baha'is in Iran and has passed more than twenty resolutions expressing concern about human rights violations, each making specific mention of the Baha'i community in Iran.

Since the birth of the Baha'i faith in 1844 more than 20,000 believers have been brutally put to death. And after the Islamic revolution took place in 1979 Baha'is have been unjustly imprisoned, executed, fired from jobs, had their property confiscated and their pensions terminated and as a result many have fled the country as refugees.

The Baha'i community has maintained a close relationship with the United Nations since its inception and in 2000 a Baha'i speaker was invited to talk at the millennium conference as the only non-governmental speaker during the summit.

The right to education is often overshadowed by other abuses to human rights, such as the executions and torture of innocent people, which need immediate action. Nevertheless the denial of a person's right to education is a denial of a person's right to live freely and productively.

In Article 26 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights it is written that "education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit".

Despite what the Iranian Government claims, it is clearly not following these guidelines and pressure should be put on it by the international community to rectify its actions.





# Pay your money, take your choice?

## Students need to offer alternative methods of funding higher education.



Neil Mackenzie  
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**N**oone likes top-up fees, students have to lead the way in pushing for an alternative funding model. When the Government introduced top-up fees as the new system for funding higher education the student movement told the country that it couldn't work, but none of us predicted how right we would turn out to be. Every group involved in the Higher Education Sector has significant problems with the current model; universities are under-funded, students are laden with debt,

lecturers are under-paid and business is not getting the graduates it wants. The government has committed to reviewing the way higher education is funded in 2009/10, and only one thing is certain, it will not be staying the same.

The options that are likely to be on the table at the review are a move to complete marketisation or a significant lift of the current cap, likely to more than double its current level. Neither of these options are good for students, neither of these options are good for the future of higher education in this country. It must be the role of the student movement to put forward a genuine alternative to the way that higher education is paid for. One that is not based on saddling students with unprecedented debt, one that is not reliant on businesses shaping courses and one that provides our universities with sufficient resources to be considered amongst the best in the world.

Many in the student movement, and across the country, argue that the reintroduction of free education, fully funded through progressive, general taxation. This is a position with which I have a great deal of sympathy, and one that is far more realistic than those who argue against it would suggest. After all the Government has wasted tens of billions of pounds on calamitous foreign adventures in Iraq and Afghanistan, not to mention a further £20 billion wasted on a renewal of Trident.

This money, properly spent could more than cover the cost of higher education for years to come.

The difficulty is though that the Government is not interested in negotiating on these terms. Defence money is defence money and education money is education money. We just can't go to the table in 2009/10

**“A graduate tax offers more money to the universities and doesn't land graduates with thousands of pounds of debt.”**

demanding a reintroduction of free education as our first and last negotiating position. At the same time though, we also can't go along on our hands and knees simply saying, 'please don't lift the cap on top-up fees too much'. The stage

is set for radical change, and it must be us, the students, who are at the forefront of proposing it.

A graduate tax must be the position that we put forward. It offers more money to the universities, it doesn't land graduates with tens of thousands of pounds of debt and it has the added attraction that those who earn more, pay more. A graduate tax would likely be set in the region of 0.7% of income earned after graduation. No longer would students be paying their three grand and getting their degree. We would be returning to a position where people engage in higher education due to their thirst for knowledge; we could begin to move away from the dangerous notion of 'students as consumers'.

Those who choose to work in the public or not for profit sector, and as such earn less, would pay less, while those who go into the private sector and earn large sums of money would pay more. Universities would have a great incentive to provide high quality degrees as the more money that graduates earn the more money is returned to the higher education sector.

The student movement has been on the defensive for too long. Its time we went on the attack and scrap this dysfunctional system.

# Baring All.

## Flashing-fashion and the death of self-respect.



Pandora Sykes  
leedsstudentcomment@gmail.com

**T**here's something nauseatingly painful about being humiliated in public. With our British reserve, that socially-awkward pain is tripled. There may be a certain Yankee love of baring heart 'n soul - they are, after all the original Jerry Springer kids - but such public cringe-worthy behaviour remains the butt of British sardonicism and irony. We avoid long-lasting embarrassment by wild self-deprecation, laughing off any debacle before

anyone else can dig in.

All of us, at some point or another, mortify ourselves in public. Recently my sister took her cardigan off on the Underground for a full minute or two, before she realised that she hadn't put a t-shirt on that day and she was in fact flirting with a couple of hundred people via her far-from-alluring M & S bra. Inadvertent underwear flashing is nothing new; one of my worst habits is tucking my dress into my knickers. But it seems that now, against all British tradition, public embarrassment is being deliberately sought.

Public embarrassment used to be wearing socks with sandals. Recently it has reached loftier heights. My sister recently introduced me, against my better judgement, to the programme 'Embarassing illnesses' where on one occasion a camera zooms into a woman's groin, to get a better peek at her ingrown hairs. On the 'slight blush' end of the public embarrassment scale you have the announcing of your courtship on Facebook (becomes cringey when you have to break up 'virtually' as well as physically) and then on the 'projectile-spewing' end of the scale is having sex on national television. During the summer Ladbroke's paid out amidst suspicions that two contestants (Chanelle and Ziggy) had sex on Big Brother; a coital experience which must have been filled with tenderness, romance and about 200 cameras.

Via the tabloids we can currently chart the

deterioration of Britney, 2007's unofficial Queen of Public Meltdowns. She is also a paid-up member of the 'fanny flashers' brigade, a trend - to not wear underwear - that has arisen amongst celebrities over the course of 2007. As a celebrity voyeur, I love perusing the bodies beautiful of Hollywood, but funnily enough studying their genitals is something that even a celebrity monger like me finds more than a little nauseating. Let's not beat around the bush (pun intended), there is nothing

**“Removing your pants lacks the bra-burning gravitas of feminism.”**

pretty about the vagina. Paris Hilton and Lindsay Lohan are unsurprisingly the most persistent perpetrators - but Kate Moss, style icon? And Helen Mirren, a.k.a. the queen? Not sure bum-baring is quite Balmoral, particularly when she's the same age as my mother.

