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# The Leeds Student Newspaper

Friday, November 23, 2007

volume:38 issue:9

## Met Union bankrupt

- Many staff have been given their notice
- Union could be closed as early as Easter

by  
**Charlotte Griffiths**

The Leeds Met University Union has gone bankrupt and it could close as early as Easter.

The Met Union has reached crisis point following a loss of £672,000 over the past eight years and a predicted loss of £82,000 for this year if no action is taken. The University has taken matters over from the Union and given most employees their 30 days of notice.

A Union spokesperson said: "Leeds Met Students' Union is in a dire financial situation - we have been spending more than we have got for many years." Trevor Page, General Manager of the Union, said: "It is the same as if a bank rings you up and tells you that you are at the end of your overdraft. If nothing is done the SU will go bust".

Following two crisis meetings held by Union chiefs to inform Union workers of

the possibility of impending redundancies, a letter was sent to all staff of the union stating: "It is entirely possible that the Union will cease to operate many of its services in their current form. We may also decide to close outlets such as bars, shops and entertainments".

Several other subsequent meetings have taken place in the lead up to a final action plan which is due to be published on December 12. The final document will detail all changes being made, all jobs being transferred and a timetable of implementation. Yet, in the mean time some staff and students have expressed concern that they have largely been kept in the dark and have not been consulted about the matter.

The original letter stated that students would be: "Invited to make suggestions about what the core services of the union should be" between November 12 and November 16 after which a draft plan of staffing requirements was due to be released. Yet the Met newspaper has

claimed that in that time no students were consulted, it stated: "trustees have been reluctant to explain why the situation has been allowed to reach this stage and why measures to stop the Union losing money have not been implemented sooner." A member of Union Council said: "I do feel the situation should have been explained to us much earlier".

Some Union shop workers have claimed that they have not seen any formal document and are still unsure of developments. Speaking to the Leeds Student two Union shop workers who wish to remain anonymous said: "We've heard about it and people are worried because there are different rumours going around. It's stupid because they held a meeting with us today that aimed clarify things but all they told us not to believe everything we hear because no one knows what could happen". They continued: "the meeting was vague and gave the impression that everything may close or nothing may close."

## Bodington to be sold for £19m

By  
**Charlotte Griffiths**

The university have announced that Bodington Hall will be sold within the next four years for an estimated £19m.

The Leeds Student exclusively revealed last week that the University were considering the future of the extensive Bodington site which is four miles away from campus. The University's highest Governing body - the University Council have subsequently made the decision after considering several options for the future of the site.

The displaced students will be relocated to accommodation nearer campus such as St Marks and Charles Morris that latter of which is due to be grounded and rebuilt with enough space for an extra 500 students. A spokesperson said: "After careful consideration, it was decided the needs of our students would be best met by selling the site and replacing it with accommodation closer to campus."

The spokesperson added: "Students have told us that the site is too far from campus and that catered halls do not offer the flexibility they would like. Also, the accommodation at Bodington is in need of refurbishment to bring it up the standards expected by students now. In response to this feedback a number of options were drawn up for the site. These included re-building accommodation at the Bodington site, selling and leasing back the Hall with a third-party refurbishing or re-developing the site or selling the Hall within the next four years and replacing it with accommodation closer to campus."

It is expected that Bodington will remain in use for two to three years. When the site is finally sold the students that reside in Bodington at the time of sale will remain there for the rest of that academic year.

Story continued on page 6.



Story continued on page 2.



## Sketch

By James Haddon

**W**ith all the publicity flying around for the referendum motions this week, it's been easy to miss the fact that there have been TWO votes going on. While promotional materials for the referenda have splashed the Union with the urine-coloured sprays of democracy, there's been a curious absence of material for the NUS delegate elections. Which are perhaps also designed in some scatologically-relevant manner.

Perhaps it's just the fact that "NUS delegates" hold far less sex-appeal than their more popular counterparts - it'd be somewhat akin to using Prescott to draw in women voters (a really really bad idea). But while it's always been far easier to sell issues than people, completely ignoring the delegate elections isn't really an ideal solution - most people are only going to realise

they're even taking place if they're presented with the ballot sheets.

For anyone interested in finding out about what exactly these delegates will do, good luck. Navigate away from the Charybdis of the Referendum mini-site and the extent of the information available amounts to the fact that there is a second election going on - follow the link to "read more" on the LUU website and it takes you straight to the vote, without even an explanation on what the NUS is.

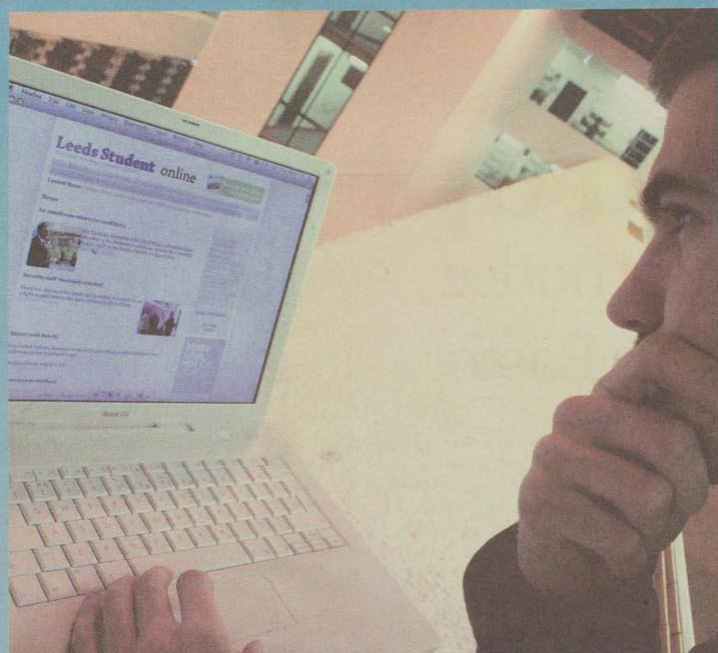
If you're going to go to the effort of holding an election, at least tell people what it's for. Relying on the candidates to explain, not only why they're right for the job, but what the job actually is, is not good practise. The problem is that, in expecting candidates to explain in a fair, balanced and unbiased manner, why they're good for the job, you're expecting them not to define the qualities

that the job needs. Otherwise it's going to be a case of describing the job according to what you're good at: "Oh, yes, NUS delegates need a fantastic ability to make sandwiches. Conveniently, I've worked at Greggs for three years - do I have your vote?". If we don't advertise, promote or even mention NUS Delegate elections, then no-one has the right to act surprised when they're not supported.

So is this accessible? 'Yes', so long as you work in the Union, know the candidates or have spent time on Union Council; 'No' if you're a student or anyone else.

Does this seem fair? Inclusive? Thought through? Only to the extent that the colour-scheme for the referenda was. What is it telling the student population? Only that DST is probably taking the piss.

Illustration: Mark Mackay



## Reader of the week

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## Bodington to be closed

(Continued from front page. Main story continued on page 6)

The replacement accommodation will be provided in line with the University's Housing Strategy which is committed to preventing the construction of any new student accommodation in the 'Area of Housing Mix' which covers Headingley and parts of other nearby neighbourhoods such as Woodhouse, Hyde Park, Little Woodhouse, Burley Lodge, Burley, Kirkstall and West Park.

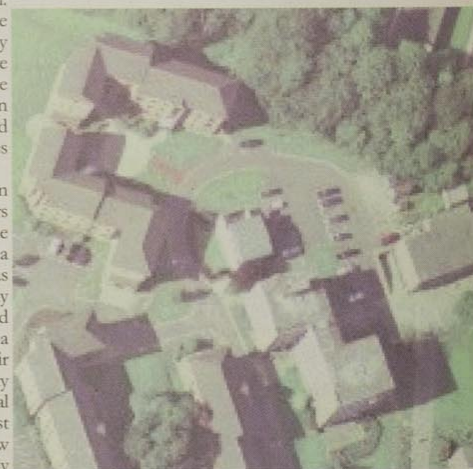
The university has aimed to prevent staff cuts by redeploying them around university. However some staff are still unhappy, one member of staff there told *The Leeds Student*: "It is a great shame that they are planning on shutting the site, we will be losing an important piece of the University." They added: "The Bodington Wardens have not been told of the official procedure leading up to the sale. It potentially goes against some aspects of the University's commitment to providing an all round experience of Leeds life."

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for staff and students Professor Stephen Scott said: "Bodington has made a positive contribution to student life for many years but student expectations have changed. We need to make sure students coming to Leeds can expect a consistently high standard of accommodation which gives them the flexibility they need."

Leeds University Union communications and internal affairs officer Neil Mackenzie said: "The decision to close Bodington Hall is a big decision, and not one that has been taken lightly. We completely understand the feelings of Bod residents who have had a tremendous experience during their time in halls. The strong community atmosphere at Bodington is a real strength, and something that must be maintained in any new accommodation. Unfortunately

though Bodington's time had come. The physical state of the accommodation is not good, the time it takes to get into university from the Hall is unreasonable, and the number of students applying to Bodington is continually declining. Students demand a quality of accommodation that cannot be provided by Bodington. We are committed to working with the university to ensure that future accommodation continues the strong tradition and community spirit of Bod. It is also important to understand that the Hall will not close until 2011/12, and we will work with the university to ensure that those students at Bodington continue to enjoy their time there."

Bodington is the University's largest student residence and can house 1150 students. It was built in 1960 with further self-catered flats added in 1992 - both are in need of refurbishment. Proceeds from the sale will be invested in academic developments for staff and students.



LS1. Editor - Charlotte Griffiths / Associate Editors - James Haddon Gardiner, Matt Andrews, Laurie Whitwell / News - Chris Stevenson and Laura Mackenzie / Extra - Vivien King Macdona, Jessica Parker, Lizzie Simner & Paul Raymond /

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# LS:TV and Pudsey Bear raise more than £1200 for charity

by Amy Powell Yeates

LS:TV made their annual Children in Need broadcast last Friday and fundraised £1225.95 for Children in Need, breaking both last year's total and their ambitious target of £1,200.

The theme of this year's Children in Need broadcast, which lasted ten and a half hours, was to 'do something different'. This included Spanish omelette making as well as the opportunity to see an LS:TV presenter in the face for only £1. Two brave society members, Ali Dickinson and Mark Lazarus, also had their heads shaved by punters of the Old Bar, the musically talented members of the society busked for hours on end, and there was an auction of all of the donations given to presenters during their live links. The 'prizes' auctioned included a packet of polos, some pens, a copy of Leeds Student, some Parma Violets, a Pudsey mug signed by two of the LS:TV presenters and eleven packets of 'Smash'.

When questioned a first year Law student and member of LS: TV couldn't decide whether the success of selling cakes or actually eating them was her favourite part. She added: "Presenting was so much fun and I hadn't had the opportunity to do it on a live broadcast before."

The mission of the charity Children in

Need is to positively change the lives of disadvantaged children and young people in the UK with a vision of a society where every child and young person is supported to realise their potential. RAG also fundraised on the day and the Union auctioned off the 'last ever Wispa' for £4.10. When asked why LS: TV chose Children in Need to support, Alice Levine, Head of Programming, said: "Because its for the kids! As well as it being a great cause, it also makes sense to support it as it is a televised charity event."

This is the third year that the event has taken place and each year the total fundraised has increased. James Cooper, the Station Manager, suggested that the increase in fundraising is down to the fact that LS: TV are getting better at the organisational aspect of it every year. He said: "I got a lot of exercise going up and down the stairs all day but I think it ran really smoothly. Everyone had their job: crewing the studio, editing the day's footage, collecting money, counting money...I think it went really well."

Alice agreed, adding: "The only real problem was that we have a limited amount of equipment, and apparatus that can be a bit temperamental. However, the enthusiasm and co-operation of all the members meant that the issues were soon dealt with and solved in one way or another."

All students are welcome to pop into

the LS: TV office at any time, whether for more information or just to have a look around. To watch the day's events visit: lstv.uk-students.org.uk

The members are having a much-

deserved week off at the moment, but the broadcast goes out every Friday afternoon and next week will be the big Christmas broadcast, featuring a recreation of Bob Geldof's 'Do They Know It's Christmas?'.



LS: TV hold cake sale for Children in Need

# Hilary Benn gets a birthday cake with a big difference

by Mark Beardmore

On Friday November 16 climate change campaigners, including representatives from Leeds University, met with Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, outside his constituency surgery in Osmondthorpe.

He was presented with a birthday cake saying "80 per cent by 2050", and a giant card containing a petition for Friends of the Earth's 'Big Ask' campaign. The Friends of the Earth campaign wants government to reduce emissions every year so the UK reaches a target of at least 80 per cent cuts by 2050, include annual targets so politicians can't blame preceding Governments for missed targets, and include emissions from international aviation and shipping.

Mr Benn stopped to explain the government's policy at some length. He stated that the development of carbon markets and carbon credits would play a big role in reducing carbon emissions, and that the government is the first in the world to put climate legislation onto the statute book. This reflects Gordon Brown's speech on Monday 19 that Britain must be a world leader in the fight against climate change, when he suggested that even tougher curbs on the current 60 per cent cut by 2050 may be

needed.

A spokesperson for the Leeds 'Stop Climate Chaos' group, who organised the event, said that the least convincing part of the government's rhetoric is the failure to include aviation emissions. They said: "The government knows it's unfair to all the other sectors who will watch all of their hard work being cancelled out, but they want the aviation industry to expand. That's why they're investing in airport expansion and subsidising aviation fuel."

The most recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is out this week, warns that the Earth is heating at a faster rate than ever because of human activity.



PIECE OF CAKE Photo: Mark Beardmore

# LSR clean up at awards and get a visit from Radio One

by Charlotte Griffiths

LSRFM have won several awards at the national student media awards.

The station came away from the London-based awards ceremony with five Prizes from eight nominations across six Categories. Neil Kingston won a Gold Award for Best Newcomer and the LSRFM Newslink programme also won a Gold Award for the Best Journalistic category.

Also among the winners were Faye Lyons White who won a Silver Award for Best Female, Greg Hughes who won a Bronze Award for Best Male, and Jimmy Smallwood who won Bronze for best interview. The station master Richard Andrews was delighted with the result. He said: "I'm extremely proud of everyone here at LSR for the hard work they've put in over the past couple of years. To be nominated for eight awards was good enough but to come away with two gold, one silver and two bronze awards is exceptional. Well done to everyone involved - bring on next year!"

Radio One may make an appearance at the radio station office next week. Aled Jones from The Chris Moyles Show could be arriving on Monday at 7.30 a.m. to light up the LSRFM Christmas lights.

The station's Webmaster Barry Carlyon was thrown out of the event for getting carried away with the free alcoholic refreshments and falling asleep at one of the tables.



STARS: Radio celebs present the prizes Photo: Barry Carlyon



# ISOC goes coconut crazy

by Thomas Midlane

LUU's Islamic Society (ISOC) is to run a series of events as part of a Charity Week to raise money for orphans worldwide.

The events, which will run from Monday November 26 to Friday November 30, will include a sponsored headshaving, a PSP tournament, a women's football tournament and a five mile run. There will also be a series of stalls in Parkinson Court from Monday to Wednesday, offering henna tattoos, calligraphy, and selling homemade cakes amongst other things. On the Thursday and Friday ISOC will also be putting on a carnival outside the Union.

This will be the first time Leeds ISOC has run an event of this nature, although they have been taking place at the University of London for several years now. The event is running in conjunction with the charity Islamic Relief, an international relief and development charity which aims to alleviate the suffering of the world's poorest people.

Nusrat Choudhry, ISOC Politics and PR Officer, and Asya Bibi, ISOC Publicity Officer, both stressed the centrality of charity to Islam. Nusrat said: "Islam teaches us to help the poor, to help the needy. The Islamic concept of Zakah, or Zakat, is one of the Five Central Pillars and obliges Muslims to give a small percentage of their incomes to those less fortunate."

Talking about the aims behind Charity Week, ISOC President Abdul Latif Shakoor said: "It's about raising awareness of the plight of millions of deprived children around the world. The idea behind the project is simple; to

work together and help make a real difference to people's lives. In essence, our aim is to combine our talents, resources, and ideas; joining forces in striving towards building a better future for children who are desperately in need of our support."

The organisers also hoped that the charity week events will help broaden students' perceptions of Muslims. As Nusrat said: "The media have this very one-dimensional image of Islam, whereas we want to show people we can have a laugh, have a coconut stall and throw coconuts at each other and run around in animal costumes!"

ISOC are keen to stress that the events are open to all, and that they are looking for volunteers to help organise the events. As Abdul said: "Charity week is about solidarity on

a basic human level with orphans worldwide, irrespective of race, religion or gender and this is why we have been encouraging other societies to join us and help make our vision a reality."

"We are encouraging everyone to take part; our objective is to encourage fundraising by enterprising and innovative means using the imagination and creativity of students on campus. We have set our sights extremely high by aiming to raise £35,000 in one week but I'm confident that if we get enough students participating we can achieve our target!"

If you would like to volunteer or arrange an event of your own for ISOC charity week, take a look at their website [www.leedsisoc.com](http://www.leedsisoc.com), the ISOC facebook group, or contact them on [info@leedsisoc.com](mailto:info@leedsisoc.com).



# Night on the tiles for cash strapped Action

by Madeleine McGarrie

In a bid to raise money following their dramatic budget cut, the Action team are hosting low-budget charity events to help their cause.

Earlier this term LUU's Action group raised over a £1,000 with the Action Auction but need to raise even more to ensure that all of their volunteering projects can continue to run. In order to raise funds they are holding a number of 'Give It A Go' sessions where students are encouraged to try out some of the activities which are part of Action's fifteen projects. The sessions also aim to find new volunteers and increase the reputation of volunteering within the university.

Sunday Sunshine is one of the many projects that have been hit hard by the decrease in funding from the Union. For the past 10 years the project has run every Sunday but due to a lack of funding this is the first year it has not been able to do this and only five Sundays have been run this year. This has led to fewer opportunities for children involved in the Action scheme, and fewer opportunities for students to volunteer.

Joe Yusuf, Action coordinator, said: "Sunday Sunshine is a really important project. It means a lot to the children who do not otherwise get

the opportunity to take part in these activities. It is a great example of students getting involved in their community and I would encourage all students to come and support the project."

He added: "If you are interested in coming to this event you can purchase tickets from the Arc reception or just pop into the Volunteering Office upstairs in the Union."

Sunday Sunshine has been running for 10 years and takes children from women's refuge and temporary housing hostels from across Leeds, on fun days out.

Joe continued: "This is really important for the children because it gives them the possibility to do things that they don't usually get to do and gets them out of the overcrowded and hectic environment of the hostels. It is also very beneficial for the parents and gives them a break for the day."

Alison Sullivan, the Sunday Sunshine Project co-ordinator, said: "The money raised for Sunday Sunshine will help us fund so many exciting projects. Most of our kids will not have the kind of Christmas that many students enjoy. It would mean a lot to the children if we could raise money to pay for this."

All students are invited to the evening which will involve a scrabble tournament followed by a talk about the Sunday Sunshine Project. The four top players will win prizes such as hoodies and T-shirts. There will be also be snacks and drinks available.

# LS:TV bags broadcasting award

by Laura Mackenzie

LS: TV has won the award for Student Broadcaster of the Year at the Guardian Student Media Awards which took place on Wednesday evening.

This is the first year that an award has been given for student broadcasting; in previous years the Awards have only recognised student newspaper journalism.

Student Broadcaster of the Year was won by Natalie Whelan, Head of News at LS: TV, for her piece on the riots in Hyde Park last May.

The ceremony took place in London and the judging panel was made up of top editors and reporters from the Guardian, BBC, Sky, Channel 4 and other national publications. The Awards have been running since 1978 and are highly respected in the world of student journalism.

Jamie Morton, Treasurer of LS: TV, said: "We are so, so proud of Natalie and she worked so hard: she really deserves it. This is such a big step for LS: TV. The fact that the Guardian Student Media Awards are national and so prolific, means that this has really raised our status in the media world."

# News in Brief

## Death of Professor

Professor Norbert Lynton, a former Professor at Leeds, has died aged 80.

Professor Lynton, who died on October 30, was a highly respected member of the art and design community both inside and outside of the University. A revered art critic, and organiser of exhibitions at the Hayward Gallery, he was also known to be an innovator in both teaching and criticism, and later became a writer for The Guardian and Art International.

He not only lent his eye to established artists in his criticism, but also championed new talent. This open-mindedness was what made Professor Lynton so groundbreaking in his work. His exhibitions in the Hayward Gallery were amongst the most innovative and unusual in Britain and his decision to exhibit photography was something unheard of in London at the time. Professor Lynton's first teaching job at the University was preceded by a distinguished school career at Birkbeck College, despite having been uprooted from his native Germany, where his family fled after anticipating trouble for Jews under the Nazi regime.

As well as working at Leeds University, Professor Lynton also taught at both Sussex University and Chelsea. After his retirement in 1985 from Sussex, he returned to full time writing. Professor Lynton will leave a legacy of a highly respected art teacher and critic, but also of a great man. Benedict Read, a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Art said: "He was a good friend and I am very sorry to hear that he has died."

## Christkindelmarkt returns to Leeds

The German Christmas market returned to Leeds' Millennium Square on Friday November 16 for the sixth successive year as part of the 'Celebrate Leeds 2007' festivities.

The Christkindelmarkt, which first came to Leeds in 2002, offers visitors the traditional German Christmas experience, from traditional German foods such as Bratwurst to traditional German Christmas gifts alongside a real log fire. The popular "Frankfurter Scheune" also returns to Leeds to offer a specialist menu and the highly popular drink Gluhwein, with regular musical entertainment including the Herr Jens Bavarian Oompah Band. Over thirty traders from the city of Frankfurt will be present to open up the little village of traditional wooden chalet stores.

The market provides many Christmas gift ideas, as well as a range of Christmas cards and decorations. Alongside the market there are a number of funfair rides from the traditional carousel to dodgems for people of all ages.

Councillor John Proctor, an Executive Board Member for Leisure said: "The Christkindelmarkt has been a huge success since it was first established in 2002 and it is great to see families and friends enjoying themselves in Millennium Square during the run up to Christmas." The Market is organised by Leeds City Council in conjunction with the Frankfurt City Council. 'Celebrate Leeds 2007' marks Leeds' 800th birthday. The market is located in Millennium Square and runs from Friday November 16 to Thursday December 20. It is open from 10.30am to 9pm Monday to Saturday and from 10.30am to 8pm on Sundays.



# Union staff resign as conditions worsen

by Laura Mackenzie

**Events staff have resigned from their jobs following decreasing working conditions, and Union failure to pay wages.**

Two previous employees, who chose to remain anonymous, told Leeds Student that they felt forced to leave due to the unprofessionalism of the management and a change in working conditions. They said: "The organisation of events and staff is an absolute shambles. On several occasions we've turned up for shifts and then been turned away, or left with nothing to do. Management turn this around and blame us for their lack of organisation; they expect us to be professional even when they're not." One of them added: "On my first shift back in September I was put on the main bar in Stylus on a Fruity night without being given any bar training."

The former members of the Events team, who are both third year students, blame the merger of the Events and Bar staff as the cause of the problems and told Leeds Student that before September they were happy in their jobs.

One of the students is also owed several weeks worth of wages. She said: "We are supposed to be paid weekly but I am still owed wages in spite of my resignation. I have kept pestering management but they have still not given me any real answer."

This problem of owed wages was first

reported in the Leeds Student on Friday November 2 when an anonymous member of bar staff told us she was owed £300 in wages. Since then Leeds Student has discovered that this was not an isolated event, but a problem affecting several members of both bar and events staff.

Security seems to be a major problem, with reports of customers jumping over the bar and staff having to walk around with floats unaccompanied. One of the students said: "There have been a few occasions where I have been unable to let bands in due to a lack of security and it has been very embarrassing. Imagine having to tell Maximo Park that they are not allowed into the Refectory when they have a gig in an hour because you have been left alone without a walkie talkie. Needless to say, they weren't very happy."

Both students had worked on the Events team for over a year prior to their resignation, and expressed much regret at having to resign: "We didn't want to leave but felt we had no choice. Students should feel proud to work in such a successful Union but with the addition of nights such as A 'n' T, there is just too much going on and it seems that the Union doesn't know how to cope with the added pressure. Despite what the Union or the Executive may say we know we are not the only ones who feel like this: several members of Events staff have resigned for reasons similar to our own. We only get paid £5.35 as it is, it just isn't worth being mucked around for."



# Vice Chancellor attacks elite universities

by John Owens

**Global issues are not being tackled sufficiently by the world's elite universities, the Vice Chancellor of Leeds University has said.**

Professor Michael Arthur, who was appointed to the position of Vice Chancellor in 2004, also chairs the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), a collection of 17 universities from all over the world. In the Times Higher Education Supplement he asked: "Do the very wealthy universities of North America really contribute to tackling global problems on a scale commensurate with their funding? What impact are these famous universities that top world league tables having on the big issues?" Speaking about tackling the 'big issues' facing the world this century, he said: "Our claim is that the WUN is the first to have a decent crack at doing this".

Founded in 2000 by a combination of British and American universities that included Leeds and Southampton, WUN was established to encourage international networks of academia. Recent WUN funded projects include an interdisciplinary expedition to study climate change in the Arctic Circle and a conference on Spintronics at York University. In order to share ideas, the participating Universities take part in a continuing series of virtual seminars, in which academics are beamed into a lecture hall via a video link. The diverse range of interests and issues covered is a reflection of a broad academic membership that spans from Sydney to Toronto. Currently deciding on a number of

'Global Challenges' to focus on for the future, WUN aims to foster research communities and use accumulated resources to tackle world problems.

Interviewed at a conference held in London entitled 'Realising the Global University', The Vice Chancellor went on to criticise a partnership established between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Cambridge University. He claimed that since receiving £45 Million funding from the British government the partnership has not delivered any major outcomes and added: "My view is that if a similar sum of money were thrown at collaborating across multiple universities more would come of it".

Luke Mason-Priam, a third year Sociology student, agreed. He said "I think international collaboration is the best way of pursuing research beneficial to the world because there is a wider pool of resources".

Under Professor Arthur's leadership, Leeds University has been involved in the push towards global academic collaboration encouraged by WUN. An annual fund aimed specifically at fostering international partnerships, provided £143,000 to 16 research proposals this year and has previously given out £250,000. Alongside this is a five year initiative set up in 2005 to allocate £20,000 grants to Leeds academics who work with two or more international partners. Constance Vageler, the WUN administrator at Leeds University, is involved with such schemes and said: "There are global challenges that face society, such as climate change, and the premise is that no individual institution can come up with the solution. However, if universities collaborate



**ATTACK: VC pushes for greater focus on global issues**  
Photos: John Puddephatt



## 300 seconds with: Sara Gill

**Sara Gill**

### LUU's Community Officer

**LS:** Hi Sara. So what are your main responsibilities as Community Officer?  
**SG:** My job is to represent students in the communities which they live. I'm also involved with housing and student safety and attend community meetings which are led by councillors. I try to put forward the student view but usually end up having defend myself!

**LS:** What do you have to defend yourself against?

**SG:** Students are always being blamed for anti-social behaviour-the topic comes up at every community meeting.

**LS:** Do you think students are being blamed unfairly then?

**SG:** I think that students are definitely picked on. They're often scapegoated for problems in the community, particularly parking. Complaints are usually exaggerated though; parking is seen to be a huge problem but there aren't even that many students who bring their cars to university. Nearly all of the complaints at meetings are directed at me.

“Students are definitely picked on. They're often scapegoated for problems in the community.”

**LS:** Does it ever make you regret putting yourself up for Community Officer?

**SG:** The job is very challenging but I really, really enjoy it! This is the first year of the post so its disappointing that I won't see some of my projects come to fruition but things can't change overnight.

**LS:** So why was the post introduced this year?

**SG:** There was a shift in focus and it was realised that it is important for there to be defined post dedicated to community issues-its important that residents have someone within the Exec that they can directly contact about community issues. Its also important that the Exec have influence outside of campus, and someone who can liaise between students and the community improving communication and relations.

**LS:** So why are housing and safety such important issues?

**SG:** Well, both issues affect all students at some point during their time at university. There have been lots of problems with housing and rental this year, especially the notorious Rory Aitkins/Leeds Student Homes issue (**LS:** Rory Aitkins, owner of former property company, Leeds Student Homes, has failed to return thousands of pounds worth of deposits to hundreds of students). Nearly all students will rent in their second and third years and its important that they feel empowered and know their rights. Safety is also a really important issue as 20 per cent of students will be affected by crime at some point in their university career.

**LS:** Were you involved with the Knowledge campaign then?

**SG:** Yep. The Knowledge campaign is really important at creating the true picture of crime in Leeds and giving students tips on how to improve their home security. Students are really bad at making sure doors and windows are locked and valuables hidden away.

**LS:** So how have you been trying to improve the student image within the Leeds community?

**SG:** I've really been pushing student volunteering-I want to show that students



can have a good impact in the community.

**LS:** Does it feel strange being a member of the Exec now rather than a student?

**SG:** It was a real shock to the system to begin with, but I've definitely become more productive. I still have lots of fun though-I don't want my student days to end!

**LS:** Thankyou Sara, your time is up. Good luck!

“I want to show that students can have a good impact in the community.”

# Leeds Met Union goes Bankrupt

Continued from front page

additional reporting  
by Laura Mackenzie

Some bar staff have started a petition demanding that the union stays open. A member of bar staff that spoke to Leeds Student said: "They haven't told us anything, all I know is what happened in the paper. There was a meeting I think but I couldn't go."

The dramatic revelation has left some employees and students confused as to how they will access the core student services that University union should provide.

It has been speculated Leeds University could help the Met to provide their students with any of the key services that could be lost if a closure goes ahead. Lizzie Fellowes LUU welfare officer said: "If you strip everything away from a union such as bars and events - what remains is the representation of students. This is the core of a Union. They can go elsewhere for shops and bars but no one else will give them such a wealth of free support that exists entirely for their interests." She added: "We've got a good relationship with the Met these days, more so than before, so from our point of view we'd want to help them, but whether that means providing services, who knows."

Jodie Tumelty, the SU President is fighting to keep the union open and is working towards a more favourable restructure programme that could see Union bars and events close but student support

services remain. She said: "This situation cannot continue and if we do nothing the Union could close by Easter. However we will not do nothing and the Union will not close."

She continued: "The restructure proposal will give the Union financial stability going forward and allow us to focus on running services that support our students' educational experience and facilitate those services that are important to students but not essential to the core aims and objectives of the Union."

"The executive met with our Union Council and obviously like the exec they

were shocked and distressed by the situation but on the whole were supportive of the proposals for re-structure. Obviously this is a very distressing time and we will work our way through it to ensure that there is a strong Union at the end of the process. She added: "Understandably our staff are very concerned about the situation and I would urge them to engage in the consultation process so we can achieve the best results for them and also our students."

Itchy Leeds has given the Met Union rave reviews above the Union of Leeds University. Their review states: "The

LMUSU is a fantastic venue which showcases some of the hottest acts around. Leeds Uni does put up a damned good fight; however, Itchy saw DJ Shadow shamefully forced to perform next to posters of roast chickens in their refectory 5 years back, and despite extensive refurb since, we just can't shake the feeling that the Met has the edge on this one."

Jessica Scott, a first year Entertainment Management student at The Met said: "I don't think it's a very good union compared to Leeds, I don't really go in here. If it was better I'd probably come in more."





# Lockdown for LMSU

The two buildings that make up the Leeds Met Union are potentially going to shut their doors permanently, or at least drastically scaled down, after it has lost £672,000 in the last eight years.

The plan is to strip the two sites of all shops, bars, and events which are failing to make profit. Hopefully this does not mean getting rid of the media outlets such as the student newspaper as they are a valuable resource for student debate.

However, by getting rid of the socialising aspects of the Union, the Met will essentially be ripping out the heart of their university. Student unions are places where students go to socialise, where freshers go to meet new people, and where societies meet and run activities. Without these fundamental parts of university life, the Met will be left with nothing but education. While this is of course a key, and arguably the most important part of going to university, it does not equate with a fulfilling student experience.

What is a university without its student union? Where would the student politics be? Were would the toga-themed club nights go to? What would students do with their free time if they didn't have jaffa-cake or cheese societies to attend?

These questions may seem ridiculous and unimportant ones, but almost any student will tell you that their student experience would not have been the same without these things. It may not necessarily have been better but its all part of the learning curve of university.