The no knickers fetish is something totally nonsensical to me. I imagine their fathers at breakfast, opening their papers, hardly thinking they'd ever be greeted with such anatomically-explicit angles of their daughters. But what exactly IS the point to this craze? Granted, it gets you tabloid space. But there's nothing sex kitten-ish about it, and it's hardly practical either: who wants gusts up their gussets on a chilly winter evening?

It is not only celebrities who seek such attention. Social suicide seems to have become a preferable vehicle through which to gain notoriety. It seems that some view public mortification as a sort of dysfunctional validation of their existence. Public mud-slinging and slants on one another's sexual prowess is no longer the domain of C-list celebrities; how many of your recently broken-up friends have you witnessed making very private assertions about the other, in public?

The noughties seem to have been characterised by a nonsensical lack of decorum in the public forum. Why anyone would want the world to know their worst traits, their grimmest habits, their deepest insecurities and abnormalities, I cannot fathom. Removing your pants lacks the bra-burning gravitas of feminism, and public blow-by-blow accounts of your failed past relationship will surely only put off potential suitors. In short: a little privacy goes a long way.





# Hostility for Hoon

## An IAF response to the hijacking of last weeks' political event-turned circus.



**Jaimie Grant**  
IAF and LUU's Political and Campaigning Societies Representative  
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**D**ramatic and confrontational political demonstration is often a crucial part of political discourse. It can create opportunities for empowerment where space for formal debate is too narrow and dominated by those already with power. Using humour, theatrics, slogans and visuals can help break down these barriers, enriching and progressing political debate. Ideally the result would be a fair arena where everybody is involved with opportunities to have a reasoned debate.

A central principal of the International Affairs Forum is to break down these barriers through structured discussion in a safe space so all views can be expressed openly without fear of dismissal or derision. Demonstration is also welcomed; it can operate as a complement to the open discussion, invigorating debate and bringing an urgent human element to the issues. We attempt to foster this open environment with presentations from guest speakers, followed by extensive questions from attendees. Our events are open to all the public and free of charge. Our chair presses the speaker for more clarification

of matters important to the Forum; in particular the ramifications of the Iraq War and the future of British interventions were crucial issues we hoped to explore. This was also a rare chance to probe a minister involved in that decision-making process through in depth public questioning and demonstration.

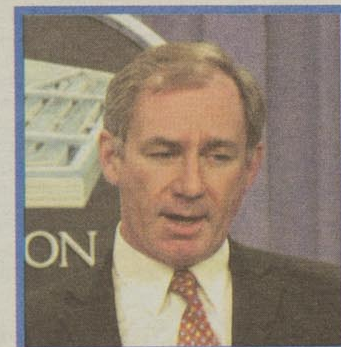
Some 400 students came to the event, including various campaigning groups taking this opportunity to present their questions and concerns. While the vast majority of these students did so, a small element took the Forum's event as an opportunity to focus on disruptive demonstration so heavily that it created a hostile and polarised atmosphere. This left little scope for comprehensive understanding and productive dialogue. The effect was that debate became impossible as free and fair discussion succumbed to the gesticulation and dramatics of the loudest

“A small element took the event as an opportunity to focus on disruptive demonstration so heavily that it created a hostile and polarised atmosphere.”

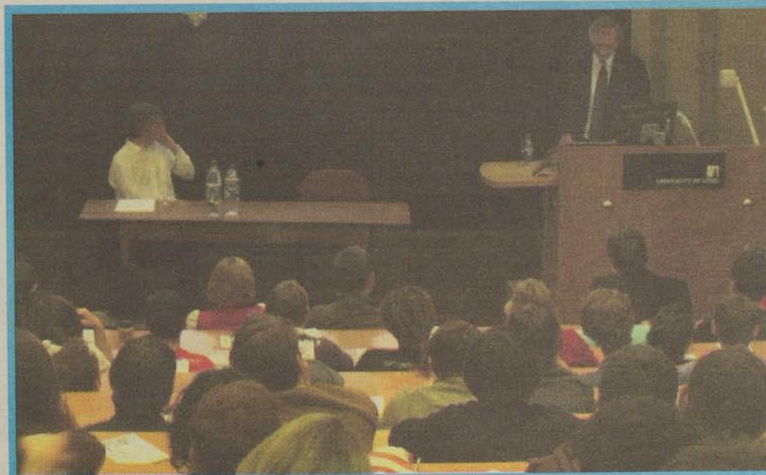
implore the wider student body to draw this distinction.

We want to improve and strengthen our structure to accommodate more people and opinions without allowing demonstrative, rather than discursive, arguments to limit

existence here. While a small group was initially vital in establishing the Forum, it also limits our breadth of perspectives and



**On the defence: Geoff Hoon**



avenues for debate, which are crucial to our principals of impartiality and inclusiveness.

We are now looking to pass on the Forum to a much larger team of students who will be here in Leeds over the coming years to take the reins and continue from the progress we've made so far. With more involvement from a wider range of students we hope the Forum can develop the speaker programme to be even more diverse, challenging and inspiring for all students and the local community. If you want to be a part of this, and believe the Forum's principles to foster spaces where people feel able to engage and valued in expressing and defending their opinions, reaching understanding and questioning authorities, then we are keen to hear from you.

Student politics is going through some strange times. A university degree is becoming increasingly regarded as simply a means to buy a career, and general holistic approaches to learning for learning's sake being left sidelined. This is partly due to changing university and employment structures, and also increased living expenses forcing many students to use their spare time earning. While we each gain greater expertise in a particular narrow avenue of research, our sense of the bigger picture, our confidence to combine different skills and knowledge from across the academic spectrum has become severely limited. Student activities can offer a break from this cycle, and campaigning in particular can offer avenues of debate and forums of discussion in which students can further broaden their political understanding. Demonstration even in its theatrical form has inherent value and importance, but so too does reasoned academic debate. If the two can work together to further democratic political discourse, universities can redeem their status as daring and ambitious places of learning.

“Demonstration even in its theatrical form has inherent value and importance, but so too does reasoned academic debate.”

or depth if needed, and we try to accommodate the range of issues and opinions held in the Forum within the time we have.

However, our event with Geoff Hoon last week revealed the vulnerability of this structure. We were hoping to cover a range

voices. While it is important not to prohibit demonstration as part of engagement, the delicate process of discussion still has to proceed in order for the broadening of understanding and discourse to happen. There is space for the two to potentially coexist, as most of the campaigning societies showed last week. However a few individuals demonstrated how vulnerable attempts to hold inclusive debates can be. We believe if the opportunity for fair discussion is available, which we hope to provide as best we can, this is the best means to effectively question those in power.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came along to take part in the Forum event, and stress the differences among the campaigning societies who came to engage their protests within the structure of the Forum to pursue their goals, and those who attempted to sabotage the structure for the sake of protest. We are sure the latter consist of a tiny minority, many of whom are not Leeds students, and

the depth of the discussion. The  
“We believe if the opportunity for fair discussion is available, this is the best means to effectively question those in power.”

International Affairs Forum has been running speaker events for nearly a year, and has been in existence nearly two. We have managed this by working as a small focused team, but have reached the point where we need to expand and hand it over to the student body at large if it is to continue its



# Leeds goes global

Getting caught up in the West Yorkshire bubble is all too easy, but how does it effect Leeds' formidable array of international students? **Clarisse Earle** talks to the global student community.

**D**rizzle, cheap student nights, a massive Primark and of course, mushy peas. Leeds has all these things and more, and perhaps this is why it attracts scores of foreign exchange students every year. Then again, maybe not. It's a city bustling with multiculturalism, everywhere you look, renowned around the country for a large Asian population but in fact filled with people from all over the world. The University is no different and exchange students are an integral part of its success. Many students from Leeds also travel abroad, either as part of their courses or as an independent choice. This year there are 184 students Leeds students enrolled in the Erasmus programme studying within Europe, and a further 190 studying further afield. We're lucky that these options are open to us, with

strength of our economy and the high cost of studying and living in England, exchange students tend to come from fairly affluent backgrounds. Whether or not the University is successful in integrating foreign students is a matter of some debate, but we have to consider the individual as well, and whether or not they feel tempted or comfortable with repeated nights spent "bonding" in Oceania. I spoke to many exchange students to find out more about their experiences so far, in an attempt to understand more about what it is like to study in a foreign city, let alone one where it's a fancy dress contest every night you go out and people with flyers attack you whenever you leave the house.

atmosphere. Of course I find England very expensive and I had to save up a lot of money to come here but I'd say that so far the experience has been worth it and I've learnt a lot."

## 370?

worldwide students study this year at Leeds

**Barbara Rohner, 22, Switzerland:**

"I'm on a 6 month Erasmus programme from Basel in Switzerland where I'm studying English. I came here to experience the English culture first hand and to improve my English. I came here because the university had a good reputation. I missed the International Fresher's Week but the Erasmus programme is good in organising events like tea drinking and nights out at Fruity. I live with three other exchange students on 6 month programmes and most of my friends are exchange students. I've met nearly all my friends through Erasmus in some way or another because it's so hard to meet people on your course and my flatmates are all on an exchange, so I only have two British friends. I like Leeds, though I prefer the smaller cities that we have in Switzerland. Sometimes I find living and studying here to be very impersonal. I have learnt a lot about British culture as well and the time has flown by. I have to say though, I really was shocked by the drinking culture that exists here. Obviously I had heard what the English were like, but I had no idea of the extent of the drinking here. That can be a big part of the segregation that exists between exchange and national students I think. Leeds itself seems to be renowned for being a party city and I love the way that everyone dresses up all the time. Even when compared with Switzerland however, England is very expensive. The university accommodation is particularly overpriced, especially as my halls of residence is right in the middle of a council estate and I don't feel at all safe going out at night. I've learnt a lot from the Erasmus experience but I'm happy to be going home."

Speaking to exchange students it seems that people's experiences of Leeds vary a great deal, depending on many factors. The Study Abroad Office offers a great many activities and works hard to help new students settle in, from an airport meet and greet to an intensive International Fresher's Week. Although helpful in welcoming new students, many of these activities do increase the distance between many international students and their British equivalents. It's understandable that many exchange students form ties with those from similar

backgrounds and cultures as they feel more at ease with one another and can understand each others perspectives more easily. The Fresher's Week means that many exchange students form bonds early on and continue to move in exchange student circles, not integrating within normal university life. This seems to particularly be the case with those from non-drinking cultures, who struggle to bond with many of their beer swilling peers. Unfortunately there's no getting away from the fact that boozing is a big part of student life in England and it can separate those who hug from those who don't. It certainly doesn't help that in many Halls of Residence the exchange students are lumped together in the same corridors, flats or blocks, limiting their contact with other students. Language can also be a barrier as students can struggle to understand the accents of their English counterparts and vice versa. One student told me, "I came here to learn English but I can still barely get by, it's just much easier to stick with people who speak my language". Many exchange students however have no problems adapting to their new environment and making friends with both English and foreign students. This usually means escaping the comfort zone that exists to ensure that they feel welcome, and is often something that is far more likely on a year long exchange as opposed to a shorter, one semester long, trip.

Talking to exchange students I was struck by the range of experiences that people were having as part of their various programmes. People were largely satisfied with their decisions to take a year abroad and felt that they were gaining valuable experience from studying in England. Leeds University itself came highly commended, as did the wealth of bars, nightclubs and shops to be found here. I would say that the exchange experience depends completely on the individual being open to new experiences, new ideas and new people, be they from Honolulu or Hull.

**Barbara Rohner, 22, Swiss**



"I have to say, I really was shocked by the drinking culture that exists here."

**Stephanie Eddy, 21 Canadian**



"I really like Leeds, it's a real student town and has a nice relaxed atmosphere."

destinations reaching across continents, from Germany to New Zealand.