So, when Leeds Met are considering these proposals they should remember that removing their student union would change the face of the university dramatically, and most probably significantly reduce its number of applicants. After all, what is work without play?

# Charity with a difference

LS: TV have managed to raise over £1,200 for Children in Need this year which is an amazing achievement and it has got LS thinking about other events that could be done under the same theme of doing 'something different.'

An auction of things found in the LS office is one idea, but whether anyone would want the pizza boxes, the half washed plates or the dictionary with its cover missing is another matter. One idea that could easily get the thumbs up is a sponsored smash the Mac event, which is what many of the writers feel like doing after a late Wednesday night trying to put the paper together, and let's face it, who would not want to see technology being smashed to pieces? Perhaps arranging sponsorship for how many computers could be smashed in five minutes?

As LS: TV have proved, a sale of cakes is always a good way of pulling in the punters and making sure plenty of proceeds go to charity, but in the name of doing 'something different' and the fact that we have a few vegetarians in the LS office, perhaps quiche is a more daring option. You would feel you had definitely contributed to the cause after having bought a slice, as you would most probably not eat it: it would be a truly selfless act.

Knowing the people that work in the LS office, a swear box would certainly be the most sure fire way of raising money. As deadlines approach and computers start to refuse to work, the air around the office is full of the type of language that would make you blush. On the other hand, perhaps it is best to leave the fundraising to those who are practiced at it and for LS to put its hand in its pocket.

# The VC strikes back

The VC has been on the attack this week against the world elite of universities, stating that they do not do enough to help tackle world issues such as the environment.

He seems to have a point: some of the universities in America have huge amounts of funds to plough into such projects and yet concentrate little on research into these areas. The University of Harvard has a wealth of funds of over £10bn which far exceeds the total for all of the British Universities in the world rankings. This discrepancy surely means that institutions such as this should be leading the way in international collaborations to research global problems. The remarks of the VC show that there is much work still to be done.

Leeds has a fund of £200,000 to help facilitate the kind of joint research between international institutions that will make a difference to the world as a whole. The use of partnerships means that universities can share information and skills which would benefit all involved. This could also benefit students, as lecturers could potentially come out of the exchange with a new perspective on their subject and then pass on this information.

The aim of this University to further spread exchanges in education and research around the world through the use of partnerships will create a better learning for all involved. So perhaps it is time for the heavyweights of the higher education system in America, as well as the rest of the world, to use their considerable wealth and power to help put something back into the world education market so that we can all benefit and hopefully the environment too.

# LS break time.

5	1	4	7	6		
7	2	6	1	4	9	
4	6	2	7	8		
4	9	1	7			
1	8	7	4	2	3	5
5	8	1	4			
6	1	3	8	9		
8	9	2	4	3		
2	9	5	8	7		





# the big debate:

## Name or Number?

As a result of the *Student Experience Survey 2007*, departments across the university have introduced anonymous marking for assessed work. This week's debate asks: 'Do we need anonymous marking?'

### For anonymous marking...

Tom Skinner email: [eno7ts@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:eno7ts@leeds.ac.uk)

"Anonymous marking," I hear you say. "But that means I'm no longer guaranteed marks for writing my name at the top of the paper!" Yes, well, get over it.

You're at university now. You're clever enough not to have to worry about such a 'safety net' (for those of you still worried, you might get marks instead for writing your Student ID number neatly and in full).

You might think that University markers are professional enough to focus on the essay rather than the student, and after all, are they really going to be able to put a name to a face when they see so many students each day? In most cases, no. However, markers are human beings and will remember certain individuals, either for good or bad reasons. This applies especially if the marker happens to be the student's tutor. Certain students build up a rapport with their tutor, whilst others inevitably clash due to differing personalities. Unconsciously, the tutor could favour the clever student who is pro-active in class against the student who contributes nothing to seminar discussions. If, for example, both students make a mistake in their essays, but the clever student has previously demonstrated repeatedly in class that he or she knows the correct answer, the tutor may be inclined to 'let them off lightly', aware that it was simply a slip. A quieter student would not be given this chance if they had not made their presence known in the seminar. However, this would be utterly wrong because if the same mistake is made in both essays then they should both be marked in exactly the same way.

Looking at it from the other way round, implementing anonymous marking means that students can no longer claim to be 'victimised'; they have no-one to blame but themselves if they get a poor mark. In Leeds Student it was recently disclosed that a Facebook group was being dismantled as it contained personal attacks on a member of staff from students who felt she unfairly penalised their work. If the work had been marked anonymously, it would have been impossible to make such an accusation and the offending group probably wouldn't have been created in the first place.

In the politically correct world we live in, accusations of racism, sexism and homophobia can be indiscriminately issued by people, simply because things are not going the way they would like. Anonymous marking removes the possibility of discrimination, so everyone is on a level playing field; it removes the validity of a claim to the contrary, protecting the marker as well.

Some would say that to remove a person's name from a piece of work is like taking the signature off of an oil painting and that the author's identity is lost. But don't all good writers have their own unique style? Isn't expressing your literary identity enough when that is all that is being examined? Roland Barthes (no relation to the bald, French goalkeeper) would certainly say yes. His essay 'Death of the Author' warned how our appreciation of texts can be limited if we concentrate more on who has written them than on their content.

The fact that the decision to introduce anonymous marking was based on the results of a

student experience survey indicates that many are inclined to support my point of view.

And of course if you begin to pine for your name in print you can always join the newspaper...

### Against anonymous marking...

Virginia Newman email: [jho6vrn@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:jho6vrn@leeds.ac.uk)

It seems that the students have spoken, and that they've got their way, but do the majority really know what bringing in anonymous marking will do?

Traditionally, students and tutors have

built up relationships during the year, giving both sides the opportunity to get to know each other better and, more importantly, share ideas. Students have the opportunity to have discussions with tutors outside of lecture time and seminars, and to follow up any ideas they have or aspects on which they want clarification. Initiative of this sort, showing a student's further interest and enthusiasm, should not be prevented from influencing the marks that they get in their work. In the 'real' world of work, it's the hard-working, out-going people who are recognised and get the best positions. Why should university be any different in terms of marking?

I just hate those people who turn up to seminars late, without having done any preparation, and then sit there taking notes from the rest of the class' discussions. If you do this then you have to expect this to give your tutor a bad impression of your commitment and then, in my opinion, they have every right to mark your essay more harshly.

We expect our tutors to behave professionally when they mark work and not to allow their personal feelings to influence their decisions, but if we don't trust them in this respect, then how can we expect to trust them in other aspects of their roles?

We can't afford to have such a low opinion of our tutors. They are human and may have their prejudices but they are academics who are in a professional role, and therefore will mark fairly. I know of one tutor (and I expect that there are more) who feels insulted by the introduction of this new marking procedure.

It is understandable that anonymous marking seems to be the only way to protect people from discrimination, but we need to concentrate more on why discrimination is occurring before we can put a stop to it.

Surely the quality of feedback will be much lower if the tutor does not know whose work they are marking, and does not have a wider knowledge of their abilities and of their previous work. I want my tutors to feedback to me so that I know my strengths and weaknesses, and I want this to continue from one piece of work to the next, so that I can see how I am progressing. This will not be possible if they do not know which of the pieces are mine.

I'm not sure whether anonymous marking is even practical - many departments have a system of double marking and moderation in place in order to ensure fair grades are given, what was wrong with this system? Is it not easier for staff to have to deal with an alphabetical list of names rather than a list of numbers? It is likely, therefore, that more mistakes will be made. And apart from that I, for one, refuse to be known as just a number!

We need to seriously consider our university society if the only way to prevent discrimination is anonymous marking.



Photo: John Puddephatt

### Last Week's Debate: 'Brilliant Bod or Dreadful Dump?'

Latest result from online polls:

For Bod staying put: 95.5%

For Bod's demise : 4.5%

### Top Comments from the website:

"The only arguments against Bodington so far is that 'it's a bit further away' and that it detracts from the 'university' experience. Well surely when our time at Leeds comes to end we'll have to look for...gasp....employment! This may mean we have to travel more than a few minutes and actually wake up at a time before midday. So in a way we learn at Bodington to cope with the previous night's events and just get on with it. Plus the bus journey (which on a clear run takes less than half hour and about forty five minutes with traffic) really does wake you up." - Joshua Jones, President Bodington Hall JCR

"It does have its plus points but it's getting far too grubby for the 21st century. The whole Leeds uni halls set-up appears to be more focused on creating revenue (through etausion and fines) rather than the welfare of its students (in comparison to the Met, Liverpool and Manchester)." - James Ennis, student

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



# LS Extra



## Path to success

10

The post-Uni blues: past and present students look into the future and see what lies in wait. Demoralising joblessness or soul destroying desk work? The choice is yours...



## Death by alcohol?

11

Ever wondered how much of Britain's resources are spent on the aftermath of our drunken nights out? LS1 investigates today's booze culture.

# skint.

[www.luuonline.com/skint](http://www.luuonline.com/skint)

not  
for profit  
just for students

Student Advice Centre

skint.

**W**elcome to the second week of the new Leeds Student layout. Enjoy the delights of a fab LS2 pullout, snugly encased by a brilliant and hard-hitting LS1.

By now the votes will be in and possibly counted (depending on when you picked up the paper this week) for the LUU referendum. More than likely, if my sources are correct, all motions will have fallen due to extreme voter apathy. I myself spent a good number of hours standing officiously at the Union entrance, smoking in a poseurish manner and shouting at people to vote. One of my favourite persuasion tactics was to stop individuals dead in their tracks, fix them with a threatening stare and say in a sombre tone, "You know, people DIED to give you the vote." I think a few were somewhat unnerved. One girl told me that I gave her such a shock that she was cured of a 24 hour case of hiccups. I've always said that democracy can solve all society's ills.

Anyway, here's a quick features lowdown as I always feel it's only fair to let people know what they're getting themselves into. (Hence why I make a whipping sound to any ladies or gentlemen who are kind enough to go home with me on an eve). We've got some careers advice (don't panic - we've skipped over the usual jargon and got right down to the crux of the matter, i.e. it's bloody impossible to get a decent job these days unless you go extra-curricular crazy during your time at uni). Not all bad news though - also featured we have an examination of how the students are drinking themselves silly (for a change) and really beginning to piss off the paramedics. Maybe that's not such good news. It depends how much you care for your liver I guess. I'm ambiguous about mine. But paramedics in despair, worry not. For our famous LS2 dogsbody and general sex symbol (well, mine anyway) is on the loose again and this week she's butting the student trend by trying to get fit and healthy. Given the endless drizzle, unbearable cold and general lack of any reason to venture outdoors unless absolutely necessary, we can but salute you Holly! Brave thou art, though undoubtedly mad. If only everyone were that health conscious. Other LS2 correspondents have decided against Holly's morning jog and instead opted for a breakfast blowout. Want to know the best breakfast options for the hungry hungover Leeds student? We have the answers. Plus why Leeds Uni Library is the new Louis Vuitton and a foray by our imaginative Week in Profile reporters into the life and times of a bus driver and German exchange student. Random, I hear you say. Quite right. Read on, McStudent, and damned be he (or indeed, she - I hear women can read these days) who first cries, hold, shut up!



Jessica Parker  
Features Sub-Editor

Want to write for Features?

Email [leedsstudentfeatures@gmail.com](mailto:leedsstudentfeatures@gmail.com)

Or come to the Writers' Meeting -  
Fridays at 5pm, in the LS Office.

# Post University: Are you going

A degree: it's what we're all here for. But how many students know what they're going to do once they graduate? **Tom Sprigge** guide us through just how valuable a degree is in 2007; what you can expect after stepping into the real world and the experiences of university graduates.

University is not all about socials, hangovers and falling asleep in lectures. Many of you will have chosen to go into higher education to improve your prospects, to get ahead in life and perhaps more importantly to get a bigger pay packet than your average school leaver. But is Blair's mantra of "education, education, education" fading in the far distance? Does a university degree really guarantee a high-flying career and a life of luxury, or are we simply wasting our money and, more importantly, our time?

With more and more graduates leaving University with a 2:1 average now than thirty years ago, employers have been finding it increasingly difficult to distinguish the good graduates from, well, the bad ones. Graduates, it seems, fail to get the jobs they want due to

difficult to get their dream job. Sobia Khan, 22 years old, graduated from The University of

“ Alan Sugar, for example, has an estimated net worth of £800 million and he left school at the age of sixteen.

Bradford in 2006 hoping to become a teacher but has thus far failed to secure herself a permanent position in a secondary school.

average, 82 per cent of finalists leave university in debt), non-students have been climbing up the career ladder earning up to £37,000 a year. Jamila Akhtar, 20, a close friend, planned on studying Business Management at the University of Leeds, but decided against it. She began to work full-time at a call centre and has not looked back since. Rather than regretting her decision to bypass University, Ms Akhtar is somewhat critical of the university system, "Whilst working at call centres, I have come across computer engineers and some business management graduates, one had even studied at the University of Durham. They found it difficult to find the jobs they wanted. I thought to myself what would be the point of spending three or four years wasting my time doing a degree when I will probably end up in a call

often struggle to put their skills into practice. Getting onto a course and achieving good

2/3rds ?

of finalists believe there aren't enough jobs for leavers

grades is the easy part for many - it's getting the work experience to cement their learning that proves difficult." Employers seem to have qualms when employing international students, believing them to not have the same skills as a UK student. But new ideas aimed at helping International students acquire the relevant experience such as The International Graduate



insufficient work experience and interpersonal skills according to The Guardian. One graduate who wished to remain anonymous told me how despite graduating from The University of Bradford with a 2:1 she has not proved to be an attractive enough candidate for law firms; "Can you imagine the feeling? You're fresh out of university, you have worked hard all your life to get a good education but when you do finally knock on the door it seems no-one is interested because you have not got the goods to back the ambition. It is probably one of the most devastating pieces of information you can receive." For the time being she is applying for work experience placements in much smaller solicitors firms to acquire such 'employable skills' whilst trying to support herself with a part-time job. However, not all graduates feel the same as her. Some who have undertaken the relevant work experience still find it

When I spoke to her she appeared surprisingly philosophical. "Yes it is difficult to find a job but hey, it's a tough world out there and there are a lot of people who have the same qualifications and experience as me. I have had a lot of work experience and I got a first-class honours degree, but it is a case of waiting for the right job to come along and when it does - you can bet your penny that I will be first in

£10,400 ?

is the average amount owed by 2006 graduates

the interview line."

But it still remains distressing news that after three or even four years working on our degrees and getting deeper and deeper into debt (latest figures from 2006 show that, on

centre, just like them, doing the same work I am now?" Ms Akhtar continues, "for the past year I have been working my way up and in two years I will be earning £20,000 - that excludes commission and bonuses. A newly qualified teacher earns £20,000 a year and that is after doing a three year degree and a PGCE. If I had gone the traditional route I'd be £15,000 in debt by now." Akhtar may have found her calling by working full-time but it does not prevent one from feeling disheartened. Such feelings are heightened further when one takes into consideration that some of the successes of the last thirty years had had no formal education - Sir Alan Sugar, for example, has an estimated net worth of £800 million and he left school at the age of sixteen.

International students face an even stronger hardship to find their ideal job. The Guardian reports that "international students

Scheme have been implemented and of course there have been many a success story.

However it is not all doom and gloom for graduates. A recent BBC study reports that 74 per cent of those that graduated three and a half year ago in the UK are in full-time employment. Higher Education Minister Bill Rammell comments, "graduates earn on average, over their lifetime, about £100,000 more, after tax, than those with only two A-Levels - this shows that going on to higher education is indeed one of the best investments a young person can make."

But just how successful are our very own Leeds University graduates at finding their dream job? According to the latest University of Leeds prospectus, 90 per cent of graduates go on to full-time employment or pursue postgraduate study six months after graduation. In 2006 61.7 per cent of graduates from the School of English went on to full-

WEEK IN PROFILE  
KARIM INTERVIEWS...  
OBSERVATION

# LS2

magazine

# inside

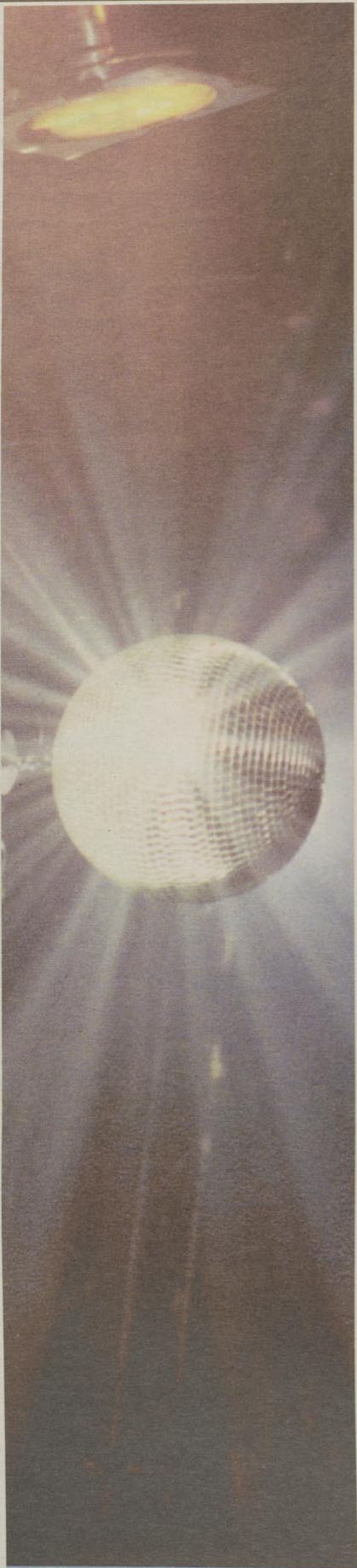
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YOUR GUIDE TO  
**EVERYTHING**  
ENTERTAINING



**Jazzie B**  
LS2 sits down with the legendary DJ.  
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LS2 Editor - Charlotte Griffiths • Associate Editors - James Haddon Gardiner, Matt Andrews, Laurie Whitwell, John Puddephatt • Lowdown - Karim Khan, Martha Ling • Features - Vivien King Macdonna, Jessica Parker, Paul Raymond, Chloe Watson, Lizzie Simmer and Phil Basson • Music - Ramzy Alwakeel, Helena Goodwyn • Clubs - Karim Khan, Ben Puddle, Rhannon Salisbury, Katie Gilliland, Jonny Leighton, Tom Angell • Arts - Simon Gillett, Lucy McIntosh, Natalie Levy • TV - Harriet Knowles, Madeline McGarric • Observations - Alex Gilchrist • Starsigns - Peter Newland • Omnipissed - Bory 'Kicked Out Of Awards Due To Drunkenness' Beertan



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# The LOW DOWN

with Martha and Karim



**S**o we've come to that stage in the term where, rather than getting down with the shitloads of reading we have over the 'festive' period, we're consumed by nightmares of not having enough dough or adequate mental capacity to buy our loved ones that 'special something' that will a) convince them of your creativity and individuality in the face of mass consumer whitewashing, b) astound them by being even better than last year's present, c) cost less than £25, ideally, and d) show them that you love them more than Tony Soprano loves sushi. We moan and moan about the humbuggery of Christmas and its fallacies of 'biggest is best' and 'diamonds are a girl's best friend'. I mean, what if your girlfriend already has a best friend? If a diamond necklace and said best friend were simultaneously dangling from a cliff, like that scene in *Batman Forever*, would the best friend get dropped like a bad habit?

OK so I hate bigging up the Americans as much as the next gentleman, but I have to hand it to the Saturday Night Live comedy boys and their sublime pisstakery of Justin Timberlake. The Title of the video parody? 'Dick in a Box'. Now this may seem crass, but the idea behind the banality was refreshingly modern. The point (I think) they were making is that all your significant other really wants this Christmas is your 'love'. Or your length of love. Hohoho! Dear reader, what I'm trying to tell you is that there should be minimal pressure to conform to Christmas's sinister doctrine. Although I still don't know anyone who doesn't love that Coca-Cola ad with the trucks and the snow and the "Holidays are coming" tagline. Ah, the shivers that run down my spine! Yes it is lovely to treat your partner to something special and expensive, but at the end of the day, you could do all your shopping after the actually insane hype of Christmas is over and clean up! KK

## The Coca-Cola ad is the only marketing we can tolerate at Christmas...

I hate to shatter my feminist facade, but I would certainly be content with a 'Dick in a Box'. Not in a cannibalistic way, but if what Karim says is true, what girl wouldn't want their boyfriends love for Christmas? These days, women are so self-sufficient they don't need the latest celebrity perfume to feel loved. Or a painstakingly chosen garment that doesn't fit, and could have been selected by Stevie Wonder on a supermarket sweep - without the help of Dale Winton, or braille. We're big girls now, we know Santa isn't real and that Christmas dinner will have shitty crackers and dry turkey involved. So put your dick in a box - or preferably your heart - and see our tough exteriors melt into a vision of festive cheer. Whack Wham! on the stereo, take us ice-skating across frozen lakes, pelt us with snowballs and show us a good time by a roaring log-fire. I repeat, put that bottle of 'Shhh!' by Jade Goody down, unless you want to have a girlfriend-free New Year. If of course, that's what you're after, don't bother buying cheap perfume at all. Just piss in a box and leave your knob out of it. ML



Suits? What kind of F\*\*\*\*\* up party is this?

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

This week I went to the Elbow Rooms to see Shltdisco. It was a night that started at 9pm and, quite incerdibly, descended into drunken madness by the time I had gone home to get my passport (I look about 15) and returned to the club at 11pm. Still, the DJs deserve credit for 'banging in my face' and major, major congrats must go to the delightful owners of no. 3 Chestnut Ave for throwing one of the cleanest afterparties I have ever been to. Not a crack-monkey in sight! Plus I think I heard Toots and the Maytals? My friend assures me that one cannot be sad when 'happy reggae' is playing. He might be right.

Whilst Karim was living it up student style I had a closer brush with what we call 'real life'. Working, forcing myself to be polite to exquisitely drunk business men who bark "Stella" as it that's a grammatically correct sentence. I considered the various afterparties that were happening, but to be honest, at 3am when you're covered in bin juice and beer all you want to do is go to sleep. I know where I'll NOT be sleeping though! - that's Ty at the Mint Club this Thursday. It's gonna be a soulful night fo' sho', leaving grime at the do' ML + KK



**Overheard this week.** "Isn't it interesting how ket can make you feel so weird?" / "Poverty ends if you get rid of charity. Fact" / "God I've got a shitload of work...all I ever do is work. So you wanna go and drink till we can't see?" / "All you do is rinse me, one day I'm going to call you names, too. And they'll be really harsh!" / "I ain't gonna get you a house in the hills, girl you need something real - It's my dick in a box!" //

Going up

Going down

**LEEDS FILM FESTIVAL:**  
Where else can you see documentaries, mockumentaries, Wes Anderson and Sigur Ros on the same bill? Nowhere, that's where! If you're uncultured, this is the week for you! It's the last week left, and the last chance you have for going to see a good film that you can talk passionately about. Surprisingly, this turns girls on.

**CELEBRITY SPOTTING:**  
Whilst some consider London to be the haven of celeb-spots, Leeds can come up trumps from time to time. Like that knob from Kaiser Chiefs (you know, Jack Bauer's brother) who's started to wear leather driving gloves. And where's Chelsea? She's meant to be at our uni, right? I thought I'd be seducing her by now...

**BEARDS:**  
Sometimes, I wonder if there's a HRT patch for women that would provide a temporary facial forrest. I'm pretty jealous of any man with a beard, for the simple reason that they have a free physical scarf about their person. Why don't I just save the humiliation and buy a knitted number from Primark? I like a challenge.

**EATING WEIRD STUFF:**  
Can sometimes be nice. That friendly-looking man on TV who goes to remote locations and cooks live animals and sea animals and sea anemones and sea plants makes them look really tasty, even if they just taste like sea water and old boot.

**CHRISTMAS PARTIES:**  
Work or otherwise, there's something about Christmas that makes people drop those carefully constructed social boundaries. All of a sudden there's groping over the photocopier and playful tweaking of paper party hats. That's before the hardcore sex, that comes later. And the red-faced avoidance at work. That comes last.

**GIN FINGERS:**  
When drinking in the office goes wrong, drinking straight gin with a shot of Sprite will result in spilt gin, and what's worse, the accidental trailing of one's hand in aforementioned gin. This is rough because  
a) Hand will smell of alcoholic lavender and  
b) eeewww. wet.

**PRIMARK:**  
Did you know that Primark endorses the beating-up of kids in their sweatshops in China and Bangladesh? That soulds far away though, right..? Hmm, thats means it doesn't really matter, right? Wrong! So what if it's a pound? It'll last for a week. Tops.

# Holly tries... to get fit

With the prospect of fatty Christmas fare lurking just around the corner, **Holly Westwood** confronts her fear of sportswear in the fight to get fit.

I tried jogging once. It wasn't for me. I thought I'd started off relatively well, although I did attract some odd glances from a nearby dog-walker. It was only when I extracted my ipod earphones that I realised I was wheezing louder than an asthmatic with a heart murmur. Besides, jogging is a dangerous occupation; as one wise person once said: I don't think jogging is healthy, especially morning jogging. If morning joggers knew how tempting they looked to morning motorists, they would stay home and do sit-ups.

So, I'm not exactly what you'd call athletic.

round!). Since then my forays into the sporting world have been few, verging on the non-existent. I went paintballing earlier in the year, which is a fantastic way to keep fit (admittedly pretty pricey though!). The added danger element is also an enticing factor, particularly when re-enacting moments from 'Saving Private Ryan' or similar. Disturbing flashback of Byker Grove kept coming back to me, especially when my face mask steamed up. I was determined not to go the same way as PJ, so the mask stayed firmly in place, vision greatly impaired (meaning I may have inadvertently shot a few

having much more fun elsewhere, without the need to wear (shudder) trainers.

This still in mind, I have nevertheless now reached the decision that it's time to get back onto the fitness trail. With the festive season looming ever nearer, I just know that the combined force of mince pies and chocolate liqueurs means I will be roughly the size of a house by January. As it's unlikely that I'll be cutting down on the chocolate logs anytime soon, the obvious answer is: get fit!

Having decided that jogging is my arch-nemesis, I have gone in pursuit of pastures new. First things first: my clothing situation.

**“FACT:** Most foods labeled as "sugar free" or "low-carbohydrates" actually stimulate your body to STORE more belly fat and stimulate cravings!". I'll never look at another WeightWatchers meal again.

exercise...

I had planned to attend a Thai boxing session on Monday, although when the actual day rolled around the idea of punching someone in the stomach (or, worse, someone punching me in the stomach) was a bit much, so I chickened out. Instead, I decided to go for the gentler style of exercise – namely, the gym. Now, I know some of you hardened gym-goers will have choked on your energy bars when I described the gym as a 'light' option – what I meant is that in the gym you can choose what piece of torture, sorry, exercise equipment you wish to use (and, more importantly, how long you use it for).

I've been to the uni gyms a few times (back in the day), but this time I decided to go slightly further afield, to the exercise Mecca that is eSporta in Cookridge (unfortunately didn't realise that there was one in The Light until after we'd made the drive over there!). Me and my fellow exerciser managed to blag a free look around and a trial on the machines. The evening would have been perfect had it not been for the presence of that curious little breed of person, the over-enthusiastic salesman. I'm not sure whether he saw through our feigned interest in becoming full-time members of not, but he did not give us an easy time of it. His first selling point was the inclusion of free water coolers on every level (gee, thanks, water huh? Whatever next). He then accosted my mate in the male changing rooms to do more of his sales pitch when said friend was in his boxers (playing on people at their most vulnerable, evil). Not content with this last method, he then joined us whilst we were taking a dip in the pool, striding onto the poolside with little elasticated plastic bags wrapped around his ankles to protect his shoes. Some people have no shame. All in all, though, the gym



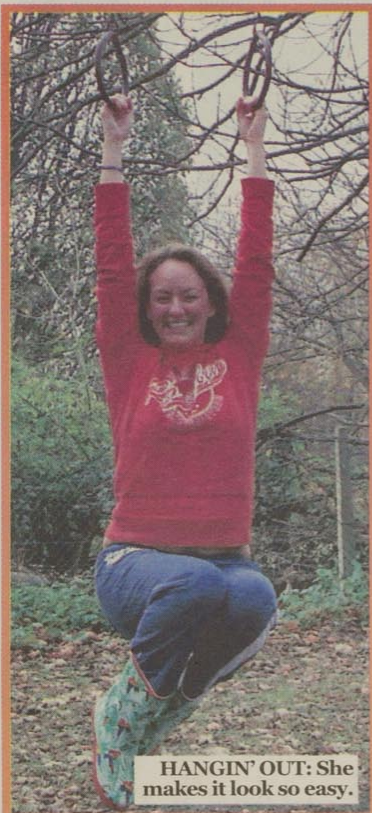
**FRESH:** Holly holding her healthy melon.

I was always the one at school who ended up being wing defence in netball as it was the position that no-one else wanted to play (I didn't mind as I was equally awful in all positions). I fondly remember representing my school in minor athletic field events (no-one minded if we didn't win the javelin) as we got a whole afternoon off from classes (the simple pleasures in life make the world go

of my team mates...).

Back to proper exercise...in an effort to become a new person in my first year, I did become a 'sports user' and attended quite a few aerobics classes. This, however, soon went the way of all my other fresher-intentions (like the learning of a new language and the joining of a volunteer group) – namely, I found out that I could be

As I touched on last week, the mere mention of sports wear is enough to make my blood run cold. Any item of clothing that appears to stretch one's arse to twice the normal size does not get my vote of confidence. However, if this series of articles has taught me anything it's that you mustn't be afraid of looking slightly daft. So, my joggers-demons overcome, I set out to try my first bit of



**HANGIN' OUT:** She makes it look so easy.

WeightWatchers meal again. Promise. So in order to abolish my UglyBellyFlab, I went in search of some genuinely low fat foods - i.e. vegetables. There are a number of fantastic things you can do with vegetables, and not all of them include a deep-fat fryer. For my vegetable needs I generally head down to just behind the Hyde Park mosque, which has really fresh (and cheap) fruit and veg.

The internet also led me to the university's own sports site, which includes information on their wellbeing programme. According to this site, two vital parts of a healthy lifestyle are sleeping well and alcohol reduction. The former being more appealing than the latter, I read on. Apparently, many people underestimate the importance of a good bed as a vital tool to getting a good night's sleep. I myself concluded, then, that the reason why I am so tired during the daytime is because I have an unsatisfactory mattress (I must admit that this came as a relief - I thought I was just a lazy sod!). A desperate call to my landlord followed, who refused to concede that I needed a new mattress in order to (quote) "feel energized and refreshed for the next day". I luckily found the solution in a quick dash around Primark, which provided me with enough scatter cushions and fleecy blankets to ensure I got a decent night's slumber.

Fully refreshed, I decided to take a proper exercise class so that I wouldn't be able to slack off. As I'd vetoed the Thai boxing idea, I decided to try something in a similar vein, so I went for the excitingly-titled 'aerocombat' class. The class is led by Michelle from 1.15-2 on a Wednesday in the Cromer Terrace studio. Upon arrival I was very impressed - the old place has been spruced up a fair bit since I was last there (shows you how long it's been!). Aerocombat appealed to me on several levels - mainly the inclusion of 'aero' in the title. I've always been a fan of a bit of aerobics (maybe it was growing up in the nineties, I don't know). This form of exercise generally attracts women only, which rules out the possibility of encountering men whom one may wish to look appealing in front of (doubtful that I'd ever look appealing with hair plastered back and arm punching out-of-time). Added to which is the fact that aerobics sessions are conducted to dancey, bassey tunes which gives you the illusion of dancing rather working out - it just doesn't seem like real work then!

The class started with a warm-up, and

then moved onto aerobic routines which were built up as the class went on, before ending in a stretch and cool-down. Aerocombat is like boxercise but with kicks as well. Not being one for my boxing skills (I've only ever been in one fight. I did win, but it was over ten years ago now, I don't think it really counts), this meant that I did feel slightly ridiculous at first when punching the air, but this didn't last long as I soon began to feel that oh-so-unfamiliar pull in my biceps that meant I was making them work for their money. After a few minutes I also got a familiar twinge in the back of my mind that had nothing to do with the routines we were doing. The twinge I'm talking about is that of competitiveness. I don't get the feeling very often, as my competitive streak tends to take hold at the most inappropriate, and occasionally embarrassing, moments (as anyone who's ever played party games with me will attest!). Suddenly I was gripped by an urge to kick higher than everyone else in the class, punch the air harder and bounce more energetically whilst doing a 'scissor'. For what reason I could not tell you, as the only thing I achieved was a stitch. Yet now I think back to the moment, I imagine that my wish to be better than everyone else was probably a good thing - after all, people don't win marathons by not really caring what the other chaps are up to.