Year on year the numbers of exchange students coming to Leeds has gradually been increasing. This year there are 370 worldwide students, a significant increase from last years 308. The number of Erasmus students has fallen slightly, standing at 303. Due to the

Western countries. For example, there was a thing called "English Do's and Don'ts" which told you all about English etiquette and even talked about what people do in a pub! Obviously this is useful for some people but totally obsolete for others. I also noticed that the International Fresher's Week created quite a bit of segregation as exchange students, particularly from Asian or Middle Eastern countries, tended to meet and then cling to each other in groups. It meant that people had already formed bonds before the main Fresher's week started and were therefore slightly cut off from everyone else. My friends are largely British and I have only one friend who is an exchange student. There's a Global Café for International students to meet but I've never been. My boyfriend went once and said it was just full of people talking in foreign languages and that he didn't feel welcome at all. Some of the stuff offered by the Study Abroad people is really good though, such as their "Don't Be A Tourist" group which offers day and weekend trips to places like Liverpool and Edinburgh. I really like Leeds as it's a real student town and has a nice relaxed

**“Due to the strength of our economy and the high cost of studying and living in England, exchange students tend to stem from pretty affluent backgrounds.”**



# LS Sport: Off the Record

## Fancy playing Championship Manager for real?

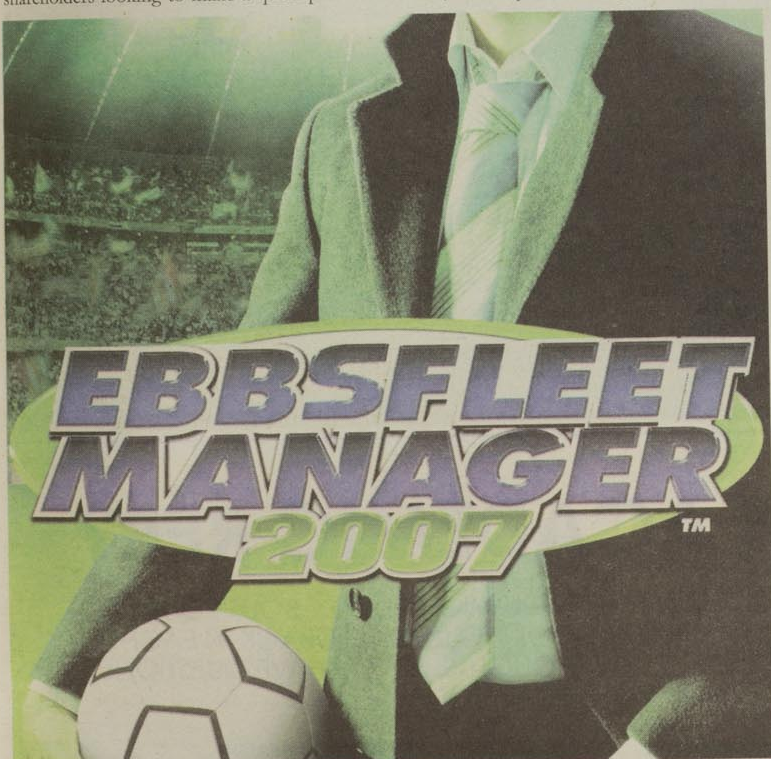
It seems that they let anyone manage a club these days. Ex-players plucked straight from the pitch as soon as they hit 35, friends of the billionaire chairmen, and Steve McLaren. Now it seems that anyone can get involved with the day-to-day running of a football club as Blue Square Premier side Ebbsfleet have been bought out by an internet site, MyFootballClub.

The premise is fairly simple; each of the 20,000 subscribers have paid £35 for the season, and each have an equal say in the running of the club via online votes. Each fan is entitled to one share only, ensuring that it is a completely democratic process. There are no fat cat chairman or shareholders looking to make a quick profit-

An experiment like this can only be good for the game, yet for £35, is it worth it? One vote out of tens of thousands is hardly likely to make a change, so a sudden inspired tactical shift or bargain signing voted for by one member will probably not happen as the majority get their say.

However it is a great chance for the public, apparently so knowledgeable about football yet without ever having the chance to prove it, to show what they can do. And who knows, maybe if this experiment proves to be a success, then England one day might be run by the fans. Watch out Steve McLaren!

words/ahran symonds-baig



every fan has paid to put their knowledge to the test. Everything from team selection to player transfers can be voted on, while previous manager Liam Daish has been reduced to Head Coach to reflect the new influx of fan power.

Their aspirations are certainly lofty. Aside from possibly being one of the most ground-breaking moves in football history since the Bosman Ruling, the club are not content to solely be known for their internet fame. One of the criteria for potential teams to buy out was that 'The club has the potential to reach the Premiership.' Ambitious stuff.

A situation like this is a football addict's dream. Having spent (or wasted) countless hours playing championship manager myself, and forced friends to listen to ridiculous boasts along the lines of 'I won the Champion's League in my second season. With Tottenham!', this would seem to be the perfect chance to show off my managerial skills for real. And for around the same price as the computer game or a Spurs ticket.

## Quote of the Week

To be one of the University's best performing teams is the icing on the cake.

Lucy Tuplin, Netball fourths captain.

## Inside Sport this week:

### Basketball Bubble Bursts

Heartbreak for the men's Basketball second team as they crash out to Durham, pg 18



### Trent Trounced

Men's rugby first team managed a well-earned victory over Nottingham Trent, pg 19



### Golf Cap Chat

Joe Hibbert talks to golf captain Jim Williamson in this week's 300 seconds pg 16





## 300 seconds with: Jim Williamson

**Jim Williamson**  
**Golf team Captain**

**LS:** Hi Jim, how's the BUSA campaign gone so far?

**JW:** We started nicely with a couple of wins against Leeds Met, both in varsity and BUSA. Since then, we've lost to Central Lanes twice, but they are an exceptional side with about £32,000 behind them, compared to our £1,200 which doesn't even cover our membership fees! From a personal point of view the team are doing really well this season.

**LS:** How did you get the captaincy this year?

**JW:** I got nominated at the end of last year. I was going to go to America this year but I decided to stay and I'm very proud to be captain.

**LS:** People will remember your varsity celebrations when the golf win was announced as our first win of the day.

**JW:** That was down to a few too many Tetleys! I was still fired up from the win, we enjoyed that, it was good fun.

**“ That was down to a few too many Tetleys! We enjoyed that, it was good fun.**

**LS:** You've travelled the country to play some great courses will the golf team, have you got a favourite course?

**JW:** A personal favourite has to be St Anne's Links course, which is a qualifying course for the British Open. The away games are really good fun. That's what Uni sport is all about really, the away trips and all the banter on the road.

**LS:** Have you played in many games this year?

**JW:** I've not been playing a lot. We have a squad of ten and only six can be picked. My job is to pick the team. I'm happy to pick people ahead of myself.

**LS:** You spent the summer caddying on the Women's Tour, could you tell us a bit about that?

**JW:** I worked for Kiran Makara, a new

protege on the Lady's Tour. It was really great to be involved at that level. I learnt a lot. Every week we flew all over Europe as far a field as Sweden, Denmark and Finland. There's some brilliant courses out there. The Ladies Open at St Andrews was a great experience.

**LS:** Are there any plans for a tour for your Golf team?

**JW:** We're looking to go to Cork for a long weekend. We're play a few rounds of golf and have some Guinness!

**LS:** How have the socials been going this year?

**JW:** This year we've really tried to push the socials. So far it's been really great. It's important to have fun!

**LS:** How do you see your BUSA campaign panning out?

**JW:** Realistically we can finish second this year, just behind Central Lanes.

**LS:** Tell us a bit about the lessons that you put on every week.

**JW:** We run them every Tuesday. It's been working really well. We do six lessons for £50, which is really cheap when a lot of professionals will teach you at up to £20 an hour. The biggest barrier in golf is the cost, we want to do everything we can to help with that.



**“ My job is to pick the team. I'm happy to pick players ahead of myself.**

If you are interested in taking golf lessons,, send an email to: [golfsociety@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:golfsociety@hotmail.co.uk)

## KNOW YOUR UNION ACADEMIC REP?

UNION ACADEMIC REP'S (UARS) REPRESENT ANY ISSUES OR QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE ABOUT YOUR COURSE, SCHOOL OR STUDIES IN GENERAL. EACH UAR IS CURRENTLY LOOKING INTO FEEDBACK IN EACH OF THE FACULTIES AND WOULD BE REALLY INTERESTED TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY NUMBER OF ACADEMIC ISSUES THEN GET IN TOUCH WITH YOURS TODAY!

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Leeds University Union





# the big debate:

## Steve McClaren's future

With an FA Board reportedly already in place to discuss his future, LS Sport asks whether the England coach should stay in charge

Owen Bradley

The last time my thoughts graced the pages of the Big Debate, it was to argue that England rugby union coach Brian Ashton should lose his job, after guiding his side to a World Cup final. Somewhat ironic then that I believe that Steve McClaren, who may fail to get England the European Championships next year, should keep his position.

Regardless of the outcome of the qualifying stage - we will know England's fate by the time our next issue

the Football Association, who do everything they can to appease them.

But what of McClaren's qualities I hear you cry! Surely he just isn't equipped for the post? Well, remember that he is a man who is willing to change things: see his decision to leave out the likes of David Beckham in his earlier squads, whilst he is also a man willing to admit that he has made a mistake: see David Beckham being recalled in an attempt to being some much needed experience. Remember the football that England have played at times over the course of qualifying - there have been good performances from a team that looked balanced and settled. Isn't it always the way that it is the players who take the credit when things go well, but the manager who takes the flack when the train comes off the tracks.

England need stability. The worst thing the FA could do right now is fire a man who is barely a year into his contract, who has coached the England side to some good performances, and has brought new players successfully into the senior side. McClaren protects his players, has their support, and brings the best out of the likes of Shaun Wright-Phillips, Micah Richards and Micheal Owen to name a few. England's problems are age-old problems of lack of strength in depth, failure

of players to apply themselves, perform, or simply care about the shirt. These are problems that run deep into English football, deep into English society, and are not problems that will be solved by firing another manager, only to bring in another lamb who will be slaughtered by the press and casual fans all of whom consider their opinion better informed than those within the game. If McClaren goes, it will show that the FA do not have the guts support their man - who then will want the poison chalice that is the England job anyway?

Stephen Jones

The Football Association's very own Frankenstein seems set to meet his sorry fate. Having created a monster in their own image - in other words, smarmy, self-admiring and smug - it is surely not long before the men at Soho Square join the murderous pack in pursuit of yet another managerial scalp.

In truth, Steve McLaren's fate was more or less sealed on the date of his appointment - it would certainly be fair to argue that the England manager's biggest sin was merely being appointed in the first place, having very few credentials deserving of such a distinguished job. It is really the FA that must take the blame for the debacle that is England's Euro 2008 qualifying campaign. Rather than performing the comprehensive surgery that English football was - and still is - in such desperate need of with the appointment of a new, bold face, the operation instead became a botched amputation, merely removing one leg of a severely diseased body. It is not Steve McClaren's fault that he has failed to capture the hearts and minds of the nation either by results or free-flowing football - he began in such a turgid mire that his failure is merely an inevitability.

However, bringing in an experienced and genuinely successful manager must be the first of many extensive changes brought in before the next qualifying campaign.

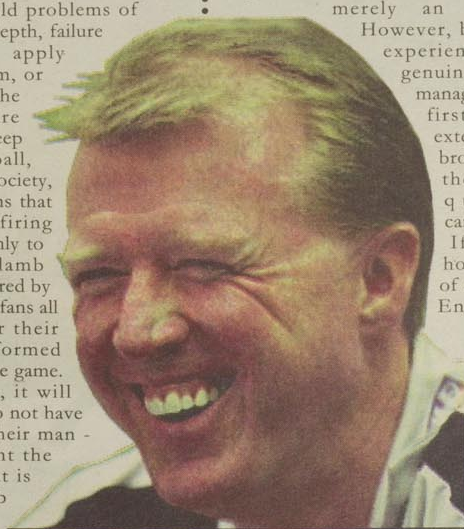
If, by some horrid violation of all things right, England do somehow manage to reach the finals, the FA must still not let The-Man-With-The-Perma-Tan revel in the glory of

overcoming such illustrious opponents as Estonia and Andorra. England fans will look back and wonder how the side were so tamely beaten in Croatia and Russia, and a team containing players such as John Terry, Steven Gerrard and Wayne Rooney could be left bemoaning a playing surface as an excuse for failure to qualify. Whether playing on grass, plastic or fibreglass England should have easily won their group, and the current campaign does not bode at all well for the side's prospects against the world's best.

So McClaren must go. Luiz Felipe Scolari, Jose Mourinho, even born-again Sven would be welcomed into the fray as things stand. England need a manager who is unperturbed by player power, is bold and adventurous in his methods and, most importantly, picks players to fit his side and not vice-versa - perhaps not Sven, then. Unfortunately for Mr. McClaren, he is not that man. Russia's Alexander

Whether playing on grass, plastic or fibreglass England should have easily won their group.