The mention of marathons brings me neatly to my final, and most dreaded, piece of keep-fit. It was time to conquer my demons, and get (quite literally) back on the

track. A male friend of mine was once moaning his lack of attention from members of the opposite sex - he used the old favourite "the only way I'm going to be hearing any heavy breathing is if I take up jogging". I can safely say, however, that jogging is definitely not a preferable option to whatever else he had in mind. Jogging has morphed since my last attempt. Now, not only are there dog-walkers and scally children to contend with, a whole new breed has taken over the park. They are (cue scary music) joggers from the future. They wear ipods strapped to their biceps with cunning bits of fancy-looking lycra, and wear shorts in the winter but still manage to look cool. How they do it is a mystery to me, but I was not to be disheartened. That is, until I saw the rain and abundance of puddles outside and eyed the holes in my 7-year-old trainers warily. My housemate shouted down my lame excuses however, and pointed to a particularly fetching pair of Wellington boots as the answer. Needless to say, after a quick jaunt around the park the only burn I was feeling was that of the rubber against my ankles.

If mince pies are threatening to take over your life as well, check out "<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/sport>" [www.leeds.ac.uk/sport](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/sport) for full listings of all sport and fitness-related stuff in the uni, as well as healthy lifestyle and general well-being advice.

was a positive experience. As I left I felt like a young professional on my way home who'd stopped off for a refreshing workout (well, I can dream can't I?!). My half-hour cross-trainer workout also gave me a satisfying ache the following day (not sure if this is a good thing or a bad thing, but at least it shows something happened!).

Whilst conducting this week's research on the internet (looking for fitness-related things), I stumbled upon some fantastically-named sites such as AbolishBellyFat.com and BellyFlabIsUgly.com. I've got to say that these sights practically terrified the extra pounds off me, with scary 'statistics' such as: "FACT: most foods labeled as 'sugar free' or 'low-carb' actually stimulate your body to STORE more belly fat and stimulate cravings!". I'll never look at another



**LIGHTNING SPEED:** Holly wooshes through the park in wellies.



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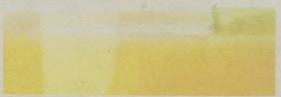
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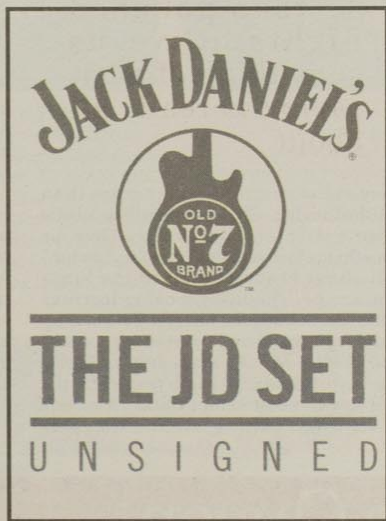
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# JD Set, game, and match.

**T**he JD Set Unsigned is a nationwide competition that's held for university-based bands each year. This will be its fourth year; on Tuesday, November 27 at 8pm, five bands from Leeds Uni will play a set in the Atrium, with the winner receiving a day in a recording studio and a potential place in the national finals in London next year. LS2 takes a look at the competition, last year won by three-piece prog-rock, nu-jazz band Otter's Pocket, the bands who'll be battling it out and the history of the contest that's at stake.



## Jack 'n roll/

Since its conception in the 19th century, Jack Daniels has become almost synonymous with live music. The image of the Rolling Stones or Guns 'n' Roses would be incomplete unless they were swigging from a bottle of Jack between songs, and old 'blue eyes' - Frank Sinatra - was buried with a bottle of JD by his side. The drink's connection with music has always been one of image, but in recent years the brand has gone out of its way to promote new and unsigned bands around Britain, hosting a competition across universities that offers a two-day musical masterclass with industry experts as a prize.

The JD Set, which began in 2002 with the Electric Soft Parade, offered itself as a celebration of good music on and around the anniversary of its creator's birth. The gigs are set in intimate venues around the globe, each one with a free Jack Daniel's cocktail bar, and were invitation only. But since 2004, the JD Set Unsigned event has been showcasing a range of bands that have yet to reach fame, and hopes to track down and promote some of the upcoming bands of the next few years.

Know when to unplug, please drink responsibly. Visit: [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)

## The Blackbird Appeal

The Blackbird Appeal's Myspace page claims they are Shoegaze/Indie/Rock. Unfortunately there is no other information; intriguing...



## Blue Relic

Otter's Pocket are a three piece formed in 2006 that blend progressive rock, nu-jazz and experimental to create their unique sound. Ben Whitfield (guitars,vocals,keys), Adam Birkett (drums,vocals,samples) and Mark Lewis (bass, vocals, loops) make up the band.



## Idiometric

Idiometric (Liz Grashoff, vocals, and Ramzy Alwakeel, electronics) are a pop/electronica outfit formed in Bristol in 2005 but now based in Leeds. They self-released a mini-album, *I Have to Get to the Hospital*, in summer 2006, and are now working on their first full-length LP with a plethora of part-time instrumentalists.



## Record Department

Record Department are Jonny (guitar, kaoss pad, and vocals), Ryan (bass), Jon (guitar), and Pinnell (drums). The band formed whilst studying at Leeds university and have been going from strength to strength ever since graduating this year. Describing themselves as 'Alternative/Rock/Experimental' these politically conscious youngsters have just finished recording a three track EP.



## The Vangos

The Vangos are: Michael Foster (guitars and vocals), Matthew Riley (lead guitar and vocals), John Brooks (drums), and Dave Gershlick (bass). The band formed this year after musical influences and university brought them together. They cite their influences as 'everything' and are currently working with Leeds based producer Bruce Wood.



# Karim Interviews... **Jazzie B**

Soul II Soul. Back to Life. There's something special about Jazzie B. Maybe it's the fact that he's a veteran and still a nice guy. Maybe it's because he has the keys to New York City and is still prouder about being a Gooner.

**T**wenty minutes before he's due to go on at The Wardrobe, Jazzie B is talking, cracking jokes and finding the interview spot round the back of the venue somewhat amusing. I apologise about the proximity of the garbage bins, but with a hearty laugh he tells me he's seen worse. It will be an astonishing twenty years since the release of his first track, yet for a veteran, the glint in his eye is still dancing. Having just finished the summer festival season, I asked him how the reception to his sound was at the new organically-inclined, and indie-dominated festivals such as Bestival and Isle of Wight? "It's been mostly Europe,

**“ My plan right now is going out there with a 17-piece band... ”**

exceptionally sweet right now.

"I think I'm eclectic you know? Electro's always been my vibe, I still class myself as a B-Boy when it comes down to the whole romance of all these labels. There's still my old-school idea of a sound system - I'm still a sound man and sometimes you still have

person. I much prefer just chilling out - I mean my love after my DJing really is my kids man, playing football. In a funny way that's what I used to do when I was a young'un too, you know? I wanted to be a footballer. Now being involved with them, and seeing them come up - it's incredible. But obviously, I love America. I love the world you know? I've been blessed that I can travel. But it's not the be-all and end-all. You have to continue. always continue."

Jazzie was born in England, but was part of the first generations of West Indians making their mark on what was then a stuffy London music scene. Does he feel

more at home in Antigua? He currently spends a lot of his time jetting from London to the Caribbean. Interestingly he seems reluctant to answer questions of race and his personal postcolonial experience.

that's why I'm fucking up the tour right now, haha! I don't wanna stay away too long, I wanna be back on the weekends for the football and that. I'm a Gooner mate!

Perhaps DJing is one of those professions that can go on tempting the artist until they are six feet under. And indeed Jazzie just wants to fear god and live. He's enjoying life at the moment, and why not? The crowd love him in Leeds and in all sincerity, he loves them right back. "I'm still touring, I wanna play clubs like this! This is important to me you know what I mean? It's still important. I'm still cutting my little dub plates"

Jazzie's beat-making was perhaps furnished by his experiences as one of the founding members on the KISS FM rota after the station got legalised (Yes, it used to be a pirate!) "There's a lot of stuff out there. I'm still a big fan of folk music, I still listen to Judy Zuke, and then every so often a little Lethal Bizzle will spring up, or the Mitchell Brothers or something like that...they all play their part - like pebbles in the street. Everything's part of one picture."

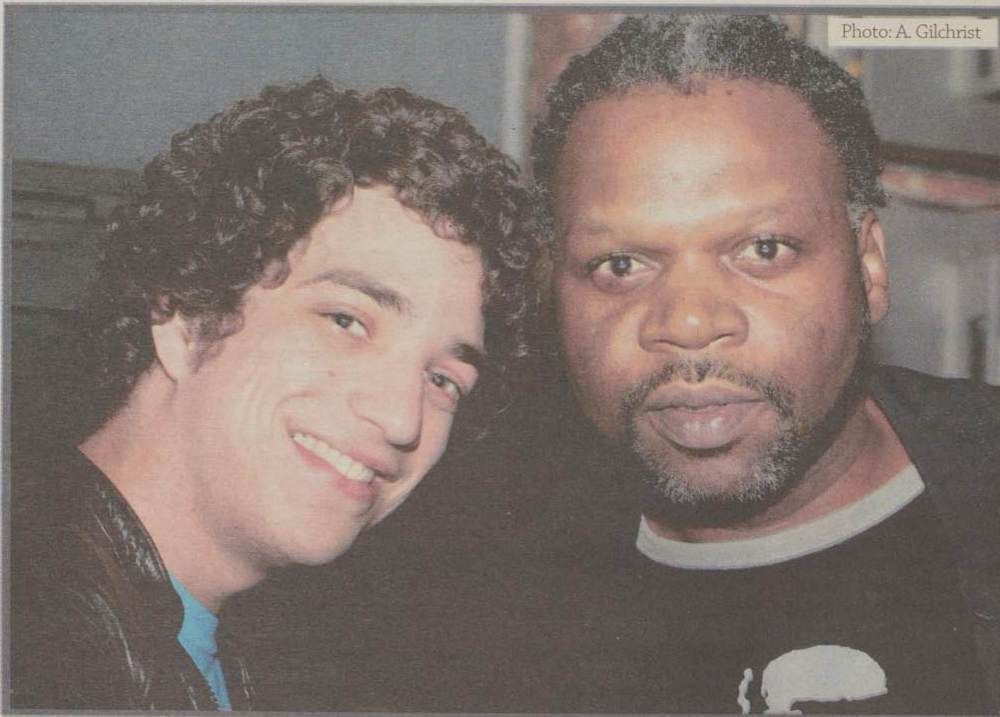
**“ We're all blessed and we all gotta give it up one day. ”**

The questions seem to be getting a little more philosophical, I remember a quote I heard from him about being a God-fearing man. I ask him if it's possible to love and to fear something at the same time?

"You have to. There's even a phrase 'keep your enemies closer', you see me? Because you know what they're capable of. So in terms of fearing god and living life, I think it's the same kind of thing. We're all blessed and we all gotta give it up one day."

The steward advises us to wrap up as Jazzie's on in 5 minutes. I can't help but smile as he poses for the photos Alex takes of him. There is a brashness, and yet an endearing sincerity that you can't help but notice. His achievements are so extensive, yet his animated expression and remarks leaves me in no doubt as to whether he still tries to enjoy every part of his day. Jazzie is a man content, a true hearty professional. Maybe because he knows he's gonna have to give all this up one day. But not today. Jazzie ambles in his long stride towards the door, and disappears. Tonight is his for the taking.

Photo: A. Gilchrist



we just finished Bestival, Isle of Wight, Lovebox - But the only truly organic festival there is the Back II Life festival in Antigua, haha. But it's quite amazing actually, so to still be touring, and to still be wanted feels good man."

Jazzie should be called an innovator of his time, clashing electro and male vocals with his Soundssystem upbringing. Hell, Will Smith was dancing about to his tune on The Fresh Prince. If anything, Jazzie recalls his Soundssystem days as ones of education and self-assertion, hiring soundsystems and trying to create some publicity with fellow soundboy, the young Norman Jay, as if the fruits of this nostalgic, if not challenging proving ground are tasting

to grab them (the public) and pull them in, you see me? So that vibe is still important. All of us have grown up through the Soundssystem idea, it's almost like your apprenticeship when it comes down to it."

The actively inclusive nature of Soundssystem must have helped when tackling America? Soul II Soul have done what pretty much all of our home-grown contemporary musical heroes have failed to: almost incredulous success over the Atlantic. There is a national Soul II Soul Day, amongst heaps of Soul Train and Grammy awards. But Jazzie hates the fuss. "I haven't been to the back garden for a little while - just cos of my time in the Caribbean. I'm not really that kind of

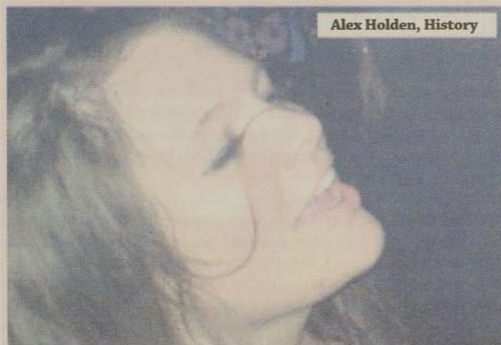
be down in Chapelton or wherever. It's a melting pot, and now with being able to travel, having a kind of passport - sometimes it can be cool to be British when you're travelling in certain places you know?"

You get the feeling that Jazzie's touring exploits may border on the x-rated. Yet thankfully, you also get the sense that despite the charismatic charm and vibrant lifestyle, Jazzie has found a maturer love with his family. He stops short of referring to his children as his first love, but reminds me that is their influence on him that is bringing problems to his tour.

"A lot of it is just being able to endure it and appreciate it. I really am a family guy,

# Worst. Night. Ever.

Going out is usually all fun and games, but then there comes that night – the one you will never forget. Heavily disturbed by it back then, but laughing it off now – Jack Cullen asks three very attractive brunettes to recall the ultimate clubbing nightmare from their fresher year.



Alex Holden, History

"It was in Gatecrasher for me, and entirely my fault. On the dance floor - whilst getting my freak on to Freddie Mercury - disaster struck. I was getting so into my dance routine that I managed to stub my cigarette (accidentally of course) into someone's eye. Straight in! I soon learnt that doing such a thing creates one really angry angry man. Strange that? Big idiot plonker faced me. The poor burnt victim started screaming in the middle of the dancefloor, I was mortified with embarrassment. No real harm was done though luckily. Perhaps the smoking ban is a good thing?"



Nicola Lines, English

"It was in Oceana on a packed-out Wednesday night. I told my friend Jason that I thought this girl near to us at the bar looked like a pineapple. This wasn't a comment on her figure, but simply her hairstyle which was one of those pineapple pony-tails that are most commonly found in nursery schools. Later on in the night Jason (drunk as usual) went over and told this girl my thoughts. I was dancing to Hot Chip when I felt a tap on my shoulder and turned around to see her frowning viciously at me, her pony-tail quivering, she slapped me once across the cheek before hurling her drink at me. I'm pretty sure it was pineapple juice."



Jess Segal, Politics

**DISCLAIMER:** This may not actually be Ms Segal, as otherwise implied.

My shoe came off in NU bar once. I went to pick it up but this guy beat me to it. As I reached my hand out to take my shoe back, to my horror, he ran off with it, skipping madly like a monkey! I set off after him, hopping frantically on one stiletto. He ran into the boys toilets and so I asked a bouncer to go inside. He came out holding the boy by the shoulders and escorted him out of the club; he said "sorry love but you don't want to know what he was doing with your shoe". The best bit is this though – now that boy is going out with a girl from my block in halls! I know, it's freaky."



## Leeds Listings

### 23rd Friday

**NEW BOHEMIA** feat. **PART TIME HEREOES & HYASHI**  
£5

Faversham  
Part time heroes bring, "A summery blast of addictive dance floor funk" (- iDJ Magazine) and come highly rated by Gilles Peterson (Radio 1), Benji B (1Xtra) and DJ mag to name a few. Hayashi'll be blasting through their trademark set of live d'n'b with lashings of breakbeat, trip-hop and general tasty noise.

**JAZZANOVA**  
£8NUS  
The Wardrobe

A blissful mix of jazz and breaks, the effervescent sounds should combine perfectly with the cool, stylish crowd. Ok so maybe the drinks are a leetle pricey, but it'll be a sexy one...Plus minimal students.

**THE BUZZCOCKS**  
£  
The Cockpit

Band championed by John Peel. Alright?

### 24th Saturday

**Sugarbeat**  
£10 before 11  
Elbow Rooms

Popular breaks, beats, mashups and drum & bass nigh. You would be silly to miss DJ

Yoda aswell as the beatboxers **Crew 82**, who will keep the evening enteraining and fresh.

**Wax On**  
£12.50 adv.  
Leeds University Union

Promising to be another sell out at the union, French underground hip-hop/electonica producer DJ Mehdi headlines, with Uffie and Feadz performing live and support from San Francisco House supremo Justin Martin, Nottingham's Riotous Rockers and the residents.

**Back to Basics**  
£12  
My House

This weekend sees Basics celebrating its 16th birthday, this is totally unmissable. A host of residents will be thrashing out the biggest and baddest tunes. This is gonna be mega for you dancefloor crusaders. Get involved!

### 25th Sunday

**Sunday Joint**  
Free  
The Hi-fi

A band plays in the 2 o'clock afternoon slot to a crowd of easy going Sunday chillers there to make the most of the renowned Hi-fi roast.

### 26th Monday

Leeds friends of NSf  
£4  
The Faversham

3 lives bands are playing in aid of this worthwhile charity. This is a chilled monday night to you back into the wicked week ahead. Grab a drink and support a good cause.

### 27th Tuesday

**Smut**  
£1  
Red Leopard

Strip clubs needn't be excessively expensive. Smut offers dances from gorgeous girls at attractive prices and drinks that don't consume your wallet. A must have lads night.

### 28th Wednesday

**Trouble Mindz**  
£5  
Mint

keep it mint fresh with a mix of diabolical deebie and enthralling electro. A cheeky mid-week session that will be sure to have you 'waving your arms in the like you just don't caare'. Note: don't expect to be making Thursday lectures.

### 29th Thursday

Stand-up comedy  
prices vary  
jongleurs

Have a barrel of laughs and jugs of beer and in Leeds' champion comedy club. You are free to join Baja when the side splitting antics finish at 11. This is your night to have a bubble.



Not taken at smut!

## Leeds / afterdark

## Testimony of a Barman

First in a weekly schpiel, Pat Wallis tells afterdark the do's and don't of getting a civilised pint in. This section is mandatory if you wanna get served, or just wanna impress the bartender/ess.



I'm a student in Leeds up from London right. I also happen to be a bar man, and a great one at that! I've worked behind a bar for years and one thing's for sure: students cannot order drinks for shit. Now I've got the chance, I'm gonna try and make it easier for people both sides of the bar. Sooo, here are five easy steps to ensure you get good service.

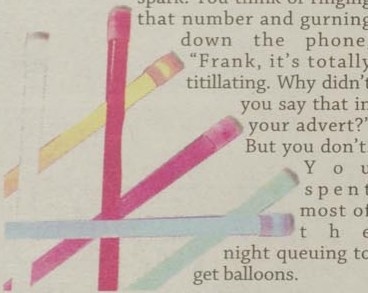
1. **Do** say "please" and "thank you". Manners don't cost a thing.
2. **Don't** whistle, click and shout. We are people, not bloody sheep dogs!
3. **Don't** shoulder your way through the group of attractive teenage girls I was about to serve at the front of the bar. I know who was in the queue and now someone else is serving the hotties! TWAT!
4. **Don't** order your drinks in some weird, barely coherent manner. i.e. lager, vodka, lager, gin, Guinness, lager, vodka.... TEQUILLA
5. **Don't** tell me you ordered something else when I know you didn't. You may be drunk and think you have an air of godly, infallible truth about you, but I'm sober, not stupid and a damn sight more stubborn than you lager-boy!

Now, if you pay attention to these little gems and the person serving you is any good at their job, you'll get good service. Ignore them, and be doomed to a life of waiting over half an hour for a drink... even if the bar is empty!

Thesaurus at the ready for this review; it's one hell of a tongue-twisting trip

**P**sychedelic trance hit the bad streets of Chapel Town last Friday night. The Klub Kids were fully loco luminous and ready to rave. They had been assembled for the most phosphorescent party outside of Chernobyl: Globulogic. A powerful psy-trance catalyst, a fluorescent fashionista filament and a strong chemical composite generated the crowd's euphoric reaction.

A lively West Indian Centre dealt us a wicked concoction: it had psychedelics to warp your drive and ecstatic electro to tingle your light bulb. It's one of those nights where you could fuse your box with a bright spark. You think of ringing that number and gurning down the phone, "Frank, it's totally titillating. Why didn't you say that in your advert?" But you don't. You spent most of the night queuing to get balloons.



The emissions of this Technicolor Gurn Factory are responsible for warming our minds and giving the weekend a party climate. People who break the reserve and go to events like this are being Frank.

**“ We want more than polished nights... Give us something of what raving is really all about. ”**

They are saying, "We want more than polished nights. Give us something a little more rustic and authentic. Give us something of what raving is really all about."

Radiant beauties stalked the lunar dancscape. The lively looking lustrous ladies had donned the integral UV make-up and were primed and painted for a dance floor battle of rave manoeuvres. Their glowing tribal patterns began to smear as the heat saw the best kempt clubbers in melt down; it was getting late and the party

faithful were looking zapped. Big pupils and big beaned chat were quickly become the standard: everyone was conducting a high voltage. Clubbers attended the beat with a big-fish-little-fish-cardboard-box. It was a becoming a proper party.

Yearning for the nights of yellow smiley faces and going to unknown places, we find ourselves in the most unlikely of spaces. Many present on Friday wouldn't usually be seen in that Leeds community hall. The crowd was a mix of psytrance addicts and those looking for a less conventional night out; there is nothing wrong with the rah-ve. All club cults are welcome. Whether you're a nu-raver or an ingenious indie, nights out can unite us all.

Globulogic was, then, an enjoyable evening's entertainment, with a lot of colour. The opportunity to remember those warm hedonistic evenings spent dancing on far-flung beaches proves temptation enough. Psychedelic trance will transport you to your mind's favourite island. This is an event that heralds a healthy departure from the mundane. Make sure you grab a ticket for the next tantalising trip.

words/ ben j puddle

## Long live the Queen

**I**t's a Saturday night and it's pouring down with rain. Ordinarily after working an audacious 3 hour shift I'd have gone home to hibernate. It's the 3rd Saturday of the month and my turn to test out 'Speed queen@Gatcrasher'. For novices who haven't yet cleaned their ears and heard of anything goes 'Speed queen' until now, please proceed. Speed queen has been running since 1997 and is the progeny of two club-loving sirens, and over the past 10 years has become a spunky

**“ ...revamped and stirred up to cause a partying poof parade. ”**

staple in the Leeds clubbing scene for those in the know.

There are the avid followers of Speed queen, conquering from venue to venue who are passionate and dedicated to this Gay-friendly night. So if you need a nudge in the right direction, like most, pay attention, in no way is it cliquey.

'Speed queen' sprinkles a mix of delightful house, faultless electro and raving funk to keep you dancing all night long. And my my, time does fly by when tune after tune is a toss up of

old classics revamped and stirred up to cause a partying poof parade.

The speed queen line-ups are well known with 'Danny Kwang' being the most notorious having been with the team since its launch in '97. His signature tunes were cut from Lisa Lisa cult jam to Hard'f but most gayly recieved was the queen anthem - Blaze ft. Barbara Tucker 'Most Precious Love'.

Surprisingly it seems few clubbers are under the age of 19 and older than 50, yet I'm sure I could be proven wrong because this is night that defies convention. The clientele is a fashionable mix of all things sexual which you can predict from the tagline - "speed queen is and always is, committed to respecting peoples' differences and sexualities". That's the beauty of this glamorous, alluring and spontaneous night. It's a party where every ones got the same intention: to party and party with flair.

Drinks aren't cheap and if you can't afford to keep cool with a cheeky beverage then why not have a 'Mr. Freeze'. If sweetness is your flavour you can bag yourself some skittles for an almighty sugar rush (not that you'll need it). And if you start handing out sweets to the sweeties on the dance floor, you'll soon be a fag-hag more popular than Lilly Savage. Nevertheless, for those who like to shy away from things that simply aren't the norm,

perhaps you'll need to be made aware of the 11ft tall drag 'madams'. You have been warned. They flutter about throughout the evening, making sure their 'darlings' are catered for, occasionally vogueing for cameras of the amateurs, like myself, who evidently need to get out more. It is actions such as this which distinguish you from the 'regular queens'. It immediately puts you into the 'new meat' category, but that by no means gets you the isolation card. You're another sparkle on their dancefloor as the dancers strut in their flamboyant 70's glitter glamour outfits.

Normally students would equate Gatecrasher to monotonous cheese electro. But, with the weekend the club is accommodating far more raucous revellers. The decor is camp and colourful and their stage is trounced by the tallest trannies. This is not just an additional money-grabbing club-night. It's a personal, rare atmosphere that feels like an underground-elite you just have the fortune to be included in.

'Speedqueen' is a gay gem, it's a delicious evening that doesn't shy away from the camp-tart. It puts the fun back in with the gay. Which is something we all need to experience?

words / aisha jefferson



Bus drivers don't get the credit they deserve. Neither do German exchange students. Dan Gilmore and Lara Choksey right these wrongs by taking us into the mindsets of each...

SANDRA VON MERKEL - GERMAN EXCHANGE STUDENT

“G utentagen...mit nomen isten Sandra...” — zis is zee German for ‘Allo my name is Sandra.’ Many people consider our language to be ugly, but I am sure u vill agree viv me zat ‘spuken zee deutch’ is actually rather fantastic, much like a fresh plat of sauerkraut and a frankfurter like my freuline makes in zee mornings! Many of zee people in zee world, especially England think much like zis about Deutschland, zey see only negatively of Germany, that vee are vevy efficient boring people who always steal zee sunbeds ya and hav no sense of humour! Vell I think zat fun people like I can come here to change zee stereotype...vee are actually vevy cool, vevy fun people as u vill see!

Like I zay my nom is Sandra and I am from Leipzig, in East Germany, I am most pleased to be here studying in zis beautiful city Leeds. Zee architecture is vevy vunderful it reminds me of our Soviet Heritage in the Eastern Block, all red bricks and industrial majesty! Also zis town is extremely fun ya...viv all your cool discos and loud musics I must zay you English are craazzy!!

Back home in Germany ve all know you as zee Hoogigans, who get too drunk on zee beer and fight!! Haha vell I guess unlike us your stereotype is true! From my experiences in Leeds, you all really do love to get mad drunk on zee holsten...sometimes I zink it is funny but at others I zink you are all a bit too crazy! Back in Deutschland vee love zee parties too but vee stay in control, no hangovers for us if vee are to get zee sunbeds early ya! Haha I joke!

My impressions of zee English youth is interesting...for vun I think all you boys now copy our hairstyles zat we hav always loved since zee 80's until now-of course by zis I mean zee ‘mullet’...it is vevy beautiful to see so many boys copying zee great men of my country ya! Who said zee Germans had no style? Sadly vevy few of you boys hav zee moustaches yet, but I know zat it vill take time...like I say my countrymen are true style iconz! Also I notice zat zee girls all veer zee small skirts and zee big earrings...it is most strange as vee do not have zee same ideas on style in Deutschland...if it is cold zen ve vap up in out hats, Vellington boots, puffy trousers and vooly scarves...I don't know why I get so many funny looks ven I was queuing for Gatecrasher zis last veek ven I had on my balacava and duvvel coat made by my freu freu. I zink you are zee crazy ones for varing so little. I may not get zee boys on zis occasion but at least I retain my health and vell being!

Also u all eat vevy funny food, viv ur fish and chips, ur English breakfasts and baked beanz I must laugh. It is no vunder all my flatmates are getting zee colds viv all zee bad food they consume, I spend my Saturday nights cooking zee goulash, sauerkraut and schnitzels

# Week in Profile

for zee veek...none of zis Potty Noodles zat you all seem to love! Ven I have a nice plate of varming veal stew on a cold Tuesday night and my housemate asks vere did you get zat I vill tell zem zat ven vey vere out at zee disco getting drunk on zee weekend I vas making my delicious, varming concoctions in preparation for zee veek. It is like the story of the vise shrew who prepares 4 vinter in zee summer collecting his nuts, ven zee lazy mouse is playing in zee sun and eating zee berries...ven zee cold comes it iz zee shrew who vins and enjoys zee fruits of hiz labour! Zey might laugh at my quiet nights

funny!! Vell zee driver vas very bad fun, he said we could not bring on zee cone and zat vee vere too drunk. Vell how boring ya? Moriz got angry and so did I, how come he did not see zee joke hey?! All zee other passengers were much amused, I think zat zey had never seen anything quite so funny! Haha!

So ya, zat is my take on Leeds, you are all vevy crazy but zo are ve Germans in our own ways. I just vish that I still had zee cone it would be a symbol of my humour! You English are so vevy protective over zeez silly plastic items such as zee cones and zee deck chairs! Anyone vud

bollocks to the rest of the world who might work seven-day weeks. The thing about this particular bus is that the students seem to think it's their own personal coach. The idea that it's a public bus doesn't seem to occur to them. On they flounce, stumble, fall, slurring their way into seats, shouting, singing, fighting, pushing, into Headingley for a few shots and out again twenty minutes later for a good old puke and then on to town.

I've already had two Otley runs tonight. I have to say it's one of the perks of the night, trying to guess the themes. I think the last one was Superheroes (since you ask, I'd be Batman - this bus has got moves you can't imagine), and this one coming up ahead might be Back to School. This is definitely one of my favourites.

A group of very blonde girls are standing in line. I wonder if they know how ridiculous they look, covered in bright neon face-paint and not much else. One of them is being pushed on board by her mate. “Tequila, please,” she says. “This is a bus, not a bar, love,” I say, not without a smile. It's one of my favourite gags. I know she means the place in town (I've been doing this for a long time), but I'm not a taxi driver, am I? “Snot funny,” she says. Young people generally don't appreciate my humour. Maybe she's from London. Southerners generally don't have a sense of humour. I'm tempted to confiscate the bottle of vodka I can see poking out of her handbag, but instead I roll my eyes and take her pound, give her a ticket into town, and the next, and the next, and the next.

I look forward to the morning shifts. That's when I get my own back. It's a war between them and us. No one says it, but everyone knows. There's a bus stop up by the ring road and there's nowhere better to put these kids in their place. It's perfect, really. There's a long stretch of pavement where they have to walk from their halls to the bus stop. What I do is sit there at the bus-stop, watching, as they walk up, and then when they're about ten feet away, I drive off. They can shout, they can give me the finger, they can stamp their little feet and cry, but it's one hundred percent satisfaction every time, guaranteed. If they start to run while I'm waiting, chests aching from too many fags and books flying everywhere, sometimes I'll wait those few extra seconds, but only really for the girls. If you're a bloke, you're screwed. If you're a bloke, you can bloody walk.

There's an hour left until the buses stop, but this is the worst hour of the shift. Anything goes now. The way up from the train station is a stream of Tarzans, traffic signs, nuns, school girls and the occasional lost sheep (do men have no self-respect these days?). Another couple of girls try to bring on a traffic cone. That's the fourth time this week. “You'll have to walk with that,” I tell one of them. “What?” she says, and then tries to convince me otherwise. I can't really understand what she's saying. Bloody foreigners. I tell them they're too drunk to come on board and drive off. I have a little chuckle when I see them shouting at me in the middle of the road.

You've got to be tough in a job like this. There's no room for airy-fairy nonsense when you're dealing with a city full of self-centred youngsters. You have to be firm, draw the line, and let them know where the law lies. So go on, make them late for lectures, deny their right to challenge authority by stealing traffic cones, tell them they can't come on with that bottle of vodka. They don't own the place. We do.



WHEELS ON THE BUS: Round and round. Photo: John Puddephatt

in but I hav great fun dancing around to zee great David Hasselhoff as I dip my veal fillets in schnitzel crumbs!