Kerzhakov stated this week that Guus Hiddink's men would qualify ahead of England because "England have a team of big stars who earn an awful lot of money" without any real achievements deserving of such grandeur, and in this he is absolutely correct. The manager must be the only star of the team, rather than another characterless non-entity. Admittedly, greater changes must be made to the structure of our game, but the first step must be to hire a man confident enough not to make excuses and to accept both glowing praise and scathing criticism with equal dignity.



hits the shelves - it is crucial to the development of the England side that McClaren stays at the helm. I have always been a fan of the ginger one they call Macca, personally considering that it was he who kept Derby in the Premiership during our last spell in the top flight, and I firmly believe that given a fair chance he will come good for the national team.

The reason that England are in the mess they find themselves in has less to do with McClaren's failings and more to do with the attitude and performance from the players on the pitch. The players have been terrible at times during this campaign, a fact summed up by a shocking four minute spell in Russia where not one senior player stood up to be counted. Lack of concentration and leadership from players has nothing to do with McClaren, and to argue that he can't motivate properly is rubbish - if these players can't get themselves motivated to represent their country, then I don't want to see them in a England shirt ever again. In a strange twist, many players have come out in support of McClaren in recent weeks, and that must count for something in the eyes of

### Your Comments...

This week, we asked:

**Will the World Cup bid be beneficial to the English game?**

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

"Yes. The World Cup in England will put a huge emphasis on grass roots football, as well as raising the profile of lower league football".

Liam Mulvey, 22, Computer Sciences

"Yes. Having the World Cup on our own soil gives us the best chance to win it, and means we avoid any problems getting through qualifying".

Hannah Parr, 18, Music

"No. Its yet another strain that English football and the country doesn't need".

Billy Moss, 20, Environmental Studies

"Yes. Its a god chance to improve the world view on English football fans and English football in general. It'll also be great for all the venues that will get to host games".

Dan Kelly, 20, Theatre and Performance

I don't think it would do any harm. It would bring self respect to the players and fans. We need to look more at players' long-term development and this might be a good incentive.

- Josh Black, 19, History

Next week's question:

**Should McClaren go?**



## Sport

# Bombers prove to be duds as Celtics bombard Lancaster

## American Football

**Jake Anthony**

Leeds Celtics 52-0 Lancaster Bombers  
Lancaster

An inspired performance from the word got led to an emphatic victory for Leeds Celtics on Sunday. A cold autumn morning in Lancaster was the setting for the Celtics to start their season with a comprehensive victory.

The Celtics kicked off to start the match and managed to deny Lancaster a solitary first down. The ensuing punt was then charged down, giving the Celtic offense superb field position. This was immediately capitalised on when slot receiver Alessandro Persano ran in for the 25 yard score, giving the Celtics an early 6 - 0 lead.

A two point conversion chance was missed, so the Celtics kicked off again and a psyched up defense created their first turnover of the game, following an interception by cornerback Matt Parrish.

Unfortunately, the Leeds offense proved to be their own worst enemy as penalties saw them hand the ball back to the Bombers on

downs towards midfield.

Lancaster looked to capitalise on the errors and proceeded to gain a couple of first downs, yet the Celtics defense, anchored by second year defensive tackles Ture Asaboro and Tom Thornton, held firm and managed to shut down the run game and forced a punt.

Three plays later runningback Adim Irozuru had gone 23 yards for the go-ahead score, giving Leeds' their second rushing TD of the game. By the end of the first quarter the score was 12-0 and the Celtics were ready to open the floodgates.

The second quarter however did not see Celtics capitalise on their early promise, with their own mistakes costing them valuable yards. The defence, thankfully, was still playing as well as it had all last season and forced two more fumbles before half time.

One of these fumbles set up a nine yard run by quarterback Ben Barker, which was converted on a catch from wide receiver Ricky Jordan. No further scores in the quarter meant that at half-time the Celtics went into the huddle with a 20-0 lead, positive that with improved execution they could score many more.

In the second half the Celtics showed

## MVPs vs Lancaster

Defensive - Matthew Parrish

Offensive - The Offensive Line (Nick Broadhead, Matthew Gornall, Luke Brafield, Jake Anthony, Jose Garcia-Russo)

Rookie of the Day - Tom Hartland

Team MVP - Adim Irozuru

exactly what they could do and against a tired Bombers defense their momentum could not be stopped. On the first possession Ben Barker found a receiver wide open in the endzone for the first Celtics passing TD of the year. As Lancaster tried to retaliate a

second Matt Parrish interception saw the offense once again set up in fantastic field position, which was duly capitalised on by Ben Barker for his second rushing TD of the game. With the lead extended to 34-0 the Celtics could start to put in rookie quarterbacks and it seemed like they could relax and enjoy the rest of the game.

However there was no let up for Lancaster as in the fourth quarter the Celtic defence went in to overdrive, forcing four more turnovers, including two interception returns for TDs by Charlie Gough and Matt Parrish.

The offense took a little longer to get in stride with various quarterbacks behind centre, but rookie running back Tom Hartland went over for his first ever TD with an impressive 43 yard run, thanks in part to the devastating performance of the Offensive Line.

The Celtics finished the game with 347 offensive yards whilst limiting their opponents to an incredible -11 yards. This went along with a defence that forced nine turnovers and had 20 tackles for loss or no gain.

# Heartbreak for Basketball Seconds

## Men's Basketball 2nds

**Alex Abel**

Leeds Uni 50-55 Durham  
Sports Hall

Leeds' Basketball 2nd team fought to the very end as they went down narrowly to a strong Durham University 1st team, who managed to keep their unbeaten record this season. But only just. Leeds almost pulled off a miraculous 4th quarter comeback, inspired by Captain James Tang, at one stage moving to within just 2 points of the visitors after having been trailing by more than 10 at the end of the 3rd quarter. Durham, however, held on to win 55-50.

Both teams started the game poorly. Flowing moves and spectacular scores were at a premium in the first quarter as the visitors opened up a slender 1 point advantage to lead 11-10. However it not pass without incident, with the scoreboard showing Leeds to be winning many of the Durham players and coaching staff complained that the score was wrong. After several minutes of discussion between the referees and both benches it was decided that the score would be (rightly) amended.