As well as your foods I also vevy much dislike ur bus driverz. You English always talk about us having no sense of humour and yet zeez people are more boring zan vatching zee

think it vas you who needed to lighten up! At least I can be looking forward to zee Christmas Fair in Millenium Square, and zee chance to get a hot bowl of Gursten Soup vilst I vatch all zee English kids throwing up zer alcopops off zee Ferris Veel! As vee say in Germany ‘Zum Whol’-“Cheers!”

BRADLEY APPELYARD - NUMBER 95 BUS DRIVER

“The thing about this particular bus is that the students seem to think it's their own personal coach. The idea that it's a public bus doesn't seem to occur to them.”

paintingz dry! Ven me and my German friend Moritz had enjoyed a night out in town at Tiger Tiger Disco zis veek ve decided to bring zee traffic cone home on zee bus as a joke...see vee really do hav a sense of humour...it vas so

I passed a Sainsbury's garage at 7 o'clock last Sunday evening and it was closed. All the lights were off, and there was no bright orange glowing sign telling me to ‘try something new today’. The petrol prices weren't highlighted (just as well these days), and the shop was enclosed in metal grilles. There were no cars and no people. There was no life. It was the most peaceful thing I'd seen in ages. It reminded me that things do stop, sometimes.

On nights like these it's difficult to imagine things ever stopping. I'm two hours into a seven-hour shift that'll take the number 95 bus from Bodington to the train station and back again too many times for counting. It's a Thursday, but try telling the students that. Their weekend started a few hours ago, and

# All gloss and no

Women's glossy magazines often contain a limited range of articles, centred on image, investigates the difference between the traditional women's publications and Leeds

**M**y initiation into the world of the women's lifestyle magazine occurred at the beginning of my first year at Leeds. One of my housemates was obsessed with them, spending an impressive £25 a month on magazines, thus transforming the landscape of our communal living space into an assault course of Cosmopolitans, Marie-Claire's, Reds, Elles, Glamours, Mores and more! As such, when bleary-eyed and avoiding work, I couldn't help but be drawn, magpie-like, to these shining ingots promising to contain the secrets of beauty, wealth and happiness between their glossy sheets.

Instead, to my dismay, I found a whopping 207 pages of advertising to 436 pages of features in November's Glamour. I was beginning to think I had inadvertently picked up a catalogue, albeit one for those rich enough to not require a price list. However, just as I was beginning to lose interest, I discovered the Fashion section; in a sense, an extension of the adverts, but with some

“Men, in these magazines, are infantilized to a quite terrifying degree.”

pointers as to how best to dress for your age, size, shape, hair colour, first date, second date, wedding, christening and funeral. A little prescriptive, yes, but of some use, all the same. I was rather more concerned when I reached the Arts and Music section, worryingly consigned to a single page and with a disproportionate disapproval of anything featuring a guitar or some originality, compared to an excessive exaltation of the latest Kylie album. Still, different strokes for different folks, and it's not as though any of these publications claim to be cultural connoisseurs. Sex, however, is their speciality, so I turned to the plethora of sex guides with a heady anticipation. Women's magazines appear to be committed to improving the sex lives of their readers, so each edition often features sex tips, ideas for new positions, couples trying out advice from sex therapists and even a guide to having a 45-minute orgasm! This openness about sex is enjoyably woman-focused, but disappointingly exclusive in its assumption of a heterosexual readership, with gay women reduced to a fantasy of 'girl-on-girl action' that wouldn't seem out of place in a copy of Nuts or Zoo.

Amidst these lightweight features on hair, beauty and vibrators, there is some interesting, informative coverage with a more international focus. There are, for example, pieces on the issue of forced marriage in the Muslim community. However, these 'real-life stories' appear to be aimed at revealing another world to a readership assumed to be

ignorant of a culture outside of their own. Similarly, pieces with a political dimension, such as those on the pay-gap or glass ceiling, neglect to credit their readers with a pre-existing political consciousness. Nonetheless, these articles provided some much needed depth as I waded through the gloss.

The highest proportion of features were on relationships, with quizzes, real-life stories, interviews and more, all focused on getting and keeping a man. A particularly memorable article was one proffering advice on how a woman can convince a boyfriend to go on holiday with her. Apparently, one must replace the term 'mini-break' with 'dirty weekend' in order to emphasise the sex and play down the romance. Frankly, this seemed a step too far for me; why should a woman need to manipulate her partner into going on holiday?! Men, in these magazines, are infantilized to a quite terrifying degree. They are presented as dim-witted, sex-mad beasts who must be trapped, tamed and taught to adequately perform cunnilingus, after which they can be trussed up in a morning suit and marched to an altar, before they catch on to this cunning plan. Paradoxically, this intellectually-challenged oaf is also presented as the key to a woman's well-being.

Is this an accurate or appealing presentation of a woman's life in 2007? Apparently so, with Glamour having a distribution of 588,539 copies in summer 2007. Moreover, is it remotely relevant to a female student in Leeds? With Essentials and Extras in the Union stocking a huge range of these publications, it would appear that it isn't just my housemate who is hooked. Why then, are they so popular? There is the obvious draw: escapism. After a long day of lectures on astrophysics or Icelandic sagas, it is to be expected that one might want some lightweight bath-time entertainment. However, my magazine-addicted friend suggested another reason – aspirational reading. They appear to be aimed at the twenty-something woman about town, with a Blackberry, an It bag and a Carrie Bradshaw style shopping addiction. Amidst the peeling wallpaper, ripped jeans and cheap pints that dominate the student aesthetic, it's no wonder that this glamorous cocktail of fashion and sex has a hold over the hearts and minds of many young women. However, this fantasy comes at a price – women are not just being sold overpriced shoes, but a model of gender and sexuality that is outdated, exclusively heterosexual and patronising to both men and women. After all, if men are, as these magazines suggest, evolutionarily-retarded fools, then why would a woman require hundreds of pages per month devoted to snagging one? By convincing its readers of their own inadequacy and the presumed deficiency of any potential partner, the media creates the idea of a chasm of need within us all. This ever-growing pit can, it would appear, only be filled by the endless products whose adverts fund all of these magazines.

This, of course, is a criticism that has

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Expert tips to heat you up as fast as him

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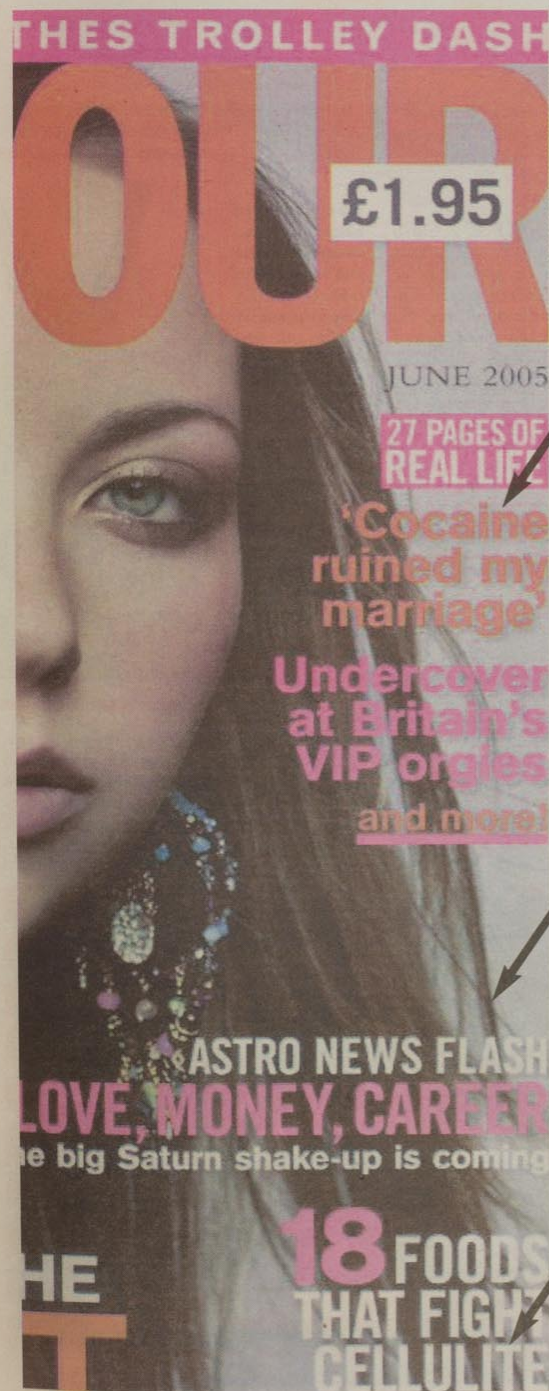
1135 LOOKS IN THE SWIMSUIT

Celebrity gossip and interviews are a popular feature found in glossies. The front page will often hint at shocking revelations, and personal secrets encouraging the reader to buy that issue and read on.

# substance?

# get lippy

celebrities and attracting members of the opposite sex. **Sita Balani** University's own version, the free thinking Lippy magazine.



Sensationalist storylines about readers' real-life experiences feature prominently on many magazine covers. Attention-grabbing stories involving sex, drugs and violence are cut down to pithy soundbites to entice the prospective reader.

Astrological horoscopes are usually a regular feature, appearing every month and often taking up at least two pages of written content in each edition. The dubious nature of their veracity is rarely questioned.

Articles based on weight and dieting are very common in women's glossies. However, as with this example, emphasis is far more often based on appearance than health and fitness. The recent surge in eating disorders, such as anorexia and bulimia is often partly attributed to the idealised and, for most, unattainable body image portrayed in magazines such as these. Naughty magazines!

been around for as long as the publications themselves. Women have been dissatisfied with mainstream media for decades, which is why in the 1970s Leeds students set up an alternative magazine: Lippy. The tagline, 'All opinion, no gloss' outlined their mission: to present articles that reflected their demographic's views, free from the capitalist imperative engendered by advertising. Lippy continues to this day, with the first issue of the academic year hitting the stands on Monday. However, the abolition of the sabbatical position of the Women's Officer has cut Lippy's funding by £2000: Lippy editor Sarah Collinson explains, "Lippy has been forced to go to its contributors and to advertisers in order to cover costs". With such financial pressures being placed upon alternative media sources, is their time running out? I, for one, hope not. A world without a dissenting voice shouting against the monolithic media-machine would be a sad, albeit glossy, place.

"Sick to the back-teeth with conventional women's glossies? Fed up with the mindless wank filling the pages of Heat? Don't give a toss who's had surgery this week or which celebrity's gone out without their pants?"

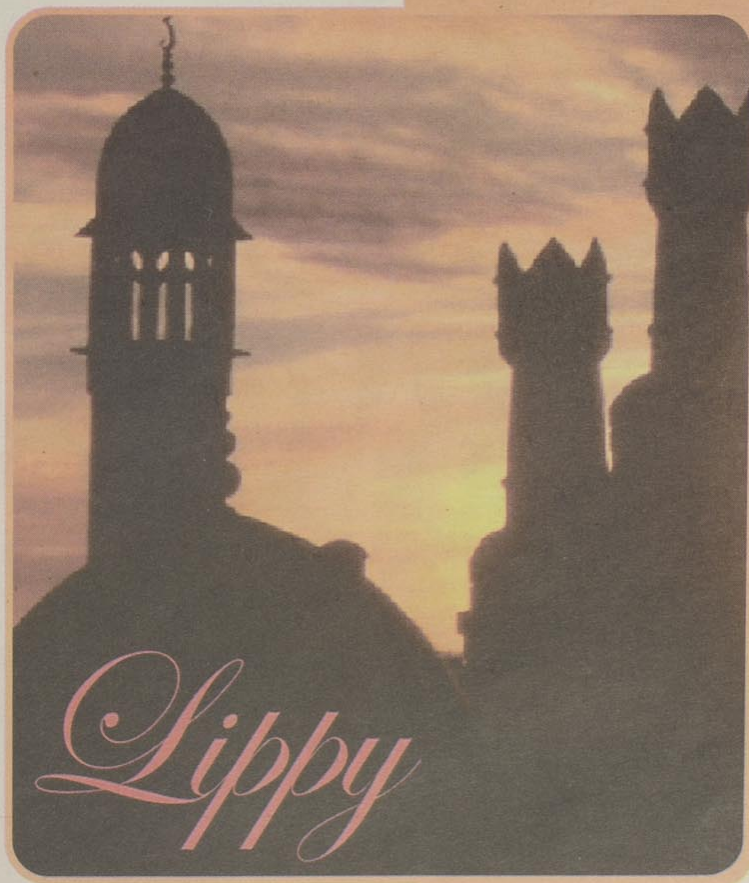
... Then Lippy might just be the antidote! Written by students, for students, Lippy has a proud 30 year history as Leeds University Union's very own women's magazine.

We pride ourselves on witty, off-centre journalism, based in gender issues ranging from the serious, to the political, to the absurd.

Past years issues include the World issue, the Violence issue, and of course the Sex issue.

This year we're back under new management; better, harder, faster and stronger (to plagiarise the mighty Daft Punk) and coming to a union shelf near you!"

For more info regarding Lippy, email [lippymag@googlemail.com](mailto:lippymag@googlemail.com) or check out the website: [www.lippymag.com](http://www.lippymag.com).



# The Devil Wears Primark?



Like the great majority of female students in Leeds, every now and then the trials and tribulations of an arduous student lifestyle get all too much for me. You know the sort of thing; boyfriend troubles, what to have for dinner, arguments with the housemates over who's emptying the dishwasher, what to wear to Gatecrasher, oh, and not forgetting the all-important endless amounts of work piling up. On such an occasion, when the red mist descends and I am close to throwing in the towel, packing up my car and heading straight for the M1, I suddenly see the light at the end of the tunnel. The light that spells "retail therapy" in glowing bulbs; and within an instant I am saved - life will go on! So, on a cold November Thursday afternoon I head for the city centre, braving the extreme gale force winds, occasional downpours and biting cold that seems to be an average winter's day in Leeds on a one-woman mission for clothes.



**BURBERRY**



**YSL**

Nothing cheers us girls up (and a few of you boys) more than an afternoon trawling through the retail delights that Leeds has on offer. And retail delights they are, Leeds is, without a doubt, up there in my "Top 5" cities for shopping. It offers an eclectic yet well-balanced mix of shops to suit all needs, tastes and desires. Briggate, The Corn Exchange, The Queens Arcade and The Victoria Quarter all seem to blend together surprisingly well, creating a unique

fusion between high-end and high street, with a little bit of everything in between.

And so, when contemplating where to hurt my debit card next, I found myself contemplating the one shopping aspect of Leeds that is not so unique: Primark. Like possibly every city up and down the country the crowds are unlikely to be found flocking to Harvey Nics, Louis Vuitton or Vivienne Westwood but rather heading straight for the country's favourite high-street haunt. It is often a strictly love/hate relationship with Primark, but one thing is for sure: this "value retailer" (as they like to be known) has become one of the biggest British fashion successes in the last three years, taking a meteoric rise to



**M&S**

the top. Welcome to the world of "fast fashion" where clothes are on-trend and in budget.

Primark, Tesco and even Asda are redefining how we "shop cheap" - gone are the days when we relished the bargains found in H&M, Mango and Zara. That genre of "budget fashion" is losing the high-street battle to the even cheaper Primark and supermarket brands, who somehow (mainly down to cheap sweatshop labour and even cheaper materials) have managed to out-do everyone's favourite £15 H&M hoodys and £20 Zara

jeans. No longer do we recoil in shock or blush with embarrassment when a friend reveals that their new bag, shoes or dress that we love so much is a Florence&Fred special. On the contrary, this has become the norm. We as the latest generation of big spenders and fashion revelers have embraced, with more than open arms, just what cheap disposable fashion means. When we flick through the latest edition of Grazia and quite fancy being in on "this weeks trend" - whether it be tartan mini skirts, knee high socks or leopard print - it is unlikely that we are going to fork out vast fortunes for a fashion fad that will not be sticking around. For this purpose the value stores, such as Primark, are perfect - yet I find myself asking, has cheap really become chic?

When Primark opened its flagship store on Oxford Street in April of this year there were scenes of near rioting as women of all ages fought their way past others to get to piles of £6 jeans and £15 coats. Ever since the fashion bible that is Vogue featured a £12 Primark military jacket back in 2005 the popularity store's popularity has been on the up, with it even being given affectionate, tongue-in-cheek nicknames such as "Primarni" and "Prada-mark". Its penchant for copying catwalk designs at lower-than-high-street prices has proved to be a favourite with the consumer, and to be honest you can't really complain at cashmere cardigans for £22.

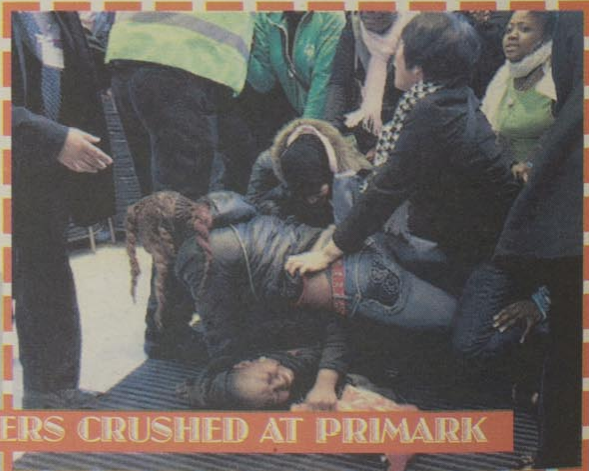
It seems that fashionable clothes at affordable prices are what we want nowadays and the value retailer is handing us exactly that on a plate. I can't disagree that

makes fashion accessible to everyone, but I can say that I'm not wholly convinced by their motto "look good, pay less".

However, it isn't just mass-producing high street retailers that are in on the disposable fashion secret. Increasingly we are seeing high-end designers,

**CHLOE**

and even celebrities, wanting a piece of the profits that come with the high street. Having already seen 'Stella McCartney at H&M' and 'Roland Mouret for Gap' we now have Roberto Cavalli and Giles Deacon getting in on the action. In a press release for Cavalli, renowned for luxury, extortionately priced



**SHOPPERS CRUSHED AT PRIMARK**

Primark and co



collections (and also currently producing a range for H&M) told us that 'Fashion is an expression of freedom. This collaboration with H&M allows me to give a gift to the young audience that loves what I do, and identifies with my creativity, but might not be able to own a Roberto Cavalli piece...'. Cheap fashionable items are not enough for us, we want actual designer pieces at affordable prices too, and even I'm not going to complain at a Roberto Cavalli designed dress for £50.



**POSH IN GUCCI**



**PRIMARK**



**PRIMARK**

It's therefore not hard to see why the majority of shoppers struggle to see what the point in buying designer is, when not only are the designers putting their stuff on the high-street but the high-street itself is giving us remarkable copies for a fraction of the price. It was only this summer that the high-end designer Chloe threatened to sue Topshop for producing a yellow dungaree dress that resembled, far too cannily, a

yellow dungaree dress in the See by Chloe line. Topshop destroyed over 1000 of the dungarees, paid Chloe more than £12,000 in compensation and recovered all legal costs, without admitting to copying.

It also concerned me slightly when watching a episode of Richard and Judy, that three renowned fashion figureheads, including Hilary Alexander, struggled to distinguish between a £660 Pucci dress and a £18 Asda version, even after closely examining the fabric and stitching.

Take for example one of this winter's "IT" dresses; a gold sequined number whose roots stem from a culmination of YSL and Burberry Prorsum. After having been taken down the catwalk by YSL and Burberry, the dress was then papped on Sienna Miller in New York and the style gradually made its way down the chain into Marks and Spencer and ended up (no surprises here) on a rail in Primark.

Yet the trend doesn't seem to be to totally ditch designer. Taking a look around campus I won't be the only one to notice just how common it is to see (Leeds University may be an exception here) Prada quite literally teamed with Primark. After all

if we're being realistic, unless you're lucky enough to be someone whose allowance resembles that of the average annual income you won't be able to shop exclusively in the Victoria Quarter, but you might just be able to save up for, or blow your loan on, a designer bag, scarf or pair of shoes. So is it ok, or is there just something morally wrong about putting a Marc Jacobs bag next to a George @ Asda cardigan?

It seems we are a clever consumer who will mix-and-match high-end and high street, who doesn't feel too guilty about buying our basics from mass-producing value retailers and our luxuries or timeless one-offs from opulent designer stores. But personally, I feel there is something about teaming value with expensive that demeans the designer brand - after all, I don't suppose Christian Dior envisages what his handbags will look like against a Primark polo when designing them.



**PRIMARK**

However, the budget revolution's affect on fashion is not my only concern. It doesn't take a genius to realise that in order to sell clothes that cheap somewhere along the line someone is losing out. As we look at a rail of £2 t-shirts are we seeing the end of a supply chain of pain, poverty and pollution? And even if we are, does this bother today's shopper? Fashion is the 6th largest global industry and high-turnover high street retailers therefore have immense power on the world today.

When considering that a Bangladeshi woman being paid 3p an hour, working in sweatshop conditions probably made your bargain Primark outfit it becomes slightly less attractive, for me anyway. The cheaper the clothes, the greater the chance they are damaging the planet and being produced under ethically, and morally questionable circumstances.

It isn't that the more elite high-end sector of the market is less guilty of such production sins but at least a pricey piece of clothing is more likely to be kept longer. I doubt the average consumer will be as keen to throw out a Calvin Klein tee in such a guilt-free manner after a couple of weeks as you would a £2 Asda

one. Yet it is not the guilt factor alone, it is a fact that value clothing just isn't designed to last a lifetime. We are all too familiar with the bargain top that, within a few wears, becomes lose and faded. Some bargains are just too good to be true, but that seems to be ok. Ask anyone mad enough to queue around the block to get into a new Primark store and they will probably admit that half of what they buy will not just not last very long but might not even make it out of the wardrobe. At prices that low, do we just buy for the sake of buying?

Yet despite the tempting allure of all that comes with the world of fast fashion there is something inside me that just will not give everything up to the dark side. As I am about to lose my faith in Coco, Giorgio and Louis my inner fashionista resurfaces, reminding me of that feeling you get when you step into a designer store. The atmosphere, the mood, even the décor, the hangers -

you feel a little bit awkward - that is fashion, the whole experience is the reason that retail therapy is the light at the end of my tunnel. Above all, that is what women will always be prepared to pay for; the day out, the sensual pleasure behind shopping and above all, feeling a million dollars as you slip into that Chanel LBD.



**CHLOE**



**PRIMARK**

So, when a cynic asks, why pay £2000 for a designer dress when you can get a high street version for £20, I will reply, what girl wouldn't rather have a £2000 Chloe dress than a £20 Primark mock-up. The former is a dress that will last you through time, and whose quality and beauty will touch you ten years on the same as it did the day you took it home, a dress that you will love and become attached to. The latter, nothing more than a one night stand with cheap material that by the time you've dragged yourself home will be lacking sequins and buttons and probably won't even make a second appearance. As Coco Chanel once said, "fashion fades - only style remains the same", so the next time you are tempted to spend your hard earned cash on that must-have bargain that is going to be a fashion faux pas in a couple of weeks, why not fight the temptation and save towards something a little more special, a little more unique, a little more pricey?

**Words:**  
**Lydia**  
**Worsey**



# 16 Music Singles.

# inside LS2 Albums.

## Single of the Week

**Kid Acne**  
'Eddy Fresh'  
(EMI)



Charging out of the gate like a rabid rhino, this is storming Northern nonsense from the most unlikely-sounding rap hero this side of Mike Skinner or Nathan Barley.

'Eddy Fresh' is the most exciting thing we've heard this week, if only because no other single rhymes 'Dr Zhivago' with 'full of bravado' (though if Maroon 5 had done it, we may have reconsidered). A work of articulate, dumb genius. (9)

**Electrelane**  
'In Berlin'  
(Too Pure)



Like a watered-down Mogwai fronted by a comatose Enya, the farewell single from

Electrelane is offensive only in its insipidity. 'In Berlin' tries too hard to be pretty, losing all sense of direction it may have had, and just ends up sounding listless. (3)

**Wild Beasts**  
'Assembly'  
(Domino)



Like a jaunty German cabaret as interpreted by Sparks, this is madcap British pop at its least

self-conscious. A delightfully eccentric third single from these local heroes, 'Assembly' makes absolutely no sense, but in the best way possible. (7)

**The Dirty**  
'Why, I Think It's Love'  
(Brown Punk)



An affected attempt at Angular Garage Rawk, five years too late, The Dirty certainly live up to

their name, but in the least inspiring way possible. Although mercifully short, listening to 'Why, I Think It's Love' feels at least three times longer than its one-and-a-half minute running time. (3)

**Dizzee Rascal**  
'Flex'  
(XL)



Bless Dizzee, he's so inclusive - he can even watch a butters girl grinding'. Sadly, this

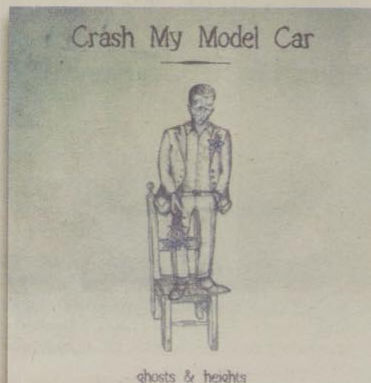
bold statement is the least banal element of the track. 'Flex' sounds like no effort whatsoever was put into it, and veers upsettingly close to being the 'Montgomery Flea Market' YouTube sensation. Not his finest work... (4)

words/ liz grashoff, alex wisgard

## Album of the Week

**Crash My Model Car**  
**Ghosts & Heights**

(MyDad)



Crash My Model Car consists of four young gentlemen who have moved from the tiny Isle of Lewis, to the bright lights of Glasgow and the Scottish mainland in search of success, and some success they shall find. The opening track of debut album *Ghosts and Heights* is an elegant, acoustic mix of Damien Rice at his best, and the more upbeat Decembrists. Criticism is perhaps necessary as the lyrics are both immature and repetitive, but they rarely detract from the song's grace. 'Siren' and 'West Coast Train' follow the Snow Patrol formula of quiet, accented verse, followed by a dramatic yet predictable chorus, disappointing after the promising opener. 'The Flying Rodleighs' is confusing at first; you find yourself looking at the track listing wondering if you're listening to an

acoustic version of the previous tune, then it becomes more interesting. Catching you off guard you find the melancholy, fragile voice of Iain Morrison holds your attention well. Directly following this is a more rocky number that is suspiciously reminiscent of the Everly Brothers' hit 'All I Have To Do Is Dream'. The bands sound is perhaps too

familiar and derivative, sometimes the songs are in danger of sounding like mishmashes of other artists work. 'Sandshoe Blisters' is a return to the charming eloquence of the album's beginning, combining strings and vocal harmonies to great effect. This is then sustained in the next couple of songs. However, the tracks sound almost timid as if Crash My Model Car are holding back. As a debut *Ghosts and Heights* is definitely promising. There are moments of wistful elegance amid the tried and tested soft rock formula. So if you like bands of soulful mediocrity such as Thirteen Senses, Keane etc Crash My Model Car are the guys for you. The last couple of tracks don't contain any surprising moments of brilliance, but they are consistently heartfelt and warm. The band have developed a solid repertoire of carefully constructed, easy to listen to, yet wholly unexciting songs. This album will make a good Christmas present for your mum, if she likes mildly alternative music. It's very nice, but that's all it is. (6)

words/ helena goodwyn

**Jóhann Jóhannsson**  
**Englabörn**  
(4AD)



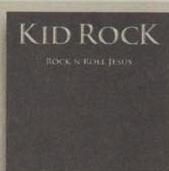
Jóhann Jóhannsson is a young Icelandic composer, here reissuing his 2002 debut album. Much of the music is minor, earthy and dry, with considerable smouldering warmth, mostly attributable to the rich and full string playing. The album also features elements of electronica; first track 'Ódi Et Amo' is led by a vocoder - a sort of computer-generated countertenor strangely and deliciously reminiscent of Daft Punk. The resemblances to Japanese prog-disco end there, however; the other electronic elements of this album are just creators of atmosphere.

So the electronics are commendable. How about the music? Firstly, nine of the sixteen tracks are variations on the first, using the same chord sequence and the same key. There are differences in texture, metre, tempo and so on, but essentially more than half the album is the same piece of music. Worse still, not one of these variations has a plausible melody. The remainder is of varying quality. 'Karen Byr Til Engil' is a short piece for string quartet; the bare fifths, suspensions and flowing modal melody contribute to a startlingly placid beauty. On the other hand, 'Eg Sleppi Ther Aldrei' sounds like a GCSE student's composition coursework, while 'Englabörn - Tilbrigdi' is incoherent and meaninglessly atonal.

In music, there must be repetition and contrast; repetition to cement musical ideas in the mind of the listener and delineate structure, and contrast to keep them interested. *Englabörn* has plenty of repetition; what it lacks is sufficient contrast. There's just no place for Jóhann Jóhannsson. If you want exciting and powerful minimalism, listen to Arvo Pärt. If you want intelligent and meaningful modern classical music, look up Brendan Ashe. He is a genius. Jóhannsson, regrettably, is not. (5)

words/ george reece

**KID ROCK**  
**Rock 'n' Roll**  
Jesus  
(Label)



**Kid Rock**  
**Rock 'n' Roll**  
Jesus  
(Label)

That's right. Kid Rock, genius lyricist responsible for classic refrains such as 'bawitdaba-da-bang-da-dang-diggy-diggy-diggy-said-the boogie-said-up-jump-the-boogie', is still making music. When Kid Rock first appeared at the turn of the century, blending cheesy biker-rock, smutty hip-hop, and occasionally a country twang, he was a white rapper to rival Eminem with his own Redneck appeal. In 2007, the joke's over. It might have been funny to laugh at his ridiculously sexist polemics before, but now Ritchie seems to think he's Hank Williams Sr. The country drive that previously served as a minor gimmick just to differentiate himself from every other atrocious rapper now serves as the music itself. Almost every song on the album is a guitar-strumming ode to being from the South, with Kid Rock 'singing' about how much of a tobacco chewin' outlaw he is. Accompanied by the 'Fisk Jubilee Singers', a faux-gospel element is added; allowing himself to title a song 'Amen' only enhances his image as a Bible-belt yokel.

The album's only return to rap-rock is 'Sugar', which, despite being comprised of clichéd guitar riffs and vulgar rhyming, actually serves as the album's highlight. Any doubt one may have of Mr Rock's lyrical capability is settled once and for all by the inclusion of the line 'I'll fuck you in the nose'. Not only is this the most ludicrous promise in musical history: it's also the biggest failure of a boast in asserting the size of one's manhood.

After this, it's all downhill. Any hopes of comedy being restored by guest appearances from foul-mouthed midget rapper Joe C are useless as he died six years ago. Rock may claim he scours the deserts like a lone ranger, but instead he sits in his yacht with flowers around his neck and James Blunt at his side. (2)

words/ luke fear

**Iced Earth**  
**Framing Armageddon**  
(Steamhammer/SPV)



This is the ninth studio album by Jon Schaffer's thrash/power metal outfit. With another new line-up, Iced Earth have served up another meaty slice of power metal for us all to consume. As with all power metal bands, Iced Earth's goal was clearly to be 'epic', and being 'epic' is something they've honed to a fine art since their debut album in 1990. *Framing Armageddon* is a sort of follow-up to the 'Something Wicked' trilogy of songs from the 1998 album *Something Wicked This Way Comes*.

We've all been there: you're an ancient, omniscient race calling yourself the Setians, who are all but wiped out by invading humans from outer space 10,000 years ago. You've guessed it: *Framing Armageddon* is a wacky concept album, bearing more than a passing resemblance to ideas put forward by everyone's favourite cult/legitimate religion, Scientology.

The sound of the album is in traditional Iced Earth territory. Schaffer lays down a galloping rhythm foundation for Tim Owen's vocals to soar over. There are the obligatory righteous instrumental sections, and texture and atmosphere are brought to the fore with quieter sections such as opening track 'Overture'. That's right: this album is so big it needs an overture. This contrast in sound helps give the album a cinematic feel, which is just what the story demands. There are a whopping nineteen songs on the LP, but amongst these are several short atmospheric tracks, which evoke a sci-fi soundscape feel, with layered sound effects.

The faintly ridiculous sci-fi story actually helps sustain interest across the LP's 70 minutes. *Framing Armageddon* won't win Iced Earth many new fans, but it is easily their best work since *Something Wicked...* with Tim Owen's vocals a particular highlight. (7)

words/ carl barrowclough

## Gig of the Week

### Pendulum The Refectory

17/11/07

If you're a devout Drum 'n' Bass fan the chances are you hate Pendulum and arguably with good reason. Their commercial outlook, generic beats and overly catchy melodies designed for sing-alongs are the reason they've been given the demeaning 'Clownstep' label. But you'd have to be a complete curmudgeon to not enjoy tonight. Despite doors opening at 9.00 pm, Pendulum don't actually take to the stage until midnight allowing the Refectory to fill up from the front barrier to the bar. For those wondering as to why this night wasn't put on in Stylus like the Soulwax/2ManyDJ's gig, all becomes clear as soon as the headliners take to the stage. Upon hearing the now infamous

### Good Shoes

Leeds Met  
14/11/07

Good Shoes have been gathering an indie pop following for a year or so now, owing partly to their short and sharp singles and inventive videos. Perhaps appropriately, then, tonight's gig is not in the large main hall of the Leeds Met venue but is moved to the more 'intimate' side-room, allowing the fans to get a closer look at the band. Firstly, though, Lightspeed Champion prosper from the choice of room, Dev's more folk-based take on music fitting well in an earnest environment. Good Shoes are slightly less impressive. There's no doubt that they can play their songs perfectly well, and they face no problems in terms of sound quality, but they get off to a mediocre start, each band member standing static and gazing towards the floor. Rather amiably, the band recognise this themselves and, a few songs in, make jovial references to the problem at hand. "I think we need to be putting in about 15% more energy in" jokes moustachioed guitarist Steve Leach and, fortunately, from then on, they do. Consequently, the crowd also begins getting involved more, jumping around to the snappy riffs and singing along. In fact, the front half of the crowd goes somewhat mental, with up to four people all at one time raiding the stage, hugging band members and diving back into the crowd. Unfortunately, one begins to realise that these four people are pretty much the same four people again and again. Whilst a small minority are going totally nuts at the front, obvious set highlight 'All in My Head' turning into an ecstatic shouting match, a large number of people are filing out the back, having lost interest.

So, whilst the show is by no means diabolical, the fact that many avid fans seem to be expressing their disappointment afterwards is testament to the fact that something was missing tonight. (5)

words/ luke fear



opening lines to 'Blood Sugar' a large pit begins to open up in the centre of the crowd making it clear that this is no longer just dance music. They follow up their introduction with shattering renditions of 'Fasten Your Seatbelts'



and their remix of 'Voodoo People'. You have to give credit to Pendulum for translating their sound to a live setting. Were you to bear witness to a 'live' concert from the likes of Justice, Simian Mobile Disco or even icons like Chemical Brothers and Daft Punk you would

### Bedouin Soundclash

Stylus  
15/11/07

Bedouin Soundclash are Canadian. Strike one. They describe their music as 'reggae/dub/soul'. Strike two. They have already made it difficult for themselves. The question is: is there a strike three?

The crowd is energised. They await the band's arrival with almost tangible excitement. This pre-set anticipation, allied to some offensive strobe effects, keeps the crowd busy through three or four pleasant, uninspired opening songs. One hardly even notices that the bass is too prominent or that there's far too much delay echo on the vocals. Or that there aren't really any melodies.

However, after a couple more undeniably not-bad-though-



### New Model Army

Leeds Met  
17/11/07

"The older you get, the better it gets." The older you get, the older your audience gets. Bar myself and about four confused looking students ("Are you sure you saw these in



NME?), the crowd was made up of balding, pot-bellied, sweating, 40+ year old men, and purple-haired, not blue-rinse just yet, women.

New Model Army were reasonably popular in the 80s as an underground post-punk band. I hear they are also quite big in Germany, still. Credit to them: despite their slightly lorry-driver-esque appearances, they still manage to catapult around the stage like the best young 'uns. The same can be said for the audience; I

# Live.

E(M)F  
by Helena and Ramzy



I'm wondering what the music industry would be like without the 'sex sells' element... Some of the most memorable moments in recent pop history have been down to stunts such as the Madonna-Britney kiss or the Janet Jackson-JT nipple incident. We all know Western culture uses sex as a capitalistic marketing tool, so it can only be expected that it's a primary focus in the entertainment business. The music videos, the chat shows, the magazine covers don't particularly lend themselves to those of us with imperfections. Even if you alter your appearance, the chances are you're going to end up with a badger-in-headlights expression and breasts that resemble upside-down hot air balloons (think about it). Unless you're a demigod, as an 'artiste', you end up in the category: ugly-yet-quite-good, so-ugly-you're-fascinating (sorry Meatloaf) or normal-talented-and-only-ever-going-to-be-modestly-successful. Most people fit in the last group and whilst this might seem disappointing, what's good, is that once your five minutes are over you can merge back into the masses and rarely be harassed. If we look at what happens to those who chase their more attractive youth: Michael Jackson and Lil Kim are some startling examples, celebrities become grotesque caricatures of their former selves, or in Jacko's case they join the so-ugly-you're-fascinating category. Looking back over the column I realise I've detracted from my original focus and ended up berating plastic surgery. I suppose the digression could be worthwhile. Beauty, fame, talent, they all seem inextricably linked. Alternatively, if you have none of these, you could always try sleeping with a music industry executive.



In pop music, as in ethics, we seem to live our critical lives by fairly strict adherence to a few axioms that we are unable to look directly at (rather like Ford's sofa in *Life, the Universe and Everything*).

The legal history of the music business is littered with cases arising from the awkward distinction between different manifestations of the same act. Roger Waters famously tried to sue David Gilmour & Co. for the use of the name Pink Floyd, in a supposed attempt to protect the brand. Andy McCluskey has released several solo 'OMD' records. Most confusingly, Billy Corgan has assembled essentially the same group of musicians on two separate occasions, once as the ill-fated Zwan, once as OMG A SMASHING PUMPKINS REFORMATION. The latter example suggests that an outfit's intention and motivation is more important to its definition than its actual constitution - but plenty of acts keep a constant line-up and wholly reinvent themselves conceptually. Consider Radiohead in 1993 and in 2001. Last time I checked, no-one was trying to sue them. So if a band's name doesn't describe its line-up OR its intention, what does it actually relate to?

In the 1970s, Kraftwerk didn't so much push the envelope as blow it up; by 2000, they'd lost two of their four key members who, between them, wrote much of the material that 'new Kraftwerk' performed on 2005's live LP, and are largely responsible for developing and engineering many of the electronic percussion systems that were so exciting when they were releasing studio records. Taste renders a victory to the 1970s version but, when half the original outfit and two other people issue the closest thing to a 'best of' that the band have ever attempted by *reperforming all the material*, where does the line fall between Kraftwerk and a Kraftwerk tribute act? How far can the semantic envelope be pushed?

ultimately just be watching a couple of guys twiddling knobs and flicking switches behind some amps. As enjoyable as that still is, Pendulum's set really is live to the extent that their songs now sound like they were designed specifically for the mosh pit. This is likely to anger fans as the new songs that get played sound as though, one album in, the band are already taking a new direction. That's not to say they don't go down a storm with the entire room becoming a sweaty mess jumping around. In this format Pendulum effectively become a metal band albeit one that will probably sound a bit too much like Linkin Park on the new record 'Earstorm'. After proving their worth as talented guitarists during the flamenco sounding 'Girl in the Fire' the band perform 'Hold Your Colour' for an encore that sees guitarist and frontman Rob Swire singing dreamy vocals that seem to dominate the majority of their new material. They leave the stage victorious. (8)

words/ luke fear

boring songs, it becomes apparent that to find something truly impressive about the set will be a challenge. The chords all fit together nicely, the tunes amble along in unobtrusive mediocrity and the band don't make any heinous mistakes. Some of the bass lines, played by Eon Sinclair, are almost interesting, particularly in the soothingly safe '12:59 Lullaby'. So, the songs keep coming. Some are duller than others, but none are really powerful, touching or even worthy of notice. The band's over-pretentious, hat wearing frontman Jay Malinowski doesn't introduce many of the tracks, so they all kind of blend together into a faux-reggae porridge somewhere between Ace of Base and Simply Red. They're certainly not bad, but stubbing your toe isn't that bad either in the grand scheme of things. Even so, you wouldn't take off your shoes then pay fifteen quid to walk blindfolded through a museum of chair legs.

After almost an hour, they wave a smiley but disinterested goodbye. Within thirty seconds, however, they are back, in the form of the band's hit record 'When the Night Feels My Song'. So, yes, a strikeout. Bedouin Soundclash hardly even bother to take a swing. (4)

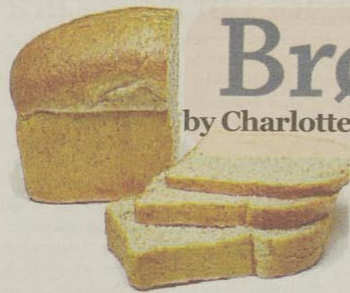
words/ george reece

was shocked and astonished to see a quite energetic mosh-pit thriving at the front of the stage. I was also worried lest someone should displace a hip. Having said all this, I was having a pretty good time; this gig had a better atmosphere than most I've seen recently. I felt that if I squinted, perhaps, I imagine I was a punk. The music played was energetic, with driving rhythms, extravagant guitar riffs and poetic, anti-establishment lyrics. It's also over the top and dated. The appeal to people our age is quite small, not because they are an old band but because their music has become clichéd, and is now synonymous with what can only be described as bad taste. Should New Model Army have changed their music to suit modern times? Innovation and transformation are key elements in musical renovation; however, when their music is enjoyed by people who are similarly estranged with modern music, what is the need for change? If you take away the fame and fortune motives, and burrow into the mind of a musician, you would probably find that they started in this business with the aspiration to simply excite people with their music. New Model Army still have that aspiration, which is admirable. (6)

words/ holly brain

# Breakfast bonanza

Never managed to drag yourself out of bed before midday? You're missing out on a whole host of Leeds' breakfast options. **Matt Andrews, James Haddon and Charlotte Griffiths** guide you through the maelstrom of meals available during the morning milieu.



## Brød

by Charlotte Griffiths

**B**rod has a genuine cult following among residents of Headingley. Until this year it was merely a dismissive sandwich shop that catered for the businessmen that work in the offices around Headingley, i.e. proper people. Not knowing the potential of the student market, it only opened briefly at lunchtimes and never on weekends. Now it is almost permanently open to cater for the army of hungover Brød lovers of Headingley. It even opens at 6:30 a.m. so if you have a really late night you may catch it on your way home. The key to Brød is that once you have eaten there

your hangover will almost instantly disappear, yes - it is that good. On a Saturday afternoon there are often queues of students all the way out of the door; most still half pissed, all bleary eyed and many still in their clothes from the night before. I was lucky enough to live just a few steps away from Brød last year, in fact it had a considerable bearing on the decision of me and my housemates to live there. The Brød staff got so used to me stumbling in of a morning that they began to look after me. When I would walk in with high heels from the night before, makeup smeared all over my face and hair resembling a haystack, they would give me a knowing look and say "is it a day or the extra tomatoes

love?" (They know that I like extra tomatoes and the amount that I need usually has a direct bearing on the extent of my hangover). When I would walk in late at night half way through the essay that was due in for the morning, but was only half done, they would give me a knowing look and say "Coronation chicken today love?" (They know that Coronation Chicken is my favourite comfort food). I recently got a £60 parking fine because in my haste to get a Brød I illegally parked - but the baguette of goodness was well worth the fine so I didn't mind too much. If you become a Brød lover, Brod will love you back and fill you with the best sandwiches on the softest baguettes known to man. I love Brød, and I like to think that they love me.

## Cafe Noir

with James Haddon

**T**he rain was overbearing; the hangover, unbearable; my state of mind, barely conscious. Last night was hard, the struggle to get up, harder. They say breakfast makes a man, others that it breaks him; others use rather more relevant descriptions, but they wouldn't fit into the film noir approach I so desperately appear to adhere to.

Cafe in the Campus has always filled me with a deeply mixed emotional response,

Today, in the rain, I would take that first experimental step and discover just what this enigmatic establishment could provide. Its decor is some odd mix of bohemian cafe and geriatric tearoom - odd, coffee-themed ornaments contrasted with a wipe-clean, incontinence-friendly floor. The breakfast - a bacon, egg, sausage, tomato combo jammed into a baguette - was good, though if any readers were still swayed by the film-noir introduction, the sight of my attempt to eat a sandwich

PHOTO: Maria Garbutt-Lucero



rather like seeing a fat man falling over - half concern, half amusement, and half the vague worry that he won't have got up by the time I've reached him on the pavement. The name has always put me off, but its weird appeal - the style of building, the menu, the smell of really unhealthy bacon being fried in some taste-enhancing, health-destroying way - has always pulled me back.

overflowing with egg yolk in the style would swiftly have disillusioned you. The bread, while good, was nowhere near substantial and disintegrated under the weight of filling. Good, if that's your thing.

Leaving with my coffee - strong, black and (disappointingly) served in a plastic cup - the rain seemed less wet, the morning less early and my reflections less shaped by bad-quality voice-overs from the '50s.



**E**very Wednesday morning I drag myself out of bed at the crack of dawn (7am), moaning and staggering like a George Romero zombie into the bathroom where a brisk shower mildly awakens me from my slumber. I bumble downstairs and throw together some feeble sandwiches for my lonely worktime lunch, still too bleary-eyed to attempt fixing myself some breakfast. After finding some clothes that are vaguely office-friendly and locating enough change for a day rider, I stumble out of the house, blinking in the harsh sunlight (or, more likely for Leeds, the bitter, stinging north wind) and head to the bus stop to catch the 95 into town.

Why would I make this thankless pilgrimage all the way to my less-than-beautiful office in suburban Hunslet? Well, for one, because my part-time graphic design job there pays me pretty handsomely. But I digress. The real highpoint of my day is the chance to enjoy what I term a Real Person's Breakfast®.

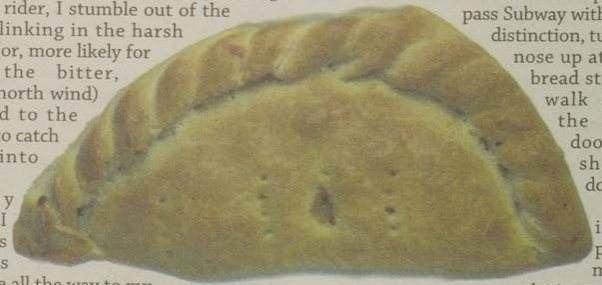
At precisely 8.23am I step off the bus near Leeds City Square. Throngs of bustling working people thread past me, and for these brief few minutes I feel part of society, a real working man, earning a wage in the city just like everyone else instead of existing in the student bubble, amassing debt. I step

amongst them and notice the throbbing in my belly which indicates that I have yet to break my fast.

Approaching my second bus stop for the trek into Hunslet, I pass down Boar Lane and begin my next morning routine. I head into the warm decor of 'Baked', a gourmet pie shop situated next door to Subway. A little like the fat girl who's always friends with a more attractive specimen, Subway's sole purpose here is to make Baked look and smell much more appealing.

I pass Subway with an air of distinction, turning my nose up at its stale bread stench and walk through the inviting doors of the shop next door.

Once inside I purchase my regular choice: a large Cornish pasty. When I say Cornish pasty I don't mean those flimsy half-baked jobs that Greggs or even Ainsleys will sell you. Oh no. This is a Cornish pasty for a connoisseur; made for a veritable gentleman of baked confectionary, amongst whose privileged ranks I class myself. I stow the perfectly wrapped pastry in my bag until I step off the bus in downtown Hunslet, and allow myself ten minutes before entering the office to sit and enjoy each tenderly-cooked morsel. Pasty consumed, I am ready to face the day.



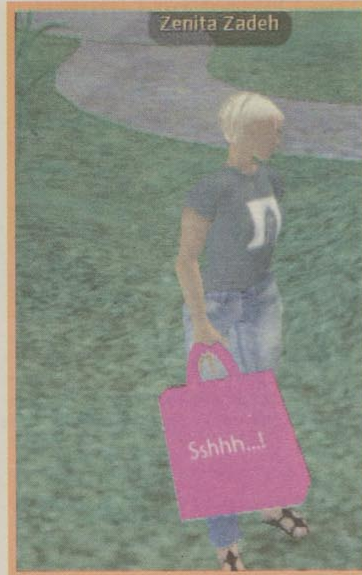
# “Sshhh...!”, you old bag

Oh the controversy of carrier bags. Motion 1 in this week’s referenda (which you no doubt voted in) has highlighted the need to take a closer look at our carrier bag culture. **Jessica Parker** investigates the Quiet Revolution that started in Leeds but has gone on to change the world. “Sshhh...!” and listen to the wisdom of a new era in how we convey inanimate objects.

**E**ver get the feeling that Leeds University has a strange obsession with bags? First the 5 pence charge on carrier bags, then the surge in “Sshhh...!” and now Motion 1; the radical move to ban all plastic bags from our campus and replace them with the, mystically rainproof, paper bag. America is mad on paper bags, so why aren’t we? (To be fair, America is

lose your attention, that Leeds University Library have staged a subtle bag revolution over the last year. And in the great tradition of libraries, this revolution has been oh-so-quiet. Those sneaky librarians. The “Sshhh...!” bags are biodegradable wonders that put the rest of the casual carriers to shame. Begone, you naughty non-biodegradable plastic bags of the past! Fly, you flimsy pieces of paper-bag rubbish that fear the menace of moisture. And hail, the quiet future of the handy bag, “Sshhh...!” This bag’s for life, not just for the library. Until it biodegrades, that is.

A brief history: our conscientious Leeds University librarians became concerned about the manner in which thousands of students were thoughtlessly acquiring and discarding plastic bag after bag. LUU plastic carrier bags had unwittingly become a common and environmentally unfriendly receptacle for our weighty academic loads (or sneaky sandwiches, to be illegally consumed in the library). A studious study of the complex nature of bags ensued with the hushed up result of “Sshhh...!” Smart, funny (cos people tell you to “Sshhh!” in the Library allllll the time, right?) AND fashionable. Rather ecological too. You may doubt the magic that is “Sshhh...!” but I have evidence to prove that this book-luvvin’ bag has a great future. Over 10,000 of the £2 bags have already been sold, since their release last year. Not only this but the bags have travelled far and wide. Manufactured in humble Worcestershire, these silent specimens have even branched out into eco-friendly tourism. They have smirked at the oil-lickin’ lover, George Bush, through the railings that overlook that place of power - the White House. Disneyland Paris has also been visited by the superb “Sshhh...!”, as has the Shinto shrine in Tokyo, the “Cheers” TV sign in



An expedition to the earth’s core? A space odyssey? Busting into Beekingham Palace? One can only hope.

Now you may be one of those penny-pinching types who would object to paying £2 for a bag when you can buy one of those boring plastic pariahs for 5 pence (or, in non LUU shops, for free) but consider the following. Plastic bags tear. Plastic bags are ugly. Plastic bags are thoughtlessly discarded each time we empty them, only to be forgotten and assigned to the unrecorded abyss of back-of-the-wardrobe history. Plastic bags kill the environment. I don’t mean to sound like a hysterical environmentalist, but I’m a hysterical environmentalist. As one of the illustrious Leeds Uni Library “Sshhh...!” inventors, Katie Sidwell, tells us, “They are greener than plastic bags and easier to carry, because they have a comfortable handle. They also last for ever. I’ve had mine for a year and I use it daily, for days out and shopping. It can carry many bottles, too.” Bottles! Clink clink.

Still not impressed? Well get this - “Sshhh...!”-ers change colour. Not as in an individual bag goes from blue to red or green to gold in reaction to the strength of the sun’s rays or at its owner’s command. No, no - new colours are released with the seasons. That’s right, these bags are fashion conscious. Last year saw the release of oh-so-cool brown and pink shades and this year, it’s red and black that’s wow-ing the crowds. So the logic follows, not only are “Sshhh...!” bags Leeds-grown, globe-trotting, eco-friendly, book bagging wonders; they’re in vogue too. Quiet is the new loud people, and Leeds University Library the new Louis Vuitton.

Boston, the island of Crete and the magical waterways of Venice. These are just a few of the international locations in which “Sshhh...!” bags have been papped and, as totted up by the Yorkshire Evening Post, that means these tireless travellers have managed to trek 15,000 miles in 12 months. Don’t know about you, but I’m kind of jealous. (I haven’t left Leeds since September.) Added to these geographical forays, “Sshhh...!” has delved into the digital world, featuring in the the video game, ‘Second Life’. What epic journey into places impenetrable will the “Sshhh...!” make next?

“ Begone, you naughty non-biodegradable plastic bags of the past! Fly, you flimsy pieces of paper-bag rubbish that fear the menace of moisture. And hail, the quiet future of the handy bag, “Sshhh...!”

mad on a lot of things - maybe we shouldn’t go down that road.) Maybe we should all just take a moment and think, quietly, about bags and their future. In other words, I must hark back to “Sshhh...!” Moment of silence please. Perhaps you recall seeing them, perhaps you know all about them, or perhaps you gave up trying to understand what this old mad bag lady was on about quite some time ago. Fair enough but I must quickly point out, before I

## Vox Pop We ask a random selection of the Leeds student population about their opinion on those ubiquitous “Sshhh...!” bags.



**Jeni, 20, Classics**  
I quite like my ‘Sshhh...!’ bag - especially since they were featured in the Guardian! I got mine from the Eddy B library last June so it’s lasted rather a long time. I normally use it to carry my books (and lunch!).

**Carley, 21, Fashion Design**  
I got my “Sshhh...!” bag last year when I was coming out of the library with lots of books and they were handily on sale by the issue desk. I don’t really use it anymore though since everyone’s got one. I reckon if the designers made a bigger range of new styles they’d sell even more.



**Emily, 20, PPS**  
I live really near uni so I tend to carry my books without a bag. However I have heard of “Sshhh...!” and think they’re a really great idea. Definitely better than plastic bags so I think that it’s really important to encourage students to use them. I certainly would if the need arose.



## 21st Leeds International Film Festival

7-18 NOVEMBER 2007



### The Darjeeling Limited

Starring/ Owen Wilson, Jason Schwartzman, Adrien Brody  
Director/ Wes Anderson

Whether or not I would have been friends with my sister had we not been forced together awkwardly and permanently by the uncontrollable machinations of fate, I have no idea. I am certain however, that for whatever reasons, I intentionally restrict those things I tell my family about what I get up to in my real - chosen - life; as do most people. *The Darjeeling Limited* - the latest offering from cult wunderkind Wes Anderson and fresh from sell out screenings at the Film Festival - is a case study of exactly this type of familial dynamic. It follows three brothers, who at the nagging of the oldest, partake on a reunion ('spiritual') journey across India; having not seen each other since the

death of their father a year before.

Wes Anderson has again picked from his favoured acting pool - Huston, Murray, Wilson amongst others - to animate another manifestation of his signature world; this time with Jason Schwartzman co-writing (usually Owen Wilson). For those not familiar with Anderson's style, it may help to think of a young teenage boy listening to 60's records whilst fantasising over cutaway diagrams in cross-section atlases and acting out usbourne puzzle adventures; with an added deadpan sense of humour founded on an acute perception of modern neurotic anxieties.

The emotional baggage of these brothers, left over from their father's death, is symbolised by the neat visual riff of an unwieldy set of colourful custom luggage (made by Louis Vuitton for the film) bequeathed in differing portions from the father to the sons. Carted around with them wherever they go, at one point ridiculously

perched atop a packed Indian bus, it neatly (typical of Anderson) symbolises the burden of their father's memory; eccentric but shared. The spiritual separation of the brothers is shown to be proportional to their reliance on material goods for self-definition, especially those of the late father, a caution about the danger of materialism for human relationships (above all in bereavement). As they are forced to abandon the affectations that compartmentalise them, ditch their farcically counter-intuitive and rigid itinerary, and face raw situations without the ability to hide from each other, Anderson sidelines his own pastiche of tourist spiritualism (quite an ironic move) to uncover a meaningful exploration of sibling relationships and the 'finding of oneself'.

With an excellent soundtrack (including The Rolling Stones, The Kinks and the Indian film music of Satyajit Ray) and beautiful use of colour, this is perhaps the best introduction to Anderson's work and certainly as good as his previous films. His style could prove difficult for strong mainstream tastes, as your enjoyment ultimately depends on how partial you are to the unconventional prism through which Anderson views and portrays the world. This is arguably more important than (though inextricably linked to) the subject matter of his films. His almost childish representations have this time led to some unfortunate accusations of casual racism - relating to the highly stereotypical representation of India. Nonetheless, if you have never seen a film by Wes Anderson - and like the idea of something a little peculiar - definitely go and see this. For those who enjoy it, I would recommend searching out some of his earlier films; including the oft-overlooked but excellent *Bottle Rocket*.

words/ richard malham

### No Country For Old Men

Starring/ Tommy Lee Jones, Josh Brolin, and Javier Bardem  
Directed by/ Joel and Ethan Coen

One day perhaps science will isolate the gene that leads to the development of great film makers. If so it would definitely be found in the Coen family. Based upon the critically acclaimed novel by Cormac McCarthy, *No Country For Old Men* is the latest film from the dream-team of Joel and Ethan Coen. Reinventing the crime thriller genre the brothers have crafted a film that combines both black humour and hardcore violence in the vein of their earlier works such as *Miller's Crossing* and *Fargo*.

When Llewelyn Moss (Brolin) finds a number of dead men, a truck full of heroin and two million dollars in the desolate Texas badlands his life is irrevocably changed. Choosing to take the money and run he unintentionally sets into motion a series of events that will leave a trail of death and destruction clear across the state. Pursued by psychotic killer Anton Chigurh (Bardem) - for whom life and death can be reduced to the flip of a coin - and aging Sheriff Bell (Jones) - a man desperate to make sense of a country he no longer recognises - Moss learns that there are some choices you just can't run from.

While this is perhaps the slowest chase film I have ever seen it is crafted with such a mastery of pace that with every passing moment the atmosphere of impending doom increases. This is in no small part aided by a powerful performance from Bardem. Anton Chigurh is a character that will undoubtedly achieve iconic movie status. From his deadpan stare, to his



### Random Lunacy: Videos from the Road Less Travelled

Directors/ Victor Zimet and Stephanie Silber

It is hard to describe how a documentary about the life and ideas of a 74-year-old American who has never owned a house or had a job can be this fascinating and this thought-provoking. In fact, it sounds like a very odd choice of subject until you realise that Poppa Neutrino is certainly no ordinary hobo. This is man who sailed a raft made of junk picked up on the streets of New York across the Atlantic - something that sounds both impossible and insane.

Using footage shot by Neutrino and his family, as well as their own footage from a long friendship, Zimet and Silber present a wonderful portrait of a man of contradictions - showing his genius without sugar-coating his rough edges. Footage from the past shows his role as a father, with 'The Neutrinos' (the self-taught band that the extended family became) travelling with the circus in Mexico, and often living on home-made rafts. Away from the 'normal' world Poppa taught the family harsh life lessons, including once throwing a child overboard to demonstrate to both children and adults the dangers of not taking care on the rafts.

Poppa is a dynamic character, a genius in the exact opposite way to the 'American Dream'. Resisting attachment and possession, his mind is constantly on the move - dreaming up plans (from the trip over the Atlantic to the invention of a new revolutionary American Football game) and embracing a hard life on the streets and on the rivers. This is a fantastic and oddly inspiring film, reminding us of the close relationship between genius and madness, and that will and determination can overcome the seemingly impossible.

Check out the website [www.poppaneutrino.com](http://www.poppaneutrino.com) for more information about this incredible film.

words/ simon gillett

philosophical musings, he is both terrifying and mesmerising in equal measure. Jones is also on top form and it would not be unwarranted to predict another Oscar nomination in his near future. This film is a relentless journey through the dark underbelly of Americana, with performances of the highest calibre, and should be a must see for any self-respecting film fan. For me this movie was the highlight of the Leeds Film Festival. I truly feel sorry for anyone who missed it as it won't be on general release in this country until next year. The Coen brothers have once again proved themselves to be the best sibling film making partnership in the business. In your face Wachowski brothers!

words/ karim flint

## The Jane Austen Book Club

Starring/ Emily Blunt/Kathy Baker/Amy Brenneman/Hugh Dancy/Maggie Grace  
Director/ Robin Swicord

Boasting a host of names from *Lost*'s Maggie Grace to Emily Blunt and Hugh Dancy, the latest film to cash in on Jane Austen's legacy is well worth a watch. Attention falls on six women that decide to form a book club, meeting once a month to discuss each Jane Austen novel. Initially motivated by a desire to rejuvenate the recently dumped Sylvia (Brennemann), as the months pass, the characters grow and adapt

to one another, learning to relax and enjoy life. There also emerges a series of love stories that just so happen to mirror those found in Jane Austen's novels.

Director Robin Swicord has relied upon the tried and tested winning formula – gorgeous men mixed with romance and light comedy. With some Jane Austen thrown in it should be hard to fault, yet there are a few criticisms to be made. Notably, with so many characters each competing for focus, it was hard for any real depth to be established, despite Swicord's best efforts to provide a history and past.

A scattering of the scenes also seemed to lack any relevance to the story, although neither of these points detracts from one's enjoyment of the film. On the whole it is heart warming and funny although I will warn that

it is definitely one for the girls, a 'Chick Flick' to the very core, highlighted by the fantastic soundtrack that includes both Paulo Nutini and Snow Patrol.

I should note that knowledge of every Jane Austen novel from *Pride and Prejudice* to *Sense and Sensibility* is in no way a requirement, however it is helpful to have a grasp of Jane Austen's work if only to be able to engage with the book club discussions, but this is by no means a necessity!

Being such a Jane Austen fan, I am happy to say that I thoroughly enjoyed this one. However, if you're still sceptical, perhaps you will be swayed by the added detail that Hugh Dancy makes more than one appearance in some very tight Lycra!

words/ natasha dalton



## Beowulf

Starring/ Ray Winstone, Angelina Jolie, Anthony Hopkins  
Director/ Robert Zemeckis

This English student went into the cinema theatre expecting to see an awful butchering of the oldest piece of English literature in Robert Zemeckis's adaptation of the 10th century epic poem *Beowulf*. Thankfully, I came away rather pleasantly surprised. Entirely computer generated, *Beowulf* is a thrilling tale of monsters, heroes and lust.

King Hrothgar's (Anthony Hopkins) kingdom is ravaged by the gruesome, man-eating monster Grendel. Courageous hero Beowulf (Ray Winstone) arrives and pledges to defeat the monster and rid the land of this curse. He gets more than he bargained for and has to confront the fiend's rather curvaceous mother (Angelina Jolie) and later another beast of the winged, fire-breathing variety.

For the most part, the film is faithful to the 3,182 line poem, even down to a few anecdotes and smatterings of genuine Old English creeping in. The biggest departures arrive once we've encountered Grendel's 'tarn hag' of a mother: Angelina Jolie, naked, bathed in gold and wearing 6 inch stilettos – a hag she most definitely ain't. Some changes in storyline details, making Beowulf king of Denmark rather than his own Geatland for example, do make for a coherent plot, but adding in a love story and the tinkering with his adversaries' origins is unnecessary and doesn't really wash.

The CGI and motion capture is remarkably good and sets a very high benchmark for CGI films to come. Think *Shrek* meets Gollum, and then some. How else could you turn the portly Ray Winstone into a rippling 6'6 muscular hunk, complete with pony tail? Grendel, a sort of cross between Gollum and a human body model from GCSE biology, coupled with strobe lighting and manic shrieking, is actually pretty terrifying.

*Beowulf* isn't without its flaws however. Just where exactly are these blonde people from? Hrothgar's Danes and Beowulf's Geats seem to come from Copenhagen via Llanelli, Dublin and Hackney and there are a few groan-worthy moments – Beowulf declaring "I've come to kiw your mon-stah!" being just one example. His naked fight with Grendel is, quite frankly, laughable as you find yourself concentrating on the strategically placed spears and helmets rather than on the epic man-to-beast fight to the death.

Glossing over the flaws, *Beowulf* is a slightly silly, yet surprisingly entertaining, adventure into 6th century heroics. Zemeckis guides you through on a sumptuous and brutal thriller whilst all the while focusing on Beowulf the character and his heroic traits of bravery, arrogance, greed and, ultimately, self-sacrifice. To see the film in all its CGI digital glory, don your silly glasses and go and see one of the 3D showings.

words/ jenny axtell

## Anton's Shorts

This Wednesday evening the Carriageworks showed a number of short plays by Chekhov, adopted and directed by Mark France. Having no previous knowledge of Chekhov I did not know what to expect. There were five different masculine plays that mainly dealt with chauvinistic men. All of the different men within the plays were unhappy and feeling sorry for themselves because of the hand that life had dealt them. Most of the men within the different plays were driven to madness by women, who compared their husbands to "dumb animals". This was seen in *The Evils of Tobacco* where Stuart Horobin illustrated perfectly what a man with seven daughters and a controlling life had led him to – jumping up and down upon his coat!