The game stayed nip and tuck until mid way through the second quarter when the visitors gained control. A game that was tied at 16 apiece quickly became 30-22 by half time thanks to some slick interplay and solid defence by Durham. The game looked to be dead and buried for Leeds, especially when in the 3rd quarter they missed their chances eat into the visitors lead. Leeds, who were inconsistent all day from the free throw line, missed their 2 attempts only to see Durham, just seconds later coolly convert theirs to lead 40-26.

Going into the 4th quarter trailing 45-34



PHOTO: John Puddephatt

Leeds needed something really special and they so nearly got it. Although the smallest player on the court by some distance, uni captain, James Tang proved that size doesn't always matter. His quick incisive breaks, wonderful skill and fast thinking set up a great final quarter.

“Although the smallest player on the court, captain **James Tang** proved that **size** doesn't always matter...with wonderful **skill** and **fast thinking**.”

Tang's great run and shot made it 38-45 and when the tall forward Will Brown made it 40-45 it was game on. Leeds's were now winning the rebounds and the visitors looked rattled. Tang added 4 more points and the ever improving Brown closed the gap to a meagre 2 points with one minute left which sent the atmosphere at courtside to fever pitch. Durham, however kept their cool to win 55-50. Having held their own against the league leaders captain James Tang called it a "pleasing performance" and is optimistic that his team has a "good season ahead of them"



## BUSA Results

### Wednesday 14th November

#### Men's Badminton

1sts 6-2 Northumbria 1sts  
2nds 5-3 Teesdie 1sts

#### Women's Badminton

1sts 4-4 Nottingham 1sts

#### Men's Basketball

1sts 43-85 Newcastle 1sts  
2nds 50-55 Durham 1sts

#### Women's Basketball

1sts 85-22 Chester 1st

#### Fencing

Women's 117 - 131 Northumbria 1sts  
Men's 126-87 Hull 1sts

#### Men's Football

1sts 2-0 Sheffield 1sts  
2nds 4-3 Bradford 1sts  
3rds 0-3 York St. John's 2nds  
4ths 4-3 York St. John's 4ths

#### Women's Football

1sts 4-1 Edge Hill 1sts  
2nds 3-1 Huddersfield 1sts

#### Golf

1sts 3-3 Northumbria 2nds

#### Men's Hockey

1st 2-2 Nottingham 1sts  
2nd 3-3 Northumbria 1sts  
3rd 1-0 Sheffield Hallam 2nds  
4ths 2-2 Teesdie 1sts

#### Women's Hockey

1st 0-6 Northumbria 1sts  
2nd 2-5 York St. Johns 1sts  
3rd 1-0 Teesdie 1sts  
4th 13-1 Huddersfield 1sts

#### Netball

1st 44-36 Durham 1sts  
2nd 47-37 Sheffield Hallam 2nds  
3rd 38-24 Hull 1sts  
4th 72-14 York St. Johns 4ths

#### Rugby League

1st 14-24 Hull 1sts

#### Men's Rugby Union

1st 18-5 Nottingham Trent 1sts  
2nds 44-3 Huddersfield 1sts  
3rds 24-34 Sheffield 2nds

#### Women's Rugby Union

1st 2-19 Durham 1sts

#### Men's Tennis

1st 9-1 Manchester 2nds  
2nds 7-3 Newcastle 1sts

#### Women's Tennis

1st 7-3 Newcastle 1sts  
2nds 4-4 Leeds Met 2nds

#### Women's Volleyball

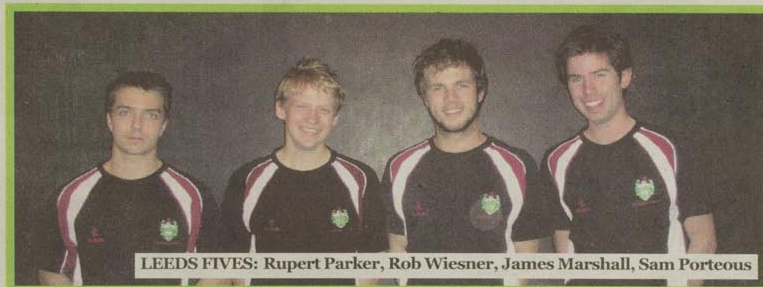
1st 3-0 Northumbria 1sts

#### Men's Volleyball

1st 3-0 Bradford 1sts

# BUSA In Brief • BUSA In Brief • BUSA

Leeds fives narrowly lost their first fixture in a number of years last week, going down 118-106 to local side White Rose Rugby fives club. The team played well, especially the top pair of James Marshall and Rob Wiesner who did not lose a single game they played in, and more encouragingly the first signs of cohesion within partnerships were beginning to appear, boding well for the future and the BUSA championships later this month in Horsham.



LEEDS FIVES: Rupert Parker, Rob Wiesner, James Marshall, Sam Porteous

The men's hockey firsts led twice but only ended up with a share of the spoils away at Nottingham. Despite this disappointment, the boys are five points clear of the relegation zone and have now gone three weeks unbeaten in the country's top division.

Elsewhere, the netball second team beat Sheffield Hallam 47-37 on Wednesday. Prior to this result, both sides were in vital need of points, both propping up the table along with the

University of Durham.

Hallam were the quickest out of the blocks. The opening five minutes was characterised by fast, free flowing netball from the visitors. However, although more attractive on the eye, Sheffield missed some gilt-edge chances, and as a result, Leeds remained in catching distance at 2-0.

Leeds' Goal Defence was having an excellent game at the back, making crucial interceptions and linking defence to attack well, but she was powerless to stem the increasing pressure on her goal. The home side took a 10 point lead into the fourth and final quarter, and although Hallam showed signs in the penultimate period where they could perhaps mount an amazing comeback, this was as good as it got for the away side.

A spirited passage of play, in which the deficit was reduced to 39-34 saw Sheffield come close, however, inspired by the superb finishing of Rimmer, Leeds were able to further pull away. Asked if she enjoyed the game, Sarah Boulton replied: "Not really! It was very tough as they ran us close, but thankfully we showed the resilience to pull us through" Nicholas Grounds

## Three is magic number for men's rugby firsts

### Mens Rugby 1sts

#### Daffydd Pritchard

Leeds Uni 18-5 Nottingham Trent  
Weetwood

An impressive three-try response to conceding the first score gave Leeds victory over a determined Nottingham Trent side on Wednesday. Leeds worked tirelessly and impressed in attack to

### Man of the Match

#### Jamie Broadley

Tenacious in defence and cutting in attack, the centre excelled.

secure a valuable victory on Wednesday afternoon.