Stuart Horobin stood out, especially in monologues, where he was able to deliver a convincing portrait of a man at his wit's end. This is especially true when representing an elderly actor who was afraid of ageing when he delivered a speech from King Lear. The Shakespeare references within this play were very relevant to

the script and worked well. The use of music also worked well in between the plays especially as the actors used it to develop different roles.

Chekhov was writing in the 19th Century but is still able to provide laughs in the 21st Century, which merely illustrates how broad his subject matter is, and how well Mark France was able to adapt it for a modern day audience. The issue of sexism and the opinion of a women's place in the world are prevalent today especially with the rise of feminism. Chekhov describes a man coming to propose as a "merchant come to collect his goods". Even though the language is not contemporary, the objectification of women is still a divisive issue.

Chekhov describes the scene in Russia when he was writing as 'dreary' and knew that this would change but not in his lifetime. This is possibly why each of his plays had a somewhat pessimistic outlook, which did become a bit overbearing by the final play. Overall, the production team, Icabod, put on a good performance but I am not a converted Chekhov fan.

words/ rozanne driver

## American Gangster

Starring/ Russell Crowe, Denzel Washington  
Director/ Ridley Scott

In a dark perversion of the American dream this film charts the meteoric rise of Frank Lucas (Washington) from small-time criminal to heroin kingpin. At the height of his reign Lucas' control of the drugs market was so vast that it was said to supersede that of the Mafia. However, it was this unprecedented rise to power that would eventually bring him to the attention of the NYPD, the DEA, and most significantly the Newark anti-drugs squad, then under the leadership of one Ritchie Roberts (Crowe).

This is a truly curious crime thriller that seeks to alter our perception of the morality behind crime and punishment. While there is no doubt that Frank Lucas was a violent criminal, responsible for the pain and misery of thousands, he is at the same time a family man who took his mother to church every Sunday.

If Frank Lucas had gone to an Ivy League college then he undoubtedly would have been a captain of industry. But instead his education took place on the streets of Harlem. Ridley Scott cleverly draws parallels between Lucas' organisation and the growing civil rights movement in 60's America, reminding us that this was a time when millions of disenfranchised black men had little other option than to turn to a life of crime to survive in a country still dominated by prejudice. By comparison Ritchie Roberts' is the polar opposite of Lucas. In his personal life he was a womaniser whose marriage had broken down to the point where he was in danger of losing his son. But as a policeman it was his adherence to a strict ethical code that turned him into a pariah amongst his fellow officers. Crowe has played cops before but in this role he definitely shines as the man desperate to stay clean in a police force rendered impotent by rampant corruption.

This film is truly epic in scale, spanning almost a decade of the character's lives. Watch it.

words/ karim flint



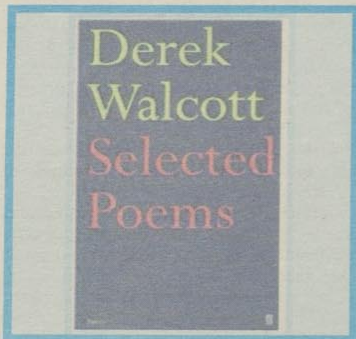
## Sweet Charity

Dazzling dames, dapper-Dans and the campest thing on campus – this might easily describe most Musical Theatre (MT) and Stage Musical Society (SMS) productions. I would put the standard observations of sparkly sequins, the pink parade and ballet boys aside, but we must acknowledge *Sweet Charity* for what it is; an array of catchy tunes to which the audience can squeal, "Ooh I know this one! I didn't know 'Hey, Big Spender' was from this musical!", humorous quips about women's weight, cutting remarks about the caddish nature of men, daring dance moves and the inevitable appearance of an unexplained fairy godmother to wrap it all up. Excellent stuff. Brief synopsis – an unlucky-in-love New York ballroom hostess by the name of Charity finally meets a decent fellow in Oscar. But romance turns sour as Oscar struggles to deal with both his belle's past and his own anxious temperament. The usual LUU musical veterans dominated the cast somewhat but, fair to say, these

athletic and melodious idols of the stage continue to justify their reign. And the award for the most outstanding veteran goes to...Sam Harrison. His character appears quite late on in the first half but enter Sir Harrison and the mood and energy of the entire musical was immediately lifted. The subsequent scene between Charity (played brilliantly by Hannah May) and Harrison's neurotic Oscar ironically proved one of the highlights of the production. I say ironically because the scene takes place in a stuck lift, hardly the most inspiring backdrop. However, Ms May and Mr Harrison require little more than a small lift-shaped space in which to showcase their comic acting talent. Chuck in some colourful clothes and outlandish Church gatherings to the tune of "The Rhythm Of Life" and you're in musical heaven. Good luck to the pipsqueak Freshers who covet the titles of the reigning Gods and Goddesses of MT and SMS. Fresh talent? Pahl Hurray for Harrison and his performing arts posse. Long may they rule the floorboards of the Riley Smith.

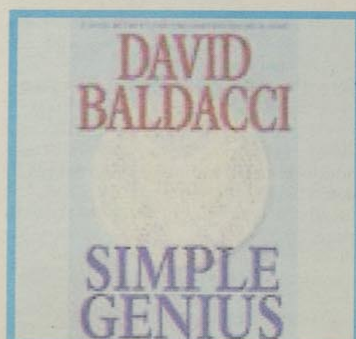
words/ jessica parker

## Reviews of the Week...

**'Selected Poems'**by  
Derek Walcott

Chosen from a poetic career spanning almost sixty years, Walcott's latest collection has the formidable task of trying to show a representative gloss of his wider works without leaning too strongly on any one period of his writing. The editor's introduction describes these concerns, but quickly degenerates into a shallowly-concealed piece of fan mail that reads something like a cross between an Oscar speech and an obituary, praising Walcott in so shame-faced a manner that it becomes almost embarrassing to read. "This book is a distillation from the harvest of one of the great poets of the twentieth century," the Editor masturbates onto the page, "The difficulty was to choose." But skip this, and reach the poetry proper, and you find an almost remedial subtlety that proves an antidote to the crassness of the book's opening. Organised chronologically by collection, Walcott's development can be traced from his early work – lyrical, confident but self-deprecating, already showing what will become his trademark flair for the phrase – through maturity in both theme and form. The fact that Walcott has won a Nobel Prize for Literature means it's difficult not to enter the collection without certain expectations, but the progression from his early work allows a reader to chart Walcott's development towards the award-winning poet of his later collections. The book isn't perfect, however, and the editor's decision to present those of Walcott's longer narrative poems that have had to be shortened through the following of a plot-strand rather than through any thematic or narrative organisation leaves a lot to be desired, and while his decision makes sense in terms of the plot, a lot of the beauty of the longer poems are lost through this attempt to maintain a narrative sense as opposed to an artistic or poetic one. The Selected Poems are well worth exploring if post-colonial literature is something that mildly interests you; however, for anyone with a real interest in exploring Walcott's work, it'd probably be better to buy one of his other collections, where his longer poems can be enjoyed in the form that they were intended.

words/ james haddon

**'Simple Genius'**by  
David Baldacci

David Baldacci has long ago achieved the status of an author whose name alone shifts hundreds of thousands, regardless of the strength of his latest offering. As a twelve-times New York Times bestseller he could understandably feel inclined to rest on his laurels, but Simple Genius only goes to reaffirm his place as one of our top contemporary crime writers. This is a thriller with an interesting focus: corruption within the CIA, surely a great hook for the anti-American cohort that most of the world now align themselves with. Although Baldacci stresses that all events in the book are entirely fictional there's scope for some serious conspiracy theories here. Private investigator team, Sean King and Michelle Maxwell, are hired to look into a mysterious death at a secret CIA base called Camp Peary (the story is based on a real place that the US government refuse to acknowledge exists). The victim was a physicist working at a clandestine establishment called Babbage Town where a select group of intellectuals work on enigmatic scientific projects for anonymous owners. Their biggest lead is the dead man's daughter, child prodigy Viggie; their biggest fear that someone else will get to her or one of her guardians before she is able to help them with the investigation. An unusual variation on the standard crime-solving team format is that Michelle spends the first part of the novel in a specialist unit seeking psychological help, after anger management problems combined with lethal martial arts skills nearly resulted in getting herself and another person killed. The disclosure in the concluding part of the novel of what caused Michelle's violent streak adds a decidedly darker slant to the book. Baldacci fans will remember the two protagonists from earlier novels such as Split Second and Hour Game, but newcomers shouldn't be put off; this book easily stands alone as a novel and not just a sequel. This is a thriller that does its genre proud: fast-paced and addictively readable.

words/ rebecca miles

**'Where do nudists keep their hankies?'**by  
Mitchell Symons

Here we have a book that looks stylish with its mock-1950s cover photography and yet is highly explicit in content. Shocking pink and sky blue, this non-fiction chunk of 'adult questions that you always wanted answered' is born to sit on your coffee table (depending on who you are and who you have around for coffee of course).

The variety of specific subjects covered in this book of sex trivia is large, ranging from aphrodisiacal tips and fetishes to the etymology of derogatory terms and information regarding the sexual peccadilloes of historical figures.

Mitchell Symons adopts a sickeningly conversational style that tries to accommodate the web of questions that will no doubt arise in readers' minds from his primary answers to the questions initially asked. Additionally there are various diagrams and cartoons provided to illustrate certain issues, as can be expected of this wafery genre, keeping his target audience mildly entertained as they turn page after thick page. Underneath the levels of base humour some more interesting debates crop up concerning prostitution, Judaism, age consent laws, attributes of differing sexual persuasions, bestiality and the Vatican. It is this rather heavy sociological engagement that will split Symons' reception, as some readers find intellectual stimulus, some start to yawn and others begin to feel ever so slightly offended at the rather raw and biased opinions. This mock-didactic nature is redeemed by genuinely witty one-liners and a few quite piercing observations. Professionals also intervene with their views, momentarily raising the level of writing and revealing some more insightful discussions.

'Where do nudists keep their hankies?' is an ambiguous title for an uncertain product, although the anecdotes and information do entertain, this book will soon find itself taken off the coffee table and stacked neatly on that shelf in your downstairs toilet. Is it the perfect stocking filler? Perhaps for some, but maybe play it safe and stick to mandarins.

words/ jack cullen

**Book News**

Rare copy of Wuthering Heights sells for six figures

A rare first edition of Emily Brontë's novel Wuthering Heights has recently been sold for £114,000 at Bonhams London auction house, more than double the sale price it was expected to sell for. Wuthering Heights, which was first published in 1847, was bought by the antiquarian bookseller Robert Kirkman, on behalf of an unnamed British client, a keen collector of Brontë works. According to Bonhams, only three copies of this edition have come up for auction in the last 35 years. The book was sold by its previous owner, Anne Reid in order to fund her ambitions to become an artist. The book was given to her as a child by her grandfather after it had been in her family for four generations.

**Libraries to be new channel for direct marketing**

A scheme to put thousands of advertisements into library books will find borrowers taking home a little more than just the words of its author. Up to 500,000 inserts a month are due to be handed out by libraries in Essex, Somerset, Bromley, Leeds and Southend. The plan is being run by the direct marketing company Howse Jackson. Business development director of this 'brand new channel' of direct marketing Mark Jackson explains how the plan will work.

"The inserts are put in the book at the first page as you're handed the book to check it out," he explained. "They're going to be inserted right next to the panel with the return date on it, which means that everyone will look at them at least once."

The director of policy at the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, Guy Daines said that such a scheme should be operated with "caution" due to the risk of "inappropriate product placement"

According to Mr Jackson, the scheme has been designed to minimise these problems, with only one sheet being used for each insert, and only one book receiving inserts for each customer. However Daines further stressed the need to be careful "that the commercial advertising you do cannot be seen to affect the selection of the books themselves."

words/ natalie lewy



# Back from Reality?

As the third series of 'The Mighty Boosh' airs, **Jim Moore** asks 'is surreal the new real in situation comedies?'

As British sitcoms go, 'The Mighty Boosh' seems fairly original. On the surface, anything featuring the double-

of beasts: a surrealist cult comedy with a devoted audience and long-term prospects.

Julian Barratt and Noel Fielding's inspired comedy has gone through many incarnations, including a radio series and stage show. This reviewer came late to the party, only getting into the show through the TV series. However, the Boosh doesn't attract the judgemental fanbase other cult TV shows have, who dislike people for discovering the show "after it got popular". Besides, for a show that airs at 10:30pm on BBC3, "popular" is a relative term. There's little risk that the Boosh will become like 'Little Britain' or 'The Catherine Tate Show', with catchphrases beloved by 15-year-olds in the playground and repeated to the point of driving you to murderous insanity. For that reason, fans are tolerant of "newcomers".

The built-in fringe factor to the Boosh highlights the way it ties in with the tradition of surreal imagination in British comedy. The freewheeling narratives and madcap energy of 'Monty Python's Flying Circus' and 'The Young Ones' stood alone

among 1960s and 70s sitcoms, but proved enduringly popular. Comedies where reality takes a back seat seem few and far between, but all the more popular for it. Consider 'Spaced'. Set in a grittily realistic London, but full of flights of fancy, including full-scale recreations of various well-known film scenes, 'Spaced' pushed the boundaries of what could be gathered under the sitcom banner.

In recent years, however, realism is the order of the day. 'The Office' may be the most famous and high-profile example of the trend, but even before Ricky Gervais smarmed his way onto the screen as terrible manager David Brent, a crop of low-key, plot-free sitcoms like 'The Royle Family' and 'Early Doors' had taken British television firmly back to reality. But

really, who wants that? Comedy is a method of escape and release from the dullness of ordinary life.

After slaving away in an office that may bear a striking resemblance to Slough's Wernham Hogg, why would you want to watch more of the same once you get home?

As Noel Fielding says in a recent interview with The Guardian, "The world's so depressing, which is why I think I use the show to

cut myself off from it. I wanted it to be as childlike and fantastical and magical as possible, designed to make you forget what's going on."

So take a tip from the King of the Mods - tuck into a maggot bhuna, sit back in front of your television and see what the moon has got to offer.



**MOON & NOIR:** funnier than a cockerel's boot.

“ A talking moon delivering monologues about astronauts walking on his face is likely to be a bit special.

act of a wannabe-intellectual jazz fan and an eyeliner-sporting fashion victim, with interjections from a teenage mystic, insane musical numbers and a talking moon delivering rambling monologues about astronauts walking on his face is likely to be a bit special. But as the third series, which began last week, continues airing on BBC3, the Boosh seem to have created that rarest

## On yer soapbox

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

What: Jeremy Kyle is just the latest ego maniac to scrape the bottom of the social barrel, empty the contents onto day time TV and belittle the accused to within an inch of their dignity. Knowing this I still gawp at the societal circus on display because I have a love/hate relationship with Jeremy Kyle, in that I love to hate him. Those with intellects equivalent to the guests can be forgiven for mistaking his blatant arrogance and self proclamation as the second coming. He has a 'no nonsense' way to tackle families issues. However those of us who don't own a sovereign ring are screaming for the tables to turn on Kyle.



How: Picture the scene: some mutton dressed as spam 16 year old mother brings on her ex lover to the audiences obligatory boo's, however the guest composes himself and states that it takes two to tango.

Jeremy rebuts with: "Why didn't you have a job? And that's a fact!" The guest simply replies; "In fact I think you'll find that's a question. I was not in work due to mitigating circumstances." Then feeling his grip on the audience slacken Kyle describes how he, unlike the male guest used to drive all night without sleep to see his kids. Our man suggests Kyle ought to think of the danger he posed to the other motorists at the time. Finally he finishes him off by saying: "Mr Kyle I'd appreciate it if you stopped butting in with irrelevant stories about your brother just to provoke a reaction from your crowd of sheep who ironically disapprove of me not having a job when they have time to numb their backsides and brains on your DAY TIME chat show! We all make mistakes as I'm sure your ex wife will tell us!"

## The Argument

Which of these food connoisseurs can cut the mustard?

**Hugh Whittingstall** **Gordon Ramsay**

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall is a food super-hero. He travels the seas to save fish from extinction and push the frontiers of sustainable food. He's ethical, embraces seasonality, and grows his own food. His mantra is that it is the duty of earth bound beings to treat our fellow creatures with respect and ensure a sustainable future for both them and us. He doesn't resort to swearing to get your attention on food and he doesn't fuss around with stylists and trying to look good. His physical appearance might leave a lot to be desired but his ethical soul is as swarthy as Brad Pitt. Hugh stands out from many chefs who use gimmicks to sell their shows like Nigella Lawson's attempts to make love to the camera or Gordon's repulsive verbal diarrhoea of expletives. What is wrong with a good old fashioned river cottage with a vegetable garden like 'The Good Life' and an organically free ranged roast chicken killed humanely? His earthy simplicity makes Hugh stand out from the crowd of all those townie crass chefs.

This 41 year old chef is the stallion of the cookery world. He is one of the only chefs in England to be awarded three Michelin Stars, which proves that this foul mouthed connoisseur really knows his stuff. A lot of critics think that Gordon faked his show, staging fights with employees in order to boost ratings, but by watching Gordon turn unsuccessful businesses into multi million pound enterprises, it is clear to see that Gordon Ramsay is the real deal. He's not afraid to speak his mind, often delivering difficult home truths in a sensitive and caring manner. Well, maybe not, but Ramsay has what Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall lacks, a decent name and a pair of balls. Who wants to see Hugh prance around the countryside making mud pies and putting flowers in his hair? The public wants to see a virile man of action who knows how to put his foot down when the going gets tough.

words/ maddy mcgarrie

words/ harriet knowles

## Films of the week

# The Celestial



**House of Flying Daggers**  
Film 4  
Saturday 24th November  
9:00pm

You know this film's got to be good because Sky used its bamboo forest scene for their advert last year. This oscar-nominated flick from 'Hero' director Zhang Yimou is guaranteed to stop you sneaking off part-way through to stick the kettle on - it's a breathtaking watch. The story follows Mei, a suspected-blind dancer and daughter of the leader of the House of Flying Daggers. Local deputies have ordered two police captains, Jin and Leo, to kill this mysterious new leader within ten days. Only there is a slight hitch - Jin, the old romantic, goes and falls in love with the enigmatic Mei on the job. Dangerous ground. There follows a whirlwind of stunning imagery, furious fight scenes involving - would you believe it - flying daggers, and dramatic plot twists. Whether you're in it for the romance or the action, it's a wuxia film to impress. Like Romeo and Juliet on a Chinese Titanic.

words/ anna burnell

# Terrestrial Picks

## For all those still living in the dark ages

### Friday

Ugly Betty *Channel 4* 9.00pm

This is the one fans have been relentlessly waiting for, unless of course you're not a fan of Victoria Beckham which is probably the only reason for watching. Tonight sees Wilhelmina and Bradford's long awaited wedding, with Posh as the maid of honour. But Wilhelmina begins to worry that Posh may upstage her as she walks down the aisle, or does she? Expect the Jimmy Choos and the fur to fly and more than a little pouting. Perhaps she wasn't the best person to have chosen then.

words/ flora menzies



**QUEEN & DUKE:**  
Work? Yeah right.

### Saturday

The Culture Show *BBC2* 7.10pm

Being cultured isn't all about Botticelli and Chekov, smoking cigars and drinking brandy. No, we have our own culture to enjoy that is relevant and resonant today. Lauren Laverne presents this guide to help us tap into the best bits of modern civilisation of Middlesbrough, as a major Bauhaus exhibition opens at its Institute of Modern Art. Also Shakespeare lover Kenneth Branagh dusts off his Jacobean ruff and talks about his career. So get watching you bunch of philostines!

words/ rebecca white

### Sunday

White Diamond: A Personal Portrait of Kylie Minogue *Channel 4* 8.00pm

If Kylie's status as national institution was ever in doubt, a statue of her, complete with gold hotpants, is soon to be erected on Old Compton street in London. Hot on the heels of her post-chemo comeback as a Monroe-esque, vampish blonde comes this glimpse into the life of everyone's favourite diminutive Oz pop princess. It charts her recovery from breast cancer and her triumphant return to the Showgirl tour. The Showgirl tour was a truly decadent spectacle, so this should both tug on the heartstrings and provide pop thrills aplenty. Just don't expect too much talk about that nasty Mr. Martinez.

words/ thomas midlane

### Monday

Monarchy: The Royal Family at Work *BBC1* 8.30pm

This is the programme that sparked a frenzy when it claimed it contained footage of the Queen storming out of a photo shoot, disappointingly this was just hype. This documentary series provides insight into the life of the Queen and other members of the royal family over the course of a year. The palace is preparing for the Queen's visit to the US to commemorate the 400 years of the Jamestown landings in Virginia. Preparations include a private dinner and that now infamous photo session with photographer Annie Liebovitz.

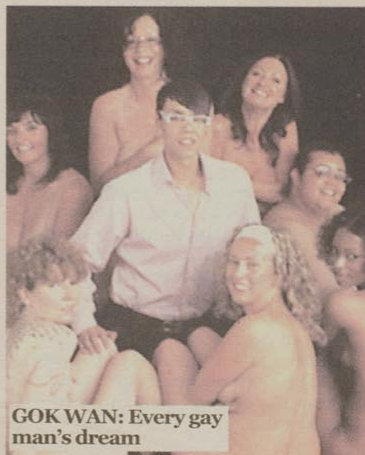
words/ flora menzies

### Tuesday

Sex in the '00s: Dear Deidre *Channel 4* 10:00pm

Anyone who's ever thumbed through the back pages of The Sun will be familiar with Deidre Sanders's column. After 27 years working for the paper with the reading age of 12 and the readership of millions, Deidre is the most prolific of all the Agony Aunties. If you have ever wondered about the people behind the 50 0000 letters received by The Sun each year, or are just curious how the other kids are doing it in the 00's, turn on, tune in, and feel glad that no matter what you did this weekend, it probably won't end up as one of Deidre's photo stories.

words/ lucy carey



**GOK WAN:** Every gay man's dream

words/rebecca white

### Wednesday

How to Look Good Naked *Channel 4* 8.00pm

Cheeky chappy Gok Wan pulls in another load of average Jolene's for a carnivalesque celebration of podge and pimples. Its meant to be about reality, loving what you've got, perfection without the plastic, but with designer lighting and professional stylists, to make you look as 'real' as possible. Bride-to-be Ali, who is blushing for all the wrong reasons, attempts to conquer her confidence issues by getting naked in front of the nation. With a wink and a pout Gok persuades us that flesh is fabulous, regardless of shape or size. So strip off and get out the Ben and Jerrys!

### Thursday

Arrange Me a Marriage *BBC2* 8:00pm

Lynn Guthrie is a rural Bridget Jones embracing the inevitable spinsterhood. Her only male contact is her Dad, her horse and her dog Dougal (who will obviously eat her one day, as is the fate of all spinsters in TV date land). Step forward traditional Indian matchmaker Aneela Rahman. With the help of Lynn's friends and family, Aneela will find a suitor for lonely Lynn. In a mere four weeks. Words such as 'boot camp,' 'emotional journey,' and 'culture clash' will inevitably be thrown about. Tears will be cried, bhanga will be played, you'll laugh, you'll ponder asking your mum to hire Aneela for you. Or not.

words/rebecca white

# Freeview Picks

For all you lucky devils with digital

**Friday**  
QI BBC 4 10.30pm

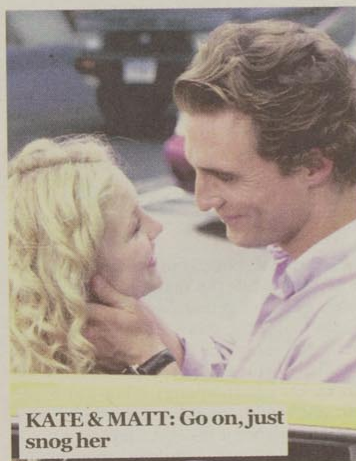
Between you and me, I think Stephen Fry might secretly be God. Is there no end to his intellectual and artistic talents? Well, if you agree, make yourself a Horlicks, tune into QI tonight, and watch the master at work. Panelists Jimmy Carr, Doon Mackichan, Dara O'Briain and the legendary Alan Davies join Mr Fry for another enlightening half hour, this time on the theme of 'endings'. Bob along to the jolly theme tune, chuckle at the comical buzzer sounds, and learn more in one sitting than your entire degree will ever teach you. 'University Challenge'? Pah!

words/ anna burnell

**Saturday**  
The 100 Greatest Films E4 9pm

We may get more than our fair share of 100 greatest countdowns, but at least this is one that's hosted by Graham Norton rather than Jimmy Carr and the title isn't going to make us immediately groan. This is the first of a two-part special of the UK's favourite films and with contributions from the likes of Steven Spielberg, Mike Leigh and Quentin Tarantino it certainly promises to be entertaining and insightful. More than a run of the mill countdown.

words/ flora menzies



**KATE & MATT: Go on, just snog her**



**HOWARD & VINCE: The boosh is loose**

**Sunday**  
The Mighty Boosh BBC3 10.30pm

More deranged madness from the Boosh Boys. In a bid to impress his new punk friends, Vince "the hair" Noir takes a bite out of one of Howard's old jazz records, only to be infected by the Jazz Beast. In a last-gasp attempt to save his bemuddled friend, Howard allows Naboo to shrink him down to microscopic size a la 60s sci-fi classic 'Fantastic Voyage', to enter Vince's bloodstream and expel the jazz virus. Is it as good as the last series? Who cares? Primary-colour visuals, surreal banter and comedy songs that are actually funny give it a childlike magic.

words/ thomas midlane

**Monday**  
How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days Film 4 9.00pm

How to lose a guy in 10 days? Sneeze on him on Day One. Okay, so that wouldn't be much of a storyline. For more ideas, watch this. Kate Hudson stars as a journalist assigned an article on reeling in a guy, and then making him dump her. Matthew McConaughey, the fish to be caught, is in a bet to make a woman fall in love with him. Both have ten days to succeed, which is a coincidence when you consider the title of the film. Predictable viewing, but worth a watch if you're staying in and ignoring the phone.

words/ anna burnell

**Tuesday**  
America's Next Top Model Living 8.00pm

Pipe-down Lisa Snowdon, Tyra is back with vengeance in the eighth series of 'America's Next Top Model.' The super-duper-model is ranked one of the worlds most influential people. You can see why as she manages to direct this rabble of loud-mouthed waifs through the terrifying domain of modelling. This special recap episode uncovers an intense row between some of the girls and a mock elimination, which is bound to heighten tensions to an extreme. This could be perfect for those who like watching statuesque egotists backstab and fall flat on their pretty faces.

words/ rebecca white

**Wednesday**  
Age of Love E4 10.00pm

E4's latest offering only adds to the long list of horror reality shows. Australian tennis star Mark Philippoussis is the human sacrifice for this episode. True love has evaporated in the twenty-first century, drowned in a sea of sham marriages and OK magazine pay-outs. Yet again a small group of women will embarrass the rest of their sex with onscreen confessions of devotion whilst playing with their hair and flirting with the innocent cameraman. No doubt we'll wind up feeling just a little bit sorry for Mark as the third girl shoves her tits in his face and declares it's definitely not the fame she's after. Pass me the sick-bucket... alternatively 'Heroes' on BB3.

words/ kat cooper

**Thursday**  
Superhuman - Giants ITV2 8.00pm

"Is your cousin a tree?" a simple but effectively painful taunt for one of these long men. Life is not easy when you 8ft tall, and this documentary following the tallest people in the world shows some of the obstacles they have to daily contend with. Its not just getting through doors and fitting in cars, no, these people have serious problems. Health, attracting unwanted attention and loving the petite, all being issues covered in the programme. Also how some of these big guys are making like the unusually small and getting a living from their outstanding physical appearance.

words/ rebecca white

Films of the week

## The Satanic

**Johnny English**  
ITV2  
Tuesday 20th November  
8:00pm

I would be the first to admit that Rowan Atkinson is one of my favourite actors, but boy, has he got it wrong here. Edmund Blackadder would be appalled. This film is supposed to be James Bond-gone-wrong; in reality, it just goes wrong. If you insist on giving this flick a go anyway - Johnny English, bumbling spy, is dispatched to track down the thief responsible for stealing the crown jewels. Supremely prattish behaviour ensues, along with some suspiciously Mr Bean-like mannerisms. Bizarrely, Natalie Imbruglia stars alongside Atkinson, and I don't want to spoil this highly original plot - but yes, they get together at the end. A tale so dire it almost makes you wish Baldrick would wander on to the scene, for a cunning plan, it is what this film desperately needs. One wonders if the writer was quite simply taking the piss - even more than I am.

words/ anna burnell



**B**EHOLD! iPage is amongst us! A biblical hero turned digital, iPage strides into the pages of the Leeds Student like some cyberchrist to teach his disciples (that's you) the way, the truth, and the life. Or, you know, some offbeat technology news.

Let's not beat around the bush; the main issue for this week's column to mock is the heroic failure of the British government in losing the personal records of 25 million families. In what must have been a cavalier disregard for security, it seems some lowly lackeys (probably the work experience kid) burned the database onto a few DVDs and whacked them in the post. Thanks to either Britain's light-fingered postal workers, or simply the random acts of destruction rendered by sorting machinery, the discs have gone missing and even as you read this, the very fabric of British society is being torn asunder. Anarchy will no doubt reign in the streets by the time this column hits the newsstands, and Gordon Brown and his cronies will have been forced to resign in the wake of the certain chaos that will follow. Er...

Okay, so it's not quite the apocalypse. And it'll probably all turn out that the discs in question are safely stashed behind the desk of some senile member of the House of Lords. But we should still take a minute just to wonder what other sensitive pieces of information regarding our personal lives have been leaked around the country. Any stories you may have heard regarding iPage and the

staff toilets of a Chinese restaurant are strictly conjecture.

In robot news, our digital enemies were recently on call in our very own Leeds on Thursday when a suspected bomb plot caused chaos near the Merrion Centre. iPage would personally condone the demolition of that particular building, whose blight on Leeds' otherwise pristine city centre is only equalled by the sheer ugliness of Morrisons. Architectural criticism aside however, the police called in the services of a

**“ Even as you read this, the very fabric of British society is being torn asunder. ”**

bomb disposal robot, supposedly designed to 'protect' us. While the 'bomb' this time was in reality a harmless metal container, iPage is certain that if the suspect device was in fact armed and ready, the robotic rogue would no doubt have detonated it. It is a well-known fact that robots hate humans for our warm, soft flesh, and would stop at nothing to kill you and all of your friends if they got the chance.

Speaking of random murderous nonhumans, the BBC reports that a fossilised sea scorpion that was over 2.5 metres long was recently unearthed in Germany. While

archaeologists only discovered a piece of the beast's claw, they seemed certain that the creature would have been the stuff of sci-fi movies. iPage personally is imagining a cross between Alien and one of the Jurassic Park dinosaurs, only more aquatic, and ten times more pissed off.

Scientists at Surrey University have managed to create a device that can trap a rainbow. Obviously engaging on the project with the intention of profiting from the pot of gold, the researchers found ways to slow down and capture light, storing it like memory in order to reproduce later. Early reports indicate that leprechauns are "unhappy".

Going to Japan any time soon? Be prepared to sign away your civil liberties. New government policy means that anyone over 16 entering the country will be made to give their fingerprints, which will be added for "an unspecified time" to a national database. iPage feels something. A great disturbance, as if millions of voices suddenly cried out in terror and were suddenly silenced by the long arm of the Japanese thought police. It is only a matter of time.

And so this brings us to a close once more. It's been another paranoid ride with iPage along the information superhighway; how was it for you? Next time iPage recommends a seatbelt.

Yours patronisingly,

**iPage / Drew Statman**

# iPage.



## iPage's cool sites of the week

• [rockstargames.com/classics/](http://rockstargames.com/classics/)

Essays getting you down? Sick of Facebook (god forbid)? Need something to fill the meaningless void in your life? Rockstar Games, makers of Grand Theft Auto, allow you to download copies of GTA 1 and 2, completely free, from their website. While it's not quite the 3D hookerthon that the later sequels were, they're still fun for some random timekilling, and there's nothing quite like the sound of "KHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH FRENZY!" to brighten up a dull Sunday.