Wasting no time in setting an imposing tone, Leeds mounted an attack from their first period of possession. Efficient rucking and slick handling created quick ball, and a rapid succession of phases forced Nottingham to concede the match's first penalty.

The home side stated their intentions by opting to kick to touch but their boldness went unrewarded as the visitors stole the ball from the line-out and cleared. It was at the set-pieces that Trent enjoyed most success, disruptive at their hosts' lines and controlled on their own throw.

One area dominated by the home side was the breakdown, with captain Gareth Williams a constant, piercing thorn in the opposition's side. Gathering a loose ball, Williams set lock Matt Pearce on a canter and, from the ensuing ruck, Nottingham were again penalised. The visitors were duly punished as Mike Hawley slotted a penalty to open the scoring.

Following a successful kicking exchange, Nottingham found themselves in the home side's twenty-two. Laying a solid foundation with a precise line-out, they shipped the ball out to the outside-half, whose break and slight of hand

enabled winger Mike Farmer to evade some weak tackles and glide over for the match's first try.

The conversion went awry and, almost immediately from the re-start, Leeds stormed back into their groove. Employing Boyle as a battering ram, the hosts cleared the way for Dan Venn to break the gain line. Despite having the ball slowed by the Trent pack, the home side introduced width to their play and were rewarded with a try as Charlie Young took full advantage of an overlap.

Territory and possession was shared until Jamie Broadley dealt a shuddering tackle to his opposite number before wrapping him up and winning a penalty for holding on. Buoyed by the vigorous defending, Leeds mounted a fresh assault.

James Murray showed great vision to throw a perfectly weighted miss pass to Venn, who feigned one way, danced the other and zoomed away to complete a fine score in the corner. Yet again, the conversion was inaccurate but the

home side had amassed a 13-5 half-time lead.

Pouncing on their opponents' slow start to the second period, Nottingham marched their way to within yards of the try line. Leeds defended resolutely but were rocked by the sin binning of number eight Boyle. Sensing an opportunity, Trent pushed relentlessly but the Leeds pack battled wholeheartedly to deny a score. Having weathered this storm, Leeds made three substitutions and launched an onslaught of their own. After pinning the visitors back to their twenty-two, the hosts made the match safe as James Ferguson stole in from the line-out to dive over for his side's third try.

After taking a few risky tap-kicks, Leeds composed themselves and used Murray's boot to see the game out. As time ticked away, Nottingham tired significantly but the home side were effervescent, their undying spirit epitomised by Broadley's thunderous dump tackle, a resonating image and appropriate ending to an engrossing encounter.



PHOTO: Daffydd Pritchard



**Big debate:**  
Does McClaren  
deserve to stay?

Sport, pg. 17



**BUSA:**  
News, views  
and results

Sport, pgs. 18-20



Friday, November 16, 2007

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# Netballers build on strong foundations

**Women's Netball 4ths**  
**Joe Hibbert**

Leeds Uni 135 - 79 Sheffield Uni  
Sports Hall

An all-action performance led by goal attack Lucy Hobson meant that the Leeds netball fourth team romped to yet another victory after a superb team display tore apart the plucky visitors, York St Johns, who for all their toil and endeavour never looked like threatening Leeds.

The fourth team have been the BUSA success story of the season and after just five minutes of the first quarter it was clear to see why. Lucy Hobson notched the home side's first point of the day after a clever interception from Sarah Raine set up an attack.

## PLAYER OF THE DAY

**Amy Millard**  
scored key goals and was a constant threat to the York St John's defence from goal attack.

York grabbed a foothold in the game as they netted their first point of the day, but Leeds were already commanding play. The visitors didn't have much bite in attack; their offensive line struggled to thread more than one pass together, and their play was generally sloppy and disjointed.

In stark contrast to York, the home-side's passing was varied, adventurous and cutting, far too much for the visitors to handle. Amy Millard quickly showed York how to score for fun with a neat shot from angle to make it 13-3 to Leeds.

Millard continued her master class in scoring throughout the first quarter helping Leeds to a 19-4 lead at the first break. Despite their graft, York St Johns were merely lambs to the slaughter.



**GREEN GALATICOS:** The Leeds side fought hard to achieve a solid victory  
Photos: John Puddephatt

In the second quarter, Millard continued the one-way traffic by netting Leeds' 20th goal of the day, a goal that was testament to Hobson and Millard's neat link-up play.

York's first threat of the quarter was quashed by Leeds defender Sarah Raine, setting up a sharp counter attack which Millard netted to make it 25-4. York battled hard but it all looked too desperate and rushed for the away team.

The White Rose side were eventually rewarded for their efforts, scoring their 5th of the game after some decent attacking play down the right hand side. The second quarter finished 39-6 with Leeds truly in the ascendancy.

As the start of the third quarter came around it was damage limitation time for York. Lucy Hobson was subbed for Claire Morgan; the new goal shooter picked up where Hobson left off by scoring Leeds' 40th point of the game. Yet, York began the quarter with greater intent, they dug in and managed to move their score into double figures.

A cross court pass found the York goal shooter in space, giving her an easy shot to score. Despite the untouchable lead that Leeds had established the visitors were beginning to show some fighting spirit late on.

The final quarter was a formality. An impressive third quarter for the home side still couldn't stop Leeds reaching 55 points, and with no substitutes available York were beginning to tire. Leeds, on the other hand, were still at the canter and after sharp attacking passes the home-side were 60-13 ahead.

York's defence was fatigued and slowing down, weaker than it had ever been before and Leeds were more than happy to take advantage.

It was soon 70-13 and Leeds were still powering forward. Wing Attacker, Lesley Tuplin, pestered the York defence, making it difficult for them to even get out of their half. Leeds finished with a flourish and proud captain Tuplin said of the campaign so far, "It's been brilliant, and the team is really starting to gel. It's been a great year so far and to be one of the Universities best performing teams is the icing on the cake."