• [negativland.com/albini.html](http://negativland.com/albini.html)

Ever been cynical about music? Read this in-depth analysis of the music industry by producer Steve Albini (best known for producing Nirvana and the Pixies) where he deconstructs the major record label myth, and breaks it down, dollar by dollar, to prove that the band would have been better off working at Burger King. Quoting this at parties will get you laid.

• [bugmenot.com](http://bugmenot.com)

A super-useful site when you're browsing the net and can't be bothered signing up and registering just to view a single page. It has usernames and passwords for a wide variety of sites so you can cut to the chase and screw the system at the same time. Hoorah.

Illustration by Mark Mackay, comic by Nathan Edwards.

### iPage



Nathan Edwards

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# Observations.



Why am I scared?

**T**he OED defines fear as 'The emotion of pain or uneasiness caused by the sense of impending danger, or by the prospect of some possible evil.' In general, I'd describe myself as a fearful person. When I walk home alone at night I'm always looking over my shoulder. If a man comes towards me, I cross the road. If a girlfriend walks home alone, I ask her to text me when she's inside, etc.

I've never been the victim of assault, yet this fear perturbs me. It is my opinion that this fear is growing from the way assault, particularly against women, is portrayed in television, media, and film. *Irr[re]versible* film directed by Gaspar Noé, is one of the most disturbing and controversial films of 2002, due to its explicit depiction of rape and murder. *Newsweek* magazine stated that this was the "most walked-out-of movie of the year." I cannot identify with the woman in the scene because I have never been raped, but perhaps I see myself as a potential victim. I'll certainly never walk through an underpass at night alone. So, are films like this doing us a favour in increasing our anxiety? Are we more careful, or are we

**"I'm no shrink, but perhaps I'm bridging on neurotic.**

simply more paranoid? On the way to the pub a girl carries a rape alarm. A sensible idea perhaps, but recognizing that she's holding one in her hands brings about the icy realization that she does indeed see herself as a potential victim. Of course, on the other hand, one could argue that when you wear a seatbelt, you see yourself as a potential victim of a car crash. Yet do we worry about traffic accidents as much as violent, individual assaults? The funny thing is, in my own personal experience, despite having already been hit by a bus in Leeds, I worry more about assault than I do about road accidents.

Perhaps this is to do with the way in which we're exposed to interpretations of violence. We live in an age where the media is obsessed with violence. Is it any wonder that a national neurosis is surfacing? I refer not only to violent attacks, but to other media obsessions such as child snatching, nuclear weapons conspiracy theories, terrorist plots, KBG assassinations, to name but a few. Is our fear justified, or are we worrying for nothing? Both men and women are at far less risk overall than the current media obsession with violence might suggest. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (Bureau of Justice Statistics 1999), violent crime has been decreasing since 1994. Media depictions of violence, however, have increased. There are many examples of violence against women in television and film, but few examples of women who successfully defend themselves against such violence. Do they serve to remind women that they're vulnerable and in need of protection?

Society offers services that aim to protect women but not men. There are university shuttle services to women, but not men. When a man offers to walk a female classmate home after a night class, what message is conveyed in the woman's ability to protect herself from danger? These services are undoubtedly well intentioned. However, they emphasise women's perceived vulnerability and contribute to women's fear.

words/ harriet hernando

Find yourself looking over your shoulder, scanning the bushes for someone lurking? I look at the origins of fear, whilst Alex is on usual ranting form...



Alex debates whether to shut up and put up, or kick up an almighty shitstorm.

## Hit, Miss, or Maybe.



### GCHQ's Website

Fancy a career in British Intelligence? Do you see yourself foiling drug deals, decrypting codes, and helping out in the war against terror? Do you secretly wish you were in Spooks? Then this is probably the job for you, my friend. So, you've been to the career's fair, picked up the snazzy postcard with the disappearing desk, and like any good student, you check out their website. This masterpiece of internet technology divides the winners from the losers, whilst saving a small fortune on human resources. Test your abilities by playing games such as finding the terrorist cell, preventing an arms deal or identifying a drug dealer. Did you win? Congratulations, you're though the first stage of the recruitment process. If, like me, you didn't, I suggest you get back to stacking shelves, sharpish like.



### NRG

NRG belongs to the electronic music genre and is similar to UK Hard House. If you're unfamiliar with this particular strain of music, go and count your blessings. For those of you who believe knowledge is power, I'll do my best to describe NRG, but I refuse to sing for fear of ingraining the song in your head. I urge you to proceed with caution, for this music has a catchy quality and has been known to induce stomping and non stop pumpin'. Now close your eyes, and imagine that you're in, say, Space happily dancing along to 'Put your hands up for Detroit'. You've spied a lad in a cardy giving you the eye, you're getting down to the funk, and life couldn't be better. But all of a sudden the beat triples reaching an incredible 155 BPM. Now say "Put your" 10 times really fast. The result is "Putcha, putcha, putCHA!" Fedde le Grand has stolen the decks. Other familiar re-mixes include Faithless' 'Insomnia' by Beat Trippa and good old N-trance's 'Set you free', mixed by NRG god Alex K. For a more sophisticated tune, try Lab 4's 'The NRG'. I rate it.

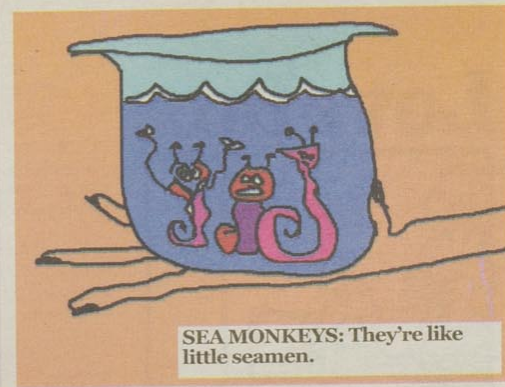


### iPhones

Apple's latest masterpiece is the daddy of all mobiles; the touchscreen. Wave a digit and your contacts scroll by; flick a finger and your pictures fly past. Even for old hands, the accuracy and intuitiveness of the interface should provide a few jaw-dropping moments. Its release comes in an age of materialism where people, drawn in by sleek advertising, buy something that they don't need. Apple are out to make a killing and they have. What's wrong with a keypad anyway? And surely the screen must be prone to scratches and mucky fingerprints? At £269 plus an 18 month contract with O2 costing a minimum of £630, it doesn't come cheap. Some people might argue that you'd have to be mad to queue from before dawn until after sunset, in icy weather, just to purchase a small and arguably overpriced slab of metal and plastic. Others, clutching their prize whilst receiving an applause from Apple staff at the store, would argue that in a few years you and me will be holding our very own iphone replica. Perhaps it is not wise to scorn.

words/ harriet hernando

**N**othing has really been annoying me over the past week, mainly because I have too much work to do to experience real life. I think the most amusing thing I saw was Cartman mix semen and seamen (those water monkey things) to make a 'seaciety' and become king of it. I did get blamed for breaking someone's door and that pissed me off a little bit. It was one of those situations where I know that I didn't do it, but all circumstantial evidence pointed towards me. It wouldn't hold up in court, but mud sticks. So what do you do? Rather than be a twat and deny all knowledge of it and tell my mate to piss off, I considered the best thing to do would say that I really didn't think that it was me, but I'd try to get it sorted. Even though I feel that I have no responsibility for it. On the other hand, there are certain things that you cant let slide. I had some friends stay up this weekend, and one of them stayed in my housemate's room. Not only did she give me permission to do this (seeing as she hasn't stayed there in three months and is pretty much living with her boyfriend - while still paying rent), stating that very reason, but I also made sure that her room was tidier than it was before my friend stayed. So a couple of days later I get an arsey text saying 'so who stayed in my room then???' and upon me reminding her and offering to change the sheets and generally try to be as accommodating as possible, she then replied saying that she thought that here DVD rack looked 'a bit emptier than the last time she saw it'. Well that's a thinly veiled accusation if ever I heard one. When I very abruptly stated that my friends are not thieves, I was told that that was not what she was implying. I must be stupid then. So I was kind of lying when I said that nothing had annoyed me. And here I am faced with two incidents that are beyond my control, that I have been indirectly or directly



SEA MONKEYS: They're like little seamen.

blamed for, and for which I am meant to take on either the burden of guilt or responsibility and somehow make it better. Well actually I don't want to. But rather than kick up a shit storm I will probably end up doing it, just to make my life, in an incredibly indirect way, a little bit easier. Oh, and it turns out I did break the door. Balls.

words/ alex gilchrist

## 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

You feel a little sick from the drink this morning and you wake up and realise that there are a couple of dancing horses in your room. Luckily, they are just as embarrassed as you. Their eyes betray a deep, deep shame and they can't really look at you properly. This signals that it is a good week for you to try your hand at scratch cards.



### Leo

There is a light that never goes out in your house. You can't figure out how to turn it off. You've tried all the switches and even turn off the central breaker. The light is God Himself and will be watching over you with His beady little eyes. Probably having a massive wank watching you getting undressed. He will also be taking pics on his mobile and texting them to his mates.



### Sagittarius

The middle east preys heavily on your mind this week as yet another harrowing image of a coke filled pop-star checking into the most awful hotel in the world flashes across your issue of *Heat*. Get your revenge by flashing a businessman at your bus stop on every Wednesday from now on until the end of the academic year.



### Taurus

Bizarrely, your face appears on the cover of the new T-Rex greatest hits album next to Marc Bolan's grandly-maned head. Soon, your life will become a syrup-like blur of Glam Rock and heroin abuse. More's the better. Years from now you will weep with relief as you finally are able to tell your story on Parkinson. Parkinson himself will be dead but a robotic effigy implanted with an artificial representation his soul will present.



### Virgo

George Orwell is found alive and well in Tamworth in the West Midlands. You have for years adored the great man's work so go on a pilgrimage to meet him but are vastly disappointed when he is just a pervy old man and offers you "smokes, gin and my pecker - though not necessarily in that order sweetheart..." Sickened, you flee to the country side around the Stoke-on-Trent environs.



### Capricorn

A belly dancing ginger twat interrupts your European politics lecture and gets the sound beating he deserves. Other people who you are ethically permitted to kick in their cunt are anyone who is caught watching the I'm a celebrity show or reading a copy of the Mail or burning a child in the eyes. This week is a good week for pulling lobsters out of peoples arseholes.



### Gemini

Give It A Go! your stupid brain will tell you this week. A&E, bad AIDS and an affair with a (literally) dirty nurse will be the end of it. Seriously, the absolutely best thing that can happen is that you'll make an absolute tit of yourself at a Slam poetry night and the worst thing is that you will die die die. Just buy a wrap of ket and sit lazily in your lounge.



### Libra

You find out your mum isn't your real mum and your real mum is actually a woman who, during the heyday of Rock 'n' roll, went around the many, vast states of the US of A and, let's face it, fucked a lot of rock stars. Her favourite bands were those hairy legends of heavy, blues-infused rock music. But wait, could that, is it possible that your dad is Jimmy Page?



### Aquarius

You get a bit confused and turn up at a music studio with some sick beats. You avoid a good kicking by making some lovely roast beet casserole. The rest of your crew is suitably pleased with your seasonal root vegetable culinary skills and award you with the hip hop world's equivalent of the VC, which is a giant monkey made of skittles.



### Cancer

Whatever you want this week will be yours very, very easily. This will probably be the luckiest week of your life. I'm really impressed with how your cosmic bubbles are popping right now. You could shit on the street and a helpful hedgehog would probably just clear it away.



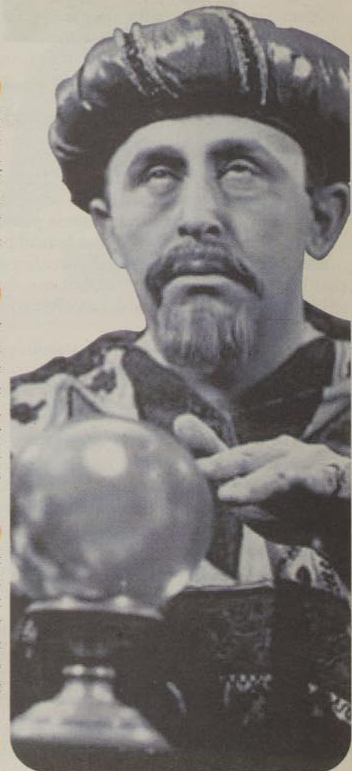
### Scorpio

The founders of Google come into your shop and are quite rude to you. One of them barely acknowledges your presence as he demands a cream cheese and salmon bagel while the other one just reaches over the counter and gives your left tit a cheeky squeeze.



### Pisces

Jack White from the White Stripes gives you a good, deep, hard rimming to prepare for the recording of his new album. Yet another celebrity bumlicker to add to your wallchart. The NME is really getting desperate with its giveaways.



Tommy Pockets is training to be a sword swallower for the Moscow state circus. Ta Da!!

NB: Tommy Pockets does not accept responsibility for any life-changing events that occur from following his obviously not made-up advice e.g. being a rascal, a dizzy rascal.

## LoveBox



Picture: Copyright 2001-2007 Nicholas Gurewicht.  
 Contact me at the LoveBox via my lovely email address: loveboxleeds@googlemail.com

### Missed Connections

- I saw you throwing shapes in the lounge downstairs in the union. I was impressed with your twirls and thrusts. You caught my eye as I gazed at your bum.
- You flyered me outside the parkinson building and I was floored by your exquisite beauty and your promise of hard house and sci-tech music.
- I was Djing in mint last night and you requested a song wearing a blue sparkly vest top. The song was rubbish but your smile wasn't. I'd like to lay down some tunes for you in private sometime.
- We shared a sandwich on the way to our country house studies lecture. Your hair was lovely and big and fluffy and white. In short, a fine piece of woman.

### Lonely Hearts

- I was the best man in a size too small. You were my best friend, going at it all. I want to say this to you at our wedding.
  - Only a real man can be a lover, if he had hands to lend us all over. We celebrate our sense of each other, we have a lot to give one another.
  - A trip to Glasgow would be lovely if you went with me. Although we'd have to watch out for my mad catholic gran. Let me know if you'd wanna have a highland fling.
- I dream up lives for girls that get into lifts with me and I fall in love with them for a minute or so. This happens a couple of times a day. If you want to be my dream lift girl get in touch and I'll fall in love with you for a bit more than a minute.



# g somewhere?

Leeds bubble has burst? **Marya Yasin** and  
ing off the graduation platform, and some personal

time employment six months after graduation. Out of the 234 that graduated from the School of Law in 2006, 34.6 per cent were in full-time employment and 34.2 per cent went on to pursue further education. From the business school, 54.4 per cent went on to being employed. But are graduates secure and happy within their chosen profession? According to a 2001 study by academics at the University of Warwick, there is a strong connection between what course one chooses at university and the level of happiness and satisfaction one acquires with their new job after graduation. "We found that people who studied broader subjects, with more possible applications, were the happiest," Rea Lydon comments to BBC online. He continues, "those who studied agricultural science were the happiest because they can go into a wide variety of jobs - from working the

believed that their course had not prepared them sufficiently enough for the working world. However, students did find that their

## 83%

of finalists use university Career Service

University careers centre to be useful in helping them find their ideal jobs. "[T]hree-quarters of finalists rated their careers services as either 'excellent' or 'good'", the report states. Indeed the University's very own careers centre is a popular resort for finalists. They offer help on preparing your CV, finding



PHOTO: Matt Andrews

land to the food industry." Those that were the unhappiest were Architecture graduates due to the inflexibility of their course. A

“40 per cent of graduates believed that their course had not prepared them for the working world.”

vacancies and even hold events at different times such as career fairs, the latest one, of course, being the Law and Medical fair in Parkinson Building where undergraduates were given the opportunity to speak to law and medical firms and companies about career prospects.

While the feeling that a university degree is a futile and insignificant investment may be a little extreme, a university degree, although instrumental, is not a fail-safe that ensures you against a life of unemployment and destitution. Employers look past the 2:1 and place an equal focus on our experiences. So take the opportunity to visit the careers centre on campus or even their website on <http://careerweb.leeds.ac.uk>, get involved in the Union (if only to build up your curriculum vitae) and attend the career fairs that take place at different times of the year to see what graduate employers really seek.

further report by the 2006 UK Graduate Careers Survey, which interviewed almost 17,000 final year students from thirty universities, (16.6 per cent of whom were students from Leeds) found that two thirds of finalists believed that there were not enough graduate jobs. And 40 per cent of graduates

## Case Study: Tom Sprigge



“I never really thought much about what I wanted to do 'when I grow up', except that I have always said that I would never want to sit behind a desk all day. Alas, I was now a professional desk jockey.”

If you are anything like I was a few months ago, then University can seem like a bubble that is never going to burst. And it's a bloody brilliant bubble at that; no taxes, free money (yeah you'll pay the loan back one day, but lets just concentrate on spending it), cheap booze, and the only time you're ever going to see 7am is if you haven't yet been to bed - unless you are one of those people who knows what they want to be when they grow up; you probably study a useful subject like medicine.

Well the truth is that time waits for nobody and as I found out in June this year, your three years in the easiest job in the world - being a student - will run out, and you'll be looking at getting a job. A proper one...

'Piece of cake', I thought to myself as I uploaded my CV onto Monster. I didn't have a clue what I wanted to do but was pretty sure that, as a reasonably intelligent graduate armed with good degree from a good university, finding a job would take no time. And in a nutshell, it was easy. I had several calls from several agencies, and took the first job that I was offered - as a Recruitment Consultant in the City Centre: a fantastic opportunity to earn 'uncapped commission' and realise my true graduate potential in a successful career.

I lasted less than six weeks. It wasn't because I couldn't take the pace, or that I was bad at it. The money was alright too. Rather it was simply this: to quote Jez from Peepshow, 'Every day a little bit of my soul died'. I have never known, or really thought much about what I want to do 'when I grow up', except that I have always said that I would never want to sit behind a desk all day. Alas I was now a professional desk jockey; a cold calling, data-entering, target chasing and coffee swilling machine, parked amongst stationary cupboards and Ikea furniture. All bloody day.

My brief encounter with the world of work taught me something that I wish had been drilled into me a bit more during the good old days at university; give life after uni a bit of thought. Well maybe this was mentioned, but who was I to listen to useful advice - I was 19/20/21 years old, so I either knew it already or it didn't matter.

I'm not saying make a life plan - even my Dad doesn't know what he wants to do when he grows up, and he's retiring in three years. Just have a bit of a think, and use the facilities and opportunities that are

offered (or rather thrown) at students. I don't just mean go to a careers fair once a year and steal a few pens, or sign up to graduate websites and the like - you will probably end up doing these things at some point anyway. I mean have a think about what it is that you enjoy doing, what you value and what you are interested in.

Working in recruitment also taught me two further things. Firstly, that unless a decent wage is all you are after, then you've got to do a job you enjoy and are interested in. For example, at university there are endless opportunities to join clubs, get involved in societies, and generally do things that you are interested in. Maybe there are jobs that are related to these things? Have you even considered finding out more? Secondly, and perhaps quite importantly in the light of the common misconception that 'as a graduate you can walk into any job you want' (well I thought so anyway), is the fact that you often need experience to get anywhere. Pouring over job specs from different companies on a daily basis made me realise that employers really do want more than a 2.1 in politics/philosophy/media etc. Even for you engineers and those with more vocational degrees, a bit of experience can make you stand out from the crowd (and there is a BIG crowd). Your time at uni is the perfect opportunity to get that experience, be it doing a placement, getting some voluntary work experience, or just joining a relevant club or society. As someone who finally decided that they would like to work in media, my massive lack of experience is simply getting me nowhere. Oh, if I had only written for Leeds Student/worked for LSR when I was at university...

Anyway, enough of the 'let me give you a word of advice' chat. Enjoy uni life and all the perks, but just keep the end in mind. Spend a bit of time thinking about what you REALLY want to do when you graduate, be it making a mint in investment banking (you probably don't have a soul), running the country (you WON'T have a soul - it's in the job requirement), or simply buggering off on a hedonistic tour of the world. Just be careful that you don't do anything at all, and end up doing a job you hate because of it...

Oh yeah, and if anyone wants to give me a job that pays me to get pissed, sleep late and eat takeaways all week, then give me a bell... ah shit hang on, I already graduated.



# Foreign Pressures

## We should not allow our policy to be affected by external coercion.



**Rob Heath**  
pyo6r2mh@leeds.ac.uk

In the mid-forties and having led us to victory over the Axis powers, Winston Churchill described Britain's links with the USA as a 'special relationship', the world-power ostensibly saving the Allies from Nazism. Sixty years later, Britain is paying America back for assistance provided to us in a time of legitimate need with complete and total support for their overseas conquests.

The events of September 11th are well-documented, so I won't reiterate them here. The outcome of the events, however, gave the White

House a reason to begin attacking the middle-east. In 2004, Richard Clarke, Bush's former counter-terrorism co-ordinator, told the world how then-Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld had wanted to bomb Iraq the day after 9/11, with Bush Jr. asking him to find a connection to the country. He reasoned with Rumsfeld, "al-Qaeda is in Afghanistan." Rumsfeld replied, "There aren't any good targets in Afghanistan and there are a lot of good targets in Iraq."

America was forced to invade Afghanistan, and soon after deposed the Taliban government. However, since the first Gulf War in the early nineties, lead by the current President Bush's father, it has been official foreign policy of America to enact regime change in Iraq. In 2003, America achieved this goal.

We were told by our politicians, as the citizens of the USA were told by theirs, that Saddam had WMDs that posed a threat to the 'free' world. No proof of these weapons has ever been found. We were then told that Saddam Hussein had been harbouring Bin Laden, with connections being fabricated between the two. America's own CIA as well as MI6 here in the UK concluded that there was no connection. We were then told we'd gone to Iraq to free them from a dictator and export our democracy to them. Britain has mindlessly

followed America throughout all of its expansionist invasions.

I do not believe that you can force democracy upon a country. Until a population wants democracy itself, like in Burma, democracy applied to it will not function correctly. Depending on which survey you listen to,

“Until a population wants democracy itself, like in Burma, democracy applied to it will not function correctly.”

between tens of thousands to a million Iraqis have died in violence started since the US-led invasion.

British Parliament evolved from the medieval age, progressively becoming the democracy it is today. A different story is true for America—they had the American War of Independence and achieved democracy for themselves by rejecting

Britain's ownership. At no point did a foreign body invade and establish it for the people of either country.

It's a sad state of affairs that in order to talk about Britain's current foreign policy you have to look closely at America's. To clarify this, I'm not anti-American, nor am I a mindless nationalist. I simply believe that countries should not be coerced in matters of policy-making. The democracy we live under is supposed to allow the government of our country by means of elected representatives of the people, not by pressure from foreign powers. I do not know what the so-called 'Coalition of the Willing' is hoping to achieve, but I am certain that the families of the thousands of dead Iraqis will not think it's worth it. For the last year, support for the war in Iraq by the American public has been consistently around 35% with a similar level in Britain.

We, the electorate, should ultimately control British foreign policy, not governments of other countries. I can see the economic benefit of assisting a powerhouse like America, but I would much rather be able to justify the actions of my country than see it taking part in illegal wars.

# Gay Jihad? Homosexuality and Islam: an enquiry.



**Anonymous**  
leedsstudentcomment@gmail.com

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful. This article is written in tribute to all those who have been tortured and murdered in the Muslim world for loving people of the same sex and those whose lives do not conform to an idealised script.

I am Muhammad Q, I am a member of the LGBTQ community but first and foremost a Muslim. I have spent much of my life so far coming to terms with my sexuality, while growing up in the Muslim community. If I came out to my family I would probably be disowned, despite the Qur'an forbidding parents from disowning their children. I do not feel that my sexuality prevents me from being a good Muslim and in fact like all other Muslims I too feel a close relationship with Allah and a deep connection to the Prophet Muhammad.

I see many parallels between the mass

extermination of LGBT people in the Muslim world and the cruel intolerant society into which Islam was revealed. The story of Islam is one of the most well documented examples of a revolution against a hierarchical feudal society. Islam is a catalyst for justice, liberation against feudal society and unity under the worship of the One God. And until the same rights guaranteed to heterosexuals are extended to the LGBT community, the work of the Prophet can never begin to be completed.

In Islam both partners within a marriage are under a compulsion to pleasure each other. There is one quote from the Prophet in particular that should give pause for thought, "Three things were made beloved to me this world of yours: women, perfume and prayer". It is fair to say that the Prophet enjoyed good sexual relations and encouraged the faithful to do the same as an act of worship.

The diversity of mankind is recognised, where Muhammad says "And of His signs is this: He created you of dust, and there you are human beings, ranging widely!" (Qur'an 30:20). Another verse (17:84) declares "that everyone acts according to his or her own disposition". This suggests that human nature has been created diverse in inward disposition and personality as much as outward appearance.

There is no term in the Qur'an, for homosexuality. Although certain words are believed to be about gay sexual acts. These 'lewd', 'improper' and 'evil' acts are never specified. And sadly through an inference of these verses and sayings of the Prophet, some Islamic scholars came to the conclusion eventually that gay sex should be punished by death or flogging, despite the sources of these sayings being now largely

discredited. Historical evidence suggests that there were gay people living at the time of Muhammad but he didn't prescribe any punishment for their behaviour, which he would have only done were their behaviour against the morals encoded into the Qur'an. It was not until the first Caliph, Abu Bakr, that an entire town was burned for "doing the act of the people of Lot".

Islam has always prided itself on correlating scripture to scientific convention, verses in the Qur'an are said to refer to the Big Bang. It is verses 7:80-81 used to persecute homosexuals. "And Lot! Remember when he said to his people: Will you commit transgression such as no creature ever did before you? You practice sex

“There is no term in the Qur'an for homosexuality.”

with the men, instead of the women. Indeed, you are a transgressing people." This clearly contradicts what the scientific community now knows about homosexuality in the Animal kingdoms, where it does exist and is now believed to be a stabilising factor for populations. The Qur'an continuously asks us to reflect on the signs of nature as a way of Surrender, turning to the natural harmony of the universe.

Could we perhaps be taking these verses out of context? Closer inspection of chapter seven and we see the story of Lot following the story of Salih. In both allegories God sends a messenger to wealthy, powerful and arrogant cities. There is a deep thematic parallel between these stories. As

with Lot's people, the people of Salih rejected him as their prophet and ridiculed his calls to live up to an ethic of care and justice and the worship of One God, so God destroyed their cities.

Muhammad would have used these allegories to convey his message to the doubtful. Was Lot's city really destroyed because some of the men engaged in gay sexual relations? Or was it because they raped and abused the weak? As did the men of pre-Islamic Arabia.

Some Muslims do now accept that some people are naturally gay, however it is 'evil' and a test from God. In verse 113:2, we ask God to 'protect us from the evil which he has created', since when was love evil? While sex outside of marriage is considered improper, would God really be testing the faith of a huge chunk of the Muslim population without saying so in the Qur'an?

Some of the verses in the Qur'an referring to marriage and adoption do not specify any gender. Would it be so unreasonable a proposal to suggest that we are compelled to extend marriage and adoption rights to gay couples within Islam? There are severe Orwellian undertones to the idea that same sex love is a 'sex crime'. Interestingly many scholars from the oldest school of Islamic thought, the Hanafites, reject the notion that homosexuality is a crime and strongly object to the flogging and executions of the LGBT community.

Muhammad called on mankind to unite under the worship of one God and to reject barbaric practises such as the burying of baby girls. Isn't it time we called on our people to reject the persecution of LGBT people, we want to be able to worship God in peace, yet lead normal lives. Why can't we do so?



# The collision of Church and State

## Are the American politicians trying to sway 'Bible Belt' voters with Christian policies really hypocrites?



**Daniel Paterson**  
Deputy Chairman of Leeds Conservative Future

**O**n his Presidential campaign in September of 1960 John Fitzgerald Kennedy stated: "I am wholly opposed to the state being used by any religious group, Catholic or Protestant, to compel, prohibit, or persecute the free exercise of any other religion". This was part of a speech Kennedy made in order to quell fears which were being spread of his Catholic faith. Kennedy asked why his faith should make any difference whatsoever, stating "for while this year it may be a Catholic against whom the finger of suspicion is pointed, in other years it has been, and may someday be again, a Jew—or a Quaker—or a Unitarian—or a Baptist". Kennedy's point came straight from the American Constitution, which every American I have ever met has upheld as such a shining example. The USA separates the Church from the State and in 1791 the Constitution was amended to allow the following: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press". This is clear, all men from whatever

religion, born within the USA, are eligible to run for the Presidency.

Why is it then that Barack Obama's opponents are attempting to smear him with allegations that he went to a Madrassa, that his father is a Muslim and that because of this alleged, and very tenuous link, Obama constitutes a threat to "the American way of life"? Why should this matter in a nation which supposedly upholds and even champions religious tolerance? Is America now in a position where its Evangelical Christian backed White House has driven the message that Muslims are the enemy so far into the republic's conscience that any mention of the idea to the effect that one of the leading candidates for Presidency might actually have family members who follow the Islamic faith or that he went to school abroad for a couple of years is suddenly unworthy to sit in the White House? This stinks of racism and of the lowest form of a debased campaign against a man who believes he can achieve great things for the USA.

I am Conservative and I do not support Barack Obama, I think he is politically naive and that he doesn't have the right ideas to help America heal the wounds caused by the present Administration, but for the love of all that is holy do not smear his name in such a cynical and downright racist manner. If people were going about saying "well gee, you shouldn't vote for him because he's black" or if they attacked Clinton for being a woman, the public outcry would be huge; it would be amazing and it would be justified. But because they attack his faith, question his background, we see next to no reaction. We see nowhere near the outcry we would in either of the above situations I have mentioned. This Brit (myself) is fed up, disappointed, dejected and disgusted with George W. Bush, his agenda and the increasingly influential and frankly batty group of Christians bent on creating a Christian theocracy in the USA.

You think I am over-reacting, or that this is

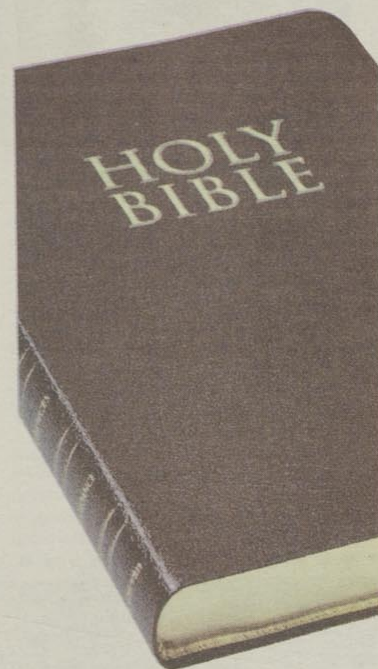
“ Demonstration even in its theatrical form has inherent value and importance, but so too does reasoned academic debate.

some sort of anti-American rant? It is not. I am what we in the Conservative Party call an Atlantastist. I support strong links with the United States of America, I support the American ideals as laid out in their constitution: freedom of the individual, the right to bear arms, the right to freedom of speech, the right to practice one's own religion in peace. All of these points are reasons for writing this very article, it is why I find the Bush government deeply repugnant. This man is not only giving Conservatives everywhere a bad name, he is also destroying the foundation stones of American democracy and he is doing his level best to make sure every person in the world looks upon the USA with suspicion, terror and disdain. How can this nation have fallen so low so quickly? It has not been fifty years since the days of Kennedy and the nation has transformed into something which would not only horrify JFK (a man dedicated along to the civil rights movement) but must have the Founding Fathers spinning in their graves.

There must be change in direction for America, the incoming White House must learn from the mistakes, deliberate or otherwise, which have been made over nearly seven years of this Administration. The way to make the change is not to bleat on about how evil the United States is, for it is not. No really it is not. The Socialist Students, RESPECT (now there's a contradiction in terms) and the various other left-wing scare machines bang on about it, but I've got to say: it is tosh, twaddle, nonsense, a fallacy. We are however in the position where there is a lunatic in charge and unfortunately he is doing his damned level best to destroy everything the US stands for; freedom, tolerance, reasoned debate and sanctuary. I mean for Christ's sake, what is inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty? If you can't remember, its:

"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Where is any of this in the politics and policies of George W. Bush? We have seen little tolerance for anything but the agenda of the Christian Right and my fear is that we will not see a Republican President returned to office until the Republican Party rids itself of the religious zealots who currently hold so much sway over them, and return to the principles as laid out in the American Constitution. But then perhaps that is the best thing for them and for the United States of America.



### Reader's Comments

Dear Leeds Student,

After a visit to the cinema, my crazy crossword partner and I, decided to impress our talents upon your newspaper. Not only did we have to first rearrange the clues to their equivalent numbers by counting each line individually but were forced, in order to complete the crossword, to fill in the final line without a clue! Unsurprisingly, we were outraged. I would suggest that "Phaedrus" should brush up on his crossword composing skills if he wishes to retain a high-class clientele of crossword completers in future.

Yours sincerely,  
Jamie Allan and Matty Sutton





# Wasted students?

Just how long *do* we spend under the influence each week, and what's the real cost of student drinking? **Nick Coupe** reports.

playing the moral crusader: 'I can't even see the attraction of getting that drunk...' But roll on Friday and we're getting sweaty in a packed Fruity crowd, only there for one thing, and needing a certain amount of 'courage' to get you there... As the DJ shouts 'Are there any alcoholics in the house?' he is greeted with a cheer (before launching into Bryan Adams. Again.) But are we actually faced with a problem? Is alcoholism slowly seeping into our livers? Do we actually care? Isn't this the problem?

Asking lots of open-ended questions isn't going to solve anything, nor is launching into a long list of statistics (the average 18 year old will get through 11.4 litres of pure alcohol at home every

# 11.4

litres of pure alcohol per 18 year old each year.

year. Yawn). It isn't really the place of the student newspaper to try and change peoples drinking habits, either... Who am I to talk? It would be fun to pose as a morally clean, teetotal student, but I doubt anyone would read much further.

It's fair to guess that if you're reading this, you're not actually all that interested

in my own personal thoughts. can hardly pose to be some sort of authority as far as alcohol is concerned - most students at the university will have had much the same experience as me, and I've never been seriously affected by the harmful natures of drink. It's still something that I can enjoy without worrying about the effects - long or short term. However, statistics tell me that I am way above the 'safe' drinking level for someone my age. So why aren't I worried? What is there to prove that I won't turn into some piss-stained alcoholic accosting people in the street to ask for money or try and become their best friend?

"I don't think there's a problem at all," a bouncer at Box tells me, "For many students, this is their first time away from home, so drinking to excess is only natural. We've all been there and done exactly the same, and most of the students are well educated and generally nice lads." This seemed to be a view shared by most of the door staff I spoke to, with the bouncer at The Arc saying how students in Headingley are much more likely to be singing then fighting, acting like kids rather than violent drunkards...

The general consensus of door staff was that students are fairly "low risk" - drinking for pleasure and just to have a

laugh, which has never been a problem. But some of the staff spoke from experience, having seen it all before. "I've got a totally different opinion of young people now," reflected one, "Whilst all in good spirit, they're taking drinking to a dangerous new level. I'd thought I was a heavy drinker when I was in the forces, but the amount some of these students put away; it's amazing they're not dead."

This whole issue is hardly unique to Leeds - it's expected of people our age across the world to get drunk and do stupid things.

However it's fun to be able to remember those things that you do, and for the height of an evening not to be lying in the gutter, having drunk the last of your overdraft before throwing it back up. Life at university is probably associated more with alcohol than with the education itself, but maybe it's worth a thought as to how much of our loan we've already drunk this semester. But that's fine - we can always defer payment.



# Chinese

## Recruitment Fair

# Leeds

## 2007

talk to the right  
*people*

a great opportunity to meet leading organisations at the very forefront of Anglo-Chinese commerce...

To book your place at this exciting event, please register at: <http://lubswww.leeds.ac.uk/careers>

For more information contact  
Jo Lumb, University of Leeds  
Email: [j.lumb@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:j.lumb@leeds.ac.uk)

Date: Friday 30 November, 2007

Time: 11am-4pm

Venue: Parkinson Court  
The University of Leeds



# LS Sport: Off the Record

**K**nowing that it is never wise to act in the heat of the moment, I postponed the writing of this column until what we shall refer to only as 'the morning after'.

It had been the intention that Off the Record would be on the whole an England free zone this week, but alas, those loveable multi-millionaires of ours always find a way to wriggle themselves back into the limelight.

Like many today, I am still in a state of shock. After seemingly being handed a reprieve by Israel's Omer Golan, England's players somehow managed to turn it only into a stay of execution, crashing out to Slaven Bilic's Croatia, a side who came to Wembley and showed how football should be played.

And now, the morning after the night before, Steve McClaren has lost his job. His 18 game reign is the shortest of any England manager, and right now it is difficult to see

where his career goes from here.

I for one stand by McClaren. Decisions to drop Robinson and leave Beckham on the bench were the right ones - he certainly didn't shy away from big decisions like so many of his predecessors have. Once again though, an England manager was let down horribly by his players.

David Beckham says this morning that the England players are 'hurting'. Its great to know that you all care David, and just in case you ever read the Leeds Student, this criticism is not levelled at you.

Now is not the time to be hurting. The time to be hurting was after 75 minutes at Wembley on Wednesday night, when Croatia were in the ascendancy and England needed someone, anyone, to stand up and by counted. But as in Russia a few weeks ago, that just didn't happen. For all our superstars, no one had the guts to go through the pain barrier and close down Mladen Petric on the edge of the box two

minutes later.

England's failure has been summed up by a lack of commitment throughout this campaign. I feel desperately sorry for Steve McClaren. It is now widely known that during the Rugby World Cup it was the players who decided that enough was enough, that things had to change, and then went out and did it.

Our footballers could not, or would not, do the same against Croatia last night. A result that many saw coming has left England fans hurting. Really hurting. Whether things would have been different with Rooney, Owen, Terry, Ashley Cole etc. on the pitch, it is impossible to say, though I doubt it. Regardless, as soon as the next paycheck comes in, I'm sure the players will feel just fine.

So much for an England free zone eh?

words/owen bradley

**LEEDS VARSITY PUB VARSITY**

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**WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?**

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Time: 8.00PM  
Venue: The Old Bar, Leeds University Union

**FRIENDSHIP. PASSION. PRIDE.**

leeds met students union  
Leeds University Union

## Inside Sport this week:

### Durham Destroyed

Men's football 2nds put four past Durham to maintain their winning run  
pg 19



### 300 seconds

Joe Hibbert talks to Lauren Worrall, Women's Volleyball captain  
pg 16



## 300 seconds with: Lauren Worrall

### Lauren Worrall

#### Women's Volleyball Captain

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

LW: The BUSA season is going so well at the moment. We've won every game and only lost one set in all of the games we have played which is extremely impressive.

LS: What's been your highlight of the season up to this point?

LW: Definitely beating Leeds Met three times, and qualifying for the second round of the student cup.

LS: How've the socials been this year?

LW: Socials have been a great laugh, lots of drunken antics going on, riding bulls, downing so many drinks, peeing anywhere and everywhere. Hmm, yes interesting.

LS: I watched you beat the Met a few weeks back, and I noticed that you all got on your knees in a circle and slammed your hands down on the floor - what's that all about?

LW: Every time someone serves and the ball goes straight to the floor it is known as

“ I hope we'll go all the way and definitely be somewhere near the top, I have faith.

an ACE as in a great shot! So we have the chant, A slap the floor, C slap the floor, E slap the floor. The louder the team chants the better it puts the opposition right off.

LS: How do you think you'll finish this season?

LW: I hope we'll go all the way and definitely be somewhere near the top, I have faith.

LS: Tell us a bit about your famous wins over the Met this year?

LW: Well we beat them three times on their turf and on ours and it feels great that we haven't caved yet. Although their side is getting stronger.

LS: Did you enjoy varsity this year?

LW: Yeah Varsity was a right laugh we played hard and partied harder so good combination I think.

LS: How did you first get involved with the team?

LW: I've been playing volleyball since I was nine. Then went on to play at a local level then a national level. I tried out for the first team, stayed there for a year and now am the captain.

LS: Are you enjoying your role as on court captain?

LW: I think the club captain is doing a great job. I am enjoying my role, but I didn't realise the amount of responsibility you have. The pressure is good though, and it feels great to be the captain on the court. The only problem is if any wrong decisions are made their on your shoulders.

LS: What's your favourite away trip? Any good stories?

LW: Favourite away trip to Manchester for the student cup. Involved Kim running into a lot of walls, what that girl will do to get the ball! Getting very drunk on the bus on the way home, not being able to make it out because we were too pissed and not remembering anything in the morning.

LS: If you could play any other Uni sport what would it be?

LW: I'd definitely play Korfball! Me and Den went to the beginners session and it was so much fun but knackered I need to get fitter.



“ Varsity was a right laugh we played hard and we partied harder, so good combination I think.

# 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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IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN EITHER OF THE VACANT POSITIONS OR WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW REPRESENTATION IN THE UNIVERSITY WORKS PLEASE EMAIL [UNICEJ@LEEDS.AC.UK](mailto:UNICEJ@LEEDS.AC.UK)

Leeds University Union



# London Olympics 2012

With recent estimates suggesting the Olympics may cost four times the £2.3 billion figure set out in the original bid, **LS Sport** asks whether hosting the games will benefit the country.

the  
**big**  
debate:

By Nicholas Grounds

Euro '96: Football came home, and although it ultimately ended in disappointment with the national team cruelly losing in the semi-finals on penalties to archrivals Germany, sporting euphoria swept the nation. It was an occasion when the entire country joined hands and welcomed those from across Europe to our shores. Viewed as a massive success, it was also mine, and I'm sure many readers', first experience of supporting the national side and feeling a great sense of pride to be English.

Imagine what the Olympics could do to our nation. Not just Europe, but the entire world will be welcomed to our country. This conjures up several knock-on effects. The Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will provide a major benefit to London's economy. They will transform one of London's most deprived areas through improvements in residential, commercial, infrastructure, community and park development.

Part of the wider regeneration of the Lower Lea Valley, East London, the games will create up to 40,000 new homes and up to 50,000 new jobs.

The London Development Agency expect between 10,000 and 12,000 of these to be sustainable jobs on the Olympic Park site itself. In 2003, an ISC opinion poll revealed 60% of the British public thought the Games would bring fresh employment and investment opportunities.

The Olympic bid seems to have the support of the majority of the nation. The ICM poll also revealed 81% of the nation is in favour of a bid. Conducted on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the poll reveals that support is consistent across the regions, with adults in Scotland and Northern Ireland among the most enthusiastic.

In addition, and more importantly, 82% of Londoners are in favour of seeing the Games staged on their own doorstep.

England, and London in particular, have a proven record of hosting successful world sporting events. In

2002 Manchester hosted the Commonwealth games and, by all accounts, it was a huge success. It was the largest multi-sport event ever to be held in England, eclipsing the 1948 Summer Olympics in numbers of teams and athletes participating. The games formed the catalyst for the widespread regeneration and development of Manchester and further bolstered its reputation as a European and world city. On an annual basis, London entertains the world's best in both tennis and long-distance running in Wimbledon and the London Marathon respectively.

Such comprehensive examples prove England, and London, are up to the challenge of hosting one of the world's greatest sporting events.

Finally, and arguably most importantly, the 2012 games will further encourage the younger generations to take up sport. In April 2006, a shocking figure revealed 700,000 children were clinically obese in the UK. This has further repercussions, with heart disease and diabetes the most notable.

Hosting the Olympics will create more sporting opportunities for young children. Sebastian Coe, chairman of the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games, has said the games are "about reaching out and engaging young people, which is where our challenge is over the next five years". With the added incentive of representing your country at home in front of friends and family, the games will hopefully help to produce some of the finest talent our country has ever seen.

by Ahran Symonds-Baig

The Olympics in 2012 present both an opportunity and a challenge for London. If everything goes according to plan, then the showcase of world class athletes is an unbeatable spectacle. However, there is the potential for things to go seriously wrong, and for the whole tournament to become a disaster, possibly before it has even begun.

The main problem the Olympics presents for England is the spiralling costs. The figure of £9.3bn is nearly four times the size of the figure which formed part of London's bid, and it has been suggested by MP Edward Leigh, among others, that 2012 committee "deliberately put in low bid to get these Games and fool the people, knowing that the bid put in at the time was totally unrealistic", and they "either acted in bad faith or were incompetent".

The increase in budget is an increase in 'contingency' money to cover unforeseen expenditure. With such a large backup fund, the obvious danger is that as the Games approach, such lax controls on the budget will lead to money being spent recklessly in an attempt

“Londoners could end up footing the bill for 2012 way after the Olympic torch has been extinguished.”

to ensure the infrastructure needed to run the games is in place.

There is a long history of Olympic hosts running up large overspends to fund the event; The 2004 games in Athens initially budgeted for £2.5 billion but ended up costing £9 billion and still counting. Sydney's original bid costs were estimated at £1 billion but ended up closer to £2.3 billion. Montreal are still paying off a \$1.2bn debt from 1976.

In the case of such an overspend, then the planned regeneration of surrounding areas will clearly suffer. If we can learn anything from previous Olympics, then the financial impact on Londoners could be huge, as they end up footing the bill for 2012 way after the Olympic torch has been extinguished.

There are also other issues to consider. As an event broadcast across the globe, London will be at the centre of the world's attention. As such there is a real danger of the Games becoming a target for terrorism as they were in '72 in Munich.

On top of all this, the logo is an embarrassment. How can we expect a successful tournament when we can't even get the icon right?



## Your Comments...

This week, we asked:

Were the F.A. right to sack McClaren?

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

"Yeah, they were definitely right to get rid off McClaren. We need to turn over a new leaf. The F.A were wrong to appoint McClaren and Veneables in the first place. Veneables has hardly set the world alight with his managerial career. Mourinho for manager with Alan Shearer as his assistant!"

Rich Morse, 21, Broadcast Journalism

"Yes. He's had a disastorous tenure as England manager. He's been an utter shambles, how he

failed with that set of players is a complete mystery."

Damian Boardman, 20, Accounting and Finance

"He was never the right man for the job in the first place. I'm glad he's gone now, hopefully we can move forward with an exciting manager like Fabio Capello or Jose Mourinho."

David Hunt, 20, Politics

"McClaren's era was dogged with massive injuries, the likes of Terry, Lampard, Owen, Rooney and Hargreaves have been out for the majority of the qualifiers, which didn't help our cause."

Englandfan'66

Next week's question:

Is London 2012 a good idea?

# Sweet revenge for Netballers

## Netball Nicholas Grounds

Leeds 1sts 45 - 35 Manchester 1sts  
Sports Hall

Our 1st netball side are perched top of the BUSA Netball Northern Conference after a comprehensive 45 - 35 victory over fellow highfliers Manchester. Going into this contest, the visitors were hot on the heels of the home side and a win would have put them within touching distance. As it is, the hosts have a three point lead over Newcastle and are looking good to end the season as champions.

### Woman of the Match

Tasha Khatib

Captain fantastic

The game began at a frantic pace, with both sides showing the class that has been a consistent throughout their seasons thus far. Dani Bartlett in particular was impressive in the first quarter, with the home side's Goal Defence intercepting a certain Manchester score. This set up a counter attack which gave the hosts a two point lead at 10-8. However, it was a very even contest, and the

away side's Goal Shooter was always proving to be a threat. She commanded the goal circle and managed more often than not, via her strong physique, to get into decent goal scoring positions.

The second quarter was, with hindsight, when the contest was won by the home side. At 12-12, the visitors began well. However, the hosts managed an incredible 7 point unanswered period. The 17th score was particularly superb. Captain Tasha Khatib did well in the centre of the court, before supplying a deft looping delivery to Harriet Rimmer. The Goal Attack did wonders to keep the ball in play, before keeping her balance well to score.

The away side blew hot and cold in the remaining two quarters. Although a decent period culminating in four unanswered scores, taking the score to 33-31, the visitors were unable to get the equaliser. Both Rachael Jarman and Rimmer found their rhythms towards the end of the contest, with very few chances being squandered. The hosts managed a second 7 unanswered point haul at the end, pulling away from the spirited Manchester.

In truth, the visitors were a one woman band. Their Goal Shooter was unfortunate to be on the losing side, however Leeds' team display must not be discarded. They go into the remaining of the season with high hopes, and their next fixture will be crucial. An away trip to Newcastle will have a large say on the final table, and it is a game in which Leeds are capable of winning.



Photo: John Puddephatt

# Fives marooned Liverpool Licked

## Men's Fives James Marshall

Leeds Uni 78-95 Derby  
Derby

Leeds Fives continued its return to existence with a closely fought match in Derby. There were notable signs of improvement in varying aspects of the game against a stronger team on alien courts.

Captain James Marshall recovered from a slightly wobbly start being 0 - 3 down to win easily with some very effective powerful hitting 11 - 3 against a highly impressive under-16 player who will do himself an injustice not to be at least a finalist this year in the under-16 nationals.

Rob Wiesner fought hard in his singles match to recover from being 7 - 2 down to eventually lose 11 - 8, and Andy Benson showed some good old Leeds spirit to gain an invaluable 5 points against a fitter, agile and arguably more athletic 15 year old opponent. However despite

their best efforts Leeds were 11 points down after the singles. Top pair James Marshall and Rob Wiesner again played some decent Fives to overcome both the Derby pairs without much trouble, dropping only 16 points in four games, which included a controversial change of ball type half way the second game when James somehow got the ball to stay up on a ledge not that much wider than the ball itself!

Sam Porteous and Andy Benson played with more confidence and conviction, and really deserved more points than eight against the young Derby pair. Unfortunately they were at the receiving end of the Derby top pair "getting their revenge" after losing in emphatic style to James and Rob. Leeds played well to only lose the match 95 - 78 against a much steadier experienced side. All in all a much improved performance from last week, with plenty of positives to draw from the match and take to the BUSA championships this weekend in Horsham.

## Women's Lacrosse Ifor Duncan

Leeds 26 - 2 Liverpool Univeristy  
Weetwood

Leeds woman's Lacrosse team stormed out of the blocks to score eight goals, without reply, in the first ten minutes. Leeds clinical finishing made Liverpool look distinctly amateur. The level of intensity in which Leeds dismantled the Liverpool defence was quite breathtaking. The home side dominated possession and were camped out in opposition territory for the entire match.

Jess Russell, the Leeds No 2, architected the victory, showing guile to out

manoeuvre the static Liverpool defence. She showed a hunger for the game running well with the ball and making a number of key exists. The highlight of the first half and the remainder of the game came from Jess, when she caught a high clearance by the Liverpool defence well above her head and despatched the ball past the helpless goaltender.

While elegant and decisive in attack, Leeds remained robust in defence. The 15-1 half time score line evidence to their brave efforts. There was no more aggressive defender than the universities No 19 who produced a number of solid challenges all over the field; cutting out Liverpool attacks before they had even began.

The home made a lethargic start conceding early on. However, this early shock suitably sparked the side into action, overrunning the Liverpool defence to score eleven more goals in the second half. This was an extremely impressive performance to achieve a twenty-four point victory. The university used their stronger squad to good effect, using their rotating bench to maintain the freshness of the side. Liverpool tired late in the game and were constantly caught off side in attack and defence.

The tiring Liverpool side would have been punished even further if not for a resolute display by the right post. Leeds can feel very happy after a strong display and a thumping victory.

“

The university used their stronger squad to good effect, using their rotating bench to maintain the freshness of the side



**BUSA Results**Wednesday 21st  
November**Men's Badminton**1sts 2-6 Newcastle 1sts  
2nds 3-5 Leeds Met 1sts**Women's Badminton**

1sts 0-8 Loughborough 1sts

**Men's Basketball**1sts 46-74 Sunderland 1sts  
2nds 51-57 Sheffield Hallam 2nds**Women's Basketball**

1sts 70-41 Salford 1sts

**Fencing**Women's 132-100 York 1sts  
Men's 135-99 Sheffield 1sts**Men's Football**1sts 3-2 Hulls 1sts  
2nds 4-1 Durham 2nds  
3rds 1-3 Northumbria 3rds  
4ths 0-4 Sheffield Hallam 4ths**Women's Football**

2nds 1-5 Teeside 1sts

**Golf**

1sts 1-5 Leeds Met 1sts

**Men's Hockey**1st 2-4 Birmingham 1sts  
2nd 1-4 Durham 2nds  
3rd 6-1 Sunderland 1sts  
4ths 0-4 Sheffield Hallam 2nds**Women's Hockey**1st 0-2 Birmingham 1sts  
2nd 1-2 Newcastle 2nds  
3rd 2-1 Durham 3rds  
4ths 0-6 Newcastle 3rds**Netball**2nd 47-37 Sheffield Hallam 2nds  
3rd 38-24 Hull 1sts**Rugby League**

1st 28-32 Liverpool John Moores 1sts

**Men's Rugby Union**1st 33-0 Liverpool 1sts  
2nds 38-14 Bradford 1sts  
3rds 12-33 Newcastle 4ths**Men's Squash**1st 2-3 Northumbria 1sts  
2nds 4-1 York 1sts  
3rds 3-0 Sheffield 2nds**Men's Table Tennis**

1st 11-6 York 1sts

**Men's Tennis**1st 9-1 Sheffield Hallam 1sts  
2nds 4-6 Hull 1sts**Women's Tennis**1st 2-8 Sheffield Hallam 1sts  
2nds 10-0 Newcastle 2nds**Men's Volleyball**Men's 3-0 Hull 1sts  
Women's 3-0 Trinity All Saints 1sts**Women's Volleyball**

Women's 3-0 Trinity All Saints 1sts

# Four-star seconds smash Durham to keep their winning run going

**Mens football 2nds**  
**Daffydd Pritchard**Leeds Uni 4-1 Durham 2nds  
Weetwood

The netballing 'galacticos' of the fourth team face stiff competition in the battle to be the university's strongest performing sports outfit, as the men's football second team recorded their sixth win in succession on Wednesday afternoon. A clinical attacking display that twice produced two minute double-goal salvos gave Leeds an impressive victory over Durham.

Despite the sogginess of the autumnal surface, the game was played at almost breakneck speed from the beginning. The match belied its league status with its cup-tie-esque fervour as possession was exchanged with alarming frequency.

However, this was not to the detriment of the occasion as a spectacle. The home side passed and moved with an ebb and flow worthy of any first team, their midfield in particularly eye-catching form.

Both sides had shots cleared off the line, whilst Leeds created the best opportunities. Tom Simpson combined well with Giuseppe D'angelo before firing wide from a tight angle, but it was the next attack that

proved significant.

Latching onto a D'angelo through ball, Adriano Staffieri showed composure in slotting the ball smartly to the goalkeeper's right to give his side the lead.

After a long wait for the breakthrough, the advantage was doubled immediately. Exploiting the visitors' sloppiness, Gaz Mason found enough space to deliver a deep, irresistible cross that found Simpson, who poked in at the back post to send Leeds in at half time with a handsome lead.

**Man of the Match****Tom Simpson**

The left winger's distribution was precise and his goal capped a fine performance.

If the scoreline was somewhat flattering, the home side seemed determined to stretch

their winning streak, and thwarted a Durham comeback before it could start by attacking instantly from the restart.

Kept in the match by their goalkeeper, the visitors gradually imposed themselves on proceedings but their good work was undone, as Staffieri, timing his run to perfection, met Matthew Cook's pin-point ball to side-foot confidently to the bottom corner. Then, as in the first half, the lead was stretched in no time. Although D'angelo was unable to convert his chance, the ball fell kindly to Mason who made no mistake in front of an open goal.

Amidst the goal glut was Durham's sole contribution but this score was rendered a mere consolation as Leeds' superiority told in the closing stages.

Player-manager Paddy Buck was in buoyant mood, "We're really firing at the moment, and with this sixth win on the trot, our push for promotion is gathering momentum." As soon as the final word was spoken, Buck raced to join his team-mates for their celebratory ritual rendition of Johnny Cash's 'Ring of Fire.' Their camaraderie is obviously a major part of their success, and as Cash's 'flames grow higher', so do the second team's hopes.

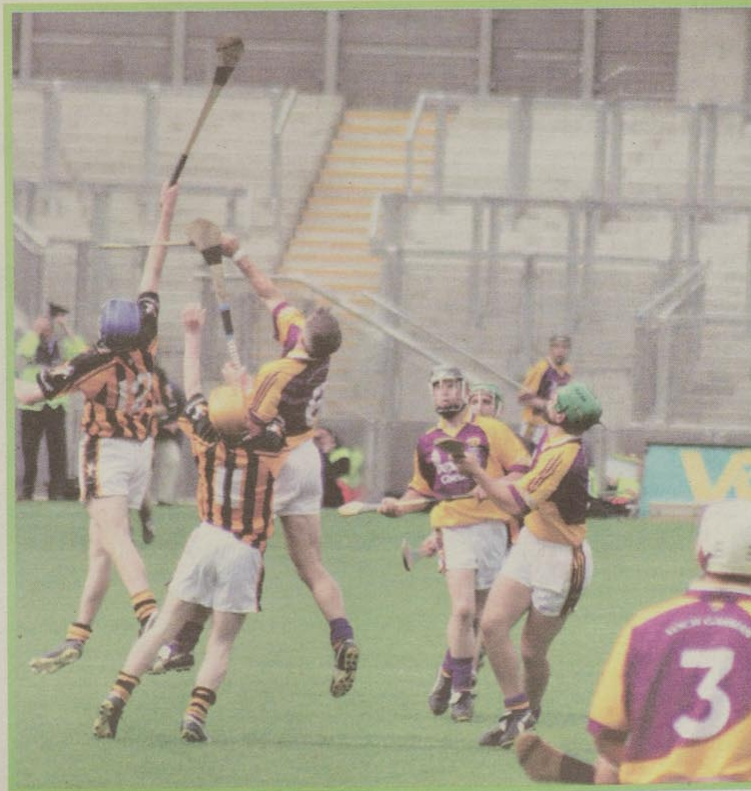
## BUSA In Brief • BUSA In Brief • BUSA

Heartbreak for the **Netball 4ths** this week - the team that had set BUSA alight suffered their first defeat of the season, a heartbreaking 39-26 defeat away to Leeds Met fourths. Not only was this a defeat to the old enemy, it also means that, barring a slip up from the Met later in the season, the fourths can now not win promotion from the bottom tier of BUSA netball competition. The manner of the defeat has prompted some to suggest that the Met had been less than fair in its approach. An anonymous source told **LS Sport**: "Looking at the way that we (Leeds Uni) have been beating teams this season compared to the way they (Leeds Met) have, it certainly looks like they have brought players down a team to make sure they get the win and deny us promotion".

**Men's Hockey 1sts** played host to Birmingham this week, in a tough encounter between two sides who are both riding high this season. Despite their normal high energy and grit, Leeds were ultimately outclassed by the quality of the visitors. The leagues top scorer, Shilling, broke free after only seven minutes before sliding the ball under neminder Fish, and it was soon a 2-0 lead, Shilling netting his second after a swift counter attack. Leeds did well to claw one back before half time courtesy of Appleton, and started the second half the stronger of the two sides. The match turned shortly afterward though: with the Birmingham defence in tatters, the ball fell to Gunital who inexplicably missed with an open goal. A mentally drained home team could not recover from the error, falling to a 4-2 defeat.

In other news, **Men's Fencing**, **Men's Hockey 3rds** and **Women's Volleyball** remain unbeaten, and despite their defeat on Wednesday, the **Men's Hockey 1sts** remain in a strong position in the BUSA Premiership, five points clear of the drop zone and on course to make the BUSA Cup knockouts.

words / Owen Bradley &amp; Ed Dallimore



**Interested in Hurling and Gaelic Football?**  
**Get involved with Leeds Universities newest sports team!**  
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Friday, November 23, 2007

leedsstudentsport@gmail.com

# Only way is up for men's badminton

## Men's Badminton 3rds

Michael Symons

Leeds 8 - 0 Hull 2nds  
Sports Hall

Leeds Men's badminton third team displayed their promotion credentials with a convincing 8-0 demolition of Yorkshire rivals Hull. The home-side were comfortable victors in each of the six con-

“We're definitely looking to get promoted.”

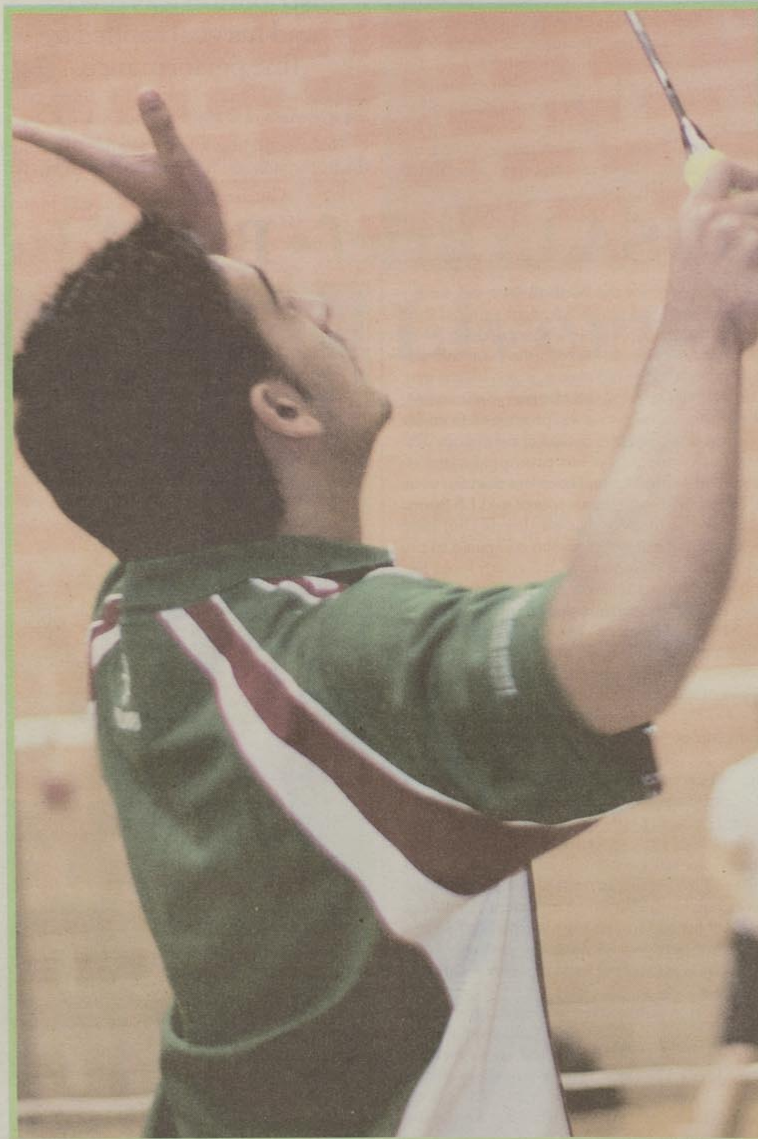
tests, with the other two wins coming by virtue of a Hull no show.

Though tireless in their efforts, the visitors were no match for a confident Leeds side and offered little resistance in their straight sets defeats.

Doubles pairing Alex Setten and Patrick Barker set Leeds on their way in emphatic style, only losing 13 points in the process of securing the opening match. Tactically astute, Setten and Barker were able to expose the weaknesses of their lively, if inconsistent opponents, firing brilliant winners with increasing regularity.

Their dominance was matched by singles player Darius Saeedi, who had little difficulty in brushing aside Hull's solitary singles representative. Powerful at the back of the court, Saeedi was equally masterful at the net, giving his counterpart little chance with a series of fine drop shots. It was therefore with little surprise that Saeedi wrapped up a 21-9, 21-7 win, putting Leeds in a commanding position with four ties left to be played.

Having suffered a 5-3 defeat to the Met in their most recent outing, Leeds were in no mood to be generous and sought to swiftly put the tie beyond Hull's reach. Captain Steven Percy and doubles partner Charles Glahome duly delivered the fatal blow, com-



“No doubt that this side have the talent to win the league”

fortably sealing a straight sets victory (21-6, 21-9) and giving the home-side a match winning 5-0 lead.

In truth, Leeds never looked in danger of even dropping a set and the final three matches were further testament to the gulf in quality between the sides.

After Wahid Arif had expertly won the second singles of the afternoon, both of Leeds' doubles pairings returned to the court to round off a truly forgettable day for the visitors. Full of confidence and energy, the home-side made short work of their spirited opponents and were soon celebrating an 8-0 victory.

Captain Steven Percy was thrilled with his side's professional display but acknowledged that they will face much greater challenges in their chase for promotion. Having now won two of their opening three BUSA fixtures, promotion is very much the target and Percy was in no doubt that his side have the talent to win the league. “We're definitely looking to get promoted. We're under no illusions about the task ahead but if we continue to work hard we've got every chance.”

## STAT OF THE DAY

Of the 12 sets played, Hull only reached double figures in three of them